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CENSORSHIP REPORTS
JULY 1944 - JULY 1945

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Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

LTJ/mc

SPECIAL REPORT No. 137

30 July 1945

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian
Civilian Mail for four weeks ending 7th July 1945.

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

This report is based on 476,400 letters checked
during the four weeks ended 7th July 1945.

In contrast to previous reports, this report does
not include statistics on censorship of mail in stations
controlled by this Group ceased during this period. Such
statistics as were received were too meagre to justify basing
opinion tallies upon them.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the
relation between favourable and unfavourable comments on
various subjects over the period. In all cases the lowest number
of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the
corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

Since our last four weekly report new stations have
been opened at Aosta, Trento and Udine. The stations at
Bologna, Leghorn and Verona did not operate during the whole
period while internal mail censorship ceased at Rome, Naples
and Brescia on 15 June 1945. Figures for these three stations
are based solely on the operation for week ending 16 June 1945.

The bulk of the statistics given, therefore, represents
Northern Italian opinion but external mail passing through Rome
and Naples stations can be taken to indicate tendencies in
Central and Southern Italy respectively. Where there is a
marked divergence of opinion indicated in these areas, separate
figures are given under the appropriate headings in the body
of the report.

None of the comments used in this report have been
used in any previous report from this headquarters.

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Summary Report

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1. FOOD SITUATION

The general position shows a worsening of opinion but again the figures vary considerably in different parts of the country. Thereas, for instance, in Southern Italian mail adverse comments were in the majority by 27 to 1, the Northern Italian provinces have an adverse majority of only 14 to 1. At Aceta it is as low as 4 to 1.

The comments remain substantially the same as in the last report. High prices remain the principal subject but once again in the north there are complaints that rationed goods are not available. A few comments from the South show that there has been some improvement in prices in that area. The following extracts illustrate the general type of comment:

"It is now some days that the town has been without food. Housewives placed to obtain a reduction in prices and obtained the opposite result. The authorities are doing their best but one must stay in line for hours for little of vegetables." 2/1/45 - Venezia)

"Bread (250 gr. per day) costs 4 lire per kilo with the ration card and does not exist on the black market. Rice (1 kilo per month) costs 10 lire per kilo with the ration card and 40 lire per kilo on the black market. There is no pasta with the ration card and it costs 90 lire per kilo on the black market. Olive oil or butter (100 gr. per month) costs 80 lire per kilo on the ration card and the black market prices are 700 lire per kilo for butter and 900 lire for olive oil. Other prices are: meat 350 lire per kilo, lake fish 330 lire per kilo, potatoes 20 lire and tomatoes 75 lire." (7/6/45 - Aceta)

"The vegetables here have insane prices. For instance, spring potatoes cost 34 lire per kilo." (20/6/45 - Bolzano)

"We are all weak from malnutrition but we hope to recover. The cost of living is even higher than a few months ago. There are some reductions but the racketeers make things rather worse than better." (30/6/45 - Messina)

"...Now we talk about the actual prices, you are still lucky in comparison with us.... things are not as bad as they seem."

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price as yours at 22 lire each, meat 650.00 per kilo, wine 100-110 lire a litre, cherries 44 lire a kilo, peaches at 80, butter even at 1000 lire and so on....." (14/6/45-Como)

"There is virtually no rationed food. They didn't give us any more soap. They do not give us any bread. Rationed meat comes only rarely. Without the ration card it costs 300 lire a kilo." (25/6/45 - Cuneo)

"The situation is bad here. The farmers are doing fairly well because money is worthless. One cannot find milk and the sheds are full of cattle. The farmers prefer to give milk to the hogs rather than to give it to the poor. All the farmers have been fined on the milk question, some had to pay 5000 lire, others 10,000 and 15,000 lire but they are not giving in.....a little gosling ten days old costs 300-350 lire." (22/6/45 - Udine)

"Since the arrival of the Allies we have 150 grs. of snow white bread. Fish is cheap. They gave us some bacon grease, a little cheese, a little canned meat, a little sugar - in other words things that we had not seen for months. Black market is on the decrease." (21/6/45 - Genoa)

"Bread is down very much, it is now 45 lire per kilo instead of 120 and we hope that everything will go down." (13/6/45 - Trapani)

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"Here we have good and even abundant bread. We cannot complain about milk." (24/6/45 - Aosta)

"Food is very abundant and one eats well." (27/6/45 - Aosta)

2. CLOTHING

The general situation worsened slightly in the north, the ratio of adverse comments being 19 to 1 against 13.5 to 1 in the previous period. In Southern Italy there was a marked improvement, unfavourable comments being 232 to 1 against 720 to 1 in the previous four weeks. Certain provinces in the north were exceptional and showed better

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figures. Costa for example showed an adverse ratio of only 3.1 to 1 while Bolzano which had previously shown no favourable comment now produced 3.1 with an adverse ratio of only 6 to 1.

The complaints were as previously based almost entirely on high prices but the quality of clothes also meets with some criticism. The following are typical comments:

"We found some ready made cloth shoes. If one wants all leather shoes, one must have them made and with good leather and workmanship they cost 3000 and 3800 lire. One can find cloth for dresses but it is synthetic material. A suit without lining costs 4000 to 5000 lire, even 6000. Cloth for ladies' summer dresses is around 300 to 400 lire per metre. (17/6/45 - San Remo)

"Speaking of clothing, here are some prices - medium quality low shoes 2500-3000 lire, better quality high shoes 3500-4000 lire, medium quality suits 12,000-15,000 lire, good woollen suits 20,000-25,000 lire." (27/6/45 - Genoa)

"She told me that you got her material for aprons at 75 lire per metre." (23/6/45 - Bolzano)

"After these people from south Italy started to come over here prices have been doubled - if you buy a suit you need 10,000 lire, a neck tie costs 200 lire, a shirt 300 lire, a hat 700 lire. Therefore my means do not allow me to buy many things." (21/6/45 - Genoa) 7398

"Clothes have prohibitive prices. One cannot find a man's suit for less than 15000 lire. Shoes and cloth for women's clothes are at prohibitive prices. Only farmers who have all become millionaires can afford to buy at any price, while wage-earners have a hard time living." (21/6/45 - Genoa)

"Prices are going down daily in Sicily. Suits which could not be bought previously for 30000 lire now sell for 10000 lire and so on." (30/6/45 - Ragusa)

"A pair of shoes of substitute material cost 1700 lire, pure leather 2000-2500 lire. With a special coupon

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workers can buy at their factories a suit for a suit for 1500 and 1700 lire." (19/6/45 - Turin)

"You can buy as much cloth as you want and of all qualities. Prices are between 350 and 500 lire per metre." (26/6/45 - Aosta)

"Here there are all the shoes, clothes and linen you want." (29/6/45 - Aosta)

3. HOUSING

Opinion on this subject took a marked turn for the worse. The adverse ratio of 15.5 to 1 in the previous four weeks advanced to 45.7 to 1. In Turin the adverse ratio was 349 to 1 while the situation deteriorated also in Genoa and Milan. The same situation was found in the South at Naples where unfavourable comments were 125 to 1 but in general Southern Italy showed improvement. As in the case of food and clothing Aosta was the most favourable province with an adverse ratio of only 4.3 to 1.

High rents, lack of houses and non-availability of rooms are the chief subjects of criticism. In the large cities of the North returning population is aggravating the situation. The slowness of repairs is also criticised. 10397
Following comments are typical:

"It is a real battle for apartments and one is usually defeated. It is impossible to find one." (21/6/45 - Genoa)

"Here in Turin there is a housing commission which is stormed daily by 500 to 700 people who demand shelter. Nothing can be obtained from this commission which takes care only of 3 and 4 months-old applications and is said to favour some over others. It is not surprising that it should be so with a people as dishonest as the Italian." (19/6/45 - Turin)

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"The hunt for apartments is very intense in Turin because all the people who were evacuated from Turin want to go back there to work. Many cannot get back even the apartment which they had rented and which had remained in their name and for which they had paid the rent. Many in Turin who are believed to live in too big apartments have been forced to give part to the roofless ones but they cannot even choose the sub-tenant according to their convenience to make sure that they are honest and moral people." (30/6/45 - Turin)

"I'll give you an idea of the hopeless lodging situation. In Milan there are a million non-Milanese who should return to their homes and then there will be like wise thousands homeless on account of the destruction." (15/6/45 - Como)

"Every day one sees a new disaster and I have been everywhere. One must actually see it to realise what the situation is like. They promise to rebuild the houses but when? Those who want a shelter are impatient. We are all nervous and excited about what no one can give us. Help will come.....but when? How? Meanwhile the winter is coming and one has grounds for worrying." (25/6/45 - Udine)

"Now we are worse off than ever, we are in a stable where there are 14 animals. Every day we go to the town hall to beg for a little place for us but nobody helps us. My husband is unemployed and we have been 3 months without evacuation dele." (26/6/45 - Udine) 6396

"One can find enough food here because there are no tourists. For the same reason there are several empty apartments." (2/7/45 - Aosta)

4. INCOME

The general opinion on the inadequacy of income to meet current expenditure remained substantially the same as during the last period. Central and Southern Italy produced a heavy majority of unfavourable comments but Turin and Venice also had adverse ratios of 80 to 1 and 39 to 1 respectively. In the North the Allies are blamed in some comments for freezing incomes in a manner which does not allow for the increase of prices which the union with the South is alleged

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to have brought about. Once again there are comments on the necessity for drawing on reserves where they exist and consequently fears are expressed for the future. The following extracts illustrate the main themes:

"Fats, coffee, sugar, chocolate and meat don't exist.... they can be found on the black market but at prices inaccessible to the purse of the poor employee." (18/6/45 - Rome)

"There are three people in our home, husband, wife and daughter, and we spend daily for food 500 lire but many families with three or four sons cannot get along with 500 or 600 lire a day. All the Italians are almost naked, bare-footed. A man earns 230 lire a day digging the soil but it is not enough for bread." (11/5/45 - Syracuse)

"Production is scarce, the weather is adverse. When there is no production one must go to the black market. It is the ruin of the worker because it absorbs all his income. Expenditure is more than income and we do not have any money for clothes. We do not buy clothes and still it is not enough." (18/6/45 - Cosenza)

"Here in Turin life costs just about as much as in Rome because prices are going up. But they do want to increase salaries as they have done in Rome. We will go on strike in the office if they do not grant us an increase. My salary is still around 5000 while in Rome one is paid 12,000. It is quite a difference." (1/7/45 - Turin) 6395

"Those who have money have everything but the worker is not paid over 100 lire a day and has to pay 60 lire for a kilo of bread." (29/6/45 - Turin)

"The man from the Relief Office brought me my pension for the three month period. Last year they gave me an increase but nothing now. The newspapers say that the cost of living has gone up 14 times since 1938. Pensions should be at least doubled but who thinks of those who are no longer in service." (27/6/45 - Turin)

"Here in Genoa the British have fixed very low salaries as compared to the cost of living and therefore nobody is working." (22/6/45 - Genoa)

"Food is becoming dearer every day and with one's

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pay (one is not able to meet expenses if not eating that which they had in reserve....." (2/6/45 - Bolzano)

"We are waiting for pay increases because with the present salaries we can barely buy a litre of milk and a kilo of bread. We are reduced to this level." (21/6/45 - Cuneo)

"Prices are still rapidly rising because with the union with the South goods are flowing to the South, causing an increase in prices. We are no longer able to buy what we need and on top of this they have frozen salaries instead of prices." (1/7/45 - Turin)

"Work is fairly good and the pay is reasonable." (1/7/45 - Aosta)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

The general opinion showed a slightly less unfavourable attitude than in the past four weeks. In Milan there was a 4 to 1 majority in favour of the government but in Rome a more unfavourable view was taken. The excessive number of parties remains the chief point of criticism but in many comments Parri himself is looked to as a hopeful stabilising force. Some comments show an increased fear that out of the present maelstrom will emerge a new form of fascism.

Comments were not numerous and, as one statement actually put it, there appears on the whole to be little interest in the new government. The following quotations are taken as far as possible from the less proselytising type of letter.

"We have, so it seems, a real government. Prof. Parri is a man of few words but his active past is admirable. We can, or rather must, trust him fully and all start working in silence....." (21/6/45 - Rome)

"At last we have formed a government but the country is not very interested in it.....it does not inspire great confidence in anybody." (21/6/45 - Rome)

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"Unluckily the atmosphere is still impregnated with grudges, vendettas, egotisms, thirst for power and the future does not seem very encouraging." (15/3/45 - Turin)

"Have you seen that the new government has placed three Communists in the Ministries which are most important for us: Finance, Agriculture and Justice. The future looks very dark, let us hope for the best." (21/3/45 - Turin)

"Now there is a new cabinet. Let us hope they will collaborate for the good of the people. But there are too many parties but I agree with them on one thing - no monarchy, the main cause of our ruin." (21/3/45 - Genoa)

"In politics I can assure you that we are where we were a year ago, the same dirty deals, the same dissensions, the usual corruption and before the Allies we are cutting a miserable figure. I do not take any interest in politics because I am deeply disgusted. I do not see a regime of freedom but of totalitarianism." (22/6/45 - Genoa)

"I believe the nomination of Farini was a very wise move because he holds the balance between the red victing left and the white and formidable Christian side. Have you heard the Christians see for the Republic? The monarchy is dead. The anachronistic institution has collapsed." (23/3/45 - Genoa)

"I believe the situation is the same everywhere. Five or six parties want to seize the government with the same programmes because words are beautiful and the promises are always the same." (29/6/45 - Aceto)

"The new president is a fine man but he will be able to do little more than that very fine person Bonomi who sacrificed himself for the country." (31/3/45 - Milan)

"I am very discouraged. I walked around for a long time through this town which I hate because I think that it is preparing for Italy a new and worse fascism only with a change in the colour of the shirt and deceiving again the poor Italian people with the usual promises." (20/6/45 - Milan)

"The situation here is not bad but it is serious because of the danger of a new totalitarianism....." (21/5/45 - Genoa)

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"We are treated worse than slaves. I am beginning to think that the exuration is punishing the others instead of the Fascists." (3/7/45 - Abate)

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

The ratio of unfavourable over favourable reports remained about the same as in the previous report. Likewise useful assessment of opinion was again difficult as the criticism was generally either too vague such as failure to control the black market, or related solely to specific individuals, many of which comments smacked of a personal vendetta. It is not considered profitable to give examples of this type of comment.

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES

Comment was slightly less favourable than in the previous four weeks. The South still was very favourable with a ratio of 17.9 to 1 but the number of unfavourable comments increased in the North. In Genoa, Gussio, Turin and Venice opinion was fairly evenly divided.

Favourable comment chiefly concerned correct behaviour of allied troops, their generosity and friendliness (especially the fact that, unlike the Germans, they do not carry arms), and hopes of future benefits from their presence.

Non-realization of some of these benefits produced some adverse comment. There was also some criticism of allied requisitioning of property and of their forcing up of prices. Some writers again revealed a sense of humiliation and treated the Allies simply as new masters. The following are typical comments:

"If it had not been for the United States we should all have died of hunger. They gave us 200 grs. of bread a day, 2200 grs. of pasta a month and so many other things." (16/6/45 - Messina)

"What I imagine that when the first allied troops came we went to bring flowers and then stopped a while. They went on towards Trieste. I cannot tell with what kindness they treated us. They offered us immediately oranges, sweets and other things." (20/6/45 - Venice)

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"Then came the Americans and everything was changed, everything was peaceful and a great deal more beautiful."
(13/6/45 - Bolzano)

"We must trust ourselves to the clemency of the Allies and especially to the protection of the U.S.A. who we hope will keep in mind that we did not want this unfortunate war." (20/6/45 - Catanzaro)

"The British are a serious people. Their soldiers always go around without weapons. Nobody sabotages their electric plants as they did with the Germans. They bring their food from England, they do not steal as the Germans did. We hope that the British will send oil, wine and other food up from Southern Italy, as soon as the parties get together." (18/6/45 - Como)

"They are really nice people, polite and clean. They are the first to greet and they give instead of taking. Besides, they never carry arms." (10/5/45 - Udine)

"I am so glad that the war is over. Whom have we to thank? The brave Americans and English who saved Europe from disaster." (12/6/45 - Bolzano)

"The South Africans (British) remained here. They are extremely correct. They are the most disciplined and correct troops we have known and we have known all sorts of troops." (29/6/45 - Aosta) 391

"We hope that this nation will go under the American protectorate and then perhaps we will have some improvements because we are not in the position to keep an honest government because they are all thieves, none excluded." (11/6/45 - Catanzaro)

"We are living among the British troops who treat us all very well." (23/6/45 - Aosta)

"I have to deal entirely with British Army officers..... They are extremely kind but it is all superficial, in their hearts they hate all of us, much more than we deserve...."
(24/6/45 - Rome)

"It seems that the negroes will be replaced by the

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British who have the reputation of being happy people like the Germans but without their cruelty. They are democratic like a lord towards his servants. They want to help us and they busily leave us in the lurch." (20/6/45 - Dayne)

"We hear that we have to leave our house because the British masters have seized everything and they do not want civilians in the neighbourhood.... All the better houses are for the British. The people are to remain slaves." (21/6/45 - Uline)

"I was disappointed to find that the Liberator have as a rule a poor opinion of the Italians although here they have modified the views which they had acquired in other parts of Italy." (20/6/45 - Uline)

"We hope to meet allied soldiers very soon, none as yet and it is always more difficult to keep them out very little and I do not have to see the American and British troops moving about. I went to see a Roman castle and I found negroes in the courtyard in the city. Kill yourselves Italians, make room for negroes. I speak Latin and I cry and I speak Spanish." (20/6/45 - Uline)

"We have decided not to dance with foreigners until they become guests and not our guests in our own home." (24/6/45 - Acosta) 6390

"It is the usual story, soldiers all the time, we are paid and we go on this way as long as it lasts. We will never get paid. Not even in the town have they been paid." (4/7/45 - Acosta)

8. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS

The situation remains very much the same as in the last report without such divergence of opinion in different parts of the country. Some confidence is expressed that when allied aid and industry will soon be restored but the immediate position due to lack of power, lack of raw materials and, to some extent, an alleged lack of skill to work among the people, together with financial instability has produced a slightly unfavourable ratio throughout the country. The following represent the general line of comment:

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"Here in Como there is nothing new, work is almost completely stopped and I don't see any possibility of resumption even in part by the autumn....." (27/6/45 - Como)

"The situation of our industry, as generally for all manufactures, is now absolutely inactive. In the first place due to the block on finished products and in the second place because of the scarcity of raw materials. However, it seems that the Allies are occupying themselves with the above mentioned factors and I don't doubt that their influence will be very effective, so that in a short time we shall work normally....." (14/6/45 - Como)

"We hope.....that work will be resumed and industrial activity developed on sound bases which will permit everyone to apply himself to various activities with satisfaction and fair profit." (12/6/45 - Cuneo)

"A significant renewal of business will be possible only if workers will start work again (they don't feel like doing so and talk only about politics) and if raw materials arrive. The wages are not at all in proportion to the cost of living and here it means that it is impossible to keep going....." (15/6/45 - Como)

"Here we are always going from bad to worse. Taxes are on the increase and we cannot work because they give us electric current only 3 times a week. Since I have only electric machines in the shop I have to work only 3 times a week." (14/6/45 - Palermo) 6389

"There is no work because of the lack of coal and the lack of transportation for the goods produced. Up to now there have been no dismissals but there are persistent rumours that it will take place on a large scale." (25/6/45 - Aosta)

"I have been a week in the Aosta valley because of the resumption of work. I am building an aerial cable way." (26/6/45 - Aosta)

"We are not very happy.....the harbour is ruined, the industry is closed and commerce is still....every now and then the workers go on strike." (27/6/45 - Genoa)

"We are on the eve of monetary reform which might have serious consequences on our wealth and our firm." (21/6/45 - Turin)

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"Everything is to be rebuilt and there is the danger of fiscal burdens and the devaluation of money and stocks." (17/6/45 - Turin)

9. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS

The continued drought has practically doubled the adverse ratio of comments. In Central and Southern Italy especially writers are very pessimistic. Central Italian external mail shows an adverse ratio of 58.6 to 1. One province alone, Udine, shows a slightly favourable ratio. In addition to the drought the effect of the spring frosts on the fruit crop receives comment. Lack of fertilizers produces many comments. The following comments are typical:

"The crop of hay was very poor this year owing to the excessive drought. Also as regards the vines we shall draw very little from them because we had no copper-sulphate. Anyhow we hope we shall receive it next year. We need rain badly since everything is burnt." (29/6/45 - Aosta)

"Here the land is doing fairly well. Practically all the corn has come up...." (8/5/45 - Udine)

"As for the fruit this year the harvest will be bad because when they were in full bloom 20 cm. of snow came and intense cold. Grain and potatoes promise well." (17/6/45 - Bolzano) 6388

"Here there is a great drought. It is a month when it does not rain. We should cut the hay now but it is all dried, also the potatoes, everything is going to ruin." (24/6/45 - Bolzano)

"Here we have a drought which has completed the work of the frost. The harvest suffers greatly from the lack of fertilizers." (12/6/45 - Cuneo)

"This year we have had a fine crop. How lucky we are compared to the others." (15/6/45 - Cuneo)

"The crop of wheat is very poor this year, probably only 50% of that of last year. Also maize and potatoes which were supposed to be abundant have now been greatly spoiled by the drought." (28/6/45 - Milan)

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"Wheat is doing fairly well. It needs a little nitrate but it cannot be found. Copper sulphate costs 600 lire a kilo or 10 litres of wine." (25/5/45 - Udine)

"The complete absence of chemical fertilisers and the allied ammunition dumps have ruined my land." (26/6/45 - Udine)

"The land promises well for all crops. Up to now the weather has been favourable." (2/7/45 - Udine)

"We have never had such a drought as this year in Central and Southern Italy. Since February it has not rained. All the crops have been ruined except the corn which will reach 25% of the usual average." (10/6/45 - Campobasso)

"This year we'll have a scarce crop, especially in our zone where from a 3 decanotrees sown field we have drawn but two bundles of wheat. Wheat is abundant and its price is low since has been imported. Also as regards olive oil we suppose we'll have a bad year." (16/6/45 - Trapani)

"Since February it has not rained. Within 30 to 40 days we'll have the harvest, which will be very scarce owing to the lack of water. We have sown very few beans and maize." (18/6/45 - Catanzaro)

10. EMPLOYMENT

The comments on employment are more pessimistic especially in central Italy where the adverse ratio is 32.2 to 1. Lack of raw materials is the main cause to which lack of employment is attributed. Occasionally a would-be employer finds difficulty in finding persons for a post but this must probably be considered in relation to other statements that the wages offered are often so low as to discourage applicants. Comments as follows are typical:

"At the beginning of July there will be many dismissals including some employees of the foundry." (27/6/45 - Ancona)

"Bruno is always at home. He has applied for a job with the railway but they are not taking anybody on." (20/6/45 - Cuneo)

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"By the end of the month I shall have three jobs open, one at Town Hall, one at the Prefecture and one at the Gorge and I do not know which to pick." (18/7/45 - Aosta)

"I wanted to replace my windows in the showroom of the library but one cannot find a worker, not even paying like a minister." (20/6/45 - Bolzano)

"There is no work. I have been dismissed with 300 other girls." (21/6/45 Bolzano)

"I have found two or three jobs but they are honest employment where the pay is insufficient to pay for cigarettes." (15/5/45 - Turin)

"Labour conditions are very bad today. The workers are dissatisfied, we work poorly. There are no raw materials. We pretend to work more than anything else." (16/6/45 - Turin)

"I do not know how to advise you. There is very little work in Genoa. The unemployed are tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands and their number is increasing daily." (23/5/45 - Genoa)

"I would do any type of work for a piece of bread... Life is impossible in Milan and I cannot find work." (20/5/45 - Milan)

"After some part time work I have been 5 months completely unemployed. I have looked everywhere to supply my children with bread. A few days ago I found a job as a foreman with the Allies and it only pays 120 lire a day, quarter of my daily expenses." (7/6/45 - Naples) 6386

Gordon W. McKinn

GORDON W. MCKINN,
Lt. Col. Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

2 Incls:

Incl #1 - Ratio Table. Four weeks ending 7/7/45.
Incl #2 - Public Opinion Tally 7/7/45.

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6385

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SPECIAL REPORT NO 102

CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP, PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 10 June - 7 July 1943

This report is based on weekly basis. The number of total of 49

PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED)		FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION	
		F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
AGOSTA	21563	103	435	10	31	0	31	0	12	3	5	1	2
BOLZANO	16097	0	45	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5
BRESCIA	3586	2	57	0	31	0	64	0	12	0	4	1	3
COMO	29979	2	100	0	30	0	34	0	0	0	2	0	0
GENOVA	29912	4	94	0	4	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	0
MONZA	54537	105	1242	15	452	25	874	12	121	30	61	24	17
MILAN	122236	253	103	50	1034	82	1351	52	363	103	50	4	2
NAPLES	44244	13	345	9	256	1	144	2	22	4	39	3	112
ROME	14030	0	304	1	231	0	20	0	38	2	52	-	-
TORINO	4832	3	14	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VERONA	44747	25	440	7	33	1	349	2	50	10	31	1	25
UDINE	13792	27	100	0	4	1	61	0	12	1	1	0	0
VENEZIA	29359	11	513	1	159	6	104	3	75	15	35	2	23
SPANISH NAVAL	1135259	191	11874	195	20159	21	325	00	3950	235	058	308	1073
TOTAL	7022	345	2977	213	27493	120	6716	127	6179	453	904	421	1208

CONFIDENTIAL

1945

HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT	PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION	RELATIONS WITH ALLIES	PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION	FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION	INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS	AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS	EMPLOYMENT
F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
1	7	3	12	3	5	1	2	26	14	2	2
6	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	23	15	2	2
1	0	0	0	0	4	1	2	7	1	2	2
0	0	22	0	0	2	0	0	2	4	2	4
4	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	6	4	2	2
2	25	276	12	20	61	24	27	252	52	2	2
4	25	125	22	20	52	6	2	710	25	2	2
6	1	124	2	4	29	0	222	46	10	2	2
2	0	2	0	2	51	2	51	64	5	2	2
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	2	2
26	1	249	1	10	51	1	25	126	20	2	2
1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	8	7	2	2
53	6	164	2	15	20	0	22	122	22	2	2
50	31	245	20	235	636	334	1073	1607	527	2	2
9	120	2712	127	453	200	421	1224	2421	282	2	2

1470

384

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 137

APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS AT PERTINENT POINTS (13 Jun 65)

	FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		INDU PRO
	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F
AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING															
7/7/65 CTW	1	12.7	1	124.3	1	48.7	1	30.5	1	1.9	1	3.0	13.0	1	1

CONFIDENTIAL

384
ANNEX A

TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS (10 June/7 July 45)

CLOTHING	HOUSING	INCOME	NATIONAL GOVERNMENT	PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT	RELATIONS WITH ALLIES	INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS	AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS	EMPLOYMENT
F U	F U	F U	F U	F U	F U	F U	F U	F U
129.3	1 42.7	1 30.5	1 1.9	1 3.0	13.0 1	1 1.8	1 7	1 11.6

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JUL 4 1945

Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

CWM/vm

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 133

25 June 1945

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian
and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 9th June 1945.

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

This report is based on 385,200 letters checked during
the four weeks ended 9th June. This does not include any mili-
tary mail from frontier areas.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the re-
lation between favourable and unfavourable comments on various
subjects over the period. In all cases the lowest number of com-
ments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the cor-
responding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

Since our last four-weekly report there has been a
major change in the location of stations. All of our previous
stations, with the exception of Rome, Naples, and the compara-
tively new station at Bologna, have been given up, and so this
report only covers the central areas of the country to a very
limited extent.

On the other hand we have opened new stations in the
recently liberated North. Thus this report covers Northern
Italy through internal mail censorship, and southern Italy, Sicily
and Sardinia through external mail censorship, and of course the
big centres of Rome and Naples.

Owing to the various changes, we have not sent out
weekly tallies, and the ratio table, in Appendix A, only shows
the average figures for the four-weekly period and not for each
week separately as has been done hitherto.

A comparison between the figures for the previous
period under review is likely to be misleading in many instances,

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*Communications Reports**RF*

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particularly on the subjects of food, clothing, housing, and relations with the Allies. Generally speaking the south is much more critical of living conditions than the central areas and the North, but is more favourably disposed towards the Allies. The North, on the other hand is less critical of living conditions than the central areas and more favourable towards the Allies, but not so good-willed as the South. Thus, in the body of this report, under the appropriate headings, separate figures are given for the North, South, and the Rome and Naples areas relating to the four subjects mentioned earlier in this paragraph.

None of the comments used in this report have been used in any previous report.

1. FOOD SITUATION

Civilian opinion on the food situation varied considerably in different parts of the country. In the southern regions, Sicily and Sardinia the position seems to have worsened during the period under review, and the unfavourable comments were in a majority of 81 to 1 as compared with 75.2 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Both Rome and Naples, on the other hand, were decidedly less critical than formerly. In the capital the adverse comments were in a majority of 21.3 to 1 as against the huge majorities of 102.3 to 1 and 77.2 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. There was quite a fair proportion of letters commenting on the fall in the prices of food. Naples, which was adverse to the extent of 10.1 to 1, reflected this feeling to a lesser degree, the figures for the previous period being 33.8 to 1. Northern Italy was less unfavourable as a whole than any other part, the figures being 8.9 to 1, though in some centres the feeling was much more pessimistic, notably in Bolzano, Brescia, Como, Cuneo and Verona. Military mail swung back to a favourable opinion after the reversal of feeling during the previous period.

The majority of complaints are based on high prices. A wide variety of foodstuffs are available in many places, but the majority of people cannot buy them. However, there have been letters from Rome remarking on the drop in prices, but even so they are still too high for most people. From some centres there are complaints that rationed foods are not available. Bologna, Cuneo and Palermo are examples. The shortage of fats troubles

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many people. A fairly general complaint is that bread has to be bought in the black market, either because the ration is insufficient or not available. The following comments are examples of the above:

"We are lacking everything. We eat a soup of chestnuts and potatoes because we have no rice at all and very little flour. The price of vegetables is increasing every day. I wonder how long we can keep going under these conditions." (2/6/45 - Borgo S. Dalmazzo)

"The cost of living is quite unbearable since everything is being sold on the black market. Fish at the fish-market costs 200 lire a kilo, meat is more than 500 lire, fat over 1000 lire, and butter costs 500 lire." (19/5/45 - VENICE)

"All the promises about rations have not yet been kept. We are receiving 250 grammes of rice per month, 200 of bread per day and no pasta at all. We have to tighten our belts, and we wait for the promised food which never comes." (30/5/45 - GENOA)

"The black market operates in regions. The most important is nearby in a little street by the Post Office. There are hundreds of people selling foods of every kind. Croissants of 100 grammes are 10 lire each, pasta is 130 lire per kilo, beans 100 lire, rice 60, butter 800. It is quite an open black market. Vegetables and fruit are very expensive. Eggs cost 19 lire each, or 20 lire if they are very fresh. Wine is from 70 to 80 lire per litre." (28/5/45 - GENOA)

"A shortage of salt is starting. The price of coarse salt has increased from 140 to 200 lire, and fine salt from 100 to 130 lire. I think it depends on the temporary prohibition of salt manufacture." (5/6/45 - GENOA)

"Olive oil costs 600 lire per litre, sugar 800 per kilo. If the black market is not checked, those who have survived the war will certainly die of starvation." (18/5/45 - S. PIETRO IN CAMPO D' ALBA)

"The cost of living here is very high, and there is a shortage of rationed items since nothing is being distributed, either fats or meat or pasta." (2/6/45 - BOLOGNA)

"We hope the shortage of meat and fat will come to an end. Otherwise what will happen to us! Some food prices are as

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follows: peas 60 lire per kilo, eggs 27 lire each, artichokes 18 lire each, dried figs 200 lire per kilo, nuts 180 lire per kilo, the cheapest vegetables are 40 lire a kilo. Meat has completely disappeared." (14/5/45 - BOLOGNA)

"We are continually eating rice since pasta on the black market costs up to 150 lire per kilo. Olive oil costs 900 lire a litre, and cheese has disappeared. Bread is 100 lire per kilo, eggs 21 lire each, meat 500 lire per kilo, and we do not receive any rationed food." (7/6/45 - PALERMO)

"With the ration cards we no longer get anything. The shops are full of kinds of things at enormous prices. Chickens cost 600 or 700 lire per kilo, lamb and rabbits 300 or 350 lire per kilo, ham 1300 lire. Eggs have dropped to 25 lire each. Vegetables are very expensive. Pears in the pod are 50 lire per kilo, and artichokes 12 lire each at least. I wonder how employees can keep going." (21/5/45 - LA SPEZIA)

"We are no longer receiving rationed food items. We have seen no sugar, pasta, butter, rice or cheese since September. We no longer receive the half litre of milk which we had before. We can't go on like this." (25/5/45 - CUNEO)

"All articles of food are very expensive here. We pay 400 lire per litre for olive oil and 300 lire per kilo for sugar, and so on." (25/5/45 - NAPLES)

"I'll just give you an idea of the present black market prices, for we can live no other way because the food we get with our ration card does not suffice. Bread is 90 lire a kilo, pasta 180, rice 600, sugar 1500, meat 800, potatoes 60, butter 1000, flour 120, beans 200, oil 450 per litre, and wine from 45 to 100." (24/5/45 - LECCO)

"Don't think that we have nothing to eat. You can find nearly everything, but at such high prices that you cannot afford to buy anything." (9/6/45 - ROME)

"A fall in the prices of all foodstuffs on the Rome market has been noticed recently. Let us hope that everything will soon return to normal, and thus we will get along better." (26/5/45 - ROME)

2. CLOTHING

More letters were written on the clothing situation than on any other subject, and, if one can judge by the figures,

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the position is a cause of greater worry even than that of food. Nevertheless, the feeling was less adverse than during the previous period. From Southern Italy, for example, the unfavourable comments were in a majority of 720 to 1 as compared with 947.7 to 1 during the preceding four weeks. The corresponding ratio for Naples was 15.7 to 1 as against 39.2 to 1 formerly, and for Rome 46.2 to 1 as against 360 to 1 during the previous period. In Northern Italy the adverse ratio was 13.3 to 1, but in several centres the adverse ratio was several times greater, notably in Brescia where there was only one favourable comment out of a total of 223, and in Como, Turin, Venice and Verona. There were not many military comments, but there was a slight favourable majority as compared with a 3.1 to 1 unfavourable majority during the previous four weeks.

