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

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

10000/125/102 32/PAT — PRESS COMMUNIQUE
JUL. 44 — NOV. 44

Italian Patriots msg.
23 NOV Recd 32

P.R.

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS

COMMUNIQUE No. 307 FOR RELEASE 1030 HRS 23 November '44

NO NAVY COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED AIR FORCES IN ITALY

South of FAENZA British and Polish troops of Eighth Army have both made substantial progress. British troops have cleared all enemy resistance south of the river CONIA while Polish troops following their previous successes in the MONTE ROMANO area have continued the advance and have captured the villages of CASOLO, and BAGNO and BALIGNANO.

Indian troops of Fifth Army have occupied some important high ground north of MONTEPILOSO.

Elsewhere there has been no change in our forward positions.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Strong forces of 15th AAF heavy bombers with escort yesterday attacked targets in the Munich area and rail communications in Southern Germany, Austria and Northern Italy. Fighter-bombers of the Strategic Force bombed a large transport depot at CASARSA in north eastern Italy.

Aircraft of the Tactical Air Force concentrated against close support targets in the battle areas of northern Italy, as well as enemy communications and other military objectives in the Po Valley.

Balkan Air Force aircraft were active against rail targets in Yugoslavia, and carried out offensive sweeps on roads in Yugoslavia and Albania.

Coastal units attacked small shipping in the Gulf of Genoa and strafed roads and railways in north eastern Italy.

Last night, AAF heavy and medium bombers attacked a rail

0004
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

HQ N.W.A. COMMAND

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

South of RAVENNA British and Polish troops of Eighth Army have both made substantial progress. British troops have cleared all enemy resistance south of the river COMIA while Polish troops following their previous successes in the MONTE FORLINO area have continued the advance and have captured the villages of CASOLO, SAN MARCO and S.P. [illegible].

Indian troops of Fifth Army have occupied some important high ground north of MONTEMIGNAIO.

Elsewhere there has been no change in our forward positions.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Strong forces of 15th AAF heavy bombers with escort yesterday attacked targets in the Munich area and rail communications in Southern Germany, Austria and Northern Italy. Fighter-bombers of the Strategic Force bombed a large transport depot at CESENA in north eastern Italy.

Aircraft of the Tactical Air Force concentrated against close support targets in the battle areas of Northern Italy, as well as enemy communications and other military objectives in the Po Valley.

Balkan Air Force aircraft were active against rail targets in Yugoslavia, and carried out offensive sweeps on roads in Yugoslavia and Albania.

Coastal units attacked small shipping in the Gulf of Genoa and strafed roads and railways in north eastern Italy.

Last night, MAF heavy and medium bombers attacked a rail target in Hungary.

In these operations, one enemy aircraft was destroyed and twenty of ours are missing.

MAAF flew over 2,300 sorties.

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

Station Patrols 22 NOV Recd 11&C. 139A

32

P.R.

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS

COMMUNIQUE No. 306 FOR RELEASE 10.00A HRS 22 November 1944

NAVY:

Allied light coastal forces continue their successful patrols in the Gulf of Genoa. On the night of 18/19 November two enemy convoys were attacked and torpedoed off SESTRI-LEVANTE and one ship blew up.

The following night, 19/20 November, two smaller convoys were discovered in the same area and two coasters were hit. After our craft had retired under ineffectual fire the enemy ships were observed to be firing upon each other.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY West of FORLI, British troops of EIGHTH ARMY have captured the fortified village of CASTIGLIONE and have advanced beyond the village to the River CONCA.

Further west, Polish troops of EIGHTH ARMY have recaptured MONTE FORMICO against strong resistance and advanced over a mile beyond to seize the important feature of MONTE GRANICO. Heavy fighting continues.

American, British and Indian troops of FIFTH ARMY have beaten off further strong raids on their positions.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Heavy bombers of the 15th AAF yesterday bombed troop concentrations and road transport in Yugoslavia. Long range fighters bombed and strafed enemy communications in Yugoslavia.

Tactical Air Force medium and fighter-bombers attacked close support objectives in the Italian battle area and communications targets in the Po Valley.

MAAF flew more than 1,600 sorties. From these operations 14 of our aircraft are missing.

RECEIVED 1100 HOURS.

INFORMATION DIVISION.

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

patrols in the Gulf of Genoa. On the night of 18/19 November two enemy convoys were attacked and torpedoed off SANTA-MARGHERITA and one ship blew up.

The following night, 19/20 November, two smaller convoys were discovered in the same area and two coasters were hit. After our craft had retired under ineffectual fire the enemy ships were observed to be firing upon each other.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

West of FOGGIA, British troops of EIGHTH ARMY have captured the fortified village of CASTELLUCCIO and have advanced beyond the village to the river COSCIA.

Further west, Polish troops of EIGHTH ARMY have recaptured MONTE ROTONDO against strong resistance and advanced over a mile beyond to seize the important feature of MONTE CROCE. Heavy fighting continues.

American, British and Indian troops of FIFTH ARMY have beaten off further strong raids on their positions.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Heavy bombers of the 15th AAF yesterday bombed troop concentrations and road transport in Yugoslavia. Long range fighters bombed and strafed enemy communications in Yugoslavia.

Tactical Air Force mediums and fighter-bombers attacked close support objectives in the Italian battle area and communications targets in the Po Valley.

MAAF flew more than 1,000 sorties. From these operations 14 of our aircraft are missing.

RECEIVED 1100 HOURS.

INFORMATION DIVISION.

P.R.O. / A.C.

0007

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

20 NOV Recd

INFORMATION B... M&E. 3r Polish Polish A 138

N.W. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE No. 304. 20th November, 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS.

P.R.

ITALY.

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

In the Eighth Army sector Polish troops have driven off further enemy counter-attacks on CASTELLERI and have improved their positions.

Elsewhere on the front of the Allied Armies in Italy activity has been confined to patrols.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Strong forces of 15th Air Force heavy bombers yesterday bombed targets in AUSTRIA and YUGOSLAVIA. Strategic fighters bombed and strafed targets in AUSTRIA, HUNGARY and YUGOSLAVIA.

Medium and heavy bombers of the R.A.F. Strategic bombing force attacked troop concentrations in YUGOSLAVIA.

Rail/road communications and close support objectives on the Italian front were targets for Tactical Air Force fighters, fighter bombers and light bombers. Excellent results were reported from these operations.

Adriatic shipping was attacked by Coastal Air Force units. Planes from the Italian Air Force attacked road communications, troop concentrations and rail targets in YUGOSLAVIA.

Last night heavy and medium bombers attacked troop concentrations in YUGOSLAVIA.

From these operations one of our heavy bombers and twenty other aircraft are missing.

R.A.A.F. flew more than 2,200 sorties.

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

enemy counter-attacks on [illegible] positions.

Elsewhere on the front of the Allied Armies in Italy activity has been confined to patrols.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Strong forces of 15th Air Force heavy bombers yesterday bombed targets in AUSTRIA and JUGOSLAVIA. Strategic fighters bombed and strafed targets in AUSTRIA, HUNGARY and YUGOSLAVIA.

Medium and heavy bombers of the R.A.F. Strategic bombing force attacked troop concentrations in YUGOSLAVIA.

PO valley communications and close support objectives on the Italian front were targets for Tactical Air Force fighters, fighter bombers and light bombers. Excellent results were reported from these operations.

Adriatic shipping was attacked by Coastal Air Force units. Planes from the Italian Air Force attacked road communications, troop concentrations and rail targets in YUGOSLAVIA.

Last night heavy and medium bombers attacked troop concentrations in YUGOSLAVIA.

From these operations one of our heavy bombers and twenty other aircraft are missing.

A.A.F. flew more than 2,200 sorties.

---end column one---

0009

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

Italian Patriots 20 NOV Recd
M&C. 32

137

P.A.

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE NO.303. 19 NOVEMBER 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS.

NAVY:

The French cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES carried out bombardments of a bridge and barracks near the Franco/Italian frontier. In all she fired nearly 250 rounds and obtained direct hits. On the same date in the same area the French destroyer L'ALCION engaged enemy pillboxes and troop concentrations with good result.

On 17th of November in the northern Adriatic the British destroyers LAUDERDALE and EGGESFORD bombarded enemy positions on RAB island (latitude 44 degrees 45 minutes north, longtitude 14 degrees 40 minutes east.). Nearly all the salvos were on the target.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

British troops of Eighth Army have captured GOLFARA, a small village nearly a mile east of MONTE PORTINO, where Polish troops have been engaged in heavy fighting.

On the remainder of the front, patrols have been active.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Strong forces of 15th AAF heavy bombers yesterday attacked airfields in northeast Italy, targets in the VIENNA area, and German troop concentrations in YUGOSLAVIA.

MAF heavy and medium bombers were also active against YUGOSLAV targets.

Aircraft of the Tactical Force again concentrated against close support targets in the battle zones of Italy and enemy communications in the PO Valley, as well as communication and other targets in

0010

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

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MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Strong forces of 15th AAF heavy bombers yesterday attacked airfields in northeast Italy, targets in the VIENNA area, and German troop concentrations in YUGOSLAVIA.

MAF heavy and medium bombers were also active against YUGOSLAV targets.

Aircraft of the Tactical Force again concentrated against close support targets in the battle zones of Italy and enemy communications in the PO Valley, as well as communication and other targets in YUGOSLAVIA.

Units of the Coastal Air Force attacked shipping in the Adriatic, and aircraft of Balkan Air Force were active against military targets in ALBANIA and YUGOSLAVIA.

From these operations, eighteen of our aircraft are missing, and two of our planes are missing from night operations of November 17/18. It is now known that nine of our heavy bombers reported missing on November 17th have returned safely to base.

MAF flew approximately 2700 sorties yesterday.

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

137 B

O N R B
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO.303 FOR 19 NOV 1944

FIFTH ARMY

Fifth Army patrols probed deep into enemy positions and engaged in fire fights with hostile forces at several points along the front. Enemy's patrols were active. His arty fire remained moderate in most sectors.

Our aircraft gave close support to frontline troops by bombing and strafing enemy arty and command posts and other installations.

On right flank, patrols engaged in several clashes with enemy. Our positions on M GRANDE 9932 heavily mortared.

In central sector, prisoners taken in a raid by American troops in vicinity COLLE CHIUSURA 9332. Small enemy attack about 2 miles west of LIVERGNANO 8729, preceded by arty fire, driven off with losses to attackers.

Farther west, Brazilian troops improved their positions and repulsed enemy patrols in vicinity MONTE CAVALLORO 6621, and on Hill 670 (area 6422), both north of Route 64 and Reno River.

No hostile aircraft were reported over Fifth Army front night of 17/18 Nov.

(See Appendix 38 to today's ONRB for information on pressing of unfit Germans into frontline service.)

EIGHTH ARMY

On Eighth Army front, our patrols were active beyond GHIAIA. Our arty bombarded enemy strongpoints found by patrol in buildings on south bank of Ronco, NW of MOLINACCIO. Enemy outpost cleared from houses on Ronco, 1 mile west of MOLINACCIO and some PW taken.

We are in contact with enemy along Montone.

British troops attacked across Montone SW of S TOME to clear enemy defended buildings. Some PW were taken and fighting

0012
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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We are in contact with enemy along Montone.

British troops attacked across Montone SW of S TOME to clear enemy defended buildings. Some PW were taken and fighting continues. Fighting patrols continue probing up Route 9. Positions along Cosina stream unchanged.

On 17 Nov, our troops captured GOLFARA 3314, hamlet 1 kilo east of MONTE FORTINO. Enemy supported by SP guns and arty counterattacked MONTE FORTINO night 17/18 Nov. Fierce fighting continues in this area.

Weather fair. Outlook fair.

END O N R B

0013

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

137

COMMUNIQUE
LAND FORCES ADRIATIC

FOR RELEASE WITH A.A.I. COMMUNIQUE 1030A HOURS 19 NOV 1944

British troops of Land Forces Adriatic are cooperating with Jugoslav Army of National Liberation Forces in Montinegro and Hercegovina and are in contact with the enemy. These operations are being supported by aircraft of the Balkan Air Force.

END COMMUNIQUE

ON RECORD BACKGROUND
LAND FORCES ADRIATIC

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO PRESS COMMUNIQUE FOR 19 NOV 1944

In one sector British artillery successfully engaged strong enemy fortifications at RISAN. Amongst Land Forces Adriatic, forces of all arms taking part in these operations are units of the RAF regiment.

In Albania, British paratroops of Land Forces Adriatic operating between Lake Ochrida and the coast have been harassing the withdrawing Germans in conjunction with Albanian troops.

END ONRB

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3 3/NND No. 785016

Italian Patriots

18 NOV Recd

136A

P.R.

H.Q. Public Relations

For Release 1030A hrs

18 November 1944

Communique No. 302

No Naval Communique

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

West of FORLI, Polish troops of Eighth Army have captured MONTE FORTUNO and repulsed several counter-attacks.

Elsewhere, patrols have been active without any substantial changes in our forward positions.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Strong forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday bombed targets in Germany, Austria, Hungary and Yugoslavia. Strategic medium bombers attacked targets in Yugoslavia.

Tactical Air Force medium bombers bombed communication targets in northern Italy and in Yugoslavia. Fighter-bombers, fighters and light bombers supported the Armies in Italy in great strength, attacking close support targets in the battle area and communication lines. Shipping in the Adriatic and communications and troop concentrations in Yugoslavia were also attacked.

Last night medium and heavy bombers attacked rail targets in northern Italy.

Eighteen of our heavy bombers and ten other aircraft are missing.

MAAF flew about 2,500 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE

8:33

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

Italian Patriots.

M&G 17 NOV Recd

32

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

1354

17 NOVEMBER 1944.

COMMUNIQUE NO.301.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS.

NAVY:

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

In the Adriatic coastal sector, the Germans have blown the banks of the FIUMI UNITI, thereby causing further large floods south of RAVENNA. British troops of Eighth Army have improved their positions north and west of FORLI. Polish troops have captured the village of CONVERSELLE, NW of CASTROCARO, and are in contact with strong enemy defences on the commanding feature of M. CASTELLACCIO.

On the right flank of Fifth Army, British and Indian troops have occupied the important road centre of MODIGLIANA. Farther west, American troops of Fifth Army have made gains of over a mile in the SERCHIO Valley.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Heavy bombers with escort yesterday attacked targets in southern Germany and Austria. Other heavy bombers attacked German troops concentrations in YUGOSLAVIA, while strategics fighters strafed enemy transport and other objectives on Yugoslavian roads.

Medium bombers of the Tactical Force concentrated on BRENNER targets and railways in northern Italy. Light bombers, fighter-bombers and fighters attacked enemy communications in the PO Valley, and close support targets behind the north Italian battle areas.

Aircraft of the Balkan and Coastal Air Forces were active against enemy transport and other targets in YUGOSLAVIA and ALBANIA, as well as small shipping in the Adriatic.

Last night, our bombers attacked a railway bridge across the river PO.

In these operations, ten enemy aircraft were destroyed, and twenty-nine of ours are missing.

MAAF flew about 2400 sorties.

END OF COMMUNIQUE.

0016

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

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On the right flank of Fifth Army, British and Indian troops have occupied the important road centre of MODIGLIANA. Farther west, American troops of Fifth Army have made gains of over a mile in the SERCHIO Valley.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Heavy bombers with escort yesterday attacked targets in southern Germany and Austria. Other heavy bombers attacked German troops concentrations in YUGOSLAVIA, while strategics fighters strafed enemy transport and other objectives on Yugoslavian roads.

Medium bombers of the Tactical Force concentrated on BRENNER targets and railways in northern Italy. Light bombers, fighter-bombers and fighters attacked enemy communications in the PO Valley, and close support targets behind the north Italian battle areas.

Aircraft of the Balkan and Coastal Air Forces were active against enemy transport and other targets in YUGOSLAVIA and ALBANIA, as well as small shipping in the Adriatic.

Last night, our bombers attacked a railway bridge across the river PO.

In these operations, ten enemy aircraft were destroyed, and twenty-nine of ours are missing.

MAAF flew about 2400 sorties.

END OF COMMUNIQUE.

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

1358

O N R B

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO.301 for 17 NOV 1944

FIFTH ARMY

On right flank of Fifth Army, British and Indian troops entered MODIGLIANA 2309 without opposition. Town had been fiercely defended during past week and previous assaults thrown back by enemy. Numerous mines and booby traps found in town. Capture of MODIGLIANA is significant as it is junction of three important roads leading in from south.

In western sector, American troops made local advances up to two kilos NW of GALLICANO 1403. Elsewhere positions unchanged. Patrols and arty exchanges constituted main activity.

Although it is not yet winter, night temperatures on Fifth Army front are already in the low twenties. Weather rain and hail storms alternating with periods of clear weather.

(For information on 1338 Engineer Combat Group of Fifth Army, see Appendix #2 to today's On Record Background.)

EIGHTH ARMY

Germans have blown gap in bank of Fiumi Uniti 5635, thereby flooding large tracts of coastal plain east of Route 16. As area to west between Ronco and Montone already flooded, manoeuvre south of RAVENNA now extremely difficult. South of RAVENNA Airport 5832, we took number of PW from German rearguard company still on Fosso Ghiaia.

Farther inland, we cleared enemy from area north of COCCOLIA and are within 2000 yards of S PANCRAZIO 4731, important crossing over Montone. Fighting in this area was against small infantry rearguards relying chiefly on demolitions to hinder our advance.

To SW, our patrols active along Montone on Route 9. Leading troops are 4 kilos beyond FORLI and continue to advance against light enemy rearguards. FORLI, hitherto undamaged, heavily shelled last 24 hours. United Kingdom troops crossed River BOLZANINO, about one mile south Route 9, night 15/16 Nov, and repelled counterattack first light 16 Nov.

Farther south, another crossing was made on road running NW from VILLAGRARA. Patrols pushed on and contacted enemy on COSINA stream (area 3720), 800 yards beyond River BOLZANINO. After consolidating high ground north of PEDRIGNONE, our troops advanced to within half mile of CASTIGLIONE 3416, where they contacted enemy holding main positions in strength. Our tanks

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

unchanged. Patrols and arty exchanges constituted main activity.

Although it is not yet winter, night temperatures on Fifth Army front are already in the low twenties. Weather rain and hail storms alternating with periods of clear weather.

(For information on 1338 Engineer Combat Group of Fifth Army, see Appendix 42 to today's On Record Background.)

EIGHTH ARMY

Germans have blown gap in bank of Fiumi Uniti 5635, thereby flooding large tracts of coastal plain east of Route 16. As area to west between Ronco and Montone already flooded, manoeuvre south of RAVENNA now extremely difficult. South of RAVENNA Airport 5832, we took number of PW from German rearguard company still on Fosso Ghiaia.

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Farther south, another crossing was made on road running NW from VILLAGRARA. Patrols pushed on and contacted enemy on COSINA stream (area 3720), 800 yards beyond River BOLZANINO. After consolidating high ground north of PERIGNONE, our troops advanced to within half mile of CASTIGLIONE 3416, where they contacted enemy holding main positions in strength. Our tanks well forward shooting up enemy strongpoints in support of our attacking infantry.

In these mountains, Eighth Army troops captured CONVERSELLE 3213, inflicted casualties and took PW.

Weather ~~fine~~ becoming mainly fair with strong winds. Isolated showers in mountains. Outlook fair.

END ONRs

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

Italian Patriots

msc
16 NOV Recd
32

203

P.R.

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS

COMMUNIQUE No. 330 — 16 November 1944

FOR RELEASE 1030A HRS

NAVY:

On November 14 a small Commando-type landing was made on the island of MELOS. Casualties were inflicted on the enemy and prisoners taken. At the same time an enemy battery was engaged by His Majesty's ships. The Commandos were subsequently withdrawn.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Eighth Army continue to make progress north and west of FORLI. North of FORLI our leading troops have reached the river MONTONE on a wide front. West of FORLI British troops have made further gains near M. POGGIOLO and have captured PEDIGHONE. Farther west, Polish troops have improved their positions north of the FLORENCE-FORLI road, which is now entirely in our hands.

In the Fifth Army Sector there were no significant changes in our forward positions but patrols have been active along the entire front.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Adverse weather caused cancellation of most air activity yesterday but a small number of heavy bombers attacked targets in southern AUSTRIA and in YUGOSLAVIA.

Fighter-bombers attacked a few targets in the Italian battle area and in Albania. Adriatic shipping was attacked by medium bombers and fighters.

From these operations six of our aircraft are missing. There were no claims.

MAAF flew about 350 sorties.

SEEN. | INITIALS.

0020

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

NAVY:

On November 14 a small Commando-type landing was made on the island of MELOS. Casualties were inflicted on the enemy and prisoners taken. At the same time an enemy battery was engaged by His Majesty's ships. The Commandos were subsequently withdrawn.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Eighth Army continue to make progress north and west of FORLI. North of FORLI our leading troops have reached the river MONTONE on a wide front. West of FORLI British troops have made further gains near M. POGGIOLO and have captured PETRIGNONE. Farther west, Polish troops have improved their positions north of the FLORENCE-FORLI road, which is now entirely in our hands.

In the Fifth Army Sector there were no significant changes in our forward positions but patrols have been active along the entire front.

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Fighter-bombers attacked a few targets in the Italian battle area and in Albania. Adriatic shipping was attacked by medium bombers and fighters.

From these operations six of our aircraft are missing. There were no claims.

MAAF flew about 350 sorties.

SECT.	INITIALS
Col. Mc. -IV	
Maj. M...	
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0021

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

Italian Patriots 15 NOV Recd 22-8 133A

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE NO.299. 15 NOVEMBER 1944.

FOR RELEASE [illegible] A.M.

NAVY:

On 12 November H.M.S. KIMBERLEY bombarded an enemy battery off the island of ALIMNIA west of RHODES and obtained eight hits. On the same date near the Franco/Italian frontier the U.S.S. WOOLSEY engaged an enemy howitzer. There was return fire from the shore and the ship was showered with shell splinters but sustained no casualties. On 13 November in the same area the U.S.S. BENSON and the French destroyer L'ALBIGI bombarded enemy barracks and observation posts.

At dawn on 14 November the British destroyers WHEATLAND and BROCKLESBY bombarded enemy shipping at BAR between DURROVNIK and DURAZZO. Several broadsides fell in the target area.

It is reported from SALONIKA that good progress is being made with the unloading of stores and supplies. Good work has been done by the minesweepers in clearing channels through the thickly laid enemy minefields in the approaches to the port.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

Eighth Army continues to make good progress in the FORLI area. NW of the town British troops have pushed beyond S. TOME against increasing resistance.

West of FORLI other British troops have advanced from their bridgeheads over the river MONTONE to a general line two miles north of this river and have captured M. POGGIOLO and the village of VILLAGRAPPA (M.3817).

Farther west Polish troops of Eighth Army have cleared additional features north of FLORENCE-FORLI road and after fierce street fighting have captured the village of S. ANTONIO (3009)

In Fifth Army sector troops of an Indian Division after overcoming strong resistance captured the important height of M. S BARTOLO.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Poor weather yesterday forced the cancellation of practically all air operations.

Heavy and medium bombers were grounded, but tactical fighter and fighter-bombers were able to make small scale attacks against enemy communications and other military targets in northern Italy.

One of our aircraft is missing from these operations.

MAAF flew approximately 100 sorties.

0022
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

At dawn on 14 November [illegible] BROCKLESBY bombarded enemy shipping at BAR between DURROUTH and Several broadsides fell in the target area.

It is reported from SALONIKI that good progress is being made with the unloading of stores and supplies. Good work has been done by the mine-sweepers in clearing channels through the thickly laid enemy minefields in the approaches to the port.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

Eighth Army continues to make good progress in the FORLI area. NW of the town British troops have pushed beyond S. TUBE against increasing resistance.

West of FORLI other British troops have advanced from their bridgeheads over the river MONTONE to a general line two miles north of this river and have captured M. POGGIOLO and the village of VILLAGRAPPA (H.3817).

Farther west Polish troops of Eighth Army have cleared additional features north of FLORENCE-FORLI road and after fierce street fighting have captured the village of S. ANTONIO (3009)

In Fifth Army sector troops of an Indian Division after overcoming strong resistance captured the important height of M S BARTOLO.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Poor weather yesterday forced the cancellation of practically all air operations.

Heavy and medium bombers were grounded, but tactical fighter and fighter-bombers were able to make small scale attacks against enemy communications and other military targets in northern Italy.

One of our aircraft is missing from these operations.

MAAF flew approximately 100 sorties.

END

SEEN.	INITIAL
Col. Mc [illegible]HY	
Maj. Mac[illegible]	P.D.
Maj. DRAKE	
Capt. SILVERSON	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	

0023

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

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
ON RECORD CKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE N . 200
NOVEMBER 15,1944

FIFTH ARMY

Capture M S BARTOLON 2198 was the most significant action along Fifth Army front 14 Nov. This dominating height wrested from enemy by troops of an Indian formation against heavy opposition.

Capture of this high ground affords observation of a main avenue of approach to MODIGLIANA some two miles NE.

Elsewhere along front situation generally unchanged. Bad weather prevented major operations but firm pressure maintained against enemy.

There were a number of patrol clashes, fire fights and Arty exchanges. Most of hostile Arty was of harassing nature. Enemy also fired number of propaganda leaflets.

No hostile air action 14 Nov.

EIGHTH ARMY

In Eighth Army coastal sector our patrols continued active north of FOSSA GHIAIA. In pinewoods north of route 16 one patrol entered enemy house and captured six enemy, one in bed and five at breakfast. Route 16 heavily shelled by enemy. Another german patrol entered CAMBELLARA but driven off.

Leading troops mopped up many more enemy outposts along east bank CANALE NUOVO 13 NOV. Enemy withdrew to far side at last light and our patrols followed.

NW of FORLI British troops pushed on beyond 3 30 E 13 Nov. against increasing opposition. Enemy reinforced and with SP guns and tanks and engaged our troops but after all day fighting forced to withdraw and believed to be behind MONTONE 3921 where it turns NE. About 45 PW captured.

We crossed MONTONE west of FORLI and reached south side of route 9 3000 yds from town centre. Enemy made withdrawal this sector and our leading troops now out of contact. Thought enemy will hold canalized river COSINA running parallel with and beyond river BOLZANINO. (See 3718). Both canals cross route 9 and join MONTONE where it bends NE.

We contacted enemy positions 1000 yds NW S VARANO inflicted casualties and took PW. Our troops advanced 2000 yds beyond bridgehead 1500 yds SW of S VARANO, cleared up enemy rearguard and took 20 PW. Advance continues

Pushing on from CIOLA 13 Nov. our troops captured M POGGIOLO 3614, took more than 30 PW and advanced beyond

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

Arty exchanges. Most of hostile Arty was of harassing nature. Enemy also fired number of propaganda leaflets.

No hostile air action 14 Nov.

EIGHTH ARMY

In Eighth Army coastal sector our patrols continued active north of FOSSA GHIAIA. In pinewoods north of route 16 one patrol entered enemy house and captured six enemy, one in bed and five at breakfast. Route 16 heavily shelled by enemy. Another german patrol entered CAMBELLARA but driven off.

Leading troops mopped up many more enemy outposts along east bank CANALE NUOVO 13 NOV. Enemy withdrew to far side at last light and our patrols followed.

NE of FORLI British troops pushed on beyond S 70 E 13 Nov. against increasing opposition. Enemy reinforced area with SP guns and tanks and engaged our troops but after all day fighting forced to withdraw and believed to be behind MONTONE 3921 where it turns NE. About 75 PW captured.

We crossed MONTONE west of FORLI and reached south side of route 9 3000 yds from town centre. Enemy made withdrawal this sector and our leading troops now out of contact. Thought enemy will hold canalized river CCSINA running parallel with and beyond river DOLZANINO.(See 3710). Both canals cross route 9 and join MONTONE where it bends NE.

We contacted enemy positions 1000 yds NW S VARANO inflicted casualties and took PW. Our troops advanced 2000 yds beyond bridgehead 1500 yds SW of S VARANO, cleared up enemy rearguard and took 20 PW. Advance continues

Pushing on from CIOLA 13 Nov. our troops captured M POGGIOLO 3614, took more than 30 PW and advanced beyond feature morning 14 Nov. In hills west of CASTRECCIA Polish troops occupied M CERETTO (Area 3210). In mountains farther west we took highground north of CELLA and are now 3000 yds from dominating CASTELLACCIO DELLA PIETRA 2972.

Weather cloudy with widespread rain whole front ; snow on highground. More rain expected. (For information on increase of german Courts Martial see appendix 36 to todays CNRB).

END CNRB

0025

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

Halfpenny Packet

14 NOV Recd

32

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

14 NOVEMBER 1944.

COMMUNIQUE NO.298.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS.

NAVY:

On the eve of November 12 British coastal craft met and engaged two enemy lighters off the island of ALIMIA west of RHODES. One of the lighters was sunk.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

Eighth Army have made important gains in the FORLI area. Thrusting NW from FORLI, British troops have made advances of up to two miles and have captured the village of S. TOME after bitter fighting. SW of FORLI, British troops have crossed the River MONTONE at many places and are advancing into the foothills north of this river against strong opposition.

On their left, Polish troops of Eighth Army have also made further gains. They have captured BAGNOLO and cleared the important feature of M. CASCLE against fierce opposition.

On the remainder of the front of the Allied Armies in Italy, deep patrols have made contact with the enemy at many places.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Tactical Air Force fighters and fighter bombers supporting the armies in Italy yesterday bombed and strafed troop concentrations, strong points and gun positions in the battle area and reported excellent results. Bridges, road and rail traffic in the PO Valley were also targets for the Tactical units.

Adriatic shipping and communication targets in YUGOSLAVIA were attacked by Coastal and Balkan Air Force units.

From these operations twelve of our aircraft are missing. There were no claims.

MAAF flew about 1100 sorties.

0026

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

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From these operations twelve of our aircraft are missing. There were no claims.

MAAF flew about 1100 sorties.

END OF COMMUNIQUE.

SEEN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mc. [illegible]HY		
Maj. MAG[illegible]	R.D.	
Maj. DRAGE		
Capt. S[illegible]VADORI		
[illegible]AY		
[illegible]		

0027

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

OPRB
ALLIED AR..IES IN ITALY

'N RECORD BACKGROUND TO PRESS COMMUNIQUE NO. 298 - 14 NOV 1944

EIGHTH ARMY

Expert outflanking movement by patrols in Eighth Army coastal sector led to cutting off and capture of enemy rearguard holding the Route 16 crossing over FOSSA GHIAIA. Germans were surrounded while their attention being held by other troops who made frontal engagement from south of canal.

To west, some enemy rearguards remain along north bank of canal. We captured some of enemy patrol that entered GAMBELLARA. Our arty harassed German positions and crossings over Montone, north of here. Mopping up enemy parties continues NE of Forli, between Ronco and Canale Nuovo, where we cleared to within 1000 yards of canal, took number of PW and engaged enemy SP gun at RONCADELLO 4421, which held by Germans.

NW of Forli, Desert Air Force blitz continued close support of our attacking troops. We captured S TOME 4221 and road both sides of village and consolidated whole positions. We took more than 100 PW this sector 12 Nov. Our casualties were very light. Advance continues here against enemy infantry and armour on 1500 yards front.

Situation quiet immediately west of Forli.

S VARANO found clear of enemy [illegible]ly mined. Sw of village, British troops crossed Montone at 2 points. After achieving initial surprise at lower crossing 1500 yards sw of S VARANO, we were heavily counterattacked but maintained positions.

Our troops also crossed Montone where it leaves hills between TERRA DEL SOLE 3712 and CASTROCARO and captured CIOLA 3614, in foothills nw of River. West of CASTROCARO, we advanced along ridge and occupied BAGNOLO 3311, 2500 yards west of CASTROCARO. Pushing on farther west, we contacted enemy holding M CERETTO 3210, 1200 ft peak. We also captured points immediately south of feature and are in close contact.

Polish troops advanced 3000 yards along ridge running NE from M Bora group and against fierce opposition, captured M CASOLE 3009, 1450 ft feature. Just west of here, hard fighting continues on higher ground across valley overlooking hill village CELLA 2908.

Our troops advanced 1000 yards NW from TREBBIO 2707 and against heavy opposition captured SPUR (area 2608), overlooking road to MODIGLIANA. 30 enemy dead were counted after this action.

FIFTH ARMY

Action on Fifth Army front 13 Nov, limited to vigorous patrol activity and sporadic harassing arty fire. Troops maintained contact against enemy on entire front.

0028
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

canal. We captured some of enemy patrol that entered GAMBERARO. Our arty harassed German positions and crossings over Montone, north of here. Mopping up enemy parties continues NE of Forli, between Ronco and Canale Nuovo, where we cleared to within 1000 yards of canal, took number of PW and engaged enemy SP gun at RONCADELLO 4421, which held by Germans.

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FIFTH ARMY

Action on Fifth Army front 13 Nov, limited to vigorous patrol activity and sporadic harassing arty fire. Troops maintained contact against enemy on entire front.

2 enemy aircraft appeared over central sector early Sunday night and bombed and strafed forward installations. One plane destroyed and other probably destroyed. In coastal sector one enemy plane strafed and dropped incendiary bombs. No damage or casualties reported from either raid.

On right flank and in central sector, exchanges of arty fire and aggressive patrolling reported.

On left flank South African troops captured 13 prisoners in a clash nw COLLINA, 7019.

Weather fine turning to cloud and scattered showers whole front.

00229

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

Italian Patriots

13 NOV Recd

m&c

32

131 A

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE NO.297. 13 NOVEMBER 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS.

NAVY:

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

In the Coastal Sector British armour and Infantry of Eighth Army have crossed the CANALA Canal south of RAVENNA. Further progress has also been made NW of FORLI despite very strong resistance.

Elsewhere there is no change in our forward positions.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Escorted heavy bombers of the 15th AAF yesterday attacked four rail bridges on the BRENNER PASS line in northern Italy.

Aircraft of the Tactical Air Force attacked military objectives in the battle areas of northern Italy, and communication targets in the PO Valley.

Coastal aircraft were active against shipping in the Adriatic, and Balkan Air Force units flew missions to ALBANIA and YUGOSLAVIA, attacking transport concentrations and other enemy targets.

Last night, our bombers attacked CASARSA rail bridge in northeastern Italy.

From these operations eight of our aircraft are missing. It is now known that two additional enemy aircraft were destroyed on November 10.

MAAF flew 1200 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE.

SEEN.	INITIALS
Col. MC [illegible] HY	
Maj. Mac	P.D.
Maj. DRAG	
Capt. [illegible]	

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

0030

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From these operations eight of our aircraft are missing. It is now known that two additional enemy aircraft were destroyed on November 10.

MAAF flew 1200 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE.

GREEN.	INIT.
Col. Alm. HY	
Maj. MAC	P.D.
Maj. DRA	
Capt. [illegible]	
C	

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

131A

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE No. 297.

13th. NOVEMBER 1944.

FIFTH ARMY.

Activity on Fifth Army front 12 November confined largely to aggressive patrolling. Light harassing Arty fire general along entire sector.

Two flights of two or three enemy aircraft appeared over front night 11/12 November and bombed and strafed forward installations and highway communications in Central Sector. Only light damage caused.

On right flank troops of an Indian Division attacking M.S. BARTOLO 2108 met heavy SA and Mortar fire.

In Central Sector American troops maintained pressure with local patrols against enemy.

EIGHTH ARMY

In Eighth Army Adriatic Sector enemy withdrew from FOSSA CHIALA positions. Our patrols crossed Canal without contact and went well forward in Pinewoods (See 6232) south of FIUMI UNITI (See 6036). North of S. STEFANO we attacked with Piats enemy outposts in buildings north bank of CHIALA 5529). Germans retaliated and firefight ensued. Our armour engaged other German - held houses north of GAMBELLARA.

Enemy along west bank of RONCO shelled our east bank positions all day 11 November. In flat area between RONCO and CANALE NUOVO our foot and armoured patrols probed actively along badly demolished roads. Under fire they contacted enemy outpost east of Canal .

There was heavy fighting 11 November in buildings round area of road junction on west bank of bend in Canal one mile north of FORLI. Enemy driven from buildings by last light and reported to have suffered heavy casualties. They counter-attacked same night but were repulsed. Simultaneously our Infantry and armour drove down road leading to railway and cleared enemy house by house from whole 1000 yards stretch and linked up with our positions north side of railway where we had also made some advances westwards. These attacks so weakened enemy that, same night our troops pushed on more than 1000 yards NW this area and forced Germans to evacuate so hurriedly that they abandoned much motor transport and equipment.

8314

Our advance this Sector supported early morning 12 November by Desert Air Force blitz in " EL HAMMA " style on enemy strongpoints. Fires started by bombing almost obscured smoke screen which Arty had laid down as aircraft guide.

Positions unchanged immediately west of FORLI. Enemy armour

0032

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

Railway communications in Central Sector. Only light damage caused.

On right flank troops of an Indian Division attacking H.S. BARTOLO 2106 met heavy SA and Mortar fire.

In Central Sector American troops maintained pressure with local patrols against enemy.

EIGHTH ARMY

In Eighth Army Adriatic Sector enemy withdrew from FOSSA GHLALA positions. Our patrols crossed Canal without contact and went well forward in Pineswoods (See 6232) south of FIUMI UNITI (See 6036). North of S. STEFANO we attacked with Piats enemy outposts in buildings north bank of GHLALA 5529. Germans retaliated and firefight ensued. Our armour engaged other German - held houses north of CASTELLARA.

Enemy along west bank of RONCO shelled our east bank positions all day 11 November. In flat area between RONCO and CANALE NUOVO our foot and armoured patrols probed actively along badly demolished roads. Under fire they contacted enemy outpost east of Canal .

There was heavy fighting 11 November in buildings round area of road junction on west bank of bend in Canal one mile north of FORLI. Enemy driven from buildings by last light and reported to have suffered heavy casualties. They counter-attacked same night but were repulsed. Simultaneously our Infantry and armour drove down road leading to railway and cleared enemy house by house from whole 1000 yards stretch and linked up with our positions north side of railway where we had also made some advances westwards. These attacks so weakened enemy that, same night our troops pushed on more than 1000 yards NW this area and forced Germans to evacuate so hurriedly that they abandoned much motor transport and equipment.

Our advance this Sector supported early morning 12 November by Desert Air Force blitz in " EL HAMMA " style on enemy strongpoints. Fires started by bombing almost obscured smoke screen which Arty had laid down as aircraft guide.

Positions unchanged immediately west of FORLI. Enemy armour again active in and around S. VARANO. Of seven tanks seen 11 November, three knocked out by joint Arty and Air attack.

Farther SW our patrols active. Only slight German patrolling. In CASTROCARO area we thrust well forward and contacted enemy in hills 2000 yards west of village. No major action along river MONTONE to SW. In hills south of MODIGLIANA our patrols made considerable advances without contact.

Weather cold and cloudy generally whole front.

END ORB.

0033

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

Italian Desk. 12 NOV Recd

130A

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE NO.296. 12 NOVEMBER 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS.

NAVY:

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

British troops of Eighth Army have forced a small bridgehead across the CANALE NUOVO against strong resistance.

In the Fifth Army sector troops of an Indian Division have captured M. IONTEGNO, an important feature SW of MONTICELLI. Elsewhere activity has been confined to patrolling and exchanges of artillery fire.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Escorted heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force yesterday attacked rail targets and an airfield in GERMANY and northern Italy.

Tactical Air Force medium bombers bombed road and rail bridges feeding into the Italian battle areas with excellent results.

Fighter bombers and fighters supporting the Fifth and Eighth Armies bombed and strafed gun positions, troop concentrations and strong points in the battle zone and communications targets in the enemy's rear.

From these operations 37 of our aircraft are missing.

M.A.F flew about 2200 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE.

833

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

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MAAF flew about 2200 sorties.

END OF MESSAGE.

833

IN

Col. [illegible]
Maj. [illegible]
Mat. Offic[illegible]
Capt. [illegible] WOOD
[illegible]
[illegible]

P.O.

1 0 0 3 5

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

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO 296
12 NOVEMBER 1944

EIGHTH ARMY

In Eighth Army coastal sector our patrols were very active. GAMBELLARA now clear after previous day's action. Our armour shot up houses at COCCOLIA on west bank of RONCO. Afternoon 10 Nov. scout car went forward to question quote female unquote civilians on far bank. Car hit by bazooka and quote civilians unquote disappeared into house from which bazooka fired. It is thought that quote women unquote were german soldiers disguised as civilians to draw our men within range.

To south we advanced steadily to CANALE NUOVO against light opposition and found area carefully mined by enemy. Enemy outpost in houses east of canal cleared up.

Very fierce fighting occured 10 Nov. at crossroads immediately north of railway at western exit from FORLI and in houses farther north. Germans supported by tanks and considerable Arty and Nebelwerfer Five were cleared from houses one by one. They counterattacked at night and recaptured group of buildings but were again driven out.

Our troops crossed southern end of CANALE NUOVO against fierce enemy resistance.

In FORLI all is quiet except for slight enemy shelling. Town is practically undamaged. Italian patriots were active before and during our entry into FORLI. Patriots destroyed three truckloads of German troops and blew up tank and crew.

South of FORLI our patrols found enemy very alert along MONTONE. German armour active in and around S MARINO but our troops made further advances to SW. In hills NW of M DORA enemy counterattacked night 10 Nov. and forced us to withdraw 300/400 yds but new positions firmly held;

FIFTH ARMY

Agressive patrol action and Arty duels reported along entire Fifth Army front .

On right flank GURKHAS established themselves on M POGGIO 2006. Our troops also advanced immediately west of this feature.

In central sector positions of forward troops remained virtually unchanged though our patrols were active. Medium to heavy harassing Arty fire received in this area.

Our positions in coastal sector received sporadic mortar and Arty fire. No changes reported in tactical position's.

Enemy air made it strongest appearance in many weeks over Fifth Army front late 10 Nov. An estimated eleven hostile

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

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Our positions in coastal sector received sporadic mortar and Arty fire. No changes reported in tactical positions.

Enemy air made it strongest appearance in many weeks over Fifth Army front late 10 Nov. An estimated eleven hostile aircraft bombed and strafed areas along route 65 vicinty LOIANO 8624. Only one casualty reported. Two of the aircraft seen to fall after engaged by AA Arty and two others probably destroyed.

Weather cold but clear and fine generally whole front.

END ON RB

0037

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

Italian Patriots

10 NOV Recd

3V

129A

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 294. 10th NOVEMBER 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS.

NAVY:

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

British troops of Eighth Army have captured the important town and communications centre of FORLI and have cleared all organised enemy resistance east of the river MONTONE south of this town. Further west, Polish troops of Eighth Army have made further gains west of the river MONTONE including the capture of the commanding feature of M. BOR.

In the Fifth Army Sector activity has been confined to patrolling.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Rain and poor visibility yesterday hampered all air operations.

Tactical aircraft, including medium, light and fighter bombers, attacked communications in the PO Valley and a limited number of close support targets on the Eighth Army front.

Enemy transport and communications in YUGOSLAVIA and ALBANIA were targets for fighters and fighter-bombers. Shipping in the Adriatic was attacked by medium and light bombers.

During these operations one enemy aircraft was destroyed. Three of our planes are missing.

MAAF flew about 550 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE

SEEN.	INITIALS.	D
Col. Mc [illegible] HY	Ah.	
Maj. M&G.		
[illegible]		

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

British troops of Eighth Army have captured the important town and communications centre of MORLE and have cleared all organised enemy resistance east of the river MONTONE south of this town. Further west, Polish troops of Eighth Army have made further gains west of the river MONTONE including the capture of the commanding feature of M. BOR.

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MAAF flew about 550 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE

SEEN.	INITIALS	DATE
Col. Mc[illegible]HY		
Maj. M[illegible]	AH.	
Maj. [illegible]		
Capt. [illegible]V[illegible]		
Col. [illegible]ay		
C. C.		

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

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

ON B ORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE N 294.

10th. NOVEMBER 1944.

EIGHTH ARMY.

Comparatively quiet day in Eighth Army Coastal Sector. Farther south our patrols reported BORVO SISA 4822 clear. Area north of railway was very heavily shelled and mortared and there was considerable defensive mortar fire all along front. Our Armour and Arty and Anti-aircraft engaged Germans from east side of RONCO river north of railway where positions remained unchanged.

Our troops completely cleared ruined buildings north side FORLI airfield 8th. November. West of airfield we were fiercely engaged by enemy Infantry and heavy tanks which prevented ground gains all day. But Germans pulled back 8/9 November and we advanced with two main thrusts.

First thrust captured FORLI Barracks 4515 , two kilos east of town on Route 9, and Railway Station 4317, north side of town. Other thrust along Route 9 and up airfield road penetrated into FORLI.

Hampshires and Highlanders supported by Churchill tanks of the North Irish Horse (R.A.C.) entered town early morning 9 November. Leading troops passed through and reached main bridge over MONTONE 4217 on west side of FORLI by mid-morning to find it blown and enemy still holding west river bank. Sniping continues in town.

South of town our troops crossed RABBI river night 8/9 November and leading elements reached MONTONE river where enemy holds west bank in strength.

In operations 8th November, and night 8/9 November leading to capture FORLI, about 250 PW taken. Operations, in which enemy outwitted and outfought, directed and planned by Lt.Gen. C.F. Keightley's 5th. Corps and carried out by British troops under Command.

In hill Sector between RABBI and MONTONE our troops occupied SADURANO 3609 and pushing on established themselves about one thousand yards from MONTONE east of CASTROCARO 3511 which strongly held by enemy. German line runs from here to FORLI along west bank of MONTONE. Our patrols active up MONTONE valley from CASTROCARO but no major action in this Sector since capture DOVADOLA. In hills NW enemy gave up more isolated positions including M. DORA 2906 which he evacuated night 8/9 November. M. CASTONE (Area 2806) also clear.

PW from 356 German Infantry Division defending FORLI said that when one of the Battalions was ordered to occupy positions to stop our advance on town they found them already occupied by our troops, so Germans ran away. So did PW, but later turned back and gave himself up.

FIFTH ARMY.

On Fifth Army front our patrols continued aggressive action and had several clashes. Increased Arty fire general in all Sectors.

Our positions in vicinity M. SPADURO heavily shelled. Patrols

129B

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

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FIFTH ARMY.

On Fifth Army front our patrols continued aggressive action and had several clashes. Increased Arty fire general in all Sectors.

Our positions in vicinity M.SPADURO heavily shelled. Patrols generally active in this area.

In Central Sector a patrol engaged enemy in fire fight NE of CUTIGLIANO 4006.

In Coastal Sector American Negro troops 8 November occupied AZZANO 9899, TERRINCA 0098, and LEVIGLIANI 0299.

Positions generally unchanged on rest of Fifth Army front.

Weather cloudy with occasional rain. (For brief history on Fifth Corps see Appendix 33 to to-days ORRB.)

(NOTE: Press Release Line considered no longer necessary and now cancelled)

END ORRB.

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129C

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
C.M.F.

PRESS HANDOUT. FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

BRIEF HISTORY OF TIGER CORPS.

Norway was to have been the Corps first battleground, though in fact the brief campaign was over before whole H.Q. could be shipped across North Sea. There followed two years of hard training in an anti-invasion role in an important sector of the South coast. It was during that time Commanded for a year by Field-Marshal, then General, MONTGOMERY.

Then in the summer of 1942 Fifth Corps was chosen to be the first British Corps in newly formed First Army. As such it carried out the eastern landings in ALGERIA in November 1942, having as its command two Divisions both of which have become famous - the Sixth Armoured Division and 78 Division.

Its advance from ALGIERS almost to gates of TUNIS, over six hundred miles in a month against an enemy equipped for first time with tiger tanks and possessing at that time considerable air superiority, was a great feat.

The Corps then held northern sector of TUNISIAN front throughout winter months of 1942 - 1943 until our air and ground forces were sufficiently built up to attack in strength. During these months it held an enormous sector of nearly one hundred miles against a numerically superior enemy.

Some of its most difficult days were those in the Spring during German offensive against whole Corps line starting with Rommel's strong armoured thrust at KASSERINE. But in great battles of KASSERINE, THALA, DJEBEL, ROUHIA GAP and TAMERA CORNER, the Corps fought enemy to standstill.

In preparations for final assault on TUNIS Fifth Corps was given key role; that of breaking iron ring of defences which enemy had built up during winter months astride main DJEDEIDA-TUNIS road so that our armoured Corps could exploit the gap. These operations, culminating in capture of LONGSTOP HILL and of the BOU feature, were brilliantly successful and paved way for break-through to TUNIS. Fifth Corps might justly be proud of part it had played in destruction of German Armies in AFRICA; and it was therefore not inappropriate that its then Commander, Lieut-General C.W.ALLFREY, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., should have been delegated to receive final surrender of General von Arnim at S. ALEXANDRIA.

In September 1943 on capitulation of ITALY, Fifth Corps, which had recently been incorporated into the Eighth Army, landed at TARANTO and in swift advance captured ports of BRINDISI and BARI. It subsequently took part in Eighth Army advance up Adriatic coast and directed assault across SANGRO which led up to subsequent operations for capture of ORTONA. [illegible] it held right flank of Eighth Army and in [illegible] captured towns

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During recent battles under its present Commander, Lieut-General C.F.KEIGHTLEY, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., it has fought more distinguished actions.

Side by side with Canadian and Polish Corps it formed spearhead for main thrust of Allied Armies in ITALY along Adriatic coast. These operations included breaking of Gothic Line and virtually destroying four German Divisions. In the last two months fighting it has defeated nine German Divisions, captured 7,000 prisoners and driven enemy northwards over APENNINES into open plain.

--ends--

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Italian Partisans MSC

9 NOV Recd

1284

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE NO.293. 9 NOVEMBER 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS.

NAVY:

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

SW of FORLI British troops of Eighth Army have been engaged in heavy fighting and have made progress against the most determined resistance. Farther west Polish troops of Eighth Army have made considerable gains on either side of the river MONTONE and have occupied a number of important features. The town of ROVADOLA, on the FLORENCE - FORLI road, was captured after a sharp engagement.

In the western coastal sector negro troops of Fifth Army have captured the villages of TABELLANO and BASATI.

In the remainder of the Fifth Army sector activity was confined to patrolling and artillery exchanges.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Troop concentrations in YUGOSLAVIA were again attacked yesterday by heavy bombers of the 15th AAF, while RAF heavy and medium bombers attacked roads and bridges in YUGOSLAVIA.

Medium bombers of the Tactical Force attacked enemy communications in the PO Valley area of northern Italy. Fighters and fighter-bombers were active against close support targets, rails and bridges near the battle ground.

From these operations six of our aircraft are missing.

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0044

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

0045

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

SW of FORLI British troops of Eighth Army have been engaged in heavy fighting and have made progress against the most determined resistance. Farther west Polish troops of Eighth Army have made considerable gains on either side of the river MONTONE and have occupied a number of important features. The town of PREDAPPIO, on the FLORENCE - FORLI road, was captured after a sharp engagement.

In the western coastal sector negro troops of Fifth Army have captured the villages of TERRIANO and BISACCI.

In the remainder of the Fifth Army sector activity was confined to patrolling and artillery exchanges.

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From these operations six of our aircraft are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 1400 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE.

SEEN.	INITIALS	RE.
Col. McCARTHY		
Maj. MAGRUDER	P.D.	
Maj. DRAGE		
Capt. SALVADORI		
Col. LAVIN		

1283

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO 293
NOVEMBER 9, 1944

FIFTH ARMY

Arty exchanges and patrol clashes high-lighted the action along Fifth Army front 8 Nov. as continued bad weather hampered operations and prevented any change in general situation.

Enemy arty particularly active and heavy concentrations reported in area opposite CASOLA VALSENIO 1017.

Mortar fire and other infantry weapons employed against American positions with mortars predominating in M CERERE 0031 and M GRANDE 9932 areas. Fighting in this sector consisted primarily of exchanges of SA mortar and AW fire with our arty continuing to pound hostile positions.

The left sector also received heavy mortaring, especially the CARVIANO 7124 area where some heavy arty also fell. A number of patrol clashes occured in coastal sector during which enemy atempts to probe our lines were repulsed.

The most significant developments were capture of FABBIANO 9798 and BASATI 9898.

EIGHTH ARMY

In Eighth Army coastal sector our patrols were very active probing German denfences. There was intermittent shelling and mortaring by enemy.

Night 7/8 Nov. enemy patrols approaching our position NW of S PIETRO 5225 driven off. In area of RONCO railway bridge 4715 heavy enemy shelling hampered movement.

South of route 9 British troops crossed RE DEI FOSSI or quote King Of Ditches unquote canal forming eastern boundary of FORLI airfield and captured ruined buildings on north side 7/8 Nov. against strong opposition. They followed up and attacked with infantry and tanks south of airfield before dawn 8 Nov. and after extremely heavy fighting against German infantry supported by Tigers captured west tip of field and forced their way to within 500 YDS of BUSSECCHIO 4414. Enemy still hold extreme north tip of field. (Note to briefing officers with 1/100,000 map: The four corners of FORLI airfield are appox M447139 453141 466134 and 462126) Enemy strongpoint 1000 YDS SW of BUSSECCHIO also captured. More than 80 PW brought in from airfield area.

We attacked simultaneously up road north of GRISIGNANO along east bank of RABBI with infantry tanks and arty, overcame particularly strong German resistance south of S MARTINO IN STRADA 4213, captured village pressed north having taken 30 PW in this action.

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From relatively quiet SW along RABBI. our patrols penetrated in one case 1 mile beyond RABBI. Enemy pulled back generally in hill sector south of CASTROCARO 3511 between RABBI and MONTONE rivers and we are now on M DURA 3508.

After street fighting Polish troops captured DOVADOLA 3005 on route 67. Heavy fighting continues in hills NW of town where germans still hold M BORA 2906 and fighting is in progress for M GATTONE (Area 2806) 1000 yds west.

Weather cloudy with scattered thunderstorms overhigh ground.

END ONRB

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F5 NOVRe

32 Peter at Ritz

SEEN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mc. [illegible]HY		
Maj. MACFAR	[illegible]	
Maj. BRACE		
Capt. SHIVERICK		
Col. HAYA		
C. C.		
PAO/PRB		

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

November 4th, 1944

Trend of copy filed by Correspondents

SMITH (New York Herald Tribune)

Eden's visit to Italy has caused a stir in the Rome press. The papers declare with one voice that Eden was only an enemy of Fascist Italy. The Conservative papers saw hopeful signs when the British Foreign Minister had dinner with Bonomi, Venosta and Carandini at the British Embassy.

"Risorgimento Liberale" hopes that Mr. Eden's visit so soon after the Roosevelt-Churchill declarations and the exchange of diplomatic representatives means a change of climate and a gradual change in the relations between England and Italy. The newspaper did not mention that whilst the United States exchanged Ambassadors with Italy according to the usual protocol, England merely empowered its representative here to act as Minister without crediting him to Prince Humbert, or asking if he would be acceptable as Ambassador, a procedure which is regarded by those who should know as meaning that the British Foreign Office still regards Italy as a conquered nation.

"Risorgimento Liberale" added, however, that the "Italian people" did not - repeat not - want Eden's visit to pass without leaving some hope that the "Italy of today" will be recognised by England as an improvement on Mussolini's Italy.

MATTHEWS (New York Times) : Quotes Soccimarro's remarks to the "SI" agency that epuration is proceeding "extremely slowly". (Note: According to the agency report Soccimarro is said to have made pointed remarks about some of the Italian Ministries and the difficulties he is having in getting their co-operation. "We have put up a particularly hard fight in the purge of public service institutions depending from the State where big financial interests are involved and where persons chucked out by the door come back through the window, thanks to their friends."

VISHNEVSKY (Tass Agency) : Quotes the official Government communique protesting against the press attacks on the Carabinieri and their chief. The communique says that instructions have been issued to [illegible] refrain from manifesting in favour of any

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785062

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VISHNEVSKY (Tass Agency) : Quotes the official Government communique protesting against the press attacks on the Carabinieri and their chief. The communique says that instructions have been issued to the Carabinieri to abstain from manifesting in favour of any political party or for any rivalries.

The correspondent also sends the full story of the food stuffs brought into Italy by the Allies, as well as the "Avanti's" demand for epuration of officers of the Italian Navy.

KEPPLER (Bundredaktion - Bern) (in German) : No one in Rome denies the honesty of intentions of Bonomi personally, but the Government over which he presides is being viewed more and more with mixed feelings. As a Government, in the Provinces liberated from the

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Germans each party must bring about its own programme. The members of all the parties together represent only one fifth of the electorate, and it is estimated that the strongest party, the Communists, numbers about 300,000. Bonomi has declared that all internal social and political reforms will be set aside till the end of the war. Togliatti complains in "Unita" of the patience of the Italian people and asks openly when this patience will break. The left press says that if it comes to a conflict between the police and the people the so-called reactionary elements will be to blame.

HOJEL (Zurchersaitung) (in German) : The Rome press greets Eden's presence in Rome. The belief is becoming more and more apparent that Italy has crossed the diplomatic Rubicon and that her relations with the Allies will give her a place with the United Nations.

SCANZIANI (Telegraphique, Berne) : Quotes, inter alia, "Il Tempo" on attacks by gangs in Rome. The journal points out that Allied military personnel were thought to be implicated in these attacks and it is now established that one gang was composed of deserters from the Allied forces together with Italian elements. Of the 22 arrested one was French and 5 Spaniards, deserters from the French Foreign Legion. The head of the band was a Jugoslav named Ivan Natesik, also a deserter. The correspondent quotes the threatened strike of newspaper workers because of the attacks.

BERGH (Handelstidning, Gotaberg) sends a despatch on the difference between the work of the Rome Committee of Liberation and the one set up in Florence. The Committee in Florence is really a local government composed of members of 5 parties. Each party elects two members making a Committee of 10, and there are another 90 members who work in 15 different subordinate organisations "acting as Ministries". All give their services free. Florence considers the institution of Prefects as sheer nonsense. When Bonomi said that the Prefect was the local ruler together with AMG, while the CNL should act as a council to the Prefect, the Florentines replied "We have created our own government, working excellently. We do not recognise this centralisation which for 80 years has been a brake on Italy. Italy needs, and wants, self government and such government starts only with local self government."

The correspondent goes on to say that the Florentines would like the capital moved from Rome to Perugia, or Aquila or Urbino, and to be finished with the myth of Rome. They want to get rid of the Prefects who are a Napoleonic institution, and they wish to return to the mediaeval Communes. Italy has become a colony of Rome. Since Committees of National Liberation are the real government for all

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

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SPRIGGE (Reuter) : Thinks it is improbable that Eden's visit will alter the relations between Italy and England, as these were laid down at the Hyde Park meetings. But he left an impression of goodwill towards Italy.

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REA (Il Progres) : Has filed a lengthy article for publication in the "American Mercury" in December. It is entitled "The Mafia Rides Again" and deals with the Sicilian situation.

The leaders of the present Mafia, he says, are outwardly responsible citizens. There is no single organisation but there are probably 500 Mafia bands throughout Sicily, ranging in groups of twos to dozens, each with its own sphere of influence. There are daily murders, but the peasants are cowed and refuse to denounce the culprits for fear of reprisals. Those responsible for the revival of the Mafia's former activities are the former Fascists who still enjoy freedom, the Separatists, the Communists (HERE SOME WORDS WERE CUT FROM THE COPY WITH SCISSORS) together with the barons who own vast estates and the "gabellatto" class or middlemen who lease acres from the barons and then sub-let them to the peasants at a profit.

The Fascists use the Mafia to oppress those who oppose them. The Communists wish to see chaotic conditions occur to the point where a revolution becomes inevitable. It is then their plan to seize power. (FURTHER WORDS WERE CUT OUT HERE). Many of the present barons owe their wealth to the former Mafia. Arms were mainly stolen from the Allied forces. "Tons of thousands of arms and unlimited amounts of ammunition were robbed and hidden in the 'macchia'." At first the bands worked independently in their robberies. The political situation led to their organisation on an island-wide basis.

When the Allied military police left, the Italian police was ill-clothed and ill-armed. They were badly paid and had no transport. The gangs were then organised into a political instrument. "The big game of gaining power in political circles began."

AMG could not find experienced leaders among the illiterate masses, and so they turned to classes who had enjoyed the blessings of Fascism. From these they selected mayors and commissioners.

Foremost of all "anti-Fascists" is Lucio Tasca. With his two brothers he is the richest landowner of Palermo, and possibly of all Italy. He had wined and dined with Fascist officials. Yet he was selected by AMG to be mayor of Palermo. "It was at his home that High British and American officials spent many a gay evening being lavishly entertained." But Lucio's record was too well known. He had to resign. But he was not eliminated from the game of politics. Although not members of the Mafia, the Tasca clan pull many Mafia strings; Alessandro Tasca is President of the Consorzio Agrario. Giuseppe, another brother, manages the estates. They are the real power behind the Sicilian independence movement. "They have 'influential friends' in important positions with the Allied Commission" writes the correspondent. Lucio is a frequent visitor at the offices of the Allied Commission. The Italian Government would like to

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In Villalba the Allies selected another man directly connected with the Mafia. He is a young lawyer named Benidmino Farina. He is a nephew of a Mafia chief, Don Calogero Vizzini, a rich baron with acres of land.

.....Inasmuch as Lucio is frequently seen in the company of British officials of the Commission, it has led to the assumption that the British are supporting the Tasca-Aprile group.

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Vizzini's separatists are better organised than are those of Aprile. Today there are 400,000 separatists throughout Sicily.

The article continues : The Communists saw the Mafia were better organised than themselves, so they contacted members of the Mafia who were independent of any group and offered them better rewards than did either Aprile or Vizzini. The Communists in Sicily had already seized numbers of Nazi weapons and they also obtained others from Allied sources. These they gave to friendly members of the Mafia.

"The Mafia is a Frankenstein created by selfish, greedy elements, who hope to keep their ill-gotten gains, as well as those political forces who intend using it for the day of revolution." The Mafia is largely responsible for the lack of sufficient grain to feed the people of Sicily. The organisation has been used to force the peasants to hide the grain. Lack of transport has choked normal Sicilian exports, and economic life is disrupted with much unemployment. A storm is brewing.

The Mafia ride in bands. A certain romance is being woven round some of them. Occasionally they throw a "bone" to some starving family and the word spreads, and soon the countryside knows that this or that band is feeding hundreds of starving families. The rumour grows that they plunder the rich to feed the poor. Out of the Mafia and such talk, the Fascists, the Separatists and the barons all hope that one strong man will arise who will control Sicily in the way they want. " Hidden in the macchia of Sicily today are enough arms, artillery and ammunition to supply an army of 100,000 men. Fantastic? No one denies the gravity of the situation, least of all the authorities. Once the grain ends the trouble will start. A whole army of occupation will then be necessary to quell the riots. Until men of political honesty and high ideals are found to govern, and the whole rotten feudal system is wiped out, the Mafia will continue to ride, continue to kill, continue to rule."

