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PWB, ACC WEEKLY BULLETINS
(JAN., FEB. 1944); MAY - DEC. 1944

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REGION III

SUPPLY HOODNTS

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET.

30 December 1944.

R26/WB59/PRB

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 59
24 Dec 44 to 30 Dec 44

1. Political

Following the Bonomi line, announced some time ago, of putting first things first, the Council, meeting on the twenty-third, attacked only severely practical and urgent matters. The budget, proposed by the Ministry of the Treasury for the whole present financial administration was approved. The agreement worked out between the CGIL and various categories of employers for the payment of the "13th month" gratifica to workers (an old Italian tradition calls for double pay for December) was also sanctioned and made obligatory. The Council said that money set aside for reconstruction will do much to relieve unemployment, but against the prospect of additional unemployed as repatriation of prisoners of war gets under way, the Ministry of Public Works was instructed to prepare an emergency program. The Commissario for Food was asked to keep in mind the demands made by the CGIL, State employees were given a special Christmas bonus and finally the Council, while preparing a final plan for the pensionati - who have so far been excluded from indemnity legislation - decreed that part payments should be given them beginning Jan 1st. Having thus brightened the Christmas season for a large section of the population, the Council adjourned until the 30th.

The political stage then remained dark until the Press conference for foreign journalists given on the 27th by the Public Relations Office of the Presidenza. It was announced by the head of the Office that the Italian government was happy to have resumed diplomatic relations with Belgium and to have "reactivated" them with Roumania. Most problems that impede resumption of relations with France have been solved, he said, and the government is hopeful of speedily settling the few that remain. (Incidentally Bonomi told the Times representative that all his ministers were Francophile and that De Gasperi, the new Foreign Minister, considered reconciliation with France "his first objective"). It was stated that the war effort was and would continue to be the first concern of the government; pressing internal problems could be summed up under the headings: equation, food, reconstruction. In the delicate matter of equation announcement was made that Sforza wished to resign his post as High Commissioner; a worthy successor - probably a magistrate - would be chosen to

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I. Political

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journal seems particularly sensitive. AVANTI was untroubled by this faux pas - if such it be - but, expressing its regret at Sforza's resignation, predicted that epuration would now come to a standstill.

During the week there has been much discussion of "l'affaire Azzi". Azzi is a general who fought against the Germans with vigour and alacrity after the armistice. Having served in Albania with the Partisans he was appointed commander of the military region Lazio-Umbria-Abruzzi. He has ideas of a strongly Republican tinge and suggested (in an article in ITALIA LIBERA, Dec 24th) that the Army be called Nazionale instead of Regio, that the formula of the oath of allegiance be changed and that various other steps be taken to democratize the service. Subsequent to making these outspoken comments he was put on inactive service. In the course of the week almost every paper in Rome has discussed his case; some returning frequently to the charge. ITALIA NUOVA, POPOLO and RICOSTRUZIONE have defended his removal; UNITA, VOCE REPUBBLICANA, ITALIA LIBERA and AVANTI have sturdily clamored that he has been wronged. TEMPO (which has no party affiliation) admired "his initiative" but found it a little out of place. AVANTI made the point that while his removal may have been inevitable and even desired by the officer himself, it seemed a pity that such a good man should have to go while generals with far different records remained. "Il caso Azzi" said Nenni, has now become "lo scandalo Azzi". Friday's ITALIA LIBERA contained a letter from the general himself, pleading that he had no idea of under-mining discipline but retracting nothing he had said and pointing with pride to his forty years service and recent accomplishments as evidence of his devotion to his country. On the same day AVANTI challenged the Ministry of War to publish a communique on the case. It may be that a first class cause celebre is in the making.

De Gasperi made his first speech as Foreign Minister, following the lines laid down by Bonomi in his instructions to the Foreign Office last July (See Bulletin No. 17, 30 July); i.e. urging a return to the traditional, pre-fascist foreign policy of Italy. Soleri's exposition of the financial situation brought ITALIA NUOVA and AVANTI together again; they both found it too Pollyanna-like in tone and agreed that an appeal to faith and confidence was not a good substitute for practical remedies for Italy's financial condition. The Pope's Christmas speech was of necessity general in terms and of course is not strictly speaking a matter of Italian politics at all. But anything emanating from the Vatican is subject to careful scrutiny and analysis these days. Comment from the Roman press was in general favorable. The Pope's definition of democracy while not entirely clear did draw a distinction between "people" and "masses" which pleased the moderate parties. He also defended - as the OSSERVATORE has occasionally in recent months - the rights of property and other "natural" rights of preeminence; the concept of society is essentially hierarchical. Still he is on the side of democracy and post war international solidarity. The speech indeed could be interpreted

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2. AMG with the Armies

AMG entered Faenza on 18 Dec just in time to relieve some 6000 citizens, hiding in cellars in the town, from starvation. There was no flour left, and the people were grinding grain in coffee mills. The water and sewer systems were out of commission and there was no electricity. At least 20 per cent of the town has been completely destroyed, and it is estimated that 40 per cent of the buildings in the commune are ruined beyond repair. Every tower in Faenza which might have served as an observation

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point was demolished by the Germans, including the towers of every church and the one on the post office building. The Bishop of Faenza, nearly 80 years of age, was killed by a shell fragment 7 December in his room in a convent some five kilometers outside the town. A memorial service was held in the Duomo on 23 December attended by AMG officials. Destruction is particularly heavy in the neighbourhood of the railway station and along both banks of the Lamone River where Route 9 runs in from Forli. Citizens have begun to return in small numbers from hiding places in surrounding villages, but most of the townspeople sheltering in cellars are still in hiding, and the number of sick and wounded among them is still unknown. An emergency hospital with 100 beds is being organized. Dyptheria serum has been sent for to ward off a threatening outbreak. Sick and wounded from a hospital which the Germans used as a machine-gun post are being transported to the AMG hospital in military ambulances. A refugee centre has been organized and between 700 and 800 from nearby hamlets will be accommodated in it. The town is still under shell fire from the German lines, but there has been no mortar fire since 21 Dec. Very few dead and wounded civilians were found in the streets when the Allies arrived.

Exhibits from the famous Museum of Ceramics were removed for safekeeping some time ago to two private houses. One of them has been knocked flat and the priceless examples of early Faience which it contained are buried in the rubble. The other house is intact. The Army is co-operating with AMG to see that the rubble in the ruined house is not touched until experts can begin salvage operations.

The food situation in the Commune of Faenza is not bad. At least 20,000 quintali are reported stored in different places, though some of the grain is wet. There is storage space for about 7,000 quintali in the town and AMG has brought in supplies. There seem to be adequate supplies of vegetables on farms near Faenza, but importation cannot be allowed for a few days for security reasons. The electrical flour mills are all out of commission and water mills cannot operate just yet because canal walls have been smashed, but is is hoped that two will be running shortly. Water mains were fed through a gravity feed system 35 kilometers long. The pipes have been broken in several places. The Royal Engineers are installing water pumps along the Lamone and water points will be set up because the compensating reservoir has been smashed.

Doctors, nurses, technicians from the waterworks and electrical services as well as municipal employees are being allowed back into Faenza as fast as they appear. The banks have adequate funds on hand, between one and two million lire having been found in the vaults of one branch alone. The electrical transformer station was not blown up and most of the equipment was hidden by officials with the help of partisans. The smaller trans-formers on poles have all been smashed, however. The fire station [illegible] pieces of equipment

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A Sindaco, a Vice-sindaco and a Giunta, nominated by the CLN and described unofficially by the Acting Bishop as useful and trustworthy citizens, have been appointed. The Sindaco is a man who held the position before the Fascist regime came into power. Capt. Pallotti, the CAO, says: "The CLN seem a substantial lot. There is no party wrangling among them. The town was peaceful when we came in. There were none of the usual bands of partisans

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walking around with arms and red kerchiefs. The civilians have turned in their arms to the Carabinieri and the partisans at the Caserma. This seems better than to have them disarmed by us. The clergy helped greatly to keep things under control before we arrived."

There are no ceramics factories as such in Faenza. The traditional art is carried on by families who hand on their skill and knowledge from generation to generation. Most of their work is done to order. Faenza had a furniture factory which employed 150 hands. The machines are gone and the buildings are partially wrecked. There was one silk mill which is also without machines and partly smashed.

6. Retrospect

1944 has been a memorable year in history with the taking of Rome and the long-awaited second front to say nothing of a Presidential election and various developments of military and political nature which will provide future historians with material for volumes. But in one way it has been like any other year; it was a long year to look forward to and now that it has passed the time seems to have been very short. Memories are of course highly personal yet it may well be that those of the writer - who has never been anything but a Headquarters Benny (base wallah, if you will) will be shared by many of our family. We remember that a year ago we were in Santa Cesarea; it was sunny and there was actually basking available for those who had a day off. It was cold in the hotel though (some things are apparently unchangeable), and we remember still with a shudder the long ride twice a day from Santa Cesarea to Brindisi and back. The night ride was particularly grim what with the cold, the confinement in the crowded cars and the hazard from unlighted waggons passed on the road. As for Brindisi itself we used to wonder why anyone had ever come to the town and from the moment of our arrival gossip used to play with the idea of an early move. It came and with it a cleavage in our family. Some of us learned to know Salerno where the offices were colder than the Corporazioni (honest!) and the refuge of the Cava mess no warmer though brightened by unusual good food and warmed by the charm of Lord Stanegate. Others made the acquaintance of Naples, at that time, dirty, overcrowded and inevitably cold. Still there was a good mess - remember Santa Brigida? - an officers club and - faute de mieux, in the early days - a little Swiss wineshop frequented by some, or let us be frank and say many. No, life was not all drab in Naples. The fiery glamour of Vesuvius in eruption and perhaps an occasional flaming sunset behind Posillipo will linger in our memories as long - daringly we say perhaps longer - than the first Regional Commissioners meetings, not without glamour and a certain amount of fire themselves. A chosen few among us will remember 1944 for the hysterical joy of welcome given us on our entry into

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There is a proverb in this country: Buona compagnia mezza la via. One could wish 1945 may shorten the way but however long it may be we can only be grateful for the company. E a tutti buon capo d'anno!

4. Odds and Ends

Work on the devastated areas is showing some progress, Lieut.Col.F.Craig, Hq. coordinating officer on the problem, cautiously reports: The number of roofless has been reduced to 200,000; 170,000 sq.m. of canvas has been distributed, also 700 tons of clothing; a special ration scale, with a base issue of 200 grams of bread and 80 grams of pasta or flour daily is in effect; mine clearing squads have removed 65,000 mines; 80 per cent. of the bridges to isolated communes have been repaired; one G.T. company provides exclusive transport for the areas; Mr. Solomon, an American housing expert, has been touring the areas, giving expert advice on repairs; 4,000 blankets have been distributed, and supplies of cement have been obtained...Southern Region has set up an entire organization for the repair and dyeing of salvaged Army clothing, initial output to be 2,000 garments a day...Sugar beet plants are being surveyed in Southern and Central Italy...The Finance Sub-Commission reports that the current Italian budget shows total estimated expenditures at 73 billion lire and estimated receipts at 15 billion, while Italian officials were officially informed for the first time that the aggregate amount of AM lire outstanding as of 31 October was approximately 44 billion ..Flashes from the Electrical Front: The 5,500 kw. generating unit at Ceprano, which was recently repaired, developed a short circuit and damage resulting will take three months to repair; at Cervara, a 1,600 kw. unit was restored after five months' work...Discussions are afoot concerning the desirability of amalgamating the three northern regions of Liguria, Lombardy and Piemonte into one super-region, with strong sub-commission representation, and perhaps molded organizationally after Hq. (that is, into Economic, Civil Affairs and Establishment Sections, etc.) in order to deal broadly and quickly with the heavy political-industrial problems anticipated...Only 1,800 Italians have responded to date to the military call-up in Sicily instead of the anticipated 8,000...Tuscany peasants are reported increasingly resentful of the continuing ban on hunting in their native mountains, but what otherwise can the military do in an army area...The Patriots Branch has shipped 2,000 overcoats, 2,000 sweaters, 2,000 pairs of socks and 2,500 shorts to the Patriots in the Florence area while the Fifth Army AMG has collected 2,500 trousers and 1,000 shirts for the same purpose...Olive oil amassing, as of 23 December, stood at 66,661 quintals, while the Granai del Popolo is now 87 per cent. of the target figure of 11,600,000 qtl. or 10,088,501 qtl. collected, as of

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cautiously reports: the number of refugees has been reduced to 200,000; 170,000 sq.m. of canvas has been distributed, also 700 tons of clothing; a special ration scale, with a base issue of 200 grams of bread and 60 grams of pasta or flour daily is in effect; mine clearing squads have removed 65,000 mines; 30 per cent. of the bridges to isolated communes have been repaired; one G.I. company provides exclusive transport for the areas; Mr. Solomon, an American housing expert, has been touring the areas, giving expert advice on repairs; 4,000 blankets have been distributed, and supplies of cement have been obtained...Southern Region has set up an entire organization for the repair and dyeing of salvaged Army clothing, initial output to be 2,000 garments a day...Sugar beet plants are being surveyed in Southern and Central Italy...The Finance Sub-Commission reports that the current Italian budget shows total estimated expenditures at 73 billion lire and estimated receipts at 19 billion, while Italian officials were officially informed for the first time that the aggregate amount of AM lire outstanding as of 31 October was approximately 44 billion ..Flashes from the Electrical front: The 5,500 kw. generating unit at Ceprano, which was recently repaired, developed a short circuit and damage resulting will take three months to repair; at Cervara, a 1,600 kw. unit was restored after five months' work...Discussions are afoot concerning the desirability of amalgamating the three northern regions of Liguria, Lombardy and Piemonte into one super-region, with strong sub-commission representation, and perhaps modelled organizationally after Hq. (that is, into Economic, Civil Affairs and Establishment Sections, etc.) in order to deal broadly and quickly with the heavy political-industrial problems anticipated...Only 1,000 Italians have responded to date to the military call-up in Sicily instead of the anticipated 8,000...Tuscany peasants are reported increasingly resentful of the continuing ban on hunting in their native mountains, but what otherwise can the military do in an army area...The Patriots Branch has shipped 2,000 overcoats, 2,000 sweaters, 2,500 pairs of socks and 2,500 shorts to the Patriots in the Florence area while the Fifth Army AMG has collected 2,500 trousers and 6,000 shirts for the same purpose...Olive oil amassing, as of 23 December, stood at 66,681 quintals, while the Granai del Popolo is now 87 per cent. of the target figure of 11,600,000 qtl. or 10,058,501 qtl. collected, as of 28 December...Refugee Comings-and-Goings: 1,200 Italians left Rome for towns in Calabria and Puglie while 750 Italians came into Rome on a train from northern areas, of whom 614 were Romans...Six Members of Parliament will grace the AC with a visit shortly...A first consignment of 700 sacks of parcels for Italians from the U.S.A. arrived in Naples 28 December, while another 900 sacks are arriving January 1...Efficiency reports are now to be returned on all American officers, irrespective of rank (as in the past, when only field grade officers got the once-over), and on a new numerical calculation, Superior counting, roughly, for 7, Excellent for 5, and Very Satisfactory for 3...Both AC HQ, the regions and the Army AMG's did themselves

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proud with hospitality on Christmas, acting as Santa Claus to any number of children, poor people and unfortunates...During the week an attempt was made to steal the elephant from the Rome zoo...And the inhabitants of Itri want to take up a collection to build a monument to their most famous citizen, the bandit Fra Diavolo...We don't know what it means but that's 1944 for you...Happy New Year.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/WB38/PRB

25 December 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 58
17 Dec 44 to 23 Dec 44

1. Political

The tension created by the long crisis may be said to have abated. The Action Party, in ITALIA LIBERA, has had one or two articles during the past week explaining why it could not have accepted a share in the Govt, and AVANTI has continued to mutter that Bonomi must be watched but in general the situation has been accepted by all parties which are looking now to the future rather than sulking - or exulting as the case might be - over the past. Sforza, having refused the post of Ambassador in Washington, was the object of a special commendatory communique issued by the Council; it was to be regretted that a man of his capacities should "for the moment" feel it his duty to refuse out of delicacy so important an assignment, but the Council hoped that he would be available in the future for the service of his country. For the Leftist appetite for spuration has not been dulled by recent events, but even if the flattering words of the Council were merely a "consolation prize" as AVANTI called that, the gesture was symbolic of the conciliatory attitude of Bonomi towards the missing brethren. Indeed he went further and at the opening of the Council meeting (on the 20th) took occasion to point out the importance of the C.L.N. It may be that the spectacle of the unhappy lot of Greece has had a sobering effect on Italian public opinion; certainly the papers have been full of articles on Greece and there has been a tendency to look upon it as the best test case of what the future may be. "The Allies seem to forget they belong on the Liberal side" said RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE, "and if they are to go back to a policy of Westphalian understandings rather than follow the Atlantic Charter, then the Nazi-Fascists will have won the war". Much space has been given too to the Polish situation and against the wide background of international malaise the difficulties of the C.L.N. and the new Govt have been seen in proper perspective.

The Council met twice on Wednesday. At the morning meeting Bonomi stated his decision to have election lists prepared and the Bonomi stated his decision to have election lists prepared and the

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1. Political

The tension created by the long crisis may be said to have abated. The Action Party, in ITALIA LIBERA, has had one or two articles during the past week explaining why it could not have accepted a share in the Govt, and AVANTI has continued to mutter that Bonomi must be watched but in general the situation has been accepted by all parties which are looking now to the future rather than sulking - or exulting as the case might be - over the past. Sforza, having refused the post of Ambassador in Washington, was the object of a special commendatory communique issued by the Council; it was to be regretted that a man of his capacities should "for the moment" feel it his duty to refuse out of delicacy so important an assignment, but the Council hoped that he would be available in the future for the service of his Country. For the Leftist appetite for epuration has not been dulled by recent events, but even if the flattering words of the Council were merely a "consolation prize" as AVANTI called them, the gesture was symbolic of the conciliatory attitude of Bonomi towards the missing brethren. Indeed he went further and at the opening of the Council meeting (on the 20th) took occasion to point out the importance of the C.L.N. It may be that the spectacle of the unhappy lot of Greece has had a sobering effect on Italian public opinion; certainly the papers have been full of articles on Greece and there has been a tendency to look upon it as the best test case of what the future may be. "The Allies seem to forget they belong on the Liberal side" said RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE, "and if they are to go back to a policy of Westphalian understandings rather than follow the Atlantic Charter, then the Nazi-Fascists will have won the war". Much space has been given too to the Polish situation and against the wide background of international malaise the difficulties of the C.L.N. and the new Govt have been seen in proper perspective.

The Council met twice on Wednesday. At the morning meeting Bonomi stated his decision to have election lists prepared and the papers advertised the prospect of "administrative" (i.e. Communal and Provincial) elections next Spring. In the meanwhile Togliatti, De Gasperi, Bonomi and Ruini (one from each of the four parties) were directed to make concrete proposals for setting up some kind of advisory body which will allow the "direct expression of the living forces of the Nation to collaborate with the Govt". (For the recent crisis has clearly revealed the need of some kind of parliament; Sprigge (Reuter) pointed out that the crisis was unique in that normally a Govt loses the confidence of the Chamber over some specific plan of legislation and resigns, but in this case the Govt resigned and the causes of its resignation were still being discussed a week later). The Council then approved the creation of an inter-ministerial committee to coordinate the work of economic reconstruction, increased the powers of the High Commissioners of Sicily and Sardinia who are to be aided by local "Consulte", and granted more funds to these Islands for rehabilitation and improvements. The [illegible]tion

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to regional autonomy" expressed through the "consulte" are to be encouraged but, in case there should be any misunderstanding, the Council issued a clear-cut statement of its intention to deal firmly with separatism. The afternoon meeting delegated wide powers to the Commissariato per l'Alimentazione and sanctioned other draft decrees for relief of refugees and the homeless, and found time to pass a measure aimed at "facilitating weddings between Italians and Americans".

The anti-separatism declaration was of course aimed at Sicily. This fiery island, once described by our geography teacher as "the ball which is being kicked by the Italian boot", has been bouncing back repeatedly and vigorously for some time. The disturbances in Catania on the 14th (see last week's Bulletin, No 37) resulted in the resignation of the sindaco and the Giunta communale, the application of a six o'clock curfew and the inevitable flood of commentary in the press. The Leftist press sees in it another episode in the separatist campaign, instigated by landowners and reactionaries. ITALIA NUOVA views it as criminal violence pure and simple, and RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE remarked that Sicilian students obviously didn't want to be called up and ought to be thoroughly ashamed of themselves and that was all there was to it. All papers, for different reasons, agreed that it was time the Govt showed its teeth, which probably explains the baring of the Council's fangs last Wednesday.

The trial of Pentimalli and Del Tetto ran through the week. These are the Generals accused of having surrendered Naples to the Germans without a struggle. The case was followed intently by the press which is keen to sense possible dramatic ramifications. Two attempts by the defense to have the case shifted to a military tribunal failed.

The prosecution asked the death penalty but the verdict, which came on Friday was twenty years imprisonment, which made a strange contrast, as pointed out by ITALIA LIBERA, to the 30 years given on the same day to Cornelia Ianzi, ex-mistress of Mussolini, accused only of incidental and petty "acts of collaboration" with the Nazis.

Nenni, back from London where he was accorded an "ovation" according to AVANTI (" a Fascist word" taunts IL QUOTIDIANO) seemed rather sobered by the spectacle of a Country submitting cheerfully to the most rigid discipline in order to win the war. However he recounted progress and "flattering promises" in his campaign to make Italy's position better understood and to obtain for Italians a larger control over internal matters. Bonomi speaking on Sunday called for unity and greater war effort. On the same day Mussolini spoke at Milan but, as RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE remarked, with a sort of wistful pity, "he can only make us laugh now". Appropriately enough [illegible] published in CANTACHIARO (humorous weekly) but UNITA

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2. On and off the rails

Civilian traffic carried by the railways is looking up. The freight amounted in the month of November to 303,034 tons, including 121,756 tons of foodstuffs, 31,722 tons of fuel and 21,221 tons of seed fertilizer. In Sicily a large fruit movement programme was fitted into existing train schedules and export was brisk. Cagliari movements included 1,000 tons of D.I.D. supplies, 800 tons of cheese and 1,000 tons of pigment, all for export. On 6 November a violent cyclone blew a train of five cars and engine clean off the rails in the Tirso-Chilivanni section of the Sardinian Ferrovie Complementari, killing one and injuring fifteen. Bari Division accepted bids for taking 6,680 tons of wine in approximately equal quantities to Naples and to Ortona. The same division moved 405 tons of olive oil. The amount of olive oil moved illegally is not disclosed, but on one occasion when the Bari-Naples train was searched for contraband 10 tons were found secreted on the bodies and in the baggage of travellers. Naples movements were attractively varied. Besides the more usual commodities, 6,000,000 lire in currency was taken to Bari, two cars of women and children from the Italian Embassy in Ankara were conveyed on the final stage of their journey to Rome and theatrical parties were moved, with who knows what trappings, to Bari, Taranto and Sicily. Pontecagnano's bad reputation for pilfering has lost the town its right to a daily call by the Naples-Reggio passenger train.

Speaking of pilfering, large-scale disappearances of Allied property from railway cars by organized gangs is reported by the Naples Division of the Military Rail Service and steps are being taken in conjunction with Public Safety, Southern Region, to provide police protection at the most difficult control points. Activities, it is said, are on such a scale that the Allied war effort is being impaired. The stretch of rail between San Giovanni and Salerno appears to offer particular attractions to the thieves. At Frattamaggiore the Capo Stazione complains that he and his staff have been held up by an armed band on more than one occasion. In Naples it is known that at least four organized gangs have been working in cooperation with railroad employees anxious to line their pockets quickly at the expense of the community. Cars are run by the hi-jackers to suitable spots where black market racketeers hungrily await the spoils. The cars are unloaded, goods and money change hands on the spot with bewildering rapidity and by morning it is safe to assume that the trucks are standing in empty innocence many miles away. The Naples gangs, evidently aware their activities have not gone unobserved, are at the moment strategical followers of Brer Rabbit. Not so elsewhere. At one place(which must of course be nameless) a gang of 20 thieves were surprised by a vigilant RTO as they were pilfering grain intended for the local military. They promptly opened fire and the RTO just as promptly replied,

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On 8 November a violent hydrone [illegible] engine clean off the rails in the Tirso-Chilivanni section of the Sardinian Ferrovie Complementari, killing one and injuring fifteen. Bari Division accepted bids for taking 5,880 tons of wine in approximately equal quantities to Naples and to Ortona. The same division moved 403 tons of olive oil. The amount of olive oil moved illegally is not disclosed, but on one occasion when the Bari-Naples train was searched for contraband 10 tons were found secreted on the bodies and in the baggage of travellers. Naples movements were attractively varied. Besides the more usual commodities, 6,000,000 lire in currency was taken to Bari, two cars of women and children from the Italian Embassy in Ankara were conveyed on the final stage of their journey to Rome and theatrical parties were moved, with who knows what trappings, to Bari, Taranto and Sicily. Pontecagnano's bad reputation for pilfering has lost the town its right to a daily call by the Naples-Reggio passenger train.

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One night an Italian clerk in the rail division with a taste for excitement decided to conduct an investigation of his own and with commendable determination carried out a lone reconnaissance in a Naples railway yard, beginning at 8 o'clock and staying out till 3 the following morning. At 11 his patience was rewarded when 11 members of the "Guardia Merci" emerged stealthily from the shadows and by wriggling through a hole 2 ft by 1 ft in certain of the brake vans effected an entrance into loaded rail cars. Sacks and cases were promptly handed out and the spoils divided there and then among the gang. The hi-jackers, it is evident, bear all the marks of specialized stealers, including a corps d'elite of railwaymen whose knowledge of local conditions proves invaluable in spotting likely wagons, judiciously switching points and pulling out 2 or 3 cars to more suitable positions. The cars, once selected, are

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hooked on to an engine and after that appears to be a harmless shunting operation - three railway yards in particular have bad names in this respect - are pulled up in selected spots further along the line. One favourite location for brisk illicit trade is a stretch of line conveniently situated where two adjoining roads facilitate access to black market runners and where a group of badly battered buildings makes observation difficult. Here a score or so of dealers gather to buy whatever plunder the night brings. Cars are emptied, labels destroyed, and moved far away from the scene. Some weeks ago the thieves had a field day, tapping a veritable gold mine in the shape of a car full of silk. A truck full of sugar provided another valuable haul. Five warehouses are known to exist for handling the stolen goods. The amateur investigator who reports this, ends, after deploring the sybaritic tendencies of some of the guards, by assuring his chief that, given time to develop his prowess as a sleuth, he could "manage to find out the names of some of the people concerned in these affairs."

5. Little by Little

Almost a million elementary school textbooks have been run off the presses in Italy since the Allies first landed in Sicily. Relying solely on Italian materials and newsprint from the PWB, the Education Sub-Commission was able to eke out a modest 250,000 textbooks in the Spring of 1944, but with the arrival late this year of 18,920 pounds of glue, 15½ tons of ink and over 400 tons of paper from the United States approximately 700,000 textbooks have been prepared and issued, a step toward the Sub-Commission's 3,500,000 goal. It also plans to print several million 20 to 40 page notebooks in Italy; 200,000 have been completed and a million more are now being produced in Rome. School supplies are harder to get than book-making materials. When a requisition made last Spring for penholders was returned this November for restudying, on the ground that it equalled three months total production in the United States, the Sub-Commission feelingly replied that an order for one penholder per year for every three school children in Italy is not an exorbitant request.

The job of rewriting elementary school textbooks which are the only schoolbooks ever to reach the hands of 60 percent of Italian school children was, for the newly established Elementary Textbook Committee composed of Italian teachers like rediscovering the world. Joyfully they replaced avanguardisti and sons of the wolf which figured largely in simple arithmetic problems with the easier-to-handle pears and apples, and decided that pure science provided better examples of uniform motion than Italian soldiers doing the passo-romano (German goose-step) which they deleted. In some areas where new textbooks have not yet arrived the fervor of the teacher reformers carries them to unforeseen ends. Recently, in Sardinia, an education officer was greeted by one school head who proudly showed him an old primer in which I for IMPERO had been changed to I for INGHILTERRA. Nineteen of Sardinia's forty-three schools are functioning, but attendance is cut down partly by problems of clothing

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The job of rewriting elementary school textbooks which are the only schoolbooks ever to reach the hands of 85 percent of Italian school children was, for the newly established Elementary Textbook Committee composed of Italian teachers like rediscovering the world. Joyfully they replaced avanguardisti and sons of the wolf which figured largely in simple arithmetic problems with the easier-to-handle pears and apples, and decided that pure science provided better examples of uniform motion than Italian soldiers doing the passo-romano (German goose-step) which they deleted. In some areas where new textbooks have not yet arrived the fervor of the teacher reformers carries them to unforeseen ends. Recently, in Sardinia, an education officer was greeted by one school head who proudly showed him an old primer in which I for IMPERO had been changed to I for INGHILTERRA. Nineteen of Sardinia's forty-three schools are functioning, but attendance is cut down partly by problems of clothing and footwear, partly by lack of transport, and partly because older pupils are being used for work on the farms.