As in the case of food, the clothing situation is criticised chiefly from the point of view of prices. The most notable point, however, is the very wide differences in prices in the various centres, and that even the lowest of these are considered to be exorbitantly high. Shoes, for example, are quoted at the comparatively low figures of 3000 to 5000 lire a pair in Genoa, and so on through various levels till we read that they cost 12000 lire a pair in Catanzaro. The highest price quoted for a man's suit was 36000 lire in Lecco, and the lowest was from 8000 to 10,000 in Turin. The prices of dress material are also a cause of bitter complaints, though in Rome we read that there has been a not inconsiderable drop in prices. But even so, the prevailing figures are beyond most people. The following are typical examples of some of the comments:

"Thousands of lire are not enough to meet the cost of living, and we have to give up any idea of buying clothes or shoes. Such things can only be afforded by those who deal in the black market. A suit costs 30,000 lire, and muslin, which used to cost 7 or 8 lire per metre in the past, now costs 1,600 lire, and so on." (15/5/45 - NAPLES) 0377

"To half sole shoes we have to pay 500 lire. We have reached a point at which only God can help us." (4/6/45 - GENOA)

"Clothing prices are as follows: wool undershirts for men, with long sleeves, 650 lire and upwards; a suit length of black material about 10,000 lire; a dress length, without lining, from 1800 to 2500 lire; artificial silk underclothes for women from 275 to 350 lire; wool undershirts for women from 450 to

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850 lire; stockings from 200 to 500 lire; men's shirts with short sleeves from 500 to 1000 lire, and with long sleeves from 1200 to 1800 lire; socks from 85 to 300 lire. These prices are really too high." (5/6/45 - GENOA)

"The black market here is very expensive and we can hardly get along. The prices are really amazing. I'm making and mending my shoes myself, since a pair of sandals cost 5000 lire." (13/5/45 - BOLOGNA)

"At the moment the shops are rather empty, and of the few materials available, those of inferior quality cost 500 lire a metre." (4/6/45 - BOLOGNA)

"The few things we can find in the market are very expensive and of an inferior quality. A pair of shoes costs from 4000 to 5000 lire, and the national material 2000 lire per metre. We wonder how we will manage." (23/5/45 - BOLOGNA)

"We have no more fabric at all. A pair of shoes costs about 5000 lire, and a spool of thread, which used to cost 15 centesimi, now costs 350 lire." (2/6/45 - VERONA)

"A pure wool suit costs 8000 or 10,000 lire, an artificial silk dress 3,000 lire, a pair of stockings 120 lire, and a pair of men's shoes 3000 lire." (7/6/45 - TURIN)

"Life is very expensive here. Shoes cost 12,000 lire a pair, and a suit runs to 25,000 lire." (20/5/45 - CATANZARO)

"We won't talk about clothing. It is sufficient to say that a pair of stockings costs 1,300 lire and a man's suit 35,000." (24/5/45 - LEGGO)

6376

"Stockings cost from 250 to 350 lire per pair. Printed silk is 350 lire a metre, and pure silk not less than 900 to 1000 lire." (3/6/45 - ROMA)

"There has been a certain decrease in prices, but they are still too high for us. Printed fabrics now cost 300 lire per metre, and pure silk 1,300 lire, but you still need many thousands to be able to make a summer dress." (2/6/45 - ROMA)

3. HOUSING

Civilian mail became more critical of the housing situation throughout the period under review, except in Rome

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where the unfavourable comments were in the large majority of 63.5 to 1 as compared with the even larger majority of 117.7 to 1 during the previous period. In Naples the adverse comments exceeded the favourable by 37.5 to 1 as against 33.2 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Southern Italy was particularly critical, and the ratio was 155.5 to 1 as compared with 71.4 to 1 during the preceding four weeks. Northern Italy does not appear to be so badly affected as regards accommodation on the whole, the unfavourable comments only being in a majority of 6.3 to 1, but these figures are largely due to a high percentage of favourable comments from Bologna, and some centres are just as critical as Rome or Naples, notably Brescia, Turin and Verona. There were only a few military comments, and they were equally divided.

In addition to the usual references to high rents, the destruction of houses during the war, and swollen populations in various centres where refugees have flocked, there was a fair number of letters complaining of the high cost of repairs. Many premises remain uninhabitable because the cost of putting them in order is excessive. Requisitioning by the Allies is commented on, and from Naples there is a letter stating that although the writer's house was requisitioned, he had to go on paying the rent in order not to lose the lease. The following comments are some examples of the above:

"At Sorrento there is no accommodation at all. The place is crowded with refugees whose houses in Naples have been requisitioned." (18/5/45 - Naples)

"There is no sort of accommodation here, either in the town or in the province, and if you do find something one pays enormous sums, and the proprietors impose on you in every way. As soon as the decree was issued the owners doubled and even tripled the rents for shops and premises of every kind including private houses. Our house had been requisitioned for one year, but we had to pay the rent as usual in order not to lose the right of lease." (24/5/45 - NAPLES) 75

"There is not even a room here. Many premises have been requisitioned by the Allies in the neighbourhood of Posillipo and in the islands etc. Naturally there is nothing to be had unless you take a house by paying off the previous lease at a very high price, either 100,000 or 150,000 lire." (17/5/45 - NAPLES)

"In order to go back to Genoa we have to solve the housing question. Meanwhile we have to put up with compulsory confinement in this impossible residence." (15/5/45 - GENOA)

"For the time being our situation is quite hopeless. A kind of anarchy is spreading round here. In Leghorn more than 50% of the houses are uninhabitable. Materials are lacking

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to repair them, and there is a shortage of labour. A brick, which formerly cost 45 centesimi, now costs 9 lire." (19/5/45 - LICHON)

"Your house was damaged and is no longer inhabitable. The furniture has been destroyed. According to recent decrees your flat has been requisitioned by the commune. There is a shortage of housing everywhere, and there are hundreds of homeless families." (24/5/45 - BOLOGNA)

"We are still homeless. Too many people are in the same position. We are now living in a garret, a real garret in which one hits one's head on the low beams of the ceiling. We have no water, and it is terribly hot. There is no hope of any improvement in the situation because it will be more than a year before they can rebuild the houses." (16/5/45 - BOLOGNA)

"We can't even start to restore our house because many homeless people entered through the windows and took possession of the place." (21/5/45 - BOLOGNA)

"Our house in Casalecchio was badly damaged, so we moved to the Mellone Hemp factory, the so called Fabbricone, but having suffered bomb damage there also, we took shelter in the house of a peasant named Bini di Ceretolo, and then once again we suffered in an offensive." (19/5/45 - CASALECCHIO RENO)

"A few days ago I went home hoping to find something left. Everything was burning. Here, near Salmi, the stable and hay loft, where we took refuge, were burnt out. We lack everything except a little straw for beds." (12/5/45 - OLIVETO MONTEVIGLIO) 374

"The landlady of my house, in order not to lose any time, has raised the rent from 200 to 820 lire. Just imagine it!" (3/6/45 - BOLZANO)

"Prices of building materials and workers' wages are going higher day by day, and to such a degree that no landlord has the means for proceeding with the necessary repairs. The tenants make repairs at their own expense in order to have inhabitable premises, but with the understanding that, if the State should grant the owners an indemnity, the tenants are entitled to their share. Rents which are not controlled are based on a scale of 5,000 lire per room." (3/6/45 - ROME)

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4. INCOME

Civilian opinion on the question of wages, salaries and pensions remained much the same as it did during the previous period, there being no marked differences between the northern, central or southern regions. Unfavourable comments were in a majority of 80.6 to 1. Naples was less critical than formerly. There was little change in Rome or Southern Italy.

Practically all complaints are based on the fact that incomes are not sufficient to meet the cost of living. There are many letters saying that incomes are only large enough to provide adequate food for a portion of the month. Clothes, in such cases, can not be bought. Although there have been various increases in wages, it has usually happened that these have been accompanied by a corresponding and often greater increase in the cost of living. Thus the gap between income and expenditure ever widens. The less unfortunate people bridge the gap by selling off what surplus possessions they may have, and by drawing on their savings. When the latter are exhausted, there is nothing left but to tighten their belts. The following comments are some examples from many letters:

"The cost of living is very high here, and the black market is always growing. Wages, however, have been increased by so little that we will not be able to buy food for much longer." (5/6/45 - GENOA)

"Our wages are not satisfactory. But we hope there will be an improvement so that eventually a balance may be reached between income and expenses." (4/6/45 - GENOA)

"I'm in a very bad way. It is really necessary to earn more, since my wages last for ten days only." (8/6/45 - GENOA)

6373

"During the 18 months of your imprisonment I received, little by little, 3,000 lire. I also received a subsidy of 19.5 lire per day. With such an income alone, Nellina and I would have starved indeed." (25/5/45 - ICNIA)

"This morning I bought 100 grammes of butter at 90 lire, i.e., the daily wage my husband receives. If wages don't increase and the cost of living come down, we will not possibly be able to go on." (25/3/45 - ICNIA)

"Everywhere prices are equally high, and one cannot live. My wages are 100 lire per day, which should be only an

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advance." (7/6/45 - MILAN)

"They cannot go on alone, since your father's pension is not even sufficient to buy the bread." (29/6/45 - TRIESTE)

"Life is quite unbearable. Our pay only lasts until the 15th of the month, and from the 20th to the 27th we really do not know how to get along." (15/6/45 - LEGHORN)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Comments on the National Government were not numerous, and from some centres there were hardly any comments at all. The mail did not reveal any wide difference of opinion between the northern, central and southern areas of the country. During the previous period a less unfavourable opinion seemed to prevail, but during the period under review there was a swing back to a more unfavourable view, and adverse comments were in a majority of 2.1 to 1. Rome, where there was a small majority of favourable comments for the first time during the previous four weeks, changed completely during the four weeks under review, and produced a 3.3 to 1 majority of adverse comments. Naples, which was a little more than 2 to 1 against the government previously, produced a 4 to 1 majority of adverse comments during the period under review. Milan's opinion seemed to be much the same as Rome's. There were few military comments, and they were more adverse than previously.

Many of the comments are very involved, indulging in such rancours and accusations that it is difficult to assess any definite or constructive lines of criticism. However, two things emerge from this welter of words. Firstly, there seems to be a fairly widespread feeling that there are too many parties and that each one is more intent on furthering its own interests rather than those of the country. Secondly, and following naturally on the above, it is felt that the Government, or any other similar hedge podge, can hardly be capable of facing and combatting the problems with which Italy is faced. The following are a few of the less involved comments.

"Things are not going very well in Italy. There is plenty of talk and polemics, but little or nothing is being done. The Italians are so taken up with political struggles that they give no heed to the material and moral reconstruction

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of their country. And our neighbours are taking advantage of this. We are now awaiting the construction of the new government, which will be just like the others. The only thing to help us would be the occupation by the Allies for as long as possible."
(20/5/45 - NAPLES)

"The public is not sufficiently educated, and is therefore unprepared to think for itself. It allows itself to be guided by ring-leaders who always preach about man's rights but never about his duty..... It is necessary for the workers to understand that liberty is a great thing, but they must also concede it to their opponents. Meanwhile more than a month has passed, and we still have a government incapable of governing."
(31/5/45 - MILAN)

"During the Fascist regime the thing was usual, but now that Fascism is said to be dead, it seems to me that its ways are still very much alive, because everything is based on corruption. Thus the old French saying: "Plus ça change et plus c'est la même chose." is always true.... Our self-appointed government tries to do its best, but unluckily the same ministers, who are very wise and tolerant in council, become the opposite when they act as leaders of their parties. Thus you may well imagine what happens." (27/5/45 - ROME)

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

The great bulk of the comments on the provincial administrations came from Southern Italy, and in those regions civilian opinion became nearly twice as critical as it was during the previous four weeks. From Rome there were hardly any comments and those few were about equally divided. Naples, which was unfavourably disposed by 9 to 1 during the previous period, became more critical to the extent of 18.4 to 1 during the period under review. The northern cities produced only 129 comments between them all, of which 61 were favourable and 68 unfavourable.

The comments themselves were frequently vague, and often attributed faults or virtues to the provincial administration in matters which did not concern them. This failing, plus the general paucity of comments, except from Naples and the South generally, makes any assessment of opinion from censorship sources valueless.

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7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES

Civilian opinion of the Allies underwent some curious changes, during the period under review, in those parts of the country for which we have previous figures. Southern Italy, for example, where favourable comments were only in a majority of 5.6 to 1 during the previous period, produced a 25.9 to 1 majority of favourable comments during the period under review. Rome and Naples, on the other hand, became distinctly less favourable, each city producing the same ratio of 5.6 to 1 in favour as compared with 16.8 to 1 and 9.1 to 1 respectively during the preceding four weeks. Northern Italy was favourable by 20 to 1. Milan was outstanding. Out of a total of 996 comments only 9 were unfavourable. There were only a few military comments, 48 in all, of which only 2 were trifavourable.

Favourable comments, particularly from the North, are nearly all expressions of gratitude for having been liberated, and for having been supplied with food. There are also remarks about the good behaviour of the troops, and some references to capable Allied administration. Unfavourable comments arise from disappointment at not having received all that had been expected. This does not only refer to material benefits. Some people feel that having the Allies in Italy only means a change of masters. Others resent the humiliations they have to suffer. The following comments are some examples:

A. Favourable

"We must frankly acknowledge that the Allies have been not only our liberators but also our saviours, and that after having liberated us they acted as Allies towards us. If they had not come to our aid we should all have starved after the liberation. As it is the food situation is not so bad, and it is gradually improving." (23/5/45 - TUR34) 6370

"Since whitewash we have had the British here. They are very good. We have twenty two of them." (23/5/45 - VU102)

"We have the Americans camped here. They are so good that they often give us what we need." (10/6/45 - TUR32)

"Order has been completely restored. The American and British troops are wonderfully kind to us, and even the negroes are benevolent towards the children. The Allies are completely

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different from those arrogant criminals. Two naval officers dined with us, and I found them perfect gentlemen." (20/5/45 - GENOA)

"The Allies were welcomed with joy. We have English here. They dance with our peasants in the streets, and our flags are waving near those of the Allies." (24/5/45 - VENICE)

"Everybody is quite satisfied with the Allies who have been enthusiastically welcomed by the population. The Fascists have now disappeared and belong to the past." (15/5/45 - VARESE)

"Here we are in the hands of the Americans who are civilised people, and not as they had been described to us formerly, except the negroes, but let us hope that the latter are only here in passing." (6/6/45 - VICENZA)

B. UNFAVOURABLE

"Now we have our liberators who are, so to speak, our masters since we shall have to do what they wish." (25/5/45 - BELLUNO)

"The Americans have occupied the Sanatorium at Carbagnate. It is a clear example that things in Italy have changed little in the past months. We have had only a change of guards by our masters." (30/5/45 - COMO)

"You Italians in America must fight to spare Italy the ill-treatment and humiliations that seem to be in store for her at the hands of the new masters who, however, wrap themselves with the finest banners of liberty and justice. What hypocrisy!" (19/5/45 - ROME)

"Every day more people are coming into our village, Americans, British etc. But for what reason do they come here? To eat our supplies and to bring about an increase in prices." (27/5/45 - S. MARCHERITA L.)

6369

B. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS

Civilian mail revealed no great divergence of opinion on industrial prospects in the various areas of the country; in fact the small unfavourable majority of 1.1 to 1 among the com-

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ments during the previous period was reproduced during the period under review. It would seem, then, that the North takes much the same view as the central areas did. No centres were markedly pessimistic or optimistic, except possibly Brescia and Como which were almost unanimously unfavourable in their opinions, but on a small number of comments. Naples was 2 to 1 favourable as compared with 3.5 to 1 and 2.1 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. The South as a whole was less pessimistic than it was during the previous period.

Favourable comments speak of quick repairs to factories and resumption of work. Even when factories are not in working order, there is often evidence of confidence in an early reconstruction. There is also mention of delays in changing over from wartime to peace time production but this is not spoken of as causing any serious delay. Unfavourable comments are usually based on fears that destroyed plants and factories may not be rebuilt for a long time to come. But in other cases, where factories are standing, work is held up owing to a shortage of coal or to a lack of raw materials. The following are examples of various types of comments:

"We have begun our work of reconstruction, and we hope to be able to resume operations fairly soon." (6/8/45 - BOLOGNA)

"The Chitignano plant has been destroyed, but that of Marano has been only slightly damaged. We hope to resume our work soon." (10/8/45 - BOLOGNA)

"At the San Giorgio works, after a short interruption and the operation, we started the work up in well enough, except for the difficulties of changing over from war to peace production, and other minor troubles that are not of great account." (20/5/45 - GE-PICOLI)

6368

"It is a question of rebuilding a plant which has been reduced to a scrap heap, without having a plan of the original, because all the files have been destroyed. Much enthusiasm and goodwill will be needed to restore to operating condition all that can be utilized from the scrap piled up in all the departments." (23/5/45 - LA SPEZIA)

"In our section work has been at a standstill since 5th May owing to the lack of coal. The workers are being used in various

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jobs which are not profitable and which are very costly to us." (4/6/45 - SETTIMO TORINESE)

"Our factory has been completely destroyed in the air raids and cannot resume work." (1/6/45 - BOLOGNA)

"At present there is a shortage of materials in our steel foundry, and production is proceeding very slowly." (9/6/45 - CUNEO)

"In the paper mill of Burgo-Verzuolo work has not yet been resumed inspite of the promised Allied help." (9/6/45 - CUNEO)

"Majolica industries in Perugia province have come to a standstill owing to the complete absence of raw materials. The few factories still working are limiting their production to Allied Military Command orders which supplies them with the materials required for certain specified articles." (17/5/45 - PERUGIA)

"The town of Prato has suffered greatly from air raids, and 40% of its industries are completely destroyed." (30/5/45 - PRATO)

9. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS

There was no change in civilian opinion on agricultural prospects during the period under review. The new stations in Northern Italy, taken as a whole, reflected much the same degree of pessimism as did the stations in the central areas now closed. Thus the sum total of all comments from all parts of the country covered in this report were in a proportion of 3.1 to 1 unfavourable, which is the same as during the previous period. Cuneo was the most pessimistic of all centres with no favourable comments at all. Naples was more pessimistic than last time, and Rome even more so. Southern regions generally were a little more unfavourably disposed than during the previous four weeks.

The prevailing unhappy feeling is due chiefly to the general absence of rain for a long time. Crops will not sprout, or they barely grow at all, and the land in some places is so hard that cultivation is impossible. Round Venice it is said that the shortage of oxen made it impossible to plough. There

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is also the complaint that fields in that area were ruined by military vehicles and troops. Round Guseo, in addition to drought conditions, an earlier frost damaged the crops. Round Bard the crops are so poor that in some cases they have been given over as sheep pastures. From Gardinia there is the reported complaint that crops have been destroyed by plagues of grasshoppers. The following extracts from letters illustrate the various trials:

"Owing to the lack of rain there is no wheat in the Tavoliere della Puglia and in many other towns. After the sowing the famine." (4/6/45 - ROME)

"Owing to the absence of rain we have to hay for our cattle this year. The 27th day being Holy Trinity, we hope that God will grant us some water from Heaven. Otherwise we will be doomed to starvation this year. There is still time for the corn and maize to be sowed, but our cattle will remain without fodder." (25/5/45 - FROSINONE)

"It has not rained for the last four months, and the country is in a pitiful condition. There is not a bean or a potato to be found, and the wheat is completely burnt. No one remembers ever having reaped in May, and yet everybody is doing so this year." (27/5/45 - VIESTE (I. TRIESTE))

"This year the weather is against us, there is such a drought. It has not rained since February. The corn cannot be sown, and the potatoes will not shoot. We shall certainly starve if God does not help us." (21/5/45 - PERUGIA, AGRICULTURALIST)

"I...I am also going to tell you about the country which is in a good enough condition, but we are very worried because of the lack of rain, and the crops are suffering." (22/5/45 - PERUGIA)

"A terrible invasion of grasshoppers has ravaged the country. Crops, including cereals, have been literally destroyed, and if things do not arrive from outside, we are done for." (17/5/45 - SASSARI)

"We are really worried that vegetables, corn, fodder etc. will all be ruined owing to the drought which has lasted since March. In the whole of Puglia we will not gather 100 quintals of vegetables. Such a drought has never occurred before."

CONFIDENTIAL

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"The corn and the oats will not show, and in many places the sheep have been burned into the fields to eat what is there. And now it is too late to correct the situation. It is very good for the fields, especially as far as vegetables are concerned, for they are completely burnt." (21/5/45 - CASH)

"Another misfortune has fallen upon us. Since the melting of the snow it has not rained, and this is bad for the cattle, and for the crops which will be very scarce." (22/5/45 - BOLSONA)

"This year the crop will be very poor because we could not plough the ground owing to the lack of rain." (21/5/45 - VENEZ)

"The meadows have been spoiled by trucks and hundreds of soldiers who passed over them. It is a difficult problem to feed the cattle." (23/5/45 - VENEZ)

"People are worried since from about the greater part of the grass along the Salento and a certain amount along the banks of the Rio. The wheat has not grown due to the drought, and the crop will certainly not be as abundant as last year's." (7/6/45 - CASH)

"The agricultural prospects for this year are very unfavorable, though we were afraid that nothing would grow owing to the drought. But I can tell you that the crop will be more abundant than that of last year." (29/5/45 - CASH)

"We expect to have a good crop, though recently a hail storm caused some damage to the country." (28/5/45 - CASH)

10. EMPLOYMENT

6365

The general tone of civilian mail was a little less dependent concerning employment than it was during the previous period, the unfavorable comments being in a majority of 5.6 to 1 as compared with 6.3 to 1 previously. Bologna was the only center to produce a majority of favorable comments. Pessimism became more pessimistic during the period. There was little change in tone where spirits have been very low for some time. Milan was least pessimistic than any of the big centers. Southern Italy as a whole was more dependent than the rest of the country, excepting Rome.

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Difficulty in finding employment is, of course, often due to destroyed factories, and to a lesser extent to the paucity of raw materials.

Employers are not always allowed to dismiss employees when work is short, but in some cases surplus personnel are put off, thus increasing the ranks of the unemployed. Some relief to the situation comes from the Allies who employ a fair number of Italians in various ways, but with the departure of the Allies from different countries, such employees again fall out of work. Some factories, however, hope to resume work in the near future, and this gives rise to optimism. Various views on this are reflected in the following extracts from letters.

"The English are beginning to leave here, and a crisis is making itself felt in all classes. Unemployment has become already and many activities have been suspended." (23/5/45 - NCIA)

"In our factory the clerks are working the whole week, and the workmen only part time. We have nothing to do while the Americans give us no work. It seems that they are already interesting themselves in this respect." (24/5/45 - CUBINO CORINSE)

"It is necessary to pay full wages to our workmen while only one third of our factory is actually working. We are not allowed to dismiss or suspend anyone. We continue to run into debt in the hope that the situation will adjust itself, since a full resumption of work will take place as soon as we receive the necessary materials. Will we be able to keep going till then?" (24/5/45 - CUBINO)

"The future will be far from good, and recently an order has been issued according to which employees will be allowed to dismiss surplus personnel starting from 1st July." (9/6/45 - CUBINO) 6364

"I have been looking for a job for eight days, but I cannot find anything. There are no jobs for stenographers because there is no material." (17/6/45 - TOTIN)

"We can find work at S. Giovanni Perleotto. Give

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and I are now working for the Polish troops and are fairly well off." (3/6/45 - BOLOGNA)

Gordon W. McKinn
GORDON W. MCKINN,
Lt. Col. Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

2 Incls:

- Incl #1 - Radio Table, Four Weeks Ending 3/6/45.
Incl #2 - Public Opinion Tally 3/3/45.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 - Deputy Chief Commissioner
- 1 - Vice President, Administrative Section, AC
- 1 - Vice President, Economic Section, AC
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- 4 - G-2 (CC), AFHQ (requested by letter from CGS/35/5/45)
- 1 - PWB, AFHQ
- 1 - G-5, AFHQ
- 1 - NAASF Int (Gen), AFHQ
- 1 - W-2, AFHQ
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- 1 - Director, Finance Sub-Commission
- 1 - Director, Labor Sub-Commission
- 1 - Director, Industry Sub-Commission

6363

CONFIDENTIAL

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 133

1 May - 9 June

5

CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP, PUBLIC OPINION REPORT

194

PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED)		FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME	
		F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
Bologna	56,547	70	335	38	188	243	618	6	44
Bolzano	4,024	0	24	0	4	0	2	0	0
Brescia	17,509	2	65	1	222	1	47	0	9
Como	24,144	6	112	0	30	1	26	0	5
Cuneo	10,390	2	140	0	7	0	6	0	1
Genoa	69,678	159	909	11	306	17	509	6	124
Leghorn	29,662	46	100	31	73	16	77	17	28
Milan	78,063	176	1156	29	522	44	505	56	266
Naples (CIV)	90,303	178	1767	76	1133	20	751	29	295
(MIL)	79,269	114	65	42	48	37	46	16	29
Rome (CIV)	67,156	71	1613	18	814	2	127	0	200
(MIL)	65,182	80	14	27	4	17	6	23	35
Turin	30,055	17	281	1	47	2	171	3	29
Venice	27,043	9	138	2	62	4	72	4	17
Verona	8,466	2	93	0	22	0	51	1	7
External Mail	305,747	203	1643	33	937	13	799	72	3030
TOTAL CIVILIAN:		940	23096	239	27245	368	5760	202	4153
TOTAL MILITARY:		194	79	69	52	54	52	39	64
TOTALS		1134	23177	307	27297	422	5812	241	4217

This report is based on 50 letters per censor being checked daily on a 6-day weekly basis. The number of censors employed each week averaged 31, making a total of 57,200 letters examined for this four-week tally.

June

194

5

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HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT		
F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	
243	618	6	44	2	2	10	17	82	6					115	71	2	15	119	72	
0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	7	5					0	0	0	0	0	0	
1	47	0	9	3	1	0	0	17	0					1	21	4	9	0	7	
1	26	0	5	4	5	2	1	20	3					0	13	0	1	0	2	
0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	18	2					0	2	0	25	0	3	
17	509	6	124	29	46	12	29	400	24					35	56	82	56	56	133	
16	77	17	28	19	8	14	11	28	5					17	12	21	8	11	13	
44	508	56	266	32	117	18	2	387	9					207	154	128	65	92	211	
20	751	29	295	22	87	22	404	148	62					259	133	178	105	86	135	
37	46	16	29	7	21	0	0	28	0					0	0	0	0	0	0	
2	127	8	208	85	183	11	12	293	52					11	17	12	121	5	132	
17	6	23	35	4	2	0	0	18	2					0	0	0	0	36	00	
2	171	3	29	14	7	5	10	146	17					37	47	17	45	8	32	
4	72	4	17	1	0	0	1	58	1					16	29	10	10	10	3	
0	51	1	7	0	7	0	2	59	4					3	0	8	3	1	4	
188	799	72	3030	326	611	409	1880	3261	205					104	1241	138	5355	353	2537	
368	3760	202	4153	507	1075	505	1054	7422	303					1	651	99	170	4585	611	3032
54	52	39	64	11	29	0	0	46	2					0	0	0	0	0	0	
422	5312	241	4217	518	1104	505	1064	7468	305					1	651	99	170	4585	611	3032

1493

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332

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 133

APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS (13 M

	FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS	
	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING 9/6/45 CIV	1	24.6	1	114.5	1	15.6	1	20.6	1	2.1	1	3.7	18.9	1	1	1.1
MIL	2.5	1	1.3	1	1	1	1	1.7	1	2.6	0	0	23	1	0	0

3362

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APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS (13 May/9 June 45)

G	HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F
14.5	1	15.6	1	20.6	1	2.1	1	3.7	18.9	1	1	1.1	1	3.1	1	5.9
1	1	1	1	1.7	1	2.6	0	0	23	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

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JUN 9 1945

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Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

GMA/vr

SPECIAL REPORT No. 131

5 June 1945

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian
and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 12th May 1945.

TO : G-2 (Communications Censorship), AFHQ, APO 312.

This report is based on 453,400 letters checked during the four weeks ended 12th May 1945. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relation between favourable and unfavourable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

Owing to the large amount of external mail now being handled, more particularly from Naples, this report now covers all of southern Italy, Sicily and Sardinia, as well as those central areas which have been surveyed in our four-weekly reports for approximately the last nine months. Thus the major part of Italy is reviewed here.

As regards living conditions, the southern regions are generally more unfavourable in their comments than are more northerly parts, and thus the average figures shown in the table are affected accordingly. This must be remembered when comparing them with the figures of the previous period. However, the latter period also included a certain amount of external mail figures, so that a comparison is justified. In any event, in the case of large centres, like Rome and Naples, separate comparisons will be made in the body of the report to show the trends of opinion in those areas.

None of the comments used in this report have been used in any previous report.

- 1 -

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Censorship Reports



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1. FOOD SITUATION

Civilian mail continued to become more unfavourable, as it has been doing for some months past, and unfavourable comments were in a majority of 27.1 to 1 as compared with 23.3 to 1 and 21.3 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. There were no favourable comments at all from Ancona and Perugia, and only one from Bologna out of a small total of 34 for the latter centre. The position in Rome seems to be worse than ever. Adverse comments, which were in a majority of 77.2 to 1 during the previous period, reached a majority of 101.2 during the four weeks under review. Military mail, on an increased number of comments, showed a 1.3 to 1 adverse opinion as compared with a 2.3 to 1 favourable opinion during the previous period.

High prices give rise to the majority of complaints. Many letters speak of abundance of various foodstuffs, but go on to say that such supplies are useless because they cannot be afforded. In other cases the rationed foods are so inadequate that people are forced to rely on the black market, and since they can only afford to buy very little, they go hungry. Pats and sugar seem to be items difficult to come by anywhere, though from Sicily there are letters saying that there is plenty of olive oil. The following comments illustrate various sides of the situation:

"Living here is extremely expensive. Just think! For three people we need 1000 lire daily to eat. Meat costs 800 lire per kg. At the same time money circulates in great quantities." (5/5/45 - Naples)

"The prices here are staggering. Sugar is sold shade 6358 fully at 1200 lire per kg., olive oil at 370 lire per litre, bread at 120 per kg., pasta products at 230 lire per kg., cheese at 550 lire per kg., bottled peppers at 450 lire per kg., and oranges at 62 lire per kg. Meat sells for 700-800 lire per kg., and butter at 250 lire per kg. Who can buy these things at such prices? Can a clerk live on his small salary?" (6/5/45 - Naples)

"The prices of foodstuffs have increased enormously, more during this year than last year. A small sucking pig costs 10,000 lire. As you see, money has lost its value here. We have to buy bread on the black market because the government ration is not sufficient for one's needs." (28/4/45 - Catanzaro)

"You want to know the prices of foods in Italy?? Olive

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oil is 250 lire per litre, dried broad beans 70 lire per kg., lentils 35 lire per kg., runner beans 100 lire per kg., fresh broad beans 40 lire per kg., eggs 25 lire each, meat 400 lire per kg., fish 300 lire per kg. Some items are hard to find." (23/4/45 - Bari)

"Return here as soon as possible and bring some provisions. The food prices here are prohibitive." (5/5/45 - Bologna)

"Apart from bread we lack all food items. They are even scarce on the black market." (5/5/45 - Bologna)

"I shall come to visit you in order to satisfy my hunger a little. Since October I have been living on unseasoned rice and dried chestnuts." (4/5/45 - Genoa)

"So many people here have not even had bread to eat since October, not to mention fats and sugar which no one has had since last July. But the black market has kept up its progress, and is keeping it up even now with an accelerated rhythm." (2/5/45 - Lucca)

"We live on a little white flour, a great deal of hunger and a few pennies in our pockets. Prices here are enormous." (5/5/45 - Carrara)

"Here nothing may be found, especially in the way of food. The Germans have taken away everything. It looks like a dead world. There is nothing here." (1/5/45 - Carrara)

"The prices of food items are increasing daily. We can no longer eat. Eggs are 19 and 20 lire each, artichokes 5 lire each, peas 38 lire per kg., and broad beans 14 lire per kg." (3/5/45 - Foggia)

"Living is very expensive here too. You can find everything but at highly exaggerated prices. Cheese sells at 800 lire per kg., ham at 800 lire, lard at 500 lire, fresh peas at 40 lire, and wine at 40 lire per litre. The prices are climbing higher daily. Unless measures are taken to stop prices from rising, no one will be able to eat any longer except millionaires." (20/4/45 - Foggia) 135.7

"Here in Rome the food situation is very bad. Nothing is to be found except on the black market, and you need four or five hundred lire a day merely to be able to eat soup, bread and greens." (3/5/45 - Rome)

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"We often buy bread on the black market and pay 120 and even 140 lire per kg. Potatoes are 80 lire per kg., flour 120-140 lire per kg., olive oil 440 lire per litre. Some prices are terrifying. Not only does one spend a great deal, but one eats nothing as everything is so dear. Life in Rome is terrible. We spend about 500 lire per day without eating any substantial food." (8/5/45 - Rome)

2. CLOTHING

Civilian mail has been becoming more and more pessimistic for some time past, and comments, for the first time, were more numerous than those on food. During the period under review the unfavourable comments outnumbered the favourable by 131.7 to 1 as compared with 62.7 to 1 and 44.6 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. There were no favourable comments from Arezzo, Florence, Foggia or Perugia. Opinion in Rome deteriorated still further, there being only 3 favourable comments out of a total of 1083. Naples was much less critical than formerly, though during the previous period the figures included a certain amount of external mail. During the period under review there were only 15 favourable comments in the external mail out of a total of 14,230, and the great bulk of this represents southern Italy with a certain amount from Sicily and Sardinia.

