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P.R.O., ACC, WEEKLY BULLETIN
APR. – SEPT. 1944

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Civil Affairs

77

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB25

24 September 1944.

25 SEP Rec'd

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 25
18 Sep to 24 Sep 44

1. Political

Politics got away from normal channels this week and had to be sought in the unfamiliar (and unbecoming) environs of the Ponte Sant'Angelo and later in the Palazzo Corsini rather than in the conventional halls of the Viminale. The immediate reaction to the violence of Monday morning was that the government was facing a major test which it might or might not pass. Indeed, "Italia Nuova", which has been waiting for just this opportunity, collected press comments on the lynching and with a little wilful interpretation and a good deal of omission, proclaimed that the press, the only possible substitute for a parliament, had voted the government out by a vote of 12 to 0, only "Ricostruzione" abstaining. It is not clear, however, what "Italia Nuova" would put in its place. The only other opposition paper, "Voce Repubblicana", honestly confessed that there would be no point to a change of government, as long as collaboration with the monarchy is maintained. And indeed the one concrete suggestion put forth (by Repaci, writing in "Tempo") was that the more conservative parties be excluded and a new government formed made up of a Leftist front. This might come about some day but is hardly likely at the moment, especially as a good deal of conservative opinion holds, rightly or wrongly, that the Leftist parties are more likely to encourage violence than to see to it that law and order are respected. At any rate the prompt handling of the Caruso case has done much to calm the troubled waters. The police are in for a bad time, but the government seems to have weathered the storm.

Talk of violence in the provinces still goes on but has taken a somewhat different line. At a meeting in Villalba (Caltanissetta) grenades were thrown and a Communist speaker was wounded. This of course immediately put the Marxist parties in the role of victims rather than aggressors as they were last week, has given some color to their charges of reactionary violence and has somewhat embarrassed previous critics of the "alarmist" tone of "Avanti" and "Unita". The Socialists made much of this and similar (if less well documented) "reactionary outrages". The Executive Committee of the Socialist party issued a manifesto calling attention to the situation and urging the C.L.N. and the government to be on guard. The manifesto had also two other points: something should be done immediately about the workers' subsidy, which had been proposed more than a month ago, and the supply and provisioning problem should be met by a national cooperative association. The government, meeting on Friday, took up the first question and the cooperative idea received approval from all sides; words of approval for "Avanti!"

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/ In the field

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In the field of international affairs Italy's hopes and desires were eloquently and vigorously expressed by Croce. Speaking in the Eliseo Theatre on Wednesday he developed the thesis that Italy, though in appearance beaten, really belonged among the victor nations. For Fascism had been a great international civil war rather than a war of nations, and the deeds and sufferings of Italian anti-Fascists were such as to justify Italy's claim to a share in the victory. It followed then that there should be an end to co-belligerency - "una brutta parola" - and a full recognition of Italy's rightful status as an Ally. There should be no discussion of frontiers, and Italy should be accorded an opportunity to express her opinion in the reconstruction of Europe. All sections of the press applauded these statements, only "Italia Libera" expressing some reservations on the latent nationalism implied in the territorial allusions and venturing to find somewhat inaccurate Croce's statement that "Fascism had never taken root in the country."

The meeting of the Council of Ministers on Friday was chiefly noteworthy for the report of Gronchi, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Labor, who stated that ACC had given a general consent to the proposals advanced some weeks ago for subsidies to workers and state employees. The subsidy will be based on the figure of 50 lire a day for Rome and 40 lire a day for the rest of Italy, varying with age and present wages or stipend on a system which is still being worked out. The Minister stated that the subsidy would take effect as from August 16 and meanwhile the government was anticipating the final decision by a special payment of 1,000 lire or lesser sums "based on twice the monthly stipend or wages." The Council also approved a draft of a decree for compilation of electoral lists and set up a Ministerial Price Control Committee with the fullest possible powers to fix prices of goods and services. ("It's the old Comitato Corporativo," cried "Italia Nuova", "and it will make the same mistakes.") Other measures included further technical regulations to speed up epuration and certain financial concessions to a large class of "avventizzi"(state employees not on full time status) who lost their jobs when they refused to go up North with the Germans. All in all a busy meeting. The press has not yet had time to discuss the measures passed but we may look forward to some lively commentary next week.

2. AMG with the Armies

The latest reports received from Fifth Army AMG indicate a number of serious problems in the Arno valley and its environment. Fifth Army AMG is looking intelligently into the future and is anxious about it. The industrial areas encountered "present entirely new problems": there is immense destruction and resulting unemployment, little hope of restarting industries which

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is a bright spot - in this report is that Montecatini, "with its splendid hotels", is intact: it is to be used as a temporary centre for the Northern Regional Staff. Perhaps, later, it will give much-needed accommodation to the homeless. Perhaps.

AMG Fifth Army also states that 3,791 certificates have so far been issued to Patriots: only 59 have applied for employment. Lucca is "in better shape than any town yet captured" but reports from Viareggio, recently taken, indicate some 64,000 destitute persons there. CAOs are now in the line with the Brazilian Expeditionary Force. At Florence "there was great rejoicing in the Excelsior Hotel" when the lights went on for the first time (September 16) and the AMG engineer responsible "received a well-deserved and intimate salutation from the young ladies who were present."

From Eighth Army AMG Major Bullock sends the following, dated September 22:-

"Allied Military Government officials, headed by Group Captain C.E. Benson, DSO, SCAO of Eighth Army AMG, reached the capital city of San Marino at 1800 hrs yesterday, 21 Sep 44, after a six-hour trip in jeeps over tracks made virtually impassable by rain and military movements.

"Acting under orders of the Allied Control Commission, for the Allied Governments, Gp Capt Benson met the Captains Regent and members of the Consiglio Grande Generale. SCAO Eighth Army AMG was accompanied by Wing-Commander E.T. Beer, CBE, his principal staff officer; Lt-Col Alfred Bowman, Regional Commissioner, ACC, for that part of Italy which adjoins the Republic of San Marino; Lt-Col Guy Elwes, Chief Refugee Officer, AMG Eighth Army; Major L.E. Zervudachi, Temporary Civil Affairs Officer, ACC/AMG for San Marino; Mr J.A. Selby, British Red Cross, and Capt W.F.D. Young, Supply Officer, AMG Eighth Army.

"The Government of San Marino received the Allied delegation in a spirit of friendly cooperation. Assurances were given that the neutrality of the State would be fully respected as soon as operational requirements against the German Army, which violated that neutrality, have been fulfilled. Not only will all Allied Military personnel be withdrawn from San Marino at the first possible opportunity, but the Republic will be placed Out of Bounds to all troops.

"A suggestion that a curfew be imposed in San Marino while Allied troops are still there was rejected by the Government on the grounds that never in its long history had San Marino imposed such restrictions on its people and the Government would sooner risk any slight incidents which might occur than break a tradition of such long standing.

"AMG Proclamations, which are invariably posted in occupied territory, were NOT posted in San Marino. They were, however,

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"AMG Proclamations, which are invariably posted in occupied territory, were NOT posted in San Marino. They were, however, shown to the Government and it was suggested, for the safety of San Marino as well as that of Allied personnel, that any dangerous Fascists found among the refugees now in the State should be interned and turned over to the Allies.

"There are 80,000 refugees from Italy now in the Republic of San Marino, most of them from Rimini and nearby districts. All refugees are to be kept in the Republic for the time being, and all roads are to be cleared as soon as possible so they may be fed until they can be returned to their homes in Italy.

"Thirteen lorries loaded with food and medical supplies,

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stationed outside San Marino by AMG, have not yet been able to go in owing to the condition of the roads. They will be sent in at the first possible moment. The food situation in the town of San Marino is excellent, but distribution is a serious problem because the Germans removed all transport they could find. The lorries to be sent in by AMG will remain. The Germans destroyed the water system of the town, and AMG will send in water carts supplied by Eighth Army. There is no electric light.

"The financial situation of the Republic is all right. Damage due to military operations is slight. Gp Capt Benson reports that the internal organization, both for government and relief, is excellent. AMG is posting Italian Carabinieri around the border on the Italian side to assist in keeping Refugees in the Republic until such time as they can be disposed of adequately.

"Major L.E. Zervudachi will remain in San Marino as a temporary Civil Affairs Officer until the Republic has been cleared of Allied troops, whereupon the Republic will send a Liaison Officer to Rimini to maintain contact with the Allies.

Flash on Rimini

"Destruction by military operations, mining, demolitions, booby traps and time bombs as serious as in Pescara. One time bomb went off near the Municipio about 1500 hrs yesterday and destroyed two buildings. Only 5 civilians in the city when CAOs went in yesterday noon, 12 by last night. Practically entire population is in San Marino.

"CAOs returned at 0800 today with Royal Canadian Engineers personnel to clear out the Harbour Master's House as an AMG HQ. Only building in the town found partially habitable on first survey.

"Every attempt will be made to keep out civilians as long as possible."

3. Crime and Punishment

The trial and execution of Caruso and the lynching of Carretta on the first day of the trial gave Rome correspondents an opportunity for purple patches, not to speak of sanguinary pictures, this week. (For those who do not receive our Trend of Correspondents' Copy and Daily Digest of the Rome Press we attach the issues covering these events. Incidentally, these services can be sent to those who apply for them). Caruso, who was 45, was Police-Chief of Rome under the Fascist Republicans: the official accusation against him under the Decree Law of July, 1944, was that of giving aid to the German invader by (1) handing over 50 political and common prisoners for summary execution as

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the North - walked with firmness and dignity to the chair to which he was bound with his back to the firing squad, and in a clear loud voice shouted "Viva l'Italia" just before the volley.

His behaviour throughout the trial was in fact exemplary and even admirable - which does not alter the fact that he was a rogue who got away, among other things, with some eight million lire worth of loot, mostly in the form of melted jewellery.

The Fascist radio announced that 40 people would be shot as a reprisal for the execution of Caruso and it appears that this was carried out.

4. Financial Arcana

An item in the August report of the Finance Sub-Commission, whose reports are usually models of clear analysis, stands out brightly in the financial fog of Italy. The people of Rome alone in August bought 3,800,000,000 lire more Italian Treasury Bills than they redeemed, which was triple the record of all Southern Italy for the fiscal year 1943-1944. It may be recalled that in July, 1943, the Fascists were facing an outflow of one billion in excess of receipts from Treasury bills, whereas a year later the Allies had changed this to a net inflow of two and a half billion lire. At the same time bank deposits have steadily mounted at the rate of three billion lire a month. The Finance Sub-Commission officers feel as if it were almost entirely of their own doing, so absorbed are they in the staggering job of helping straighten out the finances of a country beset by years of militaristic over-expenditures, parasitical government bureaux to give employment to Fascists, and a tax system for which the word "archaic" itself is mildewed.

There are three cardinal principles which ACC Finance has tried to inculcate, with some success, it appears. They are (1) to reopen the banks as fast as possible (average time after liberation now is two weeks), (2) organize and support the Bank of Italy so that it can finance Italian Government expenditures (thus, the Allied Financial Agency - AFA - has made no cash advances to the Italian state since January and has even received repayments on previous advances), and (3) reduce the national deficit and strengthen the national credit. AFA which, incidentally, keeps the books for the inter-governmental settlements after the war, might have to step in with some temporary loans of currency to the Bank of Italy for Po Valley use. Before leaving a town the Germans and Fascists usually seize all bank cash to satisfy their requirements, leaving little money with which to finance the harvest. Thus, it cannot be exactly forecast when our staffs will run into the vast stocks of Italian currency printed to meet German demands and which we recognize as legal tender.

Apart from worries arising from possible currency shortages in the forward areas another currency problem is continually under

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Apart from worries arising from possible currency shortages in the forward areas another currency problem is continually under the spotlight of the Italian Press. On the basis of a statement made last December in the Wall Street Journal to the effect that the United States and British Governments would accept Allied Military lire in payment for goods and services supplied to Italy, the Italian press and politicoes have maintained a steady barrage of questions as to the payment of the 30 billion lire disbursed in Italy (which the Italian Government is obligated to redeem) and as to the status of the dollar-sterling backing of these notes. A copy of this American newspaper article, our Finance officers swear, is to be found in the folder of every Italian cabinet minister. The Finance Sub-Commission declares to a man that it would cheerfully throttle the journalist who wrote the article cited and adds that the author was NOT the official mouthpiece of London and

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Washington. But the Italians refuse to recognize an unfettered press when they see it, so the attacks on the currency problem continue. It can be stated quite authoritatively that nobody on this side of the water knows what the devil will become of the AM lire, a policy matter yet to be decided on the highest of levels. All that can safely be said at this time is that obviously some day there will have to be new Italian paper or currency which will require, in Italy's present condition, some sort of support in dollars and sterling.

One fact which no amount of reforms can exorcise, however, is the terrific state of the Italian public debt. It now stands at about 630 billion lire, of which about 280 billion is funded debt and about 350 billion is floating (or short term) debt. The Italians had been running on deficits since 1930 and are still doing so, last year's deficit being over 200 billion lire.

Considering the fact that the Finance Sub-Commission says it can hardly breathe without consulting the Combined Chiefs-of-Staff (because of the obvious world-wide repercussions of financial policies), it appears that the long-term solution to the problem will be long indeed. ACC officers are now studying an Italian Government proposition to fund 20 billion lire of the floating debt, but are inclined to veto the idea as small potatoes and a mere tentative gesture. If and when some sense and substance can be provided in a program of rehabilitation, then perhaps, our people say, reconstruction bonds can be floated with a sales appeal in the future of Italy.

In any event, no financial cleansing of the Fascist Augean stables will ever result until the so-called system of Italian taxation is thoroughly raked over. Historically, it is not much different from what went in Roman times: that is, private contractors collect the taxes, give the Government some theoretical assurance of a fixed income but actually produce the result of widespread collusion, graft, squeezes on the poor and downright evasions of collections. If the contractor finds it difficult to collect, the Government sometimes "forgives" or waives the collection of divers sums. There are simply no returns of our type or a fixed fiscal relation between the Government and the taxpayer. Evidence of income is obtained from informers. There is no conception of modern notions of assessment and evaluation. In brief - Italian Government securities are not yet blue chips. Yet, says Colonel Grafftey-Smith, Joint Director of the Finance Sub-Commission, there is hope, an amount of hope about the size of a pinhead, but still hope.

5. <u>From the South</u>

Colonel Temperley reports from Southern Region that the hand-over to Italians of matters concerning Law, Finance, Public Safety, Public Health and Food are well advanced, but Transport, Industry

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Colonel Temperley reports from Southern Region that the hand-over to Italians of matters concerning Law, Finance, Public Safety, Public Health, and Food are well advanced, but Transport, Industry and Commerce are laggards, with ACC officers still shouldering their burdens and responsibilities. Additional grain shipments into Foggia are causing a jam: Campobasso has no railways working and trucks are doing very long hauls in an endeavour to stock up mountain communes before the winter. Epuration in Southern Region is everywhere waiting for the appointments of presidents of local committees by the Italian Government. In Naples there have been sit-down strikes in electricity and gas companies for increased wages to meet the cost of living. Colonel Temperley does not anticipate widespread trouble, but notes that this agitation is growing. He also comments that the proposed reduction of Carabinieri in Bari, Foggia and Naples is a matter for concern, especially since the presence of Allied troops, which may not long continue, is the mainstay of law and order.

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6. Propaganda' Future

Among other things now coming up for review, and action - or inaction - by the ACC, are the Italian networks of film and radio, and the establishment of an Italian news agency to replace Stefani. Under Fascism all propaganda machinery came, of course, under the Ministry of Popular Culture, and immense statal or parastatal monopolies were created and heavily subsidized. Receipts from the movie theatres of Italy rose from 525 million lire in 1937 to 1,275 million in 1942; the value of films exported, however, was only 100 millions. A top-heavy organization consisting of organizations such as LUCE for production, ENIC for distribution, CEFI for export, etc. supported this development by vast sums spent out of public funds on the construction of enormous studios such as those of Cinecitta. This monopoly with all its ramifications is still in being, if not in action, and the question arises as to how far ACC can interfere. Negotiations are now in progress to set up some sort of Joint Commission, twin brother perhaps to the Allied Publications Board, to report and make recommendations on the industry's present and future. Similarly, the monopolistic structure of EIAR, Italy's radio network, raises a question mark in this now supposedly democratic country. The creation of an Italian news agency - since Stefani no longer works - is another urgent problem, since Italy's press is now completely dependent on PWB news service. But whether such an agency should be cooperative, capitalistic or governmental remains to be decided. The future of these three immensely powerful propaganda weapons still lies in a fog, and it is a nice point to decide how far the conqueror of a co-belligerent interferes in such affairs.

7. Odds and Ends

Hygienic hope: Commerce Sub-Commission has presented requirements for 45,000 tons of soap for 25,000,000 inhabitants of Liberated Italy for one year to AFHQ ..... Fifth Army AMG gets the palm from Patriot Branch at Headquarters for intelligent and aggressive handling of the Patriot problem, having been among the very first to meet and cope with this new phase of civil affairs (witness the full and far-sighted report filed by Major Harry C. Kait with the 34th Division last July 13) ..... The Cassino situation is coming to a head, with 13,000 of the blasted town's 20,000 former inhabitants having already returned to the commune and accommodations, of course, being strictly rubble, which state has promoted action along the following lines: A hurry-up call to London for a re-building expert and an appeal to AFHQ for 2,000 tents for shelter, since the new houses about to be built will not be ready for occupancy until probably February .....A large woollen mill, well-equipped, intact, with considerable inventory of woollen blankets and material for suits and overcoats, all beautifully mined and booby-trapped, has been found at Prato ..... May we join the rest of ACC in congratulating Chief Warrant Officer Henry L. Ellenbast, AUS, for receiving the Legion of Merit in recognition of his outstanding services as S-4 of the 2675 Regiment.... The Rome Labor Office of Region IV is receiving complaints from housewives to the effect that maids and domestic help are almost

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/ uniform

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uniform to become acting chairman of the U.S. War Production Board recently visited these parts to inspect the power plants and machinery needs for rehabilitation, it may now be reported ..... Public Relations Branch, which is currently girding its loins to produce a history of Allied Military Government and the Allied Control Commission in Italy, also is gathering a comprehensive photographic record and a full collection of press clippings about our activities, so would deeply appreciate any help possible from the field in the way of photographs and British and American newspaper clippings ..... Economic Warfare note: As a result of silkworm seeds flown in from Turkey, Southern Italy has spun and sent 10 tons of silk (with another 15 to 20 tons to be shipped later this year) to England for the making of parachutes that will eventually (it is hoped) float down on China and Japan ..... Thanks to the breaking of some logjams by the Economic Section, more foodstuffs are coming into Rome, 600 tons of Sicilian wine having been unloaded from 25 schooners at Anzio, a 5,000-ton shipload of the same coming from Taranto, 1,000 tons of onions arriving from Malta, while the free entry of unrationed foods up to 15 kilos a person has resulted in 2,500 persons bringing in food personally, an increase of 2,000 persons daily..... Major Hamilton T. Walker, SCAO with IV Corps, comes forth with a sensible suggestion: Visiting ACC officers entering corps area should not fail to contact the corps CAO for information, since that officer is the man who has been longest on the spot ..... The Grandi del Popolo, as of reports received at Headquarters, September 22 (reports usually lag about 10 days behind) now stands at 7,220,371 quintals against a target of some 13,000,000 quintals ..... Note of Nostalgia: For veterans of the dear, dead days in North Africa, Lieut-Colonel T.V. Smith, Education Sub-Commission director, who has just returned from Cairo, Asmara and Tripoli via Algiers, reports that the once-plush Hotel Aletti is now fairly ghostlike - with prices almost reasonable, blond beauties galore but unescorted and rooms even available for lieutenant-colonels ..... The British-American trades union delegation, under the conducting aegis of Colonel Junius Smith of the Labor Sub-Commission, has returned to Rome with first-hand reactions of the front-line boys to labor conditions at home and the satisfaction of personal interviews with General Alexander, AAI C-in-C, and Lieut-General Clark, Fifth Army CO ..... The Public Health Sub-Commission has just turned over to Italian Health authorities the first supplies of penicillin to be imported into Italy for eventual civilian use, one packet coming from the U.S. and the other from U.K. ..... The national price for olive oil has now been set at 6,000 lire a quintal for top quality, after the Economic Section consulted regional commissioners for their reactions as to whether the oil could be amassed at such a price (though Sicily and Sardinia held out for prices about 30 per cent higher) ..... As a result of vigorous representations made by Colonel Pollock, Region IV Public Safety chief, some 300 or 400 inmates of Rome's Regina Coeli Prison held without review since Allied entry into Rome (for example, a 22-year-old girl sentenced to 27 years by the Germans for a petty theft), are to be [illegible] or released under proper safeguards .....Foreign Economic

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major, Public Relations Director.

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SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRAN
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/WB24

17 September 1944.

18 SEP Recd

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 24
11 Sep to 17 Sep 44

1. Political

As if deliberately wishing to frustrate the March of Time staff which lurked in the corridors of the Viminale with poised cameras, the Council of Ministers held no meeting this week. But there was activity on other political fronts. On the occasion of the Labor Democrat convention in Naples at which the two Ministers, Ruini and Cerabona, both spoke, the fusion was announced of the Labor Democrats with the Labor Party and the Social Democrat Party. This is a little like the fusion of the Liberals and the Liberal Democrats a few weeks ago in that the two new groups, largely made up of Southern Italians, have not previously been included in the Government nor, of course, in the C.L.N. Naturally this gave Nenni, writing in "Avanti", an opportunity to comment on the Trojan horseplay that seems to be going on in the less radical sections of the government. The platform - if it may be called that - of the Labor Democrats contained nothing as provocative or as concrete as was provided by the Socialist party last week. Labor Democracy looks back to Mazzini, believes in the Republic and thinks that Unity, work and progress are good things. It was also stated that young people and women should be given their place in political life. (If this means what it seems to mean, it is very likely that the ladies will get the vote; the Leftist parties have long been in favor of it and "Italia Nuova", putting its faith in the essentially conservative nature of women was also in the vanguard. One by one all parties are falling into line.) The party also recommended concentration on immediate jobs and orderly progress toward social and political goals.

Somewhat more substantial was the "motion" of the Christian Democrat National Council. Aside from the usual pious wishes for cooperation and progress and the expected lack of decision on the institutional question, they asked the government to recognize the Unions as "autarchic organs" with government sanction, appealed for communal and provincial elections, votes for women and an end to commissarial administration of public and private corporations. Subsequently a detailed agrarian program was published which, while leaving the door reluctantly open for cooperatives, was aimed primarily at increasing the number of small-holdings. The labor policy was attacked by "Italia Libera" as being similar to the Dolfuss and Franco scheme of things and very close to the Fascist set-up and "Avanti" took exception to the agrarian program, as might be expected.

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The press this week has been full of charges and counter-charges of violence and provocation. Rightly or wrongly, the Leftist parties have been accused of encouraging or at least tolerating use of force in breaking up meetings and general lawlessness towards other parties in the provinces. Togliatti and Nenni have answered that these charges are rarely specific and, in the few cases investigated, have always proved to be purely local and sometimes purely personal brawls. They have added that this provocative talk is very much in line with the traditional tactics of reaction and that many of the charges hurled (particularly by "Italia Nuova") are word for word identical with the Goebbels-Fascist radio summaries. Such charges were made this week - still somewhat unspecified, it must be confessed - not only by "Italia Nuova" but by "Ricostruzione", "Il Popolo" and "Risorgimento Liberale"

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"Risorgimento Liberale". So acid has debate become that a communique was issued stating categorically that no prefect had asked the government for instructions as to how to deal with Leftist disorder. This does away with one particular accusation; the general charge that the Communists and Socialists are inflammatory and provocative ~~in~~ their attitude is harder to answer.

Italians have also been keeping an ear cocked to Quebec. So far they have heard nothing that makes them happy. On the contrary the terms of the Rumanian armistice, described as "generous" by "Unita" and more than that the fact of its publication have made them draw some bitter comparisons. "We are less than the government of King Michael", says "Voce Repubblicana" bitterly ..... Roman papers of all stripes are united on two things only at the moment; the resentment at the increase in electricity rates, variously defined as "absurd", "illegal" and "monstrous" and the strong reluctance to go back to standard time.

2. <u>AMG with the Armies</u>

AMG Fifth Army describes Lucca as "an oasis amid the destruction in the Arno valley". It appears that the town is little damaged and the water supply intact: the food problem, however, both in Lucca and Prato (which has 400 cases of typhoid) is still a serious one. Empoli is reported heavily damaged and looted: Fiesole extensively mined and booby-trapped. The pump at the main water supply source for Pisa and Livorno was destroyed, but the aqueducts are intact. Also destroyed - and filled with booby-traps - was the Royal Palace between Pisa and the sea, from which the "large guard arranged at the request of the Luogotenente" was removed as being "more useful elsewhere". Fifth Army AMG strikes a note of alarm about the supply position and observes that apart from Pisa and Florence the bread ration has been reduced to 100 grammes. HQ are taking steps to remedy this. In an interesting report on Florence (much of which was however covered by Major Bullock in Bulletin No 22) Fifth Army AMG notes that "real starvation" due to diet deficiencies exists there now: and that the Misericordia has been of immense assistance. The Misericordia, incidentally, is a society founded in 1240 by Pier Luca Borsi, foreman of the porters of the wool-trade. He obtained the money for its foundation solely by fining his companions every time they swore (think what we might do now on this idea) and the idea of the society was to tend the sick, take them to hospital, bury the dead, succour unfortunates, and generally to assist those who had noone to assist them. The Brothers preserve or preserved anonymity by adopting during their work a cloak and cowl, and through the years it has been the custom of Florentine nobility and burghers to be members of the Society, and to give their services regularly in this way.

On two points Fifth Army AMG is - for the first time in

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On two points Fifth Army AMG is - for the first time in weeks - better pleased: sickness amongst officers has declined and "some Jeeps have at last been received."

AMG Eighth Army, in a burst of optimism, reports both supply and agricultural problems satisfactory in Arezzo and Perugia provinces and goes as far as to say (we simply cannot resist giving this the fullest publicity) that in Perugia province "the transport problem is particularly satisfactory." The sting comes in the tail - "At no time has Perugia province had a sufficiency of officers: the personnel position is now worse than ever."

AMG Eighth Army observes that there has been no Patriot difficulty encountered on the Adriatic coast during the recent advance, and in fact "very few genuine Patriots have been met."

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3. Mediaeval masque

This week Florence revived a centuries-old custom to mark her freedom from the despoilers of her bridges. The occasion was the inauguration of Prof. Gaetano Pieraccini, socialist, as the first mayor of liberated Florence; the militant note was the spectacular staging of the mediaeval salute and procession of the famed Florentine Gioco del Calcio. The German and Spanish mercenaries of the Emperor Charles V and Pope Clement VII may have been more intimidated by 16th century mace-bearers and pikemen than were Kesselring's troops more recently, but no one present at the ceremony could deny that the marchers with their ballooning yellow silk pantaloons, creamy white jackets, great, red flannel hats, buckled shoes, silvery suits of armour and galaxy of uniforms in prime colours did not make a lively inauguration. Still carrying candles and Chianti flasks in lieu of electricity and plumbing, Florentines crowded the square and adjoining streets in a spirit of somewhat subdued gaiety. As the last sonorous strains of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony played by a 60-piece orchestra seated beneath the elegant Gothic arches of the Loggia dei Lanzi faded away, Lt-Col Michie stood on a temporary platform on the steps of Palazzo Vecchio and opened the real business of the day. He introduced Brigadier-General Hume, who in turn presented "the document conferring the chief office of the City of Florence" on a little white-haired old man who immediately belied his eighty odd years by shouting imprecations against Fascists into a PWB microphone and manfully calling upon all right-minded Florentines to rally to the cause of good government in the city. Able and sincere though he may be, the success of the Pieraccini administration in shell-pocked, battle-scarred Florence will depend largely upon the help that is given him by his constituents, the Italian Government sitting in Rome, the Committee of National Liberation and, not least of all, the Fifth Army AMG.

4. Looking forward from Siena

A statement characteristic of the fourth forward meeting on September 13 was that the Germans in the north of Italy were smoking out beehives in order to destroy the honey crop. The spotlight of forward planning and conjecture was set, in fact, on the rather unpropitious possibilities beyond the Apennines. No miracle of loaves and small fishes being possible, both Mr Antolini of the Economic Section and Col Legg of the Food Sub-Commission spoke at some length of what was in sight, what could be locally produced, and the possibilities, or otherwise, of getting it where it would be most urgently needed. It looked like a tight Christmas for everybody up North, with a "thin spread" at the very best.

Mr Caccia, in a political survey, told the conference that a leading member of the Liberation Committee for northern Italy had managed to reach Rome and had stated that the Committee wished some sort of recognition by the Allies as being the representative body of the Italian Government in German-held territory. Col Poletti,

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essential needs of the civilian population, and the new arrangement of having a forward echelon to deal with the needs of the Army AMGs should prove invaluable.

Col Farren told the grim story of promotion possibilities - or lack of them; a representative of the Interior Sub-Commission pointed out the difficulty of producing prefects out of a hat. When the trick did come off the strain might not always be a pure one. But they were doing their best and practise in sleight-of-hand work is always a great thing. Public Safety told of their trials in getting Carabinieri for the north and what they had in sight. The Executive Commissioner was not impressed by the number of Carabinieri - 4000 - said to be trained and ready to go in. Shortage of transport was, of course, an ever present worry and on this Transportation Sub-Commission had a few possible words of encouragement - and hope. The conference ended with everyone present, it is safe to conclude, adequately convinced that in the North, ACC - AMG will meet the greatest tests - and greatest opportunity - of military government in Italy.

5. Cautionary Tale

Thoughts of home and peace now sizzling beneath the surface of many ACC minds should be, we are authoritatively counselled, mingled judiciously with thoughts of the Po valley, the Alps, and other territories. The prospect of a sudden breakthrough at Rimini raises the hair on economic heads, anticipating wholesale demolitions of ports and communications, growing dearth of transport and staff, and a great number of hungry, homeless people. Livorno is not working yet, Ancona is very limited in capacity, and Genoa, it seems, is so heavily mined as to be useless for a considerable time. With the winter coming on, and the harvest of the North possibly destroyed or seized by the Germans, the ACC may in another month have bigger and more insoluble problems on its hands than ever before, and its staff, far from proceeding peacefully homewards or even belligerently to the East, are likely to be performing organizational miracles for 24 hours a day. Rumours of any immediate demilitarisation of personnel were categorically denied by Brigadier Lush at a meeting this week. The denial prompted Colonel Farren to ask plaintively what should be said to the many officers who enquired about the future ofthe Commission (and themselves). The Executive Commissioner replied that there was no immediate prospect of any change in the functions or personnel of the ACC and that, whatever its distant future, officers would be required as long as Allied Military Government existed in any country.

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Major,
Public Relations Director.

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ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

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ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 23
4 Sep to 10 Sep 44

1. Political

The political week began with the speech of Carandini, delivered last Sunday from the stage of a Roman theatre. The Liberal minister without portfolio defined the principles of his party, which he declared was progressive in nature but believed in private enterprise and in the individual liberties which are a part of the party tradition. He admitted frankly that the Liberal party included both monarchists and republicans and tried to define the Liberals as a center party while deploring the absence of a real Right in the present scheme of things. As a statement of honest liberalism it left little to be desired and it was noted that the manner of delivery was temperate and scholarly, but press reaction was not in the same key. In spite of some kind words for the Communists, "Unita" fell on it savagely and declared Carandini had no sense of reality - unless his apparent naivete masks a sinister desire to preserve the status quo at all costs, "Italia Libera" feared the triumph of reaction within the Liberal ranks and even "Il Popolo" (Christian Democracy) found the wish for a Conservative party unrealistic and pathetic - "What is there to conserve in Italy today?" It is obvious that for the time being the Liberals will have to resign themselves to being regarded as Rightist whether they like it or not.

So much for the Right. The Left spoke out also this week and here again the old political vocabulary is not quite accurate. For on the program of the Socialist party which came out of the Naples convention "Italia Nuova" observed with some justice that it was more to the Left than anything the Communists have yet suggested or indeed anything one could find in modern Russia. It did have, however, the virtue of clarity and is worth recording in some detail. After the usual generalizations identifying capitalism with war and Utopia with public ownership of the means of production the manifesto went on to very specific requests. It asks of the Allies Lease-Lend, demobilization of the administrative, economic and financial branches of ACC and recognition of the right of the Corpo di Liberazione and patriots to bring to the war a contribution "commensurate with the strength of the popular forces they represent." And, last but not least, a statement of reassurance on the financial policy now being pursued by the Allies. Of the government it asks immediate attention to the unemployment problem and urges the need of municipal and provincial elections being held as soon as possible. The concluding passage, hinting darkly that if the forces of the monarchy or other reactionary elements attempted a coup d'etat, the workers would be ready with "revolutionary violence" sent the correspondents scurrying to their wires and was the subject of much comment in Rome. Lumby (London "Times") assessed it rightly as an indication of "the impatience which parties of the Left feel to enter into the heritage which they think

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On some points in the Socialist program practically all Italians are in agreement. The currency question has been raised repeatedly in the press over the last few weeks, most eloquently perhaps by Zuccarini in the "Voce Repubblicana", and all parties would welcome a declaration of the policy of the Allies. Similarly there has been a campaign for local elections - largely from the Leftist parties, who rightly or wrongly feel they would gain a good deal by immediate action on this line. More moderate opinion, voiced for example in "Ricostruzione", is not hostile to the idea but is disposed to wait until soldiers, POWs and refugees have returned to their paesi.

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The Socialist statement was published on Thursday, and Friday, being the eighth, was largely given to anniversary articles on the armistice. This somewhat deflected the attention of the press from the meeting of the Council of Ministers which took place Thursday. It had been expected by some that the much discussed subsidy for living costs would be on the agenda; in fact the only matters of importance taken up were preliminary measures for organizing the Comitato Italiano Gestione Navi (CO.GE.NA for short) which will take care of ship-builders and shipping interests still having their seat in territory occupied by the enemy, and the restoration of the old Chambers of Commerce in the place of the Fascist provincial economic Consigli ..... Comment on the anniversary was in general rather sombre and of course provided an excellent opportunity for the parties of the Left to reproach the King, Badoglio and the General Staff with ineptitude or cowardice or "malafede". "Il Popolo" however, with grim optimism insisted that the armistice had been of great help to the Allies and the Italians could regard it with moderate pride as a real contribution to the war effort.

There have been some odd paradoxes not unworthy of note. Almost simultaneously with Nenni's appeal for more participation by the partisans in the war, Bonomi broadcast a message to them, asking them, once their areas were liberated, to surrender their arms and cooperate with the Allies. And with the growing outcry for dismantling ACC a poignant cry from "Voce Repubblicana" that another year of military government would have been a good thing. Quot homines .....

2. AMG with the Armies

By contrast with the rapid advance in France, the progress of the Eighth Army offensive on the Adriatic seems, this week, disappointingly slow. Although, at the time of writing, our troops are within 2 miles of Rimini, the wedge driven into the Gothic line has not yet quite penetrated into the plains of Lombardy, and the Germans are clearly putting up a very stiff resistance - helped by heavy rains - on a line running almost due south from Rimini to the Foglia river. Correspondents coming from that area tell us that there are signs of the enemy digging in between Rimini and San Marino - that embarrassed little republic which is now being further embarrassed by German "respect" of its neutrality. The same correspondents tell us that pilots report a good deal of flooding round Forli and Faenza where the long viaduct road runs from Rimini to Bologna. From the same source we have a report that German prisoners taken in Italy have no idea that Germany is not winning the war on all fronts.

AMG Eighth Army reports Urbino undamaged, with a normal population of 8,000 and an additional 3,000 refugees. The provincial administration of Pesaro, except the Prefect, was found at Urbino, where it had been functioning for some time. Pesaro itself (entered by AMG on

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AMG Eighth Army notes that the strip of country in the area of the Gothic line "resembles more the conditions found in the Cassino area than anything we have yet met." The resulting refugee evacuation problem is a serious one: but it is thought that if the advance is rapid refugees may be held and spread in the surrounding communes.

AMG Fifth Army reports (September 9) Lucca not badly damaged - though still under considerable shell fire - with water supply intact, but only 2 days food supply left. Policing is still in the hands of Patriots. The population is about 40,000 as against a normal 85,000.

/ Pisa

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Pisa north of the river was reported (Sep) to contain 15,000 people: in view of the water shortage, entry was temporarily stopped. All the bridges were destroyed: half the listed monuments have been considerably damaged; the roof of the Campo Santo was completely burnt out, but steps were being taken to protect the frescoes. The leaning tower continues to lean, slightly chipped by bombs. The southern part of the town was uninhabited and thought to be considerably mined and booby-trapped. A team of 4 AMG officers is running the city under SCAC IV Corps.

Prato is stated (Sep 9) to be little damaged, with a population of 75,000 all present plus 10,000 refugees. The water supply, however, is in bad state, and the food situation serious: no bread since August 22. Patriots are said to be well-organized, and "Communists very prominent in this purely industrial town."

Except for Pontedra and Potassieve, which have been badly smashed, AMG Fifth Army reports comparatively little damage in the Arno valley between Pisa and Florence. From Florence itself, with the withdrawal of the Germans from Prato, Monte Morello and Vetta le Croci, the war is passing away and conditions are "improving considerably". A parade was held on September 7 at which Patriots were publicly thanked by the Corps Commander for the very real help they had given: and their arms were taken away. Retention of arms and no public thanks would, so we understand, have been more to their taste - but the Jamboree went off well.

3. Organization and movements.

The most significant internal news of the week is that the Allied Control Commission is now to come directly under AFHQ and thus will be separated from AAI. A forward echelon of ACC will be maintained in liaison with AAI. Arrangements for this will be discussed at the next forward meeting of Army AMGs and northern regions at Siena September 13. The connection between the Army AMGs and ACC will remain as now and there is to be no division between AMG and ACC. But the forward echelon will be in a position to administer to the immediate needs of the Army-AMGs in the name of the Chief Commissioner. This should help. Meanwhile, orders are pouring out of the Establishment Branch, reforming our strength, as it were, for the new tasks ahead. The embryonic new regions are at present housed for planning purposes in the basement of ACC HQ and in dark subterranean passages spring up, on new labels, the magic names of "Liguria", "Piemonte", "Lombardy" and the rest. Colonel A.N. Hancock gets Lombardy, while Milan goes to Colonel Charles Poletti. Liguria (formerly Region X) has been assigned to Lieut-Colonel C.G. Feasey, while Piemonte (a new region) will be the care of Colonel Robert P. Marshall, who turns over Region V to Lieut-Colonel C.H.A. French. Brigadier J.K. Dunlop has Venezia and the privilege of welcoming the Russians. The happy arrival of 37 new officers may be noted, certainly a godsend in the quest for officers to man the new regions. Meanwhile, the Headquarters manpower reorganization recommendations are finding approval by the Acting Chief Commissioner, with some modifications, and will probably

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4. Ferment

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Recommendations for Italy are gestating in the Economic Section. According to Press Reports, Brigadier-General O'Dwyer is in the United States to report on the Italian problem. The President at his press conference gave out figures gathered here by ACC and carried to the White House by General O'Dwyer whose thesis that Italy needs aid from the United Nations because of the extensive

/ damage

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damage caused by the fighting and German industrial sabotage was reiterated by the President himself. Our ACC general was to see the President later about plans for new aid to Italy, the reports said. The President told his press conference that 45,000,000 Italians were living in a area less than that of California; that the Allies had shipped $100,000,000 worth of supplies to the Italians; that England has furnished the bulk of the fuel and the United States the greater part of the food, and that there was a possibility that UNRRA would enter Italy, a decision which will be made at the UNRRA conference in Montreal, Canada this coming week.

Meanwhile Mr. A.G. Antolini, executive director of the Economic Section who will be named acting vice president pending the General's return, has been busy in negotiations with the Italian Government over transfer of operational responsibilities in several fields from ACC to the Italians, together with as much equipment as possible. Of the Economic Section sub-commissions, Agriculture and Public Works have probably turned over more of their operations, keeping only the supervisory functions, than any others. Next big transfer planned will be that of the operational functions of the Food and Transportation Sub-Commissions, with the turnover by the ACC to the Italians of available requisitioned and certain WD transport. Execution of plans for such transfers depends, of course, on Italian capacity to act. Presentation of the first Italian steps was made to the Economic Section this week from the hands of an Inter-Ministerial Committee consisting of Cerabona (Communications - Labor Democrat), Gullo (Agriculture - Communist), Gronchi (Christian Democrat - Industry, Commerce and Labor) and Scelori (Treasury - Liberal). The Italians ask for a nation-wide bread ration of 300 grams (to which ACC has no objection if the Italians can get the wheat out on their own hook); wage increases to both government and industrial employes on basis of need and size of family; and lastly, an increase in the price of bread by removal of the subsidy, allowing the economic price to emerge at 12 or 13 Lire a loaf from the present "political" price of 6 Lire.

The Economic Section through the Finance Sub-Commission and others, is also keenly observing actions of the Council of Ministers in regard to IRI, the gigantic holding company of the Italian Government which not only owns the three largest commercial banks of Italy but the biggest share of the armament and heavy industry of Italy. A plum of the first order, IRI is being reactivated under a technician as operating executive while the board of directors in process of formation will represent the varying grades of acceptable political and economic beliefs in the Italy of today. What happens in the management of this enterprise, ACC experts say, will be a guidepost to the economic future of the nation.

5. Granai del Popolo

An impression that recurs through these periodic reports on

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5. Granai del Popolo

An impression that recurs through these periodic reports on the grain collection is that the measure of success achieved is surprising in view of the difficulties involved. Convalescent officers, one recalls, were assigned to help to get the wheat in and one regional commissioner publicly stated that one of these "harvest control officers" was worth 10,000 tons of wheat. There were 20 assigned on a 30-day basis and in view of the good results another request was made and 26 were assigned but with only 15 vehicles - and mobility is the essence of control. Now arrives an order withdrawing all 15 vehicles. There must be a war somewhere. Another enemy, smut, has seriously attacked the soft wheat in southeastern Italy, particularly Foggia. This will not affect overmuch the crop gathered - reducing the quality rather than ruining the grain - but will affect the seed wheat needed for next year's sowing, since smutted seed wheat will not grow. Rich Macerata Province in Region V had yet another problem - lack of storage space, necessitating temporary stoppage of the threshing, all

/ official

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Official bins being crammed full. Supplementary space was later found. Then there have been the September rains in the Marche and Tuscany. Lack of fuel and transport delayed threshing, the rain fell on the shocked wheat which began to sprout. And carbon bi-sulfide to protect the cereal against the elements was short. An interesting footnote to Liberated Italy's harvest campaign comes from beyond the enemy lines in the Po Valley, where farmers are reporting hoarding their grain in expectation of the arrival of the Allies. Reason: The official Fascist-German price is from 285 to 350 lire a quintal. The Allied price is 900 - 1,000 lire a quintal.

With the Granai del Popolo in grains drawing to a close, we must report a joint achievement of the Agriculture and Finance Sub-Commissions in cutting drastically high interest rates for grain financing, a reform which is expected to produce real benefits to the economy cumulatively as time goes by. Farmers, of course, get a check from the Consorzi which they cash at their local banks. Consorzi financing is done through groups of participating banks, but repayment being limited to proceeds of sales, there was always a deficit representing the subsidy and operating costs of the collection. This deficit the government guaranteed, paying an interest from 6 to 7½ per cent. Actually, no settlement of the financing of the last four years' crops had been made, while the high rate of interest went on. ACC ordered that all outstanding balances of past years be paid at once, and arranged that henceforth participating banks would be paid monthly and currently at an annual rate of 6 per cent, which amounts to ½ per cent on each monthly note.