0054

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

November 4, 1944

PRB/R8

Daily Digest of Rome Press.

AFTERNOON PAPERS

OSSERVATORE ROMANO - N.N.

QUOTIDIANO (Independent Catholic)

1. C. Costantini is against immoral shows, for example burlesque on at the Colonna Theatre. If P.S. agents cannot obtain respect of law, why not form groups of citizens, belonging to all parties, who will put an end to this exibition of immorality?

RICOSTRUZIONE (Labour Democrat)

1. Socialisation of large monopolistic firms is all right, says Fonteviva, but in the others, initiative must be left to private people. In reality there has always been in any economic system, private initiative and intervention of the State; one must find the combination line between individual liberty and strength of association.

2. Re the Perticone-Gonella controversy, G.d.t. finds that P. is not consistent in stating the necessity of a "proletarian Dictatorship", because dictatorship and violence are illogical when the Proletariato can legally come to power with a democratic policy.

VOCE REPUBBLICANA (Republican)

1. Fascism and Monarchy had the same programs; so whoever is anti-fascist should logically be also anti-monarchic: Anti-Fascism and anti-Monarchism are therefore the same thing. So G. Conti.

2. An article on Italian conditions appeared a month ago in the "Times". It said that misery, hunger, material and moral confusion of the citizens, complete indecision, charactrize the present situation. F.G. admits the truth of this and says the Govt is responsible; he submits a plan of obvious decisions which the Govt should take, with the help of the Allies. If responsibilities are firstly Italian, they are not, however only Italian.

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

OSSERVATORE ROMANO - N.R.

QUOTIDIANO (Independent Catholic)

1. O. Costantini is against immoral shows, for example burlesque on at the Colonna Theatre. If P.S. agents cannot obtain respect of law, why not form groups of citizens, belonging to all parties, who will put an end to this exibition of immorality?

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MORNING PAPERS

AVANTI (Socialist)

1. Nenni tries to explain that democracy will not rule the country unless it is in possession of the guns (few are left, but quite sufficient to fire on the people). All Italian military forces, Carabinieri and others, are chiefly and tendentially monarchic; so the situation is rather absurd; an institutional renewal is rendered necessary; as an example of what may happen going on in such conditions, Nenni recalls the Spanish civil war which was caused mainly by the fact that when the "Fronte Popular" came to power, all troops refused to join.

0056

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

2. Another circular to the CC.RR. in which Taddeo Orlando insists on the non-political attitude of his men; he asks them to always keep their calm, not to show favoritism for one party or another, to act with strength when necessary, but never inconsiderately; they will then be respected and cherished by the people, as they used to be.

3. The Council of Minister has decided to dissolve the Corps and Service of "Stato Maggiore". This decision is due to the necessity of a thorough transformation as this service had become lately unsufficiently selected and full of protectionism.

Movements and promotions of Magistrates were ordered during the same meeting.

4. Officers epurated from Air Ministry.

5. A new decree on epuration gives initiative to High Commissioner.

6. Roosevelt has asked the Minister of War to provide all liberated Italy with bread rations of 300 grms and to put a certain number of lorries at disposal of town for import of food.

7. Cooperation should start immediately without wasting time to decide whether it will be red or white. Too much time has been lost already, says a.b.: misery and hunger are here, and the future appears hopeless. The basic system of cooperation is "self help", and much relief can come to the people from it, as has already been proved in pre-fascist years.

8. Once war is over American merchant fleet will have to work from 6 months to 3 years for military transport.

9. Competent authorities have decided that groups of Partisans will work the P.S. in the City of Rome. "Very well, says Avanti, but how will these men be chosen? how make sure that they are real partisans, honest and brave?"

10. S.E.P.R.A.L. and Ministry of Agriculture talk a lot, and issue orders, but... everything goes on exactly as before, and sweets and pastries are sold at ridiculously high prices everywhere.

11. Umberto Calosso admires Ruggero Ruggeri and all the other actors at the Arts Theatre, and remembers having seen R.R. as Hamlet; his was a much better interpretation, he says, than any at the "Old-Vic".

<u>ITALIA LIBERA</u> (Action)

1. Prof. Zangara, member of the Direttorio Nazionale and under-Secretary of the Fascist Party, arrested.

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

0058

[illegible] meeting.

4. Officers epurated from Air Ministry.

5. A new decree on epuration gives initiative to High Commissioner.

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11. Umberto Calosso admires Ruggero Ruggeri and all the other actors at the Arts Theatre, and remembers having seen R.R. as Hamlet; his was a much better interpretation, he says, than any at the "Old-Vic".

ITALIA DIETRA (action)

1. Prof. Zangara, member of the Direttorio Nazionale and under-secretary of the Fascist Party, arrested.

2. Corpse of an American soldier found at Tor Gaia; probably murdered for robbery.

3. Col. Pollock has declared that, starting today, trucks will be at disposal of night workers to take them home; and very soon groups of English, American and Italian police will patrol the town at night.

4. Food problem must absolutely be solved as soon as possible. Why not abolish the blocks? Transport by river will start soon perhaps. Potatoes and lambs are and have been arriving; where are they and who eats them?

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

ITALIA NUOVA (Democrat)

1. Article of Vincenzo Lucci on the relations between the State and the banks. National economy is going to be administered by the State.

2. Italia Nuova disapproves of General Berardi's statement to the Press about the dissolution of the General Staff.

3. The regulations for epuration are being published; there is perhaps some hope of the epuration taking place.

POPOLO (Christian Democrat)

1. Popolo agrees with 'Avanti' that epuration must be speedily done, but it entirely disagrees with Avanti's article on the Navy. The Navy has always expressed and shared the interests of the people and of the nation, and is above dynastic interests.

RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE (Liberal)

1. Rolandino is frightened by the widely spread use of "Simpamina". The last post-war period was characterised by cocain and free love and a desperate desire for joy; and now, he says, what will happen, with Simpamina and initiative to women?

2. Italian killed by a drunk Negro.

TEMPO (Independent)

1. Magistrates are now forming a caste, alien to the currents of the country, and incapable of taking part in them; besides there are not enough judges, writes Arturo Orvieto.

UNITA' (Communist)

1. The Soviet nation defender of the freedom of the world, by Felice Platone. Being allied to this great country gives hope for better days to Italy.

2. The families of refugees who live in the Campo Parioli mustn't be turned out.

3. Employers mustn't be allowed to turn out their employees to avoid paying them the allotment for the high cost of living.

4. The employees of several hotels are complaining about the management.

GENERAL

1. Articles on the dissolution of the General Staff.

2. General Orlando's new instructions to the Carabinieri.

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

done; but it entirely disagrees with Rodolfo's theses [illegible]. The Navy has always expressed and shared the interests of the people and of the nation, and is above dynastic interests.

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4. The employees of several hotels are complaining about the management.

GENERAL

1. Articles on the dissolution of the General Staff.

2. General Orlando's new instructions to the Carabinieri.

3. It seems that the bread ration will be of 300 gr. and the monthly ration of 'pasta' of 600 gr.

4. Pastry cook's shops are not allowed to make cakes.

0060

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

Italian Patriots - 8 NOV Recd

FROM:	IN
Col. Mc [illegible]	P.D.
Maj. [illegible]	
Maj. [illegible]	
Capt. [illegible]	
Capt. [illegible]	
C. C.	

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
Central Mediterranean Force

FOR RELEASE 1030A HRS

8 November 1944

COMMUNIQUE No. 292

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

South of Forli, in the high ground between the Ribbi and Montone rivers, Polish troops of Eighth Army continue to make good progress. An important feature, M. CASTELLO., has been captured after a fierce fight and several heavy German counter-attacks beaten off.

Further west, S.M. MONTILLO, on the Florence-Forli road, has been occupied and important progress made on the high ground north of this road.

Elsewhere activity has been confined to vigorous patrolling.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCES, ITALY

NEXT COMMUNIQUE WILL BE ISSUED LATER

6222

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

1268

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE

FOR INCLUSION IN COMMUNIQUE No. 292 — 8 November 1944

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Escorted heavy bombers of the 15th AAF yesterday bombed troop concentrations in Yugoslavia and rail targets and bridges in Northern Italy in great strength.

Strategic fighters bombed and strafed targets in Southern Yugoslavia.

RAF medium and heavy bombers attacked rail yards in Serbia.

Tactical Air Force medium bombers attacked troop concentrations and bridges in Northern Italy. Fighters and fighter-bombers attacked close support targets and communications near the battle areas.

Balkan Air Force and Coastal Air Force units attacked targets in Yugoslavia and Albania.

From these operations two of our heavy bombers and 10 other aircraft are missing. There were no claims.

MAAF flew about 2,300 sorties.

E N D

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

Italian Patriots 7 HQW Regt / Bands 32

1250

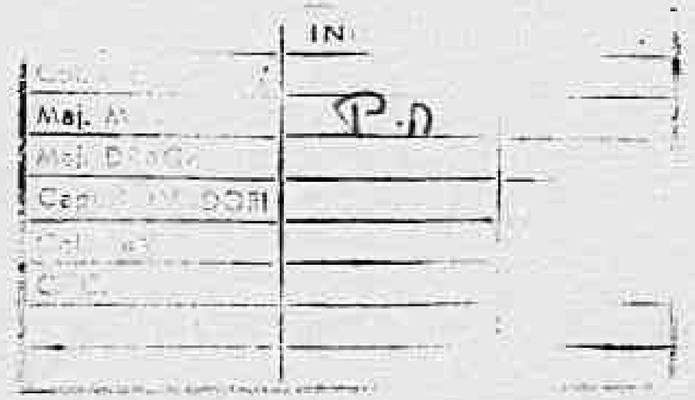
H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE NO.291. 7th NOVEMBER 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1030A HRS.

NAVY:

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE.



ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

SW of FORLI Polish troops of Eighth Army have captured several important features including MONTEMAGGIORE and M.ESTA and after stiff resistance was overcome, cleared the villages of S. MARTINO and MARSIGNANO.

On the remainder of the front activity has been confined to patrolling.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Strong forces of escorted 15th AAF heavy bombers yesterday attacked targets in AUSTRIA, YUGOSLAVIA and ITALY and a force of MAF medium and heavy bombers bombed targets in YUGOSLAVIA.

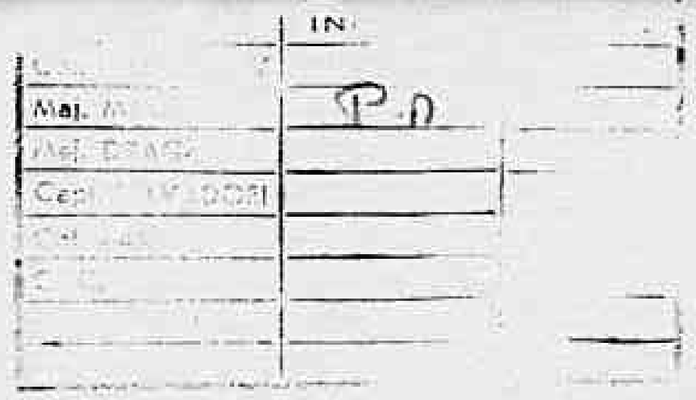
Tactical Air Force medium bombers attacked bridges and transformers on the BRENNER rail line with excellent results. Communications and close-support targets in the Italian battle area were targets for fighters and fighter bombers.

Other units of MAAF attacked shipping in the Adriatic and road and rail targets in YUGOSLAVIA.

During these operations 4 enemy aircraft were destroyed. Six of our heavy bombers and eight other aircraft are missing.

MAAF flew about 2,700 sorties.

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



ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

SW of FORLI Polish troops of Eighth Army have captured several important features including MONTEMAGGIORE and M.DICTA and after stiff resistance was overcome, cleared the villages of S. MARTINO and MARSIGNANO.

On the remainder of the front activity has been confined to patrolling.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Strong forces of escorted 15th AAF heavy bombers yesterday attacked targets in AUSTRIA, YUGOSLAVIA and ITALY and a force of NAF medium and heavy bombers bombed targets in YUGOSLAVIA.

Tactical Air Force medium bombers attacked bridges and transformers on the BRENNER rail line with excellent results. Communications and close-support targets in the Italian battle area were targets for fighters and fighter bombers.

Other units of MAAF attacked shipping in the Adriatic and road and rail targets in YUGOSLAVIA.

During these operations 4 enemy aircraft were destroyed. Six of our heavy bombers and eight other aircraft are missing.

MAAF flew about 2,700 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE.

0068

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

Italian Patriots.

1258

O.R.B.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE.

7th. NOVEMBER. 1944.

FIFTH ARMY.

Active patrolling continued along the entire Fifth Army front.

There was heavy enemy harassing Arty fire along Route 65 and lighter fire to the east and west of this important highway. Minefields encountered / occupied by South African troops in the vicinity of CASAGLIA 7823.

One enemy aircraft flying low over the Fifth Army Central Sector strafed roads without causing damage or casualties. Bombs were dropped in another area farther west. Here too neither damage nor casualties reported.

EIGHTH ARMY.

Little activity in Eighth Army Coastal Sector. There were exchanges of MG fire across FOSSA GHIAIA 5th November since when sector relatively quiet except for heavy calibre enemy shelling night 5/6 November.

German attempt to infiltrate our position north S. STEFANO night 5/6 November repulsed. Along RONCO there was usual enemy shelling and mortaring of our forward troops and some MG fire night 5/6 November. Good weather 5th. November allowed increased air activity by Desert Air Force with excellent results in Route 9 area. Consequently enemy shelling and mortaring was reduced immediately north of Route 9 where normal patrolling continues. Hostile buildings on north side of FORLI airfield were among air targets.

South of Route 9 enemy patrols more active than recently. During night 5/6 November Germans machine gunned lateral road east of airfield. Our positions south of airfield engaged by machine gunners and tanks 5th November.

Our patrols particularly active in GRISIGNANO area where heavy enemy mortaring reported. No change in enemy positions this Sector.

To west our troops advanced all along front. North of PREDAPPIO we advanced one thousand yards down valley to attack M. CASALUDA 3707 on west side of RABBI. The hills between RABBI and MONTONE rivers MARSIGNANO 3505 cleared by Polish troops after house to house fighting. We pushed on to recapture M. TESTA (Area 3505). In same area hill villages of MONTE MAGGIORE 3404 and S. MARTINO IN AVELLO 3203 also captured. In all these actions PW taken and casualties inflicted on enemy. Our troops also gaining control of hills between RABBI and MONTONE. M. POGGIONE 2703 and M. CUPPA 2502 taken without opposition.

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

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EIGHTH ARMY.

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South of Route 9 enemy patrols more active than recently. During night 5/6 November German machine gunned lateral road east of airfield. Our positions south of airfield engaged by machine gunners and tanks 5th November.

Our patrols particularly active in CRISIGNANO area where heavy enemy mortaring reported. No change in enemy positions this Sector.

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Weather mostly fair whole front.

E N D O N R B.

0066

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

Italian Patriots LG NOV Recd 1132.

N.A. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

32

COMMUNIQUE No. 209. 5th NOVEMBER, 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1030-1-hrs.

NAVY:

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

Activity on the front of the Allied Armies in ITALY continues to be confined to patrolling.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Strong forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday bombed targets in South-Western GERMANY, AUSTRIA and YUGOSLAVIA.

Tactical Air Force medium bombers attacked road and rail bridges in the Brenner Pass and in the PO valley.

Fighters and fighter bombers attacked road traffic and bridges north of the Italian front and close support targets in the battle area.

Shipping in the Adriatic and rail lines in YUGOSLAVIA were again targets for fighters, fighter bombers and medium bombers.

During these operations two enemy aircraft were destroyed.

Fifteen of our planes are missing.

MAAF flew about 2,200 sorties.

--- END COMMUNIQUE---

SEEN.	INITIAL
Col. Mc[illegible]HY	
Maj. M[illegible]	
Maj. D[illegible]	
Capt. S[illegible]	
Col. [illegible]AVO	
C. C.	

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

ON RECORD BACKGROUND
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO.289 FOR 5 NOV 1944

FIFTH ARMY

Temporarily clearing weather 4 Nov enabled Fifth Army troops to improve positions and road communications and allowed air support first opportunity in several weeks to aid ground forces.

Enemy arty fire increased, principally along Route 65. Sporadic harassing fire reported along entire front.

On right flank, ground activity confined to aggressive patrolling. German troops laid mines and entanglements in vicinity of Hill 227/0916.

In central sector, American Negro troops moved to vicinity of Hill 367/9133, where German troops using church as strong point.

In coastal sector, our troops repulsed a counterattack in CALOMINI area 1202, with losses to enemy.

EIGHTH ARMY

On Eighth Army front, weather improved but extensive operations not yet possible. Our patrols in coastal sector held up by bad visibility. Extensive new flooded areas made operations increasingly difficult. Positions unchanged and enemy continues to harass our forward troops with SP arty and heavy shelling.

Our troops cleaned up listening post south of GAMBELLARA 5128, 3000 yards north of S PIETRO. GAMBELLARA held strongly by German Jaegers. From here to Route 9, active patrolling both sides. Positions unchanged and German PW continue to come in.

In area immediately north of Route 9, intermittent enemy shelling 3 Nov and nebelwerfers active. Position on north side of Forli airfield unchanged and our patrols at NE corner continued to meet considerable opposition. On south side of airfield, British troops attacked with infantry and armour after noon 3 Nov and advanced 500 yards against strong opposition. They encountered heavy shelling mortar and MG fire from west corner of airfield.

South of Route 9, bridge situation improved over whole sector. In areas of GRISIGNANO 4211 and COLLINA 4210, east of Rabbi, our patrols active and continued to meet strong opposition [illegible]

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

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South of Route 9, bridge situation improved over whole sector. In areas of GRISIGNANO 4211 and COLLINA 4210, east of Rabbi, our patrols active and continued to meet enemy opposition. Germans still hold houses south and SE of S MARTINO IN STRADA. Farther west, Polish troops established patrol on M TESTA (area 3505), in high ground between Rabbi and Montone rivers but it was driven off by strong enemy counterattack.

In mountains, our patrols in contact with Germans on wide front. Positions unchanged.

Eighth Army despite interruptions by weather in operations, have pulled in 100 PW's daily over October. Bad weather made mountain roads particularly difficult.

Weather both fronts: fair periods with occasional showers in hills. Further fair periods expected.

END ONRB

0069

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

Italian Patrols.

14 NOV Recd

123A

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE NO.288. 4 November 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS.

NAVY:

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

Activity on the front of the Allied Armies in Italy has been confined to patrolling.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Bad weather yesterday curtailed air operations, but a small force of aircraft attacked industrial targets in Germany and Austria.

Fighters and fighter bombers attacked communications in the PO Valley, in Yugoslavia and in Albania and an airfield near Zagreb.

Two of our aircraft are missing from these operations.

MAAF flew approximately 300 sorties.

LAND FORCES GREECE
COMMUNIQUE.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS. 4 November 1944.

Patrolling continues towards the Greek Yugoslav frontier.

END COMMUNIQUE.

SEEN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mac	BY	
Maj. Mac		

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

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LAND FORCES GREECE
COMMUNIQUE.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS. 4 November 1944.

Patrolling continues towards the Greek Yugoslav frontier.

END COMMUNIQUE.

SEEN.	INITIALS.
Col. Mc HY	
Maj. Mc	
Maj. DRAGE	
Capt. SILVACCHI	
Col. HAY	
C. [illegible]	

0071

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

123B

O.R.B.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 288.

4th. NOVEMBER 1944.

EIGHTH ARMY.

Continued heavy rain during night 2/3 November and 3 November generally speaking made major operations impossible. All expedients were adopted to cross flooded rivers with supplies for troops, including use of wire rope bridges, assualt boats and ferries.

Positions unchanged in extreme Coastal Sector held by 114 Jaeger Division recently re-inforced. In action NE of STEFANO on 2 November during three seperate clashes with enemy we captured 25 PW. Patrols continued active to RONCO NW and SW S.PIETRO.

Enemy destroyed all towers and high buildings east of RONCO, making observation very difficult in this flat country. Positions along RONCO remain same.

Enemy shelled FORLIMPOPOLI with phosphorous shells causing some fires.

Developments in area FORLI airfield hindered by rain, but we remain in close contact in same positions. German tanks active south SAN MARTINO in Strada. Our patrols in this area penetrated deeply and crossed RABBI river.

In mountains, Polish troops made some advances along watershed between RABBI and MONTONE rivers.

Farther west positions remain unchanged.

FIFTH ARMY.

Main activity along entire Fifth Army front moderate enemy harassing Arty and Mortar fire 3 November. Patrols active and several small counter-attacks by enemy supported by Arty, repulsed.

On east flank British troops repulsed two small enemy attacks at 0719 M.TAVERNA area and two others beaten off vicinity 0425 near M.DEL VERRO. Strong enemy patrol dispersed vicinity M.SPADURO at 0326.

American troops stopped counter-attack near hill 358/9332. South African and American Armoured troops received counter-attack 6221 area, which repulsed.

Action in Coastal Sector confined to aggressive patrolling.

0072

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American troops stopped counter-attack near hill 358/9332. South African and American Armoured troops received counter-attack 6221 area, which repulsed.

Action in Coastal Sector confined to aggressive patrolling.

Weather, intermittent rain. Thunderstorms in hills.

(For information on 913 Ffold Arty Battalion, see Appendix to to-days ONRB).

It can now be stated that for the period 11 May 44 to date Allied casualties in Italy total 116,150. As the Commander-in-Chief recently stated in his address to War Correspondents, enemy casualties for the same period were 194,000.

END ONRB.

0073

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

Italian Patriots

3 NOV Recd MSC.

32

1224

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

P.R.

COMMUNIQUE NO.287. 3 NOVEMBER 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1100 A HRS.

NAVY:

It is reported from the Adriatic that on the evening of 1 November His Majesty's destroyers WHEATLAND (Lieut. Hugh Ashew Corbett, DSC, RN, Commanding) and the AVONVALE (Lieut. Ivan Hall, RN, Commanding) operating among the islands west of PAG Island (44° 30 minutes north 15° east) met and engaged two enemy destroyers both of which were sunk. About an hour and a half later a third destroyer was engaged and sunk. Some survivors were rescued and made prisoners. Our forces suffered no casualties although the AVONVALE sustained superficial damage.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

Unusually heavy rainstorms have once more brought operations in Italy to a standstill.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Adverse weather grounded most MAAF aircraft yesterday. Fighters attacked road and rail communications in northern ALBANIA and shipping in the ADRIATIC.

Last night a small force attacked objectives in AUSTRIA.

There were no losses or claims during these operations.

MAAF flew less than 100 sorties.

LAND FORCES GREECE
COMMUNIQUE.

FOR RELEASE 1100 A HRS. 3 NOVEMBER 1944.

Casualties were inflicted by our patrols when they attacked the rear guard of an enemy column entering FLORINA yesterday. They also derailed an enemy train of 60 wagons in the same area. Beaufighters destroyed it north of SALONIKA.

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

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END COMMUNIQUE.

SEEN.	INITIAL
Col. Mc. [illegible] HY	
Maj. M[illegible]	
Maj. GRACE	
Capt. S. LV.-DORI	
[illegible]	
C. P.	

0075

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

1223

O.R.B.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO 287
3 NOVEMBER 1944

FIFTH ARMY

Unusually heavy rains, most violent so far encountered this season slowed down Fifth Army activity during period: Driven continuously by high wind, mountain storm washed out numerous bridges and by-passes, turned small streams into raging torrents, and made it almost impossible for units both forward and in rear to obtain their full quota of essential supplies. During night 1/2 Nov. violent thunderstorms in area and fogs continued to obscure vision.

Frontline positions remained virtually unchanged although enemy launched several counterattacks along front during night.

British troops repulsed one counterattack south of M POMPEGNO 1906.

Activity in central and western sectors confined to patrolling, arty duels and exchange of mortar, MG and SA fire.

EIGTH ARMY

On Eigth Army front weather remained fair up to night 1/2 Nov. then thunderstorm and continual heavy rain until afternoon 2 Nov. Rivers rose greatly washing away many bridges and going is once more very bad.

In extreme coastal sector positons are unchanged. German infantry and SP guns block our advance up route 16.

Farther inland contact with enemy outposts on broad front. After preliminary brush on 1 Nov. our troops followed up with successful action morning 2 Nov. fought south of FOSSA GHIALA at cross roads two kilometers NE of S STEFANO in which enemy outposts cleaned up and two german company commanders captured. West of here we pushed on and due to rapid bridging by sappers armour got in among enemy infantry and tanks in area north of S PIETRO forcing them to retreat leaving 10(ten) dead.

Farther south positions both sides unchanged with RONCO as dividing line. Our patrols were active in this area although enemy patrols not in evidence on large scale.

South of Route 9 British infantry and armour advanced 1500 yards and surrounded two sides of FORLI airfield. Germans supported by tanks defended airfield from NW and NE corners and at later point we are in very close contact with enemy separated only by blown canal bridge.

Farther south our troops pushed on to capture GRISIGNANO 4211 on east bank of RABBI but enemy still held road north of

9713

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

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Farther south our troops pushed on to capture GRISIGNANO 4211 on east bank of RABBI but enemy still hold road north of here and S MARTINO IN STRADA 4213 village. 4213.

North of PREDAPPIO our patrols penetrated to RABBI and established that germans are on heights beyond river.

In mountains farther west positions are unchanged.

END O.N.R.B.

0077

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

MSC.

2 NOV Rec'd

121A

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

2 NOVEMBER 1944.

COMMUNIQUE NO.286.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS.

NAVY:

On 30 October the French cruiser PRINCE BERTIN bombarded beaches and enemy troop movements near the French/Italian frontier. The areas were well covered. On 31 October the French destroyer FORBIN engaged targets in the same area and scored direct hits on a pillbox and enemy personnel.

The work of the Allied Minesweeping force off the South coast of France, the Aegean and the waters of Greece is continuing successfully. Many mines have been accounted for.

	INITIALS
HY	
Maj. Mar	
Maj. Dra	
Cdr. ALV. SORI	
Cdr. NAVS	
C. C.	

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

Polish and Indian troops of Eighth Army advancing northwards between the RABBI and RONCO rivers have made considerable progress and have joined up with the bridgehead established by other troops of Eighth Army across the River RONCO near MELDOLA.

South of BOLOGNA, American troops have cleared the enemy from the village of CASETTA.

Elsewhere activity has been confined to patrolling.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Yesterday strong forces of escorted heavy bombers attacked industrial and communications targets in the VIENNA area, the escorting fighters attacking railroad traffic and an airfield on the return journey.

Fighters and fighter-bombers attacked communications targets in the PO Valley and in the ZAGREB-ZAGREB areas of YUGOSLAVIA, and also in ALBANIA.

Shipping in the North Adriatic and off the Dalmatian coast was also attacked.

Last night, a small force of night bombers attacked the railyards at LAVISANA in Northern Italy.

During all these operations one enemy aircraft was shot down. Three of our heavy bombers and four other aircraft are missing.

MAAF flew over 1400 sorties.

812

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

00788

The work of [illegible] in FRANCE, the AEGEAN and the waters of GREECE is continuing [illegible]. Many mines have been accounted for.

	INITIALS
[illegible] HY	
Maj. Ma[illegible]	P.T.
Maj. D[illegible]	
Cdr. [illegible]	
Cdr. NAVS	
C. C.	

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LAND FORCES GREECE
COMMUNIQUE.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS.

British forces received an enthusiastic reception on entering SALONIKA yesterday. Patrols harassing the enemy north of the town ambushed the withdrawing enemy columns and inflicted 25 casualties in a sharp engagement. Fire engines were among the transport used by the Germans in their withdrawal.

END COMMUNIQUE.

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

1218

ON RECORD BACKGROUND
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO. 285 FOR 2 NOV 1944

EIGHTH ARMY

Canadian troops advanced up Route 16 in Eighth Army coastal sector and reached main FOSSA-CHIAIA crossing, 5 road miles from center of RAVENNA.

In another successful affray north of S STEFANO, our troops inflicted further casualties on enemy outposts.

In COCCOLIA 4925 area, at Ronco crossing, halfway between RAVENNA and Route 9, PW were taken and casualties inflicted on Germans. South of here, our troops are up to Ronco all along, and enemy was cleared from positions on east bank.

On west bank, German positions are unchanged to Ronco village 4614 on Route 9. South of Route 9, we crossed river in strength with infantry and armour, east of FORLI airfield, and fighting continues at NE corner of airfield (area 4613).

Farther south, our troops pushing on from their Ronco bridgehead made considerable advances toward Rabbi river and are now 4000 yards beyond Ronco with patrols to 5000 yards NW of MELDOLA.

In mountains, Polish troops made considerable advances and are over 2000 yards north of PREDAPPIO, Mussolini's birthplace. Patrols penetrated well north of CAMINATE where it appears that Germans have few troops this side of Rabbi river. There was little change in positions in mountains, farther west, though some advances made, PW taken and casualties inflicted on enemy who still holds S MARTINO IN AVELLO and S RUFILLO 2903, SE and SW of DOVADOLA 3005, this side of Montone River.

For announcement of award of first VC to Mahratta, see Indian PR Appendix to today's ONRB.

FIFTH ARMY

Fifth Army recce patrols probed enemy positions and engaged in several sharp clashes 1 Nov. Harassing enemy arty received along entire front but marked decrease in volume enemy shelling.

Limited advances made on right flank by British elements and patrols were active.

In central sector, south of BOLOGNA, American units cleared enemy from CASETTA (area 9133), encountering some resistance. Other American elements held their positions against strong counterattack vicinity CASTELLO. Brazilian troops received heavy counterattack vicinity CATAGNANA 1805, and made slight withdrawal to less exposed positions.

While Fifth Army water-logged by extremely bad weather and

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

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While Fifth Army water-logged by extremely bad weather and limited road facilities through Appenines, excellent road-net in PO Valley been of great value to enemy in bringing up supplies and ammunition.

Weather fair periods with occasional light/rain in hills.

END OPNS

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

NLP 2 NOV Recd

SEEN.	INITIALS
Col. Mc. [illegible]THY	
Maj. MAG[illegible]S	
Maj. DRAGE	
Capt. SALVADORI	
Col. FAVARO	
C. C.	

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

Col Orne Carthy
Patriot.

November 1, 1944

Daily Digest of Rome Press.

AFTERNOON PAPERS

OSSERVATORE ROMANO - N.R.

QUOTIDIANO (Independent Catholic)

1. Ruffo, goings through the month's political events finds that the Churchill-Stalin meeting, though having solved various Balkan problems, has not completely solved the Polish one. At Dumbarton Oaks a project was born by which the World may hope to enjoy, not "perpetual peace" but any how many years of peace; it is something, says R. For Italy it has been a good month: new attitude of the Allies, new arrival of food, medicines, clothes, the "Am-lire" credit, renewed diplomatic relations. Only black point Eden's declarations on the colonial question. R. is particularly happy about La Guardia's declaration that Italy will soon be considered as an Ally.

RICOSTRUZIONE (Labour Democrat)

1. After having suggested some reforms which he deems necessary for good functioning of the Police, M.L. asks the people not to despise P.S. Agents, but rather try to help them in their fight against crime.

2. Ironical comment on the visit paid by Polish troops to "famous House" in Predappio.

3. Focolari asks Sforza to take steps to free from prison three people who were arrested by so called partisans in August.

VOCE REPUBBLICANA (Republican)

1. Zuccarini finds that the six parties which form the Comitato di Liberazione are not developing in conformity with natural orientation of Italian people. These parties enjoy a privileged situation and without effort or propaganda get hold of all commanding posts. A new form of Fascism may be born out of this situation.

2. Roosevelt said "I believe in private initiative; which will provide work for everybody". Why does not the personnel of the A.(C).C. put in practice these theories?

MORNING PAPERS

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

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MORNING PAPERS

AVANTI (Socialist)

Nenni finds that Taddeo Orlando's circular to the forces of the CC.RR. is rather exagerated, and leads them to think that they have to fight ferocious enemies. This, he says, might easily bring about revolution or civil war. One should not strain too much the people's patience, and the Govt should call its personnel to a better understanding and interpretation of its duties.

2. Twentythree more Senators epurated.

0083

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3. The Commission for the uncultivated land might have inquired about the sowing time.

4. Complaints: The pastry-cooks' shops oughtn't to be allowed to make cakes. What is the good of an allotment for the high cost of living when life goes on getting more and more expensive. (Cheese 300-400 Lire a Kg) Employers who don't want to pay the indemnity for the high cost of living simply dismiss their employees. A codicil forbidding that ought to be added to the decree about the indemnity.

POPOLO (Christian Democrat)

1. For Perticone, proletarization means the impoverishment of the middle classes, writes Guido Gonella. He says that protecting the liberty of men doesn't mean turning them all into proletarians, but on the contrary freeing them from their condition of proletarians i.e. from economic servitude.

RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE (Liberal)

1. Do Liberals really need to have lessons in liberty and democracy as Saragat seems to think? Except on the institutional question, on which we have decided to keep silent, we are ready to collaborate with the socialist in all other points, says Pannunzio. Socialists and Communists will find us their allies, in the fight against fascism, in a desire for rapid epuration, in the final assault against the rotten institutions of the past regime. But if liberty is ever menaced by Communists, then they will find in us violent and strong opponents.

2. Ministry of Industry has decided block of twenty products. Do they believe this to be a good policy in the present moment?

TEMPO (Independent)

1. G. Cassinelli suggests various means of helping reconstruction of damaged buildings without weighing too heavily on the public money.

2. Does Rome look like a town, a capital? no, it looks more like a village, where everything is sold in the streets, in baskets or just on the pavement. You can find anything just because there is lack of everything. Misery compels poor people to give away their last belongings, says L. Bigiaretti, and so the town has a permanent air of "marché aux puces".

UNITA' (Communists)

1. Italy hasn't got any diplomatists, writes Velio Spano. The Foreign Office was corrupted by Fascism.

2. Second article by Captain X. He attacks the General Staff

0084
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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1. Italy hasn't got any diplomatists, writes Velio Spano. The Foreign Office was corrupted by Fascism.

2. Second article by Captain X. He attacks the General Staff and many incapable commanders.

3. Fascist profiteers are still doing very well. (Vasselli, Cidonio, la Ferrobeton etc)

GENERAL

1. Rationing of electric light.

2. Supplement of bread for the workers. They will also get their usual meal.

3. Strike of the typographers: They want to get transportation for it is too dangerous to go about at night.

0085

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

AGP 2 NOV Recd

SEEN.	INITIALS
Col. Mc. [illegible]HY	
Maj. MAG[illegible]S	
Maj. DRAGE	
Capt. SALVADORI	
Col. FAVARO	
C. C.	

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

Col Orne Cathy Portrait.

November 1, 1944

Daily Digest of Rome Press.

AFTERNOON PAPERS

OSSERVATORE ROMANO - N.E.

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1. After having suggested some reforms which he deems necessary for good functioning of the Police, M.E. asks the people not to despise P.S. Agents, but rather try to help them in their fight against crime.

2. Ironical comment on the visit paid by Polish troops to "famous House" in Predappio.

3. Focolari asks Sforza to take steps to free from prison three people who were arrested by so called partisans in August.

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1. Zuccarini finds that the six parties which form the Comitato di Liberazione are not developing in conformity with natural orientation of Italian people. These parties enjoy a privileged situation and without effort or propaganda get hold of all commanding posts. A new form of Fascism may be born out of this situation.

2. Roosevelt said "I believe in private initiative; which will provide work for everybody". Why does not the personnel of the A.(C).C. put in practice these theories?

MORNING PAPERS

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016
0086

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2. Twentythree more Senators epurated.

0087

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

3. "Great Orient of Italy" (Masonry of Palazzo Giustiniani) has proclaimed its intention of continuing observance of its institutions above all parties and religions.

4. It was with great satisfaction, says Avanti, that yesterday we read Fonteviva's article on Ricostruzione, and Togliatti's on Unita; both the Labour Democrat and the Communist give their full approval of Nenni's "trinomio" (republic, land-reforms, socialisation of industry).

5. Bonomi has issued orders to the Provincial Commissions for concession of land to peasants, to begin functioning by November 5.

6. It is very well to have renewed diplomatic relations, but whom have we got capable of spreading abroad this desire of freedom and renewal which sustains Italian people? It is not certainly in Palazzo Chigi, says D. Grisolia, that we shall find the right men. New men will have to be found somehow, and quickly.

7. From New York's "Progress": - The truth is that some rich Roman families, well known for their fascist ideas and behaviour, give luxurious parties and dinners to Allied Officers and are sure of immunity.

8. Extra bread and Mense Aziendali assured to workers.

9. Today news-paper printers will go on strike to protest against long delayed fulfilment of promise of providing them with transportation get home at night.

ITALIA LIBERA (Action)

1. Carovita subsidies should be in relation to present high cost of living.

2. Work of Magistrates and legal people does not proceed as rapidly as it should in their epuration activity, chiefly because there is not enough personnel, says Iudex. Why not then call back old Magistrates sent away by fascism, or give jobs to all those who are waiting, after having passed through competitions? Epuration must proceed more speedily.

3. Arrest of a band of criminals, among whom were also deserters from Allied Armies.

4. Fifty "popular judges" chosen for the Corte d'Assise; one of them, U.C. Caruso, owner of a chemist store, was a well known fascist, a friend of the Germans, worked in black market with medicines, and his son had joined the Republican Fascist Milizia. No comment is needed.

ITALIA NUOVA (Democrat)

0088

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ITALIA NUOVA (Democrat)

1. Fascism has put the bourgeoisie in a state of self defence; it does not exist, politically speaking, writes Enzo Selvaggi; nevertheless, the working class cannot interpret all the general needs of society. The bourgeoisie ought to realize the needs of the other classes, and help them to reach a higher standard of living. The workers must understand that they cannot get a sound democracy without the collaboration of the other classes.

2. Nothing is being done for the prisoners who are coming home; nothing has been done for their families while they were away.

0089
declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

3. The Commission for the uncultivated land might have inquired about the sowing time.

4. Complaints: The pastry-cooks' shops oughtn't to be allowed to make cakes. What is the good of an allotment for the high cost of living when life goes on getting more and more expensive. (Cheese 300-400 Lire a Kg) Employers who don't want to pay the indemnity for the high cost of living simply dismiss their employees. A codicil forbidding that ought to be added to the decree about the indemnity.

POPOLO (Christian Democrat)

1. For Perticone, proletarization means the impoverishment of the middle classes, writes Guido Gonella. He says that protecting the liberty of men doesn't mean turning them all into proletarians, but on the contrary freeing them from their condition of proletarians i.e. from economic servitude.

RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE (Liberal)

1. Do Liberals really need to have lessons in liberty and democracy as Saragat seems to think? Except on the institutional question, on which we have decided to keep silent, we are ready to collaborate with the socialist in all other points, says Pannunzio. Socialists and Communists will find us their allies, in the fight against fascism, in a desire for rapid epuration, in the final assault against the rotten institutions of the past regime. But if liberty is even menaced by Communists, then they will find in us violent and strong opponents.

2. Ministry of Industry has decided block of twenty products. Do they believe this to be a good policy in the present moment?

TEMPO (Independent)

1. G. Cassinelli suggests various means of helping reconstruction of damaged buildings without weighing too heavily on the public money.

2. Does Rome look like a town, a capital? no, it looks more like a village, where everything is sold in the streets, in baskets or just on the pavement. You can find anything just because there is lack of everything. Misery compels poor people to give away their last belongings, says L. Bigiaretti, and so the town has a permanent air of "marché aux puces".

UNITA' (Communists)

1. Italy hasn't got any diplomatists, writes Velio Spano. The Foreign Office was corrupted by Fascism.

2. Second article by Captain X. He attacks the General Staff

0090

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

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2. Second article by Captain X. He attacks the General Staff and many incapable commanders.

3. Fascist profiteers are still doing very well. (Vasselli, Cidonio, la Ferrobeton etc)

GENERAL

1. Rationing of electric light.

2. Supplement of bread for the workers. They will also get their usual meal.

3. Strike of the typographers: They want to get transportation for it is too dangerous to go about at night.

0091

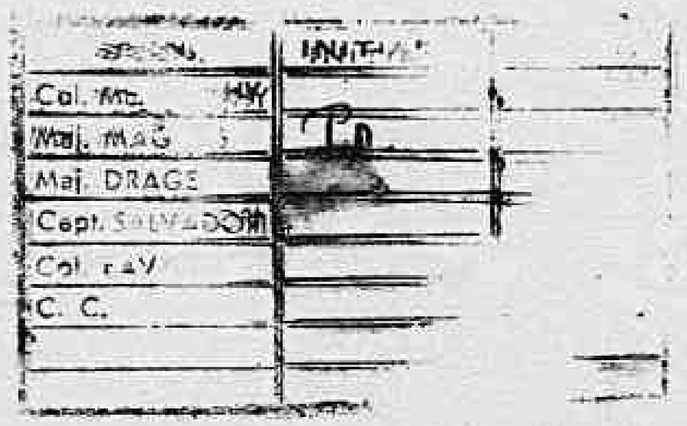
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Not Rec'd
Not Rec'd 432
1132

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE No. 285. FOR RELEASE 1100- A HRS. 1st NOVEMBER, 1944.

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE.



ALLIED AIR OPS IN ITALY.

In the Adriatic Sector troops of Eighth Army have improved and strengthened their bridgehead across the RONCO and have cleared the town of MELDOLA on the west bank of this river.

South of BOLOGNA, American troops of Fifth Army have repulsed a number of sharp counter-attacks with heavy losses to the enemy.

Elsewhere activity continues to be confined to patrolling and artillery duels.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Medium bombers of the Tactical Air Force yesterday bombed bridges in the PO valley. Light bombers, fighters and fighter bombers attacked close support targets on the Italian front and communications in Northern Italy.

Balkan Air Force fighters and fighter bombers flew offensive sweeps against targets in GREECE, ALBANIA and YUGOSLAVIA, and light bombers attacked shipping off the DALMATIAN coast.

A small force of Strategic Air Force medium bombers yesterday attacked targets in YUGOSLAVIA.

818

During these operations 4 enemy aircraft were destroyed.
5 of our planes are missing.

MAAF flew about 1,000 sorties.

--- end ---Communique---

0092
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Maj. MAC
Maj. DRAGE
Capt. SALVADORI
Col. [illegible]V
C. C.

ALLIED AIR ACTION IN ITALY.

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--- end ----Communique---

GROUND FORCES GREECE COMMUNIQUE. For Release 1100-A-hrs. 1 NOV,44.

British patrols have now reached SALONIKA.

Operations by our ground forces against the enemy North of KOZANI are continuing and our forward patrols are in contact with the enemy rearguards.

---END COMMUNIQUE---

808

0093
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Italian Patriots

31 OCT Recd 1 Bn 132 FORMATION ENVISION ACC

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 284. 31 OCTOBER 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1045 A HRS.

NAVY:

On 28th and 29th October His Majesty's ship AURORA continued to bombard enemy batteries on the island of MELOS.

On the night 27/28 October, Allied light coastal forces operating on the Gulf of Genoa successfully attacked an enemy convoy of 6 "F" Lighters with two escorts entering RAPALLO harbour. 3 of the lighters were sunk.

On 27 October the U.S. destroyer PLUNKETT and French cruiser JEANNE D'ARC obtained direct hits on enemy batteries near the Franco-Italian frontier.

On 28th October the U.S. destroyers GLEAVES, PLUNKETT and the French cruiser EMILE BERTIN bombarded enemy batteries and troop concentrations in the same area. Direct hits were obtained and the whole area well covered. During these bombardments fire was returned from the shore.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

Taking advantage of an improvement in the weather Indian troops of Eighth Army have established a bridge-head across the river RONCO near MELDOLA. Elsewhere activity has been confined to local actions and artillery duels. In one successful local action American troops of Fifth Army, North of the BOLOGNA - PRATO road, captured 100 prisoners.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Weather again prevented bomber operations, but fighter-bombers and fighters attacked enemy supplies, communications, rail and river traffic rear of the battle areas.

In the Balkans, bridges, roads and rail communications were attacked by our fighters.

Four of our aircraft are missing from the day's operations.

MAAF flew over 400 sorties.

LAND FORCES GREECE
COMMUNIQUE

For release
1045A hrs.

Our naval forces are continuing to harass the German

0094
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Four of our aircraft are missing from the day's operations.

MAAF flew over 400 sorties.

LAND FORCES GREECE
COMMUNIQUE

For release
1045A hrs.

Our ground forces are continuing to harass the German rearguards north of KOZANI. Guerilla forces are actively co-operating with British troops in the area and were well represented in the closely co-ordinated attack which liberated KOZANI town. Further successes by Guerilla forces operating against the enemy rearguards culminated in the capture of ARNISSA approximately 40 miles north of KOZANI where the German garrison was destroyed.

SEEN.	INITIAL
Col. Mc. HY	
Maj. Mac	GH
Maj. DRAGE	
Capt. LYNCH-Bell	

0095
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE No.284
31 OCTOBER 1944

EIGHTH ARMY

In Eighth Army coastal sector going remains difficult even on roads, but our patrols active beyond BEVANO river on Route 16 and found area South of FIUMI UNITI lightly held by German rearguards. Enemy patrols active in S.PIETRO IN VINCOLI (5225) and S.STEFANO (5526) areas between BEVANO and RONCO, but our troops advanced steadily against light opposition. On East bank of RONCO our armoured cars successfully shot up German defended BORGO SISA (4822) which covers river crossing. Between here and Route 9 on East bank of RONCO our patrols continued active and several fire fights occurred across river with German infantry and SP guns from their positions on West bank.

RONCO continues to flow fast and fields either side Route 9 still flooded waist deep. Our patrols in this area found enemy in usual positions.

Troops of an Indian division established bridge-head across RONCO North of MELDOLA 29 Oct. This was consolidated and extended to 1,000 yards in depth on 30 Oct and 20 PW captured. We patrolled forward from ridge West of MELDOLA and took PW.

In higher hills between RONCO and RABBI rivers our troops contacted GERmans holding strong wired-in positions at CAMINATO (3905).

FIFTH ARMY

While heavy arty duels raged on many sectors of Fifth Army front, infantry activity confined to aggressive patrolling with little change in dispositions. Enemy nebelwerfer fire received in some areas.

On right flank of sector Indian troops took M.MARZANELLA (2201) height West of Route 67.

In central sector American troops patrolled actively. Enemy remained passive in defence except one area where patrols attempted infiltration through our lines without success.

Nearly 100 prisoners captured vicinity ~~VASTELLASCO~~ CASTELLACCIO 8006.

Brazilian troops on left flank took mountain 2,800 feet high (area 1807) against enemy MG fire and other elements occupied

0096
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

East bank of RONCO our patrols continued active and several fire fights occurred across river with German infantry and SP guns from their positions on West bank.

RONCO continues to flow fast and fields either side Route 9 still flooded waist deep. Our patrols in this area found enemy in usual positions.

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Nearly 100 prisoners captured vicinity CASTELLACCIO ~~VASTELLACCIO~~.

Brazilian troops on left flank took mountain 2,800 feet high (area 1807) against enemy MG fire, and other elements occupied CALOMINI (1202).

Weather fair periods morning, occasional showers becoming widespread over mountains afternoon whole front.

END ONRB

0097

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

Khaki Patriots.

M.E.C.

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE NO.282. 31 OCT Recd 1/32 30 OCTOBER 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1045-A-HRS.

NAVY:

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE.

SEEN.	INITIAL
Col. Mc [illegible] HY	
Maj. Me[illegible]	P.V.
Maj. [illegible]	
C[illegible] DOM	
[illegible]	
C[illegible]	
[illegible]	

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

Weather conditions in Italy have improved and patrols have been very active.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Despite poor weather conditions which forced the cancellation of most operations yesterday, a small force of escorted heavy bombers bombed targets in southern Germany. Long-range fighters strafed road and rail traffic in Austria.

In the Italian battle area fighters and fighter-bombers attacked gun positions, motor and rail transport, and a bridge. Enemy shipping in the Adriatic was attacked by fighters, fighter-bombers and light bombers. Troop concentrations and military traffic in Albania were attacked by fighters and fighter-bombers.

From these operations seven of our aircraft are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 700 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE.

835

LAND FORCES GREECE.
COMMUNIQUE.

For release
1045-A-hrs.

[illegible] captured by British troops yesterday after a sharp [illegible] the enemy offered

0098
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ALLIED AIRMEN IN ITALY:

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From these operations seven of our aircraft are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 700 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE.

LAND FORCES GREECE.
COMMUNIQUE.

For release
1045-A-hrs.

KOZANI was captured by British troops yesterday after a sharp engagement to the West of the town during which the enemy offered stiff resistance. Our troops received an enthusiastic welcome from the inhabitants when the town was entered at 1445-A-hrs. Casualties were inflicted on the enemy in the engagement.

The enemy is withdrawing to the Northward and our advanced patrols are continuing to maintain contact.

Rail traffic in the SALONIKA area during the period 1500-A-hrs 28 OCT to 1500-A-hrs 29 OCT was attacked by Spitfires. The attack resulted in 7 locomotives being destroyed and 9 damaged and 11 trucks destroyed. Operating in the same area night Beaufighters saw two large explosions and fires on the docks.

--END COMMUNIQUE--

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

ON RECORD BACKGROUND
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO.283 FOR 30 OCT 1944

FIFTH ARMY

Activity on Fifth Army front 29 Oct confined principally to patrolling. Heavy enemy shelling continues. Enemy has been firing more arty in recent action than ever fired against Fifth Army in Italian campaign.

Enemy continues to improve his hasty defenses all along front and new minefields and entanglements have been installed.

British troops pushed north of ROCCA S CASCIANO, on Route 67, to maintain contact with enemy forces who are withdrawing from their salient in this sector to avoid being cut off.

American armored infantry supported by tank fire attacked north of MARANO 6319 morning 29 Oct, and advanced elements reached CASTELLACCIO (area 6322). To the west, BOSCO and SERRA 6119 occupied.

In coastal sector, Brazilian troops now firm on M FAETO 1303, and took a hill immediately east.

EIGHTH ARMY

In Eighth Army coastal sector, our patrols active in flooded country beyond Bevano river. One patrol contacted enemy between Bevano and Ronco, knocked out German halftrack vehicle, captured some PW and inflicted casualties including one German officer killed.

Enemy still leaving small parties on east bank of Ronco for patrol purposes this side of RAVENNA.

In area north of Route 9, though ground conditions remain same, there was slightly more activity including several patrol brushes with enemy.

German positions between Route 9 and MELDOLA remain same and enemy hold most of town. Our troops captured high ground west of river about two thousand yards west of MELDOLA, against strong opposition;

Positions are unchanged at PREDAPPIO but in high ground west of town between Rabbi and Montone rivers, our patrols contacted enemy at M CADIGNANO (area 3503) and S MARTINO IN AVELLO 3203.

0100
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

from their salient in [illegible]

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Positions are unchanged at PREDAPPIO but in high ground west of town between Rabbi and Montone rivers, our patrols contacted enemy at M CADIGNANO (area 3503) and S MARTINO IN AVELLO 3203.

Weather fair to cloudy with occasional showers whole front; outlook [illegible] unchanged fair periods with occasional showers.

END O N R B

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

28 OCT Recd 45e.

Italian Patrols. 32

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE NO.281. 28 OCTOBER 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS.

NAVY:

On 26 October His Majesty's ships AURORA, EMPEROR, TIRIAN and TYRRELL bombarded the island of MELOS. The island of PISKOPI northwest of MYTILENE was occupied on the night of 26/27 October by troops landed from His Majesty's cruiser SIRIUS.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

The extremely bad weather during the last 48 hours brought operations in Italy to a virtual standstill.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Adverse weather yesterday restricted MAAF aircraft to routine patrolling and isolated attacks against enemy communications.

Fighter-bombers bombed a bridge in northern Italy.

From these operations three of our aircraft are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 420 sorties.

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

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS.

H.M.S.:

On 26 October His Majesty's ships AURORA, EMPEROR, TYRIAN and TYRWHITT bombarded the island of LEROS. The island of PISKOPI northwest of KOS was occupied on the night of 26/27 October by troops landed from His Majesty's cruiser SIRIUS.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

The extremely bad weather during the last 48 hours brought operations in Italy to a virtual standstill.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Adverse weather yesterday restricted MAAF aircraft to routine patrolling and isolated attacks against enemy communications.

Fighter-bombers bombed a bridge in northern Italy.

From these operations three of our aircraft are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 120 sorties.

SEEN.	INITIALS.	
Col. Mc. [illegible]MY		
Maj. Mau[illegible]	CPD.	
Maj. DRAKE		
Capt. [illegible]		
[illegible]		
C[illegible]		

0103

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

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO 281
OCTOBER 28 1944

Fifth Army

Rainstorms, causing impassable roads, washed-out bridges and rain-swollen streams, restricted operations along entire Fifth Army front 27 Oct. Enemy continues to reinforce his forces South and SE of BOLOGNA.

On right flank of sector British troops and tanks advancing up Route 67 entered ROCCA SAN CASCIANO (2799). M.SACCO (2199) also reported clear.

Indian troops occupied M.VESPIGNANO (area 1801) and S.MARTINO (area 1902) without opposition. In some areas forward units cut off by flooded streams; supplies being transported to them by rope ferries.

After several days severe fighting in VEDRIANO area American troops consolidated their positions on a ridge West of town. Heavy fighting of past few days has brought American units to a line of commanding hills South of BOLOGNA extending from North of LIVERGNANO on Route 65 Eastward through M.BELMONTE, M.GRANDE and M.DELL ACQUA, the latter North of CASTEL DEL RIO - IMOLA road. These positions being improved. Several severe counter-attacks repulsed.

South African troops occupied BELVEDERE (7827) and high ground NW of town.

Active patrolling continues in Fifth Army coastal sector.

EIGHTH ARMY

Heavy rains, gales, floods restricted movement and operations on Eighth Army front.

In coastal area our patrols active, while farther inland Canadian troops reached area BORGHETTO (5821). Immediately SW of this area patrol clashes occurred with enemy armoured cars.

South of Route 9 positions of British troops unchanged on East bank of RONCO. Enemy still holds far bank and on night 26/27 Oct

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

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Heavy rains, gales, floods restricted movement and operations on Eighth Army front.

In coastal area our patrols active, while farther inland Canadian troops reached area BORGHETTO (5821). Immediately SW of this area patrol clashes occurred with enemy armoured cars.

South of Route 9 positions of British troops unchanged on East bank of RONCO. Enemy still holds far bank and on night 26/27 Oct brought up SP guns or tanks and shelled our troops. Troops of an Indian division established firmly at Southern end of MELDOLA (4405 and are clearing enemy from Northern end. West of river RABBI Polish troops captured M.MERABELLO (3300) after sharp fight and consolidated positions on M.COLOMBO (3100). Patrols went forward up to 3,000 yards.

Weather rain and strong winds and visibility bad generally whole front.

END ONRB

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

30 OCT Rec'd 32

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
CMF
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

October 29, 1944

Daily Digest of Rome Press.

AFTERNOON PAPERS

OSSERVATORE ROMANO

1. Serra points out that inventors are neither helped nor protected enough in Italy; now that this Country needs so many new things, and has so many old ones to rearrange, inventors should really be helped by the Govt.

QUOTIDIANO (Independent Catholic)

1. Renewed diplomatic relations between Italy and U.S., England and southern America States, seem to inspire everybody with hopes for a better future and for a "temporary peace" - as Don Sturzo calls it. Besides, Churchill has expressed his satisfaction for the Moscow meeting - says h. - in which Russia and England have thrown the basis for an agreement - in which America also will be present - re future reorganisation of central and eastern Europe.

2. Women want to emancipate themselves and work to run, not only their houses, but their Country as well. Why not? says G. Giordani, as long as they do not try to lose their feminity just for the sake of imitating men.

RICOSTRUZIONE (Labour Democrat)

1. Twenty-two years ago today, Mussolini took Facta's place as President of the Council of Ministers. And another anniversary as well, we must remember today, says E.M., and that is the Duce's declaration of war on Greece. In Fascist war against European civilisation, this aggression on Greece is one of the ugliest pages. So we must never forget this date, though we must not remember it as a historical one.

2. The legal officers at the head of Allied Courts of Justice, have expressed their pleasure for the discipline shown by the Roman population, since June.

VOCE REPUBBLICANA (Republican)

1. V.R. finds that renewal of Italian diplomatic relations with [illegible] done in such a way as to maintain Italy in the

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VOCE REPUBBLICANA (Republican)

1. V.R. finds that renewal of Italian diplomatic relations with other countries is done in such a way as to maintain Italy in the same inferior position due to armistice terms: i.e. the position of a beaten country admitted to cooperate with the Allies who technically remain her enemies. But Stettinius said that these renewed diplomatic relations were intended to facilitate peace. The main point, ends V.R. is that something be done; can we not be treated as France and Jugoslavia are, as Italian patriots and soldiers fight with them?

2. We shall have to teach children - and remember ourselves - that the first time Nazi-Fascist troops were beaten, it was by Greece, says Valenzani in an article in praise of Greek strength and against Italy's cowardly aggression.

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3. At the Academy of Santa Cecilia there have been epurations; but what about the Opera and other musical Institutions? And why does not the above named Academy issue a program of some kind? So A. Bonaccorsi.

MORNING PAPERS

AVANTI (Socialist)

1. Nenni says it is high time that Christian Democrats, Labour Democrats, Liberals, joined the Leftists so as to present themselves united before the Costituente, with a republican program of social reforms; political atmosphere would then be clearer, and reactionary forces could not be a serious menace.

2. Epuration in French Press is done thoroughly and quickly; what an example for Italy where everybody talks and shouts and nothing is done!

3. Roosevelt's speech at the Foreign Policy Association, says Zimarcas, is intended to be an invitation to America to realize her new responsibilities in a changed world. A hundred and twenty years ago Monroe proclaimed that U.S. would have helped any American Republic; now U.S. cannot think only about America, but must be always ready to send her help across the oceans.

4. Problems of democratic Socialism are today the problems of the destiny of Europe. Modern Socialism is an entirely European manifestation; but, so far, it is hindered in its action by the fact that the parties which form it are essentially national, or even regional; political personnel has so far come from medium bourgeois classes, and that is why, says Silone, we cannot imagine a political Internationale. But after this war European Socialism will have changed; thought it has developed during a period of interrupted international relations, we find today that in all countries socialist ideals are surprisingly similar.

5. Cannot pensions be increased?

6. Communes of Rome Province protest against S.F.R.A.L. for shortage of food assigned to them.

ITALIA LIBERA (Action)

1. The Direction of the Action Party has issued an Order of the Day, asking the Italian Government to recognise immediately the C.L.N. of the north of Italy, as Italian Govt in occupied territories. Partisans, comments Italia Libera, are the soldiers of our new Army,

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2. Armistice has been signed between Bulgaria and the Allies.

3. A group of 6.000 Italian soldiers operating in the Aegean Sea, did not wait for the declaration of war to Germany, but helped Allied troops. Now they are prisoners in Egypt. Is it right? And is it worthy of England's traditional loyalty?

4. Cannot really the Police do just a little more than it does and try to stop the increase of gangsters and thiefs? The situation

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in Rome and in Lazio is becoming rather too serious, says M. Vinciguerra.

2. Uncultivated land should be given to the peasants before it is too late in the season to do anything, so C.G.I.L. in a memorandum to Bonomi.

ITALIA NUOVA (Democrat)

1. If the State is to keep its previous form, it must be modified according to the new needs of the country; or else, it must be immediately put aside, and another form of Government will have to be established. The present compromises don't solve any problems and only make things worse, writes Roberto Lucifero.

2. It would be a good thing if able landowners cultivated their estates directly, with rational methods: the causes which make them abandon their estates to people who only speculate in their own interest ought to be removed. Vincenzo Lucci adds that nowadays, landed property is very important socially speaking, for Italy depends on it for its economic reconstruction.

3. Uncultivated land should be cultivated without delay. The C.G.I.L. is preparing a memorandum for Bonomi on this subject.

4. The market would be better supplied if there was no control; if every initiative is to be disciplined, we shall starve.

POPOLO (Christian Democrat)

1. Edoardo Ferra comments Don Sturzo statements on democracy: Will the bourgeoisie remain the fundamental element in the state, or is the working class going to take its place? Will the working class attempt class unification, or will it try to destroy the other classes?

2. Italian prisoners are fairly well treated in British and American camps, but their living conditions are bad in the French camps.

RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE (Liberal)

1. Mario Ferrara sees Italy's renewed diplomatic relations as a great step forward towards her recognition as Allied instead than as co-belligerent. Italy must now give her complete adhesion to the Atlantic Charter, he adds, and show the World that she too is collaborating to a better future.

2. Canevari (under-secretary at the Interior) has declared that everything possible will be done to increase public safety. There is a new Corpo di Guardie di P.S.

3. In a few days Rome will have more electric energy, from Cepirano. It is an occasion to remember now all the Cepirano installations were saved from German destruction, by flooding them.

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TEMPO (Independent)

1. Capitalist interests which ruined the country by bringing about the war must now be prevented from doing further harm. The popular masses fought spontaneously against the Germans; now they shall have power and take in hand the reconstruction of the country.

2. Articles on the decisions taken about Sicily by the Council of Ministers.

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UNITA' (Communis)

1. No democracy can exist as long as the privileged classes can starve their employees. Italian reactionaries invoked the law to refuse giving land to the peasants; now they must obey the law and pay the allotment for the high cost of living.

2. The Roman workers want their masses to be reorganized; they ask for the allotment for the high cost of living and for the supplement of food. They have sent the Chamber of Work various proposals of agitation and fight.

3. 9000 workers of the War Department are waiting for their wages of the past months to be paid to them. On December 31st 1943, all those who would not go North were dismissed.

4. The allotment of the workers who have been pensioned off ought to be raised.

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28 OCT Recd
11 Se. 132 Patriot Branch

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB/RS October 28, 1944

Daily Digest of Rome Press.

AFTERNOON PAPERS

OSSERVATORE ROMANO

1. The Associazione Italiana del Cinema held two meetings in Rome this month. Ends and aspirations of this Association are praise worthy though naturally some of them cannot get fulfilled. It was high time, says M.N. that somebody thought of trying to better the disordered and "unhealthy" conditions of Italian Cinema. The public has been able to witness through these last years' films the deplorable lack of brain and cohesion in all branches of this industry. This specialised Association, if really formed by people competent in every artistic and technical section, will make its influence felt in the mind of those who do not take their work seriously enough and who are not conscious of their responsibilities.

QUOTIDIANO (Independent Catholic)

1. The first Italian economic problem lies in the occupation-currency. When this problem is resolved, then inflation will gradually be reduced, says Gilardoni, and consequently prices will slowly begin to come down.

