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A Review Of Allied Military Government
And The Allied Commission In Italy

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A REVIEW OF ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND THE ALLIED COMMISSION IN ITALY.

July 10, 1943 to May 2, 1945

D-Day, Sicily

Termination in Italy

A REVIEW OF ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND THE ALLIED COMMISSION IN ITALY.

July 10, 1943 to May 2, 1945
German Surrender in Italy

D-Day!
Sicily

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Introduction

On July 10, 1943 the United States and the United Kingdom began a great military government experiment, democratic style, when civil affairs officers disembarked with the armies on the landing beaches of Sicily in the first breaching of the Axis fortress of Europe.

Exactly four months later General Dwight D. Eisenhower, then Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces in the Mediterranean Theater, established the Allied Control Commission (now the Allied Commission) to enforce the terms of an armistice upon an Italian nation that was militarily defeated, politically at sea and left with but the barest form of government.

The military government teams that went into Sicily were military units. The Allied Control Commission set up by General Eisenhower was also a military unit. The Allied Commission is still a military unit. It is part of the Allied forces in the Mediterranean Theater, operating under the direct supervision of Allied Force Headquarters and following the directives of the Combined Chiefs of Staff in Washington.

The mission of the Allied Commission has been five-fold. First, to organize military government operations with the 5th and 8th Armies in direct support of combat troops; second, to render whatever immediate aid is practicable to the civilian population in the rear of the armies in order to allay disease and unrest; third, to prepare the governmental administration and economy to be turned back to the Italians as quickly as

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To gain these objectives, the Allied Commission established a national headquarters which always sits at the seat of the Italian Government and a field organization which is chiefly

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concerned with carrying out the first three objectives listed.

The first phase is that of direct military government in the armies which insures the security of the fighting forces' lines of communications. This is the job of the Army AMG's and the area they control is the Army zone. The second phase is that of stabilization and more systematic help to the civilian population. Such areas, once stabilized, are turned over to AMG regions (which follow the lines of Italian compartments) and where military government is still exercised. The third phase is the preparation for the turnover of territory to the Italian Government and the actual turnover thereof. While in the state of preparation, the control is AMG regional military government. After the turnover is made, the regional military government power lapses and control is exercised by liaison with, and advice to, the Italian authorities.

All three phases are under direction of the Allied Commission. The first or Army AMG phase of operations is commanded operationally by the Army Commanders. Army AMG officers make their moves primarily through tactical considerations rather than administrative ones. In the front areas the army commanders naturally have direct command over all aspects of military activity in their army zone. But technical control and policy direction of civil affairs, civilian arrangements for, and personnel assignments to, the Army AMGs are handled by the Allied Commission after consultation as to army requirements. The second and third phases are carried out by the regional teams under the Allied Commission directly without supervening tactical army control.

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The three phases are progressive, but continuity of policy is maintained from first to last. The self-same objectives are, as it were, handled by different instrumentalities at successive stages under one general guidance. Further, to promote uniform policies and mutual understanding between field and headquarters, personnel of Army AMGs, regions and AC headquarters are interchangeable.

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The last two roles of the Allied Commission - Armistice supervision and speaking for the United Nations - are general overriding factors in its task. Because of these responsibilities, the Allied Commission has had perforce to interest itself in politics to the extent of promoting the formation of an Italian Government that could be the at least temporarily effective representative of an Italian people freed from Fascist influence and ready to support the Allied war effort. The political mission, therefore, of the Allied Commission has been simply to see that the Italians (1) formed a stable government; (2) made it as democratic as possible pending free elections.

The account that follows is a survey of the Allied efforts to bring peace and order in the wake of the armies of liberation, to give moral and physical assistance to a misled and shattered people and to afford a former enemy country an opportunity to redeem itself. This experiment has been not only an example of the working out of democratic objectives with humanity and equity in time of war but has also provided a testing ground from which practical lessons of the new military branch of civil affairs could be learned and their conclusions put to use in areas liberated later, not only in new areas of Italy but also in Western and Central Europe.

Allied direction in that part of the Italian nation which had been freed from the enemy ran through various stages: initial military government, control under armistice terms, sympathetic supervision of co-belligerency, and lastly and most recently, guidance of a nation virtually restored to full sovereignty. These various stages sometimes ran - and

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From the first the Allied Control Commission had to confront

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the two recurrent demands: the sheer practical need of food and the no less insistent appeal from the Italian Government and people for recognition and sympathetic encouragement of their desire for a new and democratic life.

Chronologically, the division may be made into five periods: the Sicilian invasion, the Palermo-Brindisi period, the Naples-Salerno period and the Roman phase. The fifth and last period has now come with full liberation of North Italy. Operational, military and political developments set off these periods, though the categories do not always fit smoothly into the same dates. It would be historically inaccaurate to isolate any one phase of Allied activity in this field; while AMGOT was governing Sicily, ACC was in embryo at Brindisi, and when, at the other end of the scale AC functioned in Rome, the forward areas were still subject to AMG, facing problems in essence no different from those that were encountered in the early stages of the Sicilian invasion.

Old problems remained to be attacked from a different angle and with progressively more adequate machinery, but as each phase brings new problems, political, social or military, former experience was only partially helpful.

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Sicily - First Days

This survey may begin with the peculiar characteristics of military government in the early Sicilian days. The landing was made in a part of Italy that had a long tradition of political indifference and was furthermore heartily sick of air raids, the inconveniences of war and twenty years of Fascist bureaucracy. For these negative reasons the people were glad to see the Allies as well as for the more positive one that they had looked forward to the Allies as liberators - and as rich and generous ones. On the military side the invasion was so successful, rumors of dissolution of the Italian State so rife, that it was assumed that as far as Italy was concerned the war would soon be over and the Germans pushed back beyond the Alps. From an operational point of view it differed from subsequent phases in that Italians were still officially enemies, the Allies were an occupying army; the population was that of a hostile country and to be treated humanely, of course, but with no particular attention to political complexities. It was military government pure and simple and for this kind of government plans had long since been made.

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The invasion of Sicily had been decided upon at the Casablanca conference January 24, 1943. General Eisenhower's request for a directive on the military government side of the operation had been answered by the preparation of the original AMGOT directive, drawn up in concert by the American and British Governments and Allied military staffs. The basic principles of this directive still apply in the initial

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The AMGOT operational order, issued May 1, 1943 by General Eisenhower, incorporated these principles and put first of all among its objectives the "security of the occupying forces and their lines of communication". To this end "law and order were to be restored among the civil population, food and relief were to be provided as necessary". It was to be AMGOT's task to relieve combat troops of the burden of civil administration, assist in making available to the occupying forces the economic resources of the occupied territory and to govern in such a way as to "promote political and military objectives of the Allied Forces in connection with future operations". The directive also set up the principle of joint British and American responsibility, involving "equal sharing of political, legal and financial responsibility for both planning and conduct of the military government, as well as participation by personnel on as near equal basis as possible".

Field Marshal Sir Harold R.L.G. Alexander (then General), commanding the operation, was designated Military Governor and Major General Lord Rennel of Rodd Chief Civil Affairs Officer for General Alexander, and Chief of AMGOT. U.S. Major General Frank J. McSherry (then Brigadier General) was named his deputy and Brigadier General Charles M. Spofford (then Lieutenant Colonel and now Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, AFHQ) Chief of Staff.

Six special divisions of AMGOT were authorized at this time: Legal, Finance, Civilian Supply, Public Health, Public Safety and Enemy Property. Provision was made for the employment of advisors on special subjects as needed. It was for just such service that officers had been for some time undergoing

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British and Americans worked together as the Civil Affairs Branch of Force 141, learning, as they planned for the coming operation, each other's military and administrative machinery and a good deal of each other's ways as well. With the publication of the AMGOT directive, the May class at Charlottesville was stripped of its members who had been giving special attention to Italy. These officers were sent to North Africa where they were joined by British officers, some summoned from Wimbledon, some veteran civil affairs officers and colonial administrators called from their posts in Libya, Eritrea and Ethiopia.

On D-Day civil affairs officers, embarking in Tunisia, landed with the troops on the Sicily beaches. Colonel Charles Poletti (then Lieutenant Colonel) was senior civil affairs officer of the 7th Army Western Task Force. He had some 50 officers with him, the first of whom landed with the 1st, 3rd and 45th Divisions and 7th Army Headquarters. Air Commodore C.E. Benson (then Group Captain) senior civil affairs officer of the 8th Army (a position he still holds) also landed with his men, approximately the same number as Colonel Poletti's, near Catania.

Civil affairs officers carried with them proclamations and general orders, prepared in advance. These were twelve in number, dealing largely with matters affecting public safety and finance, as well as the conventional announcement of occupation.

Force 141 became the 15th Army Group, Lord Rennel continuing to hold his dual post. Early Sicily reports tell a story that has now become all too familiar. The civil affairs officers, attached to tactical units, made themselves so

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From a civilian point of view, food, transport and sanitation were of immediate and urgent importance. Cities had food stocks for only two or three days. Fortunately vegetables were plentiful, though oil was scarce and medical supplies hard to come by. There was no power and the railways were not operating. Civilian supply lines were cut by Army communications. There was destitution. The absence of textiles and soap was obvious to eye and nose alike. Fortunately the water supply did not fail and street cleaning departments were immediately organized.

During the last ten days in July Lord Rennell established his headquarters in Siracusa, transferring it to Palermo on August 7. The city had fallen on July 22 and Colonel Poletti had already moved in to administer it. By this time four more specialist divisions had been formed: Security; Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives; Public Relations; and Education, which, for a time, was coupled with Fine Arts. Messina fell on August 17 and the enemy was driven from the island. AMGOT now had a territory of 9,923 square miles, containing nine provinces and 357 communes, and a population of more than 4 millions to care for.

Lord Rennell's first report to General Alexander contained observations, the validity of which still stood after months of subsequent government in Italy. The shortage of personnel and the difficulty of keeping officers in fixed assignments in a rapidity changing situation were reported - for the first time but not the last. Problems of food and public safety loomed large. The price of grain had to be raised. The Fascist amassing system was continued and the peasants' [illegible] continued. The basic food ration was raised

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The Carabinieri or Italian national police were given arm-

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bands and put back on the job, but since they had been regarded as military personnel by the Army and consequently disarmed, they had suffered loss of prestige. The Mafia reappeared and looting, especially in the early days, was a problem. The first summary court was set up in Licata. By August 31, 1,291 cases were tried in AMG courts; these were mostly theft or black market cases and the verdict "not guilty" was given only in 155 instances. The legal officers of AMG, 21 in number, faced difficult problems. Deliquency in Sicily was higher than anywhere on the Italian mainland. All Italian courts were closed, the judicial personnel dispersed or missing, and the archives destroyed or lost, and such legal buildings as remained were occupied by military units. It was not until early October that all Sicilian courts could be reopened.

Banks were open on September 6 and deposits were found to total six billion lire. Occupation lire had begun to arrive by plane as early as July 24 and by August 9 as much as 2,163,200,000 lire had been delivered. This made it possible to pay the troops, buttress the Italian State Railways and cover routine expenses of local governments. These operations were carried out through the Allied Military Financial Agency, which handles the disbursement of Allied Military lire in Italy. The exchange had been fixed before the landing at 100 lire to the dollar and 400 to the pound.

In the field of municipal government the Fascist mayor's title of Podestà was abolished and that of Sindaco restored. Lord Rennell suggested that it might be a salutary move to put fewer officers in the field and thus oblige the local [illegible] to take more initiative. There was some

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Branch (P.W.B.).

In the latter part of July, at Tizi-Ouzou, in the mountains east of Algiers, a Military Government School and Holding Center was organized. Officers returned from Sicily to lecture and assist in the planning of future operations. These operations got under way on September 3 when civil affairs officers landed with the vanguard of the 8th Army near Reggio Calabria. Six days later - September 9 - the 5th Army landed on the beaches of Salerno, 35 miles south of Naples. With it went an attached AMG staff, including Tizi-Ouzou graduates. Senior CAO was Brigadier General Edgar Erskine Hume (then Colonel) who still retains his post. The landing on the mainland opened a new and somewhat more complicated chapter in the history of Allied Military Government.

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Re-Organization

~~The~~ Brindisi and ~~Bastia~~

The Palermo-Brindisi period put great strain on the operational organization of Allied Military Government. The new political situation created by the armistice and eventual co-belligerency swept away the simple AMGOT conception of the task; the novelty of Italy's status made it necessary to overhaul the whole conception of the Allied mission. At the same time the war was still being fought and the classic theory of military government could not be put aside, since it was still the only system acceptable under war conditions. Further, even without the contradictions of the new situation the period would have been difficult because of the need of developing more consistent and all-embracing administrative machinery than had been found practicable or necessary in the early stages of the Sicilian occupation. Further complications were added by an unpredictable military situation (Naples fell on October 1, 1943, and at that time "Rome by Christmas" did not seem an unreasonable hope); by the necessity of standing by while Italian internal politics settled themselves, and by the hazards of winter in a war-stricken country.

On July 24, 1943 shortly after the Allied landing in Sicily, the Fascist Grand Council deposed Mussolini and power, reverting to the King of Italy, Victor Emanuel III, was entrusted to Marshal Pietro Badoglio. On September 3 a military armistice providing for unconditional surrender of Italian armed forces was signed in Sicily, but its existence was kept secret until September 8. The King and Badoglio left Rome the following day and by the 12th had established themselves in Brindisi, where an Allied Military Mission was dispatched to meet and confer with them.

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The Mission was, in a sense, the kernel of what was to become the Allied Control Commission. It was headed by Lieutenant General Sir Frank Noel Mason MacFarlane (B). Major General Maxwell D. Taylor (A) (then Brigadier General and later commanding officer of the 101st 102nd Airborne Division in France, was Chief of Staff. The mission had military, naval, air and

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communications sections. Vice Admiral A.J. Power (B), naval head, also arrived on the 12th, and Air Vice Marshal R.M. Foster (B) (then Air Commodore) the next day. Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone, USNR (now Chief Commissioner of AC, but then Captain Stone) came on the 16th to be in charge of communications. Political advisors were Mr. Robert Murphy, U.S. Minister to AFHQ, and Mr. Harold Macmillan, British Resident Minister to AFHQ (and later also Acting President of the Allied Commission). The two ministers left deputies - Mr. Samuel Reber (A) and Mr. Harold Caccia (B) to form, eventually, the Political Section of the ACC.

The task of the Mission was to "transmit the military instructions of the Commander-in-Chief to the Italian Government, collect and transmit intelligence, and arrange for such coordinated action as the Italian armed forces and people can be induced to take against the Germans". The Allies had the fleet, they had the Bari radio station intact, but otherwise the situation was not promising. The available Italian divisions (three in the south, four in Sardinia) were ill-equipped, their maintenance becoming now and thenceforth a matter of pressing concern.

Meanwhile, the British and American Governments had prepared a comprehensive statement of surrender. These are the so-called "long terms" (in contrast to the "short terms" of the military armistice) and contain 44 political, economic and financial clauses. The long terms were signed September 29. Cobelligerency was also proposed. An Italian declaration of war against Germany resulted on October 13. The following day Italy was accepted as a co-belligerent by Great Britain, Russia and the United States. The Moscow Conference (October

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to AFHQ (and later also Acting President of the Allied Commission). The two ministers left deputies - Mr. Samuel Reber (A) and Mr. Harold Caccia (B) to form, eventually, the Political Section of the ACC.

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Meanwhile, the British and American Governments had prepared a comprehensive statement of surrender. These are the so-called "long terms" (in contrast to the "short terms" of the military armistice) and contain 44 political, economic and financial clauses. The long terms were signed September 29. Cobelligerency was also proposed. An Italian declaration of war against Germany resulted on October 13. The following day Italy was accepted as a co-belligerent by Great Britain, Russia and the United States. The Moscow Conference (October 19-30) issued a statement of Allied policy toward Italy, insisting on the restoration of democratic freedoms, action against Fascist institutions, and a government as representative as possible. The Advisory Council for Italy was authorized at this time. But the moment for putting into effect the various principles of Allied policy was left to the Commander-in-Chief, on instruction from the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

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An Italian Government of "technicians" was finally formed by Badoglio. The territory it governed free from direct Allied control from the start was called "King's Italy" and comprised the four provinces of Lecce, Taranto, Brindisi and Bari. The first meeting of the new Italian cabinet was held in Brindisi on November 24. The top executives of AC/AMG were on this occasion presented to their future opposite numbers for the first time. By that time the Allies had made organizational adjustments to meet the new situation and the Allied Control Commission had already come into being.

The main stream of what was to become the Commission was fed by three currents. In part it grew out of the Allied Military Mission; in part it was a logical development of AMGOT, and in part it resulted from special planning to meet an unusual political situation. The Military Mission continued its efforts to secure a real contribution to the war from the Italian armed forces, with considerable success as far as the Navy and Air Force were concerned. Then it was found necessary to attach experts in other fields. These, who may be regarded as precursors of the A.C.C. sub-commissions, were representatives of such specialties as legal, intelligence, food, labor, displaced persons, industry and commerce, public health and finance.

The last named was one of the earliest to be summoned and had an important emergency role since the Germans had seized or destroyed the plates of the Bank of Italy and made off with all loose cash. General MacFarlane asked for and received an immediate shipment of 50,000,000 Allied Military lire. On September 19 (two days after the 5th and 8th Armies had effect-

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On the AMGOT side, events since September 8 had moved very fast. The first phase operations followed the model of Sicily, while in Sicily itself the larger problems of relatively long-term administration began to emerge. The AMGOT organization had become unwieldy, and with the armistice and later co-belligerency, it was felt that some division of territory would be wise. Accordingly it was decided on October 1 (and made effective on October 18) that AMGOT would be split in two parts. (The title of AMGOT (Allied Military Government of Occupied Territory) was also dropped officially for AMG at this time.)

The first or "spearhead" group was attached to the 15th Army Group with headquarters at Bari (later at Caserta); here Lord Rennell would continue in his position as Chief Civil Affairs Officer to General Alexander. This section would be responsible for mobile military government in the combat zone. The second group would be AMG headquarters under General McSherry and would be responsible for static military government in the rear areas. Headquarters of this group were to be at Palermo and the northern boundaries of Bari, Potenza and Salerno provinces served as a line of demarcation. "King's Italy" was exempt from AMG authority. Shortly after this division of power the "Regions" were created, Colonel Poletti becoming RCAO or Regional Civil Affairs Officer of Region I (Sicily) on October 26. At the same time Region II (Calabria and Lucania) and Region III (Campania) were formed.

But the A.C.C. resulted from special planning no less than from the natural changes growing out of administrative necessity. The military armistice had reserved to the Allies the right to exercise necessary administrative control of the Italian Government and the "long terms" had specified the

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But the A.C.C. resulted from special planning no less than from the natural changes growing out of administrative necessity. The military armistice had reserved to the Allies the right to exercise necessary administrative control of the Italian Government and the "long terms" had specified the appointment of a "Control Commission" to regulate and execute the administrative operation of the armistice under the control of the Commander-in-Chief.

Indeed the possibility of rapid and complete occupation of Italy had been foreseen well before the Armistice and AFHQ had produced a plan for such an emergency as early as August 21, 1943. A total of 1,759 officers had been envisioned, and

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though the original plans were made outside AMG, the latter promptly began an internal reorganization to conform to the shape of things to come. The infiltration of AMG officers into the Military Mission had begun. The 2675th Regiment, the organization for American personnel in the new venture, was established on September 30. Officers were assigned to both AMG at Palermo and the Mission at Brindisi to work out details of amalgamation. On October 23 General MacFarlane was informed that the military Mission would be succeeded by the Allied Control Commission, to be headed by Major General Kenyon A. Joyce (A).

The detailed directive of the Combined Chiefs of Staff dated October 30 set up an organization divided into four sections. The Military Section comprised the following sub-commissions: Navy; Land Forces; Air; Prisoners of War; War Material Factories; War Material Disposal. The Political Section had in its charge: Foreign and Internal Affairs; Displaced Persons; Information, Press and Censorship. The Economic and Administrative Section had two divisions; under the economic heading there were the sub-commissions of Finance; Foreign Trade; Industry and Commerce; Public Works and Utilities; Fuel; Food; Labor; and Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries. Under administration were grouped the following: Interior (including rationing); Legal; Public Safety; Public Health; Property Control; and Education, Fine Arts and Monuments. The fourth section was the Communications Section - divided into sub-commissions for Telecommunications and Posts; Internal Transport (railway and trucking), and Shipping.

