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PRB WEEKLY BULLETINS
APR. 1944 – APR. 1945

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9275/CC

Office of the
Chief Commissioner

ALLIED COMMISSION

# LIST OF PAPERS

*File under No.* 9275 PRB WEEKLY BULLETINS

SECRET

PART I

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

PR36/WB3/PRB

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN
Vol. II, No. 3
22 April 1945

1. Political

The Council of ministers, having posponed the scheduled meeting of the 13th on learning of the death of President Roosevelt, met on the 17th and began its activities by offering its thanks for the "gesture of generous fraternity" on the part of Argentina which has announced a gift of 100,000 tons of wheat to Italy. The Council added that it looked to the Allies for help in bringing the wheat to Italy as soon as possible. A draft decree was approved creating a Defence Committee to advise the government on military matters and a new Chief of the General Staff, General Claudio Trezzani, was named. The functions of the General Staff were carefully defined as "advisory...on principal technical questions affecting the armed forces". General Trezzani is an infantryman who fought in Africa and has recently spent some time in the United States as a prisoner of war. According to reports he is regarded in military circles as a man of monarchist sympathies.

The Council then elaborated further the rules for repression of Fascist activities which it had approved some weeks ago. One point is noteworthy: the presidency of the epuration committees may now be entrusted to University professors, lawyers or retired state functionaries as well as to magistrates, the only category eligible in the past. This is a move long since recommended in the interests of efficiency by Associate High Commissioner Berlinguer and the Leftist press. It was also announced that special Assizes Courts would be set up in the liberated North and that punishment for fascist activities had been made more severe.- even including the death penalty. It was perhaps this last measure which caused ITALIA NUOVA to exclaim "The government is fighting Fascism with Fascist methods."

At this meeting too De Gasperi made a dignified commentary on the relations with Jugoslavia. The question of Trieste, he said, could hardly be settled while the patriot elements of both countries were bending all their efforts to expel the German invader. He hoped the matter would be studied on a level "above that of press polemics". The Council followed these remarks with a resolution stating its desire to see a harmonious good neighbor relationship grow up and flourish between the two countries. These manifestations of reason and calm were applauded by some sections in the press but did not prevent others from continuing their campaign to establish the Latin character of Trieste; one Montemuliano (in ITALIA NUOVA) going so far as to prove, at least to his own satisfaction, that there were fewer than 20,000 Slavs in the city in 1941. Nor did the conciliatory tone of Italy's foreign minister prevent Tito from repeating his claims

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to Istria, Gorizia and war reparations from Italy as well as the city
of Trieste...It was also reported, perhaps by way of diversion, that
Abyssinia intended to present its claim for Eritrea at the San Fran-
cisco Conference.

In this context further irritation was added by the Separa-
tist Convention in Palermo. The session lasted three days and was
full of fiery speeches and talk of defence of Sicilian independence
at all costs. The signal accomplishment of the convention was the
dispatch of a message to the United Nations urging that the Separa-
tist case be considered at San Francisco. The government in an official

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communique called this an act of treason and the whole press of Rome fell to belaboring the separatist movement, though explanations for its existence varied. To Nenni in AVANTI a Fascist plot was clearly visible; ITALIA NUOVA saw in the movement the hand of "outside forces" which had been known to stir up trouble in the South in pre-unification days. Aldisio, Sicily's High Commissioner, called the whole business a bluff but the TRIBUNA DEL POPOLO pointed out shrewdly and sadly that Italy will not be represented at San Francisco while the Separatists, thanks to their memorandum, will.

Further and apparently final plans for the Consultation Assembly were worked out at the second Council meeting of the week (April 20.) Noteworthy is the representation accorded parties outside the C.L.N. The Republicans are to have ten representatives and the Democratic Party and the Democratic-Liberal Concentration (both Rightist and Monarchist) five each. (Each of the six C.L.N. parties will have twenty-six representatives.) ITALIA LIBERA promptly took up the cudgels for the Sinistra Cristiana (quondam Catholic Communists) and it is likely that other opposition groups will be heard from when the press has had more opportunity to study the Council's report, not yet officially published.

Baistrocchi, Fascist hierarch, once Undersecretary for War and self-appointed chief of the General Staff in the old days, has been arrested. Baistrocchi was responsible for such modernizations in the Italian Army as the introduction of the "passo romano" (else where known as the goose step) and the adoption of "Giovinezza".

The Camera del Lavoro of Messina was reported attacked by "Fascist elements" and, according to the first version of the story, was set on fire. This brought threats from EL LAVORO that the workers would take the law into their own hands if the government failed to act. However it now seems to have been a matter of minor banditry and the theft of a typewriter and the government reports the situation under control.

2. AMG with the Armies

Bologna, goal of Allied arms for the last six months, fell to American, Polish and Italian troops 21 April. Brigadier General Edgar Erskine Hume, SCAO, 5th Army AMG, following his penchant for getting into newly liberated cities as soon as possible, was one of the first Allied officers to enter the city. Colonel Norman E. Fiske, Acting Executive Commissioner, likewise was on the spot. The gist of the Bologna situation is as follows:

The city is in fairly good shape. The railroad yards are badly bombed but the center of town is practically intact. The water system is likewise intact. Sewers are all right. The electric power system also seems to have escaped destruction and connections should be made shortly. The same for the telephones. There are a lot of people in the city, but the exact number is unknown. There is enough food on hand. Partisans are in fairly good order. Just before the Fascists left, they caught and shot a few Partisan leaders, whose followers immediately retaliated with a little shooting of their own. Political problems do not appear acute. The C.L.N. has nominated a Communist for Major. Lieut. Col. Frank Wray (A) has moved into the Municipio."

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Towns on the 8th Army side have been falling faster than on the West Coast side where Massa and Carrara were liberated earlier in the week. Food for 12,000 was ordered for Massa. Scabies was rampant in the area. Carrara had 90,000 population. 400 Partisans were keeping order in both towns. The Apuania team has already moved in to administer the province. Power stations suffered minor damage and power is expected to be restored shortly. Water was o.k.

On the East Coast Imola fell first. A 62-year-old former Lancashire football player, William Garbutt, was found in the town and hired as an interpreter. 50,000 persons were in Imola, including 330 patients in the hospital. Mills, water and food appeared satisfactory. In its onward rush toward Ferrara, the 8th Army was

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less than 25 miles from the first provinces of Venezia Region which had four provincial teams ready to move in. Castel San Pietro had 9,000 population on entry, including 1,500 from Bologna. Normal population is 3,500. AMG is already functioning. More than 100 tons of grain were found stockpiled. There was no electricity but two steam-operated flour mills were found. Massa Lombarda, with half its normal population of 4,000, sustained heavy damage. San Agata was 95 per cent. destroyed. Conselice was also somewhat damaged, but in all three towns food and public health gave no concern.

3. The Economic Front

Wheat amassed to April 15 was 11,604,654 qtl., while the olive oil collection stood at the same date at 438,340 qtl...The third Italian agricultural conference has opened, with AC Hq. and regional agricultural officers in attendance...A shortage of raw material has caused the shutdown of five hemp weaving plants while half the spinners are idle...The Colleferro cement plant now has a production of 164 tons a day, an increase of 45 tons over the previous week... Reconstruction of the generating unit at Castelnuovo-Lardello has increased total power capacity by 12,000 kw.; the plant is the only one in Italy and one of the few in the world - run entirely by volcanic steam, requiring no oil or coal...Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission also reports that 220 communities housing committees are functioning, that 12,000 housing projects have been initiated, valued at 1,110 million lire, and that 6,000 of the projects have been completed... In eight months the five national betting lotteries in Italy have garnered 242.5 million lire; Naples alone now contributes at the rate of 10 million a week...Umbria-Marche Region says that road blocks definitely reduced black market prices wherever tried and that 340,000 eggs are being amassed monthly and are being sold to the public at 10 lire each...860,000 Italian Navy shell forging are to be converted to scrap to make at least 2,500 tons of steel for carpenter's nails and other construction materials...Mr. L.J. Kegel, former merchandising manager of Marshall Field & Co. in Chicago, is the new Deputy Director of the Commerce Sub-Commission...A United States Army and Navy Liquidation Board is in Italy to look over surplus war equipment and negotiate sales to the Italian Government, which, in turn, will sell/s to private dealers, netting, it is hoped, a good profit which will help as a deflationary measure...For a 2,200-calory diet would have lately had to spend in March 12,456 lire, compared with 10,277 lire last December, 2,392 in September, 1943 and 1,147 in September, 1942...five Lucca factories are selling sewing thread at 14 lire per 100 meters while the Rome sales price for the same is 140 lire...Prato textile mills report that labor costs amount to only 8,000 lire out of a daily production cost of 300,000 lire, or only 2⅔ per cent. compared with the normal 35 per cent. of normal times...Imported civilian supplies, according to accounting records of the Finance Sub-Commission, amount to 1,521,00 tons since the days of Sicily through December, 1944...A further shipment of 1,860 trucks to Italy has been approved, which, with the 1,700 authorized (of which 1,552 have already arrived) will make 3,560 trucks to help relieve the transport situation...The Allied Motor Transport Group, which will use these trucks, hopes to have a strength of nearly 5,000 officers and men (90 per cent. Italian

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4. Warming up for Northern Italy.

With the final drive to clean the Germans out of Italy now going into high gear, AC Hq. and the regional teams for the North have been on the qui vive and last-minute plans and projects are going the rounds preparatory to entry of the Allied Forces into what

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promises to be the biggest job of military government since the liberation of Sicily. Regional commissioners for the North have all been introduced to Major General Willis D. Crittenberger, commanding officer of IV Corps, which, as a separate unit under 15th Army Group, will be the first to enter the Northwest areas, first phase military government being thus under its command. The Economic Section and its sub-commission directors paid a mass visit to IV Corps this last week-end to dicuss economic plans. Northwest Italy after the combat troops give over, will be in charge of No. 2 District under General Nares.

From the North, where AMG will also encounter for the first time national frontiers with France, Switzerland, Austria and Yugoslavia, reports have arrived that Italians have hidden considerable machinery and that Germans have orders to destroy as much equipment as possible on withdrawal. Grain has been systematically shipped to Germany, though there is not much Germany left to ship to now. Germans are said to have bought up Italian goods right and left, using 300 billion Italian-printed lire to do so. Milan is reported crowded with refugees, 6,000 Italian workers having recently been returned from Germany. Wheat is short but adequate stocks of rice and corn are said to be available. Fats, cattle and fertilizer are scarce. Despite the low price levels of the North, sugar in Turin is said to be selling for 830 lire a kilo on the black market and butter for 700 lire.

Venezia Region will have a new problem in AMG - besides Trieste and the Yugoslav - in the Provinces of Trento and Bolzano, which have been incorporated into the Reich economy and which will probably need systematic change-over into the Italian system, including introduction of new lire currency, an exchange rate for the Reichsmark and new administrative procedures, all points on which CCS and AFHQ will rule.

The geographical delimitations of North Italy will be officially announced shortly. At this reading they will probably consist of Italy north of the northern boundaries of Tuscany and the Provinces of Forli and Ravenna. Comprising about three-eighths of all Italy, the industrialized North will present two major headaches - one political, the other economic (of which more later). The first consists of Fascists in their last lair, and of Patriots who are called Volunteers of Liberty under the Committee of National Liberation of Alta Italia. The Patriots, well organized and functioning with Allied support and even officers from our military units, are hoping to defend key installations against German attempts at scorched earth tactics. Speaking of destruction, Fine Arts officers of AC have made a detailed map of North Italy art deposits and monuments for the Air Forces, copies of which map are being distributed down to squadron level. Rations, hospitalization and clothing for Patriots will be a military responsibility, according to the latest AFHQ ruling, pending CCS confirmation. The military units will also try to get the Patriots to disarm as early as possible, after which it will be an AMG responsibility until the Carabinieri move in. For the new tasks of frontier patrol, some discussion is under way to use Guardia Finanza in preference to the CC

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The C.L.N.A.I. is expected to have set up "shadow" governments in many places which will be found operating when AMG move in. They are supposed to resign at once and recognize the authority of AMG, which in turn, is prepared to try to use as much C.L.N. personnel in the civil administration as possible. Prefects, for example, should be appointed from local non-career persons acceptable to the C.L.N., while the vice prefects may come from career administrators being



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readied in the pool by the Local Government Sub-Commission. The C.L.N.A.I. has been recognized by the Italian Government as its representative in the North and the Northerners have recognized the Italian Government in Rome as the sole repository of legal authority. The Allies have NOT given the C.L.N. any political recognition as a constituted authority but have made military agreements with the military army of the C.L.N. for the Volunteers of Liberty to work under Allied military orders. The wishes of the Italian Government to contact C.L.N. representatives as quickly as possible will be favoured by AC in the interests of obtaining a nationally representative government. As far as epuration is concerned, it is expected that the Patriots will do a bit of unofficial epurating on their own, since all official positions there are held by Fascist Republicans. In any event, AMG epuration is expected to be as swift and thorough as it can be made.

Tied up with this question is that of re-creating the great pre-Fascist newspapers of the North like the Corriere della Sera of Milan and La Stampa of Turin. The PWB Press plan, agreed to by AC, envisages close cooperation between AMG and PWB, with PWB willing to check with AMG about all news and radio materials used. All newspapers will be suspended immediately and Fascist papers suppressed for good. Those publications the authorities decide to authorize will be in charge of commissariats appointed by AMG. Clandestine papers which operated despite the Germans will be allowed to continue but must apply for a license within seven days. Military censors will operate in the larger towns. In others AMG will act as the censoring power. Newsprint is now being stockpiled for the North. A stockpile of 3,600 tons, belonging to Milan and Turin papers, has been found in Switzerland, incidentally, and will be shipped into Italy as soon as the Swiss border is negotiable.

What is worrying the Economic Section is the Northern economy of wages and prices, the availability of industrial production (Italian technical experts are to enter the area as soon as possible for this purpose) and the first priority problem - food and transport. The Allied Motor Transport Group, under its energetic organizer, Col. J. J. Carnes (A), and with new trucks arriving from the States, is set for its big job. 15th Army Group have requested transport help. AC will lend 650 trucks in the first phase. An advance echelon of the Transportation Sub-Commission will go forward as fast as possible to help coordinate movements. Col. Legg, director of the Food Sub-Commission, has been devoting his time almost exclusively to the North. A food directive for all regional officers has been issued. Approximately 40,000 tons are already stockpiled, major dumps being at Livorno and Ancona. Salt, a Northern deficiency, is well in hand. Further stocks of Food 10,000 to 15,000 tons - are ready farther down the peninsula and so should provide all together a reserve of one to two months at least. The initial ration of bread will be 100 grams plus what can be supplemented from local grain resources, with the aim to get at the 300-gram ration as soon as transport and supplies permit. Bread rations in North Italy under the Germans vary from 100 to 150 grams, though one report has it that the Milan ration has been cut to 50 grams.

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The main economic problem, of course, lies in the fact that the North Italy wage-price structure is on a much lower level than in Liberated Italy where the inflation spiral has been in evidence. Bread in North Italy, for example, is five lire. Here it ranges from 16 to 18 lire. It will be of the utmost importance to get in as much local wheat as possible as quickly as possible. A nation-wide ammassing policy for next harvest cannot be established until Northern conditions are examined. Present thinking is to introduce the U.S. AAA system of pre-determined crops, of which the Government will ask for a certain share at a set price and allow the farmer to keep or sell the rest in

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a free market. Prices may be allowed to vary regionally. In any event, the counsel of the AC Advisory Anti-Inflation Board to the Chief Commissioner has been to treat North Italy initially as a separate economy, to "freeze" the wage-price structure and to establish strong controls on the line between South and North Italy in order to prevent smuggling. The Labor committee of the Allied Forces Local Resources Board has decided to go into North Italy with only its basic wage rates and without the cost-of-living bonuses which have accrued in Liberated Italy in the course of the last year. The Board also voted for geographical differentials on the matter of wage increases. The wage rate for unskilled Labor in the North is reported to be 80 lire. Here it is 65 without the cost-of-living bonuses. The Anti-Inflation Board recommended the appointment of Regional and Provincial Joint Advisory Boards to review requests for increases in wages and prices as a measure of inflation control until such time as the matter can be tackled on a national scale.

What the Regional Commissioners think about the hot spot they soon will be sitting on can be best be told over a drink: they know they have their work cut out for them. Piemonte Region, for one, has issued a fine brochure giving detailed instructions on what to do and how to do it. Lombardy Region - six millions persons in 1,400 communes with the hottest spot of all industrial, teeming Milan, held a three-day staff meeting a short time ago and went over its program point by point. The region would like to have more specific directions about displaced persons, for one thing. Lombardy Region also proposes to have the C.L.N. submit names of candidates for offices only after unanimous agreement. It is also concerned with what may happen if the Germans flood the canals in Milan and Mantua. The region's 210 officers are to be spread over 10 provincial administrations, counting Milan City as one province. Methane gas is used in many automobiles in the North and the region will try to continue such use. No coal is looked for until at least 30 days are over. Lastly, the Lombardy meeting cheered on a particularly new and tough bone: What to do about the so-called socialization of some industrial plants now reportedly being carried out in the North by the Fascist Republicans.

5. Odds and Ends

Mr. Harold MacMillan, the Acting President, and Mr. G. Stewart Brown, Director of Public Relations, are taking a trip to the front... 60,000 parcels from the U.S. have been received in Rome, Naples and Palermo since Jan. 1...while six million letters a week are now being processed in Italy, 25 per cent. of pre-war volume, the Communications Sub-Commission reports...AFHQ has granted authority, while awaiting confirmation by the Combined Chiefs of Staff, for rations and clothing to be issued to Italian Patriots; also authorized has been the creation of five Patriot reconnaissance companies...The Public Safety Sub-Commission is worried about the 50 to 60 per cent. over-crowding of Liberated Italy's 65 judicial prisons while 17 penal prisons could accomodate another 9,000 prisoners; all as a result of the lagging court dockets which show 16,500 cases behind in Sardinia, 7,156 in Southern Italy and 2,990 in Tuscany...The Records Bureau of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub Commission now has more than approximately 70,000 names of DP nationalities on its rosters, of whom the location of 60,000

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is to without the cost-of-living bonuses. The Anti-Inflation Board recommended the appointment of Regional and Provincial Joint Advisory Boards to review requests for increases in wages and prices as a measure of inflation control until such time as the matter can be tackled on a national scale.

What the Regional Commissioners think about the hot spot they soon will be sitting on can be best be told over a drink: they know they have their work cut out for them. Piemonte Region, for one, has issued a fine brochure giving detailed instructions on what to do and how to do it. Lombardy Region - six millions persons in 1,400 communes with the nattiest set of all industrial, teeming Milan, held a three-day staff meeting a short time ago and went over its program point by point. The region would like to have more specific directions about displaced persons, for one thing. Lombardy Region also proposes to have the C.L.N. submit names of candidates for offices only after unanimous agreement. It is also concerned with what may happen if the Germans flood the canals in Milan and Mantua. The region's 210 officers are to be spread over 10 provincial administrations, counting Milan City as one province. Methane gas is used in many automobiles in the North and the region will try to continue such use. No coal is looked for until at least 30 days are over. Lastly, the Lombardy meeting chewed on a particularly new and tough bone: What to do about the so-called socialization of some industrial plants now reportedly being carried out in the North by the Fascist Republicans.

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The Legal Sub-Commission has got out an index of all important Italian Government decrees to March 1, 1945 for practical field use...Orders have been issued recalling U.S. personnel earmarked for Austria from their AC attachments...Colonel Richard H. Wilmer, former director of the Legal Sub-Commission and now back in the States, has been awarded the Legion of Merit for his service in Italy...Congratulations to Pfc. Henry M. DeLeo for the Bronze Star presented to him by Col. C.M. Parkin, CO, 2675th Regt., for "meritorious service" in the course of his duties at a repatriation camp where he helped unearth a Fascist plot and aided in conviction of the plotters...Good wishes, too, to Thomas A. Milazzo and Mario A. Perillo, who have been honorably discharged from the army as enlisted men and immediately appointed by Col. Parkin as Junior Warrant officers...Felicitations are also in order for 5th Army HQ, which, as Company G, 2675 Regiment, has been awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque by Lieut. General Lucian K. Truscott, jr., commanding general, Fifth Army, for "superior performance of duty in the accomplishment of exceptionally difficult tasks"...More Kudos: Col. G. D. Murphey (A) of the Economic Section received the Legion of Merit in a Hq. ceremony 23 April....

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Col Bartak DCCAO

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

A26/WB32/PRB

12 Nov 1944

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 32
6 Nov to 12 Nov 44

1. Political

The symphony of the week opened, like Tchaikowsky's Fifth, with three trumpets. Hardly had the echoes of Bonomi and Orlando, recalling the happier days of Vittorio Veneto, died away, than the voice of the Lieutenant General, deftly muted by the New York Times, was heard in the land. Other more distant trumpets sounded. Stalin spoke on Tuesday, Churchill on Thursday: the finale of the Fourth-Term Election Symphony came from Washington. Among lesser Italian trumpets were the deep note of Croce, Christian-Democrat and Communist arias, and the continuing obbligato of the C.L.N.

The "audience" accorded by the Lieutenant General to Herbert Matthews, although it contained, as AVANTI pointed out, "a hundred reservations", undoubtedly notted up the political pace. It was implied, if not exactly stated, that the Prince favoured a plebiscite, rather than a Constituent Assembly, to decide the institutional question, that he felt there might be some distinction between popular feeling and party attitudes, and that the monarchy was moving to the Left." The Government next day issued a communique which, while not criticizing (as AVANTI tried to make out) the Prince's action, re-affirmed the representative character of the six parties and the Government's pledge for a Constituent Assembly. The Press seized upon the bones of contention thus provided. Lucifero in ITALIA NUOVA professed to discover mutual agreement between Bonomi, Orlando and the Prince to give a new twist to Italian policy, an attitude which brought the wrath of the Left on his head with dark hints about "residui fascisti" - a much-used phrase this week. Benedetto Croce, in a weighty defence of fence-sitting by Liberals, went back to Mazzini for proof that neither monarchies nor republics were per se the guardians of liberty, and that forms of government were the reflections of their times and not the results of propaganda. For Liberals to take sides before the question had "matured" would be unstatesmanlike. VOCE REPUBBLICANA and ITALIA LIBERA found this unacceptable, Lussu maintaining that the Liberals were moving to the Right, and, presumably, thus meeting the monarchy more than half way. It was clear, on the whole, that the Left was decidedly nervous about the institutional question.

Under these circumstances, the shooting by a P.S. agent of a Communist who was scribbling anti-monarchic slogans on a wall in Via Ravenna on Tuesday was considerably played up. Nobody knows exactly what happened: it seems that the P.S. agents approached the scribblers in the twilight, asked for their papers, were refused, and in the ensuing scuffle one of the agents fired his revolver, fatally wounding a young Communist, Mesiti. The incident was ballooned by the Leftist press into a catastrophic crime, scribbling being termed by them "patriotic"; this resulted in

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Meanwhile the Tuscan Committee of Liberation came to Rome from Florence and presented to Bonomi on Thursday a demand that prefects be chosen from, or by, the C.L.N. The continuing Paterno' dispute in Florence is clearly only a reflection of the growing

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struggle for power by the C.L.N., not always in accord with the Rome Government. The Press of course accorded full prominence to the C.L.N. visit, AVANTI repeating its familiar war-cry of "All Powers to the C.L.N." On Friday Bonomi, according to ITALIA NUOVA, addressed a letter to the Ministers without Portfolio asking for better discipline in the Party press, and suggesting that the mass meeting called for Sunday in Piazza Navona to celebrate the 27th anniversary of the Russian revolution be transferred to a less open place. It was accordingly moved to the Palatine Stadium where Togliatti and Nenni were due to speak. (The Sunday morning estimate of attendance was 14,000). On Saturday the Communist Party launched a manifesto calling for (a) a decisive lessening of Allied control (b) swift measures of epuration (about which Scoccimarro gave a long and extremely outspoken interview on Friday) (c) local government elections at once (d) greater powers for the C.L.N. and (e) an increased war effort. It also set the Party aim definitely as for a "democratic Republic". A wary attitude was taken towards the formation of a Constituent Assembly, which might, according to the manifesto, include reactionary elements unless the ground were first cleared by local government elections. Last but not least was a pungent comment to the effect that the failure to incorporate Patriot bands into the Army might result in growing ill-feeling against the Allies among the better elements of the Italian population.

The Council meeting on Wednesday seemed a little academic in contrast with these current events. Fascist unions, already suppressed by the Allies, were formally dissolved: Bergami, formerly Under-Secretary for Agriculture, became Under-Secretary for Food, a new post: Mancini, in a long report on Public Works, gave astronomical figures of reconstruction, including 1,200 million lire for roads and bridges and 235 millions for Vesuvius.

Last trumpet-note of the week was a high C - that C which, according to AVANTI, has been dropped in nomenclature but not yet in action.

2. Changes

The following announcement was made from London and Washington on November 10:

"As already announced, the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Great Britain recently reviewed the situation in Italy and agreed on a general policy to meet the many economic and other difficulties of that country.

"In order to facilitate task, they have agreed that the Right Honorable Harold MacMillan, MP, British Resident Minister at Allied Force Headquarters, Mediterranean, should, in addition to his present post, become the responsible head of the Allied Commission. In order to effect this, General Wilson will delegate to Mr MacMillan his functions as President of the Commission.

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"Commodore Stone of the United States Navy, at present Acting Chief Commissioner, will be appointed Chief Commissioner. Mr MacMillan as Acting President will be specially charged with the duty of supervising development of new measures, together with any change in structure of the Commission necessary to carry them out."

We have at present no further details about these AC birthday honours, about which rumour has been busy for some time. They clearly foreshadow changes, about which we hope to write next week.



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3. Roumanian AC

Colonel E.R. Greer, who has been for three years Military Attache in Moscow and is now on the Roumanian Control Commission, visited the AC in Rome this week. He tells us that the Roumanian AC consists at present of 25 British officers, about 180 OR and roughly a similar number of Russians. The American contingent has not yet arrived. The Commission is divided into Army, Navy, Air, Economic and Transport sub-commissions. The President ex-officio is Marshal Malinowski, and the two Commissioners - who sit side by side at the head of the conference table - are General Vinogradoff and Air Vice Marshal Stevenson. The Russians, says Colonel Greer, are very moderate in their control, and the Roumanians not at all unhappy, though relations for the moment are still somewhat formal. Official functions are not attended by Russians or British unless both are invited. Outside official doings, pleasant party-giving is not at all excluded: the country is full of food and wine, and a "pre-war Ritz" meal in Bucharest costs 1,600 lei - about four shillings, or less than a dollar at the present rate of exchange. 23-year-old King Michael and the Queen-Mother, Helen, continue the dynastic tradition and the Roumanian Government functions - with an extra C still in commission, no doubt. Bucharest has, Colonel Greer says, been very heavily damaged, particularly by the unopposed 3-day bombing of the capital by the Germans after the coup d'etat.

4. Relief to Devastated Areas

Lieut Colonel A.D. Bonham-Carter, executive officer for the provinces in Lazio-Umbria Region, who was brought into AC Hq to lay out a program for aid to the devastated areas and is now returning to his Region to help put measures into effect on the ground, has some revealing facts about the situation. Two teams are now working in the Abruzzi-Marche Region and other officers will be assigned to assist wherever necessary. The scope of the problem is to be confined to the so-called "Winter Line" of 1943-44 in the two regions mentioned. So far, the Italian Government, although the entire area under study is under Italian jurisdiction, has not come up with any concrete plans or even requests. The area to be helped includes the provinces of Littoria, Frosinone, Aquila, Chieti and Pescara, with some portions of Naples and Campobasso provinces. Population that can be termed destitute is estimated at approximately 300,000, of whom perhaps a third are children. The population cannot be evacuated, first, because there are so few places they can be taken to; second, because of lack of equipment and transport for such a mammoth operation; third, and most important, because they do not want to leave their homes or what is left of their homes, only 150, for example, having agreed to leave shattered Frosinone. They are now living in smashed houses, shacks made of rubble, caves and even dugouts and, of course, are doubling up with friends or relatives lucky enough to have homes still in one piece. There are also a few fortunates with tents. Water is no problem, except for Itri, where a water-cart still delivers a ration of one liter of water a day. The American relief committee for Italy and the Red Cross are cooperating to provide clothing, which is also lacking.