2. Bonomi received On. Emilio Lussu who has recently spent some time in Sardinia. The island's most urgent problems were spoken about, and the necessity for Italian Govt to provide as soon as possible, for the reconstruction of Cagliari, and transportation means.

RICOSTRUZIONE (Labour Democrat)

1. Enzo Manfredonia praises Italian Engineers and workmen who, working day and night, usually in terribly difficult conditions, were able in a very short time to repair damage done by retreating Germans to the Acquedotto Pugliese, and so to enable the whole of Puglie to have water again after a few days.

VOCE REPUBBLICANA (Republican)

1. School reform is spoken and written about, but nobody seems to do anything. Teachers must first of all be allowed to begin teaching when they have obtained their degrees, and not when they have spent tiring nerve-racking years going through useless

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

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VOCE REPUBBLICANA (Republican)

1. School reform is spoken and written about, but nobody seems to do anything. Teachers must first of all be allowed to begin teaching when they have obtained their degrees, and not when they have spent tiring nerve-racking years going through useless competitions. And they should belong to the Consiglio Provinciale Scolastico, and not be kept out of it. Who can better than they can, know the situation of schools and pupils? asks Ligi Andreoni. What is the use of just epur.ting if the Minister of Public Education does not prepare a new program of total "recovery"?

2. Our "daily bread" is not as it should be; could there not be a better control of the flour? or is there any control at all? asks E. Pennacchia.

SEEN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mc. HY		
Maj. A.	(P.D	
Maj. DRAGE		
Capt. SALVADORI		
Col.		

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MORNING PAPERS

AVANTI (Socialist)

1. Nenni points out the importance of reconstituting the "Labour Internationale" to defend Italy's cause in Europe and in the World against incomprehensions which have accumulated during these last ten years. Also to bar the way to the third war - about which reactionary parties speak with criminal lack of conscience - what could be better than uniting in the same "Internationale" the Anglo-American and Russian Labour Organisations? Our Socialist Party has received, during these last days, adhesions from a group of Austrian Socialist in London and Spanish in northern Africa as well as from the Swiss Socialist Party.

2. Bonomi has spoken yesterday about the importance of Italy's renewed diplomatic relations. He said that this fact puts an end to Italy's isolation caused specially by the painful armistice terms. Soon all European Capitals will have our representatives which will be the ambassadors of Italian tradition of liberty and justice; he ends by approving of the Allies' resolution to allow increasing authority to Italian administration.

3. Churchill's declaration at the house of Commons on the Moscow meeting, given without comment.

4. Stettinius' declarations on American-Italian relations summarised without comment.

5. First democratic Govt in Albania.

6. Italian electric problem observed through extract of a law-decree.

7. Violent and indignant article against STIPRAL, and Food Police and City Authorities.

ITALIA LIBERA (Action)

1. La Malfa insists on the necessity of Nationalisation of Industry. Italy cannot possible renew herself politically and socially unless her economic conditions are totally changed. Nationalisation allows a rapid and strong operation on Italy's greatest Industrial net-work.

2. Provisions for Sicily have been decided by the Council of Minister; institution of a High Commissariat for Sicily and of a "Consulta" formed by 24 members; funds have been voted to allow industrial development, and the land-question has been studied. No radical reform can be carried out immediately, but modification de-

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3. Elementary school teachers are very badly paid; why should they be treated worse than State employees or Secondary school teacher. And what about their pensions at the end of careers all dedicated to upbringing of children?

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1125

ITALIA NUOVA (Democrat).

1. As diplomatic relations have been resumed, Italy can now contact its numerous citizens living in America. They must help the effort for the reconstruction of the country; and the representatives of Italy will have to make them understand the real conditions of the country, writes Umo Selvaggi. Abolition of Allied control ought to follow the acknowledgement of Italy's freedom in its relation of a foreign character.

2. What is Donomi's idea of democracy asks N.I.? What about the currents which are against the Committee for National Liberation? It seems that the President would like interfering in the life of the country. Who must live? Italy, or the Committee?

3. Serious agitation among the workers about the supplements, and the indemnity for the high cost of living.

4. Something must be done for the employees who were dismissed for political or racial reasons.

5. Why does Unità make a campaign against the Italian aristocracy which is well known to be totally incapable of having any influence on the political life of the country? Its members are to be found in all parties, and most of them are broken.

6. Complaints about the organisation of the Roma-Lord RR.

POPOLO (Christian Democrat)

1. A permanent Committee for helping those who were damaged by war, in provinces just given back to Italian Administration.

2. The American Ambassador Myron Taylor has offered 1.250.000 atebrin tablets for victims of malaria.

3. Why have the Mense Aziendali stopped functioning?

RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE (Liberal)

1. The Government ought to lower the taxes on the transfer of property, so that the peasants could buy land. Risorgimento suggests that the lands belonging to the Opera Combattenti should be divided among the peasants and their co-operatives.

2. Lack of shoes for the population is noted.

TEMPO (Independent)

1. The pivot of future peace in Europe is Poland writes F. Ciolli.

2. Workers complain of lack of transport.

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[illegible] (Independent)

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2. Teachers complain of lack of transport.

UNITA' (Communist)

1. The sabotage of national economy, and of reconstruction is being made by the latifondisti and fascist plutocrats, writes Velio Spano.

2. Article of Giuseppe De Vittorio on the relations between workers and landowners or manufacturers. Landowners and manufacturers have formed the habit of earning too much money; now they won't give the allowance for the high cost of living; they had better be careful for the workers are tired of starving while they live in luxury.

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3. Another article against Roman aristocracy. (Pacific)

4. The women of the UDI want to vote.

5. There are still Fascists in the SET.

6. Probable increase of bread ration to 250 grams.

GENERAL

1. Articles on Churchill's speech to the House of Commons: Poland must be free. .. the present moment, the chief problem is Poland.

2. Statement of Bonomi; Italy is again acknowledged as a nation.

3. Decisions of the Council of Ministers regarding Sicily: creation of a Council.

0119

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Italian Patrols

29 OCT Recd Bm3 / 32

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

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H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE No. 282. 29th OCTOBER, 1944.

FOR RELEASE 10½ hrs.

NO NAVY COMMUNIQUE.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

Activities on the front of the Allied Armies in ITALY has been confined to patrolling.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY.

Operations yesterday were again restricted by bad weather, but a small force of heavy bombers attacked an aircraft factory at KLAGENFURT. Fighters and fighter bombers attacked rail facilities in the PO Valley and light bombers attacked shipping off the DALMATION coast.

Last night a small force of bombers attacked targets in Southern Germany.

From the day's operations none of our aircraft is missing.

M.A.A.F. flew approximately 170 sorties.

—end COMMUNIQUE —

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FOR RELEASE 10:5-4-hrs.

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SEEN.	INITIALS
Col. Mc. HY	
Maj. M. [illegible]	PD
[illegible]	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	

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ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE No 282 for 29th October 1944.

EIGHTH ARMY. Flooded roads and swamped bridges continue to harper movement on Eighth Army front and our troops are, in many places, so isolated that they can be fed only by rope bridge, boat or Duks. Small Canadian foot patrols in low lying coastal sector pushed well forward without contacting enemy.

Astride Route 9 our troops were unable to move. Both our own and enemy positions remain unchanged. Up RONCO valley as far as MELDOLA there was only slight patrol activity.

In mountains west of RONCO and BIDENTE rivers, M. VELDE 3901 occupied and our patrols went forward to contact enemy two thousand yards north.

FREDAPPIO 3803 occupied by Polish troops though enemy still holding to north of town.

FIFTH ARMY. Increased enemy Arty fire and enemy counter-attacks on consolidated positions characterized activity on Fifth Army front 28 Oct. Inclement weather continued to interrupt active operations.

On right flank British troops took M. SACCO 2199 and made other gains of local importance up to one thousand yards. Several counter-attacks near M. TAVENNA 0719 repulsed.

American troops consolidated their forces in M. MEZZANO area and withdrew advance elements from exposed positions on M. MEZZANO (Area 0034) towards Hill 568/9935.

Heavy enemy Arty received in sector south of BOLOGNA.

In coastal sector Brazilian troops took M. FAETO 1303, west of GALLICANO, without opposition.

Weather scattered showers whole front, wind on Eighth Army front falling. No change Press Release Line.

END O.R.B.

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NAC. 28 enclosed 1/32

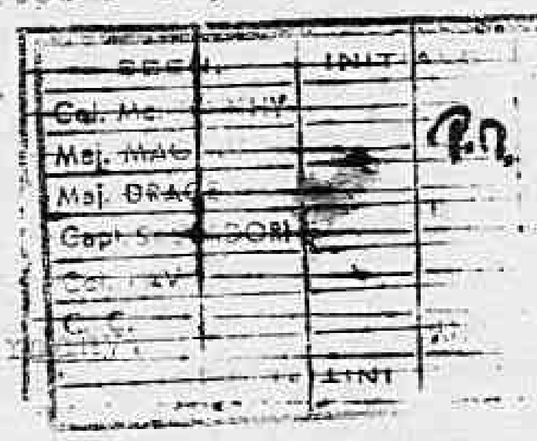
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED COMMISSION

Col. MacCarthy
Patriot Brazil
1 12 P.

October 27, 1944

PRB/RS

Daily Digest of Rome Press.



AFTERNOON PAPERS

OSSERVATORE ROMANO

1. Applauds Roosevelt's humane words on Ger[illegible]

QUOTIDIANO (Independent Catholic)

1. Article on currency and prices by Gilardoni. The problem is essentially international; the immediate concern of Italy is the occupation currency.

RICOSTRUZIONE (Labor Democrat)

1. I.M. writes on "formulae and facts". Republic, agrarian reform, socialization: these are all admirable ideals and very easy to roll off the tongue. No democratic party could be opposed to them. But there are many kinds of republic, and agrarian reforms; socialization poses many problems. There is need for concrete suggestions and there should be less impatience with those who do not immediately and uncritically accept these ill-defined goals.

2. Account of meeting held on 26 Oct to discuss Social Medic. The Minister and Maj. Washburn present at committee discussion on this subject.

VOCE REPUBBLICANA (Republican)

1. The responsibility of the dynasty and of Fascism must be clearly demonstrated, writes Oliviero Zuccarini. If this had been done at once, Italy would have been put on a footing of parity, with the other nations. Instead of that, Italy had continuity of government, the same things were done in the same way. The Committee of Liberation is responsible for that, and lacks homogenity.

2. The Sicilians must solve the Sicilian problem.

3. Protests of the Circolo Ebraico of Rome: a campaign is being made against the Jews; Jewish traders are being slandered.

4. Why shouldn't the women have the right to vote?

5. It is to be hoped that the rationing of electric light will give satisfactory results.

MORNING PAPERS

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

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2. Account of meeting held on 26 Oct to discuss Scuola media. The Minister and Maj. Washburn present at committee discussion on this subject.

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MORNING PAPERS

AVANTI (Socialist)

1. Nenni, after having summarised Italy's political history from 1914 to 1922 (Marcia su Roma) and having recalled various traitorous deeds of the Savoia Family in the past years, recalls the King's words "I did not sign the State of Siege because I did not want to". And so, just because the King did not sign what the whole Govt had decided, Mussolini came to power. Now, ends Nenni, we have had enough, not only of the King, but of the whole Savoia House wich has linked its destiny to Fascism.

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2. Bonomi, interviewed by Reuter's correspondent Cecil Sprigge, said that today's greatest problem was to resolve the tragic situation in which Italy finds herself, and to leave political and social questions to later on. Speaking about elections he said he had already prepared a law - having temporary character - for forming the lists, which will be ready in 3 or 4 months; then and only then will it be time to begin administrative elections, which will be the first in democratic Italy. Asked what he thought of hidden clandestine forces, he said he believed these could be drawn in with democracy, if well managed. He pointed out the importance of the Italian emigration question and ended by saying he had faith in democracy and in the sense of justice of the Allies.

3. The Communist Party, re Sicilian problem, expresses its opinion that it is necessary to change entirely the island administration, to give democratic parties full power of agitation and organisation, to operate a thorough land-reform, to take severe measures against all who use violence against freedom of workers, to prepare administrative elections, and finally to grant amnesty to all those who had hidden small quantities of wheat, and to act instead severely against speculators.

4. U.S. and all South American States will soon begin again their interrupted diplomatic relations with Italy. With this decision Italy ends her isolation. A.C.C. will now only be Allied Commission.

We are very glad, says Avanti, about all this. We have an Ambassador in Moscow, we shall soon have one in London and in Washington, but we do not yet know what the conditions of our armistice are. It is high time the Allies declared if we are allied with them. Italians want at least their position to be clear, after having suffered so much, they want to know if the large armies which are here are liberation or occupation armies.

5. Black market at the Commissariato Alloggi.

6. Can anything be salvaged of buildings etc. set up for Fascist Exposition of 42 ?

7. Yes, epuration is being carried on at the Roman Electric Societies, but those epurated are employed again, after a while!

ITALIA LIBERA (Action)

1. If Italy really wants to abolish all traces of Fascism,

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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ITALIA LIBERA (Action)

1. If Italy really wants to abolish all traces of fascism, she should do away with nationalism as well. There has been all the time, while Italian nationalism fought traitorously in Europe and in Africa, a second Italy which helped those whom fascism called its enemies. Away with national-fascism, says Ital. Lib.

2. Why have a General Director for the Press? Nothing to say against the man chosen, a good journalist, known for his independence, but much to say against the post, which reminds everybody of Pavolini and the Ministry of Popular Culture.

ITALIA NUOVA (Democrat)

1. Scrutatore writes a rather abstract article on democratic State and the two opposite schools; the libertarian one, which considers the State as an organ above society and whose duty it is

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

to arbitrate conflicts among the parties, and the second, Marxism, which denies the possibility of a State above the parties, as it might then be a dictatorship. To destroy fascism means destroying an immense structure, built up in 20 years; if this is destroyed there will have to be another one, as otherwise the State will not be able to exist.

2. Italian soldiers were never really hated in Greece, says Bersanetti Sgadari, because Greek people felt the great difference there was between them and the Germans. When Germans came back to Greece in 1942, the population was literally starving. In Athens 120 people died daily of hunger, but nobody would ask anything from a German.

3. Why not do something to feed and occupy the children who swarm our streets begging?

4. School children who do not get their free meals, will be able to have them, thanks to the Allies, at very low prices.

POPOLO (Christian Democrat)

1. Guido Gonella passed among the peasants a few days after Nenni had been there to speak to them. Somebody repeated to him more or less what the socialist leader had said, and G.G. admires very much his political acumen in praising the Govt for all it is trying to do for the people. But then, a few days later on, the Avanti, the same Nenni, speaks violently against the Govt accusing it of not doing enough. What does Nenni mean by contradicting himself so ? asks GG.

2. Books published as far back as 1927 are on sale again with prices increased as much as 3 to 6 hundred per cent.

3. Pensioned workers ask increase of pensions.

RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE (Liberal)

1. Italian currency must be stabilized, not according to national pride, but according to national needs, writes Enzo Storoni. At the present moment, Italian prices are too high for the world's markets; it is necessary either to reduce the cost prices, or to lower the rate of exchange.

2. Risorgimento agrees with 'Unità' about the Sicilian problem, but things that 'Unità's' "quinquennial" solution will take too much time.

3. No one does anything for the prisoners who are now sent home; they are left penniless and encouraged to be patient.

4. Loan of two million and a half to the industrial enterprises.

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4. Loan of two million and a half to the industrial enterprises. The State will guarantee the operation.

TEMPO (Independent)

1. Pure democracy and pure liberty are myths, writes Politicus (Aldo Airoldi). Democracy taken as a system does not solve automatically all the existing political problems. It must take into consideration the existing state of things, and have a program which takes in consideration the needs of the present time.

2. Something ought to be done to help the people who have to leave Rome.

0129

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UNITA' (Communist)

1. Article on the incidents of Palermo.

2. The Communists propose that through the representatives of their parties, the Sicilians should work out the constitutional and administrative regulations which the Constituent Assembly will have to adopt to solve the problem of the island. Besides, local administration ought to be entirely renewed; the democratic and antifascist parties must be perfectly free respecting their agitation and organization activity; severe regulations must be enforced against those who would forcibly oppose this activity.

3. Sieffe attacks Italian aristocracy, mentioning people by name; he is planning to publish the salient points of the lawsuits and trials in which the members of the three smart clubs of Rome were involved.

4. Nothing is being done for the unemployed.

GENERAL

1. Statement of Bonomi: Italy has freed itself from its oppressors. The United Nations having a sense of justice will acknowledge it as an ally. Italy needs aid of all kind. The terrible situation of today must be faced before trying to solve social and political problems.

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

Italian Patrols
27 OCT Read MSC INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

T.H

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
G.H.F.

COMMUNIQUE No.280. 27th OCTOBER, 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1030-A-hrs.

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE.

ALLIED STATES IN ITALY.

Heavy rain on the Appenines and in the PO Valley has turned all rivers into formidable obstacles and made even the roads almost impassable to vehicles. In consequence Eighth Army's drive towards FORLI has made little headway. Nevertheless, Eighth Army troops have reached the River RONCO on a broad front and patrols have crossed the river at several points.

British and Polish troops of Eighth Army have made further progress in the mountainous country North of BIBBIENA.

South of BOLOGNA, Fifth Army operations have similarly been curtailed by the weather. However, operations on a more limited scale resulted in local gains and improvements to our forward positions.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY.

Yesterday bad weather again limited air operations to a minimum, but a very small force of heavy bombers attacked the rail-yards at INNSBRUCK.

793

Road convoys in ALBANIA were attacked by coastal aircraft.

One of our aircraft is missing from the day's operations.

MAAF flew 82 sorties.

COMMUNIQUE. 27 OCT,44.
For release 1030-A-hrs.

LAND FORCES GREECE.

In the LARISSA area our ground troops, co-operating with Greek guerilla forces, are continuing to harrass the enemy rearguards.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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In the LARISSA area our ground troops, co-operating with Greek guerilla forces, are continuing to harrass the enemy rearguards.

Medium and fighter bombers and night fighters are operating effectively against enemy columns moving to the North between LARISSA and KOZANI.

SEEN.	INIT.
Col. Mc. HY	
Maj. MAC	
Maj. DRAGE	
Capt. SALVADORI	
Col. LAVA	
C. C.	

—END COMMUNIQUE—

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

ONRB
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ONRECORDBACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO.280 FOR 27 OCT 1944

EIGHTH ARMY

On Adriatic coast, Eighth Army advanced three thousand yards against light scattered resistance. Bridgehead made over BEVANO River on Route 16. Further advance made from bridgehead at MENSA and our leading troops crossed Bevano also.

Astride and South Route 9, contact made against light rear-guards during afternoon 25 Oct, but by night 25/26 Oct, our troops came up against main enemy positions on Ronco River, last river before FORLI.

North of railway, Canadians are up to Ronco River on broad front in strength, 2 miles East of FORLI. Advance from FORLIMPOPOLI continued up Route 9 to Ronco crossing. British troops have cleared BERTINORO and advanced to Ronco River, which leading troops crossed. However, after enemy counterattack by Tigers, they withdrawn to East bank river.

Farther South, Indian troops are up to river on broad front, and patrols have been across in several places. British and Polish troops in mountains advanced farther down Ronco and Rabbi valleys and West of Rabbi are in contact with enemy holding ridge front MONTE COLOMBO 3100 to MONTE MIRABELLO 3300, watershed between Rabbi river and Montone river to its west.

(For information on First British Armoured Division, see Appendix to today's On Record Background).

FIFTH ARMY

Torrential rains on Fifth Army front 26 Oct made movement almost impossible and brought operations almost to a standstill but bitter local fighting continued in a few areas.

Even the few hard surfaced roads have become treacherous, covered as they are by film of mud. In one sector, supplies transported five miles by jeep, then by pack mules for five miles and finally portered by foot troops for remaining four miles. Road repair and construction has been a time consuming necessity in every sector.

British troops encountered stiff resistance vicinity M COLOMBO 1211, as pressure maintained against enemy.

In Fifth Army American sector, hostile arty harassing roads and rear areas. Our infantry captured IL POGGIO 0033 and M MEZZANO (area 0034, West of VEDRIANO 0233), against enemy resistance. Fighting continues vicinity VEDRIANO.

Enemy, using tank fire, SP guns, nebelwerfers, mortar and arty concentrations, counterattacked M BELVEDERE 9032, from where they [illegible]

792

0133
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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South African forces night 25/26 Oct crossed Setta River, vicinity LA QUERCIA 7726 and advanced about 1000 yards NE from the bridgehead. Operation carried out under combined difficulties of darkness, severe weather, and river swollen by constant rain.

No material change in Fifth Army's coastal sector.

Weather: Eighth Army, heavy cloud with 30 mph wind increasing to gale force, heavy rain; Fifth Army, cloudy with intermittent heavy rain most parts.

END CMRB

0134
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Italian Patrols

26 OCT Rcd MSC.

3-

UDA

P.R.

U.S. PUBLIC RELATIONS

COMMUNIQUE No. 279

FOR RELEASE

26 October 1944

NAVY:

On the night of October 22/23, Allied light coastal craft operating in the Gulf of Genoa attacked an enemy southbound convoy near Spezia. Torpedoes were fired and explosions seen in the convoy though no definite claim of sinkings can be made. Our craft came under heavy firing during their retirement, though no casualties or damage are reported.

It is reported from the Aegean that the island of SKOPELOS in the northern SPORADES east of the Gulf of Volos was occupied at dawn on October 23 by troops landed from HMS ULSTER and the Greek destroyer MIAULIS. On October 24 the US dest (ger MOOSBRUGGER carried out a successful bombardment of enemy road transport near the Franco-Italian frontier.

Col. Mc	
Maj. MA	
Mai. BRAGE	
Capt. SALVADORI	
Lt. [illegible]	
C.S.	

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Fifth Army troops continue to make slow but methodical progress against unrelenting resistance.

The enemy having withdrawn, Eighth Army troops have advanced rapidly from their CESENA bridgehead, have driven in enemy rearguards and crossed the river SAVIO. West of this river they have captured the town of FORLIMPOPOLI and have reached the river MONTONE west of this town. Advanced troops of Eighth Army are now within five miles of the important road centre of FORLI.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

791

Unfavourable weather severely restricted aerial operations yesterday.

Fighters and fighter-bombers flew a limited number of close support and anti-communications missions north of the battle area and reported excellent results.

Other fighters and fighter-bombers attacked shipping in the Adriatic and rail and road transport in Yugoslavia.

A small force of heavy bombers attacked targets in southern Germany. Medium bombers of an anti-shipping patrol bombed the Adriatic port of [illegible]

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

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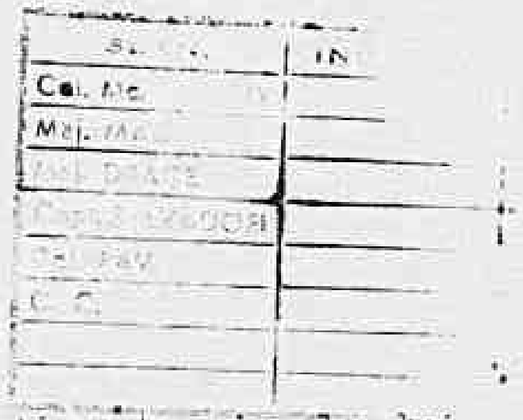

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A small force of heavy bombers attacked targets in southern Germany. Medium bombers of an anti-shipping patrol bombed the Adriatic port of CITTANOVA.

From these operations one of our aircraft is missing.

MAAF flew more than 400 sorties.

LAND FORCES, GREECE

Guerilla forces have occupied LARISSA and our forces, working in close co-operation with them, are making further progress northwards.

E N D

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

SEEN.	INITIALS.
Col. Mc. CARTHY	
Maj. MAGRUDER	P.R.
Maj. DRAGE	
Capt. SALVADORI	
Col. PAVA	
C. C.	

27 OCT Recd

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED COMMISSION

PRB/T

October 26, 1944

Daily Digest of Rome Press.

AFTERNOON PAPERS

OSSERVATORE ROMANO

1. Report of visits made to prison camps by agents of Holy See. In the camps of Morocco and Oran, under U.S. direction, physical and moral conditions are good. In those in Tunis (French) the material conditions are good but moral conditions are bad. There is an "unsatisfactory discipline" under which "repuguant corporal punishment" is dealt out - sometimes at the hands of natives.

QUOTIDIANO (Independent Catholic)

1. Article by Fulton Sheen. He says the war is a theological rather than a political-economic war inasmuch as it being fought on the question of ends rather than means. He adds that it is not enough to do away with Hitler and Mussolini; we must also do away with the conditions that produced them.

RICOSTRUZIONE (Labor Democrat)

1. Brief survey of school situation in Rome and province. Not entirely satisfactory but not too bad.

2. Announcement that the Commissario of the EIAR has been ordered to carry out its liquidation is greeted with approving comment. But R. would like to know who the Commissario is.

VOCE REPUBBLICANA (Republican)

1. Bacciardi comments on Spain, the wickedness of Franco, the short-sightedness of the British Tory policy which looks to a restoration of the monarchy, the hope, now renascent, of the triumph of Spanish democracy.

2. No night schools for the poor; a regrettable lack. (Alpino Tenedini)

MORNING PAPERS

AVANTI (Socialist)

1. The Central C.L.N. following the Palermo riot has voted an order of the day in which it insists that the Govt take urgent steps, as well as to help the families of the killed and wounded, also to discover not only the causes of this and other similar episodes, but

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MORNING PAPERS

799

AVANTI (Socialist)

1. The Central C.L.N. following the Palermo riot has voted an order of the day in which it insists that the Govt take urgent steps, as well as to help the families of the killed and wounded, also to discover not only the causes of this and other similar episodes, but also the functioning of all Commands of the forces which are supposed to protect public safety.

Avanti approves of the C.L.N. point of view which implies that the real cause of this incident as of the others, lies in the freedom of power that a few ex-fascist still enjoy; afraid of losing their privileges under democracy, they use violence to stop its course. So, energetic and severe epuration is needed.

0138

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

2. Nenni, having been on a tour through various devastated zones of central Italy, says the people, who are everywhere hungry, must at least have faith in justice, believe that all the responsible shall be punished, and that therefore their own sufferings will be revenged. The parties must not let down the people, if they do not want to compromise the renewing of Italian life.

3. Italy must rebuild her economic system not on the entirely wrong idea of "autarchia" but concentrating her efforts on those things - either grown or manufactured - which can be had with the help of her two most important active elements: climate and "mano d'opera". So says the American economist Dolien Bort, and he ends by stating that America would be well advised in investing money in Italian enterprises.

4. There will probably soon be a revision of the Matteotti trial.

5. News of renewed diplomatic relations between Rome and London given without comment.

6. The new electric power rationing will start on the 1st Nov.

7. The ex-Prefect Presti, once a fascist gerarca, still owns a great quantity of cattle; could not this cattle be bought from him at legal price, and distributed among peasants who would so be able to provide at least some milk for the children and the sick?

ITALIA LIBERA (Action)

1. Epuration in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must be conducted in such a way as to eliminate without a possibility of individual discrimination, all those who enjoyed the grade or the function of "capi-missione" or who have been envolved in fascist foreign politics, says Italia Libera.

2. Manlio Rossi Doria insists that when land reform takes place, experts should do the work and keep in mind all the different situations which arise from difference of soil, different climate and difference of local traditions.

ITALIA NUOVA (Democrat)

1. Italy must prove that it is now on the side of democracy and justice, writes Enzo Selvaggi. Public opinion is waiting for a gesture of solidarity and then it will back up its statesmen who have been promising Italy the material aid it is needing. Italy has got to fight Japan to prove its solidarity with the United Nations.

2. ITALIA LIBERA ought to dissociate Mussolini and the Italian

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

4. There will probably soon be a revision of the Matteotti trial.

5. News of renewed diplomatic relations between Rome and London given without comment.

6. The new electric power rationing will start on the 1st Nov.

7. The ex-Prefect Presti, once a fascist gerarca, still owns a great quantity of cattle; could not this cattle be bought from him at legal price, and distributed among peasants who would so be able to provide at least some milk for the children and the sick?

ITALIA LIBERA (Action)

1. Epuration in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must be conducted in such a way as to eliminate without a possibility of individual discrimination, all those who enjoyed the grade or the function of "capi-missione" or who have been envolved in fascist foreign politics, says Italia Libera.

2. Manlio Rossi Doria insists that when land reform takes place, experts should do the work and keep in mind all the different situations which arise from difference of soil, different climate and difference of local traditions.

ITALIA NUOVA (Democrat)

1. Italy must prove that it is now on the side of democracy and justice, writes Enzo Selvaggi. Public opinion is waiting for a gesture of solidarity and then it will back up its statesmen who have been promising Italy the material aid it is needing. Italy has got to fight Japan to prove its solidarity with the United Nations.

2. ITALIA LIBERA ought to dissociate Mussolini and the Italian Nation; nevertheless, out of hatred for fascism, they are ready to have Italy treated like Germany rather than acknowledging what little good was done during the fascist regime. They will forget that in Greece, the Italian army behaved with more humanity than the German army.

3. The population needs shoes and cannot afford to pay 6000 lire a pair.

POPOLO (Christian Democrat)

1. The Govt has denied that all nominal shares of I.R.I. have been carried north; those which have, are a minimum part which cannot

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1992

possibly damage the situation of the I.R.I. As far as responsibilities are concerned, the epuration Commission will take charge of the matter.

2. State employees get put out of their I.N.C.I.S. flats, with their families, when they are pensioned. Is this not rather absurd and inhuman?

3. Spataro received a delegation of A.C.C.I. (Associazione Culturale Cinematografica Italiana)

RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE (Liberal)

1. Mario Ferrara says that the Palermo incident has increased the feeling of diffidence towards the executive power, which had been caused by the non-participation of the people to the constitution of the State.

2. Bruno Romani speaks of "t.b.c." due to malnutrition. Before the war, in Italy, 60.000 died of t.b.c. yearly; now there are 200.000 deaths a year, and very probably this number will still increase. It is not so much lack of food as lack of certain foods, which causes this tragic increase; and living conditions - poor people evacuees, refugees, all live together, healthy and ill, without the necessary hygienic conditions. And lack of medicines and hospitals and sanatoriums prevents recovery among those who still might recover.

3. Decree on mezzadria contracts.

TEMPO (Independent)

1. G. Gen asks that an inquiry should be made on the war expenses. Huge credits were voted; how have they been employed?

UNITA' (Communist)

1. Speedy action is necessary in Sicily, writes Velio Spano. Reaction must be fought; latifondists expropriated, and the prefects and mayors who obey their orders dismissed.

2. Violent article of Corrado De Vita on the Marsica incidents; he takes the part of the 'long-suffering' peasants against Prince Torlonia.

3. Long and obscure article of Belfagor; it seems that the aristocracy and the speculators are responsible for the fact that no one respects the law. A few digs at Marchese Lucifero. 789

4. Functions of the Press: It has got to warn the people and the Government. Never mind if the accusations it makes are false; the Press will be 'happy to have to rectify things'.

5. Something must be done about cinema industry; it requires

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

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5. Something must be done about cinema industry; it requires but very little raw material which doesn't have to be imported. There is no reason why it shouldn't be rehabilitated, but the administration of the various firms must be epurated.

GENERAL

1. Articles on the appointment of the Ambassadors to London and Rome. This gives hope that Italy will be considered as a collaborator of the United Nations.
2. Articles on the Palermo incidents.
3. Articles on the rationing of electric light.

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Release 1045 hrs

USC.. Vatican Patriot 1/2 108*
25 OCTRecd

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
GENERAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 278.

25 OCTOBER 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1045 HRS.

NAVY:

On the night of 20/21 Oct. Allied light coastal forces operating in the Gulf of Genoa met three heavily armed enemy vessels. Our forces attacked three times under heavy fire and illumination by star shell but the results were inconclusive. At one period the enemy ships were seen to be firing at each other. A similar indecisive engagement took place on the night of 21/22 October in the same area but later our forces attacked a convoy of 8 'F' lighters south bound between GENOA and SPEZIA. One of the "F" lighters was sunk. In these two actions our craft incurred no appreciable damage.

On 23 October aircraft of the Royal Navy from HMS ATTACKER operated all day against enemy landing craft laden with motor transport as well as against rail and road traffic in the Katerine area on the west side of the Gulf of Salonika. A locomotive and ten trucks were destroyed and hits obtained on other truck concentrations.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

American and British troops of Fifth Army have made important gains despite most determined enemy resistance. American troops have taken M. BELMONTE, the scene of the most bitter fighting for the last few days, and held it against counter-attacks. East of M. CASTELLO, American troops of Fifth Army are engaged in determined fighting for a key feature about five miles from the BOLOGNA-RIMINI highway.

On their right, British troops of Fifth Army have captured the important height of M. SPADURO and held it against several strong counter-attacks.

Eighth Army troops have now virtually overcome all enemy resistance on the east bank of the river SAVIO and have reached SAVIO village near the mouth of the river. In the CESENA area the bridgehead has been considerably enlarged and Eighth Army Infantry supported by tanks are advancing astride the main BOLOGNA-RIMINI road toward the river RUBICON. Indian troops have made further progress south of CESENA and, in the MARECCHIA valley, Polish troops have made further gains.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Bad weather prevented both heavy and medium bombers from operating but fighter bombers and fighters gave very strong support to the land forces in the BOLOGNA and CESENA areas by attacking supply dumps, troop concentrations, guns and strong points and also attacked bridges and rail communications in the PO valley.

Coastal and Balkan Air Force aircraft attacked

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

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ALLIED TROOPS IN ITALY:

American and British troops of Fifth Army have made important gains despite most determined enemy resistance. American troops have taken M. MILOCCA, the scene of the most bitter fighting for the last few days, and held it against counter-attacks. East of M. CASTLE, American troops of Fifth Army are engaged in determined fighting for a key feature about five miles from the BOLOGNA-RIMINI highway.

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Coastal and Balkan Air Force aircraft attacked shipping in the Adriatic, rail and road traffic in Albania and Yugoslavia. Nine of our aircraft are missing from these operations.

MAAF flew approximately 850 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE.

SEEN.	INITIALS
Col. Mc. HY	
Maj. MAC	
Maj. GRACE	
Capt. SILVERSTEIN	
[illegible]	

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

1088

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE No 278.

25th October 1944.

BEGINS:

EIGHTH ARMY.

On Eighth Army front, coast patrols moved up to SAVIO village 6425, four miles beyond CERVIA, without making contact. Canadian bridgehead north of CESENA successfully reinforced and developed under adverse conditions. Great difficulty experienced in ferrying SP weapons across river. Despite handicaps, 150 PW captured in extremely well-fought battle. Advance of one thousand five hundred yards made against lessened opposition. Shelling also slackened off. In bridgehead west of CESENA, British troops reinforced 23 Oct by further tanks and advance of two thousand yards made during night 23/24 Oct. Here too, opposition diminished. On ridge east of M. CAVALLO Canadians captured hill-top village of FORMIGNANO 5200 which enables us to patrol well forward. Polish troops occupied further positions in BIDENTE valley and on high ground overlooking it. Germans continue to resist strongly in mountains west of BIDENTE (See 3493).

Recently, when Canadian troops overran defended area on Eighth Army front, they found a young soldier, alone and weeping, in the bottom of a slit-trench. He was so very young that they felt sorry for him, tried to comfort him, gave him some sweets and told him he would not be killed.

Quote I am not worried about that, Unquote he said, Quote It was yourlast artillery concentration. It has killed my Grandfather. Unquote.

FIFTH ARMY.

Maintaining their determined offensive, Fifth Army troops pressed forward to secure several important terrain features 24 Oct. Enemy continues to fight tenaciously for all approaches to BOLOGNA from south.

British troops, moving up axis of Route 67, established elements on M. PROVECCIO (Area 2193) after bitter fighting. West of Route 67, Indian troops took M. SERRA (Area 1603). M. SPADURO, 0327, taken by British troops night 23/24 Oct and this height firmly held despite enemy counter-attacks morning 24 Oct.

American troops engaged in fierce battle vicinity VEDRIANO 0233, two kilometers NE M. GRANDE, 24 Oct.

After several days bloody fighting, American troops overcame heavy resistance, minefields and demolitions to secure important M. [illegible] troops secured M. SALVARO 7426 and COLLE TERMINE 7528 east of Route 64.

In Western sector of Fifth Army front our troops main-

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

[illegible] during night 23/24 Oct. Here too, opposition diminished. On ridge east of M. CAVALLO Germans captured hill-top village of FORMIGNANO 5200 which enables us to patrol well forward. Polish troops occupied further positions in BIDENTE valley and on high ground overlooking it. Germans continue to resist strongly in mountains west of BIDENTE (See 3495).

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Maintaining their determined offensive, Fifth Army troops pressed forward to secure several important terrain features 24 Oct. Enemy continues to fight tenaciously for all approaches to BOLOGNA from south.

British troops, moving up axis of Route 67, established elements on M. PROVEGGIO (Area 2198) after bitter fighting. West of Route 67, Indian troops took M. SERRA (Area 1603). M. SPADURO, 0327, taken by British troops night 23/24 Oct and this height firmly held despite enemy counterattacks morning 24 Oct.

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In Western sector of Fifth Army front our troops maintained pressure and aggressive patrolling.

Weather four to cloudy with occasional rain most parts. No change Press Release Line.

(See Appendix to Today's On Record Background for Fifth Army review of recent offensive.)

END O.R.B.

0146

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

168C

LAND FORCES
GREECE

COMMUNIQUE.
No.278.

FOR RELEASE 1045-A-hrs. 25th OCTOBER, 1944.

30 miles North of LAMIA our Forward patrols have entered DHOMOKOS.

German troops have evacuated VOLOS and heavy casualties were inflicted on them by guerilla forces as they retreated from the town.

At the PIRAEUS additional troops have been unloaded.

-end-

786

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

the town.

At the PIRAEUS additional troops have been unloaded.

-end-

0148

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25 OCT Read

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R8

October 24, 1944

SECN.	INIT.
Col. Mc. HY	
Maj. MAG	P.G.
Maj. BRAGE	
Capt. SELVACCORI	
Col. FAV	
C. C.	

Daily Digest of Rome Press.

AFTERNOON PAPERS

OSSERVATORE ROMANO - Nothing new.

QUOTIDIANO (Independent Catholic)

1. The law for the division of land has been hailed as a triumph of the workers by the social-communist organization. Then why should the workers use unlawful means to get what they could get lawfully?

2. Help will be given to the landowners and peasants who want to buy cattle.

3. The employees of the banks complain they don't get family allotments.

RICOSTRUZIONE (Labor Democrat)

1. Article about the division of land; illegality and violence are in no way justified, says F., when the same result can be obtained through legal and peaceful proceedings. The Allies won't stand that kind of thing, and if it occurs again, Italy might well lose its autonomy and find itself becoming a colony.

VOCE REPUBBLICANA (Republican)

1. Approves governmental measures for Sicily but adds that it is not a public safety problem but a much larger national one, social and political. Suggests Sicilian Assembly at Palermo, with representatives of communes. To discuss regional autonomy within national frame-work.

2. Protest by a number of anti-fascist Jews against postponement of elections of the "Communità Israelitica." This action leaves Ottolenghi in power and he is an exponent of Fascism, as one of his "circolari" (which is quoted) shows.

3. Article by Camerini on sorry state of Latium and bordering regions. There is not only material destruction but great disillusionment for nothing has been done to displace the Fascists and reactionaries who are still in power.

MORNING PAPERS

AVANTI (Socialist)

1. The first of the 3 points brought up by Nenni needs no

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

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MORNING PAPERS

AVANTI (Socialist)

1. The first of the 3 points brought up by Nenni needs no explanation, says Saragat; the second, "land reform" must not be considered only as a democratic administration of the great properties; it signifies reorganisation of all property, large and small; some of the small owners who cannot by themselves exploit the land, must join in a cooperative form, while many large properties must be divided into small ones. It is a very complex problem which varies from region to region and which will need a thorough study by competent people.

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The third point, "Socialisation of monopolies" does not mean, as some people seem to think, that all firms and industries will be taken over by the State, but rather that all producers (workmen, technicians, organisers) will be responsible, under a State control.

2. Roosevelt, in a speech he made on foreign politics, said America does not intend to enslave Germany.

3. Latest information about Palermo riot specifies that the soldiers were the first to shoot without any provocation whatsoever. Therefore, says Avanti, enquiries cannot be directed just by a P.S. General Inspector, but the Govt will have to send a representative who can be bribed by no local connections. Separatists' seat closed.

Aldisio ended his declarations on the Sicilian events saying that the Italian State cannot tolerate any longer similar infraction of the law, and that it will therefore deal with such matters very severely.

4. The new "ambassadors of work" will have to make the O.I.L. (Organizzazione Internazionale Lavoro) forget that Mussolini, in 1937, withdrew Italy from it, says Caporaso. That is why Italy, though absent at the last meeting, should give her approval to the Philadelphia Charter.

5. Students want to study. When will schools open again?

6. Why has not epuration begun in hospitals?

7. A group of Cinema workers went to see Bonomi about their present tragic situation.

ITALIA LIBERA (Action)

1. Why should the trial of the two Generals Pentimalli and Del Tetto have been postponed, unless this will bring before the Court of Justice the greater, and so far untouched, criminals? People want to feel that Justice is being carried out, though, it is quite true that, just as Azzolini was not the only nor the chief one responsible for the loss of Italy's gold, so these two generals who had been ordered to await superior instructions, are not responsible for what happened in Sept. of last year.

2. News that De Gaulle's Administration of France has been recognised by the Allies as French Govt is given without comment.

3. La Malfa spoke at a meeting of peasants and reminded them of their duty of taking part in public life; told them to have faith in the new Italian democracy which wants to give even to the smallest and most remote villages, freedom from want.

4. The Rome University functions regularly.

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

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4. The Rome University functions regularly.

5. Myron Taylor, in occasion of the Red Cross Week, sent a message of congratulations to C.R.I. for this initiative.

ITALIA NUOVA (Democrat)

1. It is very well to order all Prefects to send representatives wherever peasants are causing trouble for any reason; but what about giving instructions to these representatives who are usually elderly small miserable men whom the peasants only laugh at? In other words, says Lucifero, Bonomi makes the prefects understand that they will be responsible for anything that goes wrong, but does not tell them what measures they really are supposed to adopt. Bonomi hides himself behind many long sentences, which, more than orders to the prefects, are a kind of self-defence, addressed to the people.

0152

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2. Transoceanic emigration has always been very strong in Italy. Mario Tedeschi, explaining that our people must emigrate as Italy is too small for them, hopes that America will not be closed, after the war, to Italian emigrants.

3. Lucanus, in a very abstract article, criticizes Croce's lack of sincerity, for, after having violently accused the King in Naples he now has written praises of the Savoia House.

4. Ivan Pavolini, Fascist Ferrara, was against control of telephone calls.

5. S.T.E.R.N.L. does not do its job well

POPOLO (Christian Democrat)

1. Answering Perticone's declaration that a temporary dictatorship by the proletariate might be permitted, Gonella denies this possibility saying that the true political revolution of New Italy must have no dictatorship: democracy is freedom: we want no absolute power. Italy's future cannot be based on methods which would mean its disintegration.

RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE (Liberal)

1. Sicily must be made to see that separatism is a bad bargain, and that loyalty to Italy serves its interests. It ought to be given a large share of autonomy.

2. Interview with Prof. Forti, President of the Public Administration Commission; he hopes that regional autonomy and a reform of bureaucracy will help to solve the problem of reconstruction.

TEMPO (Independent) - Nichts neues.

UNITA' (Communist)

1. In opposition to Fascism, democracy must facilitate the intervention of the masses in the problems of the Government. The people must have the right to interfere in the policy of the nation, to express its needs, its aspirations and its claims.

2. Violent article against the Ortucchio incident, the responsibility of the Carabinieri.

3. The I.R.I. must be epurated; Unità makes a list of the people of whom it disapproves.

4. According to Unità the fact that a German soldier was found hiding in the estate of Prince Odescalchi is symbolical. Some dark hints are made against Prince Odescalchi and his 'titled colleagues'.

5. No speculations ought to be made on medicines.

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[illegible] to the proposal which might be permitted, Comelli denies the possibility saying that the true political revolution of Italy must have no dictatorship: democracy is freedom: we want no absolute power. Italy's future cannot be based on methods which would mean its disintegration.

REPUBBLICANO LIBERALE (Liberal)

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5. No speculations ought to be made on medicines.

6. The indemnity for the high cost of living has been voted, but what about the unemployed?

0154

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

Hellenic Patriots. 24 OCT nacd / BAS 32 PR 1061A

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
C.M.F.

COMMUNIQUE No. 277. FOR RELEASE 1030-A-hrs. 24th OCTOBER, 1944.

NO NAVY.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

In spite of bad weather, further gains have been made by both Fifth and Eighth Armies.

South of BOLOGNA, American troops of Fifth Army have further improved their positions by taking a number of sub-features North of M.GRANDE in a day of heavy fighting. The most bitter fighting continues to be centered about the key feature of M. BELMONTE.

On their right flank, British and Indian troops of Fifth Army have captured several important features, while on their left flank, South African troops of Fifth Army seized a hill NE of VERGATO, which dominates the PRATO-BOLOGNA road.

On the Adriatic coast, progress has been made by Eighth Army troops in the marshy country North and West of CERVIA. North of CESENA, the bridgehead over the SAVIO has been enlarged despite a number of counter-attacks by the enemy which cost him considerable casualties.

South of CESENA, Indian troops have captured M. CAVALLO, a key feature on the watershed West of the River SAVIO. Farther South, British and Polish troops of Eighth Army have made local gains.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY.

Strong forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday bombed targets in Germany, Czechoslovakia and Northern Italy.

Despite poor weather north of the battle area, fighters and fighter bombers inflicted considerable damage on enemy supply transport, destroying locomotives, rail cars, motor vehicles and barges. Other fighters and fighter bombers attacked enemy shipping in the ADRIATIC.

From these operations 14 of our heavy bombers and 14 other aircraft are missing. No enemy aircraft were destroyed.

MAAF flew approximately 1450 sorties.

583

LAND FORCES GREECE.
COMMUNIQUE. 24 OCT.44.

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

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783

LAND FORCES GREECE.
COMMUNIQUE. 24 OCT.44.

LAMIA has been occupied by our forces and patrols have already pushed North of the town.

Additional successes have been scored by our Air Forces against the Germans withdrawing in the North.

----END COMMUNIQUE----

0156

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

O N R B
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

106B

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO PRESS COMMUNIQUE NO.277 FOR 24 OCT 1944

FIFTH ARMY

Hard-driving Fifth Army troops made local advance 23 Oct although inclement weather again denied air support and interfered with ground operations. Enemy continues his all-out defense of key features.

On right flank, British elements astride Route 67 pushed out beyond Road junction town of PORTICO 2295, and Indian troops captured M ROMANO 1207. Hill 526 (area 0517), North of CASOLA VALSENIO-CASTEL BOLOGNESE road, also secured and patrols advanced four kilometers to FONTANELICE 0521, where enemy being forced out of his deep salient.

After bitter fighting, American troops SE of M GRANDE occupied FRASSINETTO 0131 and patrols pushed NE. North of M GRANDE, American elements took hill 568 9933 and M CASTELLARO (area 9833).

Heavy minefields, demolitions and entanglements impeded advance of American troops in vicinity of M BELVEDERE 9033.

In a particularly bloody encounter, South African troops pushed well up onto M SALVARO (026/7426), which dominates Route 64, NE of VERGATO.

In coastal sector, Negro troops engaged in battle on M SERRETOIA 9496.

EIGHTH ARMY

On coast, Eighth Army in contact with light enemy rearguards, 1000 yards North of CERVIA. West of CERVIA, our troops still South of River after having cleared PISIGNANO 6118.

West of salt marshes, progress of squaring up to River Savio continued. Going still very heavy.

North of CESENA, Canadian bridgehead enlarged and strenghtened in fierce fighting and 120 more PW taken. On 23 Oct, counterattack by tanks and infantry repulsed.

West of CESENA, British infantry made limited gains. Very heavy shelling makes Savio crossing hazardous operation for each vehicle, and tanks are doing job ferrying supplies for themselves and infantry.

Meanwhile, M CAVALLO 5099, dominating point of hill mass separating Savio and Ronco valleys, captured by Indian troops in very successful operations.

Farther South, British and Polish troops continued to patrol well forward and improved their positions.

Weather cloudy with intermittent rain and fair periods whole front.

(See Appendices to today's On Record Background for information on 338 Inf Regt, 85 Inf Div and Alamein Anniversary messages.)

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

9933 and M CASTELLARO (area 9833).

Heavy minefields, demolitions and entanglements impeded advance of American troops in vicinity of M BELMONTE 9033.

In a particularly bloody encounter, South African troops pushed well up onto M SALVARO (826/7426), which dominates Route 64, NE of VERGATO.

In coastal sector, Negro troops engaged in battle on M SERENTOIA 9496.

EIGHTH ARMY

On coast, Eighth Army in contact with light enemy rearguards, 1000 yards North of CERVIA. West of CERVIA, our troops still South of River after having cleared PISIGNANO 6118.

West of salt marshes, progress of squaring up to River Savio continued. Going still very heavy.

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Weather cloudy with intermittent rain and fair periods whole front.

(See Appendices to today's On Record Background for information on 338 82 Inf Regt, 85 Inf Div and Alamein Anniversary messages.)

END ONRB

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

Italian Partisans MSC 32 23 OCT Recd

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE No.276. FOR RELEASE 1045-A-hrs. 23rd OCTOBER, 1944.

NAVAL COMMUNIQUE ATTACHED.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

Heavy rain has again hampered large scale operations. On the Fifth Army front the recent gains have been still further consolidated and some local improvements in the forward positions have been made.

On the Eighth Army front the town of CERVIA has been occupied and the bridgehead over the SAVIO river north of CESENA has been enlarged against stiff enemy opposition. In the mountainous sector our troops have crossed the RABBI river in the vicinity of SIGNA 3094 and have made progress into the high ground immediately beyond.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Bad weather yesterday severely limited air operations; fighters and fighter-bombers, however, attacked enemy enemy positions in northern ITALY and road traffic in YUGOSLAVIA while shipping in the ADRIATIC was attacked by coastal aircraft.

Four of our aircraft are missing from these operations and four heavy bombers are missing from the operations on the night of OCTOBER 21/22.

MAAF flew 240 sorties.

-- END COMMUNIQUE --

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

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

Heavy rain has again hampered large scale operations. On the Fifth Army front the recent gains have been still further consolidated and some local improvements in the forward positions have been made.

On the Eighth Army front the town of CERVIA has been occupied and the bridgehead over the SAVIO river north of CESENA has been enlarged against strong enemy opposition. In the mountainous sector our troops have crossed the RAMI river in the vicinity of SARNIA 5094 and have made progress into the high ground immediately beyond.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Bad weather yesterday severely limited air operations; fighters and fighter-bombers, however, attacked enemy positions in northern ITALY and road traffic in YUGOSLAVIA while shipping in the ADRIATIC was attacked by coastal aircraft.

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-- END COMMUNIQUE --

SEEN.	INITIAL
Col. Mc. RIHY	
Maj. MAC	
Maj. DRAG	
Capt. VADORI	
Col. FAV	
C. C.	

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

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS.

NAVAL COMMUNIQUE No.276. FOR RELEASE 1100-hrs. 23rd OCTOBER, 1944.

On 20th OCT while carrying out minesweeping operations near the Franco-Italian frontier, the French destroyer FORBIN was fired upon by enemy batteries. She returned the fire destroying one battery and blowing up an ammition dump. On the same day, the U.S. destroyer HERBERT was again in action in this area.

On the morning of 21 OCT a force of British motor gun boats and motor torpedo boats met four enemy 'I' boats off the Yugoslavian coast near LIMA. In the engagement that ensued, two of these 'I' boats were sunk and the other two engaged. 95 Prisoners were taken. On the same day another 'I' boat laden with stores and ammunition was found North of MELAGOSA Island in the ADRIATIC. There were no signs of her crew. She was boarded and taken into the harbour. It appears that all these craft had sailed from DUBROVNIK and SLANO before the occupation of DUBROVNIK by the Partisans. One lighter, one 'I' boat and another craft had scuttled themselves at SLANO and another gun lighter sank on passage.

On 22 OCT 28 German seamen were picked up from a broken-down 'I' boat 30 miles East of ANCON.

The unloading of stores and supplies in the PIRAEUS is proceeding satisfactorily. Minesweepers are successfully clearing the minefields in the approaches.

-end-

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS.

LAND FORCE GREECE COMMUNIQUE.

For release with Communique No. 276, at 1100-A-hrs. 23rd OCTOBER, 44.

EVVOIA has been entered by our patrols and is now clear of the enemy.

Our patrols have met many road demolitions in their advance towards LAMIA and these have hampered the movement of heavy transport.

[illegible] permit, our air forces continue

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

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On 22 OCT 28 German seamen were picked up from a broken-down 'I' boat 30 miles East of ANCONA.

The unloading of stores and supplies in the PIRAEUS is proceeding satisfactorily. Minesweepers are successfully clearing the minefields in the approaches.

-end-

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS.

LAND FORCE GREECE COMMUNIQUE.

For release with Communique No. 276, at 2300-A-hrs. 23rd OCTOBER, 44.

EVVOIA has been entered by our patrols and is now clear of the enemy.

Our patrols have met many road demolitions in their advance towards LAMIA and these have hampered the movement of heavy transport.

Whenever weather conditions permit, our air forces continue to operate effectively against withdrawing enemy Units.

-end-

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N.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS.
C.M.F.

PRESS RELEASE. FOR RELEASE WITH COMMUNIQUE DATED 23rd OCT. 44.

GENERAL McNARNEY IS AFHQ DEPUTY SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER.

Allied Force Headquarters, 23rd October, 44 - Lt.General Joseph T. McNARNEY, U.S.A., assumed today his duties as Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theatre, and as Commanding General, North African Theatre of Operations, United States Army.

General McNARNEY, who comes to this theatre from his position as Deputy Chief of Staff under General George C. Marshall, succeeds Lieut.General Jacob L. Devers, now in Command of the 6th Army Group in France.

On his arrival this morning at an Italian airfield from Washington, General McNARNEY was greeted by a number of high officials of Allied Force Headquarters.

As Deputy Chief of Staff in Washington, General McNARNEY has played an important part in planning operations by U.S. armed forces all over the world.

General McNARNEY, born on 28 August, 1893, was graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1915 as an Infantry Officer, but later transferred to the Air Service and became one of the pioneers in Army aviation. He is a graduate of the Army War College, the Air Service Field Officers School, and an Honour graduate of the Command and General Staff School.

Effective 1 November 44, the North African Theatre of Operations, United States Army, will become the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations, United States Army.

--end--

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

Lucilian Patriots U.S.C.

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS.
C.M.F.

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

COMMUNIQUE No.275.

For Release 1045-A-hrs.

22nd OCTOBER, 1944.

22 OCT Recd

NAVAL COMMUNIQUE ATTACHED.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

Troops of Eighth Army have given the enemy no respite in their withdrawal to the SAVIO river, which our troops have now reached on a considerably broader front, after having crossed many minor obstacles and much marshy ground, which the enemy has endeavoured to make impassable.

CESENA has been cleared of the enemy and a bridgehead established across the SAVIO river West of the town. Polish troops of Eighth Army have taken MONTE GROSSO and MONTE DELLE FORCHE,x North of GALEATA.

On the Fifth Army front M.GRANDE, M. CUCCOLI and M. CERERE have been taken and our positions on them have been consolidated. Active patrolling has been maintained on the remainder of the front.

x MONTE DELLE FORCHE is R.3294).

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Escorted heavy bombers of the 15th A.A.F. yesterday attacked marshalling yards in North-Western HUNGARY. Strategic fighters conducted strafing attacks against airfields and motor and rail targets in HUNGARY with considerable success.

Despite severe weather, which restricted most medium bomber activity, an attack was made against a Northern Italian rail bridge.

Fighters and fighter-bombers of the Tactical Air Force were out in strength and attacked supply trains, gun positions, and troop concentrations in support of the armies in ITALY. Other fighters and light bombers attacked targets in YUGOSLAVIA and Adriatic shipping.

Last night medium and heavy bombers attacked the rail-yards at MARIBOR, YUGOSLAVIA.

During these operations four enemy aircraft were destroyed.

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

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Last night medium and heavy bombers attacked the rail-yards at MARIBOR, YUGOSLAVIA.

During these operations four enemy aircraft were destroyed. 11 of our planes are missing.

M.A.A.F. flew more than 1,300 sorties.

---END COMMUNIQUE---

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

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS

COMMUNIQUE No. 275

22 OCTOBER 1944

FOR RELEASE 1045A HRS

N A V Y :

It is reported from the Aegean that a military force was landed by the Royal Navy on the west coast of LEMNOS at dawn on 16 October and that after fighting in the town, MUDROS was occupied by 1300 hrs on the 17th. The enemy withdrew in a Siebel ferry and other craft. Several enemy craft were driven ashore by our fire while one was set ablaze and casualties caused in others. Some four hundred enemy troops were made prisoner.

Towards noon on 18 October the British cruiser ARGONAUT destroyed a large enemy tank landing craft near LEMNOS while on the same day aircraft of the Royal Navy again attacked enemy rail transport in the VOLOS area, destroying one locomotive and damaging another and twenty trucks. On 20 October Naval aircraft bombed the island of KOS. On the night of 19/20 October H.M.S. TRIBUNE and TUSCAN intercepted and engaged an enemy destroyer southbound, on the western side of the entrance to the GULF OF SALONIKA. She was driven ashore and destroyed.

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ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO 276
OCTOBER 22, 1944

FIFTH ARMY

In an attack which started night 19/20 Oct Fifth Army American troops secured M. CUCCOLI (9832), M. GRANDE (0032) and M. CERERE (0031), hill masses dominating terrain which lies before CASTEL SAN PIETRO on Route 9.

Our troops received constant close support from the air which destroyed gun positions and attacked concentrations forming for counter-attack, while our heavy arty concentrated their fire ahead of our ground troops on reverse slopes of mountains under attack. This team work covered critical period between time our forward elements reached crests of mountains and time additional reinforcements and arty brought up to consolidate our positions.

As a result two German counter-attacks against new positions were repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy.

Farther West CASTEL DEL ZENA (9032), hill castle converted into strong-point, seized by our troops.

British troops captured M. DELL ACQUA (0424) West of road leading to IMOLA.

Intense enemy arty fire continues all along Fifth Army front.

EIGHTH ARMY

In coastal area Eighth Army made further advances against retreating enemy. CESENATICO occupied 20 Oct and our troops now overcoming great terrain difficulties as they advance through marshes and flooded areas toward salt pans South of CERVIA (6820). Momentum of advance maintained by troops using every form of transport, including bicycles and boats. In one case C.O. cheered on his men from punt as they swam stream.

New Zealand armour crossed GRANAROLA stream and in spite of heavy going and demolitions advanced to within a mile of river crossing at MENSA (5817). Farther South enemy withdrew to West bank of SAVIO and is strongly entrenched in defences originally constructed to deal with possibility of seaborne landing North of RIMINI. Extensive minefields East bank SAVIO. Patrols which crossed SAVIO North of CESENA on 20 Oct heavily shelled and as they could not be reinforced were withdrawn. Bridge-head West of CESENA enlarged in spite very heavy shelling and nebeling.

In hillier country farther up SAVIO Indian troops fought sharp engagement at S. CARLO (5501) on West side of valley. Three thousand yards North of CIVITELLA DI ROMAGNO, M. GROSSO (3495) (2,200 ft) captured by Polish troops. North of GALEATA our troops advanced into mountains and are fighting in area 3294 between BIDENTE and RABBI valleys. Far side of RABBI reported strongly held by Germans.

Weather fine to fair becoming cloudy with showers extending Eastwards.

(See Appendix to to-day,s On Record Background for information on 7th Armoured

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Weather fine to fair becoming cloudy with showers extending Eastwards.

(See Appendix to to-day,s On Record Background for information on 7th Armoured Brigade and 5th Canadian Armoured Division).

END

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

SEEN. | INIT.
Col. Mc [illegible]
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRAN
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
32

PRB/R6

October 20, 1944

Daily Digest of Rome Press.

AFTERNOON PAPERS

OSSERVATORE ROMANO

1. Quotes AVANTI as saying the "black aristocracy" wants the Allies to remain in Italy as protection against social changes. As for the Vatican, says O., it has nothing to do with the matter but it may be observed that it is not only the black aristocracy but the majority of Italians who are alarmed by Nenni's violent talk.

2. Visit of Ambassador Taylor and Col. Poletti to Pontificia Commissione Assistenza Profughi.

QUOTIDIANO (Independent Catholic)

1. Dumbarton Oaks plan is not unlike the design for the old League of Nations, writes Federici, except that it has a special commission "to remove economic-social causes of war." This would be the preventive agency but inasmuch the Anglo-Saxon and the Russian ideas of economic and social order are not in harmony the new organization is sure to have its difficulties.

RICOSTRUZIONE (Labor Democrat)

1. Film industry in quarantine. The ban against production of films, now in effect, seems to be a part of a wider scheme of the Allies which contemplates Italian moving picture production, even in the future. The writer (G. Ferrieri) holds this is not right and asks that Italian producers be given a chance to compete with foreigners. To that end the little technical equipment left to us should be well taken care of. If our producers are not good enough, very well then let Italian films yield the field to American ones. But it should be clear that such a victory will be one of merit and not the result of manipulations of transoceanic interests. Surely the Allies believe in a regime of free competition?

2. Article, supported by figures, showing that the Italian worker cannot possibly work as hard as "many American officers" think he should, because he does not get enough nourishment.

VOCE REPUBBLICANA (Republican)

1. Fascist fiscal style is imitated in the new tax "reforms" of Siglienti, writes Zuccarini. He even finds some of the measures worse than the Fascist model.

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VOCE REPUBBLICANA (Republican)

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2. Unità has objected to the CC RR firing on the peasants of Marsica. But the govt represented by the CC RR is the govt the communists themselves are allied with. Hence the basic hypocrisy and iniquity of such a govt is evident.

MORNING PAPERS

AVANTI (Socialist)

The Blackpool Trade Unions meeting has declared that German

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

people must share responsibility for crimes committed by Nazis. The Russian delegation has given its approval to the declaration, adding that, in Russia alone, the work of a whole generation will be needed to cancel traces of German devastation.

All this is true; Germany has once more brought destruction and death in other countries; all this must have a revenge, and destruction of German towns is only the beginning of it. German working classes, says Nenni, will undergo the same fate as Nazism, if they do not find the means of separating from it. Nazism must be destroyed, and those hit and punished must be those really responsible, not as in Italy, the people. The German "proletariato" has made many mistakes, but all the same we believe that it still might be saved; may all German workers, ends Nenni, understand that it is high time they turned their weapons against their brown-shirted oppressors.