In the end the Fascist series of texts for the five elementary school classes was rewritten in 10 books of plain facts. Since the Fascists found it impossible to make Homer, Ovid and Virgil into protagonists of Mussolini, and algebra, geometry, physics and chemistry didn't yield to Fascist persuasion, only 769 secondary school textbooks (in addition to schoolbooks on Fascism) had to be either expurgated or destroyed and 4,117 may still be freely used. Regional education officers report satisfactory progress in eliminating Fascist personnel from the teaching staffs and supervisory posts in schools over which they have jurisdiction. One officer notes the fact that in seven out of his eight provinces the post of High Commissioner for Epuration was held by a Communist.

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"All in all" he observes "there are trends of political infiltration into a rather susceptible and easy target."

The greatest problem in reopening schools in the regions, including Italian government territory, is getting undamaged school buildings out of the hands of the requisitioning authorities. In Rome the RA4C and local military commanders when requested reduced the number of Allied occupied schools to about one half and Italian military units made an even greater reduction in the number of buildings they occupied, but the prefect and sindaco, who are the sole authorities for removing civilians and repairing and cleaning school buildings have so far made no progress. The following chart shows the trend of derequisitioning events in Rome between 20 October (when the Education Sub-Commission broadcast an appeal to Allied and Italian authorities to hand the schools back to the school children) and 1 December:

	OCCUPIED		RTN'D TO USE
	20 Oct	1 Dec	
Elementary			
Allies	18	10	8
Italian Forces	8	1	7
Italian Civilian Authorities	20	20	0
Refugees, etc.	43	43	0
Italian Political Parties	12	12	0
Needing Repairs, etc.	89	89	0
School Children	49	64	15
Secondary			
Allies	16	6	10
Italian Forces	5	3	2
Civilian Authorities	1	1	0
Refugees, etc.	13	13	0
Political Parties	5	4	1
Needing Repairs, etc.	33	33	0
School Children	52	65	13

In contrast to the situation in Rome, schools are beginning to function in a large number of buildings in the Naples area, and in other parts of Lazio-Umbria. In the northern provinces of Grosseto, Arezzo, Lucca, Pistoia, Siena and in Florence province south of the Arno a large percentage of the schools are open, but in some cases lack of accommodation prevents large attendances. In recently liberated Emilia plans are being perfected for the opening of schools in Forli and Ravenna. Despite realistic student aid measures, such as the plan to serve pupils hot lunches daily, it is unfortunately probable that many Italian schools, opened and operated at such effort and expense, will have to be closed down during the coldest part of the winter for lack of glass window panes.

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Needing Repairs, etc.	58	58	0
School Children	49	64	15
Secondary			
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Italian Forces	5	3	2
Civilian Authorities	1	1	0
Refugees, etc.	15	15	0
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4. Odds and Ends

Col. Densmore, chief staff officer of the Economic Section, is officiating as acting deputy chief of staff and vice president of the Section in the absence of Mr. Antolini...On Wall Department: 23,000 cases of citrus fruit arrived in good condition at Civitavecchia from Sicily and 1,500 cases promptly disappeared en route from the port to Rome...Sardinia is to contribute 500 horses, 500 head of cattle and 2,000 sheep to livestock-ravaged areas in the Lazio-Umbria Region...204,000 boxes of lemons have been shipped to U.K. this season already...Italian coasters and schooners are slowly coming back into their own, 22,000 tons being carried last month... AMG violations apparently center in the busiest ports, Livorno now outranking Naples, according to the latest reports, which show

1,760 cases for November in Toscana Region, with 187 acquittals while Southern Region, which includes Naples, had only 1,003 cases but, undoubtedly as a result of a long and tested experience, saw fit to acquit only 34...The Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission has been getting requests for individual repatriation of stranded Italians who want to come home from places as far removed as Haiti, New York and Brazil...Patriot centers are now housing 2,000, many having come through the lines to seek relief through the winter months...The weather, which has been wreaking damage to roads and rails, has interrupted flour deliveries to Reggio and Catanzaro, some communes being without flour for four days...Peasants near San Gregorio in Salerno Province staged a small riot over the new swine tax and the olive oil amassing...The AC Typhus Control Unit is now operating 10 dusting stations in Naples as a safeguard against any possible re-appearance of the epidemic of last year...Electrical Ups-and-Downs: Gained - 3,000 kw. generating capacity restored at Acquoria hydro-plant; Lost - 4,000 kw. through breakdowns at Terni and Larderello...Current Granai del Popolo totals: 8,936,000 qtl. or 86 per cent. of the 11,000,000 qtl. goal... Olive oil collections to date are 80,726 qtl. which, according to Agriculture S/C experts, is a pretty bad show, definitely...Major Robert Dee, the AC's former secretary-general, is back at headquarters from a northern region as AC liaison officer with UNRRA and the Economic Section's administrative officer...The inter-ministerial reconstruction committee of the Italian Government and staff officers of the Economic Section are now holding weekly pow-wows every Thursday afternoon at the Grand Hotel, taking their hair down over mutual problems...Military authorities are now approaching the Industry Sub-Commission, asking for AC views before proceeding to requisition factory buildings, a hopeful sign... Lieut.Col.John D. Ames, acting regional commissioner of Lazio-Umbria Region, is culling a Poletti Christmas Eve by making a radio broadcast to his Romans in Italian (but not, as he adds, without a strong Chicago accent)...Rome coal needs for essential military and civilian consumers now amount to 2,300 tons a day, mostly Italian coal, of which 200 tons a day are used for Allied military installations, 300 tons for the railways which haul the coal and the rest for essential civilian users such as public utilities, hospitals, pasta factories, bakeries, cement works and key industries...You may have three guesses as to why 'Cantachiaro' disappeared this week on the day of its publication...Carabinieri did a smart job this week at Tor Maranoia, rounding up a gang which had been giving trouble in the district and getting a haul which included 3 machine guns, 32 sticks of dynamite, 34 rifles and some more...On Friday night at the Bernini cinema in Rome printed leaflets were showered on the audience bearing the quotation from Rundstedt's proclamation "The hour has struck..."(made at the beginning of the present German offensive)and, of course, "Heil Hitler!" and "Viva il Duce"...Rome will not after all be all lit up at Christmas, any extra electric power being consumed by an extension of tram services up to 3 a.m. to cope with crowds attending midnight mass at St. Peters...and so, may we wish to our superiors a Dignified Christmas, to our equals a Well-Provided Christmas, and to all others a

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

18 DEC 1944

SECRET

R26/WB37/PRB

16 December 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 37
11 Dec to 16 Dec 44

1. Political

With the nomination of the Undersecretaries at the first meeting of the new cabinet on Thursday the government was able to present its complete line-up. It will be useful to append here the entire list for it will indicate graphically the system of two-party ministries and will give a clear idea of the relative strength of the parties:

	Cabinet Ministers	Undersecretaries of State
PRESIDENCY	Bonomi (I) (1)	Spataro (CD)
VICE PRESIDENCIES	Togliatti (C)	
	Bodino (CD)	
WITHOUT PORTFOLIO	Brosio (L)	
AGRICULTURE	Gullo (C)	Segni (CD)
AIR	Scialoja (LD)	Gen. Pellegrini (I)
EDUCATION	Arangio Ruiz (L)	Mattarella (CD)
FINANCE	Pesenti (C)	Gabriele (L)
FOREIGN AFFAIRS	De Gasperi (CD)	Reale (C)
INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, LABOR	Grenchi (CD)	Fiore (C) (2)
		Foresco (LD) (3)
INTERIOR	Bonomi (I)	Mole (LD)
JUSTICE	Tupini (CD)	Veroni (LD)
NAVY	Adm. De Courten (I)	Bassano (LD)
		Montalbano (C) (4)
OCCUPIED ITALY	Scoccimarro (C)	Medici Tornaquinci (L)
COMMUNICATIONS (PTT)	Cevoletto (LD)	Fano (I)
PUBLIC WORKS	Ruini (LD)	Cassiani (CD)
TRANSPORTATION (RR)	Carnbona (LD)	Rizzo (L)
TREASURY	Soleri (L)	Scoca (CD)
WAR	Casati (L) (5)	Palermo (C)
PRESS, THEATRE AND TOURISM	(6)	Libonati (L)
ITALIANS ABROAD		Morelli (L)

(1) Abbreviations: (C) Communist; (CD) Christian Democrat; (L) Liberal; (LD) Labor Democrat; (I) Independent.
(2) Undersecretary for Industry and Commerce.
(3) Undersecretary for Labor.
(4) Undersecretary for Merchant Marine
(5) Liberal and not Independent as we reported last week. Culpa nostra.
(6) Formerly "Press and Information" and to be liquidated.

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With the nomination of the Undersecretaries at the first meeting of the new cabinet on Thursday the government was able to present its complete line-up. It will be useful to append here the entire list for it will indicate graphically the system of two-party ministries and will give a clear idea of the relative strength of the parties:

	Cabinet Ministers	Undersecretaries of State
PRESIDENCY	Bonomi (I) (1)	Spataro (CD)
VICE PRESIDENCIES	Togliatti (C)	
	Rodino (CD)	
	Brodio (L)	
WITHOUT PORTFOLIO	Sullo (C)	Segni (CD)
AGRICULTURE	Scialoja (LD)	Gen. Pellegrini (I)
AIP	Aranglo Ruiz (L)	Mastarella (CD)
EDUCATION	Rosenti (C)	Gabriele (L)
FINANCE	De Gasperi (CD)	Reale (C)
FOREIGN AFFAIRS	Brenchi (CD)	Fiore (C) (2)
INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, LABOR		Paresce (LD) (3)
INTERIOR	Bonomi (I)	Mole (LD)
JUSTICE	Tupini (CD)	Veroni (LD)
NAVY	Adm. De Courten (I)	Bussano (LD)
		Montalbano (C) (4)
OCCUPIED ITALY	Scoccimarro (C)	Medici Tornaquinci (L)
COMMUNICATIONS (PTT)	Cevolotto (LD)	Fano (I)
PUBLIC WORKS	Ruini (LD)	Cassiani (CD)
TRANSPORTATION (FS)	Corabona (LD)	Rizzo (L)
TREASURY	Soleri (L)	Scoca (CD)
WAR	Casati (L) (5)	Palermo (C)
PRESS, THEATRE AND TOURISM (6)		Libonati (L)
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The list of Undersecretaries was ready some time before Thursday but Bonomi chose to follow the old pre-Fascist tradition of putting their formal nomination on the agenda of the first cabinet meeting. This took place after the oath taken by the ministers in the presence of the Luogotenente. The formula of the oath was the same as that agreed upon in June (see Weekly Bulletin No. 12 for June 25), the ministers binding themselves "to exercise their functions in the supreme interest of the nation" and not to commit any acts prejudicial to the institutional question until the convocation of the Constituente. After the ceremony Bonomi made a short speech (AVANTI, losing no time in going into opposition, called it a "sermoncino") in which he stressed the obligation to respect

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the truce on the institutional question and reminded the ministers that they had all seen the armistice terms and must consider themselves bound by them. These terms he described as "hard" but he added that they have recently been more kindly interpreted since diplomatic relations between Italy and the Allies have been resumed. This was largely due, he said, "to the tact and spirit of understanding of Admiral Stone, Chief of the Allied Commission, who has brought into his relations with democratic Italy a spirit of friendship and wise cooperation for which we are deeply grateful and which we shall never forget."

The first meeting of the Council, in addition to ratifying the list of undersecretaries, set up a Commissariato Generale dell' Alimentazione (Food Commissariat) to be directly under the President of the Council. Gino Bergami, a Liberal and former Undersecretary for Agriculture, was named Commissario. The Council then discussed food problems, "with special attention to Sicily" and subsequently adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for the 20th.

Press reaction to the new government has been about what might have been expected. RISORGIMENTO LIBERALE surveyed the crisis with serenity, even the opposition parties had played their roles well, wrote De Sec, and if the crisis had frankly lasted too long its very length at least indicated that it was an honest crisis and not a political farce with a ready-made "solution" prepared in advance. ITALIA NUOVA grumbled that we now have a dictatorship of four parties instead of six and later added sourly that in personnel and office costs this would be the most expensive government the new Italy has yet had. Saragat, in AVANTI, called attention to the prevalently Rightist character of the cabinet; the communists had been excluded from the key ministries of Foreign Affairs, War and Interior. (This is only partially true, they do not have a minister in any of those branches to be sure, but the Undersecretaries of War and Foreign Affairs are both Communists). Saragat added shrewdly that the Communists just because they were the one Leftist party represented might very possibly have an importance out of proportion to their numbers in the new government.

Looking back on the crisis and its solution it may be fairly admitted that many criticisms could be made. However, the world of politics is not the world of the ideal. Doubtless there are many groups and many party leaders who are not entirely happy about the present government. Obviously no one knows how well it will work for no one knows what trials it may yet have to face. But it can be said too that the crisis was met in a democratic fashion: there was open and honest disagreement, sincere negotiation and a final solution which has been at least temporarily acceptable to all. Compared to the violence and intransigence to be observed in other countries, the Italian way does not look too bad.

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2. Congratulations

We should like to voice the congratulations of the Commission to Admiral Stone on his promotion. This comes at a particularly happy moment, since the Chief Commissioner had no easy time in playing, as Bonomi put it, the part of "wise collaborator" in the prolonged government crisis - with the thought of disturbed Greece and Belgium not far from his mind. The tribute spontaneously given to him by Bonomi at the first cabinet meeting must, we feel, have been almost as pleasing to him as the promotion which followed.

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3. AMG with the Armies

The City of Florence is counting the days until railhead comes up for relief from a desperate fuel shortage. In the first four months after the Germans withdrew from the south of the city only one kilo of charcoal per person was distributed and the total lignite issue was only seven kilos. Some black market supplies have been sold at high prices, but A.M.G. officials confess they have no idea how the people have done their cooking. Vegetables are in short supply. Sugar for November has not been distributed. There is no fuel in the orphanages and there has not been enough food. Public soup kitchens are serving 4,031 meals a day. Garbage collections are still unsatisfactory though farmers have helped by hauling away refuse for fertilizer. Otherwise conditions in the Tuscan capital are improving steadily. Production of shoes will have totalled 80,000 pairs by Christmas. All-wool workmen's socks are being made at a rate of 800 dozen pairs a day. Ten million bricks a month are coming from the kilns for industrial and civilian use. Manual labour is being imported from Pistoia to relieve a local shortage. By the end of November 2,000 civilian phones had been connected and the total number in use by the end of the year will be 5,000. There is some improvement in the electrical supply and it is hoped that production of gas will be resumed by the end of the year. A.M.G. vehicles are doing three wheat runs a day from Siena but the civilian rate of haulage is disappointing. Two new mills in the northern end of Siena province will add seven tons a day to the flour supply for Florence. The City A.M.G. is operating a pool of 24 hired civilian vehicles. Clearing of rubble and demolitions is in the hands of the Genio Civile and is going well. The Council of Administration of Florence University has been dissolved and the Rector is nominating a new one. Sixteen Jewish teachers have been reinstated.

Children attending schools at the end of November numbered 12,800 in the elementary grades, with 805 in the kindergartens and 7,400 in secondary schools. Courses for Canadians at the University in Italian literature, history, language, art and politics have been so popular that extension courses may be offered to British and American troops. There has been a little trouble with troops: five civilians were assaulted by drunken soldiers, one shot in the wrist. Refugees are in good health and spirits. The peak figure in the Florence centre in recent weeks was 4,695. Out of a total of 16,016 handled in three months only 47 were hospital cases. Following a recent cinema show the refugees put on a variety show they had organized and rehearsed themselves without telling the authorities. It has been described as "very good and very funny". The Tuscans seem to be learning to laugh again. Unfortunately the partisan situation, while policy is still in a state of flux, is not so encouraging. There has been a lull in political activity in Florence since the beginning of the Italian Cabinet crisis but quiet political meetings go on, the Communists showing the best organization and greatest initiative.

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Tuscan capital are improving steadily. Production of shoes will have totalled 60,000 pairs by Christmas. All-wool workmen's socks are being made at a rate of 500 dozen pairs a day. Ten million bricks a month are coming from the kilns for industrial and civilian use. Manual labour is being imported from Pistoia to relieve a local shortage. By the end of November 2,500 civilian phones had been connected and the total number in use by the end of the year will be 3,000. There is some improvement in the electrical supply and it is hoped that production of gas will be resumed by the end of the year. A.M.G. vehicles are doing three wheat runs a day from Siena but the civilian rate of haulage is disappointing. Two new mills in the northern end of Siena province will add seven tons a day to the flour supply for Florence. The City A.M.G. is operating a pool of 24 hired civilian vehicles. Clearing of rubble and demolitions is in the hands of the Genio Civile and is going well. The Council of Administration of Florence University has been dissolved and the Rector is nominating a new one. Sixteen Jewish teachers have been reinstated.

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Conditions on the Eighth Army front are much as they were last winter in the Abruzzi-Molise area. Mud, floods and demolitions make travel difficult. Diversions are insecure. The only likely way to reach where one wants to go is in a jeep and that is cold, wet, dirty business. Gum boots, trench coats and warm clothing are recommended. Most billets are unheated, many lack doors, windows, bits of roof. A CAO working in the hills near San Marino got around for weeks with a mule train and visited some of his villages on foot. The Forli team are under constant shell fire. Last Sunday night the Luftwaffe had a go at them and blew in their doors and windows, pitting walls and furniture with broken glass. The Church of S.Bagio was hit during vespers. Known civilian dead at 1800 hrs Wednesday were 26, with others still being dug out and 50 wounded in hospitals. Though all the shops in Forli are still closed, some industries are starting up. Two brickworks are producing for the army and some

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green tiles for roofing are being baked at the same time. Stoves were found in three factories and frozen by AMG. Four big shoe plants are ready to start up as soon as electricity is available and one of them is turning out 300 pairs a day by hand. A large tannery will operate eventually. Troops, scrounging wood where they find it, burned shoe patterns in one factory. Ravenna is almost an island, with sheets of water and seas of ooze reaching out in all directions. The City of Theodoric is not a thing of beauty like Siena. It looks like any other war-battered Italian town. The CLN is reported to be able and energetic and the Vice Prefect and Sindaco appointed on its recommendation are both said to be very good; but there was pained surprise in AMG circles when the Committee tried to put in their own bank manager. The partisans executed three Fascists before AMG arrived. The damaged prefettura was thoroughly looted by the absconding Prefect. Some of the furniture has been found in a nearby town but the silver, linen and pictures appear to be gone for good. Ravenna Province has wheat for export and 600 tons of salt in stock but the salt works were badly smashed by the Germans. Some anxiety is also being caused by lavish promises made to partisan leaders in the area without prior consultation with AMG Eighth Army. But all is not gloom. Group Captain Benson is having great fun with two of his Very Senior Officers who took an Extremely Distinguished Guest from AC duck hunting and returned with a kill of two decoys.

4. Economics

Mr. Antolini, acting vice president of the Economic Section, this week received an urgent summons from Washington. At the official request of the Italian Government his departure was delayed for a few days until the inter-ministerial rehabilitation committee of the new cabinet could be briefed on what the AC considered the most pressing economic problems. At a dinner meeting with the Italian ministers, Mr. Antolini gave the following list of priorities for the Italians' economic operations as viewed by AC sub-commissions: Food: Distribution in Italian Government territory should be taken over as soon as possible from AC; Labor: The position of Italian labor officers should be legalized under Italian law; Public Works: Italian administration of public works organizations should be clarified and simplified; Industry: Expert technical personnel was needed in Italian departments to handle complex data required in reconstruction plans; Transportation: Full support and enactment of the ENAC decree providing for central control of all Italian transport; Agriculture: Energetic action on the olive oil program; Prices: Stricter enforcement. Mr. Antolini finally left for Washington at the end of the week. He was preceded by Col. G.D.Murphey, who will look into the matter of surplus U.S. war material that could be used for Italian civilian purposes and by Major Gael E. Sullivan, who will follow through on AC requisitions.

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5. Sicily again

Sicily is again in the news, this time with disturbances in Catania where on Thursday morning, 14 December, a crowd estimated at 500 and led by students went to the Italian military district headquarters to protest against the recent call-up of men for military duty. A hand grenade was thrown by persons unknown, one person was killed and one injured among the demonstrators, according to a report from the Commander of the CCRR. Police then dispersed the crowd which broke up into small groups and wandered over the town, stopping military trucks and burning several. Demonstrators also occupied the provincial call-up office which they tried to burn. Other buildings damaged were the offices of the Young People's Association, the Corriere di Sicilia Building and the Palace of Justice. In the afternoon, the town hall was attacked, furniture and files flung out the windows and the building set ablaze. The city had not quieted down at last report. (There are now no AC officers at Catania: and only

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38 in the whole of Sicily).

More trouble was brewing, it was feared, in other parts of Sicily on the food question. Brigadier Carr, the regional commissioner, reported to AC Hq. that the situation was grave. The report has caused the diversion of a cereal ship to Sicily.

6. From the Aoruzzi

"I regard" - says Colonel French, in a lively report for November on the Aoruzzi-Marche Region - " the sending of seed potatoes to Rome with great suspicion. I feel they will be used for food as soon as they arrive". (Civil restaurants are off limits these days but we shall tell Colonel French if we get some new potatoes in the mess.) "Political agitation", Colonel French states "can be traced to the shortage of certain foodstuffs, the wholesale requisitioning of property by the Army, the inefficiency of the Italian administration and, in the case of Aquila, a feeling that whatever the disturbance the promoters thereof can get the better of the CCRR". The report (in what is now almost traditional fashion) has some hard things to say about transport; between Ortona and Iesi - over 150 miles - there are no railways, and the problem of stockpiling in devastated areas and moving 200,000 tons of amassed grain out of the Region to deficient Regions is one of transport. Colonel French thinks that, with present transport, half the grain will still be in the warehouses when the next harvest comes round. "The need for transport in this Region" he claims, "is not a parochial but a national one." There are now many troops "resting" in the Region, a matter which is also giving Colonel French a headache over prices and accommodation (warehouses for instance needed for amassing are being taken over by troops). Deliveries of olive-oil and potatoes are still below schedule: Macerata had a food demonstration arising from an increase in wages in Ancona Province which sent Anconaites scurrying to Macerata to buy food and thus rocketed Macerata prices. "The Macerata trouble", observes Colonel French, "resulted in the Prefect fleeing for Rome in a hurry." Another problem is the continuing lack of bridges in Pesaro Province, reconstruction lagging for want of transport and material: Ascoli, however, manages to have a big black market in eggs.

In spite of these little worries, Colonel French reports "a fairly quiet month politically: police functioning better; no serious crimes; general health good, even in the devastated areas."

7. Ecuration

Despite the recent government crisis which resulted in the retirement of the High Commissioner, Count Carlo Sforza, and the appointment of his deputy, Mauro Scoccimarro, to the new position of Minister for Occupied Italy, the branch of the government concerned with defascising Italy is gathering rather than losing steam. The reason is that the various legal procedures instituted and courts [illegible] decrees published since July 1943 by which the

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7. Epuration

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the High Court of Justice to be tried for failing to defend Naples against the Germans.

Over 1200 persons accused of Fascist crimes have been investigated to date and in only five cases have the defendants been released for lack of evidence. On the whole AC Sub-Commissions report a fair amount of satisfaction with the way Italians are conducting the immense and difficult job. If some Sub-Commissions have chafed at the lapse of time before the appearance of concrete results, other Sub-Commissions frankly state that they have been benefited by the meticulous precision with which the Ministerial Commissions with which they deal and the courts did their work which, while time-consuming, definitely saved many valuable senior officials, who would have been lost if epuration had taken on the character of a witch hunt. In any event, epuration as a system for rebuilding the government of Italy and purging the national life of the evils and crimes of Fascism is a going concern, a comforting fact which bodes no good for the Fascist Republicans when its probing fingers begin to reach into northern Italy.

8. Odds and Ends

Five U.S. officers who have applied for release from military service have received orders for 21-day furloughs in the United States on the way to Fort Ord, Calif...General service enlisted men on the American strength are being replaced by limited service personnel... Latest figures on the collection of olive oil are 44,151 quintals, of which two thirds come from the Bari area...The Grenni del Popolo now stands at 9,675,011 quintals or 80 per cent, of 11,800,000 qtl. target...25,000 cases of citrus fruit from Sicily are to arrive at Civitavecchia in October...88 civilian prisoners escaped from the Campobasso jail last week...The second shipment of rock phosphate has arrived at the Montecatini chemical plant near Naples and fertilizer is beginning to be distributed in the Abruzzi-Marche Region... Postal service to Ancona will open 15 December...Fiumicino will be ready to serve as a coal port for barges shortly...Lieut.Col.G.E. Rhodes of Public Works S/O has just returned from a two-weeks' leave in London...The Economic Section is in favor of stricter military censorship in the interest of controlling loose expression of Italian opinion detrimental to the war effort...The shipping scarcity is causing re-adjustment of the UNRRA program, which is in process of being cut back to handle only medical supplies and displaced persons until ships can be found for [illegible] tonnage section for mothers and children...AC Hq. now has radio telephone service to New York and Washington but conversations have as many restrictions as a porcupine has quills...Col.Gevers is transferring his services to AFHQ where he will dip into Austrian planning: Col. Page will replace him as Executive Officer...A Temporary Film Board, similar to the Allied Publications Board for control of newspapers, has been authorized by AFHQ on the recommendation of AC, to sort out some of the complications of the Fascist circus world...The Catholic complaints about lack of transport are now changing to complaints about lack of rings for

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

12 DEC 1944

SECRET

R26/WB36/RRB

10 December 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN No. 36
4 Dec to 10 Dec 44

1. Political

The two weeks old crisis came to an end on Thursday when Bonomi officially accepted the charge of forming a new ministry. It was another forty-eight hours before the list of ministers could be submitted for AC approval. "A long labor," remarked an Italian official, "let us hope it will be a healthy child." The list of ministers (still not final and subject to possible revision) follows:

- President and Minister of Interior	- Bonomi	NO PARTY
- Vice Presidents without Portfolio	- Togliatti	COMMUNIST
	Di Rodinò	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
- Minister without Portfolio	- Brosio	LIBERAL
- Foreign Affairs	- De Gasperi	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
- Justice	- Tupini	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
- Instruction	- Arangio Ruiz	LIBERAL
- Finance	- Pesenti	COMMUNIST
- Treasury	- Soleri	LIBERAL
- Public Works	- Ruini	LABOR DEMOCRAT
- Industry, Commerce and Labor	- Gronchi	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
- Agriculture	- Gullo	COMMUNIST
- RR Transport	- Cerabona	LABOR DEMOCRAT
- Post and Telegraph	- Ceveletto	LABOR DEMOCRAT
- Aviation	- Scialoia	LABOR DEMOCRAT
- Navy	- De Courten	NO PARTY
- War	- Casati	NO PARTY
- Occupied Italy	- Scoccimarro	COMMUNIST

The list of undersecretaries is still in preparation.