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Food, naturally, is the top worry. The area has no local resources at all, resources which are the usual means at present of supplementing the limited AC ration officially distributed. The mined fields have made it impossible to plant crops, even for late harvest, not to mention the impossibility of repairing power lines and bridges with mines about. Soup kitchens may be started later but at present only children in schools are getting lunches. There is also an attempt being made to give an increased ration, even though a special ruling has already made available to the area the supplementary foods now given only to urban communities over 50,000 population. This means that for the four winter "danger" months there should be provided 10,800 tons of bread, 3,600 tons of pasta, 1,800 tons of sugar, 3,600 tons of milk, 3,600 tons of

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dried vegetables, 3,600 tons of dehydrated soup, 2,160 tons of cheese and meat and a regular ration of soap and salt. Transport of food to the area rather than transport in the area is the problem. The tough job in the distribution of food in the devastated areas will be to the isolated mountain hamlets where rains, snow, bad side-roads and blown bridges keep the residents in their homes the winter long. Public health is generally good, but medical supplies for the isolated places must be provided before the hamlets become inaccessible. Ambulances are also scarce but a Friends Unit may lend a hand to meet this lack. Blankets are acutely needed - 50,000 of them. Attempts are being made to obtain several thousand from the British Graves Registration Service. The British wrap their dead in a blanket before burial. It is proposed to substitute another form of shroud and use the blankets for the Italian destitute.

While regional public works engineers are set to make priority repairs on houses and bridges where possible, emergency repair of houses is being planned with canvas. Some 50,000 square meters are now available and more sought. Until tiles and cement are found, the canvas will at least make some houses weatherproof for the time being. The housing program started by the Italian Government will not make any houses ready for occupancy until next spring, so has to be counted out as a practical measure. A few places near the area are sought as temporary re-location centers where the very old can be moved until a home in their own neighborhood can be made ready. Fiuggi has some hotels which the military authorities will be asked to de-requisition for this purpose. The last item on the program will see the disappearance of all the glass on the glass-topped desks in AC Hq. This glass will be taken up and used to provide windows for schools and hospitals in the area. The Italian Government, through the Finance Sub-Commission, will also be asked urgently to make an immediate appropriation of funds and to cut all red tape in getting aid to these dwellers in some of the war's most ravaged sites.

5. More changes

Mr A.G. Antolini has resigned his position as Executive Director of the Economic Section and will return to Washington. He will continue in his capacity as Acting Vice President until he departs within a few weeks. Brigadier General William O'Dwyer, Vice President of the Section, will not return to the AC. Mr Harlan Cleveland succeeds Mr Antolini as Executive Director. The vice presidency of the Section will be filled by an American civilian shortly. That is the topside economic news of the week. We regret Mr Antolini's imminent departure and voice our appreciation for his fine cooperation in helping us to get out the news, both internally to the AC in headquarters and field, and to the general Allied and Italian publics.

6. Fifth Army AMG

Oncoming winter, floods, shortage of transport, unsatisfactory supplies of food and fuel, and unemployment all go to make up a

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6. Fifth Army AMG

Oncoming winter, floods, shortage of transport, unsatisfactory supplies of food and fuel, and unemployment all go to make up a situation in which, Fifth Army AMG in its report for October points out, "public morale is far from high, largely owing to the present inferiority of physical living conditions as compared with those under the Germans. While the people are in general friendly to the Allies, empty bellies and economic distress are submitting this new friendship to a pretty severe test." There have been food demonstrations in Florence, Pistoia and Pisa: and the last had a severe flood on November 2. However, Fifth Army AMG reported on November 6 an improvement in morale resulting from the prospect of better food rationing. Civilian movement is still a problem and Fifth Army AMG complains of "a laxity in the enforcement of the Rear Army check line by Allied Police" and also the indifference

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shown to regulations by "Allied officers including Allied Commission officers in Rome."

Notwithstanding prohibition of ministerial visits to Florence (and a new headache caused by a sudden desire of the Soviet Labour delegates to go there) political sparring between the Prefect and the C.L.N. continues. The Prefect, however, in spite of anonymous leaflets, is stated to be "much happier and has gone to Rome to fetch his wife and family." The C.L.N. also went, as reported under Political. Fifth Army AMG observes that "the Florentines, with their strong traditional contempt for the Romans, regard themselves as allied to the Committees in the cities of Northern Italy rather than to the Rome Committee out of which the present Government was formed." It is, perhaps, a pointer to what lies ahead.

7. Patriots

The Italians have finally tackled the Patriot problem on their own but are bidding to run away with the ball in some respects. At a recent meeting of the Italian National Patriot Committee (INPC), the Italians cast some doubt on the advisability of issuing any more of the certificates signed by General Alexander to the Patriots as conclusive proof of their services. It was courteously pointed out that refusals to recognize the Allied certificate might give rise to certain difficulties. The INPC also proposed that provincial branches of the Central Committee of National Liberation be entrusted to take over general supervision, in conjunction with local Italian military commanders, of making a new and final roll of Patriots. The new classes would be: (1) Patriots who have fought; (2) Patriots who have aided the war of liberation by means other than fighting, and (3) Families of fallen Patriots. The INPC added that it wanted to start up branch offices shortly in Naples, Aquila, Perugia, Ancona and Florence. It further proposed to establish special civil employment agencies attached to the offices of Regional Commissioners of northern Regions to assist Patriots in their rehabilitation. It is obvious that nothing of the latter sort can function in AMG territory except by or under the authority of the AMG. In addition, families of wounded or dead Patriots are also to get a break: they will receive indemnities and allowances equal to those of the regular Italian Army in similar circumstances.

8. Odds and Ends

The next forward meeting at Siena will be held 17 November at 10 a.m..... The Swedes have asked to come into Italy to rehabilitate telephone services in Southern Italy under a pre-war contract they with the Italian Government, a request which has been politely referred to Washington and London ..... The Fighter Wing of the Italian Air Force, which now has Aircobras and Spitfires, had a record day October 31 when it made 54 sorties, the Air Sub-Commission proudly relates ..... Approximately 3,700 Italian soldiers who were [illegible] Greece by the Italian Armistice

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as allied to the Committees in the cities of Northern Italy rather than to the Rome Committee out of which the present Government was formed." It is, perhaps, a pointer to what lies ahead.

7. Patriots

The Italians have finally tackled the Patriot problem on their own but are bidding to run away with the ball in some respects. At a recent meeting of the Italian National Patriot Committee (INPC), the Italians cast some doubt on the advisability of issuing any more of the certificates signed by General Alexander to the Patriots as conclusive proof of their services. It was courteously pointed out that refusals to recognize the Allied certificate might give rise to certain difficulties. The INPC also proposed that provincial branches of the Central Committee of National Liberation be entrusted to take over general supervision, in conjunction with local Italian military commanders, of making a new and final roll of Patriots. The new classes would be: (1) Patriots who have fought; (2) Patriots who have aided the war of liberation by means other than fighting, and (3) Families of fallen Patriots. The INPC added that it wanted to start up branch offices shortly in Naples, Aquila, Perugia, Ancona and Florence. It further proposed to establish special civil employment agencies attached to the offices of Regional Commissioners of northern Regions to assist Patriots in their rehabilitation. It is obvious that nothing of the latter sort can function in AMG territory except by or under the authority of the AMG. In addition, families of wounded or dead Patriots are also to get a break: they will receive indemnities and allowances equal to those of the regular Italian Army in similar circumstances.

8. Odds and Ends

The next forward meeting at Siena will be held 17 November at 10 a.m..... The Swedes have asked to come into Italy to rehabilitate telephone services in Southern Italy under a pre-war contract they had with the Italian Government, a request which has been politely referred to Washington and London ..... The Fighter Wing of the Italian Air Force, which now has Aircobras and Spitfires, had a record day October 31 when it made 54 sorties, the Air Sub-Commission proudly relates ..... Approximately 3,700 Italian soldiers who were among the thousands trapped in Greece by the Italian Armistice are being returned to Italy in the first shipment of the kind ..... Notes from Colonel Temperley's report for October - Italian provincial authorities are functioning with reasonable ability, although "a good deal of bribery and corruption springs up the moment any activity is handed over, but not in sufficient dimensions to interfere with operations" ..... The 200,000 tons of last years's wine in Puglie has shrunk to 60,000 by devious means ..... When the word spread in Bari Province that AC Olive Oil Control Officers were arriving, the price of oildropped from 200 lire a liter to 100 lire on the black market ..... In addition to the furore created in the Rome press, Prince Umberto's interview with the correspondent of the "New York Times" drew the following from the Italian Fascist

/ radio:

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radio: "In the morning, one of the many American correspondents who pass their time drinking in the various bars of Via Veneto, generally looks about for something to cable to his paper. When there is nothing to cable, the American correspondent either invents something or creates something by means of an interview. You know American journalists: the screen has made them very popular. The bearing of an adventurer, a language appropriate to the worst slums, his hat perpetually on his head and pushed well back, his feet regularly stretched on a table. You know also that they are perfectly capable of interviewing God Himself and of asking him, notebook in hand, whether He prefers butter or beer. Anything made news to them."

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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Cl. Mo. to Mcao

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/WB31/PRB

5 November 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 31
30 Oct to 5 Nov 44

1. Political

Some weeks ago there was talk of changing the government and replacing it by a Leftist Front. In view of the past week's activities it seems very unlikely that such a move will be necessary. For the government, though made up of radicals and moderates in equal numbers and headed by a prime minister who certainly cannot be called a revolutionary, is nevertheless, under the pressure of circumstances, gradually moving to the Left. This week, under the prodding of the CGIL, Bonomi issued a statement saying that the two problems of aiding workers to meet high living costs and redistribution of land would have to be solved "without delay". This was followed by issuance of an order to the Provincial Commissions to begin distribution of land to the peasants by November 6. ITALIA NUOVA - as was to be expected - pointed out that action may have come too late to be useful, and suggested that some one should have given Bonomi a Farmers Almanac. However, the action does show the government's desire to get on with what, only a few weeks ago, was regarded as part of the Leftist program.

The CGIL conference with Gullo and Gronchi on the 30th also pressed for restoration of the workers' "supplemento pane" (additional bread ration) and the re-establishment of the "mense Aziendali" (co-operative restaurants run by firms employing a large number of workers). Back of these requests was the threat of a general strike. Gullo and Gronchi promised their best efforts and the following day a meeting was held, presided over by Bonomi and attended by the key ministers, the large secretaries of the CGIL and 40 representatives, which recognized "the legitimacy of the workers' claims "and promised speedy action. There was no strike but instead another victory chalked up by the CGIL and "the parties of the masses". Incidentally, according to the estimate of RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE the mense aziendali will take care of 95,000 workers.

Another strike was averted when Region IV, besought by Rossini, Director of the Italian Press, promised to supply transport to typographers who are getting more and more afraid to walk home in the dark - not without reason, perhaps, since there have been recently some cases of thuggery in Roman streets. The carabinieri have been doing their best. General Orlando's circular urging them to be non-political was well received and a kind, if playful, commentary on their vigilance, appeared, surprisingly enough in AVANTI. Nevertheless, there have been sufficient cases of robbery and violence, sometimes committed by armed bands wearing Allied uniforms, to make the typographers' request for trans-

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The week was enlivened by the visit of Eden who passed through Rome on Monday (with what memories, we wonder?) pausing to have lunch with Bonomi and Carandini at the British Embassy. Although he issued no statement his visit was celebrated by the Roman Press which, in chorus, expressed its regret for the things said about him in the old days and praised his wisdom and judgment which time has now vindicated. LaGuardia's speech, assuring Italians of continued aid from the Allies was another bright spot. This morning's papers carried the report of President Roosevelt's order to the war department to apply the 300 gram bread ration to all of Italy. The announcement came to late for press commentary but we may be sure it will not be unfavorable.

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Epuration, as Scoccimarro admitted when taken to task by RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE, is frankly proceeding too slowly. In the opinion of the High Commissioner the machinery was too clumsy and he himself had not been given enough power. The government is not unaware of this situation. A recent decree calls for action within a 30 day time limit on higher officials in the various ministries. Meanwhile, during the week, 23 more senators were epurated (including Baistrocchi, undersecretary for war in the days of the Abyssinian venture), the trials of two more generals were looming up (though no date has yet been fixed for the long overdue cases of Del Tetto and Pentimalli, and on Wednesday the courts confiscated the holdings of Mussolini, Ciano and "i Petacci". This last measure seems also somewhat delayed but, as the saying is, meglio tardi che mai.

2. Trade follows the Flag

The freedom of trades union delegates to visit Italy is doubtless one of the freedoms not inscribed on lira notes, though it may fall under any one of the four headings. American and British labour delegates have come and seen and reported bluntly on the situation: Russian labour delegates toured Southern Italy during October and returned to Rome this week. It seems that they were received with especial enthusiasm in the smaller centres such as Lucera, San Severo, Serracapriola, Manfredonia, Cerignola and so on. In these places a crowd was generally waiting, sometimes with a band, invariably with Soviet flags: and the singing of "Bandiera Rossa" was the order of the day. Red shirts, red symbols of all sorts and Soviet labour badges were in great evidence. There were even squads - not of course squadristi - of women's and juvenile sections. Comedy raises its pretty head with a story, for which we don't vouch at all, although it has appeared in print, that at San Severo the delegates, having been "hoisted" by the crowd and carried round in triumph, found, when they got down, that their shoes were missing. The Camera del Lavoro posted a notice asking for the return of these proletarian but expensive articles, with what result history doesn't say. To pass from the tovarish to the institutional, the Monarchists held a neat little demonstration on Saturday outside the Quirino Theatre in Rome, where Orlando had been speaking on the occasion of the anniversary of Italy's last armistice but one. A good number of young people showered green and yellow leaflets among the crowd bearing the inscription "Who saved Italy from Fascism? The Corps of Liberation? No. The Allies? No. Sforza, Togliatti, or Nenni? No. Italy was saved by Victor Emmanuel III. Long live the King!"

3. Another view of France

General de Sevin, lately back from France, sends us some notes to add to the report given in last week's Bulletin. He writes to us as follows: "Many undamaged factories and mines are still to be found in France. The machine-tools are still numerous. But the revival of the industrial and economic system is impossible so long as the railways have not been reactivated. There are no bridges left, neither on the Seine, nor on the Loire or the Durance or the Rhone (except one). The mines and factories can only work

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possible to give those young men either weapons or uniforms, and the units send them gradually back to the rear where they wait anxiously for the means of fighting."

4. Supplies on the way

Several familiar faces have returned in the Economic Section: Col. Jenny, director of the Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission, from Washington; Col. Adams, director of the Transportation Sub-Commission, back from London, and Mr. S.M. Keeny, head of the UNRRA Mission (who, although not tied up directly with the Economic Section, is working closely with AC). Col. Jenny reported that the Army had approved a total of 40,000 kw. worth of power equipment, 25,000 kw. in one lot and small units making up the remainder. Civilian agencies had promised another 20,000 kw. Col. Jenny also broke the logjam holding back 4,000 tons of engineering equipment requisitioned by AC several months ago. Col. Adams had been attending the first conference of the European Internal Transport Agency as an observer, laying the groundwork for the consideration of Italian claims to transportation in the post-war picture. UNRRA, according to Mr. Keeny, will work in closest harmony with AC and will move slowly and carefully to build up its organization. Medical personnel is now on the way to take over some of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission camps for Yugoslavs in Southern Italy by the first of the year. UNRRA relief goods will probably not begin arriving until February.

Mr. Antolini, head of the Economic Section, gave the news November 3 to a special Italian Government committee of a possible $150,000,000 worth of Allied credits that might become available for orders of specific materials in the line of first aid goods for the Italian economy. The reaction, needless to say, among the Italians was one of keen joy and uninhibited scratching of pencilled estimates, one minister figuring at once that he could use $800,000,000 to re-build the destroyed hydro-electric system of Italy. His bright hopes - need it be added - got a quick short circuit.

Detailed plans to hand over operational responsibility for all distribution of foods in Italian Government territory to the Italian administration also advanced this week. The Italian Government, at this reading, expects to go into the market as the largest single purchaser of unrationed commodities, outbidding the black market, which it will sell to consumer distributors at subsidized prices. At the same time it plans to raise the price of bread to 6 lire and that of pasta to 15, using the saving on the bread subsidy to help finance its market buying. Speaking of food, it is of interest that the announced shipments of 98,000 tons of wheat in November and 101,000 tons in December now actually are 67,000 in November and 93,500 in December.

5. Rising Wages

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5. Rising Wages

Col. Smith, Acting Director, who is chairman of the labor and wages control committee of the Allied Local Resources Board, has presented for approval to AFHQ the recommendations of a special sub-committee (1) to raise the pay of civilian employees for the armed forces to a line equal to the recent October 31 wage increases authorized by the Italian Government and (2) to go beyond that in order to maintain the preferential position of the Allied Forces in the labor market, which latter end would be achieved by paying an extra 5 lire a day. Thus, the average rate of common labor in Liberated Italy paid by the armies, which in Rome was 65 lire a day in June and 95 lire a day after October 1, (when a general army increase went into effect) would then be 155 lire a day. Dockyard workers had been evidencing some discontent over the Allied lag behind the Italian increase.

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5. AMG's with the Armies

Difficult conditions are anticipated this winter in the shaggy country east of Route 65 between Florence and Bologna, where an AMG Eighth Army Corps team is operating under AMG Fifth Army command. Lt.Col. Donald Smith, the Corps AMG LO who handled the Cassino area last May and June, says that about 50% of the crop will be salvaged. The peasants cut and stacked their grain but left it unthreshed until after the Germans pulled out so it would not be carried away, by which time about half had gone bad. Milling, however, will be no problem since there are many water mills in the area and water these days is in anything but short supply. Health is quite good, with a few cases of typhoid. The steep valleys fill with snow in winter and communication is difficult. Emergency mule and jeep tracks across the mountains in an easterly direction from Route 65 have already been surveyed. Battle damage varies from "not bad" to "almost like Cassino". In Firenzuola not a single building remains more than half standing and the communal administration has been moved to nearby Cornacchiaia (normal population about 8000). S. Godenzo is also flat and its communal administration is operating from Sambavello.. Marradi and Palazzuolo are in fairly good shape though there, as practically everywhere else north of Lake Trasimeno, the Germans have blown all buildings along main roads into the highways to block the Allied advance - a wanton procedure since the Allied bulldozers generally have the roads open again in less than two hours. Col.Smith is living under canvas, knee-deep in mud and suffering from an attack of Partisan trouble. Gangs of idle men wearing red neckerchiefs are raising food and money from the people on a large scale. Major Russell, administering the commune of Dicomano, reports that the Partisans there are threatening to "take care of " 64 citizens whom they call Fascists once AMG has pulled out. The story is that four are to be shot, several of the remaining sixty badly beaten up and the rest "made to keep quiet". Two bands of Partisans have come down into Col.Smith's area from behind the German lines for no apparent reason except to live off the people and get away from the combat zone. The gangs numbered 182 and 160, respectively, when they arrived. All are armed, cocky, exigent. The second half of their brigade was to come also, they say, but the guide was shot by the Germans.

A fur merchant in Arezzo sold a coat the other day for 20,000 lire in 500 lire notes raised from Allied Military fifties. The fraud was not detected until several days later, when he went to the bank to deposit funds. Yet the forgeries were very crude, the blue background having been roughly daubed with green ink. Army field cashiers say nobody familiar with the Allied Military currency could have been deceived.

The play, "A Bell for Adano" opened on Broadway in New York on Monday night. Lt.Col.Toscani, the Major Joppolo of the book on which the play is based, is shrinking from considerable spotlight at headquarters of AMG Fifth Army. Mrs. Toscani is sick of the whole thing. She is having to receive shoals of press people asking all sorts of questions. The colonel's jeep, however, still jauntily advertises the book in lettering which is anything but reticent.

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## 5. Odds and Ends

Lieut.Col.Thomas E. Lane, 5th Army AMG labor officer, was recently awarded the Legion of Merit; congratulations....Brigadier Lush has gone to London for a short trip....The olive oil harvest has started at Bari....Mr.Harold Caccia, British vice president of the Political Section, has left the AC in a rush assignment to Greece, his place being taken by Mr.Henry Hopkinson of the British Embassy....Refugees numbering 3,000 a week are arriving in Rome from the evacuated areas around Ancona....The AC is keeping a sharp eye on 10,000 Italians in Southern France whom AFHQ has been talking of bringing home but who are not wanted here by AC at exactly this

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time because of the shortage of accomodations....Brigadier Dunlop is succeeding Colonel Temperley as Southern Region RC while Colonel Severs moves up in charge of Venezia Region....The Granai del Popolo figures, as of November 4, are 8,004,226 qtl, or 78% of the 11,600,000 qtl collection forecast....The infant mortality rate in Rome is 89.9 for September, the lowest since January and lower than the corresponding month of 1943 when the rate was 96.9....A sampling survey in four provinces by the Transportation Sub-Commission indicates that, on the basis of vehicles registered in 1942, 68% are missing today and of 3-ton trucks (the real load-carriers) 84% are missing.... Lieut.Col.Bonham-Carter has been appointed coordinating officer for the special team of officers assigned to help in the devastated areas, where the greatest need of the moment is for blankets....The second civilian to become director of an AC sub-commission has taken office: Mr. Leland G. Allbaugh, Agriculture, succeeding Lieut. Col. Hartman....Story without Comment: a report on missing or stolen WD vehicles reveals that Americans were responsible for 34 lost cars, British for 10 and Italians for three, although the three nationalities were tied as to cars in their possession that got wrecked - 6 - 6 and 6....Transfer of responsibility for Italian prisoners of war to the Army Sub-Commission from the War Materials Disposal and Italian Prisoners of War Sub-Commission is under consideration.... Col.Young, deputy director, Public Safety Sub-Commission, addressed Roman editors the other day urging greater understanding of and cooperation with the Italian police who, as every newspaper reader knows, have been coming in for some heavy body-blows of late.... An acute shortage of salt has developed at Salerno because of lack of rail cars....Naples also is having a severe shortage of ambulances... In the last two weeks 75 km. of high tension transmission lines have been repaired, making available an extra 3,160 kw. of power....The Corps of Agents of Public Security has been re-named the National Police Guard....Robberies by Allied deserters and Italians dressed in Allied uniforms are increasing in the Lazio-Umbria Region while in Southern Region a gang of Canadian deserters is keeping the police busy....The civil telegraph has opened from Aquila to Teramo, Ascoli, Chieti and Rieti and will do so to Pescara this coming week... Story (unverified) from Rome - a thug with a revolver accosted an elderly Italian and demanded his money. No money. Watch? No watch. Shoes, then? Sorry, only threadbare slippers. "Poor devil! "said the thug. "Come and have a drink, then". And gave him a thousand-lire note. (genuine).

6. Envoi

"C" FEVER.
(With apologies to John Masefield)

We must go down to one "C" again
For the other 'C' must die:
And all that's left is the hardship
With no star to steer her by.
For without control,
The ship will roll,

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second civilian to become director of an AC sub-commission has taken office: Mr. Leland G. Allbaugh, Agriculture, succeeding Lieut. Col. Hartman....Story without Comment: a report on missing or stolen WD vehicles reveals that Americans were responsible for 34 lost cars, British for 10 and Italians for three, although the three nationalities were tied as to cars in their possession that got wrecked - 6 - 6 and 6....Transfer of responsibility for Italian prisoners of war to the Army Sub-Commission from the War Materials Disposal and Italian Prisoners of War Sub-Commission is under consideration.... Col. Young, deputy director, Public Safety Sub-Commission, addressed Roman editors the other day urging greater understanding of and co-operation with the Italian police who, as every newspaper reader knows, have been coming in for some heavy body-blows of late.... An acute shortage of salt has developed at Salerno because of lack of rail cars....Naples also is having a severe shortage of ambulances... In the last two weeks 73 km. of high tension transmission lines have been repaired, making available an extra 3,160 kw. of power....The Corps of Agents of Public Security has been re-named the National Police Guard....Robberies by Allied deserters and Italians dressed in Allied uniforms are increasing in the Lazio-Umbria Region while in Southern Region a gang of Canadian deserters is keeping the police busy....The civil telegraph has opened from Aquila to Teramo, Ascoli, Chieti and Rieti and will do so to Pescara this coming week... Story (unverified) from Rome - a thug with a revolver accosted an elderly Italian and demanded his money. No money. Watch? No watch. Shoes, then? Sorry, only threadbare slippers. "Poor devil! "said the thug. "Come and have a drink, then". And gave him a thousand-lire note. (genuine).

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(With apologies to John Masefield)

We must go down to one "C" again
For the other 'C' must die:
And all that's left is the hardship
With no star to steer her by.
For without control,
The ship will roll,
Despite the crew a-trying.
But we'll hear "What a mess!"
From the C.G.S.
Through CASERTA cry...ing. (A.P.G.S. 27 Oct 44).

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Acting Chief Commissioner

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB30

29 October 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 30
17 Oct to 29 Oct 44

1. Political

The past week has been a very lively one in the sphere of international relations. Action began in London where, on the 25th, it was announced that direct relations "have been established" between England and Italy. Sir Noel Charles was given the personal rank of ambassador and His Majesty's government expressed its satisfaction with the appointment of Count Carandini as Italian representative in England. (Carandini, it will be recalled, is a Liberal and Croce's successor in the Bonomi government; see ACC Weekly Bulletin No. 17, July 30). Russia also acted immediately, appointing Kostylev Soviet ambassador and the following day Stettinius announced in Washington that, after consultation with other American republics it had been agreed to resume diplomatic relations with the Italian government. The Senate is to be asked to approve the nomination of Alexander Kirk, now U.S. representative on the Allied Advisory Council, as Ambassador. The statement of Stettinius made it quite clear that this did not signify any change in the status of co-belligerency but he did add that it was the policy of the United States to give back to Italy control of her internal affairs as soon as possible. These good intentions are symbolized by dropping the middle C out of our well-known initials...Bonomi, as was to be expected, made much of these developments; Italy, he said, had been released from her isolation and for the rest he trusted the sense of justice of the United Nations which would be certain to appreciate the need for making Italy an Ally. AVANTI remarked rather sourly that all this was well enough but the position was still far from clear; the armistice terms are still secret, the status of Italy remains ambiguous and it would be good to know once and for all whether the large armies in Italy are liberators or occupying forces. Points no doubt well taken, which should not however detract in the least from Bonomi's legitimate sense of satisfaction.

In an interview given to Sprigge (Reuters) on the 26th Bonomi said that Italy should leave fundamental political and social problems for the moment and concentrate on the present "tragic situation". One matter that will not wait and could accurately be defined either as an aspect of the "tragic situation" or a fundamental problem is the Sicilian question. This the Council of Ministers, meeting on the 27th, attacked with energy. The result of their consideration was the preparation of necessary decrees to set up the following machinery: a "Consulta" to be added to the Alto Commissariato - the Consulta to be made up of 24 members representing various interests on the island;

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all the law should be observed and no violence tolerated. ITALIA NUOVA drawing a satirical picture of a typical bureaucrat, complete with top-hat and umbrella, trying to explain to a group of aroused peasants that the law didn't mean what they thought it did, ridiculed the attempt of Bonomi to keep the peace. However, there have been no cases of violence reported this week and perhaps the circular has had something to do with it.