2. New York Times and New York Post have published a few weeks ago, articles on Italy which might have appeared in our news-paper. They recognise the existence of reactionary forces formed by great land-owners, great business men, members of the catholic hierarchy, many aristocrats and monarchists. Italian "alta società", though deeply compromised under Fascism, seems now to be quite safe, and gives dinners and parties to unsuspecting Allied officers. These elements try to penetrate into the liberal parties, and already form most of the monarchic one. Italians have not understood yet that the present expiation only hits the masses while those responsible go unpunished.

3. Avanti expresses its gratitude to Popolo for the controversy on "soups for the poor". As a result these soups are now edible.

4. Why not do something to stop children from gambling? They can be seen all over the town, sitting on the pavement, with heaps of money usually earned in immoral ways.

5. Too many thefts occur in Rome almost every night. As some of these criminals wear American uniforms, M.P.S. should join Italian Police in its fight against gangsters.

6. The Commissariato Alloggi, so violently attacked almost daily by all news-papers, states that in August it gave many flats of an INCIS building to evacuees.

7. Many people surely still possess their fascist uniforms, made of nice warm wool. Why can they not be given to the Red Cross who would distribute them to poor people now that winter is beginning?

ITALIA LIBERA (Action)

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ITALIA LIBERA (Action)

1. For the first time in modern Europe, the Italian nation is acting independently of its government. The war it is fighting is the people's war, and aims at progress. The Partito d'Azione doesn't want the restoration of a pre-fascist past, writes Aldo Garosci; it aims at laying the foundation of a collective order expressing the various needs of the forces which took part in the right.

2. About tobacco: the number of the 'tessera' has diminished; it seems that people went on smoking after they were dead.

3. Why havn't the workers of the printing-offices got the food supplement?

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

4. Couldn't the 'circolare interna' be reestablished? Its suppression means but a very little economy of electric power.

ITALIA NUOVA (Democrat)

1. The true and decisive class fight will only occur when capitul development will has destroyed the medium and "proletarises" the working classes; only then will the situation be favorable for last fight which will cause the fall of one class and the first victory of another. So wrote Bonomi in June 1944. Lucifero finds that B.'s present work, coherent with what he wrote, is the ruin of the country. He violently criticises B. and ends by accusing him of "bigamy", that is to stand for socialism and democracy, for republic and monarchy. His scepticism and cigamism are in contrast with interests of the Italian people.

2. Lucci protests against the June decree on "share-cropping" and the new regulation for conferring cultivation subsidies which increases the gains of the renter and damages the land-owner, rendering them bitter against their land.

3. Carovita. Many firms do not yet pay the carovita subsidy.

POPOLO (Christian Democrat)

1. Answer to Bonomi's article on "responsibility and liberty". Though praising N.'s more subdued tone, says this is not really the moment to weaken the Gov. which is formed also by Ministers belonging to all parties. The people need and want to feel their present Gov. is strong.

2. Fin hopes the problem of the "Am-lire" will soon have a definitive solution.

RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE (Liberal)

1. The Italians of liberated Italy seems to forget that there is still a war going on in the North, and that people are fighting against death and banishment while they fight for social or economic improvements. Today, in Italy there is Government which expresses all the forces of the nation. The laws which are now in force must be enforced by this government. He who does not respect the law or appeals to a justice different from that of the State is a rebel. If the Italians forget this truth, they will bring about anarchy and civil war.

2. More complaints about the incompetence of the Annona, about the corn and firewood question.

TEMPO (Independent)

1. If a proletarian dictatorship is the first form of Gov. of the [illegible] class which has conquered power and exercises it against

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

2. Local protests against the June decree on "share-cropping" and the new regulation for conferring cultivation subsidies which increases the gains of the renter and damages the land-owner, rendering them bitter against their land.

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2. Pin hopes the problem of the "am-lire" will soon have a definitive solution.

RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE (Liberal)

1. The Italians of liberated Italy seems to forget that there is still a war going on in the North, and that people are fighting against death and banishment while they fight for social or economic improvements. Today, in Italy there is Government which expresses all the forces of the nation. The laws which are now in force must be enforced by this government. He who does not respect the law or appeals to a justice different from that of the State is a rebel. If the Italians forget this truth, they will bring about anarchy and civil war.

2. More complaints about the incompetence of the Annona, about the corn and firewood question.

TEMPO (Independent)

1. If a proletarian dictatorship is the first form of Gov. of the proletarian class which has conquered power and exercises it against other classes, this means that this dictatorship may be considered as a self-Govt of the masses, writes Serticone.

2. Palermo. Employees of Banks and "esattorie" held a demonstration to obtain increase of salaries, during which somebody began shooting at passing troops, who returned the fire. 10 dead and 104 wounded. The Provincial C.L.N. promised to look for those responsible.

3. Schools cannot open because premises are occupied by evacuees. But not all evacuees are evacuees. We have discovered that many,

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

very many of these people, have managed to swindle the authorities, and after having let their own flats for good money, live in the schools..

4. Where does all the meat sold at the black market come from? Well organised bands, during the now long nights, practise cattle-stealing on large scale. Stolen animals are brought by lorry into Rome.

UNITA' (Communist)

1. Violent article of Vilio Tyano: traitors and criminals like Arzolini, Pentimalli, etc etc are not punished. This is an encouragement for future criminals. If people who commit crimes for the Nazis are not punished, why should people who commit crimes for the reaction party be punished?

2. Violent article on the Licata incident: innocent working people have been murdered by ferocious policemen.

3. The political price of bread means an enormous weight on the States budget; besides there is no reason why people who are comfortably off should get their bread under cost price. The State ought to control some essential foodstuffs only, and see that they are equitably distributed.

4. A Commissioner ought to be appointed to the TRENI.

Many elements which ought to be epurated are still working for the INA. Why should other members of the personnel be dismissed?

GENERAL

1. Articles about the Moscow interviews. The Polish Committee of Lublin says it is ready to come to an agreement with Mikolaczyk.

2. Dewey says that an improvised administration has been given to Italy and that America hasn't done enough to help it.

3. The next Council of Ministers will discuss the rise of the allotment of the workers and employees who have been pensioned off. The method for the payment of the allotment for the high cost of living will be settled today.

0175

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0176

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897520
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T-2

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Date 10/14/44

From Rpt 050 Date of Info 10/12/44

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Bx # None
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From Rpt OSS Date of Info Early Oct 44

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Bx # None
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Authority Date

Italian Patriots.

19 OCT Recd

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

1042

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS

COMMUNIQUE NO.272. 19 OCTOBER 1944.

FOR RELEASE A.M.S.

NAVY:

NAVAL COMMUNIQUE ATTACHED.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

In the low ground East of CESENA, Eighth Army troops have forced a bridgehead over the River PISCIATELLO against strong opposition. In the foothills SW of CESENA, further gains have been made and Indian troops of Eighth Army have captured ACQUAROLA 5302 and ROVERSANO 5601.

In a day of extremely heavy fighting American troops of Fifth Army have continued to press forward against determined resistance. MONTE BELMONTE 9032 continues to be the centre of the most bitter fighting. On their left, South African troops of Fifth Army have captured M. PEZZA after a hard fight, and on the West coast Negro troops of Fifth Army have captured M. CASTIGLIONE, an important feature dominating the coast road.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Bad weather yesterday considerably curtailed operations, but fighter-bombers attacked rail yards at VINKOVCI, YUGOSLAVIA and gave close support to the land forces in attacks on bridges near BOLOGNA and on the rail yards at MODENA.

Medium bombers hit RIMINI rail bridge.

Shipping in the bay of SALONIKA was attacked.

From the days operations one of our aircraft is missing.

MAAF flew nearly 800 sorties.

0193

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

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

In the low ground East of CESENA, Eighth Army troops have forced a bridgehead over the River PISCIATELLO against strong opposition. In the foothills SW of CESENA, further gains have been made and Indian troops of Eighth Army have captured ACQUAROLA 5902 and ROVERSANO 5601.

In a day of extremely heavy fighting American troops of Fifth Army have continued to press forward against determined resistance. MONTE BELVEDERE 9032 continues to be the centre of the most bitter fighting. On their left, South African troops of Fifth Army have captured M. PEZZA after a hard fight, and on the West coast Negro troops of Fifth Army have captured M. CASTIGLIONE, an important feature dominating the coast road.

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Medium bombers hit PADUA rail bridge.

Shipping in the bay of SALONIKA was attacked.

From the days operations one of our aircraft is missing.

MAAF flew nearly 800 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE.

0193

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

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE

COMMUNIQUE No. 272 FOR RELEASE 1030A HRS

NAVY:

It is reported from the Aegean that on 15 October naval aircraft working from a force of escort carriers under the command of Commodore Geoffrey N. Oliver, made low-flying attacks on enemy transport inland of VOLOS. Four armoured cars, three ammunition trucks and twenty-seven other motor vehicles were destroyed and more than thirty damaged. Naval aircraft also attacked an ammunition ship which blew up after being hit and set a coaster on fire.

On 16 October northeast of PSARIUM in the northern SPORADES, (39 degrees 30 minutes north; 24 degrees 10 minutes east) H.M.S. ARGONAUT sank an armed caique containing 200 enemy infantry, while the destroyer TERPSICHORE sank a Siebel ferry laden with valuable equipment. Some enemy survivors were rescued.

On 17 October off LITHOS Naval aircraft destroyed six enemy craft and set a merchant vessel on fire. Between 15/20 smaller craft were also disposed of.

Near VOLOS three locomotives and 36 trucks were destroyed while one locomotive, four armoured cars and three barges were damaged.

Yesterday, 18 October, the garrison of SANTORIN to the north of Crete surrendered to H.M.S. AJAX.

END

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

1018

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE No. 272.

19th October 1944.

BEGINS:

EIGHTH ARMY.

Position generally unchanged in Eighth Army coastal sector.

RUFFIO 6507, about three thousand yards SW of MACERONE, cleared of enemy by New Zealand troops. North of railway, Canadian forward elements crossed PISCIATELLO against stiff opposition and established small bridgehead. Our advance continues in hills South of CESENA.

North of ROMANO, British troops captured four inhabited localities 17 Oct against stiff opposition and took 80 PW. We advanced toward CELINCORDIA 5904, morning 18 Oct, against stubborn enemy resistance and took further 40 PW.

Troops of an Indian Division captured ACQUAROLA 5802, one mile East of SAVIO, and finally cleared ROVERSANO 5601 of enemy.

In central mountain sector, fighting flared up in CALERTA 3291 area.

FIFTH ARMY.

Continuing to press forward in a number of sectors in face of strong resistance and recent reinforcements, Fifth Army 18 Oct captured several terrain features and villages. These advances though limited, were made only after bitter fighting, eviction of enemy from strongly defended positions and repelling of counterattacks.

American Infantry cleared S. CLEMENTE 9928 and high ground NE. Other forces took C. VAGLIE 9530 and entered CASTELVECCHIO 9631 late 18 Oct after repelling a counterattack. Other American Infantry captured C. ROCCO 9330 and were fighting for high ground just North of village late afternoon 18 Oct. Other leading elements reached CORCE (Area 9131) while heavy fighting raged on southern slopes of M. BELMONTE 9032.

Despite continued resistance along Route 65, American Infantry captured P. LA. FABBRICA (Area 8731).

Against strong opposition South African troops wrested MONTE PEZZA (Area 7324) from enemy.

In coastal sector Negro troops of 92 Inf Div captured M. CASTIGLIONE (Area 9696).

[illegible] more freely than in any past

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crossed PISCIATELLO against s[illegible]
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Troops of an Indian Division captured ACQUAROLA 5802, one mile East of SAVIO, and finally cleared MOVERSANO 5601 of enemy.

In central mountain sector, fighting flared up in GALEATA 3291 area.

FIFTH ARMY.

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Against strong opposition South African troops wrested MONTE PEZZA (Area 7324) from enemy.

In coastal sector Negro troops of 92 Inf Div captured M. CASTIGLIONE (Area 9696).

Enemy continues to use Arty more freely than in any past action against Fifth Army.

Weather cloudy with local showers on hills becoming fair, intermittent rain predicted.

(See Appendices to today's O.N.R.B for information on 3 Greek Mountain Brigade and for notes on Arty demoralising enemy.)

No change Press Release Line.

END O.N.R.B.

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

Italian Publicity 18 OCT Recd INFORMATION DIVISION

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P.R. [illegible]

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS.

COMMUNIQUE NO.271. 18 OCTOBER 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A. HRS.

NAVY:

The Garrison of SCARPANTO having been contained by the Greek population, two British destroyers H.M.S. TEMPISCHORE and H.M.S. CLEVELAND arrived at dawn on October 17. The naval landing party which took over the island in the name of the United Nations landed unopposed and received an enthusiastic welcome from the people. SCARPANTO, like other islands in the Dodecanese, is ex-enemy territory.

On October 14 the French destroyer LE FORTUNE successfully bombarded buildings housing enemy quarters and transport near the Franco-Italian frontier.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

North of the BOLOGNA Road, troops of Eighth Army have reached the River PISCIATELLO on a broad front and are now 2 miles from the industrial town of CESENA. Good progress has also been made in the foothills South of this road and the important feature of MONTE REALE has been occupied.

In the central sector, American troops of Fifth Army, in their drive towards BOLOGNA, have made further gains in a day of intense fighting. American troops have reached MONTE BELMONTE where fierce fighting continues. On their right flank, British and Indian troops of Fifth Army have advanced and cleared the enemy from several heights.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Strong forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked oil refinery in Western Germany, industrial objectives and rail targets in the VIENNA area.

Although tactical activity was restricted by weather, fighters and fighter-bombers gave close support to the Armies in Italy, particularly in the Adriatic sector.

Coastal aircraft attacked shipping in the Adriatic, in Greece and in Yugoslavia. Light bombers attacked rail targets and German strong points.

Last night medium and heavy bombers bombed the VINKOVCI

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Although tactical activity was restricted by weather, fighters and fighter-bombers gave close support to the Armies in Italy, particularly in the Adriatic sector.

Coastal aircraft attacked shipping in the Adriatic, in Greece and in Yugoslavia. Light bombers attacked rail targets and German strong points.

Last night medium and heavy bombers bombed the VINKOVCI marshalling yards in Yugoslavia.

Four enemy aircraft were destroyed in yesterday's operations. Our losses were 18 heavy bombers and 6 other aircraft. MAAF flew approximately 1,500 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE.

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O N R B
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND to PRESS COMMUNIQUE NO.271 for 18 OCT 1944.

FIFTH ARMY

Fifth Army troops made encouraging advances in face of stiff enemy resistance characterized by strong counterattacks in vital sectors 17 Oct. Enemy continues attempt to delay armyÕs relentless thrust towards BOLOGNA.

Indian troops occupied high ground area 1205 and repelled two counter-attacks in that area.

British units consolidated gains vicinity M CEGE 0912 and advanced elements pushed to East.

American troops captured TREBO and Hill 326 (area 9927). Other elements continued North and occupied Hill 0030, where a counterattack was thrown back.

Units captured hill town of S ANNA (area 9530). Effective air support aided advance toward M BELMONTE 9032 where fierce fighting in progress.

Our troops continued advance astride Route 65 to about 1500 yards North of LIVERGNANO. West of this Route, heavy fighting continued near MONTERANICI 8328.

In coastal sector, other units of Fifth Army maintained pressure on enemy and consolidated positions.

EIGHTH ARMY

In Eighth Army coastal sector, our patrols crossed Fiumicino River and penetrated to the Rigossa. To SW, our troops cleared BULGARNO 6606 and neighbouring hamlets. Pushing on, they reached Pisciatello River on a four mile front from MONTRONE 6703 to Route 9. In this sector, 17 Oct, our troops took 60 PW including one complete company who had been told to hold on to the last.

We advanced up Route 9 to PISCIATELLO Bridge, about 15 miles from FORLI and 2 miles from CESENA, former German administration center. In hill country South and SW of CESENA, our troops are closing in on town. They captured MONTE REALE 5701 night 16/17 Oct and advanced in hills on East side of Savio River to within 2 miles South of CESENA.

In mountain sector, 16 Oct, other troops of Eighth Army occupied TOMBETTA 4891 and M DI VECCHIANO 4889, both overlooking Borello River. Farther SW, on West side of River, we occupied Pt 717/4187.

Weather whole front fair to cloudy with light rain in parts mainly over hills.

attacks in that area.

British units consolidated gains vicinity if CECE 0912 and advanced elements pushed to East.

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We advanced up Route 9 to PISCIATELLO Bridge, about 15 miles from FORLI and 2 miles from CESENA, former German administration center. In hill country South and SW of CESENA, our troops are closing in on town. They captured MONTE REALE 5701 night 16/17 Oct and advanced in hills on East side of Savio River to within 2 miles South of CESENA.

In mountain sector, 16 Oct, other troops of Eighth Army occupied TOMBETTA 4391 and M DI VECCHIANO 4869, both overlooking Borello River. Farther SW, on West side of River, we occupied Pt 717/4187.

Weather whole front fair to cloudy with light rain in parts mainly over hills.

(For information on 4 British Infantry Division, see Appendix to today's On Record Background.)

No change Press Release Line.

END ONRB

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H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS.

COMMUNIQUE.
LAND FORCES GREECE.

RELEASE TIME: 1030-A-hrs.

18th OCTOBER, 1944.

The disembarkation at ATHENS of troops and stores continues according to plan. Further drops by parachute troops were successfully carried out in the ATHENS area. The troops have had a great welcome from the civil population.

Although the main harbour installations at the PIRAEUS have been severely damaged by German demolition, many of the public services are functioning satisfactorily. This is due in some cases to successful counter sabotage action by Greek partisans.

---000---

Italian Patriots

15 OCT Recd

32

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS.

COMMUNIQUE NO.268. 15th OCTOBER 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS.

NAVY:

NAVAL COMMUNIQUE LATER.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

In a day of heavy fighting, Fifth Army troops in the central sector have made local gains against very strong resistance.

British and Indian troops of Eighth Army have made some progress in the high ground south of the BOLOGNA-RIMINI road.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Yesterday heavy bombers escorted by fighters made attacks on oil refineries in GERMANY, and on rail facilities in HUNGARY and YUGOSLAVIA.

Fighters and fighter-bombers attacked gun positions, road and rail traffic in the BOLOGNA area while others attacked airfields in HUNGARY and railways in YUGOSLAVIA.

Shipping in the Adriatic was attacked by coastal aircraft.

Tactical medium bombers were grounded by weather conditions.

During the days operations three enemy aircraft were destroyed. Seventeen of our heavy bombers and nine other aircraft are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 1,700 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE.

255

0202

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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MAAF flew approximately 1,700 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE.

755

0203

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

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE No. 268.

15th OCTOBER 1944.

EIGHTH ARMY.

On Eighth Army front, positions on the 6 to 7 mile stretch between sea and BOLOGNA-RIMINI railway remain virtually unchanged. Enemy still hold FIUMICINO line in coastal sector and defending S. ANGELO IN SALUTE 7105 strongly. To SW of S. ANGELO, our troops generally up to SCOLO RIGOSSA Canal.

German fighting patrols tried to infiltrate down line of railway and established themselves in two of our disabled tanks but were turned out and retreated.

Canadian troops pushed on across RIGOSSA up Route 9 south of BULGARIA 6504 in close contact with strongly resisting enemy. Patrols of both sides active in flat country south of Route 9.

On ridge west of MONTILNO 6400, British troops advanced one thousand yards reached CARPINETA road junction 6100, made some progress beyond against considerable enemy resistance and took about 70 Jaeger PW. Enemy counterattacked night and morning 13/14 Oct. in this sector and in SORRIVOLI 6098 area where we are established on spur five hundred yards north of village.

Tanks got well forward across upper reaches of RUBICONE - CESENATE or PISCIATELLO and gained ridge beyond, under improved weather conditions. Germans still holding out in ARDLIO 5998 but troops of an Indian Division captured M. BORA (Area 5897) dominating one thousand foot feature one Kilo SW.

Our troops also captured and consolidated their positions on M. DELL 'ERTA 5696 and advanced fifteen hundred yards along ridge to capture M. CHICCO (Area 5798) fourteen hundred foot hill overlooking SAVIO Valley, six miles south of CESENA. They beat off several fierce counterattacks.

In central mountain sector, our troops captured CERFOGLIO 4987, three miles west of MERCATO SARACENO.

FIFTH ARMY.

Moving forward slowly against fanatical enemy resistance, Fifth Army troops made local advances and improved their positions 14 Oct. Further enemy reinforcements identified in vicinity VERGATO 7025.

American troops advanced across CASTEL DEL RIO-CASTEL SAN PIETRO road, east of MONTERENZIO 9428, while other Units still engaged in bitter fighting near LIVERGNANO, east of which, advances made.

South African troops retook M. STANCO 7122 after several days of violent fighting, and continued forward towards GRIZZANA 7323. Considerable number of prisoners taken in this area.

734

Fifth Army troops have captured 7800 prisoners since current offensive began 13 Sept.

0204

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

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Weather mainly fair whole front except for thunderstorms developing in parts of Appenines.

(For information on the Eighth Indian Infantry Division see appendix to today's ONB.)

No change Press Release Line.

END O.M.R.B.

0203
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

SEEN.	INITI
Col. Mc. [illegible]THY	
Maj. MAG[illegible]	
Maj. DRAGE	
Capt. SALVADORI	
[illegible]	
C. C.	

N.S.C.

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

32

October 15, 1944

Daily Digest of Rome Press.

AFTERNOON PAPERS

OSSERVATORE ROMANO

1. Writing again about the refugees O. notes that things have somewhat improved. Cites article in Corriere di Roma, according to which the authorities and the national groups have been seconded, as was to be expected, by the Allies. But there is still much to do and one must give and give.

QUOTIDIANO (Independent Catholic)

1. Giordani expresses his fear that the Allies may lose the peace even though they are sure to win the war. Discouraging indications are seen in the mysterious fall of Warsaw and the territorial claims advanced by certain political figures. The conference of Dumbarton Oaks gives some hope. It must never be forgotten that peace depends on a moral and economic cohesion in the world, rather than on purely political pacts.

RICOSTRUZIONE (Labor Democrat)

1. Another survey of a year's co-belligerence. Usual lines: much has been done, more could be done; it is hoped the Allies will allow a greater participation in the war by Italians. Etc. (Vit. Mi.)

2. The new RR Time-table put out by Communications Ministry though small and humble is the most beautiful book the writer has ever seen. It is a symbol of the return to normal, of the possibility of repairing damage done by the Germans, of reconstruction.

3. Technical analysis of Azzolini trial by Liuzzi.

VOCE REPUBBLICANA (Republican)

1. VR is tired of hearing appeals that "Italy be given back her dignity." She has never lost it; indeed after her sufferings, nobly and patiently born, she has dignity to spare. Of course those who signed the armistice have no dignity but that is their affair.

2. Appeal for opening technical and professional schools. Education is needed in agriculture, seamenship, commerce etc. Let Italians think along those lines and learn to develop their own country; it is a much better policy than turning out lawyers, policemen, civil servants, priests, and dreaming of conquest and colonies. (Conti)

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

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3. Comment on Azzolini: his was a monocrchic morality. There are higher responsibilities than his, however, and the story is not yet ended....Incidentally it is noteworthy that he managed to save the crown jewels.

MORNING PAPERS

AVANTI (Socialist)

1. Republic or Monarchy? Foreigners have nothing to do with this question, says Nenni; America's offensive doubt on Italy's

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

immaturity to be ruled by those institutions which have made the fortune of the U.S.; Churchill with his old Tory preoccupations and his fears that the misfortune of the Savoia may harm the fortune of the Windsors; dollars and sterling; all this has nothing to do with us. Circumstances have forced us to postpone the institutional question, to accept, for the time being, the Monarchy; independence of our Country and bread for the people are more urgent problems. But we should like to know the opinion of the parties on the following: (a) the future form of the State and liquidation of fascism; if the State has to be democratic it must also be republican, as Monarchy, in Italy, can only count on the reactionary and feudal sects which sustained Mussolini's terroristic dictature; (b) land reform through expropriation; (c) socialisation of trusts and "state" industries which are now in the hands of few.

2. Modigliani and Silone have returned from their exile.

3. Better treatment of State Employees. Following the workers' subsidy decree, similar measures will be taken concerning the State employees.

4. Azzolini handed over the Gold of the Bank of Italy to the Germans; but who handed over Rome to the Germans? asks Ulisse. This trial, as others which may follow, only hits a minor figure among all the people responsible for Italy's present situation.

5. Many thousand workmen of the Ministry of War are still unemployed, and the Ministry asks private enterprises to do some of its work.

6. Still about "kitchens for the poor". The "Popolo", very much offended asks us to point out which of these "kitchens" do not respect all hygienic rules or do not give out all the food allotted to them; why not? But don't pay a visit to them within the following few days, of course!

7. Still against gambling clubs.

ITALIA LIBERA (Action)

1. Ugo La Malfa comments on De Gasperi broadcast message. A democratic solution might be found to the national problem if some of the parties managed to unify their aims and join forces. According to De Gasperi, the plurality of parties has been brought about by particular historical conditions. If the parties really want democracy, they must put themselves in the required political conditions.

2. About distribution services: It is time the UDIS should be [illegible]. The Federazione Consorzi Agrari is responsible for the

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

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2. About distribution services: It is time the UDIS should be organized. The Federazione Consorzi Agrari is responsible for the shortage of potatoes in Rome.

ITALIA NUOVA (Democrat)

1. Enzo Selvaggi answers some articles of Nenni and Togliatti, praising the Committees of Liberation and asking that all the powers should be handed over to them. At the present moment, no party or Committee is representative of the nation writes E.S. Besides, many of these Committees are composed of people who suddenly turned anti-fascist. When Togliatti or Nenni speak of Committees, they mean their own parties and the Christian Democrats. Obviously, Communists and Socialists realize that their united forces cannot win the game; they need the help of the Christian Democrats. The Committees of

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

Liberation must be the expression of the two left parties and of the Christian Democrats which they hope to drag to the Left.

2. Commenting on the law for the punishment of fascist crimes, Scrutator says it is monstrous that citizens should have to answer for actions which were not legal offences at the time they were committed. Mussolini's real accomplices where those who enabled him to seize the power, not those who followed him when opposition had been stifled and when he had majority in Parliament.

3. Better wages for the employees of the State. What about those who have been pensioned off?

4. Communique from Gullo indicating desire to abolish "political price of bread" comment: What is the use of better wages if the price of bread rises (140 %)

5. The dependents of the Azienda dei Servizi Annonari are abundantly supplied with potatoes, but other people cannot get them.

POPOLO (Christian Democrat)

1. Commenting Particone's article (Avanti) on the relations between democracy and socialism, Guido Gonella says that even if the proletarian class is the most numerous, the rule of the majority does not signify democracy; democracy means proportional representation of the minority as well as of the majority, aspiration towards social equality and guarantee of rights. A dictatorship of the proletariat would mean absolute authority of the proletariat based not on the right, but on the strength of the proletariat masses.

2. If the Communists want the co-operation of Christian democracy, they had better not start making anti-religious propaganda.

RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE (Liberal)

1. Land to the peasants. The Italian Liberal Party whishes the land to go back to the peasants and has voted a special "order of the day" the main number of which is that O.N.C., the largest "latifondista" in Italy, give up its possessions which will be divided among peasants and small owners, either through sales or through special contracts.

2. Schools had announced their reopening for the 16th, tomorrow, but it will not be so. Disinfection has not yet been done and many premises are still requisitioned.

3. "Strange", not to use a worse expression, conduct of the Commissario Alloggi. Evacuees go to the appartments assigned to them, and find them occupied; or, if they manage to get in, they are then sent away after a few days. Behaviour of the officials of above Commissariato is absolutely disgusting.

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0210

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

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TEMPO (Independent)

1. Skirmish between "Nembo" parachutists who wanted to cut the hair of "immoral women" and P.S. Agents who tried to reestablish order.

2. Corrado Calvo praises the "mense aziendali" though they are still not sufficient to feed all those people who cannot afford black market prices.

0211
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

UNITA' (Communist)

1. Sforza comment on Azzolini's sentence, i.e. that he would have approved of supreme punishment, is taken up by Unità which adds that there is no doubt about the High Court of Justice's entire liberty of decision.

2. Rita Montagnana recalls the marvellous behaviour of all Russians helping to put in working order the Moscow coal mines flooded by the Germans. She realises that Italy could not do so much, but surely something might be done, when one thinks of all the strong young men who spend their days doing nothing.

3. Gullo, Minister of Agriculture, has made a declaration on institution of Sottosegretariato dell'Alimentazione. The utmost care will be taked in choosing people specially competent in matters of buying, of distribution, and transportation. But, he adds, full success will only be attained by abolishing the political price of bread.

4. New epurations in the Ministry of Communications.

5. P.S. Agents, yesterday, upset the carts of poor people selling odds and ends. But does P.S. not realise that these poor people mostly do this kind of work so as not to starve to death. Give them other means of existence but do not act so absurdly.

6. Some firms are already trying to annul the effect of the workers subsidy decree.

GENERAL

1. Articles on the Azzolini trial. The Court has been weak, says Italia Nuova. The sentence touches Azzolini's whole entourage; many people share his responsibility, says Italia Libera.

2. Better economic conditions for the employees of the State.

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

16 OCT Recd

Mac. 32

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE No. 268

15 October 1944

FOR PRESS 1130Z

NAVY:

On 12 October enemy troops and transport near BORDIGHERA were bombarded by the French destroyer 'La Fortune".

.. force of small British minesweepers working under dangerous and difficult conditions have completed clearing the channels in the southern Dalmatian Islands and have greatly assisted the operations now in progress. Further south, minesweepers .. the 13th Mine-sweeping Flotilla are clearing channels for the entry of shipping into the GULF OF P...S.

It is reported from the Aegean that on 13 October His Majesty's Ship "ARGONAUT" bombarded PHLEV.., an off-shore island about ten miles south-southeast of Athens.

In addition to the losses inflicted on the enemy by naval aircraft mentioned in the Naval communique of 13 October, it is now learnt that they set another small coaster on fire and sank five more caiques.

During the last few weeks British minesweepers of the 5th and 162nd Flotillas, assisted by the 28th Flotilla of motor launches, with small Greek vessels of the 116th Flotilla have been doing valuable work in clearing channels to allow Allied Naval Forces to operate in the Aegean.

END COMMUNIQUE

SEEN.	INITIAL
Col. Mc...HY	
Maj. MAC...	
Maj. DRAGE	
Capt. SALVADORI	
Col. FAVA	
C. C.	

751

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

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

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS

COMMUNIQUE No. 269

16 October 1944

FOR RELEASE 1030A HRS

NAVY:

After some delay caused by an enemy minefield, H.M.S. "ORION", flying the flag of Rear Admiral J.M. MANSFIELD, together with cruisers "AJAX", "AURORA" and "BLACK PRINCE" and destroyers and other units of the Royal and Royal Hellenic Navies, came to an anchor off the Piraeus yesterday evening, October 15. All these ships are carrying troops which it was intended to disembark this morning.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

American troops of Fifth Army in a day of heavy fighting have captured the important town of LIVERGNANO which has been so strongly contested for the last four days. Farther west, British and South African troops of Fifth Army have cleared the villages of VEGGIO, GRIZZANA and CAMPIARA.

In the Adriatic sector, Eighth Army troops have crossed the SCOLO LUGOSA and captured CASTELNOVA. South of the RIMINI-BOLOGNA road, Eighth Army troops have fought their way forward in the broken country and made advances of up to one mile.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS COMMUNIQUE WILL BE ISSUED LATER

HANDOUT (Release with Communique)

S U M M A R Y

Liberators and Flying Fortresses of the 15th A.A.F. yesterday attacked oil refineries in Germany for the second consecutive day and other objectives in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia.

Unfavourable weather kept medium bombers grounded, but Tactical Air Force fighters and fighter-bombers operated in close support of Allied ground forces in northern Italy.

Good results were reported in the Fortresses' attack on the BLECHHAMMER North synthetic oil plant, 75 miles south-west of BRESLAU. Liberators bombed the ODERTAL oil refinery, 10 miles west of BLECHHAMMER, causing fires and explosions.

Other targets of the heavy bombers were rail yards at BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia; at KOMAROM, 50 miles north-west of BUDAPEST; ERSEKUJVAR, 55 miles north-west of BUDAPEST; objectives south-west of BUDAPEST in Hungary; a rail bridge over the DRAVA river at MARIBOR, Yugoslavia; the MARIBOR railyards.

Fighters escorting the heavy bombers strafed airfields at SZEGEDYLES and SZEKESFEHERVAR, destroying many aircraft on the ground, and destroying or damaging rail and motor equipment in the area.

No enemy aircraft were encountered by the 15th's bombers or fighters.

Tactical's fighters and fighter-bombers attacked gun positions and enemy strong-points in the Italian battle-area. Four bridges were reported hit, tracks cut, and roads cratered in many places, with 16 vehicles, 7 locomotives, 7 rail-cars and other equipment destroyed, and one locomotive, 40 rail cars, 7 vehicles, two tugs, four barges, and two motor-boats damaged.

Spitfires destroyed a ME-410 in combat near BERGAMO.

Coastal aircraft attacked small shipping in the GULF of VENICE. DUBROVNIK harbour was bombed, with unobserved results.

Balkan Air Force Units destroyed or damaged some rail and motor equipment in sweeps of the Yugoslav coast and roads. Two CR-42s were encountered and destroyed near ZAGREB.

Mustangs and Spitfires destroyed or damaged several locomotives, railcars and vehicles in Greece. Troops were strafed in trains and on roads.

Three enemy aircraft were destroyed in these operations, and 17 of our heavy bombers and nine other aircraft are missing.

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

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Three enemy aircraft were destroyed in these operations, and 17 of our heavy bombers and nine other aircraft are missing.

M.A.A.F. flew nearly 1,700 sorties.

end Summary.

BALKAN AIR FORCE

Aircraft of Balkan Air Force yesterday attacked trains and motor transport in the LARISSA and ZAGREB areas. Mustangs accounted for four locomotives and three motor vehicles and damaged many more. Enemy troops were also strafed.

Near SENJ Spitfires attacked and damaged motor transport.

While sweeping over the ZAGREB area, Spitfires destroyed one locomotive and left one motor vehicle in flames.

Three enemy fighters were seen in this area, and Spitfires shot down two of them in flames.

Over for Strategic detail.

0216

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

STRATEGIC

Escorted forces of 15th A.A.F. Liberators and Flying Fortresses yesterday attacked German synthetic oil refineries at BLECHHAMMER and ODERTAL, in UPPER SILESIA, and communication targets in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Yugoslavia. It was the second successive day that the 15th A.A.F. bombed the BLECHHAMMER plant.

Flak was intense at the SILESIAN targets, where bombing was both visual and by use of instruments through cloud cover. No enemy aircraft was encountered, but several unidentified planes were seen in the target area.

Mustangs and Lightnings escorted the heavy bombers.

Mustangs strafed SEREGEYLES and SZEKESFEHERVAR airfields, north-east of LAKE BALATON, destroying enemy planes on the ground, and made a sweep of the area towards BUDAPEST, destroying 18 locomotives, three trucks, and a machine-gun position.

Flying Fortresses bombed the BLECHHAMMER North synthetic oil plant, 200 miles south of BERLIN and 75 miles south-west of BRESLAU. It is the third largest German synthetic oil plant still in operation, and has an estimated capacity of 300,000 tons of oil a year. Crews said the target was well hit, and explosions and fires were seen in the target area.

Liberators bombed the ODERTAL oil plant, 10 miles west of BLECHHAMMER. The refinery's oil output is about 110,000 tons a year. The plant was last attacked September 13 by the 15th A.A.F. Crews said a large explosion was seen in the middle of the target area, causing much smoke.

Liberators and Flying Fortresses attacked the railroad yards at BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia, on the Austria-Hungary frontier. Explosions and fires were seen at one end of the yard and the dock area, observers stated. Bombing was visual and by instruments. Flak was moderate to intense.

In Hungary, Liberators and Flying Fortresses bombed rail yards at KOMAROM, 50 miles north-west of BUDAPEST on the Danube, and at ERSEKUJVAR, 55 miles north-west of BUDAPEST, on a main line to VIENNA. Bombing at ERSEKUJVAR was visual, and at KOMAROM it was both visual and by instruments. Fair results, with many hits in the rail yards, were reported at ERSEKUJVAR. Early bomb-strike photo interpretation shows good results at KOMAROM, with a concentration of hits on a bridge. Flak was scant at KOMAROM, and there was none at the other target.

Fortresses bombed visually at targets of opportunity south-[illegible] BUDAPEST in Hungary. Liberators visually bombed a rail

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

Mustangs strafed SERECSYLES and SZEKESFEHERVAR airfields, north-east of LAKE BALATON, destroying enemy planes on the ground, and made a sweep of the area towards BUDAPEST, destroying 18 locomotives, three trucks, and a machine-gun position.

Flying Fortresses bombed the BLECHHAMMER North synthetic oil plant, 200 miles south of BERLIN and 75 miles south-west of BRESLAU. It is the third largest German synthetic oil plant still in operation, and has an estimated capacity of 300,000 tons of oil a year. Crews said the target was well hit, and explosions and fires were seen in the target area.

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Fortresses bombed visually at targets of opportunity south-west of BUDAPEST in Hungary. Liberators visually bombed a rail bridge over the DRAVA river at MARIBOR, Yugoslavia, near the Austrian border, with very good results reported. The rail yards at MARIBOR were also attacked.

Describing a Liberator shot down by flak over MARIBOR, T/Sgt. Delon J. Reech, of Simmesport, La., said:- "The right wing was ripped off by the bursts, folded over, and fell off. I saw seven chutes open."

More Strategic.

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

A.A.F. - R.A.F. PUBLIC RELATIONS Sunday, October 15 1944.

SPECIAL HANDOUT
(Release with Communique)

R.A.F. PART IN ATHENS OCCUPATION

The Royal Air Force offensive in Greece during the past few weeks has largely helped to clear the way for the occupation of ATHENS and the PIRAEUS by British troops.

R.A.F. fighter aircraft disrupted all the enemy's lines of communication by which he was evacuating troops from the PELOPONNESSUS and the southern islands of Greece.

Fighters have destroyed hundreds of motor vehicles, trains, ships and transport aircraft. Bombers made several night attacks on the airfields of ELEUSIS, TATOI, and KALAMAKI, which ring the city of ATHENS, to wipe out the three-engine JU-52s being used to transport key personnel, and also to interfere with these important links on the enemy's evacuation route from the area. R.A.F. night-intruding Mosquitos also attacked airfields and road transport.

The R.A.F. offensive paid due attention to ports, bridges, and troop concentrations, and has been closely co-ordinated with the activities of the partisans within the country, and with light Naval forces and heavy bombers.

Only convoys of road transport have been attacked by the R.A.F., because single vehicles might belong to the partisans. If they did not, the partisans themselves could be relied upon to deal with them.

The campaign, part of the larger one embracing the whole of the enemy-held Adriatic coast - Albania, Yugoslavia and Greece - started about six months ago with attacks by aircraft of the Mediterranean Allied Coastal Air Force on the harbour of the island of CORFU, off the Greek mainland, and the shipping in it.

The long sea crossing from the R.A.F. Italian-held bases, however, precluded any intensive strafing in southern Greece, and it was not until an airfield was occupied in Greece itself, following the landing on September 26, that this became possible, the R.A.F. then being athwart the escape route instead of beside it.

This landing, though all three Services took part, was mainly a R.A.F. affair, as well as having the establishment of an airfield as its main object. Among the ground troops the R.A.F. Regiment played its part.

In fact, R.A.F. Spitfires of the Balkan Air Force were already operating from a landing-strip in the vicinity a few days before the sea landings were made. Thus, for the first time, a seaborne

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

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In fact, R.A.F. Spitfires of the Balkan Air Force were already operating from a landing-strip in the vicinity a few days before the sea landings were made. Thus, for the first time, a seaborne invasion was given air protection from the country being invaded.

Spitfires, Mustangs, and rocket-firing Beaufighters and [illegible] Hurricanes are all taking part in the Balkan Air Force effort.

The surrender of the island of CORFU was particularly a R.A.F. achievement. After repeated air attacks, leaflets were dropped, calling on the garrison to show white flags, and the following morning R.A.F. reconnaissance aircraft reported that the Germans all over the island were waving sheets and anything else white they could find.

END.

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

STRATEGIC MISSION SIDELIGHT

Sgt. Paul H.L. Melton, 26, 101 Marion Drive, Moffitt Village, Wilmington, N.C., flew as an exchange doughfoot in a Flying Fortress on yesterday's 15th A.A.F. mission to BLECHHAMMER, UPPER SILESIA, against a synthetic oil plant.

A week ago he was plunging towards BOLOGNA with the 5th Army.

The communications lineman, holder of the Bronze Star, who has fought from the VOLTURNO to ROME and beyond, commented: "I can see why these guys get flight pay. They deserve it. I didn't see any of our bombs hit because of the clouds, but I sure saw plenty of flak. It was like a carpet. I would not say combat flying is rougher than the front line, but I wouldn't say it is easier, either. Flak at BLECHHAMMER was intense."

.. ..

AIRCRAFT DESTROYED BY
15th A.A.F. ON HUNGARIAN FIELDS

Photo reconnaissance of three of the Hungarian airfields recently strafed by 15th A.A.F. fighters, indicates that 41 German aircraft were destroyed. Three more are believed probably destroyed.

The three fields are :
SEREGEYLES, attacked by Mustangs October 12.
KALOSVAR, attacked by Mustangs October 12.
SZOMBATHELY, attacked by Lightnings October 13, while returning from an escort mission to BLECHHAMMER.

All three are west of the Danube.

Claims based on gun-camera film are in excess of those allowed after a study of reconnaissance. Photo interpreters point out that the true picture lies somewhere between the two figures. The total given here is very conservative.

Mustangs at SEREGEYLES destroyed 25 enemy aircraft, including five JU-52s, seven JU-88s, five medium planes, one JU-87, one Henschel-129 ground attack plane, and six small aircraft. One of the JU-52s was equipped with a mine detonating ring, presumably for use on the Danube, which has been heavily mined by Allied aircraft.

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

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Mustangs at KAPOSVAR destroyed nine aircraft, including one probable JU-52, four medium planes, and four small planes. An additional small aircraft was probably destroyed.

747

Lightings at SZOMBATHELY destroyed seven medium aircraft. Two more were badly damaged.

In addition to aircraft, 15th A.A.F. fighters recently destroyed by strafing many locomotives, tank cars, and other rolling-stock. Highways and rail-yards between BUDAPEST and VIENNA have frequently been attacked.

End Strategic.

0222
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

TACTICAL DETAIL

With other forces of Tactical Air Force grounded because of bad weather over northern Italy, 12th A.A.F. Thunderbolts yesterday flew more than 400 sorties in the battle-area, dive-bombing and strafing enemy defence positions and supply lines.

Many hits were reported on occupied buildings, guns, troop areas and roads. During the day 16 locomotives and 20 railroad cars were destroyed, and 20 motor transports damaged.

A lone ME-410 was chased by DESERT AIR FORCE Spitfires, and shot down in flames near BERGAMO, 20 miles north-east of MILAN.

Troop concentrations in C ESENA town and on the outskirts were bombed and strafed by Spitbombers and Kittyhawks of D.A.F. as the 8th Army closed in on this fortified position, north of Highway Nine.

After Kittybombers had attacked tanks and infantry, the ground controller reported that the results were excellent.

Enemy positions around CESENA were again hit, and Mustangs went some four miles north of the town to attack a headquarters at SAN GIORGIO DE CESENA. They saw their target through a gap in the clouds, and their bombs fell among enemy-held houses.

Many missions were abortive owing to weather, which curtailed considerably the day's programme of close-support.

North of RAVENNA Spitbombers attacked an ammunition dump near PORTO CORSINI.

End Tactical.

POME-STRIKE PHOTOS (15th A.A.F.) Photos taken during yesterday's 15th A.A.F. attacks on targets in SILESIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY and YUGOSLAVIA, show:-

BLECHHAMMER oil refinery (hit for the 2nd consecutive day): Hits were scored on the majority of installations in the north-central section of the plant. Good concentration covered the westerly two-thirds of plant area. Further damage to installations in south-central section and extreme west end. Several oil fires started.

KOMAROM rail bridge: One hit scored on 2nd span and several near misses damaged the structure.

BRATISLAVA rail yards: Hits were scored on the east end, cutting tracks and damaging dock facilities.

ODERTAL oil refinery: Hits were scored on the main transformer station, starting a large fire and near misses scored in the area of the coke ovens. Tracks cut in nearby rail yards.

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

Troop concentrations in CASTELLA town and on the outskirts were bombed and strafed by Spitbombers and Kittyhawks of D.A.F. as the 8th Army closed in on this fortified position, north of Highway Nine.

After Kittybombers had attacked tanks and infantry, the ground controller reported that the results were excellent.

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ODERTAL oil refinery: Hits were scored on the main transformer station, starting a large fire and near misses scored in the area of the coke ovens. Tracks cut in nearby rail yards.

ERSEKUJVAR rail yards: A compact pattern on the N.W. choke-point. Freight cars damaged. Hits on the highway under-pass, probably cut through-lines to Vienna.

ESZTERGOM rail bridge: North approach damaged.

During I-51 and P-38 strafing attacks a large number of aircraft were destroyed on the ground at the SZEGEDYLES and SZEKESFEHERVAR airdromes, and in strafing attacks against targets of opportunity, 32 locos were destroyed, 15 freight cars, 6 oil-tank cars, one water-tower, and 1 transformer station. Also thoroughly strafed and damaged was a train of 12 flak cars, on which were ten half-tracks, 15 small tanks, and 10 panel trucks. A wooden shed in which 12 uniformed men sought shelter was strafed and damaged.

END DETAIL

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

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A.A.F. - R.A.F. PUBLIC RELATIONS Sunday October 15 1944

SPECIAL HANDOUT - Release 12.30 Hours

R.A.F. LYSANDER OVER LIBERATED ATHENS

Crowds in ATHENS cheered the first R.A.F. aircraft - a Lysander - which flew over the Capital on Saturday, shortly after it had been liberated.

"Thousands of men, women and children thronged the streets," said a R.A.F. officer-observer, who flew with the Lysander. "We circled the town at 4,000 feet first of all, to see if there was any opposition, but as there was none, we came down to 200 feet.

"In a large square we saw more than 100 men, wearing khaki battledress, surrounded by civilians. The people were very excited. The streets were packed with citizens of all sorts. When the people saw the aircraft with R.A.F. markings they went mad with joy. We saw men jump off bicycles to wave at us.

"There was a long procession waving flags and banners winding its way through the streets as we roared over the City."

The Lysander crossed the PIRAEUS area, which was bombed on many occasions by the R.A.F.

"The bombing had been accurate and heavy," said the officer. "Naval yards, dock installations, factories and oil refineries were destroyed and burned out. The docks are very extensive, and I saw quite a number of ships half submerged in the water.

"In bays west of ATHENS ships lay in the water, the wrecks of German convoys attacked by our bombers."

British glider-borne troops landed on an airfield west of ATHENS in very bad weather on Thursday, to clear the field of mines and prepare the strip. On Saturday morning the main body of British paratroops parachuted on to the airfield.

They received a warm welcome from Greek men and women, who had been waiting for hours around the fields. A R.A.F. officer-observer, who had arrived several hours earlier, said: "The sky was filled with men dropped from Dakotas. As soon as they left the aircraft, the Greeks ran on to the field, and stood waiting for them.

"As the troops touched down, the Greeks rushed to help them out of their parachute harnesses - much to the surprise of the troops, who evidently expected to be 'welcomed' by the enemy and not by friends.

"The women even tried to revive some paratroops who met with accidents on landing. As one man lay on the ground, they brought them

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"The women even tried to revive some paratroops who met with accidents on landing. As one man lay on the ground, they brought their round with some kind of green herb, which they held to the man's faces."

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

A.A.F. - R.A.F. PUBLIC RELATIONS Sunday October 15 1944.

SPECIAL HANDOUT - Release 12.30 hours

ATHENS AIRFIELD TAKEN BY R.A.F.

An advanced echelon of the R.A.F. was established on an ATHENS airfield this morning (Sunday). Other airfields in Greece have been established, one in the PELOPONNESUS, since the end of September.

MEGARA and its airfield, some 28 miles from ATHENS, is also in British hands as a result of a para-troop operation yesterday afternoon. The Paratroops dropped from Dakotas and made a successful descent without meeting opposition.

Advanced land patrols of L.E.A. were already in the area, having pushed on from CORINTH, and several British were on the airfield when the Parachutists descended.

The enemy drew out of MEGARA two days before, blowing up all the airfield installations and leaving the landing-ground extensively mined.

Greeks in the newly-liberated PELOPONNESUS looked up in admiration as the formations of troop-carrying aircraft swept over their towns and villages on the way to MEGARA.

The carrier aircraft had an escort of Mustangs from R.A.F., and were also accompanied by rocket-firing Hurricanes as an anti-flak measure, but there was no work for the Hurricanes to do. The landings of the men and supplies were carried out smoothly, despite a fairly strong north wind, which tended to carry the parachutists towards the sea.

"It was a very well-timed job," said G/Capt. D.S. MacDonald, of Oban, Argyll, commanding officer of a fighter wing of R.A.F., who led the Mustang escort. "Ours was a very simple task, because there wasn't a sign of the enemy in the air or on the ground. The carrying aircraft dropped their loads in perfect order."

"It was quite impressive to see the different-coloured parachutes swinging down from about 500 feet," said F/O. John Dickerson, of 117 Shawbury, near Shrewsbury. "We flew round the airfield at deck level, and as far as I could see, only three parachutists dropped outside the airfield. Some of the men seemed to be dragged along the ground in the strong wind, but they quickly disentangled themselves. There appeared to be no opposition for them to deal with."

A Lysander, the first British aircraft to touch down at MEGARA, was piloted by F/O. Joe Manning, of 5 Lewis Grove, Brighton, Sussex.

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

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A Lysander, the first British aircraft to touch down at MEGARA, was piloted by F/O. Joe Manning, of 5 Lewis Grove, Brighton, Sussex. F/O. Manning said: "I made two trips to Megara. The first time there were some rifle shots from the airfield, but I think they were from partisans who were signalling their joy at seeing us. The second time a short strip had been marked out for me near the edge of the airfield. The runway had been thoroughly blown up by the retreating Germans.

"When I got down, a soldier of the airborne force was waiting to receive me, with about a score of excited Greeks."

END.

Over for ATHENS story.

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

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14 OCT Recd

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SEEN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mc [illegible] NY		
Maj. M[illegible]		
[illegible] D.		
[illegible]		
[illegible] F&V		
[illegible] C.		

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS

14 October 1944

COMMUNIQUE No. 267

FOR RELEASE 1030 HRS

NAVY

An enemy battery on MOGHIL Island in the Gulf of SAMONIKOS in Greece was bombarded by His Majesty's ship "COLOMBO" during the early hours of 12 October.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Heavy fighting continues on Fifth Army front. American troops of Fifth Army against very strong resistance have cleared GESSO 0124 and captured a feature overlooking the town. Further west, north of the RIMINI-BOLOGNA road, other American troops of Fifth Army made a rapid advance and seized M. BOMBIANA 5813.

North of the RIMINI-BOLOGNA road, despite the water-logged ground, Eighth Army troops have pushed back enemy rearguards and are now in contact with the main German positions on the SCOLO MIGOSSA canal. Some progress has also been made in the foothills south of this road.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Very strong forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked a synthetic oil refinery in GERMANY and marshalling yards in Northern ITALY, AUSTRIA and HUNGARY.

Medium bombers again attacked supply dumps, troop concentrations and communications targets in the BOLOGNA area. Fighters and fighter-bombers flew close-support missions on the ITALIAN front, attacking gun positions, bivouac areas, transport, supply depots, bridges and roads. Other fighters and fighter-bombers flew anti-shipping patrols over the ADRIATIC. Light bombers attacked harbour installations in YUGOSLAVIA.

715

Last night heavy and medium bombers attacked the

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

N.V.

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ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

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North of the RIMINI-BOLOGNA road, despite the water-logged ground, Eighth Army troops have pushed back enemy rearguards and are now in contact with the main German positions on the SCOLO MIGOSSA canal. Some progress has also been made in the foothills south of this road.

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715

Last night heavy and medium bombers attacked the marshalling yards at SZEKESFEHERVAR.

During these operations two enemy aircraft were destroyed.

36 of our heavy bombers and 12 other aircraft are missing. Some of these aircraft are believed to be down on friendly fields.

M.A.F flew approximately 2,500 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE

012300

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

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE No. 267.

14th. OCTOBER 1944.

FIFTH ARMY.

Gains on Fifth Army front during period limited by continued stiff resistance of enemy.

British troops took M.DELLE TESORO (Area 1500).

American troops fought way to top of hill (462) dominating town of GESSO 0124, and advanced north and northwest of town. Farther west, POGGIOLI 9528 taken and advance made beyond M. DELLE FORMICHE. Heavy fightir both sides Route 65 (FLORENCE-BOLOGNA Artery) and some high ground seized east of road. A hill just north of LIVERGNANO 8729 being fiercely defended by enemy.

South African Units meeting violent resistance in vicinity of both STANCO town, 7122, and mountain feature NE. Greatest Fifth Army advance made in Central Sector where American Units pushed forward from three to four thousand yards to capture M. DI BAMBIANA 5818.

Brazilian Expeditionary Force took COREGLIA 2203 in their northward drive.

A Unit of 34 U.S. Infantry Division, in recent surprise attack, seized Headquarters of an enemy company and captured with it the Commander and 24 personnel.

EIGHTH ARMY.

Eighth Army advanced along whole front except in immediate Coastal Sector.

Enemy rearguards holding FUMICINO line tenaciously but farther south we reached the SCOLO RIGOSSA Canal, next German defence position. This Canal andRUBICONE CESENATE Canal farther north, are the two most important of several waterways radiating inland from GATTEO A MARE 7510 and form mainstay of enemy's defences in Coastal Sector. They are natural tank obstacles and their raised banks provide good Infantry positions.

Canadian troops crossed SCOLO RIGOSSA in area Route 9 (see 6602) pushed back strong enemy rearguards and reached the 28 kilo stone from FORLI 4316.

Ground still not dry enough to allow proper employment of our armour but steadily improving. German armour not much in evidence. Generally speaking, our tanks able to get quite far forward since we captured two bridges intact, including one over the RIGOSSA. Large part of enemy's opposition comes from mines and heavy shelling from area north of GARETTOLA 6504.

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

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From MONTILANO-MONTENOVO-MONTECODRUZZO ridge, Eighth Army troops advanced across valley on broad front and established themselves on forward slopes of next ridge against moderate opposition.

Our troops captured CASALE 6299, three thousand yards SW of MONTILANO 6410, and pressed on beyond village. Enemy holds ridge crest from here to M.DELLE VACCHE 5899 and to M.DELL 'ERTA 5696, feature assualted night 12/13 Oct by troops of an Indian Division and which remains in dispute though our troops have firm foothold Pt. 403/5796, first part of feature.

Weather fair to fine whole front.

No Change Press Release Line.

E N D O N R B.

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

0233

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

262

COMMUNIQUE
BALKAN AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

FOR RELEASE WITH COMMUNIQUE No.267. 14th OCTOBER,

For release 1030A-hrs.

The few remaining German troops in CORFU have now surrendered.

At SARANDE an extensive delayed action explosion blew up the centre of the town but no casualties were sustained.

The Commander of the British Forces who captured SARANDE has paid tribute to the co-operation of the Partisans Commander and forces.

Partisans have occupied DELVINE.

----oOo----

USC 13 OCT Recd

32

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS INFORMATION DIVISION

ACC

COMMUNIQUE No. 266 13 October 1944

NAVAL COMMUNIQUE LATER

RELEASE 1045A HRS

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

With the improvement in the weather, heavy fighting has broken out on the Fifth Army front astride the Florence-Bologna road. No material advances have been made. front

On the Eighth Army's in the Adriatic sector, our troops have fought their way forward in the foothills south of the main Rimini-Bologna road and occupied the village of Montiano 6400 and are approaching Monte Dell 'Erta 5695. Farther west in the mountain sector, our troops have occupied Monte Di Rullato 4585.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Very strong forces of 15th AAF heavy bombers yesterday, in direct support of Fifth Army operations, attacked troop concentrations, ammunition dumps and factories, and supply centers in the Bologna area. The heavy bomber attack was supplemented by a co-ordinated medium bomber offensive against objectives in the same area.

Large forces of strategic fighters strafed airfields in Hungary, destroying or damaging a large number of enemy aircraft on the ground. The long range fighters also attacked rail lines, river shipping and road targets in Austria and Hungary.

Fighters and fighter-bombers of the Tactical Air Force attacked close support targets, communications, and an airdrome north of the Italian front. Adriatic shipping and transport targets in Yugoslavia were the objective of other fighter and fighter-bomber attacks.

Last night medium and heavy bombers bombed the Bronzola rail yards.

During these operations eighteen enemy aircraft were destroyed. Three of our heavy bombers and seventeen other planes are missing.

MAAF flew about 2200 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE

SEEN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mc. [illegible]HY	MK	
Maj. MAG[illegible]		
Maj. BRAGG		
Capt. SELVAD[illegible]		
Col. [illegible]AVIS		
C. C.		

0234

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

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END COMMUNIQUE

SEEN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mc. [illegible]HY	[illegible]	
Maj. MA[illegible]S		
Maj. DRAGE		
Capt. SALVADORI		
Col. [illegible]		
C. C.		

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M.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS

13 October '44

COMMUNIQUE No. 266

RELEASE 1130A HRS

NAVY

It is reported from the Aegean that on 11 October naval aircraft from a force of escort carriers under the command of Commodore Geoffrey N. Oliver were very active in the Gulf of Salonika, the Gulf of Volo, and the Euboea Channel. Twice during the day a large concentration of enemy small craft at Khalkis were heavily and successfully bombed. In other areas three 'E' boats and a large trawler were destroyed and five landing craft, one flak escort vessel, one Siebel ferry, and a caique damaged. There were heavy losses to enemy troops in the landing craft. On the railway between Athens and Salonika naval aircraft in low flying attacks also destroyed two locomotives and an ammunition train, besides damaging another train and cutting the railway.

On 11 October while supporting minesweepers at work off Ventimiglia, U.S.S. "GLEAVES" bombarded an enemy mobile battery. In spite of enemy interference, minesweepers have successfully cleared the minefields.

On 12 October [illegible] supporting the Eighth Army, His Majesty's ships "LOYAL" and "LOOKOUT" fired some twelve hundred rounds at enemy positions and batteries in the neighbourhood of CLEMATICO. Their bombardment was reported as accurate and effective. There was enemy return fire from the shore but it caused neither damage nor casualties to our ships.

END COMMUNIQUE

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END COMMUNIQUE

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

95C

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE No 266

DATE 15th October 1944.

REGINS:

8th ARMY.

As ground dries and hardens, Eighth Army moves steadily forward on whole front except in immediate coastal sector where concentration of canalised rivers at short intervals gives enemy better defensive positions.

Our troops penetrated three miles beyond SAVIGNANO 7101 on Route 9 south of which BALLIGNANO 6701, MASSA 6601, BADIA 6501 and the larger village MONTILANO 6400 all captured by British troops.

MONTENOVO 6398 and the key feature M. DELLE FORCHE 6297 taken evening 11 Oct and our troops now firm on whole ridge MONTILANO-MONTENOVO-M. DELLE FORCHE-MONTEMONE-MONTECODRUZZO.

Further advances made N7 of MONTECODRUZZO 5994 to forward slopes of M. DELL 'ERTA 5695 despite enemy reinforcements. Fierce fighting continues for this feature where enemy reported in strength.

In central mountain sector, our troops captured M. DI MELLATO 4585, an important feature overlooking BOLOGNA Valley. BUCCHIO 4285 two mile SW occupied.

Italian patriots in mountains continue to bring in German PW. One patrol 11 Oct. captured 15.

5th ARMY.

Improved weather contributed to intensity of fighting along Fifth Army front 12 Oct, with Infantry continuing to make gains against steadily increasing resistance.

While heavy, medium and fighter bombers took advantage of clearing skies to fly hundreds of sorties against hostile front line positions and installations between forward areas and BOLOGNA, our troops wrested number of important terrain features from fanatical defenders. Over three hundred prisoners taken in one sector.

Foot troops captured Hill 339 (area 9726) and Hill 512 (area 9427). Dominating mass of M. DELLE FORMICHE 9129 also captured after hard fighting and MOLINELLO 9228 bypassed.

Farther west, our forces partly flanked LIVERGNANO 8729 lying astride a main route to BOLOGNA but heavy fighting continues near town. Still farther west, Infantry pushed on over a mile north of MONTERENZI 8228.

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

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Further advances made NW of MONTEGRUMELLO 5994 to forward slopes of M. DELLE ERTA 5695 despite enemy reinforcements. Fierce fighting continues for this feature where enemy reported in strength.

In central mountain sector, our troops captured M. DI MILLO 4585, an important feature overlooking BORELLO Valley. BUCCHIO 4286 two miles SW occupied.

Italian patriots in mountains continue to bring in German PW. One patrol 11 Oct captured 15.

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Foot troops captured Hill 359 (area 9726) and Hill 512 (area 9427). Dominating mass of M. DELLE FORMICHE 9129 also captured after hard fighting and MOLINETTO 9228 bypassed.

Farther west, our forces partly flanked LIVERGNANO 8729 lying astride a main route to BOLOGNA but heavy fighting continues near town. Still farther west, Infantry pushed on over a mile north of MONTERENZIO 8228.

In coastal sector, troops of 92 Inf Div still on M. CAMELA 7696.

Enemy making desperate attempts to retain high ground he still holds and continues to launch costly counterattacks such as that on M. BATTAGLIA 0617 11 Oct. He lost heavily in attempt and 80 prisoners taken according to latest count.

Weather generally fair to fine.

No change Press Release Line.

END O.R.D.

0239

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

Italian Patriots.

10 OCT Recd

INFORMATION

ACC

ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 262. 9th OCTOBER 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS.

NAVY:

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

Very heavy and continued rain has again seriously restricted large scale operations all along the front.

Despite the adverse weather conditions, troops of Eighth Army have driven off determined enemy counterattacks on MONTE FARNETO 6094, have advanced across the Fiumicino River and have cleared the enemy from MONTILGALLO 6899 and MONTE CATTONA.