The functions of the Allied Control Commission were defined as follows:

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The functions of the Allied Control Commission were defined as follows: 4208

1. To enforce and execute the instrument of surrender.

2. To insure that the conduct of the Italian Government should conform to the requirements of an Allied base of operations, especially in transport and communications.

3. To be the organ through which the policy of the United Nations to the Italian government should be handled.

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On this basis the Allied Control Commission was set up on November 2, with effective date November 10. The Commander-in-Chief of the theater was President ex-officio and General Joyce had the title of Acting Deputy President. The new organization was to have national headquarters and regional and provincial officers. The head of each section would have the title of vice president. On November 6 General Joyce arrived in Brindisi. He thus had a few days in which to learn from General MacFarlane some of the difficulties, especially political, that were inherent in the post.

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The Naples and Co-Belligerency

The weeks of political adjustments and administrative reorganization at Brindisi had been busy weeks for the civil affairs officers in the field. 8th Army AMG in its dash through Calabria soon found that it was impossible to linger long enough in the communes to establish any kind of government. The expedient of leaving officers behind was tried; a group of officers thus dropped off became the nucleus of the future Region II. Problems encountered were much the same as those in Sicily; refugees, however, later to become a first priority problem, were met for the first time in any number in Cosenza. The 5th Army AMG meanwhile had a rough time at Salerno, where it administered the town under continuous fire from surrounding heights.

On October 1 General Hume entered Naples with the first Fifth Army patrols. The populace, which had risen against the Germans some days before, gave the Allied troops a cordial welcome but the state of the city was appalling. Food was short and the first task was to ferret out hidden stocks and make them generally available. In spite of heavy German demolitions the port was opened through the heroic efforts of the U.S. Peninsular Base Section and the Navy and within a week ships were using it. The Germans had gone in for methodical destruction on a large scale. The most serious matter was the lack of water; the mains had been seriously damaged, the main aqueduct had been blown in several places and all reservoirs save one had been drained. The remaining one was taken over by AMG and water was strictly rationed. In ten days the

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That fall and winter were not easy times in Naples. Aside from the disruptions to normal life, there were air raids and the cold. It seemed, too, at various times that the city might be on the verge of starvation but somehow emergency measures always worked in the nick of time. Malnutrition existed in some strata of the population, the black market flourished, and since Naples was a port of entry for supplies; reached large proportions. There was a large amount of prostitution. Yet matters never got out of hand and the civilian population described itself in letters as "finding conditions difficult but not intolerable".

Perhaps the outstanding triumph of AMG administration was the victory over typhus. As early as September 29 the group of officers training at Tizi-Ouzou for what was to be the Public Health Sub-Commission of the Allied Control Commission had foreseen the danger and worked out plans in conjunction with Rockfeller Foundation experts. Warning was given on November 22 of the danger of an outbreak of typhus and on December 8 the experts came into Naples, and, working under AMG, went into action with MYL and DDT powder and dust-guns. The U.S. Typhus Commission moved in and helped to coordinate the whole program for several weeks. Conditions were ideal for typhus in Naples. Overcrowding in what tenements were left after the air raids, which had heavily damaged the more populous quarters, and in ricoveri or air raid shelters under the frequent German air attacks gave the typhus-carrying lice a rare opportunity.

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4205

A total of 3,265,786 dusting treatments were given the population in the course of the next several months. There were fifty dusting stations, manned by 700 employees, and flying squadrons were sent to some fifty centers outside Naples to check the spread of the disease. Statistics covering the period from January 1, 1943 (a date taken to trace the first medical origins of the epidemic) to June 1944 show 2,020 cases, of whom 429 died. Of these cases, however, 75 per cent. occurred in the winter of 1943-44. The epidemic spread

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rapidly during December. In the last three weeks of that month reported cases rose in alarming geometrical progression from 50 to 300, but from December 30 the incidence declined, only some 10 cases remaining at the end of February. It was clear that the methods used - and adopted in Naples for the first time in history on a wide scale - had averted what might well have been a disaster not only for the Neapolitans but also for the Allied armies.

Naples was also full of refugees. The problem of Italian refugees on the mainland had become acute. Homeless, destitute and frightened people were wandering about the country on foot or by what chance transport they could find. The 8th Army AMG report for November, 1943 pointed out that the southward flow had increased from 100 to 550 a day during the month. During the month 8th Army civil affairs officers collected some 30,000 refugees; on the west the movement, which was much smaller in number, was almost entirely uncontrolled.

However, in December the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission, which had been made responsible for all refugees, set up a small headquarters at Lucera in Foggia Province and at the same time dispatched one officer to establish a "collecting center" in Naples. Through this center some 1,800 refugees had passed by the end of January, 1944. The sub-commission's initial task had been to take charge on October 18, 1943 of the camp outside Palermo for Yugoslavs and Jews. A similar camp, ~~set up~~ taken over from the Italians by AMG at Ferramonti on the mainland, was taken over by the sub-commission in November, after an advanced detachment had been established at Bari to take care of parties of Yugoslavs refugees which were arriving in constantly in-

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In Sicily AMG experience was less exciting than the administration of Naples, but valuable as exemplifying things to follow on a national scale. The island was beginning a gradual return to normal. Inter-provincial postal service was resumed on September 17. Fishing recommenced on all coasts, subject to naval restrictions. Rationing, as of

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November 1, was confined to bread, pasta, flour, sugar and oil. During the fall the island made its first exports - 3,214 short tons, mostly citrus fruit - to the United Kingdom and in return shipments of coal began to come in from England, nearly 75,000 tons being imported by January 1. Local Resources Boards had been established to make equitable distribution between Army and essential civilian needs. Important work was done by some of the divisions - later merged into sub-commissions - for in many cases they set the pattern for wider Allied Control Commission activity. Lord Rennell found it necessary early in the fall to hold meetings of division heads to coordinate policy and operations.

Among the sub-commissions that made a start on national problems in the Sicilian days were Education, Fine Arts and Labor. Education was faced in Sicily with all the problems that it had to tackle throughout the whole enterprise and the ways and means of solution for all of them worked out there. The essential matter of getting the schools open (when some 25 per cent. had been made unusable by war damage and many more, especially in the large towns, had been of necessity requisitioned for troops), was handled so successfully that by December 1 all schools in Sicily were opened, though many in temporary buildings, private homes or other emergency quarters. Teachers had to be examined for their political desirability and it was in Palermo that the personal questionnaire (scheda personale), designed to separate the few dangerous goats from the vast majority of Fascist sheep, was worked out. Arrangements were made with finance officers for grants for repairs to the Universities of Catania and Messina. Elementary text-books, saturated with Fascism, had

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4203

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The work of the Monuments and Fine Arts Sub-Commission ranged from the care of the famous Greek temples down to the salvaging of precious documents used as wrappings or thrown on rubbish-heaps. Fortunately, the great Norman churches such as Monreale and Cefalu, and the exquisite Cappella Palatina, were intact: but the baroque, especially in Palermo, suffered heavily under bombing. Some 250 churches and palaces were roofed, repaired or buttressed, with Italian cooperation, from a sum of 20 million lire made available for that purpose. Fine Arts officers also took in hand the task of drafting instructions, with the approval of AFHQ, restricting requisitioning of buildings classified as works of art, established liaison with the Air Force to avoid the bombing of artistic centers or sites, and prepared a list of "protected monuments" for issue to all formations.

Labor officers embarked on a study of conditions in the island as soon as Palermo fell. They discovered that labor was leaderless, prices chaotic, collective bargaining riddled with corruption and the wage scale so obscured under a mass of Fascist "indemnities", that the only thing clear about it was that it was entirely out of proportion with the rising prices. Provincial labor offices were opened and worked day and night hiring workers for the Allied Forces, the largest single employer on the island. At the peak 40,000 Italians were employed on the island by the Allies. The Fascist corporative syndical system was abolished in Sicily by a general order of October 1. A policy was gradually worked out in Sicily - though not firmly established until the Naples period: preferential rates for workers employed by the Allies; an overall 70 per cent. increase in pay; a sympathetic policy to [illegible] coordinated with

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As 1943 drew to a close in Brindisi the Italian Government was still trying to get wider political representation into its ranks. In Naples were centered six parties (Communists, Socialists, Action, Christian Democrats, Labor Democrats and

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Liberals, reading from Left to Right) who had agreed to co-operate and were known as the Committee of National Liberation. They asked for permission to hold a national convention in Naples on December 20. This was AMG territory and political meetings were prohibited. The Allied Control Commission, however, anxious to encourage anything that might broaden the base of the Italian Government, asked Marshal Badoglio to allow the meeting to be held at Bari. There it took place on January 28 and an Executive Giunta was formed, organizing the "opposition".

On the Allied side, a step toward implementing the "freedom of the press", one objective of the Moscow Conference, was taken with the creation of the Allied Publications Board. This agency had representatives of A.C.C., AMG, PWB, and Allied Censorship. It was to have the power to grant and revoke licenses for all kinds of publications, to control the distribution of newsprint and allocation of facilities for collecting and disseminating news in Italy. It was during this period, too, that a Russian general and later a French general joined the Commission.

Commission officers were meanwhile engaged in daily discussions with Italian Government ministers on matters of national policy, but the operational work was being done by AMG officers. Defascism was in progress of being worked out painfully by the government, but was under full steam in AMG territory. For example, 93 mayors out of 152 in the communes of Cosenza Province were dismissed by AMG, 70 out of 89 in Reggio, 27 out of 32 in Matera. Difficulties of communications as well as uncertainties of jurisdiction made action difficult. At one point A.C.C. was in Brindisi, Fifteenth Army Group AMG had headquarters in Bari, and AMG Rear was split between Palermo

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the military government groups.

Under the new arrangements the staffs and functions of AMG, the Allied Control Commission and Fifteenth Army Group AMG were merged. General MacFarlane was made Deputy President and Chief Commissioner of the Allied Control Commission and Chief Civil Affairs Officer under General Alexander, who remained Military Governor. Admiral Stone was made Deputy Chief Commissioner. General McSherry went to England and SHAEF. General Spofford became chief of the Military Government Section at AFHQ and Brigadier Maurice S. Lush (B) (who had succeeded Lord Rennell at 15th Army Group) took the post of Executive Commissioner under General MacFarlane. Col. Norman E. Fiske (A) was later named Deputy Executive Commissioner.

Four sections were set up: Political, Economic, Administrative, and Regional Control and Military Government. Under the Economic Section were placed the following sub-commissions: Food (which took over rationing from Interior), Public Works and Utilities, Transportation, Shipping, Industry and Commerce, Labor, Agriculture, Finance. The Administrative Section was made up of: Legal; Public Health; Interior; Public Safety; Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives; Property Control; and Education. The R.C. and M.G. Section had charge of general administration and housekeeping and of direct contacts with the Regions and the Army AMGs. It also included the Refugees and Displaced Persons Branches. There were a number of independent sub-commissions: Army, Navy, Air, Communications, and War Materials Disposal.

The single instrument created by this merger was somewhat clumsy in its commonly used abbreviation - ACC/AMG - but it was

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General McSherry went to England and SHAEF. General Spofford became chief of the Military Government Section at AFHQ and Brigadier Maurice S. Lush (B) (who had succeeded Lord Rennell at 15th Army Group) took the post of Executive Commissioner under General MacFarlane. Colonel Norman E. Fiske (A) was later named Deputy Executive Commissioner.

Four sections were set up: Political, Economic, Administrative, and Regional Control and Military Government. Under the Economic Section were placed the following sub-commissions: Food (which took over rationing from Interior), Public Works and Utilities, Transportation, Shipping, Industry and Commerce, Labor, Agriculture, Finance. The Administrative Section was made up of: Legal; Public Health; Interior; Public Safety; Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives; Property Control; and Education. The R.C. and M.G. Section had charge of general administration and housekeeping and of direct contacts with the Regions and the Army AMGs. It also included the Refugees and Displaced Persons Branches. There were a number of independent sub-commissions: Army, Navy, Air, Communications, and War Materials Disposal.

The single instrument created by this merger was somewhat clumsy in its commonly used abbreviation - ACC/AMG - but it was flexible in function. It could be applied in turn to the three phases which the Italian situation might call for: Spearhead work with the armies; consolidation and collaboration with Italian officials behind the lines; or purely advisory liaison in "King's Italy". Its personnel, being thus brought under one command , could be made available in any of the three spheres of operations as the occasion demanded.

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The field of authority of the new command now included AMG of the 5th and 8th Armies, Region I (Sicily), Region II (Calabria, Lucania, and in the advisory sense, Puglie), Region III (Campania) Region IV (Lazio-Umbria, very little of which was in Allied hands at this time, though the regional team had long since been ready), Region V (Abbruzzi and Marche) and Region VI (Sardinia, which had been in the control of a special Allied Mission but passed to the Commission on January 31.). On January 22, 1944 the beach-head at Anzio had been seized and AMG officers, as usual, had landed with the troops.

This quick succession of events came to an end with the long-awaited handover of Southern Italy to the Badoglio government and the first Regional Commissioners' conference of the Allied Control Commission. The handover was announced on February 10, 1944 by Field Marshal Sir Henry Maitland Wilson (then General, and Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean), after approval by the Advisory Council for Italy. By its terms Sicily, Sardinia and the mainland of Italy south of the northern boundaries of the Provinces of Salerno, Potenza and Bari were transferred to the Italian Government.

Certain conditions were made to safeguard military operations and protect the Italian officials that AMG had appointed and the measures taken during Allied occupation. The transfer, long contemplated (in fact, as early as November) as an earnest of the Allies' desire to see the Italian Government assert itself, was also a move calculated to economize manpower, never too plentiful and now being drained for operations in other theatres. This drain had resulted in officer strength being cut down to 611 Americans and an equal number of British,

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The handover of territory to Italian jurisdiction did not in matter of fact result in any immediate decrease of Commission personnel. In all Italian territory the Allied Control Commission remained the guardian of law and order, complete turnover of its responsibilities being contingent on the proved efficiency of Italian administration. Although from the moment of handover all orders and decrees were signed by Italians, Allied officers had to insure that such orders and decrees did

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not conflict with the terms of the Armistice: and in matters of public safety, of finance and supply - all deriving from Allied sources - and of communications generally, the Commission could not immediately relax entire control. In brief, the handover was gradual. The number of civil affairs officers in Sicily may be taken as an example. At the end of January, before the handover, there were 176 officers on the island; a month later, after the handover had taken place, there were 153; at the end of March there were 128; at the end of May 111. At the end of October there were 35.* Today there are ___ .

The first formal Regional Commissioners' meeting held at Naples, March 3, 1944, was a landmark in the history of the Commission. For the first time, through reports of the heads of sub-commissions and regional commissioners, it was possible to get a complete picture of accomplishments and problems. Field Marshal Alexander was an interested listener as the story unfolded of the Commission's triple role of succouring the distressed Italians, building up the Italian Government to the status of effective co-belligerency, and of helping to restore democratic life to a society oppressed and stratified by Fascism. Many difficulties had still to be overcome and many problems remained unsolved, but the record showed an effort to establish a government strong enough to take some of the burden from the Commission's shoulders, a new coherence of organization and unity of policy, and a modest list of practical accomplishment despite severe handicaps.

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[redacted]

Except for the Anzio landing, the Italian campaign by spring of 1944 was at a standstill. This, for the Allied Control Commission, meant that emphasis was removed from the spearhead groups of AMG and placed on rehabilitation and the political situation. Of the twelve "Regions" into which Italy was to be divided for administrative purposes, three completely, and two partially, were now under Commission control. Region I (Sicily) - no longer close to the front - was experiencing Separatists stirrings as well as recurrence of Mafia trouble. Region II - at the foot of Italy - was relatively undamaged but harassed by lack of transport, power and supplies. Towns, with the exception of Bari and Taranto, were small, scattered and ill-served by communications: so much so, in fact, that it was eventually found necessary to form Calabria into a separate Region - Region VII - with headquarters at Catanzaro.

Region III comprised Naples, Benevento and Avellino Provinces; some of its territory was still on the wrong side of the line or administered by 8th Army AMG. Its headquarters and main tasks were at the city and seaport of Naples, the lifeline of the Allied armies. Naples, densely populated, badly shattered, and thronged with troops on leave and ready to spend freely on enjoyment, presented, as might have been expected, every kind of problem: from the black market to venereal disease, from sanitation to threats of strikes, from lack of accommodation to inequities in the distribution of rations, from clandestine newspapers to political bickerings by every shade of Italian opinion.

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Region IV - the tract of country stretching from Frosinone to Viterbo and including Rome - was still a spiritual and not a temporal power. The nucleus of its staff was kept busy in Naples on the planning for Rome, which included the military government set-up of the city, the stockpiling of 7,000 tons of food, the training of 3,000 picked Carabinieri, not to mention the preparation of a guide-book on the Eternal City for

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the troops which would later visit it on furlough.

Region V - eventually to include the Adriatic coastal territory from Chieti up to Pesaro - had so far only the provinces of Foggia and Campobasso on the right side of the line. These areas, mostly agricultural and little harmed by the war, were comparatively peaceful and contented. Foggia was, of course, important both as an air base and as the granary of Southern Italy. Region VI - the island of Sardinia- was administered directly by A.C.C. and had never passed through the AMG stage. Its population of one million was scattered and pastoral; the usual food shortage and the destruction by bombing of its main centers were its chief problems.

By the middle of February General Mason MacFarlane had nearly completed the task of welding the Allied Control Commission and the Allied Military Government into a single effective organization. It seemed a moment for smoothing out working relationship with the Italian administration. Instead, politics broke out virulently in a series of incidents that finally culminated in a new and more broadly based Italian Government, a prime desideratum of the United Nations since the Moscow Conference. The six-party "opposition" Giunta in Naples had taken vocal exception to remarks of Prime Minister Churchill in the House of Commons on February 22, 1944 that the time to form a more representative Italian Government would come after the liberation of Rome. The parties planned a ten-minute "protest" work stoppage for March 4, time lost to be made up by an extra 15 minutes' work at the end of the day. The "strike" was not allowed, on the grounds that it would interfere with the war effort. Permission was granted instead for a mass meeting, which took place March 12, in line with

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4136

The probability of a new Italian Government - and a new set of Italian officials with which the Commission would have to deal - grew to a certainty in the rapid succession of political events. On March 14 Soviet Russia accorded the

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Badoglio regime de facto recognition. On March 26 Palmiro Togliatti, exiled leader of the Italian Communist Party, with the consent of the Advisory Council for Italy, returned to Italy from Russia. On April 1 the Communist Party announced its willingness to enter the Badoglio cabinet. On April 6 the six-party Giunta likewise reconsidered its stand. On April 12 the King of Italy declared that he would withdraw and appoint his son, the Prince of Piedmont, as Lieutenant General of the Realm the moment the Allies entered Rome. A new cabinet, with Marshal Badoglio still as Prime Minister, and the six parties all represented, was then formed and met for the first time April 27, announcing in concert that all parties would work together for the war effort and defer settlement of the institutional question of the monarchy until after termination of hostilities.

While the Italian Government was undergoing these growing pains, some ten million people had to be provided for under difficult circumstances. The task fell squarely on the Allied Control Commission. Conditions in the Apulia provinces, after the transfer of territory, were found to be nowhere near the Commission's minimum standards, epuration of Fascists on the lower levels having been neglected and school re-openings being far behind schedule. The Sicilian railways had been taken over from the military and were now run entirely by Italians under supervision of the Commission. Naples had a "Clean-Up-Week", 5,000 gasoline drums and the use of 60 trucks having been obtained from military service units for that purpose. The Naples black market was thriving and black market cases in both AMG and Italian courts were the bulk of those heard, one [illegible] for example providing 573 cases and 497 convictions.

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risen and strong measure were taken to segregate and hospitalize infected prostitues. Soup kitchens were feeding 10,000 persons a day. In the Campania-Naples area 45 churches were given first-aid repairs, 38 in Naples alone, including the Church of Santa Chiara whose Angevin royal tombs were salvaged. Cathedrals at Capua and Benevento were also looked after, the famed 13th century bronze doors of the latter being retrieved. Ancient Pompeii, hit by 200 bombs in the pre-invasion days, was tidied up and the preservation of the Royal Palaces at Naples and Caserta taken in hand.