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1. Political

The two weeks old crisis came to an end on Thursday when Bonomi officially accepted the charge of forming a new ministry. It was another forty-eight hours before the list of ministers could be submitted for AC approval. "A long labor," remarked an Italian official, "let us hope it will be a healthy child." The list of ministers (still not final and subject to possible revision) follows:

- President and Minister of Interior	- Bonomi	NO PARTY
- Vice Presidents without Portfolio	- Togliatti	COMMUNIST
	Di Rodinò	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
- Minister without Portfolio	- Brosio	LIBERAL
- Foreign Affairs	- De Gasperi	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
- Justice	- Tupini	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
- Instruction	- Arangio Ruiz	LIBERAL
- Finance	- Pesenti	COMMUNIST
- Treasury	- Soleri	LIBERAL
- Public Works	- Ruini	LABOR DEMOCRAT
- Industry, Commerce and Labor	- Gronchi	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
- Agriculture	- Gullo	COMMUNIST
- RR Transport	- Cerabona	LABOR DEMOCRAT
- Post and Telegraph	- Cevelotto	LABOR DEMOCRAT
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Some readjustments in what we might call the ministerial T/O will be noted. There are now only three members without portfolio in the cabinet, the Socialist and Action parties no longer being represented and the Labor Democrats presumably content with Bonomi, who, though now an independent, has old ties with the party. Communications has been divided into two ministries, perhaps for political as well as technical reasons, and a new ministry of "terre invase" has been created to plan for dealing with problems of Northern Italy as soon as the day of liberation comes - possibly too to get Scoccimarro out of the epuration business. As regards the new ministerial line-up seven members are carried over from the last cabinet without change of position, though Cerabona, as noted, has lost half his kingdom. Three others, De Gasperi, Togliatti, and Ruini, are still with us, though in different roles. Pesenti and Scialoia new ministers of Finance and Air respectively, were under-secretaries in the previous government and Arangio-Ruiz was minister of justice

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in the last Badoglio cabinet. The only real new-comers are Brosio (Secretary of the liberal party and previously mentioned as a successor to Saranzini) and Cevalotte (Secretary of the Labor Democrat party). Significant is the appointment of De Gasperi as Foreign Minister. In the past this function had been assumed by the President of the Council. Its importance is indicated not only by the repercussions of the "crisi Sforza" but also by the fact that De Gasperi chose it in preference to a Vice-Presidency which he had been invited to accept.

The publication of the new list climaxed a week of feverish political negotiation. Througout the week Bonomi had been making every effort to break up the Leftist alliance. His obvious target was the communist party which from the beginning had been much more conciliatory than the Socialist or Action parties. The left was concerned principally with holding the line and trying to bring the question under jurisdiction of the C.L.N., hoping eventually to win the Christian Democrats over. On Monday Bonomi offered Togliatti, Nenni and De Gasperi the posts of Vice-Presidents of the Council. Nenni was at first alone in refusing and it seemed as if the crisis might have been settled by Wednesday but at the last minute Togliatti refused to go along. On their side the Left parties suggested the candidacy of De Gasperi who firmly refused. The stalemate seemed likely to continue indefinitely; Soleri was quoted as hoping for a solution "by Christmas" and the older generation was recalling that Bonomi had had similar difficulties in the pre-Fascist era when it had taken him 14 days to form a government which lasted less than a week. However on Thursday a final appeal won the Communists over. Togliatti, emerging from a conference with Bonomi said that "new facts had been presented" and he felt he could approve the governmental program and ~~xxx~~ collaborate with Bonomi. He added, when questioned, that this did not mean an end of the pact with the Socialists; that the latter were aware of his decision and indeed approved of it. The Socialists, given a last chance, stood by their guns and the new government was formed on the basis of four of the six parties. It was at 8:05 P.M. Thursday evening that Bonomi said "Ci siamo" and departed for the Quirinale to accept what AVANTI called "investiture" from the Luogotenente.

The long range effects of the crisis are hard to estimate at this time. It puts two strong parties - Socialists and Republicans - in opposition, as well as the Action Party which may be small numerically but is still an

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The long range effects of the crisis are hard to estimate at this time. It puts two strong parties - Socialists and Republicans - in opposition, as well as the Action Party which may be small numerically but is still dynamic and articulate. It gives the government a predominantly conservative tinge. And it has certainly weakened the position of the C.L.N. What this will add up to only time will tell. As of to-day certain results stand out very clearly. It has been a personal triumph for Bonomi who stood firm under two weeks of stress and tension - aside from the numerous conferences and discussions with party leaders, he received a number of anonymous letters and threatening telephone calls. The Communists have achieved a tactical triumph: they are in the government and, with their alliance with the Socialists outside, will undoubtedly receive a good deal of consideration. In the next emergency - which they can probably create themselves if it suits them - they will be in an excellent bargaining position. Further, in the first open test

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it may be noted that the Christian Democrats did not follow the "parties of the masses" but, though trying desperately to compromise, went along with the conservatives. And, since Bonomi has this time formed his government under the direct charge of the Luogotenente, it may be said that the legal position of the monarchy is somewhat strengthened. However we have not heard the last word on these matters; Benni wrote, with some reason, that the basic questions have been evoided but not solved... An international aspect of the crisis which no one could have foreseen was the open disagreement between the United States and Britain over the Sforza case. Both Stettinius and Eden (the latter subsequently backed by Churchill) re-stated their positions during the week, neither yielding any ground. It is to be hoped that this will clear the air and make harmony easier to achieve before we take our chairs at the peace conference. The statement of Halifax speaking of an "understanding" with Stettinius on international matters seems to promise that.

2. AMG with the Armies.

Ravenna was entered on December 5 and found, except for slight bomb damage, surprisingly intact and normal. There are 20,000 people in the town, few refugees, a smooth administration, and "much less disorganization than usual". The only monuments seriously damaged are the churches of S. Apollinare in Classe and S. Giovanni Evangelista. The Palace of Theodoric, the tomb of Dante, the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, the Orthodox and Arian Baptistries and S. Vitale are reported undamaged, while there is only slight damage to others such as the Cathedral, S. Francesco and S. Apollinare Nuovo. This is a particularly pleasing report in view of the German radio declaration of September 12 which stated that "all the historic buildings and cultural monuments of Ravenna have been destroyed by anglo-American bombardments".

3. Olive Oil.

Lack of olive oil, about which the population systematically (and with reason) complains, bids fair to be a continuing situation if the olive oil collection program does not show some improvement in the near future. The present tentative target is 1,500,000 qtl. by 31 March. To date, with reports about three weeks behind, there have been only 14,000 qtl. collected as far as Hq. knows, though unverified reports indicate another 20,000. Divergent views about the 6000-lire a quintal fixed price of the oil, the virtual stoppage of administrative machinery in many places because of lack of central Italian Government direction during the recent ministerial crisis, [illegible] olive oil control officers are disturbing

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4. Southern Region looks ahead.

On Tuesday Brigadier Dunlop unfolded some interesting ideas on the future of Southern Region to the Chief of Staff's meeting. His main point was that circumstances had combined to form the Region into a distinct block of 9,000,000 people, who had been cut off from the rest of Italy for seven months, who were to some extent still cut off by the belt of devastated areas, who had been the first to get back to Italian jurisdiction, and who incidentally correspond roughly to the old kingdom of Naples. The Brigadier thought that Southern Region was thus politically adapted to go ahead with a rehabilitation programme of its own, especially as the hydroelectric supply was now fairly adequate, railways in good working order apart from a shortage of rolling stock, and road transport capable of improvement if certain decisions were taken: he thought, for instance, that the 400 AC trucks now roaming Southern Region with Italian drivers might be handed over or sold to the Italians since we had no real control over them. He felt too that AC staff could and should be reduced, leaving a total of 80 officers, mainly in the centres of Naples, Bari and Foggia, with outpost provincial officers at Catanzaro and Taranto. He was aiming to get all records in order for further delegations of responsibility on January 1st and also by that date to get Italian civilian employees of AC re-employed, since their continued connection with the Allies might go against them. Brigadier Lush raised his eyebrows over this unco-belligerent idea, but admitted that there might be something in it. Brigadier Dunlop also pressed strongly for strong and decisive measures to improve transit accomodation, and Major Fielden raised the point, in this connection, that the Italian Government badly wants its hotels to be restored to their proprietors who will look after them better, it thinks, than anyone else even if they have to remain in Allied occupation. Brigadier Dunlop felt that it was not yet the time to hand over Naples commune fully to Italian administration but that the day-to-day administration of the city should be placed in Italian hands. The Brigadier also urged the immediate cancellation of all controls on olive-oil. Southern Region, he said, produced 55 % of the olive-oil of Italy, and there was plenty of it; but the fixed price of L.60 was absurdly low, the present Black Market price being L 400. He could do nothing, he said, to enforce such a fixed price "with 8 British boys out of convalescent homes against nine million angry Italians." Questioned, the Brigadier admitted that the temptation to hoard olive-oil (some Italians thinking that it will keep better than the lira) was a prime factor in the situation;

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5. Vox populi et vox mercantum.

Lively discussions developed both at the Chief of Staff and the Economic Section meeting this week on two subjects touching the Brave New World which we all see so clearly emerging nowadays. First came the problem of whether Italian municipal elections should or should not be encouraged and permitted: second the question of whether eager neutrals should be allowed to rehabilitate

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Italy and thus capture her markets while other people are still fighting wars. Argument on both points was fast and furious. At the Chief of Staff's meeting Colonels Fiske, Montfort, Campbell and Cripps were against municipal elections; Colonels Spicer and Henderson, with Mr. Antolini and Mr. Cleveland were for them, the Political Section maintained a discreet reserve and Brigadier Bush said that he would consult Regional Commissioners on the point. The general feeling was that municipal elections were highly desirable but that this was perhaps not the time to hold them. Later in the same morning the Economic Section discussed the same point and a unanimous vote in favour was registered. Civil Affairs Section debated the issue at their Friday meeting, taking particular note of practical issues involved, such as registration, transport and law and order; general feeling of the meeting was against, with Public Safety leading.

On the question of the resumption of commerce between Italy and neutrals - arising chiefly from the monopoly of Swedish telephone equipment (and contracts) in Southern Italy, and a Swedish offer to come in at once and rehabilitate Italy's telephone system - opinions were again divided. They ranged from the one extreme view that "there was no earthly reason why the Swedes should be permitted to retain their interests at all since they had done nothing to protect them" to the other extreme view that "AC was a trustee of the Italian Government and should welcome rehabilitation whatever the source". More moderate opinion was worried as to how far Allied taxpayers would welcome the idea of allowing neutrals to reap profits of war while our own manufacturers were still unable to compete.

Such differences of opinion, no doubt democratically healthy, should perhaps suggest caution in condemning the divergencies of the harassed government of Italy.

6. Gone with the Wind.

Best story of the month comes from Sardinia whence Colonel Pennyquick reports that "we received a report that a train had been blown over by the wind but did not credit it at the time. A visit to the site showed, however, that....the engine and two trucks had fallen off the track at a curved embankment and were lying upside-down on the inside of the curve, that is, on the opposite side to the position they would have taken up had the accident been due to excessive speed going round the corner". Other news from Sardinia includes the departure of the American troops of the Allied garrison,

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mission, efficient private detective agency. Contemptuous of even superstition (its headquarters is located at No. 13, Via della Vite), the Istituto Vigilanza dell'Urbe guarantees its clients protection against robbery by sending agents equipped with a small caliber pistol and uniforms like metropolitani, complete with shiny black belt and boots, to patrol in the vicinity of any given address throughout the night hours. The agency is prepared to keep intruders out of private residences for prices ranging from 30 lire to 150 lire a month, depending upon the number of times each night the client wants his property visited. It will watch markets and food stores for prices ranging from 150 lire to 500 lire a month while the charge to jewelry stores reaches as high as 1000 lire, but small shops and businesses can get protection for as little as 30 lire. Before the allied occupation minimum fees for guarding premises in the above category were : homes, eight lire; food shops, 100 lire; jewelry stores, 75 lire, and small shops, three to five lire. The Istituto's working personnel is comprised of four captains and 160 operators, all war veterans who are disdainful of operation; almost to a man they are veterans of World War I, ex-carabinieri, finance guards or partisans, the fascist soldier veterans from Africa and Spain having turned to less arduous and more lucrative post-war duties. Despite the present boom in police work as a profession, (the number of Istituto's clients has risen from 10,000 at the moment of the Allied occupation to 12,000 today) it is still hard to meet today's expenses, according to Col. Clementi, the director. The booklet from which each detective tears out a little white slip of paper to inform a client that his property has been protected now costs 20 times as much as before the war.

3. Odds and Ends.

Naval authorities have approved a fishing schooner transport service of fresh fish from Sardinia to the mainland.....Present effective generating capacity of electricity in Central Italy is now 97,330 kw., a 33 per cent. increase in the last month.....Two shiploads of lemons went to the U.K. from Sicily last week.....Brigadier Parkinson, director of the Public Health Sub-Commission, will be acting vice president and deputy chief of staff of the Civil Affairs Section in the absence of Brigadier Upjohn in London.....The Granai del Popolo now stands at 9,817,593 qtl. or 85 per cent. of the 11,600,000 qtl. goal.. ....A central coordinating office for the rooting and control of black market activities may be set up in the Economic Section, the project being discussed, coincidentally, just as a succession of small food riots swept several Roman piazzas this last week.....

Lowell Fielden

LOWELL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/WB35/PR2

3 December 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 35
27 Nov to 3 Dec 44

1. Political

The crisis, which began last Sunday with the resignation of the Bonomi ministry, has continued all week. The party organs have been full of "orders of the day", charges, counter-charges, speculation and partisan commentary. The week of suspense ends in anti-climax as the new government is yet to be formed and it is still uncertain who will head it. In the absence of a proper dramatic denouement which events are unwilling to supply it will be useful perhaps to record the developments in the crisis in chronological order.

The origin of the disintegration of the Bonomi government is not quite clear. It has been known for some time that the Leftist parties wanted stronger representation in the cabinet and presumably had been pressing Bonomi. On the other hand AVANTI declared on Tuesday that the Liberals were to blame inasmuch as they were anxious to return to the old pre-Fascist Italy rather than accept the Socialist orientation towards the future. However true the charge may be, it was the first open statement from the Left to the effect that the Liberals were the obstacle to unity. This charge was maintained during the week and, it need hardly be said, refuted by the Liberals. On Tuesday, too, ITALIA LIBERA (Action) came out in the open and affirmed that Sforza was the man indicated for the Foreign Affairs portfolio. Later in the same day the Action Party went further and declared it would not collaborate in any government which would not assign the post to Sforza. By this time the British "veto" against him was made known and he resigned his chairmanship over the deliberations of the six parties consultations which had been entrusted to him the first day of the crisis. We then had, as AVANTI put it, two crises; "la crisi Bonomi" and "la crisi Sforza." On Wednesday the Socialist Party joined the Action group in protesting against the treatment accorded Sforza and (furthermore) stated its unwillingness to serve under Bonomi. The Communists, though speaking mildly and urging Italians not to forget their debt to the Allies, indicated their solidarity with the Socialists and maintained that Bonomi had not followed the democratic program laid down by the C.L.N. Bonomi wrote a letter to Nenni saying that he considered the C.L.N. the expression of the most important political currents in the country - but not the only ones. On Thursday the Prince, who had conferred

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By Thursday the cleavage between Left and Right had deepened. The Communist, Socialist and Action parties were resolved not to accept Bonomi, ITALIA LIBERA going as far as to say that he had put himself outside the pale by handing his resignation to the Luogotenente rather than to the C.L.N. and AVANTI observing sadly that he had now only two alternatives; either to fight democracy or to retire. None the less the other parties - Christian Democrats, Liberals and Labor Democrats - were willing to accept him. At this time too there was talk of Ruini as an alternative; the Left would follow him and the others promised support if Bonomi should fail, the Liberals being particularly insistent that the latter be given a chance to try.

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This is substantially the position as the week closes. Bonomi is still trying and, as seen by ITALIA NUOVA (the conservative-monarchist organ whose adherents have had an exciting week with the prospect of participation in the government before them) the alternatives are as follows: 1. Bonomi may form a government based on the three parties which will accept him and reinforced by others outside the six party group, 2. he may form a so-called cabinet of technicians, at least theoretically non-political, 3. he may give up the attempt and a government more closely linked with the C.L.N. and presumably more to the Left may come in.

The six party coalition was not alone in showing lack of cohesion under pressure of circumstances; Anglo-Saxon unity also yielded somewhat under the strain. After England's disapproval of Sforza had been well aired in the Press a statement came from Stettinius indicating that the United States had nothing against him. ("A victory for us," cried AVANTI.) Eden, speaking Friday in the House of Commons, objected to the use of the word "veto" to describe England's attitude but reaffirmed the British thesis that Sforza who, Eden claimed, had not kept his promise to the British government to support the King and Badoglio and who had indeed worked against Bonomi as well, was hardly the man to be made Foreign Minister at this time. Eden also added pointedly that Italy was not an ally but a co-belligerent and at the moment a base of Allied military operations. Italians did not like the tone of his remarks at all. They could find however some consolation in Alexander's words of praise for Italian units he had visited..On Friday the Cremona division, clad in British uniforms, passed through Rome. The crowd followed them with placid enthusiasm. Even a determined group of adolescents whom we saw baiting the Carabinieri while chanting "Repubblica, Repubblica" like a college yell, took time off to applaud as the trucks rolled by. The man in the street seems heartily behind the war effort, as nearly as we can judge, and - if the truth must be told - relatively indifferent to the political crisis. Indeed even Nenni is reported to have said that the crisis was of major concern only to a few politicians and a score of journalists. He probably overstated the case (and ITALIA NUOVA did not overlook the opportunity to deplore his "cynicism") but he may not have been far wrong.

The confirmation by the Senate of Alexander Kirk as Ambassador to Italy was also imminent this week. He, as well as the British Ambassador and Commodore Stone, has had a busy week of conferences with the Luogotenente and various political leaders.

2. AMG with the Armies

The latest report from Fifth Army AMG - which takes us only up to November 28, while Eighth Army AMG has no report since November 14 - strikes a more optimistic note than usual. Whether this is due to encouraging new facts or to a change in editorship we cannot say. (Colonel Mayne has gone to South Africa on leave) But it is certainly good news that the total grain collection for Tuscany is 92% of the

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2. AMG with the Armies

The latest report from Fifth Army AMG - which takes us only up to November 23, while Eighth Army AMG has no report since November 14 - strikes a more optimistic note than usual. Whether this is due to encouraging new facts or to a change in editorship we cannot say. (Colonel Mayne has gone to South Africa on leave) But it is certainly good news that the total grain collection for Tuscany is 92% of the estimated figure, and equal, in spite of battle scars, to that of 1943. The estimate for olive oil production in Pisa, Lucca, Pistoia and Florence is between 90,000 and 100,000 quintals, and a sufficient number of small mills can be put into operation to deal with the crop. In general except where floods or mines still hinder operations winter planting is going ahead well. Mine-clearance is also making progress in spite of equipment and transport shortages and 5th Army AMG reports that in Florence Province there has been great initiative, and local areas have been largely cleared with the help of trained UNRA personnel. Civilian squads have started work in Pisa and Lucca, Pisa city is nearly clear, and a school of instruction has been started at Pistoia. A new centre has been opened at Lucca for Partisans pending their absorption in employment on road maintenance, and other such centres will be opened where and when necessary. On supply and transport 5th Army AMG remains pessimistic as usual and as circumstances no doubt justify - there are no means of moving the fuel which is so

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badly needed in the large towns, despite the fact that an abundance of lignite is available in local areas; the non-implementation of the "promised" 300 gramme bread ration continues to give trouble, and the word HUNGRY is appearing in English on the walls of Florence, while Proto's wall-notices read "Is this Liberty?" and "Out of the frying pan into the fire."

The CTLN have still not reconciled themselves to the Prefect, whose morale, reported going up in our issue of Nov. 10, is now reported going down.

3. Bringing Home the Bacon

Colonel W.J.Legg, director, Food Sub-Commission, is back at AC after what started to be a two-week trip to Washington and London last September. And judging by the happy relief in the Economic Section, Col. Legg's trip was highly productive, both as to his main mission - getting implementation for a 300-gram ration for Italy, and for an extremely desirable by-product, better understanding of AC's problems in the world-straddling headquarters across the seas. The gist of the colonel's report on his activities is as follows: 1. The 300 gram ration has now been accepted as the basis of all further subsistence planning for Liberated Italy. 2. Arrival of supplies for the increased ration will depend on the allocation of the necessary shipping, which has already been programmed. The mechanics are now being worked out with AFHQ at Caserta. The program agreed upon by both the Americans in Washington and the British in London runs from January to June, 1945. Colonel Legg's missionary work took him through the maze of Washington Agencies Among those consulted who had to give their approval before the program received top blessing - the Colonel pointing out that nothing naturally would have resulted from his efforts had it not been for the fine personal cooperation of all the officers and officials he dealt with - were the following: Civil Affairs Division, International Division of Army Service Forces, Office of the Quartermaster General, Civil Affairs Committee of the Combined Chiefs of Staff, State Department, Foreign Economic Administration, Department of Agriculture, the British Embassy in the U.S., and the British War Office and Ministry of Supply in London. One result of Colonel Legg's rounds, gathering support from every quarter, was the discovery of 3,000,000 bags of Cuban pulses or dried beans of the 1942 crop which were found available.

The following brief table in tons gives an indication of the extent of the agreements reached, the high point of which is that 107,000 tons of wheat/flour a month are now earmarked for all Italy.

	August AFHQ Estimates	AC Mission Estimates	Now Accepted	Net Results Tons	Percentage Increase

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The following brief table in tons gives an indication of the extent of the agreements reached, the high point of which is that 107,000 tons of wheat/flour a month are now earmarked for all Italy.

	August AFHQ Estimates	AC Mission Estimates	Now Accepted	Net Results Tons	Percentage Increase
Wheat	600,000	1,302,000(a)	642,000(b)	42,000	7
Dried Vegetables	None	130,670(a)	65,440(b)	65,440	all
Sugar	18,900	51,660(a)	38,160(b)	19,260	102
Milk	9,660	25,970	25,970	14,310	148
Meat	None	20,160	20,160	20,160	all
Fats	13,500	13,500	13,500	----	---

(a) Subject to adjustment according to operational plans, available shipping and stocks found in North Italy.
(b) For Liberated Italy, with surplus stockpile for North.

4. Displaced Persons

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An enlightening summary of one of the major problems following in the wake of war was given the other day before the Allied Advisory

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Council for Italy by Colonel C.B. Findlay, director of AC's Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission. Here are some points from his address.

"There are at present in Liberated Italy some 85,000 displaced persons. Of these 9,000 live in camps and 14,000 are living in private residences. These 14,000 are entitled to certain financial allowances from the Italian Government and also, in many cases, to allowances from the countries to which they belong. The nationals of the United Nations are also entitled to rations on a more generous scale than the ordinary Italian civilian ration. The Sub-Commission administers and pays these allowances and distributes the ration cards for the additional rations.

"With the freeing of France and the Balkans a further problem has arisen. There are in Southern France 200,000 Italians, partially refugees, partially forced labour, to be returned to Italy. There is in the Balkans, a large number of soldiers who formerly belonged to the Italian Army and of civilians who resided or worked in Albania or Greece. The Commission has the personnel and the machinery to plan and deal with the reception of such persons and it has therefore been made responsible for the repatriation of Italians (other than prisoners of war) to Italy and of other nationals from Italy. In this connection the term "repatriation" is used loosely to cover the return of persons to their normal place of residence, though not their country of origin and the settling of the stateless or persecuted in their new homes.

"The following figures indicate scope of the problem:

	Dealt with	To be dealt with in N. Italy(est)	Total
Italy War Refugees to-date	141,000	200,000	341,000
Displaced Persons repatriated	31,500		31,500
Displaced Persons in Liberated Italy	23,500	50,000	73,500
			446,000

"Estimate of Repatriations to be effected:

To Italy:	From Enemy Countries	380,000
	From France	200,000
	From former Italian Divisions	600,000
		1,180,000
From Italy:	Czechs and Poles	5,000
	Yugoslavs	9,000
	Germany	25,000
	Other Nations	5,000
	Stateless	5,000
		49,000

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Italy War Refugees to-date	141,000	200,000	341,000
Displaced Persons repatriated	31,500		31,500
Displaced Persons in Liberated Italy	25,500	50,000	75,500
			448,000

"Estimate of Repatriations to be affected:

To Italy:	From Enemy Countries	580,000
	From France	200,000
	From former Italian Divisions	600,000
		1,180,000
From Italy:	Czechs and Poles	5,000
	Yugoslavs	5,000
	Germany	25,000
	Other Nations	5,000
	Stateless	5,000
		49,000

"These figures also indicate one of the problems to be faced: REPATRIATION. Over one million Italians have to be returned to Italy. It is for the Commission to provide the necessary machinery to receive them but when this should take place is a matter of high policy involving both political and economic questions as well as transport. Planning cannot be taken to any advanced stage until a key plan on this subject has been received. Any such plan will be dependent also on the plans of the staff responsible in the dispatching countries, with whom the plans will have to be co-ordinated.

"The question as to whether the frontier shall be closed to prevent unorganised self-repatriation with the possibility of dislocation of labour, transport and supplies, and the importation of typhus or other diseases by hordes of returning refugees is also one of high policy. Here again the planning of staging camps and transportation cannot proceed until the routes by and rates and times at which repatriation will be allowed are known. Such plans will also

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"There are at present in Liberated Italy some 23,000 displaced persons. Of these 9,000 live in camps and 14,000 are living in private residences. These 14,000 are entitled to certain financial allowances from the Italian Government and also, in many cases, to allowances from the countries to which they belong. The nationals of the United Nations are also entitled to rations on a more generous scale then the ordinary Italian civilian ration. The Sub-Commission administers and pays these allowances and distributes the ration cards for the additional rations.

"With the freeing of France and the Balkans a further problem has arisen. There are in Southern France 200,000 Italians, partially refugees, partially forced labour, to be returned to Italy. There is in the Balkans, a large number of soldiers who formerly belonged to the Italian Army and of civilians who resided or worked in Albania or Greece. The Commission has the personnel and the machinery to plan and deal with the reception of such persons and it has therefore been made responsible for the repatriation of Italians (other than prisoners of war) to Italy and of other nationals from Italy. In this connection the term "repatriation" is used loosely to cover the return of persons to their normal place of residence, though not their country of origin and the settling of the stateless or persecuted in their new homes.

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To Italy:	From Enemy Countries	380,000
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From Italy:	Czechs and Poles	5,000
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To Italy:	From Enemy Countries	360,000
	From France	200,000
	From former Italian Divisions	600,000
		1,160,000
From Italy:	Czechs and Poles	5,000
	Yugoslavs	9,000
	Germany	25,000
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have to be co-ordinated with the despatching countries.

"The second major problem is CLOTHING. An attempt is being made to obtain salvage clothing from the Armies and repair shops are being set up to deal with such salvage as may be obtained. The scale of the problem can be grasped when it is said that 100,000 blankets and 75,000 boots are required at once for present urgent needs and other items on the same scale.

"Many of the ex-Italian soldiers to be repatriated from overseas are invalids and in rags. They will have to be received in hospitals and whether Land Forces Sub-Commission or Displaced Persons are responsible, they will require clothes to go home in. It is no answer to say that that is a responsibility of the Italian Government unless that Government is in a position to find clothes on that scale. At present it is not.

"Lastly there is the problem which is the problem of the whole AC; insufficiency of TRANSPORT - the problem of providing further transport is urgent and acute.

5. Odds and Ends

UNRRA which has been wanting to start business as soon as possible in Italy by borrowing AC supplies has been persuaded first, to follow through on their requisitions; second, to check if and when shipping is available, and third, only then to borrow from AC up to 2,000 tons of goods, to be re-paid when their own supplies arrive ... U.S. Congressmen from the House Military Affairs Committee will visit Italy and the AC shortly to see things at first hand...Field Marshal Alexander will review 2,000 Carabinieri in Rome in the near future... The Public Relations Branch is having sent to every American officer, enlisted man and civilian in AC/AMG a biographical form to fill out for a news article in each man's hometown newspaper, in accordance with standard U.S. Army PRO practice, so please fill out your form and return it to your adjutant as soon as possible after receipt... Macerata Province reports that 30,000 hectares of maize is ready for collection as soon as warehouse space becomes available...Lieut.Col. Worley, who has been dealing with civil affairs in Burma, has been a recent visitor to AC, looking particularly into Displaced Persons and Repatriation activities...Maj. John Boettiger, formerly with the 5th Army AMG and now with the Civil Affairs Division, U.S. War Department, is current visitor to Hq....Story without Comment: 1. Before the May campaign, there was an estimated 862,000 kw. of electricity in Central Italy from Cassino to Pisa-Rimini; 2. The Allies, on their arrival, found 45,000 kw. left; 3. Today the kilowatt capacity is 64,000...Possibly the only electrically-operated traffic signal in Italy is flashing these days in Aquila...The Granai del Popolo, as of latest reports, stands at 9,750,397 qtl. or 84 per cent. of the 11,600,000 qtl. target...The 1945 potato program has begun with the first shipment of 800 tons of seed potatoes from Aversano to

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Director of the Transportation S/C with Col. Thomas (S) - expected from UK - as his Deputy. Col. Adams has been temporarily assigned to Lombardy Region as Acting Regional Commissioner....