The great majority of the complaints are directed against prices, which seem to have risen even further during the last month. Thus from both Rome and Naples there are letters quoting prices of shoes up to 12,000 lire a pair, a figure never before mentioned. Between 6 and 10 thousand seems to be the general range. The lowest price mentioned for a suit was 19,000 in Taranto, and the highest was 27,000 in Enna (Sicily). The following comments are typical of many:

"A pair of men's shoes costs 7000 lire. A suit costs over 25,000 lire. A shirt costs 1000 lire, and bed sheets 7000 lire each. A woollen blanket sells at 12,000 lire, and a woman's slip at over 800 lire." (2/5/45 - Naples)

"You can't imagine how staggering the prices of clothes are here. A pair of men's shoes costs 12,000 lire, and a pair of woman's stockings 1,800 lire." (12/5/45 - Naples)

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"Here are the prices of some items of clothing: For men-- suit, 24,000 lire; material for a suit, 6,500 per metre; shoes 11,000 lire; shirts, 3,500 lire each; socks 400 lire a pair; and for women - stockings, 700 lire a pair; dress, 10,000 lire; light cotton material, 2,500 lire per metre; shoes 3,000 lire and above a pair." (26/4/45 - Naples)

"I lack everything, especially clothing. How can one buy clothes when behind the shop windows all you see is astronomical sky-high prices?" (23/4/45 - Naples)

"Besides the hunger the war has left us, we are left completely naked and bare-footed. Merely to have a suit made one needs 19,000 lire, and a pair of shoes costs 6,000 lire." (6/5/45 - Taranto)

"Here all of those who can purchase goods on the black market are able to get along. All the labourers are dressed in rags and go barefooted. The reason for this is that one needs over 20,000 lire to purchase a suit." (29/4/45 - Matera)

"The clothing problem is one of our greatest headaches here. A man's suit costs 27,000 lire; a pair of working trousers 2,200 lire; a working shirt 1,990 lire; and a pair of shoes 5000 lire." (28/4/45 - Enna, Sicily)

"As to clothing, we are not doing so well here. There is not sufficient clothing in Sicily, and the clothing available is sold at unbelievably high prices." (4/5/45 - Trapani, Sicily)

"I have no news to give you except that the cost of living is very high. Clothes and shoes are sold at staggering and absolutely prohibitive prices. It is the white collar workers who suffer most." (24/4/45 - Macerata)

"The clothing prices here are staggering. Veil material costs 2,900 lire per metre, and taffeta 2,500 lire. A little skein of wool, weighing 10 grammes, costs 250 lire, and ordinary wool costs 450 lire per hectogramme." (5/5/45 - Lucca)

"There is nothing second-hand for the moment. Guaranteed very strong shoes are from 10 to 12 thousand lire. Don't you think that we are doing well in Rome as regards prices! And this is not the end of it. They are increasing, and who knows when this will cease." (17/4/45 - Rome)

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"With regard to your food and clothing problem you are better off than we are. At least you have food, while we have neither one nor the other. Everything is lacking. I do nothing but mend, patch and renovate, and am longing to return to our home..... In order to live here, much money is needed."
(12/5/45 - Rome)

3. HOUSING

The housing situation, which civilian letters have criticised in increasing numbers for some time past, was commented on even more unfavourably than usual during the period under review when adverse comments were in a majority of 38.6 to 1. This compares with 23.4 to 1 and 19.5 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. The situation appears to be worst in Arezzo. There were no favourable comments out of a total of 90. Florence, Foggia and Grosseto, with a smaller number of comments, were also totally adverse. Rome was more pessimistic than during the last period, there being only 3 favourable comments out of a total of 356, as compared with 8 out of 453 during the previous four weeks. Naples, on the other hand, was less gloomy than previously. Military opinion remained unchanged.

There are various types of complaint, but they fall into two classes. Firstly there is the general lack of accommodation due mainly to destruction through the war, but accentuated by refugees in certain areas, and by Allied requisitioning. Secondly there are bitter remarks about the exaggerated rents asked for any sort of apartment, even if it be merely a single room. One of the results of the above is that overcrowding is not uncommon, and thus there are complaints that too many people often have to share a room. The following comments are some examples of the general run of complaints:

"At Caserta as well as at Foggia one cannot find a hole in which to live. Rents have reached astronomical heights."
(1/5/45 - Caserta)

"Here I am looking in vain for a house, and one is not to be found."
(4/5/45 - Modena)

"The housing situation in Leghorn is very serious. There are more than 50,000 people of Leghorn who cannot return to live in their city. The houses destroyed amount to 50%. Those

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who live in the city manage to exist in numbers of 12 to 14 in each house available. Many people sleep on the ground for want of furniture or space. Even when the Allies go away, the number of lodgings they will leave will be far fewer than the requests for houses in which to live." (12/5/45 - Leghorn)

"Houses cannot be found round here. Our preoccupation is increasing because we have to give up our living quarters. We roam around looking for a house, but we cannot find anything." (12/5/45 - Capua)

"The best families manage to live wherever they can. Some sleep in air-raid shelters, and some in the shops where they work. They have to manage to get along somehow because the Allies have occupied most of the available houses, and the bombs have destroyed much. For the present there is no hope of finding a place to live anywhere." (11/5/45 - Naples)

"I have found a little room to live in but at a fabulous price. I could not remain at the hotel because they wanted from 200 to 300 lire a night." (7/5/45 - Naples)

"Here you cannot find a room anywhere. This does not demoralize me because mine is not the only case. There are thousands of people without a roof over their heads." (7/5/45 - Naples)

"The housing question is the most difficult. Either one cannot find a house at all, or else the few furnished ones are let at impossible rents." (5/5/45 - Rome)

4. INCOME

Civilian letters became more critical during the period under review, and the unfavourable comments were in a majority of 216453 to 1 as compared with 14.1 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Florence and Lucca were the most dissatisfied centres. Rome opinion again deteriorated. There was little change in Naples.

Complaints follow well worn lines. The basis of nearly all is that salaries are not high enough to meet the cost of living. Clerks and other minor office employees feel the pinch most. Pensioners are in a class by themselves. Their pitiful pensions are grotesquely inadequate. Most people who have any savings still left augment their incomes by drawing upon them. Others sell off their possessions. Those who have neither savings nor surplus

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possessions tighten their belts and go about shabby. The following are some examples of the comments:

"You find everything here but at fabulous prices. The salaries are totally inadequate to meet the staggering costs." (4/5/45 - Lucca)

"It is becoming more and more difficult to exist on the wretched monthly income. We have already been scraping along for fifteen months on this meagre salary." (3/5/45 - Lucca)

"As an interpreter for the "Stars and Stripes" I earn 1500 lire a week. It would be a good weekly wage if there were no war and no black market with which to contend. My earnings are not sufficient to meet the expenses required for a decent existence." (19/4/45 - Rome)

"I too find myself rather unwell because the wages I receive are not enough to provide breakfast. Prices here continue to rise day by day. However, let us hope that this crisis will be overcome." (1/5/45 - Pistoia)

"I swear that with my modest salary I can no longer carry on. During the Nazi-fascist occupation we sold the little gold we possessed. Today I have no more to sell. With my salary I can hardly buy a pair of shoes. And as to eating?" (5/5/45 - Rome)

The following is a letter, unsigned, by a group of old age pensioners to the director of the paper "Il Reporter":

"You ought to take some interest in the hard situation of the state pensioners for disability and old age, to whom much has been promised with no positive result as yet. Shall we die of hunger before we get anything?" (21/4/45 - Rome)

6352

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Civilian opinion seems to be slowly moving in favour of the National Government. During the period under review the unfavourable comments were only in a majority of 1.1 to 1 as compared with 2.5 to 1 and 3.4 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. Many centres commented hardly at all, but Bologna, Leghorn and Pisa all appear to have a majority in favour of the government. Rome, for the first time, also produced a majority

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of favourable comments. Arezzo and Naples were very much against the government, the latter area by 9 to 1 as compared with 3.0 to 1 during the previous period. The south generally, as reflected in the external mail, was adverse by 1.7 to 1.

It is difficult to find any reason for the more favourable figures by any study of the comments. It is therefore possible that many critics are tired of writing. There is, however, some thing positive in the unfavourable comments, and in brief it is that the government is not considered capable of handling the stupendous post war problems facing the country. There is also some criticism of the lack of cooperation among the parties who are accused of considering only their own particular interests. The following are a few examples:

"We are hoping that we shall see a new government being formed, which, unlike the present one, may be capable of adopting vigorous measures so as to be in a position to begin the reconstruction in every field." (10/5/45 - Naples)

"You are right concerning what Mazzini said about Italy's being made but that the Italians had yet to be made. In fact the rulers of Italy are always the same no matter what political parties happen to be in power. They are like the fish: the big ones swallow the little ones." (4/5/45 - Catanzaro)

"We are extremely worried as to the fate of our government. The war with its sad consequences has brought a political, economic and social upheaval so great that we do not see where it will finish. You have no conception of what is happening in Italy. The government is unable to cope with the terrible problems that have to be solved. The Lord only knows what will happen unless America soon comes to our aid." (12/5/45 - Bari)

"...All these parties are fighting one another, leading Italy to ruin, and filling those who love their country with disgust." (8/5/45 - Rome) 6351

"It is a government that does not know what it wants, and in which the communists are trying to sow anarchy in order to throw us into the jaws of bolshevism." (16/4/45 - Rome)

6. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Civilian mail was less hostile towards the provincial governments than it was during the previous period, though still more adverse than at any time prior to that. Unfavourable comments were in a majority of 3.2 to 1 as compared with 0.9 to 1 and 4.4 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. Arezzo was outstandingly critical. There was little change in Naples which

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was more unfavourable than the average. Rome hardly commenced at all. Military mail was equally divided. There is little in the comments themselves. They merely blame the local administration for anything and everything, or, less often, lay any credit to their doorstep.

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES

Civilian mail was more favourable towards the Allies than it was during the previous period when good feeling reached one of its lowest points, favourable comments only being in a majority of 4.6 to 1. During the period under review the figures were 7.2 to 1. Bologna, Lucca and Pisa were the most favourably disposed. Naples opinion improved twofold as compared with the previous two weeks, but the most outstanding change was in Rome which is usually the most critical of centres. Favourable comments in the capital were in a majority of 16.8 to 1 as compared with 4.5 to 1 during the previous four weeks.

Favourable comments are usually based on gratitude for benefits received, or on relief at being freed. Unfavourable comments arise from a feeling of disappointment over the non-fulfillment of hopes or understated promises. There is also an undercurrent of annoyance at the treatment the Italians receive and the fact that all the best of everything seems to be reserved for the Allies. There is a lack of faith in promises for the future, and a certain resentment at the Allies' attitude towards Italian women. The following are a few examples of both favourable and unfavourable comments:

A. Favourable

"We are accomplishing a great deal with the help of the Allies. When the Germans were here we could not sleep at night because of looting, robberies, killings, etc. The Allies have respected private property. He who had only a bicycle left can travel safely, for it will not be taken from him. The Allies are certainly civilized, and can teach us a great deal." (1/5/45 - Viareggio)

"It seems a dream! We must be thankful to the Patriots and the Allies who have done wonders preventing the war from stagnating here." (5/5/45 - Legnano)

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"I really miss those brave South African boys. Their behaviour was correct, and they were kind hearted." (30/4/45 - Lucca)

"The Allied troops have just come here. With them has come the greatly desired liberation. The joy with which we are possessed at this moment is something indescribable." (2/5/45 - Bologna)

"At last the day of liberation has arrived. You can't imagine the enthusiasm here at Genoa. The population is exultant. We have welcomed the Americans with the greatest joy." (30/4/45 - Genoa)

"Curses upon our ex-leaders, especially Mussolini who caused so many of our Allies to die. The latter saved us and gave us food, and so many other things which we never had before. May God protect the good Allies always." (24/4/45 - Rome)

B. Unfavourable

"Florence is becoming populated with Allied troops. This is not without great displeasure to the civilian population" (26/4/45 - Florence)

"The Americans are always getting drunk. They fall in love easily with Italian women. This is another evil added to all the other ones here." (20/4/45 - Melito di Napoli)

"We are not acquainted with any of our Allies. After all, we can get along very well without them." (2/5/45 - Naples)

"As to clothes and shoes, we asked the Allies and the American Red Cross. They replied to us with saccharine words, but have given us nothing and will never give us anything. Their words are empty. From the first day they landed here they have comforted us with kindly words, stating that shortly they would give us everything, and that everything would arrive for us. Up to date we have been given nothing." (30/4/45 - Messina) 349

"We would now be in peace if it were not for these Americans wasting everything. There is nothing left us, not even a grain of wheat, and I do not know what we will eat in the coming year." (21/4/45 - Pistoia)

"As for the Americans, don't worry, because they won't enchant us. We need Italians and not foreigners. It would be fine to see the Americans on a post-card, as you say, and you are quite right." (23/4/45 - Rome)

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8 AND 9. PRESENT AND FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION

Although Italian public opinion on the present and future military situation had no practical expression after the cessation of war with Germany, hostilities were still in progress during the major part of the period under review, and it is interesting to note that, right up till the end, there was still a fair proportion of pessimists, particularly in the army. As regards the future military situation, there seems to have been some fear that fresh conflicts would break out, and that the war against Germany was not the whole European story.

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS

Civilian mail, which had revealed a rising note of optimism for some time, swung somewhat in the opposite direction during the period under review. However, many centres hardly commented at all, and it is more profitable to consider individual areas rather than the figures as a whole. Arezzo and Lucca, with 29 comments between them, only produced one favourable comment each. The external mail, representing Italy south of Naples and Sicily and Sardinia, produced adverse comments in a majority of 2.7 to 1. Rome was a little less pessimistic than previously. Pisa increased in optimism, and Naples accelerated its rising tone of confidence, the favourable comments being in a majority of 3.5 to 1 as compared with 2.1 to 1 during the previous period.

Many favourable comments are based on the belief that the industries of the North will be in full swing shortly, and there are expressions of thankfulness that so many factories escaped destruction in that area. On the other hand there are complaints from various parts of the country that the lack of raw materials makes it impossible to resume industrial activity. And of course there are also many cases mentioned of destruction of plants and buildings. The following are some examples of various sides of the picture:

"Nearly all of us are now working for the reconstruction. One works in earnest and takes on all sorts of jobs. It is planned to repair and equip the assembling and turning departments with the help of other stocks from stores in Southern and Central Italy." (6/5/45 - Rimini)

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"The news which has filled us with joy is that the Germans have not been able to put into practice in the North the plan of destruction which they carried out down here. The industries and the hydro-electric plants are safe. Life will resume its normal work rhythm. The factories will soon have their machinery in operation." (2/5/45 - Naples)

"We are ready, and well equipped to begin our work." (11/5/45 - Bologna)

"Believe me, conditions after the war will be very trying here. Not even one factory remains standing. There will be numberless unemployed. If you could only see Pisa and Leghorn. They are heaps of ruins." (30/4/45 - Leghorn)

"We have serious difficulties in beginning our work due to the lack of raw materials." (24/4/45 - Villa Rovereto, Veneto)

"We are all well, but our factory is at a standstill." (8/5/45 - Bologna)

11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS

Civilian opinion deteriorated still further during the period under review, and unfavourable comments were in a majority of 3.1 to 1 as compared with 1.1 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Arezzo became noticeably more pessimistic with only 10 favourable comments out of a total of 213, as against 31 out of a total of 74 during the preceding. Foggia also took a more gloomy view. Naples was fairly evenly divided, but Rome opinion was decidedly more pessimistic. External mail reflected a very unfavourable opinion in the South. The only places to produce a majority of favourable comments were Leghorn and Pisa. 0347

The bulk of the unfavourable comments complain of the drought which would appear to have been general in the southern regions. There are two general complaints in this connection: little sowing and planting has been possible; and crops already in the ground are making no progress. In some places the soil is so hard that it has not been possible to till the ground. Crops are withering away. Round Catanzaro it is said that there has not even been enough grass for animal fodder. Although there are somewhat similar letters from areas north of Naples, there are also many others which speak of adequate rainfalls and of good prospects. The following are examples of many letters:

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"No one has planted any corn, beans or potatoes because the soil is all dried up. Next year we will surely starve. The beans are all dried up. It has not rained for three months. The winter has been dry, with lots of cold weather but little rain and no snow." (2/5/45 - Castelbasso, Teramo)

"The peasants have little food supplies left, this being the end of the season... Due to the absolute lack of rain, a very poor harvest is expected. In fact, the beans which were sown a long time ago are not growing because the soil is acid and the sun burning." (28/4/45 - Formia)

"I have again bought some beans to sow, but the crop is very poor. We cannot till the fields because the soil is too dry. We have not had any rain since February. It rained a little at the beginning of February, and then it stopped for good. The fields are burned by the sun." (20/4/45 - Corico della Campania, Naples)

"It has not rained here for the past few months. Such a drought will bring a very poor harvest this season, especially as regards wheat, oats and beans. These crops are almost lost. There is not even enough grass grown for animal fodder." (19/4/45 - Catanzaro)

"You must know that the great drought here is a formidable obstacle to the yield of our fields. We cannot work in the fields, and neither corn nor beans can be sown." (16/4/45 - Casanova di Carinola, Naples)

"This year the drought has been so great the soil has become as hard as marble. We have not yet been able to sow either corn or beans. It has not rained for over three months. We shall have no crops this year, no wheat no broad beans, no corn and no vegetables, since we have not been able to sow anything up to date." (18/4/45 - Grazzanise, Naples) 6346

"We are unhappy because this year the harvest in the Tavolere delle Puglie (the great Puglia agricultural plains) will be very meagre. This is chiefly due to the fact that it has not rained at all this year, and the sown fields have suffered a great deal, especially in certain spots where they have been completely burned out." (28/4/45 - Foggia)

"No rain! We clearly see the disaster towards which we are heading unless the Lord helps us." (25/4/45 - Cerignola, Foggia)

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"Due to lack of rain, the crops, including the olive groves, have been almost completely ruined. There has been a fairly good fruit crop, but that is all." (25/4/45 - Garganico, Foggia)

"We have never lacked anything. The Lord has saved all our harvest for us. Even this year the farms have been very fertile and abundant, and that is a sure sign that we shall have bread this year also." (5/5/45 - Sagnolo S. Vito, Bologna)

12. EMPLOYMENT

Civilian mail became increasingly despondent each week during the period under review, and of the total comments for the four weeks the unfavourable were in a majority of 5.5 to 1 as compared with 3.9 to 1 during the previous period. Several centres produced no favourable comments at all, notably Lucca and Lucca. Naples was a little more pessimistic than last time on a reduced number of comments, and Rome was similarly more despondent. External mail, covering the southern regions, Sicily and Sardinia, was more pessimistic than the average for the country as a whole.

The comments themselves do not tell us much, and most of them merely state that unemployment is rife and, that the writers have been out of work for a long time and that it is very difficult to find a job. The following are some examples:

"I am worrying a great deal due to the fact that it is not possible to find a job. It is a miracle that I manage to get along. What shall I do? I shall get used to doing the humblest odd jobs, including that of a maid servant." (5/5/45 - Lucca)

"I have now been out of work for eighteen months." (27/4/45 - Lucca) 6345

"I am well in health, but it is work that keeps me worried. I have tried very hard, but I have not found any work." (25/4/45 - Cagliari)

"As soon as the war ends I want to flee from Italy. Unemployment is beginning to be seen, a forecast of what will take place here in the near future." (27/4/45 - Taranto)

"I must tell you that the situation in Italy is very serious. Unemployment has increased by 100%." (2/5/45 - Naples)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

"Work here is very scarce. I have been unemployed for the past few weeks." (8/5/45 - Naples)

"The unemployment prevailing in Syracuse is staggering. The squares are swarming with unemployed labourers." (28/4/46 - Syracuse)

"Nine months have passed since I was last employed, because the factory where I worked was almost completely destroyed." (1/5/46 - Pistola)

Gordon W. McKeen
GORDON W. McKEEN,
Lt. Col. Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

2 Incls:

- Incl #1 - Ratio Table, Four Weeks Ending 12/5/1945.
Incl #2 - Public Opinion Tally 12/5/1945.

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6344

CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP, PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 15 April-18 May 1942

This report is
a 6-day weekly be
302 making a total

PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED)			FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION	
			F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
Ancona		18043	0	17	3	2	0	8	0	3	0	2	1	4
Arezzo		10860	0	196	0	124	0	90	2	17	5	17	1	5
Bologna		12014	1	33	3	10	6	33	1	11	15	1	1	2
Florence		120805	39	80	0	39	0	17	2	91	0	1	0	0
Foggia	CIV)	25556	6	50	0	33	0	13	3	7	0	4	1	1
	MIL)	6036	4	9	15	4	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Grosseto		9534	6	81	3	30	0	30	1	10	0	4	0	1
Leghorn		55003	44	117	14	62	7	77	24	24	33	13	20	1
Lucca		10775	9	252	2	139	3	91	1	70	0	0	3	0
Macerata		35797	4	14	0	2	0	1	0	4	0	0	1	0
Naples	CIV)	99759	69	2332	40	1567	23	764	26	379	39	94	71	64
	MIL)	03063	200	433	65	333	58	139	0	90	42	67	41	3
Portofino		6358	0	50	0	32	0	8	0	15	0	0	0	0
Reggio		29656	7	12	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pisa		22481	239	1640	44	130	46	231	0	16	54	35	28	0
Pistoia		16535	9	83	4	31	1	15	10	6	1	1	0	0
Rome	CIV)	66059	37	2732	3	1020	3	353	10	460	103	197	2	0
	MIL)	52694	49	32	30	5	12	12	2	6	3	0	0	0
Siena	CIV)	19317	11	41	2	14	0	4	0	3	0	0	1	0
	MIL)	1271	6	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
EXTERNAL		81714	139	10467	15	1423	26	1050	07	2022	163	234	134	98
TOTAL CIVILIANS		652036	668	18105	173	17515	125	3504	147	3144	493	861	261	131
TOTAL MILITARY		150102	252	474	110	542	73	161	3	97	47	77	41	3
TOTAL		803018	920	18579	243	17957	198	3665	150	3241	545	938	302	138

This report is based upon 50 letters per censor being checked daily on a 6-day weekly basis. The number of censors employed each week averaged 382 making a total of 458 400 letters examined for this four-week tally.

CONFIDENTIAL

194

INCOME			NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
U	F	D	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
8	0	3	0	2	1	4	13	5	1	1	1	1	7	7	2	4	0	2
90	2	17	5	17	1	55	22	15	11	6	8	0	1	18	10	203	0	444
33	1	11	15	1	1	2	45	4	8	0	0	1	6	10	2	1	0	8
17	2	91	0	1	0	0	9	0	3	0	1	0	8	1	0	0	0	0
13	3	7	0	4	1	2	12	15	0	11	0	0	2	3	5	47	4	16
8	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	2	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	1	10	0	4	0	2	2	2	8	0	0	0	2	6	5	7	0	12
77	24	24	53	13	20	16	41	12	37	7	37	3	22	15	30	0	19	15
91	1	70	0	0	5	9	100	8	4	1	0	0	1	9	0	3	0	41
1	0	4	0	0	1	1	8	5	3	1	3	4	4	3	1	3	0	2
764	26	379	39	34	71	642	365	40	540	82	221	23	267	77	271	303	69	220
139	0	90	42	57	41	30	83	18	329	69	56	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	15	0	0	0	0	9	0	5	0	7	0	0	0	0	12	0	5
1	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	3	1	0	4	0	3	3	0	0	1	0
251	0	16	54	35	23	6	201	5	262	4	248	6	92	35	17	11	21	81
15	10	6	1	1	0	1	53	20	42	4	1	0	11	12	8	26	5	20
353	10	460	103	397	2	8	420	26	418	5	137	4	22	35	40	191	9	190
14	2	6	5	0	0	0	30	2	48	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	3	0	0	1	0	5	1	3	0	0	0	4	0	2	18	0	5
0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1058	67	2022	163	234	134	206	2326	332	1950	36	1658	54	169	340	491	1895	159	1100
3504	147	3144	493	531	261	1316	3540	493	3593	150	2226	104	524	874	324	2741	273	1760
161	3	97	47	77	41	39	114	19	390	71	35	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3755	150	3241	545	630	302	1286	3684	512	3781	229	2202	103	624	874	084	2741	273	1760

1513

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REPORT NO. 131

APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS (15/4-1)

	FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION	
WEEK ENDING	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
21/4/45 CIV	1	26.7	1	142.5	1	32.3	1	15.2	1	2.5	1	10	9.9	1	17.6	1	12.1	
MIL	1	4.4	1	1.3	1	5.6	0	72	1	1	1	1.3	3.6	1	7.6	1	0	
28/4/45 CIV	1	23.9	1	99.5	1	46.3	1	23.5	1	1.3	1	6	10.9	1	15.1	1	24.8	
MIL	1	1.5	1	3.5	1	1	1	19	1	3.4	13	0	5	1	6.5	1	6	
5/5/45 CIV	1	21.7	1	128.4	1	36.8	1	19.4	1.2	1	1	5.5	2.4	1	48.5	1	33	
MIL	1	1	1	3.1	1.2	1	1	6	1	2.2	0	3	46	1	6	1	30	
12/5/45 CIV	1	49.6	1	178.6	1	41.7	1	32.8	1.2	1	1	4.6	35	1	52.2	1	13.4	
MIL	1	3.8	1	2.8	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.3	1	0	
AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING 12/5/45 CIV	1	27.1	1	131.7	1	36.6	1	21.4	1	1.1	1	6.2	7.2	1	27.8	1	19.4	
MIL	1	1.9	1	3.1	1	1.7	1	32.5	1	1.6	1	1	6	1	5.5	1	36	

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APPENDIX A

TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS (15/4-12/5 1945)

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MOBERG	INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
32.3	1	15.2	1	2.4	1	10	9.9	1	17.6	1	12.1	1	1	1.1		5.0		4.5
5.6	0	72	1	1	1	1.3	3.6	1	7.6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
46.3	1	23.5	1	1.3	1	6	10.9	1	15.1	1	20.8	1	1	1		6.4	1	6.7
1	1	13	1	3.4	13	0	5	1	6.5	1	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
36.3	1	19.4	1.2	1	1	5.5	2.4	1	48.5	1	33	1	1	1.2		3.7	1	7.2
1.2	1	6	1	2.2	0	3	4.6	1	6	1	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 41.7	1	32.3	1.2	1	1	4.5	35	1	52.2	1	13.4	1	1	1.1		2.1	1	7.8
1 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 35.6	1	21.4	1	1.1	1	6.2	7.2	1	27.8	1	13.4	1	1	1.1		1.1	1	6.5
1 1.7	1	32.3	1	1.6	1	1	6	1	5.5	1	36	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. ARMY

GWB/vm

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 123

4 May 1945

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian
and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 14th April 1945.

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

This report is based on 384,000 letters checked during the four weeks ended 14th April 1945. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relation between favourable and unfavourable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

None of the comments used in this report have been used in any previous report.

1. FOOD SITUATION

Civilian mail, which has been becoming increasingly unfavourable for some months over the food situation, deteriorated still further during the period under review, and unfavourable comments were in a majority of 23.5 to 1. This compares with 21.5 to 1 and 24.5 to 1 for the two previous periods respectively. Perugia, Rome and Naples were particularly gloomy. There were no favourable comments from the first named; Naples again produced a majority of over 50 to 1 adverse comments; while Rome opinion deteriorated very sharply, and the adverse comments were in a majority of 77 to 1. Military mail became a little less favourable. 340

Specific items are often mentioned, such as the lack of salt, fats, meat etc., and some centres go further and say that

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it is not possible to procure the foods listed on the ration cards. At Leghorn the Americans are accused of cornering everything and thus leaving only bread and greens for the local population. Other towns apparently have more things available, but the prices are so high that very few people can afford to buy. Generally speaking the matter of price seems to be the chief complaint. The following comments are some examples of various types of complaint:

"As to our rationed food, they have given us nothing during March, and we don't expect anything in April. If you come, bring with you a kilogram of salt and some lard." (6/4/45 - Macerata)

"Here life is harder than at Florence. To give you an idea I shall tell you that potatoes cost 80 lire per 25 kg., lard 86 lire, wine 100 lire for two litres, cheese 400 lire per kg., fish 200 lire, lettuce 2 lire a head, and onions 80 lire per kg." (6/4/45 - Leghorn)

"Life in this city is becoming gradually more difficult. The Americans are cornering whatever they find and pay any price asked. We are forced to live on greens and 300 grams of bread daily. The rest of the food items written on the ration card are not listed but are sold in very small quantities and at long intervals." (16/4/45 - Leghorn)

"Except for bread we lack almost everything. The prices are sky high. We get some powdered soup with the ration card, and 100 grams of sugar. No meat." (17/5/45 - Pesaro)

"Here there is famine. Women, children, and even monks come to our home continuously asking for some food." (19/5/45 - Pesaro)

"Believe me, the food situation here is a serious matter indeed. One has to buy everything on the black market if one wishes to eat. Otherwise one finds nothing." (4/4/45 - Sesto) 6339

"As to food, I must tell you that for months we have been living on vegetable soup, vegetables, greens, and an occasional egg, because our finances do not permit us to submit to black market prices. The rationed meat we get every 15 days or so, and wine is only available on the black market." (5/4/45 - Macerata)

"Here life is still extremely expensive. A kg. of meat costs 800 lire, and fish 300 lire. We cannot get along on our salary." (3/4/45 - Naples)

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"You ask me how we are living? By jays me, everything is obtainable but at such prohibitive prices. Ham costs 1000 lire a kilo. I will not continue, as by doing so you may not be permitted by the censor to receive this letter." (19/3/45 - Rome)

"My now health has been tolerable, but I fear that before long we shall feel the lack of animal fats and of fresh meat. These have become inaccessible to our purses. Just imagine, horse flesh has reached 700 lire, and as you can conceive what other prices are." (20/3/45 - Rome)

"My poor husband is killing himself with work in order to earn a few pence, but he only receives 100 lire a day, and we spend 300 without eating properly, since we have to buy everything on the black market." (22/3/45 - Rome)

"Oh! My God! When will this hunger cease? You should see the state the Romans are in. Mortality here, especially among children, is enormous. Babies from 1 month to 2 years are all going to Paradise. Poor little creatures - but it is only natural for they have nothing to eat. The poor families have nothing to give them. Besides this there is a lack of coffins, and for a small baby the charge is 2000 lire. How can a family spend such a sum for only a coffin? And where do you think they put them? In the pasta boxes." (26/3/45 - Rome)

2. CLOTHING

The clothing situation appears to be going from bad to worse, according to civilian mail. For some time past the comments have been becoming more critical, and during the preceding period the adverse majority reached the then record total of 41.6 to 1. During the period under review there was a further sharp downward movement, and the unfavourable comments reached a majority of 78.3 to 1 in the final week, the average for the four weeks being 52.7 to 1. Several centres produced no favourable comments, notably Perugia. From Arezzo there were only 5 favourable comments out of a total of 273, and from Rome the same number out of a total of 338. In Naples the position would seem to be even worse. Among a record total of comments (5834) the adverse ratio was 162.4 to 1. There was 162.4 to 1. There was only half the usual number of military comments, and they were as slightly adverse as they were slightly favourable during the previous period.