American troops of Fifth Army have cleared the enemy from BARBAROLO 8827 and MONTE CASTELLAZI 8626 and have advanced nearly 2 miles on the Bologna Road. Elsewhere, positions remain virtually unchanged.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Operations yesterday were greatly restricted by bad weather, which forced the cancellation of most missions.

Coastal aircraft attacked shipping in the north Adriatic and Gulf of GENOA, while other aircraft attacked enemy communications and other military objectives in ALBANIA.

MAAF flew approximately 400 sorties. Three of our aircraft are missing.

END COMMUNIQUE.

SEEN

0240

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

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Coastal aircraft attacked shipping in the north Adriatic and Gulf of GENOA, while other aircraft attacked enemy communications and other military objectives in ALBANIA.

MAAF flew approximately 100 sorties. Three of our aircraft are missing.

END COMMUNIQUE.

SEEN.	INITIALS.
Col. Mc. CARTHY	
Maj. MAGRUDER	P.D.
Maj. BRAC[illegible]	
Capt S[illegible]	
Col [illegible]	
C. C.	

0241

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

O N R B
ALLIED AR IES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO PRESS COMMUNIQUE NO.262 FOR 9 OCT 1944

EIGHTH ARMY

Despite continued bad weather and thunderstorm night 7/8 Oct on Eighth Army front, British and Indian troops continued their advance in hills South of Route 9.

They crossed Fiumicino River on broad front and British troops captured village MONTILGARDO 6899 and held it against fierce counterattacks during night 7/8 Oct.

Troops of an Indian Division stormed and captured H GATTONA, 1000 foot feature, 2000 yards beyond Fiumicino and 1 mile S E LONGIANO 6599.

In H FARNETO 6194 area, our troops beat off several counter-attacks night 7/8 Oct and inflicted casualties.

Some advances made in central mountain sector.

FIFTH ARMY

Significant advances made by Fifth Army troops 8 Oct in occupying important terrain against stiff enemy resistance. Heavy counterattacks checked forward progress in some areas.

Fresh refitted units thrown in by Germans to replace battered units indicate that enemy does not intend to yield ground without tough fight. Enemy continues to mass forces in front of BOLOGNA and IMOLA road and heavy arty has been brought up to attempt to delay Fifth Army's advance.

British troops reported still waging fierce battle for H CEC 0912, important height overlooking PAT BUOLO-CASTEL BOLOGNESE road.

American troops captured MONTE CROSINO 0122 and pushed on to hill just beyond. Other Fifth Army units took POGGIO DEL FALCHETTO 9824 and S.APOLLINARE 0022. In most significant gain of day, American troops advanced astride Route 65, between and beyond H CASTELLAZZI 8626 and BARBAROLO 8027 against strongly reinforced enemy defenses.

Elements of a South African Battalion which reached H STAFFO 7122 after dark 7 Oct heavily counterattacked and forced to withdraw to new positions early morning 8 Oct.

In coastal area, Negro troops took RIMA 9695 and other elements crossed SERRA River and entered SERAVEZZA 9796.

Brazilian troops continued limited advances against snipers, mg and arty fire.

The British and Indian troops which have been fighting under command of Fifth Army constitute the British 13 Corps, commanded by Lt.-Gen. S.C. Kirkman, CB, CBE and MC.

Weather cloudy with intermittent downpours of rain whole fro

(See Appendices to today's ONRB for information on 44 Rec-

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

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Weather cloudy with intermittent downpours of rain whole fro

(See Appendices to today's ONRB for information on 44 Reconnaissance Regt (RAC) and on The League of Lonely German Women.)

Change Press Release Line FOSSA VETA M7708 - GA ERATO R7295 ROCCHETTA R 4978 - P CARNAIO R3680 - M COLLINA R1794 - CASTEL DEL RIO M0016 - M VENERE L8122 - M CATARELTO L7416 - POGGIOBELLO Q449 - PIEGLIO Q4098 - M BATTIFOLLE Q3392 - FIUMELLO U9490 -.

END ONRB

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0243

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

0244

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

COASTAL DETAIL

Beaufighters of the Coastal Air Force attacked two schooners and a 50-foot motor launch in the GULF OF VENICE yesterday, and set them on fire.

A Beaufighter, piloted by S/Ldr. Roderick H. Rose, of Hilltop Stores, Charing Hill, Ashford, Kent, found the first schooner south of VENICE. He made two cannon attacks and left it blazing. During the attack S/Ldr. Rose and his observer, W/C. Leonard Shaw, of 214 Fenton Road, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, saw about ten men leap into the water from the schooner, and Shaw razed the deck with his rear gun.

The same Beaufighter crew located another schooner in the Gulf of PENZRO, heading east, accompanied by two small vessels, possibly lighters or flak-ships. This schooner was also set on fire.

25 miles south of VENICE S/Ldr. Rose and W/C. Shaw came upon a third schooner, beached on the Italian coast, but apparently serviceable, and they shot it up with their cannon.

S/Ldr. Rose was leading in the recent Coastal Air Force strike on the Italian liner "REX."

Another Beaufighter, piloted by F/O. David Lampard, D.F.C., whose home is at Portlands, Knockholt, Kent, who was also concerned in the REX attack, found a 50-foot motor launch off the east coast of the island of CHERSO. The launch was so close in-shore that when the Beaufighters' cannon-shells ripped into her and set her on fire, the six occupents were able to wade to land.

Flying Officer Lampard's observer/ was F/Sgt. J.W. Smith, of 16 Galleywall Road, London, S.E.16.

END.

738

Crews of Liberators bombing the KOMAROM rail yards, on the Danube, also reported good results. Slight flak was met, and smoke and fires were observed.

Liberators, attacking the SZOMBATHELY rail yards, encountered no flak, and fair bombing results were reported.

At the GYOR airfield - last attacked August 9 - returning B-24 crewmen said hits were seen on hangars, installations, runways, and parked aircraft.

end Strategic.

TACTICAL DETAIL

From before seven o'clock in the morning until dusk, fighter-bombers of DESERT AIR FORCE were yesterday taking off every fifteen minutes from advanced airfields in northern Italy, to attack villages and strong-points south and south-east of CESENA.

With the improved weather, D.A.F. had its busiest day for about two weeks.

Spitbombers broke up a projected counter-attack at MONTELEONE, some 7 miles south of CESENA, where the Army reported troop concentrations and M.T. Several "cab rank" of Spitbombers were diverted by the ground controller on to the target, which was bombed and strafed.

A large part of the fighter-bomber effort was concentrated on the villages of MONTLANO and LONGIANO, where relays of Spitbombers and Kittybombers attacked troops and guns throughout the day.

Just north of MONTLANO, a tank repair factory was singled out for attack by Kittyhawks. Good patterns of bombs were dropped across the target, and at least two buildings were completely destroyed.

RONCOFREDDO was another front-line target.

Baltimores were also engaged on close-support of Eighth Army, attacking gun positions north-east of GALBETTOLA, a few miles north-west of SAVIGNANO. They showered hundreds of fragmentation bombs on the target, which was marked by smoke-shells from our artillery.

Both boxes of a R.A.A.F. squadron saw their bombs well distributed over the area. The first box was led by W/Cdr. E.G. Moore, of Moree, New South Wales, commanding officer of the squadron, and the second by Captain Alec Dryden, S.A.A.F., of Johannesburg.

Flying Officer Don Surtees, Seamills, Bristol, and Flying Officer James Scott, D.F.C., of Fairway, Ilsham Valley, Torquay, leading observers in the first and second

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

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Flying Officer Don Surtees, Somerville, Bristol, and Flying Officer James Scott, D.F.C., of Fairway, Ilsham Valley, Torquay, leading observers in the first and second boxes respectively, said the Army laid the smoke-shells brilliantly.

"In spite of some cloud, no one could mistake the generated smoke of these shells marking the positions of the guns," said Surtees. "We could see it miles away. All the bombs of both boxes fell in the area. Our squadron and a S.A.A.F. squadron which followed, dropped hundreds of fragmentation bombs in the area."

Scott said:- "Both our boxes scored an apple - Baltimore language meaning bombs in the target area. We saw a lot of fighter-bombers also hammering enemy positions."

End Detail.

0246

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

TACTICAL DETAIL (Contd)

Fighters and fighter-bombers of Tactical Air Force yesterday flew almost 800 sorties in direct support of the 5th and 8th Armies, in spite of adverse flying weather that grounded medium bombers.

Both American P-47 Thunderbolts and British Kittyhawks concentrated on gun positions and strong points in the battle area, particularly north-west of RIMINI. Thunderbolts hit a factory south of BOLOGNA, causing a black smoke fire, and damaged several other nearby buildings. An approach to a road bridge in the same area was hit, and a resultant landslide effectively blocked the path.

Vehicular targets were hard to find. Only 10 motor transports and 25 railroad cars were knocked out during the day.

end TACTICAL.

STRATEGIC SIDELIGHT

Lt-Col. Charles W. Boenicker, 26, 5823 Belmont Ave., Dallas, Texas, Deputy Commander of a 15th A.A.F. P-51 Fighter Group, destroyed the first enemy plane shot down by his Group in over five weeks when he destroyed a FW-190 yesterday, for his second victory.

Diving down on the lone Focke-Wulfe, he caught up with him, fired a few bursts, and watched the FW split into the trees, where it crashed.

Col. Boenicker's victory was the first scored over a fighter plane by fighters of the 15th A.A.F. since September 22, when 1st Lt. John J. Voll, 22, 3576 Monteith Ave., Cincinatti, Ohio, destroyed a Macchi-202 for his 13th victory.

Returning from a successful bombing of the WINTERSHALL oil storage area at VIENNA yesterday, 1st Lt. Kenneth J. Mask, 22, 222 Bester Blvd., San Antonio, Texas, 15th A.A.F. B-24 pilot, found himself over the Adriatic and the B-24 he was piloting out of gas. It was dark and hazy, and it looked as if he would have to desert the plane - a tactic dangerous enough in daylight and really rugged at twilight. However, Lt. Mask chopped the throttle and held the tail up, which means he slowed down the motors and put the big plane in a glide, making the few remaining gallons of gas last as long as possible.

The bomber coasted from the sea to its home base. Over the base Lt. Mask told the tower he was out of gas, and he was allowed to cut through the traffic pattern and land.

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

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end TACTICAL.

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Diving down on the lone Focke-Wulfe, he caught up with him, fired a few bursts, and watched the FW split into the trees, where it crashed.

Col. Boenicker's victory was the first scored over a fighter plane by fighters of the 15th A.A.F. since September 22, when 1st Lt. John J. Voll, 22, 3576 Monteith Ave., Cincinatti, Ohio, destroyed a Macchi-202 for his 13th victory.

Returning from a successful bombing of the WINTERSHALL oil storage area at VIENNA yesterday, 1st Lt. Kenneth J. Mask, 22, 222 Baster Blvd., San Antonio, Texas, 15th A.A.F. B-24 pilot, found himself over the Adriatic and the B-24 he was piloting out of gas. It was dark and hazy, and it looked as if he would have to desert the plane - a tactic dangerous enough in daylight and really rugged at twilight. However, Lt. Mask chopped the throttle and held the tail up, which means he slowed down the motors and put the big plane in a glide, making the few remaining gallons of gas last as long as possible.

The bomber coasted from the sea to its home base. Over the base Lt. Mask told the tower he was out of gas, and he was allowed to cut through the traffic pattern and land.

As Lt. Mask's crew said: "We came in on a wing, a prayer, and damned good piloting."

END DETAIL.

0248

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

Italian Patriots

7 OCT Recd

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTE
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH.

COMMUNIQUE NO.259.

6th OCTOBER 1944.

FOR RELEASE AT 1030 A HRS.

NAVY:

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

In the central sector, American and British troops of Fifth Army continue to make progress despite heavy rain and strong resistance. American troops captured LOIANO, a commanding position on the main BOLOGNA Highway, and have cleared the town of MONZUNO.

Indian troops of Eighth Army have advanced in the high ground West of Rimini and captured the village of VIGNOLA. In the lower ground activity is confined to patrols.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Air operations yesterday were again severely curtailed by weather.

Fighters and fighter-bombers attacked rail targets and motor transport north of the battle area, and shipping in the Adriatic. Other fighters were active against targets in GREECE and elsewhere in the Balkans.

During these operations three enemy aircraft were destroyed. Three of ours are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 200 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE.

0249

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

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During these operations three enemy aircraft were destroyed. Three of ours are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 200 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE.

SIGN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mc. [illegible]RIHY	CMcK	
Maj. MAGNUS		
Maj. DRAC[illegible]		

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

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

A.A.F. - R.A.F. PUBLIC RELATIONS

HANDOUT - S U M M A R Y

Friday 6th October 1944.
(Release with Communique)

Bad weather forced cancellation of heavy and medium bomber operations yesterday, and restricted activity of fighter-bombers of the Tactical Air Force to small-scale attacks on a bridge and motor transport north of the Italian battle area.

Units of the Coastal Air Force, however, successfully attacked shipping in the Gulf of Venice, scoring common hits on a 2,000 ton tanker, which blew up, and on two "F" boats.

Other aircraft bombed military targets in ROVIGNO and CITTANOVA, on the ISTRIAN Peninsula, and bridges in ALBANIA.

Mosquitoes shot down two JU-52s and a HE-111 in a sweep of the SALONIKA area in Greece on Wednesday night.

Balkan Air Force units strafed an enemy encampment and destroyed an ammunition dump on CORFU.

Three of our aircraft are missing from operations during the nights of October 4/5 and 5/6.

M.A.A.F. flew approximately 200 sorties.

end Summary.

DESERT AIR FORCE

Desert Air Force operations were severely restricted by weather.

Mustangs and Spitfires, on armed reconnaissance, destroyed nine M.T. and one locomotive.

END.

795

A.A.F. - R.A.F. PUBLIC RELATIONS Friday 6th October 1944.

SPECIAL HANDOUT - Release 10.30 hours

CAPTURE OF PATRAS - AND AFTER.

After a night of skirmishing in the streets of PATRAS, in which a detachment of the R.A.F. Regiment, with Land Forces Adriatic, took part, the remainder of the German garrison escaped in small craft, mostly siebel ferries. Under cover of darkness early Wednesday, they used ships' guns to hold off the tightening ring of British and Partisans until they were able to embark.

The appearance of British troops in full control of the town was wildly acclaimed by the inhabitants when daylight came, and the commander of the British force made a formal entry into the town in a flower-bedecked jeep, accompanied by the District Leader of the Partisans.

The port area of PATRAS appears to be in serviceable condition, the Germans having left so hurriedly that they did not have time to set off the demolition charges they had laid.

A good number of Germans from the north PELOPONNESE, including some who escaped from PATRAS, appear to be concentrated in the area of RION, some miles north-east of PATRAS.

Signs of German preparations for movement by sea from many spots along the north coast of the PELOPONNESE were noticed by Balkan Air Force pilots Wednesday. Sgt. Bertram Newman, of Durham Avenue, Bromley, Kent, who attacked landing craft in ASPRA SPITIA Bay, in the Gulf of Corinth, said: "In a sweep of the Gulf I saw dozens of small craft along the shore."

Sgt. Newman, flying a rocket-firing Hurricane, was one of the first pilots to make an operational sortie from Greek soil since the return of the R.A.F.

A JU-88, which appeared on reconnaissance off the north-west corner of the PELOPONNESE Wednesday was chased by two Spitfires nearly as far as ATHENS. Both fighters scored hits on the enemy, who was eventually lost in cloud.

Reinforcements of infantry were flown to the west PELOPONNESE on Tuesday and Wednesday in R.A.F. Dakotas, using an airfield which was made serviceable after several days tireless work by Greek villagers in atrocious weather. These workers, though wet to the skin, carried on cheerfully until their task of repairing the runway was completed.

.. ..

MOSQUITOES DOWN THREE OVER GREECE

734

Mosquitoes of Coastal Air Force shot down three enemy aircraft over SEDES airfield, south of SALONIKA, during intruder operations Wednesday night. They destroyed two JU-52s and one Heinkel 111, and also damaged 12 motor

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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Three Mosquitoes, on patrol, were waiting for enemy transport aircraft, which are believed to be evacuating personnel from Greece and the Aegean Islands. The first aircraft destroyed was a JU-52, which was going in to land. The Mosquito pilot dived down, firing his guns, and he saw the aircraft crash. As he flew away, he noticed an ambulance wagon rush across to the burning wreck. The other two aircraft were flying straight and level 5,000 feet above the airfield when they were shot down.

Another Mosquito, arriving later, strafed the airfield and also shot up 12 motor vehicles.

END.

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

ON RECORD BACKGROUND.

BALKAN AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS

COMMUNIQUE 6th OCTOBER, 1944.

Troops of Land Forces Adriatic have today (5 OCTOBER) pushed along the coastal road of the northern PELOPONNESE and captured the fortified port of RION.

The importance of RION to the Germans was that, in conjunction with the port of ANDIRRION on the opposite shore, their coastal batteries were able to guard the narrows giving entrance to the GULF of CORINTH proper. There has been no enemy shelling from ANDIRRION today (5 OCT).

With the capture of PATRAS the Germans have lost their main staging portfor supplies to the west coast of GREECE. It was also valuable as denying the Allies a reasonable supply port for operations in the PELOPONNESES. Hitherto seaborne supplies have had to be off-loaded at the much less satisfactory port of KATAKOLON. This has involved a difficult journey to the northern coastal road over swampy ground.

After 1500 personnel of the Security Battalions had surrendered, the position of the German garrison at PATRAS, about 1,000 strong, became untenable. Similarly at RION, 16-miles from CORINTH, the Germans fell back quicker before the British forces.

German guns captured at PATRAS were turned, with good results, on small craft in the GULF of CORINTH across which the enemy was trying to escape.

Local Greek Forces and civilians are co-operating with our Troops.

In ALBANIA the original landings were made at a point about 5 miles from SARANDE. The natural, difficult hill terrain has been made more difficult still by the prevailing bad weather. Enemy forces are still entrenched in SARANDE and maintain artillery positions along the SARANDE-DELVINE Road.

--END OMRB.--

COMMUNIQUE
BALKAN AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS
COMMUNIQUE

NOT RELEASABLE BEFORE 1000-hrs. 6 OCT.44.

Troops of Land Forces Adriatic pushing east from PATRAS have taken RION and a few prisoners, and have engaged enemy craft in the [illegible] In other parts of the

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

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--END CORB.--

COMMUNIQUE
BALKAN AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS
COMMUNIQUE

NOT RELEASABLE BEFORE 1000-hrs. 6 OCT.44.

Troops of Land Forces Adriatic pushing east from PATRAS have taken RION and a few prisoners, and have engaged enemy craft in the Gulf of CORINTH with satisfactory results. In other parts of the PELOPONNESES they have taken the surrender of Security Battalions.

In ALBANIA today bad weather restricted movements but there have been patrol clashes and artillery duels. In the DALMATION Islands our artillery continue to shell the mainland.

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

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

5 OCT Recd

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

5 October '44

COMMUNIQUE No. 258 - FOR RELEASE 1030A HRS

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

In their drive towards the Po Valley, American and British troops of the Fifth Army have made important gains despite stubborn enemy resistance.

American troops have captured the key feature of MONTE VENERE 8022 and are engaged in heavy fighting one thousand yards south of the town of LOIANO 8624, an important road junction on the main BOLOGNA-FLORENCE road.

In the Adriatic sector, Indian troops of Eighth Army have cleared the village of S. S. DONATO 6390.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Strong forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked rail yards at Munich and rail communications in northern Italy. Fighters of the Strategic Air Force carried out strafing attacks against airdromes in the Athens area.

Although restricted by unfavourable weather, medium bombers attacked rail bridges in the western Po valley. Light bombers, fighter-bombers and fighters were active against troop concentrations, supply dumps, gun positions, enemy strong points, roads, rail lines, rolling stock and motor transport in and north of the battle area.

Coastal aircraft attacked shipping in the Gulf of Genoa and the north Adriatic.

Units of the Balkan Air Force made attacks on communications and other targets in Yugoslavia.

Last night our bombers attacked objectives in the central Po valley.

From these operations, 21 of our aircraft are missing, including 13 heavy bombers.

One enemy aircraft was destroyed on the night of Oct. 3/4.

MAAF yesterday flew over 2,000 sorties.

NAVY:

Naval operations continue in the Aegean. On the night of 2/3 Oct. His Majesty's ship "Aurora" bombarded Malemo airdrome in Crete.

On 3 Oct. naval aircraft from a force of escort carriers under the command of Rear Admiral Thomas Troubridge attacked the island of LEVITHA in the southern Aegean to the northwest of KOS. Hits were observed. Other naval aircraft attacked Portolargo (Port Laki) in the island of Leros. One vessel was set on fire and two coasters and more than a dozen smaller craft were gunned and bombed.

On the night of 3/4 Oct. His Majesty's ships CALPE and CLEVELAND engaged and destroyed six enemy assault vessels off PISCOPI to the northwest of Rhodes. It is reported that large fires were seen burning on Rhodes on the night 2/3 Oct.

END COMMUNIQUE

COMMUNIQUE

BALKAN AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Not releasable before 1000 hrs 5 Oct 1944

Units of Land Forces Adriatic are now on some Greek Islands, on the mainland of Greece, and in ALBANIA, and are in contact with the enemy in both countries. Landings have been by parachute, sea, and transport aircraft.

Troops of Land Forces Adriatic entered PATRAS in the northern PELOPONNESE during the night of 3/4 Oct. Our artillery continues to harass the enemy communications and batteries on the main land of YUGOSLAVIA opposite the Island of BRAC.

END COMMUNIQUE

ON RECORD BACKGROUND
BALKAN AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NOT RELEASABLE BEFORE 1000 HRS 5 OCT 1944.

The first arrival on the mainland of GREECE of our forces, which included British land forces and units of the Royal Air Force Regiment, met with a wildly enthusiastic welcome from the inhabitants. PATRAS is believed to be one of the enemies last strong holds in the PELOPONNESE. Local forces are cooperating with our troops in GREECE.

In ALBANIA, our troops, with whom the Albanian resistance forces are cooperating, are harassing the enemy forces now trying to maintain their communications with CORFU through the small port of SARANDE/ British artillery continues to harass enemy communications and batteries on the mainland of YUGOSLAVIA opposite the island of BRAC.

In all these operations the Balkan Air Force and the Royal Navy are cooperating closely with Land Forces Adriatic, but air operations have recently been hampered by bad weather.

END ONRB

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

END COMMUNIQUE

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END ONRB

GEN.	INI.
Col. [illegible]	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	
Capt. SULVIC	
Col. FAVA	
C. C.	

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4 OCT Recd 32

ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH.

4th OCTOBER '44

COMMUNIQUE NO.257.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS.

NAVY:

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE.

ALLIED AIR FORCES IN ITALY:

American and British troops of Fifth Army continue to make good progress in their drive toward the PO valley despite stiff enemy resistance.

On the Eighth Army front weather has prevented any large scale operations.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Although air activity was again restricted by weather, medium, light and fighter bombers yesterday continued their attacks against enemy communications, troop concentrations and supply centers in northern ITALY.

Other fighters attacked shipping and gun positions in the Adriatic sector.

MAAF flew approximately 800 sorties. From these operations six of our aircraft are missing.

END COMMUNIQUE.

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ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO 257
OCTOBER 4, 1944

FIFTH ARMY

Despite muddy ground and stiff resistance Fifth Army forces 3 Oct pressed enemy on a broad front, made number of sizeable gains and captured important terrain features.

On right flank British troops repulsed counter-attack against positions 1,000 yards North of SCARZANA (1597). Other British troops attacked and secured further high ground NW of M. CAVALLARA (1300), thereby increasing our hold on dominating terrain between that mountain and M. L'ALTO (1202), both of which captured 2 Oct. Hill one mile NW MERCATALE (0712) also attacked and captured. All enemy counter-attacks in this sector repulsed. No further enemy counter-attack on M. BATTAGLIA, focal point of recent fighting.

Fifth Army American infantry reached point 3,000 yards North of road junction (004172) against resistance. Between this area and highway 65 striking gains were made despite strong opposition. By late 3 Oct leading elements were just South of BOSCHI (9222), and other Fifth Army infantry was 1,000 yards North of CAMPEGGIO (8819) after capturing and mopping up town. Our troops having cleared MONGHIDORO (8618) advanced two miles beyond town.

Enemy resistance continued strong in central sector where SAN BENEDETTO (8017) and SAN ANDREA (7818) liberated in course of an advance which captured M. DEL GALLETTO (8019), ground 1,500 yards to the North and M. CATARELTO (7415), the latter by South African troops of Fifth Army.

Brazilian Expeditionary Force with Fifth Army continued to maintain pressure against enemy along its entire front.

Situation remained generally unchanged in coastal sector.

Fifth Army arty (3 Oct) had one of its most successful days in recent action. Clearing skies permitted better observation and enemy road movements were held to a minimum by our accurate fire.

EIGHTH ARMY

On Eighth Army front FIUMICINO river now in spate and with few exceptions patrols found it impossible to cross.

There were further clashes with enemy in BORGHI, which remains in our hands.

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

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There were further clashes with enemy in BORGHI, which remains in our hands.

In central sector Eighth Army troops still in contact with enemy.

Weather Eighth Army front generally unsettled; Fifth Army generally fair.

(For information on 2nd New Zealand Div and on work of Army Education Corps see Appendices to to-day's On Record Background.)

No change Press Release Line. END ONRB

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

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

Habicon Patriot Branch.

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC 90A

30 SEP Recd

ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH.

COMMUNIQUE NO.253. 30th SEPTEMBER '44.

FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS.

NAVY:

NAVAL COMMUNIQUE LATER.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

In spite of bad weather conditions, American and British troops of Fifth Army have made progress against stubborn resistance. American troops of Fifth Army have repulsed a strong counterattack against the important feature of MONTE BATTAGLIA while British troops of Fifth Army took MONTE FUSO, a key feature on the FLORENCE-FORLI road.

Heavy rain in the Adriatic sector has prevented any large scale operations on the Eighth Army front.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Air activity yesterday was again curtailed by weather.

Fighter bombers attacked rail installations south of MILAN and targets in southern YUGOSLAVIA.

During these operations one enemy plane was destroyed. One of our aircraft is missing.

MAAF flew approximately 60 sorties.

END OF COMMUNIQUE.

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

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ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Public Relations Branch

30 September '44

Communique No. 253

NAVAL:

On the night of 27/28 September two of our landing craft operating off the Yugoslav coast met and engaged a convoy of enemy landing craft. Two of the enemy vessels were sunk and others damaged.

It is reported from the South of France that on 28 September the United States destroyer HILARY P. JONES and the French destroyer LE FORTUNE, operating on the right flank of the Army near the Franco-Italian frontier bombarded enemy batteries and troop concentrations. All areas were well covered.

On 28 September His Majesty's destroyers LIDDESDALE, ZETLAND and BICCON entered Pegadia Bay, off the Island of Scarpanto, and sank a 100 ton enemy vessel. Our ships were engaged by enemy guns but the fire was returned and the batteries silenced.

On 29 September His Majesty ship BLACK PRINCE with the destroyer TUMULT, bombarded the harbour of SYROS. Five enemy 'F' lighters were sunk and there were direct hits on a medium sized merchant vessel, other ships and enemy installations ashore.

Naval aircraft from the escort carrier STALKER were operating on the same day.

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ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO.253 FOR 30 SEPT 1944

Fierce fighting continued in central sector of Fifth Army fro where enemy is stubbornly resisting Fifth Army's advance. Deep salient into German positions in center has forced enemy out of sectors to E and W to prevent being trapped. Enemy is using IMOLA road as axis on which to pivot straightening of his lines.

Heavy rains flooded roads and bogged down vehicles along enti front. In some areas, roads were impassable for mules.

British troops of Fifth Army pushed forward to take PRESIOLA 0909 and M FUSO 1896.

Fierce counterattack in regiment 1 strength repulsed on M BATTAGLIA afternoon 28 Sept and another counterattack same area thrown back morning 29 Sept after bitter fighting.

American troops of Fifth Army took GIUGNOLA 9618, important highway town and had patrols in BELVIDERE 9819. With the taking c important heights of M OGGIOLI and M CANDA, flanking Highway 65, Fifth Army elements advanced up Highway more than 3 miles from LA MAZETTA 8611 to FILIGARE 8716.

Fifth Army troops attacked and reached M BALESTRA 8013 and also took MONTEFREDENTE 7815.

Pressure on enemy maintained in coastal sector with aggressiv patrolling.

On Eighth Army front, New Zealanders have driven on and reach Fiumicino River on 400 yard front from coast inland. Enemy defendi far bank strongly and counterattacked twice from across river nigh 28/29 Sept. Both attacks repulsed. Eighth Army troops are established along road 300 to 500 yards E of Fiumicino from 2 miles N of S MAURO DI ROMAGNA to SAVIGNANO. Before it could be reinforc our small bridgehead W of S MAURO heavily attacked by infantry and tanks and our troops were forced to withdraw.

Both Marecchia and Rubicon Rivers have risen and are running very fast making crossings in many cases very difficult. Conseque ly activity in SAVIGNANO area confined to patrolling and there has been no further fighting for the town.

NW of CANONICA 7297, German counterattacks forced us to pull back our leading troops and we are now holding firm on original positions. In hills to SW positions unchanged and enemy still hol forward slopes SE of MONTALBANO 5994.

On central mountain sector Eighth Army troops are in contact

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

front. In some areas, roads were impassable for miles.

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On central mountain sector, Eighth Army troops are in contact with enemy and have taken prisoners.

Weather heavy rain last night showers today and strong wind. New Press Release Line: BELLARIA M7707-LINE OF RIVER USO TO CAMERA NO R7295-DOCCIA MACIANO R6274-POGGIO CARNAIO R3680-SERRAVALLE R266 M CASTELLOUCHIO R 1275-M COMPACCIO M COLLINA R1794-BIFORCO M0800-PALAZZUOLO M0305-CASTEL DEL RIO M0116-PASSO DELLA RADICOSA L8712-CASTIGLIONE L7209-MONTE PIANO POGGIO DI TAVELLO Q6690-M BLOCCHI Q4692-M BATTIFOLLE Q3393-M MORAGLIO Q2190-TONFANO U9589.

END O N R B

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

908

A.A.F. - R.A.F. PUBLIC RELATIONS Saturday 30 September 1944.

HANDOUT - S U M M A R Y

Fighter bombers of the Tactical Air Force yesterday carried out attacks on enemy communications south of MILAN. Rail lines were cut in 17 places. Two locomotives were destroyed and four damaged. A number of rail cars and vehicles were destroyed or damaged.

A FW-190 was shot down by P-47s near FONTANELLA.

Heavy and medium bombers did not operate.

During these operations one enemy aircraft was destroyed. One of ours is missing.

M.A.A.F. flew approximately 60 sorties.

end Summary.

TACTICAL DETAIL

Leading his flight of P-47 Thunderbolts to bomb and strafe communications southwest of MILAN yesterday, Major Andrew R. Schindler, 27, of 2995 Botanical Square, Bronx, N.Y. City, shot down a FW-190 for his first victory.

The lone enemy plane was sighted near FONTANELLA, 30 miles southwest of MILAN. Major Schindler dived to attack, caught the enemy plane unaware, and set it afire. The pilot baled out and the machine crashed.

Major Schindler is a squadron commander, and has 42 missions to his credit. His wife and their two small children live at the New York address.

End Tactical.

BALKAN AIR FORCE

Except for a Spitbomber attack on a German ammunition store in the Dalmatian Islands, all B.A.F. sorties yesterday were cancelled by weather conditions.

End Detail.

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30 SEP Recd

Asst. Sec. of War

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JOINT COMMUNIQUE
AMERICAN AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS

The President and the Prime Minister held further discussions Monday and Tuesday, September 18th and 19th at Hyde Park on subjects dealing with postwar policies in Europe. The result of these discussions cannot be disclosed at this time for strategic military reasons and pending their consideration by our other Allies. The present problems in Italy also came under discussion and on this subject the President and the Prime Minister issued the following statement:

"The Italian people freed of their Fascist and Nazi overlordship have in these last twelve months demonstrated their will to be free to fight on the side of the democracies and to take a place among the United Nations devoted to principles of peace and justice. We believe we should give encouragement to those Italians who are standing for a political rebirth in Italy and are completing the destruction of the evil Fascist system. We wish to afford the Italians a greater opportunity to aid in the defeat of our common enemies. The American and the British people are of course horrified by the recent mob action in Rome but feel that a greater responsibility placed on the Italian people and on their own government will most readily prevent a recurrence of such acts. An increasing measure of control will be gradually handed over to the Italian administration subject of course to that administration's proving that it can maintain law and order and the regular administration of justice. To mark this change the Allied Control Commission will be renamed the Allied Commission. The British High Commissioner in Italy will assume the additional title of Ambassador. The United States Representative in Rome already holds that rank. The Italian Government will be invited to appoint direct representatives to Washington and London. First and immediate considerations in Italy are the relief of hunger and sickness and fear. To this end we instructed our representatives at the UNRRA conference to declare for the sending of medical aids and other essential supplies to Italy. We are happy to know that this view commended itself to other members of the UNRRA Council. At the same time first steps should be taken toward the reconstruction of an Italian economy. An economy laid low under the years of the misrule of Mussolini and ravished by the German policy of vengeful destruction. These steps should be taken primarily as military aims to put the full resources of Italy and the Italian people into the struggle to defeat Germany and Japan. For military reasons we should assist the Italians in the restoration of such power systems, their railways, motor transport roads and other communications as enter into the war situation and for a short time send engineers, technicians and industrial experts into Italy to help them in their own rehabilitation. The application to Italy of the Trading With The Enemy Acts should be modified so as to enable business contacts between Italy and the outside world to be resumed for the benefit of the Italian people. We all wish to speed the day when the last vestiges of Fascism in Italy will have been wiped out and when the last German will have left Italian soil and when there will be no need of any Allied troops to remain, the day when free elections can be held throughout Italy and when Italy can earn her proper place in the great family of free nations."

Reproduced at
Headquarters ACC
29 September 1944

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25 SEP Recd MSE.

SEEN	
C Mc. C	
Maj. MAG	
Maj. DR	
Capt. S	
Col. TA	
C. C.	

P.W.B. FLORENCE AAI

21 September 1944.

News monitored from BBC broadcasts up to 13:00 h.

WEST FRONT: In some of the hardest fighting since the battle of Caen British armored columns have driven through the Dutch town of Nijmegen and reached the Rhine. There are two bridges across the Rhine at this point, and one at least, a 300 yard road span appears to be still intact. According to late dispatches by frontline reporters, this bridge has been captured intact by British troops. If these reports are confirmed, it would be of extreme importance for the whole Allied strategy because once across the Rhine, Allied forces would be in a position to outflank the Siegfried Line from the North. The base of the Allied salient at Nijmegen has been broadened, and reinforcements and supplies are streaming through the corridor which has been considerably widened despite desperate German attempts to cut it. 100,000 Germans in the Low Countries are estimated to be isolated by the British drive.

The airborne troops in the Arnhem region have withstood all German attacks by SS troops supported by tanks. More airborne troops and great quantities of supplies have again been dropped.

In Belgium Allied forces have advanced to the line of the Leopold Canal. The advance along the Escaut Canal continues. Polish troops have split the Germans south of the lower reaches of the Scheldt in two groups pressing them ever closer against the river.

Further south American 1st Army troops are meeting very stiff opposition in their advance beyond the Siegfried Line ; but they continue to advance and were last reported 5 miles east of Stolberg on the road to Dueren. Inside Aachen, now completely encircled, the Germans are setting off demolitions.

Between Metz and Nancy, the Germans continue to counter-attack. American columns have bypassed Nancy both to the North and the South and have liberated Chateau sur Moselle. 724

Still further south, troops of the 6 th Army group are advancing towards the Belfort gap against decreasing German resistance.

At liberated Brest 70,000 German prisoners have been counted. 3,500 Germans surrendered at Boulogne. It seems that the garrison of Brest has been largely underestimated, many thousands more have been

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

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At liberated Brest 30,000 German prisoners have been counted. 3,500 Germans surrendered at Boulogne. It seems that the garrison of Brest has been largely underestimated, many thousands more have been killed in addition to those taken prisoner. Great quantities of material and supplies have fallen into Allied hands. The battle for Brest was extremely tough, the Germans being in most favorable defensive positions. The great belt of fortifications was stormed by American rangers supported by British tanks equipped with the new flamethrowers. House to house battles followed until our troops reached the large submarine pens, fortresses themselves in which 5.000 Germans including, a general and an admiral were captured.

Near the Luxembourg border Allied troops discovered a large

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flying bomb assembly plant hidden in an abandoned French iron mine. Operations had only begun, but workers told reporters that the Germans wanted a production of 700 bombs a day. Some flying bombs came over London and southern England last night. In France the French scientist Georges Claude confessed to having invented the flying bomb selling his plans to the German High Command.

From Germany reports say that great numbers of civilians do not comply with the Nazi orders to evacuate the territory between Aachen and Cologne. In many places now occupied by the Allies almost all inhabitants have stayed on. 70,000 people are said to be still in Aachen. In the occupied area Allied Military Government is functioning. Nazi mayors have been replaced mostly by government officials in office before the Nazis took over. Civilians have been generally cooperative. In some instances they told Allied officers the whereabouts of German deserters and at one place the hiding place of a group of SS men was revealed.

In ITALY 5 th Army troops have widened their breach in the Gothic Line defenses north of Florence. They are now approaching Fierenzuola, halfway between Florence and Bologna. In the Appenine mountains the highest peaks are now occupied by American troops preparing to descend into the valley. On the Adriatic further advances have been made beyond Rimini airfield.

At Rome Pietro Caruso testifying at his own trial said that the German High Command forced him to deliver to them Italian hostages.

THE EASTERN FRONT: The great Russian drive to write off the Germans in the Baltic states is in full swing. Soviet forces are attacking on a 300 mile front all the way from Riga to the Gulf of Finland threatening more than 200,000 Germans with destruction.

An indication of the swiftness of the attack is the capture of more than 2,000 places by the Russians within 24 hours. The enemy, his back to the sea, is being attacked from the east, west and south.

West of Narva, Red Army troops broke through the German lines to a depth of 60 kilometers reaching Sonda, 90 kilometers from Narva. Another Russian force advancing from Tartu has opened a large breach in the German flank. Here Soviet troops advanced 70 kilometers in four days. A third penetration of the German line was made near Valka which

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The battle for Warsaw has now lasted 52 days. Some relief was given to the Polish forces inside the city by the absence of air-attacks due to protection by Russian fighters and anti-aircraft artillery. The supplies dropped by American planes have boosted Polish morale and the patriots are successfully withstanding German attacks

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designed to dislodge them from the waterfront where the Gerlans fear the establishment of a Russian bridgehead. Contact between General Bor's command and Marshal Rokossovsky's forces is being maintained. Suffering of the civilian population of Warsaw is said to defy all description.

American heavy and medium bombers from Italy yesterday again bombed railway bridges near Budapest and numerous points on the line between Vienna and Budapest. An oil refinery near Bratislava was also attacked. The night before Budapest had been bombed by Soviet planes.

In YUGOSLAVIA a German base on the Palisac Penninsula has been taken by Marshal Tito's forces. Many more towns in Slovenia, Montengro and western Serbia have been liberated. In eastern Serbia Yugoslav troops are driving towards the Bulgarian border.

THE WAR AGAINST JAPAN: Units of the Eastern Fleet again sailed into waters off the Netherland East Indies to launch a carrier-based air attack on an important rail center in Sumatra. There was no challenge either from the ground or in the air, and only one plane was lost. No attempt was made to intercept our ships.

Liberators resumed their attacks on the Philippines by an attack on Davao. The airfield, harbor installations and military barracks were hit.

American ground forces on Morotai Island have made good progress. All of Angaur Island in the Palau group has been occupied.

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28 SEP Recd MSC.

Italian Patriot Brigade

ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH.

COMMUNIQUE NO.251. 28th SEPTEMBER '44.

FOR RELEASE 1145 A HRS.

NAVY:

On 25th September U.S.S. MADISON bombarding in the VENTIMIGLIA area hit a supply plane and later destroyed an observation post. The French destroyer FORBIN engaged enemy mortars and troops in the same area. On the 26th September U.S.S. MADISON and EDISON engaged enemy targets in the same area while the FORBIN successfully fired upon enemy troops, batteries and a railway.

It is reported from the Aegean sea that on 26th September naval aircraft working from escort carriers destroyed two armoured trucks laden with troops in the island of RHODES and probably destroyed one JU.52 on the ground.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

In the central sector American and British troops of Fifth Army have continued to exert unrelenting pressure against strong enemy resistance, and at some points during the last 24 hours have advanced as much as two miles to capture important features.

On the Adriatic coast British and Dominion troops have now crossed the RUBICON on a front of over ten miles, and have extended their bridge-head to a depth of more than two miles. Dominion troops captured the town of BELLARIA, and other Eighth Army troops are closing in on the town of SAVIGNANO.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Although weather restricted operations yesterday, fighters and fighter bombers of the Tactical Air Force attacked troop concentrations, communications and artillery positions in and north of the battle area.

Coastal aircraft attacked shipping in the gulf of GENOA and in the Adriatic.

Troop concentrations and gun emplacements in northern GREECE, ALBANIA and YUGOSLAVIA were attacked by Balkan Air Force units.

Heavy and medium bombers did not operate.

MAAF flew approximately 550 sorties. One of our aircraft is missing.

END OF COMMUNIQUE.

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Heavy and medium bombers did not operate.

NAAF flew approximately 550 sorties. One of our aircraft is missing.

END OF COMMUNIQUE.

SEEN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mc		
Maj. M	P.D.	
Maj. D?		
Capt.		

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ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO 251
SEPTEMBER 28, 1944

American troops of Fifth Army regained heights MONTE SASSO DI SAN ZANOBI (9115), which was lost night 25/26 Sep. M. CARNEVALE (0415) and road junction town CASTEL DEL RIO (0116) also taken by U.S. troops.

To SW of M. CANDA (8813) Fifth Army elements now well established on M. BENI and M. FREDDI, which captured after overcoming strong resistance. Fifth Army American troops also captured BRUSCOLI (7909 and together with South African troops of Fifth Army captured CASTIGLIONE (7209). An enemy counter-attack repulsed at 7709. Enemy reported executing road and bridge demolitions in that part of Gothic defence zone West of VERNIO;.

After occupying BOCCONI British troops of Fifth Army passed through town and met heavy resistance in outskirts. Stubborn resistance also met in an attack on M. CASTELNUOVO (area 1101), where forward elements are on SE slopes. Heavy enemy shelling encountered in MARRADI (0901).

Fifth Army troops in coastal sector continued aggressive patrolling and made limited advances in some areas. VALLECCHIA (9795) and QUERCETA (9594), in direction of MASSA, captured despite stubborn resistance, and intense arty fire.

For information on 135 Inf Regt, 34 Inf Div see Appendix to to-day's On Record Badkground.

On Eighth Army Adriatic coastal sector Canadian Corps cleared BELLARIA, small seaside town seven miles beyond RIMINI, and crossed RUBICON near its mouth. They found Italian patriots in possession of town. Many demolitions encountered in this area. Farther inland Canadian troops across RUBICON pushed on against opposition to within 1,000 yards of S. MAURO DI ROMAGNA (7302).

Eighth Army British troops advanced NW from SANTARCANGELO and are 1,000 yards from SAVIGNANO, which enemy defending strongly. Opposition strengthening on left in this area and enemy SP guns fired at our troops from across FIUMICINO river. British troops also advanced NW more than 2,000 yards along ridge beyond CASERANO and captured cemetery at CANONICA (7297) against stiff opposition. [illegible] British troops got to within one mile of

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For information on 135 Inf Regt, 34 Inf Div see Appendix to to-day's On Record Background.

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Weather fair to cloudy with showers over hills.

Note: CARNEVALE is NOT the same as that reported in On Record Background 26 Sep.

No change Press Release Line.

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INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC RELATIONS
C.M.F.

SPECIAL PRESS COMMUNIQUE. FOR RELEASE 1030-A-hrs. 28th SEPT.1944.

A Conference was held recently at A.F.H.Q., presided over by the Supreme Allied Commander, at which were present General SCOBIE, G.O.C. for Greece, the Greek President of the Council and M.PAPANDREOU, with other members of the Greek Government and the two Greek Guerilla leaders, General SARAFIS and General ZERVAS.

The two Generals Commanding the Greek Guerilla Forces declared their full acceptance of the orders of the Greek Government and of the Supreme Allied Commander under whose orders the Greek Government has placed all Greek forces operating in Greece. Decisions were taken with complete unanimity for the co-ordination of the struggle for the speediest possible liberation of Greece and the maintenance of complete order.

-ends-

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INFORMATION DIVISION
AGO 840

PRESS RELEASE

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
PUBLIC RELATIONS SECTION
A. P. O. #464, U.S. ARMY

PRESS RELEASE

FOR SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE AT FIFTH ARMY AND ROME
WITH COMMUNIQUE OF 28 SEPTEMBER, 1944

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, ITALY--When General Clark's Fifth Army distributes service chevrons in a few weeks - one for each six months overseas - it will give exactly five to each of about seven hundred battle veterans in the 135th Infantry Regiment. Among the first infantrymen to go across in this war, they are the only men remaining from their original unit of over 3,000 former National Guardsmen from Minnesota who left the States for Ireland and England in April, 1942.

That, in brief, is the story of the 135th, just released for publication - nearly 1,000 days overseas, over 300 days and nights of actual frontline fighting in North Africa and Italy.

Those 300 days have been tough on the 135th. Nearly a division of infantry replacements has passed through this one regiment. Close to a thousand men have been killed, several thousand wounded. But in turn, the Minnesota boys, and the thousands of replacements from all over America who have followed in their footsteps, have made it tough on the Germans.

They began in November, 1942, when the 3rd Battalion invaded Africa with Major General Charles W. Ryder's task force and quickly mopped up around Algiers. Joined by other troops of the 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division, they fought throughout the Tunisian campaign. The regiment received a division citation for its work in the great "Red Bull" show at famous Hill 609.

Last September, the regiment came into Italy and with the 34th began, in early October, the long, bitter drive up the Apennines with the Fifth Army. Through weeks of cold rain and mud and "C" rations the men of the 135th worked

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their way over the rugged terrain. Frequently they fought above the jeep line, where they could be reached only by animal pack trains. They plugged along for months rooting the enemy out of his holes in the mountains, pushing the Germans back. In early January, the 3rd Battalion took San Vittore, the 2nd took Mount Chaia, and then they all teamed up to capture strategic Mount Trocchio. Early in February, they crossed the Rapido River and drove on into Cassino. At one time the 1st Battalion clawed its way to the very base of the Abbey, the most forward point of advance in the first Cassino offensive. It was in the Cassino fighting that Colonel Robert W. Ward, who had commanded the 135th so brilliantly in Tunisia and in its subsequent operations, was wounded. Upon recovering, Colonel Ward used his combat knowledge as director of the Fifth Army Scouting and Patrolling School.

After a brief rest, the unit went to the Anzio beachhead, where, with the rest of the 34th, it took part in the smashing breakthrough in late May. Toughest part of this drive was at Lanuvio, below Rome, where the Germans were dug in and enjoying perfect observation. The 135th helped clean them out in one terrific battle, in which the 3rd Battalion piled up over 300 German dead on its front alone.

Turning up Highway 7 with the First Armored Division, the regiment then moved on Rome. Other Fifth Army outfits may argue among themselves for the rest of the war about just who got where first, but the 135th's prominent part in the liberation of Rome, one of the great victories of the war, cannot be challenged. On the evening of 4 June, the 2nd Battalion was mopping up snipers in the vicinity of the Coliseum.

After Rome, the 135th was rested briefly and then assigned the task of helping drive the enemy up the Tyrrhenian coast. Crossing the Cecina River early in July, the regiment captured Rosignano, had combat patrols in the

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vital port of Leghorn the 18th and, with other elements of the Fifth Army, pushed into Pisa four days later.

Throughout this drive, which was up a narrow coastal sector, heavily mined, the regiment met desperate German SS troops which bitterly defended every yard. The Americans found they had to take up the old job where they left off below Rome - dislodging the Nazis from every hill and town in their path. In capturing the important town of Rosignano, where the Germans were particularly entrenched, the 135th lost over a hundred men. The commander, Colonel Ashton H. Manhart, 1480 Military Way, Salt Lake City, Utah, reports the regiment has had no harder figiting.

It was here the outfit developed its own system of handling the Germans' frequent "spoiling attacks" - small pushes in the early evening, usually with tanks, designed to screen withdrawals. The operations officer, Major Fred H. Lippucci, 220 Grand Street, Morgantown, West Virginia, tells how the men learned to wait out these attacks and then quickly pass through the assault troops and grab good ground in their rear, sometimes moving through the German positions without a single casualty. Leader of this tricky maneuver at Rosignano was the commander of G Company, First Lieutenant Sylvester J. Hunter, 1759 Waverly Place, St. Louis, Missouri, Winner of the Distinguished Service Cross at Cassino.

But it takes more than tricky maneuvers to push the Germans out of Italy. It takes GI Joe, the individual soldier, turning up day after day with his own resourcefulness and courage. The 135th has a regiment of them.

Above Cecina, the Germans suddenly attacked a machinegun position. It was a fine idea, except that the head of the section on our side was Sergeant John A. Sands, 4840 North 15th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Although injured by concussion, he refused to leave his gun. He rallied his men and

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led them in a hand to hand fight that converted the surprise attack into a defeat for the Germans. When Sergeant Philip Kampe, West Point candidate of 316 South Home Avenue, Avalon, Pennsylvania, and Staff Sergeant Robert D. Wagoner of Bear Lake, Michigan, ran into a trench of Germans beyond Rosignano, they outflanked the position and captured eighteen of the enemy. Despite wounds by shell fragments at Pisa, Private First Class Thomas McGowan, 7334 Finance Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, stayed at his post to help other wounded soldiers. He had previously been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry on the Anzio beachhead.

Few outfits in the regiment have received more praise than has the service company, which has kept the 135th fed and rolling for years. It is spark-plugged by "old faithful" - Master Sergeant Harold Hermansen, 2732 Harriett Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota. An old National Guardsman who wants to see it through; he recently refused a furlough home.

Another veteran from Minneapolis, Captain James F. Garfield of 276 - 21st Avenue, South, working alone in front of his unit and without a mine detector, disarmed 23 "S" mines in the Gabaro sector so that his men could advance.

In 300 odd days in the lines, 135th officers and men like these have won 22 Distinguished Service Crosses, 119 Silver Stars for gallantry in action, and 187 Bronze Stars for heroic achievements. Twenty-six men have received battlefield promotions. The unit or men in it have been cited on forty-five different occasions by the 34th Division. Their medical detachment, which has been commanded all the way by Major Vilhelm Johnson of Lawson, Minnesota, is one of the most decorated medical companies in the theater. With a T/O strength of 126, the medics of the 135th have received sixty-one awards, including two Distinguished Service Crosses.

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And every day the [illegible]ng combat record of the 135th, already one of the best in this war, is getting better. General Clark's Fifth Army is on the move again, and the men of the 135th are just where one would expect to find them -- right in the thick of the fight.

(end)

PASSED BY THE FIELD PRESS CENSOR

716

1 Italian Patriot Branch USE

27 SEP Recd

BY

ADVANCED [illegible] HEADQUARTERS
[illegible] FORCE.

COMMUNIQUE NO.250. 27th SEPTEMBER '44.

FOR RELEASE 1045 A HRS.

NAVY:

NAVAL COMMUNIQUE ATTACHED.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

Eighth Army troops have now cleared the last enemy resistance South of the Rubicon and Dominion troops of Eighth Army are in the outskirts of BELLARIA. On their left, British troops in heavy fighting have extended their bridgehead over the Rubicon and are now approaching the town of SAVIGNANO.

In the central sector, American and British troops of Fifth Army made slight advances against determined enemy resistance.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Tactical aircraft yesterday continued their attacks against communications and battle zone targets in Northern Italy. Medium bombers attacked road and rail bridges in the PO valley. Fighter bombers were active against troop concentrations, rail lines and rolling stock, motor transport and supply dumps in and near the battle area.

Last night medium and heavy bombers attacked the railroad viaduct at BOROVNICA, in northwestern YUGOSLAVIA.

Unfavourable weather prevented heavy bomber operations during daylight.

From these operations, three of our aircraft are missing.

Incomplete reports show that MAAF flew over 550 sorties.

END OF COMMUNIQUE

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

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SEEN.	INIT.
Col. Mc. CARTHY	
Maj. MAGNUS	
Maj. BRAGE	
Capt. SALVADOR	
Col FAVA	
C. C.	

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

O N R B

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 250 FOR 27 SEPTEMBER 1944

Eighth Army made further advances 26 Sept on Adriatic coastal road and inland NW of S GIUSTINA, following enemy counterattacks 25 Sept. General Leese's troops pushed on 1 mile and established strong bridgeheads across the Rubicon River which the enemy opposing with infantry and Tiger tanks. Three German regiments took part in fighting in this area 25 Sept.

Crossings over Rubicon also established in SANTARCANGELO 7598 area. Leading troops across Rubicon now two and one half miles from SAVIGNANO 7101, important pinnacle town at junction of Route Nine and FIUMICINO River.

Fighting continues beyond CAMERINO and our troops in close contact with the enemy. British troops captured pt 162 / 7196, 2000 yards NW of POGGIO BERNI on next ridge between Rubicon and Fiumicino Rivers. British troops captured also CORNACCHIARA feature 6594 on same ridge and advance continues.

New enemy weapon used against Eighth Army in recent battle is German 88mm A-Tk gun which is first 88mm made expressly as A-Tk weapon and is considerable improvement on 88mm ackack gun used in an A-Tk role. At least 3 of new guns captured.

Increased fierce enemy resistance intensified by movement of elements of 3 enemy infantry divisions to central sector slowed Fifth Army's advance 25/26 Sept. Enemy has stepped up considerably his volume and rate of fire of large caliber arty and employing freely his numerous 280mm and 170mm pieces.

During night 25/26 Sept, ferocious counterattack, in which enemy expended liberally his personnel, forced troops of Fifth Army from positions on hill mass at 9215, a spur of M LA FINE ridge and somewhat to West of main mass. But by late 26 Sept efforts being made to regain sector.

On eastern part of central sector, Fifth Army troops advanced approximately 1000 yards beyond former positions. M LA FINE itself still firmly in Fifth Army possession.

On right of Fifth Army front, British troops of Fifth Army advanced up Route 67 to town of BOCCONI 1993. Enemy resistance along route from MELDOLA to FAENZA on BOLOGNA-RIMINI Highway, slowed our forward movement in MELDOLA sector.

NE of FAENZA, important hill mass M ACUTO 0213, overlooking road to IMOLA, seized by Fifth Army. Fifth Army also holds M BATTOLUNGO 9814.

NW of FIRENZUOLA, U.S. troops broke enemy resistance and seized 4000 ft M BENI 8510. Both of these mountains overlook Route 65, direct route FLORENCE to BOLOGNA. Other Fifth Army troops are on Southern slopes of M FREDDI 8310, which rises 140 ft higher than M BENI. Fifth Army also drove enemy from CASELLACCIA 8008 and pressed forward onto dominating position at 7609, E of CASTIGLIONE. The VERNIO-BOLOGNA Highway now held by Fifth Army up to LA mountain STORAIA 7306.

Continued patrolling and probing of enemy strongpoints in difficult terrain on left flank has highlighted activity of Fifth Army's Brazilian Expeditionary Force and elements of American 92 Inf Div. Fighting continues grim and bitter against increasing enemy strength.

Weather fair, risk of showers, cold threatened 27 Sept.

Now Press Release Line: TORRE PEDRERA M8103, DOCCIA R6986, CARPEGNA R6667, LIERNA R2266, MTE COMPACCIO 0882, MTE PESCHIENA R0789, CASTIGLIONCELLO L9812, LA CASETTA L8509, MONTEPLANO L7304, COLLE Q7093, PISTOIA PGO DI COLONDOLE (PT. 523) Q5790, MTE CUPOLA Q3387, MOLRONE P9588.

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

Enemy British troops captured [illegible] 7196, 2000 yards NW of POGGIO BERNI on next ridge between Ladrone and Fiumicino Rivers. British troops captured also CORNACCHIARA feature 6994 on same ridge and advance continues.

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(END ONRB

(For released story of 4th Indian Infantry Division see Handout as Appendix to today's On Record Background)

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

INFORMATION DIVISION

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

NAVAL COMMUNIQUE FOR INCLUSION IN PRESS COMMUNIQUE NO. 250 FOR 27 SEPT. 1944

Since 16 September landing craft of the Royal Navy, covered and supported by destroyers and light coastal craft, have been operating among the southern Dalmatian islands, carrying troops and Partisans engaged in harrassing the German withdrawal. Bodies of troops have also been landed on the mainland of Albania.

Enemy artillery and troop. concentrations in the VENTIMIGLIA area were successfully bombarded by the U. S. Destroyers EDISON and MADISON on 24 September. On 25 September H.M.S. LOOKOUT bombarded an enemy battery, tank, quarters and paratroopers north of RIMINI. She fired more than 350 rounds and paratrocpers were severely punished.

It is reported that our light coastal forces operating in the Adriatic sank three enemy craft carrying stores on the night of 23/24 September. On the same night light coastal craft working close in shore in the Gulf of GENOA engaged and sank an enemy vessel.

On the night of 24/25 September coastal forces operating in the Aegean Sea drove a small enemy vessel ashore on the island of MELOS.

(End)

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

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(End)

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

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

INFORMATION DIVISION
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PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

27 September 1944

BALKAN AIR FORCE COMMUNIQUE:

Seaborne and Airborne troops of Land Forces Adriatic are at present operating on a wide front in Adriatic country which includes ALBANIA and the islands off YUGOSLAVIA.

Tactical air support has been given by the Balkan air force.

(End)

ON RECORD BACKGROUND:

Land Forces Adriatic since its inception almost four months ago has undertaken the task of cooperating with the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and our Allied Partisan Force of giving maximum amount of trouble to the German occupation of the Adriatic country. As a result the enemy has sustained such harrassing action as the destruction of the HIMARA garrison in ALBANIA, this made use of the Albanian coastal road so precarious that the enemy was forced to send supplies to other garrisons by small seagoing craft.

More recently L.S.A. have played an important part in the liberation of the central Dalmatian islands.

(End)

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26 SEP Recd

Italian Potuals

ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

COMMUNIQUE No. 248

25 September

FOR RELEASE 1115A HOURS

NAVY:

On 22/23 September enemy batteries, troops and storage dumps in the neighbourhood of the Franco-Italian frontier were again bombarded from the sea in support of the Army. Areas were well covered and several explosions were observed. The U.S. destroyers "WOOLSEY" and "EDISON" were both in action. There was active return fire from the shore and splinters fell on fire but our ships suffered neither casualties nor damage.

On September 24 in support of the Eighth Army H.M.S. "LOYAL" carried out a heavy bombardment of enemy batteries and gun positions seven miles north of RIMINI. More than 400 rounds were fired and all areas were well covered. Minesweepers working in the same area were fired upon by the shore batteries but were not hit.

Naval activity continues in the GULF OF GENOA, the ADRIATIC and AEGEAN.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

In the central sector American troops of Fifth Army continue to make progress NORTH of FIRENZUOLA, while British and Indian troops of Fifth Army on their right have also made important gains.

Heavy fighting continues in the Adriatic sector, where British and Dominion troops of Eighth Army have been meeting very strong resistance.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Medium forces of heavy bombers yesterday flew to GREECE to attack three airdromes in the ATHENS area, harbour and submarine installations at SKARAMANGA, and rail yards at SALONIKA.

Although tactical operations were restricted by unfavourable weather, medium and light bombers attacked rail yards and motor transport facilities just to the north of the eastern battle area.

Fighter-bombers and fighters were active against communications in northern Italy and close support targets in the battle zone.

Other aircraft attacked military targets in YUGOSLAVIA.

From these operations, five of our aircraft are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 1,000 sorties.

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

26 SEP recd

BALKANS AIR FORCE,

25th September, 1944.

COMMUNIQUE.

Early on 23rd SEPTEMBER combined naval and land forces completed the elimination of the enemy garrison of SOLTA in the Dalmation Islands. Support was given by aircraft of B.A.F.

ON RECORD BACKGROUND
FOR SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE WITH JOINT COMMUNIQUE No.248
dated 25th SEPTEMBER, 1944.

With the elimination of the enemy garrison from SOLTA the last German forces have been cleared from the central Dalmation Islands. SOLTA, northernmost of the accessible Dalmation Islands and directly opposite the Bay of SPLIT has an area of about 10 miles long by 3 miles wide. The main places are the fishing port of ROGAC and the small villages of GROHOTE and DONJE (about 200 inhabitants). The island is hilly, rocky and scrub covered.

The German garrison of two companies, 150/200 strong together, was mainly based on ROGAC and GROHOTE on the eastern side. It was also supported by artillery from the mainland.

On 17 Sep a strong patrol of a Commando forming part of the Land Forces Adriatic, landed at SHARINSKA VALA, southern end of the island, at 2300-hrs. Having patrolled as far as GORNJE SELO, a hill position, the enemy became aware of the movement & shelled in the patrol direction. The remainder of the Commando landed at the same point at 0200-hrs. 18 Sep '44.

By 20 Sep the Commando was closing around GROHOTE. No civilians were found in the area. On 21 Sep the Commando took three hill positions. On 22 Sep the Commando pushed forward toward the enemy key positions and encountered many mines and wire entanglements which were covered by the enemy's machine gun and mortar fire. Our forces used heavy mortars and machine guns on the enemy positions.

During the night 22/23 Sep one Squadron, less one flight, of the RAF Regiment and one battery of 25 pdrs landed on positions to the west of the island. During the same night the garrison attempted to escape to the mainland; this was frustrated by light coastal craft of the Royal Navy. Patrols of the Commando moved on ROGAC and GROHOTE early on 23 September. Few casualties were sustained throughout the operation.

This has been an excellent example of combined operations in which the Royal Navy and Balkans Air Force part was much appreciated by the land forces concerned.

--- ENDS---

26 SEP Recd

SPECIAL HANDOUT (Release with Communique)

HOW R.A.F. GUN RUNNERS ARMED TITO'S MEN

Behind the recent successes of the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation, and the rumbling of the German and Quisling forces in the BALKANS, lies a patient and hazardous task which the Royal Air Force have been carrying on quietly for two years.

Tito's Army owes much to the gun and supply runners of the R.A.F., who, under the enemy's nose, have taken thousands of tons of supplies by air to the Partisans, ranging from anti-tank guns and vehicles to needles and thread, and from mules to paper-clips.

Without this vast variety of supplies, the Partisan armies would most likely have remained Guerrillas; their losses would have been heavier, and the Balkans would have remained a German bastion instead of a morass which threatens to engulf all the enemy forces that are left.