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH SECRET

R26/W534/PRB 26 November 1944.

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO. 34
20 Nov to 26 Nov 44

1. Political

After ten days of political manoeuvre in which rumour, always apt to gallop in Rome, was given full rein, Bonomi tendered the resignation of himself and his ministers to the Lieutenant General at noon on Sunday. Among other consequences of this action is the lateness of the Bulletin this week, our delphic oracle having been upset by this last minute climax.

The steps leading to the resignation are somewhat obscure and at best we can only give you rumour as it trickled from the Viminale to the Press. There were two main rumour trends - one, current earlier in the week, that the leftist parties wanted stronger representation in the Govt, and were anxious to weed out the "weak sisters" whom they professed to find representing the more moderate parties. Their idea would have been not only to give stronger representation to the "masses" but also to work more closely with the C.L.N. The other school of rumor was based on the alleged attempt of Bonomi to gather about him a Cabinet of technicians. According to Italia Nuova, which, as cautious as your reporter, carefully labelled its own account pure rumor - Bonomi went to Naples and attempted to persuade Orlando, Croce and De Nicola to join the Govt. The three elder statesmen are said to have made the condition that the six party principle should be abandoned and a new Govt formed of able men regardless of party affiliation. When this condition was submitted to the Ministers without portfolio - so the story runs - they refused. This story is not improbable. Tempo stated on 24th Nov that "only a Govt of technicians could gain the approval of De Nicola and other parliamentarians" and on the same day there was an indignant blast from Avanti against the attempt of the "reaction to exclude the communists from the Govt" by forming a Cabinet of technicians. It was clear - rumor and chiacchiere aside - that something had to be done to reestablish the balance when Carandini left the Cabinet, and once tinkering begins in such a delicate machinery as the coalition, there is no telling how many or what kind of spare parts will be needed. An added indication of change was the resignation of Visconti Venosta, under-secretary for foreign affairs. It looked as though the way was being prepared for the nomination of a minister in that field. Sforza, perhaps?

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At the moment there is no government. Yesterday the Lord Lieutenant in accordance with parliamentary tradition conferred with Orlando, President of the Chamber, and Della Torretta, President of the Senate, and with "other political leaders" as well. A communique is expected sometime within the next forty-eight hours. Rumor has it that Bonomi feels sure he will be again called upon and indeed any alternative seems unlikely. The leftist parties have made it clear that they will have no truck with "reaction" however it may label itself - an article by Togliatti in the Corriere di Roma leaves no doubt on that score - and it is hardly probable that the moderate parties would accept communist or socialist leadership. However, as the saying goes nowadays in Rome, "tutto e possibile".

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Proceeding from the unknown to the known; the council met on the 22nd and drew up a plan for Sardinia similar to that outlined for Sicily (see Bulletin for 29th Oct). There is to be a Sardinian Council and a Sardinian Bank and the State is to give a billion lire for industrial and agricultural development. The council also approved of a program for coordination and control of radio and a decree for "revision of films" (which looks very suspicious to Avanti to whom "revisione" means "censura" and nothing else). It was stated too that before abandoning the "political price" of bread, Bonomi would consult the C.G.I.L. and some means of protecting the very poor from the additional burden would be worked out.

The abolition of the General Staff, decreed two weeks ago, was followed this week by the arrest of General Roatta and two of his assistants. The trial of Pentimalli and Del Tetto has been again postponed - this time till the 14th of Dec. The press is vigilant but patient. The papers have been concerned most of the week with the plight of the patriots; they have pointed out that the fighters in the north cannot simply go home and wait for spring as the Allies seem to want; Tempo suggested they be given the juridical status of belligerants and sent to France for winter training, and Unita recommended that they be given rights to subsidies and pensions like any other branch of the Army.

Carandini's first speech in London also called attention to the heroism of the patriots. As quoted in the Observer he stressed too the seriousness and responsibility of the six party coalition and stated it was his purpose to make England acquainted with the material and moral problems of Italy. Otherwise the week had little of interest in the field of foreign affairs; formal exchange of ambassadors took place between Italy and Russia, Kostylev, already named by Moscow, was accepted by the Italians and Quaroni became Italian ambassador to Russia. De Gaulle's "hope for a true reconciliation between France and Italy" was warmly echoed in the press - Italians would like nothing better.

2. Mission

One of the most interesting incidents that have occurred recently on the economic side of Italy and one which in fact looks forward into the post-war period, is the current visit here of the all-American Culbertson Mission, headed by Lieut.Col. William S. Culbertson, who carries the personal rank of ambassador. (He was former U.S. Minister to Rumania and U.S. Ambassador to Chile). With him are six others, five of whom are American businessmen and four of whom are members of the United States Commercial Company, an adjunct of the American Foreign Economic Administration, which has been engaged in economic warfare against

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For example, one of the nations in which buying and bidding was hot and heavy and at exorbitant prices between Germany and the Allies was naturally Turkey. Mr. Van Lear Woodward, a member of the Mission who is also vice president of the U.S.C.C. and in private life a member of the big New York importing and exporting firm of Frazar & Co., was one of the original agents for many of the Turkish purchases. Since July, the Mission has surveyed the scene in North Africa and in the Middle East. While in the latter place, Mr. Woodward looked over the U.S. stockpiles in Turkey which, now that the pressure has eased off, are to be sold, if possible, at the price best calculated to make the least dent on the poor taxpayer's pocket. Certain wares, thus,

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have been offered to the Italians through AC and discussions are being held as to how best to do this, a problem obviously of payment. There can be no question of sale at the original buying price but mostly of covering charges and transportation. Offered are several commodities that can be put to effective use immediately in this shortage-stricken country, as for example, woollen and cotton rags for textile mills, which before the war used the self-same Turkish products.

Other items include asbestos, blue poppy seed, casings, castoroil seed, catgut, new cotton clippings, old cotton rags, cotton waste, gallnuts, hazelnutoil soap, hempseed, linseed, linseed cake, linseed oil, gum tragacanth, gum traganton, rapeseed, sesameseed, soy beans, sunflowerseed, woollen rags, airdried sheepskins, drysalted sheepskins, airdried lambskins, drysalted goatskins, pickled sheepskins, valex.

The Mission whose sole function is exploratory, with no authority to make any commitments, has been investigating the industrial capacity of Italy, the possibilities of import and export trade and the currency exchange position. Both the Mission and the Economic Section have been full of mutual compliments on their relationship, the Mission being frankly impressed with the alert awareness of problems by AC and the Economic Section being heartened by the crisp, factual approach of the Mission whose members, as businessmen, are considering only what is practical and feasible in returning trade to private channels as soon as possible and so allow the vitality of individual enterprise to do its share in the promotion of reciprocal trade. One step might be the strong revival of Italian handicrafts. It might be added, however, that the Mission soon found that many Italian firms, although the beneficiaries of cheap labor and cheap power (that is, in normal times), were also full of padded political payrolls and had sites in the most uneconomic positions, again for political reasons of Fascist autarchy, a combination of circumstances that will clearly prevent them from resuming a competitive position in post-war world markets.

Other members of the Mission are Mr. John L. Gillis, vice president of Johnson & Johnson, Inc., medical supply house; Mr. Victor Bowman, executive vice president of the American Steel Export Co.; Mr. Richard C. Thompson, manager of the Export Division of the Electric Auto-Lite Co.; Mr. William Friedlaender, retired importer, and Mr. Henry Fox, chief of the Division of Commercial Treaties of the U.S. State Department.

3. Vanguard of a new Italian Army

On Friday the 24th a first contingent of the six

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3. Vanguard of a new Italian Army

On Friday the 24th a first contingent of the six Italian "groups" now being re-equipped and reorganized passed through Rome on its way north. This passage of a small contingent - 200 vehicles in all - was a more or less minor event, partly owing to AAI's desire to keep publicity to a minimum until the new groups have distinguished themselves in battle and partly also to the fact that the march-past which had been proposed was changed at the last moment into the mere passing of troop-carrying vehicles of every varied shape and size. Nevertheless the Roman citizenry, encouraged by the Committee of Liberation, decided to turn out and line the streets in large numbers, and the Lieutenant-General, appearing in Rome in public for the first time since our entry, took the salute. He seemed nervous - as indeed he well might 39957 he in view of prevailing polemics - when he stepped on to the dais, but he received a good round of applause, though there

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were a few whistles. A group of young monarchists gave him an ovation when he re-entered his car at the end of the ceremony. About the sincerity of the Roman welcome to this first detachment of democratic Italian troops there was no doubt at all: the enthusiasm and goodwill of the crowds was reminiscent, as a Reuters correspondent remarked, of Roman scenes in early June.

Of the six new Italian groups, roughly equal in number to three Allied divisions, two are now virtually ready - having been re-equipped and trained in the astonishingly short space of four months - and a start has been made with the training and equipment of the remainder. Both training and equipment, including guns, rifles and ammunition, are British, as rations will also be. Major-General Browning who, as GOC, MMIA, has supervised the reorganization of the Italian Army, says that the rank and file are of first-rate quality. "Give me two years with British officers and NCOs," says General Browning, "and we'd have an army as good as any in Europe".

Perhaps the dominant note of Friday's parade was spontaneity. No orders to come out and cheer, no cut-and-dried propaganda, few police - in fact, a Roman holiday.

4. The High Command

Mr. MacMillan, Acting President of the A.C., is now in London, for discussion concerning future operations of the Commission, and will shortly proceed to Washington where he will be met by General Spofford of G-5. On the agenda, besides the general policy of the economic rehabilitation of Italy, are: Position of UNRRA, which now operates through the AC but which says it must enter into negotiations with the Italian Government before it can consummate technical delivery of supplies here; clarification of Categories A (immediate requirements to avoid disease and unrest) and Category B (longer-term first aid goods) in the material help being planned for Italy, and civilianization of the AC. On this latter point, Brigadier Lush who recently returned from London, reported that a few British civilian appointments on a permanent basis may be soon forthcoming. Mr.MacMillan was also asked by the Economic Section to settle a disturbing report that the 1,700 3-ton trucks asked for by AC will be 1½-ton trucks, a development which would literally cut in half the present requisition for this urgently needed transport.

5. Sicilia Liberata

It is probably fair to say that Sicily is both better and worse off than the Italian mainland and that conditions there

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5. Sicilia Liberata

It is probably fair to say that Sicily is both better and worse off than the Italian mainland and that conditions there are more serious in some respects and considerably easier in others than they have been reported. The gravest "situation" is a definite shortage of food for sale. There are several reasons why the amassi did not work satisfactorily this year, why less than half the estimated stocks were brought in. But the main one seems to be that the Sicilians have made up their minds that the lira is going to dissolve into thin air as soon as the war ends in Europe and there is a concerted rush for "staple goods" which makes prices and regulations meaningless. No spending by Allied troops exists in Sicily to keep prices at an artificial level. You can walk the length of Via della Liberta and Maqueda in Palermo and you will not see a single allied uniform or vehicle. You can stand for a quarter of an hour in the square outside the Cathedral in Catania and only civilians will pass by. But prices are higher in the shops than they have ever been in Naples or Rome, higher than they were

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last fall, higher than they were this spring. Merchants do not care whether they sell or not. Here are some sample prices jotted down at random in both Palermo and Catania: Shoes sell for four, six, eight and ten thousand lire a pair; cloth caps for boys 650; white sewing thread 300 a spool; locally made toothpaste 100 a tube; cheap black cotton socks 450 a pair; men's cotton shirts 1300 to 1700; men's suitings 2000 to 2500 a metre and rough thick cloth for overcoats 2700 to 3500; a cheap fur coat which looks like dogskin with the hair left on is priced at 28,000 lire. Cigarettes bring 100 to 200 lire a pack. Walnuts are 70 lire a kilo as against 35 in Naples last winter. The only thing which is reasonably priced is soap, for which there is obviously no insistent demand. Allied officials do not believe the wheat which was not amassed is being held for the black market, though black market bread in Catania is already 100-120 lire a kilo. They say that grain and oil are more probably being hidden away for "barter currency" to be used when the lira blows up. The English pound sells for 1000 lire, a gold sovereign for 5000. Repairs and improvements to private property are going on at a noticeable rate, because the people are turning paper money into bricks and mortar at any price. Public works, however, are pretty much at a standstill and church repairs are going very slowly. Most of the bridges have been rebuilt and the railways are all running but road work is in arrears and if any more railway rolling stock is drained off to the mainland the few industries trying to operate will be crippled. The schooner control plan is said to be bogged down in red tape and working very badly. Forged permits to cross the Straits of Messina have sold for as much as 100,000 lire.

Men who ought to know pooh-pooh the idea that the Mafia has been revived as an organized movement, though they say there may be a rapprochement between lesser politicians and local criminal groups. What has happened, they say, is that the Allies in attempting to eliminate Fascism in an Island where it never really existed except in the schools so weakened the machinery of law enforcement that the Sicilians have returned to their traditional custom of ignoring the law and enforcing their own ideas of justice. Isolated bandit gangs are being broken up, but the prisons are clogged. There are 12,000 persons awaiting trial in Sicily, 1631 of them in close arrest. Red tape and bribery on the lower levels of Italian administration are reported as flourishing as ever. All AMG-appointed prefects but two have been sacked. There is no question of holding elections for local posts. An attempt by the local Giunta of Catania to intertere in the election of a University Rector was blocked.

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Schools have not yet opened this year because of an epidemic of small-pox in Palermo (25 cases on Thursday of this week) and for lack of text-books. The high-pressure educational reforms launched last year are disappearing. Teachers are said to be as Fascist as ever. Increasing confusion and political juggling with inspectors in the state schools is expected to result ultimately in the Church taking over practically all Sicilian education. Soup kitchens are running in Palermo and Catania and there is talk of giving one free meal a day in schools after the New Year.

The Regional Commissioner complains that the High Commissioner, Addisio, is playing politics and cannot be found for days at a time. When he can be persuaded to discuss administrative problems, he often fails to act.

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Public Safety officials are sharply critical of reports on the political situation turned in by military security personnel. They say sensational and unverified rumours are reported as fact. Lurid tales are picked up from professional informers. Lt.Col. Snook says: "I do not believe there is any definite plan or any organization to make trouble this winter, though if the food situation becomes very bad there may be impromptu trouble which will go far".

Sicily is sunny and warm these days and there are millions of flies. The country seems shabbier than it did a few months ago. The rains are late this fall, the electric networks are operating fitfully and the farmers are worried about the spring crops.

There will be no amassed grain left for distribution after the end of December. The pasta ration for the fourth week in September was distributed only in the week beginning 11 November. People will not freeze in Sicily this winter, but there will be hunger.

6. Rieti - Rail Romance

We are not even sure if it has a bell, but Train Number 3510 as it chugs and puffs its way up the mountainside from Rieti to Antrodoco and back again makes those who have an ear for sound think of Adano. When, some months ago, AMG 8th Army's Major Crippen entered Rieti, he found railwaymen sitting among their burnt out stock and damaged sheds and track with a sad look in their eyes. Not a railwayman himself, he soon had organized gangs of workers feverishly tearing up, salvaging and relaying track, removing mines and debris from tunnels, rebuilding stations and overhauling a small locomotive and a massive Wagon Lits restaurant car left by the Germans, until 22 kilometers of railroadworthy track stretched through the mountains from Rieti to Antrodoco and Train Number 3510 was ready. On its inaugural run every dignitary for miles around vied for the honor of standing on the footplates, while the huge Wagon Lits coach was crammed with tired cyclists and gaily dressed peasant women. Once a shortage of fuel threatened a crisis, but Transportation Sub-Commission decided not to frown on the little landlocked train even if it did not make a connection with any other line and the Military Railroad Service is not averse to a little romance in its life either, so Train Number 3510 got its coal. Today, as the small engine and the big restaurant car carry all manner of goods and persons on a once daily roundtrip schedule between Rieti and Antrodoco, men and women in the fields look up and wave, and consult their watches. According to the Major the people of Rieti have gotten their railroad back, and a great deal more.

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7. Pre-view

Final tabulations are on the eve of completion of what may well be considered the first authoritative census taken in Italy for years and probably the first to show in detail the effects of modern war on a country which has served as a battlefield in the bitter fighting between the Nazis and the Allies. The census or Censimento per la Ricostruzione Nazionale was ordered last August by the Economic Section. Photographic copies of the first preliminary report are expected to be ready the first part of the coming month.

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The census has covered 10 compartments, i.e. all provinces from Perugia southward, including the island of Sicily and Sardinia. It included five types of information:

A demographic census covering the entire resident and present population, and laying particular emphasis upon the enumeration of war prisoners, persons transferred to forced labor in Germany, refugees, unemployed, and other groups displaced or disorganized as a result of the war.

An agricultural census covering all farms and enumerating, in addition to usual agricultural information, the extent of war damage to farm buildings, lands, and equipment.

An industrial census covering all firms employing 10 or more persons and counting particularly the extent of war damage to plants and equipment and the extent of German theft of industrial equipment and raw materials.

A transportation survey covering motor transport and the merchant marine.

A survey of living conditions covering food, clothing, housing, health, and public services.

The figures produced may throw some light upon the conditions that await us in areas not yet occupied. The census will include, for example, a "coefficient of war damage" for every commune in Italy suffering damage. The coefficient, the ratio of the number of residential rooms destroyed to the number existing prior to the war, may, when compared with army records of land manoeuvers and of bomb tonnages dropped, provide a useful index of damage that may be expected to be found elsewhere.

Partial provincial figures of house destruction available include:

Province	Rooms in destroyed habitations	Rooms in damaged habitations	Rooms not occupied owing to damage	Rooms damaged but occupied
Naples	38,867	53,428	22,733	10,695
Salerno	10,713	8,842	3,795	3,047
Lecce	2	5	2	3
Taranto	426	159	141	18
Catania	12,121	9,159	5,474	3,685
Agrigento	2,559	1,062	635	427

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Lecce	2	5	2	3
Taranto	425	159	141	18
Catania	12,121	9,159	5,474	3,685
Agrigento	2,369	1,062	635	427
Bari	167	346	244	102
Littoria	27,178	9,568	2,634	7,934
Frosinone	2,975	4,582	2,453	2,129
Benevento	4,702	2,092	1,512	580

Chiefly, of course, the census has been designed to help in the making of plans for Italy's future. The preliminary report will contain details on the existence and condition of machinery classified by 2,000 types. Similarly, the details on unemployment, on the animal population, on schools, hospitals, etc. should help fill in blanks in present operational knowledge. Finally, the emphasis upon war damage and German theft should provide one of the most detailed bills of charges that any country will have ready for presentation to the Germans.

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The census has been taken by the Istituto Centrale di Statistica under the continuous supervision of Lieut. J.E.Hicks, of the United States Coast Guard, a member of the staff of the Economic Section. The enumeration work was done by the communal authorities with the help of some 10,000 extra employees taken on for the purpose and under the supervision of 220 inspectors trained in Rome and dispatched to the field. The tabulating work is being done by hand by approximately 3,000 clerks - a circumstance necessitated by the fact that the Istituto's tabulating machinery is amongst that taken by the Germans.

c. Note from Predappio

Predappio, birthplace of Mussolini, was recently occupied by Polish troops. A contributor, no less than the Provincial Commissioner of Forli, describes the place as follows:

"The town is overshadowed by the Duce's castle, Rocca delle Caminate, where he was wont to retire in solitude and take decisions which, it was said, would bear on the future history of the world. The castle now looks down on the passage of those troops which have brought about the downfall of its lord and of the regime he installed.

"In spite of the battle, the town of Predappio is still in fairly good order and the buildings retain their newly-built aspect. The Duce caused a new town to be built on the site of his little village birthplace. Fascist emblems are to be seen everywhere. In the main square the high "Lictor tower" of a bright red colour, still bears its fasces carved in white marble and the effect of the setting sun shining on it is quite pleasing. There are very few civilians in the streets, but Polish troops everywhere.

"The avenue leading up to the Duce's birthplace, once so well cared for, is evidence, in its present unkempt state, that pilgrimages had ceased long ago. The house itself is almost untouched with the exception of a bomb which slightly damaged a ceiling on the top floor. All the furniture has gone, except two iron bedsteads and some notices with the inscription "Visitors are requested not to write on the walls". It occurs to us that many visitors who did not obey the injunction, may be now hoping that their signatures will have been obliterated. An Army Unit, which has occupied some of the ground floor premises, has its number painted on the wall, in defiance of any prohibition. The remainder of the house is quite empty except for a three legged table leaning forlornly against one of the walls, and of fragments of broken glass and plaster which are strewn everywhere.

"After much difficulty, the caretaker, a tallish man of about forty, Nino Berti by name, was found. He speaks the local dialect (the same as the Duce's) and appears to be quite well fed. He has not much information to impart, except to do his best to impress us with the fact that he never had anything to do with the

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Predappio, birthplace of Mussolini, was recently occupied by Polish troops. A contributor, no less than the Provincial Commissioner of Forli, describes the place as follows:

"The town is overshadowed by the Duce's castle, Rocca delle Caminate, where he was wont to retire in solitude and take decisions which, it was said, would bear on the future history of the world. The castle now looks down on the passage of those troops which have brought about the downfall of its lord and of the regime he installed.

"In spite of the battle, the town of Predappio is still in fairly good order and the buildings retain their newly-built aspect. The Duce caused a new town to be built on the site of his little village birthplace. Fascist emblems are to be seen everywhere. In the main square the high "Littor tower" of a bright red colour, still bears its fasces carved in white marble and the effect of the setting sun shining on it is quite pleasing. There are very few civilians in the streets, but Polish troops everywhere.

"The avenue leading up to the Duce's birthplace, once so well cared for, is evidence, in its present unkempt state, that pilgrimages had ceased long ago. The house itself is almost untouched with the exception of a bomb which slightly damaged a ceiling on the top floor. All the furniture has gone, except two iron bedsteads and some notices with the inscription "Visitors are requested not to write on the walls". It occurs to us that many visitors who did not obey the injunction, may be now hoping that their signatures will have been obliterated. An Army Unit, which has occupied some of the ground floor premises, has its number painted on the wall, in defiance of any prohibition. The remainder of the house is quite empty except for a three legged table leaning forlornly against one of the walls, and of fragments of broken glass and plaster which are strewn everywhere.

"After much difficulty, the caretaker, a tallish man of about forty, Nino Berti by name, was found. He speaks the local dialect (the same as the Duce's) and appears to be quite well fed. He has not much information to impart, except to do his best to impress us with the fact that he never had anything to do with the "Fascists". In spite of his expressive gesticulation, we cannot help feeling that this is a rather difficult one to swallow. He cannot supply any information, he has no idea where the furniture and various paraphernalia has gone to, his reply to every query is the same: the "Tedeschi" have been there and have taken everything away.

"We take a turn round the town and talk with the few civilians who are about, they have all the same to tell, nobody had anything to do with Mussolini and they are glad to have seen and, they hope, to have heard, the last of him. It is a fact that the Allied troops have been well received and that the residents have given them a good welcome and that their attitude is the most collaborative. We leave Predappio, wondering how much reliance can be placed on the Duce's fellow citizens, and feeling that they certainly are most ungrateful for ... the embellishments and improvements

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which the liberality of their once illustrious townsman so lavishly expended on them."

9. Odds and Ends

Senior Commander Stones, of the War Office Civil Affairs Branch, is visiting sub-commissions at headquarters to get first hand experience of AC operations....Lieut.Col.Craig has been named co-ordinating officer for the devastated regions....A suggestion has been made to repatriate 1,000 Italians from the Dodecanese, a project opposed by AC at this time....As many as 2,000 refugees harbored in Sicily have been repatriated to their mainland homes....Unemployment is rising in the Abruzzi-Marche Region, which, it is feared, may be a harbinger of the near future in other parts....Wheat collections as of reports received by 25 November stand at 9,714,162 qtl. or 84 per cent. of the 11,600,000 qtl. target figure. Grain in the forward areas is being spoiled by the rains, as, for instance, at Arezzo, where the warehouse leaked, so in some areas the damp crop is being issued in lieu of bread on the 200-gram ration cards.... Twowoollen companies have commenced work at Prato and a further 23 are ready to go as soon as power is available....Several requests for derequisitioning of industrial premises will be presented to the first meeting of the Industrial Coordination Committee of the Allied Local Resources Board on December 1....The first fruit ship of the season is now loading in Sicily for export to the U.K.... Ration scales for food and petrol in the Republic of San Marino will be the same as in Liberated Italy....The general issue of dehydrated soup and vegetables will be suspended December 1, except in army areas, because of uncertainty over future imports....An acute shortage of freight cars is hampering the movement of wheat from surplus to deficiency areas, particularly, the Rome area....

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R 0 NOV 1944

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/WB33/PRB

19 November 1944

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 33
13 Nov to 19 Nov 44

1. Political

Coccio rotto dura piu di quello sano - "a cracked pot lasts longer than a sound one" - says a Tuscan proverb, applied this week by IL TEMPO to the Bonomi Government, which was also described by an Allied correspondent as being in its "chronic state of crisis." Such opinions echoed a general feeling that the Government could not fall because it was already on the ground: in other words, with no electoral machinery and no clear opposition there is nothing to take its place. The crisis, however chronic, certainly went deeper than usual, intensified partly by immediate causes such as the Lieutenant-General's interview, the rift between the Government and the Tuscan C.L.N.; and the "slow-down" order to the partisans of the north; and partly also by remoter causes such as the Palermo affray and the general question of Sicily, dissatisfaction at the slow progress of epuration, and, last but not least, disillusionment over a misunderstanding which translated Roosevelt's "asking" for a ration of 300 grammes into a promise of instant fulfilment. But perhaps the greatest single factor of uneasiness was the apparent deferment of victory until the spring, and the consequent necessity for the present Government of partly-liberated Italy to act.

Between November 11 and November 18 all six parties issued orders of the day. These party declarations, largely composed of pious resolutions not altogether new, seemed, if not to indicate a government fall at least to suggest a reshuffle. The Communists and Christian Democrats (as reported in our last Bulletin) led off on the 11th: on the same day the Liberals issued an order of the day which, though limited to the Sicilian issue, indicated clear sympathy with the idea of greater regional autonomy. The Action Party and Socialists made resolutions on the 17th: on the 18th the Labour Democrats brought up the tail. Common to all these manifestos were the ideas of grave discontent and government weakness: methods of dealing with these maladies were diverse and vague. The Communists put their emphasis on a greater war effort, more power to partisans and C.L.N., local elections, less Allied control, and a Republic: the Socialists, six days later, went somewhat further along this line by demanding annulment of the Armistice, the limitation of AC control to "matters directly connected with military organizations", and help

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Government to "get together" with the C.L.N.: that of the Labour Democrats echoed the Christian Democrat warning against agitation and disorder and reaffirmed the "truce" on the institutional question; but added, somewhat naively, that they reserved the right to "persuade" other parties about the necessity of agreeing upon a democratic Republic.

Thus far the parties. The Government, at its meetings on Wednesday and Thursday, "heard" the reports of Aldisio and Pinna, High Commissioners of Sicily and Sardinia respectively. Sad stories of both islands were told, and perhaps these peripheral worries were a not altogether unwelcome diversion to the Roman cabinet. Another diversion, growing rapidly stronger as the week closed, was caused by General Alexander's instructions given on November 13 to the patriots in the north, which spoke of "a slowing down of the tempo of battle" and a "cessation for the time being of large-scale organized activity." This focussed attention, perhaps fortunately, on the plight of Northern Italy, and on this at least the Italian Press could unite in calling for a greater war effort and every sacrifice by Italians in liberated territory for their brothers in the north. It is good to report in this connection that Rome will next week see the first march-past of newly-equipped Italian troops on their way to the front.

An uneasy week politically, with much exasperation over the unfulfilled or incorrectly reported "request" (the Italian "chiedere" may be translated "ask" or "demand") of Roosevelt for a 300 gramme ration. And Churchill's Friday statement that "the war would go on for some time", following Roosevelt's Thursday "victory in sight", did not add to the general gaiety.