The latest figures on wheat collections coming into Headquarters as of September 9 are as follows:-

Regions	Wheat collected (quintals)	RCs Collection Goals (quintals)
1	943,010	3,500,000
Southern	2,305,522	3,875,175
4	967,018	1,930,000
5	741,904	2,250,000
6	199,780	400,000
8	516,669	1,500,000
	5,673,903	13,455,175

6. Oil

The spotlight will shortly focus on the amassing of olive oil for the Granai del Popolo. Sixty per cent of the crop comes from Puglie, Calabria and Sicily. Yields are expected to be lower in the South this year. This year's crop is estimated as approximately 2,000,000 quintals, which will be, roughly, half retained and half amassed. The oil amassing decree has been signed. Basic price to be paid the producers for first quality oil is in process of being fixed, the range of discussion lying between 45 and 65 lire a kilogram. (Consumers buy oil in liters but producers get paid in kilograms of production). Oil, of course, is one of the most lucrative sources of income on the black market. Around the oil-producing towns in

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7. Prisoners of War

Two things ever presently remind Italians of the war, they tell us. One is ruined cities. The other is persons they no longer see but long for - prisoners of war. Some news of the disposition of these by-products of war comes from Lieut-Colonel J.A. Campbell, director of the War Materials Disposal and Prisoners of War Sub-Commission. Approximately 1,500 protected personnel of the medical type are being repatriated from North Africa. In Sicily, where in the initial collapse of the Italian armies many prisoners were released on parole almost at once, 65,000 (who had been living freely at home) obtained their technical release from prisoner of war status July 31. Another 1,500 - these wounded and sick - are coming home by September 30 from North Africa, Kenya, Rhodesia, England and India. The policy henceforth will be repatriate and release all prisoners over 60 years old, those who are 50 or more and have been in custody two years or more, sick and wounded and any prisoners who can be certified as directly aiding the rehabilitation of Italy. Regional commissioners who run across records of such prisoners as might be useful may set the wheels moving for their release through Colonel Campbell's organization. Italian Government officials, incidentally, are now visiting for the first time camps established on the Italian mainland for about 700 prisoners termed "cooperators" who work and move freely doing work for the Allies but reside in three special camps. The entire question of Italian prisoners of war, whose elucidation depends on the Combined Chiefs of Staff, has been obscured by the absence of real statistics and the brutal fact that there have been too many other pressing matters to worry about. In all, the Allies reportedly hold about 500,000 Italian prisoners. In the United States are some 50,000. England has 60,000. There are still 30,000 in North Africa. The greatest lot is the (roughly) estimated 250,000 in India. The condition or numbers of those held by the Russians from the ill-starred divisions sent there by Mussolini is largely a matter of guesswork, though the figures range from 10,000 to 100,000, with one fact more or less clearly admitted. Few Italians of Southern climes were prepared to withstand the rigors of Russian winters and so perished, which cuts down the estimates of those still prisoners.

8. Odds and Ends

First organization of its kind in Italy, the Unione Femminile Italiana has been formed in Naples to further the welfare and political rights of women (shades of Carrie Chapman Catt and Sylvia Pankhurst!) ..... With the coming of fall and winter, the health situation bears notice: Smallpox is decreasing in Naples but typhoid is epidemic in Benevento while in Rome the sub-standar food situation has, it is feared, resulted in not inconsiderable malnutrition, fertile ground for winter diseases ..... The Sicilian railway triangle is finally in working order; you can travel now from Palermo to Messina, Messina to Catania and Catania to Palermo ..... A serious fire raged for days on the heaths of Nuoro district in Sardinia and two Italian officers lost their lives before their troops were able to bring the flames under control ..... Lt-Col A.G. Tubb, regional finance officer of the now defunct Region II,

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John P. Leacacos
Maj., AUS
for LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major, Public Relations Director.

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SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/WB22

3 September 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 22
28 Aug to 3 Sep 44

4 SEP Recd

1. Political.

The Council of Ministers, in successive sessions on 31 Aug and 1 Sep, tackled an agenda full of serious matters, some with long term and international implications. The meeting on Friday approved a decree providing for the naming of Commissioners (of the sort described in last week's Bulletin) to take over the running of "editorial enterprises", and information agencies which, since 8 Sep last, have published books, newspapers or pamphlets or carried on any activities in behalf of Fascism or the Germans. It was further explicitly stated that the old Roman papers such as "Il Messaggero" were not to reappear under the old names. This is a ticklish matter in the capital since the papers with the widest circulation were naturally those of Fascist prominence and their eventual fate has been of some concern to the new papers that came out at the time of the Liberation. Of greater national importance were the measures taken in regard to Sicily. The High Commissioner, Aldisio, was present at the meeting of the Council and after "ample discussion", in which all the ministers shared" a number of resolutions were made. It was decided that the government would reinforce the administrative apparatus of Sicily and resolutely combat the separatist movement on the island; the six parties represented in the government are also to enlist their strength as parties in the same cause. The government also announced its intention of giving "efficacious form to decentralization and regional autonomy." The specific measures to be taken are to be left to the Constituent Assembly, suggestions meanwhile being welcomed from the island itself, but special provisions are under consideration, among them "concrete and organic resolution of the latifundia problem." This is not the first Italian government to embark hopefully on such an enterprise and the working out of these good resolutions is sure to be followed with attention by all Italians and indeed by the world. Among other measures of lesser importance, a draft decree for machinery for gathering the necessary statistics, which are basic for reconstruction planning, was approved. This is the beginning of the "inventario" for which the papers, notably "Avanti", have been pleading for some time. The government was, in a sense, "scooped" in this matter, for at the press conference of the ACC Economic Section held on Wednesday a representative of the Italian Bureau of Statistics had already indicated such a survey was under way.

Friday's meeting was of equal significance for the requests of the Confederation of Labour, presented to Gronchi on 9 Aug and already the object of a special meeting of the ministers without portfolio were, in substance, heeded. The Council decided after "ample and minute" debate to entrust to a special ministerial committee the task of working out without delay plans which "for their implementation must be discussed with competent Allied authorities." It is not clear whether

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in last week's Bulletin) to take over the running of "editorial enterprises", and information agencies which, since 8 Sep last, have published books, newspapers or pamphlets or carried on any activities in behalf of Fascism or the Germans. It was further explicitly stated that the old Roman papers such as "Il Messaggero" were not to reappear under the old names. This is a ticklish matter in the capital since the papers with the widest circulation were naturally those of Fascist prominence and their eventual fate has been of some concern to the new papers that came out at the time of the Liberation. Of greater national importance were the measures taken in regard to Sicily. The High Commissioner, Aldisio, was present at the meeting of the Council and after "ample discussion, in which all the ministers shared" a number of resolutions were made. It was decided that the government would reinforce the administrative apparatus of Sicily and resolutely combat the separatist movement on the island; the six parties represented in the government are also to enlist their strength as parties in the same cause. The government also announced its intention of giving "efficacious form to decentralization and regional autonomy." The specific measures to be taken are to be left to the Constituent Assembly, suggestions meanwhile being welcomed from the island itself, but special provisions are under consideration, among them "concrete and organic resolution of the latifundia problem." This is not the first Italian government to embark hopefully on such an enterprise and the working out of these good resolutions is sure to be followed with attention by all Italians and indeed by the world. Among other measures of lesser importance, a draft decree for machinery for gathering the necessary statistics, which are basic for reconstruction planning, was approved. This is the beginning of the "inventario" for which the papers, notably "Avanti", have been pleading for some time. The government was, in a sense, "scooped" in this matter, for at the press conference of the ACC Economic Section held on Wednesday a representative of the Italian Bureau of Statistics had already indicated such a survey was under way.

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Churchill's farewell message to Italy was, on the whole, well received. It has been said, and with some accuracy as nearly as we may judge, that it was somewhat disillusioning to the optimists who had hoped for the announcement of some concrete piece of good news, and cheering to the pessimists who found comfort in such phrases as "the gift of liberty", "Italy taking her place among the nations" and the allusion to "large Italian forces" soon to join the Allies in the

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the fight against Hitler. "Avanti" and "Unita" left out Mr Churchill's recipe for liberty which included a warning against any kind of totalitarianism, an omission to which other newspapers gleefully called attention. "Avanti", somewhat sheepishly, said something about "lack of space" and "Unita" as yet has not deigned to explain. But comment even from these papers was favourable; only the "Voce Repubblicana" detected support for the monarchy lurking in Churchill's phrases and informed him that the spirit of the Risorgimento to which he would have Italy adhere was essentially Republican.

The Pope's broadcast was another highlight of the week. It too seems to have satisfied all parties. True, the insistence on the right to private property may have been in theory a little painful to the Marxist parties but they played up his remarks on the need of coordinating capital with the interests of society. It is hardly news that the Vatican is not Communist and the Left seems to have reasoned that they had been given as much as they could expect - especially as both Communists and Socialists are still courting the evasive Christian Democrats. One chord the Pope struck found a response in all Italian hearts; his allusion to the state of the prisoners of war. The obscurity which enshrouds those in Russia and the anomalous position of those still in Allied hands no less than fears for the safety of labourers in Germany have been a constant source of concern; a special meeting of Ministers without Portfolio surveyed the situation earlier in the week and papers of all parties have presented the problem; much is expected from the Pope's remarks which, it is hoped, will focus world attention on the matter.

The visit of the American and British Labour delegation has been the subject of a good deal of comment. There is no doubt that the contacts they have made have given Italians a feeling of "belonging" again. But their meeting with the Confederazione del Lavoro - logical and natural as it was - set the parties at odds. For the Confederazione is regarded by "outsiders" as a "monopoly" of the Socialists, Communists and Christian Democrats. The other parties all went to some lengths to point out that the "Anglo-Saxon representatives" must "look behind the façade" (as the Action Party puts it) and not depart with the impression that the triumvirate of the self-styled parties of the masses can speak for all aspects of the labour problem - or indeed for all workers.

2. <u>Re-making the Patriots.</u>

The Patriot situation, which a couple of months ago was becoming a major headache, seems now easier, partly, perhaps, because Italians are taking an increasing share in its control. A pool of 60 Patriot representatives is being formed by the Committee of National Liberation and the Comando Supremo for work further north. Patriot representatives are working in teams of two in the field smoothly screening authenticity of Patriots while other Italian teams recruit for the Italian Army, and every Province has its own Patriots Committee for employment. A national Patriots organization is also in process of formation to establish national policies on Patriot rehabilitation and compensation. In brief, the Patriot problem is now organized and the representatives are paid (150 lire a day plus rations, transport and petrol).

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/ Officer

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Officer of Region V and Patriots Branch representative, is planning to withdraw Carabinieri from static or routine jobs and putting at least another 50 Patriots to work. It is also of interest to learn that a Patriot must have joined by March 1944 to get a certificate of merit. For men who joined the Patriot forces after this date, the band leader issues a certificate of "collaboration" on his own authority.

3. AMG with the Armies.

As we go to press the Allied Armies in Italy are forging ahead after the breaching of the Gothic line by the Eighth Army in the Pesaro sector, described by AAI as "a decisive victory for Allied arms."

Pisa fell on September 1 and in the evening a CAPO entered the town with 50 Carabinieri augmented by a further 25 from Army Mobile Force. Ford trucks which had been concentrated in the vicinity were also sent in. Further details are not yet known.

The city of Florence has been placed "off limits until the operational situation clarifies." Reasons for this are clear from the following report received from Major Bullock:

Civilian casualties in Florence since 11 August, the day the Germans pulled back from the north bank of the Arno behind the Mugnone, have been 380 dead and 1,261 wounded, and these figures are only up to Tuesday of this week. Last Sunday morning, March of Time filmed a pitched battle on the Piazza Dalmazia when British troops and Patriots drove the Germans back 200 yards in house-to-house combat. Shelling and sniping have gone on every night since the Germans retreated across the Arno during the early hours of 3 August. Citizens are still being blown up on mines strewn around the Ponte Vecchio area. The stench of dead bodies is met in every corner of the town. Florence is still without electricity. The mains which carry water from the south bank to the main part of the city on the north cannot be repaired until thousands of tons of rubble and mines have been shifted. Burials in the emergency cemetery in the Boboli Gardens reached 200 before the 11th, when the first AMG elements crossed into the main part of the city. A new, greater field of the dead has been opened in the Botanical Gardens just off the Square of St Mark. Into it have gone 400 bodies, in scenes which defy description, for there had been no burials for many days in the ancient City of Flowers by the time the Germans pulled out. How many dead remain under the rubble to be excavated as clearing proceeds nobody knows. Any exact keeping of vital statistics stopped on the 8th.

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The Germans spared the Ponte Vecchio, but in sparing it they destroyed one-third of the 13th and 14th century houses of Florence, including the interior of the Palace of the Guelphs. All the old overhanging houses on both banks of the Arno which gave the city its characteristic mediaeval appearance are either completely demolished or partly smashed. They can be rebuilt, but if they are Florence will be a Hollywood set, not any longer the city of the Medici. The list of historic buildings hit by shell fire reads like a page of Baedeker: the Misericordia Cemetery was blasted, many fine tombs

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/ fighting

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fighting equipment was smashed or taken away by the Germans. The one fire-engine AMG found during the early days in South Florence was smashed by a German shell on the night of its discovery. It has been established that children died of hunger in the Ospedale Innocenti, oldest foundling home in the world, during the last days of the German occupation. Women and children were shot by Fascist Republican snipers in bread and water lines after the Germans withdrew. At 2000 hrs last Sunday a Fascist Republican threw a bomb in front of a British truck near Hotel Excelsior, killing one civilian and wounding six. Within an hour the Carabinieri had arrested him and he had been identified.

Careggi Polyclinic Hospital, in the northern outskirts of Florence, is still being stubbornly held by the Germans with machine-gun posts all around the building and artillery on the hill behind. Inside, with the defenders, are 3,700 Italian refugees and Allied internees. On Saturday these unfortunates began to escape through the sewers. Nothing more terrible has been seen in Florence than these desperate men, women and children, crawling out of manholes in the streets of Florence, choking, sobbing, smeared with sewage. One hundred came down on Saturday. Forty more on Sunday. Then the movement ceased. The Germans had found the exit and machine-gunned the last small group to come out.

Among incidental points noted on Florence are:

The noblewoman who wrote: "Baroness X presents her compliments to the management of the AMGOT and would be glad to know where she can obtain canned foodstuffs and groceries, tea, sugar, butter etc., also soap. With compliments and thanks." The local bank which wrote to inquire whether hunting rifles and pistols pledged as security for loans might be returned to the owners on redemption. The finding of the tiny widow of Ras Nasibou, stalwart Abyssinian chieftain who fought the Italians with such stubbornness, living in destitution with her seven children in Florence. The attempts of black marketeers to cash in on a dearth of insulin urgently needed for 18 dying children, and how AMG put the fear of God into them and got generous supplies from many sources, including anonymous donors. The Fascist in the Black Shirt who was mobbed on the stairs leading to the Cinquecento room in the Palazzo Vecchio and badly mauled before AMG could get him into protective custody. The intervention of two British CMPs who stopped a public execution of alleged looters by Patriots in the early days of our occupation. The defiant, red-headed young woman who was escorted to the Palazzo Vecchio last Sunday afternoon by a great crowd howling that her hair must be cut off on the Palazzo balcony because she had expressed pro-German sentiments. The burial, with full British and Patriot military honours, of Potente, remarkable young Patriot commander, killed in action against Fascist Republican snipers, and the murmur which ran around the graveside during the funeral oration when a comrade mentioned "the proletariat" and the Florentines muttered: "Not proletariat, but people." The arrival of 20 quintals of lemons in Vatican trucks for the hospitals of Florence, a gift of the Pope. The German racket of requisitioning cattle, driving them off, selling them some miles away, then re-requisitioning and re-selling them over and over again. The great auction sales in the squares during the last

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4. Economics and the Press

A new and very welcome step was taken this week when Brigadier-General O'Dwyer inaugurated the first of a series of regular Press Conferences designed to explain the work of the Economic Section in detail to the Allied and Italian press. The General neither withheld facts nor minced words. He flooded correspondents with figures hitherto secret - such as the 700 calories per head which Roman citizens are getting, the 600,000 tons of Allied wheat required by Liberated Italy alone in the next twelve months and the German destruction of 94% of all electric plants - and made no bones about Italy's grave plight. Allied correspondents, to whom Italian food and power questions had an interest which was academic rather than personal, wrote down the figures and reported them: the Italian journalists, however, whose interest was both more lively and more informed, opened a cannonade of sometimes unanswerable questions on the General and Mr Antolini, and made some pertinent suggestions. Their reporting was detailed and fair: such conferences will undoubtedly be of the greatest value in keeping public opinion in this country informed of the activities - and difficulties - of the ACC.

5. Southern Region Debut.

Colonel Temperley, new Regional Commissioner of the mammoth Southern Region, got his staff off to a good start on Aug 31 at the first meeting of the reorganized group whose job will be to watch Allied interests in an area that formerly comprised three regions and more than 300 officers. Now there will be only 100 officers, with 70 military vehicles and 150 requisitioned ones, for six zones comprising 15 provinces. Officers in charge of zones will be called Zone Commanders. The first priority will be to hand back to the Italians all purely administrative work, without damage to Allied interests, so that a 50 per cent reduction in the regional staff can be effected within six weeks. Specialist officers will be used in other zones than their own whenever necessary. Amassing of olive-oil is the top field problem. The public safety officer also must clean up the matter of Allied deserters in the Salerno area and return them to military justice. Another strain on ACC manpower in the new region is that ACC must provide officers on call to defend soldiers up on court martial. Transport, as ever, for the Italian economy is and will be a painful situation. Some of the railroad locomotives have been already sent north. Tires are wearing out. A factory has been opened at Bari for re-treading tires, but only for the armed forces. A similar factory is ready for operations at Naples, but there are no materials. And the black market price for tires is now 40,000 lire each. At least Colonel Temperley will have all the old, familiar problems with him. We wish him luck.

6. Green cards.

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This concerns a particular headache of the Public Relations Branch about which we should like you now to be warned. When we came to

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grave plight. Allied correspondents, to whom Italian food and power questions had an interest which was academic rather than personal, wrote down the figures and reported them: the Italian journalists, however, whose interest was both more lively and more informed, opened a cannonade of sometimes unanswerable questions on the General and Mr Antolini, and made some pertinent suggestions. Their reporting was detailed and fair: such conferences will undoubtedly be of the greatest value in keeping public opinion in this country informed of the activities - and difficulties - of the ACC.

5. Southern Region Debut.

Colonel Temperley, new Regional Commissioner of the mammoth Southern Region, got his staff off to a good start on Aug 31 at the first meeting of the reorganized group whose job will be to watch Allied interests in an area that formerly comprised three regions and more than 300 officers. Now there will be only 100 officers, with 70 military vehicles and 150 requisitioned ones, for six zones comprising 15 provinces. Officers in charge of zones will be called Zone Commanders. The first priority will be to hand back to the Italians all purely administrative work, without damage to Allied interests, so that a 50 per cent reduction in the regional staff can be effected within six weeks. Specialist officers will be used in other zones than their own whenever necessary. Amassing of olive-oil is the top field problem. The public safety officer also must clean up the matter of Allied deserters in the Salerno area and return them to military justice. Another strain on ACC manpower in the new region is that ACC must provide officers on call to defend soldiers up on court martial. Transport, as ever, for the Italian economy is and will be a painful situation. Some of the railroad locomotives have been already sent north. Tires are wearing out. A factory has been opened at Bari for re-treading tires, but only for the armed forces. A similar factory is ready for operations at Naples, but there are no materials. And the black market price for tires is now 40,000 lire each. At least Colonel Temperley will have all the old, familiar problems with him. We wish him luck.

6. Green cards.

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This concerns a particular headache of the Public Relations Branch about which we should like you now to be warned. When we came to Rome there were some 600 Italian journalists milling around. The PRB found itself willy-nilly besieged by a crowd of new acquaintances demanding not only information and interviews but also curfew passes, car permits, light, telephones, typewriters, and, of course, jobs. Colonel Poletti's first Italian Press Conference was a mob of over 100 people shouting at each other. Something, clearly, had to be done. We didn't want to do it and we didn't and don't want to be a Gestapo. But if Italian journalists were to be permitted to travel, attend conferences, and generally act as representatives of the free press which the Allies have set up in Italy, a selection had to be made, if only to prevent overcrowding. So Italian journalists who wish to be, so to speak, "accredited" by the ACC, go through the four following "hoops":

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(a) They declare their life history in a "Scheda Personale" and are vetted by Security;
(b) They go before the Committee of Epuration set up by the Italian Government;
(c) Their names are given for inclusion (or refusal to include) in the Register of Journalists of the Federazione Stampa;
(d) Their names are checked by the officers who have examined the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture, which contain names and details of journalists employed by Fascism.

Some journalists (you'll be surprised to hear) have survived these tests and to them has been issued a green card bearing their photograph and signature, the signature of the Directors of the Security and Public Relations Branches, giving a general recognition and permission to travel, enter official buildings and be out after curfew.

We could tell you a long story of the complications which have arisen over the four hoops: what we want to stress here is that we invite you to extend to any possessor of the green card such facilities and courtesies as you can. We believe them to be good people who can and will do much to create good feeling between the Italian people and the ACC.

7. Odds and Ends.

Samuel Reber, former Vice-President of the Political Section, now has the job of advising General Eisenhower on the French show ..... Work at ACC HQ is systematically punctuated these days by peals of bells which come from the Church of Santa Maria della Concezione, a Capuchin chapel set in the middle of the Ministry of Corporations Building ..... Final approval of the manpower reorganization of ACC headquarters sections and personnel is awaited; the result will be that more officers will find themselves in field jobs, and more operating responsibility, willy-nilly, will have to be assumed by the Italian Government ..... The Public Relations Branch, acting on the suggestion of General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, has issued a 15-page release with 17 pictures documenting the treatment of political victims by the German Sicherheitsdienst in their Via Tasso headquarters in Rome ..... The Economic Section is trying to get for Italy two floating power stations from the United States, one for the Adriatic and one for the Tyrrhenian coast, to provide power to replace the 94% destroyed Italian hydroelectric system..... Commendation should go this week to Major Huston D. Crippen, who at present is unfortunately ill with malaria in 73rd General Hospital in Rome, for his work in Rieti Province where, at great risk, he supervised the de-mining of five locomotives in a tunnel which the Germans hoped to blow shut ..... The Granai del Popolo as of September 2 had collected 4,735,727 quintals of wheat in Italy south of the battle line ..... The wheat price recommendation for Northern Italy, to date, with no official announcement as yet, is to continue the present prices paid in Southern Italy .....The Allied Publications Board has frozen all issue of newsprint temporarily because of shortages in imports ..... Documentary films about the Italian armed forces - Army, Navy and Air Force-will be made

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Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

B/R26/WB21

27 August 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 21
21 Aug to 27 Aug 44

28 AUG Recd

1. Political

The spotlight so mercilessly fixed in the past on the government swung this week to focus sharply on a Distinguished Visitor. Mr Churchill's every move, so far as such moves could be known, was the object of infinite speculation and comment. Since no definite declarations were made by him at any time nor by any one who had seen him the circumstances of his pilgrimage were microscopically scrutinized for their possible implications. He covered a good deal of ground and saw a lot of prominent figures; one almost had the impression of a stop watch being held on his conversations. It was noted that he spent an hour and a half with the Lieutenant-General (Front page box with heavy type in "Italia Nuova") an hour with the Pope (italics in "Il Popolo") and that Bonomi and Badoglio had lunch with him in an "atmosphere of great cordiality". It is known that Bonomi brought up the question of Lend-Lease, and the London correspondents of the "Daily Telegraph" reported that he had expressed himself as favourable to its application to Italy if the U.S. would consent. He also saw Marshal Tito, roughly at the same time "Il Popolo" was asserting that Fiume and Trieste are and must remain Italian, and indeed almost everyone else except President Roosevelt, who, contrary to rumour, was not in Rome. Hopes are high for what this visit may mean and indeed if nothing else, as "Risorgimento Liberale" points out, it has at least broken the "isolation" of Italy and given one of the great leaders of the world a chance to see for himself what are the needs of the country. The fact that Mr Churchill is known to have had a long conversation with Bonomi and to have met the whole government before leaving has undoubtedly had a good effect upon the standing of the government and public confidence in it.

Similar remarks were made on the arrival of Antonini and Baldanzi, two American labour representatives. Their list of contacts was of course less extensive but followed at least in some quarters with equal intensity, "Avanti" announcing gleefully that Antonini had called immediately at the office of the journal to be received with fraternal cordiality by Nenni. Representatives of the British Trade Unions are expected to arrive shortly.

2786

Soleri, Minister of the Treasury, held a press conference on Thursday in which he spoke frankly of the unsatisfactory currency situation in Italy. He pointed out that the issue of notes both by Germans in the North and the Allies in the South have made it impossible to keep accurate account of the currency in circulation. He has restricted the issue of notes on the part of the government and trusts the Allies to do their share by similar restriction and by "compensating for their issues with supplies of products." He was not unduly alarmed about prices, pointing out that Rome could not

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One speech made news. Sforza spoke on international affairs last Sunday. With his main point that Italian problems should be considered not as purely national matters but as aspects of European problems all were in accord, and his suggestion that Fiume might be made a seat for a new League of Nations had the merit of originality. But his criticism of Sonnino for excluding the Vatican from the Versailles peace conference set the Action Party and the Christian Democrats at each others throats. The latter applauded Sforza, the Action journal, "Italia Libera", promptly called attention to the Vatican's alleged Fascist sympathies in Hungary, Spain and Slovakia, the "Popolo" replied - and the battle is still joined as we go to press.

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2. AMG with the Armies

A good"patriot" story comes from Fifth Army AMG. The 37 who received certificates at Cecina included 5 nuns, one the Mother Superior, who gave shelter and care to escaped Allied POWs. When the Germans came to search they were received at the door by the Mother Superior with a Crucifix in the one hand and a pistol in the other. If they entered they would "get both", she said!

Livorno still has difficulties owing to restrictions on the occupation of a large part of the city. All local residents are to carry identity cards and dock labourers will have port passes. There is some typhoid in the province, particularly at Colle Salvetii. The Refugee Branch is"doing a fine job" moving up the Refugee Transit Camp to Follonica, which is expected to be ready on September 1.

Fifth Army AMG (becoming poetic) says that "as the sands run low and the lights are coming on again all over Europe, our thoughts are directed increasingly ever further north." It reports"a refreshing contrast" between the already completed teams (2) of Region IX and the "scramble which accompanied the birth pangs of Region VIII", and observes that the next, as yet unnumbered, Region is only 30 miles away.

Increasing sickness among officers, and decreasing transport, are subjects of complaint. "With regard to transport we find ourselves in a worse state on the Arno than we did on the Garigliano."

From the distressed city of Florence there is not much happy news to report. Since August 18 the Germans have been shelling the city intermittently, injuring and killing many and hitting the Strozzi Palace, San Lorenzo, the Uffizi Gallery, Santa Maria Maggiore and Santo Spirito. The Press has reported (though this is not as yet officially confirmed) that Giotto's Campanile was also hit. Civilians in No Man's Land are still being supplied with food. The debris of demolished bridges is being cleared to avoid floods: street clearing is completed. The bread ration throughout the Province is still 200 grammes, as it is in Livorno Province, and there is some resentment about it, in view of larger rations elsewhere. Nevertheless AMG 8th Army reports "food position and organization better than expected: abundant fruit and vegetables entering Florence and prices reasonable." There are now 100 tons of food south, and 200 north, of the Arno. "Burial of dead," concludes the report, "continuing."

3. Regional Commissioners Conference

The RCs Conference, the first for 12 weeks and the first to be held in Rome, opened on Tuesday in the vast conference room of the Ministero delle Corporazioni, in a blaze of light and the atmosphere of a Turkish bath. The blaze was due to the presence of the March of Time Film Unit which, after considerable hesitation on the part of some of our coyer Vice-Presidents, had been permitted to record the scene. (This they did for an hour but then dropped and smashed their camera, be it regretfully

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The keynote of the Conference was set by the statement in Captain Stone's opening speech that "we in ACC are committed to do all that we can to support the Italian Government in carrying out the hard tasks that lie before it. That is the dominant aspect of the second phase into which we have now entered." The Supreme Allied Commander, in his address, congratulated ACC on the work done since the Sicily landing, said that our major problems were food and unemployment and insisted that

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the ACC keep its eye on administration and off politics. Our watchwords, he suggested, should be initiative and integrity.

Sicily's commissioner, Colonel Hancock (about to depart for Brave New Regions) painted a dark picture, quoting Thucydides on the "unruly mob" of the island. Harvesting intractability had resulted in 9,000 denunciations and arrests of which only 500 had been tried. Region II - Colonel MacCleary reporting for Colonel Zellars whose departure for another theatre was much regretted by all - noted a marked growth of Communism in Potenza and Brindisi. (This pained "l'Unita" which remarked, in reporting the proceedings, that the life of the parties, unless it affected the war effort, was not the business of the ACC). Colonel Chapman thought that Region III's wheat target (170,000 tons) would be reached: Colonel Poletti spoke sympathetically of Rome's food troubles and his practised oratory was clearly audible to Italian press correspondents. In Foggia, Colonel Temperley stated, the black market had switched from grain to olive-oil. Colonel Feasey gave some impressive figures of Calabria's exports and reported no unemployment there. The Executive Commissioner, in his summary, stressed two points - that Allied military interests came before everything else, and that we must work through the Italian authorities.

Among figures given by other sub-commissions were 500,000,000 lire worth of exports from Italy from D day to July 31; 25,000,000 dollars woth of paintings in a single cache near Florence: 50,000 tons of food a month to be brought into Rome: 340,000 tons of wheat already in the Granai del Popolo: 170,000 tons of civil supplies handled in July 1944 compared with 18,000 in December 1943: and a contribution by Italy to the armies of 150,000 tons of food and 110,000 sheep.

General O'Dwyer, perhaps partly because he was a newcomer, struck a refreshing note of determination and optimism. He spoke very simply, pointing out that the Economic Section's problem was "to take surplus to deficiency" and declaring that it could and would be done. He picked examples from the preceding reports - 250,000 tons of wine in Apulia: no wine in Rome - and gave some striking figures such as that of 1,400 tons of food for the daily requirements as foreseen of Rome. The Conference certainly had the impression, from his talk, that Italy's economic recovery had found a new and doughty champion.

2785

The Service reports were lively. Admiral Morgan, in stentorian tones which Echo rendered almost unintelligible, spilled quite a number of beans about the Italian Navy: all shorthand writers disagreed about his exact words, but there was no doubt about his general opinion that the Navy had done a fine job and shown great bravery "in the highest naval traditions". General Browning countered with a tribute to the Army which, he suggested, might be of greater value to Italy's future than even the senior service: and Air Vice Marshal Bowen-Buscarlet did not lose the opportunity of pointing out that in modern warfare neither service could exist without the Air Force. The three speeches were a striking tribute to the good relationship existing between the Allied and Italian armed forces. General Browning, incidentally, thought that patriots were "stealing the picture" and wanted more publicity for the Army: and the Air Vice Marshal had a special word for General

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The Executive Commissioner's meeting on the next day was about the toughest - and hottest - ever. Even the imperturbable Mr Antolini mopped his brow as questions were hurled at him concerning the price of wheat - and whether there should be differentiation between North and South - the level of wages, the everlasting transport question and the use of schooners, and the whole insoluble tangle of inflation's progress. Mentally, if not physically, the discussions seemed to clear the air: if, as seemed sure, vast problems loomed ahead, Regional Commissioners appeared eager and ready to cope with them - as far as staff and transport permit.

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4. Granai del Popolo

Judging from Italian difficulties in getting the harvest in and amassed in other years, agriculture experts at Headquarters are beginning to feel hopeful about the Granai del Popolo. Estimates of the collection to date vary from 29 to 33 per cent. of the target as of the end of August. In recent years by this time, the Italians had gathered approximately 60 per cent of their goals. Comparative statistics are notoriously fallible, so we shall not pursue the point further. Suffice it to recall that in the spring, the Agriculture Sub-Commission forecast that 43 per cent of the wheat crop would be collected. It later revised the estimate downward to 38 per cent. The end of the harvest is October 31, approximately. Of course, the wheat price for the northern regions has not been set yet. One school wants to retain the present price of 1,000 lire; the other wants a lower price. The issue: Obscure at deadline time. The Agriculture Sub-Commission also feels pretty good about one thing: It thinks it has, more or less, licked the problem of grain retention by the farmer and his helpers. In Fascist years, this was such a scandal that many persons got themselves put on the lists as agricultural workers, did a couple of days' harvesting and then were allowed to retain enough grain to give them a bread ration of 600 grams a day every day in the year! The harvest collection in Region III is not going too well and its lack of progress has been obscured by the Sicilian reports of opposition, although Sicily at least has a record of consistency in opposing amassing. The problem in Region III is the fact that there are too many small farmers who have only two to ten quintals to harvest. You need an army to police such small fellows, particularly since the black market price in nearby Naples is currently 1,400 to 1,800 lire a quintal and black market operators promise the farmer 8,000 lire a quintal if he will hold his wheat for six months and then sell it to the black market ring. The collections in reports received and collated as of August 25 are:-

Region	Wheat collected (Quintals)	Regional Commissioners' Goals
I	575,000	3,500,000
II	703,056	1,550,000
Foggia	915,421	1,565,175
III	65,161	170,000
IV	568,736	1,930,000
V	474,251	2,550,000
VI	170,000	400,000
VII	130,000	290,000
VIII	261,000	1,500,000
Total	3,862,625	13,455,175

5. Mr Churchill

"off the record" Press

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5. Mr Churchill

On Wednesday Mr Churchill held a very "off the record" Press Conference at the British Embassy, Rome. The directive allows us to give only "descriptive material and the remark about Cigars." The censor slipped here as there were two remarks about cigars. Asked about the state of his health the PM said "I'm about to be 70 and not doing so badly" and to a further question as to how many cigars he smoked replied "Depends on the state of my health." Apart from this Mr Churchill expressed appreciation of his reception in Italian villages "where they recognized me everywhere, with or without the cigar." Mr Churchill, sitting on a small gilt chair with a background of red-carpeted stairway topped by a large painting of Queen Victoria in 1850, looked rubicund and cheerful: he departed wishing journalists "good copy and a rosier view of the future."

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6. Regions and their Prefects

We have before us the minutes of a meeting held on August 20 at the HQ of Region V between Regional officers and the Prefects of the Region. We do not know whether such meetings have taken place in other Regions: certainly this one gives an interesting and encouraging picture of understanding and cooperation. Harvest, supply and transport, public safety, finance and refugees were the subjects discussed. Colonel Marshall opened the proceedings with a very elegant speech on the speedy restoration of Italy to the Italians, and Colonel Pickering gave Region V Italians a small fatherly pat on the back for good behaviour. On the whole, however, (we must have our fun) it did seem as though the prefects were listening obediently to some kindly-intentioned, but rather pained teachers: and the minutes don't record that they spoke back at all except for a plaintive plea for more oxen for Chieti and Teramo's wail for permission to distribute grain for which no warehouse space was available - to which Colonel Middlewood replied sternly that it must be exported. Anyhow, the idea of the meeting is clearly excellent: and the minutes may give an erroneous of seven little prefect boys sitting in a row.

7. The Economic Front

With the war going so well and the end not too distant (we hope, we hope), the third phase of military government - readying for transfer to post-war status, especially in the economic sphere - is taking a bigger and bigger share of ACC attention. Here are some highlights of Economic Section activity along this line: Rome, which for various reasons now in process of correction has not been getting enough food supplies to live up to its ration scale, now has the benefit of a Headquarters Rome Food Supply Committee under the chairmanship of Major Jack Rorimer....The Capital, as a result of further energetic action, will get partial gas service on or about September 1 and a steady supply of sub-lignite for ordinary fuel on or about September 3..... Colonel Poletti, Region IV RC, did his bit for the Romans by announcing late August 26 that one and a half hour's gas would be provided in one zone on August 28....Recommendations to G-5 to the effect that 560,000 tons of wheat would be needed to be imported into Italy in the next six months are being reconsidered in the light of figures showing the large amounts of native Italian food supplies taken by the armed forces, with corresponding savings in shipping at a time when bottoms were at a premium ..... An over-all plan being sent to the Combined Chiefs of Staff calls for the British Government to appoint a number of civilian experts to ACC equal to the eventual civilian representation from the Foreign Economic Administration of the United States Government, the present number of American civilians asked for being 42 .....The question now under debate of pulling all ACC officers out of Sicily has narrowed down to economic issues: can we afford to let rehabilitation perhaps slide without ACC technical supervision or should we put the entire operational responsibility on the Italian Govt., especially in view of the manpower shortage in Northern regions....Brig. Gen. O'Dwyer, Vice-President, and Mr. Antolini, executive director of the Economic Section, will hold their first press conference Aug. 29, in the morning with Allied correspondents and in the afternoon with Ital-

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two-day journey to Rome to 12 days ..... One enterprising shipper finally got to Rome with a load of wine which had a landing price of 45 lire a litre; it cost him less than one lira a litre .....

8. Flags and Symbols

On Friday evening a "demonstration" occurred in the Piazza Farnese at Rome. A quite orderly and perfectly good-tempered Italian crowd of about 5,000 gathered in front of the French Embassy to celebrate the fall of Paris. Getting a little bored after a twenty-minute wait, the crowd turned its attention to a Carabinieri station in the square, whose balcony sported an Italian flag bearing the arms of the House of Savoy. This attracted their attention and derision, and one of them made his way up to the balcony, tore off the flag and threw it down among the crowd. He then started to put up the Red Flag with the hammer and sickle. Before he could do so a Carabiriere rushed on to the balcony, tore it from him and flung it (in what the police report describes as "in no unmistakable manner") down on the crowd below. This caused a storm of protest. Colonel Pollock and Major Coxhead, who had then arrived on the scene (needless to say, unarmed and unescorted) quieted the crowd and directed that three flags - Savoy, Communist and French - be hoisted on the balcony.

Descriptions of the demonstration differ. The reporters who were on the scene thought it "very ugly" and wrote splendiferous accounts of the "magnificent behaviour" of Pollock and Coxhead. Asked about this by us, Major Coxhead said "A lot of silly nonsense: some coon hit me over the head with a red flag: he retreated about twenty paces, with my assistance: then Pollock quieted them with a few well-chosen words." Two Italian papers, "Il Popolo" and "l'Italia Nuova" made some acid comments on the demonstration, asking why the Government could not protect the flag under which its armed forces fought.

In this connection it is not perhaps inappropriate to note again the arrival in this country of Luigi Antonini and George Baldanzi, delegates of AF of L and CIO. These two have delivered themselves of some pungent remarks which seem surprising in a war theatre, and somewhat distressing in the context of future peace.

9. Odds and Ends

AMG is all set to enter the independent Republic of San Marino whenever the time comes, one officer having already been entitled "Political Liaison Officer" and briefed as to his duties which will consist largely of being helpful, especially after insuring that a neutral government is actually functioning.....
The Isle of Elba is expected finally to go under AMG control Sept. 20, after French troops leave the island....Major Quayle, former P.A. to Lieut. Gen. MacFarlane is visiting the convalescent former Chief Commissioner in England; we wish the General a speedy recovery....The Southern Region(former regions II, III, and VII

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Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/P26/WB20.

20 August 1944.

21 AUG Recd

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 20
13 Aug to 20 Aug 44

1. Political

The Ferragosto, as the Italians more commonly call the Feast of the Assumption, had a political as well as a religious significance this year, for on that date the provinces of Frosinone, Littoria and Rome were handed back to the Italian Government. The occasion was marked by a message of Alexander and a speech of Bonomi explaining that no miracles were to be expected but that the Government was prepared to do its best to cope with its new tasks. "Avanti" somewhat cynically symbolized the transfer in a cartoon showing a soldier in a British uniform handing a broom to Bonomi and saying: "It's up to you now." Press comment was in general sober rather than jubilant; "Italia Libera" urged the Government to take a strong stand and build up its prestige in the eyes of its countrymen and the Allies, "Risorgimento Liberale" hailed the occasion as an evidence of good faith on the part of the Allies. There is no doubt that the transfer did indeed raise the standing of the Government. For some weeks rumours had been circulating to the effect that there was a lack of harmony within the Cabinet and that the Government was not trusted by the Allies. These rumours were shown to be baseless at least in the eyes of the man in the street by the transfer of the capital into the hands of Bonomi. And, seizing the moment with true political acumen, the ministers without portfolio submitted a manifesto to Bonomi, expressing their confidence in him and their intention of continuing to work in harmony for the solution of the pressing problems of the country. This has cleared the air a good deal and the government seems as firm now as it ever has been. Of course, if the hoped for meeting between Churchill and Bonomi takes place it will make assurance doubly sure.

On the 17th the Council of Ministers met, no doubt heartened by their new authority. The most important matter on the agenda was the draft of a decree giving the Government power to appoint Commissari for "concessionary enterprises affecting the public services or engaged in activities recognized to be of general interest." This will affect, of course, any large industrial or manufacturing concern, but the appointment is made only in cases where the management is absent or suspect or where the firm has shut down. The term of the commissari is limited and must be stated in the act of appointment. The institution of such industrial commissars has sometimes been viewed with doubt as totalitarian in principle, but the feeling at the moment is perhaps best summed by "Avanti" which says the important thing is to get the right men. The Council meeting also abolished the Inspector-

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The life of the parties continues healthy and vigorous. Comment on the fusion of the two Liberal groups, mentioned in last week's Bulletin, has been profuse during the week. Most parties regard it as a clarification of the political situation and are inclined to view it with reserved approval. But Togliatti, writing this Saturday in "Unita", takes a more sombre view. The Democrazia Liberale, he says, is largely made up of "feudal and reactionary elements of the South" which have always been hostile to everything the parties of the Left stand for. He calls the new group "the Trojan horse" within the citadel of democracy. Clarification proceeds on other lines as well; Cardinal Salotti proclaimed categorically in an article given first-page prominence in "Il Popolo" that the Catholic Communists were a contradiction

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in terms: "one cannot be a Catholic and a Communist". He spoke kindly of Togliatti's good intentions toward the Church, which he was prepared to accept at face value, but added that no man, however sincere, could really give guarantees as to the course which events might lead his party to pursue. Pacciardi, Republican leader, in a speech made last Sunday summed up the unchanged and unchanging Republican attitude: the monarchy must go, the present government was not really so much a government as "an unsound combination of parties" and the time has come for the United Nations to give Italy the status of a full-fledged ally.

The week ended on a strong, not to say challenging note. Nenni, who writes more clearly and lucidly than any journalist in Rome, said (in "Avanti") that the people were watching the Government carefully to see whether its actions matched its intentions. If, in the matter of defascistization, "sanctions" did not follow legislation with speed and efficiency, the Government would go and with the Government perhaps the last chance to democratize Italy without appeal to fire and sword. And speaking of Florence, where the deeds of the patriots had given Italians much to be proud of, "Italia Libera" stated that it was now clear that the "people's revolution" in Italy was in complete harmony with the war of the Allies. The enemy is the same, and the goals are the same. "If anyone cannot see that now it is because he does not wish to see....."

2. Giornate fiorentine

The position in Florence remains somewhat lively and rather obscure. Street and roof-top fighting, occasional sporadic shelling from the hills, penetration, on occasions, by German armoured cars, and some initial difficulties with the CLN, who definitely wanted to rule the uneasy roost, have all contributed to a Guelph and Ghibelline situation. It seems clear that Lt-Col Benton-Jones is carrying out an extremely difficult job with great tact and vigour, and that the Italian patriots, who in Florence have been remarkably amenable to discipline - even to handing in their arms when not required - are proving of real value. Except for a few snipers Florence is now clear of the enemy as far as the canal: beyond the canal the condition of civilians is said to be extremely bad, and there appears to be even a tacit agreement to pass food to them through the lines. HQ AMG moved into the Prefettura on August 14 and a small stockpile, reaching about 200 tons, was begun north of the Arno. On the same day a mine explosion occurred on the Ponte Vecchio, killing 7 and injuring many. The 8th Army AMG report of August 14 states that "there have been many casualties among patriots, who have fought very bravely: the Allied Military Command is to thank Patriots publicly for what they have done and are still doing."

3. Meeting in Siena

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3. Meeting in Siena

Chandeliers and tapestries looked down on the Executive Commissioner's third "advanced" meeting held on Wednesday August 16. The tapestries (for a wandering eye such as ours at conferences usually is) had a certain charm; the presiding Brigadier was backed by a prancing warhorse; above the heads of our distinguished SCAOs a couple of yoked peacocks drew a chariot of victory towards a bridgeless stream; Colonel Upjohn was framed by elegant still life. One might continue, but space forbids. Captain Stone attended a part of the conference, and others present included Brigadiers Dunlop and Parkinson, Colonels Fiske, Kirkwood, Bowman, French, Findlay and Legg, Mr Henry Hopkinson of the British High Commissioner's staff, and Mr Antolini, whose tapestry backing was probably (but we didn't notice) an active market scene.