The supply effort which, for security reasons, has had to remain in obscurity for so long, is now directed and co-ordinated by BALKAN AIR FORCE from bases in Italy. Since its formation in June last, Balkan Air Force has taken more than 5,000 tons of arms and supplies by air to the forces of resistance in several European countries. In one recent month its aircrews, helped by Americans, took 2,009 tons of supplies - a remarkable figure when it is remembered that much of the supply-running has to be done by parachute-dropping. In a year the rate of supply has increased tenfold. This is partly due to the development of secret landing grounds in enemy-occupied territory, to which transport planes fly at night; but delivery by parachute is still necessary in the wooded and mountainous areas, where the construction of landing strips is impracticable.

The business of packing the supplies has grown phenomenally from a couple of huts staffed by two officers and a handful of men in the Nile Delta area in 1942, to the present packing station in Italy, which covers acres of ground and has hundreds of men, including Yugoslav Partisans, hard at work every day.

Supplies could be, and have been, taken to the Partisans by sea, but as the Germans held all the main lines of communication, supplies could not be transported far inland. Air transport was the only answer.

In the early days of the supply effort, arms and ammunition were the prime needs. The arms helped the Partisans to capture more from the Germans, and now that the Partisans have a good supply of small arms, food and equipment are now the main loads.

The [illegible] landing strips in Yugoslavia, Greece and

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The development of landing-strips in Yugoslavia, Greece and Albania, to accommodate relays of Dakota transports, is also saving a lot of effort in the packing of parachuted containers, and the expense of the parachutes themselves. In a normal night's operations, about 250 parachutes of various types swing down from Halifaxes to the eager Partisans. A small proportion of the dropped parachutes are sufficiently serviceable to be worth recovering.

This business of packing into containers for parachute-dropping has become a fine art. There are "packs" for every purpose. There is a medical pack, there is a "complete soldier" kit - arms, clothing and bedding. There is a rations pack. There is even an office pack - the complete office for the field, containing stationery, scissors, pens, pins. There are packs for radio sets, packs for fuel to run the generators; boot repair packs, and comforts packs.

(Over)

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R.A.F. GUN RUNNERS (Contd)

The "targets" for all these supplies are arranged by the British military missions working inside the Balkans. They also indicate the type of supplies most needed, and on the basis of this, the night's operations are planned. With the list before them of places needing supplies, in order of urgency, staff officers of a Balkan Air Force wing assemble each morning at a conference. When the target has been decided, in the light of the weather forecast, the crews are briefed.

Pin-studded maps disclose dozens of landing-strips and dropping points in Europe. Their number would astonish the Germans. The targets are known by code names. At "Country Club," for instance, it is known that the Partisans need demolition charges and clothing. Word goes to the packing centre, and in a few hours all the necessary containers are being loaded into the Halifaxes and Dakotas.

The parachute organisation, too, has not reached its present efficiency without many headaches. Once, when a special footwear mission was ordered in response to an urgent call for 30,000 pairs of boots, it was discovered that a mixture of the normal sizes would be useless because the Partisans have bigger feet than the British. No size less than nine would do, so there was a hectic hunt for adequate quantities of the larger sizes. It was also found that the Partisans preferred bully beef to luxuries such as tinned chicken. Some even preferred "V" cigarettes to the more popular brands.

The Balkan Air Force wing which does the supply-running, operates Halifaxes, Dakotas, Lysanders, and some Italian aircraft, and receives substantial assistance from an American group which, with Dakotas, does a lot of the actual landing of supplies. The nationalities of the crews engaged in this daring work of supply-running embrace British and Dominions, Americans, Greeks, Yugoslavs, Poles, Free French, and Italians.

The Lysanders play a small but important part in the operations. For a long time they have been running the gauntlet to take in liaison personnel, all of whom are known to the R.A.F. crews by the generic term of "Joes." Lysanders also have done some excellent rescue work, bringing out single casualties and urgent medical cases. There is no corner of the Balkans into which the adaptable Lysander cannot squeeze.

Development of supply-running has a romantic history, and was not achieved without the loss of the lives of some pioneers. Supplies to the underground forces in the Balkans first trickled in during the summer of 1942. Only four Liberators were employed then, working from the desert, but at the same time, a band of parachute-jumpers was being trained by the Army in Egypt to become the "contact" men. Facing many risks, they laid the foundations of the co-ordinated system now running so efficiently under the British military missions.

In the winter of 1942/43, contact men were dropped in Greece.

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In the winter of 1942/43, contact men were dropped in Greece. Probing unknown territory, they endured many hardships, for they had to live in the open. Some of these brave men, having run out of supplies, perished through exposure in the mountains.

In the Spring of 1943 began the real build-up of the gun-running by a squadron of Halifaxes, working from the western desert. They had much experimental work to do, for the technique of locating a few persons in a remote part of the Balkans was still in its infancy. The Germans, becoming aware of what was happening, sent up Stukas when supply aircraft were about. When the recognition lights came from the ground, and the parachutes floated down, bombs fell as well. But the R.A.F. soon evolved counter measures, and now a steady flow of arms, equipment and food goes in every night to help the Partisans weaken still further the enemy's faltering grip.

(More)

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R.A.F. GUN-RUNNERS (Contd)

The R.A.F. squadron, which has such a distinguished record in gun-running, played a notable part in the recent supply-dropping on WARSAW. It was not the first time they had been to that area. They had done the long and hazardous trip to POLAND from ITALY many times.

The work of this squadron adds another fine chapter to Royal Air Force history. The acknowledged "Ace" supply-dropper is a former commanding officer, Wing Commander James Blackburn, who received the D.S.O. for his work. He flew 600 hours on such missions, and once did 18 night operations in succession. He solved many of the problems involved in supply-running.

The present commanding officer of the squadron is Wing Commander Douglas George Hayward, a Pathfinder pilot, who has done previous tours of operations in Bomber Command and in Italy. His home is at Marine Parade, Durban, South Africa.

Veteran of the squadron is its intelligence officer, F/Lt. Hector Brown, of Grassdale, Whitehall Street, Shrewsbury, who has been with it since it began its special task early last year.

When it was doing almost all the supply-running by itself last year, the squadron had the satisfaction of knowing that, but for its efforts, the Germans would not have needed as many as the twenty divisions they were forced to keep in the Balkans.

END.

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ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC RELATION BRANCH.

22nd SEPTEMBER '44.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 245.

FOR RELEASE 1045 A HRS.

NAVY:

On 19th Sept on the right flank of the Army on the Franco-Italian frontier the U.S. destroyer LUDLOW bombarded enemy mortars and troop concentrations with good results.

There was no naval bombardment in the RIMINI area yesterday because of very bad weather. On 20th Sept H.M.S.KIMBERLEY and H.M.S. LOOKOUT were both in action to the North of RIMINI, engaging coastal guns and field batteries with upwards of 1,000 rounds. Target areas were well covered and one particularly obnoxious battery was effectively silenced.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

The Allied Armies in Italy have still further successes to report. After nearly a month of continuous bitter fighting troops of Eighth Army have driven the enemy from the SAN FORTUNATO - CERLANO RIDGE and have a bridgehead over the river MARECCHIA.

RIMINI has been captured. This is most important as the town lies at the entrance to the PO valley.

Fifth Army giving the enemy no respite has captured the important road center of FIRENZUOLA and dominating hills to the north and northeast of the town as well as other vital ground in the central sector of the APPENINES.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Medium forces of heavy bombers yesterday continued their assaults on enemy communications in HUNGARY and YUGOSLAVIA, attacking many rail yards and rail bridges. Fighter bombers also attacked a rail yard in YUGOSLAVIA.

Due to adverse weather, tactical aircraft did not operate.

Aircraft of the Balkan Air Force were active over GREECE and ALBANIA, attacking military objectives, but weather restricted these operations.

Last night our bombers attacked port facilities at SALONIKA, GREECE.

In these operations, one enemy aircraft was destroyed, and ten of ours are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 850 sorties.

END OF COMMUNIQUE

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Medium forces of heavy bombers yesterday continued their assaults on enemy communications in HUNGARY and YUGOSLAVIA, attacking many rail yards and rail bridges. Fighter bombers also attacked a rail yard in YUGOSLAVIA.

Due to adverse weather, tactical aircraft did not operate.

Aircraft of the Balkan Air Force were active over GREECE and ALBANIA, attacking military objectives, but weather restricted these operations.

Last night our bombers attacked port facilities at SALONIKA, GREECE.

In these operations, one enemy aircraft was destroyed, and ten of ours are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 850 sorties.

END OF COMMUNIQUE

SCRN.	INITS.
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C. S.	

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

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

MSC. 22 SEP Recd

INFORMATION DIVISION
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ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH.

21st Sept. '44.

NAVAL COMMUNIQUE NO. 244.

FOR RELEASE 1100 HRS A.

It is reported from the South Coast of France that in addition to her bombardment of SAN REMO announced in yesterdays communique, the U.S. destroyer HILARY P. JONES on 18th Sept. also carried out a most successful shoot at PORTO MAURIZIO about 11 miles to the eastward of SAN REMO. Eight small craft were sunk or damaged, an ammunition dump was hit and exploded and an oil storage tank was set on fire. An enemy battery was also silenced. On the same day the U.S.S. MADISON obtained direct hits on a merchant ship anchored near PORTO MAURIZIO and set her on fire. The U.S.S. LUDLOW neutralised an enemy battery. On all these occasions there was considerable return fire from the shore.

On the night 18/19 Sept. our light coastal forces operating in the Gulf of GENOA sank another "F" lighter.

On the night 18/19 Sept. in the AEGEAN H.M.S. AURORA bombarded CANDIA harbour in CRETE and the airfield at HIERAKLION. On the 19th naval aircraft carried out an armed reconnaissance of KNOSSOS and KOS and destroyed nine enemy motor vehicles. This brings the total score since the operation started to 68 vehicles destroyed and 10 damaged. Other naval aircraft attacked the harbour at RHODES obtaining a direct hit with a bomb on a depot ship. Several hits were also obtained on the mole and a J.U.52 on the ground was damaged by cannon fire.

END OF COMMUNIQUE.

22 SEP Recd

INFORMATION DIVISION
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A.A.F. - R.A.F. PUBLIC RELATIONS Thursday 21st September 1944

SPECIAL HANDOUT (Release 11.30 hours)

DALMATIAN ISLANDS CAPTURED

In recent operations in the DALMATIAN islands, the close and friendly co-operation between Marshal Tito's Army of National Liberation and the British Naval, Land and Air Forces, has once more been demonstrated.

Many separate forces were embarked and dispatched to the islands and to the PELJESAC Peninsula, which projects from the mainland of Yugoslavia. British guns and infantry co-operated with the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation in clearing the enemy from the western end of the peninsula, and engaged an enemy battery off HVAR, to cover a J.A.N.L. attack. The capture of the islands was made in the face of strong enemy resistance, and over difficult terrain.

British artillery played a considerable part in the liberation of BRAC, and especially in the liquidation of the enemy's last stronghold at SUMARTIN, in which a considerable number of British guns was used. These guns are now engaging enemy points and batteries on the mainland.

Throughout the operations light Naval forces were striking at the enemy's shipping and craft endeavouring to reinforce or withdraw the isolated garrisons. In this they scored a number of successes, and in particular, fought a successful action off SUMARTIN, on the night of 15/16 September, in which four enemy vessels were sunk, thereby contributing materially to the destruction of the enemy garrisons.

Throughout the process of seizing the islands, BALKAN AIR FORCE gave strong tactical support, bombing enemy concentrations both before they retreated to the mainland and while they were still at such points of reception as TREBANJ and PLOCA. Recently, it has become apparent that the mainland ports of OMIS and MAKARSKA, opposite the islands, have been changing their nature, and have become points of reception for the Germans evacuating the islands, rather than supply points.

As the hour of joint British-Partisan landings on the islands drew nearer, the Balkan Air Force bombing offensive on these targets was intensified. PLOCA, another mainland supply or reception point, was also given attention by the R.A.F., as was TREBANJ on the PELJESAC Peninsula.

These operations have once more demonstrated the

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the Yugoslav Army of National Liberation in clearing the [illegible] the western end of the peninsula, and engaged an enemy battery off MVAR, to cover a J.A.N.L. attack. The capture of the islands was made in the face of strong enemy resistance, and over difficult terrain.

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These operations have once more demonstrated the excellent co-operation which exists not only between our own three Services, who have carried out a series of combined operations on a small scale with great speed and smoothness, but the close ties of co-operation which exist between them and the sea, land and air forces of the J.A.N.L. in our struggle against the common enemy.

END.

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

ITALIAN PATRIOT 22 SEP Recd BRANCH

ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH.

COMMUNIQUE NO.244. 21st SEPTEMBER '44.

FOR RELEASE 1100 A HRS.

NAVY:

NAVAL COMMUNIQUE ATTACHED.

P.R.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

Fighting continues on Adriatic and coastal sectors with the same intensity. The enemy is clinging desperately to his defensive positions.

Canadian troops of Eighth Army have made more progress by clearing the enemy from a number of towns in the vicinity of SAN FORTUNATO, as have British troops in the vicinity of SAN MARINO.

In a day of heavy fighting, troops of the Fifth Army have increased their breach in the Gothic Line and are approaching the town of FIRENZUOLA.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Rail communications in HUNGARY, and targets in CZECHOSLOVAKIA, were attacked yesterday by strong forces of escorted heavy bombers. Objectives included rail yards at HATVAN and GYOR, railroad bridges at BUDAPEST and SZOB, an airdrome at MALACKY and oil installations at BRATISLAVA.

Although tactical operations were curtailed by unfavourable weather, fighter bombers and fighters attacked close support targets, road bridges and motor transport in the Italian battle area.

Aircraft of the Balkan Air Force were active over YUGOSLAVIA and GREECE, attacking motor transport, gun positions and troop concentrations.

Last night medium and heavy bombers attacked the rail yards at HEGYSHALOM, in north-western HUNGARY.

From these operations seven of our aircraft are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 1,400 sorties.

END OF COMMUNIQUE

704

0302

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

22 SEP Recd

P.R. 3rd H.

A.A.F. - R.A.F. PUBLIC RELATIONS Thursday 21st September 1944
Page 1.

HANDOUT - S U M M A R Y

Three bridges and a rail yard on the main VIENNA-BUDAPEST line handling traffic through Hungary to German forces on the southern Russian front, were bombed yesterday by Liberators and Flying Fortresses of the 15th A.A.F.

Weather restricted Tactical Air Force operations, but fighter-bombers attacked close-support targets in the eastern Italian battle area.

The heavy bombers were reported to have scored hits on both approaches to the SZOB rail bridge, 20 miles northwest of BUDAPEST. Hits were reported on the BUDAPEST north and south rail bridges, and supply trains in yards at HATVAN, Hungary, 30 miles north-east of BUDAPEST, were left in flames.

Also bombed by the heavies were the APOLLO oil refinery at BRATISLAVA, 30 miles east of VIENNA; the GYOR rail yards, 65 miles west of BUDAPEST, on the VIENNA-BUDAPEST main line, and the PIACKY airfield in south-western Czecho-Slovakia.

In the attacks on the HATVAN north and south rail yards, photos showed main tracks blocked, approximately 100 cars destroyed, and another 100 seriously damaged.

Weather caused cancellation of operations by B-25 Mitchells and B-26 Marauders of the Tactical Air Force. Fighter-bombers, however, were credited with cutting a road bridge in the RIMINI area. Explosions were observed in attacks on enemy positions, and 12 vehicles, a locomotive, an armoured car, and other equipment were reported destroyed.

703

Coastal aircraft, in operations restricted by weather, attacked small shipping in the Adriatic and the DUBROVNIK dock area.

Balkan Air Force planes operated in support of the partisans. Balkan units also attacked objectives in Greece, and reported the destruction of more than 200 motor vehicles in a park near PEDINON.

Medium and heavy bombers attacked the rail yards at HEGYSHALOM, in north-western Hungary, last night.

Six of our bombers and one other aircraft are missing from these operations.

[illegible] sorties.

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

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Six of our bombers and one other aircraft are missing from these operations.

M.A.A.F. flew approximately 1,400 sorties.

End Summary

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

STRATEGIC

Rail yards and rail bridges handling traffic shuttling from Austria through Hungary to enemy troops on the South Russia front, were attacked for the third time in four days yesterday by strong forces of escorted 15th A.A.F. heavy bombers.

An airdrome and an oil refinery in the south-western corner of Czechoslovakia were also hit.

Although a few enemy fighters were seen during the day, there were no encounters. Mustangs and Lightnings provided continuous escort for the Liberators and Flying Fortresses. Some of the Mustangs strafed locomotives in Czechoslovakia.

A freight yard at HATVAN, Hungary, 30 miles north-east of BUDAPEST, jammed with train-loads of supplies, was left in flames by Lightning-escorted Liberators. The B-24s carried out a medium level attack without interference from flak or fighters. The yard forms a junction on main lines from north and central Hungary into BUDAPEST, and units of rolling-stock have been piling up since the cutting of many lines leading into the Hungarian capital.

"We were low enough to get a perfect bead on the target," said T/Sgt. Roby D. Ficklin, 22, Gonzales, La., waist gunner. "Most of our bombs landed right among a lot of cars. Fires were spreading fast as we headed home."

The GYOR rail yards, 65 miles west of BUDAPEST, on the main VIENNA-BUDAPEST line, were also bombed by Liberators with a Mustang escort. Flak was scant. An excellent concentration of bombs was seen to fall on the yards. The target was last bombed by the 15th A.A.F. on July 2.

Lightning-escorted Flying Fortresses bombed a bottle-neck series of three bridges outside BUDAPEST - one at SZOB, 20 miles north-west of the capital, spanning a tributary of the Danube, and the BUDAPEST north and south bridges over the Danube. Returning crews reported all three bridges well covered. Moderate flak was met over the BUDAPEST bridges, but none at SZOB. The bridges are on the main VIENNA-BUDAPEST line, and were temporarily cut during a 15th A.A.F. attack on September 18.

The MALACKY airfield, a base for German fighters and JU-87 dive-bombers, reportedly being used against Czech Partisans and Russian troops, was bombed by Liberators with a Mustang escort. Slight flak was met by a few Liberators as their fragmentation bombs ripped through grounded planes and installations. The airdrome is 30 miles north-east of VIENNA, on the Czech border.

The recently-repaired APOLLO oil refinery at BRATISLAVA, 30

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

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The recently-repaired APOLLO oil refinery at BRATISLAVA, 30 miles east of VIENNA on the Austria-Czech frontier, was well hit by other Liberators with a Mustang escort. Smoke from oil fires was billowing up to 10,000 feet as the Liberators turned off their target, and crews reported it visible 250 miles away. An oil storage depot in the same area was also hit. Slight to moderate flak was met.

This refinery was seriously damaged during a 15th A.A.F. attack on June 16, but was since been undergoing repairs, and was said to be normally capable of refining almost 300 tons of natural oil every month.

More.

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

22 SEP Recd

INFORMATION DIVISION
ADC

TACTICAL

In spite of unfavourable weather, DESERT AIR FORCE fighter-bombers yesterday carried out many front-line missions, attacking troops, guns and houses converted into strong points.

When Spitbombers of D.A.F. got back to base after bombing enemy gun positions near RIMINI, there was a signal awaiting them from the Army - "many thanks for magnificent bombing."

The pilots had been directed by ground control on to guns on the north bank of the river LAMECCHIA, almost five miles due west of RIMINI. They dropped 500-pounders, but were unable to see the full extent of the damage done.

Other Spitbombers at SAVIGNANO, north-west of RIMINI, strafed gun positions, and got four bomb hits.

Spitfires which went further afield caught a train carrying supplies near TREVISO. They destroyed the locomotive and damaged several of the 20 trucks loaded with armoured cars and L.T.

Spitfires and Mustangs made several attacks on bridges across the river RENO, over which Kesselring must pass all his traffic north and southbound.

The targets were north of ALFONSINE, which is north-west of RAVENNA - at ARGENTA, where a hole was made in the road bridge and a road bridge 10 miles west of ARGENTA, where the approaches were cut.

end Tactical.

782

add STRATEGIC

Playing their part in the destruction of German troop and supply movements in south-east Europe, R.A.F. Wellingtons, Halifaxes and Liberators last night attacked the rail yards at KEGYSHALOM, in north-west Hungary.

This yard was a new target for our night bombers, and was the second Hungarian rail depot to be bombed this week. The yards lie just inside the Hungarian border, on the main railway line between VIENNA and GYOR.

Visibility was fairly satisfactory for the attack. The illumination was good, and the operations were concentrated within a limited area.

Crews reported several explosions and three substantial

0307
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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end Tactical."

add STRATEGIC

702

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Visibility was fairly satisfactory for the attack. The illumination was good, and the operations were concentrated within a limited area.

Crews reported several explosions and three substantial fires, from which smoke rose to a height of 5,000 feet. The fires could be seen when the bombers were 100 miles away from the target.

A few night fighters came up to challenge the bombers, but there was no conclusive encounter.

More.

0308

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

STRATEGIC (Contd.)

"EXCELLENT TEAM SPIRIT"
IN HEAVY RAIDS ON ITALIAN TARGETS

R.A.F. medium and heavy night bomber crews, who attacked the railway yards at BRESCIA and enemy-troop concentrations at RIMINI on two successive nights this week, have been congratulated on their success by Major-General Nathan Twining, Commanding General of the Mediterranean Allied Strategic Air Force.

In a message to the Air Officer Commanding the Bomber Group, General Twining said that the destruction of communication targets at BRESCIA and RIMINI gave him great pride and aroused his admiration. Crews and planning staff had done good work, and the excellent job of the ground personnel was shown in the fact that the bombers had dropped their biggest load ever. These two operations had revealed excellent team spirit.

The BRESCIA attack took place on the night of September 17/18, and the RIMINI area was bombed the following night. Reconnaissance photographs showed that at BRESCIA all through railway tracks had been blocked, and at least 120 wagons completely wrecked out of nearly 1,000 trucks in the yards at that time. One wagon loaded with explosives blew up and destroyed all the tracks and railway stock in a strip 150 feet wide right across the yard.

In the attacks on enemy troop positions and communications near RIMINI the following night, the bombers dropped well over 300 tons of bombs, their biggest load since coming to Italy.

" " " " "

BALKAN AIR FORCE

BIG TRANSPORT HARK DESTROYED IN GREECE

Balkan Air Force yesterday struck a heavy blow against enemy transport in Greece, when Spitfires swooped on a large concentration of parked vehicles, stated to number 200, and practically wiped out the lot.

The enemy, who have lately been reported to be moving troops away from Greece, suffered this loss at LEDINON, off a main road near the Serbian border. After the first formation of Spitfires had started fires and explosions by an attack soon after dawn, the tightly-packed vehicles were subjected to a series of attacks by other Spitfires. The enemy tried to extricate some transports, and these were later found in a nearby road. Another formation of Spitfires set 10 of these ablaze and destroyed another dozen.

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The enemy, who have lately been reported to be moving troops away from Greece, suffered this loss at PEDINON, off a main road near the Serbian border. After the first formation of Spitfires had started fires and explosions by an attack soon after dawn, the tightly-packed vehicles were subjected to a series of attacks by other Spitfires. The enemy tried to extricate some transports, and these were later found in a nearby road. Another formation of Spitfires set 10 of these ablaze and destroyed another dozen.

Reconnaissance aircraft reported all the vehicles either destroyed or damaged.

The first attack was described by F/O. Tom Harrison, of Hastings, New Zealand, who led the formation. "We first went down to attack a small number of vehicles," he said, "and then saw this huge concentration. It was a tremendous collection of cars, trucks, petrol bowsers, and some tanks - in fact, almost all types of vehicles. It was only just after dawn, and all the drivers and crews must have been asleep.

More.

0310

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

0311

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

22 SEP Recd

B.A.F. (Contd)

"They woke to the sound of explosions. After we had started some trucks burning, some bowsers caught fire and set other vehicles alight. There must have been ammunition, too, for there were some good explosions.

"Men came scrambling out of trucks, and it was a chaotic scene. Some were hit by our fire and other casualties had been caused in the inferno of flames and explosions. We called up some other Spitfires and when we had finished a five minute attack, and had exhausted our ammunition, the next formation took over."

Another pilot said: "It was the best show we've had. It was difficult to estimate the number, but there must have been over 200 vehicles. It was a terrific scene of confusion of vehicles burning and explosions, and men running about. The whole park was a mass of smoke and flame. After the Germans had realised what was happening, we encountered fairly heavy ack-ack fire, but they were too late."

In addition to this successful attack, other Balkan Air Force fighters yesterday destroyed or damaged eight locomotives. Mustangs on a sweep of the SALONIKA and LARISSA areas set two JU-52s on fire, and damaged a JU-88 and a ME-109 on the LARISSA and LIANCURCI airfield.

Beaufighters, with a rocket attack, put out of action several guns in a battle at NOVI, on the Croatian coast. They also hit an ammunition dump. Other rocket-firing Beaufighters scored 40 strikes on barrack blocks at BANJALUKA.

END DETAIL.

731

20 SEP Recd

INFORMATION DIVISION

ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 243. 20th September '44.

FOR RELEASE 1130 HRS.

NAVY:

NAVAL COMMUNIQUE ATTACHED.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

After a week of intensive fighting in the Gothic Line north of FLORENCE, American troops of the Fifth Army have now breached this line on a front of six miles and are within three miles of the important road center of FIRENZUOLA 9006. American, British, Indian and Brazilian troops of the Fifth Army, on the flanks of this breach, continue to make progress against strong opposition.

In the Adriatic Sector, against continued enemy stubborn resistance, Canadian and Greek troops of Eighth Army are approaching the defences of RIMINI 8597 and are assaulting the village of SAN FORTUNATO 8394. On their left, British and Indian troops have advanced to the outskirts of the town of SAN MARINO 7584 and have captured the village of SERRAVALLE 7887 north of this town.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Forces of heavy bombers yesterday attacked railroad bridges in YUGOSLAVIA, and enemy positions near RIMINI. Heavy bombers of the Eighth Air Force flying from Russian bases landed in ITALY after attacking railyards in HUNGARY.

Tactical aircraft were active against close support targets in the battle area, and carried out armed reconnaissances in northern ITALY. Other aircraft attacked enemy communications, shipping and port installations in YUGOSLAVIA.

Last night our bombers attacked SZEKESFEHERVAR rail yard in HUNGARY. On the night of September 18/19, medium and heavy bombers attacked enemy concentrations in the RIMINI area.

In these operations, one enemy aircraft was destroyed, and two of ours are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 1,050 sorties.

END OF COMMUNIQUE.

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

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END OF COMMUNIQUE.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

0314

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

20 SEP Recd MSC.

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

INFORMATION DIVISION

NAVAL COMMUNIQUE - FOR RELEASE AT 1130 A HOURS, 20 SEPTEMBER 1944 WITH COMMUNIQUE NO. 243

It is reported from the south of France that on 17 September the U. S. destroyers EDISON and HILARY P. JONES carried out successful bombardments of enemy targets on the right flank of the Army in the area between VENTIMIGLIA and SAN REMO. Enemy light coastal craft in SAN REMO were heavily fired upon and there was a large explosion in the quay. The attack on SAN REMO was continued by the HILARY P. JONES on 18 September with most successful results. One ship alongside the mole was set on fire and exploded with an ammunition dump on the seawall. Twelve smaller craft, some of them resembling motor torpedo boats, were set on fire and detonated violently. A small coaster was set on fire and a target damaged by a direct hit. Fuel storage tanks were ignited and left blazing. From the violence of the explosion considerable quantities of ammunition stored in the port area appears to have been destroyed. It is reported that all the formerly servicable craft in the port have now been sunk.

On the night of 17/18 September Allied light coastal craft operating in the Gulf of Genoa attacked another enemy convoy. Two "F" lighters were hit by torpedoes and blew up. There was heavy and fairly accurate return fire from the enemy but our force suffered neither casualties nor damage.

It is reported from the AEGEAN that the harbor at MELOS was again successfully bombarded by H.M.S. AURORA on 17 September. On the same day naval aircraft from the escort carrier force attacked enemy transport in CRETE destroying 11 motor vehicles and damaging others. One JU-52 was destroyed on the ground. All our aircraft returned safely. On 18 September the AURORA with the destroyer TERPSICHORE bombarded an enemy wireless station at MELOS and obtained direct hits. Continuing their operations against transport in CRETE, naval aircraft destroyed 25 motor vehicles including three staff cars. All our aircraft returned safely. CRETE is now being closely blockaded to prevent the escape of the enemy garrison.

(End.)

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

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INFORMATION DIVISION
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ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH.

20th Sept.'44.

COMBINED COMMUNIQUE BALKAN AIR FORCE. FOR RELEASE 1130 A HRS.

On 12th September operations began against the enemy garrisons in the Dalmatian islands. The islands of MLJET, KORCULA, and BRAC have now been liberated. The Royal Navy, units of Land Forces Adriatic and aircraft of the Balkan Air Force cooperated closely with JUGOSLAV Army of National Liberation in the successful operation, and considerable losses were inflicted on the enemy. Operations continue.

END OF COMMUNIQUE.

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

ITALIAN BRANCH PATRIOT 19 SEP Recd

ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

19th SEPTEMBER 1944

COMMUNIQUE NO. 242. FOR RELEASE 1030 A HRS.

NAVY:

Allied light coastal craft continued to harass the enemy convoys moving close in-shore in the Gulf of GENOA. Two engagements took place on the night of 16/17 September, an "F" lighter being sunk in each case. On each occasion there was heavy return fire from the enemy which caused no casualties and only superficial damage to one boat. Thanks to these constant and successful attacks, the Germans are finding it more and more difficult to supply their Armies by sea.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

The day has again been characterised by extremely heavy fighting in the central and Adriatic sectors of the front of the Allied Armies in Italy.

American troops of the Fifth Army have made significant gain north of FLORENCE and have captured another key feature MONTE PRATONE.

In the Adriatic sector British and Canadian troops of Eighth Army have considerably enlarged their bridgehead over the River MARANO and have captured the villages of CERASOLO and FIETANO.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Medium forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked railyards and bridges in north-eastern YUGOSLAVIA and central HUNGARY.

Medium bombers and fighter bombers were active against rail and road communications in the PO valley, as well as troop concentrations, gun positions and strong points in the battle area.

Coastal aircraft attacked shipping in the Gulf of GENOA and the Adriatic. Other aircraft attacked communications in YUGOSLAVIA.

From these operations, 11 of our aircraft are missing. Two aircraft are missing from operations of the night of September 17/18.

MAAF yesterday flew over 2,000 sorties.

END OF COMMUNIQUE.

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

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH.

18 SEP Recd
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INFORMATION DIVISION
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ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH.

COMMUNIQUE NO.241.

18th SEPTEMBER '44.

FOR RELEASE 1030A HRS.

NAVY:

Supporting the Army in the RIMINI area yesterday 17th September, His Majesty's ships LOYAL and LOOKOUT effectively engaged enemy gun positions and troop movements with more than 300 rounds. Minesweepers working in the area were fired upon by a coastal battery until it was silenced by the LOYAL.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

In the Adriatic sector, troops of Eighth Army have made important progress in the high ground on the left of the sector, and now hold a bridgehead over the River MARANO on a frontage of 8 miles.

In the Fifth Army sector, American, British, Indian and Brazilian troops are still engaged in fierce fighting within the enemy Gothic Line positions.

On the remainder of the front there is no material change in the situation.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Medium forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked railyards and oil refineries in BUDAPEST.

Tactical aircraft attacked enemy communications, troop concentrations and other military objectives in northern ITALY, and in the battle areas, as well as YUGOSLAVIA.

Last night our bombers attacked BRESCIA railyards in northern ITALY.

In these operations, eleven of our aircraft are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 1,750 sorties.

END OF COMMUNIQUE.

GEN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mc. [illegible]HY		
Maj. MA[illegible]	P.M.	
Mr. DRA[illegible]		
Capt. [illegible]V[illegible]		
Col. HAV[illegible]		
C. G.		
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ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

INFORMATION DIVISION
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17 SEP. Read

ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH.

P.M.

COMMUNIQUE NO. 239.

FOR RELEASE 1030 B HRS. 16th SEPTEMBER '44.

NAVY:

On night of 13th September, Allied light Coastal Forces on patrol in the Gulf of Genoa encountered a large group of German "F" lighters. Our ships attacked and a heavy explosion was heard. When the patrol closed to finish off the enemy they discovered they were faced with 2 enemy destroyers. The Allied force passed between the destroyers one of which was hit by a torpedo and left sinking by the stern and burning fiercely.

Our force was heavily engaged by the destroyers and "F" lighters and was able to withdrew without damage leaving the enemy to carry on a "spirited Hun action amongst themselves". Several hits were observed.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

Eighth Army has considerably increased the size of the bridge-head North of the MARANO river against continued enemy resistance.

In the high ground on the left of the sector the enemy has been driven from GEMMANO, MONTE COLOMBO and MONTE DI COLOMBO (8479) and we are thus approaching the MARANO river on a still wider front.

American, British and Indian troops of Fifth Army have been engaged in fierce fighting with the enemy in the Gothic Line positions.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Medium forces of heavy bombers yesterday attacked airdromes in the ATHENS area, and a submarine base at SALAMIS, GREECE.

Although operations by tactical aircraft were restricted by adverse weather, enemy communications and strong points were attacked in the North of Italy and the battle areas.

Aircraft of the Balkan Air Force continued supporting operations in YUGOSLAVIA and ALBANIA.

In these operations, two enemy aircraft were destroyed and five of ours are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 1,300 sorties.

END OF COMMUNIQUE.

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

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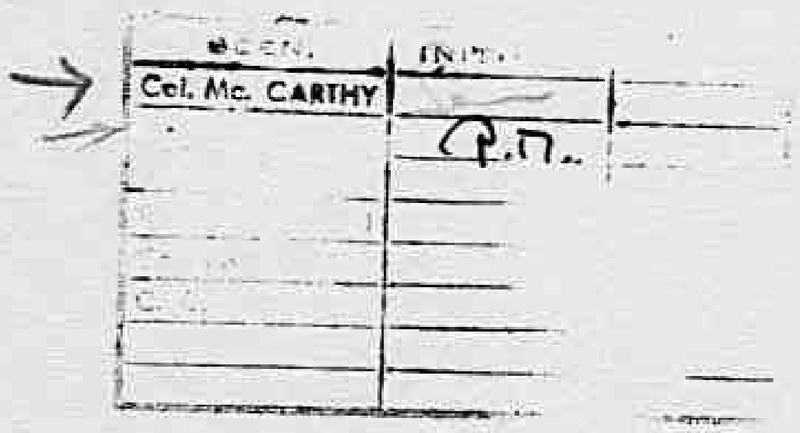
END OF COMMUNIQUE.



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

INFORMATION DIVISION
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ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO 239
SEPTEMBER 16, 1944

Eighth Army troops continue to advance along whole Adriatic front. Greek troops captured S.LORENZO IN STRADA (9091), crossed the MARANO river and reached edge of RIMINI airfield (8993).

After Canadian troops established a bridge-head across MARANO, stiff fighting with Panzer Grenadiers ensued and upward of 150 PWs taken. Another Bn. Cdr. has been captured.

Fighting continues for S.LORENZO IN CORREGGIANO (8691), one mile beyond MARANO river.

To SW further river-crossings made with infantry and tanks, and villages OSPEDALETTO (8589) and PATRIGNANO (8489) taken. British troops made further gains North of CONCA river 14 Sep. CASICCIO (8583) and IL POGGIO (8482) captured. Hill-top village MONTE COLOMBO (8382) wrested from battered remnants of German 98 Div, now reduced to a few hundred effectives, and in swift advance night 14/15 Sep we captured MONTESCUDO (8282), one mile West, where German infantry reinforcements had been rushed in without avail.

Point 449/855804 West of GEMMANO, scene of much bitter fighting, finally captured 14 Sep, and our troops pressed on and took ZOLLARA (8480) to SW and TAVERNA (8481) 200 yards NW on lateral road across CONCA river. South of GEMMANO position unchanged.

Enemy using Mark IV and Panther tanks and SP guns to try to compensate for defeat inflicted on his infantry on Adriatic front, particularly MARANO river bridge-head. Total PWs since opening Adriatic offensive 5,500.

Length to which Germans now compelled to go to man battle front exemplified by capture on 14 Sep of enemy Coy Cdr with only one arm, and an infantryman aged 47.

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

It can now be revealed that the London Scottish are fighting with the Eighth Army in Italy, and also that it was 46 Div, commanded by Major General "Ginger" Hawkesworth, that breached sector of Gothic Line to the north-east of [illegible] village of [illegible]. After assault landing, in which the Division captured SALERNO just a year ago, 46 Div fought through positions South of [illegible] into plain beyond, took part in heavy VOLTURNO fighting and all through bitter winter months, held fast and gained ground against an enemy who always stood on loftier heights to North.

After period of training and re-fitting, the Division returned to take part in plan to breach last of German fortifications in Italy. Assembled on the Adriatic coast with other formations of Eighth Army, 46 was chosen for hard task of spear-heading penetration of enemy defences. On night 25 Aug General Hawkesworth's men crossed METAURO river and went forward into German line. So swift was their advance that within a very few days MONTECCHIO, M. GUIDOLFO and MONDAINO had fallen to them, and that sector of Gothic Line lay open, broken beyond repair.

Along the entire Fifth Army front resistance stiffened considerably 15 Sep. Every approach to Gothic Line defence zone bitterly contested and only small gains made in Fifth Army right flank. Heavy mines being encountered.

Fifth Army coast patrols made contact near VIAREGGIO (9982). Some heavy arty and considerable medium arty fell in Fifth Army positions, especially along the coast.

Change Press Release Line: RICCIANE MARINA (R9291) - CORLANO (R8787), whole of S.SAVINO ridge, thence over river to GEMMANO (R8680) - TAVOLETO, thence unchanged.

Weather cloudy, but fair generally whole front. End of On Record Background.

INFORMATION DIVISION
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HANDOUT - SUMMARY

Heavy bombers of the 15th A.A.F. yesterday attacked three airfields and a submarine base in Greece.

Tactical aircraft, its operations restricted by adverse weather, bombed communications and strong points in northern Italy and the Italian battle area.

Targets of the heavies were the KALAMAKI, ELEUSIS and TATOI airfields, near ATHENS, and the submarine base at SALAMIS. Photos showed a good concentration on the submarine base.

Hits were scored on the KALAMAKI airfield and on parked aircraft. Good coverage was also reported at the two other fields, and several fires were started at ELEUSIS.

Lightnings swept the SALONA, ATHENS, airfield without incident, and some of the Mustangs which provided cover over ATHENS strafed MEGARA and ELEUSIS fields. Several enemy planes were reported destroyed on the ground.

Two enemy aircraft were encountered over MEGARA, and fighter pilots claimed two victories.

Thunderbolt fighter-bombers scored hits on guns and other objectives in north Italy, and blocked roads southwest of PAVIA.

Nearly 100 railcars were destroyed or damaged in attacks in the BOLOGNA, VOGHERA and PAVIA areas. Rail lines were cut in the VERONA-MANTUA area, and hits were scored on a road west of PARMA, destroying or damaging approximately 15 vehicles.

Day fighter-bombers attacked troop concentrations, roads, bridges and enemy positions in the FERRARA, CESENA, FIRENZUOLA, MODENA, BOLOGNA and RIMINI areas. Dispersed aircraft were strafed near VENICE and VICENZA, and several were reported destroyed.

Coastal aircraft attacked shipping in the ADRIATIC, and Balkan Air Force units, hampered by weather, flew support operations in Yugoslavia and Albania.

Two enemy aircraft were destroyed in these operations, and five of ours are missing.

M.A.A.F. flew approximately 1,300 sorties.

end Summary

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End Summary

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STRATEGIC

A front line anti-aircraft officer with the Fifth Army in Italy had a chance to sample the Jerry product on the receiving end when he flew with B-17 Flying Fortresses of the 15th A.A.F. which pounded ATHENS KALAMAKI airdrome in Greece yesterday.

"And I definitely prefer to remain on the ground," said 1st Lt. Stanley L. Line, 24, 701 Parallel Ave., Kansas City, Kans., after returning safely. "The boys might call it a milk run," the tall Kansas said, "but I, personally, prefer to be on the other end of those black polka-dot puffs in the sky."

Visiting a Fortress base on a week's leave from his station, the A.A. officer was granted permission to fly as a waist-gunner, and he jumped at the chance.

"Most of the flak was to our left, but still too close for me," he continued. "I watched another formation of Fortresses fly right through it on their bombing run, and I still shudder when I think of it.

"When we turned after dropping our bombs, no one had to point the target out to me. The entire place was covered with a grey mist, and near one end of the field two huge columns of black smoke were beginning to climb up. I believe I took advantage of everything in the Fortress; I crawled into every position except the tail and ball turrets, and, boy, I did not want to get in those. Any time you have to look backwards or upwards to see what you're resting on. That's not for me."

TACTICAL

In an afternoon mission yesterday in the Italian theatre one formation of T.A.F. P-47 Thunderbolts strafed and destroyed four medium tanks in a ravine in the vicinity of MARMIROLA. They also destroyed two motor transports and two large vans, and damaged horse-drawn artillery.

Toll of the Thunderbolts for the day included two locomotives destroyed and one damaged. Twenty railroad cars were destroyed, 78 others damaged, five railroad tracks cut, eight highways holed, 18 motor transports destroyed and 13 damaged, one highway bridge damaged, one supply dump strafed, three small boats damaged, one gun position hit, as well as the four medium tanks destroyed.

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BALKAN AIR FORCE

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BALKAN AIR FORCE

Low cloud and rain over Yugoslavia and Greece yesterday restricted Balkan Air Force activity to a few sorties. One formation of Mustangs encountered cloud up to 27,000 feet, and other aircraft flew into squalls over the mountains.

TKON, in the Dalmatian Islands, suspected of being an Axis Headquarters for enemy troops, was attacked for the third time in five days - on this occasion by light bombers.

Spitfire bombers attacked JABLANICA.

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More.

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INFORMATION DIVISION
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DESERT AIR FORCE

Though unfavourable weather restricted the number of missions undertaken by Desert Air Force yesterday in support of the Eighth Army on the last remaining German positions south and west of RIMINI, Baltimores of S.A.A.F. and R.A.F. attacked late in the afternoon.

One squadron switched at very short notice, at Army requests, to attack artillery and anti-tank positions in the wooded area of S.N FORTUNATO and S.N LORENZO, southwest of RIMINI. All bombs fell in the clumps of trees among which the enemy guns were hidden, and a highly-defended position in clusters of houses was plastered.

Flying Officer Horace Nicholson, observer to the leader of the formation, who comes from 26 Standreyd Road, Colne, Lancashire, said: "We hit the clusters of houses at the crossroads in the woods, and the biggest building of the clump went up in the air. There was a lot of black smoke coming from the houses. We could also see the smoke of the battle all along the bomb line."

Mustangs attacked over 100 railway trucks near MESTRE, destroying several and leaving a column of smoke over the target area about 1,000 feet high.

Mustangs also strafed airfields in northeastern Italy, and damaged seven aircraft on the ground.

They also damaged a 40-foot motor launch and a 300-foot trawler-type vessel in the VENICE Lagoon.

On the same trip they destroyed two locomotives.

Kittyhawks over SAN MARINO yesterday saw, through a gap in heavy cloud, a number of German gun positions. They dived down and bombed them.

" " " " "

Add STRATEGIC

Attacks yesterday by medium forces of 15th A.A.F. Liberators and Flying Fortresses on three ATHENS airfields and SALAMIS submarine base inflicted heavy damage. This is shown by photo reconnaissance pictures taken after the bombings. 692

SALAMIS harbour and naval base installations were hit hard, while ELEUSIS airfield, which was also strafed by Mustangs, suffered serious damage. Bombing at KALAMAKI and TATOI airfields

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

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A total of 77 aircraft was destroyed on the ground at the three airfields, 20 damaged, and 2 probably damaged.

Of the destroyed aircraft 60 were JU-52 transports, which carry a crew of 3 and 15 men with full equipment or 23 without equipment.

Apart from aircraft destroyed or damaged, reconnaissance photos show the following:-

More.

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

STRAT. (Contd)

SALAMIS submarine base hits were concentrated, causing much damage to installations and vessels in the harbour.

A destroyer of the TURINO class and a torpedo-boat of SCLEERINO class were set on fire and left burning. An "F" boat was damaged and probably set on fire. The submarine repair base was hit. All buildings of munition factory and depot were damaged, with about 10,000 square feet destroyed.

The oil stores area was hit, and damage was caused to shops of the submarine base, to other buildings and warehouses.

ELEUSIS airfield was left temporarily unserviceable.

KALAMAKI airfield - The whole landing and hangars area was pitted by craters.

At TATOI airfield fragmentation bombs did damage in the west dispersal area.

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Add TACTICAL

Tactical Air Force Thunderbolts yesterday destroyed three locomotives and cut rails in several places in the STRASBOURG-FREIBURG area.

Weather cancelled operations of fighters and fighter-bombers from bases in France for the third consecutive day.

END DETAIL.

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

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ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO. 231 FOR 8th SEPT. 44.

BEGINS: On Adriatic coastal sector route 16 Eighth Army troops are near villages of FOGLIANO and S. LORENZO 9191 and have reached the MARANO river forward of which Germans have left strong rear guards and beyond which their main forces are firmly established.

Farther inland supported by main weight of tanks Germans still hold CORIANO and S. SAVINO ridges. Main fighting has been for these features and hills farther south. Fierce counter-attack supported by tanks just south of S. SAVINO was beaten off and our Arty fire, and tanks inflicted heavy casualties on enemy. One veteran armored regiment said it had never seen so many German dead as in this sector.

North of CONCA river British troops are fighting for village of CROCE 8682. They continued to take large number of PW in this sector and have captured more than two hundred in last two days.

Following up their crossings of VENTENA river 6 Sept British Infantry attacked GEMMANO 8680 dominating feature from which enemy overlooks our forces operating in CROCE-S. SAVINO area. Heavy fighting continues in this sector. The whole of this sector has been strongly reinforced by Germans who are moving up motorized Infantry and Arty.

South of GEMMANO heavy fighting continues for CASTELNUOVO 8576 and PIAN DI CASTELLO 8375.

In Upper Tiber valley M. DELLA MODINA 3860 was occupied 7 Sept after sharp engagement with enemy. Germans continued their withdrawals astride Tiber valley. Total PW on all Eighth Army fronts since 26 August exceeds 2700 of which more than 600 are from parachute division.

Heavy rains along the entire central and western Italian front hampered military operations and slowed our advance. A number of bridges were flooded out and bypasses converted into deep muddy streams. Slightly more contact than on 6th Sept noted with increased enemy MG and Arty fire.

Heavy enemy shelling was reported in the GUALDO 0770 area while PW's and a MG post were captured by British troops near CASTIGLIONI 0075. CIGLIANO 0473 in this vicinity was found to be evacuated. All these points are east of RUFINA and the river SIEVE.

Germans still maintain firm grip on the CALVANA and our patrols have been able only to probe the enemy defences of these hills. Indian troops moving toward southern slopes of GIOVI advanced about half a mile in twenty-four hours. In the same area west of the SIEVE river CALIGA 9377 was found unoccupied though MG fire was encountered in the vicinity and contact made nearby and three miles west. Enemy sought unsuccessfully to raid two of our outposts in SIEVE river area north of RUFINA but were driven back.

Farther to the west Fifth Army troops continued to improve their positions on and around FLERO mass. We have troops now on all sides of the MASS with elements vicinity of TIZZANA 5876 RAMINI 5284 and PONTASSIO 5381. MONSUMMANO 4480 is in our hands and several PW's were captured near CASTELLARE 3483.

Fifth Army elements have also advanced to within about two miles of PISTOIA and we occupied most of lateral highway from PISTOIA [illegible] 91

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

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Germans still maintain firm grip on the CALVANA and our patrols have been able only to probe the enemy defences of these hills. Indian troops moving toward southern slopes of GIOVI advanced about half a mile in twenty-four hours. In the same area west of the SIEVE river GALIGA 9377 was found unoccupied though MG fire was encountered in the vicinity and contact made nearby and three miles west. Enemy sought unsuccessfully to raid two of our outposts in SIEVE river area north of RUFINA but were driven back.

Farther to the west Fifth Army troops continued to improve their positions on and around/ALBANO mass. We have troops now on all sides of the MASS with elements vicinity of TIZZANA 5876 RAMINI 5284 and PONTASSIO 5381. MONSUMMANO 4480 is in our hands and several PW's were captured near CASTELLINE 3483.

Fifth Army elements have also advanced to within about two miles of PISTOIA and we occupied most of lateral highway from PISA to PISTOIA. Patrols of the 92nd Infantry Division have pushed beyond LUCCA which fell to Fifth Army 6th Sept.

Large Artillery concentrations fired on Fifth Army positions west of route one north of PISA. Weather intermittent rain. No change Press Release Line.

END O.R.B. NOFRB.

0330

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

65A

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

O I R B

SEVENTH ARMY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO.231

After several days of only scattered resistance from German rearguards, rapid northward American advance ran into stubborn opposition in BESANCON area, farther West along LOUE River, and at other scattered points.

Concerned over threat to line of retreat, substantial enemy forces met our reconnaissance elements with machine gun, mortar and tankfire at BESANCON. After series of hot fire fights, our troops reached western, southern and eastern outskirts. BESANCON, with normal population of about 50,000 is important local communications center on DOUBS River and RHONE-RHINE canal.

Farther West, Germans set up defense line generally along LOUE River South of the FORET DE CHAUX, between village of BARAY, South of DOLE, and QUINGEY, some 20 miles to East. This line has been breached and our forward elements have penetrated into CHAUX Forest.

In American advance, towns of PONT SOUS VAUDREY, QUINGEY, VILLERS FARLAY and SALINS occupied, among others. Retreating Germans have created road blocks by felling trees and by other means at number of points. Most bridges over DOUBS below DOLE have been destroyed. Meanwhile between BESANCON and the Swiss border French forces progressed further. They heavily engaged in vicinity of LE VALDAHON, S E of BESANCON, where enemy resistance was overcome and the advance continued. In vicinity of nearby L'HOPITAL, an enemy column of vehicles and tanks was engaged. LE VALDAHON was site of great artillery training center for French and Americans in First World War. French occupied PONTARLIER, Pop. 12,000, in the jura foothills after stiff street fighting. On West flank of the Allied advance, French movement beyond CHALON SUR SAONE met with stiff opposition North of town but this overcome and further substantial progress made.

(For additional information on 15th Infantry Regiment, see Appendix to today's On Record Background.)

Weather: rain.

No change Press Release line.

699

0331

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

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(For additional information on 15th Infantry Regiment, see Appendix to today's On Record Background.)

Weather: rain.

No change Press Release line.

690

END OMRB

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

ITALIAN
Protocol Project

ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH.

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC 64

COMMUNIQUE No. 230. FOR RELEASE 1030-B-HRS. 7th SEPTEMBER, '44.

NAVY:

For 24-hours ending midnight SEPT 4/5, the naval Commander off the South Coast of France reports that destroyers of the U.S. Navy continued to give powerful gunfire support on the right flank of the Army. On September 4th the U.S.S. LUDLOW fired 366 rounds against enemy batteries, strong points and troops in the area between CAPE MARPIN and MONACO. The results were very good. There was some retaliation from the shore. The work of clearing the harbours of MARSEILLES, TOULON and the smaller ports continues.

On September 6th the British destroyer UNDINE and the gunboat APHIS both bombarded in support of the Army in the RIMINI area. The results were good, enemy batteries and guns being frequently straddled and direct explosions observed. Over 600 rounds of 6-inch and 4.7-inch ammunition were fired.

Minesweepers working off the coast were hindered by enemy guns in concrete emplacements. These are being dealt with.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

On the Adriatic sector, very heavy fighting continues.

In the ground between the Upper Arno and Upper Tiber valleys Indian troops of Eighth Army have captured the village of LA VERNA from which the enemy had excellent observation into both valleys.

North of FLORENCE, further progress into the high ground has been made.

In the Fifth Army sector, American patrols have entered the city of PRATO and have made further advances towards the high ground north of the PRATO-LUCCA road.

SEVENTH ARMY.

Seventh Army forces have liberated an additional number of towns in Eastern France in their rapid pursuit of the withdrawing enemy.

French troops, after occupying CHALON SUR SAONE have reached nearby GIVRY and advanced up the West bank of the SAONE to ALLEREY with little resistance.

Farther East, American troops have driven northwards to the DOUBS and UPPER SAONE Valley, occupying POLIGNY, ARBOIS and other localities.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY.

Strong forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday again concentrated on targets in the Balkans. In Yugoslavia they attacked troop concentrations, tanks and motor transport at LESKOVAC, rail-yards at NOVI SAD, and the SAVA bridge near BELGRADE. Other formations carried out attacks on rail-yards and bridges at ORADEA in Western RUMANIA, and rail-yards at NYIREGYHAZA in North-Eastern HUNGARY.

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

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Fighters and fighter bombers ranged over a wide area between the battle front and the PO Valley, attacking gun positions, rail bridges, and motor and rail transport. Other tactical operations were prevented by bad weather.

Last night medium and heavy bombers attacked rail yards at BOLOGNA.

In these operations three enemy aircraft were destroyed and five of ours are missing.

M.A.A.F. flew approximately 1,400 sorties.

-- END COMMUNIQUE --

ADDITION TO COMMUNIQUE No.230. AIR. From operations of 4th September, an additional four of our aircraft have been reported missing.
From operations of 5th September one additional aircraft is missing.

..... ENDS.....

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

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

O N R B

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ONRB TO PRESS COMMUNIQUE NO. 230

Further advances have been made on Eighth Army Adriatic coastal sector, Our troops have entered RICCIONE MARINA 9290 but not RICCIONE itself inland, and have crossed MELO River 9291 against opposition. BESANIGO 8988 was captured by infantry and tks

On M. CORIANO Ridge, heavy fighting continued 5 Sept against strong German tank and a tk gun defences and there was continued stubborn resistance vicinity S SAVINO 8784 where 60 PW were taken. Our troops captured and are firmly established on M CROCE 8682 after stiff fighting.

Farther inland, British troops crossed VENTENA River, a tributary of CONCA River just NW of MONTEFIORE CONCA 8878 and are within 1 mile of GEMMANO 8580 which is strongly held by German infantry. Advancing also NW from RIVOLETO, British and Indian tps crossed the river while due west of the town Indians 5 Sept captured 2000 ft M S.GIOVANNI8273 which dominates upper VENTENA-CONCA valley. This feature had been stubbornly held by the Germans. Afte the capture 50 enemy dead were counted.

In ALPE DELLA LUNA, IL MONTE 5150 is clear and contact has bee made with the enemy about 5 miles to NW. German troops carried out local withdrawals E and W of TIBER. M FAGGIOLO 3660, E of CHIUSI . DELLA VERNA 3458 was occupied without opposition.

Contact was made with the enemy at a number of points in the FLORENCE sector. These include the areas of MONTE DOMINO 0374, VETTA LE CROCI 8678, MONTORSOLI 8376 and of MONTE ACUTO 7776. In this sector, enemy arty which has been intense was on a reduced scale.

There are indications of enemy withdrawal along entire centre and western Italian front. Indian troops have made good progress toward MONTE GIOVI 9480 and have made contact in that area with th enemy.

Our troops have entered PRATO 6680 and joinedby local patriot 688 have killed a number of Germans in the town.

On Fifth Army front, the most extensive advances made are on the hill mass of MONTE AMIATO. Our patrols which 5 Sept controlled the highest points in the rugged mass have advanced to points NW and are continuing their pressure. Fifth Army patrols are just S of MONTE AMIATO 4380. Most of the mass has been overrun by agressive patrols which at some points are now within 6 miles of the important town of PISTOIA. These troops can see the town and control the [illegible] highway leading into it.

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Further to the West, the important town of LUCCA which Fifth Army reached 5 Sept was firmly in our hands 6 Sept.

In the coastal sector Fifth Army troops were meeting considerable enemy small arms, mortar and mg fire as well as heavily strewn minefields.

It is expected that the enemy will offer resistance by delaying action until the Fifth Army reaches the Gothic Line which he will probably defend stubbornly. Some Fifth Army units have advanced to within 6 miles of the Gothic Line at some points.

For information on the 757th tk battalion see appendix to today's ONRB

- more -

0330

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ORRB CONTINUED

Weather: cloudy with rain in the West.
Change Press Release Line MISANO MARINA 89588, MONTE CALVO R9170, URBANIA R8054, SANSEPOLCRO R5044, BIBBIENA R2458, PELAGO 09967, FORNELLE 09274, MUSCOLI 08470, CAPE BISENZIO 07074, thence straight line to coastal mouth of River NUOVO PORTO 00067.

END ORRB

SUPPLEMENTAL ORRB.

A captured enemy document reveals that in view of the necessity for economy of oil supplies, conversion of motor transport to producer-gas has been carried out on a considerable scale. The document states that producer-gas vehicles will probably be on the strength in the following month (July 1944), and asks unit commanders to supply daily information on the estimated consumption, stock and requirements of generator fuel and charcoal, so that army supply arrangements can be made.

This document shows that the German Army contemplated the use of producer-gas operated vehicles in front line zones, though they would almost certainly be B Echelon and not fighting vehicles. It is reported that such vehicles have already been seen behind German lines in France. Considering the acute shortage of motor transport spirit, this development is not surprising.

END SUPPLEMENTAL ORRB

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INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

ONRB

SEVENTH ARMY

ONRB TO COMMUNIQUE NO.230

Without contact with real guns of harassed 19th Army, American and French troops added on 6 Sept another substantial segment of Eastern France, between SAONE River and Swiss Frontier, to liberated area.

At CHALON SUR SAONE, French had moved more than 75 airline miles northward since last resistance was suppressed at LYONS 4 Sept. CHALON is site of one of Schneider concern metallurgical works, where submarines and fast motor boats once were made, among other products. Its peacetime population about 28,000.

Most of towns occupied by the American troops farther East are small. Just ahead however is the strategically important DOUBS Valley, through which runs the RHONE-RIVER canal.

At CHAUSSERGY, one of towns passed by American advance, DOUBS River was only some 5 miles distant. Another town taken was BLET-TERANS. POLIGNY and ARBOIS are centers of some importance.

In wake of American advance is town of ST. CLAUDE, internationally famous for its manufacture of smoking pipes.

Weather, partly cloudy. No change Press Release Line.

END ONRB

687

0338
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

0334

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

INFORMATION DIVISION
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ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Information and Censorship Section.
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH.

ADDITION TO SEVENTH ARMY "ON RECORD" BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE No. 229. 6th SEPTEMBER, 1944.

ALL COPY TO BE SLUGGED "NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE 2100Hrs or 1900-hrs.G.M.T.

French Troops in advance Northward up SAONE Valley have occupied CHALON SUR SAONE. American troops took ST. GERMAIN DU PLAIN to South-East after overcoming enemy resistance.

-ends-

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

6 SEP Read

ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

6 September 44

COMMUNIQUE No. 229 FOR RELEASE 1100B HRS

NAVY:

It is reported that on September 3 a cruiser of the U.S. Navy and destroyers bombarded enemy batteries in the Monte Carlo area. On Sept 4 the small German garrison fled from Monaco to the hills after destroying the defenses. Various enemy batteries in the neighborhood are still active and on Sept 4 one of them opened ineffectual fire on the ships operating off the coast.

Yesterday, Sept 5, while supporting the 8th Army on the Adriatic coast near Rimini, His Majesty's ships UNDINE and U.CHIN fired more than 600 rounds at enemy batteries and gun positions. The results were successful, direct hits being obtained and vital batteries being silenced. There was some ineffectual return fire from the shore. Our minesweepers are at work in the same area.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Heavy fighting continues on the Adriatic sector where troops of Eighth Army have driven the enemy from positions on a ridge from CORLINO to the sea and are now approaching the MARECCHIA River. In the high ground on the left of this advance heavy fighting is taking place in and around the key town of CORLINO.

Further advances have been made by Fifth Army west of Florence and the town of MONTELUPO has been captured and patrols have entered the important city of LUCCA.

North of Florence British troops continue to make progress against stiff resistance in the high ground overlooking the city.

Elsewhere active patrolling continues without any appreciabl change in our forward positions.

SEVENTH ARMY

Seventh Army forward elements have moved forward at several points in eastern France between the SAONE River and Swiss border, while the rapid advance up the SAONE Valley continues.

The important road junction towns of LOUHANS (TT28) and LONS LE SAUNIER (TT49) have been occupied by American troops.

In the advance northward in the SAONE Valley, the French have occupied CLUNY (SS76), SAUSSEY-LE-GRANDE (SS98), and LE VILLARS (SS97), and are approaching CHALON SUR SAONE (RR09).

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Yesterday tactical aircraft continued their assault against enemy communications in Northern Italy. Medium bombers attacked fourteen rail and road bridges over a wide area from LAKE MAGGIORE to the PO estuary with good results. Fighter-bombers and fighters carried out attacks on rail yards, bridges, roads, supply dumps, rail rolling stock and motor transport. Other tactical aircraft attacked defended areas in close support of ground operations i Italy.

Medium forces of escorted heavy bombers attacked rail road bridges near Budapest and SZELNOK, in Hungary and at Ferrara.

Coastal aircraft attacked shipping in the Gulf of Genoa.

Fighter-bombers were active against targets

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0340

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

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Coastal aircraft attacked shipping in the Gulf of Genoa.

Fighters and fighter-bombers were active against targets in Yugoslavia.

Last night our bombers attacked the rail yards at Ferrara.

From those operations eleven of our aircraft are missing. Two enemy aircraft were destroyed.

MAAF flew approximately 1,950 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE

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

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO. 229 FOR 6 SEPTEMBER 1944

Troops of Eighth Army fighting on Adriatic coast have advanced and captured ABISSINIA (9390) just south of RICCIANE MARINA (9291) and the ground to MISANO (9288). The fierce enemy resistance previously maintained in the coastal sector shows signs of weakening and our leading troops pressed on a mile or so northwest of MISANO.

Germans in this sector have been compelled to relieve much battered parachute battalion by a hotch-potch of men from 162 Turkoman Division, at one time commanded by eminent ethnologist, Major General Professor Otto Von Viedemayer, who now appears to have been dismissed.

Canadians launched successful attack northwest of MISANO night 4/5 September and reached area north CORIANO (8787) within 1,000 yards of MARANO River where enemy counterattacked morning 5 September. There is still strong opposition from self-propelled and anti-tank guns and tanks north and south of CORIANO. Our patrols have penetrated to outskirts of town but have not yet entered in force.

In the SAN SAVINO area (8784) there was heavy fighting between our infantry and armor and German infantry and anti-tank guns. Enemy counter-attacked here afternoon 4 September. To the southwest British troops reached CEVOLABATTE (8882) against some opposition. Germans have now been driven out of MONTEFIORE CONCA (8878).