Refugees - both Italian and non-Italian - were becoming an ever more serious problem. A separate Italian Refugee Branch had been formed on February 4, 1944. The movement of refugees in 8th Army areas had at that time dropped to a trickle of 800 a month but in 5th Army areas (partly as the result of the Anzio landing) it had swelled to 14,000. Besides the two existing centers, three more camps had been established in the west, and one in the east, with a total capacity of some 15,000. The problem of dispersal in the south (through reception committees and billeting officers) had been taken up with the Italian Government, and soup kitchens set up at centers, railway stops and holding points. By the end of March, the total number of Italian refugees approached 60,000. During the month some 14,000 refugees had passed smoothly from the battle areas through the transit camps, where they were bathed, fed, screened, recorded and given medical attention, and dispersed carefully, so as to avoid straining the resources of any town or commune, throughout southern Italy and Sicily. 4194

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On the non-Italian or "displaced persons" side of the refugee problem, nine camps had been established in Southern Italy by March, to cope with the rapidity growing influx from across the Adriatic. These camps, as well as the landing, transit, feeding and clothing of the refugees, had to be handled at short notice by officers drawn from any and every section of the A.C.C., including professors who had been sent out to look after monuments and fine arts, lawyers, writers, financiers, agriculturalists, anyone and everyone who could be spared, irrespective of experience or age.

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They had to handle as best they could a mass of completely destitute women, children and old men - including no less than 29 nationalities at that time - arriving pell-mell in camps in which supplies and transport were at a minimum. Moreover, since it soon became clear that many of the refugees were being allowed to escape by the Germans, careful screening machinery had to be set up to deal with every individual. In April - the peak month - 7,700 refugees were disembarked, 2,000 in one day alone. By the end of April, the total had reached 23,000, of whom 11,000 had been shipped to the Middle East.

The food situation was, as usual, critical. Plans had to be made for the future at every step, imports being always contingent on military requirements for the whole global strategy as laid out by the Combined Chiefs of Staff. Regional commissioners were instructed to get the Italians to raise as much wheat as possible in order to keep imports at a minimum. The Italian amassing method was to be used, even though it was unpopular, as the only machinery extant for getting in the harvest. Prices set for the wheat per quintal (a quintal is about 220 pounds), in view of the general rise in prices, were to be 900 lire for soft wheat and 1,000 lire for hard wheat. The crop forecast, together with food imports, would give Italy a general basic ration of 200 grams.

4193

In March 32,000 tons of seed potatoes from Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom were distributed by the Agriculture Sub-Commission to farmers in Sicily, Apulia and Campania, the last named getting the largest share since it grew potatoes commercially. Through efforts of the Communications Sub-Commission, postal service from abroad was started [illegible] pieces of foreign mail being deliv-

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Government territory, concerning thefts from a British post office, took place at Salerno. Hemp production was started and going well, 400 tons being exported to England.

A more grandiose event took place in the middle of March which took minds off politics and even swept the war off the world's front pages. This was the eruption of Vesuvius on March 18. The cone of the volcano had caved in on March 13. The eruption which started at 4.30 p.m. March 18 was the most violent in 40 years. In the six days of fiery activity, the volcano poured forth lava estimated at 500,000 cubic meters an hour, streams that were 150 feet wide and 40 feet deep. Even German planes came over to see the sight. The molten rock streamed down the mountainside to imperil the clustered villages and on March 20 had begun to demolish houses in San Sebastiano, Massa di Somma and Cercola.

Allied Control Commission preparations had been made for this eventuality, however, and 300 trucks, gathered from military units as well as from the Commission motor pool, evacuated the inhabitants and their furniture to a safer distance, under the direction of Commission officers and men and 100 military police who were hurriedly assigned to the emergency. Soup kitchens were set up by the Red Cross and in all some 20,000 persons were taken care of. The volcano subsided finally but not before it had thrown out clouds of fine black ash which blew as far as Bari and the Island of Capri and ruined thousands of acres of farmland and spring crops already in the ground. The homes of 600 in Massa and of 2,150 in San Sebastiano had been destroyed.

4192

The contribution of the Italian armed forces to the war

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4192

The contribution of the Italian armed forces to the war effort, under the guidance of the Allied Control Commission's three service sub-commissions - Air Force, Navy and Land Forces - had been steadily increasing. The Italian fleet was employed on patrol and convoy work and in transporting troops from North Africa to Naples, and praise was given to the work of Italian submarines for running in food and supplies to troops during Aegean operations while under constant bombing. The Fighter, Bomber and Coastal Wings of the Italian Air Force under Allied

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direction had carried out 3,000 sorties and were working up towards a steady 1,000 sorties a month, in spite of deteriorating equipment.

In December, 1943, an Italian Corps of Liberation was formed as a combat unit and, after a period spent with the U.S. 5th Army, went into action on March 31, 1944, on the 8th Army front, helping take Monte Marrone in a surprise attack. Agreement had been given by Allied military authorities to the use of Italian troops, but in the whole of Liberated Italy, Italian equipment sufficed for less than 30,000 men, with little possibility of replacement. Actually, the first Italian unit to go into action had been a Mule Pack Company on December 9, 1943, which suffered 14 casualties, including three killed.

A feature of the operationally static Naples-Salerno period was the close collaboration between the government ministries and the corresponding Allied Control Commission sub-commissions. Weekly, and in some cases daily, conferences took place between the ministers and their "opposite numbers" and a definite basis of understanding was reached which in earlier days of distance and diffidence had not been possible. Education, for example, submitted all measures, even those to be applied in AMG territory, to the Minister of Education for discussion and approval; the Minister, on his part, took no action in the territory of his sovereignty without advice on its possible effect on the Commission's work in the forward areas. 4191

It was also a time of stock-taking and preparation. This may be exemplified perhaps by the work of the Interior (later known as the Local Government Sub-Commission), primarily concerned with the restoration of democratic government to Italian

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It was also a time of stock-taking and preparation. This may be exemplified perhaps by the work of the Interior (later known as the Local Government Sub-Commission), primarily concerned with the restoration of democratic government to Italian provinces and communes. The pattern had been set in Sicily, where Giunte Comunali and Deputazioni Provinciali (local and provincial councils) had been restored - not yet elective, but representative of all classes. From Salerno members of the sub-commission went on tour through all of Liberated Italy, familiarising themselves on the ground with the complexities of provincial politics and psychology and goading laggard prefects - and, occasionally, over-worked civil affairs officers

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- to turn their minds to this vital aspect of democratization. This unit also screened and picked prefects to take the place of those who would certainly be missing in the northern provinces yet to be taken. Further, it organized courses in Italian local government, lecturers being culled from the Commission's staff and Italian officials.

This static period was ended with the resumption of the Allied offensive on May 11, 1944. The 8th Army was moved secretly to the Cassino front and 8th Army AMG officers went to work in the ruins of Monte Cassino by May 18. The smashing advance of the Allied forces left devastated towns and villages in its trail. In the zone between Cassino and the sea whole areas were rendered unfit for human habitation - a new problem for AMG. Refugees who had been hiding in the hills came down to Fondi and Terracina after those cities were liberated, causing their normal populations to double and treble. Nearly 100,000 civilians were fed daily in the shattered towns. 5th and 8th Army AMG supply officials labored to establish forward supply dumps to keep step with the rapid advance. There was a shortage of doctors.

Normal life flowed quickly back in the battle zones, however, food again being rationed and sold as usual within two weeks, with the exception of the completely depopulated areas whose 12,000 refugees were accommodated in nearby villages or sent to the rear. By May 22 the part of Naples province long administered by 5th Army AMG had been handed over to Region III administration. Region IV and V staffs moved steadily behind the Army AMGs, taking over territory of nearly 50 communes as the troops pushed on. The 5th Army SCAO, besides having the

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While the battle for Rome approached its climax, the May

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30th Regional Commissioners' Conference of the Allied Control Commission was held, from which the following picture emerged. Grain imports were more regular. The heavy workers' ration was increased. Sulphur to the amount of more than 10,000 tons was shipped to England. Nine hundred miles of roads were under repair. A royal decree restoring local government in Italy had been published and put in force in military government territory, providing for the local giunta to exercise power along with the sindaco. A Palermo counterfeiting ring was smashed, 42,000,000 lire recovered and 39 persons arrested. Tents were being used for schoolrooms at Avellino. Familiar signals of distress came from the field about shortage of transport, the Army AMGs having been given priorities for operational reasons, leaving everybody else short. An anti-inflation committee was set up for recommending measures to the Combined Chiefs of Staff to control Italy's rising prices. A mild type of small-pox raged in Naples and 150,000 vaccinations were given. A check of ration cards, also in Naples, resulted in the withdrawal of 300,000 illegal cards.

On the occasion of the Regional Commissioners' meeting Field Marshal Alexander sent General MacFarlane congratulations on the work of the Allied Control Commission, calling it his "Third Army" and expressing satisfaction over the efficient manner in which the Army AMGs were handling their problems in the campaign. Arrangements all made for moving the headquarters, everyone was marking time, waiting for the word that would allow the Commission to enter the scene where, geographically and politically, it could, at least in part, act its role on a more national scale than before.

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6159

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Rome - at last

Allied troops entered Rome on June 4, 1944. In the small hours of the next morning the 5th Army AMG was installed in the Eternal City, imported Carabinieri under AMG public safety officers fanning out to cover the city in ten districts and reporting by radio to a central headquarters on the Campidoglio, Rome's Capitol hill. The city, spared from Allied bombing and German depredations, was almost unscathed, although many buildings were mined. Water pressure was low, because of the damage to the main aqueduct feeding the city. The two steam plants generating electricity and power in the city proper were intact and functioning, but the chief source of power for Rome, the Terni hydro-electric plants, were swiftly and thoroughly destroyed by the Germans, leaving the city with only 25,000 to 30,000 kilowatts compared with its normal consumption of approximately 115,000.

1198

Food trucks rolled in with the advance AMG parties and 350 tons a day were moved steadily from the stockpile of Anzio to feed the population's 1,400,000 ration card holders, swollen by refugees estimated at 200,000 to 300,000. Banks were re-opened in a week. AMG plans functioned without a hitch and the occupation of Rome has been termed the smoothest in military government history. The second phase - of stabilization - began after only 10 days, when AMG moved out as the 5th Army boundary was moved forward, clearing the capital, and a special Rome Region was created to handle the city and the surrounding area of the Rome Governatorate.

Allied Control Commission political advisers, attached to the 5th Army AMG, had immediately contacted the Committee of

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4188

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Allied Control Commission political advisers, attached to the 5th Army AMG, had immediately contacted the Committee of National Liberation. The King of Italy signed over his powers to the Prince of Piedmont, who became the new Lieutenant General of the Realm. Marshal Badoglio resigned his government and proceeded to Rome on June 8 to try to form a new one based on the six C.L.N. parties. Badoglio was unsuccessful, however, and the new government was formed by Ivanoe Bonomi, a former Prime Minister and chairman of the Rome Committee of National

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Liberation. The Allied Control Commission, one of whose main tasks always had been to find an Italian government which would effectively place the country's resources behind the Allied war effort, hastened to facilitate the moving of the Government to Rome, where it was established on July 15. The Commission likewise moved its headquarters the same day.

On June 22, the Chief Commissioner, General MacFarlane, having been taken seriously ill, went home to England to undergo a critical operation. His post was filled by Admiral Stone, the Deputy Chief Commissioner, with the title of "Acting Chief Commissioner". With the Italian national administration in its traditional seat, the Advisory Council for Italy then approved a second transfer of territory to the Italian Government, to take effect on July 20. A third transfer was scheduled for August 15. The first of the two new transfers included the Provinces of Naples (excluding the Commune and Port of Naples, which remained a military zone under AMG), Avellino, Benevento, Foggia and Campobasso. The second was to include the Provinces of Rome (including the capital), Littoria and Frosinone.

4187

The Italian Government and the Allied Control Commission were now established side by side in the national capital, as planned nearly a year before. The problems they faced were, if not always similar, at least consistently trying, and complicated, in a measure, by the very atmosphere of the Eternal City. The people of Rome were the heirs of centuries of imperial tradition. The presence of the Vatican also focussed the eyes of the world on the city and its proud citizens. The Romans had hardly felt the war in any manner approaching, [illegible] had felt. Roman jibes were reflected in

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Of the four freedoms printed on the back of the AMG lira notes, freedom of speech had come with startling speed. General Hume, SCAO of Fifth Army AMG, on his arrival announced the policy of allowing complete freedom of expression, governed, of course, by the usual military censorship. The Rome press

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presented for the Allied Publications Board, a new and far greater problem than had been so far encountered in licensing, prior to entry into Rome, approximately 15 dailies and more than 115 weeklies in Italy. Here was a capital city with a population of some 2½ million people, furnished with world-known newspapers such as "Il Messaggero" and "Il Giornale d'Italia". At first all newspapers continued to publish, whether they had been Fascist mouthpieces or not, but after two days the whole Fascist press was suppressed and the APB plan put into operation.

This plan allowed one paper to each of the government's six parties, two to opposition groups (i.e., parties not represented in the coalition) and two to "independents". In all, counting the Vatican "Osservatore Romano" and the PWB "Corriere di Roma", the city was given twelve dailies. The troublesome task of granting licenses to new publications in Italian Government territory was eventually turned over in late summer to an Italian Press Commission, the APB reserving only the right of veto on its decisions, withdrawing later still further to become merely supervisory where Allied interests were affected.

4186

Rome was a vantage point from which events could be seen in perpective. For example, in Rome the Finance Sub-Commission was finally able to contact the central office of the Bank of Italy. (Its Governor, Azzolini, was promptly removed by AMG. He was later tried and sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment for allowing the Germans to take away Italian gold reserves amounting to 55,000 kilograms.) The Fifth Army AMG had come into the city with 600 million Italian lire and $40 [illegible] deposit in the Bank of Italy. Public

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Allied Commission financial policy may be said to have met with some success. This policy had three main principles: Reopening of banks at the earliest possible moment; organization and support of the Bank of Italy so that it could finance Italian Government expenditures; and reduction of the national deficit and strengthening of the national credit. The state of the Italian public debt called for drastic and long-range reforms. The results of Fascist financial policy had been such as to demand a thorough revision of the tax system, which had remained hardly different in essence from the tax farming system of ancient times.

Finance officers were responsible for the intricate accounts covering every phase of Italian and A.C.C. activity, including advances to local communities made by AMG officers in the forward areas to pay for repairs to water, sewer and road systems. Accounting reforms restored to the Corte dei Conti (Court of Accounts) its original powers of review, which made it once again the most powerful single instrument of budgetary control in the government. Finance officers systematically re-opened postal savings accounts, the poor man's bank in Italy, with the result that the inflow of funds quickly exceeded the outflow.

The work of the Legal Sub-Commission also emerged in clearer pattern in Rome. The Court of Cassation, highest court in the land, was re-instituted under anti-Fascist auspices. This act greatly strengthened the Italian judicial administration. The duties of the Legal Sub-Commission included preparation of all Allied proclamations, general orders and public notices; certification of decrees passed by the Italian Government and measures relating to the transfer of territories; interpretation

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Noteworthy was the initiation of the practice whereby Italian

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decrees were published and made mandatory in AMG territory wherever possible. This saved duplication, since the AMG ordinance and the Italian decree to take effect on the return of the territory to the Government were identical, while at the same time it permitted the introduction of a new juridical current into the pattern of Italian law without disruption of the continuity of justice. Another responsility of the Legal Sub-Commission was the supervision of the prosecution of offenses against Allied ordinances in all Allied Military Courts - summary, superior and general.

The long-drawn out business of epuration - or cleansing the body politic - was primarily the concern of the Civil Affairs Section, though every sub-commission had necessarily some share in the job - as well as every regional administration. Under A.C.C. guidance and pressure the Italian Government set up a machinery which undertook the immense task. The decree of July 29, 1944 for sanctions against Fascism provided legal machinery for the epurative process as well as for punishment of Fascist crimes.

Epuration of a less organized kind had been going on in one way or another, of course, since the first Podestà was dismissed in Sicily, though not with as great a degree of coordination as might have been desirable. The Education Sub-Commission, for one, had organized its epuration program in conjunction with anti-Fascist educators and cleaned house at the University of Rome even before official decrees went into effect. Italian authorities were consulted concerning the publication of the revised textbooks. Secondary school books were cooperatively examined, showing 213 as definitely pernicious, 546 to be purged

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4184

The Displaced Persons Sub-Commission (for non-Italian refugees) added an important chapter to its story in Rome. In June the additional task of looking after all destitute Allied Nationals in Liberated Italy, particularly the 6,000 found in Rome, gave the sub-commission a new headache. The problems of the sub-commission had begun to assume a more static character There were few outward shipments of refugees - 1,000 to the United States, sent at the personal request of the President

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of the United States. The Intergovernmental Commission for Refugees assisted in the selection of this 1,000, who were called "stateless" refugees. Some 700 Jews also were sent to Palestine. Three more camps, including one for orphans, were established. No less than ten foreign missions had been attached to the sub-commission to look after the interest of various national groups. In August regular monetary payments to some of these groups were begun. The Records Bureau of the sub-commission answered hundreds of queries from abroad.

On the Italian refugee side, seven main camps had been set up, including forward camps from which refugees might be dispersed to areas near their homes. A new problem was presented of refugees moving from south to north by every possible method to regain their homes and arriving in devastated areas which could not provide food or shelter. This elicited strict measures for control of civilian movement. By August the whole picture was changing. The operational stalemate, the lack of transport, the saturation of southern regions and the need of agricultural labor farther north, all combined to favor the policy of keeping refugees, as far as possible, within the neighborhood of their native towns. The refugee problem thus became centered on the question of repatriation and not of flight. From Sicily 11,000 refugees returned to their farms on the mainland. On September 23, 1944, the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission and the Italian Refugees Branch merged, the new formation being known as the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission and passed into the Civil Affairs Section. 4183

In this time of recapitulation on a national scale, the AMGs of the Armies were moving forward with the combat troops and meeting new problems. That of the Partisans or Patriots was

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In this time of recapitulation on a national scale, the AMGs of the Armies were moving forward with the combat troops and meeting new problems. That of the Partisans or Patriots was first met soon after Cassino; with the capture of Rome and the subsequent advance through Tuscany, it became pressing. The first definitive report on what shortly after proved to be a "hot" subject was filed by the AMG officer with the 34th Division on July 13, 1944. Patriots, as the A.C.C. defined them - while establishing a Headquarters branch to deal with them - were Italians who were "members of genuine fighting bands who had borne arms, engaged in sabotage, or carried vital military

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information about the enemy to the Allied forces".

Patriot aid had been particularly effective around Florence, where they had helped the Army to clear the city of German and fascist snipers. They had waged guerilla warfare in a more or less disorganized way, relying on raids for equipment and ammunition. The immediate problem for the AMG officer was to convert the Patriot from a freebooting fighter or associate of fighters into a law-abiding citizen and to channel his patriotic zeal into disciplined and useful activity. The problem consisted specifically of making the Patriots give up their arms and of finding them employment on a priority basis, when they so deserved it as bona fide Patriots, for there were thousands of spurious claimants to the name. Certificates of merit were issued after investigation by joint Italian-Allied Committees.

In Florence, where the Italian Patriots first landed in the world news, the 8th Army AMG also stole the headlines from the combat elements by being the first to get across the Arno River on August 11 with supplies of food and water for the starving population. The 8th Army AMG team was a seasoned unit formed in Cairo in May 31, 1943. It had been led by ~~Group Captain~~ Air Commodore Benson, with few changes, straight up the Italian peninsula from Sicily. None of its tasks, perhaps, had been greater than that presented by Florence. In the last three weeks of August 380 civilians were killed and 1,260 wounded in the shattered city, apart from the bodies lying around or beneath the ruins. Disposal of the dead and care of the wounded was an AMG responsibility. Food and water were carried under AMG direction across the half-ruined Ponte Vecchio amid exploding mines. In the midst of all this, 8th Army AMG received a

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4182

While bulldozers crashed a way through the smashed buildings on either side of the Arno, officers of the Fine Arts Sub-Commission searched the rubble for works of art. The Fine

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Arts officers were busy enough, for around the city were 23 caches containing the world-famous art treasures of Florence, some of which had been removed by the Germans ostensibly to preserve them, as a German order put it, "from the American Jew art dealers". Fortunately, lists existed of the treasures stored and it was found that the Germans had taken 58 cases of world-famous sculpture in marble and bronze (including masterpieces by Michelangelo and Donatello), 26 cases of Hellenistic sculpture, 291 pictures (among them works of Tiziam, Botticelli, Rafael, Murillo), 25 to 30 cases of smaller pictures and 25 cartoons of full-size working drawings for frescos. The Monuments and Fine Arts Sub-Commission managed, in the midst of this, to produce a Soldiers' Guide to Florence which ran to 75,000 copies. A similar A.C.C. guide to Rome had passed the 250,000 mark.