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Perhaps the most interesting points raised at the meeting, which ranged efficiently and vigorously over a very wide field, were political. It was clear that increased collaboration by patriot bands and citizens as we go north, raises new problems, which must have their effect on our attitude towards the Italian Government. Brigadier Lush made it clear that we must try to restore the fullest responsibility to that Government and work through it both nationally and provincially: Mr Antolini echoed the sentiment, stressing the "immense ingenuity" shown by Italians in getting consumers goods going by September 1. He also spoke of the urgent necessity of obtaining the help and understanding of patriots further north in preventing demolition and destruction in the Po Valley, whose harvest is essential to Italy's needs. General Hume spoke eloquently of the harshness, as he thought, of our Proclamations 1-4, which did not make Italians love us: Group-Captain Benson, less concerned with love, seemed to think that Italians ought to obey: Colonel Upjohn smoothly resolved the political dichotomy by pointing out that we could not legally punish for crimes which had not been plainly stated. Mr Caccia reviewed the political situation, not without some heckling as to how far the Committee of Liberation believed in the Italian Government, and whether AMG should accept nominations by the CLN which it sometimes did not like. Colonel Kirkwood seemed to find political demonstrations in Region VIII an increasing nuisance, and Colonel Bonham-Carter, who wanted to get on with repairs in Cassino, was shocked to hear from Mr Antolini that the Italian Government Committee put Rome repairs first on their list. The harvest - and shortage of transport - came in for the usual discussions, and Finance, in its absence, was judged guilty of slowness in payments to farmers. Colonel Todd spoke with acerbity on the lack of maintenance in factories used by the armies. Brigadier Parkinson warned the meeting of a shortage of medical supplies up to the end of this month; after that the position should improve. Other discussions ranged over Patriots, Public Safety, and Permits for Civilian Movement - the last very acute. Major Fielden made a passionate plea (or so he thought) for Italian correspondents to be allowed into Army areas: in fact, they get there anyhow, so we might as well give them permits.

The meeting, to which officers had come from such immense distances that we refrain from saying whether the petrol used would have filled the Lago di Bolsena or not, was certainly one of the most lively yet held by the ACC. An amazingly good buffet lunch (putting any Rome entertainment in the shade) was provided by Region VIII; and from the windows of a high-class hairdressing establishment across the way (across the way in Siena being fifteen feet) peruked ladies and natty coiffeuses looked down on - and perhaps even listened to - the confabulations of their co-belligerents with apparent interest and delight.

4. Granai del Popolo

2782

The harvest collections are continuing nip and tuck. Matera Province in Region II broke last year's record but evasions are

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by regions:-

I	..	..	..	..	462,627
II	..	..	..	..	642,760
Foggia	..	..	..	..	810,965
III	..	..	..	..	41,170
IV	..	..	..	..	450,765
V	..	..	..	..	49,944
VI	..	..	..	..	147,548
VII	..	..	..	..	111,900
VIII	..	..	..	..	261,000
		Total			2,978,679

5. Riviera Affairs

Colonel Spofford, G-5, held a Press Conference in Rome on August 20 on civil affairs in Southern France. He told correspondents that there would be no military government and no proclamations, and that French courts would deal almost immediately with civil offences. The main difficulties up to the present had been under-nourishment, shortage of drugs and medicines and (need we say it?) transport and distribution. Rationing was to be introduced on the same scale as in Normandy, though perhaps the effective ration would be lower at first. Correspondents showed some lively interest in currency arrangements, epuration of collaborators, and wine: but Colonel Spofford was cautious on all three heads.

6. The Economic Pot Simmers

The Economic Section of Brigadier-General O'Dwyer was a-stir with plenty of activity on a dozen fronts this week. While many plans are in the betwixt-and-between stage, progress can be reported, according to the General, on expediting repair of the railroad from Grosseto which will bring lignite coal to Rome for eventual resumption of gas service. Main obstacle to the work was a destroyed bridge. Now, barely ten days after the project was started, three shifts of men are working on repairs - at night under floodlights - and it is hoped coal will begin to roll in by August 26. There is a stockpile of nearly 100,000 tons of lignite waiting to be used up at the end of the line. General O'Dwyer is also thinking over and getting facts on what is entailed in the industrial rehabilitation of Italy, recommendations on a relief program, disposal of surplus Allied equipment, food, and expediting requisitions, not to mention reorganization and re-grouping of his sub-commissions. Batteries of Italian Government statisticians are beginning to come through with detailed reports on industrial plant conditions and requirements, four of the fifteen types of industry now having

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Total 2,978,679

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Colonel Spofford, G-5, held a Press Conference in Rome on August 20 on civil affairs in Southern France. He told correspondents that there would be no military government and no proclamations, and that French courts would deal almost immediately with civil offences. The main difficulties up to the present had been under-nourishment, shortage of drugs and medicines and (need we say it?) transport and distribution. Rationing was to be introduced on the same scale as in Normandy, though perhaps the effective ration would be lower at first. Correspondents showed some lively interest in currency arrangements, epuration of collaborators, and wine: but Colonel Spofford was cautious on all three heads.

6. The Economic Pot Simmers

The Economic Section of Brigadier-General O'Dwyer was a-stir with plenty of activity on a dozen fronts this week. While many plans are in the betwixt-and-between stage, progress can be reported, according to the General, on expediting repair of the railroad from Grosseto which will bring lignite coal to Rome for eventual resumption of gas service. Main obstacle to the work was a destroyed bridge. Now, barely ten days after the project was started, three shifts of men are working on repairs - at night under floodlights - and it is hoped coal will begin to roll in by August 26. There is a stockpile of nearly 100,000 tons of lignite waiting to be used up at the end of the line. General O'Dwyer is also thinking over and getting facts on what is entailed in the industrial rehabilitation of Italy, recommendations on a relief program, disposal of surplus Allied equipment, food, and expediting requisitions, not to mention reorganization and re-grouping of his sub-commissions. Batteries of Italian Government statisticians are beginning to come through with detailed reports on industrial plant conditions and requirements, four of the fifteen types of industry now having reported. In connection with eventual reconstruction of war damage, the Public Works Sub-Commission has made a tentative estimate of the over-all cost as follows: South of the Pisa-Rimini line - $1,061,000,000; north of that line - $1,643,000,000; total $2,704,000,000. Key to the reconstruction, according to the engineers, is electricity, the prime power of Italy. But what, they ask, can you do on a short-term basis with these facts: in Central Italy, essential users should have 706,000,000 kilowatt hours. Even after maximum repairs, they may get 100,000 kilowatts. The rest has been destroyed by the Germans. It might be interesting to add at this point that preferential users of electricity (both military and civilian) in Rome rose by 64 in July to 155. Finally, the latest news from the Economic Section is that the first four of the 43 expected civilian experts have arrived. Their names and

/ specialties

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specialties are: Joseph Difede, Labor; Henry [illegible]. Bakkan, Prices; David C. Sachs, Labor; Charles C. Crooks, Transportation.

7. Repose

A rest camp for EM/OR (officers occasionally admitted as befits these democratic times) was opened at Fregene on the sea 20 miles N.W. of Rome on August 19. Fregene was in past time a chic resort of Roman aristocracy: it has a superb pine forest in whose scented shadows are scattered, in Petit Trianon fashion, the fanciful villas (ranging from the thatched roof to the all-glass-and-steel) of the great. There, among others, Tito Schipa carolled in a special circular song-room with an organ. All has now been looted, by whom we don't care to say, but not a Schipa organ-pipe, and not a window, or a tap, remains. However, our enterprising HQ Commandant discovered a whole mass of fancy furniture hidden under camouflage at one end of the pineta, so EM/OR (though deprived of water and light) will disport themselves among pseudo-Russian and pseudo-Tudor chairs and any amount of gay umbrellas.

8. Credit and Debit

Illuminating sidelights on the economic position of Italy might be seen from a comparative examination of the following lists of exports and imports made to and from this theater in July under the recommendations of the ACC. Needless to say the basic position still is that imports should be at a minimum to conserve shipping while only exports surplus to the Italian economy for which there is a ready world sale are to be encouraged.

Imports		Exports	
Ammonium nitrate ..	7927 tons	Sulphur	1243 tons
Newsprint	176 "	Hemp and rope ..	1120 "
Lead acetate ..	62 "	Filberts	872 "
Printing paper ..	49 "	Argols	100 "
Matches	28 "	Raw silk	4750 kilos
Yellow soap	2133 "	Sweet orange oil	3772 "
Caustic soda ..	1191 "	Tangerine oil ..	909 "
Binder twine	275 "	Bergamot oil ..	15690 "
Calcium carbide ..	221 "		
Flour bags	55 "		
Bean seed	831 "		
Nails	68 "		
Fruit wrapping paper	32 "		
Cigarette cover stock	43 "		

There is a lot more Bergamot oil and briarwood ready for the States, but no ships. Tuscan mercury is also ready to be exported. Requests have come to Italy from abroad for cork, salt, tobacco seed, meadow seed, glass insulators and wine containers.

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9. Odds and Ends

Colonel Hulls, Refugees Branch Director, has been to Ancona to deal with a knotty problem arising from (need we say it?) lack of transport to take refugees from the battle zone to Bari. Railways non-existent, MT unavailable, shipping needed for stores and troops. We had thought of suggesting he gets the gliders used for Mussolini's escape which are still, it appears, on the Gran Sasso ..... A Rome factory is now producing three tons of yeast a day, using as stock 840 tons of molasses left in a sugar refinery at Littoria ..... Both ACC and Italian officials in Southern Italy are viewing the war news with some concern, fearing considerable unemployment will result as soon as the bulk of Allied forces, which are the largest employers of labor, begin to pull out .....

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Up to August 1 Italians had received $2,895,926 and L. 41,575 in 70,563 individual remittances from the U.S. and the U.K. since start of the remittance system..... The Naples labor office conciliated 103 labor misunderstandings last month ..... The price of a pair of young oxen in 8th Army areas these days is reported as 125,000 lire, said to be ten times the pre-occupation price ....: In Ethiopia (1941), Brigadier Lush tells us, it was 2 singlets and a pair of shorts ..... Soup kitchen meals in Rome have increased 26,000 to 229,000 a day (not in the Grand Hotel) ..... Black Market prices of tinned meat in Region VII are lower than official prices, which prompts Lt Col Feasey, the RC, to remark: "There has been a gradual decline in Black Market prices which, after all, are the only satisfactory barometer of economic conditions" ..... Apparently Col Feasey is not the only person to think so, for the Allied Publications Board has just received an application from Bari for permission to publish a "Guide to Black Market Prices" ..... Fishing note from Colonel Hulls: "For fishermen on leave, those who can manage a few days could do much worse than to go to Aquila, about 2,000 feet up, a lovely climate and beautiful country with excellent trout streams. I can vouch for this because I bought some fish from a local fisherman on the way" .....For the first time in any period for which ACC has information, there appears to have been a decisive shift in postal savings bond investments, principal device of saving used by the small savers of Italy, from a net outflow of funds to a net inflow ..... Lt Col Jenny, Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission Director, was mildly exercised recently to find one reason why the Italian agencies were perhaps not producing as much work as might be expected: they worked from 8.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and then called it a day; they now work at least until 6 p.m. ..... Pangs of progress (as read in a recent report of Region III): "The fishing industry attained 3,410 quintals - a new record. Next month perhaps this record will be beaten for the director and two inspectors of the Central Fishing Agency were arrested for Black Market operations" ..... Note from Region V: Colonel Marshall, RC, reports he has "a superb crowd" and that things are going well except those that are being corrected ..... Travel note from Colonel Hulls (we like Colonel Hulls): "The best item of equipment on a long motor journey these days is a sponge and canvas bucket to use beside the clear, cool streams plentiful throughout the country" ..... American voters: State ballots for the November election have begun to arrive to 2675 Regt members ..... A March of Time film unit headed by Maurice Lancaster to make (in one month) a film of ACC/AMG activities: superfacilities are requested for them by all concerned.

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Civil Affairs Branch

SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSI.

PRB/R26/WB19

13 August 1944.

14 AUG Recd

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 19
6 Aug to 12 Aug 44

1. Political

Since the preparation of our last Bulletin the Council of Ministers has met twice. The meeting of the 5th set up a committee for reconstruction, admitting that, given the difficulty of getting materials, emergency measures are all that can be considered for the moment. It was also announced that the 9-year old 5% interest bonds (a debt incurred, says Moore of the "Daily Telegraph" to finance the Abyssinian War) will be paid by the Italian Government. The sum involved is some 2,400,000,000 lire, which caused "Italia Nuova" to remark that it is quite a figure for a government which, when the plight of its poorly paid employees and pensioners is brought up, always answers that it has no funds. The meeting of the 10th abolished the Accademia d'Italia, resuscitating in its place the venerable Accademia dei Lincei, dissolved the boards of management of Fascist state and parastatal concerns and readmitted to the magistracy those who had been expelled by Fascist laws.

Sforza struck a blow for epuration with the suspension of 309 of the 420 Senators. This received in principle wide approval, only "Italia Nuova" questioning his right to what, in the opinion of the paper, was arbitrary action. There was some complaint that he had not gone far enough, "Voce Repubblicana" and "Italia Libera" calling attention to the inconsistency of sparing the Royal Princes who had voted for every Fascist decree, including the racial laws. Castellani's position was also commented on; he had been "purged" by the University committee and yet was spared as a Senator. "Avanti" said that there were, frankly, only some two-dozen really anti-Fascist Senators and to spare any others was a mistake.

On August 8th an "alliance" was announced by the Socialist and Communist parties. Nenni, speaking for the Socialists, was careful to point out that this was not yet a "fusion"; "sentimental" considerations stood in the way. The joint programme includes the three following objectives: (1) to achieve more active participation in the war; (2) to intensify application of anti-Fascist decrees; (3) to bring wages and salaries in line with cost of living and further to protect the workers by vigorous action against those employers who are unwilling to cooperate in the economic reforms necessary for the new democracy. The parties appealed to the Christian Democrats for cooperation, an invitation as yet not accepted. The whole affair was viewed with suspicion by the Liberals and the "Risorgimento Liberale" saw in it a move calculated to create the impression that only the working class is anti-Fascist and democratic and predicted that, if the Christian Democrats joined, a very difficult situation would be created within the committee of liberation and indeed within the government.

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The word "fusion" was unhesitatingly, not to say enthusiastically, used in a communique published in "Risorgimento Liberale" of 13 Aug by the representatives of the Liberal and Democratic Liberal parties. The latter group, which has been quiescent in recent months, is historically a large and important party. Many of the well-known figures of Fascist Italy belonged to it and it overshadowed Croce's faction in size and importance. Orlando is a member of the Democrazia Liberale and the fusion will add something to his present importance in the scheme of things. The most active figure at the moment is De Nicola, who was regarded as worthy of consultation at the time of the formation of the Bonomi Government and indeed, rumour says, was twice invited to join it.

Earlier in the week two representatives of the Confederazione

/ Generale

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Generale del Lavoro called on Bonomi and Gronchi and presented a manifesto forcefully calling attention to the condition of the workers, now so poorly paid (if employed at all) that "their wages are not adequate even to buy the few rationed goods which are regarded as only 45% of what is necessary to sustain life." They called for a programme of public and private works and, if necessary, emergency legislation for the workers. The only objection made to this in the press was the comment that misery is now no longer restricted to the workers class.

Two speeches made news. One, the broadcast of La Guardia last Sunday night in which he said that he would not speak to the Italians again until he had something to tell them. The implication was clear to his listeners that he thought the time had come for some Allied gesture of help and sympathy to the Italians and speculation has been rife all the week as to just what may come. In this connection "Il Tempo" reproduced the article in "Life" magazine of May which is a plea for American interest in Italy signed by Toscanini, Borgese, Salvemini and three other well-known Italian-American personages. The other speech was hardly a speech at all; merely a phrase, attributed to Bonomi - and later denied. In an interview with a representative of the "New York Times" the Prime Minister was said to have stated that there would be no pressure of any sort from Russia because "Italy was not in the Russian sphere of influence." Papers as widely apart as "Voce Repubblicana" and "Italia Nuova" pounced on the phrase and cried out indignantly that such imperialistic talk seemed strangely at variance with the Atlantic Charter ..... Longmire (NY Post) filed a dispatch on Aug 12 saying that "the Russians have a carefully laid plan for the kind of Europe they wish to see." Italy very much wants to know what kind of a plan the "anglosassoni" have - - or if they have one.

2. AMG with the Armies

Heavy rain in the Fifth Army sector slowed up movements on Aug 10 and 11, and the week brought little movement along the Arno line, from Pisa to Arezzo. In the Polish sector, the enemy withdrew some five miles north of Senigallia to the north bank of the Cesano river. The whole of our line now runs more or less parallel with the Gothic line, at a distance of some 15 miles.

Apart from modern war weapons, the ghost of Dante might have detected similarities with his own times - and plenty of copy for a new Inferno - in the divided city of Florence last week. Machine-guns were chattering across the Arno, and sniping, a serious nuisance in the southern part of the city, was a constant objective for the Patriots, whose leader, Poterte, lost his life on Aug 7. Snipers (according to Sprigge of Reuters) were supplied by the Germans through the sewers, which were later blown up by the Patriots. Indeed, the Patriots, numbering 600 under Italian officers, seem to have done excellent work. Shells fell in the Porta Romana area causing considerable civilian casualties and on the hills just outside the city, but the report of Aug 8th Army

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/ On

On August 11 the northern sector was apparently abandoned by the Germans, and Cardinal della Costa sent word across the river that the food situation was desperate. 8 tons of flour were taken across the Ponte Vecchio on the night of the 11th and the problem of bridging and water distribution were to be tackled on the morning of the 12th. Lumby of the "Times", who crossed the Arno on the 11th morning, reported that the destruction extended for 300 yards beyond the Ponte Vecchio, which was blocked and heavily mined: the Palazzo Vecchio was, however, undamaged. The Germans have, it appears, removed all motor vehicles, including ambulances and hearses, and taken away all the livestock in the town and outskirts.

Further reports say that the Germans have pulled back beyond the Mignone river: and that the SCAO's villa received a direct hit on the night of August 10.

Later reports received as we go to press state that supplies are crossing the Ponte Vecchio at a rate likely to reach 30 tons a day, that a Bailey bridge is in course of construction and that the water situation is much less critical than had been expected. The supplies now in Florence are reported sufficient to feed the whole city for three days, and there are thirty days supply stockpiled within reach. Reports from many sources suggest that the Prince of Piedmont paid a very incognito visit to Florence on the 11th, but that is not officially confirmed. As late as the 11th afternoon a fireman was killed by a sniper while crossing the Arno in a boat, and a bullet intended for Lieut-Colonel Spencer missed him by a foot. But sniping and shelling had both ceased in the southern sector on the night of the 11th.

In Livorno conditions are improving rapidly although, as AMG 5th Army points out, "normal life cannot be resumed until the authorities concerned come to a final decision as to which areas they wish to be kept permanently evacuated." However, a water supply of a million to one and a half million gallons per day is expected by August 12, there will be full return of electric current by September 15, some telephone services are available, and about 1,000 civilians are working for the various Allied agencies in the Town and port. During the first ten days of August some 11,000 refugees were evacuated, all except 500 (who went to Grosseto) being absorbed in the Army area. 5th Army AMG find that considerable and very satisfactory use can be made of local patriots in organizing the evacuation and reception of refugees. Grosseto Province was handed over to Region VIII on August 8, and the banks in Livorno and southern Pisa Province were opened on August 7.

3. <u>Mosquitoes</u>

As the malaria season approaches its peak, the Public Health Sub-Commission is doing its best to cope with the effects of the German sabotage in flooding the Pontine Marshes and aggravating the normal malaria perils. With AAI help, there is now weekly airplane spraying

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4. Granai del Popolo

The harvest campaign for the Granai del Popolo is marching along with records set in some places that compare quite favourably with peace years. In other places the grain collections are sometimes almost grim affairs, especially in Sicily, where the Carabinieri are practically on a war footing, with mobile patrols, investigation squads, long hours and all sorts of stratagems to outwit the reluctant and hostile farmers who oppose amassing. The Agriculture Sub-Commission reports recept and distribution of 35,000 pairs of salvaged Army boots in selected farming areas, with good results. Some talk is now heard of more inducements to farmers, but only in exceptional cases. Lack of transport to take the grain from the field to the storehouses and thence to the deficient areas as well as lack of transport for the actual supervisory officials, both Allied and Italian, is the big difficulty. Twenty-nine harvest control officers, including convalescent officers on loan to the ACC for this light and temporary duty, have been hitch-hiking around their regions. Headquarters officials feel that it is a miracle that the harvest is coming along as well as it is in view of the terrific lack of administrative personnel and equipment. Great Britain, for example, with 56 million acres and less than 500,000 holdings has a staff of 4,000 trained personnel. Liberated Italy, with 45 million acres and 2,500,000 holdings has not even one tenth the personnel, some 10 Allied officers and some 30 Italians at the top supervising and administering the agronomy of an entire nation. The latest scores of the grain collections, whose tentative over-all goal is 13,000,000 quintals, is given below as of August 12:

Region	Quintals
I	350,874
II	478,756
Foggia	810,965
III	35,350
IV	224,255
V	37,093
VI	113,077
VII	99,653
VIII	42,127
Total	2,192,150

5. Control of the Press

On Monday August 14 the Allied Publications Board will hold its last meeting as an all-Allied Executive Authority. In other words, while the APB still retains, under its terms of reference, the final word in the veto or suspension of publications and in the issue of all licenses, the recommendations will now be made to it, in so far as all territory under Italian jurisdiction is concerned, by Italian officials grouped - as the Allied Publications Board was - in Local Boards and a Central Board under the Ministry of the Interior. The

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of transport to take the grain from the field to the [illegible] thence to the deficient areas as well as lack of transport for the actual supervisory officials, both Allied and Italian, is the big difficulty. Twenty-nine harvest control officers, including convalescent officers on loan to the ACC for this light and temporary duty, have been hitch-hiking around their regions. Headquarters officials feel that it is a miracle that the harvest is coming along as well as it is in view of the terrific lack of administrative personnel and equipment. Great Britain, for example, with 56 million acres and less than 500,000 holdings has a staff of 4,000 trained personnel. Liberated Italy, with 45 million acres and 2,500,000 holdings has not even one tenth the personnel, some 10 Allied officers and some 30 Italians at the top supervising and administering the agronomy of an entire nation. The latest scores of the grain collections, whose tentative over-all goal is 13,000,000 quintals, is given below as of August 12:

Region	Quintals
I	350,874
II	478,756
Foggia	810,965
III	35,350
IV	224,255
V	37,093
VI	113,077
VII	99,653
VIII	42,127
Total	2,192,150

5. Control of the Press

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6. Civic Life in the Grass Roots

When one looks at the surface play of reviving forces and old currents of influence colliding around the feet of the Italian national government in Rome and wonders (strictly unofficially, of course) where it will all end, it is encouraging and salutary to one's simple democratic faith to talk to Colonel Spicer, head of the Interior Sub-Commission, who has been plugging along day after day getting new and trustworthy Italian officials into the field to replace the moth-eaten and corrupt creatures of Fascism. ACC officers have examined every one of the prefects and vice-prefects in every province of Liberated Italy up to the battle lines and in the approximately 50 provinces involved only about 10 prefects have kept their posts. Teams of five officials are prepared for each province in preparation for calls from Regional Commissioners - prefect, vice-prefect, secretary, counsellor and chief accountant. Teams are ready for Aquila, Rieti, Viterbo and Macerata and in process of selection for six more provinces. Priority task to Colonel Spicer these days is finding officials for the important northern provinces in a hurry should a break-through occur one day. The supply of Italian career officials who can meet the rigorous screening tests is perilously low and a plan is brewing to use sensible lawyers and even business men in their place. The problem of replacing mayors of communes is much simpler, there always being plenty of substitutes. ACC has placed a new mayor in every single town the Allied forces have captured, a 100 per cent clean sweep. Again, every new mayor must have his own communal council, the real basis of revival of democratic government. The councils, according to Colonel Spicer, are overweighted with lawyers and doctors, an endemic blight of Latin countries. The Colonel is waging a hard fight to get more railroad workers, farmers, chemists and barbers into those city council seats. They are, he feels, the "men in the street" who can and should voice the feelings of the people freely after 22 years of Fascist stultification.

7. Odds and Ends

Colonel Bowman, Regional Commissioner of Region IX - to be known, we understand, as "The Fighting Ninth" - is all set to enter the Po Valley territory as soon as the Eighth Army surmounts the crest of the Apennines; three provincial teams are already with the Eighth Army AMG which will carry the regional CAOs along with the Army and drop them off in their appropriate slots in contrast with the old method of calling them later from the rear ..... Fifty Italian Government statisticians are to be employed by the Economic Section in a new analysis branch whose rush job will be to provide the most up-to-date industrial facts and figures for the coming industrial rehabilitation programme of Brigadier-General O'Dwyer (to whom congratulations on his promotion) ..... Major-General Harry H. Johnson, Rome Area Commander, has departed for another theatre ..... Brigadier-General Hume, SCAO, Fifth Army AMG and Major Wray, SCAO, II Corps, both got plaudits this week

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public ..... Regional commissionerships are to be divided equally between British and Americans - five each as follows: S.Italy, Sardinia, Sicily, Regions X and XII - British; Regions IV, V, VIII, IX and XI - American ..... On August 13 the control of Region VI will pass to Colonel Pennycuick ..... Brigadier Parkinson, on a visit to Region V, was taken by the population of Aquila to be a 'distinguished Russian general' - can it be possible that we have never penetrated the disguise? ..... Except for one American ship, all the wheat imported to Italy since March has been Australian; all sugar sent to Italy since January has come from the Indian Ocean; all coal sent to Italy up to March came from the U.K., while since then 110,000 tons a month have come from South Africa and 60,000 from the U.S. .....

Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB18

6 August 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 18
30 July to 5 Aug

6 AUG Recd

1. Political

The political symphony of the week has been dominated by the two major themes of epuration (andante maestoso) and Italian insistence for more sympathetic treatment from the Allies (vivace appassionato). Both these matters, fundamental for a reorientation of Italian internal and foreign politics, have been attacked with energy and intelligence.

On epuration it will be well to state the policy of the government as it developed in the course of numerous Council meetings and discussions over the last two months. The four principal "sanctions" have been enumerated as follows: cancellation of Fascist political sentences, punishment of Fascist crimes, defascistization of state administration and confiscation of wealth acquired through Fascist connexions. Each of these operations is to be under the leadership of a special High Commissioner. In an interview given the Roman press last Monday Sforza stated his intention to press the work with the greatest possible speed and to aim at the "pezzi grossi" rather than the little men. Later in the week commissioners were named to sit with the special committees formed within each department of the government for its own house-cleaning. An augury of good intentions may be seen in the arrest of Azzolini, ex-head of the Bank of Italy. Sforza's integrity and vigour have been the subject of general approval, though the always malicious "Italia Nuova" remarked that in his interview he had spoken of attacking the "rascals" and sparing the "imbeciles", thus giving Italians a good idea of the type of individual considered fit to govern them in these trying times. In order to ensure coordinated grinding of the mills of justice ACC epuration committees in Rome and Naples have ceased to function and their work will be carried on by Sforza's agents. The Ministry of Education contributed its bit to the brave new world by rescinding the racial laws against teachers and, at the moment of writing, the announcement is made of the suspension of twenty-five professors of the University of Rome whose names will be forwarded for action to the proper committee.

2777

Ever since Bonomi's speech, reported in our last bulletin, the Roman press has been gnawing at the question of allied help for Italy. Don Sturzo sent a telegram to the party congress of the Christian Democrats in Naples, hinting that negotiations were under way for a provisional peace. It was announced by "a government spokesman" on Thursday that the government had been for some time pressing for application of the Lend-lease measure to Italy. Churchill's speech was awaited breathlessly by hopeful Italians who were somewhat disappointed at the scant attention accorded their part in the scheme of things. The last three days have seen an almost hysterical

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For counterpoint to the major themes mentioned in our opening paragraph we may look to the activities of the parties. Cianca's

/ speech

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speech last Sunday, setting forth the program of [illegible] Action Party wa[illegible] generally regarded as [illegible]l right as far as it went, but also as a revelation of the lack of any specific raison d'etre for the party as such. The Christian Democrat party congress in Naples managed to avoid committing itself on any thing, which is something of a triumph, but insisted "the revolution now in progress, which the party welcomes" must be accomplished without any loss of individual liberties. Since the Communists, expert in this game of political puss-in-the-corner, have hopes of wooing a large segment of Christian Democracy away from the fold, Togliatti in "Unita" tolerantly overlooked their indecision on fundamentals and spoke of them respectfully as a serious party, congratulating them - could it be mischievously? - on being the first to use, open and approvingly, the word "revolution". He then went on to speak of the need of a "pact of action between Socialists, Communists and Christian Democrats". As for the Socialists, yesterday's "Avanti" carried some plain speaking from Nenni. The reactionaries, appealing to "conservative tendencies" in the Allies and to the conservative fear of change, may be an obstacle. But the workers of Milan and Turin have yet to be heard from. When they are in a position to be consulted they will counteract the effect of "reactionary" Rome and Naples. And then if the conciliatory policy of the Left is defeated it will know how to use a different one.

2. AMG with the Armies

As sensational news the entry into Florence, although it is only a step in the general advance, tops the newsbill this week.

Group-Captain Benson reports that the first AMG reconnaissance party entered Florence at 1330 hours on August 4. This presumably refers to the southern section since he adds: "further movement into city forbidden". The party was however able to report that the water supply south of the Arno was inadequate but sufficient for drinking purposes, that north of the river it was nil, as water had to be pumped electrically from the south. There had been no electricity since July 29. The food situation was poor, as the Germans had removed all supplies (previously they had distributed a daily ration of 200 grammes per head, and a ration of 35 grammes of oil per head for the month of August). The population was 415,000, including 100,000 refugees. The hospitals were intact but without medical stores: there were no police south of the river. An earlier report stated that all the bridges except the Ponte Vecchio had been blown.

The latter point is confirmed by the AAI communique of August 5, which adds that the enemy clearly intends to oppose the crossing of the Arno, and holds the commanding heights around Fiesole with strong artillery: the city remains "an enclave in no man's land". Malkin (Winnipeg Free Press), who was in the southern suburbs on Thursday, tells us that he found it "an eerie place with an apathetic population who stood and stared: no welcome, and some Italian sniping. A mass of rubble blocking the streets as the Germans had blown up many houses."

It is a sombre picture: AMG 8th Army has a hard task ahead: and must note with regret and rage the destruction of the Trinita,

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It is a sombre picture: AMG 8th Army has a hard task ahead: and one must note with regret and rage the destruction of the Trinita, perhaps the most beautiful bridge in Europe.

Fifth Army AMG adds little to previous reports this week. Livorno is still being shelled from Pisa and "remains a ghost town" in which American Red Cross representatives "continue their excellent work and by their personal example do much to improve Italian morale." Some 130 "certificates of merit" have been distributed to Patriots in Livorno, and enlistment of Patriots for the Italian Army is in progress. In the Livorno area a refugee problem is developing. Fifth Army AMG, in the course of a protest against the "peremptory" removal of officers and EM/OR, states prophetically that "successful military operations in August will suddenly impose ..... a very formidable task of great extent and complexity."

/ A point:

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A point: AMG news from the whole front grows ~~weekly scarcer~~. From the scanty reports received, only Livorno and Pisa would seem to exist at all. Where, oh Bullock, are thy daily sitreps? Whither has flown, oh Mayne, thy nimble pen?

3. Wandering Jews and Gentiles

Rome has provided the Internees and Displaced Persons Sub-Commission with its most spectacular mixture of nationalities to date, Lieut-Colonel C.F. Fothergill, Deputy Director, reports. More than 6,000 Allied nationals from some 40 nations are now on the rolls in Rome alone. They get the regular Italian ration plus an extra 100 grammes of bread a day, and also medical aid as needed. Financial assistance is being given only to American, British and Dutch groups at this time, though the possibility of similar aid to other groups in Rome is under consideration. A large or larger group of Allied nationals, equally well-organized, is expected in Florence once that city is completely cleared of the enemy. From north of Rome already more than 16,000 persons have passed through the Displaced Persons camp at Cinecitta.

The 50,000 Displaced Persons handled by the sub-commission in Italy include no less than 56 nationalities from all over the globe. 30,000 have been evacuated to the Middle East. 700 were Jews (to Palestine) and the rest Yugoslavs (to Egypt). In addition, about 600 Maltese are about to go to Tripoli, 1,000 persecuted persons (mostly Jews) from all over Europe have been sent to the United States, a few persons have been returned to Malta and about 4,000 Russians captured once by the Germans and then recaptured by the Allies, have been or are to be sent back to Russia. The register of Displaced Persons operated by the Allied Red Cross organizations is also growing. The files contain 40,000 names. To date more than 3,000 enquiries about missing friends and relatives - 900 in the last 30 days alone - have come from the Central Registry of the British Red Cross in London. The ACC Records Bureau of the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission has been able to answer about 1,000 with positive information. Half of the enquiries come from the United States. No attempt is made to answer queries concerning Italian nationals, that being the job of the Italian Red Cross.

4. Coiffure romaine

2776

Conscript fathers and Roman matrons, badgered by politicians, short of rations, clamouring for pasta, potatoes and electric power, have recently found some diversion in the wave of vindictive hair-clipping which has swept through the younger set of the Capitol. Roman youths, largely unemployed and bored, resent the attraction that Allied uniforms have for signorine and there have been several cases where bands of young men have fallen upon the infatuated creatures and barbarously cut off locks of their hair, with the intention of making them conspicuous rather than attractive. Resistance by the soldier escort has occasionally led to violence and the whole situation has been thoroughly aired by the Roman press [illegible] nothing of Roman gossip

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/ 5.

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5. Latest scores: Granai del Popolo

Telegraphic reports arriving at the Agriculture Sub-Commission indicate the collection of some 500,000 quintals since our last report. Region I continues to have its troubles, 2,000 persons having been charged with violation of the grain laws and 5,000 quintals having been confiscated. Latest reports from Region V are not available. HQ visitors to Aquila say that the region expects an exportable surplus. The scores:

Region	Quantity amassed (Quintals)	Date of Reports	Tentative HQ goals
I	99,640	20 July 44	3,100,000
II	221,870	29 July 44	1,550,000
Foggia	800,000	29 July 44	1,565,000
III	14,818	25 July 44	380,000
IV	99,167	23 July 44	1,940,000
V	4,176	11 July 44	2,550,000
VI	54,750	27 July 44	510,000
VII	52,000	27 July 44	415,000
VIII	20,289	22 July 44	1,000,000
Total	1,366,710		13,010,000

6. Scattered Treasure

To stumble on Botticelli's "Primavera", the Rucellai, Giotto and Cimabue Madonnas and other pictures worth- we quote MFA - not less than twenty million pouns sterling, all bundled together in one house under shell-fire, must have been a thrill for Vaughan Thomas (BBC) and Eric Linklater. This, in the villa of Sir Osbert Sitwell, is only one, it appears, of 25 caches in which the priceless paintings and other art collections of Florence were stowed for safety. The real hero of the occasion seems to have been a small Italian professor of Florence who, regardless of personal danger, has been hiking about between and among the opposing armies, persuading commanders to avoid firing upon the treasure-troves. It is good to record that General Alexander himself visited the Sitwell villa, expressed great interest in the find, and had guards placed immediately. It is now for MFA to locate the others before enterprising soldiers start using Titians as tents and Tiepolos as tarpaulins. There ought to be a crack here about the GI, the Giorgione, and the Giotto, but we can't rise to it.

7. Odds and Ends

American officer strength in the ACC T/O is being slashed by nearly 50 to bring it level with British strength, but HQ EM/OR are to be reduced by 400, so as to fill up the new regions ..... ACC HQ is going to hand-pick gilt-edged Provincial Commissioners for the northern provinces ..... Ethiopians to the number of 64 are about to be repatriated from the former Italian Empire to the glories of Addis Ababa and Haile Selassie ..... Piscatorial note: the sardine season is about to begin in Sardinia ..... Echoes of the Spanish Civil War: Spain

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/ week

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week due to availability of the product through rationed channels: sorry we can't say as much for Rome yet ..... The German radio these last few nights has been describing the recent successful tour of Italian journalists through the former battle areas south of Rome to Naples, which was conducted by a PRB officer under joint arrangements with PWB, as a "nauseating Anglo-American propaganda play" ..... Among recent visitors to ACC HQ we are glad to greet Colonel Spofford and Colonel Lewin Harris from our now neighbourly G-5 ..... Colonel Fiske has just returned from Elba, where he reports that the French Military Governor will shortly lose his political powers in the transfer of Elba to Region VIII, that lots of rich iron ore, 60 per cent pure and in surface workings, is going unused because of German destruction of iron mills, with consequent severe unemployment for the miners ..... Imminent or Effected Transfers: Colonel Johnson from Rome Region to Region VIII as Executive Officer, Brigadier Carr from Sardinia to Sicily as Regional Commissioner, Colonel Pennycuick to Sardinia as Regional Commissioner, Colonel Hancock from Sicily to the north, where possibly two more regions will be formed besides Region Z. ..... Captain T.H. Brooke, Rome AMG archivist, has discovered a big batch of Mussolini's private state papers but unfortunately nothing about his more successful love life (though Eleanor Packard has filed a three-day dispatch on it) ..... Colonel O'Dwyer, Vice-President of the Economic Section, whose nomination for promotion to Brigadier-General has just been sent to the United States Senate by President Roosevelt, attended the Provincial Commissioners' Conference of Region V at Aquila a few days ago and promised fullest possible help for the men in the field from his section..... During the month of July the Vatican received from Rome Region 746 tons of flour and 200 tons of other foodstuffs, including sugar, fish, bacon, olive oil and milk.

Lionel Fielden

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SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/WB17

30 July 1944.

AGC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 17
23 July to 29 July

2 AGC Recd

1. Political

To most of us, immured in our little cubicles, nose applied firmly to grindstone - contrary to malicious gossip current in the provinces HQ takes no siesta - the 25th of July was a day like any other. To the Italians it was an anniversary. A year ago the Grand Council decided it could dispense with Mussolini, thus making it clear to the world and Tizi-Ouzou that the end of Italian participation in the war was imminent. Most Roman papers alluded to the anniversary in tones of subdued satisfaction rather than joy. For many feel now that while it marked the beginning of the end of a hateful regime it also seems in the perspective of time something of a lost opportunity. Nenni, writing in "Avanti", said quite frankly that the combination of the King, Badoglio and a reactionary conspiracy had deflected the truly revolutionary course of events and thus had given Italy another year of misery. Certainly an anniversary is a time of inventory and the Italians have been doing plenty of soul-searching this week. Perhaps Bonomi was moved by some such inner turmoil, for he chose the following day to make an address to the employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in which he referred to the contrast between Italy now and the Italy he had represented at the end of the last war. He said that the armistice terms were very hard, but that the tone of the Quebec memorandum was such as to encourage the hope that they were not fixed and would be altered to suit the altered situation. He counselled a return to Italy's old policy of friendship with England and alliance with France and said that Italy was very anxious to increase herwar effort and he had had indications that the Allies would help her to do so. In spite of the almost informal nature of the talk it was the most authoritative and clear-cut statement of the position of the government vis-a-vis the Allies that we have yet had. Italian press comment was favourable, as might be expected. Bria of the Associated Press found it an indication of an Italian fear that the country may be held to the armistice terms.

Another speech of the week was made by De Gasperi of the Christian Democrats, who set forth the party platform. It was interesting in that he refused to commit himself on the institutional question and, in view of his own monarchist leanings, showed a willingness to accept a referendum instead of or as well as a Constituent Assembly, bringing down on his head the baleful reproaches of Socialists, Communists and the Action Party. "Italia Nuova" (monarchist coyly hiding behind the name "Democratic") maliciously played up his statement that he had seen nothing too harsh in the armistice terms with Bonomi's definition of them as "very hard" and politely asked the government to co-ordinate its information.

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The Council met on Thursday and Friday and had much to do.

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The Council met on Thursday and Friday and had much to do. Measures were taken to set up an Assizes court for the trial of Fascist criminals, Count Sforza was named High Commissioner for sanctions against Fascism, pensions paid to various Fascist groups (including the Fascist militia and the "volunteers", now "mercenaries" of the Spanish War) were cancelled, the Fascist sindacati were officially suppressed and Italy recovered her "moral primacy" (according to the "Risorgimento Liberale") by abolishing capital punishment. It is stated clearly that the last measure will not hold for the courts, mentioned last week, especially set up to deal with Fascists. There is poetic justice in this, since it was Fascism that wrote capital punishment into the old code. The old Lieutenant-General of Albania Jacomini was dismissed from service and Introna was named head of the Bank of Italy, replacing Azzolini, now under house arrest. (Petulant query from "Unita": Why is Azzolini not yet shot or at least in prison?)

/ The Cabinet

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The Cabinet suffered a change of membership during the ~~week when~~ Croce's resignation was reluctantly accepted and Dr Carandini took his place as Minister without Portfolio. Carandini was born in 1885 of Piedmontese stock and after serving with the Alpini in World War I has devoted most of his time to industry and agriculture. His appointment may have some political significance: Packard (United Press) reports that it is indication of a leftward swing of the Liberal Party, since Croce was regarded as Monarchist and Carandini is an avowed Republican. There does seem to be evidence of uncertainty in the Liberal ranks: on the one hand, a propos of the Consultative Assembly which all parties are discussing they suggest that representation should include the Republican Party, even though they are not in the Government, and on the other hand the "Risorgimento Liberale" _ berates the Leftist parties for their attitude of fault-finding with everything the Prince does. Indeed the Prince's visit to the Corpo di Liberazione was the occasion for some biting remarks from the Left: "L'Italia Libera" said playing with soldiers might in normal times be regarded with indifference, but such a visit now could only be called an insult. The Socialists, Communists and Action Party follow Umberto like so many hungry cats after a canary under the watchful eye of the master. Perhaps a delicate appeal to the master might have been seen in "Italia Nuova's" printing in heavy black type an account of the Prince's reception of Colonel Poletti and their cordial conversation.

The parties provide plenty of food for thought. Apart from the institutional dilemma of the Liberals and the Christian Democrats there is the attempt of the Action and Communist Parties to claim credit for the partisan movement, the sturdy Communist championship of Rosario Bentivegna who was condemned to 18 months' imprisonment for murder while, as "Unita" repeats ad nauseam, Caruso, ex-Police Chief of Rome, is still allowed to live and hasn't even been tried, the charges and countercharges on the subject of referendum versus Constituent Assembly and the general jockeying for a favourable position in the Consultative Assembly which, all agree, should soon be held.

There is notable from week to week an increasing tone of vigour in the Rome press. The circular on licensing publications issued this week was roundly attacked as Fascist in concept, though it must have been clear to all that such a document owed as much to the Allies as to the hapless Spataro, Press and Information Secretary under whose name it was issued. The latest Moroccan atrocity reported - a rather grisly tale of the murder of three women who had begged a ride on a troop train near Rome - brought out a vociferous appeal that the Allies do something. There has been persistent expression of dissatisfaction with salaries, which have been fixed too low, according to the Romans, with textbooks which, they say as set up by ACC are a monopoly in the old Fascist pattern, and with behaviour of troops. In this connection two articles should be singled out for special mention. "L'Italia Libera", in a story entitled "Italy and the Allies", while freely admitting that we have treated an occupied country with generosity and friendship unparalleled in the annals of war, nonetheless calls the roll of our shortcomings in no uncertain terms: we are bureaucratic and inefficient behind the lines, too wanton in destruction in operations, too full of our own knowledge in a foreign

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This is not a department given to predictions but, by way of summary, it may be remarked without benefit of the magic crystal that two currents of political development are taking shape. For one thing a more clear-cut division between Right and Left is in the making. Sprigge (Reuters) filed a dispatch on the 27th in which he observed quite correctly that the strength of the Government is that there is no imaginable alternative. As soon as changes in the international picture make an alternative possible we shall probably see the new line-up in which elements now

/ not

not in the six parties will have something to say. And, secondly, as a shattered Italy gradually collects itself and finds its voice we are going to hear more and more references to our propaganda, the Atlantic Charter and our promises and have the question put to us with increasing insistence: what are we going to do about it? The return of Marshal Messe's revolver, which was given to General Montgomery in Africa, is a pleasant symbol perhaps, but in all its frankness hardly adequate.