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In the great majority of cases the complaints were based on prices. It is not uncommon to read letters stating that the shops are full, but that the goods are quite out of reach of the writers' purses. Only a minority of letters complain of any real shortage of clothing in the shops. Some of the prices quoted show a marked advance on those allegedly obtaining a month or two ago. For example, from both Rome and Naples there are letters saying that a man's suit costs up to 20,000 lire. The following comments illustrate the general feeling in a variety of centres:

"A suit of clothes for a man costs 20,000 lire as a minimum without counting the manufacture. Shoes sell at 6000 and 7000 lire according to the quality." (29/3/45 - Naples)

"In Naples life is expensive, extremely expensive. The prices of clothing materials make you dizzy. I have visited various shops. They have more than enough goods, but at prohibitive prices. Just imagine that for a length of cotton material to cut a man's suit, the price is about 10,000 lire. Add 3000 more for the lining, and you get a complete unwearable cotton suit without counting the cost of making it up." (26/3/45 - Naples)

"As to clothing material, I had better not talk about it. The lining alone of a man's suit costs 300 lire a metre." (19/3/45 - Naples)

"During this period of sky-rocketing prices, the prices of clothing and foot-wear are the most scandalously high of all prices. It is a real disaster, especially for those who live on a salary. Unless the war ends, and trade becomes normal again, we will all be wearing wooden clogs and patched up clothes." (7/4/45 - Naples)

"Here living is very expensive. We no longer have materials for clothes. If any stuff is available, it costs 2500 lire per metre, and is of very poor quality." (29/3/45 - Perugia)

"As to material for men's clothes, you can't find it here. There is some material at 1200 lire per metre, but I would not advise anyone to get it. Wool costs 3000 lire per kg., and its price is rising. The rare goods of real wool are sold at impossible prices." (5/4/45 - Siena)

"I wanted to go to Rome in order to buy at least enough clothing for the summer and winter, because here materials are

- 4 -
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

articles of clothing are not to be seen anywhere. I have been reduced, like the fish in the sea, to my skin only." (7/4/45 - Macerata)

"Everybody wears British clothes, ladies, peasant women, labourers etc. You won't find a person who does not wear British stuff, especially overcoats. The shops are full of clothing articles, but one cannot buy them, firstly because we don't have the money, and secondly because no one ever buys them." (7/4/45 - Macerata)

"You mention the price of clothing in Sicily. Here clothing is not to be found, even if you wanted to pay high prices for it." (7/4/45 - Pesaro)

"The situation here, instead of improving, becomes worse every day. If things continue like this, who knows how we shall end. The biggest problem now is how to clothe oneself considering the prevailing prices. Just think, 20,000 lire are required for the making of a very indifferent suit. Therefore tell me how we can spend such a large sum when the money one earns is not enough to buy sufficient food?" (18/3/45 - Rome)

3. HOUSING

Civilian mail became more pessimistic over the housing situation during the period under review, and the unfavourable comments were in a majority of 23.4 to 1 as compared with 19.3 to 1 during the previous four weeks. These figures, however, do not tell the full story, for more than half the total favourable comments came from Pisa, as they did during the previous period. Leaving the latter centre out of account in both cases, the ratio for the period under review was 46.6 to 1 as compared with 40.1 to 1 for the preceding four weeks. There were no favourable comments from Florence, Perugia, Pesaro or Siena, and only one each from some other centres, notably Grosseto. Naples was noticeably more gloomy, and the unfavourable comments were in a majority of 73.9 to 1 as compared with 51.1 to 1 during the last period. Military mail was a little more unfavourable than during the previous period.

There were many, and sometimes bitter, complaints about high rents; and there was a certain amount of grumbling about requisitioning by the Allies. The shortage of houses also came in for mention, and in Pesaro it is alleged that the authorities quartered families in pigsties till the Allies interfered. In

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Rome there seem to be various money making conditions imposed by landlords or outgoing tenants. Huge deposits are asked of incoming tenants in addition to the rent. In other cases the new tenants are asked to take over the furniture at very high prices. Thus acquiring a home is often financially impossible. The following comments are some illustrations:

"As soon as the liberators arrived in this town, they requisitioned all the lodgings, and then they emptied them of all contents, including the glass in the windows. As a result there is a great shortage of dwellings!" (5/4/45 - Ancona)

"The Housing Commission of Pesaro, in order to remedy the shortage of lodgings, has even found pigsties into which to put families. Fortunately the Allies have interferred, and they prohibit the refugees from entering the cities." (10/4/45 - Pesaro)

"I am now at Marano because it has not been possible to find a house in Naples at any price." (11/4/45 - Naples)

"As to houses, it is very difficult to find a lodging place. If an empty house is found, they ask you astronomical sums for it in rentals." (28/3/45 - Naples)

"The most serious problem here is housing. You can't find a hole in which to live, even if you were willing to pay its weight in gold." (4/4/45 - Siena)

"You can't find a house to rent in Siena, and the hotels have all been requisitioned." (3/4/45 - Siena)

"The question of lodgings is a very worrying problem. To find a house is an extremely difficult thing, if not an impossibility." (29/3/45 - Florence)

"So far my attempts to find an apartment have proved unsuccessful, since the out-going tenants make absurd requests which are out of one's reach. I had several chances of getting a house, but they asked deposits of several thousand lire. For example, I was asked for a deposit of 12,000 lire for a two roomed apartment with kitchen, plus the rent." (21/3/45 - Rome)

"I am desperately looking for a house to accommodate my family and furniture... Everything proved hopeless. It is a difficult problem to solve because there is a racket. Either

CONFIDENTIAL

they demand a deposit starting with a minimum of 150,000 lire, or they want the furniture to be taken over, and this involves an expense ranging from 200 - 300,000 lire! A crazy thing! (21/3/45 - Rome)

"I am desperately searching for a furnished room, and the search is anything but easy. Just imagine, I was asked 4,500 lire for a room with two beds." (20/3/45 - Rome)

4. INCOME

There was little change in civilian opinion on the question of income, the adverse ratio being 14.1 to 1 as compared with 14.5 to 1 during the previous period. The position seems to be worse in Florence than anywhere else, there being only 1 favourable comment out of a total of 142. Home opinion was less unfavourable than previously, nevertheless it was twice as adverse as the average.

The real source of all complaints is that wages and salaries bear no relation to the cost of living. Living expenses cannot be met. There are many references to rises in wages, but they are accompanied by the observation that the cost of living had taken a greater step upwards. Thus the chase only results in costs drawing further ahead. Many people, who had savings, have now used them up in trying to balance their budgets. Others have sold their possessions, or are still selling what they have left, and they have nothing but fear for the future. Those who are already reduced to living on their salaries alone can buy no cloth because they do not have sufficient even to buy enough food. The following are typical comments:

"At Macerate life is becoming gradually harder. The price of everything is rising higher and higher. What little money we had saved up must be used now because our salaries are not sufficient to meet expenses." (7/4/45 - Macerate)

"Although salaries have increased, they are never sufficient to meet daily expenses." (7/4/45 - Pievebattista, Macerate)

"Life here is more expensive than where you are. Nothing can be found at a reasonable price. We cannot go on existing on our salaries." (8/4/45 - Arezzo)

"Things are not so all well, because the prices of goods are entirely too high in comparison with the wretched wage of a labourer or a clerk." (21/4/45 - Naples)

- 7 -
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

"Let us hope that things will soon take a turn for the better, and that salaries will become proportionate to living expenses. At present our income is not sufficient to buy water and a dried fig." (26/3/45 - Florence)

"Living is very dear, and with the salary alone it is absolutely impossible to live. All the employees have a secondary occupation. All this is ridiculous, but unfortunately it is so." (20/3/45 - Rome)

"They increase your wages by a quarter of a lire, and the day afterwards the price of everything you can find is doubled. We are always in the same position. You earn 200 lire, and you need 500 in order to eat like a human being." (20/3/45 - Rome)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Civilian opinion was less hostile towards the National Government during the period under review, the adverse comments being in a majority of 2.5 to 1 as compared with 3.4 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Many centres hardly commented at all, but of those which produced over 100 comments, Pisa was equally divided, which was an improvement, Naples was adverse by 3.8 to 1, being more unfavourable than previously, and Rome had an unfavourable majority of 2.8 to 1 as compared with 3.5 to 1 during the preceding four weeks. There were few military comments.

As far as can be gathered from the mail, the majority against the Government feel that it shows little evidence of having the country's interests at heart. It is said that the interests of the various parties come first. The writers complain that Fascists are still in responsible positions, and that there is not much hope for Italy while self interests take first place. The following comments are some examples:

"I would like to know how the free citizen can possibly trust a government which seems to take absolutely no interest in the public welfare. All of us in liberated Italy are fed up with fine promises and controversies which are damaging the cause of Italy." (22/3/45 - Naples) 333

"They are blowing the bugle to the four winds with their purging, purging, purging. What really happens is that the old clique is still in power and is acting worse than before. Who knows when the real hour of liberation will ever strike."

CONFIDENTIAL

Is it possible to think that with such a system of thought and action Italy will ever be able to rise to her feet? I doubt it very much." (26/3/45 - Naples)

"It is deplorable that our government does nothing to suppress the interests and egoism of individuals and political parties." (31/3/45 - Naples)

"Life continues at its normal pace as though no misfortune had befallen us, nor any change come to us. Our statesmen keep on thinking of themselves. That applies to Eccoli, Togliatti, De Gasperi and company." (11/4/45 - Palermo)

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Civilian mail was more hostile towards provincial administration than it was during the previous period, and the adverse ratio of comments was 3.2 to 1 as compared with 4.4 to 1 during the preceding four weeks. Many centers produced but few comments. Of those that commented freely, Arezzo was the most hostile with only 3 favorable comments out of a total of 54. Naples was 10.3 to 1 against, which is slightly more critical than last time. Rome, on the other hand, was less critical than previously. There were hardly any military comments.

Criticism centers mainly on the feeling that provincial administrations do not worry themselves over the welfare of the people. They are accused of making many promises to correct various abuses, but without actually doing anything. The two following comments are examples:

"The cost of living is gradually rising, and that is what worries us most. Our salary is inadequate, and we are withering day by day. Our city and provincial authorities do not give a damn about us as long as they have plenty to eat and drink themselves." (26/3/45 - Naples)

"Conditions are still the same, and are gradually becoming worse here. All the provincial authorities do is to promise drastic action against the black market and the general delinquency which has flooded our city in an alarming way." (26/3/45 - Naples)

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7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES

Civilian letters revealed a less favourable attitude towards the Allies than during the previous period, and in fact the popularity of the Allies slumped to the record low point reached two months back. Pisa was preponderantly favourable, and Florence much more so than the average. Naples opinion deteriorated sharply, but Rome was slightly more favourable. Foggia was the only centre which produced a majority of unfavourable comments. Military mail did not contain many comments, but the proportion of favourable comments was higher, particularly in Ancona and Rome.

Favourable comments spring mainly from gratitude. Being liberated counts more with some people than anything else, and they are also thankful for clothes and food that has been given them. Others are happy because they find they get on well with the Allies. Unfavourable comments are frequently the product of weariness with the duration of the Allies stay in Italy. There are sarcastic references to the liberators who, the writers feel, are more like the occupying troops of conquerors, and with this there is some bad feeling on account of the various types of coloured troops in the country. Other complaints are that the Allies have not lived up to their promises. Some people are resentful at the destruction of industrial plants, for they feel that the Allies, as well as the Germans, are ruining Italy, not only industrially but morally. The following are examples of various shades of opinion:

(a) Favourable

"To tell the truth the Allies are very kind and well mannered. You can always manage to get along well with them." (1/4/45 - Pesaro)

"I repeat that here we are all faring well, and run no danger whatever. Let us thank the Allies who have come to liberate us after so much suffering." (1/4/45 - Pesaro)

"Ancona is still swarming with Allied troops, but their correct behaviour has not caused the least unpleasant incident up to date." (21/3/45 - Ancona) 631

"As to the Allies, we have nothing but nice things to say about them. They have been extremely kind and charitable. May God bless and protect them." (6/4/45 - Perugia)

"If it had not been for the Allies, and kindred pious souls, we would all be going naked." (28/3/45 - Macerata)

CONFIDENTIAL

".... You will however find some comfort in the thought that the English are sensible and good hearted men who grant their prisoners a pretty fair treatment." (26/3/45 - Rome)

"The Americans are very generous, and I am certain they will not make you lack anything. I have known the English well, and I lived with them fraternally for nearly 8 months, and they treated me like an old friend." (28/3/45 - Florence)

"Really the Polish are those who can better understand us. They are all very kind to me, and even if not so lavish as the others: the little they give you does not represent their surplus but is a gift from their hearts that they give with some sacrifice. This has completely conquered me and made me a very sincere friend of theirs. It has raised my spirits very high." (18/3/45 - Rome)

(b) Unfavourable

"These Allies are as follows: They promise a great deal and give nothing." (28/3/45 - Pesaro)

"A lady was telling me the other day that the Germans ruined us materially, and the Allies morally." (31/3/45 - Florence)

"Universal joy and relief pervade all souls due to the imminent cessation of hostilities. Let us hope that each will get what he justly deserves, and that the liberators will liberate our houses from their 'beloved' presence." (16/4/45 - Macerata)

"Merely to think that the harbour and industrial sections have been destroyed by the Allies! It is painful to see how people stupidly, sceptically adapt themselves so easily to courting and amusing those who are here to recall to us our woful condition." (29/3/45 - Naples)

"I am happy to hear of your intense dislike for the multi-coloured races which have liberated us. We agree on this score. I can no longer behold our city so dominated!" (29/3/45 - Naples)

"We hope the whole of Italy will soon be liberated, and that we shall get rid of all these unwelcome guests we are compelled to bear. Believe me, no one is our friend." (16/4/45 - Rome)

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"The question of cobelligerency is a consequence of the famous "either the stick or the carrot" principle. These gentlemen rightly say: if we allow Italy to become an Allied Nation, who will pay for it when the war is over? They started with their landings, and who knows when they are going to stop, because, let us be honest, we are also fed up with the Allies and their ACC. It would be better if they said: we will not give you anything. But they provoke us with their three hectograms, their sugar that has to come from America, and then the coffee from Brazil."

3. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION

Civilian mail was more optimistic about the present military situation than it was during the previous four weeks, but no very marked increase in optimism was evident. Military mail was likewise a little more enthusiastic. Comments during the early part of the period were apt to be dispondent over the fact that northern Italy was still in German hands, and some writers accused the Allies of not wishing to make too much of an effort. This and other more optimistic opinions are typified in the following comments:

"For a long time I have dreamed about a strong Allied offensive to liberate Italy, but this hope has vanished. I don't understand why they do not move. They are softies, live like lords, and are afraid to die." (23/3/45 - Naples)

"The war is in its final stage. Hitler's Germany is about to crumble, and with it will crumble the entire German race. You cannot imagine what great joy I feel in learning all the news about the valliant Russian and Anglo-American troops. This last offensive will be decisive in the defeat of Germany and of the Fascists." (26/3/45 - Perugia)

"According to the latest bulletins, things are going along very well. The Allied armies are racing at full speed. Therefore the war will be over before long." (6/4/45 - Naples)

C329

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION

There was little change in civilian opinion regarding the future military situation, and there were hardly any military comments at all. There seem to be two main trends of feeling: One of faith in an early end to the war and a return to normal life; and another of fear in the future. Even if the war ends soon, some people feel that there will be no real peace, and that civil disturbances will break out. The following comments are some examples of different opinions:

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"Here we feel that the war will end at any moment now. Let us hope it will be so. It won't be long before the Allies will win a complete victory, for the German army has already been defeated. These things will become normal again soon, and peace will re-enter the hearts of men." (5/2/45 - Naples)

"As to peace, we shall not even have it when the war has come to an end. An energetic intervention on the part of the Allies is needed for the purpose of bringing order everywhere. Otherwise we shall have civil war." (4/5/45 - Florence)

"We hope that the war will come to an end this month. But what will happen then? To begin with the Germans will use gas as their last resource. Then we expect a revolution, because the labourer cannot go on existing with prices so high that they are out of his reach." (7/2/45 - Grosseto)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS.

Civilian mail, which became less unfavourable during the preceding period, rallied sufficiently during the period under review to produce a majority of favourable comments. This was largely due to Naples, from which centre more than half of the comments came. A more optimistic feeling has been prevailing there for some time. Pisa was also more than 2 to 1 favourably disposed. There were no military comments.

Favourable comments speak of the reopening of factories and the rebuilding of others, and at Pesaro it is stated that the fishing industry is getting on its feet again. From Naples there are letters speaking of resumption of manufacturing steel and glass products. Unfavourable comments refer to destroyed factories, closed mines, and the lack of raw materials. The following comments are examples of the above:

"As to the industries, some of them have been put back into shape, and those that have not been restored can very well be restored soon." (4/4/45 - Tolentino, Macerata)

6328

A somewhat contradictory letter from the same centre says: "The Hauselle mill has been completely destroyed, without any possibility of rebuilding it. The Conestrari mill at Merrovalle has likewise been destroyed. The Villa Potenza mill, also destroyed, is being rebuilt as a pasta factory. When shall we begin to work again? I have little hope, since we lack everything." (3/4/45 - Macerata)

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"Here life is gradually becoming more and more normal. The fishermen are beginning to return to fishing the precious food. But in everyone the desire for more normal times is ever great, and the latest events seem to augur well for the fulfillment of our desires." (5/4/45 - Pesaro)

"Here many factories are opening, since the other cities have been greatly devastated, while we are well on our feet. This will become a highly industrialized city judging by the beginning and by what the people say." (4/4/45 - Siena)

"It is now almost a year since the mine was last working. The miners work about four or eight days each month. There are quite a few of them who have not been able to work at all since they were laid off." (5/4/45 - Cabernardi, Arezzo)

The following are some examples of the Naples mail from which most of the comments came:

"We have begun once more to manufacture our principal products, perphosphor phials, bromanin pills, etc." (27/5/45 - Naples)

"The Naples Naval Steel Mills (F.O.N.M.) is now capable of doing work in cast-iron, bronze, aluminium, etc., besides mechanical constructions of all kinds." (26/3/45 - Naples)

"We have organized in Naples a glass producing company, financed by some millions of lire. We have already ordered machinery, molds etc., and have chosen the locality for the factory." (29/3/45 - Naples)

"We are loaded with orders taken a long time ago. Our great difficulties lie in the shortage of raw materials and labour." (20/3/45 - Naples)

II. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS

Civilian mail lost some of its optimism concerning agricultural prospects during the period under review, and 6327 was a slight majority of unfavourable comments for the first time. This was in spite of the fact that there was an unusually large number of favourable comments from Pisa. The latter centre, in fact, produced no adverse comments at all. Apart from Pisa, no centre revealed any very marked opinion except Pesaro, which was definitely pessimistic.

There are complaints about the lack of fertilizers, and the fact that crops have been destroyed by pest, fire or by acts

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of war. From some centres, such as Grosseto, Naples, Macerata, Perugia and Pesaro, there are letters describing the lack of rain. Wheat and other grains are therefore backward or worse. On the other hand it would appear that fruit crops are good, and there are also letters about the good condition of vineyards. The following comments illustrate the two sides of the picture:

"A terrible drought is threatening all our crops and forage. The price of hay has gone up to 1500 lire a quintal, higher than the price of wheat. And it is not raining yet!" (7/4/45 - Macerata)

"Here it has not rained at all, and the forage problem gives us reason to worry." (5/4/45 - Perugia, Pesaro)

"As to the farmland, it is in poor shape because there has been scarcely any rain, and the little we've had has not been sufficient. Nothing is growing. The weather is beautiful, but the farmland is suffering. Even pasture land is in bad shape, and the time to think of forage has already arrived." (2/4/45 - Grotte, Perugia)

"We have had no rain for two months now. The wheat is growing so low that it cannot be perceived. Unless it rains, the harvest will be very poor." (23/3/45 - Fugliano, Pesaro, Naples)

"Here the weather is not propitious to the farmland. In fact, it has not rained since the beginning of February, and ploughed fields are feeling the need of water." (5/4/45 - Grosseto)

"The farms are in poor shape this year. It will be a wretched harvest because there are no fertilizers. But we hope to raise enough wheat to exist." (19/3/45 - Mandolfo, Pesaro)

"The crops this year have been practically nil, having been destroyed in various ways, such as by looting, fires, bad weather and destructive insects." (15/3/45 - Pesaro)

"As you know, the threshing took place too late. The wheat was spoiled by the rust, in the wheat heaps. Of the ears, only the husks were left. The yield was less than 50%. We did not even get any seed grain out of it because hardly 10% of it could possibly grow. The grape harvest has been slight due to the lack of sulphur and copper sulphate." (30/3/45 - Fano, Pesaro)

"Fortunately countrymen are turning a deaf ear to

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politicians' sermons, and are silently working. However, crops will be inferior to last year's owing to the lack of fertilizers." (27/3/45 - Taranto)

The following strike a more optimistic note:

"The farmland is magnificent this year, and the fruit trees promise a great crop." (23/3/45 - Naples)

"The farmland has improved, especially in tree planting. The vineyards and apple orchards will yield most satisfactory crops." (22/3/45 - Galluccio, Naples)

"We are all well, and the country this year is going along splendidly." (31/3/45 - Sione)

12. EMPLOYMENT

There was scarcely any change in civilian opinion regarding the position of employment. Although the average figures show that unfavourable comments were in a majority of 3.2 to 1, many centres were decidedly more pessimistic than that. Foggia, Grosseto and Perugia produced no favourable comments. Arezzo was about 12 to 1 unfavourable, and Rome 16 to 1. Naples, on the other hand, was less pessimistic than the average.

The comments, for the most part, do not speak of much beyond the bare fact that it is difficult to find work. Some writers state that it is necessary to have influence to be employed at all. And there are a number of letters referring to firms laying off employees rather than taking on new ones. The following are some examples of the above:

"I received my letter of dismissal, not because I did not do my work well, but as a result of the provision made to lay off all women from offices. The commune has been the first to adopt this measure." (5/4/45 - Siena)

6325

"For the present work cannot be found, unless one works with the Americans. My father works for them, because the Metallurgia has not yet begun to work again, although it is in the possession of the Americans." (27/3/45 - Leghorn)

"As to employment, it is something very difficult to find. One has to know people, and one needs excellent references in order to get a job." (26/3/45 - Naples)

"I am still working in the harbour, although the work

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is diminishing daily. More than 5000 people have been laid off, and unemployment is increasing." (21/3/45 - Naples)

"I am again out of a job. It is certainly a trial. I have tried several other places, but there is nothing doing. Yesterday I stood in a queue for three hours in front of the ex arms factory (Breda) in via Guido Sassi in order to be taken on as a mechanic. But no one will look at you. For almost a month I have been standing in queues in front of factories." (12/3/45 - Rome)

"I am so worried, dear friend, about my income, and the job I do not seem to find. I have made various applications but with negative results, for offices are not employing but dismissing employees." (27/3/45 - Rome)

Gordon W. McKean
GORDON W. MCKEAN
Lt. Col. Cavalry
Civil Controlship Officer

2 Incls.

Incl #1 - Public Opinion Rally 14/4/1945.

Incl #2 - Ratio Table, Four Weeks Ending 14/4/1945.

DISTRIBUTION:

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- 4 - G-2 (CC), AFHQ, (requested by letter from GCB/25/3/45).
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1532

Report
10-1-68

15 March-24 April

This report is for
a 5-day study on
\$20,000,000, a total

CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP, PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 194

PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED)				FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS
				F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F
Andorra	(CIV)	(CIV)	22,398	18	62	1	32	7	42	7	33	0	4	0	7	
		(MIL)	1,000	0	10	0	0	1	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	
Arborea			20,303	30	433	5	203	5	137	1	9	4	7	8	91	
Elizence			01,251	49	119	2	47	0	12	3	141	1	6	0	3	
Feagla	(CIV)		23,072	9	27	2	13	1	52	0	20	2	11	0	2	
		(MIL)	2,052	23	11	2	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Grosseto			21,271	11	202	2	73	1	80	1	50	0	4	1	4	
Leghorn			36,120	49	241	10	71	1	79	21	35	13	9	0	3	
Monforte			7,583	2	16	1	10	0	1	0	4	1	3	1	1	
Naples	(CIV)		125,114	91	493	35	243	13	166	55	343	39	222	137	1284	3
		(MIL)	36,834	197	60	11	40	39	60	1	7	2	12	1	7	
Perugia			24,931	0	153	0	101	0	35	2	35	0	0	0	0	
Reano	(CIV)		11,514	10	64	0	43	0	32	2	35	0	0	0	3	
		(MIL)	289	7	4	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	
Rice			32,653	340	1712	27	107	61	167	23	19	52	53	34	30	1
Rice	(CIV)		201,004	44	1335	3	670	3	445	33	834	62	106	24	64	1
		(MIL)	25,270	54	50	20	2	10	14	0	9	6	10	0	0	
Siena	(CIV)		10,201	20	110	0	34	0	33	0	19	0	0	1	3	
		(MIL)	1,400	12	1	3	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Total			4,500	3	32	0	12	2	13	0	7	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL CIVILIAN:			690,552	428	1245	13	213	106	1466	129	1213	164	426	167	1479	13
TOTAL MILITARY:			304,071	303	1122	53	140	50	56	3	19	15	20	1	7	
TOTALS:			994,623	731	2367	121	353	164	1522	132	1232	179	446	168	1486	13

This report is based upon 50 letters per column being checked daily on a 5-day weekly basis. The number of letters checked each week averaged 820, making a total of 4,100 letters examined over this four-week tally.

194

CONFIDENTIAL

HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
7	48	7	15	0	4	0	7	22	19	3	0	3	3	13	12	3	31	5	32
1	5	1	1	0	1	0	0	12	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	237	1	2	4	7	3	91	34	3	11	13	4	3	1	9	31	43	5	73
0	13	1	141	1	3	0	3	34	3	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	2	12
1	32	0	10	2	11	0	3	17	15	1	12	0	0	3	3	13	35	0	23
1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	20	1	15	0	3	1	3	21	2	12	2	3	0	3	3	7	10	0	43
0	79	11	53	13	9	0	3	33	0	14	14	12	4	13	22	15	32	27	55
0	1	0	3	1	3	1	1	17	6	0	0	1	1	1	2	7	1	0	3
13	563	15	343	33	222	137	1383	354	340	676	65	335	47	253	136	163	333	131	473
51	33	1	9	3	12	1	7	21	7	3	33	6	0	0	0	0	0	6322	
0	23	3	33	0	0	0	0	17	3	12	0	23	0	2	4	1	13	0	13
0	33	3	35	0	0	0	0	17	3	1	3	11	0	2	13	2	14	0	3
3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	167	25	19	32	33	14	33	334	13	14	32	143	37	143	37	143	37	39	93
3	143	22	323	32	143	24	32	143	33	143	33	143	33	143	33	143	33	19	203
10	14	0	9	10	10	0	0	35	0	15	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
0	23	0	10	0	0	1	3	15	3	15	3	3	0	7	10	15	19	3	21
3	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	4	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	32	0	9	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
100	1435	123	1513	124	143	137	1472	1351	281	102	232	302	113	412	245	137	434	291	1126
33	36	3	13	13	30	1	7	54	11	100	31	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
134	1362	133	1332	207	316	131	1463	1416	292	3147	246	302	119	412	245	137	434	291	1126

6322

1534

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

785015

Report

No. 123

APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS (24 March - 14 April 1945)

WEEK ENDING	FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION	
	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
24/3/45 CIV	1	28.3	1	63.1	1	15.6	1	16.4	1	3.2	1	13	4.3	1	1.4	1	3	
MIL	1.6	1	1	1.6	1	4.8	0	0	0	6	0	0	4	1	11	1	0	
31/3/45 CIV	1	22.6	1	57.5	1	23.2	1	9.3	1	1.7	1	2.6	5.1	1	4.1	1	3.9	
MIL	4	1	1.7	1	2	1.4	0	0	1.3	1	0	0	2.3	0	2.1	1	0	
7/4/45 CIV	1	18.8	1	45.5	1	32.3	1	15.9	1	2.1	1	6.8	5.6	1	7.1	1	13.4	
MIL	1.3	1	1	2.7	1	1	1	6	1	1.7	1	7	1.9	1	1	2.5	5	
14/4/45 CIV	1	24.2	1	70.3	1	30.1	1	16.3	1	3.7	1	7.8	4.6	1	9.4	1	21.9	
MIL	3.1	1	1	1.1	1	2.4	0	0	0	6	0	0	20	1	4.2	1	9	
AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING 14/4/45 CIV	1	23.3	1	62.7	1	23.4	1	14.1	1	2.5	1	8.9	4.8	1	4.9	1	7.8	
MIL	2.3	1	1	1.4	1	1.7	1	6	1	2.3	1	7	5.3	1	5	1	5	

1535

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1221

APPENDIX A

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RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS
(24 March - 14 April 1945)

HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
1	15.6	1	16.4	1	3.2	1	13	4.3	1	1.4	1	3	1	1	1.1	1.3	1	1	3.5
1	4.8	0	0	0	6	0	0	4	1	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	23.2	1	9.3	1	1.7	1	2.6	5.1	1	4.1	1	3.2	1	1.7	1	1.5	1	1	4.6
2	1.4	0	0	1.3	1	0	0	2.3	0	2.1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	32.3	1	15.2	1	2.1	1	6.8	5.6	1	7.1	1	13.4	1	1.3	1	1.2	1	1	4.7
1	1	1	6	1	1.7	1	7	1.9	1	1	2.5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	30.1	1	16.3	1	3.7	1	7.8	4.6	1	9.4	1	21.9	1	2.4	1	1	1.7	1	4
2	2.4	0	0	0	6	0	0	20	1	1.2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	23.4	1	14.1	1	2.5	1	8.9	4.8	1	4.9	1	7.8	1	1.5	1	1	1.1	2	3.9
1	1.7	1	6	1	2.3	1	7	5.3	1	3	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

DEC 23 1944

AJE/abm

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 80

21 December 1944

SUBJECT: ~~Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian~~
Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending
25th November 1944.

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

This report is based on 316,500 letters checked during the four weeks ended 25th November 1944. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relation between favourable and unfavourable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

Since our last four-weekly report we have given up our Taranto station. This report therefore does not cover any area south of the districts round Naples and Foggia.

Some of the comments used in this report have been used in my previous report.

1. FOOD SITUATION

Civilian opinion was slightly less unfavourable as compared with the previous period. Nevertheless, in centres such as Florence, Rieti and Terni, the situation appears to be worse than ever. Not one of these places produced a single favourable comment.

Military mail, apart from Rome and Naples, produced very few comments. The figure of 2.5 to 1 in favour, as shown in Appendix A, is deceptive if compared with the ratio for the previous period because the Taranto figures are not included this time, and they were always unfavourable. 6320

The chief causes of complaint remain much the same. High prices make it impossible for a large number of people to buy the food available. Then there is the perpetual trouble of the non-availability of rationed foodstuffs. Thus between the two ills, some centres have very little that can be procured by the bulk of their inhabitants.

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In areas that produce food there is a more optimistic outlook, although even in these cases the unfavourable comments are well in the majority. The following comments illustrate various viewpoints:

"Mario and I lead a very miserable life. Every thing can be obtained in Rome but we cannot buy anything because of the prices. An egg costs 34 lire, and fish 300 lire a kilo. We have no fats, and our daily meal only consists of some soup, a few apples and chestnuts. Sometimes we eat greens, but nearly always raw." (25/11/44 - Rome)

"Here in Florence everybody is starving because nothing can be found to eat". (25/11/44 - Florence)

"Foodstuffs are expensive and hard to get. The worst of it is that we have no fats at all. They never give us our ration of oil or butter". (21/11/44 - Parma)

"Poor people come here from Rome and they trade their most treasured belongings for oil, wheat etc. Life is a real burden to everybody". (Rieti - 7/11/44)

"Rationed foodstuffs are never distributed, (I say never, in the literal meaning of the word) with the exception of 200 grams of wheat (not flour) a day. We never see any meat or sugar". (9/11/44 - Alessandria)

"I have nothing to complain about. Although everything is rather expensive. We have plenty of bread, and we make 'spaghetti' at home. It is a pity that eggs are not to be found. Vegetables are obtainable, so we have nothing to worry about this coming winter". (21/11/44 - Macerata)

"Apart from the prices we are certainly better off than last winter, both on account of the increased rations, and of rationed foodstuffs that are distributed every now and then". (12/11/44 - Rome)

2. CLOTHING

Although still extremely unfavourable, public opinion during the period under review swung back to a more normal attitude, that is, the unfavourable comments outnumbered those favourable by 35.8 to 1, whereas the previous four weeks produced the peak figure of 64.1 to 1. Military mail, other than that from Naples, produced very few comments, but the sum total showed a mildly unfavourable attitude.