The trial of Pentimalli and Del Tetto, the two generals held responsible for surrendering Naples to the Germans, has been postponed, giving ITALIA LIBERA the opportunity to hint at a plot to conceal the guilt of the higher-ups. And UNITA has carried a series of articles devoted to the Roman aristocracy and proving, at least to the satisfaction of UNITA, that they are a bad lot. Perhaps next week we can tell you who is to be ambassador to Washington. Sforza's name is bandied about to the exclusion of all others but there is no official report as yet. And perhaps next week we can tell you who will take Caravandini's place in the cabinet. Vedremo.

2. AMG with the armies

Fifth Army AMG draws no encouraging picture in its report of October 14 - 24. Food, particularly in Pisa and Pistoia, is scarce, and the scarcity is producing inevitable results. In Pisa a Black Market is developing rapidly, mostly through purchase or barter by Brazilians and American coloured troops. Brazilians, for example - though such dealings aren't limited to Brazilians - are said to buy grapes (price 20 lire a kilo) for 20 cigarettes a kilo; the 20 cigarettes then being sold by the Italian buyer for 50 lire. In Pistoia there was a food demonstration on October 16, and resentment is growing against the paucity of the 100 gram ration as compared with 300 in the more fortunate south. In Florence the food situation remains bad and the fuel situation worse: " civilian transport is in a deplorable shape and will soon be off the road unless tyres are provided". Altogether a somewhat sorry state of affairs, with winter coming on: and Fifth Army AMG, speaking of Pistoia, adds tersely that "morale in the Province is low and the people only fairly sympathetic to the Allies".

No recent report has been received from 8th Army AMG.

3. A Note from Florence

Career trained prefect of Florence Giulio Paterno deftly spiced the political stew between himself and the Tuscan Committee of National Liberation last week when he presented the local allied military government with his first epuration decrees which almost without exception contained the statement: "With the concurrence of the TCNL". When allied government officials, patiently playing their part, pointed out that the TCNL sanction would have to be removed from the decrees because the Committee was not a government body, the TNCL kept judiciously quiet... Hardly had the Regional Com-

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Tuscany and, allowing only for short stop-overs for speeches, was making for Florence where he was scheduled to address a meeting of Christian Democrats the following Wednesday. In the nick of time, an allied officer intercepted Minister Gronchi at Figlini and in Florence on Wednesday a meeting at which Gronchi was present was held in Lt. Col. Michie's office. Neither Dr. Paterno, Florence's prefect, nor Col. Spicer, AC's Chief of Local Government Sub-Commission, who was in Florence for the day, were present....Even the cheerful rumor that Carandini had been nominated ambassador to the Court of St. James failed to console the Treasurer of Florence's Liberal Party who was glum all week long; warned only one day in advance of the scheduled meeting that their principal guest would not be present he had made extensive preparations for a sumptuous reception and dinner afterwards (at today's prices!).

4. Sniping in Sardinia

The workers of Sardinia have, it seems, taken their reduced ration - which brings them into line with the rest of Italy - fairly well. A spot of trouble came from the 300 workers at the coal distillation plant at S. Antioco, who discovered that, since they were not technically miners, they would not get the "A" supplementary ration: and went on strike accordingly. However, a concession in the form of dehydrated soup and vegetables, coupled with a rough house for the Secretary of the Sindaco, restored them, apparently, to work and good-humour. Sardinia seems to share some of Sicily's difficulties over grain-amassing: the prisons are full and the authorities not keen to add to the fifteen thousand cases pending. Yet the grain fails to arrive. The High Commissioner has been speechifying energetically and, no doubt, eloquently: more to the point perhaps, he has devised a scheme of taking around to the most grainless districts a small force of Carabinieri, who "clean their rifles and sharpen their weapons rather ostentatiously while the people are reminded that although the date for the grain collection is past, no punishment will be given to anyone bringing it in voluntarily even now". This rather naive proceeding had the effect of producing 300 quintals in Florinas and 500 at Sanlevi - each in one day. The best Sardinian story of the week, however, must be told in the words of Colonel Pennycuick. "In the Province of Sassari, one of the Priests has created a minor problem. It appears that the local people consider he is charging too much for ceremonies such as funerals etc and there is undue delay when the fees are not forthcoming. This rather unexpected variation on Black Market practice in this Island where violence is not far below the surface has resulted in a bomb being thrown near him and some attempt to snipe him at his parochial window. The Prefect is asking the Arch Bishop to arrange for an exchange."

5. Symptoms of Hope?

The Economic Section [illegible]

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The Economic Section these last weeks has been holding nightly meetings preparing orders and justifications for a program of limited aid to Italy requested by two envoys of the Combined Chiefs of Staff, Mr. Maris (B) and Mr. Mitchell (A). The program, breaks down requirements into two categories: A - goods to alleviate disease and unrest for reasons of military necessity; B- longer term first-aid goods. Under the former go all food, transport and medical supplies needs. Such materials are at present paid for out of regular civil affairs military appropriations set up for the purpose. The second category comprises materials for essential industries such as power, textiles, cement, fertilizers, etc.

Other signs of economic stirring may be noted in the fact that two Italian Government officials will shortly go to Washington for financial talks, accompanied by a representative of the Finance

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Sub-Commission, and it has been suggested that the Italian ~~Government~~ would accept an invitation to attend the International Chamber of Commerce convention at Atlantic City, N.J. early in November. As with the materials orders of the Italian Government, so, with these projected trips, the AC still acts as screener, since no word has yet come as to lessening of actual controls. Another indication is the report that Italy will be permitted shortly to have communications through cables and radio with the outside world.

On the food front, while waiting for word on the AC request to raise the ration throughout Liberated Italy to 300 grams, the Economic Section has decided to issue a 300-gram extra ration of flour or pasta north of the Guarigliano River, effective November 5. This would amount to a 25-gram daily increase.

6. Neighbouring countries

The D.C.O.S. and YP Est Sec(Colonel Fiske, in case you don't remember the latest initials) has recently returned from a rapid but comprehensive tour which took him first to a spot near Dijon, where his plane was grounded, and thence by car to the 6th Army Group, then up into Belgium and back to Versailles and Paris. He covered a good deal of country and was struck by the negligible damage, compared to this country, and the speed with which France is getting back to normal. Livestock abounds, railways are in full operation, even prices, in the country, are reasonable. Paris of course has luxury prices of its own, but its markets are well stocked. No troops are allowed in the city except on official business, which of course may cover a multitude of leaves. Administration is, as elsewhere in France, entirely in the hands of the French. The AMG, acting (if at all) in a liaison capacity, are settled in some well-known, though of course not Augean, stables; and some of them were heard to lament a fate which, after two years "schooling" at Charlottesville, Fizi-Ouzou, and other delightful resorts, now had them schooling again for Germany. The main facts about France seem to be that it's no place for AMG, that it is astonishingly prosperous, and that not many Frenchmen are keen on doing any more fighting.

From Greece, through correspondents arriving back in Italy, come not altogether disimilar stories: little or no starvation, at least in the south, plenty of livestock, little destruction, and - as things go in wartime - a cheerful people. Currency is a worry, the drachma having run into uncountable billions. It is said (unreliably) that exchange rates were based at the start on the price of a shave, which was 15,000,000 drachma: estimated equivalent, sixpence. An American correspondent told us "By the time that I had changed a two dollar bill and an Egyptian pound, I found that the equivalent in drachmas was worth one cigarette".

7. Odds and Ends

The Granai del Popolo, as of 28 October, had 8,886,888 qtl. in its bins out of the 11,600,000 qtl. collection forecast;...The Allied Commission now has 21 AFS officers, of whom 14 have been sent

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(2) Occupied by Italian troops; (3) Occupied by refugees; (4) Occupied by lice, disinfectants being nil; (5) Damaged"....All Italian Public Safety organizations will have their rations increased from the heavy worker scale to the Italian Army scale as of November 1....Regional commissioners have been instructed to support properly appointed Provincial Prefects to the full, even when these Italian officials are under attack by the local Committee of National Liberation, who have been rather waspish of late....Teams of officers are to be formed to work on rehabilitation programs in the devastated areas....Italian voice at a Florentine football match after the Italians had scored their fifth successive goal over a scoreless allied team: "Let them score a couple of goals---then maybe they'll give us better armistice terms."....This week the ACC became, officially, the AC.

8. Anniversary

The ACC or AC will be a year old on November 10 and, since this seems a good opportunity of summing up its publishable activities for the benefit of the doubting Thomases of the Press, Public Relations Branch has been attempting to compile a short readable outline of the Commission's varied career. The job has proved a great deal more difficult than we anticipated: accurate records of early days are hard to come by, busy sub-commissions have found it difficult to hunt up detailed figures, and the intertwined and sometimes delicate threads of operations, politics, supplies and organization have not lent themselves easily to the making of readable rope. The outline does, however, provide the framework of a more detailed history which we should like to write before the AC becomes the C or merely O. We therefore take this opportunity of asking all who are interested and have stories to tell, particularly about our early days, to send us any material, humorous, tragic, or simply banal, to fill the gaps which will doubtless be perceived, by many, when our outline sees the light on November 10.

Lionel Fielden.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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Acting Asst Commissioner

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION SECRET

PRB/R28/WB29 22 October 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 29
16 Oct to 22 Oct 44

1. Political

The most dramatic political event of the week was Thursday's riot in Palermo which we deal with under a separate heading. It came just in time for the meeting of the Council of Ministers on the following day. The forenoon meeting was given over to hearing Aldisio's report, considering "appropriate measures for normalizing the situation". At the end of the session Aldisio left by plane for Palermo, charged by the ministers to carry out a complete investigation of the affair... In the afternoon session the council, as promised, ratified the measures for the workers' subsidy as outlined in last week's Bulletin. Further measures were authorized for the "economic betterment" of state employees, and a draft decree to ease credit for industrial enterprises concerned with reconstruction. Epuration in the field of journalism was the object of special attention. A committee is to be named by the Minister of Justice on the advice of the Undersecretary of Press and Information. Meanwhile Armando Rossini has been made "director general of the Italian press".

The workers' subsidy may well be regarded as a victory for the Leftist parties and the CGIL who began agitation for it on Aug. 9. Victory has been so long delayed however as to be greeted more with ungracious acceptance than exultation, especially since there have been repeated hints from the government that the 'political" price of bread may have to be abandoned. Indeed while the manifesto of harmony of Sept. 28 is still honored by all parties it is obvious that the restriction implied in it is somewhat chafing to the Left. Nenni came out with an article in AVANTI on the 15th in which he reiterated the three fundamental and essential steps in the true democratization of Italy: the founding of the republic, solution of the agrarian problem and industrial socialization. He added, for the benefit of those who like to hide behind the allies, that all these were Italian problems; "dollars, sterling, and the Tory caprices of Churchill have nothing to do with them". He was supported by La Malfa of the Action party and opposed, at some length by the Christian Democrats. It is probably unfair to say that Nenni is trying to break up the government - indeed he asserted specifically that he was not - but the Leftist parties are in a difficult position in the coalition. The Labor Democrats and the Liberals being dedicated to deliberate and orderly reform are at least relatively content with this period of waiting; the Christian Democrats, being divided among themselves are happy to have a chance to temporize.

And the monarchists, not represented in the government but by no means extinct, will tell you frankly (though not for publication) that the longer the institutional question is left in abeyance the stronger the position of the King becomes. In such a situation it is

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And the monarchists, not represented in the government but by no means extinct, will tell you frankly (though not for publication) that the longer the institutional question is left in abeyance the stronger the position of the King becomes. In such a situation it is only natural for the Socialists to reassert their revolutionary program. The Communists, who are of the same opinion, have taken the line of urging citizens to "look to the North" where, according to them, revolutionary elements are much stronger, and of giving further strength to the local committees of liberation as more dynamic and representative of the people than the government is. Since the monarchist ITALIA NUOVA has been urging dissolution of the C.L.N. there is probably some truth in the Communist argument.

The week produced rather more than its share of violence. The carabinieri broke up a display of anti-monarchical propaganda in the offices of the Republican party at Grosseto. Unquestionably the carabinieri used violence but, as ITALIA NUOVA pointed out,

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~~Unquestionably the anti-monarchical display was provocative.~~ Just how far one can go in attacking the head of the state is a matter more for tradition than legislation and in Italy the tradition is not clear enough to make such incidents avoidable. In the Marsica Region of the Abruzzi the carabinieri were alleged to have fired on the peasants who were moving into uncultivated lands...Palermo provided the climax.

All quiet on the international front. Dewey's statement that America has not done enough for Italy was given some prominence. And Pacciardi, in VOCE REPUBBLICANA, called the policy of Roosevelt "Machiavellian"....No more talk of colonies, no declaration of war on Japan, no ambassadors to Washington or London.... There is in the air a feeling of suspense, of waiting - for Nov. 7, possibly?

2. AMG with the armies.

Reports over the past two or three weeks from both 8th and 5th Army AMG's indicate a good many difficulties and frustrations, natural consequences of heavy fighting in bad weather, and limited advances. As an example, here is a part of a report from SCAO II Corps:

"The A.M.G. work in these communes has not been as satisfactory or thorough as desired, due to the fact that all of the towns have been badly damaged and are uninhabitable, and the people who are scattered throughout the fractions are unually inaccessible owing to the lack of or bad conditions of the roads....The commune of Liano is 95% destroyed; there is no water and no habitable buildings are left."

Food supplies in Pisa, Pistoia and Florence are still unsatisfactory, and some food rioting occurred in the first two. "In no commune north of the Arno" states 5th Army AMG "is there any appreciable amount of grain in the Ammassi. 40% of the grain is still in the fields unthreshed and much of it is sprouting". Under these circumstances there is naturally much apprehension about the winter.

Better news is that the SAI munitions factory in the commune of Barga, which can employ up to 8000 people, has been found only slightly damaged: that there are abundant chestnuts to help out the grain supply: and that the inhabitants of Pisa are still lively enough to have a current jest - "with a Scotsman as Provincial Supply Officer, we naturally have to tighten our belts".

Eighth Army AMG also stresses devastation and difficulties of communication in mountainous country. CAO's with both armies are, it seems, having very considerable and lengthy practice in mule-riding with peasants as guides. The communes of San Archangelo and Coriano are heavily damaged and their re-population presents the usual difficulties. The almost inaccessible mountain communes (such as San Leo) are however reported "in fair shape: no shortage of food or essentials."

3. Disorder in Palermo.

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2. AMG with the armies.

Reports over the past two or three weeks from both 5th and 8th Army AMG's indicate a good many difficulties and frustrations, natural consequences of heavy fighting in bad weather, and limited advances. As an example, here is a part of a report from SCAO II Corps:

"The A.M.G. work in these communes has not been as satisfactory or thorough as desired, due to the fact that all of the towns have been badly damaged and are uninhabitable, and the people who are scattered throughout the fractions are unuelly inaccessible owing to the lack of or bad conditions of the roads....The commune of Lariano is 95% destroyed; there is no water and no habitable buildings are left."

Food supplies in Pisa, Pistoia and Florence are still unsatisfactory, and some food rioting occurred in the first two. "In no commune north of the Arno" states 5th Army AMG "is there any appreciable amount of grain in the Ammassi. 40% of the grain is still in the fields unthreshed and much of it is sprouting". Under these circumstances there is naturally much apprehension about the winter.

Better news is that the SMI munitions factory in the commune of Barga, which can employ up to 8000 people, has been found only slightly damaged; that there are abundant chestnuts to help out the grain supply: and that the inhabitants of Pisa are still lively enough to have a current jest - "with a Scotsman as Provincial Supply Officer, we naturally have to tighten our belts".

Eighth Army AMG also stresses devastation and difficulties of communication in mountainous country. CAO's with both armies are, it seems, having very considerable and lengthy practice in mule-riding with peasants as guides. The communes of San Archangelo and Coriano are heavily damaged and their re-population presents the usual difficulties. The almost inaccessible mountain communes (such as San Leo) are however reported "in fair shape: no shortage of food or essentials."

3. Disorder in Palermo.

On the morning of October 19 a demonstration occurred in Palermo in the course of which the Italian military were called out and opened fire on the crowd, killing (as far as is known at present) 16 and wounding 104, 38 only of whom were hospital cases. At the time of writing news from Palermo is scanty and somewhat contradictory, but the following facts seem clear.

The demonstration was a result of growing irritation against the high prices of food: it was not any shortage of food, but the fact that there was abundant food to be seen at prices far above the average wage-earners' purchasing power, which was at the root of the trouble. Some shops were looted and a crowd - apparently not violent - collected in front of the Prefettura. The officials of the Prefettura called out the military and a truckload of 40 arrived. What happened then

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is not yet clear: the Italian military authorities state that someone in the crowd threw a hand grenade which injured nine soldiers. Other reports say that the hand grenade was thrown by the military and fell short. Certain it is the troops then reacted with rifles and hand grenades; and the crowd dispersed. Feeling, however, continued to run high and on the 20th a crowd of 1000 attacked the Italian Guard at the U.S.Naval Base with stones: the guard replied with hand grenades and rifles but on this occasion it seems that there were "no serious casualties". Italian Guards on British installations were replaced by British unit personnel and the U.S.Navy took similar action. 7C Sub Area concludes its report by a suggestion that further incidents may occur at the funeral of the victims of the first riot.

Aldisio, the High Commissioner for Sicily, met the Acting Chief Commissioner at ACC HQ on the 19th to discuss measures of Public Safety in Sicily. It was then agreed that no more Carabinieri were to be withdrawn - Brigadier Carr had already drawn attention to the danger - unless replaced by Italian troops. It is hoped to send back to the Island a battalion of Italian troops recently moved to Calabria. The subsequent disorder, however, appears to have switched public feeling against the troops and not against the Carabinieri, who, for once in a way, are not getting the blame.

Aldisio held a press conference in Rome at very short notice on the morning of the 20th and told Allied correspondents among other startling things, that the situation in Sicily was due to the Allies belief in separatist propaganda ( and perhaps by implication their approval of separatism) which insisted that Sicily could be and should be self-supporting. The island, said Aldisio, had had to import grain for the last four years; and had now only two months grain in stock. The population he implied ( and this cry of distress was cabled by many across the seas) would be starving by December 15.

The position as outlined by Aldisio is a very long way from the declared plans of the ACC. The argument that Sicily has imported in the past is of doubtful validity: Sicily has in fact always exchanged some of the hard grain which she grows in exchange for the soft grain of the mainland. Brigadier Carr, in his report of October 17, states cautiously that "in the opinion of this HQ the Island produced sufficient grain to feed the population possibly till the next harvest but at least to within a month or two of it". He goes on to show the difficulties of an accurate forecast "in the absence of any reliable statistics.....or frank information". Citing the case of Trapani, the province with the worst record of amassing, he shows that the original target figure of 300,000 quintals was reached on the basis of 65,000 cultivated hectares yielding 9.9 quintals per hectare, giving a total of 645,000 quintals: from this was subtracted 85,000 for seed retention and 161,000 for food retention, bringing down the "amassable" total to 399,000 - leaving the wide margin of 99,000, the target figure was set at 300,000. The provincial authorities - who have never questioned the figure of 65,000 hectares cultivated - later objected that the yield averaged only 7 quintals per hectare, giving a total of 455,000. But they claimed no less than 360,000 quintals for seed and food retention, leaving an "amassable" total of only 95,000 quintals. Of these in fact only 56,000 quintals have been amassed. The fact remains that the authorities do not deny that 455,000 quintals were produced.

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If the Trapani instance is indicative of the general amassing situation in Sicily, as it appears to be, there can be little doubt that the actual amount amassed (1,294,781 quintals on Oct 18) is only a fraction - perhaps not more than 15% - of the total production, and that the vast bulk of grain produced is being hoarded. Aldisio's cry of distress, echoed by correspondents across the Atlantic, seems little justified.

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In the meantime Mr. Antolini is collecting some hard - extremely hard - facts about Sicily as a counterblast to any suggestion that food for the North should be diverted to the gaping jaws of Ennceladus.

4. Calories.

A strong memorandum is being prepared for higher authority on the necessity of maintaining a 300-gram ration in Italy and of raising the ration to that figure in places where it is lower. The ACC view is that the 300-gram ration is the irreducible minimum and that any reduction below that figure (except for short periods in operational areas) would be disastrous to the health of the nation. The Italian diet has been traditionally that of bread or flour in one form or another, plus sugar. Dietary experts say that the Italians over-weight their diet on the protein side, doing without enough carbohydrates. Of course, that is the Italians' affair. In any event, investigation shows that the present daily scale of 300 grams of bread and 4.15 grams of sugar which is the regular ration in Southern Italy produces a caloritic content of only 763 calories. This is supplemented in urban districts over 50,000 population by meat and vegetable issues, providing an additional caloritic value of 143 calories, making a total of 906 calories.

The League of Nations Health Committee in 1936 recommended 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. If the person is doing moderate muscular work, he should get 3,000 calories a day. U.S. Army medical manuals prescribe that a soldier marching on level or undulating ground should get approximately 5,000 calories a day. Italian prison inmates are receiving a double sugar ration - 8.3 grams a day but cases of malnutrition have nevertheless been occurring, pointing up the inadequacy of the ration. The usual story is that the population makes up its diet deficiencies by buying on the black market. However, when there is little supply of the necessary items on the black market or people have no money to buy at the high prices there quoted, they simply do not get enough to protect their health. At the same time, while the black market is the only other source of supply, legally the authorities are committed to take measures to combat it. The ration increase to 300 grams in Naples was immediately reflected in a drop in black market prices. Thus, even to allow the population to purchase the extra needed foodstuffs in the black market, the ration should be kept to 300 grams and thus help control prices. Otherwise, prices will be so high this winter that poorer people will not get enough to eat, with the obvious consequences of further destitution by selling of clothing and furniture for money and, especially of prostitution which increases the V.D. among the troops.

What continuance of these conditions will mean in the way of social unrest and threat to military security is anyone's guess. The intertwined question of proper ration-black market control also has a positive effect on the amassing program, farmers hoarding wheat to sell at fantastic prices [illegible]

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5. Odds and Ends.

150 tons of American cotton has arrived at Naples to be made into cloth by Italian textile mills for essential civilian use... Col. Temperley, Regional Commissioner of Southern Region, is being posted to England; he will certainly be missed, particularly by PRB whose informative friend he ever was....The Granai del Popolo, as of

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October 21, had received 8,759,172 quintals of grain or 75 per cent. of 11,600,000 qtl. target....Speaking of wheat, the Bulletin in a recent number stated that 1,000,000 to 4,000,000 quintals of grain were expected to be found in the Northern regions, which was in error, the actual estimates of wheat amassing in the northern areas range from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 quintals....Lazio food officers report that Rome is feeding on a hand-to-mouth basis, only about one and a half days' supplies usually being on hand....Mr. William S. Vaughn, American civilian and metallurgical engineer, becomes the first civilian to take over directorship of an ACC sub-commission, succeeding Col. J.S.E. Todd to the top post of the Industry Sub-Commission.... Brigadier Upjohn, vice president of the Civil Affairs Section, has proposed that all Italian Government decrees be sent to the Ministry of Justice before drafting in order that the ACC could check all proposals through one channel....The Advisory Council for Italy has suggested that the ACC become responsible for collection of information on war crimes, a proposal which will add a great deal to our limited staff....UNRRA has requested and received permission to enter this theater to discuss the commencement of limited operations. Col. Murphy of the Economic Section will act as liaison officer between UNRRA and ACC....The Economic Section is distressed over a report that 8th Army AMG has made a distribution of 100 kilos of grain a person (enough to last a year on the present ration scale), a procedure (which if true) regarded as extremely unsound....Harlan Cleveland, American civilian, has arrived to be an economic advisor to the ACC from the Foreign Economic Administration where he was in charge of occupational studies of the Italian economy....Col. McCarthy, Director of Patriots Branch, becomes a Brigadier and goes to Eritrea... Congratulations

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION SECRET

PRB/R26/WB28 15 October 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 28
8 Oct to 15 Oct 44

1. Political

One of the political reviews now running in Rome contains a sketch in which Christopher Columbus presents himself to the ACC and finds that no one seems to remember his name. His allusion to his three caravelle is mistaken for just another request for Caramelle. Whereupon he sings a pathetic song on the fragility of human memory. The little scene is symptomatic of the feeling of Italians these days: the sense of not being appreciated is very strong. During the past week there has been some lifting of the clouds. Mr Roosevelt did remember Columbus day and celebrated it not only by a speech but by a statement that Italy would be credited ( in dollars) with an amount up to that represented by AM lire issued to pay American troops in Italy. The scope of the statement is still a little obscure and it has been announced that further study will be necessary before it can be known exactly what is meant but, as pointed out by Vittorio Marrama, in Ricostruzione it does seem to indicate some clarification of the Allied financial policy - the obscurity of which has blanketed the sun of optimism for many thoughtful Italians, including the Treasury Minister Soleri - and its political effect is definitely invigorating. Further, according to a government statement, Sir Noel Charles informed Bonomi that it is not true that Eden said Italy's colonies were irrevocably lost to her. This seems to have been a purely formal denial since the implication of the conversation in the House leaves little doubt of the present attitude of the British Government but it has nonetheless made Italians feel better. (Since the whole matter has been the subject of lively discussion for a week we append the record of what was actually said on this point.) The British Ambassador also said that rumors of Allied support of Sicilian separatism were without any basis of truth. Yet the feeling remains that there is much to be done. Bonomi in his Columbus day speech, said that while admittedly " one could not expect to emerge from a shameful situation without paying a heavy price". . . Italy now feels that this price has been paid and the country " is now worthy of taking its place among the free democracies." Croce was even more vigorous, asking for revocation of the armistice clauses and stating that Italy"observed with bitterness" the contrast between her long period of expiation and the treatment Roumania has received at the hands of the Russians. And Gonella, spokesman for the Christian Democrats wrote in the same vein "July 25th, Sept. 8th, Oct 13 ( war declared on Germany ) but a date is still missing - that is the date that will mark the full alliance of Italy with the United Nations "....The nomination of Gallarati-Scotti as minister to Madrid brought to the fore again the old debate as to whether diplomats should be career men (defended by the Right) or chosen from the ranks of honest and intelligent citizens not previously connected with the Foreign Office (stoutly maintained by the Leftist parties who have been regarding Palazzo Chigi balefully for some time). It also set tongues wagging in speculation as to who would get the posts at Washington and London. Rumor puts Sforza in Washington, Carandini in London. The latter seems the more likely guess but the

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In the field of home affairs the most important act of the week was the final step in preparing the measures for workers subsidies. The Council of Ministers gave its approval on Wednesday and details were announced at the end of a conference between Gronchi, the CGIL and employers' groups which took place on Friday. The basic subsidy is 35 lire a day, to be paid to heads of families (residing in Rome, Naples or Florence) whose monthly income is less than 3,600. Smaller sums are assigned to those with higher incomes, women " not heads of families" and children under 18. The basic rate is to be 30 lire in smaller communes and in the country. There is also a " quota supplementare" of 5 lire a day added to the "assegni familiari".

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Perhaps the part of the communique read with most interest was the concluding paragraph in which it is stated that the measure will take effect immediately and will be ratified by the Council of Ministers at their next meeting.

The trial of Azzolini dragged on most of the week, beginning Monday and ending Saturday when the ex-Director of the Bank of Italy was given a thirty year sentence. In contrast to the Caruso trial the proceedings were "unemotional and staid", in the words of Hammond (Kemsley) who added that the only color was provided by the uniforms of the Carabinieri. Azzolini was well defended and if the trial itself was full of technical detail and hence unsensational, it may lead to more exciting developments. For at one point the defense counsel had to be called to order for suggesting - even though " abbassando la voce" that Azzolini was merely an unfortunate instrument and that others much higher up might be " responsible for our troubles."

Life among the parties has been harmonious - at least on the surface. It is perhaps worth noting that the "Fronte Monarchico Giovanile Cavour" has emerged and has plastered the town with manifestini. VOCE REPUBBLICANA dedicated a column of stern and sorrowful admonishment to these "misguided" young men but no one else seems to have noticed them.

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What was actually said.