2. AMG with the Armies

Eighth Army AMG's report for the first half of November gives a picture which is a good deal less black than might, in such a fought-over area, have been anticipated. Damage seems to be comparatively slight in almost all the recently captured communes such as Predappio,(home of Mussolini) Civitella di Romagna, Rocca San Casciano, Forlimpopoli, Meldola and Forli itself. In the last there are said to be 35,000 people, all (the town had still under shellfire when the report was written) "living like troglodytes." Everywhere in the area there appears to be a fair amount of grain: in inaccessible districts such as Civitella or Romagna the Prefect of Forli had, before the arrival of the Allied troops, made a distribution of 2 quintals per worker and 1½ quintals per non-worker or child: that is, a year's ration from August 1, 1944 to 80% of the population, the remaining 10% getting 400 grammes of bread daily at a price of 5.80 per kilo. Normal water supplies have of course been damaged everywhere in the area but wells are plentiful and repairs proceeding smoothly. There are few refugees and health seems good, except for a small incidence of diphtheria in Predappio and an outbreak of typhoid which has put San Marino out of bounds

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Fifthy Army AMG also sends a more or less "all-quiet" report. Some 2,000 refugees have been evacuated to the south, among them "a man purporting to be the Bishop of Benghazi." The partisans being held in the center at Florence have been found employment en bloc with an army formation which has made provision for their housing in a Labour Camp; and everyone, it appears, is pleased. The Roosevelt 300-gramme declaration has had the same effect as elsewhere - "the population are asking how soon it will become effective,..applications are also being received from private undertakings for some of the promised 1,700 trucks."

Florentine politics continue lively. On November 10th 150 women congregated outside the Prefettura with banners bearing the slogans:

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"Milk for our children!"
"Away with the Fascist Prefect!"
"Long Live the Allies!"
"We want Epuration!"

It appeared that the second and the fourth were the keywords, the ladies asserting that they preferred privation to Faterno!. In fact, the demonstration might perhaps have been considered as politically staged, had not the innocent T.C.L.N. been away in Rome on that day. During the week a visit from the Soviet Labour Delegates was expected, but they were unexpectedly detained in Rome.

3. Wails from the Siena Woods

Army SCAOs and Regional Commissioners met in Conference with AC Headquarters chiefs and officers of the Civil Affairs Section, AAI, in Siena on Friday. With key Commission personnel away, elections in the United States distracting the minds of many officers, foul weather in Italy and roads and bridges washed out, five weeks had flitted since the last Conference. Many things can change in AC/AMG circles in five weeks and several new faces were introduced. But the old difficulties remain, and they were thoroughly aired at Friday's meeting which lasted until mid-afternoon. The Conference opened on an ominous note. Col. Fiske, substituting as Chairman for Brigadier Lush, scarcely back from Britain and busy in Rome, announced that, contrary to rumour, U.S. AC personnel "would not be out of the trenches by Christmas". He said the War Department was exploring the possibility of recalling certain Sub-Commission and Specialist personnel but he doubted if any appreciable numbers would be released. New Year's Day was mentioned as a tentative date-line for a decision.

The food situation, forced into the open by President Roosevelt's request that the bread ration in Italy should be 300 grammes and by a third demonstration in Florence because that quantity is not yet being issued in the Tuscan capital, came in for frank discussion. Mr. Antolini led the chorus with the statement that "we are practically bankrupt." He said a 300 gramme ration could and would be issued if the Commission discounted a theoretical stockpile of 800,000 tons of grain in what the meeting called "Kesselring's Italy." But issue on that scale would deplete those stocks, if they exist. To make matters worse the CGIL is pressing for a scale of 350 grammes for workers. November and December imports of wheat were cut back considerably below expectations. There was only one ray of hope: Mr. MacMillan was leaving shortly for London and Washington and was being briefed with the facts for the attention of both Govts. The message to the President will be, in effect, that if 800,000 tons of grain are not found in Northern Italy "we are out of business".

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when he announced that UNRRA had come into Italy with $50,000,000 in credits and nothing else but a request to borrow AC stocks of food, transport and medical supplies to start UNRRA distribution.

Minister

Mr. Hopkinson, British/in the Rome Embassy, informed the Conference that Mr. Caccia had been sent to Greece by Foreign Secretary Eden to act as co-ordinator of a joint Anglo-American Commission established in that stricken country. The situation in Greece is chaotic from lack of food and the collapse of the drachma. It is not sure that Mr. Caccia will return to AC. Reviewing the political situation, Mr. Hopkinson made it quite clear that as far as Britain and the United States are concerned Italy is still a co-belligerent. Italian pressure for full Allied status is expected to increase when the Italians are invited to join in the war against Japan. The official British view that Italian colonies should not be returned will have to run the gauntlet of the United Nations before it becomes a firm policy. When Italy denounced the 1940 armistice with France, the DeGaulle Government promptly sequestrated all Italian government property in France, but improved relations between the two countries are hoped for. Italy is trying to get news of 100,000 prisoners-of-war in Russia. Turning to the internal political scene, Mr. Hopkinson hinted that unity within the government is not expected to last. It was badly cracked by the interview the Prince Regent gave to Matthews of the New York Times. The Left is nervous of the effect of the Prince's intervention in the constitutional question, claiming that plebiscites in countries which have been Fascist have been "fixed". The Christian Democrats by implication have criticized the Left for attacks on the government and carabinieri and seem to be crystallizing on the Right rather than the Left. But nobody appears to want a disruption of the government because no group wants to bear the burden of this winter alone and all want to sit in when the machinery for determining the constitutional question is being organized.

There was free discussion of many difficult problems. The carabinieri are not liked in the Communist province of Grosseto but were reported to have turned the corner in Rome as a result of their strong handling of gangs in the Eternal City. Complete outfits for all the carabinieri in service in Italy are stocked in Naples and Bari and will be moved forward by rail for distribution. Activities of the Patriots Branch were praised and damned. Political meetings in Army areas are banned and very strong representations have been made to the Prime Minister of Italy about ministerial trips into forward districts. Col. Gibson of 4AI attended the Conference and listened to pleas for moving the rear Army boundary north of Florence and Pisa. He explained the security risks involved and reminded the Conference that there is still a German Embassy in the Vatican. Brigadier Upjohn said that though there have been diplomatic flurries because members of the Yugoslav mission have been arrested and convicted for entering Army areas such arrests are to continue until the issue has been settled. A debate on the feasibility of moving the three Region HQs now in Chianciano to Rome disclosed that there are 90 vehicles there. Bidding for those cars between Mr. Antolini and Commissioners of active Re-

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at all." AMG Eighth Army pressed for American promotions and Piemonte was anxious to promote British subalterns brought in from Ack-Ack Regiments.

4. Granai del Popolo

Wheat harvest collections as of 15 November stood at 9,408,649 quintals or 81 per cent. of the AC target figure of 11,600,000 quintals for Liberated Italy. The reports from the fields lag about 10 days to two weeks. For purposes of comparison, on 31 October, 1942, collections were 93 per cent. of that year's goal. The recent torrential fall rains in forward areas have helped further cut down the expected returns since the wheat there was largely stacked in the open and 30 to 50 per cent. may now be considered as lost. In the Marche-Abruzzi Region farmers are reported feeding grain to hors and cattle. Three areas - Campania, Lazio-Umbria and Tuscany - have, however, exceeded expectations to date. Calabria and Sicily, of course, still trail. Sicily, with a reduced goal of 2,000,000 qtls., has brought in a little more than 1,200,000. The collection is not even expected by many to reach 1,500,000 qtl. by the end of the year, although sundry devices are being tried out. This now brings to the fore the question of feeding Sicily through imported wheat and the Agriculture and Food Sub-Commissions have been addressing their attention to this problem recently. From preliminary studies it appears that Sicily in years of average wheat production imported 900,000 qtl. a year. The Sicilian food situation is further aggravated by the fact that production of dried horse beans (fava), a staple of Sicilian diet, is almost half what it used to be due to the shortage of phosphate fertilizers. Using the figure of 1,500,000 qtls. as theoretically delivered to the collection centers by the end of the year, the AC agriculture experts estimate, roughly, that Sicily will need 1,650,000 qtl. of imported wheat for January 1 to July 31, 1945, while the food specialists give their estimate for the same period as 1,925,000 qtl.

5. Turnover

As every manjack in the Economic Section knows, the pressure has been on increasingly in recent months to turn over more and more operational responsibility for administration to the Italian Government. If anything, this turnover pace will increase, topside reports indicate. The Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission took a large step in this direction this week. Henceforth, all civil projects, regardless of cost but providing they involve no critical materials, may be carried out by the Genio Civile without reference to AC. In the Industry Sub-Commission, arrangements have finally been agreed to by AFHQ to turn back operation of Sardinian coal mines to the Italians. Southern Region's October report has a good list of activities transferred back to the natives, many of which, of course, are on a national scale and thus reflect turnovers in

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1942, collections were 38 p[illegible] torrential fall rains in forward areas have helped further cut down the expected returns since the wheat there was largely stacked in the open and 30 to 50 per cent. may now be considered as lost. In the Marche-Abruzzi Region farmers are reported feeding grain to hogs and cattle. Three areas - Campania, Lazio-Umbria and Tuscany - have, however, exceeded expectations to date. Calabria and Sicily, of course, still trail. Sicily, with a reduced goal of 2,000,000 qtls., has brought in a little more than 1,200,000. The collection is not even expected by many to reach 1,500,000 qtl. by the end of the year, although sundry devices are being tried out. This now brings to the fore the question of feeding Sicily through imported wheat and the Agriculture and Food Sub-Commissions have been addressing their attention to this problem recently. From preliminary studies it appears that Sicily in years of average wheat production imported 900,000 qtl. a year. The Sicilian food situation is further aggravated by the fact that production of dried horse beans (fava), a staple of Sicilian diet, is almost half what it used to be due to the shortage of phosphate fertilizers. Using the figure of 1,800,000 qtls. as theoretically delivered to the collection centers by the end of the year, the AC agriculture experts estimate, roughly, that Sicily will need 1,650,000 qtl. of imported wheat for January 1 to July 31, 1945, while the food specialists give their estimate for the same period as 1,925,000 qtl.

5. Turnover

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"Distribution of drugs was taken over by civilian authorities; two cement works and two brick works were handed back to their owners; the control of certain minor industries, such as soap, was taken over by the Italian authorities; repairs to power stations and the operation of public utilities were largely handed over to the Genio Civile; agricultural supplies have been handed back to the Consorzio Agrario; military highways have become the responsibility of Italian road engineers; the ports of Castellammare and Torre Annunziata were taken over from the military authorities and Crotone from AC; the Posta and Telegraphs of Naples Comune are now controlled by the State. The Italian Ufficio del Commercio e dell'Industria is responsible for preparing bids for controlled materials; coal will be [illegible] distributed and accounted for by the Italian State Railways.

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6. Neapolitan Notes

To one returning to Naples after four months absence two changes are apparent. The city is growing progressively cleaner and there are evidences that it is gradually going back to the Neapolitans. A good deal of debris and rubble has been removed and the absence of a motor pool in front of the Municipio and of the stacks of material in the square before the Prefettura give an air of tidiness and spaciousness. True the Via Roma is what it always was and indeed the mixture of uniforms has received a new ingredient - one encounters the Brazil shoulder patch fairly frequently - but the majority of the throng is now predominantly civilian. From the AC point of view there are minor changes that loom large. The Excelsior opulence is now available to the visitor and Southern Region has set up its mess in the celebrated Zi' Teresa, although the cooking has suffered some change since the old days since it is now based on Army rations.

AC problems in Naples are the standard bag of headaches with a few local variations. The Naples zone is still AMG territory, of course, and the busy port needs constant policing. Further, of the many deserters estimated to be at large between Rome and Calabria, it is fair to assume that many are concealed in the alleyways of Naples. Yet, according to the Zone Commissioner, there is surprisingly little crime. Pilfering of army trucks goes on but on a decreasing scale. There has recently been an order put out over the Sindaco's signature forbidding Neapolitans to shelter in their homes or hotels any member of the Allied Forces; it is expected that this will dry up the source of supply of some of the black market centers. Superficially food would seem not to be a serious matter at the moment; even the food stalls of Santa Lucia(one of the poorer quarters) are well stocked with almost every kind of foodstuff. Prices are not low but at least lower than Rome. Naples is naturally regarded as a supply center in the matter of flour and the Zone Commissioner's efforts to build up sufficient reserve of pane, pasta and farina to take care of possible calls from the North or local emergencies, are continuous and strenuous. Naples province itself consumes 670 tons of flour a day. The rationing of olive oil is causing some discontent since at the moment some communes are getting it and others must do without. Public health, we are informed, is good. There have been one or two small-pox flurries in the small towns in the province but prompt action including mass vaccination has averted any danger of an epidemic. Welfare will always have its troubles in Naples but the orphanage is now running well and efficiently. There are 5,000 boy scouts in the province and the movement is growing. There is still a great shortage of footwear and blankets. Education is in good shape as the second school year after liberation begins. Of elementary schools 66% in Naples province and 90% in the provinces of Avellino and Benevento are open for business. In Naples itself, unhappily,many schools are still requisitioned.

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Politics go merrily on, indeed at a livelier pace than ever. The Zone Commissioner, who was scolded by "Avanti" for not accepting the candidate recommended by the local C.L.N. for Sindaco, is actually on the best of terms with the party leaders and it is expected that soon a solution acceptable to all will be reached. Meanwhile the Commissario is doing a good job. Incidentally, the Zone Commissioner, who was approached by the "partito rivoluzionario" for permission to publish "Bandiera Rossa", achieved a triumph for moderation when he persuaded them to become the "partito riformista."

In spite of the persistence of problems of supply and reconstruction and in spite of the presence of the military the war seems very far from Naples - even further than from unscarred Rome where the political repercussions of the fighting are so immediately felt. The days of tenseness and the nights of sleeping in the ricoveri are over and the Neapolitan is pretty much himself again.

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Some troops have been in Naples a year and more now and the inevitable has happened; there have been a number of marriages between Allied soldiers (including officers) and nubili Napolitane. There have been an even greater number of thwarted matrimonial attempts since the authorities investigate such projects thoroughly. Statistics are, however, delicate and should be regarded as highly secret - and we suspect would be at best inaccurate.

7. Odds and Ends

Grosseto Province reports, among local government matters, that the Commune of Monte Argentario is quiet but perhaps has taken on an air of sanctity since Signor Silvio Costa,who lives there, recently declared its independence as a "Principality of Peace" in preparation for the imminent arrival of the Saviour....Possible manufacture of small arms and shells in Liberated Italy for the war effort has been investigated recently by Allied specialists from abroad....Salvaged machinery of the Italian Government match monopoly at the destroyed Futignano plant which produced normally 21 billion matches a year may be moved to Pisa as a new production site....The 150 tons of American cotton recently received - plus 400 tons of Sicilian cotton is being made into bed and personal linen, sewing thread for civilians and some into underwear and stockings for the Italian Army....A survey of the north Tuscany textile belt shows 30 per cent. of the plants undamaged, 20 per cent. capable of short term repairs, 20 per cent. capable of long term repairs, and 30 per cent. totally destroyed.... On the basis of a 100-gram ration of olive oil a month, it is estimated that there will be a deficit of approximately 35,000 tons in the current olive oil amassing program, despite the intensive efforts of the eight harvest control officers now on the spot in the Southern Region....On the heels of a 15,000 ton distribution of nitrogen fertilizers in Southern Region, bonus-type issue of imported fertilizers to farmers in Sicily is being planned on the basis of the grain harvest legal retentions and deliveries....Use of supplies as bonuses in control of collections is also being applied to the fishing industry where villages will have collection centers for fish and distribution centers for natta, benzine, kerosene and oil for the boats and the night fishing lamps....Two steps toward increased coordination of inter-related Economic Section activities have been taken in the establishment of a Priorities and Movements Division, with Mr. Merritt H. Taylor, American civilian as head, and a Supply and Resources Division under Mr. Harlan Cleveland, the Section's Executive Director.. 700 Yugoslavs have been repatriated to their homeland this month.... Plans are afoot to recruit 1,000 Carabinieri a month for emergency war duty from volunteers for enlistment in the Italian Army....The study of German will no longer be compulsory in Italian schools, the Education Sub-Commission reports....Noting an almost complete stoppage of the flow of imported foodstuffs other than wheat, the Food Sub-Commission estimates that present stocks of dehydrated soup, canned meat and dried vegetables will be eaten up entirely by January.... Italy since May arrived late in October

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acute tobacco shortage in that city....Italian exports amounted to 1,636½ tons of various products, valued at about 20 million lire, during October....Re-activation, now under way at the large Solvay chemical plant at Rosignano, is expected to eliminate completely all imports of caustic soda and sodium carbonate for Italy....Statistics for venereal disease among British troops in Italy shows that more than 50 per cent. contracted infection in Rome,.Pub Health reports....Total number of Patriots recruited into the Italian Army as of 31 October were 807....More than 90,000 persons have now viewed The Palazzo Venezia exhibition of great paintings in Rome....Of 7,000 Italians arriving in the Rome refugee camps, 5,000 have been repatriated to their home communes....The Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission is currently arranging the repatriation of 113 Greeks for Tripoli and Cyrenaica, 31 French-Italians for French North Africa, 20 Czechs for the United Kingdom (to join the Czech forces), 25 Latin American ecclesiastics for South American countries, 900 Jews for Palestine and 50 other Catholic clerics for countries all over the world....A Sardinian shepherds' vendetta has resulted in the slaughter of some 800 sheep....A note from Lt.Col.Dickie, former deputy director of the Agriculture Sub-Commission and now in Greece: "Many of the problems to be faced here are similar to those in Italy - destruction, disruption of communications, neglected land, lack of draft animals, of seed and of fertilizer, but we feel we have made a good beginning and if party antagonisms, not verbal only, can be calmed, then our progress will be vastly quickened."....Overheard from a British sergeant at a sergeant's dance "I don't know what all this Fascism was about but it seems to have been very popular".

Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

R26/WB32/PRB

12 Nov 1944

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 32
6 Nov to 12 Nov 44

1. Political

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

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

Under these circumstances, the shooting by a P.S. agent of a Communist who was scribbling anti-monarchic slogans on a wall in Via Ravenna on Tuesday was considerably played up. Nobody knows exactly what happened: it seems that the P.S. agents approached the scribblers in the twilight, asked for their papers, were refused, and in the ensuing scuffle one of the agents fired his [illegible] wounding a young Communist, Mesiti. The incident

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

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

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

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

2. Changes

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

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

"In order to facilitate task, they have agreed that the Right Honorable Harold MacMillan, MP, British Resident Minister at Allied Force Headquarters, Mediterranean, should, in addition to his present post, become the responsible head of the Allied Commission. In

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

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

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

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3. Roumanian AC

Colonel E.R. Greer, who has been for three years Military Attache in Moscow and is now on the Roumanian Control Commission, visited the AC in Rome this week. He tells us that the Roumanian AC consists at present of 25 British officers, about 100 OR and roughly a similar number of Russians. The American contingent has not yet arrived. The Commission is divided into Army, Navy, Air, Economic and Transport sub-commissions. The President ex-officio is Marshal Malinowski, and the two Commissioners - who sit side by side at the head of the conference table - are General Vinogradoff and Air Vice Marshal Stevenson. The Russians, says Colonel Greer, are very moderate in their control, and the Roumanians not at all unhappy, though relations for the moment are still somewhat formal. Official functions are not attended by Russians or British unless both are invited. Outside official doings, pleasant party-giving is not at all excluded: the country is full of food and wine, and a "pre-war Ritz" meal in Bucharest costs 1,500 lei - about four shillings, or less than a dollar at the present rate of exchange. 23-year-old King Michael and the Queen-Mother, Helen, continue the dynastic tradition and the Roumanian Government functions - with an extra C still in commission, no doubt. Bucharest has, Colonel Greer says, been very heavily damaged, particularly by the unopposed 3-day bombing of the capital by the Germans after the coup d'etat.

4. Relief to Devastated Areas

Lieut Colonel A.D. Bonham-Carter, executive officer for the provinces in Lazio-Umbria Region, who was brought into AC Hq to lay out a program for aid to the devastated areas and is now returning to his Region to help put measures into effect on the ground, has some revealing facts about the situation. Two teams are now working in the Abruzzi-Marche Region and other officers will be assigned to assist wherever necessary. The scope of the problem is to be confined to the so-called "Winter Line" of 1943-44 in the two regions mentioned. So far, the Italian Government, although the entire area under study is under Italian jurisdiction, has not come up with any concrete plans or even requests. The area to be helped includes the provinces of Littoria, Frosinone, Aquila, Chieti and Pescara, with some portions of Naples and Campobasso provinces. Population that can be termed destitute is estimated at approximately 300,000, of whom perhaps a third are children. The population cannot be evacuated, first, because there are so few places they can be taken to; second, because of lack of equipment and transport for such a mammoth operation; third, and most important, because they do not want to leave their homes or what is left of their homes, only 15%, for example, having agreed to leave shattered Frosinone. They are now living in smashed houses, shacks made of rubble, caves and even dugouts and, of course, are doubling up with friends or relatives lucky enough to have homes still in one piece. There are also a few fortunates with tents. Water is no problem, except for Itri, where a water-cart still delivers a ration of one liter of water a day. The American relief committee for Italy [illegible] to provide clothing, which is

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Official functions are not attended by Russians or [illegible] both are invited. Outside official doings, pleasant party-giving is not at all excluded: the country is full of food and wine, and a "pre-war Ritz" meal in Bucharest costs 1,500 lei - about four shillings, or less than a dollar at the present rate of exchange. 23-year-old King Michael and the Queen-Mother, Helen, continue the dynastic tradition and the Roumanian Government functions - with an extra C still in commission, no doubt. Bucharest has, Colonel Greer says, been very heavily damaged, particularly by the unopposed 3-day bombing of the capital by the Germans after the coup d'etat.

4. Relief to Devastated Areas

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

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

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dried vegetables, 3,600 tons of dehydrated soup, 2,100 tons of cheese and meat and a regular ration of soap and salt. Transport of food to the area rather than transport in the area is the problem. The tough job in the distribution of food in the devastated areas will be to the isolated mountain hamlets where rains, snow, bad side-roads and blown bridges keep the residents in their homes the winter long. Public health is generally good, but medical supplies for the isolated places must be provided before the hamlets become inaccessible. Ambulances are also scarce but a Friends Unit may lend a hand to meet this lack. Blankets are acutely needed - 50,000 of them. Attempts are being made to obtain several thousand from the British Graves Registration Service. The British wrap their dead in a blanket before burial. It is proposed to substitute another form of shroud and use the blankets for the Italian destitute.

While regional public works engineers are set to make priority repairs on houses and bridges where possible, emergency repair of houses is being planned with canvas. Some 30,000 square meters are now available and more sought. Until tiles and cement are found, the canvas will at least make some houses weatherproof for the time being. The housing program started by the Italian Government will not make any houses ready for occupancy until next spring, so has to be counted out as a practical measure. A few places near the area are sought as temporary re-location centers where the very old can be moved until a home in their own neighborhood can be made ready. Fiuggi has some hotels which the military authorities will be asked to de-requisition for this purpose. The last item on the program will see the disappearance of all the glass on the glass-topped desks in AC Hq. This glass will be taken up and used to provide windows for schools and hospitals in the area. The Italian Government, through the Finance Sub-Commission, will also be asked urgently to make an immediate appropriation of funds and to cut all red tape in getting aid to these dwellers in some of the war's most ravaged sites.

5. More changes

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

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6. Fifth Army AMG

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

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

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

7. Patriots

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

8. Odds and Ends

The next forward meeting at Siena will be held 17 November at 10 a.m..... The Swedes have asked to come into Italy to rehabilitate telephone services in Southern Italy under a pre-war contract they had with the Italian Government, a request which has been politely

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/ radio:

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

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

5 November 1944.

R26/WB31/PRB

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 31
30 Oct to 5 Nov 44

1. Political

Some weeks ago there was talk of changing the government and replacing it by a Leftist Front. In view of the past week's activities it seems very unlikely that such a move will be necessary. For the government, though made up of radicals and moderates in equal numbers and headed by a prime minister who certainly cannot be called a revolutionary, is nevertheless, under the pressure of circumstances, gradually moving to the Left. This week, under the prodding of the CGIL, Bonomi issued a statement saying that the two problems of aiding workers to meet high living costs and redistribution of land would have to be solved "without delay". This was followed by issuance of an order to the Provincial Commissions to begin distribution of land to the peasants by November 5. ITALIA NUOVA - as was to be expected - pointed out that action may have come too late to be useful, and suggested that some one should have given Bonomi a Farmers Almanac. However, the action does show the government's desire to get on with what, only a few weeks ago, was regarded as part of the Leftist program.

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

Another strike was averted when Region IV, besought by Rossini, Director of the Italian Press, promised to supply transport to typographers who are getting more and more afraid to walk home in the dark - not without reason, perhaps, since there have been recently some cases of thuggery in Roman streets. The carabinieri have been doing their best. General Orlando's circular urging them to be non-political was well received and a kind, if

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

1946

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

2. Trade follows the Flag

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

3. Another view of France

General de Sevin, lately back from France, sends us some notes to add to the report given in last week's Bulletin. He writes to us as follows: "Many undamaged factories and mines are still to be found in France. The machine-tools are still numerous. But the revival of the industrial and economic system is impossible

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

4. Supplies on the way

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

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

Detailed plans to hand over operational responsibility for all distribution of foods in Italian Government territory to the Italian administration also advanced this week. The Italian Government, at this reading, expects to go into the market as the largest single purchaser of unrationed commodities, outbidding the black market, which it will sell to consumer distributors at subsidized prices. At the same time it plans to raise the price of bread to 8 lire and that of pasta to 16, using the saving on the bread subsidy to help finance its market buying. Speaking of food, it is of interest that the announced shipments of 95,000 tons of wheat in November and 101,000 tons in December now actually are 67,000 in November and 93,500 in December.

5. Rising Wages

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5. Rising Wages

Col. Smith, Acting Director, who is chairman of the labor and wages control committee of the Allied Local Resources Board, has presented for approval to AFHQ the recommendations of a special sub-committee (1) to raise the pay of civilian employees for the armed forces to a line equal to the recent October 31 wage increases authorized by the Italian Government and (2) to go beyond that in order to maintain the preferential position of the Allied Forces in the labor market, which latter end would be achieved by paying an extra 5 lire a day. Thus, the average rate of common labor in Liberated Italy paid by the armies, which in Rome was 60 lire a day in June and 95 lire a day after October 1, (when a general army increase went into effect) would then be 185 lire a day. Dockyard workers had been evidencing some discontent over the Allied lag behind the Italian increase.

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5. AMG's with the Armies

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

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

The play, "A Bell for Adano" opened on Broadway in New York on Monday night. Lt.Col.Toscani, the Major Joppolo of the book on which the play is based, is shrinking from considerable spotlight at headquarters of AMG Fifth Army. Mrs. Toscani is sick of the

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9. Odds and Ends

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

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time because of the shortage of accomodations....Brigadier Dunlop is succeeding Colonel Temperley as Southern Region RC while Colonel Severs moves up in charge of Venezia Region....The Granai del Popolo figures, as of November 4, are 9,004,286 qtl, or 78% of the 11,600,000 qtl collection forecast....The infant mortality rate in Rome is 89.9 for September, the lowest since January and lower than the corresponding month of 1945 when the rate was 96.9....A sampling survey in four provinces by the Transportation Sub-Commission indicates that, on the basis of vehicles registered in 1938, 68% are missing today and of 3-ton trucks (the real load-carriers) 84% are missing.... Lieut.Col.Bonham-Carter has been appointed coordinating officer for the special team of officers assigned to help in the devastated areas, where the greatest need of the moment is for blankets....The second civilian to become director of an AC sub-commission has taken office: Mr. Leland S. Allbaugh, Agriculture, succeeding Lieut. Col. Hartman....Story without Comment: a report on missing or stolen WD vehicles reveals that Americans were responsible for 34 lost cars, British for 10 and Italians for three, although the three nationalities were tied as to cars in their possession that got wrecked - 6 - 6 and 6....Transfer of responsibility for Italian prisoners of war to the Army Sub-Commission from the War Materials Disposal and Italian Prisoners of War Sub-Commission is under consideration.... Col.Young, deputy director, Public Safety Sub-Commission, addressed Roman editors the other day urging greater understanding of and cooperation with the Italian police who, as every newspaper reader knows, have been coming in for some heavy body-blows of late.... An acute shortage of salt has developed at Salerno because of lack of rail cars....Naples also is having a severe shortage of ambulances... In the last two weeks 73 km. of high tension transmission lines have been repaired, making available an extra 3,160 kw. of power....The Corps of Agents of Public Security has been re-named the National Police Guard....Robberies by Allied deserters and Italians dressed in Allied uniforms are increasing in the Lazio-Umbria Region while in Southern Region a gang of Canadian deserters is keeping the police busy....The civil telegraph has opened from Aquila to Teramo, Ascoli, Chieti and Rieti and will do so to Pescara this coming week... Story (unverified) from Rome - a thug with a revolver accosted an elderly Italian and demanded his money. No money. Watch? No watch. Shoes, then? Sorry, only threadbare slippers. "Poor devil! "said the thug. "Come and have a drink, then". And gave him a thousand-lire note. (genuine).