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In spite of the improved civilian figures - and they seem to be due chiefly to a reduced number of comments - it is significant that Oristano, Foggia, Florence, Rieti and Turin produced not a single favourable comment between them, while the figures for Rome and Naples were 636 and 1502 unfavourable to 8 and 14 favourable respectively. The following comments speak for themselves:

"Graziella has a bad cough because she has to walk bare-footed and sit in cold. None of us have shoes. We cannot afford to pay the prices they ask for them, which range from 2000 lire upwards. Sometimes they are ashamed of asking such prices to poor labourers like us, so that pretend not to have any shoes to sell". (10/11/44 - Cagliari)

"My wife and I cannot go out because we have no shoes. We have a baby four months old and we are at a loss how to dress him because we cannot find any material with which to make clothes". (23/11/44 - Caporetto, Aquila)

"At Montepapa I was asked 30 grams of gold for a suit. The price of a pair of shoes was 8000 lire. In order to get my shoes repaired I had to give two hens, 15 eggs and half a litre of oil". (8/11/44 - Macerata)

"Enriano goes to school but is without proper clothing. Shoes are very costly. He is growing: just imagine him when he is 17 in shoes. Potential to make clothing runs to 1300 lire a metre, a coat which we are not able to wear". (22/11/44 - Oristano)

"Dear father, try to send me a parcel as soon as possible because we are without shoes and clothing. We are really pitiful objects". (16/11/44 - Livorno)

"Winter is coming and it is very dark. We have nothing to cover either our beds or our bodies, so if you are able to send me some second-hand clothes that you no longer use, do so." (17/11/44 - Aquila)

"As to children's shoes, here one can find those like little boots, but at very high prices. A little while ago I saw a pair of them in red kid for seven or eight hundred lire, which are real prices". (23/11/44 - Ascoli) 6318

3. HOUSING

civilian opinion on housing, which had become more

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unfavourable during the previous period, continued to deteriorate during the period under review, the proportion between unfavourable and favourable comments rising from 39.9 to 1 during October to 46.1 to 1 during November. The feeling in Naples was outstandingly gloomy, there being 1582 adverse comments and not a single one in favour. Several other centres, which produced only a small number of comments, were also unanimously unfavourable.

Complaints were almost exclusively confined to two aspects of the situation: a shortage of houses owing to destruction, and high prices and rents. The latter complaint was often aggravated by the growing practice of those landlords who demand premiums in some form or another before they will consider letting an apartment.

Military mail produced practically no comments on housing except from Naples, so that the figures do not mean very much.

The comments below are representative of nearly all civilian letters on the subject:

"We live in a stable of which we have repaired two walls and to which we have made other repairs so that we can live in it, because there are no houses available here". (8/11/44 - Giulio M. Chiodi)

"Nowadays we eat and live like animals all piled up in one room, dirty and without all these things and amenities which we had formerly, and this is because everything is destroyed and because houses available fit to live in are extremely few in number". (8/11/44 - Laura del Polignò, Abruzzo)

"As far as Pescara is concerned, lodgings are very hard to find because 80% of the residential houses have been destroyed either by bombing or by German mines. Rents are very high. A solicitor who was compelled for professional reasons to take a house in Pescara is paying 5,000 lire a month". (8/11/44 - Pescara)

"The housing situation here is becoming more and more serious. Many troops are coming in now, and places are being requisitioned which makes things even worse". (10/11/44 - Rieti) 6317

"Up to now I have not been able to find a flat. One has been promised to me, and I might rent it in a few weeks time if I pay a premium of 5000 lire". (11/11/44 - Rome)

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"We are doing our utmost to find a lodging, but the Allies have requisitioned everything. At the beginning of the winter many families had to leave their houses and dwell in hovels to make room for them". (10/11/44 - Ternoli)

"Owing to the lack of lodgings we are compelled to live in a single room and a kitchen. There is no toilet. A lavatory is located on the roof, and we have to pay 450 lire a month for this set-up". (7/11/44 - Rieti)

4. INCOME

Civilian comments on the subject of wages and salaries took a decided turn for the worse during the period under review. Unfavourable comments outnumbered those favourable by 23.1 to 1, which compares with 9.6 to 1 during the previous four weeks. The bulk of the comments came from Rome, and the figures were 760 unfavourable to 8 favourable. Naples produced 187 comments, none of which were favourable.

Military mail only produced 5 comments all told, so that the figures in Appendix A have little meaning.

The majority of complaints rest on the fact that salaries have not kept pace with the ever increasing costs of living, and it is abundantly clear that the office workers are more hardily hit than any other section of the community. There are numerous letters which enlarge on this gap between income and expenditure - for many live beyond their incomes - and gradually these people are selling off everything they can possibly do without. Some now have nothing left to sell, for they have even disposed of much of their clothing. The following comments tell their own stories:

"In order to avoid dying of starvation we are selling everything, because our salary is not sufficient. A lot of money is needed in order to eat and to cure one's ailments, owing to the fact that one buys everything on the black market, and rationed foodstuffs are not sufficient in quantity. I have sold many articles of clothing, and now only a few things remain". (15/11/44 - Rome)

"On account of the wages they get, office workers are at their wits' end trying to avoid starvation. I am one of them, so how am I to save the 10,000 lire I need to pay off my debts". (8/11/44 - Rieti)

"Living is very expensive here and we struggle on to keep afloat with the meagre wages we earn and which are not sufficient in spite of the recent increase". (16/11/44 - Chieti)

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Life becomes more and more difficult every day, especially for the wretched white collar workers who have no other source of income but their meagre wages which are only good for driving them to despair and starvation". (11/11/44 - Rome)

The following comment offers a strange contrast in what the writer, a man, who does not say what his work is, discloses that he can earn in a day what many people are lucky enough to earn in a month.

"I am quite happy here for I am making money. Today, for instance, I have earned 2,500 lire, and this is the average of what I earn every day". (11/11/44 - Aquila)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Civilian mail reveals a more unfavourable opinion towards the National Government than in the pre-war period, which in turn had been more critical than the preceding period. However, many contras produced very few comments on this subject, and only in the case of Rome and of Naples were the numbers sufficiently high to conclude that their populations were decidedly unfavourable. There were hardly any military comments. The letter writers are not always very clear in their criticisms, but the following comments give some idea of the various causes of their irritation:

"The confusion is even greater in the central Italian Government. The disorder that reigns in the various ministries is such that one cannot understand anything. There is a shortage of government employees. Those working are tired, annoyed and cast down by their economical treatment". (24/11/44 - Rome)

"While we were under the allied Government they gave us sugar, salt and other commodities. These things were rationed but we got them. Now, under the Italian Government, we get less than nothing". (9/11/44 - Anversa)

"We have returned to the times of highway robbery and forest brigandage. Our government is weak, and the good citizens are seriously worried about their very lives. We need a government with an iron fist to direct and properly equip a national police force which is needed to restore order and safeguard citizens of good will". (14/11/44 - Chieti)

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"We are always waiting for our Government to take an interest in the situation of office workers and to take steps to enable them to manage at least one soup meal every day". (14/11/44 - Aquila)

"I cannot understand how the Government has not yet been able to cause prices to go down or else to bring wages and old age pensions on a level with the cost of living". (8/11/44 - Ascoli Piceno)

C. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

A more critical attitude towards the Provincial administrations was noticeable throughout the period under review. The proportion of unfavourable comments increased considerably, and the ratio which was 2.4 to 1 against the provincial government during the previous four weeks rose to 7.2 to 1 during the period considered here. Rome was particularly critical. Military staff was almost silent on the subject.

Complaints are chiefly directed against the members of the councils on the ground that such members are not fit for their positions, or against the alleged non-distribution of foodstuffs. The following comments are representative of the general feeling:

"Everybody is complaining about the present members of the County Council, and many people would like to see you back as Town Mayor". (30/11/44 - Pescara)

"The Town Mayor has not taken any interest in what is going on in this filthy place. For three months he has not done anything about the distribution of foodstuffs to the population". (7/11/44 - Lanciano, Chieti)

"Politicians have turned this place into a real lunatic asylum. Can you guess who is the Town Mayor now? Alaso, Doctor Marabelli's son. It is a really comical situation". (20/11/44 - Colanella, Chieti)

"The population is greatly worked up on account of the misgoverning of the Town Mayor. Whenever supplies of any kind reach this place they disappear in the twinkling of an eye instead of being distributed to the population". (16/11/44 - Capistrano, Aquila)

"Everything is messed up here. The Town Hall does not look anything like an office but has become a real brothel. Where is the law?" (16/11/44 - Leonessa, Rieti)

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7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES

For some months civilian comments on the Allies gradually became less favourable, and then they took a turn for the better during October when the proportion between favourable and unfavourable comments rose to 17.5 to 1. During the period under review, however, this improvement was not maintained, and the figures went back to 11.1 to 1. Opinion in Rome deteriorated. The tone has now improved except that their critics still remained highly favourable. Military comments also took a turn for the worse, and the proportion between favourable and unfavourable comments dropped from 7.5 to 1 during the previous four weeks to 4.4 to 1 during the period under review.

Favourable comments follow the usual lines of praise, gratitude, and pleased surprise that the Allies have not as yet been propagandized and misled since their arrival. Unfavourable comments refer to inflation, requisitioning, and behaviour towards civilians. The following comments are typical of many:

"Thanks to the Allies we once again enjoy the much longed for tranquillity". (10/22/44 - Giallomberti)

"owing to the German propaganda we were somewhat suspicious of the Allies during the first days of the occupation. But as soon as we realized how false the propaganda was, the Allies came in like gentlemen and were very respectful towards us". (12/11/44 - Giallomberti)

"When the day of our liberation came, the our American and English brothers arrived. They treated us in such a gentlemanly way". (10/11/44 - Giallomberti)

"A considerable number of inflation has been the result of the Allied occupation. I wish that could be brought formerly for 10 lire now costs 100 or the lire which it can be found". (12/9/44 - Giallomberti)

"It is not being understood that Allied troops will come back to spend the winter, and that our houses will be requisitioned each year. If this proves to be true every thing will be spoiled and destroyed again". (12/11/44 - Giallomberti)

6313

8. RESERVATIONARY SITUATION

The former optimism has practically vanished. During October there was a noticeable slump, and the proportion between favourable and unfavourable comments was 12.1 to 1 as

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compared with 18.2 to 1 during the preceding period. During the period under review, however the figures went right down to 1.1 to 1. Military mail was also about equally divided on the subject. The reason for this is obvious enough, and the two following comments illustrate the feelings of disappointment:

"My hope for a quick return to Milan has vanished. Unfortunately I must get used to the idea that the Italian front will remain unchanged until next spring. He knows when my return to Milan will take place". (5/11/44 - Rome)

"Three months ago, watching the Americans march over the Apennines, I foresaw a quick liberation of my dear ones. This will take place in the remote future, for can we live on empty promises". (22/11/44 - S. Vito)

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION

The marked increase in optimism concerning the future military situation noticeable during the previous four weeks, when the proportion between favourable and unfavourable comments dropped to 16.6 to 1 as compared with 45.3 to 1 for the preceding period, was further decreased during the period under review, and the relative figures were only 5 to 1. Military mail was almost devoid of comments, there being only three all told, and they were unfavourable. Comments are not very illuminating. The following, for example, could be either favourable or unfavourable according to the way in which it is read:

"The war will probably come to an end in September-October of next year. That a bad winter for everybody, and above all for the poor people". (12/11/44 - Rome)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS

Civilian mail was more optimistic concerning industrial prospects than it has been for a long time, and comments were actually 1.3 to 1 in favour. During the previous eight weeks they were 2.3 to 1 against. There was the only centre which produced a substantial majority of unfavourable comments. However, many centres hardly commented at all, so that one can not read too much from the total figures. Military mail was practically mute on the subject.

Letters speak of renewed hopes of activity in some places, but in others there is only talk of factories and workshops being at a standstill, such as the following:

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"You ask me if they have begun any work. Nothing to this effect has been seen yet. Everything is at a standstill. Factories and machine shops are closed, and the population is unemployed". (8/11/44 - Cepegatti, Pescara)

"What worries me is that the re-establishing of industrial and commercial activities does not seem to be a coming event. I'll have to find some other way of making a living". (23/11/44 - Aquila)

11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS

Civilian mail produced a slight increase in the proportion of favourable comments during the period under review, the figures being 1.9 to 1 in favour as compared with 1.6 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Siena, Rome, Naples and Aquila were the only centres to produce any sizable number of comments, and the last named was about twice as optimistic as the others. Favourable comments invariably speak of crops as having yielded more than before. Unfavourable comments are due to a variety of set-backs.

"This year the olive crop has been plentiful. It is rumoured that the price will go down to 40 lire per litre". (25/11/44 - Grosseto)

"The fields have yielded more than they ever did before, as far as potatoes, beets, corn etc. are concerned. The olive crop was not so good, so it will not be very well off for fans". (5/11/44 - Castel di Sangro)

"I can assure you that the olive crop is quite satisfactory, and everywhere it is the same". (16/11/44 - Ascoli Piceno)

"The harvest would have been quite appreciable if Italian troops had not destroyed part of the crop". (7/11/44 - Rieti)

"It will be very hard this year to proceed with the sowing". (14/11/44 - Chieti)

"The result of the vinaging has been very poor around here. We only harvested 30 quintals. The yield for mother's vineyards, which used to average about 100 quintals, only amounted to 8 quintals". (16/11/44 - Ascoli Piceno) 6311

12. EMPLOYMENT.

Civilian mail took a less gloomy view of the employment

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situation during the period under review, and unfavourable comments only outnumbered those favourable by 5.9 to 1 as compared with 10.2 to 1 during the preceding four weeks. Rome, however, became more pessimistic. Military mail had practically nothing to say on the subject; comments generally speak of the apparent impossibility of finding a job, or of jobs so poorly paid that there is little difference between them and unemployment. The following are examples:

"The life we are now living is too hard for words, and the thought of the future drives me crazy. We have been looking for a job for a long time, but wherever we apply for one we are told that they have surplus personnel". (18/11/44 - Rieti)

"At Pescara it is very hard to get a job. I have put in many applications, but up till now have received no answer whatever". (24/11/44 - Pescara)

"After 10 months of unemployment I found a job at the end of August that does not satisfy my economical or moral needs. But there is no alternative at present". (16/11/44 - Rome)

"Here everything happens the wrong way round. Those who ought to be punished carry on with their jobs, while plain and honest clerks like us are kept out of work". (21/11/44 - Chieti)

"I have been at Turin the last few months, and I am still looking for a job, but it does not seem possible to find one". (14/11/44 - Turin)

[Signature]
A. J. PERRONE,
Commandant, USMI,
Acting Civil Censorship Officer.

6340

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6309

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1548

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REPORT NO. 79

APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

WEEK ENDING	FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION	
	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
1/11/44 CIV	1	14.8	1	23.2	1	28	1	12	1	2.5	1	3.2	9.3		1	1	1.5	5.3
MIL	1	1.2	1	1.9	1	6.4	1	1.5	1	1.2	1	6.5	7.3		1	1.1	1	1.4
11/11/44 CIV	1	11.6	1	37.8	1	35.6	1	8.7	1	2.4	1	2.5	21.2		1	2.3	1	4.8
MIL	1	1.6	1	2.9	1	6.3	1	4.2	1	2	1	2.3	5		1	1	1.6	1.2
18/11/44 CIV	1	14.6	1	33.9	1	70	1	39.3	1	6.3	1	6.3	22.5		1	5	2	3.8
MIL	1.6	1	1.9	1	1	10.7	0	0	1	0	0	0	5.7		1	1	1.5	0
25/11/44 CIV	1	10.1	1	30.5	1	23.6	1	19.3	1	2.7	1	7.4	6.1		1	1.1	1	3.5
MIL	1.3	1	2.1	1	1	4.2	0	0	1	1	0	2	7		1	1.1	1	0
AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING																		
25/11/44 CIV	1	12.6	1	35.8	1	46.1	1	20.1	1	3	1	7.2	11.1		1	1.1	1	5
MIL	2.6	1	1.8	1	1	4.2	1	1.5	1	1.2	0	3	4.4		1	1	1	0

APPENDIX A

TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

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HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
1	23	1	12	1	2.5	1	3.2	9.3	1	1	1.5	5.3	1	1	1.2	1.5	1	1	6
1	6.1	1	1.5	1	1.2	1	6.5	7.3	1	1.1	1	1.4	1	1	1.3	1.7	1	1	2.7
1	35.6	1	8.7	1	2.4	1	2.5	21.3	1	2.3	1	4.5	1	1.7	1	2.5	1	1	4.6
1	6.3	1	4.2	1	2	1	2.3	5	1	1	1.6	1.2	1	1	2.1	2.3	1	1	2.6
1	70	1	30.9	1	6.3	1	6.3	12.5	1	5	1	3.8	1	1.5	1	1.7	1	1	5.1
1	20.7	0	0	1	7	0	0	5.7	1	1	1.9	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	23.6	1	19.3	1	2.7	1	7.4	6.1	1	1.1	1	3.5	1	1	1	1.5	1	1	4.4
1	4.2	0	0	1	1	0	2	7	1	1.1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
1	46.1	1	20.1	1	3	1	7.2	11.1	1	1.1	1	5	1	1.3	1	2.7	1	1	5.9
1	4.2	1	1.5	1	1.1	0	2	4.4	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	5

CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP, PUBLIC OPINION REPORT

20 Oct. - 25 Nov. 1944

PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED)		FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT	PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION
		F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U		
Aquila	42,330	230	2862	24	3305	17	547	45	125	2	3
Ascoli Piceno (Civ.)	3,903	9	145	2	23	1	0	0	0	0	0
(Mil.)	823	3	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	4	0
Chieti (Civ.)	29,226	13	140	0	52	1	227	22	41	2	2
(Mil.)	5,747	9	24	3	8	0	4	0	0	5	0
Florence	72,247	0	70	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Foggia (Civ.)	8,315	2	63	0	12	0	6	3	5	3	1
(Mil.)	7,213	1	10	7	16	1	10	2	3	0	0
Grosseto	10,319	21	94	3	44	0	3	0	12	0	0
Naples (Civ.)	214,034	70	2327	14	1302	0	1382	0	137	63	208
(Mil.)	20,131	263	48	240	108	62	252	0	0	8	12
Rieti	7,621	0	121	0	17	2	10	0	3	0	7
Rome (Civ.)	261,938	253	4146	8	636	7	453	3	750	47	116
(Mil.)	28,508	63	20	5	7	2	5	0	0	2	0
Salerno	59,592	127	520	55	285	31	200	2	32	0	0
Terni	17,420	0	82	0	12	0	4	0	0	0	2
Total Civilian:	743,859	790	10074	103	3966	68	2723	58	1165	116	346
Total Military:	62,272	224	107	253	122	65	275	2	5	16	13
TOTALS:	806,131	1012	10181	356	4088	133	2998	60	1170	132	359

This report is based upon 50 letters per censor being checked daily on a 6-day weekly basis. The number of censors employed each week averaged 264, making a total of 316,800 letters examined for this four-week tally.

1551

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25 Nov. 1944

HOUSING	INCOME		
	U	F	U
	547	45	125
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	220	22	45
	4	0	0
	0	0	0
	6	3	5
	10	2	5
	0	0	12
	1588	0	157
	252	0	0
	10	0	8
	450	8	750
	0	0	0
	280	2	89
	0	0	0
	2723	58	1165
	276	2	0
	2963	60	1168

g checked daily
each week
for this four-

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
2	3	4	14	352	21	11	2	43	2	129	12	136	34	92	222
0	1	0	1	15	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	7	2	1	3
1	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	3	14	77	18	4	5	0	0	3	0	3	9	1	5
0	2	0	3	5	7	0	0	0	0	4	1	6	2	0	2
0	0	3	8	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	5	1	2	14	21	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	7
0	0	0	0	18	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
0	1	0	2	17	5	0	2	1	0	0	1	3	5	0	7
63	209	10	72	1052	45	127	122	95	13	118	126	41	93	24	311
8	12	0	0	66	0	37	112	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	7	0	1	7	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	3	0	4
67	115	7	94	304	40	27	17	13	8	21	25	98	50	37	444
2	0	0	0	0	6	20	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	13	3	4	0	0	7	24	114	80	620	10
0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
116	340	28	201	1803	161	172	153	140	26	272	221	402	300	160	1053
16	18	0	3	96	22	120	125	0	3	4	1	6	2	0	5
112	364	28	204	1970	183	221	273	140	31	276	212	408	211	180	1050

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Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

RMA/3Bm

19 November 1944

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 72

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 28th October 1944.

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

This report is based on 325,200 letters checked during the four weeks ended 28th October 1944. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relative between favourable and unfavourable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

None of the comments used in this report have been used in any previous report.

1. FOOD SITUATION.

The flood of letters dealing with the food situation continues to rise, and no other topic occupies the minds of the people to such an extent. There was also a worsening of civilian opinion during the period under review, the ratio of unfavourable to favourable comments being 13.4 to 1 as against 10.4 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Military opinion was also more unfavourable due chiefly to Bari and Taranto. The latter centre, which had been favourably disposed, swung the other way.

Florence, Naples and Terni appear to feel the situation most keenly. The last named produced no favourable comments at all as against 53 unfavourable, while Bari, with a record total of 1300 comments only produced two in favour. The position in Rome also deteriorated, and the ratio of comments which was 9.4 to 1 against during the previous period rose to 17.5 to 1 against during the four weeks under review.

The high prices of foodstuffs constitute the chief cause of complaint. Even in places where a variety of commodities are available, the people still suffer because they cannot afford to buy them. There are even instances in which money is no use at all because vendors will only accept other goods in exchange for food. Lack of transport is a matter of considerable comment because it is felt that many centres suffer simply through the impossibility of moving supplies from one area to another. There are a

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number of criticisms on the paucity of rationed foods, and some grumbling at the expense of the Allies for not having waved a magic wand. The following comments illustrate varying shades of the main types of complaints:

"So far we have had nothing at Colloferro, no sugar, no butter, no oil. They only give us a little bread, and in order to live we spend 100 lire a day on greens and fruit". (7/10/44 - Colloferro)

"Here they only give us 200 grs. of bread daily, and once in a blue moon a half kg. of potatoes per head. This is all the rationing there is here, whereas in Rome they give practically everything. We have not had any oil with the ration card since February, and as for sugar I don't know when we had it last. Only after the arrival of the Allies did we receive about 50 grs. per head." (3/10/44 - Fivoli)

"Here the food situation becomes more critical each day, as there is nothing to eat in the true sense of the word. If one does succeed in finding something they don't want money but goods in exchange; and as we have nothing to exchange, since we don't have goods in the black market, we must adapt ourselves and get on as best we can". (9/10/44 - Viano, Macerata)

"Here also everything is sold at astronomical prices, which make one dizzy. We lack everything and find nothing. A very sad picture is approaching". (11/10/44 - Florence)

"Things are very bad here. There are no means of transport, and even the efforts of the Allies lead to nothing. We only get 200 grs. of bread a day, and no pasta, no oil, no meat. It is real famine". (13/10/44 - Florence)

"We had to sell everything we had or else we would have died of starvation. Now all the money has gone, tied up by the black market prices. Oil costs 1000 lire a fiasco (two litres) flour 10,000 lire a quintal, bacon 700 lire a kilo, eggs 25 lire each. Our food rations only consist of bread and potatoes". (23/10/44 - Aquila)

"In Rome all foodstuffs are to be found but only by millionaires and by the beggars of yesterday who daily earn thousands of lire on the black market or by polishing the shoes of the Americans. I eat what the Vatican popular kitchens give me, and spend the double of what I earn, that is 7,000 lire a month, and I have lost 8 kg. in weight". (5/10/44 - Rome)

"The appetite is large but the food is lacking. To tell the truth the stuff is to be had, but at prices! The black market makes one afraid, and things go badly for clerks because salaries remain the same". (12/10/44 - Perugia)

"Living in Rome is very dear. Those who do not live in Rome cannot realise this. It is necessary to experience it. I cannot go on any more."

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I have made a thousand sacrifices, I have sold things that were very dear to me, precious souvenirs, and yet with my heart bursting with grief I have had to sell and sell in order to buy things to eat that have gone sky-high". (17/10/44 - Rome)

There is a touch of unconscious humour in the following extract, but it tells a story nevertheless: "Mother weighs only 150 pounds. You wouldn't know her if you saw her. Well, Mussolini has done what no doctor here or in the States has been able to do, so if you want to lose weight naturally, just come to Italy now". (20/10/44 - Aquila)

Finally there is a word of praise for the popular kitchens in Rome: "Life is still very dear. However we have a resource that is of great help to us, that of the popular kitchens, recently established, where we can obtain soup which is usually made of vegetables and pasta. There are also people of my station, and so I no longer feel humiliated and am pleased, also because the expense is only 3 lire a day". (11/10/44 - Rome)

2. CLOTHING

The number of letters on the clothing situation was almost double that of the previous period, and the fact that clothing is becoming an increasing source of worry to the civil population was further emphasised by the marked increase in the proportion of unfavourable comments. Popular opinion was quite bad enough during the previous period when the ratio of unfavourable to favourable comments was 38.2 to 1, but during the four weeks under review the ratio rose to 64.1 to 1.

The position at both Bari and Naples would appear to be almost hopeless, for they produced 1375 and 1677 unfavourable comments respectively with not a single favourable comment between them. Aquila also took a very gloomy view of the position, only 17 of its 1237 comments being favourable. There was no big change in military opinion, but a slightly more unfavourable view prevailed. As usual Bari was overwhelmingly critical and Naples was very much in favour.

In most cases the complaints are based on high prices, though there is frequent reference to the absence of clothes in some places. Shoes seem to be a particular problem. They are either unobtainable or out of reach of the bulk of the people. The following comments are typical:

"We cannot find a yard of material with which to make a dress, and no thread of any kind. But what worries me most, especially on account of the coming winter, is the problem of shoes. It is heartrending for me to see my children bare-footed, and not be able to buy any shoes for them". (15/10/44 - Aquila) 6303

"Not even a handkerchief is to be found here. In order to make some clothing for the child that is to be born I had to cut up a sheet from my bed". (16/10/44 - Aquila)

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"Now some shoes are being displayed in the shop windows, but children's shoes of the poorest quality cost 1,400 lire a pair. The price of men's shoes is 4,000 lire. Is it possible to buy at such prices? (28/10/44 - Chieti)

"Clothing prices are hyperbolic: gloves 500 lire per pair, stockings 700 lire, umbrellas 450 each, suit of clothes 6,500 lire, and overcoats 1,900 lire..." (20/10/44 - Florence)

"If you could only see the condition in which we are now. We have nothing left of what we had once. Now we cannot even go out for we have nothing to wear. I don't know how we will pull through the coming winter." (23/10/44 - Ortona)

"I had to pay 5,000 lire for a cotton material for a dress, and now I must have it made up, and the final cost will be at least 8,500 lire. Is it possible to carry on like this? One spends lots of money only to find oneself empty handed." (5/10/44 - Castellana)

"As regards clothing the only thing I can tell you is that we can't buy any. We are bare-footed and yet cannot buy any shoes." (24/10/44 - Chieti)

"I had to dye a bed sheet in order to have a shirt made for myself and a pair of trousers for Tonino. Dresses and shoes are on sale but I cannot buy them on account of the prices." (21/10/44 - Gappello and Sere)

"We are left without shirts, shoes and stockings. To put it in a few words, we are ashamed of going out of doors, so shabby do we look." (14/10/44 - Mottola)

3. HOUSING

There was a very large increase in the number of letters dealing with housing during the period under review. A more unfavourable view of the situation was also apparent. The proportion of adverse comments among civilian letters rose by 25%, and thus the ratio between unfavourable and favourable comments for the four weeks was 39.9 to 1, as against 31.1 to 1 during the previous period.

As in the case of clothing, Bari and Naples are in by far the worst position, the two centres producing 1143 and 2023 adverse comments respectively with not a single favourable comment in either case.

Military opinion was also more unfavourable, and whereas the proportion between unfavourable and favourable comments was only 1.7 to 1.6 ³⁰² during the previous period, it rose to 4.7 to 1 during the four weeks under review. Naples, as usual, was the only centre in which favourable comments were in the majority.

A shortage of houses, due to the devastation in some centres, is

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the main problem in such areas. But general complaints revolve round high rents, requisitioning by the Allies, and the various devices of landlords to obtain more than even the fancy rents are netting them. The prices charged at boarding houses are also a matter of complaint. In the following comments these various difficulties are illustrated:

"I am looking for a flat, but the owners make enormous demands. Imagine, an apartment of three rooms, and accessories, commands the trifling sum of 95,000 lire plus a premium for the furniture". (8/10/44 - Rome)

"One has great trouble in finding a house. Even here it is most difficult. Anyone who is about to vacate a house today asks a premium of 10,000 lire, otherwise he won't move. Just imagine it". (19/10/44 - Rome)

"I am busy looking for a flat, but it is a hopeless job because at least a third of the town has been razed to the ground. Owing to this it is impossible to find a place to live". (23/10/44 - Napoli, Chiari)

"I had to evacuate with all my family, and I don't know when it will be possible for us to find a place to live in back in town. There are about 100,000 inhabitants, and the houses fit to live in are not even sufficient for 15,000 people". (23/10/44 - Terzi)

"It is very painful for me to think of dwelling in this rat hole throughout another winter. It can hardly be called a house. Just imagine, there is no water, no water-closet, not the least comfort, and the rent is 300 lire per month". (25/10/44 - Terzi)

"Believe me it is a real disaster. Most of the houses have been requisitioned, and the others are rented at enormous prices. Even if I succeeded in finding a room, it would surely cost me about 1,200 lire. You had better not think of coming to Taranto just now". (21/10/44 - Taranto)

"I am upset because I cannot find a room to rent. Yesterday I went through all the old and new quarters of Bari. I came across one room only, and do you know how much they had the nerve to ask me for 127,400 lire a day. I really felt like smacking his face. What makes the situation even worse is that many American and English officers go about looking for lodgings, and the landlords are more willing to let rooms to them rather than to Italians because they make more money out of them". (1/10/44 - Bari)

"We are going to rent a single room, sharing the kitchen with the landlady. You say that Nino cannot find a house to rent. Of course not. All the best buildings, that were left standing, have been occupied by the Americans, and the people who have to live in Foggia have to put up with dreadful house conditions". (23/10/44 - Foggia) 9801

4. INCOME

A slightly less unfavourable view of wages and salaries prevailed during the period under review as compared with the previous four weeks.

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This applies both to civilian and military mail. Nevertheless opinion was roughly 10 to 1 against in both cases. Bari and Naples, in this matter also, appear to suffer the most. No centre produced a large proportion of favourable comments except Toronto which had a ratio of only 1.5 to 1 against.

The root of most complaints is that the cost of living has far outstripped incomes, and that there is little hope of improvement because costs keep on mounting. Thus all those who receive fixed wages and salaries are the greatest sufferers. On the other hand, many engaged in dubious activities are much better off than they have ever been before. The following are some typical comments:

"My wages are not sufficient to get along. Prices have been rushing upwards more and more. In November 1943 we were able to live on 8,000 lire a month. Little by little the amount of money needed has increased up to 10, 12, 15 and 17,000 lire. Now we need about 20,000 lire a month to exist. All my savings in deposits and bonds have dwindled away, and I have fallen into debt. Last July I had to sell my house at Salerno and to use the money obtained for daily expenses. The increasing prices are staggering, and we cannot foresee what the final outcome will be". (17/10/44 - Naples)

"Here everybody seems to have forgotten all about the war, especially those from the poorest classes who have now become millionaires. Only office workers live from hand to mouth because the wages they earn are wholly inadequate to their needs". (20/10/44 - Reggio Calabria)

"Around here things are very bad for office workers. Their daily wages are not even enough to buy a kilo of spaghetti, meat or beans". (19/10/44 - Aquila)

"Life is impossible here. My family, only consisting of father, mother and myself, needs 15,000 lire a month to carry on a very modest life without any luxury whatever. How can we earn so much money? The highest wages range from 4,000 to 5,000 lire per month. We are now using up all the little savings we had, but very soon there won't be anything left". (21/10/44 - Bari)

"Who would believe that to support one's family one needs 1000 lire a day? How is it possible to have such an income? No wonder dishonesty and corruption are spreading. It is the only possible way of making a living". (11/10/44 - Bari)

An example of the earnings of an outside worker, given in the following comment, is in striking contrast to the wages of an office employee: 8000

"Father is busy with his truck. He came home yesterday and has already left again. He made a really good contract and gets 2,000 lire each trip within the range of 100 kms., and 4,000 lire if he travels beyond that limit, plus 10 or even 20 lire extra per kilometre". (23/10/44 - Aquila)

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5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

The slight but steady decrease of good opinion concerning the National Government noticed during the two previous periods continued during the period under review, and the proportion of comments reached 1.5 to 1 against among civilian letters. An unusually large number of favourable comments from Bari, which was the only centre to produce a majority of such comments, prevented the figures from being more adverse. Opinion in Rome was over 30% more unfavourable than previously.

Military opinion, which was 2.9 to 1 in favour during the previous period, deteriorated during the four weeks under review, and comments were equally divided. However, apart from Bari which was still in favour, and Taranto which was equally opposed to the government, there were few comments from most centres.