Since repercussions about what Mr. Eden did or didn't say about the Italian colonies may well continue, we give below the words used on the two occasions on which the subject was discussed:-

(1). Question: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of publication of Ministry of Information pamphlet "The first to be Freed," recording that slavery in its worst form was practised by the Italian Government in Italian colonies of Somalia and maladministration, involving neglect of sanitation, public health, water supply, education, maintenance of public order which obtained in Eritrea and Somalia, imprisonment for years without trial and under bad conditions of persons guilty of no crime known to the laws of civilized countries, he will assure the house that H.M. Government is opposed to the return of colonies to Italy and that their declaration that the Italian Empire in Africa is irrevocably lost will be strictly adhered to.

Answer: Yes, Sir.

(2) Mr. Hynd: asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been drawn to the demonstrations which took place in the ex-Italian colony of Eritrea in January and February of this year in favour of reunion of this territory with Ethiopia and whether in fulfilment of the promises made in RAF leaflets dropped in Eritrea the Government will now declare its intention that the principles of the Atlantic Charter shall govern any

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Mr. Law: I am aware that interest of the kind indicated by the honourable member has been evinced in certain quarters in Eritrea; as regards the second part of the question, the future of Eritrea must await consideration by the United Nations at the conclusion of peace.

Mr. Astor: Has not the Foreign Secretary said that in no circumstances is Italy going to get her colonies back and would there not be widespread opposition to the re-establishment of Italy on our communications through the Red Sea?

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Mr. Law: Certainly the Foreign Secretary said that in the hearing of most of us in this House.

Mr. Hynd: Has not the right honourable gentleman misread the second part of my question which asks, not whether the United Nations shall come to any ex parte decision but whether the principles of the Atlantic Charter shall be applied to these territories?

Mr. Law: No, sir, I did not misread the question. I would point out that we are not the sole signatories of the Atlantic Charter; the United Nations as a whole are signatories; it is a matter for the United Nations as a whole and not for us alone.

Mr. Ivor Thomas: Is my right honourable friend aware that the Union of Eritrea and Abyssinia has not existed since the shadowy days of the 16th century and will he do his best to save the Emperor of Ethiopia from his friends in this country?

2. AMG with the Armies

Eighth Army AMG's September report is a good deal concerned - as Fifth Army AMG almost always is - with potential problems of the coming winter. Destruction of bridges has been very considerable and " if large areas are not to be isolated when Bailey bridges are withdrawn.... the construction programme will be heavy." Refugees have not so far presented a serious problem, says the report, but " if we stay in this area ..... there will be a problem of considerable magnitude." (Since the report was written evacuation of refugees on a large scale has begun). Unemployment is large in the manufacturing areas of Arezzo, and won't improve until power is available. Lack of warehouse accommodation is a great handicap to amassing, and both harvesting and ploughing have been held up by operations. Eighth Army AMG persists that it has found " very few partisans and none who could be described as organized bands", but comes near to Fifth Army AMG's point of view with the statement that " the future organization for dealing with partisans .... in the North is untidy and....disturbing in planning ahead. Eighth Army AMG has much praise for the assistance given by committees of liberation in nearly all towns taken over. A stockpile of 1,700 tons of flour has now been built up. In the areas behind the Rear Army Control Line curfew has been abolished - though we still have it, oddly enough, in Rome.

3. Broad Issues at Siena

The problem of Italian cabinet ministers playing politics in forward areas was realistically tackled at the Siena meeting of Regional Commissioners, SCACs of Armies and Headquarters staff on Thursday. It was decided that no Italian minister would be allowed to enter Army areas and might go into AMG areas only with permission from the Regional Commissioners. There had been friction in Florence between the Prefect sent in by the Government and the Florence C.L.N. Both the Prefect and the head of the Committee went to Rome to see the Government, and both came back with the impression that their side had

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/ happened

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happened in Ancona. Mr Caccia held there might be repercussions if a man like Togliatti were jugged, but that some others might disappear and it would never be noticed. It was decided that Government officials on official business would be allowed in forward areas with the sanction of the SCAO or Regional Commissioner concerned. Representatives of foreign missions, who have created quite a problem in Florence, are to be arrested without hesitation if they are caught in Army areas without permission. Some Yugoslav representatives are in jail now in Florence for selling gold coin on the Black Market.

The thorny question of Patriots came up once again for discussion and Mr Caccia announced that publicity on Patriot activities would now be definitely played down, particularly behind the Allied lines. Broadcasts to the North would be of a strictly operational character. The policy which seems to be emerging is that the limelight which has been turned on the Patriots should now be more directed towards the Italian Army. The disarming of Patriots - a matter which is causing great concern since large numbers are known to be still in possession of arms - was also discussed, but the meeting could not do more than insist that, from the point of view of law and order, it was a matter which must be pursued with the utmost vigour.

Mr Antolini announced that wheat imports for November and December would be 100,000 tons a month, and that level would probably be maintained until the end of June. Some 860,000 tons had been amassed. The estimated stocks in the Northwere 890,000 tons. Equalized thiswould give a ration of 235 grammes. If we set the ration at 255 grammes it would affect the amassing of oil and also have an effect on getting in the rest of the wheat crop. AFHQ was gravely concerned with the implications of a reduced ration scale in view of the president's statement on increased help for Italy. There would be no cut-back in the ration scale until further information came from the Combined Chiefs of Staff and/or the President. We must get the maximum use out of local products. Chestnut flour was a possibility. Mr Caccia warned the meeting that there had been trouble in Florence over the ration being only 200 grammes when it is 300 in the South. There were enough supplementary imported foods to feed all Italy for about four months using the present scale of issue.

Mr Antolini wanted to know what the meeting thought of the idea of controlling only absolutely basic foods, grains, fats and milk products. The people who would starve this winter were the poor, not the middle classes or the rich. Would removals of restrictions and controls get food to the poor? That was the issue. Consideration was being given to mass purchase of food by barter, salt for potatoes for instance. Brig Lush said the Allied forces were now debarred from buying resources not locally surplus. Civilian common labour employed by the Allied forces was now being paid 85 lire instead of 65 lire. The Italy Local Resources Board was working very hard on the whole problem of food and industry. Mr Antolini asked for the views of Army SCAOs and Regional Commissioners on the removal of restrictions on sales of food as well as on the ration scale for bread.

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4. - And a Follow-Up

Upon his return from Siena, Mr. Antolini promptly dispatched an urgent call to four key Italian ministers - Gullo (Agriculture), Cerabona (Communications), Gronchi (Commerce and Industry) and Bergami (Undersecretary of Agriculture) - to a meeting on Tuesday, October 17, to last until an action program is settled. The agenda includes rationing (what limited classes should have priority for stuffs over and above the bread ration-for example, children, refugees, heavy workers); barter; review of distribution restrictions and controls ( with a view to eliminating most of them) movement of supplies from surplus to deficiency areas, and review of fishing restrictions. Meanwhile, the Economic Section also has been reading

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with interest a report turned over to them by Mr. Myron Taylor, American ambassador to the Vatican, which said that in Frosinone Province, scene of furious battles last spring, in September only an average ration of 40 grams of grain was issued instead of the ACC 160-gram grain ration(equivalent to 200 grams of bread); that only one third of the daily basic food needs were arriving, and that there would be acute hunger in the area this winter.

Col. Poletti, in a reply, admitted that conditions were bad enough in Frosinone and Littoria but dissented from the implication that such conditions were general in Southern Italy. He said that there was one six-day delay in delivering bread in Frosinone, traced to the fact that certain scheduled schooner arrivals at Naples, source of supply, had been held up. Further, the Taylor observer failed to take into account the over-all factors which are naturally re-acting on the local situations, including the September 1st ruling stopping distribution of rations in addition to bread to the general population in cities under 50,000 because of sheer lack of certain imported items.

5. On Guard against Typhus

Dr. Floyd W. Markham, Rockefeller Foundation typhus control specialist of the Public Health Sub-Commission, has completed arrangements for a series of demonstrations and conferences on typhus prevention measures, to be held starting October 15 at Naples, Bari, Taranto, Catanzaro, Catania and Palermo and later Rome and Chieti. Representatives of the Italian health authorities in surrounding provinces will attend the meetings to be instructed on the dusting technique of typhus control whereby potential victims are sprayed with DDT powder that kills the typhus-carrying lice. On-the-spot demonstrations will be held in local prisons. Each provincial representative will be given a dustgun and 10-lb. can of DDT powder to take away with him for emergency use. ACC has enough powder on hand to dust 500,000 persons.

The Public Health Sub-Commission is simply taking no chances with any recurrence of a typhus outbreak such as occurred last year in which, from January 1, 1943 to June 1, 1944, there were 429 recorded deaths among 2,020 cases in Naples and vicinity. The large scale dusting program carried out by our Allied public health officers - 3,265,786 dustings were given - was the effective factor in controlling the epidemic, according to an exhaustive and somewhat depressing study just carried out by the sub-commission.

6. The Young Idea

One hundred boys and one hundred girls under 16 years of age, orphans of the Italian storm, are now established in buildings (found by the Cardinal Archbishop) in Naples, with a first endowment of two million lire, raised by subscription, and a public drive in prospect on October 28 to raise more funds and spread the idea. The initiative

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7. Mine Clearance

One of the greatest single hazards to the reconstruction of certain sectors of the Italian economy is obviously the problem of mines. Col. R.R. Cripps, chief staff officer of the Civil Affairs Section, has been tackling this hard nut of late in his spare time from other duties, and steam, it is believed, is being built up for some effective action soon. Reports of mine fields laid by the Germans and by our own armies are now being collated from AFHQ, AAI and PBS and a factual picture of the problem will soon be outlined for the first time. Suffice it to say at the moment that where the Germans succeed in holding us for any length of time, there mine fields will be found. The Area between the Hitler and Gustav Lines of last winter, in the Anzio bridgehead, around Pisa and Livorno, all likely landing beaches but the West Coast especially, the Pescara sector, and currently, of course, the Gothic Line, all have extensive minefields which are a constant peril to normal activity. The mines must run into millions, although exact figures are non-existent. In one commune in Chieti Province, an ACC officer estimated there were 150,000. After mapping the location of the mined areas, the next big step is that of removing them quickly to restore use of the area.

Under spurring by Col. Cripps, 30 Italian Army soldiers were trained by British engineers at Capua in the latest methods, and these 30 are to be used as the nucleus of a training program in five schools where they will teach mine removal to 1,500 civilians. One school of 300 students is now in session at Pisa. The students will graduate October 22 and be put to work at once in the Pisa area. Other schools are planned for Chieti, Spoleto, Viterbo and Capua. Eventually, a headquarters staff of 110 and 15 groups of 100 will be available to regional commissioners in AMG territory and to prefects in Italian Government territory to remove mines on assignment. Priorities in AMG areas will be fixed by the RC's or SCAO's of the armies and in other areas by the prefects. Top priority goes to communications - electric cable lines, bridges and pipe lines. Next comes agriculture, many fields being virtually impossible to use for crops because of the heavy infestation of mines.

Mine removal personnel at present consists only of two Italian Army "pioneer" companies who were theoretically trained by two companies of mine experts of the operational Italian Army forces. These latter have been called away and the second-best comapnies left behind are not as efficient as might be. They are presently working in Gaeta after a tour in Pescara and Chieti. Some work has been let out to private contractors but financial considerations prohibit extensive use of this method, it having been estimated that it would cost 400,000,000 lire to clear Lazio Region alone. One Italian private team of an officer (who had a detector of his own) and seven men reportedly cleared Rieti Province of 1,000 mines at a charge of 6000 lire a month for the officer and 130 lire a day for each man. The team was then transferred to Frosinone Province, an especially nasty job, but quit after one man was killed and two wounded by mine explosions. How many persons get

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The question of detectors, of course, is the one big stumbling block to a successful program. The best and latest military mine detectors are not only limited to army use but are on the definitely secret weapon list, and so ACC to date has been refused permission to borrow or copy them. The solution seems to be to get the Italians to use their own type, (though it is nowhere near as efficient as that of the Allies) or to get them to invent a new one. Then, the matter of materials for manufacture arises, since first-class instruments of this sort used critical materials which would have to be imported and only if Allied authorities in London and Washington were willing to release such scarce metals or parts. Lazio Region, through the wit of

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Lieut. Col. Bonham-Carter, got hold of 12 detectors of a sort which they have lent their Italian Army team. Otherwise, the only recourse will have to be the old prodding method, slow and rather dangerous, considering the fancy bedeviliments the Nazis like to dress their mines up with.

8. A Grim Task Concluded

As is known, 335 Italians were massacred as a reprisal measure by the Germans in the Ardeatine Caves near Rome on March 24, 1944. After the shooting the Germans blew up the place with mines, presumably to prevent disinterment and recognition - or perhaps merely to save themselves trouble. Colonel Poletti decided, in the early days of Rome's liberation, to appoint a Committee to make a report on the whole matter (as has been done) and to supervise the exhumation and reburial of the victims. Few grimmer tasks - in the middle of a Roman summer- can have come anybody's way. Practically all the skulls had become separated from the skeletons and all the bodies were in advanced state of decomposition. The civilian labour employed proved useless in moving the debris of the tunnels, and Rome firemen had to be called in to do the job. Colonel Pollock in his report says "Not one in a million would have faced this task, but they worked hard in good spirits.... each body was dealt with separately in exactly the same manner as in a case of murder, with the same care and microscopic examination. The victims had all been killed by revolver shorts in the base of the skull. The hands of the victims were tied behind their backs with rope." Although the only known list was that of fifty names from the Caruso document, 313 bodies were identified out of the 335. Much credit goes to Professor Ascarelli, the pathologist, from whom, says Colonel Pollock, "I have learnt a lot for my police work at home." And much credit is certainly due to the firemen who, on meagre pay and rations, retrieved from the bodies among other valuables, three diamonds (loose in the pocket of a victim) worth more than a million lire.

9. Odds and Ends

After some beetle-browed discussion by the Great on the introduction of an ACC shoulder flash - white and green - it was decided to dispense with this idea.....A slow down in American civilian recruitment for the Economic Section has been called until British civilian strength is greater.....Col.John W. Chapman, Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission, is taking energetic steps to meet the Carabinieri shortage: AFHQ has been asked to authorize the temporary transfer of 5,000 picked and equipped Italian troops to the Carabinieri to make up for 5,000 CC.RR. slated for the industrial North; a new ceiling increase from 55,000 (at present) to 65,000, and possibly, 70,000, has been requested; and the re-patriation of 1,000 CC.RR. now prisoners of war in North Africa has been proposed.....Sir Frank Brook, Inspector of Constabulary in England and Wales, is visiting Italy, inspecting the work of police officers on duty with military government forces..... The Allied Forces Local Resources Board is being informed that French purchases of automobiles, typewriters, mattresses, minerals, tools and cutlery in Italy for shipment to France have amounted to 94,000,000 lire.....Historical Note: In February, 1944, the Requisitions Division filed application for tires, batteries and spare parts to activate 4,000 Italian trucks which could be put on the road,(and which can still be put on the road).....Present conditions in Sicily have our economic, political and legal officers at Hq. convinced that, far from pulling

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diplomats, as official ACC contact men between the French and Russian generals assigned to the ACC, and lastly, as trail-blazers in settling a host of matters for which no set procedure exists between the military authorities and the Vatican, neutral representatives and all United Nations' legations not sitting on the Allied Advisory Council.....
The latest Granai del Popolo figures, received as of 14 October, show 8,664,373 qtl. in the bins, or 75 per cent. of the 11,600,000 qtl. collection forecast; a part of the small increase in Sicily, (although it is estimated 500,000 qtl. have been hoarded), it is unofficially reported, may be laid to the fact that Brigadier Carr, RC for the island, was out hunting with his gun one morning whereupon the peasants of the neighborhood, seeing the gun, proceeded to bring a record delivery of grain.....First Monthly report(September) of Region XII (Venezia) to hand:Brigadier Dunlop reports movement of a harbouring group(whatever that may be) from Chianciano to Pesaro (audacious fellows!) But "the weather broke on September 29 with heavy wind and rain".....Well, we must have reports.....Ministry of Food officials visiting Rome from England brought letters stating that they "were to stay at first-class hotels and travel by sleeping car." Privilege dies hard.....Only four, instead of eight, Soviet officers have been assigned to observe the work of the ACC sub-commissions, according to latest arrangements.....Colonel Temperley of Southern Region has started an Odds and Ends paragraph in his monthly report; if Regional Commissioners take the style of this Bulletin to heart, reports should be gayer.....Here are some of the borrowed Odds (given you not without a twinge of jealousy): Danger of landslides in the deposits of new ash on Vesuvius has been reduced by building erosion walls.....Foggia road blocks in September impounded 21 military vehicles, mostly French and Italian, engaged in the black market..... Road block investigations after one stoppage of trucks has resulted in arrest of 45 Italians, charges being prepared against another 100, recovery of 1000 barrels of olive oil and discovery of 10 illicit distilleries.....25 murders were committed in the Region during the month, the figure being considered a normal quota for this part of the world.....In Brindisi 85 persons committed suicide.....Salerno farmers, having received back their shotguns, now scrape lead off signal cables to make shot.....

10. Quote from Esteemed Contemporary

"The Allied Control Commission will drop the word "control" from its title, though doubtless not the reality in so far as control may still be required."

The Times, 27 September 1944.

Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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A/cc 558
9/10/44

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB27

8 October 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 27
2 Oct to 8 Oct 44

1. Political

The past week has not been an easy one for Italians alert - as most of them are - for a kind word from Washington or London. It is true that President Roosevelt's detailed announcement of supplies and equipment (including 1,700 trucks) to help the country to its feet made good reading and brought forth enthusiastic thanks, the OSSERVATORE ROMANO remarking with pleasure that the "promises to Italy" are now being fulfilled. But, satisfaction being in essence much less lasting than anxiety, the press has given most of its attention to the statements of Churchill, Cranborne and Eden in Parliament. The first two, taken together, for Cranborne merely echoed Churchill when he spoke of looking toward broadening the base of the government when the North is conquered, managed to give the impression that English policy favors the monarchy and intends to see that the right people get into the government in order to assure the political welfare of Casa Savoia. Some rather harsh things were said in the Leftist press: VOCE REPUBBLICANA thought it well to inform the world that Italy "would choose a government to please herself and not other nations" and Spano wrote in UNITA that there was one question to put to the nations fighting for democracy, absurd as it may seem: "do they really have faith in the people?" The rumor of British intervention in Italian affairs reached such a point that it had to be categorically denied that Badoglio had been named ambassador to England. All this was hard enough to bear but Eden's statement that Italy's colonies were "irrevocably" lost to her was another and harder blow. Here the press reaction was perhaps a little paradoxical; Nenni in AVANTI took it almost with satisfaction, saying that the Socialists had always opposed imperialism though adding that it was equally good Socialist doctrine that all colonies should be under international management with raw materials and markets open to all nations. Stronger expressions of unhappiness came from ITALIA NUOVA, which had expressed no disapproval of England's alleged concern for the monarchy, but felt bound to point out that Italian colonies existed a long time before Fascism and that there seems no good moral principle on which to base their surrender. RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE remarked on the inconsistency of asking Italy to fight Japan while at the same time stripping her of her possessions and ITALIA LIBERA in effect asked Mr Eden: how can you do this to us fellow democrats? An announcement was made that Bonomi had asked the British Ambassador for clarification of what Eden meant (for the hope dies hard that he had only Ethiopia in mind) but as yet no further illumination has come ..... The discussion of war with Japan has also gone on briskly; at this point all parties are united in holding that allied status and possibly "other concessions" should be offered Italy as a reward for her participation.

The discussion of these various aspects of foreign affairs leaves one with two definite impressions. The first that, making allowance for occasional party eccentricities, on matters of foreign policy all articulate Italians think much alike. The second that there is growing and spreading rapidly a feeling that Italy is being

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The discussion of these various aspects of foreign affairs leaves one with two definite impressions. The first that, making allowance for occasional party eccentricities, on matters of foreign policy all articulate Italians think much alike. The second that there is growing and spreading rapidly a feeling that Italy is being treated with special injustice. This feeling may be sensed not only in the comments on the Japanese war and the colonies but also in articles on subjects such as relief and the allied financial policy. IL POPOLO this morning carried a poignant lament that the Italian lira was getting worse treatment than the mark, to say nothing of the favored franc. The prevalent point of view seems to be that Italians have expiated for whatever sins Fascism committed, they have already suffered more than their share - especially since Fascism was forced on them anyway - and that they are now being made the victims of reprisals for crimes not their own. It is alas, not unlike the "no-one-wants-to-understand-us" psychology of 1919 - if anyone still remembers those days. Verbum

/ sap. ...

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---sap.--- or, shall we say: cave canem?

The meeting of the council on Friday took up two very fundamental matters. There was a long report by Siglienti, Minister of Finance, prefaced by the comment that a revision of the Italian tax structure necessitated by years of Fascist control could not be undertaken at this time but that emergency measures were necessary to insure the maximum efficiency and the greatest yield from taxes already in effect. The modifications suggested (and approved by the Council) were also designed to shift the burden somewhat from lower to higher income groups. Although AVANTI, as might be expected, found the new measures inadequate, it seems fair to say, judging from other press comment and from the remarks of our own ACC experts, that they represent a step in the right direction. The other matter was even more delicate, if possible. For gingerly and timidly and with many reservations the Council approached the thorny question of the expropriation of large holdings of land. UNITA has been urging the contadini to move in on uncultivated land and this has led to a number of awkward situations over the past month, particularly in Latium where some of the most aristocratic Roman families have large estates. It was laid down that through properly organized and recognized peasants' cooperatives uncultivated lands or lands which were "relatively uncultivated" in relation to their quality or the agricultural conditions of the area could be turned over to the peasants. The surrender of the land is to be carefully controlled by a board in which all parties, peasant, landowner and state are represented and by the terms of the decree the length of the concession cannot be more than four years. "Can not even be considered as the first step toward agrarian reform", cries UNITA. But it is, though.

2. AMG with the Armies

"With the break in the weather already here," says Fifth Army AMG, "it is difficult not to be gloomy about the future." Long-range shelling of Pistoia continued until Sep 27; of Pisa until Sep 28; of Lucca until Sep 29. In the central area, in the path of the main advance, communes are very heavily damaged and their chief centres completely destroyed: on the west there is less destruction but considerable displacement of population. Food is just sufficient for day-to-day consumption but no stocks are being built up. Partisans are "everywhere organized by and affiliated to the local political committees"; those who have fought well give least trouble but "the far larger numbers of hangers-on ..... are using the recognition given them by the Allies as a cloak for political organization." Fifth Army AMG adds (a bit sourly?): This rebirth of political life is welcomed."

Except for food, conditions in Florence City are improving. Repairs and clearance of debris have progressed well and there is now electric power for essential needs. "Considerable political activity" is noted, and the town has been visited by the Prince of Piedmont, Dino Phillipson, and Togliatti. Meetings to greet popularity-bidders are being limited to 200 with "admission by invitation only."

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At Pisa the large hole in the roof of the Cathedral has been mended by Army engineers and repairs to the Camposanto are in progress: in the latter the destruction of some of the frescoes has revealed the original monochrome cartoons beneath the plaster, compensating to some extent for the loss.

Except for a short statement on much-damaged Rimini, the only report received from Eighth Army AMG this week concerns the Republic of San Marino, which is standing very firmly on the dignity of its neutrality. It asks that its territory be

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by Allied troops at the earliest possible moment and that houses, dwellings, and goods be returned to their owners. Requisitioning of R.E. stores and "normal billetting rules" were permitted by Vth Corps, which may - legally - be a violation of international law, although no operational commander in present circumstances could be expected to prevent his troops from getting shelter and the San Marino authorities are not unaware of this overriding necessity while the front line is so close. There are a good many other complications. San Marino would like (though it has not officially claimed) compensation for bombing, requisitioning and war damage, but the bill cannot be paid in AMG lire. The possible presence of enemy agents in San Marino territory is another question which the Allies cannot afford to ignore; they have taken necessary steps with the tacit acquiescence of the Republic. Says AMG Eighth Army: "It is no use pretending that with the presence of troops engaged in active operations in the Republic there will not be incidents." Incidents, bombs, armies notwithstanding, San Marino held the usual elections of its constitutional rulers on Sep 24: Theodore Lonfernine and Professor Sussy Valli were elected Captains Regent.

3. Transfer of Territory

The Advisory Council have recommended to the Supreme Allied Commander that on Oct 16 the provinces of Teramo, Aquila, Pescara, Chieti, Viterbo and Rieti should be handed back to the jurisdiction of the Italian Government. The transfer of these provinces would complete the handover of the Lazio and Abruzzi regions. The provinces in question include a population of about 1,700,000 and an area of 17,000 square km.

The restoration of Teramo, Aquila, Pescara and Chieti was requested by the Italian Government in August on the ground that the people had shown themselves predominantly anti-Fascist and anti-German and had been in great part liberated by the Italian Corps of Liberation and by intense patriot activity. The ACC, in recommending the transfer to the Advisory Council, suggested the addition of Chieti and Viterbo in order to conform with the new boundary of AFHQ administration in Italy fixed on Sep 10. The ACC added that damage in these provinces had not been so great as elsewhere, that public works were well in hand and that the handover would enable us "to withdraw at once a small number of officers badly needed in the North."

4. From the Abruzzi-Marche Region

The picture given by Colonel French in his September report is of interest in view of the imminent transfer of these territories to the Italian Government. The main grouse of the population seems to be the 200-gram ration, since these provinces are grain-producing and are now irritably aware that the ration in ACC territory is 300 grams; moreover, under the Germans they had a nominal 380. Secondary grouses are lack of salt, price of

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the Black Market "does not appear to be serious": schools, despite an absence of text books, opened on Oct 1. Refugees, officially speaking, have ceased to exist, none having been received from the forward areas and those in refugee camps having been dispersed: but the Italian Army unfortunately continues to carry hundreds of civilians from the South in defiance of regulations. The question of housing in devastated areas is, as elsewhere, a matter for some apprehension. "An early promulgation of policy is necessary," writes Colonel French, "but it is now so late that great suffering must be experienced by many people this winter."

5. Waiting for the Green Light

The Economic Section currently is, as Mr Antolini, head of the section put it, in an in-between-and-betwixt stage, waiting for clarification of policies on higher levels and operational directives to suit. All anyone knows at the moment is what one reads in the newspapers. UNRRA is coming over but exactly when, no one knows. ACC Economic sub-commissions feel rather strongly that UNRRA had better come in equipped with its own organic transport, since competition for the woefully limited transport of ACC in Italy would be disastrous. The question of whether UNRRA goods will be distributed free, with some subsidy from the Italian Government, or at a minimum cost, also is still undecided. American relief goods, it might be added, coming through private sources will be definitely issued gratis through the Vatican, Italian Red Cross and Italian Government, with ACC acting in a purely advisory capacity.

The ACC representatives now in Washington are apparently producing some results, judging by the latest dispatches which promise Italy 1,700 new trucks and 150,000 tons of wheat and flour. As our headquarters experts point out, however, the meaning of 150,000 tons depends strictly on the time factor: 150,000 tons for what period? It will make all the difference in the world between raising, lowering or maintaining the basic ration. The ACC men in Washington at the moment include Brigadier-General O'Dwyer, Vice-President of the Economic Section; Lieut-Colonel Jenny, Director, and Lieut-Colonel Lapper, head of the Electrical Section, of the Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission; Colonel Legge, Director, and Major Tolman, economist, of the Food Sub-Commission, and Captain Kamarck, Economic Section staff officer. Two other Economic Section men are in London attending the initial sessions of the European Internal Transportation Organization which is looking into maximum utilization of transportation in the immediate post-war period. Colonel Adams, Director of the Transportaion Sub-Commission, and his expert, Mr Tony Villa, are representing ACC views as to Italian requirements. Di Raimondo also went as an expert adviser from the Italian Government standpoint.