Further south there was heavy fightin 4 September northwest of TAVOLETO. Mopping up completed in town. Our troops met resistance northwest AUDITORE (8571) which town has been cleaned up. The M. ST. GIOVANNI feature (8273) northwest of AUDITORE is still held by enemy.

In Appenines and Upper TIBER and ARNO Valley contact has been maintained with no change in main positions.

In the FLORENCE sector the enemy retains strong positions east and west of Route 67 just northeast of RUFINA (9873) and northwest of SCAPETI (9976) and M. GIOVI (9479).

To the west the areas of PAGNALLE (9376), POGGIO CERRONE (9276) and M. DEL SASSO (8978) are clear of enemy though machinegun posts were confronted just north of MONTORSOLI (8276) on Route 65. British troops are still making steady advance north of FLORENCE against stubborn resistance.

Pushing forward in the central sector and on the right flank, Fifth Army forces yesterday captured the dominating heights of MONTE ALBANO (5077), including the village of LARCIANO (5076) on the western slopes of the mountain mass. More significant, however, was the advance of troops along the north-south ridge road of MONTE ALBANO which descends into a valley and runs directly into PISTOIA some six miles north.

Fifth Army progress on MONTE ALBANO has given it possession of all the dominating terrain from FLORENCE to the west coast, south of the general line SERCHIO River (1272) - LUCCA (1878) - ALTOPASCIO (3275) - SAN BARONTO (5277).

Continuing to make steady gains in the central and coastal sectors, Fifth Army troops have captured ALTOPASCIO (3275) and by late 5 September were moving west from that important road center. Other Fifth Army forces have entered LUCCA (1979), the first sizable town north of MT. PISANO Mass captured 4 September.

Between MT. PISANO and the sea, Fifth Army patrols were active. The enemy reacted sharply to this type of reconnaissance and a number of fire

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

September and reached area north [illegible] River where enemy counterattacked morning 5 September. There is still strong opposition from self-propelled and anti-tank guns and tanks north and south of CORIANO. Our patrols have penetrated to outskirts of town but have not yet entered in force.

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Between MT. PISANO and the sea, Fifth Army patrols were active. The enemy reacted sharply to this type of reconnaissance and a number of fire fights ensued.

German resistance is still mostly confined to small groups using all types of infantry weapons and supporting fire from 75 mm field guns. Mine field and extensive demolitions have been encountered while farther north, well behind hostile lines, various explosions indicating further demolitions have been observed. There were particularly large explosions east and west of PISTOIA.

Weather: fair locally over high ground; visibility excellent. No change press release line.

END O.R.B.

0343
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

0344

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

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INFORMATION DIVISION
ADC

SEVENTH ARMY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 229, for September 6, 1944

American forces moved into LOURMS (TT28) and LONS-LE-SAUNIER areas (TT49) as retreating Germans continued their rapid withdrawal up SAONE valley. Latter is town of some 13000 and former a village.

Continued swift advance of French up SAONE valley from LYON and MACON largely unopposed and number of towns were liberated in rapid succession. CHALON-SUR SAONE (UU09) population about 28000 is known for its wines and liquors and village of CLUNY (SS76) is famous for lace.

For information on Fifth Antiaircraft artillery group see Appendix to today's On Record Background.

Weather fair. No change press release line. N O R B

END

0345

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

INFORMATION DIVISION
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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
I N C

FOR RELEASE WITH COMMUNIQUE NO. 229, SEPTEMBER 6, 1944

General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean, conferred yesterday (Tuesday, 5 Sept.) with members of the Anglo-American International Trades Union Commission now visiting Italy.

The Commission consists of Walter Schevenels, General Secretar of the International Federation of Labor; Tom O'Brien, British Trades Union Congress; Will Lawther, President of British Mine Workers Federation; Luigi Antonini, American Federation of Labor; and George Baldanzi, American Congress of Industrial Organizations.

END

5 SEP Recd

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

INFORMATION DIVISION
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ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Information & Censorship Section
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
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COMMUNIQUE No. 228

5 September 1944

DATE.

RELEASE 1030B HOURS

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

Heavy fighting has taken place in the Adriatic Sector where troops of Eighth Army have met strong enemy reistance north of the river CONCA. Nevertheless British and Canadian troops have considerably widened the bridgehead over this river and valuable progress has also been made in the high ground on the left.

West of Florence the Fifth Army advance continues and their leading troops are now approaching the towns of Prato and Lucca. The whole of the high ground south of the Lucca-Pistoia-Florence road is now in our hands.

North of Florence British troops have made some progress into the high ground overlooking the city.

On the remainder of the front there is no appreciable change in the situation.

SEVENTH ARMY:

Seventh Army Forces are continuing their rapid advance in the Saone Valley against ineffectual resistance and French elements have reached the outskirts of Macon and the town of St. Bonnet de Bruyeres farther west. East of the Saone, American troops have advanced beyond Montrevel. Some 2,400 prisoners were taken by the French in their capture of VilleFranche. The total of prisoners in the Southern France campaign is now passed 65,000.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Medium forces of heavy bombers yesterday attacked rail yards and bridges on main supply routes in Northern Italy, and submarines in the harbour at Genoa.

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Medium bombers also concentrated on communications lines attacking 18 bridges in Northern Italy. Other medium and light bombers were active against gun positions in the battle area south of Rimini.

Fighters and fighter-bombers flew armed reconnaissances over Northern Italy, attacking rail and motor transport, and provided close support for ground operations. Other fighter-bombers attacked factories North

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

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

Heavy fighting has taken place in the Adriatic Sector where troops of Eighth Army have met strong enemy reistance north of the river CONCA. Nevertheless British and Canadian troops have considerably widened the bridge-head over this river and valuable progress has also been made in the high ground on the left.

West of Florence the Fifth Army advance continues and their leading troops are now approaching the towns of Prato and Lucca. The whole of the high ground south of the Lucca-Pistoia-Florence road is now in our hands.

North of Florence British troops have made some progress into the high ground overlooking the city.

On the remainder of the front there is no appreciable change in the situation.

SEVENTH ARMY:

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Fighters and fighter-bombers flew armed reconnaissances over Northern Italy, attacking rail and motor transport, and provided close support for ground operations. Other fighter-bombers attacked factories North of Spezia and ammunition dumps in the Po Valley.

Medium and heavy bombers last night attacked railyards at Ravenna.

In these operations five enemy aircraft were destroyed and twelve of ours are missing. In addition to those previously reported, two enemy aircraft were destroyed on 3rd September.

MAAF flew over 1,800 sorties yesterday.

END COMMUNIQUE

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

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC 55

O.R.B.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 228.

5th. September 1944.

BEGINS. Eighth Army troops pushing forward along Adriatic Coastal Route 16 are just short of ABISSINIA 9390 in outskirts of RICCIONE MARINA 6 miles from RIMINI. Enemy Paratroopers are putting up very determined risistance along ridge running south of ABISSINIA to MISANO 9286. MISANO was captured morning 3 Sept by Canadian Infantry and armor who then turned west and stormed M.GILLERA 9186 under heavy fire and reached RICCIONI-MISANO road at one point.

Using Panzers, Mark IV's and Hornet tanks enemy counter attacked MISANO in strength fresh German Infantry were rushed up and after very stiff fighting about one thousand yards north of town our troops drove enemy back having knocked out 8 Panzers, 6 Mark IV's and 3 Hornets. Heavy fighting continues.

The strong screen of armor and other paratroopers who fought so fiercely in this sector during afternoon and night of 3 Sept did so to enable Germans to transfer troops from central sector of front and to sort out their battered Infantry formations. Tanks of 26 Panzer division were amongst those flung in the battle. They had not been previously engaged.

Exploiting advantage gained in this tank battle Canadians again attacked morning 4 Sept west of MISANO and gained two thousand yards in further heavy fighting. British Infantry supported by Chuchill tanks advanced from CONCA bridgehead in MORCIANO DI ROMAGNA 9181 area on 3 Sept broke through German defences at S.CLEMENTE 8983 captured town and advanced 4 Sept to within one thousand yards of CORIANO 8787 nearly 3 miles NE of S.CLEMENTE. M.MAGGIORE 9077 an isolated enemy strongpoint two miles NW of S.LORECIO was occupied 3 Sept and 73 PW taken. Germans are still in MONTEFIORE CONCA 8878 on lateral road another island left by the tide of battle.

Troops from an Indian Division captured TAVOLETO night 3 Sept against moderate opposition and cleared up town. MADITORE 8571 three thousand yards SW of TAVOLETO was occupied against some opposition and our troops advanced NW along road. Patrol to PIAN DI MELETO 7260 engaged by enemy Arty.

Patrols have been active in Upper Arno Valley in area between BIBBIENA and GIONA 2962. There was a firefight at IL FRASSELLO 2763 which was found clear and at MARCIANO 2563.

On 2 Sept Carpathian troops of Polish Corps saw about 30 Germans trying to escape from coastal town by boat. Poles fetched a tank which fired at the boat first shot was near miss second shot nearer miss third shot a bull. Boat was sunk and all Germans killed or drowned. This is considered to be most intimate contact army has achieved with the sea since tanks of 7 Armoured Division captured a ship between TUNIS and BIZERTE two years ago.

To North and Northeast of Florence the enemy continued to make the most stubborn resistance. Heavy enemy Arty fell at some points in this sector. The POMINO feature three miles east of RUFFIA was reported clear and patrols made contact with the enemy Eight miles NE of Florence in the vicinity of VETTALE CROCI 8679. M.MINUNDI 8173 and M. MONTORSOLI 8276 on route 65 were also reported clear of the enemy. There was continued fierce fighting NW and NE of Florence where however some progress was made.

Beteen MISANO and the sea Fifth Army forces consolated their gains as far as the south bank of the SERCHIO river. The area between PISA and the river [illegible] and numerous demolitions were encountered. Enemy SP guns [illegible] the north bank of the

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

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Beteen M. PISANO and the sea Fifth Army forces consolated their gains as far as the south bank of the SERCHIO river. The area between PISA and the river was heavily mined and numerous demolitions were encountered. Enemy SP guns and MG are directing fire at Firth Army forces from the north bank of the SERCHIO.

Infantry moving north on highway 12 have captured RIPAFRATTA 1276 after a two mile advance. Other Infantry Units reached the north end of M. PISANO Mas putting them less than two miles south of LUCCA junction of six important roads.

Fifth Army 4 Sept continued its steady advance with the seizure of M. PISANO in the coastal sector giving our forces possession of the key terrain east of PISA and south of LUCCA.

Advances east of M. PISANO have rendered the ALTOPASCIO-PISTOLA road east and west of ALTOPASCIO of no value to the enemy.

/OVER

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

/ continued

Considerable Arty fire was directed at Fifth Army's right flank as the enemy att empted to bolster delaying forces. A number of abortive raids by enemy aircraft was made during night of 3/4 Sep during which anti-personell bombs were dropped. One such attack was made just south of PISA no damage or casualties were reported.

For information on the 349th Infantry Regiment see appendix to today's On Record Background. Weather fair. No change press release line.

END O.R.B.

SUPPLEMENTARY ONRB BEGINS: A recently captured prisoner has thrown an interesting and wholly authoritative light on the manner in which the German high strategy is exercised. He was one of those men who form an essential cog in the war machine which so frequently tend to be overlooked. He was a telephone operator in a G.H.Q. Signals Regiment.

Staff Officers sometimes forget that the telephone operators not only can overhear their telephone conversations but actually have a duty to do so at anyrate this operator used to take a particular interest when working on the telephone exchange at the Fuehrer's H.Q. from April 1941 to March 1942 in listening-in on the Fuehrer's telephone conversations with his Commanders in the field.

He says that as the Russian campaign in 1941 approached its climax so the Fuehrer's language to his Generals became more and more abusive. He recalls in particular a conversation between Hitler and Field Marshall von Leeb on 28 August 1941 the climax of which was reached when Hitler bellowed " Das ist mir egal was sie denken ich befehle" (I don't give a damn what you think this is what I order)

An even more dramatic conversation was overheard toward the end of September 1941. Talking to General Hasenloder in Munich Hitler ordered in cold but incisive tones "Ich wuensche dass ich inerhalb von 6 stunden diesen Reichenau nicht mehr unter den lebenden finde" (Six hours from now I don't want that man Reichenau in the land of the living) It was no surprise to the telephone operator when three days later it was officially announced that Field Marshall Reichenau G.O.C Army Group South had died of a heart attack.

END SUPPLEMENTARY ONRB. NOFRB.

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

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

O.R.B.

SEVENTH ARMY.

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 228.

5th. September 1944.

BEGINS: Moving northward on the west bank of the SAONE in wake of fast withdrawing enemy, French forces had active reconnaissance elements pushing in several directions farther west. No enemy contact made by these forward elements 4 September, Germans apparently having withdrawn from this area. American advance farther to east likewise met with no serious enemy opposition 4 September, following the stiff fight day previous at MONTREVEL, where Germans with tank support made sharp counterattack against our reconnaissance elements in order to screen the retreat of the main force northward on highway six toward CHALON and DIJON. Our forces suffered some losses in casualties and prisoners in MONTREVEL counterattack which beaten off and advance continued. French turned northward after LYONS cleared of enemy resistance. Temporary repairs made to some of the bridges which the Germans destroyed before evacuation. MACON, some sixtyeight road miles north of LYONS, is wine center town of sixteen thousand population. BOURG EN BRESSE, occupied by American troops, is town of about eighteen thousand peacetime inhabitants. For information on the 7th Infantry Regiment see appendix to today's on record background. Weather, fair. No change Press release line. NORB .

END ORB.

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4 SEP Recd
INFORMATION DIVISION
AFC

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

Col. McC.
Maj. MAGNU
Mr. BRAGE
Capt. GAR
Col. TAYL
C. G.

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ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

COMMUNIQUE No. 227 FOR RELEASE 1030B HRS 4 September, 1944

NO NAVY COMMUNIQUE:

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

Allied Armies in Italy continue making good progress on both flanks of their extensive battle front.

British and Canadian troops of Eighth Army have now established a considerable bridgehead over the River CONCA, where fierce fighting continues and good progress has also been made on the higher ground west of this bridgehead.

The Gothic Line from Pesaro to a point over 20 miles inland is now completely in Eighth Army hands and in places their troops have advanced to a depth of more than 12 miles.

West of Florence, troops of Fifth Army now command the two dominating features North of the River Arno, and hold a line over-looking the important lateral road running from Pisa to Florence through Lucca and Pistoia.

On the remainder of the front, patrols of Eighth Army are extremely active and in many places are in contact with the enemy in their Gothic Line positions.

SEVENTH ARMY:

Advance elements of Seventh Army forces have entered Lyon and have advanced well to the north and northeast of the important city after a drive of more than 200 miles since their landing in southern France. Enemy forces have mostly withdrawn from the city to escape encirclement.

VILLE-FRANCHE, some 15 miles north of Lyon, has been reached by French forces.

Northeast of Lyon, American troops threatening enemy roads of withdrawal have made further advances against stiff resistance at several points. An enemy counter-attack at Montrevel, north of Bourg was beaten off.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Medium forces of heavy bombers yesterday attacked rail and road bridges in the Belgrade area of Yugoslavia and in southeastern Hungary. Both heavy bombers and fighter-bombers attacked ferry facilities on the Danube at Smederevo, while fighters carried out strafing attacks on rail lines and roads between Belgrade and Nis, destroying many locomotives, rail cars and motor transport. Tactical aircraft ranged over the battle areas and north-western Italy. Medium bombers attacked a number of road and rail bridges in the upper Po Valley. Fighter-bombers were active against motor transport and rail rolling stock in the Turin area, as well as bridges and rail yards between the

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

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In these operations, one enemy aircraft was destroyed, six of our aircraft are missing. Two of our aircraft are missing from night operations of September 2/3.

MAAF flew over 1,200 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE

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INFORMATION DIVISION
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PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE
DETACHMENT "A"
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

4 September 1944

FOR RELEASE WITH "ON RECORD" BACKGROUND

Fifth Army troops occupying Pisa were inspected yesterday by Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark. Civilians applauded as the army commander appeared before his troops. Asked by the press for a statement, General Clark said in effect that the same Fifth Army which had liberated Rome, had now, through the power of its arms and the skill and courage of its officers and soldiers, driven the enemy from the historic city of Pisa.

The world-famous Leaning Tower, he continued, is untouched and unharmed by our armybecause we so willed. Never once, he said, did he, as commander of the Fifth Army, ever find it necessary to even contemplate destruction of this monument. The Leaning Tower has no value as an observation tower or otherwise. The hill mass to the east was the important military objective. We of the Fifth Army, he asserted, always thought of saving the Leaning Tower for the world.

He remarked that Pisa, once the proud conqueror of the Saracens, once sea rival of Venice and Genoa, is no longer in the hands of the Huns. The Fifth Army, he said, has returned to civilization and art lovers of the world the birthplace of Gallileo, the city of the Baptistry, of the Leaning Tower, and of Campo Santo.

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General Clark concluded by saying that it was then a moment of

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

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General Clark concluded by saying that it was then a moment of glorious achievement for the Fifth Army, a liberating force of civilized free men.

(End)

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INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC 514

O.R.B.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO.227
4 SEPT 1944

On Eighth Army Adriatic front, Polish troops have cleared PESARO of enemy and in swift encircling drive to coast about 2 mile NE of GRADARA 0184, inflicted great damage on German paratroopers and took 90 PWs including 5 officers, one of them a batalion commander from one regiment alone.

Canadian forces launched two column attack morning 2 Sept. Rig hand column, after taking FIEVE 0081, 2 miles S of GRADARA, bypasse resistance at GRADARA and reached coastal route 16 then drove on N to coast, E of CATTOLICA which they bypassed; then they turned W and by night 2 Sept established an infantry bridgehead over CONCA River about 6000 yards from its mouth. Tanks and other infantry were rushed up and position was rapidly consolidated. GRADARA and CATTOLICA now being cleared of enemy. The 2 Canadian columns then broke through NW captured S GIOVANNI in MARIGNANO 9684, on VENTENA River and after fierce fighting captured much contested MONTE GRIDOLFO 9475 and also MELETO 9476 and SALUDECCIO 9377. Patrols reached river at several points night 2 Sept. They report that VENTENA may prove more serious obstacle than CONCA River. All bridges blown.

Germans still resisting strongly TAVOLETO 8673 area where enemy counterattack beaten off night 2/3 Sept. Patrols are active in Appenines and penetrated 2000 yards N and NE of S ANGELO IN VADO 7254. In Upper Arno Valley, our patrols probing toward Gothic Lin made contact at several points.

E of FLORENCE, enemy mortar fire fell in the area NW of RUFINA In this sector increased enemy resistance was met particularly in the S BRIGIDA area 9077. In the FLORENCE sector, although heavy r night 2 Sept interfered with operations, contact with enemy was maintained along whole front.

Fifth Army continued to advance along its entire front 3 Sept Places captured include SPICCHIO 5175, LA PORECCHIO 5074, STABBIA 4571 and PSIANATE 3574. SPECCHIO is 7 to 8 miles N of EMPOLI and just half way to PISTOIA. Other elements took prisoners at LAZZARETO 4770 and continued their northward advance.

The MT. PISANO mass hasbeen almost completely bypassed on bot flanks and PISTOIA-ALTOPASCIO road seriously threatened by late af

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016
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The M. PISANO mass hasbeen almost completely bypassed on bot flanks and PISTOIA-ALTOPASCIO road seriously threatened by late af noon. Enemy resistance confined to isolated strongpoints and scant arty fire showed no signs of stiffening but mines and demolitions were numerous. Moving N along the road that skirts the Eastern slopes of the M PISANO feature, Fifth Army infantry by late 3 Sept had taken PIEVE 2572. In the rugged mountain mass itself, our infantry was 2 miles N of M SERRA.

- more -

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In the coastal sector, Fifth Army's foremost elements were just beyond RIGOLI 1272 on Route 12, 6 miles N of PISA. Immediately to the West of these forces our strength was building rapidly along the South bank of the SERCHIO River.

Weather: local thunderstorms, otherwise mostly fair.

No change press release line.

END O.R.B.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO O.R.B.

The Gothic Line which has now been broken, was under construction for a longer period than the SIEGFRIED Line in 1940. It was last September 1943 when the Germans started work on the line which was intended to form one of the main buttresses of "Fortress Europe".

Solid concrete constructions, on themodel of the Siegfried Line but brought more up to date, were a feature of the German defenses in this area and the antitank defense in particular was more elaborate than anything Eighth Army has so far encountered.

Employed on its construction was a complete Slovak Division, many German labor battalions and half a million conscripted Italian laborers. The Gothic Line was the most elaborate, the strongest and the most trusted German defense work outside Germany itself.

END SUPPLEMENTARY

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INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
ACC 50

O.R.B.

SEVENTH ARMY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND TO COMMUNIQUE NO.227

4 SEPT 1944

LYON, France's third city in point of population and second only to PARIS as communications centre, entered from different directions by both American and French patrols on 3 September. City, divided by the RHONE and SAONE Rivers, was not immediately occupied and meanwhile definite information scanty as to course of events beyond military lines. Few of more than score bridges across two rivers remained intact. Airfield just East of city has been secured by American troops. French reached outskirts from west. Battered remnants of German 19th Army and other enemy forces almost entirely evacuated from city by 3 September, and substantial numbers in scattered groups were spotted and attacked from air up SAONE Valley to North of VILLE-FRANCHE, which French entered. Meanwhile American troops continuing their swing across enemy routes of withdrawal made further progress and engaged in a number of clashes with German forces fighting to screen retreat.

Some 12 miles North of BOURG, sharp fighting took place 3 September in and near MONTREVEL. Half town taken in two hour fight in morning and some three score prisoners taken. Later in day an enemy force with tanks attacked and further fighting occurred. Six miles southeast of BOURG, stiff fight took place at CERTINE. Enemy resistance continued at CEYZERIAT in this vicinity.

Historic LYON, whose peacetime population is approximately 570,000 is center of France's silk industry and is important center also for rayon, machinery and chemicals.

Weather: mostly fair.

No change press release line. Norb.

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END O.R.B.

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

INFORMATION DIVISION

Communique No. 224. 1 September 1944.

RELEASE TIME 1100 B Hrs.

NAVY.

On August 30, British destroyers supporting the Army on the east coast of Italy carried out a successful bombardment of enemy gun positions and transport north of PESARO.

The naval commander off the south coast of France reports that mine clearance continues with success in the recently occupied ports and approaches It is learned that at 0800 hrs on August 29 the unconditional surrender of the German garrison on the island of RATONEAU and PONEGUES off MARSEILLES was accepted by the captain of a United States cruiser. Ninety U.S.marines were landed in the small harbour which lies between the two islands.

Demolitions had been prepared but the charges were successfully removed and land mines isolated.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

In the Adriatic sector troops of Eighth Army are engaged in heavy fighting with strong enemy resistance from the high ground North of the River FOGLIA. In some places penetrations have been made into the enemy positions and fierce counter attacks supported by tanks have been beaten off.

To the West of the Appenines, other troops of Eighth Army have continue their advance towards the Gothic Line and in the upper Tiber valley, an advance of over 4 miles has been made.

Significant gains have also been made in the FLORENCE area where troops of Eighth Army have made appreciable advances on both sides of the city.

To the West of FLORENCE, Fifth Army patrols have been active.

SEVENTH ARMY.

American troops have advanced to some 50 miles South of LYON with the occupation of VALENCE and BOURG DE PEAGE, in the RHONE valley. Strong pressure is being maintained against the retreating enemy.

French forces moving southwest toward the Spanish border, while also advancing up the west bank of the RHONE, have entered MONTPELLIER, BEZIERS and NARBONNE. Forward elements are beyond ALES.

West of the RHONE, mopping up continues in PONT ST ESPRIT, BOURG ST ANDEOL, VALLON and BARJAC.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY.

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Fighter aircraft of the strategic Air Force yesterday attacked an airfield at REGHIN in Rumania, destroying 60 aircraft on the ground. It is now known that 97 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground in operations on 30 August. During night operations on 30/31 August tactical aircraft attacked enemy transport in northern Italy.

Yesterday our aircraft continued their attacks on bridges and road

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American troops have advanced to some 50 miles South of LYON with the occupation of VALENCE and BOURG DE PEAGE, in the RHONE valley. Strong pressure is being maintained against the retreating enemy.

French forces moving southwest toward the Spanish border, while also advancing up the west bank of the RHONE, have entered MONTPELLIER, BEZIERS and NARBONNE. Forward elements are beyond ALES.

West of the RHONE, mopping up continues in PONT ST ESPRIT, BOURG ST ANDEOL, VALLON and BARJAC.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY.

676

Fighter aircraft of the strategic Air Force yesterday attacked an airfield at REGHIN in Rumania, destroying 60 aircraft on the ground. It is now known that 97 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground in operations on 30 August. During night operations on 30/31 August tactical aircraft attacked enemy transport in northern Italy.

Yesterday our aircraft continued their attacks on bridges and road and rail transport in northern Italy and on gun positions, supply dumps and transport in the Italian battle area. Other aircraft attacked enemy targe in the RHONE valley area, transport and bridges in Yugoslavia and coastal shipping in the Gulf of Genoa and the Adriatic.

Last night our bombers attacked rail yards at FERRARA.

In these operations 12 enemy aircraft were destroyed and 11 of ours are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 1,400 sorties.

0361

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

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH 32

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

USA

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

Communique No. 222 FOR RELEASE 1030B HRS 30 August, 1944

NAVY

Reporting on August 28, the Naval Commander off the Southern coast of France said that various parties of enemy troops trying to escape in boats from the occupied coast have been rounded up by Naval Forces and made prisoners of war.

Minesweeping activity continued in the assault area.

In the Adriatic on August 28 in support of the Army, one of His Majesty's destroyers carried out successful bombardment in the PESARO area.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Eighth Army's advance towards the Gothic Line on a broad front continues in the Adriatic sector all the high ground south of the river FOGLIA has been secured after stiff fighting and patrols have reached the river in many places.

In the Upper Arno valley Bibbiena, from which the road leads directly up to the Gothic Line some five miles beyond, has been occupied by our troops. Advances in the mountainous country east and west of this town have been made up to three miles on a broad front into country recently occupied by the enemy.

Eighth Army troops thrusting forward north of PONTASSIEVE are now nearly five miles beyond the town and the enemy has been forced to make a further withdrawal in this sector.

Active patrolling has been maintained on the Fifth Army front.

SEVENTH ARMY

American troops of Seventh Army have inflicted heavy losses on enemy forces in the Rhone Valley north of Montelimar where fighting continues. This town has now been occupied along with Valrees, Grane and Allex and fighting is in progress to the north where withdrawing enemy troops have been trying to cross the Drome river. In two days approximately 800 loaded motor trucks and two batteries of 88 millimeter guns have been captured in this area and a German divisional Commander made prisoner. West of the Rhone forward elements of French forces have reached Bagnols. On the East flank American troops are consolidating their positions on the west bank of the Var River. Additional prisoners taken in the Marseilles-Toulon area and in the Rhone Valley have increased the total to approximately 45,000.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Strong forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked two oil refineries, rail yards and industrial installations in the Moravska Ostrava area in Czechoslovakia. Other forces attacked rail communications in Northern Italy, Hungary and Yugoslavia.

Tactical aircraft continued their attacks on roads and bridges in Northern Italy and on enemy transport in the Rhone valley. Other aircraft

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

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Tactical aircraft continued their attacks on roads and bridges in Northern Italy and on enemy transport in the Rhone valley. Other aircraft attacked enemy targets in the Italian battle area, bridges and road and rail transport in Yugoslavia and Greece, and shipping and harbour installations in the Gulf of Genoa and along the Eastern Adriatic coast.

In these operations twelve enemy aircraft were destroyed and 21 of ours are missing. One of our aircraft is missing from night operations on August 28/29.

MAAF flew approximately 2,000 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE

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

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

SEEN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mc. [illegible]HY		
Maj. MAC [illegible]		
Maj. DRAGE		
Capt. S[illegible]V. D[illegible]I		
Col. FaV		
C. C.		

29 AUG Recd

INFORMATION DIVISION ACC

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

Communiqué No. 221

29 August 1944

RELEASE TIME 1030B HOURS

NO N.V.L COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

While Eighth Army patrols in the Adriatic sector have continued to exploit their bridgehead North of the Metauro River against stiffening resistance, further gains have been made towards the Gothic Line on other sectors of the front.

In the Adriatic sector, the town of FANO is now clear of the enemy and our troops have driven the enemy North of the ARZILLA River, and have occupied the high ground about MONTE-CICCARDO with leading elements probing forward to the ridge beyond. Farther west, our patrols are enveloping the town of URBINO.

In the Upper Arno Valley, enemy demolitions in the area of BIBBIENA have been observed and more ground has been gained in this sector.

North of PONTASSIEVE, the town of RUFINA has been evacuated by the enemy.

There is no change in the situation about FLORENCE. East of the city, in the Arno Valley, active patrolling has been maintained particularly in the area of EMPOLI.

SEVENTH ARMY

French forces have received unconditional surrender of last German troops in MARSEILLES and ILES DU FRIOUL, West of city. At same time, in TOULON area, capitulation of garrison on ST. MANDRIER peninsular ended all enemy action there. Several thousand prisoners have been taken in the two cities. In Rhone valley, American troops of Seventh Army continued to close in on MONTELIMAR battle area and large numbers of abandoned vehicles and much equipment has been captured. Farther South, French troops have crossed Rhone River at several points and elements have advanced through NIMES to Southwest. Some units are in vicinity of REDOULLES, UZES and PONT ST. ESPRIT. Along Eastern coastal area, American forces have entered towns of VENCE and CAGNES.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Strong forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked oil installations and rail communications in Austria, Hungary and Northern Italy. Targets including a synthetic oil plant near Vienna, a crude refinery in Northwestern Hungary, the rail yards at Miskolcz, and a railway bridge over the Tisza River in Hungary, and two spans on the Brenner Pass rail line in Northern Italy.

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

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Medium bombers attacked railroad bridges in Northern France and Northern Italy, as well as an airdrome at Verona. Fighter-bombers attacked harbours along the Northwest coast of Italy and rail communications both in Northern Italy and the South of France. Fighters were active against motor and rail transport in Yugoslavia and shipping in the Adriatic.

Last night our bombers attacked objectives in the vicinity of Pesaro, on the Adriatic coast.

From these operations, NINE enemy aircraft were destroyed and SIX of our aircraft are missing. One enemy aircraft was destroyed during the night of August 27/28.

MAAF flew 1,600 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE

0363

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

ITALIAN PATRIOT

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC M5

SEEN	INITIAL	DATE
Col. Mc. [illegible]HY		
Maj. MAG[illegible]		
[illegible] DRAGE		
[illegible] SALVADORI		
[illegible] FAY		
[illegible]		

PUBLIC RELATIONS
AVALANCHE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

28 August 1944

COMMUNIQUE No. 220

RELEASE TIME 1030 B HRS

NAVY

The landings in Southern France continue according to plan. There is great minesweeping activity off the newly occupied ports and coast. Units of the Allied Navies continue to support the Army on both flanks.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

There has been further evidence of the enemy's intention to withdraw to more advantageous positions covering the Gothic Line on many sectors of the front.

Troops of Eighth Army have advanced and are now in contact with enemy positions four miles north of PONTASSIEVE and six miles east of that town.

In the Upper Arno Valley our leading elements are in contact with the enemy at FIBBIENA and in the hills east and west of the town.

In the Apennines patrols thrusting forward from APECCHIO, recently occupied by us, are some three miles north of the town and have reached PIOBBICO and FERRIGNANO to the northeast.

In the Adriatic sector troops of Eighth Army have advanced and occupied ISOLA DEL PIANO, MONTEMAGGIO and the outskirts of FANO.

On the Fifth Army front, enemy patrols have been particularly active in the area south of SAN MARIA MAGGIORE.

SEVENTH ARMY

American forces of Seventh Army have reached Rhone river in vicinity of Montelimar and for several days in a series of actions have inflicted heavy losses on enemy who has been attempting to ward off a serious threat to his east flank.

In Marseilles and Toulon areas further progress has been made by French troops in mopping up remaining enemy resistance. More than seven thousand prisoners have been taken in and near the two cities increasing the total for Southern France campaign to more than thirty thousand.

On East coastal flank of bridgehead American forward elements have advanced to Var river at several places.

67.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

[illegible] forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked two synthetic

0366
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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In the Apennines patrols thrusting forward from APECCHIO, recently occupied by us, are some three miles north of the town and have reached PIOBBICO and FERMIGNANO to the northeast.

In the Adriatic sector troops of Eighth Army have advanced and occupied ISOLA DEL PIANO, MONTEBAROCCIO and the outskirts of FANO.

On the Fifth Army front, enemy patrols have been particularly active in the area south of SAN MARIA IMBONE.

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On East coastal flank of bridgehead American forward elements have advanced to Var river at several places.

67.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Strong forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked two synthetic oil refineries at BLECHHAMMER in SILESIA. The VENZONE and AVISIO viaducts and FERRARA railbridge in Northern Italy, and the BOROVNICA viaduct in Yugoslavia. Escorting fighters attacked rail transport.

Tactical aircraft attacked bridges and transport in Northern Italy, and gun positions, road blocks and troop concentrations in the Italian battle area. Other carried out offensive sweeps in Southern France, and medium bombers attacked gun positions in the Marseilles area. Coastal shipping and harbour installations were attacked off northwest Italy and in the Adriatic. Other aircraft attacked gun positions in Yugoslavia.

Last night our bombers attacked enemy targets in the PESARO area.

In these operations five of our aircraft are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 1,850 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE

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

Major Morgans

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

Communiqué No. 221

29 August 1944

RELEASE TIME 1030B HOURS

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

While Eighth Army patrols in the Adriatic sector have continued to exploit their bridgehead North of the Metauro River against stiffening resistance, further gains have been made towards the Gothic Line on other sectors of the front.

In the Adriatic sector, the town of FANO is now clear of the enemy and our troops have driven the enemy North of the ARZILLA River, and have occupied the high ground about MONTE-CICCARDO with leading elements probing forward to the ridge beyond. Farther west, our patrols are enveloping the town of URBINO.

In the Upper Arno Valley, enemy demolitions in the area of BIBBIENA have been observed and more ground has been gained in this sector.

North of PONTASSIEVE, the town of RUFINA has been evacuated by the enemy.

There is no change in the situation about FLORENCE. East of the city, in the Arno Valley, active patrolling has been maintained particularly in the area of EMPOLI.

SEVENTH ARMY

French forces have received unconditional surrender of last German troops in MARSEILLES and ILES DU FRIOUL, West of city. At same time, in TOULON area, capitulation of garrison on ST. MANDRIER peninsular ended all enemy action there. Several thousand prisoners have been taken in the two cities. In Rhone valley, American troops of Seventh Army continued to close in on MONTELIMAR battle area and large numbers of abandoned vehicles and much equipment has been captured. Farther South, French troops have crossed Rhone River at several points and elements have advanced through NIMES to Southwest. Some units are in vicinity of REDOULENS, UZES and PONT ST. ESPRIT. Along Eastern coastal area, American forces have entered towns of VENCE and CANNES.

672

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Strong forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked oil installations and rail communications in Austria, Hungary and Northern Italy. Targets including a synthetic oil plant near Vienna, a crude refinery in Northwestern Hungary, the rail yards at Miskolcz, and a railway bridge over the Tisza River in Hungary, and two spans on the Brenner Pass rail line in Northern Italy.

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

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In the Adriatic sector, the town of PESARO is now clear of the enemy and our troops have driven the enemy North of the ARZILLA River, and have occupied the high ground about MONTE-CICCARDO with leading elements probing forward to the ridge beyond. Farther west, our patrols are enveloping the town of URBINO.

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Medium bombers attacked railroad bridges in Northern France and Northern Italy, as well as an airdrome at Verona. Fighter-bombers attacked harbours along the Northwest coast of Italy and rail communications both in Northern Italy and the South of France. Fighters were active against motor and rail transport in Yugoslavia and shipping in the Adriatic.

Last night our bombers attacked objectives in the vicinity of Pesaro, on the Adriatic coast.

From these operations, NINE enemy aircraft were destroyed and SIX of our aircraft are missing. One enemy aircraft was destroyed during the night of August 27/28.

MAAF flew 1,600 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE

0369

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

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

27 AUG Recd
INFORMATION DIVISION ACC

27 August 1944.

Communique 219.

RELEASE TIME 1030B HOURS

SEEN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mc [illegible]HY		
Maj. MA[illegible]	P.M.	
Maj. DRAGE		
Capt. SALVADORI	M.S.	
Col. [illegible]		
C C.		

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

British and Indian troops of Eighth Army continue to gain ground towards the Gothic Line east of Florence and in the mountains on either side of the Upper Arno and Tiber valleys. , representing in some cases advances of three miles. Meanwhile other troops of Eighth Army have crossed the METAURO river driving in enemy outposts, and have established a bridgehead on the north bank of the river. This bridgehead incorporates the high ground about MONTE DELLA MATTERA just south of MOMBAROCCIO.

On the Fifth Army front there has been no change in our forward dispositions although patrols have been active across the river.

SEVENTH ARMY.

French forces have completed the occupation of the city of TOULON with the capture of SIX-FOURS fortifications and the districts of BREGAILLON and MARVIVO.

Enemy resistance continues/only on the peninsula south of the city and in the forest south of SIX-FOURS. In MARSEILLES much progress was made in liquidating scattered enemy pockets. The advances of American troops eastward along the RIVIERA coast from ANTIBES continues slowly. Opposition is chiefly artillery fire and dense mine fields.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY.

671

Operating in support of Roumanian Government Forces against the enemy medium forces of heavy bombers yesterday attacked an airdrome and troop concentrations in the BUCHAREST area, and a train ferry at GIURGIU, on the Danube. Escorting fighters conducted offensive sweeps over the target area. Other formations of heavy bombers concentrated their attacks on rail viaducts and bridges in north eastern Italy, and north western Yugo-Slavia.

Tactical aircratf continued to support the ground forces in the battle area. In Southern France, gun positions roads and rail lines were attacked. Similar targets also were attacked in northern Italy. Other tactical

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

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Tactical aircratf continued to support the ground forces in the battle area. In Southern France, gun positions roads and rail lines were attacked. Similar targets also were attacked in northern Italy. Other tactical aircraft carried out attacks on military objectives in Yugo-Slavia, and coastal shipping in the Adriatic, and on the west coast of Italy.

Last night, our bombers attacked communications in the PESARO area on the east coast of Italy.

Twelve of our aircraft are missing from these operations.

MAAF flew more than 2,000 sorties.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

INFORMATION DIVISION
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PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

Communique No. 217

25 August 1944.

RELEASE TIME 1030B HOURS

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

British and Indian troops of Eighth Army have continued to press the weakening enemy resistance between the APENNINES and FLORENCE.

East of the slopes of the APENNINES Italian troops have reached the river CANDIGLIANO on a broad front and entered the town of ACQUALAGNA. In the upper ARNO valley considerable advances have been made and the villages of CASTELNUOVO, FORNICHE and LA MONTANINA have been taken.

East of MONTASSIEVE troops of Eighth Army have made good progress toward the Gothic Line and are firmly established on the western slopes of MONTE SECCHIETA.

West of FLORENCE in the Fifth Army sector patrol activity on both sides of the ARNO continues. NOTE: M Secchieta is R0463, Castelnuovo 2051 Fornicho 2451 on large scale map and La Montanina 2651.

SEVENTH ARMY:

American troops of Seventh Army have occupied CANNES and GRASSE in an advance in the eastern sector of the southern France bridgehead.

French forces have further tightened their grip on TOULON, occupying the land arsenal within the city and the town of OLLIOULES to the northwest. The enemy is still offering stiff resistance in the port area.

In MARSEILLES mopping up of enemy resistance near the port is in progress.

To the northwest, American forward elements have advanced to less than ten miles east of ARLES on the RHONE River, and north and south of SALON also have made further progress.

The number of prisoners taken thus far is estimates at 20,000.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

670

Two oil refineries and an airdrome in CZECHOSLOVAKIA, and communications objectives in HUNGARY, YUGOSLAVIA and the PO valley yesterday were attacked by strong forces of escorted heavy bombers.

Tactical aircraft continued their support of ground forces in southern France and northern Italy, carrying out operations over a wide area to attack enemy communications. Road and rail targets as well as an oil storage plant and troop concentrations in YUGOSLAVIA also were attacked. During the night of August 23/24, our aircraft attacked communications in the PO valley.

Last night, our bombers attacked the rail yards at BOLOGNA, in northern ITALY.

In these operations, fifty-three enemy aircraft were destroyed, and nineteen of ours are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 1500 sorties.

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

C.STELNUOVO, FORNICHE and L.. MONTANINA have been taken.

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570

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END COMMUNIQUE.

SEEN.	INITIAL
Col. Mc. [illegible]RTHY	
Maj. MAGNUS	
Maj. DRAGE	
Capt. S[illegible]NADORI	M.S.

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

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

Communique No. 216

24 August 1944

RELEASE TIME 1030B HOURS

NAVY:

It is learned that the garrison of the island of PORQUEROLLES surrendered to a U.S. cruiser on August 22, more than 200 prisoners of war being removed. The island has now been garrisoned by French troops.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

In the Adriatic sector Polish and Italian troops of the Eighth Army are now firm on the south bank of the Metauro and in contact with strong enemy positions on the north of the river up to a distance of twelve miles from the coast. In the Upper Arno valley British and Indian troops of the Eighth Army have again been quick to take advantage of a lessening in enemy resistance and have made considerable advances on both sides of the river capturing a number of important features including M. FORESTO. During the night 22/23 August there was considerable enemy patrol activity in the Florence area and there were several clashes between enemy patrols and patrols of Eighth Army and the patriots, which resulted in casualties to the enemy. West of Florence Fifth Army patrols remain active.

SEVENTH ARMY:

French troops have captured MARSEILLES eight days after going into action in Southern France and are driving westward into the LOWER RHONE VALLEY.

A substantial number of prisoners was taken in the capture of the city, in peacetime the principal port of France, and the largest on the Mediterranean. All escape routes were cut by the rapid advance of mobile elements.

Enemy resistance was comparatively slight in MARSEILLES, but continues stubborn in TOULON where street fighting is still in progress with much of the city in our hands.

Northwest of MARSEILLES further progress toward the RHONE RIVER was made with the occupation of SALON. American forces have driven farther westward in the Durance River Valley.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Tactical aircraft yesterday carried out widespread attacks on bridges and enemy transport in the South of France and Northern Italy and continued to give close support to the ground forces.

Other aircraft attacked communications and enemy transport in Yugoslavia and Greece.

Medium forces of escorted heavy bombers attacked an oil refinery, factories and an airfield in the Vienna area. Other attacks a railroad bridge at Ferrara.

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Other aircraft attacked communications and enemy transport in Yugoslavia and Greece.

Medium forces of escorted heavy bombers attacked an oil refinery, factories and an airfield in the Vienna area. Other attacks a railroad bridge at Ferrara.

In these operations 45 enemy aircraft were destroyed and 29 of ours are missing. Three of our aircraft are missing from night operations on 22/23 August.

MAAF flew approximately 1,900 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE

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

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

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

O. R. B.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 216.

24 AUGUST 1944.

There is little to report from the Fifth Army front beyond normal patrolling and exchanges of artillery, mortar and small arms fire.

Our mortars scattered two enemy mess lines, silenced enemy mortars and gun positions, and dispersed several groups of enemy elements. At one point a hostile tank was knocked out by Fifth Army mortar fire.

On the remainder of the Italian front some further progress has been made.

The situation in Florence is stable. Patrols from both sides were active night 22 August in the northern outskirts and some clashes occured. Throughout the day indiscriminately aimed enemy shells fell in most of the central and southern districts of the city.

Our patrols continued to reconnoitre along the Arno river W of Florence. Also in the Prato Magno Mountains E of the Arno bend Eighth Army patrols have been active. They report CASTELNUOVO 1951 and SALUTIO 2350 clear, but enemy still in TULLIANO 2551 to NW and POGGIO DI ANCONA 2851 across river.

Numerous demolitions in area N ANGHIARI on 21 August may indicate limited enemy withdrawal in this sector. In TIBER bend area N ANGHIARI enemy positions estimated one mile W MONTEDOGLIO on north side river, successfully engaged by our Arty. Troops patrolling up road N. SANSEPOLCRO towards MISCIANO 4946 fired on targets NE in M. VICCHI area 5047 and NW on to roads leading from SANSEPOLCRO . They collected four deserters.

In the Adriatic sector Eighth Army troops have occupied CAGLI 9040. Italian patrols reached MONTE MANTELLO 9645. Forward elements probed beyond S. LORENZO 1446 without making contact. In METAURO river sector Polish elements reached S. IPPOLITO 0956 after some fighting . S. GIORGIO 1759 and PIAGGE 1660 have been captured. At one point patrols have crossed the river and penetrated 1000 yards beyond.

We have consolidated our positions along METAURO river from MONTE MAGGIORE to sea. Battle for METAURO was much fiercer than anticipated. Enemy employed more than fifty 88 MM SP and tank guns including eight Hornets. German losses in men were very high, eighty dead counted on one regimental front alone.

Almost eight hundred prisoners have been captured in this sector in the past ten days making fourteen thousand since 11 May including those taken by Polos since 13 June.

Weather fine. No change Press release line. N O R B

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END O.R.B.

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

SEVENTH ARMY.

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 216

24 AUGUST, 1944.

Number of prisoners and many other details of capture of MARSEILLES still lacking. Principal port of France, historic MARSEILLES normally busy industrial city of 800,000, with oils and fats, metal working and engineering, railway repairs, chemical, food processing and other plants, and oil and sugar refineries, in addition to its port facilities. Information delayed on extent to which port and plant were damaged by bombing and demolitions.

Meanwhile fall of TOULON appeared imminent, with ring around the naval port city tightened and with French troops in vicinity of port area.

By midday 23 August French had overcome enemy resistance to move into eastern outskirts after taking MONT DU PARADIS, CARQUEIRANNE and MONT DES OISEAUX. Woods were mopped up around latter point. On coast LE PRADET was reached and advance continued toward TOULON fromthis direction. Another force took LA GARDE and pushed forward toward eastern entrances. To north LA VALETTE and FARON occupied.

In city Prefecture Maritime, Place D'armes and neighbouring streets just east of arsenal in our hands, with strong centre of enemy resistance in vicinity of arsenal itself.

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MARSEILLES completely encircled by time of its capture by swiftly-moving American and French forces which swept around northern and western shores of ETANG DE BERRE to block last coastal highway leading from city in vicinity of MARTIGUES.

Advance past SALON northwest of MARSEILLES along HIGHWAY NO. 572 put our troops well into Rhone Delta with river at ARLES some twenty miles west of latter force.

Exact figures impossible because of irregular area, but estimated that Southern France bridgehead now embraces from 6000 to 8000 square miles.

Except at TOULON enemy resistance continues to be overcome.

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Exact figures impossible because of irregular area, but estimated that Southern France bridgehead now embraces from 6000 to 8000 square miles.

Except at TOULON enemy resistance continues to be overcome, with many small units thrown in piecemeal against our advance being destroyed or captured. Although this practice has been employed on other fronts with success, teamwork and aggressiveness of our troops have constantly kept enemy off balance.

Weather fair. Change press release line: Coast at MARSEILLES, excluding TOULON, western shore of ETANG DE BERRE, thence east to PEYROLLES, remainder no change.

NORB. END.

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

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
G.H.F.

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

Communique No. 215

23 August 1944

RELEASED TIME 1015B HRS

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

Continuing their operations to follow up the enemy in the Adriatic sector, Polish and Italian troops of Eighth Army encountered strong enemy rear guard resistance on the high ground just SOUTH of the River Metauro, between Serasa and MONTE MAGGIORE. However, this resistance has now weakened and our patrols have reached the SOUTH bank of the river in many places, up to 12 miles from the sea. In the more mountainous country SOUTH-EAST of SAN GIORGIO DI PESARO, our troops have advanced some three miles in many places. Heavy artillery fire is now being encountered from the enemy on the NORTH bank of the river.

In the mountains on both sides of the Upper Arno Valley, many of our strong fighting patrols have gained ground and have found the enemy established in new positions slightly farther north.

EAST of Florence, NORTH of the River Arno, Indian troops of Eighth Army staged a successful ambush and took a number of prisoners. Elsewhere, active patrolling has covered our front without any major change in our dispositions.

SEVENTH ARMY:

American troops of Seventh Army in a swift advance NORTHWARD of some 140 airline miles from their points of landing in Southern France have entered the town of GRENOBLE. They had the effective cooperation of French Forces of the Interior in their drive which started in the early stages of the campaign. Towns taken on route included DIGNE, SISTERON, BARRES, GAP, ST BONNET and L'ARGENTIERE.

French troops have cleared and occupied HYERES after heavy fighting, and have closed in on TOULON from the EAST. Within Toulon, where heavy fighting continues, the French have improved their positions and advanced farther towards the port area.

The encirclement of MARSEILLES is continuing on a broad front. French forward elements have penetrated to within three miles of the EASTERN outskirts of the city while to the NORTHWEST American columns were a similar distance from the ETANG DE BERRE. Further advances also have been made in the Durance River valley.

More than 17,000 prisoners have been taken.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Strong forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked oil installations in German Silesia and Austria.

In support of ground forces in Southern France, Tactical aircraft

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

Continuing their operations to follow up the enemy in the Adriatic sector, Polish and Italian troops of Eighth Army encountered strong enemy rear guard resistance on the high ground just SOUTH of the River Metauro, between Cerasa and MONTE FAGGIONE. However, this resistance has now weakened and our patrols have reached the SOUTH bank of the river in many places, up to 12 miles from the sea. In the more mountainous country SOUTH EAST of SAN GIORGIO DI PESARO, our troops have advanced some three miles in many places. Heavy artillery fire is now being encountered from the enemy on the NORTH bank of the river.

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MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Strong forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked oil installations in German Silesia and Austria.

In support of ground forces in Southern France, Tactical aircraft attacked enemy communications and troop concentrations. Other Tactical aircraft carried our attacks against road and rail objectives, as well as other targets, in Northern Italy and Yugoslavia.

Last night, our bombers attacked military objectives at Miskolc, in Hungary.

In these operations, fifty-seven enemy aircraft were destroyed, and forty-five of ours are missing.

Three of our aircraft are missing from night operations on August 21/22.

MAAF flew approximately 2,300 sorties.

- END COMMUNIQUE -

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

ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH
22 AUG Recd
INFORMATION DIVISION
AGC

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

COMMUNIQUE No. 214

22 August, 1944

RELEASE TIME 1030B HRS

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

It can now be said that the city of Florence has been liberated by the troops of Eighth Army and is firmly in our hands. Our patrols are now pushed out beyond the confines of the city.

In the Adriatic sector Polish and Italian troops of Eighth Army continue to drive the enemy from the high ground between the Cesano and the Metauro Rivers.

In the coastal sector the enemy has been driven north of the Metauro River. Cerasa, Orciano and Poggio have been occupied. Elsewhere our patrols have continued harassing the enemy and in some cases have penetrated deep into the enemy lines.

SEVENTH ARMY:

French Forces have completed the encirclement of Toulon and have entered the northern suburbs of the city while the steady advance of American troops farther north continued.

Enemy resistance has been stubborn in Toulon and in the vicinity of Hyères farther east along the coast.

American troops have occupied Aix en Provence. Farther north forward elements have reached Grambois and Manosque in their advance beyond the Durance River.

Extending the southern France bridgehead some sixty miles inland other American forces have occupied a number of towns north of Draguignan.

The area now under our control has now been expanded to more than 2,000 square miles.

665

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY:

Escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked airfield at Nis in Yugoslavia and at Hajdu Boszormeny in Hungary. Fighter aircraft also attacked the airfield at Hajdu Boszormeny.

Tactical aircraft attacked bridges and road and rail transport in Northern Italy and enemy targets in the Italian battle area. Others carried out offensive sweeps in Southern France and Yugoslavia.

Last night our bombers attacked oil installations at Gyor in Hungary.

In these operations one enemy aircraft was destroyed and four of ours are missing.

Six of our aircraft are missing from night operations on Aug. 20/21.

MAAF flew more than 1,600 sorties.

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

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ITALIAN PATRIOT BRANCH

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

22 AUG Recd

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PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

Communique No. 213

21 August 1944

FOR RELEASE 1030B HRS

NAVAL COMMUNIQUE TO FOLLOW

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Polish troops of Eighth Army by their quick advance beyond the Cesano River on 19 August interfered with the enemy's apparent intention to withdraw towards the Metauro River and pinned enemy troops to the ground. As a result stiff fighting ensued in the area of San Costanzo and on the high ground to the southwest.

Enemy resistance in the area was overcome in the late afternoon of 19 Aug. and during 20 August our troops following up the enemy approached the River Metauro in the coastal sector. The towns of Mondavio (1754), Serafini (1955), and Palerno (which is about 2,000 yards north of S. Lorenzo 1446) have been occupied.

In the high ground between the Upper Arno and the Tiber Rivers Eighth Army patrols have been particularly active penetrating deep into no-mans-land.

On the Fifth Army front west of Florence there is no change in the situation.

ALLIED FORCES IN SOUTHERN FRANCE

Troops of Seventh Army are maintaining the rapid pace of their advance in southern France, and are now in the Durance River Valley, and are fighting in the approaches to TOULON against stiff opposition. French troops have reached a point three miles north of the Naval port city, and are also well to the northwest, approaching Highway Number Eight. American forward elements after crossing the Durance, a tributary of the Rhone River, reinforced French Forces of the Interior which had surrounded an enemy force in the town of PERTUIS. Other elements reached the outskirts of AIX EN PROVENCE. In some areas, pockets of enemy resistance have been by-passed. Number of additional towns and villages have been liberated. Prisoners taken now number approximately fourteen thousand.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

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

Communique No. 213 21 August 1944

FOR RELEASE 1030B HRS

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MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Oil refineries in Poland and Czechoslovakia yesterday were attacked by medium forces of escorted heavy bombers. Other formations of heavy bombers attacked rail yards and an airdrome in Hungary.

Enemy communications, concentrations and gun positions in southern France and northern Italy were attacked by tactical aircraft. Offensive sweeps also were carried out over Yugoslavia. Last night, our bombers attacked a Tank works near Steyr, Austria.

In these operations, two enemy aircraft were destroyed, and six of ours are missing. One of our aircraft is missing from night operations on August 19/20.

MAAF flew more than 1,900 sorties.

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

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INFORMATION DIVISION
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PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE H.Q.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

19 August 1944

Communique No. 211

NAVAL:

At about midnight of Aug 17/18 a force of German motor torpedo boats attempted to attack ships landing troops and stores in the south of France. The attack was repulsed by destroyers of the U.S. Navy and after a spirited engagement four of the enemy craft were sunk. Some survivors were rescued.

A message from the Naval Commander, Vice Admiral H. Kent Hewitt, USN, sent late in the evening of 17 August, reports the success of the British and American naval aircraft flown from a force of seven British and two U.S. aircraft carriers operating off the beachhead under the command of Rear Admiral Thomas Troubridge with his flag in H.M.S. Royalist.

In the course of their mission 16 trucks were destroyed on the ground and 35 damaged, together with two locomotives, 12 tank cars and 20 freight cars. Enemy communications were also heavily attacked, railways being disrupted and roads blocked. There was considerable anti-aircraft fire but no opposition from the air.

Minesweepers continued in good service off the beachhead and the Naval Commander reports that the naval task of disembarking reinforcements and unloading stores from newly arrived convoys is proceeding smoothly

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Heavy rain fell on the front of the Allied Armies in Italy during 18 August. In Florence troops of Eighth Army have virtually cleared the central portion of the town of snipers. On both sides of the upper Arno valley and in the Adriatic sector, British, Indian and Polish troops have sent forward deep recce patrols. West of Florence sector Fifth Army and enemy patrols have been active.

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ALLIED FORCES IN SOUTHERN FRANCE:

Continuing their rapid advance against relatively light opposition troops of Seventh Army have enlarged their bridgehead in southern France to more than one thousand square miles and have progressed to within six miles of Toulon, (9096).

Advances of several miles have been made by American units in the western and northwestern sectors on both sides of the Argens River valley. Towns occupied include Sollies-Pont (0126) La Roquebrussanne (9522) St. Gareoult (0020) Brignoles (0129) Vins (0833) and Salernes (1447).

French troops have overcome the last enemy opposition in the Cap Benat area.

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

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ALLIED FORCES IN SOUTHERN FRANCE: 683

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French troops have overcome the last enemy opposition in the Cap Benat area.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Strong forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday again attacked oil refineries in the Ploesti area. Others attacked the Klibunar airfield in Yugoslavia.

Tactical aircraft attacked road and rail bridges in the Rhone Valley and gun positions, enemy transport and other targets in southern France. Others attacked enemy objectives in northern Italy and Yugoslavia.

In those operations ten enemy aircraft were destroyed and twenty-one of ours are missing.

Three of our aircraft are missing from night operations on Aug. 17/18.

MAAF flew approximately 1,400 sorties.

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

Col. McCarthy

18 AUG Recd

INFORMATION DIVISION
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PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

18 August 1944

Communique No. 210

RELEASE TIME 1030B HRS

NAVAL:

Navy operations off the south coast of France are proceeding smoothly. The reinforcement and supply of the Army continues.

In addition to the two small enemy vessels reported as sunk in the communique of August 16, it is now learned that three E-boats were destroyed by minesweepers which proceeded assault craft during the initial approach to the beaches. Yesterday morning, 17 August, our forces sank two enemy corvettes off Cape CROISETTE, southeast of Marseille.

Further reports from the Naval Commander say that British and U.S. Naval aircraft operating from a force of aircraft carriers off the assault area gave valuable service in supporting the bombarding ships, as well as in bombing and ground-strafing enemy positions. They also provided air cover.

During the preliminary Naval bombardment and subsequent gunfire support, 15,900 shells of five inch calibre and above were expended by the ships of the Allied Navy. About 12,500 of those shells were of major calibre - twelve inch or above. The results of the Naval bombardment were reported as most effective in neutralising enemy artillery and thus assisting the landing.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

The situation in Florence is generally quieter and the distribution of supplies continues.

In the upper Tiber valley east and west of the river more advantageous positions have been occupied.

Activity on the remainder of the front of both Fifth and Eighth Armies has been confined to active patrolling with no appreciable change in the situation.

662

ALLIED FORCES IN SOUTHERN FRANCE

Troops of the Seventh Army have further enlarged their bridgehead in Southern France methodically advancing in nearly all sectors against crumbling resistance. Reinforcements continue to arrive steadily.

The last pocket of resistance has been overcome on the Island of PORT-CROS after an Allied battleship had fired on an enemy strongpoint there. The neighbouring island of LEVANT was cleared earlier.

On the mainland forward elements are less than ten miles from TOULON and six miles from CANNES, and in the central sector the advance has been extended to as far as twenty-five miles from the landing points. Thus far our casualties have been extremely light. Prisoners taken are estimated at seven thousand although the count is not complete. The captures include a German general and his staff.

0387
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Troops of the Seventh Army have further enlarged their bridgehead in Southern France methodically advancing in nearly all sectors against crumbling resistance. Reinforcements continue to arrive steadily.

The last pocket of resistance has been overcome on the Island of PORT-CROS after an Allied battleship had fired on an enemy strongpoint there. The neighbouring island of LEVANT was cleared earlier.

On the mainland forward elements are less than ten miles from TOULON and six miles from CANNES, and in the central sector the advance has been extended to as far as twenty-five miles from the landing points. Thus far our casualties have been extremely light. Prisoners taken are estimated at seven thousand although the count is not complete. The captures include a German general and his staff.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Medium forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked oil refineries in the Ploesti area. Other heavy bombers carried out attacks on an enemy airdrome at NIS, Yugoslavia.

Tactical aircraft continues to give close support to the ground forces in Southern France, and also attacked enemy objectives in Northern Italy and Yugoslavia.

Last night, our bombers again attacked oil refineries in the Ploesti area.

In these operations, TWO enemy aircraft were destroyed, and TWENTY-FOUR of ours are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 1,500 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE

0388

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

Col. Maj Canby

[redacted]

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

17 August 1944

COMMUNIQUE No. 208

NAVAL:

General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, Supreme Commander Allied Forces Mediterranean Theatre, with Admiral Sir John Cunningham, Commander in Chief, Mediterranean, visited the assault area in a British destroyer on August 16.

The latest reports received from the Naval Commander off the south coast of France, Vice Admiral H. Kent Hewitt, USN, show that the disembarkation of troops over the various beaches is proceeding according to plan. Convoys with reinforcements continue to arrive and the empty convoys to leave. All Allied minesweepers have given good service. Apart from their work during the original assault, mined areas offshore required for the use of ships unloading have almost completely been cleared.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY:

In Florence, Eighth Army troops continue to clear the city of enemy elements and snipers to enable supplies to be delivered to the local population.

Although there is no major change in our dispositions all along the front in the mountains east of the Upper Tiber valley, our advanced troops now occupy a number of high points until lately held by the enemy.

Our recce patrols have been active along the Arno from Florence to the sea. A number of clashes occurred.

ALLIED FORCES IN SOUTHERN FRANCE:

Our troops continue to advance. At some points light elements are eleven miles inland. The assault forces that came in over the beach have contacted elements of the paratroopers who landed further inland.

Unloadings have exceeded expectations. The assault formations are completely ashore with full tank and tank destroyer units and a well balanced stock of ammunition and supplies.

All sea coast defences have been silenced through effective air and naval bombardment.

Although resistance has been light, it has not been as slight as at first thought. Our casualties have been moderate while there is good evidence that enemy losses have been heavy.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Unescorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked four railroad bridges in the south of France. Others escorted by fighters attacked the Ober Raderach Chemical Works near FRIEDRICHSHAFEN.

661

Tactical aircraft attacked road and rail bridges, gun positions, transport and supply dumps in southern France, northern Italy, and the Italian battle area. Others attacked transport and other military targets in Yugoslavia, Albania and Greece.

In these operations one enemy aircraft was destroyed and five of ours are missing.

Incomplete reports show MAAF flew more than 1800 sorties.

It is now known that on 15 August, MAAF flew 4,285 sorties.