Late summer was also the time for malaria, a menace almost as great under the then prevailing conditions as that of typhus had been earlier in Naples. Control measures were taken by the Public Health Sub-Commission in conjunction with military units, for the purpose was to protect the health of the troops as well as that of the civilian population. The Pontine Marshes which had been flooded by the Germans, undoing 60 years of reclamation work, were a particularly fertile breeding ground of mosquitoes. Airplanes sprayed this area weekly. More than 5,000 civilians were put to the task of laying Paris green by hand. Upwards of 9,000,000 atabrine tablets were made available to the population and a stockpile of another 7,000,000 set aside. The net effect was a firm check to the malaria threat. In the marshy areas, as was perhaps inevitable, there was a considerable incidence, but, fortunately, few deaths.

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4181

Medical supplies were arriving on request of the Allied Commission. Quinine, insulin, sulpha drugs and ether were obtained either directly from the United States and Great

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Britain, or else donated by the American Army medical sources in Italy. Biological laboratories were started at Palermo, Naples and Siena for human antitoxins, vaccines and serum, while animal vaccines were made successfully to combat the foot and mouth disease and hog cholera which had sprung up among the livestock, endangering herds already depleted by German depredations. Penicillin mold was also introduced for the first time into Italy and experimental production started in laboratories.

In the forward areas the 8th Army AMG announced it had handled 23,000 refugees since Cassino. Regions VIII (Tuscany) and IX (Emilia) were formed. Rome Region and Region IV were consolidated on August 1, 1944, and Region I, III, and VII, plus the Province of Campobasso, became a single "Southern Region" on August 28, with headquarters at Naples, reducing A.C.C. personnel in the south by 50 per cent. to provide more manpower for the northern Regions which were, evryone then believed, ready to fall to the Allied armies. The Interior Sub-Commission was preparing pools of Prefects for the North, stressing its belief that it was preferable to get the Italians to do the job of running the country, since Commission officers sometimes found that it was much easier to govern than to advise others how to govern, the latter being the task of A.C.C. officers who were stationed in Italian Government territory. Transport was an ever present and growing difficulty, tires being specially elusive.

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~~Passing~~ To Sum Up

On August 22 the first regional commissioners' conference since May, 1944, was held in Rome. Admiral Stone presided. It was a good moment for stopping to sum up and look ahead. The A.C.C. picture was swiftly taking on a new complexion. Civilian personnel had begun to infiltrate the military ranks of the unit, whose objectives were still primarily under the terms of the armistice. The civilian newcomers were members of the American Foreign Economic Administration (FEA) and were sent to ~~Secist~~ work in the Economic Section. Brigadier General William C'Dwyer, as the newly arrived vice-president of the Economic Section, was taking an energetic hand in analysing A.C.C. economic bottlenecks. Italian correspondents accredited by the Commission covered the Allied conference for the first time.

Rear Admiral C.E. Morgan, Chief of the Navy Sub-Commission praised the record of the Italian Navy and said that it had "co-operated to the fullest extent in the interest of the Allied war effort" and had shown great bravery "in the highest naval traditions".

Major-General Langley Browning (B), director of the Land Forces Sub-Commission, was equally complimentary and lauded the work of the Italian Corps of Liberation and the Italian Army service troops. "Few people," he said, "realize how well the Italian Army has done, organizing, with our help, an Army out of chaos and cooperating loyally as co-belligerents, with practically no fuss or friction." His sub-commission, said General Browning, now controlled "the largest old clothes and old boots business in the world and were well established

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objectives were still primarily under the terms of the armistice. The civilian newcomers were members of the American Foreign Economic Administration (FEA) and were sent to ~~Aosta~~ work in the Economic Section. Brigadier General William O'Dwyer, as the newly arrived vice-president of the Economic Section, was taking an energetic hand in analyzing A.C.C. economic bottle-necks. Italian correspondents accredited by the Commission covered the Allied conference for the first time.

Rear Admiral C.E. Morgan, Chief of the Navy Sub-Commission praised the record of the Italian Navy and said that it had "co-operated to the fullest extent in the interest of the Allied war effort" and had shown great bravery "in the highest naval traditions".

Major-General Langley Browning (B), director of the Land Forces Sub-Commission, was equally complimentary and lauded the work of the Italian Corps of Liberation and the Italian Army service troops. "Few people," he said, "realize how well the Italian Army has done, organizing, with our help, an Army out of chaos and cooperating loyally as co-belligerents, with practically no fuss or friction." His sub-commission, said General Browning, now controlled "the largest old clothes and old boots business in the world and were well established in the foodstuff and grocery line, feeding nearly half a million people".

4179

The Air Forces Sub-Commission, through its director, Air Vice Marshal W.A.B. Bowen-Buscarlet (B), reported over 800 operational sorties during August by the Italian Air Force and high morale consequent on the allotment of Allied equipment.

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Field Marshal Wilson, Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean Theatre, addressed the August conference, congratulating the Allied Control Commission on its "workmanlike job under many difficulties" and emphatically stating that food and employment were, in his opinion, the two major problems which faced the A.C.C. and upon the solution of which Italy's recovery depended.

Unemployment and hunger were the two bleak by-products of the war which might give rise to social unrest and a consequent threat to military security as long as operations were in progress. Rome was a prize sample of the food problem, since in many localities the difficulty lay in finding transportation to move local products from a surplus to a deficiency area. The involved question of adequate rations also was tied up with transport in a manner newly realized: if the ration were to be increased, it would mean the use of so many more trucks to carry the goods that made up the increase. It would be of no avail to have extra stocks to issue and no transport to truck them to points of distribution.

Romans were as one with the rest of the nation north of the Garigliano River in feeling hart that they, too, did not have the 300-gram ration which had been put in effect in Southern Italy on July 1, 1944. All the careful planning of the A.C.C. could not, however, with ports and railways battered and supplies from the north cut off, bring to Rome the 1,400 daily tons of food needed. The city was getting only 1,100 to 1,200 tons. Ideally it should get 2,000 a day. The Romans went out into the country to buy whatever they could and were officially allowed to bring in 15 kilos a person a day.

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This resulted not only in a dangerous drain on the surrounding provinces and even on Naples, which was itself slowly getting back to normal, but also in a new mix-up and shortage of transport. Controls had to be tightened and road-blocks imposed. Colonel Poletti, who arrived in Rome as Regional Commissioner on June 20, applied the lesson learnt in Naples and Palermo and controls became effective. Regional Commissioners in the

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neighboring provinces were protesting strongly that, as far as their produce went, all roads did not lead to Rome. Region IV (the Rome area) had to improvise complicated deals to get wheat from Macerata on the Adriatic or wood from Rieti.

The Commission had been anxious to extend the 300-gram ration to all of Liberated Italy and had early recommended such action to the Combined Chiefs of Staff. Besides the obvious social, economic and political benefits, the measure was urgent on sheer grounds of health. A prolonged period of rationing below 300 grams would, it was felt, be definitely injurious to the stamina of the people. The traditional Italian diet was based on bread or pasta, plus sugar. Investigation had shown that the daily scale of 300 grams of bread and 4.15 grams of sugar, which was the official regular ration in Southern Italy, produced a calorific content of only 763 calories. After September 1 that was supplemented in urban districts with a population of more than 50,000 by meat and vegetable issues, providing an additional 143 calories. The League of Nations Health Committee had recommended in 1936 that 2,400 calories a day should be the calorific intake of a man or woman living in a temperate climate and not engaged in manual labor.

Thousands of tons of food had been imported by the Food Sub-Commission in Allied bottoms, but shipping shortages - made perennial, as it were, by the mounting demands of military preparations - precluded larger imports. Scheduled imports often did not arrive because of operational urgencies which dictated last-minute diversion of ships and cargoes to other theatres. Nevertheless, from the stocks on hand extra rations were issued to heavy workers, hospital patients, prison inmates, [illegible] refugees, in fact, to all

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Agriculture Sub-Commission experts saw the Italian food situation as a direct result of the Fascist experiment in autarchy. The Fascists had lowered the bread ration from 200 grams to 150 in March, 1942, thus giving Italians the lowest bread ration in Western Europe despite the fact that Italy was primarily an agricultural country. Further, Fascist machinery,

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set up for the collection and distribution of food on the false premise of self-sufficiency (for Italy never ceased to import food), had degenerated amid farmers' distrust and bureaucratic inefficiency. The Allied Control Commission, perforce, had to adopt the Fascist amassing system, streamline it and attempt to obtain cooperation by urging the country to feed itself as a contribution to the combined war effort. The name of the Ammassi (or amassers) was changed to the Granai del Popolo (Granaries of the People).

The campaign to get Italy to raise as much wheat as possible yielded, by the end of the ~~October~~ harvest, the total of ~~6,604,826~~ quintals or 95 per cent. of the 11,600,000 quintals which was the goal, a result which the Agriculture Sub-Commission termed a "qualified success", considering the woeful lack of transport and the frequent apathy of local officials. Special Allied Commission harvest control officers spurred and watched the collections on the spot. That the operation needed watching no one could doubt was familiar with the black market or the native hoarding habits of the farmer. Control officers said that at least 62 ways of evading legal collections had been noted.

On the national scale, the close collaboration of Commission and Italian agricultural officials, for example, setting up communal and provincial committees on the American plan to share in the responsibility for collections, had a beneficial effect on the re-organisation of the basic agricultural structure in Italy. The division of the Italian Agriculture Ministry, on Commission recommendation, into Under-Secretariats of Production and Alimentation (i.e. distribution) helped clear up the tangle of duplications and superfluous Fascist agencies and thus

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Rehabilitation, however, was not a word that the Public Works Sub-Commission (whose efforts in this direction were most immediately tangible) or any other operating agency of the Allied Control Commission could use in any real sense. Rehabilitation was not a part of the Commission's mission. The

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Commission could plan or suggest a program and give first-aid. Public works officers had worked in direct support of the armies and on the repair of hundreds of bridges by Italian agencies working under the Commission's direction and on the maintenance of military highways in Italy.

The picture confronting the Public Works Sub-Commission was one of devastation. The armies had fought over Italian soil with a consistent ferocity perhaps unequaled in the war up to that time. The slow advances had left stricken cities and towns reduced to rubble in their wake. In the Liri Valley scores of towns were virtually uninhabitable, and there were 100,000 homeless. Public Works engineers immediately approved a plan to build homes in nine communities. In this area of the Lazio-Umbria Region a survey showed that 27 towns were 25 per cent. to 100 per cent. uninhabitable. Preliminary estimates put the cost of war damage at $2,700,000,000.

Central Italy, where damage was heaviest, faced a major task in the field of electric power. Electric development was the key to rehabilitation, since all factories depended on it. Systematic German demolition had destroyed 94 per cent. of the generating capacity. Central Italy before the war had had more than a million kilowatt capacity. The Allies found barely one thirtieth left on entry. More than 4,000 men were employed at once in clearing out the debris and sorting out the few remaining usable parts. Emergency power plants and heavy engineering equipment were ordered from the United States. Primary value of this material would be to get power to key industries which could then manufacture parts missing in the power plants not totally destroyed.

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4175

Before any industrial problem could be approached the Allied Control Commission and Italian engineers had to confront another difficulty, especially in the areas most hotly fought over and which were often the most important industrial areas as well. Details of mine fields laid by the German and Allied armies, collated from AFHQ, AAI (Allied Armies in Italy) and PBS reports gave a depressing picture. The area between the Hitler and Gustav Lines, the Anzio bridgehead, the region around Pisa and Livorno, all likely landing beaches, the west coast especially,

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the Pescara sector and the Gothic Line, were all covered by extensive minefields which were a constant peril to normal activity. Detectors, a secret weapon, were not then available for other than Army use. To deal with this hazard 30 Italian soldiers were trained by British engineers at Capua in the latest techniques. These men were the nucleus of a training program for schools established by the Commission to teach mine removal methods to civilians.

The acetylene torch, even more than cement, was found to be the primary element in the first stages of industrial reconstruction. At Piombino, for instance, cascade bombing sent 500 bombs through the roof of the steel sheds in three minutes. Thousands of workmen with blow torches were needed merely to clean up the resultant breakage before estimators could even begin their inventory of usable parts that might have survived. German demolition of machinery or outright appropriation for use in Germany had further slashed Italian industrial capacity. The Allies used what was left to repair their own war equipment. Necessaties of war and the impossibility of importing machinery during the operational stage simply did not permit any extensive reconstruction. Nevertheless the Industry Sub-Commission by October, 1944, had activated factories for civilian production employing over 50,000 persons.

4174

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whatever was surplus to Italian economy in order to obtain foreign exchange credits abroad, exports - citrus fruits, nuts, wine, seeds, boxwood, scarce minerals and odds and ends - were promoted to Allied countries.

In every matter touching food or reconstruction, transport was a vital consideration. The Transportation Sub-Commission had charge of all railroad mileage in Italy given over from control by the Military Railway Service which followed immediately in the path of the armies. The Commission arranged for the transport of civilian goods on a basis of priorities, food being priority No. 1. Full use was also made of military railroad cars returning empty from the front. The tonnage moved had risen from 3,000 tons a month, in early 1944, to nearer 300,000 tons a month later that year. The Germans had taken special care to remove all transport they could. A sample taken in four provinces on the basis of 1942 figures showed that 68 per cent. of all vehicles were missing, and no less than 84½ per cent. of trucks of 3 tons and larger.

Consequently the Commission had to lean even more heavily on its own military transport, which was scarce and steadily worn down by constant use. Rail movement was combined with trucking to serve inland areas where rail service was lacking. For example, wheat and potatoes from the Macerata area were trucked to Jesi, carried to Rome on empty freight cars returning from Ancona. Paper was picked up at Albacina and lignite at Spoleto. At Terni and Narni, seed wheat and fertilizer trucked to these points were put on the train for southern destinations.

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Early in September General O'Dwyer was called back to Washington to report on the economic situation in Italy. With him he took a fat volume of facts and figures which outlined the bases for Italy's requests for assistance as approved by the Allied Control Commission. Shortly after the meeting on September 11, 1944 of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill at Quebec, a series of communiqués was issued in Washington and London promising more help to the Italian people.

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UNRRA, which had sent a mission to Italy in late summer - a mission attached to the Allied Control Commission - to investigate possibilities of extending aid to the country, voted a limited form of assistance to Italy in the form of $50,000,000 for children, pregnant mothers and refugees, and was preparing eventually to take over responsibilities for displaced persons.

In the midst of these international developments, attention was focussed on the Italian Carabinieri. The Italian press charged that the Carabinieri had failed to maintain law and order and had allowed a Roman mob to lynch Donato Carretta, state witness in the trial of the former Questore of Rome, Pietro Caruso (later convicted and executed). The Public Safety Sub-Commission had been attempting to reconstitute the CC.RR. as the chief police authority. The strength of the Carabinieri had originally been set at 55,000 but enlistments had succeeded in raising the actual enrollment to only some 43,000. In order to induce more and better men to enroll, it was agreed to give to all police rations equal to those of the Italian Army, to equip them from Italian Army stocks of clothing (the police had had no issue of clothing for a year) and to transfer 5,000 picked Italian troops to the Carabinieri in order to release an equal number of men for service in the north. Mobile Carabinieri units were used to establish law and order in the Army areas, working with 5th and 8th Army AMGs. 4172

A trickle of new strength also came from repatriated specialist prisoners, since in September Italian prisoners of war had begun to return in larger numbers, at the rate initially of 100 a day, after nearly a year of discussions between the Allies and the Italian Government. Arrangements were handled by the War Materials Disposal and Italian Prisoners-of-War Sub-Commis-

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On October 1, 1944, the Allied Control Commission went through a minor reorganization to meet new conditions. A forward field echelon was established at 15th Army Group (then AAI) headquarters to assist in the co-ordination of the far-flung AMGs in the forward areas. Russian observers were attached in greater numbers to the Commission. The Regions were redesignated and

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bore the names of the Italian compartimenti instead of numbers. Four Regions were still held by the enemy, Liguria, Piemonte, Lombardia and Venezie, while two, Emilia and Toscana, remained battlegrounds. The forward areas had become static as weather and the Gothic Line slowed the advance of the Allied Armies. The AMGs began to worry about food supplies as the long hauls over difficult terrain aggravated the basic handicap of limited imported supply, now that summer produce was disappearing from the market.

On October 16 six more provinces were handed back to the Italian Government, in a fourth transfer of territory. Nine days later - October 25, 1944 the Allied Control Commission was ordered by higher authority to drop the second "C", becoming the Allied Commission. At the same time the Allied Governments announced exchanges of diplomatic representatives with the Italian Government. Further evidence of Allied goodwill was seen in the arrival of a special mission from the U.S. State Department and the British Foreign Office, sent to obtain from the Allied Commission detailed information on Italy's most urgent material needs. Joint planning - for the first time, in the real sense of the word - commenced at once between the Commission's Economic Section and a special inter-ministerial committee of the Italian Government on the drafting of specific programs and accompanying requisitions that might result from the amount of Allied credits made available.

The first year of the Allied Commission on November 10, 1944 was signalised by simultaneous announcement in Washington and London of the appointment of Mr. Macmillan as Acting President and of Admiral Stone as Chief Commissioner of the Commission. The anniversary was marked, too, by a tribute paid to the

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"Throughout the entire period of the Fifth Army's service in Italy, Allied Military Government has been one of its integral

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parts. AMG personnel have been attached to the several corps and divisions, British, French and Brazilian, as well as American. These AMG officers and men have been exposed to the same dangers and hardships as other men of our combat units. Some have lost their lives, some have been disabled by wounds, others were captured. Not a few have been awarded combat decorations by each of the countries represented.

"The plans made by the AMG personnel at Fifth Army Headquarters have proven sound and their execution efficient. The army command has never had to concern itself with problems of civil government, which would inevitably have been a serious burden had AMG failed. Thus, AMG has played an important part in the successive advances of the Fifth Army. In the cities of Salerno, Naples, Rome, Siena, Pisa, Florence, Lucca and Pistoia in turn, as well as in numerous smaller cities and towns, the Fifth Army's AMG has created effective government. 4179

"All of these cities had known the ravages of war and the destruction caused by a ruthless foe. The inhabitants were, as a rule, all but starving; public utilities were wrecked; banks and courts were closed; political unrest was widespread; educational institutions and art centers were either ruined or closed. So effective have been the efforts of AMG that these conditions were corrected in a remarkably brief time. Refugees have received special care. In the Anzio beachhead alone, more than twenty thousand were transported out of the combat area without a single casualty. Allied Military Government has earned the gratitude of the United Nations for a distinct and important contribution to the winning of the war."

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There were arduous tasks yet to come in the field but at headquarters, the Allied Commission, in the phrase of Mr. Macmillan, concentrated its attention on the job of definitely "muting the middle C" in the quondem A.C.C.

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~~[redacted]~~ New Deal for Italy

The task of "mating the middle C" in the A.C.C. was one which the Commission had been attempting to do for some time. It consisted specifically of transferring more and more operating responsibilities to the Italian Government. The process was not easy. The machinery of government in many places and departments was not physically equipped or strong enough to take over. The re-building of an Italian Government administration from scratch under Marshal Badoglio at Brindisi had received its greatest impetus when the Government moved to Rome where central records and personnel were available. Many key officials had fled with the Fascists and others had to undergo epuration, which again perforce slowed down day-to-day administrative efficiency. Nevertheless, the policy consistently was drummed into Allied Commission sub-commissions to let the Italians do the job. The Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission made one of the first definitive steps in November when it allowed the Genio Civile of the Italian Ministry of Public Works full authority to initiate any non-military public works projects without prior approval.

The transfer of administrative responsibilities to the Italians was at times somewhat retarded by inevitable political crises. On November 26, Prime Minister Bonomi and his six-party coalition cabinet resigned as a result of inter-party pressures for "stronger" leadership. A new government was formed December 7, with Bonomi still as President of the Council of Ministers - the official Italian designation of the Prime Minister - but with only four parties represented, the Socialist

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Insert (A)

The forward areas were in a static period through the winter, which began with the front running roughly from Ravenna on the

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1944

Adriatic (liberated December 5, and from which the Fine Arts officer reported that the city's renowned Byzantine mosaics, which had escaped with only minor damages, had been immediately weatherproofed) to Pisa on the Tyrrhenian. As the Allied Armies ground to a halt before the mountainous defenses of the Gothic Line, AMGs of the armies began giving more and more attention to second-phase or stabilization operations. Emilia Region, for example, working under command of the SCAO, 8th Army AMG, took over actual administration of liberated parts of Forlì and Ravenna Provinces.