In the meantime, the special inter-ministerial committee of the Italian Government has turned over to Mr Antolini its own plan and idea of what Italy needs to rehabilitate its devastated economy. In addition, specific Italian pressures to take over more operational responsibilities are increasing in some ministries while others are frankly apprehensive of the burden, particularly of [redacted] port, the two hottest potatoes in [redacted] Italians h[redacted]

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In fact, whatever industry is left in Italy of any value is in the hands of the military who employ between 200,000 and 300,000 workers in machine shops, cement and brick factories and steel mills. These latter are minuscule compared with production back home in

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Allied countries, of course, but the latest to resume operation at Terni is pouring 100 tons of steel a day for Bailey bridges. It will take six to nine months before production could benefit the civilina econo;y and only if the military has no further use for it. Work is now imminent in clearing the devastation of the wreckage caused by the cascade bombing of the Allied air forces on the steel plants at Piombino where on one mill 500 bombs fell in over-lapping patterns within three and a half minutes. Even to get the site cleared and the salvage separated is a task of mammoth proportions, according to Capt. T.G. Elliott of the Industry S/C, who is supervising the job. First, iron "bottles" for oxygen are needed to provide the fuel for the acetylene torches. Capt. Elliott has oxygen up his sleeve despite the fact oxygen has an A-1 military priority. In the re-building of Italy where blow torches and cement will be the chief ingredients, it is also heartening to record that ACC has laid its hands on a 7,000-ton capacity cement plant near Tivoli. It is practically new and luckily untouched. Arrangements for power, coal and sacks are well under way.

6. Promotion

Announcement is made of the promotion of the Acting Chief Commissioner of the Allied Control Commission to the rank of Commodore, United States Naval Reserve, effective 30 September 1944.

7. Light on Public Health

In a field where newspaper reporters and lay observers are often apt to grasp the most spectacular statistics with the maximum of miscomprehension, it is fitting to place on record a little of the work of the quiet specialists of the Public Health Sub-Commission. In a country famed through history as the classic home of malaria, the ACC has operated so effectively that not only has the disease been kept in check despite flooding of the Pontine Marshes, a disrupted Italian public health service and the tragic lack of transport and supplies in the midst of intensive military operations, but actual decreases have been registered in many places in the malaria rate. In Sardinia, notably, where malaria is practically endemic, the 1943 cases reported from January to July were 4,065. This year in the same period there were 1,852. In Region IV where the Germans scientifically flooded the lowlands, 20,749 cases were reported in 1944 up to the end of August, but only one death resulted. The distribution of 9,000,000 atabrine tablets to Italian health authorities was one factor in keeping down the possible death rate and malaria potential. Another 7,000,000 atabrine tablets are stockpiled for use on call. Col. Russell, who has now left Italy, deserves the highest praise for his outstanding work in this field.

As far as medical supplies are concerned, Public Health officers are relieved that a shipment of 600 tons has just arrived. Already made available to the Italians before have been 775,000 units of insulin, 18,000 pounds of ether, 8,000,000 sulfa tablets and 60,000 ounces of sulfa powders, and nearly 15,000 quinine ampules imported from America, among a host of items. Of the 8,000 kilograms of

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While on the subject of public health, it might interest readers of the recent scareheads about infant mortality and tuberculosis rates to glance at the account that follows paraphrased from the Public Health sub-commission's September report :

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In the absence of proper notification to the health authorities of the existence of tuberculosis, the only reliable criterion is the death rate. The rate for Rome, for example, of tuberculosis deaths per 10,000 of the population is 29.2 in 1918, 12.17 in 1938, 19.63 in 1943 and 24.23 in 1944 (to date).

In the question of infant mortality, again using Rome as an instance, the health authorities explain that the rate is figured out on the formula of number of deaths of infants under one year of age times 1,000 over the figure of the number of registered live births in any given period. The rate then is as follows for the first eight months of the years compared: 119.1 in 1918, 84.6 in 1938, 92.6 in 1943 and 113.4 in 1944. In May of this year the rate in Rome was 153.9, in June 189.2, in July 221.3 and in August 148.7, the latter figure being directly laid to the supply of tinned milk made available by ACC.

8. Epuration

The report made by Brigadier Upjohn to the Advisory Council contains the clearest picture yet given on the process of cleaning-up Fascists. By the decree of 27 July 1944 epuration was divided into four main categories, viz:

(a) Punishment of Fascist crimes;
(b) Purging of the administration;
(c) Disposal of profits made by Fascists;
(d) Confiscation of Fascist property.

The first, in charge of H.E. Berlinguer, provides for the trial and punishment up to the death penalty, of high-ranking members of Fascism. Among such was Caruso, and is Azzolini (former Director of the Bank of Italy, who comes up for trial on Oct 9 for handing over the Bank's gold to the Germans) and are also Generals Pentimalli and DelTetto, who will be tried in Rome on Oct 23 for collaboration with the Germans and for not having defended the city of Naples. On Oct 22 Soprano, ex-Prefect of Naples, will be tried in that city on a similar charge. 86 more such persons are under arrest and awaiting trial, including Suvich, former under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. 111 more, former members of the Special Tribunal for the Defence of the State, will shortly be arrested and placed on trial. A further 600 denunciations have been sent out and are now being investigated. In addition the High Court of Justice will shortly sit to consider the records of the conduct of members of the Senate.

Category 2 is in charge of H.E. Scoccimaro and deals mainly with the dismissal of officials guilty of Fascist bias, incompetence, corruption and collaboration with the Germans since Sep 8. It is proposed to form 126 Commissions to judge these cases: 61 are already functioning. 6,051 cases are under consideration and 3,471 have already been referred to the Commissions. In addition, Commissions will be set up in each province to purge organizations which depend entirely from the prefect.

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Category 3 is in charge of H.E. Cingolani and is concerned with the collection and disposal of the profits of Fascists. In Rome alone measures for the sequestration of the property of 20 persons - amounting to 3 billions of lire - have already been taken. In Naples the sequestrated property of the five brothers Piscitelli amounts to nearly 3½ million lire, and sequestration measures have been taken against 915 persons.

Category 4, in charge of H.E. Stangoni, deals with the collection and disposal of Fascist organisations an societies. In Rome alone cash to the value of 269,000 lire and other movable property to the value of 6 million lire have been taken over.

In these matters it certainly seems that the Italian Government is getting into its stride.

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9. Red Stars on the Horizon

Authority has been given by the combined Chiefs of Staff for the attachment of eight Russian officers to the ACC in the capacity of observers only. They will form part of the staff of the Soviet Representative to the ACC, Major-General Ivan Susloparov. It seems that they will be attached to the Economic Section, Civil Affairs Section, Air Sub-Commission, Army Sub-Commission and War Materials Disposal and Italian Prisoners-of-War Sub-Commission. They will see files and generally scrutinize the work of their particular Sections. One of them, we understand, speaks English.

10. Correction

The War Materials Disposal and Italian Prisoners-of-War Sub-Commission will continue to be an independent Sub-Commission and not be amalgamated with any other, contrary to reports published in last week's PRB Bulletin (for which we hang our head in shame). The change occurred because the sub-Commission, as expressed by Lieut-Colonel J.A. Campbell, Director, is now getting more and more work to do, the policy of repatriation of Italian prisoners-of-war being loosened to some extent and a flow of salvage war material beginning to come in. Now landing from North Africa are 2,000 Italian POWs, which include 1,500 able-bodied men, the first contingent of this classification to be freed. Further, military units have just turned over to the sub-Commission 10,000 vehicles in disrepair for salvage.

11. Odds and Ends

Fine Arts S/C discloses that the Germans have been kind enough to remove 58 cases of world-famed sculptures (among other removals) from the caches around Florence, including Donatello's St George and his David, and Michelangelo's Bacchus, so that (the German radio says) the priceless art objects might be "saved" from being "stolen by the American Art Jews ..... The Granai del Popolo figures as of reports reaching headquarters Oct 7 now stand at 8,223,988 quintals or 70 per cent of the 11,600,000 qtl. forecast for the collection which is now beginning to include grain harvested under Fascist Republican auspices, for which grain the Allies will pay the standard 900 - 1,000 lire price if delivered since Allied occupation while only the much lower Fascist price will be paid for stocks found in warehouses under Fascist contracts and not yet paid for. The demographic census of Italian conditions and resources is having tough sailing, sad to relate: Five tons of forms, for example arrived at the Naples railroad station, but there was no truck to take the load to the pier where a ship was to take the forms and a special crew to Sicily; at the last minute, the truck came and rushed off to the port, only to see the ship majestically pulling away in the harbor. Epilogue: The forms and Lieutenant J.E. Hicks, their harassed owner, finally got to Sicily by road via Reggio Calabria ....., Col Fothergill of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission reports that studies are under way to bring back Italians in South France, Spain and Switzerland to Naples where

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11. Odds and Ends

Fine Arts S/C discloses that the Germans have been kind enough to remove 58 cases of world-famed sculptures (among other removals) from the caches around Florence, including Donatello's St George and his David, and Michelangelo's Bacchus, so that (the German radio says) the priceless art objects might be "saved" from being "stolen by the American Art Jews"..... The Granai del Popolo figures as of reports reaching headquarters Oct 7 now stand at 8,223,988 quintals or 70 per cent of the 11,600,000 qtl. forecast for the collection which is now beginning to include grain harvested under Fascist Republican auspices, for which grain the Allies will pay the standard 900 - 1,000 lire price if delivered since Allied occupation while only the much lower Fascist price will be paid for stocks found in warehouses under Fascist contracts and not yet paid for ..... The demographic census of Italian conditions and resources is having tough sailing, sad to relate: Five tons of forms, for example, arrived at the Naples railroad station, but there was no truck to take the load to the pier where a ship was to take the forms and a special crew to Sicily; at the last minute, the truck came and rushed off to the port, only to see the ship majestically pulling away in the harbor. Epilogue: The forms and Lieutenant J.E. Hicks, their harassed owner, finally got to Sicily by road via Reggio Calabria ..... Col Fothergill of the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission reports that studies are under way to bring back Italians in Southern France, Spain and Switzerland to Naples where they will be screened and then dispersed ..... The Local Government (formerly Interior) Sub-Commission has finally persuaded the Italian Ministry of the Interior to appoint outstanding private individuals with national reputations wherever possible instead of career men, to the posts of prefects in important Northern provinces and to support the top men with especially competent vice-prefects to keep the administrative machinery on an even keel ..... The Public Safety Sub-Commission is disposed to cheering this week after a notable discussion with the Army Sub-Commission: The MMIA has agreed to outfit the Carabinieri up to its present ceiling of 43,000 with whatever is necessary so that each man will have a

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serviceable uniform, overcoat, two blankets or a comforter, pullover, two pairs of socks, two pairs of pants, shirt and boots .....

12. Reminder

Will our readers be kind enough to remember that the PRB Weekly Bulletin they are reading is a secret document and should receive the security handling so required?

Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB26

1 October 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 26
25 Sep to 1 Oct 1944

1. Political

The papers of the 27th made good reading for Romans. For one thing the Council of Ministers, meeting the day before, had reasserted the solidarity of the six-party government and issued a communique notable for clarity and firmness. The parties, it said, are to postpone the solution of major political problems, resolve their differences within the government, bring their press in line with this principle, maintain the impartial authority of the state and defeat all attempts of reactionaries to return to power. This was hailed by all parties - even by the critics of the Government, with the exception of "Voce Repubblicana" which refuses to admit anything can work in a country that still harbours Casa Savoia - as a sensible and necessary step. Things had been drifting along toward a dangerous cleavage and the recent squabbles among the parties have not done the government any good at home or abroad. It is harder to say whose is the victory. "Voce Repubblicana" of course asserted that the action was "forced on the parties of the Left by Bonomi and the conservative elements"; but Togliatti and Nenni both protested that some such resolution was what they were hoping for all the time and that the agitation of recent weeks had served its purpose in making the government aware of the dangers of reaction. It is fair to regard the motion as a victory of common sense and a recognition of the fact, in the words of "Il Popolo", that the Italian people is very tired of "living dangerously" and finds no appeal in the promise of "permanent agitation".

The government statement, newsworthy as it was, had to share the spotlight with the Roosevelt-Churchill declaration on Italy which also made its appearance on the front page of the papers of the 27th. This statement looks toward giving the Italian government more autonomy, beginning by the sending of representatives to London and Washington and cancellation of the word Control from ACC. (We haven't had any orders yet so may be forgiven if we carry on withthe two C's for a while). Civilian technicians are to be sent over to help in reconstruction. Italy is expected to assist the United Nations in the war against Germany and Jap[illegible] and, as a start, 50 million UNRRA dollars are assigned to her for emergency relief measures. Comment was in general favorable on this statement too, the "Osservatore Romano" calling it a "vote of confidence", but there were some reservations. It does not give Italy full status as an ally, it is too early to say whether the omission of the word "control" is any more than a formality or whether the promised civilian technicians will be any more acceptable than you, gentle reader, and we have been. Nor is [illegible]

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Affairs, in a press conference on Thursday indicated the government was quite ready for it. Taking it all in all the Allied Statement was well received; to Italians it is a starting point for the goals they are working towards ..... Churchill's speech in the Commons however has set them to thinking again; there was no indication of any further autonomy, rather the contrary indeed in the reference to the Carretta lynching and the need of maintaining law and order through Allied authorities if necessary. His recognition of the temper of the Italian people was applauded but it was felt he might have been somewhat less fulsome in his praise of the Marshal and the Lord Lieutenant and found room for a kind word for Bonomi.

There were other developments on the international front. The Greek Minister of Information gave a press conference in which he said he hoped for good relations with Italy provided of course the Italians gave up their "imperialistic ambitions". He assumed that the Dodecanese would be "restored" to Greece and that in the matter of relief and aid from the Allies Greece had earned a certain priority. Many Italians hope for a plebiscite in the Dodecanese rather than outright surrender and almost all feel that Italy has suffered enough by now to yield no no-one in priority of need so the last two points were not too well received. However, a very sincere article by Manlio Lupinacci in "Risorgimento Liberale" indicated some hope for good relations: he admitted that the Greeks have every reason to hate Italians but hate is an expensive and futile basis for foreign policy and Greece and Italy need each other. Similar views were expressed in "Italia Libera". Among other international items: the government (appropriately enough on the eve of St Wenceslaus of Prague) declared the Munich pact null and void, the Russian Labor delegates arrived in Rome and it is reported that coffee is on its way from Brazil and La Guardia from America.

The second meeting of the Council of Ministers this week was chiefly noteworthy for the report of Soleri, Minister of the Treasury. The detailed breakdown of Italy's labyrinthine finances and the honesty with which the hard facts were faced command admiration. We cite some figures, not being quite sure what they prove: the deficit for 1943-44 is 150 billion lire, the public debt (only a guess since Soleri admitted there are too many unknown factors) roughly 663 billion lire. He also made a guess at the amount of Allied Military Lire in circulation but Finance Sub-Commission won't tell us how good or how bad it is.

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

In Florence last week four persons were killed and 38 wounded by mines and booby-traps in the city. Feeding of the city is practically on a "day-to-day basis", all efforts to build up stockpiles having failed through lack of transport. "The situation," says Fifth Army AMG, "may at any time become critical." The same report states that "large numbers of troops are on leave in the city." Viareggio, it appears, is in poor case: the CAO

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Fifth Army AMG has some criticism of the Partisans and the Vatican. The latter, it seems, is showing "considerable laxity in the observance of movement regulations." As to the former "the present Allied policy may produce results somewhat different from those envisaged. Italian the Partisans have become one of the prize bones for which Italian politicians are scrapping." It is noted

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noted that Colonel Sansone, in two months of operations, has collected only 200 volunteers from the provinces of Siena, Pisa, Livorno and South Florence. In Florence city two weeks work produced 8 volunteers out of 3,000 Partisans. Colonel Sansone attributes this to "the boycotting of the Royalist Army by the Communists." On the other hand it is "reliably reported" that individual partisans are being offered financial inducement to join the Communist party.

3. Pruning at Headquarters

As a result of the recommendations of the Manpower and Reorganization Committee nearly 200 officers and EM/OR become available for field assignment and Headquarters functions become streamlined as operational responsibility is shifted to Italian agencies ready to take them over. Total HQ staff will be 265 officers and 279 EM/OR. Most important change is the creation of a Chief of Staff under the Chief Commissioner. RC and MG Section disappears, as do the Secretary-General's office, the Property Control Sub-Commission (absorbed by Finance), the War Materials and Prisoners of War Sub-Commission (the first taken over by Industry and the second by MAIA), the Information Division and Archivist Section (absorbed by Public Relations Branch). Displaced Persons and Italian Refugees amalgamate, as has been announced. The Interior Sub-Commission will be known as the Local Government Sub-Commission. There will be four sections under the Chief of Staff - Civil Affairs, Economic, Establishment and Political. A forward echelon of ACC HQ will be established at AAI HQ to administer to the emergency operational needs of the Armies but is not to be regarded as a forward Headquarters, orders still normally coming from ACC HQ through the channel of the Chief of Staff. Brigadier Lush, present Executive Commissioner, will be Chief of Staff. Mr Antolini, in the absence of Brigadier-General O'Dwyer, will continue as acting Vice-President and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Economic Section. Brigadier Upjohn will be Vice-President and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Civil Affairs Section (renamed from Administrative). Colonel Fiske will be Deputy Chief of Staff and Vice-President of the Establishment Section. Mr Caccia and MrSchott will be Vice-Presidents but not Deputy Chiefs of Staff. Colonel Monfort will be Deputy Chief Civil Affairs Officer at AAI HQ in charge of the forward field coordinating echelon.

4. Session at Siena

With the fall of Bologna looming before them, Regional Commissioners and SCAOs of the Armies, together with HQ staff, met at Siena this week in an atmosphere of intense airing of difficulties and mutual exchange of on-the-spot solutions which again, in the opinion of most participants, proved the value of these exchanges of problems. The meeting started off with [illegible] the Executive Commissioner gruly announced

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accepted that only Provincial Commissioners and heads of specialist divisions need to report in person when called from present posts and that all other personnel re-assigned to northern regions should do so at this time by letter, awaiting operational calls only when actually needed for imminent entry into their areas. General Hume, facing, as he put it, fluid conditions as Army boundaries expand and contract with tactical changes, insisted that he be placed on record as opposing any withdrawal of personnel from Army AMGs. Colonel Mayne of Fifth Army AMG, in what he termed the "unrealistic" nature of some Patriot directives, asserted that Patriots were over-played in public praise. He finally admitted that some special treatment was deserved for genuine Patriots who had performed real service. Mr Caccia summed it up when he said the administrative goal of making Patriots good citizens and keeping law and order, for better or worse, had to be balanced against the political situation in which Patriots were now exploited so as not to embarrass the larger question of support for the Government. It was agreed that AAI had perhaps gone too far through PWB publicity in stressing Patriot achievements, and representations would be made. Colonel Ames from the big city of Rome faced the combined attack of most Regional Commissioners who declared against what they termed the continued disparity in favor of Rome. Particularly Region V's Major Scholtz said his Region faced food demonstrations because of lack of food, oil, salt and the fact that, although some of the provinces there had grain surpluses they only had a 200-gram bread ration whereas other Regions to which their grain was shipped had 300-gram rations. Speaking very modestly, Colonel Ames stuck to his queries of who did what and how and got agreements to enter Regions with his own trucks to take wheat from surplus Macerata and wood from Rieti. Mr Antolini of the Economic Section admitted he had bad news again. He had just made a tour of the Fifth and Eighth Army areas in preparing for forward food supplies and stated frankly that every day's delay in the advance of the Armies was just so much breathing space to rush supplies forward. The supply question was especially crucial for the North where a 100-gram ration is now planned because of the reported outdown in November anticipated imports from 100,000 to 35,000 tons. If so, Mr Antolini said, we might have to cut down the basic ration throughout Italy unless Colonel Legr of the Food Sub-Commission, now in Washington, succeeded in changing the minds of the Combined Chiefs of Staff. In the meantime, Mr Antolini continued, there is for the moment practically no wheat in the Mediterranean Basin on which to draw in an emergency. There was also no sugar programmed and milk imports had been cut. Brigadier Upjohn then spoke of administrative problems of prefects (there are 11 in a pool for forward regions), Carabinieri (additions are expected from former prisoners of war) and the usal bad news about lack of de-mining squads. Satisfied that no matter how bad things look, there was the determination and the potentiality to work things out, the meeting broke up early to repair to the recuperative values of Tuscan wine and Colonel Kirkwood's hospitality.

5. The Road Back

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The road back to Italy for thousands upon thousands of Italians now stranded in enemy areas will lead through some of the 10 or 20 or (who knows?) maybe 30 camps that Colonel C.B. Findlay, Director of the newly-amalgamated Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission, is contemplating. Now in process of investigating the scope of his future responsibilities, Colonel Findlay says he is only sure of one thing: It will be a whopper of a task. There may be 500,000 Italians under forced labor in Germany, perhaps 200,000 in the Balkans. Austria, across the border from Italy, is known to be the cross-roads of Europe for displaced persons and

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entry into Italy from Central Europe will be a problem to handle. Italians will be used to handle Italian refugees coming home but Allied personnel will still take care of Allied nationals. In the meantime, the Colonel is looking hopefully to November 1 when UNRRA plans to take over four of his Southern Italy camps and two hospitals, mostly for Yugoslavs, and begins to implement with cash, supplies and personnel some of the commitments made at Quebec.

6. Police and prisons

For a considerable time now, as most of us know, two problems - the overcrowding of prisons and the morale of Italian police - have worried all those who have an eye on the future. There has been much, sometimes scandalous, congestion in prisons, due mainly to three factors - the number of arrests made - sometimes hurriedly - of suspect Fascists or collaborators by our intelligence services; the wave of petty offences against Allied orders, e.g. being in possession of Allied property, being out after curfew, selling in the black market, hoarding grain, etc; and last but not least, the slow turning of the wheels of Italian justice, which results in prisoners serving terms without trial. Such a state of affairs naturally reacts against the police: but the police problem is complicated by the Fascist and Monarchist associations of Carabinieri, Metropolitani and Agenti di Pubblica Sicurezza. These forces are conscious of their uneasy past and the Italian press does not fail to remind them of it daily. They are also conscious that real power is not in their hands: the other evening in Rome a GI lifted the rifle off a Guardia di Finanza as a souvenir: the Guardia di Finanza had to pay 8,000 lire - six months pay. Should he have fought the GI? A nice question. Apart from these troubles the police are undoubtedly suffering severely from low pay and rations - matters which are being remedied.

The riot which began in Regina Coeli prison on September 23 extended itself until the evening of September 25. The brief facts are as follows. The overcrowding and restlessness of the prisoners had been for some time a matter of anxiety. Since August 15 meetings had been held in an endeavour to get rid of out-standing or trivial cases. (Among these were two sempstresses who had served for three months without trial, the accusation against them being solely that they had been found on June 5 stitching German uniforms.) Colonel Pollock and the Governor of the Prison were both strongly in favour of letting such cases out on bail. But so difficult was it, apparently, to sort out matters between G-2, CIC, SCI, FSS, OSS and the Italian legal authorities them-selves that virtually nothing was done. This was the prelude to the riot.

On the night of September 23 some prisoners got on to the roof and fired it. In the general commotion Carabinieri opened fire, killing one prisoner and wounding six. Feeling against the Carabinieri ran high: 20 of the guards deserted: the prisoners were out of the cells, many of which had no locks; even the gates to the central rotunda - to quote Colonel Pollock's report

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At this point Colonel Pollock and Major Coxhead in their own magic way (a magic used untiringly day and night in Rome these days) restored order. A meeting was once again called to discuss the removal of prisoners, but ended in smoke. At this meeting the Questore said quite plainly that his Metropolitani were demoralized and no reliance could be placed on them to preserve order or hold the prisoners. Trouble brewed up again in the afternoon: the prisoners said freely that they were going to break out and, in Colonel Pollock's words "the situation was extremely grave: we were faced with a distinct possibility of a complete

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prison break and ... the whole or part of the prison being burnt to the ground."

At 7.30 p.m. Colonel Poletti walked unconcernedly into the prison and made a speech in each of the three riotous "branches". The prisoners crowded closely round him, and hung over the seven tiers above.- a dramatic spectacle in the dim light of the prison. Starting amidst hissing and shouting, Poletti in the end got applause: and certainly his presence quieted things down for the moment. Later Pollock and Coxhead got the prisoners to form committees to ventilate their grievances.

On Monday morning 200 were sent to Viterbo prison (in RAMC vehicles) and another 225 were moved to another wing of Regina Coeli. These moves occasioned further disorder and rioting and some small fires were started. Eventually the prisoners were persuaded to move by one of their number, a Communist named Bevilacqua. There for the time the matter rests.

It is obvious that Regina Coeli is only a reflection of present and possibly future conditions elsewhere in Italy. Colonel Pollock in his report recommends a thorough purge of prison guards, a ban on prison overcrowding, a dismissal of those who have served long sentences without trial for trivial offences, better food, pay and backing for the police, and a speed-up of Italian courts.

No doubt everyone will agree. But whether police who obeyed Fascism can be reinstated in popular esteem, whether the number of arrests - 50 a day go into Regina Coeli alone - can be cut down under present conditions, whether Italian courts can be made to work harder - these are tough nuts to crack. They have got to be cracked, and no doubt they will be. A phrase in Colonel Pollock's report is worth quoting: "It is all very well to say that it is the responsibility of the Italian Government, but if things had gone badly it would be a reflection on us because the Italian people ..... whatever is said to the contrary, look to us for help, guidance and support."

This point of view seems to be held by Mr Churchill who stated in the House of Commons on Thursday that cases such as the Carretta lynching were "the responsibility not only of the Italian Government but also of the Allied Military authorities." On the next day we are told - through the press - that we are the [illegible]ed Commission" without the "control". Which gives food for thought.

7. Granai del Popolo

The Agriculture Sub-Commission, looking over the wheat harvest campaign and amassing with its ups and downs and discouragements, has made up its mind to pronounce it "good" and a "qualified success, considering the tremendous difficulties encountered." As of figures received from the field by September 30, the total collection amounted to 7,815,953 quintals or 67 per cent of the 11,600,000 quintals most recently estimated that will be amassed.

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/ quintals

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quintals and seed retentions to 6,000,000 quintals. The amassed wheat will go to about 18,000,000 ration card holders in Liberated Italy among a population of some 24,000,000. Some farmers will get ration cards because they do not raise enough wheat to take care of themselves for the entire year. The latest figures are:

| Region | Average Date of Reports | Collected at Latest Report | Collection Forecast | Percentage collected of Forecast | Percentage collected Sep 30 1942 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I(Sicilia) | 21 Sep | 1,127,578 | 2,000,000 | 56 | 87 |
| Southern (Calabria, Lucania, Puglie, Campania, Campobasso) | 23 Sep | 2,820,433 | 3,950,000 | 71 | 88 |
| IV (Lazio-Umbria) | 15 Sep | 1,388,830 | 1,600,000 | 86 | 91 |
| V (Abruzzi-Marche) | 21 Sep | 1,248,021 | 2,250,000 | 55 | 94 |
| VI (Sardinia) | 16 Sep | 226,700 | 300,000 | 75 | 85 |
| VIII (Tuscany) | 15 Sep | 1,004,391 | 1,500,000 | 67 | 92 |
| Total | | 7,815,953 | 11,600,000 | 67 | 90 |

8. Odds and Ends

The only Public Works and Utilities officer of the ACC in Sardinia is being withdrawn as an experiment of turning over complete field responsibility to the Italians: if successful, similar withdrawals of specialists will occur in Sicily ..... Naples area bank deposits rose from 5,000,000,000 lire in January to 22,600,000,000 lire last month ..... Down in Calabria the village of Castrovillari proclaimed itself a republic the other day, but the new regime collapsed hurriedly with the appointment of a new sindaco ..... At least there will be no amassing of the almond crop this year, the Agriculture Sub-Commission has decided in its wisdom ..... Military units have turned back four more factories to the ACC for the use of Italians: A cement factory, with a capacity of 200 tons a month at Taranto, and one with 500 tons a month at Barletta; a tile factory with production of 2,500 cubic meters a week at Benevento, and a brick factory making 250,000 bricks a week at Lucera..... Epilogue: The happy news was recently published here that Rome was to have about 1,000 tons of onions from Malta: 700 tons did arrive - all spoiled ..... Odyssey from the tales of the Displaced

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dropped his bottle on the marble floor of the hall. Believed to be going on well in hospital after a period of unconsciousness .....
Travel advt: ACC personnel who wish to cross the peninsula during inclement weather in a hurry may avail themselves of the air courier service operated by the Italian Air Force (whose couriers have flown over 200 sorties a month the last five months quite without incident, the Air Force Sub-Commission hastily adds) .....