8. Envoi

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

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

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

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
CMF
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB39

29 October 1944.

RKT

AC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 30
17 Oct to 29 Oct 44

1. Political

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

In an interview given to Sprigge (Reuters) on the 26th Bonomi said that Italy should leave fundamental political and social problems for the moment and concentrate on the present "tragic situation". One matter that will not wait and could accurately be defined either as an aspect of the "tragic situation" or a fundamental problem is the [illegible] Council of Ministers, meeting on the 27th,

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

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

2. AMG with the armies

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

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

3. A Note from Florence

Career trained Prefect of Florence Giulio Paterno deftly spiced the political stew between himself and the Tuscan Committee of National Liberation last week when he presented the local allied military government with his first epuration decrees which almost without exception contained the statement: "With the concurrence

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

4. Sniping in Sardinia

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

5. Symptoms of Hope?

The Economic Section these last weeks has been holding

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5. Symptoms of Hope?

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

Other signs of economic stirring may be noted in the 3942 that two Italian Government officials will shortly go to Washington for financial talks, accompanied by a representative of the Finance

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

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

6. Neighbouring countries

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

From Greece, through correspondents arriving back in Italy, come not altogether dissimilar stories: little or no starvation, at least in the south, plenty of livestock, little destruction, and - as things go in wartime - a cheerful people. Currency is a worry, the drachma having run into uncountable billions. It is said (unreliably) that exchange rates were based at the start on the price of a shave, which was 10,000,000 drachma: estimated equivalent, sixpence. An American correspondent told us "By the time that I had changed a two dollar bill and an Egyptian pound, I found that the equivalent in drachmas was worth one cigarette".

7. Odds and Ends

[redacted] as of 18 October had 8,886,886 ctl.

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

7. Odds and Ends

The Granai del Popolo, as of 28 October, had 8,886,888 qtl. in its bins out of the 11,600,000 qtl. collection forecast;...The Allied Commission now has 21 AMG officers, of whom 14 have been sent in pairs to regions and 7 assigned to Headquarters....Congratulations to the following Allied Commission American officers all attached to the 6th Army AMG on having been awarded the Bronze Star for, as the citations read, "meritorious service with the Allied Armies in Italy in support of combat operations": Lieut. William A. Lessa, Lieut. Albert L. Bernard, Capt. Edmund E. Torchelli, Major Fred O. Mavis, Major James C. Grizzard, Major John A. Steel, Colonel Charles J. Farinacci....A trek back north is in progress under AC auspices, the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission having asked for train transportation for 11,745 refugees in Sicily and Southern Region to be moved back to Central Italy where they are needed to cultivate their farms....About 17 Rome elementary schools are open now (one out of ten), the others being closed, in the words of the Education Sub-Commission, because the buildings are (1) Occupied by our troops;

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

8. Anniversary

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

Lionel Fielden.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 780021

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

S E C R E T

PRB/R26/WB29

22 October 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 29
16 Oct to 22 Oct 44

1. Political

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

The workers' subsidy may well be regarded as a victory for the Leftist parties and the CGIL who began agitation for it on Aug. 9. Victory has been so long delayed however as to be greeted more with ungracious acceptance than exultation, especially since there have been repeated hints from the government that the "political" price of bread may have to be abandoned. Indeed while the manifesto of harmony of Sept. 28 is still honored by all parties it is obvious that the restriction implied in it is somewhat chafing to the Left. Nenni came out with an article in AVANTI on the 16th in which he reiterated the three fundamental and essential steps in the true democratization of Italy: the founding of the republic, solution of the agrarian problem and industrial socialization. He added, for the benefit of those who like to hide behind the allies, that all these were Italian problems; "dollars, sterling, and the Tory caprices of Churchill have nothing to do with them". He was supported by La Malfa of the Action party and opposed, at some length by the Christian Democrats. It is probably unfair to say that Nenni is trying to break up the government - indeed he asserted specifically that he was not - but the Leftist parties are in a difficult position in the coalition. The Labor Democrats and the Liberals being dedicated to deliberate and orderly reform are at least relatively content with this period of waiting; the Christian Democrats, being divided among themselves are happy to have a chance to temporize.

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

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

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

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

2. AMG with the armies.

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

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

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

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

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

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3. Disorder in Palermo.

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

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

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

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

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

The position as outlined by Aldisio is a very long way from the declared plans of the ACC. The argument that Sicily has imported in the past is of doubtful validity: Sicily has in fact always exchanged some of the hard grain which she grows in exchange for the soft grain of the mainland. Brigadier Carr, in his report of October 17, states cautiously that "in the opinion of this HQ the Island produced sufficient grain to feed the population possibly till the next harvest but at least to within a month or two of it". He goes on to show the difficulties of an accurate forecast "in the absence of any reliable statistics.....or frank information". Citing the case of Trapani, the province with the worst record of amassing, he shows that the original target figure of 300,000 quintals was reached on the basis of 65,000 cultivated hectares yielding 9.9 quintals per hectare, giving a total of 645,000 quintals: from this was subtracted 85,000 for seed retention and 161,000 for food retention, bringing down the "amassable" total to 399,000 - leaving the wide margin of 99,000, the target figure was set at 300,000. The provincial authorities - who have never questioned the figure of 65,000 hectares cultivated - later objected that the yield averaged only 7 quintals per hectare, giving a total [illegible] no less than 360,000 quintals for seed

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

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

4. Calories.

A strong memorandum is being prepared for higher authority on the necessity of maintaining a 300-gram ration in Italy and of raising the ration to that figure in places where it is lower. The AGC view is that the 300-gram ration is the irreducible minimum and that any reduction below that figure (except for short periods in operational areas) would be disastrous to the health of the nation. The Italian diet has been traditionally that of bread or flour in one form or another, plus sugar. Dietary experts say that the Italians over-weight their diet on the protein side, doing without enough carbohydrates. Of course, that is the Italians' affair. In any event, investigation shows that the present daily scale of 300 grams of bread and 4.15 grams of sugar which is the regular ration in Southern Italy produces a calorific content of only 765 calories. This is supplemented in urban districts over 50,000 population by meat and vegetable issues, providing an additional calorific value of 143 calories, making a total of 908 calories.

The League of Nations Health Committee in 1936 recommended that 2,400 calories a day should be the calorific intake of a man or woman living in a temperate climate and not engaged in manual labor. If the person is doing moderate muscular work, he should get 3,000 calories a day. U.S. Army medical manuals prescribe that a soldier marching on level or undulating ground should get approximately 3,000 calories a day. Italian prison inmates are receiving a double sugar ration - 8.3 grams a day but cases of malnutrition have nevertheless been occurring, pointing up the inadequacy of the ration. The usual story is that the population makes up its diet deficiencies by buying on the black market. However, when there is little supply of the necessary items on the black market or people have no money to buy at the high prices there quoted, they simply do not get enough to protect their health. At the same time, while the black market is the only other source of supply, legally the authorities are committed to take measures to combat it. The ration increase to 300 grams in Naples was immediately reflected in a drop in black market prices. Thus, even to allow the population to purchase the extra needed foodstuffs in the black market, the ration should be kept to 300 grams and thus help control prices. Otherwise, prices will be so high this winter that poorer people will not get enough to eat, with the obvious consequences of further destitution by selling of clothing and furniture for money and, especially of prostitution which increases the V.D. among the troops.

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

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What continuance of these conditions will mean in the way of social unrest and threat to military security is anyone's guess. The intertwined question of proper ration-black market control also has a positive effect on the amassing program, farmers hoarding their wheat to sell at fantastic prices to illegal speculators. Politically, the matter is also full of dynamite. If failure to provide adequate food persists, discontent this winter may well lead to riots and the fall of the Italian Government. We are receiving sympathetic help in high quarters in presenting this case.

6. Odds and Ends.

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

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

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

S E C R E T

PRB/R26/WB28

15 October 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 28
6 Oct to 15 Oct 44

1. Political

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

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In the field of home affairs the most important act of the week was the final step in preparing the measures for workers subsidies. The Council of Ministers gave its approval on Wednesday and details were announced at the end of a conference between Gronchi, the CGIL and employers' groups which took place on Friday. The basic subsidy is 35 lire a day, to be paid to heads of families (residing in Rome, Naples or Florence) whose monthly income is less than 3,600. Smaller sums are assigned to those with higher incomes, women " non-heads of families" and children under 18. The basic rate is to be 30 lire in smaller communes and in the country. There is also a " quota supplementare" of 5 lire a day added to the "assegni familiari".

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

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

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

What was actually said.

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

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

Answer: Yes, Sir.

(2) Mr. Hynd: asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been drawn to the demonstrations which took place in the ex-Italian colony of Eritrea in January and February of this year in favour of

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. AMG with the Armies

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

3. Broad Issues at Siena

The problem of Italian cabinet ministers playing politics in forward areas was realistically tackled at the Siena meeting of Regional Commissioners, SCAOs of Armies and Headquarters staff on Thursday. It was decided that no Italian minister would be allowed to enter Army

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

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

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

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

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4. - And a Follow-Up

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

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with interest a report turned over to them by Mr. Myron Taylor, American ambassador to the Vatican, which said that in Frosinone Province, scene of furious battles last spring, in September only an average ration of 40 grams of grain was issued instead of the ACC 150-gram grain ration(equivalent to 200 grams of bread); that only one third of the daily basic food needs were arriving, and that there would be acute hunger in the area this winter.

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

5. On Guard against Typhus

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

The Public Health Sub-Commission is simply taking no chances with any recurrence of a typhus outbreak such as occurred last year in which, from January 1, 1943 to June 1, 1944, there were 429 recorded deaths among 2,020 cases in Naples and vicinity. The large scale dusting program carried out by our Allied public health officers - 3,268,786 dustings were given - was the effective factor in controlling the epidemic, according to an exhaustive and somewhat depressing study just carried out by the sub-commission.

6. The Young Idea

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

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7. Mine Clearance

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

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

Mine removal personnel at present consists only of two Italian Army "pioneer" companies who were theoretically trained by two companies of mine experts of the operational Italian Army forces. These latter have been called away and the second-best comapnies left behind are not as efficient as might be. They are presently working in Gaeta after a tour in Pescara and Chieti. Some work has been let out to private contractors but financial considerations prohibit extensive use of this method, it having been estimated that it would cost 400,000,000 lire to clear Lazio Region alone. One Italian private team of an officer (who had a detector of his own) and seven men reportedly cleared Rieti Province of 1,000 mines at a charge of 6000 lire a month for the officer and 150 lire a day for each man. The team was then transferred

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

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

8. A Grim Task Concluded

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

9. Odds and Ends

After some hostile-powered discussion by the Great on the introduction of an ACC shoulder flash - white and green - it was decided to dispense with this idea.....A show down in American civilian recruitment for the Economic Section has been called until British civilian strength is greater.....Col. John W. Chapman, Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission, is taking energetic steps to meet the Carabinieri shortage: AFHQ has been asked to authorize the temporary transfer of 5,000 picked and equipped Italian troops to the Carabinieri to make up for 5,000 CC.RR. slated for the industrial North; a new ceiling increase from 50,000 (at present) to 65,000, and possibly, 70,000, has been requested; and the re-patriation of 1,000 CC.RR. now prisoners of war in North Africa has been proposed.....Sir Frank Brook, Inspector of Constabulary in England and Wales, is visiting Italy, inspecting the work of police officers on duty with military government forces..... The Allied Forces Local Resources Board is being informed that French purchases of automobiles, typewriters, mattresses, minerals, tools and cutlery in Italy for shipment to France have amounted to 94,000,000 lire.....Historical Note: In February, 1944, the Requisitions Division [illegible] application for tires, batteries and spare parts to activate

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Diplomats, as official ACC contact men between the French and Russian generals assigned to the ACC, and lastly, as trail-blazers in settling a host of matters for which no set procedure exists between the military authorities and the Vatican, neutral representatives and all United Nations' legations not sitting on the Allied Advisory Council.... The latest Granai del Popolo figures, received as of 14 October, show 8,664,375 qtl. in the bins, or 75 per cent. of the 11,600,000 qtl. collection forecast; a part of the small increase in Sicily, (although it is estimated 500,000 qtl. have been hoarded), it is unofficially reported, may be laid to the fact that Brigadier Carr, RC for the island, was out hunting with his gun one morning whereupon the peasants of the neighbourhood, seeing the gun, proceeded to bring a record delivery of grain.....First Monthly report(September) of Region XII (Venezia) to hand:Brigadier Dunlop reports movement of a harbouring group(whatever that may be) from Chianciano to Pesaro (audacious fellows!) But "the weather broke on September 29 with heavy wind and rain".....Well, we must have reports.....Ministry of Food officials visiting Rome from England brought letters stating that they "were to stay at first-class hotels and travel by sleeping car." Privilege dies hard.....Only four, instead of eight, Soviet officers have been assigned to observe the work of the ACC sub-commissions, according to latest arrangements.....Colonel Temperley of Southern Region has started an Odds and Ends paragraph in his monthly report; if Regional Commissioners take the style of this Bulletin to heart, reports should be gayer.....Here are some of the borrowed Odds (given you not without a twinge of jealousy): Danger of landslides in the deposits of new ash on Vesuvius has been reduced by building erosion walls.....Foggia road blocks in September impounded 21 military vehicles, mostly French and Italian, engaged in the black market..... Road block investigations after one stoppage of trucks has resulted in arrest of 45 Italians, charges being prepared against another 100; recovery of 1000 barrels of olive oil and discovery of 10 illicit distilleries.....26 murders were committed in the Region during the month, the figure being considered a normal quota for this part of the world.....In Brindisi 56 persons committed suicide.....Salerno farmers, having received back their shotguns, now scrape lead off signal cables to make shot.....

10. Quote from Esteemed Contemporary

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

The Times, 27 September 1944.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB27

8 October 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 27
2 Oct to 8 Oct 44

1. Political

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

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should be offered Italy as a reward for her participation.

The discussion of these various aspects of foreign affairs
leaves one with two definite impressions. The first that, making
allowance for occasional party eccentricities, on matters of foreign
policy all articulate Italians think much alike. The second that
there is growing and spreading rapidly a feeling that Italy is being
treated with special injustice. This feeling may be sensed not
only in the comments on the Japanese war and the colonies but also
in articles on subjects such as relief and the allied financial
policy. IL POPOLO this morning carried a poignant lament that
the Italian lira was getting worse treatment than the mark, to say
nothing of the favored franc. The prevalent point of view seems
to be that Italians have expiated for whatever sins Fascism
committed, they have already suffered more than their share - 3993
fully since Fascism was forced on them anyway - and that they are
now being made the victims of reprisals for crimes not their own.
It is alas, not unlike the "no-one-wants-to-understand-us"
psychology of 1919 - if anyone still remembers those days. Verbum
/ sap. ...

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sap. --- or, shall we say: Cave Canem?

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

2. AMG with the Armies

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

Except for food, conditions in Florence City are improving. Repairs and clearance of debris have progressed well and there is now electric power for essential needs. "Considerable political activity" is noted, and the town has been visited by the Prime

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

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

/ evacuated

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

3. Transfer of Territory

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

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

4. From the Abruzzi-Marche Region

The picture given by Colonel French in his September report is of interest in view of the imminent transfer of these territories to the Italian Government. The main grouse of the population seems to be the 200-gram ration, since these provinces

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These grouses apart, Colonel French gives high marks to the Italian administration and population, who are "definitely pro-Ally" and cooperative. The olive harvest promises to be good: the region is "practically free from serious crime" (in spite of a lack of boots for the police): health is good and there have been no epidemics. Italian courts are functioning satisfactorily: even

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

5. Waiting for the Green Light

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

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

In the meantime, the special inter-ministerial committee of the Italian Government has turned over to Mr Antolini its own plan and

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

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

In the meantime, the special inter-ministerial committee of the Italian Government has turned over to Mr Antolini its own plan and idea of what Italy needs to rehabilitate its devastated economy. In addition, specific Italian pressures to take over more operational responsibilities are increasing in some ministries while others are frankly apprehensive of the burden, particularly of food and transport, the two hottest potatoes in the ACC carload. In turn, the Italians have passed to ACC an extremely scorching issue of expropriation of land, a decree which the Economic Section is presently examining with kid-gloves and about which more later. In turning over controls to the Italians, the Industry Sub-Commission has gone so far as to request that Commissari be appointed to run the superphosphate nitrogenous fertilizer (basic for agriculture), paper and soap industries. Speaking of soap, ACC now is operating a plant at Bari which is producing 300 tons a month for the British Army.

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

Allied/

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

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

6. Epuration

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. Promotion

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

7. Light on Public Health

In a field where newspaper reporters and lay observers are often apt to grasp the most spectacular statistics with the maximum of miscomprehension, it is fitting to place on record a little of the work of the quiet specialists of the Public Health Sub-Commission. In a country famed through history as the classic home of malaria, the ACC has operated so effectively that not only has the disease been kept in check despite flooding of the Pontine Marshes, a disrupted Italian public health service and the tragic lack of transport and supplies in the midst of intensive military operations, but actual decreases have been registered in many places in the malaria rate. In Sardinia, notably, where malaria is practically endemic, the 1943 cases reported from January to July were 4,065. This year in the same period there were 1,852. In Region IV where the Germans scientifically flooded the lowlands, 20,749 cases were reported in 1944 up to the end of August, but only one death resulted. The distribution of 8,000,000 atabrine tablets to Italian health authorities was one factor in keeping down the possible death rate and malaria potential. Another 7,000,000 atabrine tablets are stockpiled for use on call. Col. Russell, who has now left Italy, deserves the highest praise for his outstanding work in this field.

As far as medical supplies are concerned, Public Health officers are relieved that a shipment of 600 tons has just arrived. Already made available to the Italians before have been 775,000 units of insulin, 18,000 pounds of ether, 8,000,000 sulfa tablets and 60,000

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

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9. Red Stars on the Horizon

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

10. Correction

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

11. Odds and Ends

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

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

12. Reminder

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

Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

Director ✓
Capt Temple PRT
" Lewis ✓
" Shanks ✓

PRB/R26/WB26

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

1 October 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 26
25 Sep to 1 Oct 1944

1. Political

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

The government statement, newsworthy as it was, had to share the spotlight with the Roosevelt-Churchill declaration on Italy which also made its appearance on the front page of the papers of the 27th. This statement looks toward giving the Italian government more autonomy, beginning by the sending of representatives to London and Washington and cancellation of the word Control from ACC. (We haven't had any orders yet so may be forgiven if we carry on withthe two C's for a while). Civilian technicians are to be sent over to help in reconstruction. Italy is expected to assist the United Nations in the war against Germany and Japan and, as a start, 50 million UNRRA dollars are assigned to her for emergency relief measures. Comment was in general favorable on this statement too, the "Osservatore Romano" calling it a "vote of confidence", but there were some reservations. It does not give Italy full status as an ally, it is too early to say whether

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

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

The second meeting of the Council of Ministers this week was chiefly noteworthy for the report of Soleri, Minister of the Treasury. The detailed breakdown of Italy's labyrinthine finances and the honesty with which the hard facts were faced command admiration. We cite some figures, not being quite sure what they prove: the deficit for 1943-44 is 150 billion lire, the public debt (only a guess since Soleri admitted there are too many unknown factors) roughly 653 billion lire. He also made a guess at the amount of Allied Military Lire in circulation but Finance Sub-Commission won't tell us how good or how bad it is.

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

In Florence last week four persons were killed and 38 wounded by mines and booby-traps in the city. Feeding of the city is practically on a "day-to-day basis", all efforts to build up stockpiles having failed through lack of transport. "The [illegible] may at any time become critical."

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

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

3. Pruning at Headquarters

As a result of the recommendations of the Manpower and Reorganization Committee nearly 200 officers and EM/OR become available for field assignment and Headquarters functions become streamlined as operational responsibility is shifted to Italian agencies ready to take them over. Total HQ staff will be 255 officers and 279 EM/OR. Most important change is the creation of a Chief of Staff under the Chief Commissioner. RC and MG Section disappears, as do the Secretary-General's office, the Property Control Sub-Commission (absorbed by Finance), the War Materials and Prisoners of War Sub-Commission (the first taken over by Industry and the second by MMIA), the Information Division and Archivist Section (absorbed by Public Relations Branch). Displaced Persons and Italian Refugees amalgamate, as has been announced. The Interior Sub-Commission will be known as the Local Government Sub-Commission. There will be four sections under the Chief of Staff - Civil Affairs, Economic, Establishment and Political. A forward echelon of ACC HQ will be established at AAI HQ to administer to the emergency operational needs of the Armies but is not to be regarded as a forward Headquarters, orders still normally coming from ACC HQ through the channel of the Chief of Staff. Brigadier Lush, present Executive Commissioner, will be Chief of Staff. Mr Antolini, in the absence of Brigadier-General O'Dwyer, will continue as acting Vice-President and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Economic Section. Brigadier Upjohn will be Vice-President and Deputy Chief of Staff of the Civil Affairs Section (renamed from Administrative). Colonel Fiske will be Deputy Chief of Staff and Vice-President of the Establishment Section. Mr Caccia and MrSchott will be Vice-Presidents but not Deputy Chiefs of Staff. Colonel Monfort will be Deputy Chief Civil Affairs Officer at AAI HQ in charge of the forward field coordinating echelon.

4. Session at Siena

With the fall of Bologna looming before them, Regional Commissioners and SCAOs of the Armies, together with HQ staff, met at Siena this week in an atmosphere of intense airing of difficulties and mutual exchange of on-the-spot solutions which again, in the opinion of most participants, proved the value of

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accepted that only Provincial Commissioners and heads of specialist divisions need to report in person when called from present posts and that all other personnel re-assigned to northern Regions should do so at this time by letter, awaiting operational calls only when actually needed for imminent entry into their areas. General Hume, facing, as he put it, fluid conditions as Army boundaries expand and contract with tactical changes, insisted that he be placed on record as opposing any withdrawal of personnel from Army AMGs. Colonel Mayne of Fifth Army AMG, in what he termed the "unrealistic" nature of some Patriot directives, asserted that Patriots were over-played in public praise. He finally admitted that some special treatment was deserved for genuine Patriots who had performed real service. Mr Caccia summed it up when he said the administrative goal of making Patriots good citizens and keeping law and order, for better or worse, had to be balanced against the political situation in which Patriots were now exploited so as not to embarrass the larger question of support for the Government. It was agreed that AAI had perhaps gone too far through PWB publicity in stressing Patriot achievements, and representations would be made. Colonel Ames from the big city of Rome faced the combined attack of most Regional Commissioners who declared against what they termed the continued disparity in favor of Rome. Particularly Region V's Major Scholtz said his Region faced food demonstrations because of lack of food, oil, salt and the fact that, although some of the provinces there had grain surpluses they only had a 200-gram bread ration whereas other Regions to which their grain was shipped had 300-gram rations. Speaking very modestly, Colonel Ames stuck to his queries of who did what and how and got agreements to enter Regions with his own trucks to take wheat from surplus Macerata and wood from Rieti. Mr Antolini of the Economic Section admitted he had bad news again. He had just made a tour of the Fifth and Eighth Army areas in preparing for forward food supplies and stated frankly that every day's delay in the advance of the Armies was just so much breathing space to rush supplies forward. The supply question was especially crucial for the North where a 100-gram ration is now planned because of the reported cutdown in November anticipated imports from 100,000 to 55,000 tons. If so, Mr Antolini said, we might have to cut down the basic ration throughout Italy unless Colonel Legg of the Food Sub-Commission, now in Washington, succeeded in changing the minds of the Combined Chiefs of Staff. In the meantime, Mr Antolini continued, there is for the moment practically no wheat in the Mediterranean Basin on which to draw in an emergency. There was also no sugar programmed and milk imports had been cut. Brigadier Upjohn then spoke of administrative problems of prefects (there are 11 in a pool for forward regions), Carabinieri (additions are expected from former prisoners of war) and the usal bad news about lack of de-mining squads. Satisfied that no matter how bad things look, there was the determination and the potentiality to work things out, the meeting broke up early to repair to the recuperative values of Tuscan wine and Colonel

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5. The Road Back

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

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

6. Police and prisons

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

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

On the night of September 23 some prisoners got on to the roof and fired it. In the general commotion Carabinieri opened fire, killing one prisoner and wounding six. Feeling against the Carabinieri ran high: 20 of the guards deserted: the prisoners

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. Granai del Popolo

The Agriculture Sub-Commission, looking over the wheat harvest campaign and amassing with its ups and downs and discouragements, has made up its mind to pronounce it "good" and a "qualified

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

Region	Average Date of Reports	Collected at Latest Report	Collection Forecast	Percentage collected of Forecast	Percentage collected Sep 30 1942
I(Sicilia)	21 Sep	1,127,578	2,000,000	56	87
South-ern (Calabria, Lucania, Puglie, Campania, Campobasso)	23 Sep	2,620,433	3,950,000	71	88
IV (Lazio-Umbria)	15 Sep	1,386,830	1,600,000	86	91
V (Abruzzi-Marche)	21 Sep	1,248,021	2,250,000	55	94
VI (Sard-inia)	16 Sep	226,700	300,000	75	85
VIII (Tuscany)	15 Sep	1,804,391	1,300,000	67	92
Total		7,815,953	11,600,000	67	90

8. Odds and Ends

The only Public Works and Utilities officer of the ACC in Sardinia is being withdrawn as an experiment of turning over complete field responsibility to the Italians; if successful, similar withdrawals of specialists will occur in Sicily ..... Naples area bank deposits rose from 5,000,000,000 lire in January to 22,600,000,000 lire last month ..... Down in Calabria the village of Castrovillari proclaimed itself a republic the other day, but the new regime collapsed hurriedly with the appointment of a new sindaco ..... At least there will be no amassing of the almond crop this year, the Agriculture Sub-Commission has decided in its wisdom ..... Military units have turned back four more factories to the ACC for the use of Italians: A cement factory, with a capacity of 200 tons a month at Taranto, and one with 500 tons a month at Barletta; a tile factory with production of 2,500 cubic meters a week at Benevento, [illegible] 950,000 bricks a week at Lucera.....

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

9. Quote from esteemed Contemporary

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

UNION JACK, Sep 26.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB25

24 September 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 25
18 Sep to 24 Sep 44

1. Political

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

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

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/ In the field

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

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

2. AMG with the Armies

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

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

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

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

"Allied Military Government officials, headed by Group Captain C.E. Benson, DSO, SCAO of Eighth Army AMG, reached the capital city of San Marino at 1600 hrs yesterday, 21 Sep 44, after a six-hour trip in jeeps over tracks made virtually impassable by rain and military movements.

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

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

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

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

"There are 60,000 refugees from Italy now in the Republic of San Marino, most of them from Rimini and nearby districts. All refugees are to be kept in the Republic for the time being, and all roads are to be cleared as soon as possible so they may be fed until they can be returned to their homes in Italy.

"Thirteen lorries loaded with food and medical supplies, 3924

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

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

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

Flash on Rimini

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

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

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

3. Crime and Punishment

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

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

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

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

4. Financial Arcana

An item in the August report of the Finance Sub-Commission, whose reports are usually models of clear analysis, stands out brightly in the financial fog of Italy. The people of Rome alone in August bought 5,500,000,000 lire more Italian Treasury Bills than they redeemed, which was triple the record of all Southern Italy for the fiscal year 1943-1944. It may be recalled that in July, 1943, the Fascists were facing an outflow of one billion in excess of receipts from Treasury bills, whereas a year later the Allies had changed this to a net inflow of two and a half billion lire. At the same time bank deposits have steadily mounted at the rate of three billion lire a month. The Finance Sub-Commission officers feel as if it were almost entirely of their own doing, so absorbed are they in the staggering job of helping straighten out the finances of a country beset by years of militaristic over-expenditures, parasitical government bureaux to give employment to Fascists, and a tax system for which the word "archaic" itself is mildewed.