Typhoid outbreaks provided emergency problems for AMG in scattered localities - at Arezzo and Rimini most seriously - as damaged water and sewer systems resulted in water pollution. Scabies, caused by the shortage of soap, was widespread in the Marche Provinces south of Ravenna and on the Island of Elba until AMG managed to alleviate the situation. On Elba the AMG officer successfully improvised a scabies remedy made of sulphur, machine grease and grappa, an Italian liqueur. Elba had passed over from administration by the French forces which had stormed the island in June, 1944, to the AMG rule of Tuscany Region which also was contending with the wreckage caused by the flooding Arno on the mainland. Food was being distributed despite transport difficulties and Florence was crowded with troops on leave, who were not allowed to eat in civilian restaurants. The 5th Army AMG had enforced successfully the ban on this type of dissipation of Italian food resources. 4188

In the rear areas the winter also passed uneventfully. Snow-bound Castel del Sangro had no food for nearly two weeks until the Food Sub-Commission, at the request of A.C. regional authorities, arranged to have ten tons of flour dropped by parachute.

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In the rear areas the winter also passed uneventfully. Snow-bound Castel del Sangro had no food for nearly two weeks until the Food Sub-Commission, at the request of A.C. regional authorities, arranged to have ten tons of flour dropped by parachute. Sicily continued an isle of unrest, a poor grain amassing and continued hoarding obliging the Commission to divert grain ships to the island where there were various disturbances over premature Italian announcements of the military call-up for the Italian Army.

Most concrete return to normalcy was perhaps best evident

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in the Southern Region whose nine million population was separated from Central Italy by a 30-mile wide zone (scene of the 1943-44 battle line) in which 300,000 persons were homeless. Special food rations were arranged for the homeless, 170,000 square meters of canvas to roof the shattered homes, blankets and medecines were provided. American Relief for Italy, Inc. and the Vatican, with Commission counsel and cooperation, gave the area priority in its program of assistance. Meanwhile, more than 218,000 mines were lifted from the debris-strewn area by A.C. regional authorities.

At Allied Commission headquarters, emphasis was shifting to the initial problems of economic rehabilitation. Close touch with front line problems had been kept through the medium of frequent meetings at Siena with Army AMGs and forward regions. Weekly meetings were held by the Economic Section with the special Italian Government inter-ministerial committee at which problems were thrashed out and concrete steps and decrees planned to define and tackle the vast job of reconstruction. An A.C. Priorities Board was established to decide who, among competing claimants, should get first chance at the various amounts of supplies and Italian local resources which came under the Commission's control. The Italian General Confederation of Labor (CGIL) held its first convention at Naples on January 29, 1945, the Labor Sub-Commission helping assemble delegates from all parts of Liberated Italy for the occasion. A special mission of the United States Commerical Corporation, an agency of economic warfare, arrived to examine future trade prospects and, incidentally, to offer to the Italian Government, through the channel of the Allied Commission, an opportunity to purchase stockpiles of materials which the U.S. agency had accumulated

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The new Acting President, Mr. Macmillan (who in his capacity as British Resident Minister for the Mediterranean Theatre at AFHQ, divided his time between Italy, Greece and London) studied the Commission's operations and made recommendations to London

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and Washington. Food and Public Works officers of the Commission returned to headquarters from visiting the Combined Chiefs of Staff and were able to report a better comprehension of the Commission's and Italy's problems by high-level planners who inevitably were pre-occupied with global considerations in which Italy figured as only one segment.

The Commission likewise had been receiving its first civilian appointments to the directorships of sub-commissions, the beginning of putting into effect the policy of substituting civilian technicians for military personnel wherever possible. Industry, Agriculture and Transportation Sub-Commissions were the first to get civilian heads, all Americans recruited by the Foreign Economic Administration. Labor Sub-Commission got a British civilian director.

The results of the Macmillan recommendations and the joint Anglo-American views finally resulted on January 30 in a directive by the Combined Chiefs of Staff outlining a new status for Italy, which more or less formalized several of the objectives toward which the Allied Commission had been working. The New Deal for Italy was communicated to the Italian Government in an aide memoire on February 24 and on the same day announced to the ~~world~~ press. 4166

In brief, the new directive left the Allied Commission in the role of advising the Italian Government, of organizing military government operations in territories yet to be liberated from the Germans, and of keeping an eye on public safety and the communications and transportation facilities of the civil economy, items which were at all times crucial to the military effort. Rights of the Allies under the Armistice [illegible] in reserve and not fully exercised.

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Specifically, the directive ordered the abolition of the Political Section of the Commission. Political advice to the Commission was henceforth to be given by the British and American Embassies. All Allied Commission regional administrations were to be closed down in Italian Government territory and officers withdrawn, save for a few general liaison officers

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and specialists in the field of communications, finance and transportation, to aid the military units still stationed in the zone of communications which was in Italian Government territory. Diplomatic relations might now be resumed by the Italian Government directly with all Allied and neutral powers, the Commission only to be kept informed of all negotiations. The Italian Government was henceforth free to make any appointments it saw fit and to legislate all decrees it deemed advisable for areas under its jurisdiction, without the consent of the Allied Commission. One reservation was made in the matter of appointments, affecting about a dozen posts in the Italian armed forces, transportation, communications and police agencies.

Five sub-commissions - Fine Arts, Legal, Labor, Education and Local Government - were told not to give further counsel to the Italian Government - unless specifically requested to - on problems in Italian Government territory. The Italian Government was asked to institute strong economic controls. Cultural relations between the Allies and Italy were to be encouraged and the exchange of scholars and artists and of publications promoted. Italian prisoners-of-war held in Italy were to be released from their status of "cooperators" (with the Allies) and returned to the custody of the Italian authorities.

Immediate action followed. The Political Section was 4165 abolished March 1. Orders went out to close down Allied Commission regional operations in Italian Government territory as of April 1. Relations between the Italian Government and the Allied Commission were to be carried out primarily between Ministers and Undersecretaries and Directors and Deputy Directors of sub-commissions. Administration of the distribution of food and petrol in Italian Government areas was turned over

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While these preparations for turn-over of responsibilities

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Due to the initiative of the Commission, U.S. and British news agencies had been authorized to bring their news to Rome dailies beginning January 15th.

were being effected, PWB on March 5 also suspended its news and radio services for the rest of Liberated Italy outside of Rome and Italian and Allied news agencies were free to operate anywhere south of the army zones. A Temporary Film Board, with an A.C. Chairman, was also formed to re-activate the Italian film industry. On March 8 the first regional commissioners' conference since August, 1944, convened in Rome where Mr. Macmillan met the key officers of the Allied Commission for the first time. The new scope of the Commission was explained, plans for the military government of North Italy were reviewed and the policy of encouraging cooperation with the C.L.N.A.I. (Committee of Liberation of Alt'Italia) was stressed.

The withdrawal from the South took place on April 1 as scheduled. The Sardinia, Sicily, Southern, Abruzzi-Marche and Lazio-Umbria Regions were abolished and a new one formed out of the last two. Liaison officers were stationed at Cagliari in Sardinia, Catania and Palermo in Sicily and at Bari, Naples and Rome on the mainland. Naples Commune continued under AMG, as did the islands of Pantelleria and Lampedusa, which reported to the liaison officer at Palermo. In all of Italian Government territory outside of Allied Commission Headquarters itself, only approximately 60 officers were left. A small number of olive oil control officers, assigned by the Commission to help garner in the olive oil harvest; continued their work until April 15.

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At A.C. headquarters steps were taken to cut personnel - some 300 officers were stationed there - in order to free officers for future Northern assignments and to increase the tempo of civilianization which had also been ordered by the Combined Chiefs of Staff. The Commission's 21 sub-commissions

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Dup was late change to 11 British and 9 Americans.

had included 13 British directors and 10 Americans, one sub-commission - Finance - having joint directors of both nationalities. Six of the 23 directors were non-military - two British, and four American, civilians. Of the nine higher executives of the Commission, including vice presidents of sections, four were British and five American. An American civilian, Mr. A.G. Antolini, headed the Economic Section, as Acting Vice President, with two Deputy Vice Presidents - Brig. D.L. Anderson (B), in charge of production activities, and Brigadier General Edward B. McKinley (A), in charge of supply. Sub-commissions of the Civil Affairs Section, headed by Brig. Gerald R. Upjohn (B) as Vice President, all had military personnel as directors. The Commission had in headquarters, regions and Army AMG staffs, a total of 1,304 officers and 2,808 men. These consisted of 567 American and 737 British officers and 1763 British other ranks and 1,045 U.S. enlisted men. In audition, there were some 30 American and three British civilians of officer status and a flock of American girl secretaries.

The territory left behind included about half of Italy, with 19 million population. AMG still governed one eighth of the national territory, with five million population; while three eighths of Italy and 21 millions were still under German rule. Conditions were in fair shape for a nation beset by as many grave problems as Italy was. Sicily and Sardinia had been Italian Government territory since February, 1944, while the heel of Italy had never felt AMG at all. Sicily was still unquiet. Sardinia was well on the way back to normal, exporting livestock - 4,100 sheep, 1,200 head of cattle, 500 horses in initial shipments - to the mainland, though a shepherds vendetta caused the slaughter of 800 sheep. Cagliari,

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was also more like its former self. Crime was on the down-grade. The capital had food stocks for more than a month in reserve. The devastated areas of the Abruzzi and the lower Lazio had safely passed through the hazards of the winter season.

Everywhere, as the Allied Commission withdrew, expressions of regret were voiced by officials and population alike, and appreciation was expressed for the sturdy work of the regional administrations which were the personal face of the Allied Commission to the Italian population. A.C. Headquarters was composed of policy leaders, general administrators and planners and specialist consultants. The actual work of administration - of getting food to localities on time, of repairing bridges and maintaining roads, of preventing epidemics and of restoring art monuments - could take place only in the field, of course, where the civilian population, Italian local officials and Commission's officers shared the common burden. The operational emergencies of the moment were problems met daily by the regional and provincial officers whose solution told in immediate results of aid to, and good will from, the population. Headquarters had the long-range problems of organizing supply so necessities could be imported into the country and goods move efficiently on arrival. A.C. Headquarters laid down policies and planned programs on a national scale, and always had to watch the political weathervane. The regions had the labor of testing the plans and trying to put them into effect, getting in full measure the thousand-and-one headaches and individual laments and troubles which the Italian cittadini and contadini were eager to pass on.

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The regions had built on the foundations left by the Army AMGs, whose mission was to exercise the powers of military govern ment and to perform all emergency "first-things-first" duties. The AMGs of the 5th and 8th Armies were organized similarly, but with some variations in structure and style. Both teams had British and American officers.

The 5th Army AMG, which, as Company C of the 2675th Regiment of the Allied Commission, was awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque by Lieutenant-General Lucian T. Truscott, jr., (A), commanding general, Fifth Army, had its full army staff of specialists under the SCAO stationed near main army headquarters. Next came the SCAO of corps, who, with a few specialists, was a part of the corps commander's staff. Below, and in front, came the thin line of civil affairs officers (CAOs) attached to divisions - usually one to each - who moved with their units. The Army SCAO had technical and administrative control over his corps and divisional AMG officers who were under the operational commands of their corps and division field commanders.

The 8th Army AMG, under its SCAC, was grouped somewhat differently. There were two headquarters, one attached to "TAC" or forward headquarters of the Army, and a rear headquarters staying near main Army headquarters. The forward staff was small and charged with tactical liaison with the AMG officers attached to combat elements. These consisted of Corps Liaison Officers and of Divisional Laison Officers, both of whom worked and moved with their tactical formations. The rear AMG headquarters of 8th Army AMG was the standard staff of specialists.

The duties of the Divisional CAOs were naturally the most dramatic, these officers accompanying combat troops into towns

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The duties of the Divisional CAOs were naturally the most dramatic, these officers accompanying combat troops into towns to take care of civilian problems which appeared the moment the last enemy rearguard element had been driven off. These officers posted the proclamations, gave notice that no civilian was to move more than 10 kilometres from his home without a permit, commandered empty ammunitions trucks to carry refugees, organized teams of civilians (and also prisoners-of-war) to bury the dead, salvaged key official records, made a quick

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estimate of the food situation and established the first elements of local government.

The Corps SCAC furthered his AMG mission in more detailed fashion. He verified municipal appointments; persuaded farmers to return to their crops (which were sometimes under enemy shell range); hired labor for military units, especially for repairing roads and bridges to keep open military lines of communications, and decided as to the time - as early as possible - to call forward the attached provincial teams of the regions which would take up the long-term tasks of governing the area under the Corps SCAC until he moved forward again. In an active zone these operations of Corps and Division affairs officers were, often as not, carried on under shell-fire.

The Army AMG staff of specialists coordinated operations, making forward visits upon call. The flow of refugees during advances needed traffic control and organization of the highest skill to get the fleeing civilians out of the way of troops and to transit camps, and then back to the rear areas in a series of relays. Most difficult assignment of the Army AMG staff was supply, organizing forward food dumps, planning food distribution to fit the invricate schedules of army supply movements, utilizing local food resources wherever found, and adjusting ration scales to the stocks available.

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Work of the Sub-Commission

The accomplishments of the Allied Commission could be measured by the records of the sub-commissions, the sum total of the work of each being the measure of the progress achieved in each field. These specialists did double duty. They consulted daily with the technicians of the Italian Government's ministries, coordinated technical operations in the field and performed "trouble shooting" missions on demand for regional commissioners and Army AMG Staffs, particularly in solving problems, such as inter-regional trade, that cut across administrative boundaries.

The Land Forces Sub-Commission of the Allied Commission (which also had the title of the "Military Mission to the Italian Army" and as such was responsible operationally to 15th Army Group and AFHQ), for example, had re-created a reasonably efficient Italian Army out of ill-equipped, disorganized elements demoralized by war weariness, many Italian soldiers having been under arms for eight years. The Italian Army and Ministry of War were thoroughly overhauled, stripped down to an essential fighting force on the basis of equipment and transport available, and re-trained and re-organized. Administration was cleaned up and 11 Territorial Regions, 99 Military Districts and 90 Regional Depots were set up to extend the authority and control of the Ministry of War over all Italy in due course.

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The mobilization system was shot through with Fascist corruption and over-lenient exemptions, and further aggravated by numerous desertions after induction; for instance, one Italian division in the early days lost men at the rate of 250 a day, its strength dropping from 7,500 to 2,500. In the fall of 1944, a

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The ceiling of the new Italian Army was fixed at slightly more than

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300,000, of whom one fifth were re-equipped out of remaining Italian military stocks, three tenths out of U.S. equipment and more than half out of British supplies. The rations of the Italian soldiers were increased to 3,700 calories a day, highest in Italian history. A ration of cognac was distributed for front-line troops. Welfare officers, mobile canteens and an Italian Army morale newspaper - La Patria - were provided, in short, the normal housekeeping comforts of a modern Army. More than 175,000 Italian service troops labored on the Allied Lines of communications, operating port battalions, signal and road maintenance companies.

Italian soldiers in the Balkans were repatriated, 35,000 of them returning by spring, 1945, including surviving units of the famous Garibaldi Division of Italians who had fought bravely under Marshal Tito in Yugoslavia against the Germans. Italian Patriots were enlisted into the Army, older-age soldiers being released to keep the overall strength within measure. After a slow start, the Patriots, whose military value to Allied troops as scouts, particularly, had gained Allied respect, enlisted in considerable numbers. Nearly 3,000 joined up in one month under arrangements worked out by the Land Forces Sub-Commission and the Patriots Branch of the Allied Commission.

Six Combat Groups were authorized - Cremona, Friuli, Folgore, Mantova, Piceno and Legnano - and were equipped completely with British armament and equipment and trained in modern battle tactics by ~~British instructors.~~ The Cremona Group was sent first into the line on the 8th Army front in early 1945 and performed with credit and with no more or less tactical rustiness than any other new military force committed to action with novel

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ed make a sufficient concentration of force available to launch the final Allied offensive and break-through, the sub-commission stated.

The Navy Sub-Commission likewise had a dual responsibility, one within the Allied Commission for administrative control of the Italian Marine Ministry, and the other to the Allied Mediterranean Naval Command. Under the sub-commission's guidance, the Italian Navy had operated effectively in the war effort, sweeping its own minefields and its personnel manning port and harbor installations, thus saving Allied manpower. More than 35,000 Italian workmen at the big Naval dockyards at Taranto and Naples (smaller ones were at Leghorn and Palermo) did more than 2,000 repair jobs up to the spring of 1945 and handled more than 1,000 dockings. Allied men-of-war and merchant ships at the rate of 150 a month were repaired.

By the end of March 1945, according to sub-commission reports, six cruisers, eight destroyers and about 40 torpedo boats and corvettes had helped escort 12,300 ships in 1,440 convoys, carried 209,000 Italian troops and civilian personnel, and 54,000 Allied troops, moved 62,000 tons of stores and steamed more than 1,884,000 miles. Since September, 1943, the navy had participated in more than 900 missions. Two cruisers were assigned to anti-raider sweeps outside the Mediterranean area for a period of approximately five months, carrying out their missions with "great credit and efficiency", the sub-commission reported. 4157

The establishment of the new navy was approximately 30,000. A battalion of Italian marines - the San Marco - had seen action on the land front. Under the sub-commission's eye, the Ministry of Marine was planning a draft of recruits - 4,500 - the first

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The Air Forces Sub-Commission functioned like the other service sub-commissions. The strength of the Italian Air Force was approximately 31,000 officers and men. It had about 200 fighters, bombers and seaplanes when the Allies assumed control.

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The personnel, however, was high-spirited and efficient, flying dangerous missions in worn-out machines to the Balkans where tons of supplies were dropped to the Yugoslav forces. The skilled Italian mechanics were transferred practically en masse - 9,000 of them - to the Allied air forces. The obsolete Italian planes were kept intact by ingenious improvisation since spare parts were practically non-existent. The Middle East, North Africa, and later, Western Europe and Allied dumps were combed for parts which might be used or re-adapted for use. Eventually, five squadrons of Allied fighter and bomber aircraft were given to the renovated air force. By April, 1945 the Italians had flown more than 13,400 sorties and had elicited praise from the Allied operational air command for their destructive attacks on the German lines of communications in the Balkans.

The thankless job of supervising the preservation of law and order in a society disorganized by war was the lot of the Public Safety Sub-Commission. Re-building the police agencies of Italy into efficient, non-political servants of the public was an uphill task which meant a continual fight for transport, rations, clothing and to get rid of Fascist heritages of corruption. The Carabinieri, who were the senior regiment in the Italian Army, had its strength brought up to 55,000, and later to 65,000. The Agents of Public Security (32,000), Royal Finance Guards (30,000) Forest Guards (4,500) and some 7,500 Metropolitani in the police departments of the larger municipalities, were all put through the adjusting process. Salvaged Allied uniforms helped meet the need for adequate clothing. 4156

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The Ovra, the Fascist secret police, was abolished. Fire departments - with another 13,000 in personnel to watch over - were brought up to efficient operating standards despite scant equipment and motor vehicle registration was systematized. A careful watch at all times had to be kept on civilian movement, a procedure being worked out whereby movement in Italian Government territory was free, that is, with no need of a pass; restricted in AMG regional areas, that is, with a simple type of police pass, and rather strictly controlled in Army AMG zones, to enter which prior Army permission was required.

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Close liaison was effected with the military security branches of the armies, enemy agents being at times a danger, though few ever escaped the dragnet, despite the persistence of the enemy in exploiting misguided Italians as spies, one agent landing in Allied territory by parachute, carrying a wireless set and 300,000 lire in cash, as late as April 25, 1945. The sub-commission handled 120 spy cases from December, 1944 to April, 1945 alone. All known Fascist sympathizers were interned in camps supervised by the sub-commission in cooperation with military security agencies. The sub-commission also had the tedious duty of investigating the biographical background of the thousands of Italians who had official dealings with the Allied Commission or against whom suspicions of Fascist tendencies had been entertained.

The Public Safety Sub-Commission was also concerned with the over-crowding of prisons due to heavy dockets in the Italian courts, as a result of which prison disturbances broke out sporadically. The 35 judicial prisons of Liberated Italy were 30 to 60 per cent. overcrowded with prisoners awaiting trial while the 17 penal prisons were empty enough to hold another 9,000 inmates. The keep and administration of 9,000 prison guards was a related problem.

The over-laden court dockets were the headache of the Legal Sub-Commission. The wheels of justice were slowed down for a time by the machinery of epuration itself since presiding members of all epuration commissions were appointed from judicial personnel, stripping the courts of 150 needed judges. Retired judges were recalled and new ones recruited to man the benches. The sub-commission had to review all serious AMG court cases.