9. Quote from esteemed Contemporary

The airborne troop position was stated by a British staff officer to be "quite satisfactory, but not wholly so".

UNION JACK, Sep 26.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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Secy Gen
also C&O

SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/WB25

24 September 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 25
18 Sep to 24 Sep 44

1. Political

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

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

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/ In the field

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

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

[redacted]. AMG with the Armies

The latest reports received from Fifth Army AMG indicate a number of serious problems in the Arno valley and its environment. Fifth Army AMG is looking intelligently into the future and is anxious about it. The industrial areas encountered "present entirely new problems": there is immense destruction and resulting unemployment, little hope of restarting industries which have been damaged, depleted or cannibalized, and which, of course, lack power: moreover, these industrial regions are poor in agriculture and their food supply is therefore difficult. In Pisa, which was under shell fire as late as September 14, "mines and

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/ is

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

AMG Fifth Army also states that 3,791 certificates have so far been issued to Patriots: only 69 have applied for employment. Lucca is "in better shape than any town yet captured" but reports from Viareggio, recently taken, indicate some 64,000 destitute persons there. CAOs are now in the line with the Brazilian Expeditionary Force. At Florence "there was great rejoicing in the Excelsior Hotel" when the lights went on for the first time (September 16) and the AMG engineer responsible "received a well-deserved and intimate salutation from the young ladies who were present."

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

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

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

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

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

"AMG Proclamations, which are invariably posted in occupied territory, were NOT posted in San Marino. They were, however, shown to the Government and it was requested, for the safety of

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

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

"Thirteen lorries loaded with food and medical supplies,

/ stationed

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

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

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

Flash on Rimini

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

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

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

3. Crime and Punishment

[redacted] The trial and execution of Caruso and the lynching of Carretta on the first day of the trial gave Rome correspondents an opportunity for purple patches, not to speak of sanguinary pictures, this week. (For those who do not receive our Trend of Correspondents' Copy and Daily Digest of the Rome Press we attach the issues covering these events. Incidentally, these services can be sent to those who apply for them). Caruso, who was 45, was Police-Chief of Rome under the Fascist Republicans: the official accusation against him under the Decree Law of July, 1944, was that of giving aid to the German invader by (1) handing over 50 political and common prisoners for summary execution as an act of reprisal, (2) carrying out arbitrary round-ups for the German labour service, (3) violating the extra-territoriality of St Paul's in order to arrest officers and citizens taking refuge

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

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

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

4. Financial Arcana

An item in the August report of the Finance Sub-Commission, whose reports are usually models of clear analysis, stands out brightly in the financial fog of Italy. The people of Rome alone in August bought 3,500,000,000 lire more Italian Treasury Bills than they redeemed, which was triple the record of all Southern Italy for the fiscal year 1943-1944. It may be recalled that in July, 1943, the Fascists were facing an outflow of one billion in excess of receipts from Treasury bills, whereas a year later the Allies had changed this to a net inflow of two and a half billion lire. At the same time bank deposits have steadily mounted at the rate of three billion lire a month. The Finance Sub-Commission officers feel as if it were almost entirely of their own doing, so absorbed are they in the staggering job of helping straighten out the finances of a country beset by years of militaristic over-expenditures, parasitical government bureaux to give employment to Fascists, and a tax system for which the word "archaic" itself is mildewed.

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

Apart from worries arising from possible currency shortages in the forward areas another currency problem is continually under the spotlight of the Italian Press. On the basis of a statement

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

/ Washington

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

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

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

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

5. From the South

Colonel Temperley reports from Southern Region that the hand-over to Italians of matters concerning Law, Finance, Public Safety, Public Health, and Food are well advanced, but Transport, Industry [illegible] with ACC officers still shouldering their [illegible] grain shipments into

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5. From the South

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



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6. Propaganda's Future

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

7. Odds and Ends

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

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uniform to become acting chairman of the U.S. War Production Board recently visited these parts to inspect the power plants and machinery needs for rehabilitation, it may now be reported ..... Public Relations Branch, which is currently girding its loins to produce a history of Allied Military Government and the Allied Control Commissionin Italy, also is gathering a comprehensive photographic record and a full collection of press clippings about our activities, so would deeply appreciate any help possible from the field in the way of photographs and British and American newspaper clippings ..... Economic Warfare note: As a result of silkworm seeds flown in from Turkey, Southern Italy has spun and sent 10 tons of silk (with another 15 to 20 tons to be shipped later this year) to England for the making of parachutes that will eventually (it is hoped) float down on China and Japan ..... Thanks to the breaking of some logjams by the Economic Section, more foodstuffs are coming into Rome, 800 tons of Sicilian wine having been unloaded from 25 schooners at Anzio, a 5,000-ton shipload of the same coming from Taranto, 1,000 tons of onions arriving from Malta, while the free entry of unrationed foods up to 15 kilos a person has resulted in 2,500 persons bringing in food personally, an increase of 2,000 persons daily..... Major Hamilton T. Walker, SCAO with IV Corps, comes forth with a sensible suggestion: Visiting ACC officers entering corps area should not fail to contact the corps CAO for information, since that officer is the man who has been longest on the spot ..... The Granai del Popolo, as of reports received at Headquarters, September 22 (reports usually lag about 10 days behind) now stands at 7,220,371 quintals against a target of some 13,000,000 quintals ..... Note of Nostalgia: For veterans of the dear, dead days in North Africa, Lieut-Colonel T.V. Smith, Education Sub-Commission director, who has just returned from Cairo, Asmara and Tripoli via Algiers, reports that the once-plush Hotel Aletti is now fairly ghostlike - with prices almost reasonable, blond beauties galore but unescorted and rooms even available for lieutenant-colonels ..... The British-American trades union delegation, under the conducting aegis of Colonel Junius Smith of the Labor Sub-Commission, has returned to Rome with first-hand reactions of the front-line boys to labor conditions at home and the satisfaction of personal interviews with General Alexander, AAI C-in-C, and Lieut-General Clark, Fifth Army CO ..... The Public Health Sub-Commission has just turned over to Italian Health authorities the first supplies of penicillin to be imported into Italy for eventual civilian use, one packet coming from the U.S. and the other from U.K. ..... The national price for olive oil has now been set at 6,000 lire a quintal for top quality, after the Economic Section consulted regional commissioners for their reactions as to whether the oil could be amassed at such a price (though Sicily and Sardinia held out for prices about 30 per cent higher) ..... As a result of vigorous representations made by Colonel Pollock, Region IV Public Safety chief, some 300 or 400 inmates of Rome's Regina Coeli Prison held without review since Allied entry into Rome (for example, a 22-year-old girl sentenced to 27 years by the Germans for a petty theft), are to be freed or released under proper safeguards .....Foreign Economic Administration (U.S.) civilian personnel now arrived in Italy for assignment to ACC now number 46 out of a ceiling of 70 (both executive and clerical) ..... On the night of September 23 a riot [illegible] Regina Coeli Prison at Rome; carabinieri opened

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major, Public Relations Director.

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Captain Stone

SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/WB24

17 September 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 24
11 Sep to 17 Sep 44

1. Political

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

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

The press this week has been full of charges and counter-charges of violence and provocation. Rightly or wrongly, the Leftist parties have been accused of encouraging or at least tolerating use of force in breaking

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/ "Risorgimento Liberale"

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

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

2. AMG with the Armies

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

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

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

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

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

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3. Mediaeval masque

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

4. Looking forward from Siena

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

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

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

Col Farren told the grim story of promotion possibilities - or lack of them; a representative of the Interior Sub-Commission pointed out the difficulty of producing prefects out of a hat. When the trick did come off the strain might not always be a pure one. But they were doing their best and practise in sleight-of-hand work is always a great thing. Public Safety told of their trials in getting Carabinieri for the north and what they had in sight. The Executive Commissioner was not impressed by the number of Carabinieri - 14000 - said to be trained and ready to go in. Shortage of transport was, of course, an ever present worry and on this Transportation Sub-Commission had a few possible words of encouragement - and hope. The conference ended with everyone present, it is safe to conclude, adequately convinced that in the North, ACC - AMG will meet the greatest tests - and greatest opportunity - of military government in Italy.

6. Cautionary Tale

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

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET
copy to A/CC

10 September 1944

PRB/R26/WB23

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 23
4 Sep to 10 Sep 44

1. Political

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

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

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

/ The

000.7 PKB Bulletin

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

There have been some odd paradoxes not unworthy of note. Almost simultaneously with Nenni's appeal for more participation by the partisans in the war, Bonomi broadcast a message to them, asking them, once their areas were liberated, to surrender their arms and cooperate with the Allies. And with the growing outcry for dismantling 400 a poignant cry from "Voce Repubblicana" that another year of military government would have been a good thing. Quot homines .....

2. AMG with the Armies

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

AMG Eighth Army reports Urbino undamaged, with a normal population of 8,000 and an additional 3,000 refugees. The provincial administration of Pesaro, except the Prefect, was found at Urbino, where it had been functioning for some time. Pesaro itself (entered by AMG on Sep 3) was found considerably damaged and looted: only about 200 people were in the city. Further [illegible]

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

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

/ Pisa

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

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

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

3. Organization and movements.

The most significant internal news of the week is that the Allied Control Commission is now to come directly under AFHQ and thus will be separated from AAI. A forward echelon of ACC will be maintained in liaison with AAI. Arrangements for this will be discussed at the next forward meeting of Army AMGs and northern regions at Siena September 13. The connection between the Army AMGs and ACC will remain as now and there is to be no division between AMG and ACC. But the forward echelon will be in a position to administer to the immediate needs of the Army AMGs in the name of the Chief Commissioner. This should help. Meanwhile, orders are pouring out of the Establishment Branch, reforming our strength, as it were, for the new tasks ahead. The embryonic new regions are at present housed for planning purposes in the basement of ACC HQ and in dark subterranean passages spring up, on new labels, the magic names of "Liguria", "Piemonte", "Lombardy" and the rest. Colonel A.N. Hancock gets Lombardy, while Milan goes to Colonel Charles Poletti. Liguria (formerly Region X) has been assigned to Lieut-Colonel C.G. Feasey, while Piemonte (a new region) will be the care of Colonel Robert P. Marshall, who turns over Region V to Lieut-Colonel C.H.A. French. Brigadier J.K. Dunlop has Venezia and the privilege of welcoming the Russians. The happy arrival of 37 new officers may be noted, certainly a godsend in the quest for officers to man the new regions. Meanwhile, the Headquarters manpower reorganization recommendations are finding approval by the Acting Chief Commissioner, with some modifications, and will probably go into effect September 15. Lastly, reliable sources report that Lieut-Colonel D.E.S.

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4. Ferment

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

/ damage

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

Meanwhile Mr. A.G. Antolini, executive director of the Economic Section who will be named acting vice president pending the General's return, has been busy in negotiations with the Italian Government over transfer of operational responsibilities in several fields from ACC to the Italians, together with as much equipment as possible. Of the Economic Section sub-commissions, Agriculture and Public Works have probably turned over more of their operations, keeping only the supervisory functions, than any others. Next big transfer planned will be that of the operational functions of the Food and Transportation Sub-Commissions, with the turnover by the ACC to the Italians of available requisitioned and certain WD transport. Execution of plans for such transfers depends, of course, on Italian capacity to act. Presentation of the first Italian steps was made to the Economic Section this week from the hands of an Inter-Ministerial Committee consisting of Carbonari (Communications - Labor Democrat), Gronchi (Christian Democrat - Industry, Commerce and Labor) Communist), Gullo (Agriculture - and Solari (Treasury - Liberal). The Italians ask for a nation-wide bread ration of 300 grams (to which ACC has no objection if the Italians can get the wheat out on their own hook); wage increases to both government and industrial employes on basis of need and size of family; and lastly, an increase in the price of bread by removal of the subsidy, allowing the economic price to emerge at 12 or 13 Lire a loaf from the present "political" price of 5 Lire.

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

5. Granai del Popolo

An impression that recurs through these periodic reports on the grain collection is that the measure of success achieved is surprising in view of the

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

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

5. Granai del Popolo

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

/ officials

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

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

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

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

6. Oil

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

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/ 7.

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7. Prisoners of War

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

8. Odds and Ends

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

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John P. Leacacos Maj., AUS

for LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major, Public Relations Director.

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Capt. Stone

SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/WB22

3 September 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 22
28 Aug to 3 Sep 44

1. Political.

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Re-making the Patriots.

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

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/ Officer

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

3. AMG with the Armies.

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

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

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

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

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

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/ fighting

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

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

Among incidental points noted on Florence are:

The noblewoman who wrote: "Baroness X presents her compliments to the management of the AMGOT and would be glad to know where she can obtain canned foodstuffs and groceries, tea, sugar, butter etc., also soap. With compliments and thanks." The local bank which wrote to inquire whether hunting rifles and pistols pledged as security for loans might be returned to the owners on redemption. The finding of the tiny widow of Ras Nasibou, stalwart Abyssinian chieftain who fought the Italians with such stubbornness, living in destitution with her seven children in Florence. The attempts of black marketeers to cash in on a dearth of insulin urgently needed for 16 dying children, and how AMG put the fear of God into them and got generous supplies from many sources, including anonymous donors. The Fascist in the Black Shirt who was mobbed on the stairs leading to the Cinquecento room in the Palazzo Vecchio and badly mauled before AMG could get him into protective custody. The intervention of two British CMPs who stopped a public execution of alleged looters by Patriots in the early days of our occupation. The defiant, red-headed young woman who was escorted to the Palazzo Vecchio last Sunday afternoon by a great crowd howling that her hair must be cut off on the Palazzo balcony because she had expressed pro-German sentiments. The burial, with full British and Patriot military honours, of Potente, remarkable young Patriot commander, killed in action against Fascist Republican snipers, and the murmur which ran around the graveside during the funeral oration when a comrade mentioned "the proletariat" and the Florentines muttered: "Not proletariat, but people." The arrival of 20 quintals of lemons in Vatican trucks for the hospitals of Florence, a gift of the Pope. The German racket of requisitioning cattle, driving them off, selling them some miles away, then re-requisitioning and re-selling them over and over again. The great auction sales in the squares during the last days of German occupation when the Krauts re-sold their loot at bargain prices. The dirt in the

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4. Economics and the Press

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

5. Southern Region Debut.

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

6. Green cards.

This concerns a particular headache of the Public Relations Branch about which we should like you now to be warned. When we came to Rome there were some 600 Italian journalists milling around. The PRB found itself willy-nilly besieged by a crowd of new acquaintances [illegible] and interviews but also curfew passes, [illegible] source, jobs,

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

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

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

7. Odds and Ends.

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

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Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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Captain Stone

SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/W321

27 August 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 21
21 Aug to 27 Aug 44

1. Political

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

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

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

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

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2. AMG with the Armies

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

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

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

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

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

3. Regional Commissioners Conference

The RCs Conference, the first for 12 weeks and the first to be held in Rome, opened on Tuesday in the vast conference room of the Ministero delle Corporazioni, in a blaze of light and the atmosphere of a Turkish bath. The blaze was due to the presence of the March of Time Film Unit which, after considerable hesitation on the part of some of our coyer Vice-Presidents, had been permitted to record the scene. (This they did for an hour but then dropped and smashed their camera, be it regretfully reported, just before the arrival of General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson). Not only the Allied Press but also, for the first time at these Conferences, the Italian Press was present: and it must be set to the latter's

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

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

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

Among figures given by other sub-commissions were 500,000,000 lire worth of exports from Italy from D day to July 31; 25,000,000 dollars woth of paintings in a single cache near Florence; 60,000 tons of food a month to be brought into Rome: 340,000 tons of wheat already in the Granai del Popolo: 170,000 tons of civil supplies handled in July 1944 compared with 18,000 in December 1943: and a contribution by Italy to the armies of 150,000 tons of food and 110,000 sheep.

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

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

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Colonel Chapman thought that Region III's wheat target (170,000 tons) would be reached: Colonel Poletti spoke sympathetically of Rome's food troubles and his practised oratory was clearly audible to Italian press correspondents. In Foggia, Colonel Temperley stated, the black market had switched from grain to olive-oil. Colonel Feasey gave some impressive figures of Calabria's exports and reported no unemployment there. The Executive Commissioner, in his summary, stressed two points - that Allied military interests came before everything else, and that we must work through the Italian authorities.

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

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

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

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4. Granai del Popolo

Judging from Italian difficulties in getting the harvest in and amassed in other years, agriculture experts at Headquarters are beginning to feel hopeful about the Granai del Popolo. Estimates of the collection to date vary from 29 to 53 per cent. of the target as of the end of August. In recent years by this time, the Italians had gathered approximately 60 per cent of their goals. Comparative statistics are notoriously fallible, so we shall not pursue the point further. Suffice it to recall that in the spring, the Agriculture Sub-Commission forecast that 43 per cent of the wheat crop would be collected. It later revised the estimate downward to 38 per cent. The end of the harvest is October 31, approximately. Of course, the wheat price for the northern regions has not been set yet. One school wants to retain the present price of 1,000 lire; the other wants a lower price. The issue: Obscure at deadline time. The Agriculture Sub-Commission also feels pretty good about one thing: It thinks it has, more or less, licked the problem of grain retention by the farmer and his helpers. In Fascist years, this was such a scandal that many persons got themselves put on the lists as agricultural workers, did a couple of days' harvesting and then were allowed to retain enough grain to give them a bread ration of 600 grams a day every day in the year! The harvest collection in Region III is not going too well and its lack of progress has been obscured by the Sicilian reports of opposition, although Sicily at least has a record of consistency in opposing amassing. The problem in Region III is the fact that there are too many small farmers who have only two to ten quintals to harvest. You need an army to police such small fellows, particularly since the black market price in nearby Naples is currently 1,400 to 1,800 lire a quintal and black market operators promise the farmer 8,000 lire a quintal if he will hold his wheat for six months and then sell it to the black market ring. The collections in reports received and collated as of August 25 are:-

| Region | Wheat collected (Quintals) | Regional Commissioners' Goals |
|---|---|---|
| I | 575,000 | 3,500,000 |
| II | 703,056 | 1,550,000 |
| Foggia | 915,421 | 1,565,175 |
| III | 65,161 | 170,000 |
| IV | 568,736 | 1,930,000 |
| V | 474,251 | 2,550,000 |
| VI | 170,000 | 400,000 |
| VII | 150,000 | 290,000 |
| VIII | 261,000 | 1,500,000 |
| Total | 3,862,625 | 13,455,175 |

5. Mr Churchill

On Wednesday Mr Churchill held a very "off the record" Press Conference at the British Embassy, Rome. The directive allows us to [illegible] and the remark about Cigars." The

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6. Regions and their Prefects

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

7. The Economic Front

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

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

8. Flags and Symbols

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

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

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

9. Odds and Ends

AMG is all set to enter the independent Republic of San Marino whenever the time comes, one officer having already been entitled "Political Liaison Officer" and briefed as to his duties which will consist largely of being helpful, especially after insuring that a neutral government is actually functioning.....
The Isle of Elba is expected finally to go under AMG control Sept. 20, after French troops leave the island....Major Quayle, former P.A. to Lieut. Gen. MacFarlane is visiting the convalescent former Chief Commissioner in England; we wish the General a speedy recovery....The Southern Region(former regions II, III, and VII and Foggia, and Campobasso, the latter subtracted from Region V) will be officially activated Aug. 28 in Naples with Col. C.E. Temperly, former Provincial Commissioner of Foggia, as the new Regional Commissioner; all offic[illegible]

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Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

Capt. Stow..

SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/WB20.

20 August 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 20
13 Aug to 20 Aug 44

1. Political

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

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

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

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

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

## 2. Giornate fiorentine

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

## 3. Meeting in Siena

Chandeliers and tapestries looked down on the Executive Commissioner's third "advanced" meeting held on Wednesday August 16. The tapestries (for a wandering eye such as ours at conferences [illegible] a certain charm; the presiding Brigadier was [illegible] heads of our distinguished

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

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

4. Granai del Popolo

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

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4. Granai del Popolo

The harvest collections are continuing nip and tuck. Matera Province in Region II broke last year's record but evasions are legion. Col Zellars, Regional Commissioner, asserts that his officers have met 62 different ways of evading amassing rules. The harvest moon is really shining in Foggia, which has a large amount ready for export - but there is a shortage of rail cars. Col Marshall has thrown the challenge to the Economic Section: "We'll bring it in: you get it out." Up in 8th Army AMG territory other factors militate against success. Farmers are complaining that they are asked to send their surplus to deficient areas in Southern Italy, where the bread ration is 300 grams per person, whereas in their own areas, from which wheat is to be shipped out, the bread ration is 200 grams. Total wheat collections on the basis of the latest figures received at headquarters as of August 19 are 2,978,679 quintals. The tentative over-all goal is 13,580,175. The scores

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by regions:-

| | |
|---|---|
| I .. .. .. .. | 462,627 |
| II .. .. .. .. | 642,760 |
| Foggia .. .. .. .. | 810,965 |
| III .. .. .. .. | 41,170 |
| IV .. .. .. .. | 450,765 |
| V .. .. .. .. | 49,944 |
| VI .. .. .. .. | 147,549 |
| VII .. .. .. .. | 111,900 |
| VIII .. .. .. .. | 261,000 |
| Total | 2,978,679 |

5. Riviera Affairs

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

6. The Economic Pot Simmers

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

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/ specialties



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

7. Repose

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

8. Credit and Debit

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

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

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

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| Calcium carbide .. | 221 " | | |
| Flour bags .. .. | 55 " | | |
| Bean seed .. .. | 831 " | | |
| Nails .. .. | 68 " | | |
| Fruit wrapping paper | 32 " | | |
| Cigarette cover stock | 45 " | | |

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9. Odds and Ends

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

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Up to August 1 Italians had received $2,895,926 and L. 41,575 in 70,563 individual remittances from the U.S. and the U.K. since start of the remittance system..... The Naples labor office conciliated 103 labor misunderstandings last month ..... The price of a pair of young oxen in 8th Army areas these days is reported as 125,000 lire, said to be ten times the pre-occupation price ..... In Ethiopia (1941), Brigadier Lush tells us, it was 2 singlets and a pair of shorts ..... Soup kitchen meals in Rome have increased 26,000 to 229,000 a day (not in the Grand Hotel) ..... Black Market prices of tinned meat in Region VII are lower than official prices, which prompts Lt Col Feasey, the RC, to remark: "There has been a gradual decline in Black Market prices which, after all, are the only satisfactory barometer of economic conditions" ..... Apparently Col Feasey is not the only person to think so, for the Allied Publications Board has just received an application from Bari for permission to publish a "Guide to Black Market Prices" ..... Fishing note from Colonel Hulls: "For fishermen on leave, those who can manage a few days could do much worse than to go to Aquila, about 2,000 feet up, a lovely climate and beautiful country with excellent trout streams. I can vouch for this because I bought some fish from a local fisherman on the way" .....For the first time in any period for which ACC has information, there appears to have been a decisive shift in postal savings bond investments, principal device of saving used by the small savers of Italy, from a net outflow of funds to a net inflow ..... Lt Col Jenny, Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission Director, was mildly exercised recently to find one reason why the Italian agencies were perhaps not producing as much work as might be expected; they worked from 8.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and then called it a day; they now work at least until 5 p.m. ..... Pangs of progress (as read in a recent report of Region III): "The fishing industry attained 3,410 quintals - a new record. Next month perhaps this record will be beaten for the director and two inspectors of the Central Fishing Agency were arrested for Black Market operations" ..... Note from Region V: Colonel Marshall, RC, reports he has "a superb crowd" and that things are going well except those that are being corrected ..... Travel note from Colonel Hulls (we like Colonel Hulls): "The best item of equipment on a long motor journey these days is a sponge and canvas bucket to use beside the clear, cool streams plentiful throughout the country" ..... American voters: State ballots for the November election have begun to arrive to 2675 Regt. members ..... A March of Time film unit headed by Maurice Lancaster to make (in one month) a film of ACC/AMG activities; superfacilities are requested for them by all concerned.

Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/WB20.

20 August 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 20
13 Aug to 20 Aug 44

1. Political

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

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

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

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

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

2. Giornate fiorentine

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

3. Meeting in Siena

Chandeliers and tapestries looked down on the Executive Commissioner's third "advanced" meeting held on Wednesday [illegible]

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3. Meeting in Siena

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

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

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

4. Granai del Popolo

The harvest collections are continuing nip and tuck. Matera Province in Region II broke last year's record but evasions are legion. Col Zellars, Regional Commissioner, asserts that his

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by regions:-

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

5. Riviera Affairs

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

6. The Economic Pot Simmers

The Economic Section of Brigadier-General O'Dwyer was a-stir with plenty of activity on a dozen fronts this week. While many plans are in the betwixt-and-between stage, progress can be reported, according to the General, on expediting repair of the railroad from Grosseto which will bring lignite coal to Rome for eventual resumption of gas service. Main obstacle to the work was a destroyed bridge. Now, barely ten days after the project was started, three shifts of men are working on repairs - at night under floodlights - and it is hoped coal will begin to roll in by August 26. There is a stockpile of nearly 100,000 tons of lignite waiting to be used up at the end of the line. General O'Dwyer is also thinking over and getting facts on what is entailed in the industrial rehabilitation of Italy, recommendations on a relief program, disposal of surplus Allied equipment, food, and expediting requisitions, not to mention reorganization and re-grouping of his sub-commissions. Batteries of Italian Government statisticians are beginning to come through with detailed reports on industrial plant conditions and requirements, four of the fifteen types of industry now having reported. In connection with eventual reconstruction of war damage, the Public Works Sub-Commission has made a tentative estimate of the over-all cost as follows: South of the Pisa-Rimini line - $1,051,000,000; north of that line - $1,927,000,000 total.

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specialties are: Joseph Difede, Labor; Henry H. Bakkan, Prices; David C. Sachs, Labor; Charles C. Crocks, Transportation.