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

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

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

One fact which no amount of reforms can exorcise, however, is the terrific state of the Italian public debt. It now stands at about 630 billion lire, of which about 280 billion is funded debt and about 360 billion is floating (or short term) debt. The Italians had been running on deficits since 1930 and are still doing so, last year's deficit being over 200 billion lire.

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

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

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

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

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

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6. Propaganda's Future

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

7. Odds and Ends

Hygienic hope: Commerce Sub-Commission has presented requirements for 45,000 tons of soap for 25,000,000 inhabitants of Liberated Italy for one year to AFHQ ..... Fifth Army AMG gets the palm from Patriot Branch at Headquarters for intelligent and aggressive handling of the Patriot problem, having been among the very first to meet and cope with this new phase of civil affairs (witness the full and far-sighted report filed by Major Harry C. Kait with the 34th Division last July 13) ..... The Cassino situation is coming to a head, with 13,000 of the blasted town's 20,000 former inhabitants having already returned to the commune and accommodations, of course, being strictly rubble, which state has promoted action along the following lines: A hurry-up call to London for a re-building expert and an appeal to AFHQ for 2,000 tents for shelter, since the new houses about to be built will not be ready for occupancy until probably February .....A large woollen mill, well-equipped, intact, with considerable inventory of woollen blankets and material for suits and overcoats, all beautifully mined and booby-trapped, has been found at Prato ..... May we join the rest of ACC in congratulating Chief Warrant Officer [illegible] Eisenhart, AUS, for receiving the Legion of Merit in [illegible] 366th Regiment...

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Hygienic hope: Commerce Sub-Commission has presented requirements for 45,000 tons of soap for 25,000,000 inhabitants of Liberated Italy for one year to AFHQ ..... Fifth Army AMG gets the palm from Patriot Branch at Headquarters for intelligent and aggressive handling of the Patriot problem, having been among the very first to meet and cope with this new phase of civil affairs (witness the full and far-sighted report filed by Major Harry C. Kait with the 34th Division last July 15) ..... The Cassino situation is coming to a head, with 13,000 of the blasted town's 20,000 former inhabitants having already returned to the commune and accommodations, of course, being strictly rubble, which state has promoted action along the following lines: A hurry-up call to London for a re-building expert and an appeal to AFHQ for 2,000 tents for shelter, since the new houses about to be built will not be ready for occupancy until probably February .....A large woollen mill, well-equipped, intact, with considerable inventory of woollen blankets and material for suits and overcoats, all beautifully mined and booby-trapped, has been found at Prato ..... May we join the rest of ACC in congratulating Chief Warrant Officer Henry L. Ellenbast, AUS, for receiving the Legion of Merit in recognition of his outstanding services as S-4 of the 2675 Regiment.... The Rome Labor Office of Region IV is receiving complaints from housewives to the effect that maids and domestic help are almost impossible to find these days, more lucrative means of income being available to the ragazzine ..... The Allied Forces Local Resources Board, heretofore an AAI entity, will now come under AFHQ directly with much stronger ACC representation, the two new co-chairmen being Gen. Clark, CAO to the Supreme Commander, and the Chief Commissioner, while the Board's policy, in the past almost exclusively operational (and with proper reason) will tend to veer more to problems of rehabilitation ..... The Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission is about to take over from the Rome Allied Area Command responsibility for the management of the Rome power stations 3922 fiat lux ..... Lieut-Commander Krug, who has just doffed his Navy / uniform

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

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major, Public Relations Director.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 760021

S E C R E T

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

17 September 1944.

PRB/R26/WB24

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 24
11 Sep to 17 Sep 44

1. Political

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

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

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

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

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

2. AMG with the Armies

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

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

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

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

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3. Mediaeval masque

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

4. Looking forward from Siena

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

Mr Caccia, in a political survey, told the conference that a leading member of the Liberation Committee for northern Italy had managed to reach Rome and had stated that the Committee wished some

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Mr Caccia, in a political survey, told the conference that a leading member of the Liberation Committee for northern Italy had managed to reach Rome and had stated that the Committee wished some sort of recognition by the Allies as being the representative body of the Italian Government in German-held territory. Col Poletti, foreseeing possible headaches in Milan, was vigorously opposed to any such idea. The North were going to get Allied Military Government to start with and he did not wish to see the issue confused by anybody representing the Italian Government and acknowledged by us as such. Nor did Col Poletti welcome a suggestion that an Italian Minister should be allowed to go in as early as possible to contact political leaders. If one went they would all wish to go. They would be an embarrassment. The meeting clearly shared Col Poletti's views. The announcement of the resolution passed by the Italian Socialist Party that AGC be abolished was somewhat coolly received. However, a ray of hope was provided by the fact that Regional Commissioners would have the full authority of AFHQ behind them in helping to maintain the

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

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

5. Cautionary Tale

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

Footnote:

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
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Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB23

10 September 1944

11 SEP 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 23
4 Sep to 10 Sep 44

1. Political

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

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

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declared was progressive in nature but believed in private enterprise and in the individual liberties which are a part of the party tradition. He admitted frankly that the Liberal party included both monarchists and republicans and tried to define the Liberals as a center party while deploring the absence of a real Right in the present scheme of things. As a statement of honest liberalism it left little to be desired and it was noted that the manner of delivery was temperate and scholarly, but press reaction was not in the same key. In spite of some kind words for the Communists, "Unita" fell on it savagely and declared Carandini had no sense of reality - unless his apparent naivete masks a sinister desire to preserve the status quo at all costs, "Italia Libera" feared the triumph of reaction within the Liberal ranks and even "Il Popolo" (Christian Democracy) found the wish for a Conservative party unrealistic and pathetic - "What is there to conserve in Italy today?" It is obvious that for the time being the Liberals will have to resign themselves to being regarded as Rightist whether they like it or not.

So much for the Right. The Left spoke out also this week and here again the old political vocabulary is not quite accurate. For on the program of the Socialist party which came out of the Naples convention "Italia Nuova" observed with some justice that it was more to the Left than anything the Communists have yet suggested or indeed anything one could find in modern Russia. It did have, however, the virtue of clarity and is worth recording in some detail. After the usual generalizations identifying capitalism with war and Utopia with public ownership of the means of production the manifesto went on to very specific requests. It asks of the Allies Lease-Lend, demobilization of the administrative, economic and financial branches of ACC and recognition of the right of the Corpo di Liberazione and patriots to bring to the war a contribution "commensurate with the strength of the popular forces they represent." And, last but not least, a statement of reassurance on the financial policy now being pursued by the Allies. Of the government it asks immediate attention to the unemployment problem and urges the need of municipal and provincial elections being held as soon as possible. The concluding passage, hinting darkly that if the forces of the monarchy or other reactionary elements attempted a coup d'etat, the workers would be ready with "revolutionary violence" sent the correspondents scurrying to their wires and was the subject of much comment in Rome. Lumby (London "Times") assessed it rightly as an indication of "the impatience which parties of the Left feel to enter into the heritage which they think they see awaiting them" and it seems unlikely that this "dare" to the reactionary forces will be accepted if for no other reason than at the moment reactionary forces lack organization and initiative.

On some points in the Socialist program practically all Italians are in agreement. The currency question has been raised repeatedly in the press over the last few weeks, most eloquently perhaps by Zuccarini in the "Voce Repubblicana", and all parties would welcome a declaration of the policy of the Allies. Similarly there has been a campaign for local elections - largely from the Leftist parties, 39 (rightly or wrongly feel they would gain a good deal by immediate action on this line. More moderate opinion, voiced for example in "Ricostruzione", is not hostile to the idea but is disposed to wait until soldiers, POWs and refugees have returned to their paesi.

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

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

2. AMG with the Armies

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

AMG Eighth Army reports Urbino undamaged, with a normal population of 8,000 and an additional 3,000 refugees. The provincial administration of Pesaro, except the Prefect, was found at Urbino, where it

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AMG Eighth Army reports Urbino undamaged, with a normal population of 6,000 and an additional 3,000 refugees. The provincial administration of Pesaro, except the Prefect, was found at Urbino, where it had been functioning for some time. Pesaro itself (entered by AMG on Sep 3) was found considerably damaged and looted: only about 200 people were in the city. Further south at Fossombrone considerable damage was done by German demolitions and the whole town was mined and booby-trapped.

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

AMG Fifth Army reports (September 9) Lucca not badly damaged - though still under considerable shell fire - with water supply intact, but only 8 days food supply left. Policing is still in the hands of Patriots. The population is about 40,000 as against a normal 85,000.

/ Pisa

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

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

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

3. Organization and movements.

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

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4. Ferment

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

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/ damage

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

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

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

Regions	Wheat collected (quintals)	RCs Collection Goals (quintals)
1	948,010	3,500,000
Southern	2,305,522	3,875,175
4	967,018	1,930,000
5	741,904	2,250,000
6	199,780	400,000
8	513,669	1,500,000
	5,673,903	13,455,175

6. Oil

The spotlight will shortly focus on the amassing of olive oil for the Granai del Popolo. Sixty per cent of the crop comes from Puglie, Calabria and Sicily. Yields are expected to be lower in the South this year. This year's crop is estimated as approximately 2,000,000 quintals, which will be, roughly, half retained and half crossed. The oil crossing decree has been signed. Basic price

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7. Prisoners of War

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

8. Odds and Ends

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

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John P. Lovaco
Maj, AUS

for LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major, Public Relations Director.

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SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/WB22

3 September 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 22
28 Aug to 3 Sep 44

1. Political.

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

Friday's meeting was of equal significance for the requests of the Confederation of Labour, presented to Gronchi on 9 Aug and already the object of a special meeting of the ministers without portfolio, were, in substance, heeded. The Council decided after "ample and minute" debate to entrust to a special ministerial committee the task of working out without delay plans which "for their implementation must be dis-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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/ Officer

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

3. AMG with the Armies.

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

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

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

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

The Germans spared the Ponte Vecchio, but in sparing it they destroyed one-third of the 13th and 14th century houses of Florence, including the interior of the Palace of the Guelphs. All the old overhanging houses on both banks of the Arno which gave the city its characteristic mediaeval appearance are either completely demolished or partly smashed. They can be rebuilt, but if they are Florence will be a Hollywood set, not any longer the city of the Medici.

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/ fighting

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

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

Among incidental points noted on Florence are:

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

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4. Economics and the Press

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

5. Southern Region Debut.

Colonel Temperley, new Regional Commissioner of the mammoth Southern Region, got his staff off to a good start on Aug 31 at the first meeting of the reorganized group whose job will be to watch Allied interests in an area that formerly comprised three regions and more than 500 officers. Now there will be only 100 officers, with 70 military vehicles and 150 requisitioned ones, for six zones comprising 15 provinces. Officers in charge of zones will be called Zone Commanders. The first priority will be to hand back to the Italians all purely administrative work, without damage to Allied interests, so that a 50 per cent reduction in the regional staff can be effected within six weeks. Specialist officers will be used in other zones than their own whenever necessary. Amassing of olive-oil is the top field problem. The public safety officer also must clean up the matter of Allied deserters in the Salerno area and return them to military justice. Another strain on ACC manpower in the new region is that ACC must provide officers on call to defend soldiers up on court martial. Transport, as ever, for the Italian economy is and will be a painful situation. Some of the railroad locomotives have been already sent north. Tires are wearing out. A factory has been opened at Bari for re-treading tires, but only for the armed forces. A similar factory is ready for operations at Naples, but there are no materials. And the black market price for tires is now 40,000 lire each. At least Colonel Temperley will have all the old, familiar problems with him. We wish him luck.

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6. Green cards.

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

/ (a)

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

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

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

7. Odds and Ends.

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

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Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB21

27 August 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 21
21 Aug to 27 Aug 44

28 AUG

1. Political

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

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

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

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him the circumstances of his pilgrimage were microscopically scrutinized for their possible implications. He covered a good deal of ground and saw a lot of prominent figures; one almost had the impression of a stop watch being held on his conversations. It was noted that he spent an hour and a half with the Lieutenant-General (Front page box with heavy type in "Italia Nuova") an hour with the Pope (italics in "Il Popolo") and that Bonomi and Badoglio had lunch with him in an "atmosphere of great cordiality". It is known that Bonomi brought up the question of Lend-Lease, and the London correspondents of the "Daily Telegraph" reported that he had expressed himself as favourable to its application to Italy if the U.S. would consent. He also saw Marshal Tito, roughly at the same time "Il Popolo" was asserting that Fiume and Trieste are and must remain Italian, and indeed almost everyone else except President Roosevelt, who, contrary to rumour, was not in Rome. Hopes are high for what this visit may mean and indeed if nothing else, as "Risorgimento Liberale" points out, it has at least broken the "isolation" of Italy and given one of the great leaders of the world a chance to see for himself what are the needs of the country. The fact that Mr Churchill is known to have had a long conversation with Bonomi and to have met the whole government before leaving has undoubtedly had a good effect upon the standing of the government and public confidence in it.

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Soleri, Minister of the Treasury, held a press conference on Thursday in which he spoke frankly of the unsatisfactory currency situation in Italy. He pointed out that the issue of notes both by Germans in the North and the Allies in the South have made it impossible to keep accurate account of the currency in circulation. He has restricted the issue of notes on the part of the government and trusts the Allies to do their share by similar restriction and by "compensating" for their issues with supplies of products." He was not unduly alarmed about prices, pointing out that Rome could not be considered typical and that in the South prices were settling down to a stationary level. Many things, he said, over which the government has no control, including the exchange rate at which the Allies set the lira, affect Italy's financial situation, but he counts on international understanding and Italy's own great reserve of labour.

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

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2. AMG with the Armies

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

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

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

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

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

3. Regional Commissioners Conference

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

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

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

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

Among figures given by other sub-commissions were 500,000,000 lire worth of exports from Italy from D day to July 31; 25,000,000 dollars woth of paintings in a single cache near Florence: 50,000 tons of food a month to be brought into Rome: 340,000 tons of wheat already in the Granai del Popolo: 170,000 tons of civil supplies handled in July 1944 compared with 18,000 in December 1945: and a contribution by Italy to the armies of 150,000 tons of food and 110,000 sheep.

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

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

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

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4. Granai del Popolo

Judging from Italian difficulties in getting the harvest in and amassed in other years, agriculture experts at Headquarters are beginning to feel hopeful about the Granai del Popolo. Estimates of the collection to date vary from 29 to 38 per cent. of the target as of the end of August. In recent years by this time, the Italians had gathered approximately 60 per cent of their goals. Comparative statistics are notoriously fallible, so we shall not pursue the point further. Suffice it to recall that in the spring, the Agriculture Sub-Commission forecast that 45 per cent of the wheat crop would be collected. It later revised the estimate downward to 38 per cent. The end of the harvest is October 31, approximately. Of course, the wheat price for the northern regions has not been set yet. One school wants to retain the present price of 1,000 lire; the other wants a lower price. The issue: Obscure at deadline time. The Agriculture Sub-Commission also feels pretty good about one thing: It thinks it has, more or less, licked the problem of grain retention by the farmer and his helpers. In Fascist years, this was such a scandal that many persons got themselves put on the lists as agricultural workers, did a couple of days' harvesting and then were allowed to retain enough grain to give them a bread ration of 600 grams a day every day in the year! The harvest collection in Region III is not going too well and its lack of progress has been obscured by the Sicilian reports of opposition, although Sicily at least has a record of consistency in opposing amassing. The problem in Region III is the fact that there are too many small farmers who have only two to ten quintals to harvest. You need an army to police such small fellows, particularly since the black market price in nearby Naples is currently 1,400 to 1,80[illegible] lire a quintal and black market operators promise the farmer 8,000 lire a quintal if he will hold his wheat for six months and then sell it to the black market ring. The collections in reports received and collated as of August 26 are:-

Region	Wheat collected (Quintals)	Regional Commissioners' Goals
I	873,000	3,800,000
II	702,666	1,580,000
Foggia	915,491	1,655,175
III	69,161	170,000
IV	568,706	1,930,000
V	474,261	2,600,000
VI	170,000	400,000
VII	139,800	290,000
VIII	261,000	1,500,000
Total	3,862,625	13,455,175

5. Mr Churchill

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Region	Wheat collected (Quintals)	Regional Commissioners' Goals
I	575,000	3,500,000
II	707,056	1,550,000
Foggia	915,421	1,585,175
III	85,161	270,000
IV	568,733	1,930,000
V	474,251	2,550,000
VI	170,000	400,000
VII	130,000	290,000
VIII	261,000	1,500,000
Total	3,862,625	13,455,175

5. Mr Churchill

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

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6. Regions and their Prefects

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

7. The Economic Front

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

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

8. Flags and Symbols

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

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

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

9. Odds and Ends

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

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Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765021

Lt. ✓
Capt J. ✓
S ✓
Lieut L M ✓
H. Rell

PRB/R26/WB20.

SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

20 August 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 20
13 Aug to 20 Aug 44

1. Political

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

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

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

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

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

2. Giornate fiorentine

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

3. Meeting in Siena

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3. Meeting in Siena

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

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

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

4. Granai del Popolo

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4. Granai del Popolo

The harvest collections are continuing nip and tuck. Matera 6909 Province in Region II broke last year's record but evasions are legion. Col Zellars, Regional Commissioner, asserts that his officers have met 62 different ways of evading amassing rules. The harvest moon is really shining in Foggia, which has a large amount ready for export - but there is a shortage of rail cars. Col Marshall has thrown the challenge to the Economic Section: "We'll bring it in: you get it out." Up in 8th Army AMG territory other factors militate against success. Farmers are complaining that they are asked to send their surplus to deficient areas in Southern Italy, where the bread ration is 300 grams per person, whereas in their own areas, from which wheat is to be shipped out, the bread ration is 200 grams. Total wheat collections on the basis of the latest figures received at headquarters as of August 19 are 2,978,679 quintals. The tentative over-all goal is 13,580,175. The scores

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by regions:-

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

5. Riviera Affairs

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

6. The Economic Pot Simmers

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

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

7. Repose

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

8. Credit and Debit

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

Imports		Exports	
Ammonium nitrate ..	7927 tons	Sulphur	1243 tons
Newsprint	176 "	Hemp and rope ..	1120 "
Leaf acetate ..	62 "	Filberts	872 "
Printing paper ..	49 "	Argols	100 "
Matches	28 "	Raw silk	4750 kilos
Yellow soap	2135 "	Sweet orange oil	3772 "
Caustic soda ..	1191 "	Tangerine oil ..	909 "
Binder twine	276 "	Bergamot oil ..	16690 "
Calcium carbide ..	221 "		
Flour bags	55 "		
Bean seed	831 "		
Nails	68 "		
Fruit wrapping paper	32 "		
Cigarette cover stock	43 "		

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

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Binder twine	275 "	Bergamot oil ..	16890 "
Calcium carbide ..	821 "		
Flour bags	55 "		
Bean seed	851 "		
Nails	68 "		
Fruit wrapping paper	32 "		
Cigarette cover stock	45 "		

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9. Odds and Ends

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

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Up to August 1 Italians had received $2,595,926 and L. 41,575 in 70,563 individual remittances from the U.S. and the U.K. since start of the remittance system..... The Naples labor office conciliated 103 labor misunderstandings last month ..... The price of a pair of young oxen in 8th Army areas these days is reported as 125,000 lire, said to be ten times the pre-occupation price ..... In Ethiopia (1941), Brigadier Lush tells us, it was 2 singlets and a pair of shorts ..... Soup kitchen meals in Rome have increased 26,000 to 229,000 a day (not in the Grand Hotel) ..... Black Market prices of tinned meat in Region VII are lower than official prices, which prompts Lt Col Feasey, the RC, to remark: "There has been a gradual decline in Black Market prices which, after all, are the only satisfactory barometer of economic conditions" ..... Apparently Col Feasey is not the only person to think so, for the Allied Publications Board has just received an application from Bari for permission to publish a "Guide to Black Market Prices" ..... Fishing note from Colonel Hulls: "For fishermen on leave, those who can manage a few days could do much worse than to go to Aquila, about 2,000 feet up, a lovely climate and beautiful country with excellent trout streams. I can vouch for this because I bought some fish from a local fisherman on the way" .....For the first time in any period for which ACC has information, there appears to have been a decisive shift in postal savings bond investments, principal device of saving used by the small savers of Italy, from a net outflow of funds to a net inflow ..... Lt Col Jenny, Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission Director, was mildly exercised recently to find one reason why the Italian agencies were perhaps not producing as much work as might be expected: they worked from 8.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and then called it a day; they now work at least until 5 p.m. ..... Pangs of progress (as read in a recent report of Region III): "The fishing industry attained 3,410 quintals - a new record. Next month perhaps this record will be beaten for the director and two inspectors of the Central Fishing Agency were arrested for Black Market operations" ..... Note from Region V: Colonel Marshall, RC, reports he has "a superb crowd" and that things are going well except those that are being corrected ..... Travel note from Colonel Hulls (we like Colonel Hulls): "The best item of equipment on a long motor journey these days is a sponge and canvas bucket to use beside the clear, cool streams plentiful throughout the country" ..... American voters: State ballots for the November election have begun to arrive to 2675 Regt members ..... A March of Time film unit headed by Maurice Lancaster to make (in one month) a film of ACC/AMG activities: superfacilities are requested for them by all concerned.

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LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R26/WB19

13 August 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 19
6 Aug to 12 Aug 44

1. Political

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

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

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

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

Earlier in the week two representatives of the Confederazione

/ Generale

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

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

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

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

Apart from modern war weapons, the ghost of Dante might have detected similarities with his own times - and plenty of copy for a new Inferno - in the divided city of Florence last week. Machine-guns were chattering across the Arno, and sniping, a serious nuisance in the southern part of the city, was a constant objective for the Patriots, whose leader, Potente, lost his life on Aug 7. Snipers (according to Sprigge of Reuters) were supplied by the Germans through the sewers, which were later blown up by the Patriots. Indeed, the Patriots, numbering 600 under Italian officers, seem to have done

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

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

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

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

3. Mosquitoes

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As the malaria season approaches its peak, the Public Health Sub-Commission is doing its best to cope with the effects of the German sabotage in flooding the Pontine Marshes and aggravating the normal malaria perils. With AAI help, there is now weekly airplane spraying of the marshes, especially north of Terracina and Fondi. In all, there are some 5,000 civilians now engaging in malaria control work, according to Colonel Russell, head of the Malaria Control Section and Rockefeller Foundation authority. Workmen are laying paris green by hand on breeding grounds, clearing canals, and helping to repair pumps, motors of most of which were taken away by the Germans. Locally made Flit or anti-mosquito spray is also being made available, while 6,000,000 tablets of atabrine have been distributed and an equal amount of it is on store in warehouses. In their northward march, the armies also found four and a half tons of quinine abandoned, estimated enough to take care of Italian needs for a year. Officers in the field and headquarters officers visiting the field are reminded to use their mosquito netting and insect repellant, since outside of Rome itself the mosquitoes are not to be trifled with.

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4. Granai del Popolo

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

Region	Quintals
I	350,874
II	478,756
Foggia	810,965
III	35,350
IV	224,255
V	37,093
VI	113,077
VII	89,653
VIII	42,127
Total	2,192,150

5. Control of the Press

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

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 759221

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6. Civic Life in the Grass Roots

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

7. Odds and Ends

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

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/ public .....

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

AUG 1944

PRB/R26/WB18

6 August 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 18
30 July to 5 AUG

1. Political

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

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

3904

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

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

/ speech

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

2. AMG with the Armies

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

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

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

It is a sombre picture: AMG 8th Army has a hard task ahead: and

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

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

/ A point:

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

3. Wandering Jews and Gentiles

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

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

4. Coiffure romaine

Conscript fathers and Roman matrons, badgered by politicians, short of rations, clamouring for pasta, potatoes and electric power, have recently found some diversion in the wave of vindictive hair-clipping which has swept through the younger set of the Capitol. Roman youths, largely unemployed and bored, resent the attraction that Allied uniforms have for signorine and there have been several cases where bands of young men have fallen upon the infatuated

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Roman youths, largely unemployed and bored, resent the attraction that Allied uniforms have for signorine and there have been several cases where bands of young men have fallen upon the infatuated creatures and barbarously cut off locks of their hair, with the intention of making them conspicuous rather than attractive. Resistance by the soldier escort has occasionally led to violence and the whole situation has been thoroughly aired by the Roman press - to say nothing of Roman gossip. The attitude varies but the general opinion is surprisingly unanimous - and hostile to the lawless behaviour of the zealous young Figaros. After all, say the most tolerant, who can blame the ragazze if they are tempted by a handsome uniform, the thrill of exotic caresses or - alas - a good dinner? If they go too far it is for their own fathers or brothers to correct them. Others more bitterly observe that the honour of a nation can hardly be redeemed by cutting a few curls off the heads of half a dozen chippies. "Italia Libera" makes the pointed remark that the young men did not behave this way under the Germans; could it be because the Germans never went about unarmed? ..... Meanwhile, strolling along the Pincio the other night under a full moon we had occasion to note the situation was unchanged. We suspect all the scissors in Italy would be inadequate ..... More likely any day now the missing curl will become a badge of honour, the coiffure of to-morrow.

/ 5.

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5. Latest scores: Granai del Popolo

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

Region	Quantity amassed (Quintals)	Date of Reports	Tentative HQ goals
I	99,640	20 July 44	3,100,000
II	221,670	29 July 44	1,500,000
Foggia	800,000	29 July 44	1,665,000
III	14,618	25 July 44	380,000
IV	99,167	23 July 44	1,940,000
V	4,176	11 July 44	2,550,000
VI	54,750	27 July 44	510,000
VII	52,000	27 July 44	415,000
VIII	20,289	22 July 44	1,000,000
Total	1,366,710		13,010,000

6. Scattered Treasure

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

7. Odds and Ends

American officer strength in the ACC T/O is being slashed by nearly 50 to bring it level with British strength, but HQ EM/OR are to be reduced by 400, so as to fill up the new regions ..... ACC HQ is going to hand-pick gilt-edged Provincial Commissioners for the northern [illegible] Ethiopians to the number of 64 are about to be

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week due to availability of the product through rationed channels: sorry we can't say as much for Rome yet ..... The German radio these last few nights has been describing the recent successful tour of Italian journalists through the former battle areas south of Rome to Naples, which was conducted by a PRB officer under joint arrangements with PWB, as a "nauseating Anglo-American propaganda play" ..... Among recent visitors to ACC HQ we are glad to greet Colonel Spofford and Colonel Lewin Harris from our now neighbourly G-5 ..... Colonel Fiske has just returned from Elba, where he reports that the French Military Governor will shortly lose his political powers in the transfer of Elba to Region VIII, that lots of rich iron ore, 50 per cent pure and in surface workings, is going unused because of German destruction of iron mills, with consequent severe unemployment for the miners ..... Imminent or Effected Transfers: Colonel Johnson from Rome Region to Region VIII as Executive Officer, Brigadier Carr from Sardinia to Sicily as Regional Commissioner, Colonel Pennycuick to Sardinia as Regional Commissioner, Colonel Hancock from Sicily to the north, where possibly two more regions will be formed besides Region Z. ..... Captain T.H. Brooke, Rome AMG archivist, has discovered a big batch of Mussolini's private state papers but unfortunately nothing about his more successful love life (though Eleanor Packard has filed a three-day dispatch on it) ..... Colonel O'Dwyer, Vice-President of the Economic Section, whose nomination for promotion to Brigadier-General has just been sent to the United States Senate by President Roosevelt, attended the Provincial Commissioners' Conference of Region V at Aquila a few days ago and promised fullest possible help for the men in the field from his section..... During the month of July the Vatican received from Rome Region 746 tons of flour and 200 tons of other foodstuffs, including sugar, fish, bacon, olive oil and milk.

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

PRB/R26/WB17

30 July 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 17
23 July to 29 July

1. Political

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

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

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The Council met on Thursday and Friday and had much to do. 3901
Measures were taken to set up an Assizes court for the trial of Fascist criminals, Count Sforza was named High Commissioner for sanctions against Fascism, pensions paid to various Fascist groups (including the Fascist militia and the "volunteers", now "mercenaries" of the Spanish War) were cancelled, the Fascist sindacati were officially suppressed and Italy recovered her "moral primacy" (according to the "Risorgimento Liberale") by abolishing capital punishment. It is stated clearly that the last measure will not hold for the courts, mentioned last week, especially set up to deal with Fascists. There is poetic justice in this, since it was Fascism that wrote capital punishment into the old code. The old Lieutenant-General of Albania Jacomini was dismissed from service and Introna was named head of the Bank of Italy, replacing Azzolini, now under house arrest. (Petulant query from "Unita": Why is Azzolini not yet shot or at least in prison?)