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16,500 cases yet to be heard, Southern Italy 7,135 and Tuscany 2,000.

The Legal Sub-Commission, whose director was Chief Legal Advisor to the Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission, had by spring, 1945, consolidated the 15 original military government proclamations into four while 21 of its 40 original general orders were still current and the five public notices it had drawn up (surrendering arms, curfew, etc.) had remained the same. The sub-commission helped advise Italian jurists on decrees concerning the marriage of members of the U.S. armed forces to Italians and on women suffrage under Italian law.

Indicative of the range of its interests, the sub-commission was also consulted on the function of the Constituent Assembly (the body to be convoked after complete liberation of the country as the first step toward return to parliamentary rule in Italy); the applicable provisions of Italian law pertaining to railroad strikes; jurisdiction of the Italian Epuration Commission over Italian judges serving in colonies administered by British military authorities; conflicts between receivers of public and private companies appointed by AMG, the Italian judicial authorities and prefects; property rights acquired by civilians in abandoned War Department vehicles; and prostitution and Italian criminal procedure with respect thereto.

Close liaison with the Italian Government's administrative machinery, particularly, the Ministry of the Interior, 4154 maintained by the Local Government Sub-Commission, whose mission it was to help re-build the individual governments of communes and provinces and integrate them into the general pattern of Italian centralized administration. The perennial question was where to find competent career officials free from the taint

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inconvenience for their failures to comply. The sub-commission then would have to dig up another official, and sometimes, still another, if the last one also begged to be excused.

Early in 1945 the sub-commission undertook to aid the Italian Government in its plans to hold elections as soon as the military and political situation permitted. The sub-commission recommended that Italian election laws be modernized so as to guarantee free, democratic and secret voting privileges worthy of a re-born democracy. Transport for election forms and instructions was provided and steps initiated to free requisitioned premises needed as polling places.

The Patriots Branch of the sub-commission had gone a long way since first meeting the Patriot problem in the shape of more or less disorganized bands in the early summer of 1944. As better-organized Patriot bands were encountered by the Allied Armies before the Gothic Line, the method of demobilizing the Patriots became more effective. More than 15,000 Certificates bearing the signature of Field Marshal Alexander were printed for issue to guaranteed Patriots. The Patriots of the Gothic Line sector had largely been supplied from Allied military sources and were often led by Allied officers. Winter conditions in the mountains forced many to cross the lines and seek Allied aid. In cooperation with the Italian Government, a staff of 76 officers worked at the job of orderly assistance and dispersal of the guerillas. 4153

A system of centers was established to receive the Patriots, provide food, clothing and hospital care as needed and to arrange for employment or quick journeys to their homes. Payments were made to the Patriots according to the circumstances of service, the wounded receiving additional compensation and the

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The re-examination of governmental personnel in the course

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of epuration involved inquiry into their political antecedents. The general process evolved by the Italians, with the aid of the Civil Affairs Section of the Allied Commission, aimed at eliminating from public service the influences of Fascism, which had pervaded every stratum of officialdom, including the parastatal and semi-private institutions controlled by the government. The procedures established were held to be fair and judicial and not actuated by revenge, and in general, were described as sound in view of the basic fact that a wholesale cleansing of a generation of society was the goal.

The fundamental decree setting up the defascistizing machinery - Decree 159 - had already given birth to 120 auxiliary decrees by the spring of 1945. There were four main categories of activity - First, there was the punishment of Fascist crimes and acts of violence and high treason to the Constitution. Second came the general purging of the administration, the biggest and most onerous job in which distiction had to be made between dyed-in-the-wool Fascists and nominal Fascists. The third category dealt with recovery of wealth corruptly obtained under Fascism. The fourth and last heading had to do with the forfeiture of the property of Fascist organizations.

Up to April 1, under the category of punishment of Fascist crimes, 4,600 cases were investigated and 4,098 sent to trial. The High Court for the most grave offenses tried 22 cases and convicted 16 of the defendants. The inquiry into ill-gotten riches produced 4,400 cases, of which 1,300 were prepared for hearing and 554 orders issued sequestrating estates. More than one billion lire worth of Fascist groups' property w[illegible]152 confiscated.

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For the review of all state and parastatal employees, the Italian Government appointed no less than approximately 300 Hearing Commissions. These faced the usual handicaps of lack of transport to get around for interviews and the inherent difficulties of digging up facts from the dead past. AMG had done considerable sparating on its own. When it moved into a new area, AMG removed at once top officials who had held office under the Fascists, and with the help of Italian advisory

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committees, proceeded to peel off several layers of lesser officials who had held posts in the Fascist hierarchy. The Italian authorities reported to the Allied Commission that of 485,741 employees on their books, 165,254 had been examined and 26,331 referred to Hearing Commissions, which had disposed of 11,102 cases - 2,330 officials having been dismissed or retired and 4,831 given lesser punishments. Stress was placed on cleaning out the key spots first. The prefects of provinces liberated by spring, 1945 had been investigated, for example, and of 98, 34 had been sent to trial, six dismissed and 16 given minor punishments.

Art - the classic heritage of Italy - was zealously looked after by the experts of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Sub-Commission. Entering newly liberated communities on the heels of the combat troops, the Fine Arts officers were prompt in applying artistic first-aid to damaged monuments and in protecting them from injury through carelessness. Nearly 120,000,000 lire had been spent on repair work on 535 projects, mostly in Campania and Tuscany, and appropriations of a further 40,000,000 lire had been recommended, by mid-April, 1945. The Campo Santo at Pisa got a temporary roof and its damaged frescoes were shored up. Competitions were held for the best designs for re-building the six Florentine bridges blasted by the Germans in their retreat from the city of Dante. Work started after designs for four bridges were accepted. The contents of the destroyed Columbaria Library of Florence (established 1735) were excavated and its famed collections safeguarded. 4151
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Microfilmed photographs of art damage and documentary proofs of German removals were regularly transmitted to Washington and London to assist art experts entering Germany to find the missing Italian art treasures among the loot which the Nazis had been accumulating. Preparatory to the final attack on the Northern German lines, the sub-commission's detailed maps of

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art sites were distributed down to squadron level in the Allied air forces in order to protect historic buildings from wanton bombing, a procedure which proved its value in keeping art damage considerably below expectation. In the North, too, the Fine Arts experts were prepared to search for works of art taken from Tuscany and Monte Cassino.

The Education Sub-Commission had virtually completed its mission in Liberated Italy by March 1945. The 15 universities on the Allied side of the line were open and functioning at Catania, Palermo, Messina, Naples, Cagliari, Sassari, Bari, Perugia, Rome, Urbino, Macerata, Pisa, Siena, Florence and Camerino. Exclusive of universities, in 29 liberated provinces, there were nearly 1,200,000 students attending 18,000 schools - kindergarten, elementary, trade and secondary schools. Another 4,000 school buildings were still closed. Out of some 38,000 school employees reviewed, 1,889 had been dismissed, mostly in the higher administrative brackets for having a strong odor of Fascism. Approximately 2,000,000 copies had been printed in a series of ten revised elementary textbooks. Boy Scouts, both Catholic and non-denominational, were re-established and joined in a common federation. Five thousands boys entered the movement. The Girl Guides also were re-born. Free school lunches were given to needy school children wherever possible, more than 500,000 being served daily in about 500 communities. Emphasis was placed on promoting cultural relations. Allied literature banned for years under Fascism was re-introduced. Exchange of students between Italy and America was planned and travel permission was arranged for a leading Italian scientist to study nuclear physics in the United States. 4150

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The dislocations of war and its attendant heartaches were the peculiar province of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission which, up to May 1, 1945 had handled more than 177,000 Italian refugees and approximately 60,000 Allied nationals. The Records Bureau of the sub-commission contained 78,749 names of 72 different nationalities, of whom the whereabouts of 60,000 were known and the fact established that the rest had been in Italy in the past year. Cooperating organizations had further records, the Italian Red Cross having a

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register of 90,000 names and the Vatican authorities another 60,000. Nearly 13,000 inquiries and messages concerning lost relatives were handled by the British Red Cross Foreign Relations Department of the Records Bureau, replies putting families in touch with one another in many cases for the first time since the war began. The sub-commission's direct financial assistance to displaced persons amounted to nearly 75,000,000 lire.

UNRRA began assuming some responsibilities in connection with displaced persons by April 1, 1945 taking over four camps and two hospitals in Southern Italy while the sub-commission prepared for its last-phase operations in the North over whose frontiers approximately 1,000,000 persons were expected to enter Italy. It was estimated that there would be also 100,000 Italians in Italy who would have to be returned from the North to the South and vice versa. To meet the flow expected, the sub-commission planned 40 camps in North and Central Italy.

Repatriation of another sort was the function of the War Materials Disposal and Italian Prisoners-of-War Sub-Commission, which had a double mission, as its title indicates. More than 500,000 Italian prisoners were in Allied hands - roughly, four-fifths held by the British and one-fifth by the Americans - at the time of the Armistice, many having been shipped to India, the Middle East, England and the United States. Returning them to their native land was a matter of shipping, always scarce, and the ability of the fledgling Italian Government to handle any sizeable repatriation, both as to administrative arrangements and as to providing work, food and housing for the repatriates, many of whose homes were in enemy-held areas. A procedure was finally worked out whereby selected specialists, whose return would benefit the re-organized Italian Army, the industrial

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Included among those to be permitted to return were sick and older prisoners. The influx was slow at first, only some 1,300 POWs coming home in 1943. In 1944, approximately 11,500 were returned, and by April, 1945, another 5,000, a

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total of more than 18,000 in all. This figure did not include repatriated Italian soldiers from the Balkans who were not classed as prisoners-of-war. Arrangements were also made for money earned by these prisoners under Geneva Convention rules to be sent to their families in Italy. By March, 1945, for example, British-held prisoners had sent home remittances valued at nearly 450,000 pounds sterling.

Disposal of war materials by the sub-commission involved scouring the countryside for derelict war equipment and salvaging whatever was worthwhile. This material was then turned over to the Italian Army or to industry. A similar pattern was followed with salvage obtained from Allied dumps - broken-down vehicles, aluminum, old rubber and canvas, ferrous metals and steel scrap, the amounts rising to 10,000 a month by April 1945. A United States Army and Navy Liquidation Board arrived in Italy in April also and buckled down to figuring how much surplus U.S. war equipment could be sold to the Italian Government.

Salvage material was also gathered for a different purpose by the Public Health Sub-Commission. Cot covers, ~~mosquito~~ and other ~~netting~~, discarded stuffs from military sources were collected by the sub-commission to make clothes for needy children. More than 182,000 blankets were distributed to hospitals, orphanages and the poor of devastated areas. Artificial limbs were imported from the United States and used as models for local manufacture of braces to supply as many as possible of the nation's 58,000 crippled cases. A home for juvenile delinquents was started in Naples. In cooperation with Vatican authorities, the Welfare Branch of the sub-commission helped provide food in Rome, for instance, for 110,000 persons

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The run-down Italian public health agencies were strengthened and attention paid to improveing public standards of sanitation. The Italian Red Cross was re-activated and began rendering efficient service. Milk - in powdered or evaporated form - was distributed to children and pregnant mothers and the

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infant mortality rate checked. The infant mortality rate in June, 1943, for instance, was 127, whereas in June, 1944, the month the Allies liberated Rome, it was 189.2. The rate rose in July, 1944, to 221.3 but began dropping the next month, and after the normal fluctuations of the winter months, fell to 70.7 in April 1945. The results of malnutrition, which the sub-commission had long warned against, were apparent in the deaths from tuberculosis, though statistics in this field were notoriously inadequate, Italian practice not being - as in England and America - regularly to report this cause of death.

The sub-commission did its best, to arrange equitable distribution of the medical supplies imported into Italy. Army AMG areas had first priority in order to suppress any threat to the health of the troops operating in the sector. Hospitals were next in line. Doctors came third and the public drug stores last. By the end of 1944, 3,500 tons of medical supplies from the United States, worth $6,000,000, had been handled by the sub-commission. Another 970 tons had arrived by May, 1945, including confinement supplies, absorbent cotton, aspirin and anti-hog cholera serum. Animal vaccines, developed in American laboratories and new to Italy, were imported and copied by Italian technicians. The dairy herds of Italy were dying off from brucellosis, a disease which resulted in abortions and which produced undulant fever in humans who drank milk from infected cattle. Five thousand tubes were manufactured and a cow vaccination program begun.

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Typhus, which had been such a scourge in Naples in late 1943 and early 1944, was practically non-existent a year later. Demonstration teams of the Public Health Sub-Commission toured the country, demonstrating the dusting powder technique of prevention to Italian health authorities. Powder was on hand to dust 500,000 persons in a hurry if necessary. Small-pox of a mild type at various times was rampant and persistent in Southern Italy. Control measures consisted of isolation of cases and vaccination of 3,552,400 persons up to the spring of 1945. Preparations to meet any incidence of malaria in 1945 were made by the sub-commission. Fifty million atabrine

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tablets were allocated to Italian agencies. The Tiber River delta was worked over by special crews. In order to "mosquito -proof" the habitations in an area 120 miles square, 4,350 houses containing 39,000 rooms, were sprayed with 12,000 gallons of kerosene and 5,400 tons of DDT concentrate.

The work of all sub-commissions was naturally handicapped by the severe limitation of available supplies. The imports into Italy came through army channels to meet the military responsibility of providing food and medical supplies in order to allay disease and unrest in an operational area and to strengthen power and transportation facilities useful to the war effort. Civilian supplies were steadily imported during the height of the Nazi submarine war. By spring, 1945, a total of more than 2,500,000 tons of all supplies worth more than $300,000,000 in estimated landed costs had been imported. Convoys arrived in Italy on the average of one every five days and eight ships normally were the Allied Commission portion of the convoy. At times cereal ships alone averaged six per convoy. Considering that a Liberty ship's capacity is usually about 8,000 shipping tons, one may conceive the amount of shipping that was required to keep supplies flowing into Italian ports.

Official accounting of supplies by the Finance Sub-Commission naturally lagged behind actual arrivals and, in the end, would have to be coordinated between Rome, London and Washington. More than 500,000 tons of imported coal - world shortage item No. 1 - had been allocated to civilian use. Petroleum products, which Italy imported even in normal times, were brought in - 90,000,000 gallons of gasoline and oils, nearly 3,000,000

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The Food Sub-Commission had arranged for the food which constituted the greatest share of imports - 1,496,000 tons having been shipped by April 30 1945 into the Italian theater, of which more than 1,000,000 tons were wheat and flour. More than half of all this food had been procured by the United Kingdom in Canada, Australia, South Africa and the Middle East. Food items included barley, meats, fish, cheese, milk, dried vegetables, beans, sugar, oil and fats and powdered eggs.

The sub-commission, which ministered to this most primal of Italian needs, was perenially in a state of crisis as Italian food resources would not measure up to anticipations or grain shipments failed to arrive or transport was lacking. Systematization of the distribution of food was a long-range objective and when an Italian High Commissioner for Alimentation finally began functioning in February, 1945, a major step had been taken.

The sub-commission busied itself with a score of related tasks: Moving needed produce to urban areas; finding sacks for wheat shipment; stockpiling salt for the Northern areas (in April, 1945, nearly 17,000 tons were moved for this purpose), using U.S. Army demonstration teams to teach bakers how to make an honest loaf; acting as mediator in army purchases of Italian fresh foods (150,000 tons and 110,000 sheep had been consumed by the Allied Armies in Italy up to August 1944 alone). In the matter of sheep, incidentally, there were complications: Indian Army troops insisted that only male sheep were acceptable. Food processing and pasta plants were on the sub-commission's program also, in conjunction with Industry Sub-Commission. A victory of moment at the time was the finding of 1,361 kilos of rubber rings needed to can 600,000 kilos of fruit pulp. Six [illegible] established to make 11,500 tons of sugar and

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The over-all administration of the food problem was a statistical nightmare in attempting to meet special needs of the population. There were some 24,000,000 persons to feed in Southern and Central Italy before the final campaign. Of these,

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18,000,000 could be classed as normal consumers while special classes made up the remainder. The ration scales differed for the latter categories. Normal consumers received between 822 and 906 calories in the foodstuffs allocated by ration cards and bought in the controlled market, when available, which, unhappily, was not always the case. In September, 1942, the daily calorific value of food bought by ration card was 1,600. In June, 1944, when the Allied entered Rome, it was 510 calories. The rationed calories increased in July, 1944, to 720, until, in March, 1945, the daily value in Rome was 904.

The special classes fared better. Hospital patients got 2,081 a day and there were 181,000 patients listed. Approximately 57,000 police personnel received 2,266 calories each. Prisoners - 53,000 - got 1,771 calories. Refugees were allotted 1,921 a day. Supplementary rations were issued over and above the normal ration to heavy workers and to school children (103 calories extra) and pregnant mothers, of whom in early 1945 there were an estimated 365,000, who each received 168 more calories than normal. The 240,000 heavy workers got 1,062 calories more to keep them strong for their outdoor labor for the Allies and lighter workers got 367 calories in addition to their normal issue.

The Agriculture Sub-Commission, meanwhile, was trying to raise as much food as possible in order to reduce the rate of food imports. The amassing campaign of the Granai del Popolo had finally run to ~~16,447,989~~ quintals or 95 per cent. of the set goal as the 1944-1945 season came to an end. The olive oil harvest amounted to 483,840 quintals by May, not up to the rosiest expectations, but enough for a minimum ration. The

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A series of national conferences between Commission and Italian field personnel took up basic problems of improved crop control (there was too much wheat grown uneconomically); the pressing need for fertilizer and insecticides (without nitrogen

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fertiliser, most land simply would not grow crops), and retirement of marginal, unproductive acreage. The Italian vegetable seed industry, one of the world's most important, was encouraged and more than 500,000 kilos of seeds were exported, largely to the Balkans to help newly-liberated Greece and Yugoslavia in their own rehabilitation. "Grow More Food" gardens were promoted to ease vegetable and fruit shortages in urban areas, notwithstanding the two-crops-a-season production of Lazio, Campania and Tuscany.

Fishing was assisted through persuading Allied naval authorities to ease coastal naval restrictions and by providing rope, nets and lubricants for the fishing boats. Despite poor equipment and the naval restrictions, not to mention the loss of nets on underwater wreckage near the coast, Italian fishermen managed to haul in a catch of approximately 30,000 tons in the year ending with spring, 1945. Lampedusa fishermen were sending 50 quintals of fish a day to Naples and Rome, forcing a break in the black market price of meat. The importance of fish to the diet was self-explanatory: 100 grams of fish have 70 calories of nutrient value .

The problem of bonifiche and land reclamation was tackled by the sub-commission. A bonifica is reclaimed land (and very fertile) but needing systematic drainage. There were nearly 800,000 hectares (one hectare is 2.471 acres) of such land that required mechanical drainage and the Germans had destroyed or removed 65,000 pump motors. The livestock question was serious. Since 1942, it was estimated that in the Liberated Italy of late 1944 the number of oxen had been reduced 42 per cent., horses 41 per cent. and asses 34 per cent., depriving Italian farmers of critical motive power.

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Forests had been neglected and little attention paid to the indiscriminate cutting for fuel - 75 per cent. of all timber going for this purpose. Charcoal was the chief cooking fuel of Italy and urban centers were voracious in their demands. Naples, for example, used normally 50,000 quintals a month. It took five quintals of wood to burn down to one quintal of charcoal, the process lasting eight days. Timber was supplied the Allied armies for bridges and cantonments, Calabria furnishing

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150,000 tons from September, 1943 to April, 1945, and keeping 58 sawmills busy.

Forests comprised 20 per cent. of the Italian area, but only three per cent. were state-owned. Another 31 per cent. were owned by communes and 66 per cent. by private holders. Plans were made for increased public ownership; for more intensive cultivation of the vast chestnut growths - 870,000 acres - in order to provide more nuts for export, and for a nursery and reforestation program. The sub-commission recommended that California Monterey pine, Southern cypress and Australian eucalyptus trees be imported as suitable for Italian terrain.

The Transportation Sub-Commission was saddled with what, day in and day out, was the most critical problem of the Allied Commission - transport, or more accurately, the lack of transport Transport was the key to operations. Food meant nothing sitting idle on docksides. Raw materials for industry and finished goods from factories needed trucks to move successfully in the productive circle. Labor itself was hamstrung with no means to reach the places of employment. Where there had been approximately 7,500 busses in Liberated Italy, in early 1945 there were only 2,000.