7. Repose

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

8. Credit and Debit

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

| Imports | | Exports | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ammonium nitrate .. | 7927 tons | Sulphur .. .. | 1243 tons |
| Newsprint .. .. | 176 " | Hemp and rope .. | 1120 " |
| Lead acetate .. | 62 " | Filberts .. .. | 872 " |
| Printing paper .. | 49 " | Argols .. .. | 100 " |
| Matches .. .. | 28 " | Raw silk .. .. | 4750 kilos |
| Yellow soap .. .. | 2133 " | Sweet orange oil | 3772 " |
| Caustic soda .. | 1191 " | Tangerine oil .. | 909 " |
| Binder twine .. .. | 275 " | Bergamot oil .. | 15890 " |
| Calcium carbide .. | 221 " | | |
| Flour bags .. .. | 55 " | | |
| Bean seed .. .. | 631 " | | |
| Nails .. .. | 68 " | | |
| Fruit wrapping paper | 32 " | | |
| Cigarette cover stock | 43 " | | |

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

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9. Odds and Ends

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

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Up to August 1 Italians had received $2,895,926 and L. 41,575 in 70,563 individual remittances from the U.S. and the U.K. since start of the remittance system..... The Naples labor office conciliated 103 labor misunderstandings last month ..... The price of a pair of young oxen in 8th Army areas these days is reported as 125,000 lire, said to be ten times the pre-occupation price ..... In Ethiopia (1941), Brigadier Lush tells us, it was 2 singlets and a pair of shorts ..... Soup kitchen meals in Rome have increased 26,000 to 229,000 a day (not in the Grand Hotel) ..... Black Market prices of tinned meat in Region VII are lower than official prices, which prompts Lt Col Feasey, the RC, to remark: "There has been a gradual decline in Black Market prices which, after all, are the only satisfactory barometer of economic conditions" ..... Apparently Col Feasey is not the only person to think so, for the Allied Publications Board has just received an application from Bari for permission to publish a "Guide to Black Market Prices" ..... Fishing note from Colonel Hulls: "For fishermen on leave, those who can manage a few days could do much worse than to go to Aquila, about 2,000 feet up, a lovely climate and beautiful country with excellent trout streams. I can vouch for this because I bought some fish from a local fisherman on the way" .....For the first time in any period for which ACC has information, there appears to have been a decisive shift in postal savings bond investments, principal device of saving used by the small savers of Italy, from a net outflow of funds to a net inflow ..... Lt Col Jenny, Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission Director, was mildly exercised recently to find one reason why the Italian agencies were perhaps not producing as much work as might be expected: they worked from 8.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and then called it a day; they now work at least until 5 p.m. ..... Pangs of progress (as read in a recent report of Region III): "The fishing industry attained 3,410 quintals - a new record. Next month perhaps this record will be beaten for the director and two inspectors of the Central Fishing Agency were arrested for Black Market operations" ..... Note from Region V: Colonel Marshall, PC, reports he has "a superb crowd" and that things are going well except those that are being corrected ..... Travel note from Colonel Hulls (we like Colonel Hulls): "The best item of equipment on a long motor journey these days is a sponge and canvas bucket to use beside the clear, cool streams plentiful throughout the country" ..... American voters: State ballots for the November election have begun to arrive to 2675 Regt members ..... A March of Time film unit headed by Maurice Lancaster to make (in one month) a film of ACC/AMG activities: superfacilities are requested for them by all concerned.

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Capt. Stone.

SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/WB19

13 August 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 19
6 Aug to 12 Aug 44

1. Political

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

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

On August 6th an "alliance" was announced by the Socialist and Communist parties. Nenni, speaking for the Socialists, was careful to point out that this was not yet a "fusion"; "sentimental" considerations stood in the way. The joint programme includes the three following objectives: (1) to achieve more active participation in the war; (2) to intensify application of anti-Fascist decrees; (3) to bring wages and salaries in line with cost of living and further to protect the workers by vigorous action against those employers who are unwilling to cooperate in the economic reforms necessary for the new democracy. The parties appealed to the Christian Democrats for cooperation, an invitation as yet not accepted. The whole affair was viewed with suspicion by the Liberals and the "Risorgimento Liberale" saw in it a move calculated to create the impression that only the working class is anti-Fascist and democratic and predicted that, if the Christian Democrats joined, a very difficult situation would be created within the committee of liberation and indeed within the government.

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

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

Earlier in the week two representatives of the Confederazione

/ Generale

Acc Weekly Bulletin

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

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

2. AMG with the Armies

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

Apart from modern war weapons, the ghost of Dante might have detected similarities with his own times - and plenty of copy for a new Inferno - in the divided city of Florence last week. Machine-guns were chattering across the Arno, and sniping, a serious nuisance in the southern part of the city, was a constant objective for the Patriots, whose leader, Potente, lost his life on Aug 7. Snipers (according to Sprigge of Reuters) were supplied by the Germans through the sewers, which were later blown up by the Patriots. Indeed, the Patriots, numbering 600 under Italian officers, seem to have done excellent work. Shells fell in the Porta Romana area causing considerable civilian casualties and on the hills just outside the city; but the report of AMG 8th Army of Aug 10 indicated [illegible] slackening in shelling

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Apart from modern war weapons, the ghost of Dante might have detected similarities with his own times - and plenty of copy for a new Inferno - in the divided city of Florence last week. Machine-guns were chattering across the Arno, and sniping, a serious nuisance in the southern part of the city, was a constant objective for the Patriots, whose leader, Potente, lost his life on Aug 7. Snipers (according to Sprigge of Reuters) were supplied by the Germans through the sewers, which were later blown up by the Patriots. Indeed, the Patriots, numbering 600 under Italian officers, seem to have done excellent work. Shells fell in the Porta Romana area causing considerable civilian casualties and on the hills just outside the city; but the report of AMG 8th Army on Aug 10 indicated considerable slackening in shelling and sniping. Water (the pipes supplying the southern district run along the south side of the Arno) failed on August 3 and private sources were exhausted on August 5. By August 10 however an RE water-point had been assembled to supply the north part of the city as soon as it fell. Food in the southern part was completely cleared by the Germans, but by August 7 sixty tons a day was coming in, and stocks were being built up for the northern sector; bread was distributed from the Palazzo Pitti, as well as rations (100 grams) of sugar and salt, and milk for bottle-fed babies. There are some 80,000 people in the southern part, including 8,000 refugees. As far as was known both food and water were very short in the northern sector. From August 9 onwards AMG 8th Army held a Press Conference every morning, and the PWB published 10,000 copies daily of the "Corriere Alleato".

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

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

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

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

3. Mosquitoes

As the malaria season approaches its peak, the Public Health Sub-Commission is doing its best to cope with the effects of the German sabotage in flooding the Pontine Marshes and aggravating the normal malaria perils. With AAI help, there is now weekly airplane spraying of the marshes, especially north of Terracina and Fondi. In all, there are some 5,000 civilians now engaging in malaria control work,

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4. Granai del Popolo

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

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

6. Control of the Press

On Monday August 14 the Allied Publications Board will hold its last meeting as an all-Allied Executive Authority. In other words, while the APB still retains, under its terms of reference, the word in the veto or suspension of publications and [illegible] licenses, the recommendations will now be made [illegible] all territory under Italian jurisdiction officials grouped - as the Boards and a Central [illegible] process of

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6. Civic Life at the Grass Roots

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

7. Odds and Ends

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

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

Lion-Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785215

1 Col Monfort
2 Col. Hendmore,

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB18

6 August 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 18
30 July to 5 Aug

1. Political

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

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

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

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

/ speech

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

2. AMG with the Armies

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

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

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

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



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

/ A point:

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

3. Wandering Jews and Gentiles

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

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

4. Coiffure romaine

Conscript fathers and Roman matrons, badgered by politicians, short of rations, clamouring for pasta, potatoes and electric power, have recently found some diversion in the wave of vindictive hair-clipping which has swept through the younger set of the Capitol. Roman youths, largely unemployed and bored, resent the attraction that Allied uniforms have for signorine and there have been several cases where bands of young men have fallen upon the infatuated creatures and barbarously cut off locks of their hair, with the intention of making them conspicuous rather than attractive. Resistance by the soldier escort has occasionally led to violence and the whole situation has been thoroughly aired by the Roman press - to say

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5. Latest scores: Granai del Popolo

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

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

6. Scattered Treasure

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

7. Odds and Ends

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

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Foggia | 221,670 | 20 July 44 | |
| III | 800,000 | 29 July 44 | 3,100,000 |
| IV | 14,818 | 29 July 44 | 1,550,000 |
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/ week

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

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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Capt. Stone.

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB17

30 July 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 17
23 July to 29 July

1. Political

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

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

The Council met on Thursday and Friday and had much to do. Measures were taken to set up an Assizes court for the trial of Fascist criminals, Count Sforza was named High Commissioner for sanctions against Fascism, pensions were to various Fascist groups (including

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/ The Cabinet

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

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

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

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

/ not

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

2. Signs of the times

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

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

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3. AMG with the Armies.

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

/ Florence.

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

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

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

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

4. Bullock's Baedeker

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

"The condition of the roads varies between excellent and execrable. The cross-country highways from Perugia to just south of Ancona have some narrow diversions and flimsy bridges, which will carry a jeep or a staff car only, but in the main you can travel 30 m.p.h. without discomfort or danger. The coast road down to Pescara has a few one-way diversions and bridges, so that if you meet a convoy you lose considerable time, but for the most part a jeep can travel on that road at 60-65 m.p.h. quite comfortably. From Pescara to Termoli the coast road and diversions are worse than anything I ever travelled on. There are three gangs building new roads between Vasto and Termoli, but they are proceeding very slowly and the strips they have laid are just long enough to emphasize the wretchedness of the rest of the road. Of the hundreds of Italians employed in these various gangs, I saw not one single individual working as we passed. Those who were not lounging about talking were lying by the road asleep. From Termoli to Benevento via Campobasso is fair but rough going even at only 20 m.p.h. Benevento to Avellino is an excellent highway in fine shape, with sharp bends and many steep grades. The road from Isernia to Pettorano is surely one of the most magnificent drives in Italy

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

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

5. Granai del Popolo

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

| Compartment | Quantity (quintals) | Date reported |
|---|---|---|
| Sicily | 96,640 | 20 July |
| Calabria | 52,000 | 27 July |
| Lucania | 66,400 | 15 July |
| Apulia | 501,203 | 22 July |
| Campania | 11,940 | 26 July |
| Sardinia | 54,750 | 27 July |
| Lazio | 61,150 | 23 July |
| Umbria | 6,520 | 25 July |
| Tuscany | 5,200 | 15 July |
| Total reported | 855,803 | |

| Region | Quantity (quintals) | Date reported |
|---|---|---|
| I | 96,640 | 20 July |
| II | 78,544 | 15 July |
| Foggia | 458,059 | 22 July |
| III | 11,940 | 26 July |
| IV | 67,670 | 23 July |
| V | No report | |
| VI | 54,750 | 27 July |
| VII | 52,000 | 27 July |
| VIII | 5,200 | 15 July |
| Total reported | 855,803 | |

Bountiful though the wheat crop is, the fact remains that Italy has never been entirely self-sufficient in grain. A project is under examination to use surplus barley from Iran, Iraq and North Africa as a mix with Italian wheat in order to reduce importation of wheat from distant places to a minimum. Adulteration of wheat with barley has been reported successful up to 30 per cent. Romans this week, incidentally, found with a mild shock that the white bread they have been receiving from [illegible]

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6. The new Press Law

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

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

7. Rejoicing in Rieti

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

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

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
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Copies furnished Col. Hemmens Col Marfoll

Secretary General

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/WB16/R26

22 July 1944.

AGC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 16
16 July to 22 July

1. Political

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

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

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

The Council, which was in session from the 17th through the 19th, dealt at length with the eternal question of the punishment of Fascists. It set up machinery for special courts to deal with those guilty of Fascist crimes, these courts to have power

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. AMG with the Armies

The captures of Livorno and Ancona were the highlights of the week. The line on July 22 stretched more or less due east and west from a point just south of Senigallia, 15 miles north of Ancona, to a point a few miles north of Livorno. The centres of German resistance which still pin back the line in two places are at Citta del Castello, 22 miles north of Perugia, and in the area just north of Pontedera where, presumably, the enemy is

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Elba

The island of Elba has, since its occupation, been placed by AFHQ under a French Deputy Military Governor who has delegated his Civil Affairs to ACC (Major Murchie). As soon as Livorno Province has been cleared and handed over to Region VIII the island will come under ACC jurisdiction. The first report from Major Murchie, dated June 30, shows that very considerable

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

4. Food for thought in Sardinia

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

5. - and in Region VIII

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

"It is a moot point whether anything beyond a stereotyped report ever serves a useful purpose; but the enclosed is sent

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5. - and in Region VII

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

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

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

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

/ maintained

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. Roman Gold

Investigation into the tactics of German exploitation of Italy during their tenure in the national capital is bringing up some as yet unwritten history. The Germans managed to get the bulk of the Italian gold reserve to Germany, about 55,000 kg. There are now only 116 kg of Italian gold in Allied Italy. A year ago gold in Rome could be bought for 450 to 500 lire a gram, silver for 6,000 lire a kg and diamonds averaging 10 grains for 20,000 lire a grain. The Germans tried to manoeuvre the prices with some success, during which period they are estimated to have taken out of Italy between 500 and 750 millions of lire in gold, silver and

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In the course of his report Colonel Peasey gives many interesting examples of trouble brewed or brewing: among others are the shortcomings of the Prefect of Catanzaro, the throwing of a hand grenade (wounding 28 people) by the Sindaco of Laureana di Borrello into a crowd which he was addressing, and wholesale robberies by armed bands equipped with Breda guns, machine-guns, automatic rifles and hand grenades, which they had procured from an Italian Army dump.

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7. Agriculture

An extremely clear and practical report of the Agriculture Sub-Commission for June reveals several items of interest in the rehabilitation of agriculture, the backbone of Italy's economy. Wood and charcoal are Italy's main fuels, Naples, for example, using 50,000 quintals a month. There, as in Rome and most places,

/ charcoal

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

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

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

8. Pescara Note

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

9. The Chief Commissioner

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

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

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Lionel Fielden

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Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/WB15

SECRET

16 July 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO.15
9 July to 15 July

1. Political

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

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

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

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



PRO weekly Bulletin

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2. AMG with the Armies

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

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

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

3. The Shape of Things to Come?

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

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

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

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

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

4. AAI tacks on Wages

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

The new AAI order operates as follows: Rates for office employees have not been increased as requested, but increased pay for higher-calibre persons was supplied by creating new classifications of senior and junior administrative assistants, with maximums of 6,000 lire per month for the former and 4,500 lire per month for the latter. The problem of pay for hotel employees, scarcity of which (because of inadequate wage standards) was bidding fair to create a minor crisis in the personal comfort of Allied officers largely billeted in hotels, was likewise settled by forming new 691 classifications for their pay.

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



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5. Consternation in Apulia

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

6. Journalism in Rome

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

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

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

/ and

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

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

Incidentally, Tass Agency (the Russian news service) has arrived in Rome in the person of Tovarich Vishnierski and will shortly be transmitting its own comments on the Italian situation to the world.

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7. Granai del Popolo

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

/ Foggia

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

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

8. Region III

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

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9. Region VIII

Regional HQ were (temporarily) established at Orvieto on June 19. By July 10 the Region had a strength of 119 officers, the total allotment being 155. Grosseto, the only province fully occupied, was reported politically quiet and presenting no grain problems. Future agricultural prospects "quite bright". Repairs to water supply systems were in hand and Grosseto (more fortunate than Rome) was getting light and power from the hydro-electric station at Scarcata. Some looting by troops and some cases of

/ rape

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

10. Exodus

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

11. SHAEF and Refugees in Normandy

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

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12. Odds and Ends

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

/ back

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

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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T.3/Acc/WB14

SECRET

ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

AOC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 14
2 July to 8 July

1. Political

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

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

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2. Treatment of Partisans

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

/ partisans

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

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

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

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

3. AMG with the Armies

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

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

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

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

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

Major Bullock reports from 8th Army AMG as follows:

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

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

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

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

"In the bank in CORCIANO 73 lire were found. There was no money in the communal treasury. Population of 6,700, including 200 refugees, was being looked after by three doctors, one carabiniere and one municipal guard. There were adequate medical supplies for a month. The people were found friendly and cooperative. The town, centre of an agricultural commune, had about half its buildings more or less damaged. Lieut TORCELLINI is in charge.

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

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

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4. Civil Affairs on the Second Front

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

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

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

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

5. Granai del Popolo

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

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

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

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6. Labour in the Melting Pot

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

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happened briefly was this:

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

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

7. Here and there.

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

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LIONEL FIELDEN, Major.
PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

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ADVANCE HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB/R23

7 July 1944

Subject: Report for June 1944

To: Secretary-General.

During June a part of the Public Relations Branch moved from Naples to Rome. Major John P. Leecacos set up a temporary Public Relations Office at Rome Area Command Headquarters on 5 June to deal with the numerous correspondents who had followed the troops into the city.

Advanced Headquarters office was established at the Ministero delle Corporazioni, Rome, by Major Lionel Fielden on 14 June, accompanied by S Sjt Alan Cash. Lieut Arthur F. Braydon joined Advanced HQ from Naples on 19 June, while two Italian civilian employees were engaged to assist in the volume of work. Major Thomas G. Bergin and Lieut Gene F. Caprio remained at the Naples office pending the move of the main party to Rome. Major Theodore L. Bullock remained on duty with AMG 8th Army. Capt C. Howard Owen was detailed for duty with PWB Film Unit on 20 June to conduct the unit into the Southern provinces for the making of a film on the People's Granaries. Lieut John W. Atkinson joined the staff of 29 June.

The chief work of the branch was centred on problems arising from the fall of Rome, although normal activities (Weekly Bulletin, Trend of Correspondents' Copy, Italian Press Digest, etc.) continued. The control of the Rome press and the 600 journalists of Rome, as well as the neutral journalists who had remained in the city, raised special issues regarding their credentials.

Members of the branch attended meetings of the Allied Publications Board on 15 June. Instructions were issued to the Rome press. Press Conferences were held in Rome by Brigadier-General Edgar E. Hume on 6 June and by Lieut-General Sir Noel Mason MacFarlane on 19 June, and by Colonel Charles Poletti, Regional Commissioner, Rome Region, on 22 June. During the month over 100 Press Releases in English and Italian were issued. Prior to the fall of Rome a press conference was arranged for General Hume at Anzio and passes for entry into Rome were issued to 400 public relations personnel belonging to AFHQ 5th Army, 8th Army, PWB Psychological Warfare Branch etc.

Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major, Public Relations Director.

PRB 26/WB

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2 July,1944

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 13
25 JUNE TO 2 JULY

1. Political

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

Otherwise the week was relatively uneventful. It was announced by the Ministry of Communications that interurban telephone service will be open to the public beginning July 1st. Casati, Minister of War, sent an inspiring proclamation to the Armed Forces. The Commissarieto for refugees has announced its intention of getting the refugees back to their homes "as soon as possible" Farmers will go first and the whole project will be worked out in collaboration with ACC. On the occasion of the announcement of British [illegible]

Doc'l Walls Bulletin

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2. Movements

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

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

3. Granai del Popolo

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

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

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

4. AMG With the Armies

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

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

Viterbo Province was turned over to Region IV on June 29. In Grosseto province harvesting operations are going on

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Upon arrival in Perugia on the morning of 20 June hundreds of partisans, armed, were marching up and down the streets in groups singing, shouting and waving flags. The partisans' leaders were contacted and AMG policy of no politics and the consigning of arms in the Carabinieri station and the Questura was explained. The leaders were cooperative and at 5 in the afternoon they formed up in front of the Municipio and, upon my instructions, marched to the Questura where they consigned their arms. In questioning several citizens and internees I have been informed that the partisans in

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[illegible] and 2nd Section 166 Inf Brigadier A/Q only).

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

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

5. Report From Rome.

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

So far so good. But the Romans, to judge from their press which is unchained and vociferous, still want a lot of things. They want salt, washing and toilet soap, and medicine. They want the Allies to give them a bigger share in the war effort. They want Allied Officers to have no social contacts with Fascists. They want telephones. The new epuration order of Col. Polotti has in general been applauded though some think it hard on the "small fry", and many are puzzled as to how it ties in with previous epuration decrees. A complication is added by the new University clean-up committee, which is still another phase of defascistization not clearly coordinated with other measures.

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[illegible] appointed though
The nominations are being investigated by AMG and FSS."

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

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

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6. Notes From Naples

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

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

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

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

7. Legal

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

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

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

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8. From Here and There .

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

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

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

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

(Stars and Stripes, 28 June, 1944)

Thomas G Bergin

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

Distribution same as No. 12

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HQ ACC, APO 2
Sec'y Gen.
Rec'd 26 Jun 1945
By

PRB 26/WB 12

SECRET

67

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

25 June, 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 12
18 June to 25 June

1. Political

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

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

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

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

In the afternoon of the same day the Council met in Salerno. Their first act was to send greetings and good wishes to the octogenarian Orlando. They then unanimously approved a declaration stating they felt the present min

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PRB Weekly Bulletin

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

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

2. Command of ACC

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

3. ACC with the Armies

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

In Fifth Army territory Grosseto is reported as practically undamaged. Many inhabitants had fled but were expected to return; the provincial CA was already in the town on 19 June. Orbetello, though 60% damaged, yielded some treasures. Several hundred tons of ore (manganese or iron) were found abandoned in dumps and the harbor contained one large schooner and 13 small ones. Several thousand gallons of naphtha were discovered; this supply should be useful for running farm machinery

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

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

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

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

> "The town was full of partisans armed to the teeth Col. Spencer interviewed the leaders of six different bands. They claim to have a total following of about 600. Some of these, possibly 200, are Jugoslavs the remainder being Italians mainly officered by members of the Italian Army and principally pro-Badoglio. They are armed with tommy-guns, LMG's etc., which were dropped by parachute by our own forces. They stated that they were unable to prevent the destruction of the main bridges but that they had prevented destruction of the banks and certain bridges on the Aquila road . Between 20 and 30 German prisoners were taken and are now held in Rieti prison. Army have been informed of this."

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

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

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

4. Granai del Popolo

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

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

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

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

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

Soldier labor has arrived in Rome province as per schedule and has assisted materially in keeping down labor costs. The [illegible] presents some difficulties these are stated to be under control.

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

Rome

5. Early in the week accounts from Rome painted a rather sombre picture. Food was scarce - up to the 21st the bread ration was 100 grammes a day, no better than under the Germans- water was short, lack of power had also caused the rationing of light and there were complaints of requisitioning and the too carefree behavior of too many troops. It was clear that our prestige was suffering. Later reports indicate that while the honeymoon period is apparently over a happy marriage is still possible. The water supply has now been raised to 83 % of normal and by July 15th it will be 80% of normal. The bread ration has been increased to 150 grammes. This is good in itself and as an indication of good intentions and future prospects. Also what bread there is is white and this is a delightful novelty to the war-tried Romans. Lighting is still a problem. There is still too high a percentage of restaurant meals served to soldiers. But there is every indication that AAI and ACC are both aware of the situation and are tackling it energetically.

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

The Rome press created quite an uproar when it became known that Gigli, the well known Roman singer and suspected of strong Fascist sympathies, was to take part in a concert for Allied troops. Finally his participation was cancelled. Gigli admitted he had sung for German troops and said he was quite willing to sing for British, American or even Chinese troops if they ever came to Rome. But as for [illegible]

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

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6. Addio Bella Napoli

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

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

7. Interior

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

8. What They Tell Us

The discovery that paper mills in the vicinity of Rome are in condition to operate promises to alleviate the shortage of newsprint....The C.O. of remote Lampedusa has done so well that the townspeople want to re-name the main square after him.... Perhaps one day Rome will have a Corso Commissione Alleato and Naples a Piazza Poletti....Treasures from Cassino Monastery were moved in German army vehicles last January. They were handed over to the Vatican authorities at Castel Santangelo....It will be a hard summer for the Bambini of Region IV; Education is planning on keeping the schools open....Air service from Naples to Rome is now functioning; four flights a day....Main difficulty of moving to Rome is shortage of packing cases. The "infiltration" system of moving rather than the "dell swoop" type will take care of this ....5,000 refugees who had been sheltering in the Pope's Castle at Gandolfo have now left. The Castle was only slightly damaged in the fighting....It is reported that the new Minister of Grace and Justice has been seen in his office working in his shirt sleeves.... This augurs well for speedier turning of the wheels of Justice....In an interview with an American correspondent, Mascagni the composer of "Cavaller Rusticana" [illegible] true that he had [illegible]

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HLO.

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

8. What They Tell Us

The discovery that paper mills in the vicinity of Rome are in condition to operate promises to alleviate the shortage of newsprint....The CAO of remote Lampedusa has done so well that the townspeople want to re-name the main square after him.... Perhaps one day Rome will have a Corso Commissione Alleato and Naples a Piazza Poletti....Treasures from Cassino Monastery were moved in German army vehicles last January. They were handed over to the Vatican authorities at Castel Santangelo....It will be a hard summer for the Bambini of Region IV; Education is planning on keeping the schools open....Air service from Naples to Rome is now functioning; four flights a day....Main difficulty of move to Rome is shortage of packing cases. The "infiltration" system of moving rather than the "roll sweep" type will take care of this ....5,000 refugees who had been sheltering in the Pope's Castle at Gandolfo have now left. The Castle was only slightly damaged in the fighting....It is reported that the new Minister of Grace and Justice has been seen in his office working in his shirt sleeves.... This augurs well for speedier turning of the wheels of Justice....In an interview with an American correspondent, Mascagni the composer of "Cavaliera Rusticana" said it was true that he had conducted operas dressed in Nazi uniform. But this was only a formality and had no meaning....We have had some fascinating stationery from Rome; one sheet labelled "Appunto per il Duce" and perforated with the letters "SQUADRISTA", another bearing the letterhead Der Deutsche Kommandant von Rom....Reconnaissence discovered only 5 cases of malaria in Foggia and, oddly enough, no flies....Italian officials in Calabria are a little lax these days; they feel the Allies will soon leave the South....Plans are being prepared for proclamations and propaganda to placate partisans.... Distinguished Member of the Commission has visited Elba not on the heels of the Bataillon du Choc.

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

Thomas G. Bergin

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

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Distribution

1-10 Regional Commissioner, Region I
11-18 " " " II
19-24 " " " III
25-33 " " " IV
34-43 " " " V
44-48 " " " VI
49-53 " " " VII
54-58 " " " VIII
59-63 " " " IX
64 Senior Civil Affairs Officer ACC 5th Army
65 " " " " 8th Army
66 Chief Commissioner
67 Deputy Chief Commissioner
68 Executive Commissioner
69 Deputy Executive Commissioner
70 Vice Pres. Administrative Section
71 Col. D.S. Adams Chief Asst. Economic Section
72-78 Col. Charles M. Spofford Asst. Chief of Staff G-5
79 Col. A.E. Young, Security Branch
80-84 Mr. Alexander Kirk, U.S. Rep. on Advisory Council for Ita
85 Maj. T.L. Bullock PRO 5th Army ACC
87 Maj. J.P. Leacacos DPR. Advance Hq. ACC ly
88 Mr. John Reyner , PWB
89 Experimental Det. G-2 Rm. 41 Bank of Naples Bldg.
90-91 Sir Noel Charles, Brit. Rep. on Adv. Council for Italy
92 Information Division
93 Asst. Chief of Staff G-2 Sec. PBS
94 I.S.L.B. 126 Via Alessandro Manzoni
95 Ensign Henry Roberts, R&A Branch 628 Via Tasso 2nd Floor
96 Secretary General
97 Major E.T. De Wald, Fine Arts Sub-Commission
98 File 26 PRB
99 Lt. Col. T.V. Smith, Education Sub-Commission
100 Lt. Col. R.C.B. Spicer, Interior Sub-Com.
101 Col. G.M. Ujohn Legal Sub-Com.
102 Lt. C.R. Harris Property Control Sub-Com
103 Brig. G.S. Parkinson, Public Health Sub.-Com.
104 Col. P.G. Kirk Public Safety Sub.-Com.
105 Lt. Col. W.A. Hartmer, Agriculture Sub.-Com.
106 Col. J.P. Greffrey-Smith, Finance Sub.Com
107 Col. Edward H. Foley, Finance Sub-Com
108 Lt. Col. L.A. Jenny, Pub. Wks. & Utilities Sub-Com.
109 Col. W.J. Legg, Food Sub-Com.
110 Col. W. Evans, Industry & Commerce Sub-Com.
111 Lt. Col. L.E. Vining, Transportation Sub-Com.
112 Col. J.R. Bain. Labour Sub-Com
113 Mr. Ian Campbell, Shipping Sub-Com
114 Col. C. Findlay, Displaced Persons, Sub-Com.
115 R. Admiral C.E. Morgan, Navy Sub-Com
116 Maj. Gen. L. Browning, Army Sub-Com.
117 Air Vice-Marshal W.A.E. Bowen-Buscarlet, Air Sub-Com
118 Col. J.K. Henderson, Communications & Posts, Sub-Com
119 Maj. J.A. Campbell, War Material Disposal Sub-Com

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119 Adjutent ACC
120 Sir Peter Grigg, War Office, London, England
121 Maj. James H. Penick, Finance Sub-Com.