Favourable comments are based chiefly on hope. Unfavourable remarks spring from lack of confidence in the government's ability to handle the big problems facing the nation. There is also a feeling that Fascism is still lurking in the background, either actively behind the scenes or as an infection that is slowing the spiritual recovery of the nation. Comments are apt to be involved and confused, but the following give some idea of current opinions:

"Up to date things have not changed. On the contrary they are becoming worse. No one of those who are at the head of our unfortunate nation at present is capable of giving to our Fatherland a little dignity and life worthy of real men. All we see is wretchedness which is continually increasing". (28/10/44 - Terni)

"The crisis noticeable in the present government, and in Italian life generally, is due to the fact that the Italians have been ruined and corrupted by Fascism. It is a moral crisis. For the rest, one can find a remedy for everything, but it will be extremely difficult to recover from the bankruptcy of the spirit. It will be two generations at least before Italians may hope to recover". (27/10/44 - Roccasubulda)

"We are now coming under the administration of the Italian Government again. We hope we will be better off". (16/10/44 - Chieti)

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Civilian opinion of provincial administration worsened considerably during the period under review, and the proportion of unfavourable to favourable comments reached 3/4 to 1 as against 1.9 to 1 during the previous four weeks. This movement of opinion was most noticeable in Rome and Taranto. Military letters produced few comments on provincial affairs.

Sometimes the provincial administrations are blamed for matters outside their control and the criticisms should really have been directed against

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the National Government. For the rest, there are the usual complaints that Fascists are in power, that there is lack of control, and that officials are overbearing. The comments on the whole are not very illuminating, but the following give some idea of the type of criticism:

"Here there is a terrible confusion. Fascists are still holding their posts in the offices, and the result is an awful mess". (11/10/44 - Pescara)

"General market prices clearly show that sellers are not controlled in any way. They do not fear any counter action because they know quite well that nobody looks after the interest of the population". (21/10/44 - Pescara)

"There are plenty of speculators about, and the result is a continuous rise in the prices of foodstuffs. The leaders don't seem to take any notice, and the poorest classes of people get the worst of it. Our scanty old age pension ought to be increased, but the Prefect ignores it. He does not care to please old people who cannot be of any danger to him". (24/10/44 - Buonfanciuto)

"We have been having a very uneasy time because of our house. We had to apply to the Allied authorities because the Italian ones still persist in their old overbearing methods, even with people who have always complied with their duties". (17/10/44 - Chiati)

"The men holding leading posts in administrations are just the same sort as were to be found in the old clique. It could not be otherwise. For why should we put up with all sorts of sacrifices when these people seem to be piling up the same errors as before, aimed only to suit their own convenience and totally unmindful of the lower classes of employees? A good purge among them would be just the right thing to do. We must do away with these old fashioned brains". (6/10/44 - Naples)

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES

Civilian feeling towards the Allies took a further turn for the better during October, and the relation between favourable and unfavourable comments rose to 17.5 to 1 compared with 14.4 to 1 during the previous period and 3.9 to 1 during the period before that. Bari was particularly well disposed with only 3 unfavourable comments out of a total of 531. In spite of the general improvement, the feeling in Rome became less favourable during the period, and Chiati actually produced a majority of unfavourable comments, being the only centre to do so. 8298

As opposed to the increasing good opinion of civilians, military mail has revealed a steadily decreasing favourable attitude, and during the four weeks under review favourable comments only outnumbered the unfavourable by 7.6 to 1 as compared with 9.3 to 1 during the previous period and 12.7 to 1 during the period before that. Bari remained very much in favour, as did Naples to a lesser extent. Rome was the only station that produced a majority of unfavourable comments.

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Favourable comments usually take the form of thankful expressions for reconstructions undertaken by the Allies, and for the general help given by them. There is also relief at being freed from the Germans. Criticisms often spring from disappointment that this freedom did not bring immediate material benefits. There is also some resentment over the retention of Italian prisoners, and a certain amount of ill feeling due to the Allies' conduct towards Italian women. The following comments are samples of various opinions:

(A) FAVOURABLE

"The Allies have done prodigious and incredible things. Not for a single day did we lack the 200 grs. ration of white bread. In those days they have also distributed supplementary rations to the workmen. Water is distributed by Fascist Unit volunteers. Since last night electric light has returned to various quarters of the city". (9/10/44 - Florence)

"I am quite sure our dear liberators will try their utmost, with God's help, to make our beloved country enjoy blissful days after so many hardships. They are always going around with smiling faces showing kindness to everyone". (10/10/44 - Rome)

"May God protect the dear Allies. Their final victory will fill everybody with joy". (18/10/44 - Aquila)

"The Allies are helping a great deal in repairing the serious damages caused by the Germans, and in restoring the city to normal living conditions. We must be grateful to them. Without their help we would be in a very sad state indeed". (25/10/44 - Florence)

(B) UNFAVOURABLE

"Tell your brother that the 'gentlemen' of the local Allied Command do not think of anything else but of having a fine time with women, wine and dances. They eat as they please, are drunk day and night, and they don't care a fig about the suffering people all around them". (19/10/44 - Ortona)

"What have the liberators brought us? Misery, famine, prostitution, shame". (7/10/44 - Florence)

"I had been eagerly awaiting the moment of our liberation. Now it has come - what a delusion! When I think of all the dangers you encountered, risking your life every moment. Now as a reward they are still keeping you a prisoner of war". (27/10/44 - Popoli, Pescara)

8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION

Optimism waned throughout the period under review, and the proportion of favourable to unfavourable comments, in civilian mail which was 18.2 to 1 during the previous four weeks, dropped to 12.1 to 1. Bari and Naples were almost unanimously optimistic, but most other centres were lukewarm at the best. Military mail was also subdued, and favourable comments dropped

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considerably throughout the period. The cause is not far to seek. The present comparative standstill in Italy has had its consequences. The two following comments sum up the situation:

"The Allied troops are still within a few kilometres of Bologna. They are not succeeding in capturing it. I see that Bologna is a hard nut to crack. These damned Germans have no intention of yielding". (28/10/44 - Rome)

"I am rather afraid that the Allies won't be able to move a step forward during the whole of next winter". (21/10/44 - Aquila)

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION

Civilian optimism in the future military situation slumped badly during the four weeks under review, and the proportion of favourable to unfavourable comments was only 16.6 to 1 as compared with 75.3 to 1 during the previous period. However, Bari and Naples did not share in this loss of optimism, there being only three unfavourable comments from the former and more from the latter.

Military optimism also weakened, the proportional figures dropping from 16.7 to 1 during the last period to 4.9 to 1 during the four weeks under review, with Bari and Naples again remaining very hopeful.

Comments do not tell us much other than that some people expect an early end of the war and that others do not. The following comment is typical of most:

"We hope that this moon will soon come to an end for all of us concerned. The Germans are already caught in an iron-bound cage. Presently they will suffer the ignominy of total defeat, and thus the world may hope for peace at last". (26/10/44 - Montecelio, Aquila)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS

Civilian mail showed no change in the outlook on industrial prospects, and the ratio of comments remained at 2.3 to 1 against. Bari took the most gloomy view of the situation. Rome took a happier view than that prevailing last month, and opinion was equally divided. Naples was the most optimistic, and was the only centre to produce a majority of favourable comments.

The only military comments came from Bari and Taranto, and reveal a slight slump in opinion during the period.

Unfavourable comments rest on two main factors: lack of raw materials in the case of factories that are intact, and the absence of machinery in those factories that have been pillaged by the Germans. In other cases, of course, the buildings and machinery have been totally destroyed. As against

this there are letters describing rebuilding activities and expressing the hope that production will begin in the near future. The following comments illustrate the various aspects of the matter:

"The steel-works, all the machinery of which was removed by the Germans, are about to close down for good. The Nora Montero and the Papigno plants are working on a reduced scale, but most of the employees have been dismissed". (21/10/44 - Terni)

"Lorenac has been with us at the 'Cellulosa', but he cannot start working because the factory is about to close down for good owing to lack of machinery". (21/10/44 - Calvi)

"The work came to a standstill because of the destruction carried out by the Germans. They destroyed and set fire to the Arrigoni, Verli, Ansonia and S.A.C.A. factories. All the electric furnaces were blown up. The Richard Givori plants were razed to the ground with diabolic skill". (16/10/44 - Sesto Fiorentino)

"Our factory was blown up by the Germans, but we are now rebuilding it. By the end of December it will be ready for work again". (26/10/44 - Salmons)

"We cannot make you any offer for the time being because we are still working at the rebuilding of our factory. We reckon that by the end of the current year we will be able to resume our production in full". (28/10/44 - Aquila)

"I must inform you that it is impossible for us to turn out that type of product owing to complete lack of foreign raw materials". (23/10/44 - Aquila)

11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS

There was an increase of about 40% in the letters dealing with agriculture as compared with the previous four weeks, and this was accompanied by a drop in civilian optimism. The ratio was only 1.6 to 1 in favour as against 2.5 to 1 during the preceding period. Bari was the most optimistic centre, and favourable comments were in a majority of over 20 to 1. Naples, which had been optimistic in September by over 2 to 1, swung the other way during October, and unfavourable comments were in a majority of 2.7 to 1.

Military mail, on the other hand, was a little more favourably disposed than during the previous period, Bari being particularly optimistic with only one unfavourable comment out of a total of 93.

There is little in the comments themselves beyond the listing of good crops, and the complaint that grapes had been spoilt in some areas by hail. There is also some mention of the shortage of cattle. The following are typical comments:

"This year's harvest has been really plentiful. Potatoes, beans and corn have been gathered in great abundance. We shall not have to face starvation

next winter". (28/10/44 - Castel di Sangro, Aquila)

"Here in the 'Marsico' we have had a very good harvest, lots of potatoes, beans and fruits of all kinds". (26/10/44 - Ortona)

"This year's harvest has been so plentiful that even the oldest people of the village cannot remember having witnessed anything like it before". (17/10/44 - Bareto, Aquila)

"We have got well ahead. The wheat harvest was fairly good, about 90 quintals, but much was lost because we threshed on the 1st September. We had 12 quintals of Indian corn. Everything went well except that the grapes were few and not good because we had hail three times and much disease". (14/10/44 - Rosara)

"We had a very poor harvest. Our vineyard was almost completely destroyed by hail, so the output was only a quarter of last year's". (14/10/44 - Montepavano)

"We are still short of cattle owing to high prices, and to the fact that the Agricultural Superintendent of Frosinone and Freggi is asleep. Some local profiteers purchase cattle from our province pretending they are for us, and then resell them to the Neapolitans. And we look on". (16/10/44 - Castellina)

12. EMPLOYMENT

Correspondence on the employment situation increased by over 50% during October as compared with September, and the proportion of unfavourable comments rose fairly sharply among civilian letters. The ratio for the period was 10.2 to 1 against, whereas the figures for the previous period were 6.7 to 1. The position in Naples appeared to be particularly bad, for there were only 3 favourable comments out of a total of 1,027. Bari also took a gloomy view.

Military mail was a little less pessimistic than during the previous period, but the figures are based solely on Bari and Taranto, for there were no comments on employment from the other military centers.

For the most part the comments merely give the views that the writers or their relatives are out of work. Others describe the difficulty of finding employment, and some give reasons, such as the stoppage of industries and the closing down of other firms. There are a few complaints about doing very heavy work with not enough to eat. The following comments tell their stories:

"I have been out of work for a year, and you know what a family I have to support. Aldo and Remo are also out of work". (4/10/44 - Chieti)

"Most young people now are living at the expense of their parents. It is a shame, but it cannot be avoided". (26/10/44 - Teramo)

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"I am in Chieti looking for a job, but women are working in all the offices in Chieti while ex-service men, even those who have degrees, are kept unemployed. Let us hope that measures will be taken". (13/10/44 - Chieti)

"I am sorry that you cannot find a job. Only people backed by strong recommendations can find work nowadays". (16/10/44 - Chieti)

"I am still out of work. The firm I used to work for has promised to engage me again as soon as they resume business, but it will be a long time before that happens. You see what a bright outlook we have. We have been reduced to beggary". (10/10/44 - Pescara)

"As to an eventual job with one of the local firms, I tell you straight away that it is no use thinking of it. Most firms have not yet resumed their activity, and the demand for work is very intense. The unemployment is especially terrible". (9/10/44 - Aquila)

"I had to come to Taranto in order to find a job. I am leading a dog's life now, for I am a wharf labourer at the port where I work 16 hours a day. It is a very hard job but I couldn't find anything else. What gets me down is that, in spite of it all, I can only manage one meal a day, and I have to pay 500 lire a month for a room which I share with other people". (12/10/44 - Taranto)

"I will do my best to find some job for you in Rome, but I am afraid it is going to be difficult, for here also people are desperate for work and do not find it in any quarter". (21/10/44 - Rome)

"Here at Lanciano all the industries have been stopped completely, and it has been impossible to find any temporary work". (19/10/44 - Lanciano)

R. N. ALLEN

Major, IG

Acting Civil Censorship Officer.

6233

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6293

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1566

REPORT NO. 72

CONFIDENTIAL

1 Sep. - 25 Oct.

194

CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP. PUBLIC OPINION REPORT

PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED)		FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT	PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION
		F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
Aquila	22,225	316	2371	17	1220	15	474	12	370	2	5
Peri (Civ.)	144,616	2	1298	0	1275	0	1143	2	315	25	1
(Mil.)	53,963	16	423	5	423	7	200	2	39	120	39
Giulii	25,288	27	135	8	63	6	58	1	63	6	13
Moreno	105,055	6	127	1	17	1	5	9	3	0	0
Foggia (Civ.)	7,468	15	89	2	88	3	30	3	16	0	2
(Mil.)	5,645	0	3	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Naples (Civ.)	361,937	42	2542	0	1677	0	2023	14	370	36	42
(Mil.)	13,620	260	15	202	10	138	63	0	0	2	2
Rieti	10,105	5	150	1	22	0	7	0	0	0	0
Rome (Civ.)	216,165	385	2987	14	707	15	431	62	808	81	152
(Mil.)	35,525	65	35	7	24	15	19	2	10	5	16
Siena	41,316	111	391	8	91	19	150	5	18	0	0
Verano (Civ.)	33,637	87	334	24	246	15	266	30	77	56	295
(Mil.)	133,291	507	719	116	761	69	433	14	75	74	131
Verona	6,679	0	33	0	5	0	0	0	0	2	0
Total Civilian	316,062	916	12050	96	5451	197	4278	181	1757	256	421
Total Military	213,735	966	1776	346	1220	227	1662	17	194	191	188
Totals	1,053,819	1882	13826	142	6671	324	5940	198	1951	447	609

This report is based upon 50 letters per censor being checked daily on a 6-day weekly basis. The number of censors employed each week averaged 271, making a total of 325,300 letters examined for this four-week tally.

1567

Oct 194

194

HOUSING	INCOME	NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
		F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
5	474	12	170	2	5	0	7	210	10	23	2	37	2	18	52	157	122
6	1143	2	315	95	4	1	6	570	1	342	2	265	3	26	244	193	9
7	300	1	99	120	99	8	7	319	11	223	17	185	19	12	94	92	2
6	58	4	83	6	10	0	15	15	25	5	5	3	3	12	28	0	12
2	5	7	7	0	6	2	32	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
3	90	3	16	0	2	2	1	5	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	2023	12	370	36	42	0	2	1639	23	236	0	127	0	51	10	26	72
28	03	0	0	2	2	0	6	132	11	231	113	12	0	0	0	0	0
0	7	0	0	0	3	0	3	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0
35	621	62	808	81	152	14	87	606	69	24	23	34	23	28	49	403	52
15	19	2	10	5	16	0	0	19	25	34	23	9	3	0	0	0	0
19	150	5	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
45	266	20	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
69	458	12	75	56	295	47	103	05	21	23	23	12	12	14	14	159	128
0	2	0	0	74	133	16	23	532	25	230	217	142	30	61	236	368	178
107	1273	181	1737	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
227	1052	17	154	250	121	63	233	3429	279	692	57	482	29	232	529	701	497
514	5332	190	1931	191	158	20	44	6013	322	073	170	346	71	73	685	460	279
				471	609	32	277	1257	333	570	127	120	100	276	754	1162	610

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ANNEX 4

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN REVENUE AND UNEMPLOYMENT COMMISSION ON DEPARTMENT FORMS

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WEEK ENDING		FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION	
		U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F
7/30/44	CIV	1	13.3	1	55.1	1	18.9	1	8.9	1	2.3	1	3.5	23.3	1	11.7	1	15.7	1
	MIL	1	2.2	1	2.6	1	2.2	1	19	1	2.7	1	2	5.3	1	2.7	1	3.4	1
18/10/44	CIV	1	12.4	1	40.6	1	29.4	1	8.9	1	1.7	1	3.6	14.1	1	13.1	1	14.6	1
	MIL	1	8.6	1	6.7	1	12.1	1	17	1	1	1	21	8.9	1	1.3	1	6.2	1
21/10/44	CIV	1	13.3	1	104.6	1	15.2	1	10.2	1	1.4	1	2.5	14	1	19.3	1	8.6	1
	MIL	1	2.3	1	2.8	1	6.4	1	19.5	1	1.4	1	1	14.4	1	4.8	1	6.7	1
10/10/44	CIV	1	13.2	1	49.8	1	52.7	1	8.1	1	1.1	1	1.5	13.2	1	10.5	1	20	1
	MIL	1	2.4	1	3.2	1	2.7	1	5.9	1	1.3	1	1.6	6.5	1	2.2	1	4	1
28/10/44		1	14.1	1	61.3	1	39.0	1	9.6	1	1.5	1	3.4	17.5	1	12.3	1	16.6	1
	MIL	1	1.8	1	3.5	1	4.7	1	10.4	1	1	1	2.8	7.6	1	2.4	1	4.9	1

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APPENDIX A

TABLE BETWEEN NATIONAL AND DISAGGREGATE COMPOSITES ON PRESENTED FIGURES

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HOUSING	INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH STATES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS		AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS		EMPLOY. INDEX	
	U	P	U	P	U	P	U	P	U	P	U	P	U	P	U	P	U	P
1	48.9	1	8.9	1	2.1	1	3.5	23.8	1	11.7	1	45.7	1	1	3.6	2.2	1	10.9
2	2.2	1	13	1	2.7	1	2	5.9	1	2.7	1	3.6	1	1	3.4	2.4	1	2.2
3	29.4	1	8.9	1	1.7	1	3.6	14.1	1	13.1	1	14.6	1	1	1.3	1.2	1	8.3
4	19.1	1	17	1	1	1	21	8.9	1	1.5	1	6.2	1	1	6	1.4	1	3.4
5	35.2	1	10.2	1	1.4	1	2.5	12.8	1	14.8	1	8.6	1	1	3.5	1.4	1	11.2
6	4.4	1	19.5	1.4	1	1	1	10.4	1	4.8	1	6.7	1	1	3.8	2	1	1.7
7	52.7	1	8.1	1	1.3	1	4.5	11.2	1	10.5	1	50	1	1	1.6	1.7	1	10.2
8	2.7	1	8.9	1.3	1	1.6	1	6.5	1	2.2	1	1	1	1	1.2	1.3	1	1.2
9	33.9	1	9.6	1	1.5	1	3.4	17.5	1	12.1	1	16.6	1	1	2.2	1.6	1	10.2
10	4.7	1	10.4	1	1	1	1.8	7.6	1	2.4	1	4.9	1	1	3.2	2.6	1	2.1

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Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

A/c 715
24/4/44

OWN/MLF

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 62

21 October 1944

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian
and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 30 September 44.

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

This report is based on 300,300 letters checked during the four weeks ended 30 September 1944. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relation between favorable and unfavorable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

1. FOOD SITUATION.

Food remains by far the most widely discussed subject in correspondence, and civilian opinion throughout the country is still very critical of the situation. There has, however, been a slight decrease in hostile comments during the four weeks under review, the ratio of unfavorable to favorable comments being 10.4 to 1 as compared with 13.5 to 1 during the previous period. Military opinion showed no change, the ratio of 1.3 to 1 against remaining the same.

Conditions in Bari and Naples seem to be particularly bad. In both centers the unfavorable comments outnumbered those favorable by well over 50 to 1. Rome opinion improved during the period.

Complaints are usually under one of three headings, prices, lack of foodstuffs, and lack of transport. Some letters complain of maldistribution of rationed foods, and there are a certain number which blame the Allies for denying the use of transport to those who could bring food into the various centers. But the most bitter complaints are those against prices. 0290

The following extracts from letters are illustrative of various shades of criticism:-

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"Almost anything can be found here, but the prices are appalling! We must be content with looking at the foodstuffs without being able to buy any. One kilo of bread costs 250 lire, and one kilo of meat 350." (23/9/44 - Taranto)

"Notwithstanding the plentiful crop of potatoes, the population are not given any, and only those who can afford it can buy them on the black market. And this applies not only to potatoes but to foodstuffs generally, the prices of which are continually rising." (15/9/44 - Naples)

"It is not easy living here. Prices have gone up a hundred times, and not less than 300 lire are spent on greens alone. If we should occasionally fancy a little meat or fish, the expenditure rises to 500 - 600 lire." (10/9/44 - Bari)

"As soon as the news of the increase in our wages became known, those rascals of black market dealers increased the price of the foodstuffs they sell. When you left Bari the price of oil was 70 lire per litre. Well, now it is hard to find at 130. During the last two months prices have doubled, so we don't get any benefit from the increase in our wages." (29/9/44 - Bari)

"The greatest difficulty here is due to the fact that this is a poor region which produces little because it is mountainous and sterile. Nothing arrives from the outside, and the prices reach fantastic heights - fats from 600 - 800 lire per kilo, olive oil from 500 - 800 lire per litre, wheat from 5,000 - 12,000 per quintal, and beans are over 100 lire per kilo." (25/9/44 - S. Demetrio, Aquila)

"Here we foresee a terrible and hungry winter. During the month of September only half a litre of wine and 100 grams of olive oil were distributed to us. Enough said." (30/9/44 - Aquila)

"Every now and then Col. Poletti remembers that the Romans have a belly, and authorizes the distribution of some grams of dried soup or those tinned vegetables that, so it seems, in America are called meat garnished with vegetables." (17/9/44 - Rome)

"We are carrying on from hand to mouth, and are compelled to face sky high prices which reduce my efforts and Lella's to a struggle to keep from starving." (11/9/44 - Rome)

"You must not believe all the false rumors which are being spread for evil purposes. No doubt we have many difficulties with which to deal, but the situation is not as serious as they want you to believe. We have to put up with making some sacrifices, but we don't lack what is strictly necessary." (26/9/44 - Rome)

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A soldier writes: "We are well here. Food is plentiful. You should see how fat I have become now. I have never felt so well before." (25/9/44 - Taranto)

2. CLOTHING.

Although the proportion of adverse comments fell off somewhat during the period under review, public opinion remains overwhelmingly unfavorable. Apart from food, the most discussed subject is clothing, and the adverse ratio for the period was 38.2 to 1 out of about 4,000 comments. Military comments were 3.1 to 1 against.

Bari and Naples feel the clothing situation most acutely. The former center produced 649 adverse comments and not a single one in favor. Naples was almost as emphatic with 619 unfavorable comments to three favorable. The feeling in Rome eased a little during the period, but the ratio of comments is still high at 45 to 1 against. Foggia and Syracuse, with a small number of comments, produced none in favor. The following extracts from letters tell their own stories:-

"The material for a suit of clothes costs 5,000 lire, and on top of that there is the lining and the tailoring." (30/9/44 - Aquila)

"I would like to come to see you, but how can I do so? I cannot go out because I have no shoes. I went to Taranto wearing my cousin's shoes. I work day and night, but I cannot succeed in buying a pair of shoes because I am helping my family." (15/9/44 - Crispiano)

"Giovanna's son, Peppino, has bought a suit of clothes without lining and without having been made up, and paid 5,000 lire for it. Here the prices of things are increasing daily." (15/9/44 - Taranto)

"Here as well as in other cities it is extremely difficult to buy clothing material. A common, ordinary suit of clothes costs 15,000 lire. We cannot afford to buy one." (16/9/44 - Taranto)

"We have suffered a great deal, and now poverty in everything stares us in the face. We are naked and barefooted. Prices of goods are highly exaggerated. We have nothing to wear; nor have we any longer the machines to manufacture clothes." (25/9/44 - Fossa, Aquila)

"In Rieti the Allies are distributing parcels of clothes to the poor, which makes a noticeable improvement in the serious problem of clothing. Let us hope that they may also provide clothes that may be bought by the rest of the population." (17/9/44 - Rieti)

CONFIDENTIAL**3. HOUSING.**

Housing is almost as frequent a topic as clothing, and it also produces a very heavy preponderance of adverse comments. During the four weeks under review there was a slight deterioration in opinion, the proportion of comments being 31.1 to 1 against, as compared with 29 to 1 during the previous period.

The position in Bari and Naples appears to be extremely acute, the two centers producing 694 and 724 unfavorable comments respectively with not a single one in favor in either case. It is interesting to note, on the other hand, that the Naples military mail was favorable to the extent of 8.9 to 1.

The following comments give various sides of the picture:

"It is a good thing you did not come over here because it is very difficult to find any lodgings. Even if you were lucky enough to find a room to share with somebody else, the minimum price you would have to pay would be 500 lire a month." (23/9/44 - Taranto)

"It is impossible to rent a house in Rieti, so I am forced to live in an hotel, and have to put up with great expenses." (16/9/44 - Rieti)

"The rent of a room here is from 1500 to 2000 lire a month." (15/9/44 - Taranto)

"My dear, I am looking for a house in every quarter of Rome, but I cannot find any as the few that remained have been occupied by the evacuees." (30/9/44 - Rome)

"The housing situation in Ortona is very serious because 70% of the houses are uninhabitable. In many cases two or even three families live huddled up together in one single flat." (28/9/44 - Ortona)

4. INCOME.

Wages and salaries, and their inadequacy in the face of the enormous rise in the cost of living, have become an increasing source of irritation. The ratio of adverse comments increased during the four weeks under review, and the figures were 11.7 to 1 against as compared with 9.3 to 1 during the preceding period. Military mail was so erratic that the figures tell us little except that there were no comments of any kind from either Naples or Rome.

6287

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Bari and Palermo were outstandingly pessimistic with 209 and 165 unfavorable comments respectively, and with not a single favorable comment between them. Taranto was the only center where there was a majority of favorable comments. The following extracts illustrate a variety of difficulties:-

"The municipality called up various workmen, but on learning that the pay was only 65 lire a day, they only worked for one day." (19/9/44 - Aprilia)

"I was sacked because it was impossible to go to the office. The work was too heavy, and the salary was not sufficient to meet the travelling expenses to Taranto." (16/9/44 - Laterza, Bari)

"The woeful plight of the office-working class is well known. The monthly wages we earn are not enough to keep us going, and give us no possibility of looking after our wretched health." (23/9/44 - Taranto)

"As I have already told you, our wages have not been increased up till now. So here we are, starving and expecting all kinds of what. Such treatment is shameful and inhuman." (25/9/44 - Bari)

"Within the last few months the cost of living has risen to astronomical heights. Having sold everything superfluous, that is a little gold and other treasured objects, we must now begin to sell our furniture. One works solely to buy coal, candles, bread and tomatoes. For this type of life, and without ever buying new clothes or anything else, one needs no less than 12 - 13 thousand lire a month. I only earn a third of that sum." (12/9/44 - Rome)

"It is not a question of increasing salaries because the result of doing so would be a higher cost of living. But may the war end and life regain, even partly, its normality. Salaries have been doubled, but the cost of living has increased from 10 to 15 times as much as it was in pre-war days." (16/9/44 - Rome)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

There has been a steady though slight decline in the popularity of the National Government noticeable in the correspondence during the past two months. During the period before the last, the comments were 1.6 to 1 in favor. The following four weeks the comments for and against were equal. During the period under review the unfavorable comments were in a majority of 1.5 to 1. Military comments are a trifle more favorable than during the previous four weeks.

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Naples and Siracuse were distinctly in favor of the government. Taranto was more than 2 to 1 against it. Rome, which was slightly in favor during the previous period by 1.25 to 1, changed over to an adverse opinion of 1.4 to 1. Comments on political matters are apt to be of an acid or confused nature. The following are some examples:-

"Our government has not the means of facing and solving the present situation. Yesterday's cowards and traitors, the same who led the country to ruin, have now become reactionaries in the shade of a criminal monarchy. They speculate on the seriousness of the situation on behalf of the monarchy, which is their accomplice, and of the Italian militarism which has failed. They feign to forget that they are the very men responsible for this situation..." (5/2/44 - Rome)

"Here in Rome everybody is fed up with the government and with those cursed six parties of which the C.L.M. (National Liberation Committee) is composed. In particular the Socialists and Communists are behaving worse and worse, and everybody is getting tired of them. One of their latest exploits has been the outraging of the national flag..." (10/9/44 - Rome)

"Here there is an incredible confusion as the result of the 'purging', which seems a mockery because the high political officials, and, above all, the military authorities, being responsible for the disaster, remain undisturbed. It is all a disgusting shame." (10/9/44 - Rome)

"Let us hope that they will fix things soon. We have a very good government, excluding, naturally, the Lieutenant General of the Realm." (30/9/44 - Rome)

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

There has been little change in opinion concerning provincial administration during the period. Apart from the Rome and Taranto areas there were hardly any comments at all, and those two centers, particularly Rome, were less unfavorably disposed than during the preceding period. Military comments, except from Bari and Rome were almost entirely absent, and of the 15 received from Bari, 10 were unfavorable, while Rome's total of 14 were all unfavorable. Generally speaking the comments tell us nothing.

6286

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES.

After deteriorating steadily for some time, opinion became more favorable towards the allies during the period under review. The proportion of 8.9 to 1 in favor recorded during the previous period increased to 14.4 to 1.

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On the other hand military comments decreased in favor from 12.7 to 1 last period to 9.3 to 1 during the four weeks here reviewed. The improvement in civil opinion was largely due to the Rome figures, the ratio in favor increasing by nearly 100% during the period. Taranto, on the other hand, was responsible for the falling off in favorable military opinion.

Comments generally tell a story of unbounded relief and gratitude on the part of those more recently liberated, and reveal a tendency to become more critical as time goes on. But in all areas the favorable comments are largely the product of gratitude for benefits received, or of relief at the comparatively benevolent attitude of the Allies. There is also the hope that the Allies will aid Italy after the war, both materially and politically.

Unfavorable comments frequently spring from disappointment at the Allies not having done as much as had been expected of them. Some writers even go as far as admitting that the Allies have done much, and then finish by saying that they have not kept their promises and have fallen short of what was expected. Other adverse remarks are concerned with the behavior of men and officers in the cities, particularly towards women. Correspondents here and there point out that the Germans were more correct in their behavior in this respect. Another cause of complaint is that the freedom they expected has not come to them. The hotels in Rome come in for criticism because of what goes on in them, and there is some grumbling over prices being raised because of the amount of money the Allied troops can spend. The following comments illustrate various trends of thought:-

(A) Favorable.

"Thanks to the victorious Allied Army we are extremely well off here. We enjoy absolute liberty after eight months of unheard of sufferings. Victuals are not lacking." (26/9/44 - Chieti)

A girl writes: "We have travelled with the Poles and the English. They are really good and respectful people." (29/9/44 - Aquila)

"Today I would gladly stay with the Allies, even without food, chiefly because of tranquillity, but also because they are civilized people and act in a kindly way towards everybody." (28/9/44 - Aquila) 6285

"It is certainly true that, now the Allies have arrived, we have begun to breathe again because of their kind treatment and because we have regained our liberty." (30/9/44 - Sulmona)

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"I have travelled over hundreds of kilometers, and in every town and city I have seen how hard the German yoke has been. In contrast you now see serene faces lacking that mask of terror which the German hordes left upon the countenances of our people during their stay here." (23/9/44 - Naples)

"At last we breathe an atmosphere of freedom, and we owe it to the gallant armies of the two most civilized countries of the world - England and America. Their soldiers are always so friendly with us, and people get along with them in a brotherly spirit." (11/9/44 - Rome)

"In the last few days the Allies have distributed double food rations. It is really marvelous what they are doing. To think that they have loaded their shoulders with such a burden as supporting 45 million people." (11/9/44 - Rome)

"Thank God we are being helped by the Allies, and they do it in such a gentlemanly manner. Let us hope they will not abandon us amidst all these widespread ruins." (16/9/44 - Taranto)

(B) Unfavorable.

"What do you think of the newly reached 'freedom'? Are you really enjoying anything like it? Here the population is disappointed, for they had pinned great hopes on the Allies, and they now feel they have been deceived. For instance, the Germans did not have many cars, and yet they never refused to allow us to travel on their trucks whenever we asked them. With the Allies there is nothing doing. They simply won't dream of giving us a lift." (10/9/44 - Taranto)

"Thank and bless God for being away from Rome in such a period of hardship. We still lack many indispensable things, and the Allies, who had promised so much, are just leading us to a slow and happy death." (14/9/44 - Rome)

"When the Allies came my house was plundered once more. At Ceccano French and Moroccan troops raised hell. In my house they smashed up all the furniture, broke the looking-glasses and the window panes. They slashed everything with their sabres." (11/9/44 - Ceccano)

"I was afraid of the Germans. Now I have greater fear of the Moroccans. They are very ugly. Their very appearance inspires fear. You were right when you described them to me as resembling wild beasts." (4/9/44 - Rieti)

"All the hotels and best buildings here in Rome have been requisitioned by the Allies, above all by the Americans who have turned them into clubs and... where they ask Roman women who are proving to be of an incredible coarseness."