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

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Col. Lee, Courtney

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INFORMATION DIVISION
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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Information and Censorship Section
Public Relations Branch
APO 512

M. I.

15 August 1944

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAVY COMMUNIQUE

The various beaches over which the ships of the United States, British and French navies are landing American and French troops in the south of France extend over a considerable part of the coast between NICE and MARSEILLE. More than 800 of our ships of all types, with many mixed vessels, are taking part in the operations which are widespread. War ships of the Royal Canadian Navy are participating and vessels flying ensigns of the Netherlands, Poland, Greece and Belgium are also present. Assault craft started to move in towards the coast and landed exactly on time this morning in calm, clear weather. They were preceded to within close in shore by minesweepers and the attack is supported by heavy covering gun fire from battleships, cruisers, destroyers and other ships and craft of the Allied navy. Aircraft of the Royal and U. S. navies are cooperating with the Allied air forces. Responsibility for landing and establishing the Army on shore is naval, and the naval commander has ordered the assault pressed home with relentless force. Operations continue. End communique.

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Date 16/8 Time 12 00
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Colonel McCarthy

INFORMATION DIVISION

16 AUG Recd

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ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

ON RECORD BACKGROUND FOR COMMUNIQUE NO. 208

August 16, 1944

Fifth Army arty fired with good results 14 August on tanks and vehicles vicinity San Giovanni alla Vena (2461). Six enemy trying to cross the Arno just east of Pisa killed and their rubber boat sunk by small arms fire.

Farther east near Pinocchio (4561) small arms and rocket fire received by Fifth Army troops from across river. Small enemy patrols dispersed by our MG morter and small arms fire.

Civilians say women and children have been killed by Germans while attempting to cross the Arno. In one case they say two women and three children paid three Germans 700 lire to let them across. Same three Germans waited until they were half way over then shot at the women and children killing one woman.

That Germans attached importance to holding Empoli (5363) on Eighth Army's western flank appears evident from enemy broadcasts 13/14 Aug alleging all Eighth Army's attacks against town had failed. Our troops found roads in town blown and heavily mined. Mopping up enemy in town now completed. Empoli is glass manufacturing centre. Patrolling continues along Arno west of Florence.

Patriots, civilians and exmilitary personnel all doing everything possible to assist our services to operate smoothly in city. Patriots particularly invaluable Allies in present situation and cooperating courageously despite risk of reprisals.

AMG now feeding three-fourths population of Florence. On south bank eighty thousand Italians being fed. On north bank two hundred fifty thousand being supplied across river in triangular area bounded on south side by Arno River on west side by Viale Principe Umberto, Viale Principessa Margherita hinging at Piazza Cavour and bounded on east side by Viale Principe Ambadeo Viale Principe Eugenio. Enemy line runs from west to east along north bank Mugnone canal and at right angles from canal along Via delle Mille other side of railway line on east side to Campo di Marte stadium on city's eastern outskirts which is nomansland. Between German lines and Allied controlled sector north of river lies area housing scores of thousand inhabitants unable to get food.

Enemy has tanks round Florence and any activity in streets running at right angles from German held Via delle Mille provokes tank and MG fire. Enemy patrols also penetrate this nomansland. Thirteenth Aug uniformed Italian Republican Blackshirts were seen for first time and engaged patriots in Piazze G Vasari adjacent to railway line. In area beyond German line on outskirts of Florence not known if civilians able to get food but thought probable small supply comes from country.

In Forbici area NE of city on Fiesole road enemy preventing evacuation of 150 wounded civilians. Thirteenth August 80 civilian casualties from German morter fire in area Campo di Marte. Little change along Arno east of Florence.

Patrols active in Prato Magno mountains. In Alpe di Catenaia east of Route 71 enemy holding reverse slopes of M Regine (3250). In Tiber valley elements of Indian division occupied Viaio (4343) two miles NE of Anghiari (4241)

On Adriatic front Eighth Army troops following up their successes in Frontone (9737) area sent strong fighting patrol two miles

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

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Eighth Army's attacks against town [illegible]. Bridges all blown and heavily mined. Mopping up enemy in town now completed. Empoli is glass manufacturing centre. Patrolling continues along Arno west of Florence.

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On Adriatic front Eighth Army troops following up their successes in Frontone (9737) area sent strong fighting patrol two miles west of Frontone and after inflicting casualties and taking PWs compelled enemy outpost two and one half miles SE Cagli (9040) to withdraw. Farther east patrols confirm Montoporzio (2356) and Castelvecchio (2457) both occupied by enemy. Florence Misericordia Society is active in present fighting. This voluntary society formed in Twelfth century is non-political organisation run by laymen of all classes majority poor people whose aim it is to do good help sick and wounded anonymously. Members are unpaid. To hide identity they wear dominoes and masks. Modern organisation works from society HQ with ambulances. They answer phone calls for help and are doing invaluable work in Florence helping those who need succor.

Weather fair whole front. N O R B.

END

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Information and Censorship Section
Public Relations Branch
APO #512 - U.S. Army

15 August 1944

SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS, MEDITERRANEAN THEATER---

Today American, British and French troops, strongly supported by Allied air forces, are being landed by American, British and French fleets on the Southern coast of France. End communique.

PROCLAMATION

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM GENERAL SIR HENRY MAITLAND WILSON, SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER, MEDITERRANEAN THEATER, TO THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE---

"The Armies of the United Nations have landed in the south of France. Their objective is to drive out the Germans and to join up with the Allied Armies advancing from Normandy. French forces are participating in these operations, side by side with their Allied comrades in arms, by sea, land and air.

"The Army of France is in being again, fighting on its own soil for the liberation of its country with all its traditions of victory behind it---remember 1918. All Frenchmen, civilians as well as military, have their part to play in the campaign in the south. Your duty will be made clear to you. Listen to the Allied radio, read notices and leaflets, pass on all instructions from one man and woman to another.

"Let us end the struggle as quickly as possible so that all France may resume again her free life under conditions of peace and security.

"Victory is certain. Long live the spirit of France and all that it stands for."

(End)

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Information and Censorship Section
Public Relations Branch

On-Record-Background

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The assault, which was in strong force, was led by specially trained Allied troops, many of them veterans of previous invasions and campaigns in the Mediterranean theater.

Airborne troops were among those participating. Ground troops went ashore from the invasion fleet at several points along a wide front.

Planning and execution of this operation had the advantage of the experience gained in the successful North African, Sicilian, Salerno and Anzio landings.

The invasion troops underwent several weeks of intensive training in amphibious operations in preparation for this latest blow against the enemy, who in less than two years has been driven from North Africa, Sicily and most of Italy through the combined force of the Allies in the Mediterranean.

END

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R. N. and J. S. N. PRO's

ALLIED NAVIES

On Record Background

A vast force of ships of all types and sizes, flying the flags of several Allied nations, took the troops to and supported them in this assault in southern France.

From the regular ships of war - such as capital ships and cruisers for bombardment, destroyers of all ages in their unfailing general utility jobs - down through a huge collection of mine-sweepers, to the landing craft themselves, every ship in the Eastern Mediterranean had been scrupulously trained for D Day.

Long before H Hour, the naval forces had been disposed in widely dispersed ports and the vast plan of attack - second only in importance to Normandy - had been checked and counter-checked in all its thousands of details.

The delicate and monotonous job of clearing minefields had to be done first; enemy craft had to be warded off; as many as possible of the shore batteries had to be located and knocked out before the main assault could be run on to the beaches. All these tricky jobs had to be completed with excellent timing so that when the first LC's left their parent ships for the beach every obstruction possible had been cleared out of their way. These parent ships were again, as in many previous assaults, ex-passenger vessels which have carried many thousands of tourists on peacetime voyages to the continent and many other ports of the world. Their battle honours after the war will rival those of the busiest warship.

The whole operation had been carefully and vigorously planned and rehearsed. Naval craft working in conjunction with army assault troops had held realistic manoeuvres on several beaches in the Mediterranean, incorporating in their training lessons learned the hard way, on the beaches of Sicily, Salerno, Anzio and Elba. Many of the vessels participating had taken their share in all these landings; some had action histories going back to the North Africa Campaign. Combined with these were experiences gained in the Normandy landing of just over two months earlier.

The encouragement and steadiness of the Mediterranean "landing veterans", such as the crews of minesweepers, LCA's, LCT's, LCI's, and the great variety of landing craft now in use, had proved most useful in the training of the large number of Naval personnel performing their first assault against the enemy.

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P.I.P. M.S. Div

ISSUED BY AAF-RAF PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICES

Special Handout
Tuesday
August 15, 1944

For Release with AFHQ Communique No. 1.

PARATROOPERS DROP FROM C-47s BEFORE DAWN

Just before dawn broke over the southern coast of occupied France, cargo planes of a Troop Carrier Command dumped their freight of American and British paratroopers behind German coastal defences.

Taking off in the early morning from an airfield "somewhere in Italy", the twin-engined Dakotas (C-47s) roared over the Mediterranean for the para-drop on enemy-held territory.

Col. John Corny, of Harrison, Idaho, a group commanding officer, led the formation into action. "Our boys did their usual good job," he said on his return from the mission.

Colonel Timothy J. Manning, a troop carrier wing commanding officer, who piloted one of the planes on the para-drop, had this to say: "A damn good show."

Lt. Col. William A. Tesch, St. Joseph, Mo., commanding officer of one of the squadrons in the formation and a veteran of five para-drops said, "There was nothing to it. We went in, dropped, and came home."

Capt. Robert S. Walker, Allentown, Penn., holder of the group record for the greatest number of overseas flying hours, gave his version of the drop: "We dropped our boys right where they were supposed to go."

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ISSUED BY AAF-RAF PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICES.

SPECIAL AIR HANDOUT

(For Release With AFHQ Communique No. 1)

More than 14,000 air combat men of the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces, equivalent to the line strength of two divisions, were airborne this morning against German strongholds on the coast of southern FRANCE in support of the invasion.

An hour before the first troops were landed, the beaches felt the devastating effect of cascading tons of bombs designed to knock out or render ineffective invasion obstacles and coastal defenses.

MAAF threw into the gigantic aerial assault its full striking force to help blast a way inland for the invading troops.

The entire Strategic Air Force, composed of the 15th USAAF and RAF night bombers, was switched onto the tactical attack.

The heavy bombers joined forces with Tactical Air Force's fighter bombers, light and medium bombers to drop thousands of tons of bombs on gun emplacements, strongpoints, coastal defenses, troop concentrations, supply dumps and beachhead obstacles.

Farther inland, airfields and lines of communications to the beachhead area were attacked.

Fighters normally used for escort work in the 15th AAF teamed up with Tactical's fighters and fighter bombers to bomb and strafe targets in close support of the ground troops.

Hundreds of other fighters provided a protective screen against enemy aircraft for the landing troops and naval convoys.

RAF and American Beaufighters escorted the naval convoys during the night as they approached the landing areas. At first light this morning, Spitfires, flown by the RAF and French Air Force, took over the patrolling.

Other French Air Force units in action today were equipped with B-26 Marauders, P-47 Thunderbombers and reconnaissance aircraft.

Today's massed attacks brought to a climax a softening-up process which began months ago with the first missions against German airfields in southern FRANCE by 15th AAF Liberators and Flying Fortresses. These were the first stages of the air plan for the invasion.

654

As invasion-day neared, the attacks were switched to rail communications, serving the double purpose of disrupting service into and from Northern ITALY and into the area selected for the beachhead.

With the attacks by the heavies gaining momentum, B-25s and B-26s added the power of their bombing on vital communications targets in southern FRANCE.

P-47 Thunderbombers next joined in the attack, dive-bombing military installations and communications in vital

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

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P-47 Thunderbolts next joined in the attack, dive-bombing military installations and communications in vital areas along the coast.

RAF Wellingtons and Liberators, flying by night, attacked airfields and other targets in southern FRANCE, and Beaufighters and Mosquitos operated as intruders over airfields.

Ends

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

A.A.F. - R.A.F. PUBLICATIONS

SPECIAL HANDLING [illegible]

The Mediterranean Allied Coastal Air Force did its biggest job of harbour protection yet during the great build-up of shipping in Italian, Corsican, Sardinian, Sicilian and North African ports, in screening the invasion craft from the prying eyes of German reconnaissance aircraft.

The swift Allied advance in Italy in the last three months has given us many more ports and correspondingly increased Coastal's responsibilities.

Standing patrols of Spitfires, Thunderbolts and Airacobras have been maintained over all harbours by day, and by Beaufighters and Mosquitoes at night. These aircraft were flown by R.A.F., American and French pilots.

Their primary task has been to prevent the enemy getting visual or photographic information. Some reconnaissance aircraft have been destroyed by our night fighters; many others have been chased away before reaching their objectives. Only once during the vital period is it believed that a reconnaissance pilot managed to get his pictures - over Augusta Harbour in Sicily on the night of August 2/3, when four flash bombs were dropped.

At the peak period the Luftwaffe were flying more reconnaissance sorties in a week than formerly in a month, using highly-skilled pilots and the fastest JU-188s, JU-88s, and ME-410s, usually stripped of all armament to give them greater speed. These experienced pilots used all the tricks they knew to get the pictures. Sometimes they came in at heights of between 25,000 to 40,000 feet; at other times they skimmed the sea. Their stripped aircraft gave them speeds of up to 350 miles an hour.

In the week ended August 2nd Coastal aircraft were either scrambled or diverted from patrols on 59 occasions against German reconnaissance aircraft, and during the week ended August 9th 45 times, mainly in the neighborhood of Italian or Corsican ports.

On the night of July 29/30, an R.A.F. Beaufighter destroyed a reconnaissance aircraft northeast of Ancona without firing a shot. The German pilot, flying no more than 15 feet above the water, took such violent evasive action to get away that he hit the sea and crashed.

On the night of August 2/3, three JU-88s were shot down - one north of Ancona, one off Cape Corse (the northern tip of Corsica), and one west of Alghero (Sardinia). Two fell to Beaufighters - one R.A.F. and one American - and the other to a R.A.F. Mosquito. 653

Others have been damaged - and on one occasion two French-flown P-39 Airacobras winged a JU-188 in the neighborhood of Oran, and chased it to the Spanish coast.

After August 9th the German reconnaissance effort tailed off after their main reconnaissance base at Bergamo-Seriate, in northern Italy, was heavily bombed by the Tactical Air Force. Fighters went in first and silenced the gun defences, and then a force of medium bombers smothered

0400
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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END

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

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

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Information and Censorship Section
Public Relations Branch

On-Record-Background

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

As a part of the coordinated effort of the Army, Navy and Air Forces employed in the operations in southern France, Continental Base Section has been established by the U. S. Army to supply and support the combat troops.

To accomplish this task, C.B.S. must rebuild and operate ports capable of handling daily thousands of tons of munitions, food and equipment. These supplies must then be distributed to the fighting fronts. The base section also is charged with the supply of certain items to the Navy and Air Forces.

Further, C.B.S. must operate large maintenance shops for the repair of thousands of items ranging from shoes to tanks.

Included among the other functions of C.B.S. is to set up and operate laundries, bakeries and food processing plants; remount depots for the training and hospitalization of horses and mules; fixed station and general hospitals; machine shops; and vast storage depots.

C.B.S. must also rehabilitate and maintain existing highway and communication networks, and, if operational necessity dictates, construct new roads and communications systems.

In addition, the base section also has the important mission of provising for the welfare and recreation of the troops when they are withdrawn from the combat zone for rest.

The French Base Headquarters, to which French units are assigned for administration and control, will operate as an integral part of this headquarters.

(END)

0403

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

Sergio Stagnaro

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

Communique No. 207

15 August, 1944

RELEASE TIME 1030B HRS

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

In the city of Florence AMG officials continue to deliver food, water and medical supplies to the civilian population despite interference from snipers.

On the fronts of Fifth and Eighth Armies there is no change in the situation and active patrolling and artillery duels continue.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Strong forces of heavy bombers yesterday attacked gun positions in southern France and along the northwest coast of Italy. Fighter aircraft attacked radio installations and other military targets in the same area.

Tactical aircraft attacked military objectives in southern France, northern Italy, Yugoslavia, and the battle area.

Last night our bombers attacked shipping and port installations at Marseilles.

In these operations, one enemy aircraft was destroyed and ten of ours are missing. Two enemy aircraft were destroyed and ten of ours are missing from operations on 13 August.

On the night of August 13/14, our bombers attacked port installations and shipping at Genoa.

MAAF flew approximately 1,900 sorties yesterday, and 2,100 sorties on August 13.

Lt Ill; Cawley

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INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
On Record Background
14 Aug '44

The situation along Fifth Army front remained unchanged 13 Aug with arty exchanges predominating. A number of enemy SP guns observed EAST and WEST of PISA, on North side of ARNO river, taken under fire by Fifth Army arty.

Hostile arty fire generally light and scattered and harassing rather than concentrated. Increased fire by German 88mm dual-purpose guns reported.

Hostile horse-drawn arty and twenty track vehicles seen approaching factory area in NORTH PISA 13 Aug.

A Fifth Army patrol entered ISOLA (4863) without meeting resistance.

Two twin-engined German planes dropped flares and a few bombs during night 12/13 Aug. No damage or casualties resulted.

On Eighth Army's Western sector, New Zealand troops now well established in EMPOLI. No change along ARNO to FLORENCE.

In city, efforts being made by AMG to bring food and water to civilian population on North bank now meeting with greater success as indiscriminate firing of 12 Aug has died down. AMG continue their valuable work.

Patrols active on ARNO bend EAST of FLORENCE. In mountains, NORTH of AREZZO, enemy remains quiet. German equipment found abandoned at Pt 785 (3048) NORTHEAST of SUBBIANO. German patrols more active in mountains NORTH of PIETRALUNGA.

On Adriatic sector, we captured FRONTONE 9737, on the URBINO-FABRIANO North-South railway. Further East, our patrols in close contact with enemy in whole sector and confirm that enemy holding positions NORTHEAST of MONDOLFO, near coast.

Weather, Fifth Army front, clear. Eighth, mainly fine with settled outlook.

650

The following pamphlet was found in the SUBBIANO area in mid-July:

"The Commander in Chief of the German Armed Forces announces.

"Hitherto, the German armed forces have done all that they have been compelled by the necessities of war to do: correct and friendly behaviour and consideration for the civilian population. This friendly behaviour implies completely friendly behaviour on the part of the civilian population. If outrages and attacks by bandits, which hitherto have been isolated, and individual cases should increase, the High Command of the German armed forces

0 4 0 4 Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

A Fifth Army patrol entered ISOLA (4863) without meeting resistance.

Two twin-engined German planes dropped flares and a few bombs during night 12/13 Aug. No damage or casualties resulted.

On Eighth Army's Western sector, New Zealand troops now well established in MISOLI. No change along ARNO to FLORENCE.

In city, efforts being made by AMG to bring food and water to civilian population on North bank now meeting with greater success as indiscriminate firing of 12 Aug has died down. AMG continue their valuable work.

Patrols active on ARNO bend EAST of FLORENCE. In mountains, NORTH of AREZZO, enemy remains quiet. German equipment found abandoned at Pt 785 (3048) NORTHEAST of SUBBIANO. German patrols more active in mountains NORTH of PIETTALUNGA.

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"In order to guarantee the security of the lines of communications and supply services, I order that, from this moment,

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

"ONE. Whoever is found in possession of arms or explosives and does not report them to the nearest German Headquarters WILL BE SHOT.

"TWO. Whoever gives shelter to bandits, protects them or gives them clothing, food or arms ...WILL BE SHOT.

"THREE. If it is found that anyone knows a group of rebels or even a single rebel without having reported them to the nearest headquarters, he.....WILL BE SHOT.

"FOUR. Whoever gives information to the enemy or to the bandits on the location of German headquarters or military dumps ....WILL BE SHOT.

"FIVE. Any village where it can be proved that there are bandits or where attacks against German or Italian soldiers have been made, or where acts of sabotage intended to damage or destroy warlike stores, have taken place....WILL BE BURNT..TO THE GROUND. Moreover, male inhabitants of the village over 18 years old...WILL BE SHOT. Women and girls will be interned in labour camps.

"Italians. The well being of your country and the fate of your families are now in your hands. The German armed forces will carry out the above orders justly but without mercy and with all the severity that the consequences of the case demand.

"The Commander in Chief of the German armed forces."

1. The Bailey Bridge over the River TIBER at A 7317 was built by the Royal Engineers of Eighth Army under difficult conditions and, when completed, in fact bore more resemblance to a civilian girder bridge than the normal Bailey though constructed mainly of Bailey parts, with an improvised decking of local timber.

2. Of the original four-arched bridge, three arches had been irreparably damaged and the fourth completely destroyed by Allied precision bombing. The need for a high level bridge, as opposed to a floating bridge, and the lack of suitable large

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

"TWO. Whoever gives shelter to bandits, protects them or gives them clothing, food or arms ...WILL BE SHOT.

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"FOUR. Whoever gives information to the enemy or to the bandits on the location of German headquarters or military dumps ....WILL BE SHOT.

"FIVE. Any village where it can be proved that there are bandits or where attacks against German or Italian soldiers have been made, or where acts of sabotage intended to damage or destroy warlike stores, have taken place....WILL BE BURNT..TO THE GROUND. Moreover, male inhabitants of the village over 18 years old...WILL BE SHOT. Women and girls will be interned in labour camps.

"Italians. The well being of your country and the fate of your families are now in your hands. The German armed forces will carry out the above orders justly but without mercy and with all the severity that the consequences of the case demand.

"The Commander in Chief of the German armed forces."

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2. Of the original four-arched bridge, three arches had been irreparably damaged and the fourth completely destroyed by Allied precision bombing. The need for a high level bridge, as opposed to a floating bridge, and the lack of suitable large girders from civilian sources resulted in this special use of Bailey parts.

3. Sappers helped by Pioneers demolished the three remaining arches and using original piers, built a decked dual carriage way taking class 70 vehicles one way and class 40 traffic two ways. The bridge is 22 ft. wide and 2340 ft. long, and was finished in twelve and a half days. N O R B .

END

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INFORMATION DIVISION
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PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

14 August 1944

Communique No. 206

RELEASE TIME 1115B HRS

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

In Florence sniping is decreasing and AMG officials are better able to get food, water and medical supplies to the civilian population.

On the remainder of the front active patrolling continues.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Strong forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked bridges and military installations in southern France and northwestern Italy. Escorting fighters strafed ground installations; other heavy bombers attacked enemy troop concentrations at PEC in Yugoslavia, while fighter bombers attacked an airfield at MONTELIMAR in the Rhone valley.

Tactical aircraft continued their attacks against military objectives in the south of France and northern Italy.

It is not yet known how many enemy aircraft were destroyed, or what our losses were, on these operations.

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INFORMATION DIVISION
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[illegible] OPERATIONS
[illegible]
C.M.F.

Communique No. 204 — 12 August 1944

RELEASE TIME 1300 HRS

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Following upon the attack by Polish troops of the Eighth Army which carried them across the CESANO River, 10 August, activity along the whole front in Italy has been confined to active patrolling.

On the night of August 9/10 Commando troops destroyed the bridge connecting CHERSO and LUSSINO islands. Some prisoners were taken.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Adverse weather restricted operations yesterday.

Tactical aircraft attacked communications, transport and other military targets in Southern France, Northern Italy and Yugoslavia.

Our heavy bombers did not operate.

From these operations one of our aircraft is missing.

MAAF flew approximately 500 sorties.

END COMMUNIQUE

SPECIAL NOTE:

Following is addition to Army 'on record' background 12 August.

"The islands of CHERSO and LUSSINO are on the extreme north eastern end of the Adriatic sea. This bridge is the only road connecting these two places".

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Eighth Army

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INFORMATION DIVISION
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PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

Communique No. 202

10 August 1944

1639 (1)

RELEASE TIME [redacted] HRS

NO N.A.A.F. COMMUNIQUE:

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Most of Florence British troops of Eighth Army in operations designed to clear up pockets of enemy resistance on the high ground south of Pontassieve have driven the enemy from a number of important heights. Fighting continues.

In the Adriatic sector Polish troops of Eighth Army have captured two important features dominating the high ground between the Misa and Cesano rivers and have driven off several determined counter attacks.

On the remainder of the front activity continues to be confined to patrolling.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Medium forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked an oil refinery at Ploesti, an assembly plant at Gyor, and airfields at Vecses and Tokol in Hungary. Others attacked railyards at Brod in Yugoslavia.

Tactical aircraft attacked airfields, bridges and other military objectives in Northern Italy, Yugoslavia, and the battle area.

Last night our bombers attacked military targets at Ploesti.

In these operations, one enemy aircraft was destroyed and thirteen of ours are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 1700 sorties.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.

Communique No. 201

9 August 1944

RELEASE TIME 1030B HRS

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

The major activity on the Italian front has been transferred from Florence sector to the sector due north of Arezzo where our troops took M. Grillo, an important hill feature on the west of the upper ARNO valley leading to BIBBIENA. The importance which the enemy attaches to this feature is shown by the fact that he launched five counter-attacks to retake it during the day all of which were broken up by our artillery fire.

Other enemy counter-attacks were launched against our positions in the hills east of the upper ARNO valley. These were also successfully repulsed.

Another hill feature south of the Arno west of Pontassieve was taken during the day and a counter-attack driven off.

On the remainder of the front patrol activity by both sides continues.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Tactical aircraft continued their attacks yesterday on enemy supply lines and communications in Northern Italy, the battle area, and in southern France. Targets included railyards, bridges, rail lines, transport, and other military objectives. Other aircraft attacked objectives in Yugoslavia as well as shipping in the Adriatic.

Heavy bombers of the Eighth Air Force, flying from Russian bases, attacked airdromes at Buzau and Zilistea in the Ploesti area of Rumania, landing in Italy. Heavy bombers of the Fifteenth Air Force did not operate.

In these operations, four enemy aircraft were destroyed, and six of ours are missing. Four of our aircraft are missing from night operations August 7/8.

MAAF flew approximately 1,000 sorties.

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ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

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On the remainder of the front patrol activity by both sides continues.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Tactical aircraft continued their attacks yesterday on enemy supply lines and communications in Northern Italy, the battle area, and in southern France. Targets included railyards, bridges, rail lines, transport, and other military objectives. Other aircraft attacked objectives in Yugoslavia as well as shipping in the Adriatic.

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In these operations, four enemy aircraft were destroyed, and six of ours are missing. Four of our aircraft are missing from night operations August 7/8.

MAAF flew approximately 1,000 sorties.

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Lt. Air, Hartley

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INFORMATION DIVISION ACC

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PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.

Communique No. 200. 8 August 1944

RELEASE TIME 1030B HRS

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

Activity on the whole front of the Allied Armies in Italy during the past 24 hours has been confined to active patrolling and artillery engagements.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY.

Medium forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked synthetic oil plants at Blechhamer in SILESIA. Other heavy bombers attacked oil installations and an airfield in YUGOSLAVIA.

Tactical aircraft attacked enemy communications and other military objectives in Northern ITALY, the battle area, YUGOSLAVIA and Southern France.

In these operations, twenty nine enemy aircraft were destroyed and twenty two of ours are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 2,400 sorties.

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

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH

TO	FCLIC 19 Attachment	INFO.-	ACTION
	Col. Mc CARTHY		
✓	Major. MAGNUS	RM.	
	Major. DRAGE		
	Capt. SALVADORI		
	Chief CLERK		
	LIAISON SECTION.		
	Col. FAVA		
	Dr. TREVES		
	Mr. VILLA		

REMARKS.

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

Junior Inspection

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INFORMATION DIVISION

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PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

Communique No. 199

7 August 1944

RELEASE TIME 1030B HRS

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Troops of Eighth Army are now finmly established on the south bank of the River Arno except for pockets of enemy resistance south of Pontassieve and west of Empoli.

South African troops are in contact with the enemy on the north bank of the Arno in the city of Florence.

On the remainder of the front there is no change in the situation.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Strong forces of heavy bombers yesterday attacked rail communications and oil storage facilities in the Rhone Valley, and submarine pens at Toulon, while fighter aircraft attacked two airfields along the lower Rhone. Others carried out offensive sweeps over the Ploesti and Bucharest areas.

Tactical aircraft attacked military objectives in northern ITALY, the battle area, and YUGOSLAVIA, as well as railroad bridges in the south of France.

In these operations, one enemy aircraft was destroyed and twelve of ours are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 2,100 sorties.

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Col Mc; Carthy

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PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

Communique No. 197 — 5 August 1944

RELEASE TIME 0845 HRS G.M.T.

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Considerable progress has been made by Eighth Army SOUTH of FLORENCE. Troops of a South African Div. with units of a British Guards Bde. having forced the crossing of the River ELSA during the night 3/4 Aug. and taking the enemy strongpoint of GALLUZZO on the far bank the early morning of 4 Aug, were able to press forward to the outskirts of the city. On their right, New Zealand troops which won the high ground two days ago made a considerable advance which was badly hampered by demolitions.

Farther west, troops of an Indian Div. advanced north from their bridgehead over the ELSA River and are now within 1000 yards of SIGNA. EAST of FLORENCE troops of a British Div. have taken EMPOLI and are within 1000 yards of the ARNO NORTH of the town while the enemy is still on the high ground to the EAST.

Other British troops driving up towards PONTASSIEVE have occupied RIGNANO. NORTH and NORTHEAST of AREZZO limited gains have been made in the ADRIATIC sector.

In the ADRIATIC sector, Polish and Italian troops of Eighth Army have advanced their patrol line more than 2 miles in many places across the MISA River.

Activity on the Fifth Army front has been confined to very active patrolling in which many clashes occured and exchanges of artillery fire.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Tactical aircraft yesterday attacked enemy communications, including rail lines and bridges, highways, transport and other targets in NORTHERN ITALY, SOUTHERN FRANCE, and the battle area. Other aircraft were active against military objectives in SOUTHERN ALBANIA.

There were no heavy bomber operations.

In these operations THREE of our aircraft are missing. ONE enemy aircraft was destroyed and two of ours are missing from night operations Aug 3/4.

MAAF flew approximately 700 sorties.

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

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
PATRIOTS BLOCK

TO	FOLIO 17 Attachment	INFO.	ACTION.
	Col. PC DARTHY		
✓	Major WARDS	RD	
	Major LR JR		
	Capt. SILVESTRI		
	Chief CLERK		
	LIAISON SECTION		
	Col. EVA		
	Dr. TREVES		
	Mr. VILLA		

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7/8/ S.S. Col: McCarthy

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

Communique No. 198 — 6 August 1944

RELEASE TIME 1030B HRS

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

On both sides of Florence after a day of clearing pockets of enemy resistance south of the Arno, troops of the Eighth Army are now firmly established on the south bank of the river in contact with the enemy.

Farther to the east troops of Eighth Army have captured MOUNT ALTUCCIA, a dominating feature on the high ground between the ARNO and TIBER valleys.

In the Adriatic sector Polish troops have advanced between two and three miles across the River MISA, have entered the town of SCAPEZZANO and are in contact with the enemy immediately north of the town.

On the remainder of the front including the American Fifth Army sector, there is no change in the situation.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Adverse weather restricted operations yesterday, tactical aircraft attacked roads, railways and enemy positions in the battle area and northern Italy, while other aircraft attacked shipping in the Gulf of Genoa and the Adriatic, and military objectives in Yugoslavia.

Our heavy and medium bombers did not operate.

In these operations, one enemy aircraft was destroyed, and five of ours are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 500 sorties.

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

RELEASE TIME 1030B HRS

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

On both sides of Florence after a day of clearing pockets of enemy resistance south of the Arno, troops of the Eighth Army are now firmly established on the south bank of the river in contact with the enemy.

Farther to the east troops of Eighth Army have captured MOUNT ALTUCCIA, a dominating feature on the high ground between the ARNO and TIBER valleys.

In the Adriatic sector Polish troops have advanced between two and three miles across the River METAURO, have entered the town of SCAPEZZANO and are in contact with the enemy immediately north of the town.

On the remainder of the front including the American Fifth Army sector, there is no change in the situation.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Adverse weather restricted operations yesterday, tactical aircraft attacked roads, railways and enemy positions in the battle area and northern Italy, while other aircraft attacked shipping in the Gulf of Genoa and the Adriatic, and military objectives in Yugoslavia.

Our heavy and medium bombers did not operate.

In these operations, one enemy aircraft was destroyed, and five of ours are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 500 sorties.

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Col. McCarthy - 3V

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PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

Communique No. 195 — 3 August 1944

RELEASE TIME 1030B HRS

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

To the south of MONTELUPO troops of an Indian division have crossed the River PESA on a wide front and advanced over a mile. Southwest of FLORENCE heavy fighting still continues. In the valley of the River GREVE to the south of FLORENCE important gains against strong opposition have been made. On the east bank of the Upper ARNO to the southeast of FLORENCE further local advances have been made. On the rest of the Eighth Army front and in the American Fifth Army sector patrols have been active and artillery duels continue.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Medium forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked enemy communications. A torpedo factory and other objectives in southern France. Other heavy bombers attacked harbour installations at Genoa.

Tactical aircraft attacked enemy supply lines and other targets in north central Italy and the battle area, as well as shipping in the Adriatic. Offensive sweeps were carried out over Yugoslavia.

In these operations, two enemy aircraft were destroyed, and nine of ours are missing. One enemy aircraft was destroyed and one of ours is missing from night operations 1/2 August.

MAAF flew approximately 1,500 sorties.

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

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PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

Communique No. 193

1 August 1944

FOR RELEASE 1045B HOURS

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Southwest of FLORENCE heavy fighting still continues for possession of the high ground. Troops of Eighth Army continue to make slow but methodical progress. On the rest of the front including the American Fifth Army sector active patrolling and artillery duels continue.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Oil installations in BUCHAREST and the PLOESTI area yesterday were attacked by medium forces of escorted heavy bombers.

Enemy communications, supply lines and other objectives in Northern Italy and the battle area were attacked by tactical aircraft. In sweeps over Yugoslavia, our aircraft attacked motor transport and rail targets.

In these operations, thirty-two enemy aircraft were destroyed, and ten of ours are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 1,700 sorties.

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

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH

TO	FOLIO Attachment	INFO.	ACTION.
Col. Mc CARTHY			
Major. MAGNUS			
Major. DRAGE			
Capt. SALVADORI			
Chief CLERK			
LIAISON SECTION			
Col. FAVA			
Dr. TREVES			
Mr. VILLA			

REMARKS.

Major Gen. McNarney

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PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

Communique No. 195 — 3 August 1944

RELEASE TIME 1030B HRS

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

To the south of MONTELUPO troops of an Indian division have crossed the River PESA on a wide front and advanced over a mile. Southwest of FLORENCE heavy fighting still continues. In the valley of the River GREVE to the south of FLORENCE important gains against strong opposition have been made. On the east bank of the Upper ARNO to the southeast of FLORENCE further local advances have been made. On the rest of the Eighth Army front and in the American Fifth Army sector patrols have been active and artillery duels continue.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Medium forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked enemy communications. A torpedo factory and other objectives in southern France. Other heavy bombers attacked harbour installations at Genoa.

Tactical aircraft attacked enemy supply lines and other targets in north central Italy and the battle area, as well as shipping in the Adriatic. Offensive sweeps were carried out over Yugoslavia.

In these operations, two enemy aircraft were destroyed, and nine of ours are missing. One enemy aircraft was destroyed and one of ours is missing from night operations 1/2 August.

MAAF flew approximately 1,500 sorties.

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

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

Col. Mc; Carthy

4 AUG Recd

M.S.
INFORMATION DIVISION
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PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

Communique No. 194. 2 August 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1030B HOURS

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Heavy fighting continues in the sector southwest of FLORENCE where troops of an Indian Division belonging to Eighth Army have occupied the town of CASTIGLIONI.

In the Upper Tiber valley important local gains have been made against strong opposition.

On the remainder of the front activity continues to be confined to active patrolling and artillery duels.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Tactical aircraft yesterday continued to concentrate their attacks against enemy communications in Northern Italy and the battle area. Rail lines, roads, bridges, transport, shipping and other targets were attacked. In Yugoslavia, attacks were carried out against supply lines and transport.

There were no heavy bomber operations.

In these operations which were restricted by adverse weather, one enemy aircraft was destroyed and two of ours are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 1,100 sorties.

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC
31 July '44

- 2 AUG Recd

Communique No. 192

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

To the west of FLORENCE troops of an Indian Division of Eighth Army have cleared the area between the PESA and ELSA rivers south of the ARNO except for a few small pockets of enemy resistance. Eighth Army troops southwest of FLORENCE have made small but important gains in very heavy fighting.

In the Fifth Army sector and remainder of Eighth Army front, activity is confined to very active patrolling and artillery duels.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Medium forces of heavy bombers yesterday attacked military objectives in HUNGARY and YUGOSLAVIA. The targets included an aircraft factory and airdrome near BUDAPEST, an oil refinery at BUDAFAPUSZTA, in southwest HUNGARY, and railyards at BROD, in northern YUGOSLAVIA.

In northern Italy, the battle area, and in Yugoslavia, tactical aircraft attacked enemy communications and supply lines, as well as other objectives.

In these operations six enemy aircraft were destroyed, and nine of ours are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 1,500 sorties.

- END -

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Gen. McCarthy

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INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

Communique No. 190

29 July, 1944.

FOR RELEASE 1030B HOURS

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Troops of Eighth Army are now approaching the ARNO on a wide front west of FLORENCE, and are within two miles of the important town of EMPOLI. Farther east other Eighth Army troops are engaged in heavy fighting for the high ground overlooking FLORENCE five miles to the southwest of the city.

On the Adriatic coast Polish troops have entered the town of SENIGALLIA and increased their bridgeheads over the river MISA.

On the Fifth Army front activity is still confined to patrols and heavy artillery duels.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Medium forces of heavy bombers yesterday attacked oil refineries at PLOESTI, Rumania, and a railyard at FLORINA in Northern Greece.

Tactical aircraft continued their attacks on enemy communications and supply lines, as well as other military objectives, in Northern Italy, in the battle area, and in Yugoslavia.

In these operations, TWELVE enemy aircraft were destroyed, and TWENTY FIVE of ours are missing. One of our aircraft is missing from night operations July 27/28.

MAAF flew approximately 1,700 sorties.

0427

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

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

SUPPLEMENT TO ON RECORD BACKGROUND

For release 0900 GMT 29 July

Continuing his tour of the Italian battlefront His Majesty spent the day visiting formations of the Desert Air Force. In the course of an extensive tour of forward airfields His Majesty inspected fighter, fighter-bomber and reconnaissance squadrons. Whilst visiting one airfield His Majesty attended the briefing of tactical reconnaissance and artillery reconnaissance pilots, and at another listened to a fighter-bomber squadron being briefed for an attack upon an enemy gun position and later saw the squadron take off.

His Majesty was entertained at lunch by Major-General Cannon, Commanding General of Mediterranean Tactical Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal D'Albiac, Deputy Commander, Mediterranean Tactical Air Force, and Air Vice-Marshal Dixon, Air Officer Commanding, Desert Air Force.

Before lunch a number of senior officers of Mediterranean Allied Tactical Air Force and Desert Air Force were presented to His Majesty.

END

32 1R 29 JUL Recd
-29 1R

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

- Patriot 9 Branch

PRB/R10 28 July, 1944

Trend of Correspondents' Copy

BRIA (AP)
CHENIGO (INS)

The Vatican, through the "Osservatore Romano", has warned both sides to reflect seriously on the moral consequences of the deliberate destruction of Pisa's monuments. The warning is given as a result of reports that the Germans are using the leaning tower of Pisa as an artillery observation post, and are building machine gun posts in the streets.

PACKARD (UP): In an interview with Dr. Salvatore Camera, private secretary to Bonomi, was told that the Italian Goverment were especially anxious to have Lease-Lend extended to Italy, and for the Allies to give Italy a chance of redeeming herself by more aid through her fighting troops, and the recognition of Italy as an ally and no longer as merely a co-belligerent.

SPRIGGE (Reuter)
MOORE ("Daily Telegraph"): A vast and complex political and financial clique is trying to suppress the publication of Ciano's diary, according to the Communist paper "Unita". Only extracts which do not compromise certain political groups who have extreme and urgent interest in suppressing the dangerous document are at least preventing its publication in entirety.

Contrary to the report that seven copies of the diary exist, it is believed that there is only one copy, written in several school exercise books, and that it is in the possession of someone in liberated Italy. In addition "Unita" says that many important and historical documents have been removed to safer places by civil servants and that some of these show the truth of how certain Fascists were responsible for the war. On the pretext of saving them first from the Badoglio Government, then from the Germans and then from the Republican Fascists some of the documents are said to be still in the hands of people who are trying to use them for their own purposes, and already some

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R. MOWRER (Chicago News) writing on the partisan problem says that representatives of the Italian Ministry of War have been directed to join AMG officers in forward areas and to deal with patriots in the 5th and 8th army zones as well as in the area under Polish command. They will interview partisan applicants for the Army and decide how many can be accepted. The ACC has issued detailed orders for giving priority to patriots who do not enter military

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service. The partisans do not believe the story that arms should be handed over for the use of patriots in the North. Many of the arms are of Italian origin, hidden when the Italian army folded up last September, or German weapons taken from the Germans at the risk of patriot lives.

BIENSTOCK (Overseas News Agency. NY)

Gives a long favourable account of the work of AMG in dealing with the Italian refugee problem.

MATTHEWS ("New York Times") sends very lengthy article on the text of a "Fillipelli memorinle" which has been translated from a photostat copy of the Italian original. It purports to give the true story of the kidnapping and assassination of Matteotti and those involved in the murder.

BUCKLEY (Reuter)

Filed a story which "Avanti" is said to have published, but which was not passed by the Censor. It is an account of two women and two children having been thrown from a train by French North African troops. It states that several women and children got a lift on a train carrying these troops. During the journey these troops made indecent advances which the women rejected, and as a result the women were thrown from the train. One woman and child were picked up dead; one woman and child died in hospital, and another woman is now in the San Giovanni Hospital in Rome, and is not expected to recover.

PACKARD (UP): Says that the Democrat paper "Il Popolo" which is considered to be in close touch with the Vatican, has called the attention of the Allied authorities to the very difficult living conditions and hardships which Italian civilians are undergoing at present.

PACKARD (UP): Appointment of Count Carandini in replacement of Croce is being interpreted in Italy as an indication of Italian Liberalism swinging to the left since Carandini is an advocate of Republicanism whereas Croce was a Monarchist.

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

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The Liberal party has not yet made up its mind regarding the Monarchist-Republican issue. Many believe that the Liberals will split into two. Under the 6 party set up established by AMG as the only legal parties in Italy the Liberals were considered Rightists along with the Democratic Workers party, while the Christian Democrats were considered the Centre party, and the Action party, Socialists and Communists were of the Left. Although there are many Monarchists, they do not form any definite party, since it is reported they do not wish to raise the Monarchists issue at this juncture as they believe it would make Umberto and his 7 year old son the victims of some of the animosity felt toward Victor Emmanuel.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785046

SPRIGGE (Reuter)

Tribunal consisting of 2 professional judges and 5 citizens will be ready to commence trials of former Fascist Ministers and high party officials by the end of August, according to a Government announcement issued after the Cabinet meeting. Sforza has been confirmed in his office as High Commissioner in charge of these courts. At yesterday's session Count Jacomoni, former Lieutenant Governor of Albania was ordered into retirement for his responsibility in the war against Greece.

The Minister of Communications has announced that all railway lines in Sicily and Sardinia and most of those in Southern Italy are now running limited services subject to the exigencies of military traffic. The Rome-Formia-Naples line is expected to reopen this month.

BERGH (Goteborgs Handelstidning)

In Rome there are at least 35.000 civil servants without work. This figure increases as the political purge takes place. Unemployment not only through lack of raw materials but also because machinery has been destroyed and there is no electric power. The Rome press insist it is necessary to send away many of the refugees still in Rome, as the lack of accommodation and food makes this urgent.

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Col. Mrs. Carthy

29 JUL Recd

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A.F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

Communique No. 188

28 July 1944

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Troops of Eighth Army in their drive to the River ARNO west of FLORENCE have made substantial gains and are now within four miles of the town of EMPOLI. Further east in their drive toward FLORENCE local gains have been made against strong opposition. In these two sectors the towns of SAN CASCIANO, VALLECCHIO and CAMBIANO have been taken. On the high ground between the ARNO and TIBER rivers troops of Eighth Army have made local gains in heavy fighting including the capture of the town of CITERNA.

In the ADRIATIC sector Polish troops of Eighth Army are now firm on the line of the River MISA and are fighting in the outskirts of the town of SENIGALLIA with patrols across the river.

On the Fifth Army front activity has been confined to patrols and artillery duels.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Medium forces of heavy bombers yesterday attacked the MANFRED WEISS armament works, near BUDAPEST.

Tactical aircraft concentrated their attacks on enemy communications and supply lines, as well as other targets in northern ITALY, the battle area and YUGOSLAVIA.

In these operations, at least SIXTEEN enemy aircraft were destroyed and EIGHTEEN of ours are missing. One of our aircraft is missing from night operations July 26/27.

MAAF flew approximately 2,000 sorties.

Last night, our bombers attacked military objectives at PLOESTI.

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INFORMATION

P.M.

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

Book - McCarthy

28 JUL Recd

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

PUBLIC RELATIONS
ADVANCE A. F.H.Q.
C.M.F.

Communique No. 187

26 July, 1944.

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

On a thirty mile front south of FLORENCE the troops of Eighth Army have again made substantial gains. Particularly to the west of the POGGIBONSI-FLORENCE road, where the leading elements are now approaching SAN CASCIANO. To the west of the ARETZZO-PONTASSIEVE road the enemy has been forced to withdraw from further positions, and gains up to three miles have been made. One enemy line of resistance six miles northeast of AREZZO has been pierced and in the upper TIBER valley local gains have been made in the area south of SAN SEPOLCRO.

There is no material change in the positions of the Polish troops of Eighth Army in the Adriatic sector.

In the Fifth Army sector activity has been confined to patrols and heavy exchanges of artillery fire.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Medium forces of escorted heavy bombers yesterday attacked the HERMANN GOERING tank works at LINZ, AUSTRIA. Other heavy bombers hit the rail yards at VILLACH, also in AUSTRIA.

Tactical aircraft ranged over northern ITALY, the battle area and YUGOSLAVIA, striking at rail lines and bridges, roads, transport, shipping and other enemy installations.

In these operations, SIXTY-FIVE enemy aircraft were destroyed, and TWENTY-SIX of ours are missing.

MAAF flew approximately 1,700 sorties.

0436

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

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INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

Id. Mc Cauley

24 July, 1944

Communique No. 185

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED FORCE ADVANCE HEADQUARTERS

RELEASE TIME 1045B HRS

NO NAVAL COMMUNIQUE

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

American troops of Fifth Army have reached the town of MARINA DI PISA on the coast and are now firmly established on the south bank of the River ARNO from its mouth to a point less than 20 miles from FLORENCE and have occupied the portion south of the ARNO.

Further progress has been made north of POGGIBONSI to within 12 miles of FLORENCE.

To the west of AREZZO British troops of Eighth Army have made important gains north of the ARNO and have captured the town of TERRANUOVA.

In the TIBER VALLEY Eighth Army troops have advanced both sides of the TIBER and are now within 5 miles of the important road centre of SANSEPOLCRO.

In the ADRIATIC sector Polish troops have beaten off a number of determined enemy counter attacks and have made local gains.

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Heavy bombers yesterday attacked an oil refinery at KERAT, in ALBANIA. Escorting fighters conducted offensive sweeps over the target area, and at PRIZREN and DJAKOVICA in YUGOSLAVIA.

Rail lines and bridges, highways, transport, warehouses, troop concentrations, shipping and other enemy installations were attacked by tactical aircraft in NORTHERN ITALY and the battle area. Light and fighter bombers struck at objectives in the NORTH ADRIATIC and YUGOSLAVIA.

Last night, our bombers attacked military objectives near DUCLAREST.

Two of our aircraft are missing from these operations.

MAAF flew approximately 1,000 sorties.

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

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25 JUL Recd RJ

Major Magnus

INFORMATION DIVISION
ACC

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Communique No. 184 — 23 July, 1944

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED FORCE ADVANCE HEADQUARTERS

FOR RELEASE AT 1030 hours.

No Naval Communique.

ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

Troops of Eighth Army in the TIBER VALLEY, after heavy fighting for over a week, have seized the town of CITTA DI CASTELLO. In the MONTE SAN MICHELE area troops of Eighth Army have again gained more ground and are approaching the town of GREVE. On the ADRIATIC COAST Polish troops of Eighth Army have made more gains against increasing enemy resistance, covering the enemy's lateral communication southwest from SENIGALLIA.

American troops of Fifth Army have consolidated and improved their positions on the line of the RIVER ARNO, and have cleared a substantial area of enemy resistance in the coastal sector between LEGHORN and PISA.

627

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, ITALY

Strong forces of heavy bombers yesterday struck at an oil refinery at PLOESTI, and other military objectives in RUMANIA.

In Northern Italy and in the battle area, tactical aircraft attacked enemy communications and other targets, while other aircraft struck at objectives in YUGOSLAVIA.

Early reports show that in these operations FIVE enemy aircraft were destroyed and TWENTY-EIGHT of ours are missing. SIX aircraft are missing from night operations July 21/22. MAAF flew approximately 1800 sorties.

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

Colonel Mc. Carthy 3 cys R 20/7

INFORMATION DIVISION
ASF

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ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY
COMMUNIQUE NO 181
20 July 1944

Torrential rain over the battlefront of Italy has seriously interferred with our forward movement.

Following the capture of Leghorn American troops of Fifth Army have reached the River Arno on a front of about twenty five miles, and there is now only scattered enemy resistance south of the river in this sector. Farther west troops of Fifth Army have been engaged with enemy rearguards, and have advanced between two and three miles having cleared the towns of Varna, Certaldo, and San Donato.

West of Arezzo, troops of Eighth Army have been engaged in heavy fighting in the area of Montevarchi and in the hills around Radda which has been occupied, and from which further progress has been made to the north.

In the Adriatic sector of Eighth Army, Polish and Italian troops are now meeting enemy resistance on the general line of the River Esino, eight miles west of Ancona. Italian troops have cleared the town of Sante Marie Nuova. END COMMUNIQUE

PA.

626

Col McCarthy

Press Communique
19 July 1944

19 Jul 44

Communique:- Following their breakthrough to the west of Ancona, Polish troops of Eighth army captured the important port city 18 July, taking a large number of prisoners, and quantities of material. Their infantry supported by armour are still relentlessly pursuing the retreating enemy. In the days advances, Polish troops have captured, among other, town Agugliano and Camerano.

In the central sector, British troops of Eighth army, to the west of Arezzo have now crossed the Arno on a front of six miles. Farther west, they have captured the town of Montevarchi, fifteen miles west of Arezzo.

American troops of Fifth army, in a swift advance, have reached the Arno and captured the town of Pontedera. The capture of this town places Fifth army troops across the direct Pisa-Florence road, thereby dividing the German forces south of the Arno. In fierce fighting to the east of Leghorn, American troops are now on the slopes of Monte Della Poggia, a dominating feature three miles from the centre of the city.

Among other places captured were Ponsacco Fauglia, and Luciana.

On Record Background:- Ancona fell to Polish troops of Eighth army at 1430 hrs 18 July. Capture of this important Adriatic port was another success for Eighth army, and will greatly assist future operations. Polish corps has advanced seventyfive miles in past few weeks, stubbornly breaking down bitter German resistance in mountain country which offered exceptional opportunities to the defense. Two German divisions had been concentrated to protect this valuable medium size port (pop 95,000). Both have been severely handled in porcess, and altogether, more than two thousand prisoners have been taken.

Germans well realized importance to Eighth army of this port and have carried out extensive demolitions there. This great success of Polish arms follows their historic feat in capturing Monastery Hill earlier in campaign, an action in which, according to German propaganda, Polish corps had suffered so severely that it could take no further part in Eighth armys operations.

Advancing swiftly forward elements likewise reached coast some three miles to west of city. Other forces approaching coast still farther west. By afternoon, leading troops approx two miles from river Esino.

Prisoner count had passed five hundred on 17 July, and total mounted rapidly following day.

Armoured elements took town of OFFAGNA, northwest of OSIMO where fighting had been in progress several days. Other town taken included CAMERANO (6338), PATERNO D ANCONA (5242), and AGUGLIANO (5039). POLVERIGI (5137) bypassed.

In Tiber valley, high ground just southeast of CITTA DI CASTELLO was attacked and captured. Taking of MONTE CEDRONE in this area earlier was result of effective fighting of an Indian division.

In AREZZO sector, our troops made further advances and are established on point 974 (3633).

Some eight miles northwest of AREZZO, forward elements were under fire 18 July from CASTIGLION (1940) which still held by enemy. Another force engaged in LATERINA (1638) nearby. Heavy shelling and odd pockets of resistance met with throughout day.

On left flank of Eighth army, MONTEVARCHI (0340) mostly clear, but opposition stubborn in this area. RADDA still in enemy hands. Leading elements in this sector were on Point 632 (8635).

Fifth army troops, which moved swiftly into PONTEDERA morning of 18 July, consolidated positions on southern bank of Arno remainder of

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Fifth army troops, which moved swiftly into PONTEDERA morning of 18 July, consolidated positions on southern bank of Arno remainder of day. This town of 20,500 is on line six and half miles north of LEGHORN, a and only little more than two miles southeast of MONTE PISANO hill mass which dominates western valley of Arno as well as cities of LEGHORN and PISA.

Fifth army troops now well within sight of both these cities from south and east. Directly to south of LEGHORN, our forces meeting continued stiff resistance which has held their advance to less than mile beyond MONTENERO.

(Over)

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These units had been stalled there several days.

Farther to east, a patrol was on slopes of MONTE DELLA POGGIA, where it was meeting stubborn opposition from Germans anxious to stall off as long as possible advance on LEGHORN.

Still farther east, Fifth army units were about two miles past LE SORGENTI and nearby PARRANA SAN GIUSTO (1345). The 442nd Regiment made up of American soldiers of Japanese descent played important part in this sector. All members are volunteers, many having entered armed forces from relocation centres.

BADALUCCO (1849), nearby FAUGLIA PONSACCO, and LUCIANA (1646) captured 18 July.

Again to east, other units were fighting way up narrow valleys of Chiencinella and Chiecina rivers. In this general area, one of most thickly sown mine fields of campaign encountered, and troops forced to pick way carefully forward. Despite devastating mortar and machine gun fire, and tremendous enemy arty barrage, our troops in this sector gained ground up to two miles during 24 hour period. Advance elements on right were less than half mile south of MONTOPOLI which mile and half south of ARNO. Tanks and infantry on left pushed on past COLLEOLI (3854) about mile and half.

Remnants of German forces observed pulling out to north side of ARNO in this sector, and more than 100 prisoners taken in mopping up operations.

On extreme right sector, progress delayed by strong concentrations of enemy arty from northeast.

Troops closing in on LEGHORN reported city appeared more thoroughly smashed than any large community thus far attacked by Fifth army. Generally, along Fifth army front, Germans being forced to withdraw to positions north of Arno outpost line of Gothic line, and leaving strong rear elements to impede progress. Local counter attacks launched in almost every case just prior to withdrawal. Mines in great depth and demolitions everywhere have greatly helped enemy retreat.

Most recent studies of German defenses at Gothic line indicate line still not completed, although formidable positions have been constructed in every pass leading through to north. Huge pillboxes, some carved back into rock thirty feet and shielded with steel and eight foot layers of concrete strung along passes to depths as much as five miles.

Line runs about 190 miles. Enemy has worked approx eight months on Gothic line, forcing from fifteen to twenty thousand local labourers to undertake actual construction. Some serious interruptions caused by Patriots who have harassed supply columns and shot up isolated groups working on individual isolated emplacements. Operations in Futa pass suspended for one period owing to Patriot activity.

Lately, work feverishly speeded up and ack ack has been especially intensified especially in areas of road nets which all important to enemy since most of railroad communications knocked out by allied bombers. Heavy traffic observed on these roads particularly at night. End Background.

Weather unsettled. No change press release line. NORB

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Allied Armies In Italy
Press Communique
18 July 1944

Lt. McCarthy (R.)

Communique: - The Allied Armies in Italy have again made good progress in several sectors of the front.

In the Adriatic sector Polish troops of Eighth Army have made advances of between two to three miles and now present a serious threat to the important port of Ancona.

In their drive to the river Arno British troops of Eighth Army have reached the river in several places established a bridgehead and have taken the towns of Levane and Quarata. To the West of Arezzo further advances have been made and progress continues on both sides of the River Tiber.

American troops of Fifth Army to the East of Leghorn have met determined resistance but in heavy fighting have captured a number of towns and villages and are now within four miles of the Arno and on a front of some six miles.

On Record Background: - Eighth Army scored further advances in number of areas along its wide front and maintained bridgehead over ARNO Northwest of AREZZO against enemy attempts to infiltrate and heavy arty fire.

After several days of relative inactivity, Adriatic sector came to life with advances by Polish and Italian troops particularly Northwest of OSIMO in vicinity of OFFAGNA. In this area village of SAN PATERNIANO (5436) and MONTE BOGO (4936) captured. Further crossing of MUSONE River made.

Further West our patrols pushed forward aggressively North and Northwest of FABRIANO bypassing number of localities. Fighting took place in vicinity of GUBBIO.

In Tiber Valley substantial gains made Northwest of CITTA DI CASTELLO where long contested MONTE CEDRONE (5330) and nearby high ground captured and counterattack repulsed.

Southeast of AREZZO PALAZZO DEL PERO (3628) passed and forward elements pushed on to ALPE DE POTI High ground North of SAN SEGERO (3632).

Most spectacular advance of 16/17 July was Northwest of AREZZO where armour and infantry broke thru strong enemy position at QUARATA and advanced rapidly 16 July to take nearby bridge over ARNO so quickly that party of German engineers ready to blow it captured. By afternoon 17 July, leading troops were South of CINCELLI (2238) some six miles Northwest of AREZZO. North and Northeast of city other troops pushed on to vicinity of ANTRIA (3036) but not with delays from mines.

Further West on Eighth Army's left flank PERGINE (1334) clear of enemy and advance made as far as LEVANE (0737) town of GIOLE

824

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Further West on Eighth Army's left flank PERGINE (1334) clear of enemy and advance made as far as LEVANE (0737) town of GAIOLE (9234) clear and advance continued beyond. South African armour made further progress and reached to point less than mile of RADDA (8736) where they were under enemy fire. In this area bridge over PESA river captured intact.

In AREZZO ruins of railway station evidence of accuracy of our bombing.

Leading Fifth Army's elements now fighting their way through last of hill masses South of ARNO and approaching ARNO plain which borders River to width of from three to six miles along most of front. Terrain through which American troops have been

824

(more-over)

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battling has been bitterly contested with result that North of CECINA Fifth Army has been able to forced its way forward at an average of less than mile in day.

Access to more level country will simplyfy road movements but will subject Americans to be observed fire from high ground beyond River. In this area too enemy has undertaken thorough demolitions of bridges and culverts and has heavily mined all approaches to North. Virtually all bridges across ARNO Fifth Army sector have been blown by enemy or by American bombs. River however is fordable in places and enemy already using pontoon bridges.

Number of small communities fell to advance 16/17 July although little actual progress registered towards LEGHORN.

Near coast Fifth Army elements advanced mile to high point North of ROSIGNA and marched to east to half mile South of CROCINO. Our troops also pushed forward to within half mile of PAUGLIA and passed nearby TRIPALLE.

American troops are on outskirts of PONSACCO which road junction and repulsed counter attack in that vicinity night of 16/17 by approximately three hundred enemy infantry. Two Mark six and one Mark II tanks destroyed in this engagement.

Still farther to East other units were across road running West from COLLEGOLI. One unit which continuously engaged in fire fight over 24 hours is farthest North of any Allied unit. Another force was battling on outskirts of EALALA but had not moved into town by afternoon 17 July.

POGGIBONSI which has been held by French troops of Fifth Army several days heavily counter attacked twice night of 16:17 July but was still firmly held afternoon of 17 July. Other elements in this sector have fought way three and half miles East SAN GIMIGNANO but town still well within arty range of enemy.

Generally resistance on Fifth Army right flank slackened off but stiffened considerably on left flank. Fighting especially bitter North of CASTELNOLI in ERA river valley. Here enemy launched numerous counter attacks supported by mortar fire but all dispersed by arty.

Among small communities taken were PIEVE VECCHIA (1641) ORCIANO (1741) PIAZZA (2348) CRESPINA (2347) BORGO (2247) LARI (2548).

Fifth enemy arty unit reports that our troops in one sector heavy fire called for arty mx shoot which within few moments silence course. Prisoners taken following day reported our counter battry so effective that half guns of regiment knocked out. Prisoners taken following day reported our counter battery so effective that half guns of regiment knocked.

Captured enemy document announced competition to be held yet-

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Near coast Fifth Army elements advanced mile to high point North of POROCMA and anchor to east to half mile South of CROCINO. Our troops also pushed forward to within half mile of PAUGLI and passed nearby TRITALIA.

American troops are on outskirts of TORSICCO which road junction and repulsed counter attack in that vicinity night of 16/17 by approximately three hundred enemy infantry. Two mark six and one Mark IV tanks destroyed in this engagement.

Still farther to East other units were across road running West from CORTEONI. One unit which continuously engaged in fire fight over 24 hours is farthest North of any Allied unit. Another force was battling on outskirts of TALLA but had withdrawn into town by afternoon 17 July.

POGGIBONSI which has been held by French troops of Fifth Army several days heavily counter attacked twice night of 16:17 July but was still firmly held afternoon of 17 July. Other elements in this sector have fought way three and half miles East SAN GIMIGNANO but town still well within arty range of enemy.

Generally resistance on Fifth Army right flank slackened off but stiffened considerably on Fifth flank. Fighting especially bitter North of CASTELFIORENTI in ELSA river valley. Here enemy launched numerous counter attacks supported by mortar fire but all dispersed by arty.

Along small communities taken were PIEVE VECCHIA (1641) ORDLANO (1741) PALAIA (2348) CRESPINA (2347) BORGO (2247) LARI (2548).

Fifth Army arty unit reports that our troops in one sector heavy fire called for arty on shoot which within few moments silence course. Prisoners taken following day reported our counter battery so effective that half guns of regiment knocked out. Prisoners taken followingday reported our counter battery so effective that half guns of regiment knocked.

Captured enemy document announced competition to be held between ten thousand ten July in which prizes offered for persons bringing greatest number of escaped prisoners. First prize twenty-one days leave second silver cigarettecase (suitably inscribed) third to six prizes wrist watches. There were various consolation prizes.

Significant fact showing fiercenese of fighting in advance towards LEGHORN and the Arno is that three German divisions latest to arrive at front have had to be withdrawn from line. The 19th and 20th Luftwaffe Fd Divs both new arrivals from West some thrown in to stem route of German 14th Army and have now had to be pulled out owing to very heavy losses. The 162nd Turkoman Div one of Divs formed from Russian POW has also had to be withdrawn. Russians fight very well but their leaders have been extremely chary incl about two thousand prisoners: Lanthow Fair, Nordhonge press release line. NORB

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