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SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB 26/WB 10

1. June, 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 11
10 June to 17 June

1. Political

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

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

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

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

The tentative list of under-secretaries has also been made known. It is as follo[illegible]

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

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

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Railways and Postoffice | Christian Democrat | Tervolino |
| War and Aviation | (Communist | Palermo |
| | (Labour Democrat | Scioloia |
| Navy | Action | Ramirez |

2. Report from Rome

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

In the field of political activity, defascistization is well under way. 67 officials have been removed for Fascist sympathies and Prince Filippo Andrea Doria Pamphilli, a member of one of Rome's oldest families and a staunch anti-Fascist, has been appointed Governor. The choice of Doria Pamphilli, who has suffered imprisonment and hardship because of his convictions, seems generally popular.

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

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

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

Hospitals suffered no damage. They are not overcrowded but are suffering from the general inconveniences of the rest of the city in lack of gas and below normal lighting and water supplies. [illegible] gradually restored and the population have co-oper-

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

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

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

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

3. AMG with the Armies

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

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

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

Saturday I went to Avezzano. There were no troops in the town. We were preceded only by an FSS man who got through on a motor cycle while we were waiting for a bulldozer to fill a gap in the road wide enough to carry a Jeep. Wing Commander Beer and the N.Z. Div. AMG Liaison Officer went directly to the Municipio and interviewed the Captain of Carabinieri, the Committee of Liberation and Municipal employee who showed up. Proclamations were posted and arrangements made for a CAO and supplies to move up the next day. Avezzano is about 20% destroyed and 20% badly damaged.



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

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

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

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

Keeping up with the AMG is an impossible task this week. As we write news comes of the fall of Grosseto. The line, to the best of our information, now runs due east and a little north to a point some 15 miles above Orvieto, farther east to include Foligno, then drops south above Teramo, whose capture is announced as we write. The advance has been and is continuous and rapid and detailed reports of AMG activities are slow coming in. A Sitrep of June 12th reported that Chieti had 80,000 civilian inhabitants, food for nine days and water for three days. Morale and order good. Orsogna, Guardiagrele and Tollo were practically uninhabited, having suffered 50 to 100% destruction. A spearhead CAO entered Sulmona on the 12th. Sulmona has suffered little; the main difficulty will be with supplies as the roads are in very bad condition.

A Fifth Army Sitrep of 14th June states that all but 10 of the 60 communes in Viterbo province have been occupied as well as two in Grosseto. Towns in the path of the armies are in bad shape, others are untouched. There is a universal shortage of salt, sugar and olive oil but in all communities there is some grain on hand. Viterbo was found to be not so badly damaged as first impressions indicated. Food has been delivered water is available and cleaning up under way. Civitavecchia was still almost empty on the date of the Sitrep but the Royal Navy had made great progress in clearing the port. Local

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

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

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

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

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

4. Granai del Popolo

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

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

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

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

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

5. Fine Arts

Italian Fine Arts officials in Rome report that the Germans purchased a certain number of state-notified paintings from private collectors while in Rome. This is contrary to Italian law but the protests of the Superintendent of Galleries were overruled by the Minister of Education and the late Count Ciano. They also report that certain Fascists sold state-notified art-objects in their possession to local dealers before fleeing from

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4. Granai del Popolo

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

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

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

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

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

5. Fine Arts

Italian Fine Arts officials in Rome report that the Germans purchased a certain number of state-notified paintings from private collectors while in Rome. This is contrary to Italian law but the protests of the Superintendent of Galleries were overruled by the Minister of Education and the late Count Ciano. They also report that certain Fascists sold state-notified art-objects in their possession to local dealers before fleeing from Rome, no doubt with a view to clandestine sale. These reports are being investigated by Fine Arts Officers in Rome. The Axis radio meanwhile continues to accuse Allied troops of similar practises. Transocean in English on June 13 purports to quote a statement by the secretary of the former Governor of Gibraltar that the purchase of objects of art (which was forbidden to German soldiers) was now being indulged in extensively by Allied troops.

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

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

6. Odds and Ends

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

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

and flag

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(Rome's Hollywood) for a refugee camp brought forth the remark from a High Source: "We await the filming of Grister's Millions"....At present Cinecitta has a French flag waving over it.... 80% of the congedati have managed to get away between Naples and the Foggia grain fields. Measures are being taken...Col Kirkwood has gone to the command of Region VIII, Col. Feasey succeeds him in Region VII....Mosquitoes have been reported in Hq. though there is an order out against them...Col. Bowman back from Adriatic inspection reports Pescara is a ghost town", Chieti quite intact.....the Region full of dead end roads and mined areas...Col. Shipp. back from Africa reports discovery of Carabinieri in abundance, also a few available doctors..... Telephonic communication between Hq. and Rome has been established, though still somewhat capricious... On civilian employees policy will be not to take Neapolitans to Rome... Accomodations awaiting ACC in Rome include the Grand Hotel with 60 rooms for general officers and colonels and 50 to spare for distinguished guests, the Flora for field grade officers and the Regina Carlton for junior officers. No requisitioning of villas- at least for the present..... The bread ration north of Rome is to be 100 grammes a day until it is clear that there will be no transport difficulties as we move north....There have been 150,000 smallpox vaccinations in Region III .... Labour Division in Rome are working a 7 day week in order to recruit a band of interpreters, chauffeurs, English-speaking typists and common labourers....Public Relations Branch has its head (and brains) in Rome, as we go to press. The tail is wagging feebly - as is probably evident.

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Land flag (insist!)

RECEIVED
19 JUN 1944
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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

67

PRB 26/WB 10

10 June 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 10
4 June to 10 June

1. Political

The liberation of Rome set in motion a train of more or less predictable events. On the afternoon of June 5, scarcely 24 hours after the Allies had entered the capital, the King signed at Ravello a document which, while still not an abdication, entrusted the Prince of Piedmont with full powers to sign Royal decrees and to exercise the Royal prerogatives as Lieutenant-General of the Realm. On the following afternoon, June 6, Marshal Badoglio submitted his resignation and those of his government to the Lieutenant-General at the Villa Maria Pia. The Lieutenant-General then requested the Marshal to proceed with the formation of a new government to include political leaders now in Rome. Early on June 8 the Marshal flew from Naples to Rome. He was accompanied by representatives of the parties included in his government, namely Croce (Liberal), Rodino (Christian Democrat), Cerabona (Labour Democrat), Cianca (Action), Longobardi (Socialist), Togliatti (Communist), and Sforza (no party affiliation). At Rome they were joined by their "opposite numbers" in the Rome Committee of Liberation: Casati (Liberal), De Gasperi (Christian Democrat), Ruini (Labour Democrat), Lamalfa (Action), Nenni (Socialist), Scoccimaro (Communist) and Bonomi, head of the Rome Committee of Liberation and a Labour Democrat.

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

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

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| | LIBERAL | Croce |
| | CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT | De Gasperi |
| | LABOUR DEMOCRAT | Ruini |
| | SOCIALIST | Saragat |
| | INDEPENDENT | Sforza |
| | COMMUNIST | Togliatti |

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

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

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

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

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

2. Reports from Rome.

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

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

On the 7th the Pope held a press conference, surely the first in history and certainly the first papal audience at which a woman clad in slacks was received. His Holiness, harassed by the explosion of flashlight bulbs, spoke briefly to the correspondents, welcoming them but stressing the neutrality of the Holy See and urging all to remember that war could only be justified as a preparation for peace. Each correspondent was given a rosary wrapped in a small envelope bearing the papal arms as a souvenir. The Pope received soldiers of the Catholic faith at stated hours. With this exception anyone visiting Vatican City

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

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

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

3. AMG with the Armies

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

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

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

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

Anagni provided an example of difficulties with partisan troops, which also occurred in Rome. One band of 400, fully equipped with artillery and machine-guns, had no friendly feelings at all towards a

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"2. It was impossible to get further into Rome at that time because of the firing from snipers and machine-gunners. The SCAO posted the other set of proclamations and notices at Campidoglio at 7 a.m. 5 June.

"3. Rome is unhurt, the water system intact and the water cold

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

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

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bridges across the Tiber were still standing.

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

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

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

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

4. Granai del Popolo

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

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

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Horse beans | .. .. .. | 675 lire per quintal |
| Dry beans | .. .. .. | 1,250 lire per quintal |
| Chick peas | .. .. .. | 1,000 lire per quintal |
| Chick vetch | .. .. .. | 750 lire per quintal |
| Lentils | .. .. .. | 1,300 lire per quintal |
| Peas | .. .. .. | 1,050 lire per quintal |

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back each day from either Rome or the surrounding hills. At Nemi, the museum containing the famous boats dating from the reign of Caligula was burnt by the Germans before leaving on May 31. At Tivoli the Villa d'Este was slightly damaged by a shell which fell in the gardens.

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

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

4. Granai del Popolo

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

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

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

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

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

5. From Here and There.

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



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

6. Political Note from an Esteemed Contemporary

BADOGLIO GETS OLD HEAVE-HO AS ITIE CHIEF

(The Maple Leaf, Saturday, 10 June)

RECEIVED
12 GIU 1944
G-2
AFHQ ACC

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

Editor's Note:

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Editor's Note:

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

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

PRB 26/WB 9

3 June 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 9
28 May to 3 June

67

1. Political

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

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

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

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

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

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2. Regional Commissioners Conference

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

/ Carr

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

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

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

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

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

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

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3. Treatment of Fascists

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

4. AMG with Fifth Army

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

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

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

5560

Temporary centres have been set up for refugees. Supply is something of a problem, food is arriving at Gaeta by schooner and truck and there are four other centres, but transport from there on is difficult and the small staff in charge (2 officers and 5 men to supervise 5 centres spread over 130 miles) is badly overworked. Health is in general good: six of the recently acquired communes have hospitals and five others have been provided with ambulatori. There is a serious

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

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

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5. AMG with 8th Army

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

A report from Major Bullock dated May 30 states:

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

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

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

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

"(e) ROCCASECCA, birthplace of St Thomas Aquinas, is approximately half destroyed. The normal population is just under 8,000. Nearly 5,000 residents have returned and 1,600 refugees from surrounding villages have come down from the hills. They are being accommodated in the schools, but will begin to move to their homes today. Reaction of the people to white flour is touching; the bread they had under the Germans is foul, greenish stuff. All senior municipal officials cleared out with the Germans, but some clerks remained and are working well under a new Sindaco appointed after checking by Captain Comstock, CAO. The parish priest remained and his attitude and work have been beyond praise.

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"(f) COLDRAGONE. This little town in the Liri Valley northwest of Roccasecca is becoming a refugee centre. Damage is comparatively light."



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6. From Southern Littoria

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

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

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

The population of occupied towns increases rapidly. In one case the initial 170 found when the troops came in has already swelled to over 18,000.

7. Odds and Ends

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

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

7. Odds and Ends

Fine Arts Sub-Commission states that "... the report of German behaviour (in Fifth Army Area) in regard to churches and looting is far the worst yet received..." ..... AAI are anxious that the fullest publicity be given in cases of sabotage and thefts of signal lines, which is causing concern ..... General Alexander opened the new Welfare Centre in the Royal Palace, Naples, on Saturday, June 3. It provides three restaurants, three snack bars, three wine bars, a cafeteria, five lounges, an outdoor terrace restaurant, a ballroom, billiards rooms, a map room, even an art studio where budding painters can be taught by Matania: and it can accommodate 10,000 men ..... As to whether the decoration of the Sala d'Ercole with an immense cartoon of a negro playing the saxophone is in good taste, opinions vary: perhaps it may be regarded as only a temporary indication of a better world ... Passes, serially numbered and severely limited, showing occupation and period of stay, are to be made for every member of ACC entering Rome ..... The Excelsior Hotel, Naples, will be open to officers on June 11 ..... Colonel Spofford, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, has been visiting HQ Naples ..... "Stars and Stripes" ceases publication in Sicily on June 3 and plans are under discussion for a revival of "Il Giornale di Sicilia", the editorial staff to be nominated by the Comitato di Liberazione ..... The transport situation is getting acute, what with appeals from the forward areas for army vehicles and pleas from the Government for requisitioned cars it seems likely that ACC is on the threshold of a new horse-and-buggy area ..... It is reported that the malaria situation in our newly acquired Pontine Marshes is under control: not a single case of malaria in the population. In fact no population ..... Other visitors to Naples anti-inflation bent include Messrs MacMillan, Murphy, and Jackson and Keith Murray of MESC .... There has been a severe outbreak of crowns on British shoulders this week.

8. Telephone notes

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

/ Catering

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

9. Quote from an esteemed contemporary

"ROME BOMBED WITH CARE"

Headline in "Union Jack" June 3.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

Distribution as for Bulletin No 8 dated 27 May.

RECEIVED
4 JUN 1944

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

Distribution as for Bulletin No 8 dated 27 May.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

PRB 26/WB 8

27 May 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 8
21 May to 27 May

1. Political

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

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

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

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

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

2. AMG on Fifth Army Front

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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

2. AMG on Fifth Army Front

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

/ Ausonia

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

/ AMG

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

3. AMG on Eighth Army Front

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

4. Granai del Popolo

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

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

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

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

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

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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

/ 5.

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5. Anti-Inflation Committee

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

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

(b) Price control,

(c) Supply and industrial rehabilitation.

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

6. Odds and Ends

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

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7. Postscript

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

RECEIVED
29 MAY Rec'd
1023
DSG ACC

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

27 May 1944

PRB 2. Press release - Immediate.

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

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

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

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

AC/S

Rec'd May 22

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

PRB 26/WB 7

20 May 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 7
14 May to 20 May

66

1. Political

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

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

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

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

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

Several Ministries have brought up with varying degrees of boldness or timidity the question of transportation. It is hoped that their own registration law will help them out since even with the most benevolent intentions and a definite policy of free collaboration it is felt that we are in no position to give away

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

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

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

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

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

2. Granai del Popolo

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

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

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

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

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

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

(f) Region V appears to consider that Region III permits and

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a tour through Campobasso, Foggia, Bari, Bitonto, Altamura and Potenza. Some of his conclusions (which will be given more fully in the next Bulletin of the Agricultural Sub-Commission) are briefly as follows:-

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

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

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

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

Major

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

3. News from Cassino

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

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

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

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

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

4. Anti-inflation Committee

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

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

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

/ family

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

5. Prisons

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

6. Information Wanted

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

7. Items

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

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/ Nellie

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

8. Postscript on Montecassino

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

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

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

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

"(d) West End of Refectory still standing.

"(e) Reconstruction of entire Abbey is possible although much is now only heap of pulverized rubble and dust."

9. Quotes from an Esteemed Contemporary

"Preacher Talks Punk Italian, Has Sticky Puss"

(Headline in 45th Division News)

Translation, if required, next week.

[illegible] FLEDEN,

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

/ Distribution overleaf

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| 84 | Experimental Det G-2, Room 41, Bank of Naples Building | |
| 85 | I.S.L.D., 126 Via Alessandro Manzoni | |
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SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB 26/WB 6

13 May 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 6
7 May to 13 May

1. Political

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

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

However, the Cabinet, without further ado, issued a statement condemning such Royal interviews and stating that "the Cabinet unanimously rejected the assumption that the Italian people had any blame for the Fascist war." As the present Italian government had agreed to leave the institutional question alone, this attack showed no more good faith than courtesy. Moreover, the proceedings

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Doc. 7 PRB 26/WB 6 p. 1 of 2

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

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

The

PRS Weekly Bulletin

File 1700

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

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

2. Ammassi - Granai del Popolo.

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

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

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

3. GSI(b)

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

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

4. Region II

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

5. The French and AMG

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

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

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

6. Red Cross Meeting.

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

// Red

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

7. May Day Postscript

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

8. Fine Arts

News from the fine arts front is good this week, according to the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Sub-Commission. The text of the "Soldier's Guide to Rome", written by Major E.L. De Wald, Director of the Sub-Commission, finally went to the publishers after editing and arrangements had been made by the Public Relations Branch. The layout, in ACC green with the head of Greek god on the cover, and printing are being undertaken by the Psychological Warfare Branch, Italian Theatre, for the ACC. The initial printing order will run to 50,000. General Alexander, Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in Italy, has contributed the foreword.

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

9. Quotes from an Esteemed Contemporary.

American officers contemplating marriage in this theatre will be happy to learn that they are now authorized to draw one truck, 1/4 ton, 4 x 4, C & R, for a period not to exceed 7 days. Vehicle may be drawn from the Ordnance Officer on memorandum receipt upon presentation of certificate signed by the officer stating that the purpose is for transportation during the honeymoon." So states the 10 May issue of the Peninsular Base Section Daily Bulletin.

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10. PWB

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

/ Branch

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

11. Odds and Ends from Roundabout

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

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/ Distribution overleaf.

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Distribution:-

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

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

S E C R E T

2 May 1944

PRB 26/WB 4/1

CORRECTION TO WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 4

U R G E N T

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 4 dated 29 April 1944 item 5 paragraph 2 cancel sentence referring to price. No decision has yet been made about price and figure quoted is wholly inaccurate. Summary of decree is correct.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB 26/ WB 4

29 April 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 4
23 April to 29 April

1. Political

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

/ (h) Administration

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

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

2. Flashes from Naples

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

3. Displaced Persons - Communications, Records and Enquiries

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

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4. Telephone communications

Communication has now been established as follows with Regional HQ.

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

/ Region III

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Region III - Naples 16163 or 50140
Region IV - Naples 11722 or 11743
Region V - Call Filpot and ask for Campobasso
Region VII - Call Naples Long Distance and ask for Catanzaro via Salerno - Reggio

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

5. Ammassi

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

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

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

The decree states that unless the amassing programme yields maximum results this summer, the Italian Government will not be in a position to approach the Allied Authorities with requests for possible additional aid; therefore, every agricultural agency in Italy must do its utmost so that the Ammassi returns will be in accord with "the imperious needs of the moment." On the Allied side, the decree approved by ACC says: "In accordance with agreement reached in the Regional Commissioners' Conference, this [illegible] programme of work for Allied ACC/AMG officers.

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

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

/ late

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

Distribution:-

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

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB 26/ WB 4

29 April 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 4
23 April to 29 April

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/ (h) Administration

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

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

2. Flashes from Naples

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

3. Displaced Persons - Communications, Records and Enquiries

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

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785215

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4. Telephone communications

Communication has now been established as follows with Regional HQ.

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

/ Region III

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Region III - Naples 10163 or 50140
Region IV - Naples 11722 or 11743
Region V - Call Filpot and ask for Campobasso
Region VII - Call Naples Long Distance and ask for Catanzaro via Salerno - Reggio

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

5. Ammassi

The campaign to harness the Ammassi machinery of Italy, which has always been 60 per cent an agricultural nation, to the end that Italy become as self-sustaining as possible in food, is on the eve of starting. Working in closest cooperation with the Agriculture Sub-Commission, the Italian Minister of Agriculture has just signed a decree setting up the elaborate machinery for the harvest collection. The decree will be published within the next few days. Saturday and Sunday (April 29 and 30) Under-secretary Gino Bergami of Agriculture, together with Major W.A. Hartman (A), Director of the Agriculture Sub-Commission, and Major M.M.A. Dickie (B), Deputy Director, met with all agricultural officers in the Italian theatre - agriculturists, tillage experts, foresters and other technicians - to plan detailed support to the Italian officials in this first major effort of the new Italian Government. Marshal Badoglio is expected to issue a statement after publication of the decree.

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

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

The decree states that unless the amassing programme yields maximum results this summer, the Italian Government will not be in a position to approach the Allied Authorities with requests for possible additional aid; therefore, every agricultural agency in Italy must do its utmost so that the Ammassi returns will be in accord with "the imperious needs of the moment." On the Allied side, the decree approved by ACC says: "In accordance with agreement reached in the Regional Commissions [illegible]

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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The decree states that unless the amassing programme yields 56.5 maximum results this summer, the Italian Government will not be in a position to approach the Allied Authorities with requests for possible additional aid; therefore, every agricultural agency in Italy must do its utmost so that the Ammassi returns will be in accord with "the imperious needs of the moment." On the Allied side, the decree approved by ACC says: "In accordance with agreement reached in the Regional Commissioners' Conference, this is a first priority programme of work for Allied ACC/AMG officers.

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

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

/ late

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

Distribution:-

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

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
**************************

PRB 20. Trend of Copy filed by Correspondents
27 April 1944

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

CHINIGO (INS) cabled a long interview with Omodeo, whom he called the "fiery Rector of the Naples Athenaeum." The interview was dramatically anti-fascist and anti-clerical. It was essential, Omodeo is quoted as saying, "to stress the true terms of the quarrel between Church and State." At 1500 CHINIGO telephoned a despatch from Salerno containing an exact translation of paragraphs 1 - 5 and paragraph 8 of the declaration (which was not released until 1730). He made no comment except that it was a "resounding declaration of new policy."

Only one other correspondent, ELEANOR PACKARD (U.P.) filed copy at this time (1315) from Salerno. She gave details of the declaration and quoted all six points on the agenda, giving them as (1) French Committee of Liberation (2) Participation of Italian forces in war effort (3) Government's relations with Russia (4) Government's relations with ACC (5) May Day celebrations (6) Epuration. SPRIGGE (Reuters) filed a straight story of the declaration from Naples at 1630. He did not, as CHINIGO, use its exact terms, and later, after the general release had been made, sent alterations of his previous despatch. PARKER (Exchange Telegraph) filed a descriptive story, with vague hints of the declaration, from Naples at 1550. He described the Council Chamber in detail. "Badoglio was evidently too pre-occupied to smoke, as there was only one cigarette-stub in his ash-tray after the two-hour sitting."

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

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

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

/ COOPER (Daily Express)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB 26/WB3 22 April 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 3
15 April to 22 April

1. Political

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

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

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs .. .. .. | | Badoglio |
| Ministers without portfolio | ACTION PARTY* | Sforza |
| | LIBERAL PARTY | Croce |
| | COMMUNIST PARTY | Togliatti |
| | SOCIALIST | Mancini |
| | CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT | Rodino |
| Minister of the Interior | CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT | Aldisio |
| Under-secretaries | SOCIALIST | (Salerno |
| | ACTION PARTY | (Caracciolo |
| Minister of Finance | NON-PARTY | Quintieri |
| Under-secretary | COMMUNIST | Pesenti |
| Minister of Communications | LABOUR DEMOCRAT | Cerabona |
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| Minister of Education | ACTION PARTY | Omodeo |
| Under-secretary | CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT | Jervolino |
| Minister of Industry | SOCIALIST | di Napoli |
| Under-secretary | CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT | Sansonetti |
| Minister of War | NON-PARTY | Orlando |
| Under-secretary | COMMUNIST | Palermo |
| Minister of the Navy | NON-PARTY | de Courten |
| Under-secretary | SOCIALIST | Albergo |
| AAir Minister | NON-PARTY | Sandalli |
| Under-secretary to the Presidency | LIBERAL | Morelli |

/ This

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Harvest

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

3. Sardinian Coal

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Left | Action Party | 4 |
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3. Sardinian Coal

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

/ 4. Financial News

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4. Financial News

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

5. Manoeuvres

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

6. Black Market in Palermo

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

7. Bread

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

8. Guardia Campestri

Guardia Campestri, the private police force of the

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8. Guardia Campestri

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

9. Messina

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

/ 10. Flashes from Sicil

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10. Flashes from Sicily

Sicily is exporting 10,000 tons of sulphur this week to UK. Revenue collections in Palermo in March 1944 reached 50 million lire as against 13 million in January and 16 million in March 43. Carabinieri in Catania seized a printing plant which was counterfeiting ration-books wholesale. At Agrigento a stock of 14,000 tons of Black Market flour was found. At Caltanissetta 90 quintals of Black Market wheat were caught in one convoy. Layettes and pyjamas given out by the Red Cross in Sicily seem to puzzle the Sicilians. Major Gilbertson, Finance Officer, Region I, reports that the only people neglecting payment of income-tax are AMG civilian employees. The Prefect of Trapani has started collecting public subscriptions from wealthy Sicilians for the purchase of food from the Black Market to feed the poor.

11. Psychological Warfare Branch

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

12. Allied Publications Board

It should be noted that the central APB includes representatives from the Political Section, Industry Sub-Commission and PR Branch of ACC, as well as representatives of Censorship and G-2. The control of newspapers and other publications is the function of this Board: PWB press officers are responsible to the Board. The present technical control of certain newspapers and of broadcasting stations is a temporary measure and steps to transfer responsibility to Italians are to be encouraged. Attention is drawn to PRS 14A of 15 April regarding clandestine newspapers.

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

of Trapani has started collecting public subscriptions from wealthy Sicilians for the purchase of food from the Black Market to feed the poor.

11. Psychological Warfare Branch

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

12. Allied Publications Board

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

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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

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SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB 26/W32.

8 April 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 2
1 April -- 8 April

1. Political

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Salerno gossip indicates a coming shuffle in the Government. Sforza's attitude as to whether he would enter Government while the King and Badoglio remain is still undefined. Badoglio's speech at Palermo on 31 March had a

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Salerno gossip indicates a coming shuffle in the Government. Sforza's attitude as to whether he would enter Government while the King and Badoglio remain is still undefined. Badoglio's speech at Palermo on 31 March had a good many points in common with that of Ercoli on the following day. Italian newspapers predict the fall of Ministers Reale, Corbino and Jung. New names canvassed are those of Ercoli himself, Reale (the Communist) and Alberto Cianca.

2. Air Vice Marshal Foster's Report

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

/ carrying

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

3. Heavy Workers' Rations

At a meeting of the Labour and Wages Control Committee of the Allied Force Local Resources (Italian) Board held on [illegible] April it was recommended that the Board accept, with certain amendments, the ACC proposals for supplementary rations to heavy workers. These include "pesanti" and "pesantissimi", but not "operai lerger1" or "impiegati". The proposal eliminates the midday meal (with the exception of dehydrated soup, which shall be available to all personnel, as qualified, employed by the Allied Armed Forces) and incorporates its components in a supplemental ration which, however, gives an overall increase. The supplementary ration will not be a free issue and must be paid for by the worker.

4. Courts

The drive against the Black Market continues. In AMG Summary Courts during the week there were 280 cases and 240 convictions: in the Italian courts 253 cases and 207 convictions. Terms of from 5 to 10 years were given to 14 out of 16 accused persons who were found dividing up a sum of 400,000 lire, proceeds of the theft of two truckloads of flour.

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

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

5. Collection of Refuse

There has been a drive to improve the collection of garbage in Naples before the hot [illegible]

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4. Courts

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

5. Collection of Refuse

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

6. Archives

Mr Fred W. Shipman, Librarian of the Franklin Delano

/ Roosevelt

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

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

7. New Region

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

8. Sicilian Railways

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

9. Appointment of Consuls-General

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

10. Monthly Publication of Staff List

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

11. Extract from letter asking for brick contract

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

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

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

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
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Director of Public
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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785013

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB 26/WB1/1. S E C R E T 3 April 1944.

Subject: ACC Weekly Bulletin No 1.

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

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

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Director of Public Relations.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB 26/1.

1 April 1944.

Subject: ACC Weekly Bulletin.

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

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

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Director of Public Relations.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB 26/WB1

1 April 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 1
26 March -- 1 April

1. Political

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

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

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

2. Movements

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

3. Appointments and Changes

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

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

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

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

4. ACC Personnel

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

5. Refugees

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5. Refugees

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

/ 6. Vesuvius

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6. Vesuvius

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

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

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

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

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

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

A great dust bowl has been created around the towns of

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

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

/ Colonel Kincaid

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

7. Prices of luxury goods and souvenirs.

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

8. Drive against black market activities.

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

9. Summer Time.

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

10. Public Relations Branch.

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

11. Officers for UK.

A draft of about 70 officers, 64 British and 6 American, will be leaving very shortly for UK. A further group of about

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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11. Officers for UK.

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Director of Public
Relations.

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Q. M. C. Form 353 (Old No. 490)
Revised July 25, 1918

# LIST OF PAPERS

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2—6788

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INSTRUCTIONS.—When papers on a subject become numerous they will be numbered serially and brief entries made on this form.