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They requisition cars too, so be careful. (So far we are being treated as a beaten country. Although the Allies are doing a lot they have not kept their promises...an American soldier gets 6,000 lire a month, an Italian workman 55 lire a day which is insufficient for one person's food. From this you'll get an idea of what life is like here." (19/9/44 - Rome)

"Life during the nine months of German occupation was relatively quiet, more than they would have made you believe. Anyway, living was cheap, whereas today we live only on the black market, and the Allies' behavior is such that it makes us regret those who have gone. One cannot go about in Rome without hearing oneself addressed with a more or less undesirable compliment by one of them. Besides they do not know how to distinguish between the good and the bad. In short, I never wanted them, and now less than at first." (16/9/44)

8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION.

Optimism declined during the period. Civilian comments during the previous four weeks were 25.4 to 1 in favor, whereas the figures for the month under review were 18.2 to 1. Military comments showed an even greater decline in optimism, the relative figures being 10.5 to 1 and 4.5 to 1. In only one case, however, were unfavorable comments in the majority, and that was amongst the Rome military mail which produced 37 unfavorable to 18 favorable. The following are a few typical opinions:-

"Our country must remain under the control of the Germans for a short time yet, because the Allies are tightening their grip round Germany still more from all sides, springing offenses from which the Germans cannot escape." (7/9/44 - Taranto)

"The enemy is given no respite, and the Allies are advancing in an admirable way. Their forces and equipment are powerful, and their organization is astonishing. It is sufficient to notice that they have means of assault and transportation everywhere." (30/9/44 - Naples)

"Sometime ago I was hoping that our dear ones in German occupied Italy would soon be free. But things have taken on a very slow rhythm. And meanwhile there will be total destruction there." (20/9/44 - Taranto)

"I was hoping that after the taking of Pisa the Allies would just race to La Spezia and thus liberate Coreglia also. But they are just marking time, and the Lord only knows when they will set free our dear ones." (11/9/44 - Taranto)

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9. POPULAR MILITARY SITUATION

Civilian opinion on the future military situation, unlike the loss of optimism on the present situation, surged upwards during the period under review, and the comments were 75.6 to 1 in favor as compared with 23.6 to 1 during the previous four weeks. The figures for military opinion are deceptive. Neither Rome nor Naples produced any comments at all; and whereas the previous period produced no adverse comments from any source, the period under review mustered 23 as against 334 favorable. Therefore the ratio figures for the two periods appear to show a tremendous set back in optimism, and this in fact is not the case. The following are typical extracts:-

"Our country will soon be out of German hands, for the Allies are tightening their grip on Germany every day." (16/9/44 - Taranto)

"The Allies have liberated France and Belgium. Now they are freeing Holland and are fighting on German territory. Rumania and Bulgaria have declared war on Germany, and their armed forces, together with Russian and Yugoslav armies, are liberating their countries from the German oppression. The Russians are doing well in East Prussia too. As you can easily understand, Germany may collapse at any moment." (16/9/44 - Taranto)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS

Civilian opinion on industrial prospects became steadily more unfavorable each week throughout the period, though the extent of the movement was slight. The total effect was that the ratio of unfavorable to favorable comments increased from 1.4 to 1 during the previous period to 2.3 to 1 during the four weeks under review. Military opinion showed no change, and, as during the previous period, neither Rome nor Naples produced any military comments.

Bari and Syracuse were the most pessimistic of the centers. Chieti and Naples, on the other hand, produced a majority of favorable comments. The two following comments from Chieti give the picture of the prospects of a town whose industries the Germans evidently set out to destroy:-

"Work is lacking because all the plants have been damaged by the Germans, who also took all the machinery away. Our factories are doomed to a standstill for a long time to come. In fact I don't see how they can be set to work again." (16/9/44 - Chieti)

"The war at Chieti did not cause damage to the buildings. But the industries, which absorbed so much labor before the war, are all inactive today due to the damage caused by the retreating Germans, and there is little hope of their going back to their former activity." (16/9/44 - Chieti)

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11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

There has been little change in civilian outlook on agricultural prospects during the period, though the optimism of military mail has decreased by half as compared with the previous four weeks.

Bari was particularly optimistic, comments being 15 to 1 in favor. Rieti and Syracuse also took a happy view. Indeed there were no centers in which unfavorable comments were in a majority. The following extracts from letters give the results of various crops:-

"The season here has been excellent. We have plenty of wheat, beans, potatoes, flour, corn etc." (4/9/44 - Rieti)

"The wheat harvest has been very good. The grapes, although having suffered from disease, will be sufficient for us. They are a little late in maturing." (15/9/44 - Rieti)

"As to the harvest the outlook is very good. The vineyards look better than last year. The wheat harvest has been abundant for us. The beans are plentiful. In short it is sufficient to say that, rather than a shortage of products of all kinds, we shall have more than we need." (20/9/44 - Frosinone, Aquila)

"We have had an abundant harvest of corn, and also other products." (27/9/44 - Terracina, Aquila)

"Thank God the Germans did not take away any cattle with them, so we have quite a good number of cows and calves." (30/9/44 - Tusa, Aquila)

"Most of the laborers have resumed their activity, and the peasants are restoring the war-damaged country. The inhabitants are rapidly returning home both to Leghorn and Pisa." (14/9/44 - Leghorn)

"Regarding the land we have had a good wheat crop, about 11 quintals, and 16 of corn, although for the latter, owing to the war, we have not been able to hoe the ground. We have also finished vintaging a short time before normal because the grapes have suffered owing to the lack of copper sulphate, and we could not buy it at 500 lire the kilo." (28/9/44 - Frosinone)

"The almonds have been harvested, but with very poor results. Now we have started vintaging. The quantity and quality of the grapes are not exceptionally good, but just a fair average. Let us hope that the prices won't go down for we have to pay very high wages to the laborers." (25/9/44 - Taranto)

6281

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12. EMPLOY NT.

Civilian mail took a slightly more gloomy view of employment during the period, the proportion of unfavorable to favorable comments being 6.7 to 1 as against 3.2 to 1 during the previous four weeks. On the other hand military mail became more optimistic.

Naples and Rome took a particularly pessimistic view. Comments from the former city were in the proportion of 24.5 to 1 against, while the capital's figures were 12.2 to 1. In both cases these figures represent a marked worsening of opinion since the previous period. Syracuse also registered extreme pessimism, its total of 63 comments being all unfavorable. Taranto, as in the previous period, was the only center in which favorable comments were in the majority.

Closed factories and the reduction of office staffs have contributed to unemployment. Professional men are also finding that there is nothing for them to do. The following comments give variations of a similar story:-

"Here everyone is unemployed because the factory is closed, and I want to beg you, if possible, to help my sons, Peppino of 19 years and Gigetto of 17 years, to get work in Naples." (10/9/44 - Rieti)

"At Rieti there is much unemployment. All my brother accountants are out of work. It is a true misfortune." (14/9/44 - Rieti)

"What can a woman do with a law degree? Not even men with this degree can find work, and there are thousands of temporary employees with degrees who have been dismissed and cannot find anything to do." (18/9/44 - Rome)

"Unemployment is raging in Rome, and many office workers are selling personal belongings and even furniture to avoid starvation." (18/9/44 - Rome)

"In the line of unemployment the situation in Rome is hopeless. The closing down for good of innumerable offices has caused 200,000 people to be out of work. How can anyone hope to find a job in such a chaos?" (11/9/44 - Rome)

"Thousands of unemployed workmen have no other way of making a living than by going in for black market activities." (18/9/44 - Terni) 6200

"Life is blooming again here. There is plenty of work, especially in my line; and when work is obtainable, one has nothing to worry about." (30/9/44 - Isernia)

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Gordon W. McKean

GORDON W. MCKEAN,
Lt. Col., Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

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SECRET NO. 52

CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP, PUBLIC OPINION REPORT

2/2 ~ 30/2

194

PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED)		FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION	
		F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
Agulha	28,120	206	850	12	445	24	190	7	47	2	2	1	0
Barra (Civ.)	126,310	17	927	0	642	0	694	2	209	20	23	0	0
(Milit.)	67,334	13	150	1	240	12	181	3	85	102	8	3	15
Chiofi	32,435	42	146	11	67	8	71	0	0	1	3	1	1
Dagga	25,607	0	57	0	20	0	13	0	14	0	4	2	0
Naples (Civ.)	184,120	31	1745	3	619	0	724	6	134	38	15	2	0
(Milit.)	12,110	254	11	130	8	133	15	0	0	5	16	0	0
Palermo	156,469	8	108	5	120	2	53	0	165	0	15	1	0
Rheda	11,379	20	295	3	25	2	14	0	1	0	2	0	4
Rome (Civ.)	303,363	673	6324	20	888	22	159	45	876	199	203	96	97
(Milit.)	26,822	38	44	8	89	3	16	0	0	14	6	0	14
Siracusa	24,674	6	177	0	53	0	36	18	27	48	6	0	0
Verona (Civ.)	35,216	156	280	20	154	23	143	51	30	57	122	41	54
(Milit.)	125,929	636	484	65	368	19	78	4	11	27	24	1	2
Total Civilians	917,813	1060	20929	80	3060	77	2397	128	1493	366	474	84	157
Total Military	221,497	941	997	809	645	167	290	7	96	128	51	4	31
Totals:	1,140,308	2001	11926	289	3705	244	2678	135	1595	494	525	88	188

This report is based upon 50 letters per censor being checked daily on a 6-day weekly basis. The number of censors employed each week averaged 250, making a total of 300,300 letters examined for this four-week tally.

1584

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9 - 30/9

191

	HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
U																				
45	25	150	7	87	2	2	1	0	72	2	6	0	6	0	10	32	53	20	12	69
49	3	694	0	209	23	23	0	0	367	6	386	0	503	0	18	170	134	9	13	75
40	12	181	3	85	102	8	3	25	299	0	252	25	329	25	35	52	20	25	21	44
67	8	71	0	0	1	3	1	2	16	7	9	1	0	0	34	6	38	6	10	34
30	0	13	0	14	0	4	2	0	13	4	3	1	0	1	0	0	4	4	2	5
619	0	724	6	134	30	15	2	0	359	26	127	4	130	0	42	31	93	40	10	319
8	133	15	0	0	5	13	0	0	132	3	294	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
130	2	53	0	265	0	15	3	0	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	3	14	0	1	0	1	0	4	36	7	2	0	0	0	0	7	14	1	0	17
848	22	459	45	876	193	203	36	97	1081	83	106	13	92	7	62	111	94	58	56	685
29	3	16	0	0	14	6	0	14	15	13	12	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
53	0	36	15	27	48	6	0	0	46	0	94	0	40	0	0	46	69	11	0	60
154	23	143	51	30	57	122	41	54	93	32	60	27	2	2	45	97	139	165	75	75
368	19	78	4	11	27	24	1	2	455	69	276	106	55	8	36	14	203	93	11	26
3060	77	2377	128	1493	368	474	83	157	2329	147	802	44	753	10	150	132	637	254	202	1318
645	167	290	7	96	148	51	4	21	893	25	846	188	264	23	47	96	261	124	22	70
3705	244	2678	135	1595	496	525	88	188	3012	242	1648	122	1237	33	251	618	898	373	222	1428

g checked daily on a 6-day
averaged 250, making a
y.

1585

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785015

REPORT NO. 68

APPENDIX 4

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

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		FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION	
WEEK ENDING		F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
9/9/44	CIV	1	6.8	1	94.9	1	20.9	1	12.3	1.1	1.1	1	1.6	13.3	1	39.7	1	43.2	
	MIL	1	3.8	1	3.8	1	1.7	0	6.4	4	1.1	0	8	28.5	1	9.2	1	175	
16/9/44	CIV	1	13	1	46.3	1	84.7	1	12.1	1	1.1	1	2.1	13.4	1	17.9	1	97.5	
	MIL	1	11	1	3.3	1	1.3	1	9	90	1	1	7	10.8	1	3.5	1	45	
23/9/44	CIV	1	15.9	1	54.9	1	32.2	1	11	1	1.4	1	1.9	18.3	1	11.9	1	140	
	MIL	1	5.1	1	4.6	1	1.2	0	16	2.2	1	1	8	6.6	1	3.1	1	6.2	
30/9/44	CIV	1	12.6	1	30.3	1	28.1	1	11.2	1	2.3	1.7	1	1	4	7.7	1	5.3	
	MIL	1	1	1	2	1	2.2	1	2.2	1.7	1	1	4	7.7	1	5.3	1	8.3	
AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING																			
30/9/44	CIV	1	10.4	1	38.2	1	32.1	1	11.7	1	1.3	1	1.9	14.4	1	18.2	1	75.3	
	MIL	1	1.3	1	3.1	1	1.7	1	13.7	2.9	1	1	7.7	9.3	1	4.5	1	16.7	

APPENDIX A

6278

TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION		AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION		EMPLOYMENT	
U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F
1	20.9	1	12.9	1.1	11	1	1.6	13.3	1	39.7	1	43.2	1	1	3.2	3.6	1	2	8.1
1	1.7	0	6.4	1	11	0	8	28.5	1	9.2	1	175	0	1	2.3	1	1	1	24
1	84.7	1	12.1	1	1.1	1	2.1	19.4	1	17.9	1	97.5	1	1	2.7	2.6	1	1	8.1
1	1.3	1	3	30	1	1	7	10.8	1	3.5	1	45	1	1	3.1	2.4	1	2.5	1
1	32.2	1	11	1	1.2	1	1.9	18.3	1	11.9	1	140	0	1	1.3	2.3	1	1	5.2
1	1.2	0	16	2.2	1	1	8	6.6	1	3.1	1	6.2	1	1	2.6	2.1	1	2	1.5
1	28.1	1	11.2	1	2.3	1.7	1	1	4	7.7	1	5.3	1	18.3	1	1	1	1	3.6
1	2.2	1	2.2	1.7	1	1	4	7.7	1	5.3	1	8.3	1	1	1.3	1.6	1	1	2.6
1	31.1	1	11.7	1	1.1	1	1.9	14.4	1	18.2	1	75.3	1	1	2.3	2.5	1	1	6.7
1	1.7	1	13.7	2.9	1	1	7.7	9.3	1	4.5	1	16.7	1	1	2.3	2.1	1	1	3.2

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Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

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447 Sec'y Gen.
Rec'd 24/9/44
By 176

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 55

29 September 1944

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 2nd September 1944.

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

This report is based on 327,600 letters checked during the four weeks ended 2nd September 1944. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relation between favorable and unfavorable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

1. FOOD SITUATION.

Food continues to be the most widely discussed subject. During the four weeks under review the position appears to have deteriorated, for the ratio of unfavorable comments among civilian letters has risen from 4.6 to 1 in the previous period to 13.3 to 1 during the current four weeks. Military mail, on the other hand, reveals increased satisfaction, and adverse comments are only 30% more than those in favor. As usual Naples was heavily in favor and Bari was markedly unfavorable.

From the civilian point of view Bari was extremely pessimistic, the ratio of the comments being more than 100 to 1 against. The position in Rome has deteriorated badly. During the previous period the comments were 3.6 to 1 against, but the ratio has risen to 14.9 to 1 during the period under review. In the great majority of cases the complaints hinge on the prices of food stuffs. The following comments are typical: 6277

"Every day the situation is getting worse. Prices have doubled. A quintal of wheat costs 13,000 lire. How can people afford this? We do our best to carry on, but an income of 10,000 lire a month would hardly be enough to keep us going". (6/8/44 - Grosinone)

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"We are starving. We have no milk, no sugar, no oil, no fats. We live on greens and tomatoes, but they are awfully expensive too, the price ranging from 20 to 25 lire a kilo. Potatoes cost 45 lire a kilo, and fresh fruits are even more expensive. This morning sweet-peppers were being sold at 35 lire a kilo". (2/9/44 - Rome)

"Not having succeeded in transferring us to northern Italy, the Nazi-Fascist rascals thought of making us starve by giving us only 100 grams of lousy bread made of lupin seeds and sawdust. Everything else we had to buy on the black market at incredible prices: bread 160 lire a kilo, flour 240 lire, cheese 500 lire, potatoes 25 lire, sugar 400 lire, and oil 2400 lire a two-litre flask". (29/8/44 - Rome)

"Soon after the Allied occupation prices went sky-high. Sugar costs 150 to 200 lire a kilo, meat 250 lire, eggs 15 or 20 lire each, a chicken 300 lire etc. We haven't seen salt or matches for months". (11/8/44 - Campobasso)

"When I arrive I will tell you all about what we have been through and what we are still suffering. It is sufficient to say that we only eat one piece of bread every 24 hours. But my real worry is on account of the girls who go fasting to school in the morning, and when they return they do not have what they would like". (1/9/44 - Rome)

"...So many people have had to sell everything, and one of my friends who lives in Via Emanuele Filiberto has had to sell everything, furniture, clothes, and last week her father had his gold teeth taken out and sold them too". (8/8/44 - Rome)

From Taranto, where the position is more favorable, there are letters with passages such as the following:-

"It is not so bad now because they give us 440 grams of bread, and we also get tinned meat of all kinds". (27/8/44 - Taranto)

"Our living conditions are much better now, for we are given flour, pastry, dried vegetables etc... Thank God plenty of food is obtainable". (10/8/44 - Taranto)

2. CLOTHING.

Civilian mail is extremely pessimistic about clothing. Since the previous period the adverse comments have increased from 19.1 to 1 to 47.8 to 1. The chief cause of complaint is that of prices, though the absence of shoes is also the subject of many letters. There were no favorable comments at all from Bari and Foggia. In Rome, where unfavorable comments outnumbered those favorable by 12 to 1 during the previous four weeks, the ration for the period under review had risen to 55 to 1. Military mail showed an opposite movement of opinion, and the adverse figure of 3.6 to 1 compares with 2.1 to 1 during the previous period. Nearly all comments, such as the following, refer to prices:

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"It is impossible to buy anything. A tailor in Bari asked Albert 35,000 lire for a suit. Albert's brother, who got married last week, paid 18,000 lire for a suit made of such bad material that he wanted to denounce the merchant who sold it to him". (31/8/44 - Bari)

"People must keep indoors because they have no shoes and no dresses. The minimum price of cotton dress-material is 700 lire a yard. I am trying to carry on with that old frock you gave me". (26/8/44 - Taranto)

"The question of clothing is a real problem, and it cannot be ignored, for shoes at least must be repaired frequently or renewed. They are sold at enormous prices". (19/8/44 - Crispiano)

"I bought a ready made working suit made of very poor material for 800 lire, but I can only wear it a few hours a day for if I soiled it, and had to wash it, it would come to pieces". (29/8/44 - Taranto)

"The clothes once sold by Serapont at 5,000 lire are now sold at 12,000 to 15,000 lire, and sometimes at 18,000". (17/8/44 - Manziano)

3. HOUSING.

Housing also is becoming a more acute problem according to civilian mail, and there has been a large increase in the proportion of unfavorable comments during the period under review, the ratio being 39 to 1 against as compared with 19.1 to 1 during the preceding period. Every center without exception is most pessimistic; and in Bari there was not a single favorable comment. The chief causes of complaint are requisitioning by the Allies and the high rents. Another evil has grown up in the case of apartments with controlled rents, for landlords have tried to get over this by refusing to let unless the prospective tenant buys the furniture, and of course an exorbitant price is placed on the latter. The following comments give various aspects of the problem:-

"How ever far your imagination may go, you will never succeed in realising what a tragedy life is here in every way. Try to find a room in a boarding house! It would mean an expenditure of at least 10-12,000 lire a month for two people. I am now earning 2,000 lire a month, but having board and lodging I feel quite well off. Linda has been hunting for a room for the last six months, and she is still hunting for one". (29/8/44 Rome)

6215

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"Houses are to be found but at very high prices. If one finds some place with a modest rent, it is because it is controlled, and the landlord wants one to buy the furniture in it, and wants prices that always go from 100,000 lire upwards". (18/8/44 - Rome)

"The scarcity of lodgings here is also a cause of hardship, worse than hunger. This is not due to a lack of lodgings, but to the fact that the American soldiers have invaded all the furnished rooms". (26/8/44 - Rome)

"I am looking for a house in Bari as I would like to settle down with my family there. But, believe me, it's impossible. Just think that the rent of a tiny three roomed flat is 2,500 lire a month". (21/8/44 - Bari)

"House requisitioning swept on us like a tornado. All families had their houses occupied in some way, either by Americans, English or others. And requisitioning still goes on". (23/8/44 - Bari)

4. INCOME.

Civilian mail shows a less unfavorable opinion towards wages and salaries than during the previous period, but military mail is more pessimistic than ever, and the ratio of comments was 95.5 to 1 against. The comments from Taranto are interesting in that it is the only center in which civilian comments had a favorable majority. There were no military comments at all. The worst conditions appear to be in Bari, Foggia, and Palermo. The chief trouble is that prices keep going up while wages and salaries remain much the same. The following are a selection from the comments:

"Are the wages you earn sufficient to keep you going? For us it is absolutely impossible. We have had to borrow 10,000 lire from the Insurance Company as an advance on the 60,000 which come to maturity in the current year". (25/8/44 - Grotteaglie)

"I tell you that notwithstanding Alexander's monthly wages amounting to more than 2,000 lire, my own wages of 2,000 lire, plus an extra allowance of 4,000 lire, we have not got a cent left over. Life is very bad for everybody. If we were to buy a pair of shoes for each of us, it would cost us 3,000 lire". (22/8/44 - Taranto)

"Life is awfully expensive here and we are at a loss how to carry on. Every month office workers have to sell some personal belongings in order to add something to the scanty wages they earn". (12/8/44 - Siracusa)

"We are struggling on. Our scanty wages are always kept down to the same level, while prices are rising daily. We have to make enormous sacrifices in order to manage a one course meal a day". (11/8/44 - Bari)

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"The State gives me a pension of 48 lire a day and the freedom of choice between throwing myself into the Tiber or slowly dying of starvation". (20/6/44 - Rome)

"Life has become a regular torment. In order not to die of hunger I see that about 9,000 lire are spent monthly, whereas the salary is about 4,000 lire. It is all very discouraging and despairing, but we must be optimists and not lose our faith in the future". (30/3/44 - Rome)

"Angelo earns 5,000 lire a month, but what is the good of this when one needs at least 9,000 lire to get along on a modest scale. You can have no idea of the cost of life in Rome. Everything can be found, but only in the black market, and at what prices!" (9/8/44 - Rome)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

Both civilian and military mail show the National Government as having dropped in favor. Civilian comments were equally divided during the period, whereas the previous four weeks produced a ratio of 1.6 to 1 in favor. Military comments were generally more unfavorable than otherwise except from Bari where the proportion was about 10 to 1 in favor. Thus the ratio in Appendix A is somewhat misleading; for its favorable figure is due entirely to Bari.

Among civilian letters we find that Bari, Naples and Samsone were well in favor, with Rome slightly in favor. Florence and Palermo were decidedly adverse. The comments themselves do not tell us very much except that the unfavorable ones are due either to fear, to the continued presence of Fascists in governmental posts, or to a feeling that the administration is incompetent and misled. The following extracts are examples:-

"They are a lot of hypocrites and liars. Instead of working for the welfare and the reconstruction of the country, they do nothing but talk and make fools of themselves. Under the Fascist regime thieves ruled us, but now there are even more rogues about". (28/6/44 - Crotona)

"I would like to tell you more, but I am afraid of writing because in Italy no one is allowed to express his opinion freely. And this happened not only under the dictatorial Fascist regime, but it still goes on under the present 'free government'". (7/8/44 - Laterza)

"When you come back you will find that many things have changed. They have done away with Fascism only to let Bolshevism in. Italy will soon be a Bolshevik country". (31/8/44 - Bari)

0213

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"All those who had been ringleaders of Fascism have remained in the ministry. The innocent are punished. It is shameful and cowardly the way they go on. Let us hope that one day the wheel will turn for them also. I wish, my dear, that the war would finish quickly so that I could escape from this city full of infamous people and traitors". (30/8/44 - Rome)

"There are silly decrees that ruin everything. The further we go on and the more difficult they make everything for us, the more bitter existence becomes for us in every respect. I would be happy if some general arose because the people can not go on any longer, so that these chiefs would have to think of adjusting matters a little instead of indulging in so much vain gossip. They think only about parties and the purge, (and how many there are among them who ought to be purged) may the devil take them. However they all continue to laugh at our troubles while many are dying uselessly. How do not say that I am making up a tragedy and that I have exaggerated. There is an unbearable situation here, and I fear that at some time or another a last straw will break the General's back". (20/6/44 - Rome)

"Now installed at the War Ministry are all those who came from Salerno where they enjoyed all the compensations, while the dangers and the German heel were our lot. However, to those of us of a certain age nothing is surprising. There remains only the bitterness of seeing Italy in the hands of people who do not know how to command". (31/3/44 - Rome)

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

Opinion concerning provincial administration took a decided turn for the worse during the four weeks under review. During the previous period the comments were 2 to 1 in favor which was an improvement; but confidence has slumped, and the figures for the period under review are 7.2 to 1 against.

Palermo was the most decided in its views, there being no favorable comments at all from that center as against 317 unfavorable. Rome was also heavily unfavorable. Bari was the only center with a majority of favorable comments. There were very few military comments, but they were nearly all unfavorable.

"The High Commissioner has gone. Let us hope that the newly appointed one won't be such an idiot as his predecessor was". (7/8/44 - Catania)

6272

"Since the Italian Provincial Administration has been established here, things don't run smoothly any longer. The Italians are incapable of ruling, and they can't get the farmers to bring the wheat to the dumps". (7/8/44 - Palermo)

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The following favorable comment seek to show that strictness is not a cause for objection when benefits are likely to result:-

"At Latorza the authorities have never been so strict before. At the mill no one is allowed to grind any grain exceeding the quantity legally permitted. This is done in order to avoid cornering, and it is the only system that may lead to an increase in food rations for everybody". (7/8/44 - Latorza)

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES.

Both civilian and military mail maintained the downward trend of opinion noticed during the previous period. However, both Palermo and Siracusa produced not a single unfavorable opinion, and Bari only one as against 461 in favor. Rome and Toronto were the least favorably disposed centers, both as regards civilian and military mail. Favorable comments are actuated by relief at being freed from Fascism and the Germans, by a feeling that justice will be done, and by gratitude for benefits received. Unfavorable comments are often due to bitterness over Italy's unhappy lot, a feeling which includes a tendency to place the blame on the Allies for not looking after Italy better in the past. There is also resentment at what is considered to be contemptuous treatment at the hands of the Allies, and also the inevitable criticism over behavior towards Italian women. The following comments illustrate some of the various favorable and unfavorable viewpoints:-

"At last we are enjoying the freedom brought to us by the magnificent Allied troops, troops of the most civilized peoples in the world, that is the English and the Americans. We owe this freedom to the brave and generous Anglo-American forces who like us and who fraternize with the people". (2/9/44 - Rome)

"After so many years true justice is triumphing in Italy. This is the work of our liberators who will now release you too. A few days ago I went to the Palace of Justice and was present at 7 various cases. I was struck by so many things -- less bureaucracy. The judge is an Allied officer, as is also the Public Prosecutor. There are some Italian interpreters, very young men and thus of a wholesome mind, not contaminated by Fascism. So the accused finds himself faced not so much by a judge as by a father with understanding and human justice". (5/8/44 - Rome)

"The Allies ought to do away with the contemptuous 627 they show towards the Italians on every occasion. It is not by enslaving us that they can relieve our grievances. We are starving and we need food, that's true, but we want to be enabled to work for our living, and not to be left to live on alms thrown at us like crumbs from the rich man's table to the starving beggar". (2/9/44 - Rome)

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"Let us hope that peace be finally reached, and that the so called Allies will not give Italy such unfair treatment as they did at Versailles". (18/8/44 - Brindisi)

"I hear that you have sold the calf as you feared the French troops might seize it. I am rather worried on account of these things. Don't ever go about alone, and don't carry money on you, because it might be taken from you. Be careful, as those people are very treacherous, especially the Moroccans". (17/8/44 - Taranto)

"Casati is all out with lots of well meant purposes and designs, but his action is hampered by the difficulty of making the Allies understand our wants. It is difficult to get along with people who have an entirely different way of thinking and feeling than we have". (13/8/44 - Rome)

8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION.

Civilian mail took a more favorable view of the present military situation during the period under review, the proportion of favorable to unfavorable comments being 25.4 to 1 as compared with 15.7 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Military mail showed little change, except that Rome produced more unfavorable comments than favorable, being the only center to do so. Unfavorable comments are usually due to weariness.

"The end of the war is at last looming up, and the final defeat of the Germans is nearing. All the world is longing for freedom and peace". (18/8/44 - Francavilla Fontana)

"It is not necessary to comment on present developments of the war as you can easily follow them. One thing is certain, the war will end soon with the victory of the Allies". (23/8/44 - Taranto)

"The war seemed to be nearing its end, but it is still going on endlessly. As it runs, destructions and sorrows were not enough. Let us still hope for the best, though we have even got tired of hoping". (2/9/44 - Taranto)

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION.

Civilian mail showed less optimism than it did during the preceding four weeks, the ratio in favor dropping from 40 to 1 to 23.6 to 1. With the exception of Bari military mail produced no comments at all, and Bari's figures were 333 favorable to nil unfavorable.

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"The future development looks very promising. The continuous Nazi defeats, and the dark and troublesome internal situation in Germany may mean only one thing, a rapid and more speedy victorious solution to this enormous conflict". (14/8/44 - Bari)

"The future looks very good from the military standpoint. The conditions in Germany are gradually becoming more disastrous, caught in a steel trap from all sides, bombed daily, with its industries destroyed or reduced to uselessness. We all believe that the day of complete and absolute victory for the United Nations is near at hand. Justice and liberty are soon to win over oppression and barbarity. Victory is appearing luminous and real on the horizon of oppressed and weary Europe". (21/8/44 - Bari)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS.

Civilian mail views the industrial prospects of the country less hopefully than it did during the previous period when the ratio of comments was 1.3 to 1 in favor. The figure for the period under review is 1.4 to 1 against. Bari and Syracuse were the most pessimistic. Naples appeared to be very optimistic on the few comments made, and Palermo and Taranto also showed favorable figures. Rome was considerably less pessimistic than during the preceding period. The following comments give various aspects of the problem as seen by the writers:-

"For the moment it is impossible to make use of one's own initiative in Rome, considering that even large firms, ours included, strain themselves to start new work, partly because of the purposefully indifferent attitude of the Allies, partly because of the Anti-Fascist struggle which involves everyone in suspicion, and partly because of shortage of building material and transport". (2/9/44 - Rome)

"The future? I don't know. We can indulge in a lot of wishful thinking but we cannot predict the future. We are desperate and downhearted. Industries have been destroyed, the factories and works completely denuded of machinery which the Germans carried away, and the power station is flattened. (We have 16 hours of current every 4 days, and it will go on like this for months and months.) Perhaps within a fortnight we will have three hours of gas a day. There is still no sign of an economic recovery, and the difficulties of getting even a little work are truly tremendous". (1/9/44 - Rome)

"As regards marketing activities I am of the opinion that the situation will grow worse and worse because of the shortage of transport. Even if the use of sailing boats and of motor vessels were allowed, the situation would not improve much". (15/8/44 - Taranto)

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11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

Hopes in the agricultural position have shrunk somewhat during the period. Whereas the comments were 4.4 to 1 in favor during the preceding four weeks, the figure has shrunk to 2.7 to 1. Military mail, on the other hand, was more hopeful. Naples and Palermo areas showed the greatest optimism, and Bari was also very hopeful, particularly in the military mail. No center produced a majority of unfavorable comments.