Shipping, which had been one of the principal Italian carriers was now largely concentrated in the pool controlled by the Mediterranean (Allied) Shipping Board. Plans were afoot in the Shipping Sub-Commission to turn back to the Italians, however, a good share of the schooner fleet, which had numbered about 2,000 vessels.

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The railroads, which had been the chief channel of freight, were largely destroyed in the battles and even after quick reconstruction of key lines by the armies, two out of three tons carried were still military supplies. The rail lines of Sicily and Sardinia were under Allied Commission supervision and not badly off. On the mainland, the Italian State Railways had only 4,772 miles of lines in operation April 1, 1945, of which the Allied Commission controlled a little less than a third, the armies operating the other two thirds directly. Civilian rail tonnage had risen to 300,000 tons a month, by April, 1945, of which 58,000 was carried on Sardinia, 152,000 on Sicily and

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172,000 on the mainland.

But despite a similar increase in coastal shipping - 74,000 tons had been moved in March, 1945, compared with 43,000 in February and only 10,000 a month in the fall of 1944, the main freight problem fell on road haulage. In normal times it had been the least used of Italy's carriers because of the wear and tear of equipment on the mountainous roads of the peninsula and the high cost of the imported fuel. The rails were transporting two thirds of the load but were already near capacity.

The crucial question was how to organize existing road transport as efficiently as possible. As its own direct contribution, the Allied Commission created an Allied Motor Transport Group, with Italian Army personnel trained and supervised by Allied officers. The equipment came from about 1,000 old trucks turned over by the armies in February, 1944, and from shipments of the 1,700 trucks promised Italy in the autumn of 1944 by the United States Government. The trucks had begun to arrive in January, 1945 and by April, nearly 1,600 had been delivered. The Allied Transport Group would have 2,400 operating trucks eventually and 9,000 personnel to lift 150,000 tons of civilian supplies a month. Since its first small beginnings, the Group had carried 451,000 tons.

Other imported trucks were turned over to the Italian Government by the Allied Commission for use in the transport pools which the Transportation Sub-Commission helped to set up. The over-all organization for Italian civil transport was known, in its abbreviated form, as ENAC, which was described as a co-operative enterprise controlled for the emergency by the Italian Government as a central dispatcher. Goods were to be moved

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In addition to arranging schedules of movements for hundreds

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of commodities, handling the intricate arrangements of making bids for shipping space through army channels, and attempting to harness all civilian transport to the service of the most essential needs of the economy, the sub-commission also directed repairs to the port of Civitavecchia to enable it to receive civilian supplies, supervised reconstruction of key civilian rail lines, started barge navigation up the Tiber River to Rome for the first time since the war began, authorized operation of sorely-needed bus lines in the provinces and inaugurated the first post-liberation regularly scheduled civilian passenger train service between Rome and the South on January 22, 1945.

Trucks, of course, run on roads and the Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission had been engaged since its inception in keeping up highways having military and essential civilian priority. In 1944, more than 4,000 miles were restored and 736 bridges built with spans of more than 15 feet in length, not to mention hundreds of smaller bridges and culverts. By February, 1945, the road and public works program had taken a sharp upswing and in that month alone, work on 287 other bridges was started, work on 238 bridges was completed and repairs were in progress on 542 more. Artillery and mines had knocked out hundreds of bridges: in Pesaro Province alone, on the 8th Army Gothic Line front, more than 1,000 bridges were out. Roads maintained under supervision of the sub-commission totalled more than 5,000. The countryside was sprouting with new construction. In one month there were 391 contracts for debris removal, 244 jobs under way for water works, sewer repairs and flood control projects, and 471 public buildings were being restored.

4146

In all construction, land mines had often to be cleared first. Nearly 1,200,000 mines had been lifted in Italy, Sicily and

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4140

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fact that in the Livorno-Pisa-Lucca-Pistoia area on the West, nearly 100,000 mines were lifted; while on the East in the Pescara-Chieti area, nearly 400,000 mines had been cleared, and below Rome there had been more than 200,000 mines to remove.

Physical reconstruction meant re-building of the smashed villages and houses. By April 30, 1945 housing committees were active in 393 communities and 14,323 re-building projects had been initiated, of which 6,429 were already completed. The total outlay amounted to nearly a billion and a half lire. The sub-commission also was clearing harbors and raising sunken vessels in Italian ports. Sixteen gas plants - those in all major cities - had been put back into operation, including the Rome gas works, which in normal times produced as much gas as did all the 49 plants in Liberated Italy south of the Gothic Line. The 33,000 flooded acres of the Pontine Marshes were almost completely drained, less than 5,000 remaining under water in April, 1945. In this period, too, arrival began of heavy engineering materials - asphalt kettles, 16-ton trailers, air compressors and crushing and screening plants.

The utilities side of the sub-Commission faced stupendous odds when it set to work. In Central Italy there had been before the war, 1,292,335 kilowatts of generating power. The Allies in the summer of 1944, found only 45,000 kilowatts. By May 1, 1945, the capacity had been increased to 264,500 kw. Southern Italy's pre-war electric capacity was 350,935 kw; 156,900 kw. were found operating and then augmented to 227,000 kw. Sicily, which had 91,673 kw. pre-war, was left with 45,800 kw. on liberation, but was built up to 64,000 kw. Sardinia, which had 96,080 kw. before Allied liberation, was luckily found intact. To summarize, the portion of Italy liberated by the Allies con-

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4129

High tension transmission lines were reconstructed - 5,000 kilometers - and power fed to areas as far as north as Rimini and Ancona. The Germans had been scientifically thorough in

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their demolitions, blowing out similar parts in all machinery to make cannibalization and exchange of parts impossible, Italian power engineers, however, had been equally tricky wherever possible. They had hidden much essential machinery and important parts and used their mechanical genius in repairing damage, with the result that a minimum of imported material was necessary. This consisted of items such as 31 tons of condenser tubes, 100 tons of transformer bushings and 50 tons of insulating stuff. At Castelnuova-Lardello, even natural forces other than water harnessed to operate a badly damaged powere plant of about 100,000 kw capacity. By cannibalization, a 12,000 kw generating unit was quickly restored to service, using volcanic steam for driving the turbines and obviating the need of precious coal or oil, both of which would have had to be imported.

The sub-commission made a radical innovation in Italian power practice by knitting together a Central Grid System on January 20, 1945, in which all smaller systems in Central Italy were linked up under a master control. This allowed the transfer of surplus energy to points more urgently needed, insured a steadier supply to essential installations and helped regulate the hitherto erratic frequencies and voltages. The novel idea, put into effect by trained British and American egineers of the sub-commission, immediately proved its efficiency in making power available in increased enough quantities so that extra allocations could be made to industrial plants. Plans were also laid to make Italian frequencies uniform with the 50-cycle European standard. On February 1, the reconstruction of the power industry was further advanced by the creation of regional electric advisory committees - for Sicily, Sardinia, Southern Italy and Central Italy - composed of representatives of the Italian Govern-

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4128

Telephones, telegraphs and the mails - the nerves system of modern technological society - were the field of the Communications Sub-Commission. Working closely with the Signal Sections of the armies, the sub-commission followed swiftly in the path

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of battle and attempted to restore the civil lines of communications so that they could be of immediate utility to the military and so that a skeleton service could be provided for the most essential civilian requirements. The sub-commission had been one of the original sections of the Allied Military Mission and had started its career under Admiral Stone, who was a communications expert himself in civil life. There was no central Italian telecommunications authority with which to coordinate in those first, hectic days and the sub-commission literally had the job of re-creating Italian communications anew, especially in the face of consistent German sabotage.

The physical plant had suffered severely. In addition, Italian working repair crews were handicapped by bad weather, mines and lack of trucks to take them to the isolated areas where lines needed mending. To restore the overhead telephone and telegraph lines, the sub-commission supervised the re-erecting of approximately 70,000 miles of wire, of which only about 800 miles was new, a tribute to Italian ingenuity. On one main route, 16 miles of wire had disappeared without a trace. Often, five or six miles of wire would be missing. In another place, 150 poles had been sawn off in succession close to the ground and removed. In the Anzio area, a 30-mile stretch of wire was useless: it had been so nicked by bullets and shell fragments. Repairs to underground cable - 1,200 miles of it were put in order - were made jointly by military and civilian personnel supervised by a sub-commission officer. Over a length of 500 miles, there were 1,000 breaks. Cable reconstruction also involved long suspension over rivers; two suspensions of 400 feet each were made over the Arno. Two tons of solder and 60,000 paper sleeves for insulation were among the items on the communications repair bill.

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Considerable equipment was supplied to telephone exchanges and repeater stations. Of the larger telephone exchanges, 11 had been destroyed, 26 severely damaged and 37 moderately so. Of the smaller exchanges, 160 had been destroyed or seriously damaged. Re-equipment or extensive alterations had to be made in 37 repeater stations. The 10,000 subscriber Naples main exchange had been a total loss, but in Rome 14 exchanges were saved. In the end, practically all the exchanges were put

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back into working order. By March, 1945, telephone and telegraph were functioning normally in Sicily and Sardinia, and in Southern Italy nearly all telegraph offices and most of the telephone exchanges had been re-connected with the main networks. Restored service in Central Italy varied from province to province, from 20 to 70 per cent. Telegraph service in Southern Italy had started by December, 1943. Sicily had been connected by telegraph to the mainland in August, 1944. By October, there was both telephone and telegraph service by cable from Rome to Sardinia. A month later, civil cable and wireless facilities abroad were restored; though not for civilian use until the spring of 1945.

The mails were put into operation by the sub-commission as quickly as possible, postal card service usually being inaugurated within days of liberation of any locality. The first such service had started at Palermo in Sicily in August, 1943. Civil censorship was set up by the sub-commission as it extended mail service forward in wake of the armies. Postal card service in Naples went into effect December 10, 1943, and with other parts of the mainland and Sicily, a few weeks later. In January 1944, postal communication between Italian prisoners-of-war and their families, and with Vatican refugee authorities, was established. Foreign mails were resumed the next month. June 17, 1944, saw card service from Rome to the South and September 30 from Florence to the rest of Liberated Italy. As the final battles opened, postal service had been extended to within short distances from the front. In December, 1944, registered mail service was started between Italy and the United States and the United Kingdom and on December 28 the first shipment of American gift parcels landed in Naples - 10,000 packages in 697 mail bags.

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During the course of the nearly two years in which the Allied Commission was confronting the problems of military government and second-phase stabilization, the Commerce Sub-Commission, with a low priority on its activities at first, was quietly trying to restore normal trade channels to the economy. The sub-commission picked up the obvious exportable commodities, including small stockpiles of strategic materials - antimony, cadmium - useful to the war arsenals of the United Nations. By April, 1945, exports amounted to more than 163 million tons valued at more than 1,627 million lire, principally to the United States, the United Kingdom, France, North Africa and Malta. In March, 1945, a record was set - 9,638 tons worth 280 million lire being exported, including large shipments of mercury and perfume oils. The 1944-45 citrus fruit season of four months ended with 911,434 boxes of lemons and 80,380 of bitter oranges having been shipped to the vitamin-short British Isles. Among other items sent abroad were pumice, silk, lead, sulphur, block talc, briarwood, tartaric acid and hemp.

The goal of the sub-commission was to restore private trade facilities as quickly as world conditions and the war would permit. The problem involved swinging an entire economy back to world trade from its 10-year economic affiliations with the Axis. In close cooperation with the commercial attaches of the British and American Embassies, in the spring of 1945 mechanics of private trade were worked out whereby Fascist state controls were eliminated entirely and international commerce and private enterprise again encouraged to come to Italy's shores so that the debt-ridden nation might begin to augment its scant foreign exchange.

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The trade plans, which at first would be handled by the Italian Government as a clearing house, and later by private dealers directly, set up two categories. The first dealt with goods in world short supply and needed for the war effort against Germany and Japan. The Allied nations would have first priority at these available goods at set prices; in short, controlled trade. The second category comprised all other items which Italian firms were free to sell wherever they could at the best price the market would yield. Trade in Italian handicrafts was

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to be promoted. American requests were already on hand for straw braid, accordions and even for processed human hair, of which 30,000 kilograms worth two million lire had been exported in 1939 for use in surgical sutures, hairnets and wigs. Negotiations were begun with the Argentine for frozen meats, with Spain for anchovies and with Switzerland for food, power and equipment and medicines. Barter trade was made possible, too, Yugoslav prunes for Italian salt being one suggestion.

The Commerce Sub-Commission, as well as Industry, Labor, Food and Public Works and Utilities, was represented on the Allied Forces Local Resources (Italian) Board, of which Admiral Stone was Joint Chairman, which was the highest military authority in the theater for disposal of all resources found in the country as between the needs of the military arms and the civilian economy. In the spring of 1945, through Allied Commission arrangement, Italian Government representatives were invited to attend meetings of the board when questions on the civil economy arose. The sub-commission served this body by keeping a Controlled Materials List. Controlled materials were held directly by the armies. Restricted materials were allocated on Allied Commission recommendation. The remainder was disposed of by the Italian Government, which eventually also took over the Commission's function on restricted materials.

The armies, for example, in April, 1945, released 3,700 tons of cement, 82 tons of ammonia gas and 35 tons of paint to the Allied Commission, which, in turn, allocated the goods to various industries on a priority basis. The sub-commission also kept a list of inquiries for materials from military sources and a list of availabilities which the armies could ask for if they had need. Sample inquiries would be for wire gauze, cloth

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A brisk business was also handled by the sub-commission in

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the repair and allocation of salvaged Allied army clothing and shoes, several plants being maintained for this job. More than 165,000 pairs of shoes and more than 300,000 items of clothing - trousers, shirts, jackets, overcoats, socks, drawers and undershirts, caps and raincoats - were mended and distributed to Italian heavy workers, farmers, police and the destitute of the devastated areas. One re-processing factory attained a production of 40,000 garments a week.

An idea of the scope of the task facing the Industry Sub-Commission could be gathered from the census planned by the Economic Section in late 1944 and taken in 38 provinces of Liberated Italy. The report - Censuses and Surveys for National Reconstruction - was published in February, 1945, as a 253-page "preliminary" statistical abstract of the some of the basic references necessary before detailed planning could commence. An average of 40 per cent. of the total value of physical plant properties was reported damaged by 1,769 plants surveyed. Greatest single cause of damage was from bombing, which accounted for 28.7 per cent. of the destruction. Next greatest cause of loss was wholesale removal by the Germans, the enemy having made off with 25.7 per cent. of industrial plant wealth.

Of 8,926 industrial premises listed in the census, only 2,403 establishments were found entirely operating, employing some 93,000 persons. Another 2,615 plants were partially active and employed 105,472. Non-productive but keeping on 21,493 employees for maintenance were 21,495 plants. Lack of coal, power, spare parts and raw materials prevented greater industrial activity. To illustrate, the sub-commission planned the production of 37,000 quintals of canned tuna fish early in

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The Industry Sub-Commission, plagued ahead at its assignment, however, and by April 1945 had placed scores of factories (employing more than 150,000 persons) into production for

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civilian use. Plants were put together from the remains of others. Pumps, boilers and turbo-generators were moved from several plants to get one factory started. The sub-commission aided the economy even more substantially by obtaining permission from the armies to derequisition industrial premises occupied by troops, the point being made that production valuable to the war effort was being lost during the period of the plant's idleness. An Industrial Coordination Committee was formed early in 1945 by the Allied Forces Local Resources Board which considered the sub-commission's applications for derequisitioning factories and which laid down rules as to future requisitioning of such premises by military units. By March, some 20 industrial facilities had been released to civilian control, including fertilizer works, railway car repair shops, olive oil and soap factories, food processing plants, flour mills, grain and tobacco warehouses and chemical plants.

A share of the steel production of the Naples and Terni areas, whose steel went mainly into army Bailey bridges, was obtained by the sub-commission for Italian industry, the civilian allocation eventually rising to 30 per cent. Answering an urgent call for chlorine on the part of the Public Health Sub-Commission to safeguard against water pollution with the coming of warm weather, the Industry Sub-Commission in March also put into operation the first chlorine plant to resume production in Liberated Italy. A month earlier, production of reclaimed rubber had started at Torre Spaccata in a factory that had been entirely destroyed and then entirely reconstructed. Using scrap from U.S. Ordnance companies, the plant was finally making six tons of reclaimed rubber a day by the end of April.

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The hemp industry was one important to the war effort, the navy in particular, and the sub-commission was committed to build it up quickly. Farmers had ceased bringing in hemp because of plummeting prices when the Allied Commission moved into the Naples hemp area. All 29 hemp mills except one were at a standstill. A remunerative price for hemp was fixed, a new Italian agency created to supplant Fascist hemp control, coal was supplied to the mills through the British Royal Navy

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and spare parts found for the damaged machinery. The industry finally reached a monthly production of 140,000 sacks; 415,000 square meters of canvas, both light and heavy; 35 tons of threads and twine, and 400 tons of rope. The armed forces took 75 per cent. of the output. Approximately 20,000 persons were employed in the industry, half in manufacturing and half in growing and preparing the raw hemp.

Textiles - cotton and woollens - had been hit hard by the war and the necessity of resuming operations was imperative in view of the population's lack of clothing. In Southern Italy, there had been 416,616 cotton spindles and 5,898 looms. Of the former, 189,000 were totally destroyed and 1,992 of the latter. The Sub-Commission got monthly production by March, 1945, up to 50,000 kilograms of sewing thread, 130,000 kilograms of yarn and 820,000 kilograms of cloth. The woollen industry in Liberated Italy centered around Prato in northern Tuscany. Of the 222,700 pre-war spindles, 58,500 were completely gone and of the 5,730 looms, 2,494 were no more. Using improvised power from motor lorry engines, the Prato mills attained a production of 20,000 yards a day, and after obtaining an allotment of electric power, increased production to more than 40,000 yards a day, with yet further increases in sight.

Cement was obviously an item of military necessity and for a long time was strictly controlled by the armies. The sub-commission, however, started six cement plants and obtained a large share of their production for civilian construction. One plant at Colleferro, in a year of slow repairs and slower procurement of coal and power, was ultimately able to produce 5,000 tons in April, 1945, while the other five plants produced together almost an equal amount. The Italian glass and cera-

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Chemicals were basic to the Italian economy. They were used throughout industry and were absolutely necessary to agriculture where the soil had become so impoverished through centuries of intensive cultivation that yields were now directly proportional to the fertilizer applied. Superphosphate fertilizer came from two plants in Sicily, producing together a bare 2,000 tons a month, in August, 1944. By the next May, there were ten plants working and total production averaged 20,000 a month under the sub-commission's efforts. This record was not made without the customary impediments. Superphosphate fertilizer requires 60 per cent. phosphate rock and this had to be imported from North Africa. More than 84,000 tons were imported up to March despite price and shipping crises. In normal times Italy imported around 800,000 tons of this rock. Many of the furnaces had been blown up internally by the Germans and the special refractory cement needed for repairs was next to impossible to obtain. The fact that superphosphates require storing for many months in enormous, open-sided dry sheds with high roofs also made such plants favorite goals of military units who saw in them ideal garages and military warehouses. The derequisitioning process would then have to be invoked.

Whereas superphosphate plants need little electric power, nitrogenous fertilizer plants need a great deal - and power was in strictly limited supply. The Germans also had fled with all the platinum in the largest plant at Crotone (platinum had been used to convert the synthetic ammonia into nitric acid) and a new, makeshift process had to be adopted. Total production of the three plants in operation was only about 2,000 tons a month in early 1945. Fungicides were also essential to the Italian agronomy - to protect fruit, the grape vines and vege-

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Mines were also under the Industry Sub-Commission. In Sardinia were the biggest coal mines, producing a bituminous coal of inferior grade. When the Allies took over the island, the coal loading port of Sant'Antioco was badly damaged: four out of five loading cranes wrecked, 70,000 tons of coal afire on the pier and a large ship sunk alongside the main loading dock, while the mines were producing less than 5,000 tons a month. Repairs were made, more than 1,000 tons of mining supplies brought in and production stepped up to 2,000 a day by January, 1944. The year ended with a production of 375,978 tons, most of which was exported for the armed forces, saving the equivalent of $7,500,000 in imported coal, not to mention the long shipping hauls.