2. Signs of the times

The reduction of personnel in southern Regions continues according to plan. Sicily, which had 180 officers in February, is now down to 50, and by mid-August the number will be 27. Proposals for further drastic amalgamation in the south are to be discussed at Naples on August 4 by certain Regional Commissioners, who may be conscious of a growing unemployment problem in their own ranks. Rome Region amalgamates with Region IV, Poletti presiding, on August 1: and on the same date Region Z (maybe Tokio: we wouldn't know) starts forming under Brigadier Dunlop. Such changes, though not unexpected, give rise to speculation about the future, especially in view of the recent arrival of civilian personnel. We can probably assume that until hostilities cease in Italy the ACC will remain part of the Allied Armies, and, as stated in AFHQ Administrative Memorandum No 74 of Nov 2, 1943, "the organ through which the policy of the United Nations towards the Italian Government is conducted and the relations of the United Nations with the Italian Government are handled:" The infiltration of civilian experts to assist in the rehabilitation of the country is a part of the general ACC design, but does not alter the fundamental responsibility of ACC as a military organization under the Chief Commissioner for the supervision of the terms of the Armistice and for the maintenance of law and order in Italy. In brief, the ACC more thinly spread over vaster territories must necessarily encourage both Allied and Italian civilian advice: but the constitution and responsibilities of the ACC are not thereby changed.

Meanwhile the Economic Section is beginning to simmer with new plans and activity, based, as Colonel O'Dwyer, new Vice-President of the Section says, on the effective groundwork laid by the arduous studies of the Section's sub-commissions. The programme now shaping up is to get the wheels of Italian industry turning by any and all means. Questionnaires will be shortly sent out all ... regional economic and supply directors asking them to list industries and factories in their areas, what they used to make, their present conditions, what is needed in the way of raw materials and power to get them going again. What can be got going will be got going at once, according to Colonel O'Dwyer. Further the Colonel is arranging to get authority to have ACC take over all

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3. ANG with the Armies.

Steady if unspectacular progress has been maintained during the week. The line between Livorno and Senigallia (occupied on July 29) has been relentlessly straightened and is rapidly closing in on Florence, now less than six miles ahead.

/ Florence.

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Florence teams of 8th Army AMG are within 15 miles of the city. In general 8th Army AMG has been smoothly taking over the administration of new territory, and adding the last touches to the very detailed - and strict - arrangements for Florence: even a price list is already in print, and will be distributed to troops as well as civilians. A guide book and map is also available, and official guides found and paid by AMG. The city will be placed out of bounds to all personnel except those engaged in operational or administrative duties until such time as Area Command decides that proper control has been established.

German demolitions are as savage and thorough as ever, and the latest method is to blow all buildings on to the highway: this has been much in evidence on Route 7, below Arezzo, and on Route 2, above Siena.

The chocolate factory at Perugia and a large distillery near Siena have, we regret to say, been put out of business by the unspeakable Hun. Alberti (gin) of Benevento was, on the other hand, we must confess, put out of business by the Allies and is being revived (so we understand) by the Italians.

Terni Province was handed over by 8th Army AMG to Region IV on 30 July and Siena Province from 5th to 8th Army AMG on 22 July. 5th Army AMG report supplies coming through satisfactorily from Piombino for both 5th and 8th Armies, but observes that the number of homeless people who need feeding within a 20-mile radius of Livorno is great and stockpiling for Pisa and Lucca, as well as for Florence, is necessary. "Concern is felt," adds 5th Army AMG, in familiar plaintive strain, "at the low calibre and constant changes of Provincial Supply officers. It does not appear to be appreciated that the supply officer ..... is the most important member of the provincial team after the Provincial Commissioner.

4. Bullock's Baedeker

Major Bullock (our PRO with the 8th Army), who has visited (so he says) over 300 towns since the beginning of July, sends us some notes which may be of interest to prospective travellers:

"The condition of the roads varies between excellent and execrable. The cross-country highways from Perugia to just south of Ancona have some narrow diversions and flimsy bridges, which will carry a jeep or a staff car only, but in the main you can travel 60 m.p.h. without discomfort or danger. The coast road down to Pescara has a few one-way diversions and bridges, so that if you meet a convoy you lose considerable time, but for the most part a jeep can travel on that road at 60-65 m.p.h. quite comfortably. From Pescara to Termoli the coast road and diversions are worse than anything I ever travelled on. There are three gangs building new roads between Vasto and Termoli, but they are proceeding very slowly and the strips they have laid are just long enough to emphasize the wretchedness of the rest of the road. Of the hundreds of Italians employed in these various gangs, I saw not one single individual

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"For a swim in cool, clear water in beautiful surroundings I recommend Lake Piediluco in the mountains behind Terni. The

/ outlet

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outlet of that lake, Cascate delle Marmore (See "Childe Harold"), as one of the most exquisite falls on earth. Because the power plants at Terni have been destroyed, the whole outlet from the Lake is pouring over the falls, providing a spectacle which has not been seen for several decades and will probably never be seen again."

5. Granai del Popolo

The all-important campaign to get a bumper harvest for the Granai del Popolo is progressing under the watchful eye of the Agriculture Sub-Commission. On the basis of incomplete and scattered returns from the field, it can be recorded that as of 29 July 855,803 quintals of wheat have been collected in Liberated Italy, which is about 8 per cent of the 1,000,000 tons or 10,000,000 quintals set tentatively as a goal. The specific total and regional goals will be set within the next few days. As expected, Foggia, granary of Southern Italy, led the lot. Sicily's record is not too good, while the northern provinces are expected to be a hard job, the experts say. The breakdown by compartments and regions is as follows:

Compartment	Quantity (quintals)	Date reported
Sicily	99,640	20 July
Calabria	52,000	27 July
Lucania	65,400	15 July
Apulia	501,203	22 July
Campania	11,940	25 July
Sardinia	54,750	27 July
Lazio	61,150	23 July
Umbria	6,520	23 July
Tuscany	3,200	15 July
Total reported	855,803	

Region	Quantity (quintals)	Date reported
I	99,640	20 July
II	78,544	15 July
Foggia	488,059	22 July
III	11,940	25 July
IV	67,670	23 July
V	No report	
VI	54,750	27 July
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Bountiful though the wheat crop is, the fact remains that Italy has never been entirely self-sufficient in grain. A project is under examination to use surplus barley from Iran, Iraq and North Africa as a mix with Italian wheat in order to reduce importation of wheat from distant places to a minimum. Adulteration of wheat with barley has been reported successful up to 30 per cent. Romans this week, incidentally, found with a mild shock that the white bread they have been receiving from Allied flour stock

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6. The new Press Law

The announcement has appeared, or will be appearing, of a new press law formulated by the Italian Government. It may be explained that there is nothing very new about it. The Allied Publications Board has since December last been working through various decrees towards a single press law which could be applied throughout L[illegible]rated

/ Italy

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Italy: the first Badoglio Government chewed this bone with the Legal Sub-Commission but fell before it was gnawed quite through: Badoglio Government No 2 very nearly swallowed it before falling, but not quite: at long last it was promptly devoured by Bonomi Government No 1. The law changes nothing in the procedure followed by the Allied Publications Board which continues to function as final judge and in the usual discreet anonymity. The Press Law does however prepare the way (as was explained in Bulletin No 15, para 6) for the smooth and immediate transfer of all press control to the Italian Government as and when AFHQ decides to relieve the APB of its present responsibilities.

7. Rejoicing in Rieti

The following programme of the inauguration of ACC administration by Region IV in Rieti Province on July 10, 1944, is herewith placed on record:

Time		Event
1120	-	Arrival of Regional Commissioner Brigadier-General J.K. Dunlop, OBE, MC, TD, and Staff Officers at new Velino bridge - Rieti.
1122	-	Party debusses and concentrates on South side.
1125	-	His Excellency the Bishop of Rieti consecrates bridge.
1128	-	Sindaco of Rieti invites Regional Commissioner to cut ribband and declare bridge formally open.
1130	-	Bridge opened. Regional Commissioner and Staff cross and are introduced to Rieti officials.
1142	-	Official party forms up and parade marches to Palazzo Municipio.
1150	-	Inspection of Police - Piazza Municipio.
1200	-	Inspection of Fire Brigade - Piazza Municipio.
1210	-	Vehicle parade - Piazza Municipio.
1225	-	Opening of Regional Commissioner's Conference with staff in Provincial Commissioner's Office.
1305	-	Adjournment to Albergo Quattro Stagioni for luncheon: Official guests - Il Prefetto, il Vescovo, il Sindaco di Rieti, il Principe di Potenziani.
1440	-	Embus for Inspection tour: 1. AMG stores and barracks 2. Chemical Works 3. Silk Plant 4. Sugar-beet Refinery 5. Airport 6. Aircraft parts Factory 7. Woollen Plant
1645	-	Debus at Albergo.
1700	-	Reception to official party at Municipio.
1830	-	Regional Commissioner and Staff embus for Rome.

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/WB16/R26

22 July 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 16
16 July to 22 July

1. Political

The political activity of the week has been intense, varied, and in some ways spectacular. If the traditional simile of the three ring circus is too undignified for the scene one might compare it to one of the older churches of Rome, where one hardly knows where to turn the eye, the bishop's baroque tomb, the affreschi of the Cinquecento, the mediaeval vaulting all clamouring for attention. And then one is certain to overlook something double-starred in Baedeker.

On the 20th the Provinces of Naples (excluding Naples Commune), Avellino, Benevento, Campobasso and Foggia were handed over to the Italian Government and the news was also released that on August 15 Frosinone, Littoria and Rome Provinces (including the City of Rome) would follow. This is, of course, in line with policy laid down at the time of the turning over of the Southern provinces. The announcement was well received by the Rome press; both Roman and foreign papers pointed out that it would greatly enhance the prestige of the Government and might be considered a victory for the Bonomi Ministry. There was a note of reservation in the "Risorgimento Liberale", which shrewdly observed that the size of the victory could not be measured until revelation of the armistice terms would show just what powers the Government really has. It is not likely that any such revelation will be made in the near future; as "Unita" plausibly points out, the situation has changed so much since September 3rd last that the terms of an armistice made in those unhappy days would hardly be in accord with present conditions.

The Government also voted to continue the bread subsidy and fixed the "political price" of bread and pasta at 5 and 7 lire per kilo respectively, the "economic price" (i.e. real cost) being 12 and 14 lire. No one seems very happy about this; it is admitted that an increase in the financial burden of the Government is not a good thing and a general subsidy protects many of the more prosperous class against an increase which they would hardly feel. On the other hand it is clear that no effort must be spared to check the upward trend of prices and bread is a good place to begin. There will probably be much more said on this question judging by comment in the press and particularly in view of the defensive tone of the Government's announcement which fixes responsibility on ACC.

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The Council, which was in session from the 17th through the 19th, dealt at length with the eternal question of the punishment of Fascists. It set up machinery for special courts to deal with those guilty of Fascist crimes, these courts to have power to invoke the death sentence. Those guilty of collaboration with the Germans since the fateful September of 1943 are to be court-martialled. On the matter of epuration the Council set about the work of collating the various measures already approved, under pressure from the press to aim at those in high places and not to be satisfied with the dismissal of a few janitors and minor functionaries. Judging by the measures adopted to cleanse the Army of Fascists the Government intends to follow just that line. 300 generals of dubious record were purged or penalized and the post of Inspector-General, held by Ambrosio, was abolished. The feeling that Italy should make a larger and more effective contribution to the war effort was expressed in the approval of measures designed to encourage volunteers and including the partisans in the armed forces.

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The last point is in harmony with the policy of ACC, which this week produced a plan to reward the patriots in various ways, including issuance of certificates of merit, preferential treatment in employment, representation in local government and opportunity for those qualified to join the Army and carry on the battle.

Another act of the Government, and one which led to some adverse comment, was the appointment of Orlando as President of the Chamber and Della Torretta as President of the Senate. The Government's purpose, as announced, was to insure the continuity of these institutions and it might not be unfair to suspect that the fact both men are from Sicily (a region unrepresented in the Cabinet) may have had something to do with the action taken. But "La Voce Repubblicana" and "L'Italia Libera" have pointed out with some indignation that there is yet no Chamber - nor should there be one until a Constituent Assembly is chosen - and the Senate is largely Fascist, and/or in absentia and an anachronism to boot.

Croce's successor has yet to be chosen. There were the inevitable rumours that the old philosopher was at odds with Bonomi, but the publication of his letter of resignation made it quite clear that his reasons were purely personal. He explained that he would find travelling between Naples and Rome too much of a strain and could not, in conscience, retain his post while unable to attend the necessary meetings.

Names make news - and there is a rather wistful fragrance of things past in the announcement that De Vecchi, Bastianini and Dino Alfieri had been discharged from the diplomatic service. De Vecchi was one of the Quadrumvirate (the other three pillars of the early Fascist hierarchy being De Bono, Balbo and You Know Who). Bastianini had been Ambassador to London and Alfieri Ambassador to Berlin in the old days. These two have the distinction of having been rejected by the Fascist Social Republic as well as by the legitimate government.

On the whole the week was one of energetic action and accomplishment. The Government's position should have been strengthened by it and probably was. But to complete the picture it might be worth reporting that on the 17th Howard of NBC filed a despatch stating that there was a feeling that a new Government might be in the making, probably headed by Orlando, possibly to include Badoglio. And Pocciardi, in "La Voce Repubblicana", sharply analyzed the weakness of the Bonomi coalition.

2. AMG with the Armies

The captures of Livorno and Ancona were the highlights of the week. The line on July 22 stretched more or less due east and west from a point just south of Senigallia, 15 miles north of Ancona, to a point a few miles north of Livorno. The centres of German resistance which still pin back the line in two places

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AMG 8th Army report (July 20) Ancona 35 per cent and Arezzo 30 per cent destroyed. Monuments at the latter in good condition. Ancona had 6,000 inhabitants, Arezzo only 1,500. Both towns were without light or water.

A report on Rieti (Lt Col H.S. Robinson) throws a brilliant light on some of the difficulties encountered by spearhead groups: although only 5 provincial officers were available to perform the spearhead duties for 65 communes, proclamations had been posted, meetings of communal officials arranged, and reports sent in, for 61 communes by July 9. This in spite of extensive / road

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road and bridge demolitions, mines, and sabotage of transport. As Colonel Robinson remarks, the work would have been impossible without the co-operation of the Italian officials and people: he adds that they "are willing to work but must have some leadership and, at times, forceful inspiration."

Terni still presents a supply problem and Group Captain Benson observes that "up to the 12th of July only 20 tons of supplies had come forward from Civita Castellana out of the 240 tons which should have arrived." It may be noted that in this area the Army is rapidly removing Bailey bridges, and AMG has the urgent task of getting new bridges built.

Perugia Province seems more normal than most and, what is more, self-sufficient in grain, oil and vegetables. Assisi is not, after all, to become the Headquarters of No 1 District: a relief to St Francis, we hope.

8th Army AMG report some increase of refugees, particularly in the Arezzo district: and a good deal of truculent behaviour by some partisans, although others have been co-operative.

AMG Fifth Army report a population of about 55,000 in Livorno, mainly in the outlying suburbs. The central and port areas had been evacuated on German orders last autumn. Physical damage is heavy in the port area but less than had been anticipated elsewhere. The situation is well in hand, and local government is being carried on from the suburb of Ardenza. Patriots were useful. The main water supply aqueducts were still (July 20) in enemy hands.

In a "published report" of July 20 General Hume (according to the "Stars and Stripes") "disclosed that AMG planned the occupation of Rome for five and a half months, and reviewed the accomplishments of all AMG divisions." The report should be interesting, but since the ACC has not received it, we are at a disadvantage.

In order to keep in closer touch with the Armies weekly meetings at AAI Adv HQ have been started. The first of these was held on July 19, and was attended by representatives of 5th and 8th Armies, Regions IV, V, VIII and IX and from Economic, Administrative and R.C. & M.G. Sections. At this meeting, which discussed questions of supply, staff, patriots, mine clearance, defascistization, transport, carabinieri etc. Colonel Albright, be it gratefully recorded, suggested a Rest Home for overworked ACC officers.

3. Elba

2770

The island of Elba has, since its occupation, been placed by AFHQ under a French Deputy Military Governor who has delegated his Civil Affairs to ACC (Major Murchie). As soon as [illegible] Province has been cleared and handed over to Region VIII

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calm, it is not going to be easy to get them back. In politics Elba has, it seems, a decidedly Communist tinge: opinion is pro-Ally, tainted by fear of native troops (which doesn't seem to amount to more than fear). Supplies were pretty well non-existent and the harvest, owing to a 7 months' drought, is poor. Nevertheless the population are getting a ration of 300 grammes of bread. Milk, soap, salt and oil are urgently required. Although the present situation is gloomy, recovery, according to Major Murchie, should be quickly achieved. 65% of the population are agricultural, and the iron ore and calcium mines, as well as the cement works and small distilleries, can be speedily set going again: fishing, too, can be put on its feet again, if fishing has feet. Perhaps Elba will develop a Separatist movement in God's good time.

4. Food for thought in Sardinia

The "fast diminishing staffs" of Southern Regions reveal problems to which Brigadier Carr in Sardinia has been devoting some provocative thought and comment. He points out that Italian officials usually cease work at 2 p.m. on week days and use Sunday as a day of rest, thus achieving, at most, a 34 hour week: while Allied officers in the island are working a minimum of 55 hours. "It would seem," remarks the Brigadier, "that the position should be reversed, if at all." He observes that there is a flourishing Black Market in petrol, which comes from the Italian Navy, the Italian Army, civilian supplies and Allied military sources "in exchange for goods received or favours given": and that the screening of applications for cars and petrol is increasingly difficult with a diminishing staff. Instances are given of official cars being used for honeymoon trips and bathing parties: and Brigadier Carr says here that "conditions are different from those on the mainland." In this, let us assure him, he is mistaken: let him investigate the uses of cars in Rome. He also notes that 3,000 tons of flour is "unaccounted for" by SEPRAL and UCEFAP, and investigation without the Regional sub-accountant, who has been ordered away, is nearly impossible: that there are strange discrepancies in the number of ration cards and insufficient staff, again, to investigate: and that "little or no control" will be possible when the island goes over to local flour supplies in the near future. Brigadier Carr's report gives much food for thought: his conclusion that "as ACC strength diminishes, the opportunities for irregularities, favouritism and corruption will increase" invites speculation on the Italy which ACC is leaving behind it, and the judgment that history will pass.

5. - and in Region VII

In a report from Calabria a similar note is struck with great eloquence by Colonel Feasey. Any attempt to telescope his report would, we feel, be impertinent: we quote the following:-

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"It is a moot point whether anything beyond a stereotyped report ever serves a useful purpose; but the enclosed is sent direct to you in the hope that it may do so, and not be lost in the catacombs of Roman ACC HQ. It is the result of two months' observation and represents the views of other officers as well as my own . . . . . Some of us feel strongly that the pot is simmering, and are convinced that it must come to the boil as soon as the gas jets are not controlled . . . . .

"It is important to realize that all sorts of fermentations are seething beneath the surface in Calabria, that the pleasant countryside could belch forth machine-gun fire, as it did yesterday, and that the new government is not trusted any more than the old one . . . . .

"There is a general feeling that the status quo will be

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maintained so long as ACC remains: after that the deluge . . . . .

"The view that we are not really sincere in our avowed aim to eliminate Fascism is attracting more supporters because of former Fascist officials against whom no action has been taken. In many quarters there is a feeling of frustration and disappointment at the turn of events, and the number of potential dangerous Fascists, not in official positions, but nevertheless still at liberty, is a disturbing influence.

"It is fairly well established that former Fascists have found new spiritual homes at the opposite ends of the scale, namely the Christian Democrat and the Communist. In Reggio in particular, and to a certain extent elsewhere, Socialist brain is wooing Communist brawn in preparation for action, both lawful and unlawful, when they consider the time is ripe for it.

"The Monarchist versus Republican or other form of government and the burning question of the Church might bring disaster to Calabria, where feudal conditions exist in many parts. There are staunch supporters of the monarchy among the nobility, who exercise controlling influence over their people even now. It remains to be seen whether their authority would prevail in the inevitable clash. Where they have been good overlords it would, and a bitter struggle might easily ensue. Feelings have run high over this issue in my presence .....

"There have been manifestations of lawlessness, which undoubtedly will occur more frequently now that there are no provincial officers available to tour. The mere presence of an Allied officer is often sufficient to quell disorder; but this may not hold good for very much longer and in any case the Italian Government is now responsible."

In the course of his report Colonel Feasey gives many interesting examples of trouble brewed or brewing: among others are the shortcomings of the Prefect of Catanzaro, the throwing of a hand grenade (wounding 22 people) by the Sindaco of Laureana di Borrelle into a crowd which he was addressing, and wholesale robberies by armed bands equipped with Breda guns, machine-guns, automatic rifles and hand grenades, which they had procured from an Italian Army dump.

6. Roman Gold

2769

Investigation into the tactics of German exploitation of Italy during their tenure in the national capital is bringing up some as yet unwritten history. The Germans managed to get the bulk of the Italian gold reserve to Germany, about 85,000 kg. There are now only 116 kg of Italian gold in Allied Italy. A year ago gold in Rome could be bought for 450 to 500 lire a gram, silver for 6,000 lire a kg and diamonds averaging 10 grains for 20,000 lire a grain. The Germans tried to manoeuvre the prices with some

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7. Agriculture

An extremely clear and practical report of the Agriculture Sub-Commission for June reveals several items of interest in the rehabilitation of agriculture, the backbone of Italy's economy. Wood and charcoal are Italy's main fuels, Naples, for example, using 60,000 quintals a month. There, as in Rome and most places,

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charcoal is at a premium due to the lag in production. The Italian Royal Forest Corps, with the help of the Agriculture Sub-Commission, is preparing to ask that foresters now in the Italian Army be furloughed to take up the production of charcoal, which takes certain definite skills. One charcoal maker, usually using his entire family as assistants, gets one quintal out of every five quintals of wood in burning a scientifically-prepared woodpile for eight days and nights.

Italy is also making a contribution to the agricultural recovery of liberated Europe by resuming export of one of its largest farm-products - seeds. Before the war the Italian seed industry was one of the largest in the world. The 1943 seed stock was largely untouched. Ergo, seed has now been purchased, stockpiled or shipped in the following amounts to the following places: United Kingdom - 17,640 kg, France and North Africa - 35,077 kg, United States - 8,500 kg, Russia - 4,700 kg, and liberated Italian areas - 89,885 kg.

Farm equipment requisitioned by the Allies for Italian use is now arriving, but difficulties of proper warehousing and transport for deliveries are being encountered. Distributed already, at least, are 15,000 pairs of salvaged Army boots. The Granai del Popolo campaign, for which the equipment is intended, is progressing with its aches, pains and successes. On the mainland, 25 per cent of the harvest is said to have been collected to date. Further, nearly 4,000,000 forms of one kind or another for proper processing and recording of the harvest have been distributed.

8. Pescara Note

Pescara on the Adriatic is full of booby traps and mines. Col French, Executive Officer of Region V, was walking there the other day when one bomb went off 50 yards away, knocking him over. The next morning another went off a short distance in front of him, with the same result. That afternoon a family returned to its home, opened its grand piano and got promptly blown into Valhalla. Colonel French thereupon left town - but not before sending for an Italian Army de-mining squad which, incidentally, will have the benefit of German blueprints showing the Pescara bomb layout. The blueprints had been left behind at Rieti.

9. The Chief Commissioner

It was announced on July 20 that Lieutenant-General Sir Noel Mason MacFarlane had relinquished the post of Chief Commissioner of the Allied Control Commission, to undergo a prolonged course of medical treatment. It was also announced that pending the appointment of his successor, the post of Acting Chief Commissioner would be held by Captain Ellery Stone, USNR.

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...stry was one of the largest in the world. The 1943 seed stock was largely untouched. Ergo, seed has now been purchased, stockpiled or shipped in the following amounts to the following places: United Kingdom - 17,640 kg, France and North Africa - 35,077 kg, United States - 8,500 kg, Russia - 4,700 kg, and liberated Italian areas - 89,885 kg.

Farm equipment requisitioned by the Allies for Italian use is now arriving, but difficulties of proper warehousing and transport for deliveries are being encountered. Distributed already, at least, are 15,000 pairs of salvaged Army boots. The Granai del Popolo campaign, for which the equipment is intended, is progressing with its aches, pains and successes. On the mainland, 25 per cent of the harvest is said to have been collected to date. Further, nearly 4,000,000 forms of one kind or another for proper processing and recording of the harvest have been distributed.

8. Pescara Note

Pescara on the Adriatic is full of booby traps and mines. Col French, Executive Officer of Region V, was walking there the other day when one bomb went off 50 yards away, knocking him over. The next morning another went off a short distance in front of him, with the same result. That afternoon a family returned to its home, opened its grand piano and got promptly blown into Valhalla. Colonel French thereupon left town - but not before sending for an Italian Army de-mining squad which, incidentally, will have the benefit of German blueprints showing the Pescara bomb layout. The blueprints had been left behind at Rieti.

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It is known that General MacFarlane underwent a long and severe operation when he returned to England. His loss to the ACC at so critical a time will be a matter of sincere regret to those who served under him.

LIONEL FIELDEN.
Major,
Public Relations Director.

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB15

16 July 1944

2 AUG Recd

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 15
9 July to 15 July

1. Political

The outstanding event of the week was, of course, the transfer of the Italian Government to Rome. The first cabinet meeting in the Capital took place at the Viminale on Saturday, 15 June. The Ministers first of all invited the 84-year old Orlando to "resume his duties" - after a lapse of 22 years - as President of the Chamber of Deputies in order to "preserve the continuity of the idea of a representative assembly to be elected by the Italian people." After this gesture the Council then turned to a discussion of Italy's war effort, anti-fascist legislation and matters of administrative routine. The meeting was preceded by a solemn pilgrimage to the scene of the mass murder at the Ardeatine Caves. On this occasion the Crown Prince accompanied the Cabinet - minus the Socialist members. The latter, in the words of AVANTI "were unwilling totake part in a choreographic performance attended by persons who had deserted their posts and thus assumed responsibilityfor the tragedy."

Croce was not present at the Cabinet meeting. He had announced some time ago his intention of resigning on grounds of health and age, as soon as the Government moved to Rome. It had been expected that his resignation would be announced at this time and there had been some speculation as to who would be taken into the Cabinet on his retirement. There had been mention of the names of Quinto Quintieri, who had been in the second Badoglio government, and the Marchese Carandini, of the Liberal Party. However, the Cabinet extended a unanimous invitation to Croce to continue at his post.

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On the instructions of the British and American governments the question has been raised with the Italian government as to whether the latter would have any objection to the publication of the long Armistice terms. The Italian government has replied that it would not wish to raise any objection and the decision by the American and British governments is awaited. A section of the Rome press is enquiring why the Italian people cannot learn the truth about their position and seems inclined to dismiss the

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The Advisory Council for Italy met at the British Embassy in Rome on July 15 and recommended to the Supreme Allied Commander that the transfer of the provinces of Naples (excluding the comune of Naples), Avellino, Benevento, Foggia and Campobasso to the Italian government be made on July 20, and that the further transfer of Rome, Littoria and Frosinone should take place on August 20.

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2. AMG with the Armies

Hard fighting continued during the week, and the advance was slight. The captures of Poggibonsi and Peccioli were, however, notable, the latter bringing our forces due east of Leghorn. German vandalism, vindictive and militarily purposeless, destroyed ancient picturesque San Gemignano by thirty hours continuous shelling after our troops had captured it quite intact by a flanking manoeuvre. In the Adriatic sector Italian troops captured Cingoli and Strada. A captured order by the Commander of the 19th Luftwaffe Field Division, whicharrived from Belgium last month, reports the ambushing of his convoys by partisans, complains of"difficult mountain warfare", and acknowledges the superiority of Allied men and material.

Fifth Army AMG reports that the "principal problems in Siena are water, electricity and politics". A not unusual complaint rears its head again - that Allied propaganda gives Italians the impression that liberation brings immediate unconditional political freedom, and that their free interpretation of this causes embarrassment and confusion. (It may be hoped that the measures now being put into force by Colonel McCarthy to deal with partisans may provide some solution to this difficulty).

Eighth Army AMG report CAOs functioning in Matelica, Filottramo and Loreto (Matelica lies some 20 miles north-east of Assisi: Loreto about 15 miles south of Ancona). A full report is still awaited on the damage done by a German air raid to the Holy House at Loreto, which had been given special measures of protection by the Allies. It is one of the major Catholic shrines of Italy and stands in conspicuous isolation at the end of the little town.

3. The Shape of Things to Come?

Colonel William O'Dwyer who, as District Attorney of King's County, New York, smashed the notorious Murder, Inc. racket syndicate in the States, arrived in Rome on July 14 to take up his duties as Vice-President of the Economic Section of ACC. He succeeds Mr Henry F. Grady in that post. Mr Grady, former Assistant American Secretary of State, will return to the United States shortly to resume his duties as Chairman of the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

Colonel O'Dwyer, who is 54, also holds the personal rank of Minister of the American State Department and is the representative in Italy of the Foreign Economic Administration of the United States Government. Refo

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Colonel O'Dwyer, who is 54, also holds the personal rank of Minister of the American State Department and is the representative in Italy of the Foreign Economic Administration of the United States Government. Before coming into the ACC, the Colonel was in the U.S. Air Corps. He has been in the Army two years.

Another new appointment is that of Mr A.G. Antolini, 39, of New York, as Executive Director of the Economic Section. Mr Antolini, who was formerly director of business interests and purchasing in Italy for R.H. Macy Co., mammoth New York Department Store, reports that 42 FEA (Foreign Economic Administration) civilian experts are on the way to join the ACC within two to six weeks. There is clearly a tendency towards demilitarization on this side of the ACC, clearly dependent, of course, on the progress of the military situation. A suggestion has been forwarded to AFHQ for a similar infiltration of British civilian personnel - particularly on the economic side.

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The nub of the new economic policy, as far as Mr Antolini can see it at the moment, is economic assistance to Italy by the United States and United Kingdom to enable the Italian economy to get smoke going from its chimneys again. The natural emphasis at first will be on consumer goods and eventual re-introduction of free enterprise to allow the marts of commerce to move and to gain Italy the foreign exchange accruing from exports. Basic reservation as to exports abroad, however, will be that such exports must be surplus to the Italian economy.

Getting Italy out of a relief status into productive work will be stimulated at minimum possible cost to the United Nations. UNRRA, incidentally, cannot come into Italy while Italy remains an ex-enemy status, only if Italy at some time in the unpredictable future should be accepted as an ally and thus become eligible for such aid.

4. AAI tacks on Wages

The discussion on what is the proper rate of pay for Italian labour employed by the Armed forces this week resulted in a new order issued by the Local Resources Section of AAI HQ and authorized for all Liberated Italy, which meets demands for increases to Allied office employees, but leaves the basic matter of increases in rates for common labour still somewhat in abeyance. It will be recalled that the original order issued by Major-General Harry H. Johnson, Commanding General, Rome Area Command, on advice of Rome AMG, attempted to increase rates for common labour to meet the higher scale previously paid by the Germans, as well as take care of the pressing problem of adequate recompense for Italian clerical employees needed by Allied authorities in increasing numbers in view of the heavy administrative demands in Rome and the urgent need for competent personnel.

The new AAI order operates as follows: Rates for office employees have not been increased as requested, but increased pay for higher-calibre persons was supplied by creating new classifications of senior and junior administrative assistants, with maximums of 6,000 lire per month for the former and 4,500 lire per month for the latter. The problem of pay for hotel employees, scarcity of which (because of inadequate wage standards) was bidding fair to create a minor crisis in the personal comfort of Allied officers largely billeted in hotels, was likewise settled by forming new classifications for their pay.

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The key issue of pay for common labour was handled quite adroitly by AAI in this manner: Common labourers in country districts were previously paid an authorized 40 lire a day. The authorized Allied rate in Rome was 65 lire a day. The compromise at this date: Country rates are increased to 65 lire a day, the Rome rate standing still. Further negotiations on possibly increasing the Rome rate are expected at a meeting of the Local Resources Section on or about July 25 at which time a study of comparative living costs between Rome and Naples will be presented by the Labour Sub-Commission of ACC.

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5. Consternation in Apulia

Besides his obvious headaches with the harvest in Region II, Colonel J.T. Zellars, Regional Commissioner, is being acutely baffled these days, he says, by what to do with last year's wine crop. The crop is 250,000 quintals (Agriculture S/C insists that is the correct measure). This means 25,000 TONS or an indescribable number of litres. Anyone in ACC, in Italy and in Europe, may have the wine practically for the asking - and the transport. But they had better take it before it turns to vinegar - or what is actually going to happen: the vats must soon be emptied for this year's wine.

6. Journalism in Rome

Headaches and complications are an inevitable result of taking over the press of a capital city - particularly when "freedom of opinion" is one of democracy's declared aims. When we reached Rome there were seven daily papers - three morning and four evening - with a circulation of about 700,000. There were also several clandestine papers, circulating spasmodically. There were, and are, some 600 journalists. Following the PWB Plan adopted in Southern Italy, all papers (except the Vatican "Osservatore Romano" and "Quotidiano") were suppressed and substituted by the six party organs, "Avanti", "Unita", "Ricostruzione", "Italia Libera", "Il Popolo", "Risorgimento Liberale" and the PWB paper "Corriere di Roma". This gave a total of nine daily papers. The scheme went smoothly into operation, but some resentment was inevitably felt by (a) journalists, printers, compositors etc who were thrown out of work (b) those who objected to the suppression of fifty or sixty-year old papers like "Il Giornale d'Italia" and "Il Messaggero" (c) those who held that the six parties now represent a Government Giunta and therefore a newspaper "dictatorship" with no opposition, and (d) publishers and employees of former clandestine newspapers who felt that they had a claim to continue publication. At its meeting on July 1 the Allied Publications Board decided to allow the claims of the last category to the extent of licensing three daily papers, "Il Tempo", "Italia Nuova" and "La Voce Repubblicana": and further, that "Il Messagero", "La Tribuna" and "Il Giornale d'Italia" would be licensed (possibly under changed names) as and when their epuration has been satisfactorily completed. This would bring the total of daily papers to fifteen. And newsprint is in short supply. The Allied Publications Board has now to consider some two hundred and fifty further applications for daily or weekly expressions of "freedom of opinion".

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A new press law is now, after much argument and modification, up for consideration by the Italian Government. As soon as it is passed, an Italian commission will be set up to deal with the licensing of publications. This commission will report at first to the APB, but presumably will in the end shoulder the embarrassing responsibility of providing Italy with a free press.

The Rome press itself is quite lively: its polemics reveal various differences of opinion between Left (represented by Communist "Unita", Socialist "Avanti", Action Party "Italia Libera") / and

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and Right (represented by Christian Democrat"Popolo", Liberal "Risorgimento Liberale", Labour Democrat "Ricostruzione"). Main bones of contention (1) Monarchy versus Republic (which also appears in the guise of Referendum versus Constituent Assembly, since it is generally thought that the former would favour Monarchy, the latter a Republic) (2) Future of Italy: Togliatti's Marxist speech was resented by the Rightist group as far too violent (3) Control of Trades Unions: the Right takes exception to the Leftist "control" of the Federation of Labour. Other much-discussed subjects are the lack of electric power in Rome, lack of transport, the publication of the Armistice terms, and epuration. On the latter point most papers carry "black lists" and denunciations. The press on the whole is remarkable for too much politics and too little news.

Allied correspondents in Rome are cabling a large volume of political and semi-political comment - much greater than at any time in the Italian campaign. It is clear that they are to some extent affected by the Rome press, from which they frequently quote: the Rome press has thus, at second hand, a considerable impact on world opinion. The general tenor of despatches is critical: correspondents are (some of them for the first time) facing up to the problem of "what to do with Italy", and picking holes in the awkward minor questions of the powers of the Italian Government, the publication of the Armistice terms, the epuration of Fascists, the treatment of partisans, the rehabilitation of industry and so on. Matthews (New York Times) says that the publication of the Armistice terms "will blow the Bonomi Government away". Bigart (New York Herald Tribune) states that the treatment of partisans "has shocked anti-Fascist elements and is reacting unfavourably on partisans in the north". Day (Baltimore Sun) suggests that unless there is "continued Allied guidance" after the war, Italy will drift into Fascism again or veer violently to the Left. Lumby (Times) says the Government "will stand or fall on the collection of the harvest". Cook (Newsweek) asks London to check the real reason for General Mason MacFarlane's presence there. Severeid (CBS), discussing industrial havoc, says that "after this war Italy will have nothing left but her beauty".

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7. Granai del Popolo

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Agricultural S/C reports that the campaign is going well with, generally speaking, whole-hearted cooperation from the farmers. Transportation is a persistent worry; there are cases where the grain is piling up on the threshing floor awaiting trucks for delivery. Beginning 23 July the machinery for checking the quantity collected, both actually on hand and in bond, will be functioning and it will be possible to issue weekly reports on the quantity of collections and their relationship to the desired goals.

/ Foggia

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Foggia Province reports that collections are ahead of schedule, although so far only one tenth of the total has come in. Transport, as usual, is the main difficulty: costs are very high and many farmers are using their carts night and day. Chief contraband at the moment is olive oil which is moving from Bari towards Naples and Rome, not to mention a woman found transporting one cwt grain in her petticoat. Major Montagu, we gather, is active in pursuit of pirates: one old gentleman of 72, discovered ambling along in his buggy in the middle of the night, said testily that he was going to visit a sick relative in Avellino: buggy apparently empty. Further search revealed false bottom: whole buggy-frame full of olive oil.

Italian soldier-labour has proved an immense success: 19,000 have been placed on farms and every one of them was at work within three days of arrival, generally within one. Result: agricultural wages crashed from 200 lire to 65.

8. Region III

The June report shows an encouraging return towards normality. Colonel John W. Chapman took over from Colonel Poletti on June 20. Owing to increased rations and plentiful supplies of potatoes, vegetables and fruits (Naples is now turning an apprehensive eye on Rome in this connection). Black Market forces slumped everywhere. Local government is making excellent headway, and labour unrest was at the minimum. In the province of Salerno the resignation of Badoglio is reported to have"caused real sorrow among the people, even those who differed from him politically". Rehabilitation is in full swing: 27 bridge reconstruction and 58 road repair projects were in operation. 14,650,000 lire were authorized for expenditure on the repair of 18 monuments during July, August and September. There was some complaint of uncontrolled civiliantraffic - with resultant black market operations in food and gasoline - between Rome and Naples. 708 tons of hemp and 5½ tons of silk were exported to U.K., and 700 tons more of hemp were ready for shipment. There was a mild epidemic of smallpox (207 cases during the month): 300,000 vaccinations were carried out in Naples itself and 25,000 (out of a total population of 40,000) in Afragola. The operations of Ufficio Trasporti showed a gross profit of 2,274,833 lire for its first full month. The report concludes with the remark

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9. Region VIII

Regional HQ were (temporarily) established at Orvieto on June 19. By July 10 the Region had a strength of 119 officers, the total allotment being 135. Grosseto, the only province fully occupied, was reported politically quiet and presenting no grain problems. Future agricultural prospects "quite bright". Repairs to water supply systems were in hand and Grosseto (more fortunate than Rome) was getting light and power from the hydro-electric station at Scarcata. Some looting by troops and some cases of

/ rape

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rape (by French colonial troops in Siena Province) were reported, but the situation was improving, although there was an insufficiency of MP. Schools, for the most part, had not functioned since April, 1943: plans were in hand for the regular autumnal opening. On the whole the report indicates a remerkable degree of tranquillity and good order.

10. Exodus

Sir Clifford Heathcote-Smith, head of the Inter-Governmental Refugees Committee in the ACC, reports that 1,000 non-Italian and stateless refugees, mostly Jewish, are about to be embarked for the United States, where they will be guests of the nation at a reception centre at Fort Ontario, N.Y. for a year, or the end of the war, whichever comes sooner, after which they will be re-patriated. The refugees, who will find comfort, medical attention and peace for the first time in several years, have all signed pledges that they will accept no employment outside of their settlement and that they will return to their homes after the war. These refugees, who drifted across the front-line into care of the Internees and Displaced Persons Sub-Commission in Italy, came from Germany, Poland, France, Yugoslavia, Czecho-Slovakia and Austria. Eleven White Russians, who profess the Russian Orthodox religion, are the only non-Jews.

11. SHAEF and Refugees in Normandy

Colonel L.R. Hulls, Director of the Italian Refugee Branch, has just returned to his ACC post from London, where he participated in consultations, on the basis of his experiences in Italy, concerning the handling of refugees on the Western Front. Principles and methods proved effective in handling 100,000 refugees in Italy are to be followed in France, such as centralized control from the battle zone to the rear dispersal areas and use of empty military transport to send refugees down from the front. Colonel Hulls conferred with Major-General Gullion, former Provost Marshal General of the U.S. Army and founder of the School of Military Government at Charlottesville, Va. General Gullion's deputy is Brigadier Griffin. In Colonel Hulls' opinion, there will be no sizeable refugee problem for SHAEF until a considerably larger area is liberated. Colonel Hulls, incidentally, was in London when the flying bombs first began to come over.

12. Odds and Ends

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Refugees Committee in the ACC, reports that 1,000 non-Italian and stateless refugees, mostly Jewish, are about to be embarked for the United States, where they will be guests of the nation at a reception centre at Fort Ontario, N.Y. for a year, or the end of the war, whichever comes sooner, after which they will be re-patriated. The refugees, who will find comfort, medical attention and peace for the first time in several years, have all signed pledges that they will accept no employment outside of their settlement and that they will return to their homes after the war. These refugees, who drifted across the front-line into care of the Internees and Displaced Persons Sub-Commission in Italy, came from Germany, Poland, France, Yugoslavia, Czecho-Slovakia and Austria. Eleven White Russians, who profess the Russian Orthodox religion, are the only non-Jews.

11. SHAEF and Refugees in Normandy

Colonel L.R. Hulls, Director of the Italian Refugee Branch, has just returned to his ACC post from London, where he participated in consultations, on the basis of his experiences in Italy, concerning the handling of refugees on the Western Front. Principles and methods proved effective in handling 100,000 refugees in Italy are to be followed in France, such as centralized control from the battle zone to the rear dispersal areas and use of empty military transport to send refugees down from the front. Colonel Hulls conferred with Major-General Gullion, former Provost Marshal General of the U.S. Army and founder of the School of Military Government at Charlottesville, Va. General Gullion's deputy is Brigadier Griffin. In Colonel Hulls' opinion, there will be no sizeable refugee problem for SHAEF until a considerably larger area is liberated. Colonel Hulls, incidentally, was in London when the flying bombs first began to come over.

12. Odds and Ends

2765

We understand, unreliably, that Colonel (Perugia) Belser calls sharply for immediate synchronization of all watches at daily staff meeting ..... also probably unreliable, though from high authoritative source, is report that Brigadier Dunlop attended Red Army recruiting meeting in cellar at Terracina ..... nobody (at least not U.K. or U.S.) ever declared war on San Marino, so we mustn't fight in it: but who can say that Poletti won't get there ?.... Jews who went to Palestine left nine million lire with Colonel Findlay and now can't get the money owing to currency regulations, Colonel Findlay says .....

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back from Africa's mysteries, Colonel Marshal takes charge of Region V ..... Colonel Poletti has written on AMG for the New York Times, had his history pictured by "Life", broadcast from Rome for Mutual, is going to display Caruso's loot to journalists at press conference ..... VD in Naples has fallen from 269 to 136 per 1,000; no figures yet for Rome .....

Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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SECRET

ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 14
2 July to 8 July

1. Political

The news, released on Saturday July 8, that the Italian Government, the Headquarters of the Allied Control Commission, and the Advisory Council for Italy will all be established in Rome on July 15, erases a political question-mark which had given rise to a good deal of unfounded and frequently silly speculation. In actual fact the move of the whole government and ACC within little more than a month is no mean achievement: and the move to Rome merely smoothes out administrative machinery which had been dislocated by distance and poor communications. It should perhaps be recorded that the continued absence of the Government from Rome, coupled with General MacFarlane's departure, was mischievously interpreted by Roman gossips and some Allied corresponderts to mean that the General had been recalled to discuss his actions at the time when the Bonomi Government was formed and that that Government was being kept in cold storage and inactivity at Salerno until it fell into disrepute, when it would be replaced by a Government under Orlando and Badoglio. For such rumours there was of course no foundation at all. The Chief Commissioner, who had for some time been suffering severely from a spinal complaint due to a motor accident, flew home on medical advice in order to obtain special treatment, and it is hoped that he will be back within a short time. The Bonomi Government will function from Rome as it did from Salerno; that is to say with jurisdiction only over territory handed over to it. It is hoped that the next "hand-over" (of Naples, Benevento, Foggia and Campobasso) will take place about July 15, when the Advisory Council meets. A further "hand-over" is foreshadowed for the middle of August.

At Salerno it was a great week for platform-plank speeches, and Ministers loosed a flood of resolution and exhortation. Most eloquent, perhaps, was De Ruggiero (Education) who placed the virtues of abnegation and a simpler life higher than those of any hasty reform of methods. Mancini spoke of Public Works from a blood-tears-toil-and-sweat angle. Casati visited military hospitals. Cerabona took a trip over the railways of Calabria. The Prime Minister received a delegation of Italian Communist Youth who assured him of their support and stressed the necessity for greater assistance to patriots. Salerno's best bit of news was, however, that of the first consignment of aeroplanes to the

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2. Treatment of Partisans

Twenty-five more and less distinguished people - including Major-General Browning, Brigadiers Bush, Dunlop and Mainwaring, Group-Captain Benson, Colonels Upjohn, Grafftey-Smith and Young - sat down in the stifling atmosphere of the Chief Commissioner's sun-drenched room on July 3 to discuss the thorny subject of

/ partisans

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partisans. It was a tribute to self-control that snores were not actually heard during the two-hour session. Colonel McCarthy, who has been appointed to look after the new "Patriot Branch" of R.C. and M.G. Section, unfolded plans for (a) sending Italian patriot representatives to Corps HQ to advise CACs on the identification of leaders of Patriot bands (b) posters directing patriots to surrender their arms (c) awarding certificates of merit to patriots (d) subsequent employment of patriots and (e) rewarding persons who have assisted Allied prisoners-of-war to escape.

The discussion raised thorny problems. What were the qualifications of a "patriot"? Would not "certificates of merit" be sold on the black market or dropped from the air by the Germans? On what grounds should the surrender of arms be demanded? Would patriots be liable to conscription?

It was eventually decided that a "patriot" is "a member of a recognized fighting band who has carried arms, carried out demolitions or engaged in sabotage": that 30,000 "certificates of merit" should be printed, to be ready in a week: that four "Patriot Reps" should leave for 8th Army on July 9, four for 5th Army on July 10, and two for the Adriatic Coast on July 11. The poster asking patriots to surrender arms so that those arms can be dropped to patriots further north was approved. General Browning insisted that patriots of military age were liable to conscription: the questions of subsequent employment and awards for persons who have assisted POWs proved too complicated for any immediate decision.

A first step was thus taken in a matter which is likely to be of capital importance. It is going to be no easy task to deal, on the one hand, with people who have fought sturdily and suffered, and now find themselves unemployed and stopped from fighting, and on the other hand with people (and they are not lacking) who were never patriots at all but will use unscrupulous methods to stake their claims. Colonel Risper, who looks after patriots beyond the lines, Colonel McCarthy, who looks after their organisation in AMG and ACC areas, and Colonel Spicer, who will advise on local government treatment of the patriots, have some headaches to come.

3. AMG with the Armies

German resistance stiffended throughout the week and Saturday's communique described the Fifth Army's advance as "of only a few hundred yards depth." Bitter street-fighting was taking place in every town occupied. It was clear that the enemy was attempting to hold the Arezzo sector at all costs while strengthening the Gothic line. On July 3 our forward elements had reached

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3. AMG with the Armies

German resistance stiffended throughout the week and Saturday's communique described the Fifth Army's advance as "of only a few hundred yards daily." Bitter street-fighting was taking place in every town occupied. It was clear that the enemy was attempting to hold the Arezzo sector at all costs while strengthening the Gothic line. On July 8 our forward elements had captured Rosignano, 13 miles south of Leghorn, and from there the line ran five or six miles south of the towns of Volterra, Poggibonsi, Arezzo, Cubbio, Fabriano, and Jesi.

Fifth Army AMG reported on July 1 the occupation of the whole of Livorno province except the Provincial capital and two communes, and of several communes in Pisa. Piombino was reported badly damaged: nine thousand refugees had been found in Campiglia: otherwise the main trouble seemed to be the non-arrival of personnel. "Anxiety was felt" about the absence of any Provincial Commissioner

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for Leghorn and of "a[illegible] but a few officers for t[illegible] Lucca and Pistoia teams." Only 150 Carabinieri out of the 400 required for Leghorn and Siena had arrived: Grosseto Province had none.

On other counts the report is good. Health was described as excellent: a good deal of hospital accommodation and equipment was available. The supply position had improved: four EM had actually arrived to deal with it. Harvest prospects were brilliant, as everywhere: the destruction of all agricultural records was expected to cause headaches. Partisans were "not proving an insurmountable difficulty" though proclamations and certificates of merit were needed (see para 2). "Goum trouble" was decreasing: the French were issuing "stringent instructions" (Incidentally it should be reported that Goum trouble has flared up in the Rome press whose protests are being widely quoted by Allied correspondents in their despatches).

Some concern was felt by 8th Army AMG about the supply position. Early in the week there were 720 tons of flour in Orvieto: 500 were earmarked for Florence and further supplies were not arriving, though 180 tons a day were expected from Tuesday. Terni, a town evacuated 5 months ago and now nearly full again, was a bad problem. 1,000 tons of flour had been found in Todi and were being milled. There was a bad shortage of commodities such as milk, sugar and salt. In forward areas the refugee problem was less acute, but in the Liri Valley and the Cassino area (now under Region IV) the situation predicted by Group-Captain Benson some weeks ago has come to pass. Unverified reports put the number of homeless in those areas at 40 or 50 thousand, and the deaths from mines at 20 a day.

Major Bullock reports from 8th Army AMG as follows:

"CHIUSI has been found nearly one-quarter destroyed and more than half damaged. A labyrinth of subterranean passages under the town providing shelter from bombing and shell-fire attracted refugees. Our occupation found the normal population of 8,500 increased to 9,000. Germans were in the town three months, looted on an extensive scale and left the people dazed and depressed. Water supply is precarious and main drain is destroyed. Three doctors, two midwives and three chemists were still in CHIUSI. Medical supplies and food were rushed in, a 35-bed hospital was improvised in a new building, and a water-cart was repaired to bring in water from a distance of 1 kilometer. There is no electric power at the moment, but it is hoped to connect with MONTELEONE. Major ZERNUDACHI was in charge. We have now turned

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"Nearby CETONA was only slightly damaged during operations. There were 800 refugees in addition to the normal 4,600 people. One doctor, six CORR and three town guards were still on the job. Partisans numbered 200 under command of Col Marenco Silvio and Nocucci Pietro. UPSEA and Giunta Committees were formed at once, the Sindaco was removed and replaced, 50 men were put to work clearing roads. Capt HUNT is in charge.

"The health resort of CHIANCIANO, with many large hotels, was less than five per cent damaged. The normal population of 3,500 was swelled to 5,000. There were 65,000 lire in the communal

/ treasury

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treasury, the normal budget for a month. Two trucks were found in working order and there may be more in the surrounding countryside. There is an electrically operated mill which will be run with a tractor. Two doctors, three carabinieri and one communal guard were on hand. Capt RILEY is in charge.

"In the bank in CORCIANO 75 lire were found. There was no money in the communal treasury. Population of 6,700, including 200 refugees, was being looked after by three doctors, one carabiniere and one municipal guard. There were adequate medical supplies for a month. The people were found friendly and cooperative. The town, centre of an agricultural commune, had about half its buildings more or less damaged. Lieut TORCELLINI is in charge.

"Only one building was found damaged in ACCUMOLI, the light and power plant which the Germans had sabotaged. There were 2,800 people, one third refugees. No rice or pasta had been issued for three months and the wheat ration fluctuated from month to month. The water supply is good. One doctor, one midwife, two carabinieri and one communal guard. ACCUMOLI is a charcoal making commune. The only truck in the place, a charcoal-burner, is not working. Cash in the bank was 20,000 lire, but the communal treasury was empty. Capt COMSTOCK is in charge.

"In Spoleto the British-born Countess (Betty) DI SAN MARZANO, has for two years been running an underground Rest Camp for fugitive Allied prisoners-of-war. She is the wife of an Italian lieutenant-colonel now in the north, and the mother of four children. Since 1942 she has been giving lessons for eight hours a day in English to Spoleto people. The Germans got wise to her activities and she moved her extensive English library from the town into the hills where our prisoners-of-war were lodged in the homes of friends of hers. One friend, in a house alongside the surreptitious rest camp, sheltered as many as eight POW at a time for periods up to two months. The Countess, who is a person of energy and decision, declares that the people of Spoleto have always been friendly to her and that she has had no trouble since the war began in spite of her English background. Of the attitude of the Italians to the war she says: 'The peasants, the professional people and the middle class have always been pro-British and against the war. There was a brief period of war-fever at first, but it passed long before the first Italian defeats and only the ardent Fascists maintained any zeal." The Countess is assisting the C.O as an interpreter. She feels strongly that the Allies should be generous with the families who helped our prisoners-of-war at great risk to them-

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4. Civil Affairs on the Second Front

SHAEF seems to have taken a leaf or two out of the book of AMG experience in Italy.

To limit the inflationary effect on French economy as a result of Allied military operations there is to be an extension of the normal recreational facilities for troops, so as to keep / them

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them out of civilian establishments and off the streets; an increase in the United States Army PX service which will enable troops tobuy souvenirs of France; and a prohibition of local purchases of food, until conditions permit. - Also a prohibition of import of U.S. dollars and English pounds sterling, as well as control of prices. A centralized system of supplies and services for Allied troops will even include billets. This will prevent competitive bidding up of prices.

All possible methods are tobe undertaken to stimulate savings on the part of military personnel, and "educational campaigns" are undertaken before the troops arrive in France to encourage them to save for post-war years. The "harmful effects of carefree spending" on the economy of the country they are in is especially stressed. Rome and Naples to note.

5. Granai del Popolo

The grain collection slowdown in Sicily, complicated by Separatist propaganda and the craftiness of the Sicilian peasant, has brought swift and drastic action from ACC HQ. to enforce deliveries to the Granai del Popolo by all means at the disposal of the Italian Government and the Allied authorities. Stepped-up publicity and continuous personal-appeal tours by the Prime Minister and other Italian personages as well as police reinforcements and easing of trucking restrictions have all been arranged to effectuate the goal of Sicily being self-sufficient in food.

At the same time, word reached Rome that hint of these strict measures is percolating down to the farmers and that more grain is already beginning to come in, according to Lt Col M.E.M Dickey, Deputy Director of the Agricultural Sub-Commission. Col Dickey said the meager collection of 5,000 quintals in June may be laid entirely to the Sicilian balking to accept the price of 1,000 lire a quintal. On the other hand, in the grain tableland around Perugia farmers are viewing the 1,000 lire price as suspiciously too high! A special explanation to the northern farmers who fear inflation is to be worked by ACC and PWB in the form of wall posters giving the full facts about Granai del Popolo.

2762

Maximum penalties against evaders of the collection decree and immediate trials for offenders are directed in the order issued by Brigadier Lush to regional authorities in Sicily. Whether or not the enforcement will go as far as confiscation of land holdings is not clear, although grain hoarded may undoubtedly be confiscated under the law and speculators given

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6. Labour in the Melting Pot

A first-class row involving repercussions on the highest levels blew up this past week and even now is in process of blowing on concerning the setting aside of an increase in army wage scales for Italian labour ordered on grounds of operational necessity by Major-General Harry H. Johnson, Rome Area Commander, on the recommendation of Lieut Colonel Thomas E. Lane, Labour Section Chief of the Rome AMG. What

/ happened

happened briefly was this:

Almost immediately the Allies arrived in Rome and began hiring Italian civilians, complaints arose (which AMG thought justified) to the effect that the Italian workers were not getting as much as they were under the Germans, a deficiency felt all the more keenly, according to the Italians, because of the high cost of living in Rome. The propaganda effect, in addition, of paying less than the Germans, was none too good. Our rate for common labourers, the basic yardstick, was 65 lire a day. The Todt organization paid 70.5, plus handsome allowances in food which they obtained by forced requisitions from the farmers in the Agro Romano. Col Lane's recommendation was to increase our rates to 85 lire a day. Then the fun began.

General Johnson signed the order, which was to go into effect July 1, and publicity was given to the measure. AMI, however, got its back up on the grounds that such a wage rise was too inflationary. ACC Labour Sub-Commission came charging in to support its Rome Regional Labour Officer. Col Lane then spoke a piece for the benefit of newspaper correspondents who by that time were on to the story. Col Lane also threatened to resign, an item the correspondents, delighted at the family row, did not overlook. Everyone waited for reactions and rumblings from Washington. Instead, the first call-back came from Great Britain where the MANCHESTER GUARDIAN played up the situation in a leader. Result: the War Office has asked for explanations. Prospect: Negotiations are continuing on the basis of cost-of-living studies.

7. Here and there.

Not so much there as here this week: this Bulletin comes to you from Rome ... Some think (let us be careful) Rome has a lotos-eating effect on its inhabitants, old and new. Group-Captain Benson has been heard to observe that ACC HQ should be under canvas. It does appear to us that luncheon intervals in Rome are somewhat protracted: an astonishing number of pretty ladies flit about the offices: undoubtedly the endless corridors of the Ministero delle Corporazioni are deserted at 6.00 p.m. except for an ardent few who may be regarded as anti-social, hard-working or crazy. Do not ask about the Public Relations Branch: the division between public and private relations is not always quite distinct. But the observer in Rome is certainly tempted to wonder whether the boudoir atmosphere of the Eternal City does not sap the will

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LIONEL FIELDEN, Major,
PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

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2 July,1944

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 13
25 JUNE TO 2 JULY

1. Political

The Council of Ministers met on Friday, 30 June and dealt with a number of pressing matters. For one thing - and perhaps the most important - they prepared a legislative decree providing penalties for anyone "violating the discipline" of the grain ammassing laws. Terms of imprisonment from 6 months to six years are to be meted out and the fines are fixed at 20 times the legal price of the grain witheld. These in addition to minor penalties such as confiscation of the grain in question. Arrangements for a provisional budgeting over the next three months were made and various technical financial matters, such as payment of interest on treasury bonds and measures to ease the situation for communes, were dealt with. Funds of the "Procuratori" (Public Prosecutors) were upped 70%. Provision was made to recall retired magistrates back into service in order to fill up the gaps caused by the processed of defascistization.

Otherwise the week was relatively uneventful. It was announced by the Ministry of Communications that interurban telephone service will be open to the public beginning July 1st. Casati, Minister of War, sent an inspiring proclamation to the Armed Forces. The Commissariato for refugees has announced its intention of getting the refugees back to their homes "as soon as possible" Farmers will go first and the whole project will be worked out in collaboration with ACC. On the occasion of the announcement of British casualties by the Prime Minister a government spokesman voiced Italy's sympathy and gratitude for the sacrifices the Allied

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ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 13
25 JUNE TO 2 JULY

Seen by Gen. Lemnitzer

PK 7/17

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2. Movements

General Order no 17 of June 29 announced the appointment of Col. Gerard R. Upjohn as acting head of the Administrative Section. Col. Richard H. Wilmer becomes acting Director of the Legal Sub-Commission.

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Popolo campaign. The former inspected the ... while the latter's trip took him through the foot.

Both report bumper crops despite lack of fertilizer, threshing machines and other things necessary to high production, but farmers generally are not satisfied with prices offered them for their grain and with the prices they must pay for bread and other commodities in controlled or semi - controlled markets.

Of particular interest is a report by Major Andrews who declared that "mines have been literally strewn over large areas, some of them as in the case of the Avezzano area, planted simply to scare the farmers out of the harvesting of their grain. People are being killed every day, three the afternoon we were in Avezzano. The military quite naturally take the view that their problems are up ahead and cannot spare the crews to clear the fields of mines."

4. AMG With the Armies

A situation report from 5th Army dated 27 June states the the occupation of Grosseto province has been completed. Several communes in Livorno and Siena provinces have been taken over and the leading troops were well into Pisa province. Physical condition of communes is fairly good with the exception of Roccastrada, Massa Marittima and Montieri. The report continues:

> "The only important town occupied is Piombino. Preliminary reports are that there are 7000 people in the town and 14,000 fractions making a total of 21,000 out of the normal 30,000. The port and steel works are heavily damaged but many houses are habitable and people are returning home. There is grain in the town but electric power is badly needed for the large mills. In view of the importance of the port (which will be open on June 30) civilians in the area are being frozen so as not to impede operations."

Viterbo Province was turned over to Region IV on June 29. In Grosseto province harvesting operations are going on well but the absence of officials, records and transport may make proper collection difficult. Livorno and Pisa teams (Region VIII) are already at work and the Lucca and Pistoia teams are on hand. Some anxiety is felt for the Florence team since 70% of the population live outside the city itself, and it is feared that the Provincial Commissioner may not be equipped with sufficient CAOS to take care of the situation.

The Economics and Supply Section has opened 11 mobile depots and closed down 8 since the advance started. They are badly overworked...First phase financing has been completed in Viterbo province save for a small strip in 8th Army territory...Bands of partisans of varying size and quality are found in almost all communes.

It was announced in Washington that Col. William O'Dwyer has been appointed Vice President of the Economic Section and will have the personal rank of minister. It is not known when Col. O'Dwyer will arrive at ACC HQ.

3. Granai del Popolo

Majors Andrews and Sutherland of the Agriculture Sub - Commission drifted through the provinces this week to ascertain the degree of progress in the Granai del Popolo campaign. The former inspected the calf of Italy while the latter's trip took him through the foot.

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From the latest sitrep we have had from 8th Army dated 24 June, we quote as follows:

"The only city of importance captured recently is Perugia. The city itself is very little damaged but it is still being shelled in a desultory manner. The population is 10,000 of which probably 3 to 4 thousand are refugees. They have received supply up to about 7th July. A report from Lieut. Simpson who is acting as CAPO in the city is attached (to RC and MG Section ACC and Brigadier A/Q only).

Perugia has 8 banks with a total of Lit. 54,5000,000 cash of which Lit. 52,000,000 is in the bank of Italy. In addition there is Lit. 1,900,000 in the Post Office. Unfortunately the electric supply is gone and about 40 electric mills are out of action.

The Province of Perugia is a large granary and the crop is ripe and is being cut. The biggest problem which faces the province is that of milling. There are probably sufficient water mills to look after the needs of the villages, but large mills capable of milling sufficient grain to feed the inhabitants of the bigger cities (other than electric) have so far not been found except in one place, Trevi, where there are two water mills with a total capacity of 20 tons per day. For the above reasons the supply problem is still serious both in the bigger cities already captured and also in Florence, unless there we find operable mills."

The report stresses the need for milk, soap and sugar and recommends urgent attention should be given to the supplying of naphtha and kerosene if the harvest is to be gathered.

A report is appended from the acting CAPO who unearthed a very mixed bag of political internees including an Englishwoman who was sheltering two German officers a British Lt. Colonel who had made broadcasts for Mussolini. Not all the internees are pro-German; indeed not the majority but there are some "queer ones". Some, indeed, had fled with the Germans. On the partisans the following paragraph may be illuminating:

2769

"Upon arrival in Perugia on the morning of 20 June hundreds of partisans, armed, were marching up and down the streets in groups singing, shouting and waving flags. The partisans' leaders were contacted and AMG policy of no politics and the consigning of arms in the Carabinieri station and the Questura was explained. The leaders were cooperative and at 5 in the afternoon they formed up in front of the Municipio and, upon my

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to be recognized as Government officials. Since then the partisans have been very cooperative and seem to have the objective of helping the Communal and Provincial governments back to normal. However, several groups of citizens representing professions and political parties have advised us that the partisans do not represent the majority of public opinion and are political opportunists. All groups are being listened to and at present no Sindaco has been appointed though five names popular with all groups have been submitted. The nominations are being investigated by AMG and FSS.

At present writing the line from east to west runs north of the Chienti taking in Perugia and Castiglione on Lake Trasimeno where Hannibal beat the Romans, through the town of Poggio Siena Vecchia, just 6 miles south of Siena on to include Cecina where highwaymen roamed in Dante's time. A land full of history - and we are adding to it.

5. Report From Rome.

Rome is at this time a capital without a government, a city at war with no visible scars, an eternal city preoccupied with immediate problems. It is hardly surprizing if reports from such a paradoxical center are varied, confusing and contradictory. It is clear, however, from all accounts that the food situation is improving. Romans are now getting a 200 gramme bread allowance - good white bread too, and they like it. Fruit and vegetables are getting in though not as plentifully as one could hope. Health is good though one reporter quotes the AMG public health officer as saying that one Roman in every five has tuberculosis as a result of overcrowding and malnutrition under German occupancy. There is no crime or violence to speak of in spite of the fact that there are four generals claiming to be chief of police. Basic wages of common laborers have been raised from 70.5 lire to 85 lire a day and Col. Lane, chief of Rome ACC Labor Section has announced the labor policy has been applied in all detail: revision of German system of labor exchange, abolition of Fascist corporative system and setting up of collective bargaining and free unions, 70% increase in wages for government employees etc.

So far so good. But the Romans, to judge from their press which is unchained and vociferous, still want a lot of things. They want salt, washing and toilet soap, and medicine. They want the Allies to give them a bigger share in the war effort. They want Allied Officers to have no social contacts with Fascists. They want telephones. The new epuration order of Col. Poletti has in general been applauded though some think it hard on the "small fry", and many are puzzled as to how it ties in with

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Under it all Rome is eternally Rome with all glittering - rococco facets of high society and intrigue so dear to Marion Crawford, Henry James and d'Annunzio. The diplomatic corps is somewhat reduced to be sure but now includes three rival representatives from San Marino. A Baroness Koke has been arrested by Allied authorities and is described as a "mystery woman" of Albanian parentage. Membership cards of clandestine resistance movements are now being sold for thousands of lire. "Political virginity is being acquired by banknotes". And a "green shirt" movement is alleged to have started. One could hardly ask for more.

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6. Notes From Naples

Naples nowadays can hardly challenge Rome on the basis of glamor and political importance. But things happen in Naples too. The trams are now running briskly about the town, groaning up Perco Margherita and screeching around the corso. The first line was put into operation on the 20th of June and we are informed by Col. Hensley, Reg. Public Utilities Officer, carried proudly the sign : FLATBUSH AVE. EXT. IRT. (It was bound for Bagnoli but no one seemed to mind).

Neapolitans may not know it but they are going to learn to love potatoes. There are plenty of them and Risorgimento and PWB are going to run a campaign expounding the virtue and versatility of this humble vegetable.

The labor front has not been entirely quiet.There was a "white strike" of electrical workers. A "white strike" is apparently one in which only those workers walk out who are not in the production end of the concern. Hence the production of electricity was not curtailed by the strike, which was settled by Capt. Williams, Regional Labor Officer. There has also been some unrest in the Banco di Napoli and the Telephone Company. The Banco di Napoli never reached the striking stage and telephone situation is in process of settlement.

Prices of fruit and vegetables are coming down and one has the impression that life is rapidly approaching normal for many Neapolitans. The ricoveri are less crowded since the capture of Rome and the black-out is almost a thing of the past. It is said that guitars have been heard on Via Caracciolo.

7. Legal

On Saturday, 24 June, the Minister of Justice officially reinstated Ettore Casati to the First Presidency of the Supreme Court of Cassation. Casati at the age of 71 had crossed the German lines to join the Badoglio Government.

The Court had been under great pressure from Republican fascists who wished the seat of the court transferred to Brescia. The Court not only resisted but many went into hiding and all but a few refused to take the Republican oath. By reinstating the First President and taking the necessary steps for an early start of the normal activities of the Supreme Court, the Allied authorities are putting an end to the judicial chaos which has been prevalent in Fascist Italy between 8 September and the liberation of Rome. This was pointed out by both the Minister and the First President, who asked that a special measure of thanks be conveyed to Harold Alexander from all the Magistrates of Italy.

It is expected that the first official sitting of the Court will take place early this month . It will be the first of the great Italian institutions to resume its work in the capital and the national and even international importance of such an event cannot be over-emphasized.

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8. From Here and There

Ceilings of the Sub-Commissions are again under scrutiny. In some cases the ceilings are obviously too low or the S/C's necks too far extended---AAI has lent 15 jeeps for two months to help with harvest... Now what do we do with the Excelsior Hotel (Naples)?...The High Commissioner for Sicily told us that the mere announcement of the increased bread ration had practically broken the black market...We hear the same from Region VII ...Lt. Col. A.C. Bowman has been named Regional Commissioner for Region IX...Bowman Bologna Bound, the headlines would have it...American correspondents have been trying to reassure the girls at home that Roman girls are not irresistable; merely well washed and hence a novelty to the troops... A Mexican

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mission, headed by the chief of Mexican military aviation, has arrived in Rome...Capt Bump reports: God, with the assistance of AAF, has averted the threatened plague of locusts from Manfredonia...There have been disturbing reports of souvenir hunters at Montecassino...More than 80% of the grain has been reaped in Matera...Small pox in Naples is diminishing...the great window of Orvieto Cathederal, taken down and concealed months ago , is being put back in place as soon as possible, as are other treasures of the Cathedral...Many valuable art treasures which have been in hiding are being brought out. This would seem to mean that the Italians trust us where they did not trust the Germans... May mean of course that they think the war's over. Encouraging, either way.

9. Quote From an Esteemed Contemporary
(For filing under War Crises; Home Front):

OPA, WPB GO INTO DANCE OVER STATUS OF ZOOT SUIT.

(Stars and Stripes, 28 June, 1944)

Thomas G Bergin

THOMAS G. BERGIN,
Major, AGS.,
DDPR ACC

Distribution same as No. 12

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26 JUN 1944

PRB 26/WB 12

SECRET

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

25 June, 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 12
18 June to 25 June

1. Political

The interregnum to which we referred last week came to an end on the 18th when the Lieutenant General signed the decrees formally approving the new ministry. The following day Bonomi issued a statement to the press in which he congratulated the Badoglio Govt. on creating the new office of Lieutenant General and thus freeing the institutional question from a condition of "immobility". His own ministry, he said, planned to turn the question over to a constituent assembly as soon as an election could be held in a liberated Italy. Meanwhile Italians of all parties could now unite in support of the government of concord whose primary purpose would be the liberation of the country and its reconstruction.

On the 22nd the new ministers were received by the Prince at the Villa Maria Pia. The Prince, who was wearing the uniform of a Marshal of Italy, had a half hour talk with Bonomi before the other members of the Government were presented to him. He made a brief address, stressing the urgency of the work of liberation and risorgimento, to which Bonomi, even more briefly, replied. The form of the oath taken by the ministry had been the subject of some speculation. It runs as follows:

> "We swear on our honor to exercise our functions in the supreme interest of the nation and not to commit any acts which might in any way prejudice the solution of the institutional question, until the convocation of the constituent assembly."

Croce, Cianca, Saragat and Decourten were not present at the ceremony. The last named had been delayed by an accident to his car and sent his excuses.

In the afternoon of the same day the Council met in Salerno. Their first act was to send greetings and good wishes to the octogenarian Orlando. They then unanimously approved a declaration stating they felt the present ministry represents the great majority which in 1940 had been

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During the week there were some further changes in the Ministry. On the suggestion of Casati, General Piacentini of of the Air Force was made Minister for Air. Di Raimondi and Pano are to remain in the Ministry of Communications, the former as Undersecretary for Railroads, the latter for Posts, Telephone and Telegraph. Since both Undersecretaries are non-party men and Piacentini is a professional soldier, the political balance is unchanged. Bonomi also stated that the possibility of Badoglio's collaboration was not to be excluded". For the moment accord reigns and harmony is the watchword.

It is evident that Salerno's brief and misty glory as the national capital is drawing to a close. Just when the move to Rome will be made is still uncertain. There are indications that it will be soon.

2. Command of ACC

General Order no.15 of 23 June informs us that during the absence of the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner, Captain Ellery W. Stone USNR, has taken command of the Allied Control Commission, with the title of acting Chief Commissioner. It is not possible to say how long the Chief Commissioner will be absent.

3. AMG with the Armies

Progress has been somewhat slower this week; the advance was held up not so much by determined German resistance, encountered largely in the center, as by bad weather conditions. However since our last Bulletin Perugia has fallen and the armies have reached the outskirts of Follonica on the west and are within some 15 miles of Ancona on the east. Reports and sitreps coming in with the inevitable delays gave the following information.

In Fifth Army territory Grosseto is reported as practically undamaged. Many inhabitants had fled but were expected to return; the provincial CA was already in the town on 19 June. Orbetello, though 60% damaged, yielded some treasures. Several hundred tons of ore (manganese or iron) were found abandoned in dumps and the harbor contained one large schooner and 12 small ones. Several thousand gallons of naphtha were discovered; this supply should be useful for running farm machinery

Viterbo and Grosseto provinces both report that the harvest is one of their chief problems, fuel for farm machinery, and harvesting and binder twine are urgently needed. There is also a great need of local officials since in this part [illegible]

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...Badoglio's collaboration "was not to be excluded". For the moment accord reigns and harmony is the watchword.

It is evident that Salerno's brief and misty glory as the national capital is drawing to a close. Just when the move to Rome will be made is still uncertain. There are indications that it will be soon.

2. Command of ACC

General Order no.15 of 23 June informs us that during the absence of the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner, Captain Ellery W. Stone USNR, has taken command of the Allied Control Commission, with the title of acting Chief Commissioner. It is not possible to say how long the Chief Commissioner will be absent.

3. AMG with the Armies

Progress has been somewhat slower this week; the advance was held up not so much by determined German resistence, encountered largely in the center, as by bad weather conditions. However since our last Bulletin Perugia has fallen and the armies have reached the outskirts of Follonica on the west and are within some 15 miles of Ancona on the east.Reports and sitreps coming in with the inevitable delays gave the following information.

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Viterbo and Grosseto provinces both report that the harvest is one of their chief problems, fuel for farm machinery, and harvesting and binder twine are urgently needed. There is also a great need of local officials since in this part of Italy many of the more important officials were staunch Fascists and left with the Germans.

Refugees are not a real problem. Supply seems fairly well in hand though it is pointed out that we are approaching a heavily populated area as we near Livorno and Florence. There is a shortage of sugar, salt and olive oil. Gour trouble continues; there has been a good deal of pilfering as well as a few rape cases. "Partisans continue to be found widespread. In general it is found they respond to tactful handling and the situation is under control" Indeed communes have been found where the Partisans were in complete control, the Carabinieri having fled. In some cases officials had been regularly elected; these were normally approved by AMG.

The 8th Army Sitrep states that on 15 June Region V took over Pescara, Aniati and Aquila provinces. Both Rieti an

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and Orvieto including cathedral were reported undamaged. In Rieti no military had entered and it is understood that Orvieto is also sealed from troops. Terni has suffered 50% damage. Terni contains steel mills which are described as "repairable". Again there is need for naphtha. Avezzano and subiaco were badly mauled, Rieti, though not seriously damaged, cannot be entered save by jeep. The roads in this region are in very bad shape. The attitude of the people in Rieti was "extremely friendly" and the following interesting paragraph on the partisans is worth quoting:

"The town was full of partisans armed to the teeth Col. Spencer interviewed the leaders of six different bands. They claim to have a total following of about 800. Some of these, possibly 200, are Jugoslavs the remainder being Italians mainly officered by members of the Italian Army and principally pro-Badoglio. They are armed with tommy-guns, LMG's etc., which were dropped by parachute by our own forces. They stated that they were unable to prevent the destruction of the main bridges but that they had prevented destruction of the banks and certain bridges on the Aquila road . Between 20 and 30 German prisoners were taken and are now held in Rieti prison. Army have been informed of this."

The Sitrep expresses the hope that some Italian officers may be sent up to deal with the patriot bands though as yet there has been no serious trouble.

Narni, Acquasperta and Spoleto are all relatively undamaged, in general the food situation is good; a bread ration of 200 grammes has been set. A supply of belting is all that is needed to put mills in operation again. Health situation is reported satisfactory or better everywhere.

In general it may be said that as we go further north the problems of ACC/AMG change somewhat. Supply is always with us but refugees and health become relatively minor concerns, the shortage of officials and the political-military questions posed by the partisans become more important.

4. Crensi del Popolo

At a meeting of the Italian Cabinet on 28 June a decree was passed and signed which abolishes former compulsory threshing societies and places and places responsibility of licensing threshers and the collection of threshing statistics on the Inspettorate Agrarie Provinciale. The licenses of violators of threshing regulations will be immediately

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4. Granai del Popolo

At a meeting of the Italian Cabinet on 22 June a decree was passed and signed which abolishes former compulsory threshing societies and places and places responsibility of licensing threshers and the collection of threshing statistics on the Ispettorato Agrario Provinciale. The licenses of violators of threshing regulations will be immediately revoked.

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The Minister of Justice failed to present the all important "penalty decree" to the last meeting of the Cabinet despite strong pressure on all sides. This failure to act was quite unexpected in view of the fact that speedy action on the first day after the new ministry was organized resulted in two new agricultural decrees being signed.

The harvest is well under way - approximately 50% completed in Regions I, II, III, IV, V, VI, and VII. Italian agricultural technicians report that growing weather is best within their memory. Yield almost as good as in years with normal fertilizer.

Binder twine has arrived in almost normal quantities but somewhat late. It is felt, however that this will not seriously prejudice the harvesting of grain in the south

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as the farmers have improvised and worked longer hours in order to prevent loss. In [illegible]ly occupied areas time is short and transport difficulties continue.

Soldier labor has arrived in Foggia Province as per schedule and has assisted materially in keeping down labor costs. Their presence presents some difficulties these are stated to be under control.

During the past week members of the Agricultural S/C have visited Regions II, IV, V, and VII.

Rome

5. Early in the week accounts from Rome painted a rather somber picture. Food was scarce - up to the 21st the bread ration was 100 grammes a day, no better than under the Germans- water was short, lack of power had also caused the rationing of light and there were complaints of requisitioning and the too carefree behavior of too many troops. It was clear that our prestige was suffering. Later reports indicate that while the honeymoon period is apparently over a happy marriage is still possible. The water supply has now been raised to 63 % of normal and by July 15th it will be 80% of normal. The bread ration has been increased to 150 grammes. This is good in itself and as an indication of good intentions and future prospects. Also what bread there is is white and this is a delightful novelty to the war-tried Romans. Lighting is still a problem. There is still too high a percentage of restaurant meals served to soldiers. But there is every indication that AMI and ACC are both aware of the situation and are tackling it energetically.

The Romen Press, which is quite free, shows a commendable patience and understanding. Newspapers express gratitude for the bread ration and for General Clark's efforts to relieve the restaurant situation. They comment favorably on the new government and realize that it is a new triumph for democracy that such a government could be formed in the midst of a hard fought campaign. They made much of the appointment of Col. Poletti and look forward to him as the man who can and will provision the city and get rid of Fascists.- They do state frankly that there has been too much requisitioning of cars and point out that since farmers are afraid to take their cars on the road requisitioning has seriously effected the supply of vegetables and fruit.

The Rome press created quite an uproar when it became known that Gigli, the well known Romen singer and suspected of strong Fascist sympathies, was to take part in a concert for Allied troops. Finally his participation was cancelled. Gigli admitted he had sung for German troops and said he was quite willing to sing for British, American or even Chinese troops if they ever came to Rome. But as for an Italian audience, never again!

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The first press conference of the new Regional Commissioner was widely reported both in Italy and abroad. He said the Black Market must be rigorously suppressed. Fascists - efficient or not must go and everything would be done to bring up supplies, for which more trucks are absolutely essential. 300,000 people in Rome are getting one meal a day in the soup kitchens. It consists of dried vegetables, soup and olive oil. The Vatican and some industrial organizations have helped. ACC will attempt to revive the Rome Central Market and will fix prices for vegetables, fruit and milk.

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6. Addio Bella Napoli

On 20 June Col. Poletti becme Regional Commissioner for Rome Region. The Risorgimento of 21 June printed his messege of farewell to Naples and Campania and appended a reply of some length, the the contents of which may be summed up in the words tristezze, gratitudine, ricordo affettuoso.

Col. Chapman, RLO Region III is now Acting Regional Commissioner and Maj. Bamlet has taken up his duties as acting RLO.

7. Interior

The Interior S/C, as will have been evident from AFO reports quoted above, is busily engaged in searching for properly qualified Italian officials to send up to the recently liberated areas There is something of a shortage especially in the higher categories of civil service. Since AMG personnel will of necessity have to be more thinly spread as more of Italy is liberated, the problem is one that will be with us for some time. The shortage might be more alarming were it not for the fact that as we advance in the North, good men occasionally emerge from their hiding places or come down from the hills. Fortunately too the Interior S/C has foreseen this emergency and has been making preparations for it over the last few months.

8. What They Tell Us

The discovery that paper mills in the vicinity of Rome are in condition to operate promises to alleviate the shortage of newsprint....The CAO of remote Lampedusa has done so well that the townspeople want to re-name the main square after him.... Perhaps one day Rome will have a Corso Commissione Alleato and Naples a Piazza Poletti....Treasures from Cassino Monastery were moved in German army vehicles last January. They were handed over to the Vatican authorities at Castel Sentangelo....It will be a hard summer for the Bambini of Region IV; Education is planning on keeping the schools open....Air service from Naples to Rome is now functioning; four flights a day....Main difficulty of movs to Rome is shortage of packing cases. The "infiltration" system of moving rather than the "full sweep" type will take care of this ....3,000 refugees who had been sheltering in the Pope's Castle at Gandolfo have now left. The Castle was only slightly damaged in the fighting....It is reported that the new Minister of Grace and Justice has been seen in his office working in his shirt sleeves.... This augurs well for speedier turning of the wheels of Jus-

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An American correspondent reports that the Consul General of the Republic of San Marino has called on the ACC to remind them that San Marino is a neutral and had never declared war on the Allies, although actually hemmed in by Italian territory. At the moment nobody at ACC Hq. seems to be quite sure about this....Region IX is forming. Earmarking is complete and the bodies should be deliverable next week(the phraseology is not ours)....Bari students are in commotion again. Not Omodeo this time - too many of the local girls going out with Allied soldiers....Fish are being imported from Sicily for Naples and Rome. Arrangements are being made by the Agricultural S/C to allow fishing in Region IV....Can't think why but we find this paragraph from Region III Order No. 60 somehow intriguing "Regional Order No. 18 (dealing with restriction of prostitution) is hereby repealed without prejudice to anything done thereunder."

Thomas G Bergin

THOMAS G. BERGIN,
Major AUS,
Deputy Director of Public Relations

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Distribution

1-10	Regional Commissioner, Region I
11-18	" " " II
19-24	" " " III
25-33	" " " IV
34-43	" " " V
44-48	" " " VI
49-53	" " " VII
54-58	" " " VIII
59-63	" " " IX
64	Senior Civil Affairs Officer AMG 5th Army
65	" " " " 8th Army
66	Chief Commissioner
67	Deputy Chief Commissioner
68	Executive Commissioner
69	Deputy Executive Commissioner
70	Vice Pres. Administrative Section
71	Col. D.S. Adams Chief Asst. Economic Section
72-78	Col. Charles M. Spofford Asst. Chief of Staff G-5
79	Col. A.E. Young, Security Branch
80-84	Mr. Alexander Kirk, U.S. Rep. on Advisory Council for Italy
85	Maj. T.L. Bullock PRO 8th Army AMG
86	Maj. J.P. Leecacos DPR. Advance Hq. ACC
87	Mr. John Rayner , PWB
88	Experimental Det. G-2 Rm. 41 Bank of Naples Bldg.
89	Sir Noel Charles, Brit. Rep. on Adv. Council for Italy
90-91	Information Division
92	Asst. Chief of Staff G-2 Sec. PBS
93	I.S.L.D. 126 Via Alessandro Manzoni
94	Ensign Henry Roberts, R&A Branch 628 Via Tasso 2nd Floor
95	Secretary General
96	Major E.T. De Wald, Fine Arts Sub-Commission
97	File 26 PRB
98	Lt. Col. T.V. Smith, Education Sub-Commission
99	Lt. Col. R.G.E. Spicer, Interior Sub-Com.
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116	Air Vice-Marshal W.A.B. Bowen-Buscarlet, Air Sub-Com
117	Col. J.K. Henderson, Communications & Posts, Sub-Com
118	Maj. J.A. Campbell, War Material Disposal Sub-Com
119	Adjutant ACC
120	Sir Peter Grigg, War Office, London, England
121	Maj. James H. Penick, Finance Sub-Com.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB 26/WB 10

18 June, 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 11
10 June to 17 June

1. Politicel

If it is admitted that economics is a part of politics certainly the biggest political news of the week was the increase in the daily bread ration. Beginning July 1st the ration will be 300 grammes in Regions I, II, III, VI, VII, and Campobasso and Foggia provinces. While this, in the nature of things, is an act of ACC the Italian press quite properly has played up the Government's share in the credit, throwing particularly fragrant bouquets in the direction of Gullo and Bergami. The targets are well chosen for if it is clear that the Badoglio Government deserves credit for the action, it is politically advisable too that the new Government in process of formation should share in the prestige. Gullo and Bergami, it will be remembered, are in both.

There has been during the week a sort of interregnum. The Bonomi ministry has not yet taken over and the Badoglio group has issued no communiques and taken no action of importance. There have been conferences between the Roman representatives and the Ministry at Salerno.

The Ministry of Communications has continued its activities. Various local bus services have been improved and a new special service has been established between Bari and Salerno to take care of travelling officials, ACC personnel included.

We are now in a position to make some corrections and additions to our list of ministers published in last week's Bulletin. There is to be a Ministero del Tesoro as well as a Ministero delle Finanze. Tesoro will be in the hands of Soleri (Liberal), and Finanze under Siglienti (not as we wrote last week, alas!, Siglieri) of the Sardinian Action Party. This distinction is a return to the pre-Mussolini separation of governmental financial functions; Tesoro, it was explained, disburses and is regarded with affection, Finanze collects and is consequently looked upon as the enemy of mankind. A late change in the list puts Mancini (Sicilian Socialist) in place of Romita, doubtless to give Sicily representation in the new ministry.

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The tentative list of under-secretaries has also been made known. It is as follows: 2754

Presidency	Action	Fenaltea
Press and Information	Christian Democrat	Spataro
Interior	Socialist	Genevari
Foreign Affairs	Independent	Visconti Venosta
Italians Abroad	Liberal	Morelli
Treasury	Labour Democrat	Menes
Finance	Communist	Pesenti
Justice	Labour Democrat	Bassano
Education	Christian Democrat	Matterella
Industry and Commerce	Communist	Molinelli
Labour	Socialist	Costa
Agriculture	Liberal	Bergomi
Communications and Mercantile Marine	Socialist	Corsi
Public works	Action	Bruno

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Railways and Postoffice	Christian Democrat	Iervolino
War and Aviation	(Communist	Palermo
	(Labour Democrat	Scialoia
Navy	Action	Ramirez

2. Report from Rome

On the 15th Fifth Army AMG handed over to Rome Region. Colonel Norman E. Fiske was appointed Acting Regional Commissioner. Rome Region includes the Governorate of Rome, the rest of Rome Province coming under the jurisdiction of Region IV.

In the field of political activity, defascistization is well under way. 87 officials have been removed for Fascist sympathies and Prince Filippo Andrea Doria Pamphilli, a member of one of Rome's oldest families and a staunch anti-Fascist, has been appointed Governor. The choice of Doria Pamphilli, who has suffered imprisonment and hardship because of his convictions, seems generally popular.