"This year wheat is really beautiful, and the crop will yield twice as much as last year. Maize is also abundant, and so are beans". (5/8/44 - Montello Avellino)

"Here we have everything, though the prices are very high. There is plenty of oil, and as regards the wheat crop, what could be produced at Gineza should be enough for the whole of Italy. If one bushel of grain is sown here, 25 or 30 bushels are more to be reaped". (19/8/44 - Gineza)

A writer describing the country round Rome, and stressing the abundance of the products cultivated there, goes on:-

"Vineyards are loaded with grapes, and pears and peaches are also good". (15/8/44 - Rome)

"At Campo degli Uccelli we are thrashing the grain, but the harvest has been very poor. There is no crop of beans or of lentils either". (8/8/44 - Campobasso)

12. EMPLOYMENT.

Compared with the previous period, the letters during the four weeks under review took a slightly less gloomy view of the problem of employment; and yet it was dark enough, only one person in six seeming to be at all satisfied. Palermo was particularly pessimistic, and produced not a single favorable comment. Rome opinion deteriorated, and the adverse figure rose from approximately 6 to 1 in the last period to 8.5 to 1 in the present period. Taranto was the only center where favorable comments were in the majority, the ratio being 1.3 to 1 in favor. The following comments tell various stories:-

"There is no hope of resuming our posts, and we won't be given our back wages either. That's the reward we get for having refused to follow Mussolini's government to Northern Italy. For me things are just as bad as they were before. Opportunists seize every chance to get on, and silly idealists are left behind". (10/8/44 - Naples)

6258

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"The class of office clerks and employees is the one that suffers most. They are actually dying of starvation, and nobody worries about their condition". (31/8/44 - Bari)

"From a financial point of view the war has greatly affected real estate owners and people earning fixed wages, whereas countrymen and speculators of all kinds have benefitted from it. Laborers make plenty of money. To these people war-time is the ideal business time. We must wait and see. Something is bound to happen". (26/8/44 - Taranto)

"Unemployment is ripe, and it is difficult to arrest its growth. Even professional men have been out of work since June 1943. Clerks find it impossible to meet the costs of living". (15/8/44 - Rome)

"We absolutely cannot carry on in this way anymore. I do nothing else but go round Rome from morning till night, and all this mortifies and demoralizes me because I would like to settle into any sort of work, but it is impossible because there is a state of unemployment that has never been known before". (12/8/44 - Rome)

"I am doing everything I can to find some work, but in this respect things are rather at a standstill. I don't believe I have ever been so disappointed. Here it is not a matter of saving in order to go on. I'm doing all that I can. We lack everything. Sometimes I do not have the strength to go on". (31/8/44 - Rome)

Gordon W. McKean
GORDON W. McKEAN,
Major, Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

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6267

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CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP, PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 12 August - 2 Sept. 1944
Report No. 55

PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED)	FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS WITH
	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	
Bari (Civ. 105,270 (Mil. 59,499)	8	943	0	510	0	430	3	204	33	7	20	7	262
Foggia 4446	19	697	2	460	1	314	2	193	187	11	3	22	508
Naples (Civ. 179,004 (Mil. 17,651)	9	80	0	70	1	32	0	42	0	5	0	6	22
Palermo 156,404	30	1095	8	411	2	375	8	51	41	13	3	3	310
Rome (Civ. 125,286 (Mil. 23639)	342	18	160	16	59	15	0	0	8	23	3	11	144
Siracusa 16,683	21	582	4	197	3	103	9	657	2	70	0	217	141
Teramo (Civ. 32,701 (Mil. 37,017)	630	0158	20	1099	21	510	62	338	30	203	24	139	1672
Total Civilians: 725,970	22	68	8	7	3	10	0	0	9	13	0	4	11
Total Military: 228,311	22	276	8	114	2	96	59	113	47	2	0	8	111
TOTAL: 954,281	113	213	11	109	14	80	61	56	32	103	22	52	28
	354	226	13	131	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	376
	923	1327	52	1507	43	1635	222	149	112	103	25	332	277
	724	1000	183	674	63	330	3	121	130	52	2	39	90
	717	14300	224	3181	106	1974	113	1450	141	155	27	563	268

This report is based upon 50 letters per censor being checked on a 6-day weekly basis. The number of censors employed each week averaged 273, making a total of 327,600 examined for this form.

5266

1599

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August - 2 Sept. 1944

HOUSING			INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
510	0	430	5	204	33	7	23	7	462	1	318	1	382	12	28	97	152	31	59	165
460	1	314	2	192	107	11	2	22	508	22	641	25	363	0	15	27	113	22	14	70
70	1	32	0	42	0	5	0	6	22	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
412	2	375	8	51	41	13	3	3	310	13	115	4	41	0	35	6	109	13	39	182
16	59	15	0	6	8	23	3	11	144	2	385	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
197	3	103	9	557	2	270	0	317	142	0	75	0	132	0	59	23	39	0	0	272
099	21	510	69	330	250	203	20	239	1674	257	150	9	75	11	62	124	146	58	121	1522
7	3	10	0	0	9	23	0	4	14	9	23	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
114	2	96	49	113	47	2	0	6	111	0	175	0	75	0	5	34	60	47	15	45
109	14	80	61	56	38	373	32	52	59	26	18	15	0	0	42	35	121	54	70	52
191	0			0	6	7	0	0	26	17	163	52	0	0	12	33	149	38	0	0
507	43	107	24	59	421	803	15	532	2778	309	296	32	707	30	249	397	639	237	294	1763
674	23	19		191	190	52	2	37	982	69	1166	116	393	0	26	60	312	60	14	70
3182	146	1972	113	150	541	655	77	569	2616	373	4572	118	1060	50	275	407	951	297	303	1804
being checked each week this foru-w																				

6266

PARAGRAPH 55

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APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

		FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NAT'L GOV'T		PROVINCIAL GOV'T		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION	
		U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F
12/5	CIV.	1	17	1	20.5	1	89.5	1	13.1	1	1.3	1	1.2	8.2	1	15.1	1	9.4	
	MIL.	1	2.1	1	27.4	1	68.6	0	70	1	2.3	1	0	5	1	4.5	1	77	
19/5	CIV.	1	15.3	1	72.4	1	27.3	1	6.2	1	1.3	1	1	5	1	38.2	1	75	
	MIL.	1	1.9	1	27.4	0	35	0	34	1	1.3	1	0	31.7	1	29.4	1	62	
2/5	CIV.	1	24.8	1	55.2	1	33.3	1	13.2	1	1.3	1	20.6	13.4	1	41.6	1	30.5	
	MIL.	1.5	2	1	1	1	4.8	0	10	1.4	2	1	1	23.3	1	14.9	1	148	
2/3	CIV.	1	11	1	24.4	1	10.7	1	7.3	1.2	1	1	3.2	10.7	1	20	1	159	
	MIL.	1.3	1	1	3.2	1	15.7	1	21.5	2.7	1	0	15	25	1	19.3	1	66	
AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING	CIV.	1	15.3	1	47.2	1	27	1	3.3	1	1	1	7.2	8.9	1	25.4	1	23.0	
15 SEPT. 1944	MIL.	1	1.3	1	3.0	1	5	1	95.5	2.5	1	1	16	12.7	1	10.5	1	353	

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APPENDIX A

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GRADE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

HOUSING		INCOME		NAT'L GOV'T		PROVINCIAL GOV'T		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT		
W	F	W	F	W	F	W	F	W	F	W	F	W	F	W	F	W	F	W	F	W
1	85.4	1	13.1	1	1.1	1	1.2	8.2	1	25.1	1	9.4	3	1	1.1	4.3	1	1	7.1	
1	68.6	0	70	2	3	1	0	0	5	1	4.5	1	77	0	1	5	15.5	1	1	6.3
1	21.3	1	6.2	1	3	1	1	5	6.1	1	38.2	1	75	1	1	1.2	2.5	1	1	6
0	35	1	30	2	3	1	0	0	31.7	1	29.4	1	62	0	1	3.7	4.1	1	1	1.7
2	30.3	1	13.2	1	1.3	1	20.6	33.4	1	41.6	1	30.5	1	1	1.9	2.3	1	1	6.5	
2	2.8	1	40	1	4	1	1	23.3	1	14.9	1	148	0	1	3.3	1.7	1	1	3.3	
1	38.7	1	7.3	1	2	1	1	3.2	10.7	1	20	1	269	0	1	1.8	2.2	1	1	4.3
2	1.4	1	32.5	3	7	1	0	15	23	1	19.3	1	66	0	1	1.1	1	9.4	1	29
1	29	1	7.3	1	1	1	7.2	6.9	1	25.4	1	23.6	1	1	1.4	2.7	1	1	5.9	
1	6	1	95.5	2	3	1	1	16	12.7	1	10.5	1	353	0	1	2.3	5.2	1	1	5

TYVE CONCRETE GROUP, PUBLIC OPINION REPORT

COMPLIMENTAL

REPORT No. 43

Province (Volume Censored)	Food Situation	Clothing		Housing		Income		National Government		Provincial Administration	
		U	T	U	T	U	T	U	T	U	T
Avellino 23482	66	81	0	22	0	13	0	9	0	0	11
Bari (Civ. 121,725)	29	2296	2	524	6	424	13	237	116	23	4
(Mil. 109,949)	61	1124	3	360	7	268	2	112	120	16	2
Benevento (Civ. 109,692)	44	10	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
(Mil. 145)	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Campobasso 12969	50	36	3	25	9	11	2	12	1	0	4
Naples (Civ. 181,433)	143	1028	6	355	12	297	3	76	71	24	5
(Mil. 18,672)	160	11	25	6	9	6	0	0	0	0	0
Palermo 120,363	43	527	19	293	26	138	5	764	0	0	2
Rome (Civ. 386,713)	1611	5813	50	618	23	342	50	277	27	108	171
(Mil. 28,294)	126	92	4	18	11	9	0	0	6	2	10
Siracusa 22005	27	476	11	227	13	160	13	100	79	3	0
SPS (Outgoing 4268)	23	69	11	113	7	10	0	7	12	2	0
Taranto (Civ. 47006)	162	269	26	125	15	145	62	48	101	163	64
(Mil. 90527)	266	189	23	224	0	0	0	0	18	32	0
Total Civ. 950993	2208	9604	127	3248	102	3942	119	1524	480	391	125
Total Mil. 247594	609	1423	66	628	27	402	2	142	145	39	12
Totals: 1,198,592	2817	10228	203	2576	129	2355	121	1667	625	430	137

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Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

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HQ A.C.C. APO 394
96 Sec'y Gen.
Rec'd 2 Sept 44
By DMR

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 43

5 September 1944

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian
and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 5th August 44

TO: G-2 (Communications Censorship), AFHQ, APO 612

This report is based on 353,400 letters checked during
the four weeks ended 5th August 1944. This does not include any
military mail from the front lines.

Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the rela-
tion between favorable and unfavorable comments on every subject
each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is re-
duced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding num-
ber of comments of the opposite opinion.

1. FOOD SITUATION.

There is a fractional increase in the proportion of un-
favorable comments as compared with the previous period. It is
interesting to note that during the latter period each of the
first three weeks showed a more favorable outlook than the pre-
vious one. There was then a slight slump. Possibly the effect
of an increase in rations was wearing off. The period under re-
view reveals an opposite movement of opinion. Civilian mail, in
the first week, was unfavorable by 2.8 to 1. Each week there-
after the proportion of unfavorable comments increased, and closed
at 7.8 to 1. Military mail was variable, but was generally less
unfavorable than civilian.

Bari, Palermo and Siracusa are centers where the food
situation seems to be particularly bad. Benevento was the only
district where civilian comments were chiefly in favor. Military
mail reveals violent contrasts. At Bari, for example, unfavorable
comments were nearly twenty times more than the favorable, while
at Naples, where the Italian troops participate in Allied rations,
the comments were about 15 to 1 in favor. In Rome civilian comments
are about 20% less unfavorable than the average for the country as
a whole, while military comments are slightly in favor.

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The chief complaint in most centers is that of high prices. Even where food is comparatively abundant it is out of the reach of most people, and since the ration cards only entitle the holders to a limited variety of commodities, and often to small amounts of the same, there is much genuine hardship. The following comments are typical of many:

"Here living is very expensive. Bread sells at 90 and 100 lire per kg., fish for 150 and 200 lire, and the same applies to other food items." (27/7/44 - Triggiani, Bari)

"Everything may be found here, but at very high prices. One kg. of cheese costs 400 lire, dry cottage cheese 250 lire, beef 180 lire, and lamb 130 lire. As to fruit we have never seen such prices before." (27/7/44 - Cenosa di Puglia, Bari)

"To satisfy your curiosity I shall quote some prices, but don't let them frighten you! An egg costs from 50 to 70 lire, fruit 70 lire per kg., lemons 40 lire per kg., a litre of olive oil 2,000 lire, and salt 150 lire per kg. I am not quoting the rest in order not to bewilder you any further." (12/7/44 - Rome)

"There is much hunger in Rome. We are deprived of everything, even of salt. This precious and basic food item is sold at 350 lire per kg. on the Black Market. Olive oil sells at 2,000 and more lire per flasco (less than 2 litres); bread at 120 per kg. Meat can no longer be found. Pasta products, rice, beans, etc., can always be found, but they cost 500 lire per kg. (13/7/44 - Rome)

As a contrast to the above, the following letters particularly those from Avellino and Benevento, speak of the improved conditions in those centers:

"The city has had a magnificent re-birth, and the things that are sold are in such great quantities that the place looks like the old, pre-war Avellino. In the midst of so much abundance I think with sorrow about you and the little ones existing in Rome among privations; I mean that in Rome you do not yet see cottage cheese, butter, cheese and similar dairy products, and milk, bread, potatoes and fruit in the very great quantities that we have here. Our rations are quite abundant... The market is overflowing with vegetables and the prices are very reasonable." (28/7/44 - Avellino)

"As to food we are doing fairly well here. The distribution by the commune office functions very well, and this month we shall also be given canned meat. On Sunday our butchers' shops will begin to operate, and beef will be available to the people." (Benevento, 13/7/44)

"You wish to know how we are getting along here. Well, not so badly. Our rations were increased! Now we get 300 grams of bread daily. On 1st August we shall get 400 grams of bread and 100 grams of pasta products. Potatoes are abundant at 11 lire per kg." (Apice - 13/7/44)

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"Here at Martina life is back to its normal rhythm. Nothing has been lacking to us for some time now. The Black Market is disappearing daily so that all that may be eaten comes from our ration cards. Our rations are satisfactory, and monthly per head we get 400 grams of meat with vegetables, 400 grams of sausage, 250 grams of sugar, 250 grams of vegetables, 400 grams of beans and dried peas, 100 grams of soap, and besides we get 200 grams of bread daily, and 550 grams of flour weekly while we are waiting for finished paste products." (22/7/44 - Martina, Taranto)

2. CLOTHING.

Both civil and military mail have been less unfavorable during the period under review, though the situation is still very unsatisfactory, and adverse comments are in a very large majority. Bari and Naples are the worst centers from the civilian point of view, and the ratios of unfavorable to favorable comments were 346.5 to 1 and 80.8 to 1 respectively. All other centers were preponderantly unfavorable, with the exception of Naples, military mail was also very unfavorable throughout.

Clothing prices are so prohibitive that they are clearly beyond the means of the vast majority of people. The following extracts give some idea of the situation as seen by the ordinary civilian:

"A suit of clothes for men costs no less than 20,000 lire. Material for an overcoat has been sold for as much as 24,000 lire. Spools of sewing thread cost 300, 400, 500 and 600 lire. We cannot go on like this. Only those who engage in trade (i.e. Black Market) live well. Many people go from here to Naples with vehicles, taking olive oil, macaroni and flour and return here bringing skins, clothing materials and drugs which they sell at exorbitant prices." (27/7/44 - Bari)

"An every day or work-shirt cannot be bought for less than 800 lire. A pair of trousers costs 1000 lire. One needs no less than 5000 or 6000 lire to have a pair made. A fairly good pair of shoes may be had for 2000 or 3000 lire, so just imagine the position we are in as regards clothing. The only way to obtain an article of clothing is by exchanging goods, that is trade with some flour, olive oil, lard, or other food items." (28/7/44 - Piane di Valerona, Bari)

"For a suit of clothes and a pair of shoes for little Gustavo I have spent 30,000 lire. Merely for one pair of snake-skin shoes I have paid 5000 lire." (28/7/44 - Avellino)

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"Clothing and shoes cannot be found. And if something is found on the Black Market, the price is prohibitive."
(29/7/44 - Campobasso)

"What is the use if the stores are brimful of clothing materials if one is even unable to buy a single handkerchief."
(29/7/44 - Ragusa)

3. HOUSING.

Civilian mail was more pessimistic during the period under review than it was during the previous period. Bari seems to be a particularly bad center. Even the military mail produced 383 unfavorable comments to 7 favorable, while the remaining military centers only mustered 35 comments all told in the proportion of 1.3 to 1 in favor. The following extracts are examples of the lack of housing or the prohibitive rents when accommodation is available:-

"These last few days I have been running around like a mad person right and left trying to find a hole in which to live. But it has been impossible. There are no houses to be had anywhere." (21/7/44 - Rome)

"We have asked so many people about a house. There are some four and six roomed houses but at rents ranging from 20,000 to 30,000 lire per annum. Merely thinking about such horrifying prices makes one's blood run cold." (20/7/44 - Palermo)

"We are trying hard to get an apartment. We have begged from proprietors known to us. For the present it is impossible to find anything." (3/8/44 - Taranto)

"The housing problem is a very hard one to solve. There are few houses available, and these few have windows without any glass. What bewilders one is the high prices asked for rent. They range from 800 to 1200 a month. One would have to earn 6000 lire a month in order to be able to support a small family with such a rent." (21/7/44 - Avellino)

4. INCOME.

Unfavorable comments increased throughout the month, and the average figures for the period were 75% higher on the adverse side than for the previous four weeks. Military mail produced a freak average figure, but, even discounting this, the trend of opinion was definitely downward. Bari, Naples and Palermo were the most pessimistic centers. Taranto was the only area in which favorable comments were in the majority.

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In most cases the high cost of living have had the effect of rendering salaries inadequate. In the case of some government employees the situation has been aggravated by reason of the fact that salaries have been reduced. Clerks and government employees generally seem to feel the pinch most, indeed they often receive much below the wages paid to laborers. The following extracts give various points of view:-

"Having returned under the Italian Government, we government employees have lost the extra money formerly paid by the government to those employees who were at their work during the bombardments. Therefore we now have at least 1000 lire deducted from our monthly salaries. Imagine the possibility of trying to live with only 2000 lire a month to support eight people! We are forced to eat potatoes daily, and we need more than 150 lire daily to eat." (21/7/44 - Avellino)

"He has got a job with the Action Party -- 3,000 lire a month. He has written that that will last him until the 20th of the month. Woe to us! What a terrible state we are in. It is enough to drive one mad. May the Lord help us." (16/7/44 - Avellino)

"The income we receive compared with the cost of living is extremely low, and in order to exist I would have to rely on other resources... In fact laborers nowadays receive 100, 200 and 300 lire daily, while a clerk cannot but look like a beggar and a starved dog with his 40, 50 and 60 lire a day." (20/7/44 - Moltola)

"Living everywhere is expensive. Our salary lasts ten days; and then we must do our best to get along on those few pence saved during 25 years of service, money earned and accumulated by the sweat of our brow and which is now taken away from us by parasites who never work and who sell bread so dearly." (11/8/44 - Syracuse)

"Here life is horrible beyond expression. Food items, besides being very scarce, are extremely expensive... Imagine what our existence is like with our most wretched salary which is not sufficient for one week." (14/8/44 - Lentini)

The following favorable comment gives some idea of what is considered to be an adequate though sparse income:-

"I have now been discharged from the army for two months. I am working as a barber. I earn about 6000 lire a month. It is not a great deal, but such as it is I manage to keep going." (18/7/44 - Taranto)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

Civilian opinion on the National Government shows no change from that obtaining during the previous period, the comments being 1.6 to 1 in favor.

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Military opinion, however, has swung from being slightly unfavorable during the previous period to a three to one majority in favor.

Bari and Siracuse civilian letters were very heavily in favor of the government by approximately 10 to 1 and 26 to 1 respectively. Rome and Taranto were the only centers where adverse comments were in the majority.

Favorable comments are often but brief expressions of hope. The unfavorable remarks range from extremely muddled and involved theorizing to accusations that Fascism is still a force and that the government is incapable of governing. There is no clear picture in political matters, but the following adverse comments illustrate the types of fog through which the writers are peering:-

"Italian political life as one sees it here (Rome), where everything is being forged, is in a chaotic condition, and God only knows whether something vital will come out of it or whether we shall be led to destruction. There are idle talkings, grudges, revenges, ambitions, but nothing on which something concrete can be built. Twenty years of Fascist miseducation have deprived us of the men fit to lead and save our country in such a tragic hour as this, so we had to apply to people over seventy." (1/8/44 - Rome)

"The government is absolutely incapable, has no way out of the difficulties and does not worry about them. The Allies do not give the matter a thought and may have good reasons for not doing so." (Rome - 25/7/44)

"There exists only a nominal government who can do nothing without the approval of the Allies who, for the moment, must think of winning the war." (25/7/44 - Rome)

"Our future lies in the hands of God and of the ministers of the democratic regime consented to by the Allies which regime will cause us to go bare-footed and naked next winter." (24/7/44 - Salerno)

"You complain about having troubles, who does not? War troubles are not the only ones; besides they may be justified. But troubles due to men, especially those who call themselves the champions and pillars of liberty, are those we cannot stomach. I am referring to those Italians who reside in Rome and practice there the misgovernment of Italy. I am realizing that deprecated Fascism is rising again due to their efforts. Equity and justice no longer exist." (1/8/44 - Campobasso)

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

There was a paucity of comments on Provincial Administration during the period under review, and as more than half of them came from Rome alone, the figures in the ratio table (Appendix A attached) are apt to be misleading.

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Rome comments were 1.6 to 1 in favor. Bari produced 57 civil comments only 4 of which were unfavorable; while Taranto's 24 comments were approximately 2 to 1 against. Apart from the above three centers there were hardly any comments at all. In general the comments are brief and to the point, such as the following:-

"Our living conditions show a decided improvement due to our civil administration. We get water frequently enough, and also electricity and telephone service." (12/7/44 - Taranto)

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES.

Civilian opinion has dropped steadily throughout the period. During the first week the favorable comments outnumbered the unfavorable by 55.4 to 1, but by the last week the proportion had gone down to 9.6 to 1. The average for the whole period was 18.6 to 1 as compared with 34.2 to 1 during the preceding four weeks. Military mail produced no unfavorable comments except from Bari, and there were only 23 as against 2186 in favor from the same center.

As usual the favorable comments are chiefly expressions of gratitude, though there are a fair proportion reflecting genuine good feeling that does not rest on material benefits received. Unfavorable comments generally fall into one of three groups: requisitioning of houses and apartments; conduct towards women; and a resentment because Italy was prevented from realizing her ambitions. The following extracts illustrate various standpoints:-

"Now it looks as though the Germans were rising; and the Allies, realising our necessities, are doing all that is possible to help us. It is a good thing that they are so good, and surely they will always help us." (23/7/44 - Naples)

"We must always be grateful to Badoglio for the armistice, otherwise we would all have died of starvation. It was only the Americans and the British, who are great and civilized people, who have saved us by giving us food and by helping us in all ways possible." (9/7/44 - Benevento)

"The Allies have conducted themselves towards us like true friends, and they have never let us suffer from hunger... The Allies have even thought of keeping our morale high by inviting us to receptions." (22/7/44 - Taranto)

"If it had not been for the noble gesture of the Allied Command at Campobasso, we would still have remained suffering. They have brought us back to work and to life, and have acted towards us like intelligent and practical people." (3/6/44 - Campobasso)

62.6

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"You will know that all our houses have been occupied by the Americans, and also our quarter. We were very sorry about it because they pushed us out of our homes and used our things as though they were their own." (29/7/44 - Cagliari)

"The Allies are not complimentary with our women and young girls and, alas, very sad things have happened everywhere... You know that I have always hated Fascists and Germans. On the other hand I believed in the goodness and straight forwardness of the Allies, and many times I have had discussions and endured bitterness for having strenuously defended this idea, this conviction of mine. Now I speak no more, discuss no more, and am compelled to swallow the tears that blind me. My anguish is so great. Poor Italian people, tortured, humiliated, despised..." (27/7/44 - Rome)

"We feel even smaller and more wretched compared with them and faced with all their might. But there is one thing they will never bend, and that is our pride. They will never succeed in reaching our civilization. Compared with us they are primitive, and our race is superior to theirs." (12/7/44 - Rome)

8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION.

Optimism has increased each week throughout the period as reflected in civilian letters, whereas military mail revealed a less optimistic note during the last two weeks. This is probably due to the fact that morale in the Italian army is going down owing to lack of activity, but this was the subject of a special report recently and no more need be said here. As regards comments generally, they are difficult to separate from comments on the future military situation. Extracts from letters dealing with the latter appear under the next sub-heading.

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION.

The proportion of favorable comments dropped during the period, but the average for the four weeks still remains high at 40 to 1 in favor among civilian mail and 35.2 to 1 among military letters. The four weeks under review had closed before the invasion of Southern France took place. The following extracts are among many that express complete confidence in the ultimate outcome of the war:

"Even the Germans are aware of the fact that Germany has lost the war and that things are going worse from day to day and hour to hour. The wizardry of Hitler no longer has any effect, and his threatening speeches only make people laugh, even those who believed in him blindly."

6257

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The war will soon . . . and this makes me very happy; but there is one thing that does not satisfy me, and that is the fact that Germany will capitulate before one yard of her territory is invaded by the Allies." (30/7/44 - Rome)

"The Anglo-Americans will win. I knew this from the very beginning of the war, and I have always maintained it, even during the Fascist drunken spree. They will win, and that will be a great act of goodness since they alone can guarantee that true liberty which the world needs so much." (1/8/44 - Palermo)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS.

Both civilian and military mail took a less rosy view of industrial prospects, but while the former produced a slight majority of favorable comments, the latter revealed an adverse majority of 2 to 1. Palermo was particularly optimistic, while Siracuse was just the opposite. Rome comments were about equally divided. Various reasons are given for viewing the industrial outlook gloomily, including lack of transport, demolitions and air-raids. The following are a few typical comments:-

"I read what you told me about your intentions of working . . . But deceive yourself about the possibilities of acting as an agent for industrial factories because none of these exist here. What has not been destroyed by air-raids or by war has been scientifically destroyed by the Germans who have dismantled and taken away everything." (30/7/44 - Rome)

"You ask me to be more explicit concerning the prospects of our Group. It is very difficult to express oneself on such a subject because today, and perhaps to-morrow even more so, stands on a quicksand. Will those plants, entirely or partially intact up till the present, be able to work? Even if they could, and supposing they were freed, will they be allowed to function? You surely know the fate of those plants in this zone that still remain in running order. The best thing to hope for in my opinion is that peace arrives before liberation, but, even if that were the case, what possibilities will be left to our industries. The future is very, very gloomy and it is as well to keep these prospects in mind." (31/7/44 - Rome)

"As to commercial trends, I understand the situation quite well. Industries are in a bad way chiefly because of transport difficulties. Even if we succeed in obtaining permission for the use of merchant ships, commerce will never make a good come-back?" (31/7/44 - Taranto)

6256

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11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

Both civilian and military mail show an increased confidence in agricultural prospects. Compared with the preceeding period, civilian comments are two and a half times more favorable while military comments show a 20% increase in the same direction. Palermo was particularly optimistic, there being no unfavorable comments. In no centers were unfavorable comments in the majority. The complaints in nearly every case were based on lack of rain; and favorable comments in many cases mentioned the abundance of rain. The following extracts are illustrative of this:-

"It rains here frequently. This year there will be an abundant corn harvest. We have already threshed the wheat. The quantity is slightly greater than last year." (4/8/44 - Benevento)

"You must know that the harvest in general has been very good this year, especially the wheat harvest. The maize is also in good condition because it has rained four times this summer at regular intervals. Every 15 or 20 days it has rained without ever disturbing the crops. The same happy prospects are foreseen as regards grapes, potatoes and beans." (13/7/44 - Atripalda)

"The wheat harvest is excellent, and the same may be said about potatoes, vegetables and maize, but they are all controlled products. The potatoes will be abundant in September." (29/7/44 - Campobasso)

"A magnificent harvest is in view this year. The farms look promising, and let us hope that with God's help hunger may cease a little." (29/7/44 - Gildone)

"The harvest this year is much inferior to that of last year owing to lack of rain. It seems that the rain has forgotten Castellana since it is always raining in the surrounding areas. The Castellana zone is becoming totally dry." (22/7/44 - Castellana)

"Michele did the threshing yesterday, a total of 54 quintals of wheat and 25 tumili of oats. Corn would be good if it were not for the lack of rain. It has not rained since 24th June. The grapes and olives are promising." (31/7/44 - Tora)

"The bean harvest looks very poor. The plants are all dried and there are no beans in prospect. The wheat harvest has been completed already." (24/7/44 - Avellino)

6203

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12. EMPLOYMENT

Civilian mail revealed a more depressed outlook during the period than that prevalent during the preceding four weeks. Military mail, on the other hand, was more cheerful, yet even so the comments were about seven to one against. Palermo was outstandingly gloomy, producing 568 adverse comments and not a single one in favor. Taranto was the only center in which favorable comments were in the majority, the proportion being about 2.5 to 1 in favor. The following extracts give a variety of reasons for and against:-

"Here there is a great deal of unemployment. The Americans are all leaving, and we are starved." (1/8/44 - Palermo)

"I must find some occupation or I shall join the army. My situation is very bad. Since I have been here I have never had any work." (2/8/44 - Campobasso)

"Plenty of people are unemployed at present. Only laborers succeed in finding something to do, and then only for a short time. As one can not go on like this one tries to do something through the Black Market." (20/7/44 - Rome)

"There is a crisis here in our civil life, a crisis among workmen, which was expected as a natural result of the last events. But as soon as electric power and gas are restored we trust things will change." (3/8/44 - Rome)

"The women work to mend clothes for soldiers. Everybody gets money, and unemployment is diminishing thanks to the Englishmen." (27/7/44 - Syracuse)

"Each and everyone of us tries to fare better than the next fellow. At present I am doing very well and earn about 3000 lire a month, but I am working very hard." (16/7/44 - Taranto)

Gordon W. McKean
GORDON W. MCKEAN,
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Civil Censorship Officer. 6254

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6252

3

		Food Situation		Clothing		Housing		Income		Nat'l Gov't		Provincial Government		Relations with Allies		Present Military Situation		Future Military Situation	
Week Ending		U	S	U	S	U	S	U	S	U	S	U	S	U	S	U	S	U	S
15/7	Civ	1	2.5	1	13	1	13.6	1	5.5	2	3	4.9	1	13.4	1	11.8	1	27.6	
	Mil	1	2.8	1	30.2	1	20	0	44	4.4	1	4	0	28.3	1	16	1	139	
22/7	Civ	1	2.4	1	20.7	1	36	1	22.5	1.5	1	3	1.0	25.0	1	14.6	1	185	
	Mil	1	1.7	1	6	1	5.2	1	9	2.6	1	1	1	105.4	1	54.3	1	132	
29/7	Civ	1	6	1	21.6	1	20.8	1	17.8	1.2	1	1	1	17.3	1	16.7	1	99	
	Mil	1	2	1	11	1	16.3	3	19	3.2	1	1	4.5	7.4	1	6.5	1	20.8	
5/8	Civ	1	7.5	1	29.3	1	33.5	1	14.4	1.8	1	1.4	1	9.6	1	20.8	1	19.5	
	Mil	1	3.2	1	7	1	40.7	1	38.5	2.6	1	1	1	44.7	1	7.3	1	8.8	
Average for month																			
	Civ	1	4.6	1	19.1	1	19.1	1	12.6	1.6	1	2.1	1	10.6	1	15.7	1	110	
ending 8/8																			
	Mil	1	2.5	1	9.1	1	17.7	1	74.5	3	1	2	1.3	63.5	1	11.9	1	25.2	

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APPENDIX

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BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

6252

Housing	Income		Nat'l Gov't		Provincial Government		Relations with Allies		Present Military Situation		Future Military Situation		Industrial Prospects		Agricultural Prospects		Employment	
	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F
1	13.6	1	5.5	2	3	4.9	1	53.4	3	11.8	1	27.6	1	2.6	1	7.4	1	3.8
1	20	0	44	4.4	1	4	0	13.3	1	16	1	139	0	1	1	2.4	1	7.5
1	35	1	32.5	1.5	2	4	1.6	15.8	1	14.6	1	85	1	1	1	4.5	1	4.6
1	5.2	1	9	2.6	1	1	1	105.4	1	54.3	1	132	0	1	4	2	1	2.6
1	20.8	1	17.6	1.2	1	2	1	17.3	1	16.7	1	99	1	1.1	1	4.7	1	6.5
1	16.3	0	19	3.2	1	3	4.5	7.4	1	6.5	1	20.8	1	0	14	2.4	1	2.4
1	33.5	1	24.4	1.8	1	1.4	1	9.6	1	20.8	1	39.5	1	1.3	1	2	1	15.1
1	43.7	1	38.5	2.6	1	1	1	44.7	1	7.9	1	3.8	1	1	1.6	6.1	1	3
1	19.1	1	12.6	1.6	1	2.1	1	10.6	1	15.7	1	10	1	1.3	1	4.6	1	6.2
1	17.7	1	74.5	3	1	2	1.3	49.5	1	1.9	1	25.2	1	1	2	3.1	1	7.5

5 JULY - 5 AUGUST

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Relations with the Allies	Pres. Mil. Situation		Future Mil. Situation		Industrial Prospects		Agricultural Prospects		Deployment	
	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F
48	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	53	1	4
736	28	453	9	310	2	39	57	183	27	53
2186	22	508	31	458	13	23	57	158	40	26
46	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	0
5	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
61	18	6	2	0	0	1	0	64	15	6
273	8	142	5	66	0	53	34	37	17	7
68	0	123	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
350	0	329	0	136	0	124	0	107	0	0
2825	171	67	19	53	7	73	74	83	123	72
14	0	60	20	60	20	0	0	0	0	0
294	0	187	0	41	0	5	37	243	53	23
42	0	26	0	13	0	1	3	0	0	1
70	31	64	37	8	7	63	52	150	117	45
156	33	63	12	0	0	0	7	128	48	0
4734	297	1277	83	631	17	355	278	1139	262	280
2429	23	761	51	518	23	32	64	286	98	26
763	320	2828	126	1149	50	387	242	1416	340	306

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