Sicilian sulphur mines, which in 1943 produced only 400 tons a month, as 1945 began, were bringing forth 5,500 tons a month from 48 workings. Seven lignite mines in Central Italy were restored to operation soon after liberation and produced 65,000 tons in 1944 despite handicaps of absence of power and destroyed rail facilities to the mines. Pyrite mines, too, lacked power or were found flooded but also found were stockpiles of more than 335,000 tons. Mercury mines, again in Central Italy, were discovered comparatively undamaged. A store of more than 8,000 bottles of mercury, most of which had been hidden from the Germans, was located. With a world demand for mercury, most of this stock was marked for foreign markets. All together in the first part of 1945, more than 100 Italian mines of all sorts were either producing or maintaining the properties with the help of the sub-commission.

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The painful experiences of Industry and the other economic sub-commissions and the inescapable technical interdependency

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The painful experiences of Industry and the other economic sub-commissions and the inescapable technical interdependency of modern industry had made it all too clear to the Economic Section of the Allied Commission that an over-all rehabilitation program was a pressing necessity. Such a program required a certain minimum of imported supplies to give the initial spin to the wheels of the stalled Italian economic machine. Accordingly, the joint first-aid program for economic reconstruction was announced by the Allied Commission and the Italian Government on March 27. It was the first complete schedule of supplies required formulated since the fall of Fascism. A corollary project, a

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plan to create an Industrial Advisory Board, similar to the U.S. Production Board, to allot critical materials and set manufacturing priorities, also had its initial discussions in this period.

The joint program - depicting the combined views of the Commission and the Government and representing months of close, technical collaboration between Allied and Italian technicians - was a solid document whose documentation alone, stacked on end, measured almost three feet in height. The program outlined the necessity for re-establishing the Italian economy on its own feet, and of making its industries as self-sufficient as possible in order to eliminate the continual drain on United Nations resources and shipping that had gone on since the first liberating forces entered the country. It was proposed to stop "spoon-feeding" and allow the patient to get up and flex his disused economic ~~tissues.~~ muscles.

Each requisition was screened thoroughly on the basis of how much shipping of finished products it would save. Part of the money wherewith to purchase the materials was provided by credits furnished by the United States Government to the extent of $100,000,000 which the U.S. Treasury placed on its books to the account of the Italian Government. The total sum, which would eventually be in excess of the figure mentioned, on the American side was calculated on the basis of the American troop pay spent in Italy (exclusive of army post exchange purchases or money sent home), on the value of exports to the United States and on the value of remittances sent from America to relatives in Italy. The British Government made similar arrangements.

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The program was divided into two parts. The first part - Category A - included all items classified as a military responsibility and which were provided to allay disease and unrest where it might prejudice military operations. Cost of this part of the program was to be borne out of the regular military appropriations of the British and American Governments whose armies were in Italy. Category B contemplated additional expenditures. This category covered the whole range of economic

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activity - basic industries, transport, electrical power, agriculture, consumer goods, fuel and raw materials. Revisions substituting raw materials for finished goods would be made in the event the industrial capacity of the North were found undestroyed.

Although Italy in peacetime imported 1,200,000 tons of coal a month, the program initially asked for some 500,000 tons monthly. The argument was put forward that every ton of ammonium nitrate it was made possible to manufacture in Italy would save four or five tons of shipping space for imported food. Oil seed cake for feed was requested to prevent diversion of cereals to livestock. Horseshoe nails were asked for, since shoes without nails were useless and shoeless horses would go lame. Requisitions were included for grain binders and spare parts for tractors, whose average age in Italy was 15 years. Transport requirements were stressed, on hand being only 41 per cent. of the capacity to handle minimum essential civilian needs. Enough vehicles were wanted to move 1,240,000 tons a month under the production cycle to be initiated by the joint program. Of this envisioned tonnage, one fourth was food, enough for 2,000 calories a day, and the rest represented materials and fuel for, and products from, the industrial plants. Railway passenger coaches (civilians were riding largely in box cars) and busses were among other requests.

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The Finance Sub-Commission was in the center of Allied Commission activity and had a finger in every pie, since it gave final approval to all AMG-recommended appropriations and maintained close liaison with the Italian finance officials. The sub-commission transmitted the financial regulations of the Combined Civil Affairs Committee of the Combined Chiefs of Staff

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It served for a time as a post office for the transmittal of Allied requisitions to the Italian Government, the amounts of which were considerable, since it was estimated that the armies were spending an average of approximately 1.2 billion lire a month on goods and services. Spot-cash payment for many materials, however, had been made from the beginning by the British in many cases and later also by the Americans.

The sub-commission worked to bring order into Italian Government finances which were in a parlous state from years of Fascist manipulation and excessive and wasteful military expenditures. The public debt was in the neighborhood of 850 billion lire, with the larger proportion an floating, rather than funded, debt, an indication of the short-term financing which the desperate Fascist financiers had been resorting to. Deficits had accumulated year after year. For the first fiscal year of 1943-1944, after the arrival of the Allies, the deficit was 56,996,400,000 lire. For the fiscal year 1944-1945, up to April 30, revenues were only 20,308,200,000 lire and expenditures were variously estimated as between 115,132,700,000 lire and 137,617,800,000 lire. In circulation was an estimated 285 billion Italian metropolitan lire, compared with the normal circulation of 30 billion lire in 1938. Also in circulation were Allied military lire, which, as of March 31, 1945, amounted to 61,353,035,807, the aggregate since the days of Sicily. The AM lire total included approximately six and a half billion lire advanced to the Italian Government. Eighteen billion of the Italian metropolitan lire was new currency issued by the Government.

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The lire was officially still worth 100 lire to the American dollar and 400 to the British pound but in the unofficial black market a dollar brought from 250 to 350 lire and a pound from 900 to 1200 lire at various times. Re-financing the public debt was a problem depending at bottom on economic reconstruction and public confidence in the country's future. In April, 1945, an issue of Italian Government bonds was put on public sale for the first time since liberation, with the hope that the new Liberated Italy would at least double the record of the last Fascist bond sale in 1942 when 12 billion worth of bonds

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were bought. The new bonds were issued at 5 per cent. for five years, 100 lire each at par, but offered at 97½, thus giving an actual yield of 6.14 per cent.

Public confidence had already been demonstrated in other ways. Bank deposits had increased approximately 21,340 million lire in the period from July, 1944 to the following February, in which month 78,179 million lire were on deposit in commercial banks. Postal savings accounts by March 1945 showed a net increase of 5,866 million lire in a nine-month period. The net investment in Buoni del Tesoro (Treasury bills) for the same period was 18,442 million lire. Remittances from relatives in the United States and the United Kingdom helped. As of March 31, 1945 there had been 465,447 American remittances worth $21,998,569,66 and 22,113 British remittances worth 129,497,508 lire or 323,743 pounds, 15 shillings and 4 pence.

Revenues were up, too, another sign of improved economic health, through not a little of the increase could be directly traced to energetic stimulation applied by the sub-commission's financial doctors. For example, revenue collections in 36 provinces of Southern and Central Italy, liberated from a year to 18 months, showed an increase of approximately one billion lire in the period from July 1, 1944 to April 1, 1945, when 9,693,900,000 lire were paid in, compared with the year 1943/44 when 8,670,400,000 lire were received. Tax collection was no easy matter: there were 54 federal and 21 local taxation headings and, in all, more than 100 taxes, some of which consumed 50 per cent. of receipts in costs of collection. A fruitful source was the government lottery, which, in eight months up to the end of February, 1945, had brought in more than 242 million lire, Naples alone contributing 10 million lire a week

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4125

State monopolies - salt, tobacco and matches - were also a source of income, tobacco alone contributing 80 per cent. of its receipts to the Italian Treasury. Finances of the monopolies were supervised by the Finance Sub-Commission while their supplies and operations were looked after by Industry Sub-Commission. In the six months ending December 31, 1944, tobacco receipts - 1,420 million lire - made up 20 per cent. of all

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state revenues. Gross receipts for fiscal 1943-1944 (for territory south of the Cassino line) for tobacco were 4,226 million lire, which were increased during the next fiscal year to 4,362 million lire. Some 12 factories, with about 25,000 employees, were making an average of 373,000,000 cigarets a month (and quantities of cigars, cheroots and snuff) from the nearly 19,000 tons of tobacco grown in Italy for the country's 7,500,000 legal smokers (males over 17). Slow deliveries of cigaret paper from the United States and power lapses were obstacles in course of operations, not to mention the war destruction of 14 per cent. of the cigaret-making machines and 20 per cent. of the tobacco-cutting machinery. Official cigaret prices, incidentally, ranged from 14 to 30 lire a pack of 20 in 1944 to 40 to 100 lire a pack by the following May 1.

The salt monopoly reported 334 million lire income in fiscal 1943-1944 and 634 million up to April of the next fiscal year. Luckily enough, there had been comparatively few difficulties from the onset. Production in the first four months of 1945 in regular mines alone was 6,550 tons and the four large seasonal sea salt mines had not yet commenced operating. The match monopoly income was comparatively small, 160 million lire in fiscal 1943/1944 being reported to the Finance Sub-Commission. Only intensive efforts eventually raised production so that the ration could be increased from 25 matches a person a month in late 1944 to 50 matches a person a month in spring, 1945. On May 1, there were ten factories manufacturing one billion 200 million matches a month. In late 1943 there had been only one sizeable factory working.

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The Finance Sub-Commission's program included protection of Allied properties and control of enemy and Fascist properties. This function, until late in 1944, had been handled by the Property Control Sub-Commission, which was absorbed by Finance in an internal re-organization of the Allied Commission. Up to April 30, 1945, the sub-commission's property control officers had taken under their protection 5,093 American properties, 1,133 British, 657 French, 21 Russian, 92 Greek, 16 Yugoslav, 74 Brazilian, 207 of other Allies and 181 Fascist and six German properties, a total of 7,480 listings. Real estate -

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villas, farms, buildings - comprised 1,328 items; industrial and commercial properties - factories, shops, banks - another 185; securities and miscellaneous - 5,806, and parastatal properties - 161. By the date mentioned, 5,149 items had been released back to their owners or accredited agents, and in the case of parastatal Fascist properties, which were semi-public, given over to the Italian Government. In addition, the release had been effected of several thousand bank accounts, Allied bank deposits in Italy having amounted to one billion 435 million lire when the war began. Of this, 819 million lire belonged to Americans, 295 million to British, 280 million to French and 41 million to other Allied nationals. In the course of transferring the properties back to Allied ownership, officers of the sub-commission had to act as virtual business managers of all manners of enterprises, in one case, directing the operation of a Rome dog track. It showed a profit, too.

The Labor Sub-Commission was likewise central to Allied Commission economic operations. On the AMG side, labor officers helped procure civilian labor for the armed forces at ports, supply installations and repair shops, which, as the war in Italy approached its end, were employing more than 335,000 Italians. Working closely with the Allied Forces Local Resources Board, whose committee on wages was headed by an A.C. officer, the sub-commission helped to coordinate wages paid by the Allies with prevailing wages based on cost-of-living bonuses, and to maintain Allied scales always somewhat higher than others in order thus to command the best labor available for military requirements. Despite rising prices and consequent labor ferment as to wages, the sub-commission was consistently successful in obtaining the cooperation of Italian labor in settling all

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4123

Outside of its direct services to the armed forces in labor supply, the sub-commission was charged with attaining one of the fundamental objectives in the Allied Commission's democratic mission: That of ridding Italy of the Fascist corporative system; re-organizing a free labor administration in the national ministry and in the field, where provincial and regional labor offices or exchanges were created to handle labor recruitment uncontaminated

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by petty graft and Fascist party favoritism; assisting in the establishment of independent labor unions and guaranteeing freedom of collective bargaining and settlement of wage adjustment in an orderly manner. Fascist corporative legislation, which set up syndicates of employers and workers in various industries, was regularly abolished as one of the first acts of AMG.

The sub-commission had the role of advising both workers and employers on the democratic art of getting along with each other by negotiation and discussion and supported Italian attempts at organization of trade unions, which began soon after the fall of Naples. Three confederations of trade unions - Bari, Naples and Rome - finally amalgamated in September, 1944 to form the Confederazione Generale Italiana di Lavoro. It was estimated that the trade unions had two million members, all affiliated with the CGIL, which was accepted by the Allied Commission as the accredited representative of Italian labor. Steps were taken to re-establish relations with the International Labor Office. In a series of visits British, Russian and American labor leaders gave their blessing to the revitalized labor movement of Italy.

The work of the Labor Sub-Commission in connection with wage adjustments touched one of the vital sectors of Italian life. Inflation was no idle threat in a nation stripped of supplies by the war and with shelves in the shops empty of common necessities. Prices had risen steadily but, happily, never quite ran wild. Price control - to make goods available at costs within the pocketbook range of the masses - was largely ineffective, although AMG attempts to enforce price control on sales to military personnel had met with moderate succes

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enough to enforce controls. Proper measures actually worked: in the Marche-Abruzzi area, road blocks operated for several weeks by Allied military police reduced the prices substantially, so that a family could get by on 3,500 lire a month. Plentiful supply, of course, brought black market prices down, the AMG in Naples scoring a coup over the speculators in the fall of 1944 by flooding the market with potatoes.

In Rome and other urban centers in spring, 1945, the bulk of all food had to be purchased in the black market. Getting, on the average, 800 calories a day from the official ration, the individual who needed a subsistence minimum of 1,600 calories a day would make up the difference where he could. The black market was a market in civilian goods mostly, Allied materials commanding high prices but figuring very little in the total turn-over. Pilferage from Allied dumps was miniscule and criminal collusion in the possession or sale of Allied property between civilians and military personnel, usually involving use of WD transport, involved less than half of the 2,000 black market cases handled in 1944 by U.S. military police. Some 20 per cent. of the cases dealt with outright stealing by civilians, and 35 per cent. with illegal possession (often resulting from accepting gifts from Allied soldiers). The favorite deals were in food, petrol, blankets, clothing and use of trucks to transport olive oil and grain, which fetched enormous prices, a quintal of grain selling for 1,000 lire officially and for 8,000 to 13,000 lire in the black market, depending on the season.

4121

A Roman family of five, to arrive at a more or less normal diet of 2,200 calories, had to spend 12,456 lire a month in March, 1945, compared with 10,227 lire in December, 1944, 2,392

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used to cost 2.7 lire a kilo and later cost 220 lire if white, and 200 if dark; olive oil at 7.68 lire a liter, rising to 450 to 550 lire later. Meat, in the same period, went from 9.67 lire a kilo to 500 or 600 lire a kilo.

The disparity between wages and prices may be illustrated by the fact that a boy of 4 got 15 lire for one shoeshine while a grown, married man would receive only 8 lire a day as an unemployment benefit. There had been no revision in the basic wage scales of Italy since several years before the fall of Fascism and the cost-of-living bonuses periodically authorized served only as temporary palliatives. The differentials between skilled and unskilled workers were disappearing. A bricklayer officially got 283 lire a day while a laborer could get as much as 273 lire a day. In the Prato textile mills, in early 1945, the management, it was reported to the Labor Sub-Commission, estimated that labor costs amounted to only 8,000 lire out of daily production costs of 300,000 lire. Previously, labor costs figured as 33 per cent.; currently they were being figured as 2½ per cent. Lucca thread was selling at 14 lire per 100 meters at the factory; in Rome shops the price was 140 lire.

In April, 1945, prices began to crack slightly, the family-of-five budget falling to 12,296, as imminent liberation of the North, with its lower wage-price level, affected the uncontrolled markets. The Allied Commission on March 30, 1945, established an Anti-Inflation Advisory Board, which had previously studied the inflation problem in 1944, to make recommendations to the Chief Commissioner on control measures to be adopted in AMG territory and on counsel to be given to the Italian Government, over whose actions in this matter the Commission had no say as far as Italian Government territory was concerned. An economic boundary line between the North and the rest of Italy

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which had previously studied the inflation problem in Italy since 1944,

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all parties. On these committees the Italian Government would sit in protection of the consumer. Similar AMG arrangements were set up to keep policy uniform throughout the country.

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2119

Into the Next Phase

The New Deal for Italy was working out satisfactorily; it was now up to the Italians to do their own job, without supervision and on their own responsibility. One item - that of releasing Italian prisoners-of-war held by the Allies in Italy - came up against a minor obstacle. The Italian prisoners themselves who worked for the Allies and moved in comparative freedom, objected to the proposed change of status because they were economically well off as to pay and maintenance. However, agreement was finally reached to release these men - 344000 - to the Italian Government.

The liaison system of Commission officers stationed in Italian Government territory was getting into stride, reports of the first full month - April - indicated. Sardinia had a drought, livestock suffering. The island's cities were experiencing unemployment but the rural areas were feeling manpower shortages because of the military call-up. Palermo was getting ready to turn the Sicily transport combine, organized by AMG in 1943, back to the Italian Government. The Catania liaison officer reported a crime increase and a sharp improvement in his district's school attendence, from 8,000 to 20,000. Bari had its hands full re-settling 600 families rendered homeless by a munitions ship explosion in the port. The Naples AMG commissioner (who also acted as liaison officer for Southwest Italy) described a small rash of crime and labor wage ferment. 4118

The Commission was also striving to speed up execution of the instruction of the Combined Chiefs of Staff to civilianize all possible activities of the Commission in other than AMG

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The Commission was also striving to speed up execution of the instruction of the Combined Chiefs of Staff to civilianize all possible activities of the Commission in other than AMG operations. The Foreign Economic Administration and Auxiliary Foreign Service of the State Department offered jobs to officers of the Commission who, if accepted by the civilian agencies, would be de-commissioned by the U.S. War Department and become civilian employes of the Allied Commission. The British slowly brought in more civilians but very few, since the strain of global war upon the comparatively small population of the United Kingdom had put a premium on manpower.

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Looking forward to its job in the North, the Commission re-emphasized that AMG should work whole-heartedly with the Committees of Liberation of the North when the time came, using them in an advisory capacity only and insisting that the CLN must turn over to AMG any power and authority previously assumed by them. Fifty American officers from combat units were detailed by higher command to attend an indoctrination course at the Allied Commission, for possible later assignment to AMG in the North. Plans were laid for closing the frontiers, both for security purposes against war criminals and to avert an uncontrolled inrush of refugees from Central Europe, of whom 1,000,000 were expected. Food stocks were stockpiled at Ancona and Leghorn to move into the North. Twenty thousand Carabinieri were alerted for future northern duty.

Replacements of U.S. enlisted men by re-classified combat veterans began to change the personnel complexion of the Commission, further altered by the drafting of a sizeable contingent of both British and American officers for Austrian duty when that Nazi bastion should fall. The distilled experience of the Allied Commission was being put to good use in the military government of other areas, many of the officers already on duty in Germany having had the benefit of Italian service. The American Military Government of Germany already had modeled its Fragebogen or security questionnaire after the Italian scheda personale, which attempted to extract the totalitarian diehards from the run-of-mine office holders. Study was made of the possible situations on the borders of Italy - Liguria and Piedmont adjoining France, Trieste and Venezia Giulia next to Yugoslavia. Secret Allied officers and funds kept the Patriots of the North in constant and disciplined state of alert, particular-

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4117

The whole of Liberated Italy and the Allied Commission of the eve of the liberation of the North were again plainly marking time. Ravenna Province cleared 45,000 acres of fertile land that had been flooded by the retreating Germans. Farmers along the Adriatic were getting back into silk production. Macerata

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Province announced that it had 100,000 yearling pigs available for export and fattening elsewhere. Ancona initiated a successful egg amassing, collecting 340,000 eggs a month and retailing them at 10 lire each (compared to 25 lire each for an egg in Rome). The independent Republic of San Marino on April 1 had its semi-annual election of Captains-Regent and expressed appreciation to AMG for its help in food, transport, medical supplies and handling of the refugees, which packed the tiny republic. A study was made of the state of readiness of further territory to be handed back to the jurisdiction of the Italian Government. The first free technical school in Italian history was established at Rimini, which also launched an elaborate city plan for its own reconstruction.

The final campaign opened on April 9 in its preliminary phase and on April 16 an all-out assault by the 5th and 8th Armies began straight across the peninsula. On April 20 Bologna fell - with ~~British~~ Allied-trained Italian Army troops having the honor of participating in the liberation of one of their chief cities for the first time. In swift thrusts the Allied Armies swept into the Po Valley and up to the Alps. The great cities of the North - Milan, Genoa, Venice and Turin - all were liberated by Patriots before the Allied armed forces moved in. Everywhere valiant Patriot forces saved industrial plants and power installations, preserved order and hunted and executed Fascists, including the former Duce, Benito Mussolini.

The North was vitually intact and full of energy, although fuel and raw materials were lacking, as the Nazis in Italy surrendered unconditionally May 2, 1945. The Allied Commission was entering the last phase of its mission.

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