An equally popular action was the removal of Dr. Vincenzo Azzolini, Governor of the Bank of Italy, a well known Fascist and suspected of aiding the Germans in removing funds from Rome to Milan. A Roman Giunta containing two members of each of the 6 parties of the Committee of Liberation was sworn in at the Campidoglio on June 13.

The public services in Rome such as lighting, water, street transport and telephones were found in comparatively good shape although their functioning at present is erratic,-or should we say "intermittent". They at least meet immediate needs. Water mains leading to the city had been perforated in some places but pressure is increasing as these are repaired. Lighting is not too reliable but improvement will take place when hydro-electric producing plants are restored. Telephone services were least affected by damage but complete restoration is dependent on restoration of power facilities, and lines are naturally very much overcrowded with traffic. Gas had been discontinued since March. Lack of fuel is the difficulty. Plans have been made for speedy resumption of train service between Rome and Civitavecchia, Viterbo and Anzio.

There was approximately two days food supply when we entered the city, but emergency supplies were brought in via Anzio within a few hours. Fruit and vegetables are in short supply. About 4,000 persons in Rome were estimated to be without ration cards. These included refugees, persons returning from hiding, and others who had lost their cards. All these cases are being in-

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In the field of political activity, defascistization is well under way. 87 officials have been removed for Fascist sympathies and Prince Filippo Andrea Doria Pamphilli, a member of one of Rome's oldest families and a staunch anti-Fascist, has been appointed Governor. The choice of Doria Pamphilli, who has suffered imprisonment and hardship because of his convictions, seems generally popular.

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The public services in Rome such as lighting, water, street transport and telephones were found in comparatively good shape although their functioning at present is erratic,-or should we say "intermittent". They at least meet immediate needs. Water mains leading to the city had been perforated in some places but pressure is increasing as these are repaired. Lighting is not too reliable but improvement will take place when hydro-electric producing plants are restored. Telephone services were least affected by damage but complete restoration is dependent on restoration of power facilities, and lines are naturally very much overcrowded with traffic. Gas had been discontinued since March. Lack of fuel is the difficulty. Plans have been made for speedy resumption of train service between Rome and Civitavecchia, Viterbo and Anzio.

There was approximately two days food supply when we entered the city, but emergency supplies were brought in via Anzio within a few hours. Fruit and vegetables are in short supply. About 4,000 persons in Rome were estimated to be without ration cards. These included refugees, persons returning from hiding, and others who had lost their cards. All these cases are being investigated.

Hospitals suffered no damage. They are not overcrowded but are suffering from the general inconveniences of the rest of the city in lack of gas and below normal lighting and water supplies. Public order was speedily restored and the population have co-operated well. A force of 2,850 police and firemen arrived in the city within the first 24 hours, another 1,000 Carabinieri returned from hiding in the hills and were speedily put into service and another 900 who returned are being vetted and re-equipped. The German supported African Italian Police were dissolved and their arms confiscated, while the Chief of Police, Coletti, was removed. It was thought advisable to dissolve and disarm the well-meaning Partisan forces of about 17,000, and some 200 members of the Civil Police as well as many "Secret Service police agents" had also to be nullified. The measures were swift and effective and prevented bloodshed. About 9,000 German prisoners were found in hospitals and several hundred others were rounded up or threw in the towel

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Rome monuments are untouched. Museums and galleries are closed and under guard but there are no reports of German looting, although there appears to have been some black market dealing in pictures from private collections by both Germans and local Fascists Certain important modern archives were removed or destroyed by the Germans and Fascists and a considerable ammount of material of historic import concerning the Fascist revolution was looted by the anti-Fascist elements.

The press has created a problem. Certain daily and weekly periodicals which could prove publication at the time of our entry were given temporary permits to continue, but were finally recommended to conform to a certain size and format to economize in newsprint. Others which made their appearance after the liberation are to be combed through. Competition arose between "party" papers and papers which had been supported by the Fascists and now sought revival. They were urged to unite and coordinate their efforts in one paper only, choosing their own editor. At present only the six party papers and the Messagero and Corriere are permitted to publish.

Probably the greatest hardship of all - to both Romans and temporary residents - is the closing of the Lido on account of the numerous mines planted by the Germans. Its speedy opening will doubtless give a great filip to morale.

3. AMG with the Armies

We have the following report, dated 13 June from Major Bullock of this Branch, now attached to the 8th Army:

Eighth Army is advancing so fast that it has become impossible to keep in touch with AMG activities everywhere from day to day.

Because of the speed of our advance spearheads are turning over to Regions at a much earlier stage and leap-frogging ahead to newly taken towns further North.

Saturday I went to Avezzano. There were no troops in the town. We were preceded only by an FSS man who got through on a motor cycle while we were waiting for a bulldozer to fill a gap in the road wide enough to carry a Jeep. Wing Commander Beer and the N.Z. Div. AMG Liaison Officer went directly to the Municipio and interviewed the Captain of Carabinieri, the Committee of Liberation and Municipal employee who showed up. Proclamations were posted and arrangements made for a CAO and supplies to move up the next day. Avezzano is about 20% destroyed and 20% badly damaged. An LO informs me that it was bombed from the air after the Germans had withdrawn. The hospital was intact and there were seven doctors in the town. [illegible] for the Committee, a bright, forceful young man

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Some 200 British and American POW's have been befriended by the people in the Avezzano area. The Italians there have been pro-Ally for months and many have taken their lives in their hands to help our men. The inhabitants of Tagliacozzo gave a party for New Zealand troops this week. Unless we trust Partisans and others who run great risks for us with considerable confidence and tact, I'm afraid the reaction will be severe.

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Citizens who have worked without hope of pay or return, rebuilding bridges and roads so our troops could follow up the retreating Germans have deserved not to be let down. One British officer POW is reported to feel so strongly on the meagreness of the reward given Italian families who sheltered our men that he intends to go back when he received his accumulated pay and share it with the people who saved him. AMG can only pay the statutory sum.

The part of Italy through which the Eighth Army has been moving, where the people for the most part had no responsibility whatever for the war, where AMG 8th Army's extremely efficient and practised spearheads can spend only a short time on their way north, has been hard hit. We are dealing with a more respectable and more politically conscious people than in the Neapolitan area and Sicily. These people do not want Fascism nor anything that looks or smells like it. Local self-government, locally chosen is going to be asked for more and more loudly AMG is and must be concerned only with keeping the L of C quiet, particularly when we are moving so fast. The problem is essentially one for the Region and any Italian government which may be formed.

The speed with which we can get supplies into forward towns is going to be a factor in shaping the reaction of the people to Regional administration after Army AMG leaves. I think everybody is aware of the urgency of this problem. It is a matter of getting ample stockpiles forward in time to points from which AMG can collect them for distribution.

Keeping up with the AMG is an impossible task this week. As we write news comes of the fall of Grosseto. The line, to the best of our information, now runs due east and a little north to a point some 15 miles above Orvieto, farther east to include Foligno, then drops south above Teramo, whose capture is announced as we write. The advance has been and is continuous and rapid and detailed reports of AMG activities are slow coming in. A Sitrep of June 12th reported that Chisti had 80,000 civilian inhabitants, food for nine days and water for three days. Morale and order good. Orsogna, Guardiagrele and Tollo were practically uninhabited, having suffered 60 to 100% destruction. A spearhead CAO entered Sulmona on the 12th. Sulmona has suffered little; the main difficulty will be with supplies as the roads are in very bad condition.

A Fifth Army Sitrep of 14th June states that all but 10 of the 60 communes in Viterbo province have been occupied as well as two in Grosseto. Towns in the path of the armies are in bad shape, others are untouched. There is a universal shortage of salt, sugar and olive oil but in all communities there is some grain on hand. Viterbo was found to be not so badly damaged as first impressions indicated. Food has been delivered

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The Provincial Commissioner of Viterbo set up his Hq. in the town on 11 June and has made some progress in reorganizing the provincial administration.

In general, health conditions are good, even the hospital situation north of Rome. The wheat crop is now ripe and harvesting is the chief concern of the moment. "Gourm trouble" shows some improvement but another trouble has arisen in connection with the partisans. We quote: "A serious problem is presented by armed bands of civilians under the titles of 'Partisans,''patriots','police', or 'communists' who exist

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in many of the newly captured communes. These people terrorize the official police and are found in complete control of the community and on one occasion held up a C/O at the point of a pistol. Prompt and firm action is necessary as well as tact and the mobile CCRR are very useful in disarming them and restoring law and order in cases where the local police have broken down on account of the numerical inferiority. The problem is made more complicated by the fact that many of these people are sincere and have on occasion helped the Allied cause."

AMG sections have received the congratulations of Corps Commanders of the II and IV Corps. The latter says:

"It is the first time in the world that an army has by previous planning been able to relieve combat personnel of the necessity of wasting men and time looking after the civilian population. We still wonder why it wasn't done 100 years ago.

4. Granai del Popolo

The Agriculture S/C is letting no grain ripen underfoot in its efforts to exploit the present favourable situation. About 15,000 pairs of American Army shoes have been obtained and will be distributed for sale in those communes where farmers have the best record for getting their harvests into the Granai del Popolo. The shoes are worn but respectable and should be tempting to the farmers.

Col. Hartman tells us that his field men report a bumper crop is awaiting harvest in the Cassino, Terracina and Pontine Marshes areas, where effort is being made to organize quickly communal committees.

Such committees are now functioning everywhere in Southern Italy and in Sicily there is a committee for every commune on the island.

New posters have been printed and the Agriculture S/C urges all regions to obtain supplies for widespread posting. The posters summarize the terms of the decree&indicate the amount each farmer may retain for his own use. Binder twine is also following the armies.

Plans are under way for a filming of the harvest, PWB the Agriculture S/C, this Branch and the Italian Government all collaborating----an effort was made to have a Regional Commissioner pose with the workers in the field but the answer was sharp: "Who do you think I am - Mussolini?"

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5. Fine Arts

Italian Fine Arts officials in Rome report that the Germans purchased a certain number of state-notified paintings from private collectors while in Rome. This is contrary to Italian law but the protests of the Superintendent of Galleries were overruled by the Minister of Education and the [illegible]

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Fine Arts also reports the discovery of four volumes of 18th century musical MSS in the Villa Ferraro at Capramo. The Marchese Ferraro being unaccountably absent the volumes were sent to the Conservatorio at Naples. The MSS include contemporary copies of the first act of an opera by Cimarosa and

and of Pergolesi's Stabat Mater. The Marchese may claim his property by applying at the Conservatorio any time within a year.

6. Odds and Ends

Announcement that Col. Brister is to make use of Cinecitta (Rome's Hollywood) for a refugee camp brought forth the remark from a High Source: "We await the filming of Brister's Millions" ....At present Cinecitta has a French flag waving over it.... 20% of the congedati have managed to get away between Naples and the Foggia grain fields. Measures are being taken...Col Kirkwood has gone to the command of Region VIII, Col. Feasey succeeds him in Region VII....Mosquitoes have been reported in Hq. though there is an order out against them...Col. Bowman back from Adriatic inspection reports Pescara is a "ghost town", Chieti quite intact.....the Region full of dead end roads and mined areas...Col. Shipp. back from Africa reports discovery of Carabinieri in abundance, also a few available doctors..... Telephonic communication between Hq. and Rome has been established, though still somewhat capricious... On civilian employees policy will be not to take Neapolitans to Rome... Accomodations awaiting ACC in Rome include the Grand Hotel with 50 rooms for general officers and colonels and 50 to spare for distinguished guests, the Flora for field grade officers and the Regina Carlton for junior officers. No requisitioning of villas- at least for the present..... The bread ration north of Rome is to be 100 grammes a day until it is clear that there will be no transport difficulties as we move north....There have been 150,000 smallpox vaccinations in Region III .... Labour Division in Rome Area are working a 7 day week in order to recruit a band of interpreters, chauffeurs, English-speaking typists and common labourers....Public Relations Branch has its head (and brains) in Rome, as we go to press. The tail is wagging feebly - as is probably evident.

Thomas Bergin

THOMAS G. BERGIN,
Major AUS,
Deputy Director of Public Relations

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB 26/WB 10

10 June 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 10
4 June to 10 June

1. Political

The liberation of Rome set in motion a train of more or less predictable events. On the afternoon of June 6, scarcely 24 hours after the Allies had entered the capital, the King signed at Ravello a document which, while still not an abdication, entrusted the Prince of Piedmont with full powers to sign Royal decrees and to exercise the Royal prerogatives as Lieutenant-General of the Realm. On the following afternoon, June 6, Marshal Badoglio submitted his resignation and those of his government to the Lieutenant-General at the Villa Maria Pia. The Lieutenant-General then requested the Marshal to proceed with the formation of a new government to include political leaders now in Rome. Early on June 8 the Marshal flew from Naples to Rome. He was accompanied by representatives of the parties included in his government, namely Croce (Liberal), Rodino (Christian Democrat), Cerabona (Labour Democrat), Cianca (Action), Longobardi (Socialist), Togliatti (Communist), and Sforza (no party affiliation). At Rome they were joined by their "opposite numbers" in the Rome Committee of Liberation: Casati (Liberal), De Gaspari (Christian Democrat), Ruini (Labour Democrat), Lamalfa (Action), Nenni (Socialist), Scoccimaro (Communist) and Bonomi, head of the Rome Committee of Liberation and a Labour Democrat.

The morning meeting in the Grand Hotel was briefly addressed by General Mason-MacFarlane, who congratulated the Roman group which "had kept the flame burning" and reminded all of their obligations to the Allies. He then left the group to its deliberations. It was apparent at the end of the morning session that Badoglio would not be able to form a government. Accordingly, after lunch he went to the Quirinal and the Lieutenant-General, after having been informed of the situation, sent for Bonomi and asked him to head the new Ministry. Bonomi accepted and by 5 p.m. Friday June 9 the new government had been formed, as follows:-

Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior and Foreign Affairs	.. LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Bonomi
Minister of Education ..	.. INDEPENDENT	De Ruggiero
Minister of Agriculture	.. COMMUNIST	Gullo
Minister of Labour ..	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Gronchi
Minister of Finance ..	.. ACTION	~~Sigliori~~
Minister of Communications	.. LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Cerabona
Minister of Public Works	.. SOCIALIST	~~Romita~~
Minister of War ~~and Air~~	.. LIBERAL	Casati
Minister of the Navy ..	.. INDEPENDENT	De Courten
Minister of Justice ..	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Tupini
Ministers without Portfolio	.. ACTION	Cianca
	LIBERAL	Croce

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	LIBERAL	Croce
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	LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Ruini
	SOCIALIST	Saragat
	INDEPENDENT	Sforza
	COMMUNIST	Togliatti

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Five of these (Gullo, Cerabona, De Courten, Sforza and Togliatti) are carried over from the last ministry. Under-secretaries have yet to be named.

Bonomi, the new Prime Minister, is 73 years old and has had a long political career. He is a pre-war socialist of the more moderate sort. He was a member of the first National Government (1916) and had a place in the Ministries of Orlando and Nitti. As Minister of War in the Giolitti Cabinet of 1920 he worked in close contact with Badoglio, and with Sforza negotiated the Treaty of Rapallo. From

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June 1921 to February 1922 he was Prime Minister. He ran as opposition candidate to the Fascists in 1924 and after his defeat retired to private life.

The interest in what may be contained in the political treasure chest or Pandora's box of Rome has somewhat obscured the other activities of the Government. The Ministers have been active, however. Aldisio went to Manfredonia to decorate the Archbishop and say a kind word for the clergy. Togliatti spoke at Cerignola on the rather macabre occasion of the exhumation and reburial of 11 Italian soldiers shot by the Germans. Zaniboni made a tour of the refugee camps and the Minister of War visited Italian fighting units. The Ministry of Communications submitted a list of more than 50 names of officials for epuration and found time to busy itself with the bus lines about Salerno.

It is perhaps significant that the Council, at the meeting of June 6, chose the occasion of national rejoicing to declare null and void the Franco-Italian armistice of 1940.

2. Reports from Rome.

Informal gleanings from correspondents and returning official visitors indicate that the first days in Rome were festive, occasionally hilarious and inspiring. The troops were well received and if the carabinieri were more heartily welcomed than any other unit, as reports indicate, it was more from patriotic fervour than from any fear of our soldiery. For our soldiers behaved very well; there was no vandalism, no truculence. There was a good deal of gaiety - who indeed could resist a Jeep full of flowers? - but cases of drunkenness were rare. Correspondents think the soldiers were truly awed by the city, one or two more cynically pointed out that the men were tired and alcohol fabulously expensive. There was some disturbance caused by armed partisan bands who, fresh from their triumph over the Italian African Police, roamed the streets looking for Fascists and affixing the label "spia dei tedeschi" (prepared in advance) on the windows of shops owned by German sympathizers.

The Crown Prince or Lieutenant-General of the Realm (which of these names will stick history has yet to decide), who flew to Rome on the afternoon of the 8th, received a remarkable and spontaneous reception from the moment that his car left the airport, and dense enthusiastic crowds mobbed the car when he visited the Vatican, where he remained for two hours. A large crowd gave him a further ovation when he appeared on the balcony of the Quirinal on the following day. On the afternoon of the 9th he returned by air to Naples.

On the 7th the Pope held a press conference, surely the first in history and certainly the first papal audience at which a woman clad in slacks was received. His Holiness, harassed by the explosion of flashlight bulbs, spoke briefly to the correspondents, welcoming them but stressing the neutrality of the Holy See and urging all to remember that war could only be justified as a prepa-

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Rome has suffered very little from air raids, with the exception of the neighbourhood of the railway marshalling yards. Here there was a first-class example of Allied precision bombing. Bomb damage in Rome itself, apart from the University City, was confined to (a) San Lorenzo (b) the Vatican City, where a bomb fell outside the apse of St Peter's, destroying the Vatican mosaic factory but not harming the church and (c) the pyramid of Cestius and a section of the Aurelian slightly damaged by a bomb which fell in the Protestant cemetery. Military guards have been posted on all monuments.

A Swedish correspondent who had been in Rome for more than a year tells us that conditions there have been difficult, particularly

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for the very rich and the very poor. The Germans she thought were "correct, very polite, very hard." It had for some time been impossible to get any kind of medicine or medicaments in the city, the Germans having taken everything. The Roman population, she thought, so had behaved a good deal worse than our own soldiers when the Allies entered Rome. It was a case of "expecting and taking not only complete freedom but complete license."

3. AMG with the Armies

By Saturday June 10 both Fifth and Eighth Armies were forging ahead so far and so fast that reports of AMG activity were reaching Naples only sporadically and after an interval of days. The line held by forward elements stretched, as far as could be ascertained, roughly through or north of Tarquinia - Viterbo - Magliano - Fara - Arsoli - (just south of) Avezzano - Sulmona - Chieti - Pescara. Little opposition was being encountered by the Fifth Army, whose chief problem was now supply and communications: hard fighting still characterized the German retreat in the centre: on the Adriatic coast the enemy was beginning to retire, and troops of an Indian division there were advancing "faster than at first expected."

The Eighth Army report lists refugees as "the chief headache in newly occupied territory." This is due to the destruction and displacement of population in the Cassino - Pontecorvo - Piedimonte - Pignataro area. Some 5,000 refugees have been evacuated: another 7,000 (in the Veroli area) are being held in mobile camps and holiday centres: but the number is still far short of the expected total, and Group-Captain Benson states that "it is impossible to prevent civilians creeping in over the hills into these uninhabited towns" and that the problem "may last a considerable time."

Territory newly occupied by the Eighth Army divides itself into (a) the Cassino plain, where nearly everything has been destroyed and which is "sealed off" against entry of civilians and (b) the territory behind the Hitler line, which is not heavily damaged except in isolated spots. Reports available now show that Frosinone, originally destined for Provincial Headquarters, is badly damaged, every single article in every house looted, doors and windows removed, water supply wrecked beyond repair: the Frosinone team will move to Fiuggi, which apparently escaped intact, including the home of Marshal Badoglio there, which was found complete with domestic staff and blossoming rose-garden.

Sora was found in good condition except for a looted hospital and damaged water supply: its normal population of 22,500 had increased to 30,000, while at Ferentino, 50% destroyed but with water and electric supplies functioning, only 1,000 out of the normal 15,000 inhabitants were found. In Veroli refugees from Cassino had swelled thepopulation from 19,000 to 27,000. In completely damaged Anagni four hospitals were found in working order with 700 beds.

2759

Anagni provided an example of difficulties with partisan troops, which also occurred in Rome. One band of 400, fully equipped with

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Anagni provided an example of difficulties with partisan troops, which also occurred in Rome. One band of 400, fully equipped with artillery and machine-guns, had no friendly feelings at all towards a second band which "apparently owe allegiance to the Prince of Piedmont." Commenting on the situation in Anagni, Group-Captain Benson reported:

"The town was full of flags of three descriptions (1) the Italian flag with the Royal Crown (2) the Italian flag without the Royal crown (3) the Hammer and Sickle. The two factions of partisans were not friendly and unfortunately the Canadians had allowed the partisans to make a formal parade in the streets. The CAO got hold of the Commanding Officers of the two factions of partisans and apparently persuaded them to kiss each other on both cheeks and they swore eternal friendship. The result is doubtful and the situation in still explosive."

Eighth Army reports no epidemic or unusual disease apart from scabies: a lack of medical equipment and ambulances; satisfactory food

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food supplies, balanced 3-ton packs being placed in every town and village occupied, usually within 24 hours of capture: excellent wheat crop prospects and less damage to crops than expected, though harvesting among minefields won't be easy: our mobile carabinieri doing excellent work, and "very well received."

The Red Patch, troop newspaper of the First Canadian Division, wrote on June 3:-

'"AMG (Commandos)" - that's going to be the suggested shoulder flash for the AMG personnel if they continue to perform their duty with the enthusiasm displayed on this front in the past few days.

'Rushing supplies into Pontecorvo, the staff was at work long before the burial squad got around to Germans who fell in attempting to keep the Hitler line intact ..... But the quick work displayed by the AMG staff at Pontecorvo was slow compared with their record at Ceprano, where Pfc Bruno Pelicano (Brooklyn, N.Y.) arrived with nine tons of supplies before the Germans had evacuated. This was fast work, and a little hot, too, but still the zeal of AMG was not satisfied, and it was only with the feat of a major who captured six paratroopers at Arce, that AMG officials modestly admitted, "We're doing a bit of a job."'

The Fifth Army reported on June 3 that the communes of Patrica, Supino, Graignano, Velletri, Morolo, Sguigla, Collefevio, Lanuvio, Gorga, Carpenito Romano, Valmontone, Genzano, Montelanico, Segni and Labico had been taken over. With the exception of Valmontone (very heavily damaged) and Velletri and Lanuvio (considerably damaged) these communes were in fairly good shape and "their only need was food." There was no refugee problem except in the Velletri area, from which 2,000 had been evacuated. The Provincial Commissioner (Lt Col Morton) had set up his Headquarters in Littoria. The hospital at Sezze was in excellent condition and the general standard of health "gave no cause for concern."

Rome City was entered by Corps SCAOs on June 4. The following report by the SCAO 2 Corps, first AMG officer to enter, was the earliest news received after the fall of the city.

"1. The SCAO AMG 2 Corps left on his special mission to Rome with one of the Task Forces at 1900 hours and reached Rome at 1330 hours 4 June. On account of the fighting at the gates, entrance could not be made very far into Rome. The SCAO and driver, T/5 Giralimo, found a guide and by-passed the fighting and got some distance into Rome and posted Proclamation 1, 2, 3, 4 Notices 1 and 2 and General Order 1 at Caserma Vigili del Fuoco, Via Toscolana, 126.

"2. It was impossible to get further into Rome at that time because of the firing from snipers and machine-gunners. The SCAO posted the other set of proclamations and notices at Campidoglio at

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"3. Rome is unhurt, the water system intact and the water cold as ice. The people were getting 100 grams of bread per day. They were enthusiastic in their welcome, and do not seem to be suffering for food. I have almost a Jeep load of flowers thrown by the people in Frascati and Rome."

Later information from the Corps showed that the Germans left two days food behind. There was a certain amount of civilian transport left, which should help in the distribution of food; but some anxiety was felt about the water supply, as one of the main sources was damaged. The city was intact except for demolitions of military installations, such as the Arsenal. The Vatican, which contains most of Rome's art treasures, had not been touched, the main telephone system was not destroyed and eleven of the fourteen

/ bridges

bridges across the Tiber were still standing.

The remainder of the Governatorato outside the city was found to be almost entirely depopulated, the inhabitants having fled to the city. The towns of Ostia and Fiumicino were in the same condition as Littoria - superficially damaged, but the main structures standing.

In the Alban Hills area the communes of Genzano, Ariccia, Castel Gandolfo, Marino, Grottaferrata, Nemi, Rocca di Papa, Monte Porzio Catone, Monte Compatri, Colonna and Frascati were taken over. With the exception of Rocca di Papa, which was undamaged, these communes were all in about the same condition, with the main towns largely destroyed. Food was universally short. On the average about 10% of the population was found on first entry and a similar number came back each day from either Rome or the surrounding hills. At Nemi, the museum containing the famous boats dating from the reign of Caligula was burnt by the Germans before leaving on May 31. At Tivoli the Villa d'Este was slightly damaged by a shell which fell in the gardens.

It was reported that "Goum trouble" still continued and that the supply position was causing anxiety. The feeding of Rome is, however, well under control: the initial ration of bread has been fixed at 150 grams pending the collection of exact figures of needs and numbers: later it will be raised to conform to ration scales in Southern Italy. Food is available for two million people for 30 days, apart from reserves: Anzio is handling 200 tons per day and Civitavecchia will soon be doing the same.

Littoria and Frosinone Provinces were handed over to Region IV on June 10.

4. Granai del Popolo

Three measures designed to exploit conditions favouring improvement in the agricultural situation have been whipped into shape by the Agricultural Sub-Commission. One is already a Royal Decree and the others, approved by the Price Committee, ACC, and Signore Gullo, Minister for Agriculture, will become decrees as soon as the Minister is in a position to sign them.

The first decree freezes rents and leases for one year past the expiration date. This measure will protect the peasants from greedy landlords who might be tempted to rent their lands to other farmers for larger fees.

Prices of certain produce have been approved as follows and will become law with the signature of the Minister of Agriculture:

Horse beans

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Horse beans	675 lire per quintal
Dry beans	1,250 lire per quintal
Chick peas	1,000 lire per quintal
Chick vetch	750 lire per quintal
Lentils	1,300 lire per quintal
Peas	1,050 lire per quintal
Corn	650 lire per quintal
Oats	650 lire per quintal
Rye	900 lire per quintal

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The third measure blocks the above products on the farm under jurisdiction of the Communal Committees.

5. From Here and There.

Tinned food is proving a flop in Sicily: the prices are said to be too high: maybe they don't like it ..... Colonel Zellars telegraphs "Grain crop best in 20 years" ..... Civitavecchia is scheduled to be open for unloading 200 tons of food per day on June

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23 ..... Region VIII is rapidly coming to life: fourteen officers and twenty-four OR under Colonel Pennycuick left on June 10 ..... Major Drage and party left on June 10 to fight for Rome accommodation ..... Ration card "needs" are now down to 71 per cent: a decision on increased rations is expected on June 15 ..... Region IV is making a temporary HQ between Rome and Tivoli ..... Campobasso Province has been handed over to Region V ..... There is now a daily courier service between Naples and Rome and an air courier service between Naples and Crotone..... On May 31 a broadcast from London in French described AMG reorganization of life in Italian towns and villages and quoted the distribution of food to 5,000 people in Littoria and the building up of reserves in Norma for 10,000 refugees for two months ..... The efforts of the Education Sub-Commission to reorganize the Italian Boy Scouts have met with great success, but the Italians find the non-sectarian, apolitical attitude hard to understand ..... The Catholic "esploratori" have been revived and there are to be communist troops, socialist troops and presumably others ..... Shortage of Italian officials in recently liberated areas may somewhat modify our attitude toward Fascist functionaries: not soft-boiled but not too hard-boiled is the watchword of the moment. Perhaps Rome or Colonel Spicer will come to the rescue with a shipment of pure prefetti and unsullied sindaci ..... Soldiers are pouring in from Sardinia with regularity to help with the Foggia harvest. Another 1,000 arrived 10 June, swelling the total to over 4,000. Colonel Dellars, we understand, telegraphed for 10,000 but possibly added an unintentional zero.

6. Political Note from an Esteemed Contemporary

BADOGLIO GETS OLD HEAVE-HO AS ITIE CHIEF

(The Maple Leaf, Saturday, 10 June)

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Major,
Public Relations Director.

Editor's Note:

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Editor's Note:

The liberation of Rome with its glamour and its implications and the resultant political activity occupy a good deal of our space this week. We cannot say we regret the occasion, but we do regret that the emphasis on this event and our lack of space prevent us from giving more attention to the daily work of ACC/AMG, intensified by the present emergency. Necessary adjustments, particularly those of personnel and transport, have been made with efficiency, speed and altruism, and the Regional Commissioners deserve congratulations for their hard work and cooperative spirit.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

3 June 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 9
28 May to 3 June

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1. Political

The Council of Ministers met on June 1 and dealt with routine matters, such as the promotion of magistrates and the administration of communal finances. They also gingerly brought up the question of raising the salaries of state employees, a matter which will have to be discussed with ACC. But all political news does not stem from council meetings. Very significant is the prospective merging of the Avanti and the Unita, respectively the Socialist and Communist papers of Naples. The left, at least for the moment, seems to be solidifying. On the other hand, Omodeo's attempt to strip the University of Bari of its supplementary courses was bitterly and successfully opposed by the Rector, faculty and students - no doubt all surprised to find themselves on the same side. This, as well as the continuing strike in Naples schools, has harmed the prestige of the Minister and consequently added strength to the factions of his party still in opposition.

Arangio-Ruiz, Minister of Justice, pointed out in an interview that the statutes make the punishment of old Fascists very difficult; as things stand conspirators are punished only when unsuccessful. He has confidence, however, in Sforza's ability to deal with the situation. As for the revision of the civil code so sadly mutilated by Fascism, that will have to wait until the Government can call on the legal skill of the whole country. The immediate task of the Ministry is to remove the specific Fascist legislation which impedes recovery and to supply with efficiency and dispatch whatever emergency measures may be needed.

The Ministry of Communications has announced that passenger service between Naples and Salerno will begin June 1. One train per day each way; either through oversight or caution no schedule was given. There is also to be a regular freight service between Naples and Bari and in Sicily the work of re-establishing train service "ferve" (i.e. is proceeding with boiling intensity). The Minister, Cerabona, who has visited Potenza and Matera, is pressing for establishment of bus service to link smaller communes to main centres.

Gullo has sent a circular to High Commissioners and Prefects, stressing the importance of the granai del popolo and urging them to assure the cooperation of consumers as well as state agencies in directing the campaign.

The hands-across-the-sea item of this week is supplied by the telegrams sent by Zaniboni, Head of the Committee for Refugees, to Myron Taylor and Toscanini, thanking them for their interest and proposed aid.

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2. Regional Commissioners Conference 2748

The Chief Commissioner's Conference, held on May 30 at the Provincia, Naples, was concluded in one day - somewhat at the expense of the Heads of Sub-Commissions, whose reports (in the afternoon) were punctuated and sometimes punctured by the five-minute red light warning. The Regional Commissioners (in the morning) exceeded their allotted time by 1½ hours. A satisfactory rather than spectacular record of work emerged: humour was provided by Colonel Zellars who appeared at the rostrum bearing a sheaf of wheat; and got a round of applause for his manner rather than his matter. Colonel Findlay's great stature and stentorian voice also enlivened the proceedings. Speeches which attracted special attention were those of Brigadier

/ Carr

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Carr, Brigadier Dunlop and Colonel Hancock. Group-Captain Benson, who had come specially from 8th Army, gave an extremely interesting picture of AMG work during the advance. Operations (and perhaps the magnet of Rome) prevented the attendance of General Hume and his staff officers.

The Chief Commissioner quoted General Alexander as saying that ACC was "his Third Army"; and congratulated AMG 5th and 8th Armies on their efficient work in recent weeks. Their spokesmen reported the situation well in hand so far, but pointed out that it would be more serious with the return of fugitives, now hiding in the hills, to the destroyed towns. All banks had been found demolished or closed. The officials had fled, as had the mayors. Health was in general good, though there were cases of under-nourishment and exposure. There was a shortage of doctors. 5th Army AMG had taken over 29 towns and II Corps had handled 11,000 refugees. The coordination between the Army AMG and Regions IV and V had been well worked out.

Harvest prospects were reported good everywhere: the wheat price was thought too low in Regions I and III. Sicily had discovered forged 1,000 lire notes to the tune of 40,000,000 lire; examples, excellent, were handed round and may possibly have been handed back.

Service Sub-Commissions reported very favourably on Italian cooperation: Communications stated that Naples Post Office was now handling a thousand wires per day and a million letters per month: Education thought that student strikes had been exaggerated: Food noted that twenty days rations had been allocated for Rome.

Food and the harvest were the central features of the Executive Commissioner's Conference on May 31. Colonel Legg explained that in order to enforce the Chief Commissioner's decision that rations must be stepped up it was absolutely essential to cut down the percentage of ration-card holders to 65. Regional Commissioners were asked to suggest their minimum figures. which varied widely, Sicily claiming a need for 74%, Matera 45 - 50%, Reggio 92% and Sardinia 63%. In the Foggia and Campobasso area, it was pointed out, the average might be about 53% for cereals but would be 80% for oil and fats and 100% for sugar. When all the figures had been coordinated it was found that the overall average was still 73%. It seems therefore that if rations are to be increased further reductions in the number of ration-card holders must somehow be effected.

Brigadier Lush, speaking of the harvest, said it was a matter of importance to all; the good name of ACC may depend on our success in filling the granai del popolo. Methods of inducing (by some pronounced seducing) the farmer were thoroughly examined. A system of communal rewards has been worked out and it is felt that the individual farmer's heart - and grain - may be won by

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3. Treatment of Fascists

On May 24 the Chief Commissioner issued a directive governing the treatment of Fascist officials encountered during the present advance. It is pointed out that such officials have been serving the Republican Fascist Government at a time when Liberated Italy under a properly constituted government was co-belligerent with us, that they must be dismissed automatically from their posts, and that there will be greater possibilities, as we advance north, of finding suitable anti-Fascist personnel. A list has been prepared and issued showing Italian officials to be dealt with (a) by arrest and internment (b) by arrest and handing over to the Italian Government and (c) by dismissal only and the retention of liberty. Officials not on the list will be arrested and held in custody.

4. AMG with Fifth Army

On Tuesday May 30 HQ AMG Fifth Army moved to a forward position. With them went 2,800 Carabinieri, a Fire-Fighting Unit, a British and American Red Cross Unit, and other personalities whose names have been censored.

Water, light and fuel supply presented usual difficulties: six breaks found in aqueduct: power unit needed: canvas tanks and wine barrels used temporarily: limited water supply expected within a week. Electric sub-station at Fossanova set for demolition and exploded, but one generator in working condition. Shortage of labour and transport for trucking civilian supplies from shipside and unloading at AMG dump. Finance guards are being used to unload civilian supplies at the dump as civilian labour is not available.

A sitrep of June 1 lists nine additional communes falling under AMG control. Conditions show a surprising variation; occasionally a commune, such as Rocca Massima, will be found untouched by war; some such as Cisterna and Aprilia have been completely destroyed. There are all gradations in between. Many are mined and some still under shell-fire. The condition of the town of course affects the population; in general after a day or two the inhabitants stream back if there is anything to return to, and are often accompanied by others whose villages no longer exist. Thus for example the population of Fondi and Terracina has increased by one third, while on the other hand Gaeta is down to half its size. It has been found possible to channel the returning stream by strategic placing of relief supplies. Italian officials are not available in any great number; in Littoria Province only the technicians have returned; the Interior Sub-Commission has been asked to send up provincial officers recommended by the Government.

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Temporary centres have been set up for refugees. Supply is something of a problem, food is arriving at Gaeta by schooner and truck and there are four other centres, but transport from there on is difficult and the small staff in charge (2 officers and 5 men to supervise 5 centres spread over 130 miles) is badly overworked. Health

...retention of liberty. Officials not on the list will be arrested and held in custody.

4. AMG with Fifth Army

On Tuesday May 30 HQ AMG Fifth Army moved to a forward position. With them went 2,800 Carabinieri, a Fire-Fighting Unit, a British and American Red Cross Unit, and other personalities whose names have been censored.

Water, light and fuel supply presented usual difficulties: six breaks found in aqueduct: power unit needed: canvas tanks and wine barrels used temporarily: limited water supply expected within a week. Electric sub-station at Fossanova set for demolition and exploded, but one generator in working condition. Shortage of labour and transport for trucking civilian supplies from shipside and unloading at AMG dump. Finance guards are being used to unload civilian supplies at the dump as civilian labour is not available.

A sitrep of June 1 lists nine additional communes falling under AMG control. Conditions show a surprising variation; occasionally a commune, such as Rocca Massima, will be found untouched by war; some such as Cisterna and Aprilia have been completely destroyed. There are all gradations in between. Many are mined and some still under shell-fire. The condition of the town of course affects the population; in general after a day or two the inhabitants stream back if there is anything to return to, and are often accompanied by others whose villages no longer exist. Thus for example the population of Fondi and Terracina has increased by one third, while on the other hand Gaeta is down to half its size. It has been found possible to channel the returning stream by strategic placing of relief supplies. Italian officials are not available in any great number; in Littoria Province only the technicians have returned; the Interior Sub-Commission has been asked to send up provincial officers recommended by the Government.

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Temporary centres have been set up for refugees. Supply is something of a problem, food is arriving at Gaeta by schooner and truck and there are four other centres, but transport from there on is difficult and the small staff in charge (2 officers and 5 men to supervise 5 centres spread over 130 miles) is badly overworked. Health is in general good: six of the recently acquired communes have hospitals and five others have been provided with ambulatori. There is a serious shortage of doctors, equipment and, of course, transport. Public Safety has found the situation satisfactory; reinforcements of Carabinieri are arriving. Finance officers have visited thirty-one communes between 18 and 31 May, and 2,000,000 lire have been advanced.

Things are moving fast. Nettuno, Rome Province, has now been handed over to provincial administration, Velletri and Tivoli CAOs have reported to Corps SCAO. Littoria is rapidly filling up and the people already settling down to harvesting. Spearhead CAOs have been directed to consider the harvest a first priority job. AMG has been so close to the combat line that it has captured some German soldiers; in Norma an officer found a bus line running normally and a restaurant still open.

Under miscellaneous the sitrep comments laconically: "Goum trouble" still continues.

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5. AMG with 8th Army

The latest report, dated June 2, states that CAOs have been placed in Atina, Frosinone and Arpino. Atina was found very badly damaged, with 1,000 inhabitants and large numbers of refugees coming in. Frosinone was empty and about 50% damaged. Arpino is reported "in good shape". At Ceprano the paper-mill machinery was found undamaged, with a large stock of paper. A representative of the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission had been moved into Ferentino but no report had yet been received from there.

A report from Major Bullock dated May 30 states:

"(a) Towns being occupied now by AMG Eighth Army are partly standing. They draw more refugees but present better physical facilities for administration. We find senior municipal officials all gone and no Carabinieri, who are said to have been imprisoned by the Germans. The exodus of Fascist officials simplifies the question of security. AMG moves up Carabinieri from the south and finds minor municipal officials cooperative.

"(b) ARCE. The town fell yesterday. AMG sent in two officers at once, who took five German prisoners before getting down to work. Only ten per cent of the town is destroyed and the people were parading in their Sunday best to welcome us. Food and medical supplies went up immediately.

"(c) CEPRANO. The CAO entered the town Sunday afternoon and found people streaming back. Food, medical supplies, doctors and Carabinieri were moved in at once.

"(d) PONTECORVO. Numerous refugee women in this shattered town were raped Saturday night and Sunday morning by Senegalese troops of the Fifth Army. AMG Liaison Officer, Canadian Corps, acted quickly and the French authorities took strong measures. Refugees are being fed, are receiving medical care and are being cleared as quickly as possible. French troops found and mounted guard on a library in the Monastery. Lt Garigue was sent yesterday by AMG Eighth Army and removed the books to VENAFRO for safe-keeping until instructions are received from the Sub-Commission on Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives.

"(e) ROCCASECCA, birthplace of St Thomas Aquinas, is approximately half destroyed. The normal population is just under 8,000. Nearly 5,000 residents have returned and 1,600 refugees from surrounding villages have come down from the hills. They are being accommodated in the schools, but will begin to move to their homes today. Reaction of the people to white flour is touching; the bread they had under the Germans is foul, greenish stuff. All senior municipal officials cleared out with the Germans, but some clerks

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"(f) GOLDRAGONE. This little town in the Liri Valley northwest of Roccasecca is becoming a refugee cent[illegible] Damage is comparatively light."

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6. From Southern Littoria

A CAO gives us the following sidelights on life in the forward areas. One town, cleared of inhabitants by the Germans as long ago as last September, had taken to the hills en masse but had retained its communal organization so successfully that the Sindaco was ready to produce ration-cards on 24-hours notice. In a few days he had the machinery of the town running smoothly - only to be jailed by the CIC on charges which the CAO found insufficient and got him released. Query by the CAO - in moments of urgency, must CIC and FSS override Civil Affairs?

The people are in general grateful for relief measures, but a substantial number have asked: Where do we get sugar? How soon do we get cigarettes? Bread is of great importance; even though many of the returning refugees had been living on grass and roots they did not take kindly to biscuits and life is hard for the CAO until the bakeries start running. Health is good save for scabies, but undernourishment and weakness are so general that it is impossible for the workers to stand an eight-hour shift: they simply collapse.

The destruction of property by the Germans has been thorough and systematic: one town of some size has not so much as a single chair left intact. Mines still interfere with the progress of work; the peasants don't dare go into the fields and in some cases the dead still await burial. In one particularly gruesome town (Castelforte), a mine has been attached to each body - and there are many.

The population of occupied towns increases rapidly. In one case the initial 170 found when the troops came in has already swelled to over 15,000.

7. Odds and Ends

Fine Arts Sub-Commission states that "... the report of German behaviour (in Fifth Army Area) in regard to churches and looting is far the worst yet received..." ..... AAI are anxious that the fullest publicity be given in cases of sabotage and thefts of signal lines, which is causing concern ..... General Alexander opened the new Welfare Centre in the Royal Palace, Naples, on Saturday, June 3. It provides three restaurants, three snack bars, three wine bars, a cafeteria, five lounges, an outdoor terrace restaurant, a ballroom, billiards rooms, a map room, even an art studio where budding painters can be taught by Matania: and it can accommodate 10,000 men ..... As to whether the decoration of the Sala d'Ercole with an immense cartoon of a negro playing the saxophone is in good taste, opinions vary: perhaps it may be regarded as only a temporary indication of a better world ... Passes, serially numbered and severely limited, showing occupation and period of stay, are to be made for every member of ACC entering Rome ..... The Excelsior Hotel, Naples, will be open to officers on June 11 ..... Colonel Spofford, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, has been visiting HQ Naples ..... "Stars and Stripes" ceases publication in Sicily on June 3 and plans are under discussion for a revival of "Il Giornale di Sicilia", the editorial staff to be nominated by the Comitato di Liberazione ..... The transport situation is getting acute, what with appeals from the forward areas for army vehicles and pleas from the Government for requisitioned cars it seems likely that [illegible] on the threshold of a new boom and buggy era ..... It is reported

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8. Telephone notes

The latest Rear ACC Headquarters Telephone Directory, tastefully bound in azure and containing a regional map, a number of useful (but polite) Italian phrases for the telphone, and an absolutely lifelike picture of a telephone at rest, has knocked all our telephone fun absolutely sideways with the strict admonition: "This is no time for pleasantries or peace time politeness." The new directory contains some fascinating numbers, ranging from the Royal Motor Pool and the

/ Catering

Catering Adviser down (or up) to the Public Works Anti (sic) Room and the Waterproofing Officer; we also note that "Italian titles of officers are almost same as in English just slightly more exaggerated" What bothers us about this is whether Colonnello can be classified as an exaggeration of Major. In that case we are in favour of exaggerations.

9. Quote from an esteemed contemporary

"ROME BOMBED WITH CARE"

Headline in "Union Jack" June 3.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

Distribution as for Bulletin No 8 dated 27 May.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

PRB 26/WB 8

27 May 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 8
21 May to 27 May

1. Political

There has been a good deal of brisk, if relatively unspectacular activity in government circles during the past week. The Council met on Tuesday and Thursday. Obviously the Government must have its eye on Rome and the political developments that will follow its capture, but at least in public statements an attitude of discreet reserve obtains. Between meetings the Council expressed its feeling of solidarity with the Allies, looking to the moment when Italian troops would be allowed to share the risks and the glory of the war of liberation.

The new defascistization law is being prepared with a view to distinguishing between real fascists and those unfortunate to have merely acquired dubious party labels. The draft of a decree to disentangle the Carabinieri from the embrace of the Milizia is nearing final form. A Commisariato has been set up under Zaniboni for the material and moral assistance of refugees - a timely action in view of the operational situation.

A central commission for local finances and a Corte dei Conti for general financial control has been set up. The Ministry of Finance has also drafted a number of decrees intended to ease restrictions on industry during the period of reconstruction. The Ministry of Public Instruction - nee National Education - has been given not only a new name but a new and delicate assignment: it will distinguish between the good and the bad in the public monuments of Fascism. The unaesthetic will be destroyed, the better specimens removed to museums, where presumably they will do no harm. National and political qualifications are no longer to be considered in the appointment of University professors - foreigners are now eligible for chairs and "regular political behaviour" is not to be a prerequisite.

On a later meeting ~~On a less materialistic level~~ the Council, affirmed a policy of war to the end against the Nazis, expressed its hope for a new world of international collaboration based on the principles of the Atlantic Charter and repeated its conviction that the Italian people had been betrayed and forced into a war against their interests and against their will. The Fascist invasions of other nations are deplored and, specifically, the Government looks to the early liberation of Albenia.

From the sublime to the censoricus: the Council recommended energetic repressive action against games of chance said to be going on clandestinely in Sale da ballo.

2. AMG on Fifth Army Front

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By May 20 CAOs had entered 13 communes: all the towns were heavily damaged, and the vast majority of their populations had fled. Accurate statistics are obviously impossible while large numbers of people are still in hiding, or moving from place to place. The following figures, however, give some indication of the numbers found in places occupied during the advance:

PWA

/ Ausonia

	Pre-war Population	Population found
Ausonia	3,641	1
Castelnuovo	1,070	-
Coreno Ausonia	2,312	100
San Giorgio sul Liri ..	2,704	8
San Ambrogio	1,458	300 or more
S Andrea	1,944	200
S Appollinare	2,959	50
Castelforte	10,870	350
Spigno	2,524	-
Vallemaio	1,658	-
Esperia	6,462	-
Gaeta	19,127	1,500
Itri	6,645	3,500

People have been streaming back into the towns since their capture: by May 23 there were 9,000 people in Gaeta and 8,000 in Itri.

On May 20 about 11,000 refugees had been handled in II Corps Area; the policy was to send as few as possible to the rear, and a block had been established to stop an eastward exodus from Formia. Large numbers of sick and wounded were treated at the two AMG tented hospitals, also at Sessa, and at the Refugee Centre at Minturno. A few cases of typhoid were reported, but in general the health situation gave no cause for concern. Law and order were reported good except for cases of rape by native troops. (On May 22 Fifth Army AMG reported in this connection that "reports are continually being received of looting, beatings, rapes and murders ..... there is no doubt that many of these reports are substantially correct and that the refugees reaching II Corps Area contain many families who have fled in terror from the Ghoums". On the same day the SCAO CEF interviewed the French Chief of Staff, who promised to issue a Corps order in strong terms.)

Food supplies were made difficult by the lack of ovens: by May 23 the stock of biscuits was rapidly running out. The Food Sub-Commission, however, were able to despatch 40 tons on May 22 and by May 24 bakeries were being started in newly constructed ovens: at Ausonia, for instance, the first loaf was "ceremoniously taken out of the oven at 1600 hours" and on May 24 a regular bread ration of 150 grams was issued. By May 26 nine tons of food had arrived at Terracina from Carinola and been distributed: several tons were stored in Minturno; a warehouse at Gaeta (the harbour having been cleared of mines) was being supplied by schooner from Baia. Lenola, Pico and Pontecorvo had been inspected; the first two were almost destroyed, the last completely. Itri and Sperlonga had also been taken over and had sufficient food to last until the end of the month. Monte S Biagio, the first undamaged commune to be occupied, had its full population "with police and officials in working order" and no free issues of food supplies were necessary.

The remainder of Naples Province was handed over to Region III at midday on May 22. On May 26 the Rome Province team moved up

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The Executive Commissioner, who visited the Fifth Army front on May 26, reported that the condition of Italian refugees coming south from the Pontine Marshes was the worst he had ever seen: it seemed that they had been without bread for 9 months.

Major Leacacos, attached from this Branch to Fifth Army AMG, was able to issue communiques on AMG activities to correspondents at Anzio, Caserta and Naples on May 25 and 26. These showed that 80,000 persons in 25 communes and towns were being fed daily by

/ AMG

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AMG; that in several places regular ration cards were already in use; water was being brought in by tank transporters; 750,000 lire had been advanced to Italian communes occupied. Information was also given on screening and defascistization, on the disposal of refugees and the arrangements made to return farmers to their homes without delay. In spite of the priority of operational news and the obvious limits on cables, this information was used by several correspondents in their despatches.

3. AMG on Eighth Army Front

On May 19 Eighth Army SCAO reported that San Angelo, Pignataro, and Cassino were found completely destroyed and uninhabited. The problem thus presented was a new one - a large area of country with three towns to which civilians could not be allowed to return. Administration of the district was to be carried out from San Vittore: notices were printed and posted on roads, and AMG check posts of mobile carabinieri established, to prevent the re-entry of civilians. Supplies for the 5,000 refugees known to exist in the Cassino plain were brought up from Venafro. On May 25 it was reported that Aquino had been found practically uninhabitable with a population of between 500 and 800 civilians very short of food and that they would have to be evacuated; that Piedimonte and Villa S. Lucia were uninhabiteble and uninhabited: and that there were indications that areas further forward, not yet in our hands, were much less damaged and still held considerable populations.

4. Granai del Popolo

(a) There are encouraging signs that the potato crop will be bumper and may greatly ease the food situation: farmers are being asked not to dig potatoes before June 15, so as to get the maximum yield. Prefects are being asked to plan early to distribute in their areas and to notify expected surpluses.

(b) A decree is expected this week to block additional crops, viz: maize, oats, rye, horse beans, lentils, chick-peas and peas and chickling vetches on the farms for sale at controlled prices through licensed dealers.

(c) Measures are being taken by the Italian Government to control both machine and hand threshing by means of threshing report forms which must be completed in respect of each licensed machine and/or registered threshing-floor.

(d) Regional Commissioners are to be urged to make mayors responsible for finding safe storage space for their permitted annual communal retention of grain and for the grain itself once the Consorzio has collected it. In this way the people of each commune will be able to see their own Granaio made from their own grain. Surpluses will be handled through the Consorzio.

(e) Matera Province of Region II has launched an extremely effective poster campaign, based on the words Granai del Popolo.

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(e) Matera Province of Region II has launched an extremely effective poster campaign, based on the words Granai del Popolo. The first poster reads G D P, the second Garanzia del Pane, the third Granai del Popolo, and so on through Gara di Produzione, Godimento delle Produzione, to Grandezza del Popolo.

(f) On the whole the harvest situation looks promising. The Agricultural Sub-Commission, with one eye on the retreating Germans, are keeping another very wide open indeed for additional staff.

5. Anti-Inflation Committee

The Anti-Inflation Committee met again in Naples on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Three sub-committees were set up to consider:

(a) Fiscal and financial devices to be used in curbing inflation,

(b) Price control,

(c) Supply and industrial rehabilitation.

The Price Control Committee has already reported: the other two are still arguing: however, they are keen that we add that when a committee meets every day its sub-committees can't. Meanwhile inflation, we gather, is not yet entirely antied.

6. Odds and Ends

Search for a cooler and quieter site for the Regional Commissioners Conference proved abortive: the Conference will take place at the Provincia on Tuesday. Better luck next time, we hope ..... The checking of ration cards in all Regions is now in hand: new ration cards will be issued on July 1..... The new scale of heavy workers rations comes into operation on the mainland on June 1 ..... Colonel Legg, Head of the Food Sub-Commission, left to visit the forward areas on May 26 ..... Brigadier Carr reports that at the opening of the tunny-fishing season off the island of CarloForte 125 fish were taken of an average weight of 200 lb. A cautious fisherman evidently, he adds that he "has heard" that one of 600 lb has been netted ..... Plans are contemplated but not completed for the re-treading of civilian tyres in Bari (no correspondence on this sore subject yet, please) ..... We are informed by Colonel Snook that the tonnage of black market flour seized at Agrigento (see Bulletin 3) was 14 and not 14,000: spoils our story but we are always glad to admit these small inaccuracies ..... Colonel Poletti gave a lecture on ACC to 20,000 REPEAT 20,000 men at a Replacement Depot this week ..... Two large hauls of stolen Army clothing were tracked down in Naples last week, one lot behind a false wall in a tunnel 60 feet below ground, the other at the seashore end of a man-size sewer leading into the middle of an Ordnance dump ..... Captain Temple (Interior Sub-Commission) has returned from a trip to Apulia with a report on local government. Non-existent, he found ..... Another tourist (who insists on anonymity) reports discovery of a remote little town that modern civilization has passed by; not a bomb-crater nor a VD sign in sight. The Town Hall still contains a Podesta; sternly admonished, the official said a cardboard placard saying Sindaco was being made.

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other two are still arguing: however, they are keen that we add that when a committee meets every day its sub-committees can't. Meanwhile inflation, we gather, is not yet entirely antied.

6. Odds and Ends

Search for a cooler and quieter site for the Regional Commissioners Conference proved abortive: the Conference will take place at the Provincia on Tuesday. Better luck next time, we hope ..... The checking of ration cards in all Regions is now in hand: new ration cards will be issued on July 1..... The new scale of heavy workers rations comes into operation on the mainland on June 1 ..... Colonel Legg, Head of the Food Sub-Commission, left to visit the forward areas on May 26 ..... Brigadier Carr reports that at the opening of the tunny-fishing season off the island of CarloForte 125 fish were taken of an average weight of 200 lb. A cautious fisherman evidently, he adds that he "has heard" that one of 600 lb has been netted ..... Plans are contemplated but not completed for the re-treading of civilian tyres in Bari (no correspondence on this sore subject yet, please) ..... We are informed by Colonel Snook that the tonnage of black market flour seized at Agrigento (see Bulletin 3) was 14 and not 14,000: spoils our story but we are always glad to admit these small inaccuracies ..... Colonel Poletti gave a lecture on ACC to 20,000 REPEAT 20,000 men at a Replacement Depot this week ..... Two large hauls of stolen Army clothing were tracked down in Naples last week, one lot behind a false wall in a tunnel 60 feet below ground, the other at the seashore end of a man-size sewer leading into the middle of an Ordnance dump ..... Captain Temple (Interior Sub-Commission) has returned from a trip to Apulia with a report on local government. Non-existent, he found ..... Another tourist (who insists on anonymity) reports discovery of a remote little town that modern civilization has passed by; not a bomb-crater nor a VD sign in sight. The Town Hall still contains a Podesta; sternly admonished, the official said a cardboard placard saying Sindaco was being made.

7. Postscript

A report from Major Bullock, dated May 27, is attached.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

Distribution as for Bulletin no 7, plus Heads of Sub-Commissions and Adjutant.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB 2. Press release - Immediate. 27 May 1944

Major Bullock, ACC PRO attached the 8th Army AMG reports as follows:

1. The position of the towns in the Eighth Army sector of the Hitler Line is much the same as in Cassino. Pignataro Interamna, Piedimonte, Villa Santa Lucia and Pontecorvo are flat. But a CAO has been put into Pontecorvo to deal with people on the surrounding farms and with a trickle of townsfolk coming from the hills.

2. Lieut. Simpson moved into Aquino yesterday morning as CAO. The town is shattered. Troops are still in occupation of the ruins and a POW cage in the public square holds some 30 Germans. There are booby traps and mines. Numbers of dead Germans, 25 in one field, are being buried. More than 800 civilians have already returned from caves and another 400 are expected today. Only two buildings at the west end of the town are habitable. Simpson had a crew of 25 clean out one of the buildings and has set up his HQ there. Food for 1200 for 20 days came yesterday and was stored. Rations for 48 hours were distributed yesterday and the people are settling down in odd corners. An Italian doctor and medical supplies arrived yesterday. Three civilians, one a wounded girl, were evacuated to hospitals. Carabinieri are on the job. A Mayor and two assistants, appointed yesterday, are working well. FSS will vet them today. The people are filthy. Soap has been issued and there will be bath parades to the river today. There has been no money in Aquino for six months and a Finance Officer is coming today. The Red Cross is bringing up clothing. Simpson has found a flour mill operated by water power and it will begin production as soon as a leather drive belt can be brought up. Aquino will not evacuated for some time as the roads are needed for military traffic.

3. Castrocielo is partly destroyed but large sections are habitable and some people remained in their homes throughout the fighting. The Podesta and the Treasurer fled with the Germans who had evacuated the population northward. Many fled to the hills from the forced evacuation and are coming back. The CAO distributed food yesterday and has begun to clean up the town. The Church was not hit but has been sacked. Paintings have been torn from the walls, cupboards and drawers have been searched and dumped, furnishings have been smashed.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

PRB 26/WB 7

20 May 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 7
14 May to 20 May

~~1.~~ Political

The official price of wheat was ~~eventually~~ issued on ~~Monday,~~ May 15. The Italian Government ~~took the line of asking~~ that an ACC announcement should be issued, covering AMG territory, at 2 p.m., followed at 2.30 p.m. by an Italian Government communique, fixing a similar price "in order to ensure uniformity".

~~There is little else to report on the political front this week.~~ The new law dealing with the punishment of Fascist crimes and illegal practices ~~has "gone to the printers".~~ ~~The law~~ contains a definition of crimes which enabled Fascists to assume power in 1922 and to eliminate the last traces of democratic rule.

Punishment ranges from imprisonment to death penalty, ~~latter requires judgment of High Commissioner.~~ A list of mitigating circumstances is established to alleviate or to suspend sentences, including such actions as fighting Germans ~~etc.~~ Provincial Commissions are established in each province to judge all cases. Members of the Commissions will be both judges and lay-men selected for their known anti-Fascist records and position. Commissions will be appointed by the Prime Minister upon the recommendations of High Commissioner and Minister of Justice. The judgments of Provincial Commissions will be determined as in Courts of Law with a provision appeal. The High Commissioner may review any sentence of the Provincial Commissions.

It would appear that the words "defascistization" and "epuration" are not synonymous. The defascistization process, in charge of Omodeo, Minister of Education, removes Fascists from the governmental and administrative machine: the Epuration Committee, now headed by Sforza, would rid the whole national life of the traces of Fascism and punish those responsible for their crimes. Participation in the March on Rome, in the eyes of the Committee, is a crime. The word epuration, it seems, is likely to be dropped.

Cerabona, Minister of Communications, had an interview with the Chief Commissioner on Wednesday and issued after the interview a mild communique stating that the ACC would do all in its power, subject to military exigencies, to restore facilities for goods and passenger transport.

Several Ministries have brought up with varying degrees of boldness or timidity the question of transportation

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Several Ministries have brought up with varying degrees of boldness or timidity the question of transportation. It is hoped that their own registration law will help them out since even with the most benevolent intentions and a definite policy of free collaboration it is felt that we are in no position to give away jeeps. "Charity begins at home" remarked one high-ranking officer, still unresigned to his permanent pedestrian status.

There is, however, a good deal of collaboration between the Ministries and the Sub-Commissions. Monuments and Education speak enthusiastically of their relationship and in general the impression of the new government is good. Gullo, Minister of Agriculture, has had a good press and is regarded as an efficient administrator. His speeches are more remarkable for commonsense than for eloquence.

Interior Sub-Commission has proceeded from the "pooling of sindaci" to the "earmarking of prefects" for yet unoccupied areas. Here too the Ministry has been sympathetic.

/ At

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

At Marshal Badoglio's urgent request, the Chief Commissioner attended a meeting of Ministers on Thursday afternoon to discuss increases in the wages of public utility workers in Naples, who had threatened, it appeared from reports, to strike on the following day. Legitimate increases had already been agreed to by the ACC and the main point at issue was the classification of workers. A meeting was convened in Naples for the following morning to discuss the point and the strike was called off.

2. Granai del Popolo

During the week Major Sutherland (see Bulletin No 6) made a tour through Campobasso, Foggia, Bari, Lecce, Taranto, Matera and Potenza. Some of his conclusions (which will be given more fully in the next Bulletin of the Agricultural Sub-Commission) are briefly as follows:-

(a) There is a general demand that quotas for seed retention be raised. This is of doubtful validity: in Italy seeding has generally been too heavy, and lighter seeding would probably give better results; in some parts last year farmers seeded mixed grain deliberately to avoid amassing regulations: demands for extra seed retention may be merely to balance food retentions. Nevertheless, for future reference, this problem will probably have to be reviewed carefully on a provincial basis.

(b) There is a general demand that all crops be amassed in order to avoid a switch-over to leguminous crops which will give a higher profit than wheat. It is suggested that all leguminous crops, if not physically amassed, be blocked on farms and merchandized at a controlled price through the Consorzi and other licensed dealers: otherwise farmers will be able to sell forward on a high market. This matter is under discussion with the Ministry of Agriculture. In this connection the value of oats, and recipes for oatcake and porridge, might be plugged to the Italian public.

(c) Consorzio operating information is out-of-date owing to communication difficulties and it is thought that weekly price lists and weekly permissible operating costs should be issued. This matter is being attended to.

(d) Communications south of the Bari-Potenza line are bad. Relay points for phonograms are suggested at Bari and Potenza, and a special courier service during the harvest season.

(e) There are great difficulties about the application of law and penalties (details will be given in Agricultural Sub-Commission bulletin). Penalties in many cases are insufficient.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785013

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(f) Region V appears to consider that Region III permits and even encourages leakage to pedestrian and bicycular traffic, which takes grain to high-priced black-market Naples.

(g) A good deal of leakage occurs through Allied drivers who are bribed to use trucks for transport. No order, apparently, exists to cover this offence. A GRO forbidding any Allied soldier to engage in commerce might help.

(h) In Foggia threshing machines and mills are controlled by Guardie di Finanza. Casual civilian labourers entering the province surrender ration cards immediately, are assigned to e employer who hands them h vest ration cards for purchase in bulk, are checked again by Carabinieri whenever re-assigned.

/ Major

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

Major Sutherland's general impression was that in the areas which he visited, Italian agricultural officials were "getting down to brass-tacks", except in the Province of Lecce, where there are signs of indiscipline and evasion. The Provincial Commissioner there, he thinks, has a tough job.

3. News from Cassino

The following report was received on May 19 from Major Bullock of this Branch:-

" (a) Before noon yesterday AMG Eighth Army had a party in the ruins of Cassino. The town is so completely flattened that Gp Capt Benson instructed his Cassino CAOs there was nothing for them to do there and so AMG will NOT occupy the town. Party was headed by Gp Capt Benson in person and was fired on from Monastery Hill by pockets of German resistance concealed in dug-outs.

" (b) During the afternoon, under Polish conducting officers, Major Newton, AMG Monuments and Fine Arts and your DDPR climbed to the Abbey through the Polish lines with some 20 correspondents and a Polish flag party. Newton found the Abbey largely destroyed except for the walls on the side away from Cassino. Shall rush you his report earliest. There are German graves in the Abbey visible from the top of rubble and walls. Polish chaplain said some German wounded were still in lower passages of the ruins. Much of the rubble is fine dust. Excavation will be necessary to ascertain what remains. When the Poles raised Polish and British flags over the Abbey just before 1800 hrs it made scattered German holding parties very angry and we were opened on by mortar and snipers - no casualties.

" (c) Shortly before we left Cassino town ruins around 1300 hrs to go to the Abbey, Capt Davies, PRO, told me two correspondents had been killed in the town but haven't their names yet.

" (d) Got in only at midnight after 36 hours forward waiting to enter Cassino from San Vittore. Shall send you full report soon as possible."

4. Anti-inflation Committee

A committee has been appointed (and, we rather regret to say, called in official documents the "Allied Inflation Committee", which we feel is more up our street) to "consider the existing financial situation in Italy and to make recommendations as to the measures which should be adopted to check the present tendency to inflation". The members of this Committee are Captain Ellery Stone, USNR, (Chairman), Colonel Grafftey-Smith, Colonel Foley, Colonel Upjohn, Colonel Fiske, Mr E.M.H. Lloyd (who was a member of the Economic/

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The Committee met for the first time on Friday, May 19, and again on Saturday, May 20. We shall hope to tell you more about their views and decisions next week.

Meanwhile, not to be outdone in this sort of thing, PRB has started some investigations of its own. A cross-section of

/ family

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family budgets in Naples, produced at our request by Region III, seems to show that Italians either starve or live on double their income. What to make of this at the moment we are not sure, but hope to tell you, of course, with the help of the Inflation Committee, in the next Bulletin.

5. Prisons

The prisons of Southern Italy are badly overcrowded, a matter of concern to Public Health and Public Safety. This is partly due to the slow turning of the wheels of Italian justice: "in this country it's as hard to get them out as to get them in" in the words of Colonel Young. A penal commission has been suggested by Legal Sub-Commission, but the Ministry of Grace and Justice seems to consider the matter not at all pressing and it is our policy not to press legislation on the Government.

6. Information Wanted

The Information Division, ACC, sends an S.O.S. to Regional and Provincial Commissioners for all available written material, time-tables, drawings, photographs, maps and other documents dealing with Italian railroading. Information is particularly desired on railroad yards, locomotives, passenger and freight cars, switches, etc. Such information is urgently required by the Transportation Sub-Commission, ACC.

7. Items

The Chief Commissioner and Colonel Fiske visited Bari on Monday: Brigadier Lush left on Thursday to visit 5th and 8th Armies AMG and Region V ..... General Solodovnik has left the ACC and General Sudakov, formerly working with the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission will succeed him ..... A sort of bump shook Naples at 0224 May 19. May have been an earthquake: usual differences of opinion. Possibly a mine: almost certainly not Colonel Poletti ..... Two subjects likely to be brought up at the Regional Commissioners Meeting: procedure for the assignment or transfer of specialist officers and function and importance of Liaison ACC ..... A shipment of 7,000 tons of copper sulphate is expected this week: it will be sold to farmers through Consorzio Agrario at 2,000 lire a quintal ..... Night-fishing will be resumed this week at Sapri (Gulf of Salerno) and the Naples Market will thus get 10 tons of fish a day: 50 fishing boats and 169 men were moved to Sapri from the island of Procida ..... At Ischia the tuna nets are in full operation after a lapse of two years; the estimated catch is 100 quintals a day ..... MGS have now achieved General Staff status and will henceforth be known as G-5; Colonel Charles M. Spofford is designated as Assistant Chief of Staff and Colonel the Lord Middleton as Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff..... On Sunday 14 May, the feast of Joan of Arc, a review of more than 1,000 troops of the 1er Regiment de Chasseurs Parachutistes was held at Trapani. Regional Commissioner and Provincial Commissioner attended .....

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/ Nellie

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Nellie M. Marshall, president of the Women's Bar Association of Baltimore, Md, declares "a recent meeting of the group approved a resolution to have women commissioned equally with men to serve with Allied Military Government. The organization feels that women can be of essential service in the plans of AMG". Copies of the resolution were sent to President Roosevelt and to Secretary of War Stimson. The "Baltimore News-Post" carried the story on May 6.

8. Postscript on Montecassino

The following report on Montecassino Abbey has just come in:-

"(a) Montecassino Abbey examined from top of remaining walls at 1700 hrs 18 May 1944.

"(b) West End of Abbey remains standing to top floor. East and south sides, facing Cassino, mostly levelled to ground floor. Interior form of three lower cloisters still visible but without cross colonnades. Great stairway pulverized. Statue of St Benedict is headless but otherwise intact. Cloister of the Benefactors ruined. In Basilica south wall of Apse and part of two large piers at crossing still stand. Basilica appears otherwise gone.

"(c) Floor at High Altar and floor of Sacristy may be intact under rubble. Saw NO visible evidence of important bronze doors. Sala Capitolare, Biblioteca, Pinacoteca and Archivio probably destroyed but possibly intact under rubble.

"(d) West End of Refectory still standing.

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9. Quotes from an Esteemed Contemporary

"Preacher Talks Punk Italian, Has Sticky Puss"

(Headline in 45th Division News)

Translation, if required, next week.

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...c.

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2740

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

/ Distribution overleaf

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64	Senior Civil Affairs Officer, AMG Fifth Army	
65	" " " " AMG Eighth Army	
66	Chief Commissioner	
67	Deputy Chief Commissioner	
68	Executive Commissioner	
69	Deputy Executive Commissioner	
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78	Mr John Rayner, PWB	
79	Sir Noel Charles, British Representative on Advisory Council for Italy	
80	Mr Alexander Kirk, U.S. Representative on Advisory Council for Italy	
81	Major T.L. Bullock, PRO, 5th Army AMG	
82	Major John P. Leacacos, PRO, 5th Army AMG	
83	Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 Sec PBS	
84	Experimental Det G-2, Room 41, Bank of Naples Building	
85	I.S.L.D., 126 Via Alessandro Manzoni	
86	Ensign Henry Roberts, R & A Branch, 628 Via Tasso (2nd Floor)	
87	Secretary-General	
88	File 26 (PRB)	

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SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB 26/WB 6

13 May 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 6
7 May to 13 May

1. Political

The weekly meeting of the Italian Cabinet held on Thursday, May 11, was expected to concentrate its discussions on the price of wheat and to issue an agreed figure. The only serious business transacted, however, was the passage of the main part of the Epuration decrees. For the rest, the Cabinet discussed the retiring age of notaries, which it fixed at 75, set up a committee to study the composition of the consultative body, and apparently devoted the bulk of the day to condemning the action of the Crown Prince in making certain statements to Christopher Lumby, correspondent of the London Times.

(The interview appeared on April 20 and is reproduced in the Times Weekly Air Mail Edition of April 26. The Prince of Piedmont, in reply to the correspondent's question as to whether the King of Italy could have prevented the declaration of war, said: "Impossible. Had he attempted to resist Mussolini, it would have brought the Germans down on us. What happened last September would have happened then, and you must remember that at that time Germany was not at war with Russia, but had its army intact. The linking up of Fascism with Nazism made any other course out of the question. Moreover there was no sign that the nation wanted it otherwise. No single voice was raised in protest. No demand was made for summoning Parliament. Ostensibly Mussolini had the country with him." Actually, through negligence in the household, the script of the interview was never submitted to the Crown Prince, despite its having been forwarded by Lumby for this purpose. An interesting reflection on the authenticity of such interviews is that the Crown Prince, though attaching no blame whatsoever to Lumby, has stated privately that his intention was to say that Mussolini had the nation "sotto il suo pugno", which would mean "under his fist" rather than "with him").

However, the Cabinet, without further ado, issued a statement condemning such Royal interviews and stating that "the Cabinet unanimously rejected the assumption that the Italian people had any blame for the Fascist war." As the present Italian government had agreed to leave the institutional question alone, this attack showed no more good faith than courtesy. Moreover, the precedence given to this subject over the price of wheat, had about it a touch of Neronian fiddling. Fortunately perhaps, the [illegible]

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Tuesday, May 11, was expected to concentrate its discussions on the price of wheat and to issue an agreed figure. The only serious business transacted, however, was the passage of the main part of the Epuration decrees. For the rest, the Cabinet discussed the retiring age of notaries, which it fixed at 75, set up a committee to study the composition of the consultative body, and apparently devoted the bulk of the day to condemning the action of the Crown Prince in making certain statements to Christopher Lumby, correspondent of the London Times.

(The interview appeared on April 20 and is reproduced in the Times Weekly Air Mail Edition of April 26. The Prince of Piedmont, in reply to the correspondent's question as to whether the King of Italy could have prevented the declaration of war, said: "Impossible. Had he attempted to resist Mussolini, it would have brought the Germans down on us. What happened last September would have happened then, and you must remember that at that time Germany was not at war with Russia, but had its army intact. The linking up of Fascism with Nazism made any other course out of the question. Moreover there was no sign that the nation wanted it otherwise. No single voice was raised in protest. No demand was made for summoning Parliament. Ostensibly Mussolini had the country with him." Actually, through negligence in the household, the script of the interview was never submitted to the Crown Prince, despite its having been forwarded by Lumby for this purpose. An interesting reflection on the authenticity of such interviews is that the Crown Prince, though attaching no blame whatsoever to Lumby, has stated privately that his intention was to say that Mussolini had the nation "sotto il suo pugno", which would mean "under his fist" rather than "with him")

However, the Cabinet, without further ado, issued a statement condemning such Royal interviews and stating that "the Cabinet unanimously rejected the assumption that the Italian people had any blame for the Fascist war." As the present Italian government had agreed to leave the institutional question alone, this attack showed no more good faith than courtesy. Moreover, the precedence given to this subject over the price of wheat, had about it a touch of Neronian fiddling. Fortunately perhaps, the operational news of May 12 almost completely obscured the Cabinet communique.

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The Chief Commissioner visited Marshal Badoglio at Salerno on Friday, and a further meeting of the Cabinet was convened for Saturday morning. This meeting withdrew for lunch without having reached any decision on anything.

After further debate, Ministers Aldisio, Gullo, Quintieri and Under-Secretary Bergami left the meeting and came to Naples to discuss the wheat-price situation with the Chief Commissioner.

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The discussion was still in progress at 6 p.m. when the meeting at Salerno adjourned. The communique then issued from Salerno does not refer to the price of wheat, but included (a) the nomination of Sforza as High Commissioner for Epuration in place of Zaniboni, who becomes High Commissioner for Refugees (b) the name "Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri" to replace "Capo del Governo" (c) various other administrative matters concerning Finance, Education and Industry.

A further special meeting of the Cabinet will probably take place on May 15 or May 16 for the purpose of reaching a final decision on the price of wheat.

2. Ammassi - Granai del Popolo.

During the early part of the week discussions on the price of wheat provided a very large headache indeed for the Chief Commissioner, Colonel Adams, Colonel Foley, the members of the Agriculture Sub-Commission and the Italian Minister and Under-Secretary for Agriculture. Furrowed foreheads were observed emerging from conference rooms at all hours of the day and night. We thought we saw (observe our reticence please) Colonel Foley and Major Hartman flash past us in alternate states of exhilaration and dejection. It was understood (note our caution here) that the supporters of 650 were no less indomitable and obstinate than the defenders of 1,400. Meanwhile the PR Branch did its best to guide and control the PWB on the best methods of conducting a publicity campaign without dropping too many strawless bricks. The declarations of Badoglio and Gullo are being put to the fullest possible use in press and radio, and some very simple posters have been adopted for general distribution. More are under consideration. It is intended to make short films - for showing in mobile film units - of Badoglio and other leaders, as well as representative farmers, urging the importance of amassing. It is also desired to publicize as far as possible the successful work done by the Communal Committees, stressing particularly the part played by, and the representation given to, small farmers. Assistance of Regional and Provincial Commissioners in giving such information either to this Branch or to the local PWB representative would be much appreciated - also, and we particularly ask you for this - comments on the success or failure of publicity of all kinds, and suggestions for its improvement.

Major J.F.G. Sutherland of the Agriculture Sub-Commission has already left for a swing through the provinces to help organize the Granai del Popolo collections. Signor Gino Bergami Italian Under-Secretary of Agriculture, is also making a tour

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Major J.R.G. Sutherland of the Agriculture Sub-Commission has already left for a swing through the provinces to help organize the Granai del Popolo collections. Signor Gino Bergami Italian Under-Secretary of Agriculture, is also making a tour for the same purpose. In addition, General Messe of the Italian Army has agreed that Italian soldiers should be available for use for harvest labour.

The Agriculture Sub-Commission are issuing a series of bulletins, the first of which will appear next week, to provide suggestions and information. We are not sure that we like this stealing of our thunder, but as far as we can see we can't help it.

3. GSI(b)

3 District Security Intelligence Summary for April notes disquieting increase in losses of and damage to ordnance and other stores" and quotes some bad breaches of security, e.g. at

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Capri where "operations are discussed openly in the bars, which employ English-speaking civilians." It is also stated in this summary that "the period has been marked by a sharp rise in ill-feeling between civilians and troops, to a large extent it is regretted to say, as a result of the latter's bad behaviour, which reached a climax over the Easter week-end." The summary adds that "comment concerning the constitution of the new government under Marshal Badoglio has been restrained and, if not on the whole unfavourable, doubts as to its value as an effective instrument of government are being aired."

4. Region II

Headquarters officers, concerned about getting reports of all kinds shorter and more concise, have been citing the April report of Region II, under the newly-appointed Regional Commissioner, Colonel John T. Zellars, as a model. In three and a half pages, Colonel Zellars covers the entire range of his region in a pithy and fact-packed manner. One item was of especial interest. It was Colonel Zellars' estimate of the general administrative situation in terms of leadership in the grass roots of the provinces. Potenza Province, for example, is "fairly strong in leadership and well organized", but Matera Province is "somewhat weak in leadership but very well organized." Taranto and Lecce Provinces are "fairly strong in leadership and very well organized." Brindisi Province is reported as being weak in both leadership and organization. Bari Province appears the worst of the lot: "Leadership weak and non-effective. Organization poor."

5. The French and AMG

A very interesting comment on relations with our French brethren is contained in the April report from the Fifth Army AMG field staff. A part runs as follows:

"Relations with the French have been harmonious and the presence of a French officer with the AMG Section has proved beneficial. However the French still have some misconception of the function of AMG and rather resent some of the restrictions imposed upon them in the interests of the civil population, such as the prohibition of local purchase of meat, the issue of white flour to Italians while they and their families in North Africa have to use brown flour, the lightness (in their opinion) of sentences imposed by AMG courts upon offenders against French troops and against law and order. This is understandable when it is remembered that Italian troops are said to be still occupying the French Riviera and that several stores of luxury goods looted from France by Italian soldiers have been discovered by the French during the present campaign."

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6. Red Cross Meeting.

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A general conference of Red Cross workers - American, British and Italian - was held 11 May in Naples, at which the Allied Control Commission was represented by Brigadier Lush, Executive Commissioner, and Brigadier Parkinson, Director of the Public Health and Welfare Sub-Commission, as well as representatives from the Italian Refugees Branch, with whom the Red Cross works in particularly close contact. ACC officials were deeply impressed with the volume and competence of the work done by the Red Cross organizations in helping ACC meet its human welfare problems. Especially encouraging is the growing renascence of the Italian Red Cross, which insofar as it has been revived, has been of effective aid to the Allied

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Red Cross, short of manpower as the Allied agencies are. It was also reported at the meeting that approximately $11,000,000 worth of clothing has been sent to Italy from the United States. Some of the clothing has found its way into the Black Market, of course, which was not unexpected, as one Red Cross official wryly reported. In Sicily, too, the issue of pyjamas was not quite successful. Sicilians prefer nightshirts.

7. May Day Postscript

Double pay for May Day was approved by the Italian Government for "operai" and "lavoratori" only, and NOT for "impiegati"; the Local Resources (Naples) Board, however, decided that no extra pay should be given to employes of the Armed Forces.

8. Fine Arts

News from the fine arts front is good this week, according to the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Sub-Commission. The text of the "Soldier's Guide to Rome", written by Major E.T. De Wald, Director of the Sub-Commission, finally went to the publishers after editing and arrangements had been made by the Public Relations Branch. The layout, in ACC green with the head of Greek god on the cover, and printing are being undertaken by the Psychological Warfare Branch, Italian Theatre, for the ACC. The initial printing order will run to 50,000. General Alexander, Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in Italy, has contributed the foreword.

The Fine Arts Sub-Commission also issued its first "List of Protected Monuments" for Lazio and Abruzzi-Molise. The pamphlet contains lists of monuments which troops will protect as far as it is consistent with military necessity. In addition, the Fine Arts Sub-Commission welcomes the appointment of a new Italian Inspectress-General of Monuments, Signora Zancani-Montuoro, appointed by Minister of Education Omodeo. Signora Zancani-Montuoro is well-known in her profession for her excavations of Greek temples at Paestum.

9. Quotes from an Esteemed Contemporary.

American officers contemplating marriage in this theatre will be happy to learn that they are now authorized to draw one truck, 1/4 ton, 4 x 4, C & R, for a period not to exceed 7 days. Vehicle may be drawn from the Ordnance Officer on memorandum receipt upon presentation of certificate signed [illegible] for transportation

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10. PRB

A directive defining our relationships with the Psychological Warfare Branch (PWB) will be issued shortly..... Lieut Gene F. Caprio, ACC Public Relations Officer now detailed to Region III, will come into headquarters in the next week, while two of our headquarters officers will go out to the field for a period. Major T.L. Bullock goes to Eighth Army AMG and Major John P. Leacacos goes to Fifth Army AMG..... The Public Relations Branch will be deeply appreciative if Regional Commissioners and Senior Civil Affairs Officers would occasionally send in reports on their problems in connection with the Allied Publications Board, the Psychological Warfare / Branch

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Branch, visits of Allied correspondents, Italian press relations or suggestions fort he Weekly Bulletin.

11. Odds and Ends from Roundabout

AMG education officers in Avellino are now using three tents for school-rooms ..... 400 tons of hemp have been exported to the U.K. in the first such shipment from the Italian mainland ..... The novel "A Bell for Adano", written by John Hersey, Life correspondent, about the travails of AMG in Sicily, is to be made into a motion picture, it is reported, though not without some qualms among AMG officers as to the effect of such a film on the reputation of our honourable efforts at military government: some representation to the film companies may be made by the War Department if recent recommendations from this theatre are followed through ..... The incidence of smallpox in Naples is much smaller than bruited, being, first, of a mild type, and second, limited to 48 cases in three weeks, while 21,000 persons have been vaccinated ..... Naples, further (if the reader minds so much Naples news, news from other sectors would be welcome), now has 14 soup kitchens feeding needy 9,000 persons therefrom ..... Intelligence reports a new wrinkle among Italians, to the effect that not a few are crossing the front lines one night and returning as refugees the next night, posing as refugees so as to get board and lodging, for which they pay, as it were, with fantastic and imaginary reports of enemy activities ..... Region III is conducting a study of actual living conditions and household budgets to find out how representative cross-sections of the populations really live ..... The Carabinieri are still having trouble getting sufficient clothing, having to date obtained only about 25 per cent of their actual needs ..... Major Francis M. Wray (A), SCAO of the II Corps on the Fifth Army AMG field staff, was decorated with the C.B.E. on April 23 for his work during his attachment as CAO to the 56th British Division ..... Civilian population on the Anzio beachhead is now less than 1,000, the rest having been evacuated ..... Some tunnels of Roman remains were found in the course of normal shellfire ground changes in the Nettuno area recently ..... Shearing of the 20,000 sheep on the beach-head is a spring headache for AMG there ..... In Sicily, Colonel A.N. Hancock, Regional Commissioner (recently promoted), reports that the Separatist movement appears to be declining, though the credo of regional administrative autonomy is still held firmly by all parties ..... AOC Public Safety officials in Sicily also just caught a gang of forgers of 1,000-lire notes, together with their equipment and 43,000,000 lire in forged notes ..... Pantelleria has 17 per cent of its 10,000 inhabitants on relief, according to AMG reports from there .. Sardinians are complaining that buyers from the mainland are buying dirt cheap on the island and re-selling at high profits

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Sardinians are complaining that buyers from the mainland are buying dirt cheap on the island and re-selling at high profits on the mainland ..... 100,000 animal skins are awaiting shipment in Sardinia to Naples, for glove makers, with negotiations in progress for another 135,000..... 900 Jews arebeing sent to Palestine by the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission.

/ Distribution overleaf.

Distribution:-

1. Regional Commissioner, Region I
2. " " " II
3. " " " III
4. " " " IV
5. " " " V
6. " " " VI
7. " " " VII
8. " " " VIII
9. " " " IX
10. Senior Civil Affairs Officer, AMG Fifth Army
11. Senior Civil Affairs Officer, AMG Eighth Army
12. Chief Commissioner
13. Deputy Chief Commissioner
14. Executive Commissioner
15. Deputy Executive Commissioner
16. Vice President, Administrative Section
17. Sir Noel Charles, British Representative on Advisory Council for Italy
18. Mr Alexander Kirk, U.S. Representative on Advisory Council for Italy
19. Colonel D.S. Adams, Chief Assistant, Economic Section
20. Information Division
21. " "
22. Mr John Rayner, PWB
23. Colonel Spofford, AFHQ MGS.
24. Lieut Gene F. Caprio, PRO Region III.
25. Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 Sec PBS
26. Experimental Det G-2, Room 41, Bank of Naples Building
27. I.S.L.D., 126 Via Alessandro Mazzini
28. Security Branch
29. Political Section
30. Ensign Henry Roberts, R & A Branch, 628 Via Tasso (2nd Floor)

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB 26/WB 5.

6 May 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 5
30 April to 6 May

1. Political

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The second meeting of the new Italian cabinet took place on May 4. Subjects under discussion were (1) the ~~wheat~~ and the price of wheat (2) Defascistization ~~(Omodeo, Minister of Education, being appointed Head of the Commission)~~ (3) Suppression of the Ministry of Foreign Exchange, its duties being taken over by the Ministry of Finance (4) Suppression of the Ministry of Popular Culture, press relations being taken over by the Ministry of the Interior (home and foreign news) the Ministry of Communications (tourism and radio) and the Ministry of Education (cinema and theatre) (5) Economic betterment of State employes. ~~(a meeting to be held on Saturday, May 6, to discuss this subject between the Ministries of Finance, Labour, Communications and ACC Finance Sub-Commission: another meeting to be held Monday, May 8, between the Finance Sub-Commission and the Ministry of Labour to discuss similar problems applying to manual labourers)~~.

On the same day Marshal Badoglio issued a statement urging all Italians to support and assist the ~~harvest~~ collections of grain.

XX A good deal of ground was thus covered by the new cabinet during the day. In connection with defascistization, the Government statement issued after the meeting contained an injunction to individual Ministers stressing their responsibility for reporting all cases which came to their notice, and suspending, on reduced salary, any suspected employes until such time as their cases could be settled by the Commission.

Correspondents, on the whole, were not particularly interested by the meeting. Their copy, however (a short digest is attached) showed indications that there was some definite wishful thinking about an ending of the state of co-belligerency.

XXX "Il Corriere" produced a bad case of infringement of military security. A letter on this subject with precise directions was sent to the Italian Government on April 18; there was therefore no excuse. Italian editors need to be reminded in all areas that such mistakes militate heavily against the transfer of press responsibility to Italians.

2736

2. "I Granai del Popolo"

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2. "I Granai del Popolo"

As a result of Lieut-Colonel Ruck's letter, which was mentioned in this Bulletin last week, a last-minute endeavour was made by this Branch in cooperation with PWB to find a new name for the Ammassi. General consensus of opinion, Italian opinion especially, favoured "I Granai del Popolo". It was impossible to introduce this into the decrees themselves, which were already in print (and are now law). It was nevertheless decided that in spite of this a considerable change could be effected in the public mind by good and rapid publicity. The name "Granai del Popolo" was therefore splashed in "Risorgimento" on May 4, and Marshal Badoglio was asked, and consented, to include it in his statement. This line will now be followed in all publicity. We have no doubt at all that the word "Ammassi" with its connotations of corruption, can be made almost to

/ disappear

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disappear, and the new name can be linked with a more honest and successful effort under Allied control.

3. Price of Wheat

On the matter of fixing the price of wheat some announcement is expected within another week, according to Colonel D.S. Adams, chief assistant to the vice president of the Economic Section. Changes in the price of wheat and consequently in the price of bread appear to be more important than any other factors in the discussions at the moment. Undue rise in the price of bread will have a bearing on the matter of inflation and would tend to be the leader other prices would follow. What boots it the farmer to gain a sharp increase in the price of wheat when a corresponding increase in the price of scarce consumer goods takes away his profit? That is one view. The object summed up:- Effective amassing of grain with a price that will least disrupt the inflationary situation.

4. Labour Day

In agreement with the Allied authorities, May Day Labour celebrations were held in the principal centres on Sunday, April 30, in order that there should be no interruption in the regular working day schedules. Meetings were held in many towns, largely under the auspices of the Socialist, Communist and Action Parties and workers' organizations. Communist speakers at these rallies emphasized the necessity of further developing the war effort of the Italian people in cooperation with the Allies.

5. Documentary Discoveries.

Information of value was uncovered during the past week in two private document collections in Naples which hitherto had escaped notice. The collections were investigated by the Information Division, ACC.

One of the collections was that of the Provincial Tourist Agency (Ente Provinciale del Turismo). This yielded a large number of tourist handbooks, guides, maps and other documents dealing with all parts of Italy, and with Germany and Japan. The material will be of value to naval intelligence, and to several ACC Sub-Commissions, notably Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives.

The second collection was that of the Campani Interprovincial Syndicate of Journalists (Sindicato Interprovinciale Giornalisti Campani). It included several different sets of encyclopedias, bound copies dating back many years of leading Italian newspapers, and muchother reference material. The Information Division is taking steps to preserve this collection intact as an adjunct to the Central Reference Library.

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6. One up to the Carabinieri.

Italian Carabinieri, under the direction of Allied Control Commission officers in Sardinia, have succeeded in cutting the leakage of imported food supplies from ship to warehouse to .05, or one twentieth of one per cent.

The foodstuffs are distributed in the three provinces of Sardinia by three commercial firms who take delivery and make payment at shipside.

/ The goods

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The goods get four checks, and the cost of this checking amounts to 7 lire a ton for ACC. The first check is by the military port authorities upon receipt. The next is by ACC on consignment. The third is by the commercial firm on payment. The fourth is by the Carabinieri.

The Carabinieri check the stuff on to the trucks, ride the trucks to the warehouses, check the unloading and guard the warehouses.

As one ACC official said, "If one item is short the Carabinieri raise a hell of a row. They have been granted authority and have assumed responsibility in the most praiseworthy fashion."

In addition, the Carabinieri have taken on the salvage of broken sacks and are obtaining a high percentage of recoveries.

7. The John Hanshaw Camp

An Italian refugee camp operated under the supervision of Allied Control Commission authorities, Region II, at Pisticchi, near Matera, has been named the John Hanshaw Camp in honour of Lieut John Hanshaw, Inf, who was instrumental in helping to establish the camp as a model refugee centre a month before he was recently killed on duty in the 8th Army forward area.

Lieut Hanshaw, who was 35 and a contractor in civil life at home in Ithaca, N.Y., helped to turn the Pisticchi Camp from a collection of old stone buildings housing 1,500 miserable and sullen refugees to a clean, well-organized community where the refugees, with a new morale, take care of their own gardens, policing, entertainment and schooling.

Allied authorities paid tribute to the Italian Prefect of Matera Province, Dr Guido Tamburro, and Conte Gattini, local Head of the Italian Red Cross, for their aid to Lieut Hanshaw in making the camp a success.

8. Courier Service

A courier service has started leaving Naples on Sundays (0930) for Campobasso, Foggia (stay overnight), Foggia (0800) Bari, Matera (stay overnight), Matera (0700) Potenza, Salerno, Naples. A similar service will leave Naples on Wednesdays (0800) for Salerno, Potenza, Matera (stay overnight), Matera (0800) Bari, Foggia, Campobasso (stay overnight), Campobasso (0900) Naples.

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As one ACC official said, "If one item is short the Carabinieri raise a hell of a row. They have been granted authority and have assumed responsibility in the most praiseworthy fashion."

In addition, the Carabinieri have taken on the salvage of broken sacks and are obtaining a high percentage of recoveries.

XX

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9. Clean-up in Naples

May 7 to 15 is Clean-up Week in Naples. An elaborate campaign has been organized for all the communes in Naples Province. Schools, civic groups, churches, military base installations and public health authorities are all participating. A prize will be given for the cleanest commune in the province. Communes and schools will also hand out prizes. Lectures, school themes, demonstration clean-up squads and all the paraphernalia of an old-fashioned American Chamber of Commerce civic drive, together with suitable publicity, will feature the campaign. Best of all, AMG officials have found another 2,000 old gasoline drums to use as garbage cans. This makes a stockpile of 7,000 cans for Neapolitan refuse.

/ 10. Items

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10. - Items

Headquarters has now introduced bell-girls, girl guides, girl pages, (what shall we call them?) dressed in a becoming shade of green..... Colonel Russell has carried out a successful experiment in oil-spraying from aeroplanes against malaria.....We understand that the ceiling for officers is safe and might even be raised a little, but no hope whatever for more EM/CB ....The next Regional commissioners' Conference will be held on May 30 in the PBS Officers' Club building, Naples: opinion tends towards a round-table conference as against set speeches....The business of getting a better designation than ACC/AMG is still under discussion....In some parts of the country it's said that wheat has almost displaced currency.... Maj.T.G. Bergin has joined the Public Relations Branch.... Major T.L. Bullock of the PR Branch has visited Regions I and VI....Edgar Mowrer, recently arrived here on a flying visit, tells us that arrangements for Moroccan troops in this theatre include trucks of Berber lovelies run up to the front line and returned regularly after use.... Sir Clifford Heathcote-Smith, British Resident Representative of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees has arrived and will work in close contact with Displaced Persons Sub-Commission....Col. F.L. Whitley who entered 17th General Hospital on April 25 for a malaria check-up is still being checked and no bug can be found on him.....Mr. Leo Gerstenzang, Deputy Chief of the Balkan Mission of UNNRA, has arrived to discuss the Italian food situation with Colonel Legg and others: no immediate developments by UNNRA are contemplated....Lt. Col. Lord Middleton has succeeded Col. Terance Maxwell in MGS APHQ ....Col. Kirkwood has established the Headquarters of Region VII at Catanzaro.... Region IV have set up a forward echelon under canvas.... Lt. Col. Feasey has left Region V for Region VII.... Lt. Col. French has left Region I for Region V...

11. Epilogue

This bulletin, it may be remarked for the benefit of those who haven't seen it before, was established and is intended for the peculiar delight of Regional and Provincial Commissioners of the ACC who may not be always fully acquainted with the marvels performed at HQ. It is not, and will not, we trust, ever become (a) an official report (b) a mere catalogue of events (c) an almighty document of absolute accuracy. Accuracy we seek, of course, but we are still smarting slightly under the breeze occasioned by an over-optimistic forward wheat quotation last week. A mistake is a mistake and we apologise; we have no Delphic Oracle on our staff but we refuse to be entirely badgered out of an occasional note of gaiety.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

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I.S.L.D. 128 Via Alessandro Mazzini
Security Branch
Political Section
Ensign Henry Roberts R&A Branch 628 Via Tasso
2nd floor

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

5 May, 1944

PRB 20 TREND OF COPY FILED BY CORRESPONDENTS ON MAY 4

The second meeting of the new Italian cabinet failed to attract the flood of correspondents who attended the first. Maybe they felt that, having described the Palazzo del Governo with such a wealth of detail, there was nothing left to describe. As far as is known only CHINIGO (INS) ELEANOR PACKARD (U.P) SPRIGGE (Reuters) and LUKBY (Times) were in Salerno, the last two only because the car which was taking them down to Sicily had broken down there.

Both ELEANOR PACKARD and CHINIGO obtained scoops as they had done the previous week. The former certainly had the full text of Badoglio's message when she filed her story at 1625. She quoted his "granaries of the people" (which this Branch had persuaded him to include) "equitable compensation" and "deeply felt discipline" which can achieve results far superior to those obtained by exclusively coercive measures." She also gave, once again, the full agenda, including the purging of fascists in key posts, the composition of the consultative body, the living conditions of state employees, communications (especially buses and trams for suburbanites) and volunteers for the Italian army. At 2100 she filed a despatch stating that Omodeo had been appointed head of the anti-fascist purge.

CHINIGO had clearly got similar information at the same time and wrote a similar despatch (both correspondents were hours ahead of the official release) he also sent a story to the effect that Marshal Badoglio had had an hour's interview with Sir Noel Charles and had stressed the need for material, particularly aircraft, to permit full Italian cooperation in the war. CHINIGO (who was certainly busy) also sent a long interview with Sforza who was quoted as saying that "co-belligerency must go" and "the Allies must decide once and for all whether Italy was to be allowed to take a serious part in the war"

This note stressed by CHINIGO in his account of both interviews and underlined by his own comments which suggested that a better deal was now called for, was also struck by SPRIGGE (Reuters) in a despatch sent two days previously, in which, after concentrating at some length on the "delicate negotiations" concerning prisoners of war, he worked up to the conclusion that "co-belligerent status is a source of much bewilderment to friendly Italians and to Allied authorities controlling populations which it can treat neither as enemies nor as full friends". SPRIGGE

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SIGART (Herald Tribune) filed a long article in praise of Colonel Poletti whom he described as "a man often criticized as a loud uncouth extrovert" who has nevertheless "enlivened and bullied the populace out of its bemused attitude of defeatism and despair".

A great deal of censorship trouble was occasioned by correspondents' references to the statement which appeared in IL CORRIERE of May 3 to the effect that there were large troop concentrations in Italy. This statement was a cross [illegible] security

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB 26/ WB 4

29 April 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 4
23 April to 29 April

1. Political

The first formal cabinet meeting of the new Italian Government took place at Salerno on Thursday, 27 April. The meeting lasted from ten to four-thirty, with a luncheon recess during which newspaper correspondents percolated into the Council Chamber and had a look over the papers. This caused some alarm and despondency in cabinet circles, and produced a couple of journalistic scoops, but no serious harm was done. A short digest of correspondents' copy is attached.

The official declaration of policy made after the meeting may be summarized as follows:

(a) The Government is formed from representatives of anti-fascist parties, no longer opposed to one another, but united in the effort to solve the vital problems of the moment.

(b) Other problems, not of immediate urgency, will be set aside, including the institutional one, which can only be decided by a constituent assembly elected by universal suffrage.

(c) All the parties, according to their beliefs, are prepared for the fundamental reforms necessitated by two world-wars: but such reforms cannot be initiated or completed while Italy is cut in half and still at war.

(d) The renewal of democratic government provides a new spirit, lacking under Fascism, for the prosecution of the war at the side of the Allies, and for the heroic endeavours of patriots of every party now united in the defence of Italy and the conquest of Hitler's Germany.

(e) The necessity of war involves the severest measures against all traitors and the freedom of Italians from all those who, having served Fascism, still cling to its habits, hopes or aims.

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(f) Such work must not be actuated by a spirit of revenge, but by a determination that Fascism shall never recur. The work has been put in hand and will be carried energetically to a swift conclusion.

(g) Government action will be based on the urgent necessity of improving conditions of life by increasing industrial and agricultural activity, fighting speculation, smoothing internal exchange of products, obtaining essential supplies from abroad, and hastening the construction of public buildings, roads and bridges. For such tasks the Government counts upon the cooperation of all professional organizations.

/ (h) Administratio

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(h) ~~Administration~~, despite difficulties of archives, accommodation and ~~personnel~~, must be regularized and it is proposed to re-establish the State Accounting Office and the Accounting Court. It is proposed also, in cooperation with the Committees of Liberation, to establish a small Consultative Body, symbol of Parliament, to which periodic reports of progress will be made.

After the declaration the cabinet discussed the May Day celebrations and decided to appeal to workers in German-occupied Italy to mark the day by a struggle for liberation. (The Italian Government has since proposed double payment for all workers on 1 May and this has been agreed by all concerned). The Minister of Agriculture adiressed the cabinet on the measures of control of the Ammassi: and 200,000 lire was allotted for urgent Public Works.

2. Flashes from Naples

ACC HQ Commandant reports that the courtyard of the Provincia Building is sinking rapidly on account of previous excavations and vehicles must no longer be parked there. If HQ disappears one day, you know where it's gone ..... EM/OR in rest camps at Naples are having catboats placed at their disposal: no advice yet as to whether guitars will be supplied ..... Region III reports that 18 new pasta factories are in operation and hope to begin deliveries in two weeks' time ..... Much argument has developed as to whether Naples was shaken by an earthquake or a time-bomb half-an-hour after the last air-raid. Old Californians stubbornly maintain the earthquake theory: Professor Imbo of the Vesuvius Observatory insists his instruments didn't record anything of the sort.

3. Displaced Persons - Communications, Records and Enquiries

A section has been set up to deal with Records and Enquiries in the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission under Mr Thomas Parrington. The section is located at Bari. Nearly 25,000 displaced persons, out of a total of some 35,000, have been registered, though not always with the full details required. Thirty-one nationalities are involved. Out of a total of about a thousand enquiries received from all parts of the world, nearly 200 have been satisfactorily answered and communications with relatives re-established: but this has not been an easy task, and Mr Parrington will shortly ask for the help of Regional Commissioners in drawing up lists of displaced persons in various parts of Italy. He is grateful for the cooperation given hitherto, but would like us to say that information from Sicily is particularly slow and meagre. It

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4. Telephone communications

Communication has now been established as follows with Regional HQ.

Region I - Call Naples Long Distance and ask for Palermo.
Region II - Call Naples Long Distance - ask for Bari and then Matera

/ Region III

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Region III - Naples 10183 or 60140
Region IV - Naples 11722 or 11743
Region V - Call Filpot and ask for Campobasso
Region VII - Call Naples Long Distance and ask for Catanzaro via Salerno - Reggio

There is no telephone service yet to Region VI: it is hoped that this may be established by June 1. Regions VIII and IX can be reached at Vapor (Naples) 75.

5. Ammassi

The campaign to harness the Ammassi machinery of Italy, which has always been 80 per cent an agricultural nation, to the end that Italy become as self-sustaining as possible in food, is on the eve of starting. Working in closest cooperation with the Agriculture Sub-Commission, the Italian Minister of Agriculture has just signed a decree setting up the elaborate machinery for the harvest collection. The decree will be published within the next few days. Saturday and Sunday (April 29 and 30) Under-secretary Gino Bergami of Agriculture, together with Major W.A. Hartman (A), Director of the Agriculture Sub-Commission, and Major M.M.A. Dickie (B), Deputy Director, met with all agricultural officers in the Italian theatre - agriculturists, fishery experts, foresters and other technicians - to plan detailed support to the Italian officials in this first major effort of the new Italian Government. Marshal Badoglio is expected to issue a statement after publication of the decree.

Key announcement concurrent with the Ammassi decree will of course be that of the price to be paid for the wheat which, with barley, will be amassed. Both the AMG and the Italians are in fairly close agreement on the price which may be in the neighbourhood of 1300 lire per quintal. The decree may be briefly summarized as follows:

Five groups of organizations are set up: Compartmental and Provincial Inspectorates having over-all charge of regional amassing; Provincial Advisory Committees; Provincial Agricultural Inspectorate to collect and review all collection returns; Provincial Agricultural Consorzi, which will do the actual amassing; Communal Committees to arbitrate between the farmers and the agencies in disputes.

The decree states that unless the amassing programme yields maximum results this summer, the Italian Government will not be in a position to approach the Allied Authorities with requests for possible additional aid; therefore, every agricultural agency in Italy must do its utmost so that the Ammassi returns will be in accord with "the imperious needs of the moment." On the Allied

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The nub of the problem naturally remains the price. The decree mentions that the price to be fixed "will constitute an incentive not to evasion but to delivery." If the Italians do gather the 43 per cent of the crop that ACC authorities have estimated can be gathered, the forthcoming campaign will be nothing less than historic.

Some extremely interesting suggestions were received from Lt Col Ruck of Region II. Unfortunately his letter arrived too

/ late

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late to be included in the discussions. He has, however, suggested some very valuable ideas on the publicity campaign. Among other things he has advised that the word Amassi be dropped, since it has become associated with corrupt practices and was a special target for our own propaganda.

5130

Distribution:-

Regional Commissioners, Regions I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII
Senior Civil Affairs Officers, Fifth and Eighth Armies AAI
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Deputy Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner
Deputy Executive Commissioner
Vice President, Administrative Section
Information Division (2 copies)
Mr John Rayner, PWB
Col Spofford, AFHQ MGS.
Lt Caccio, Region III

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
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PRB 20. Trend of Copy filed by Correspondents
27 April 1944

Correspondents' copy covering the first meeting of the new Italian Cabinet and its declaration of policy was mainly characterized by somewhat flamboyant reporting of the scene of the meeting. A multitude of words were cabled about the mahogany table, the size and shape of the armchairs, the exact dress of the carabinieri, the type of blotting-pads and inkwells used, the murals and the view, and even the carafe of water on the table. Correspondents clearly regarded the declaration itself as pedestrian and LUMBY (Times) summed up the general view by saying that it was "an unexceptionable catalogue of good intentions: the country now wants to see what the Government will really do." The two points which attracted most attention were (a) the intention to set up a "limited advisory body as a symbol of parliament" and (b) the call to workers in German-occupied territory to celebrate May Day.

CHINIGO (INS) cabled a long interview with Omodeo, whom he called the "fiery Rector of the Naples Athenaeum." The interview was dramatically anti-fascist and anti-clerical. It was essential, Omodeo is quoted as saying, "to stress the true terms of the quarrel between Church and State." At 1300 CHINIGO telephoned a despatch from Salerno containing an exact translation of paragraphs 1 - 5 and paragraph 8 of the declaration (which was not released until 1730). He made no comment except that it was a "resounding declaration of new policy."

Only one other correspondent, ELEANOR PACKARD (U.P.) filed copy at this time (1515) from Salerno. She gave details of the declaration and quoted all six points on the agenda, giving them as (1) French Committee of Liberation (2) Participation of Italian forces in war effort (3) Government's relations with Russia (4) Government's relations with ACC (5) May Day celebrations (6) Epuration. SPRIGGE (Reuters) filed a straight story of the declaration from Naples at 1630. He did not, as CHINIGO, use its exact terms, and later, after the general release had been made, sent alterations of his previous despatch. PARKER (Exchange Telegraph) filed a descriptive story, with vague hints of the declaration, from Naples at 1630. He described the Council Chamber in detail. "Badoglio was evidently too pre-occupied to smoke, as there was only one cigarette-stub in his ash-tray after the two-hour sitting."

GODFREY TALBOT (BBC) filed a straight descriptive story from Naples at 1650, getting neatly round the censorship stop on Salerno by stating that the windows overlooked a "beach made famous in this war."

MACDONALD (News Chronicle) filed a story from Naples at [illegible] Russia were discussed

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itself as pedestrian and LUMBY (Times) summed up the general view by saying that it was "an unexceptionable catalogue of good intentions: the country now wants to see what the Government will really do." The two points which attracted most attention were (a) the intention to set up a "limited advisory body as a symbol of parliament" and (b) the call to workers in German-occupied territory to celebrate May Day.

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Only one other correspondent, ELEANOR PACKARD (U.P.) filed copy at this time (1315) from Salerno. She gave details of the declaration and quoted all six points on the agenda, giving them as (1) French Committee of Liberation (2) Participation of Italian forces in war effort (3) Government's relations with Russia (4) Government's relations with ACC (5) May Day celebrations (6) Epuration. SPRIGGE (Reuters) filed a straight story of the declaration from Naples at 1630. He did not, as CHINIGO, use its exact terms, and later, after the general release had been made, sent alterations of his previous despatch. PARKER (Exchange Telegraph) filed a descriptive story, with vague hints of the declaration, from Naples at 1530. He described the Council Chamber in detail. "Badoglio was evidently too pre-occupied to smoke, as there was only one cigarette-stub in his ash-tray after the two-hour sitting."

GODFREY TALBOT (BBC) filed a straight descriptive story from Naples at 1650, getting neatly round the censorship stop on Salerno by stating that the windows overlooked a "beach made famous in this war." 2730

MACDONALD (News Chronicle) filed a story from Naples at 1706. "I learn that relations with Russia were discussed and Togliatti spoke at length on this ... and when I was allowed briefly to watch the cabinet discussion, Togliatti held the floor." He stated that the release of 50,000 prisoners in Russian hands was discussed, and also defascistization, "which was listed rather cumbrously on the cabinet agenda."

This concludes the list of correspondents who filed stories before the release of the declaration.

A / COOPER (Daily Express)

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COOPER (Daily Express) filing at 1745 sent a straight story of the declaration, giving the agenda of the meeting. He described the setting in details, mentioning the murals as "depicting the ancient history of the town."

. YINDRICK (News Chronicle) filing from Naples at 1750 sent a descriptive story of a comically exaggerated nature. "I climbed the huge staircase to the Cabinet Chamber ... a ceiling fifty feet high with walls topped by paintings of lovely women in various stages of undress ... the carafe of water and the glass on the table were untouched." HAMMOND (Sunday Times) also gave prominence to the untouched carafe. His statement of the declaration was factual without comment: he gave the full agenda.

ELEANOR PACKARD (U.P.) in a later despatch sent at 1838 said that the cabinet had allotted 200 million lire to public works, and added that the next meeting would be on 4 May.

KENNEDY (A.P.) filing at 1847 sent a perfectly straight story of the declaration. He included no mention of the agenda.

HOWE BIGART (New York Herald Tribune) and JOHNSON (Chicago Sun) did not send stories till later and then gave the declaration without comment.

It seems clearly established that several correspondents entered the Council Chamber during the lunch recess and examined the documents left on the table. This was unfortunate, especially as a notice had been posted in the correspondents' room at Naples on Wednesday giving the location of the Italian Government Press Bureau in Salerno and stating specifically that correspondents would not be allowed in the Council Chamber. At the same time, if State papers are left lying about in a room not properly guarded, it is difficult to bring accusations against particular correspondents, especially since it is clear that the information was spread amongst nearly all of them: CHINIGO and PACKARD were merely quicker to scoop.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB 26/WB3

22 April 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 3
15 April to 22 April

1. Political

The political crisis which began with the unanimous resolution of the Communist Party on 1 April, and proceeded to the King's request on 17 April to the Marshal to form a new government, was finally resolved on 21 April when Badoglio succeeded in forming a government in which all the six recognized opposition parties were represented. The new Government is as follows:

Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs		Badoglio
Ministers without portfolio	ACTION PARTY*	Sforza
	LIBERAL PARTY	Croce
	COMMUNIST PARTY	Togliatti
	SOCIALIST	Mancini
	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Rodino
Minister of the Interior	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Aldisio
Under-secretaries	SOCIALIST	(Salerno
	ACTION PARTY	(Caracciolo
Minister of Finance	NON-PARTY	Quintieri
Under-secretary	COMMUNIST	Pesenti
Minister of Communications	LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Cerabona
Under-secretaries	NON-PARTY	(di Raimondi
	NON-PARTY	(Fano
Minister of Public Works	ACTION PARTY	Tarchiani
Under-secretary	LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Cilento
Minister of Agriculture	COMMUNIST	Gullo
Under-secretary	LIBERAL	Bergami
Minister of Justice	LIBERAL	Arangio Ruiz
Under-secretary	LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Lombardo
Minister of Education	ACTION PARTY	Omodeo
Under-secretary	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Jervolino
Minister of Industry	SOCIALIST	di Napoli

2729

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785013

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Minister of Education	ACTION PARTY	Omodeo
Under-secretary	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Jervolino
Minister of Industry	SOCIALIST	di Napoli
Under-secretary	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Sansonetti
Minister of War	NON-PARTY	Orlando
Under-secretary	COMMUNIST	Palermo
Minister of the Navy	NON-PARTY	de Courten
Under-secretary	SOCIALIST	Albergo
AAir Minister	NON-PARTY	Sandalli
Under-secretary to the Presidency	LIBERAL	Morelli

/ This

* Sforza is not strictly speaking of any party but is closely associated with the Action Party.

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This gives a total of 17 ministers including Badoglio. Seven of these posts are held by the parties of the left, i.e. Action, Socialists and Communists. Five are held by the moderate parties, i.e. Christian Democrats, Labour Democrats and Liberals. Four are held by non-party men. Outside the three service Ministers no member of the previous government remains in office, although two are under-secretaries.

The party division of the whole government, including under-secretaries, gives the following picture:

Left	Action Party	4
	Communists	4
	Socialists	4
Moderate	Labour Democrats	3
	Christian Democrats	4
	Liberals	4
Non-party (including Badoglio)		7

The result was regarded by many as a striking victory for Badoglio in getting the parties together on reasonable terms.

Badoglio, who gave a press conference at 6 p.m. on the 21st, seemed in high spirits and said that "the Allies had wanted a representative government and there it was." He refused to make a statement of policy which, he promised, would be issued after the first meeting of the new Cabinet on or about Tuesday next.

2. Harvest

The hastening of the promulgation of new decrees on the Ammassi, and the statement promised by Badoglio on the decrees and on the necessity of amassing, have both been delayed by the long-drawn-out government crisis. The Marshal has promised to include references to the Ammassi in his statement after the first meeting of the new Cabinet. Meanwhile the lines of a publicity campaign by PWB have been roughly drawn out by PR Branch on the advice of Food and Agriculture Sub-Commissions. There will be three phases in the campaign, viz (a) publicity and supporting articles for Badoglio's statement on the general necessity of contributing to the Ammassi (b) publicity for the announcement of prices which is to be made on May 1 and (c) publicity on transport, warehousing, machinery of decrees, advantages of early amassing etc from July 1 onwards. Suggestions from Regions as to the most effective methods of conducting the campaign will be very welcome.

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3. Sardinian Coal

Headquarters ~~mining experts~~ seem to think that the much-maligned Sardinian coal situation is better than has been believed. The equivalent of 100,000 tons of coal that would otherwise have to come from the United States or the United Kingdom has been mined and brought to the Italian mainland for use in industrial plants. Technicians anticipate eventually surpassing the peak production of 104,000 tons a month attained under Italian management, which, incidentally, had been buying British coal to burn in the locomotives which hauled Sardinian coal to the port from the mines.

/ 4. Financial News

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4. Financial News

While most sub-commissions have in recent weeks been getting their share of the press limelight, one sub-commission in particular - finance - has been as silent as a well-kept banker's sanctum. This week, however, finance will make its first news release and probably hold a press conference to explain it. It should be news to the Italians as well as to the Allied press.

5. Manoeuvres

Units of the Fifth Army will shortly hold manoeuvres in street fighting in Capua for two weeks. AMG is helping by evacuating 1,000 civilians for the term of the training course.

6. Black Market in Palermo

Since Easter volunteer civilian squads have been investigating shops in Palermo in an attempt to curb the Black Market. Provincial Commissioner Thomas reports that it is hoped to extend the movement to other Sicilian towns. The Italian High Commissioner for Sicily, Francesco Musotto, is very keen on the experiment and is giving it strong personal support. The volunteers are looking particularly for hoarding and are checking on prices and quality of oil, milk, wheat and pasta. Offenders are dealt with in several ways. If merchants withdraw their goods from sale after the visit of a volunteer squad, new squads go in and seize the concealed goods and apply for revocation of the merchants' licenses. An experimental order has been issued in Palermo shutting off flour for the commercial baking of little cakes.

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7. Bread

The bluff of a Sicilian baker was called on Tuesday by ACC officials who went into a Palermo bakery with a crew of army cooks and produced on the spot 137 kgs of bread from 100 kgs of flour. The test was made in the presence of Sicilian bakers who had claimed that no such quantity of bread could possibly be produced from so little raw material. Colonel W.J. Legg states that some of the smaller and less efficient bakeries will probably not be able to produce quite so much bread from 100 kgs of flour. There is no doubt, nevertheless, that dilution and adulteration of bread are being practised on a wide scale. One favourite trick is to bake bread quickly in a very hot oven, getting a thick, hard crust and leaving the inside soggy and half raw to get the official weight.

8. Guardia Campestri

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8. Guardia Campestri

Guardia Campestri, the private police force of the landowners in Sicily, will probably be revived soon as an adjunct to the senior agencies of public order. At a Regional Conference on Wednesday, Lt Col Hancock, Regional Commissioner, informed his Provincial Commissioners that Prefects have authority to set up Guardia Campestri by decree.

9. Messina

Illicit traffic across the straits of Messina is reported to be on a great scale and the Provincial Commissioner of Messina has asked for a coastguard service to check it. "Sicilian assets," he claims, "are being drained off to the mainland. Sicilian trucks are being sold for as much as 700,000 lire in Italy." Parochialism?

/ 10. Flashes from Sicil

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

10. Flashes from Sicily

Sicily is exporting 10,000 tons of sulphur this week to UK. Revenue collections in Palermo in March 1944 reached 30 million lire as against 13 million in January and 16 million in March43. Carabinieri in Catania seized a printing plant which was counterfeiting ration-books wholesale. At Agrigento a stock of 14,000 tons of Black Market flour was found. At Caltanissetta 90 quintals of Black Market wheat were caught in one convoy. Layettes and pyjamas given out by the Red Cross in Sicily seem to puzzle the Sicilians. Major Gilbertson, Finance Officer, Region I, reports that the only people neglecting payment of income-tax are AMG civilian employees. The Prefect of Trepani has started collecting public subscriptions from wealthy Sicilians for the purchase of food from the Black Market to feed the poor.

11. Psychological Warfare Branch

Psychological Warfare Branch came in for criticism by giving prominence in "Risorgimento" to McCaffrey's statement at the Regional Commissioners Conference. Coming at a time when the fate of the Badoglio Government was in doubt, the statement had political implications of an embarrassing nature. The case has led to some discussion of the activities and powers of PWB. The new head of PWB in the Italian theatre, Mr John Rayner, who has recently arrived in Italy, has undertaken to cooperate more closely with ACC in such matters in the future.

12. Allied Publications Board

It should be noted that the central APB includes representatives from the Political Section, Industry Sub-Commission and PR Branch of ACC, as well as representatives of Censorship and G-2. The control of newspapers and other publications is the function of this Board: PWB press officers are responsible to the Board. The present technical control of certain newspapers and of broadcasting stations is a temporary measure and steps to transfer responsibility to Italians are to be encouraged. Attention is drawn to PRB 14A of 16 April regarding clandestine newspapers.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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Distribution:- Regional Commissioners, Regions I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII.
Senior Civil Affairs Officers, Fifth and Eighth Armies.
Chief Commissioner
Deputy Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner
Deputy Executive Commissioner
Vice President, Administrative Section
Information Division
Mr George W. Edman, PWB.
Col Spofford, AFHQ.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB 26/WB2. 8 April 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 2
1 April -- 8 April

1. Political

Sir Noel Charles has arrived in Italy in the capacity of British Member of the Advisory Council and High Commissioner in Italy, vice the Rt Hon Harold Macmillan, who remains British Resident Minister at Allied Force Headquarters.

Sir Noel Charles was Councillor in Rome, Minister in Lisbon, and Ambassador to Brazil from 1941-1944.

Mr Alexander Kirk, American Member of the Advisory Council vice Mr Robert Murphy, is expected in Italy shortly.

The Advisory Council will meet on Saturday, 8 April. Members now present are M. Guerin (France); Mr Murphy (U.S.A.); Sir Noel Charles (Great Britain); M. Krek (Yugoslavia); and M. Kapsambelis (Greece).

Great political activity in Italian circles has resulted from the speech of Ercoli, given at a Press Conference in Naples on 1 April, in which he defined the attitude of the Italian Communist Party. Ercoli's proposals in brief were

(a) that all antifascist parties stop quarrelling and get together;
(b) that the question of the monarchy be waived until after the war on the understanding that it should be decided then by a fully representative constituent assembly; and
(c) that a new government be now formed based on the overriding necessity of giving all support to the war effort.

2727

The second point was naturally something of a bombshell. The six parties went into conference at Sorrento on 6 April and put out a somewhat guarded resolution stressing the necessity for a war government. Benedetto Croce announced that, on an approach by Enrico de Nicola, the King had expressed his willingness to nominate, when Rome fell and while awaiting confirmation by the Italian people, the Prince of Piedmont as Lieutenant Governor.

Salerno gossip indicates a coming shuffle in the Government. Sforza's attitude as to whether he would enter Government while the King and Badoglio remain is still undefined. Badoglio's speech at Palermo on 31 March had a good many points in common with that of Ercoli on the following

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2. Air Vice Marshal Foster's Report

In a report to the Air Commander in Chief the Head of the Air Force Sub Commission gives some interesting figures and conclusions. The operational units of the Italian Air Force now comprise Fighter, Bomber and Seaplane Wings which are

/ carrying

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carrying out a useful and steady programme of supply, escort, patrol and air-sea rescue work, besides operating against coastal shipping and other targets. In the six months since the Armistice the Italian Air Force has flown 9,754 hours and accomplished 3,309 sorties. On a general estimate it is stated that the three wings together should be able to reach an aggregate of 1,000 sorties a month during the summer. Apart from these activities the Italian Air Force has supplied personnel numbering more than ten thousand to the USAAF and RAF. The Air Vice Marshal states at the conclusion of his report that in his judgment "the Italian Air Force has, during the past six months, made a whole-hearted effort to contribute its share in operations against the enemy, and this fact should be plainly recorded, so that it can be placed to the credit of the Italians when the time for settlement comes."

3. Heavy Workers' Rations

At a meeting of the Labour and Wages Control Committee of the Allied Force Local Resources (Italian) Board held on 3 April it was recommended that the Board accept, with certain amendments, the ACC proposals for supplementary rations to heavy workers. These include "pesanti" and "pesantissimi", but not "operai leggeri" or "impiegati". The proposal eliminates the midday meal (with the exception of dehydrated soup, which shall be available to all personnel, as qualified, employed by the Allied Armed Forces) and incorporates its components in a supplemental ration which, however, gives an overall increase. The supplementary ration will not be a free issue and must be paid for by the worker.

4. Courts

The drive against the Black Market continues. In AMG Summary Courts during the week there were 280 cases and 240 convictions: in the Italian courts 293 cases and 257 convictions. Terms of from 5 to 10 years were given to 14 out of 18 accused persons who were found dividing up a sum of 400,000 lire, proceeds of the theft of two truckloads of flour.

For cutting wire one sentence of 20 years (for repeated offences) was given, and 4 of 5 years each.

Two Italians accused of the fatal stabbing of an Allied soldier (a case of attempted rape) were acquitted.

5. Collection of Refuse

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5. Collection of Refuse

There has been a drive to improve the collection of garbage in Naples before the hot weather comes. Sixty trucks and two-hundred horse-drawn carts are now employed daily: 1,800 persons have been arrested for illegal dumping: 5,000 gasoline drums have been obtained from military sources for conversion to garbage receptacles. Almost no smells will be perceptible in Naples this summer, so we understand (most unofficially) from Colonel Poletti.

6. Archives

Mr Fred W. Shipman, Librarian of the Franklin Delano

/ Roosevelt

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Roosevelt Library Hyde Park has arrived at ACC Headquarters to advise on archives.

Mr Hilary Jenkinson, Secretary of the Public Record Office, arrived from England in February for the same purpose. No doubt our archives will be very good.

7. New Region

Region II has been divided into two Regions. Calabria now becomes Region VII with a headquarters, however, of five officers only. This change has been effected owing to the lack of communications in the original territory of Region II.

8. Sicilian Railways

Sicilian railways are now being run by ACC and practically all lines are back in operation.

9. Appointment of Consuls-General

United States and British Consuls-General have been appointed at Palermo and Naples. They will not, for the time being, exercise the full functions of Consuls-General.

10. Monthly Publication of Staff List

It is intended to maintain Special Order No 59 dated 1 April 1944 (nominal roll of all officers in ACC) as a monthly publication which will give not only the names of officers in ACC, but their actual duties and locations. Regional Commissioners are being asked to bring complete lists of their personnel to the Conference on 14 April.

11. Extract from letter asking for brick contract

2726

"Perfectly acquainted with the difficulties of how much they ask you for, notwithstanding they hope in your soul-nobility and will of rendering you acceptable to Sicilian people, who so much admiration feels towards you Nations ... do in a way for trust of a mother and of a maiden be not in vain; strong is the hope, very cruel would turn out the indecisive.

"To the aim you be informed, aforesaid Firm furnishes with bricks a great part of Concerns in the Province; we list below the lately requests, with the addresses of the applying, with due "buoni' of AMGOT, or now ACC.

"Gentlemen, I don't last more; your spirit of ready perception and tacitive sagacity proper of you, will inspire to you what is to be do."

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Director of Public
Relations.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

3 APR Recd 386

Col Fiske

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB 26/WB1/1. SECRET 3 April 1944.

Subject: ACC Weekly Bulletin No 1.

To: Regional Commissioner, Region I, Region II, Region III, Region IV, Region V, Region VI.
Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Fifth Army AMG and Eighth Army AMG.

Reference PRB/26/WB1 dated 1 April 1944, kindly classify this document "SECRET".

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Director of Public Relations.

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2 APR Recd Brigadier Lush to see 3/8

SECRET

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ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

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Subject: ACC Weekly Bulletin.

To: Regional Commissioner, Region I, Region II, Region III, Region IV, Region V, Region VI.
Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Fifth Army AMG and Eighth Army AMG.

As instructed by the Executive Commissioner I forward herewith a short summary of the chief events of the week at HQ ACC. In future this summary will be despatched to you from here every Saturday. I should welcome any suggestions for additions or modifications.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Director of Public Relations.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB 26/WB1

1 April 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 1
26 March -- 1 April

1. Political

A convention regarding the treatment of Italian prisoners-of-war has been under discussion with the Italian Government. The negotiations are still proceeding and it is not desired to give any publicity to them until and unless they are successfully concluded.

The Advisory Council for Italy met at Naples on 1 April.

Palmiro Togliatti (Ercoli), leader of the Italian Communist Party, arrived in Naples after 18 years of exile on 28 March.

2. Movements

Marshal Badoglio left for a tour of inspection in Sicily on 30 March.

3. Appointments and Changes

General Xavier de Sevin arrived in Italy to take up his duties as French on the Allied Control Commission. General de Sevin was air attache in Rumania from 1938 until July 1941, when the Germans expelled him. The Gestapo threw him into prison at Marseilles in February 1943. He escaped with his two sons through Spain in September 1943. He is a Commander of the Legion of Honour, was wounded three times in the last war, mentioned twelve times in Army orders and as credited with having brought down 17 enemy planes in 1917-1918.

2723

Brigadier J.K. Dunlop was appointed Regional Commissioner, Region IV.

Brigadier M. Carr was appointed Regional Commissioner, Region VI.

Air Commodore W.A.B. Bowen-Buscarlet was appointed Director of the Air Sub-Commission vice Air Commodore E.E. Foster.

4. ACC Personnel

Arrangements so far worked out, but not absolutely final, for the allocation of ACC personnel, give a ceiling of 291 officers at Headquarters, 50 officers at Regional HQ and 881 officers in the Field. It is proposed that ACC agree to work on this ceiling up to the Rimini-Pisa line.

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5. Refugees

The stream of Italian refugees from operational areas, which has totalled more than 70,000 since 1 January, is now decreasing and is only about 1,400 a week. 2,000 refugees are being evacuated from the Polish front. About 50,000 refugees have been placed in the compartments of Calabria, Puglia and Lucania (Region II). Refugees are also accommodated in Sicily, where they will be dispersed in the country and not placed in camps. Cooperation in Sicily has been excellent: newspaper and poster appeals have been very successful in arousing the sympathies of the Sicilians and helping to place the refugees.

/ 6. Vesuvius

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6. Vesuvius

On 13 March, 1944 the cone of Mount Vesuvius caved in, activity stopped and there was hardly any smoke until the exceptional eruptive activity started at 1630 hrs 18 March. The lava stream started to flow down the northwest slope. At 1000 hrs 19 March the lava stream was headed towards Cercola, was 12 feet high, 500 feet wide and moving 12 feet an hour, and building up quite a head. At 1100 hrs 20 March the lava stream had increased its speed, reached a precipitous slope about 115 feet high above San Sebastiano and was literally pouring over this spot like a cataract of fire. Civilians were alarmed, were told by ACC officers on the spot that San Sebastiano and Cercola would be evacuated before lives were imperilled. Civilians living in the lava path were told to start moving household effects to nearby homes of friends.

Lieut-Colonel James Kincaid, Naples Provincial Commissioner, in personal charge of the emergency, telephoned Naples from the field to send all available trucks, his public safety chief and a detachment of carabinieri. At 1245 20 March the men reported for duty and at 1500 trucks began evacuation work, as the lava stream had struck outskirts of San Sebastiano and was within ½ mile of the main street. Lieut-Colonel Charles Poletti, Regional Commissioner, ordered evacuation of civilians from Cercola, to start at 0600 21 March. At 0330 21 March the main lava stream had crossed the main street of San Sebastiano; by that time the town had been completely evacuated.

At 0600 Cercola evacuation began. At that time lava was within 2,000 metres of the town. A large detachment of MP's from PBS arrived to take over traffic control, for the narrow streets were clogged with trucks, donkey carts and pedestrians loaded with personal effects.

About 600 persons from Massa and 2,150 from San Sebastiano were moved out of the area to the homes of relatives or friends; 125 were quartered in the movie theatre at San Giorgio.

At 1100 hrs 21 March an advanced HQ of Naples Province was opened in the Municipio at Cercola, from where Colonel Kincaid directed operations. Food arrived in trucks and was given to ration card holders. By 1200 hrs 22 March the lava movement became frozen, with the points of two prongs, one 1450 metres from the main street of Cercola with a salient between, running up the mountain for some distance, and the other prong about 150 feet from the Municipio at San Sebastiano.

PBS, 57 Area and other Allied units cooperated fully, providing equipment and manpower. Feeding of refugee civilians continued 23 March, but further evacuation was halted. After that period comparative quiet prevailed. There was at no time

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PBS, 57 Area and other Allied units cooperated fully, providing equipment and manpower. Feeding of refugee civilians continued 23 March, but further evacuation was halted. After that period comparative quiet prevailed. There was at no time any looting.

A great dust bowl has been created around the towns of San Giuseppe, Terzigno and Pugliano. Traffic is handicapped, fields are covered (drifts of ash in some places are five feet high) and Region III has undertaken a relief programme. Forage for livestock, candles for homes (electric power in those areas is off) and trucks and bull-dozers for highway clearance have been brought in. Region III officers are working with civilian agencies on a plan to procure fresh vegetables and other foodstuffs for the dust bowl area.

A maximum of 77 officers, enlisted men and other ranks was used during the emergency. Other units demonstrated fine cooperation - the 57th Area loaned 300 trucks, PBS provided 100 military police and the Red Cross set up soup kitchens.

/ Colonel Kincaid

Colonel Kincaid in a report to 4CC praised the work of officers and men, but added that in the future, in such emergency operations, officers assigned to tasks should report with complete kits and be prepared to remain on duty until relieved. Too many officers, he said, appeared to have just come out from town to see the sights and many asked to return almost at once for changes of clothing, a shave, their kits etc. Each officer so assigned to an emergency should, Colonel Kincaid recommended, carry with him at least two days' rations.

7. Prices of luxury goods and souvenirs.

It is too early to say how far the drive against high prices has been successful. An amusing sidelight is the reported attempt of racketeers to pose as Allied price-fixers and extort a bribe for removing out-of-bounds notices.

8. Drive against black market activities.

The Special Investigating Officer has continued his drive against the black market. In the AMG Summary Courts in Naples alone there were 512 cases during the week. Of these 450 were convicted. In Italian courts in Naples during the week there were 277 cases, and 251 convictions. An order was issued on 1 April by Region III for the appointment by Sindaci of citizens' squads for investigating and reporting on black market activities.

9. Summer Time.

Clocks will be advanced one hour throughout Liberated Italy from 0200 hrs on 2 April.

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10. Public Relations Branch.

A Public Relations Branch has been established at Headquarters. Public Relations work for the whole of ACC activities will be controlled by this Branch and no Public Relations Officers will be permanently assigned to regions, although the Director (Major Fielden) will be empowered to make temporary assignments as required, and the fullest contacts will be developed and maintained with all regions. It may be noted that owing to the lull on the battlefronts war correspondents are now taking an active interest in the work of the ACC and it is hoped that many of them will be visiting the regions. PR Branch will shortly issue a note of guidance in this connection.

11. Officers for UK.

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11. Officers for UK.

A draft of about 70 officers, 64 British and 6 American, will be leaving very shortly for UK. A further group of about 50 Civil Affairs officers is forming in North Africa under Lieut-Colonel Gerry for shipment. It is hoped that these will be the last groups to go from ACC.

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