/ The Cabinet

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

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

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

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

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

2. Signs of the times

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

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

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3. AMG with the Armies.

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

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

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

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

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

4. Bullock's Baedeker

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

"The condition of the roads varies between excellent and execrable. The cross-country highways from Perugia to just south of Ancona have some narrow diversions and flimsy bridges, which will carry a jeep or a staff car only, but in the main you can travel 30 m.p.h. without discomfort or danger. The coast road down to Pescara has a few one-way diversions and bridges, so that if you meet a convoy you lose considerable time, but for the most part a jeep can travel on that road at 60-65 m.p.h. quite comfortably. From Pescara to Termoli the coast road and diversions are worse than anything I ever travelled on. There are three gangs building new roads between Vasto and Termoli, but they are proceeding very slowly and the strips they have laid are just long enough to emphasize the wretchedness of the rest of the road. Of the hundreds of Italians employed in these various gangs, I saw not one single individual

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

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

5. Granai del Popolo

The all-important campaign to get a bumper harvest for the Granai del Popolo is progressing under the watchful eye of the Agriculture Sub-Commission. On the basis of incomplete and scattered returns from the field, it can be recorded that as of 29 July 855,805 quintals of wheat have been collected in Liberated Italy, which is about 8 per cent of the 1,000,000 tons or 10,000,000 quintals set tentatively as a goal. The specific total and regional goals will be set within the next few days. As expected, Foggia, granary of Southern Italy, led the lot. Sicily's record is not too good, while the northern provinces are expected to be a hard job, the experts say. The breakdown by compartments and regions is as follows:

Compartment	Quantity (quintals)	Date reported
Sicily	95,640	20 July
Calabria	52,000	27 July
Lucania	65,400	15 July
Apulia	501,203	22 July
Campania	11,940	25 July
Sardinia	54,750	27 July
Lazio	61,150	23 July
Umbria	6,820	25 July
Tuscany	3,200	15 July
Total reported	855,805	

Region	Quantity (quintals)	Date reported
I	95,640	20 July
II	76,544	15 July
Foggia	488,059	22 July
III	11,940	25 July
IV	87,670	23 July
V	No report	
VI	54,750	27 July
VII	52,000	27 July
VIII	3,200	15 July
Total reported	855,803	

Bountiful though the wheat crop is, the fact remains that Italy has never been entirely self-sufficient in grain. A project is under examination to use surplus barley from Iran, Iraq and North Africa as a mix with Italian wheat in order to reduce importation of wheat from distant places to a minimum. [illegible]

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Compartment	Quantity (quintals)	Date reported
Sicily	95,640	20 July
Calabria	62,000	27 July
Lucania	65,400	15 July
Apulia	501,203	22 July
Campania	11,940	25 July
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Bountiful though the wheat crop is, the fact remains that Italy has never been entirely self-sufficient in grain. A project is under examination to use surplus barley from Iran, Iraq and North Africa as a mix with Italian wheat in order to reduce importation of wheat from distant places to a minimum. Adulteration of wheat with barley has been reported successful up to 30 per cent. Romans this week, incidentally, found with a mild shock that the white bread they have been receiving from Allied flour stocks is no longer the pure white delicacy they have been exclaiming over. It is now slightly darker. Explanation: Italian grain now beein milled in Rome is being used instead of imported American flour, which is 17 per cent free of bran while the Italian type is only 9 per cent free. Hence the darker shade.

3899

6. The new Press Law

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

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

7. Rejoicing in Rieti

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

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

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Lionel Fielden

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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1758

PRB/R26/WB15

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECRET

16 July 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 15
9 July to 15 July

1. Political

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

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

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

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3898

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

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2. AMG with the Armies

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

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

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

3. The Shape of Things to Come?

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

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

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

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

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

4. AAI tacks on Wages

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

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

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The key issue of pay for common labour was handled quite adroitly by AAI in this manner: Common labourers in country districts were previously paid an authorized 40 lire a day. 3897
The authorized Allied rate in Rome was 65 lire a day. The compromise at this date: Country rates are increased to 65 lire a day, the Rome rate standing still. Further negotiations on possibly increasing the Rome rate are expected at a meeting of the Local Resources Section on or about July 25 at which time a study of comparative living costs between Rome and Naples will be presented by the Labour Sub-Commission of ACC.

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5. Consternation in Apulia

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

6. Journalism in Rome

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

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

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

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

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

8. Region III

The June report shows an encouraging return towards normality. Colonel John W. Chapman took over from Colonel Poletti on June 20. Owing to increased rations and plentiful supplies of potatoes, vegetables and fruits (Naples is now turning an apprehensive eye on Rome in this connection). Black Market forces slumped everywhere. Local government is making excellent headway, and labour unrest was at the minimum. In the province of Salerno the resignation of Badoglio is reported to have"caused real sorrow among the people, even those who differed from him politically". Rehabilitation is in full swing: 27 bridge reconstruction and 58 road repair projects were in operation. 14,650,000 lire were authorized for expenditure on the repair of 18 monuments during July, August and September. There was some complaint of uncontrolled civiliantraffic - with resultant black market operations in food and gasoline - between Rome and Naples. 708 tons of hemp and 5½ tons of silk were exported to U.K., and 700 tons more of hemp were ready for shipment. There was a mild epidemic of smallpox (207 cases during the month): 300,000 vaccinations were carried out in Naples itself and 25,000 (out of a total population of 40,000) in Afragola. The operations of Ufficio Trasporti showed a gross profit of 2,274,633 lire for its first full month. The report concludes with the remark [illegible] continued at an

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9. Region VIII

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

/ rape

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

10. Exodus

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

11. SHAEF and Refugees in Normandy

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

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12. Odds and Ends

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

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

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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PRB/R26/W314

10 JUL 1944

SECRET

ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 14
2 July to 8 July

1. Political

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

At Salerno it was a great week for platform-plank speeches, and Ministers loosed a flood of resolution and exhortation. Most eloquent, perhaps, was De Ruggiero (Education) who placed the virtues of abnegation and a simpler life higher than those of any hasty reform of methods. Mancini spoke of Public Works from a blood-tears-toil-and-sweat angle. Casati visited military hospitals. Gerbono took a trip over the railways of Calabria.

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was, however, that of the first consignment of aeroplanes to the Italian Air Force by the Allies - creating, according to the Government, "a new situation brought about by the valour of Italian airmen."

2. Treatment of Partisans

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

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

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

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

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

3. AMG with the Armies

German resistance stiffened throughout the week and

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3. AMG with the Armies

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

Fifth Army AMG reported on July 7 the occupation of the whole of Livorno province except the Provincial capital and two communes, and of several communes in Pisa. Piombino was reported badly damaged: nine thousand refugees had been found in Campiglia: otherwise the main trouble seemed to be the non-arrival of personnel. "Anxiety was felt" about the absence of any Provincial Commissioner

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

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

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

Major Bullock reports from 8th Army AMG as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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is in charge.

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

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

4. Civil Affairs on the Second Front

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

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

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

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

5. Granai del Popolo

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

At the same time, word reached Rome that most of these strict measures is percolating down to the farmers and that more grain is already beginning to come in, according to Lt Col M.E.M Dickey, Deputy Director of the Agricultural Sub-Commission. Col Dickey said the meager collection of 9,000 quintals in June may be laid entirely to the Sicilian holking to accept the price of 1,000 lire a quintal. On the other hand, in the grain tablelnnd around Perugia farmers are viewing the 1,000 lire price as suspiciously too high! A special explanation to the northern farmers who fear inflation is to be worked by ACC and PWB in the form of wall posters giving the full facts about Granai del Popolo.

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

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

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6. Labour in the Melting Pot

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

/ happened

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happened briefly was this:

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

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

7. Here and there.

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

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[signature]

LIONEL FORBES, Major.
PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTION

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PRB 26/WB

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 13
25 JUNE TO 2 JULY

1. Political

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

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

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2. Movements

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

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

3. Granai del Popolo

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

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

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

4. AMG With the Armies

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Report From Rome.

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

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

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

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6. Notes From Naples

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

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

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

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

7. Legal

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

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

It is expected that the first official sitting of the Court will take place early this month . It will be the first of the great Italian institutions to resume its work in the capital

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

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

8. From Here and There

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

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

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

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

(Stars and Stripes, 28 June, 1944)

Thomas G Bergin

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

Distribution same as No. 12

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PRB 26/WB 12

1580

26 JUN 1944 SECRET 99

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

25 June, 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 12
18 June to 25 June

1. Political

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

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

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

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

In the afternoon of the same day the Council met in Salerno. Their first act was to send greetings and good wishes to the octogenarian Orlando. They then unanimously

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In the afternoon of the same day the Council met in Salerno. Their first act was to send greetings and good wishes to the octogenarian Orlando. They then unanimously approved a declaration stating they felt the present ministry represents the great majority which in 1940 had been against the war and Fascist domination, condemning Fascist aggression against France, Greece, Jugoslavia and Russia, and stressing the desire to make Italy's contribution to the war effort "larger, more direct and more effective" through use of the volunteer element as well as the regular arms, cooperation with the patriots and defascistization behind the lines. They also approved the draft of a Decree Law dealing with the convocation of a Constituent Assembly, the ministerial oath and the power of the Government to issue laws. The last point is intended to do away with the expedient of decree laws and allow the Council to issue legislative decrees since at the moment there is no parliament.

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

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

2. Command of ACC

General Order no.15 of 25 June informs us that during the absence of the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner, Captain Ellery W. Stone USNR, has taken command of the Allied Control Commission, with the title of acting Chief Commissioner. It is not possible to say how long the Chief Commissioner will be absent.

3. AAC with the Armies

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

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

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

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3. AMG with the Armies

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

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

The 6th Army Sitrep states that on 15 June Region V took over Pescara, Aquila and Rieti provinces. Both Rieti an

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

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

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

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

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

4. Consel del Popolo

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rome

5. Early in the week accounts from Rome painted a rather sombre picture. Food was scarce - up to the 21st the bread ration was 100 grammes a day, no better than under the Germans- water was short, lack of power had also caused the rationing of light and there were complaints of requisitioning and the too carefree behavior of too many troops. It was clear that our prestige was suffering. Later reports indicate that while the honeymoon period is apparently over a happy marriage is still possible. The water supply has now been raised to 60 % of normal and by July 15th it will be 80% of normal. The bread ration has been increased to 150 grammes. This is good in itself and as an indication of good intentions and future prospects. Also what bread there is is white and this is a delightful novelty to the war-tried Romans. Lighting is still a problem. There is still too high a percentage of restaurant meals served to soldiers. But there is every indication that AFHQ and ACC are both aware of the situation and are tackling it correctly.

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

The Rome press created quite an uproar when it became known that Gigli, the well known Roman singer and suspected of strong Fascist sympathies, was to take part in a concert for Allied troops. Finally his participation was cancelled.

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

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

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6. Addio Bella Napoli

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

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

7. Interior

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

8. What They Tell Us

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

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

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

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Distribution

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59-63 " " " IX
64 Senior Civil Affairs Officer AMG 5th Army
65 " " " 8th Army
66 Chief Commissioner
67 Deputy Chief Commissioner
68 Executive Commissioner
69 Deputy Executive Commissioner
70 Vice Pres. Administrative Section
71 Col. D.E. Adams Chief Asst. Economic Section
72-78 Col. Charles M. Spofford Asst. Chief of Staff G-5
79 Col. A.E. Young, Security Branch
80-84 Mr. Alexander Kirk, U.S. Rep. on Advisory Council for Ita
85 Maj. E.L. Bullock PRC 5th Army AG ly
86 Maj. J.F. Lescoos DPB. Advance Hq. ACC
87 Mr. John Rayner , PWB
88 Experimental Det. G-2 Rm. 41 Bank of Naples Bldg.
89 Sir Noel Charles, Brit. Rep. on Adv. Council for Italy
90-91 Information Division
92 Asst. Chief of Staff G-2 Sec. PIS
93 I.S.I.D. 126 Via Alessandro Manzoni
94 Ensign Henry Roberts, NAB Branch 626 Via Tasso 2nd Floor
95 Secretary General
96 Major E.T. De Wald, Wine Unit Sub-Commission
97 File 26 IPB
98 Lt. Col. T.V. Smith, Education Sub-Commission
99 Lt. Col. R.O.B. Spider, Interior Sub-Com.
100 Col. G.S. Wagohn Legal Sub-Com.
101 Lt. C.R. Harris Property Control Sub-Com
102 Brig. G.S. Parkinson, Public Health Sub.-Com.
103 Col. P.G. Kirk Public Safety Sub.-Com.
104 Lt. Col. W.A. Hartman, Agriculture Sub.-Com.
105 Col. C.P. Graffey-Smith, Finance Sub.Com
106 Col. Edward B. Foley, Finance Sub-Com
107 Lt. Col. L.A. Jenny, Pub. Wks. & Utilities Sub-Com.
108 Col. W.J. Legg, Food Sub-Com.
109 Col. W. Evans, Industry & Commerce Sub-Com.
110 Lt. Col. I.E. Vining, Transportation Sub-Com.
111 Col. J.R. Bain, Labour Sub-Com
112 Mr. Ian Campbell, Shipping Sub-Com
113 Col. C. Findley, Displaced Persons, Sub-Com.
114 Rr. Admiral C.F. Horner, Navy-Sub-Com

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59-63 " " " IX
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94 Ensign Henry Roberts, R&A Branch 628 Via Tasso 2nd Floor
95 Secretary General
96 Major I.T. De Wald, Fine Arts Sub-Commission
97 File 26 PWB
98 Lt. Col. T.V. Smith, Education Sub-Commission
99 Lt. Col. R.G.D. Spicer, Interior Sub-Com.
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113 Col. C. Findley, Displaced Persons, Sub-Com.
114 R. Admiral F.E. Morgen, Navy Sub-Com
115 Maj. Gen. L. Browning, Army Sub-Com.
116 Air Vice-Marshal W.A.E. Bowen-Buscarlet, Air Sub-Com
117 Col. J.K. Henderson, Communications & Posts, Sub-Com
118 Maj. J.A. Campbell, War Material Disposal Sub-Com
119 Adjutent ACC
120 Sir Peter Craig, War Office, London, England
121 Maj. James K. Penick, Finance Sub-Com.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
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10 June 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 10
4 June to 10 June

1. Political

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

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

Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior and Foreign Affairs ..	LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Bonomi
Minister of Education	INDEPENDENT	De Ruggiero
Minister of Agriculture ..	COMMUNIST	Gullo
Minister of Labour ..	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Gronchi
Minister of Finance	ACTION	Sigilieri
Minister of Communications ..	LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Cerabona
Minister of Public Works ..	SOCIALIST	Romita
Minister of War and Air ..	LIBERAL	Casati
Minister of the Navy	INDEPENDENT	De Courten
Minister of Justice ..	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Tupini

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Minister of Justice ..	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	Tupini
Ministers without Portfolio ..	ACTION	Cianca
	LIBERAL	Croce
	CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT	De Gaspari
	LABOUR DEMOCRAT	Ruini
	SOCIALIST	Saragat
	INDEPENDENT	Sforza
	COMMUNIST	Togliatti

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

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

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

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

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

2. Reports from Rome.

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. AMG with the Armies

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"1. The SCAO AMG 2 Corps left on his special mission to Rome with one of the Task Forces at 1900 hours and reached Rome at 1350 hours 4 June. On account of the fighting at the gates, entrance could not be made very far into Rome. The SCAO and driver, T/5 Giralimo, found a guide and by-passed the fighting and got some distance into Rome and posted Proclamation 1, 2, 3, 4 Notices 1 and 2 and General Order 1 at Caserma Vigili del Fuoco, Via Toscolana, 126.

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

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

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

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bridges across the Tiber were still standing.

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

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

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

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

4. Granai del Popolo

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

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

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

Horse beans	675 lire per quintal
Dry beans	1,250 lire per quintal

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Chick peas	.. .. ..	1,000 lire per quintal
Chick vetch	.. .. ..	750 lire per quintal
Lentils	.. .. ..	1,300 lire per quintal
Peas	.. .. ..	1,050 lire per quintal
Corn	.. .. ..	650 lire per quintal
Oats	.. .. ..	650 lire per quintal
Rye	.. .. ..	900 lire per quintal

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

5. From Here and There.

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

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23 ..... Region VIII is rapidly coming to life: fourteen officers and twenty-four CR under Colonel Pennycuick left on June 10 ..... Major Drage and party left on June 10 to fight for Rome accommodation ..... Ration card "needs" are now down to 71 per cent; a decision on increased rations is expected on June 15 ..... Region IV is making a temporary HQ between Rome and Tivoli ..... Campobasso Province has been handed over to Region V ..... There is now a daily courier service between Naples and Rome and an air courier service between Naples and Crotone..... On May 31 a broadcast from London in French described AMG reorganization of life in Italian towns and villages and quoted the distribution of food to 6,000 people in Littoria and the building up of reserves in Norma for 10,000 refugees for two months ..... The efforts of the Education Sub-Commission to reorganize the Italian Boy Scouts have met with great success, but the Italians find the non-sectarian, apolitical attitude hard to understand ..... The Catholic "esploratori" have been revived and there are to be communist troops, socialist troops and presumably others ..... Shortage of Italian officials in recently liberated areas may somewhat modify our attitude toward Fascist functionaries: not soft-boiled but not too hard-boiled is the watchword of the moment. Perhaps Rome or Colonel Spicer will come to the rescue.with a shipment of pure prefetti and unsullied sindaci ..... Soldiers are pouring in from Sardinia with regularity to help with the Foggia harvest. Another 1,000 arrived 10 June, swelling the total to over 4,000. Colonel Sellars, we understand, telegraphed for 10,000 but possibly added an unintentional zero.

6. Political Note from an Esteemed Contemporary

BADOGLIO GETS OLD HEAVE-HO AS ITALY CHIEF

(The Maple Leaf, Saturday, 10 June)

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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Editor's Note:

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

Distribution as for Bulletin No 9 dated 3 June 1944.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

PRB 26/WB 9

3 June 1944.

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 9
28 May to 3 June

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1. Political

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

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

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

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

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

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2. Regional Commissioners Conference

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

/ Carr

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

The Chief Commissioner quoted General Alexander as saying that ACC was "his Third Army"; and congratulated AMG 5th and 8th Armies on their efficient work in recent weeks. Their spokesmen reported the situation well in hand so far, but pointed out that it would be more serious with the return of fugitives, now hiding in the hills, to the destroyed towns. All banks had been found demolished or closed. The officials had fled, as had the mayors. Health was in general good, though there were cases of under-nourishment and exposure. There was a shortage of doctors. 5th Army AMG had taken over 29 towns and II Corps had handled 11.000 refugees. The coordination between the Army AMG and Regions IV and V had been well worked out.

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

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

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

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

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3. Treatment of Fascists

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

4. AMG with Fifth Army

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

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

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

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

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

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

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5. AMG with 8th Army

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

A report from Major Bullock dated May 30 states:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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6 Fm Southern Littoria

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

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

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

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

7. Odds and Ends

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

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3. Telephone notes

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

/ Catering

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

9. Quote from an esteemed contemporary

"ROME BOMBED WITH CARE"

Headline in "Union Jack" June 3.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

Distribution as for Bulletin No 8 dated 27 May.

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20 JUN 1944

SECRET

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB 26/WB 10

1. June, 1944

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 11
10 June to 17 June

1. Political

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

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

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

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

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The tentative list of under-secretaries has also been

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

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

2. Report from Rome

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

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

An equally popular action was the removal of Dr. Vincenzo Azzolini, Governor of the Bank of Italy, a well known Fascist and suspected of aiding the Germans in removing funds from Rome to Milan. A Roman Giunta containing two members of each of the 6 parties of the Committee of Liberation was sworn in at the Campidoglio on June 15.

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

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

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

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

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

3. AMG with the Armies

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

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

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

Saturday I went to Avezzano. There were no troops in the town. We were preceded only by an FSS man who got through on a motor cycle while we were waiting for a bulldozer to fill a gap in the road wide enough to carry a Jeep. Wing Commander Beer and the N.Z. Div. AMG Liaison Officer went directly to the Municipio and interviewed the Captain of Carbinieri, the Committee of Liberation and Municipal employes who showed up. 3877
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Some 200 British and American POW's have been befriended by the people in the Avezzano area. The Italians there have been pro-ally for months and many have taken their lives in their hands to help our men. The inhabitants of Tagliacozzo gave a party for New Zealand troops this week. "Unless we treat Partisans and others who run great risks for us with considerable confidence and tact, I'm afraid the reaction will be severe."-

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

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

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

Keeping up with the AMG is an impossible task this week. As we write news comes of the fall of Grosseto. The line, to the best of our information, now runs due east and a little north to a point some 15 miles above Orvieto, further east to include Foligno, then drops south above Terano, whose capture is announced as we write. The advance has been and is continuous and rapid and detailed reports of AMG activities are slow coming in. A Sitrep of June 12th reported that Chieti had 60,000 civilian inhabitants, food for nine days and water for three days. Morale and order good. Ortona, Guardiagrele and Tollo were practically uninhabited, having suffered 50 to 100% destruction. A spearhead CAO entered Sulmona on the 12th. Sulmona has suffered little; the main difficulty will be with supplies as the roads are in very bad condition.

A Fifth Army Sitrep of 14th June states that all but 10 of the 60 communes in Viterbo province have been occupied as well as two in Grosseto. Towns in the path of the armies are in bad shape, others are untouched. There is a universal shortage of salt, sugar and olive oil but in all communities there is some grain on hand. Viterbo has found [illegible]

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

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

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

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

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

4. Granai del Popolo

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

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

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

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

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

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5. Fine Arts

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

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

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

6. Odds and Ends

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

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

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

SECRET

PRB 26/WB 8

27 May 1944.

1305

ACC WEEKLY BULLETIN NO 8
21 May to 27 May

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1. Political

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

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

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

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

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

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2. AMG on Fifth Army Front

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

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/ Ausonia

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

/ AMG

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

3. AMG on Eighth Army Front

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

4. Granai del Popolo

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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380.4

5. Anti-Inflation Committee

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

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

(b) Price control,

(c) Supply and industrial rehabilitation.

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

6. Odds and Ends

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

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7. Postscript

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

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB 2. Press release - Immediate. 27 May 1944

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

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

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

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

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1383

BOLLETTINO D

26 Febbraio 1944 | A CURA DEL P

NUOVI SUCCESSI alleati nel Pacifico

2186

Fucilieri di marina americani, provenienti dalla zona di Capo Gloucester e forze terrestri americani provenienti da Arawe, dal sud, si sono congiunte nella Nuova Britannia Occidentale.

La Nuova Britannia Occidentale è ora completamente in mani alleate.

Una forte formazione di unità d'assalto della Flotta americana del Pacifico, fra cui diverse centinaia di aerei di base su portaerei, ha attaccato martedì le Isole Marianne.

Nel Pacifico sud-occidentale, il comunicato del Generale Mac Arthur ha annunciato che aerei alleati hanno virtualmente distrutto un altro convoglio giapponese a nord di Kavieng, nella Nuova Irlanda. E' questo il secondo convoglio nello spazio di una settimana che viene praticamente annientato in queste acque. Gli aerei hanno affondato sei navi mercantili, una corvetta e due cannoniere, in tutto nove navi.

LA SITUAZIONE *in un discorso di*

In uno dei suoi sobri e lucidissimi discorsi pronunziato a febbraio, il Primo Ministro britannico Winston Churchill ha appare alla luce degli ultimi avvenimenti.

Dopo aver dichiarato che l'esercito tedesco conta ancora colpi inflitti alla Germania dalla guerra navale. 19 unità da sive 835 mila tonnellate oltre a sommergibili motosiluranti e n dalle forze armate britanniche.

L'offensiva aerea contro il Reich è stata sintetizzata dalle ra compiuti da velivoli britannici, 3 milioni di tedeschi imp la velivoli britannici perduti dall'inizio del conflitto, 38,300 tra tedesca è orientata verso la caccia, cioè per la difensiva, ma

Passando al fronte italiano Churchill descrive le varie fasi sbarco ad Anzio. « Non era certo cosa da poco gettare nella mila uomini nell'incertezza delle condizioni atmosferiche, nel cr cacia delle fortificazioni avversarie. In sè medesima l'operazione Lo sbarco non incontrò praticamente alcuna opposizione; non è stato conforme ai nostri piani e alle nostre speranze. ingenti pezzi di artiglieria, di carri armati, di migliaia e m cia verso l'interno i nostri soldati presero contatto con il nemic

« La reazione tedesca a questo sbarco è stata notevole. Ev fesa di Roma con la tenacia medesima che dimostrò a Stalingra ansa del Dnieper ».

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N. 26

NO DI NOTIZIE

CURA DEL P. W. B. | NAPOLI

TUAZIONE BELLICA
discorso di Churchill

ori e lucidissimi discorsi pronunziato alla Camera dei Comuni martedì 22 nistro britannico Winston Churchill ha esposto la situazione bellica, quale ltimi avvenimenti.

o che l'esercito tedesco conta ancora 300 divisioni, Churchill ha parlato dei ania dalla guerra navale. 19 unità da guerra, 315 mercantili per complesse oltre a sommergibili motosiluranti e naviglio ausiliario sono stati affondati nniche.

ontro il Reich è stata sintetizzata dalle seguenti cifre : 900 mila voli di guer- britannici, 3 milioni di tedeschi impegnati nella difesa contraerea, 10 mi- duti dall'inizio del conflitto, 38,300 tra piloti e avieri deceduti. La produzione so la caccia, cioè per la difensiva, ma anche la caccia sarà sopraffatta.

italiano Churchill descrive le varie fasi della lotta, dicendo, a proposito dello era certo cosa da poco gettare nella mischia un grosso esercito di 40-50 zza delle condizioni atmosferiche, nel crudo inverno e nel dubbio circa l'effi- avversarie. In sè medesima l'operazione è un modello di attività combinata. trò praticamente alcuna opposizione; ma il volgere degli eventi successivi i nostri piani e alle nostre speranze. Un grande esercito sbarcò, dotato di eria, di carri armati, di migliaia e migliaia di autoveicoli, e nella loro mar- tri soldati presero contatto con il nemico.

ca a questo sbarco è stata notevole. Evidentemente Hitler si è deciso alla di- acia medesima che dimostrò a Stalingrado, in Tunisia, e, più di recente, nella

Tito Zaniboni
Commissario per l'epurazione

Tito Zaniboni nemico implacabile del fascismo, e che ha passato diciotto anni in prigione per aver attentato alla vita di Mussolini, è stato nominato Alto Commissario per l'eliminazione del fascismo dalla vita pubblica italiana.

Zaniboni, che è stato socialista per tutta la durata della sua vita, ha esercitato le funzioni di presidente del Congresso politico tenuto a Bari il 29 gennaio scorso.

Nel fare rilevare che «vi è grande bisogno di eliminare gli elementi fascisti, filo-fascisti e filo-nazisti che hanno prodotto e producono effetti deleteri nella vita sociale e politica della Nazione mediante la loro attività», i decreti legge investono la Commissione di poteri giudiziari ed autorizzano l'Alto Commissario ad agire da Pubblico Ministero.

Coi nuovi decreti-legge sono state revocate tutte le sanzioni prese contro le persone riconosciute colpevoli dai fascisti di alcuni delitti politici nel periodo marcia su Roma (28 ottobre 1922) 25 luglio 1943.

Resistenza umana

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hanno virtualmente distrutto un altro convoglio giapponese a nord di Kavieng, nella Nuova Irlanda. E' questo il secondo convoglio nello spazio di una settimana che viene praticamente annientato in queste acque. Gli aerei hanno affondato sei navi mercantili, una corvetta e due cannoniere, in tutto nove navi. Oltre a ciò altri mercantili sono stati gravemente danneggiati e probabilmente affondati.

Il Ministro della Marina Frank Knox ha dichiarato alla stampa, martedì, che i giapponesi hanno perduto 92 navi nelle prime tre settimane di febbraio — 14 navi di linea e 78 navi ausiliarie — ma ha avvertito: «Una vittoria imminente non è da aspettarsi ».

Il Vice Ministro della Marina, Forrestal, di ritorno da Kwa[illegible]alein, ha citato le parole dell'Ami[illegible]aglio Nimitz « Il problema principale non è quello dei giapponesi, ma quello del Pacifico stesso cioè del rifornimento della flotta attraverso grandi distanze ».

sbarco da Anzio. « Non era certo cosa da poco gettare nella m
mila uomini nell'incertezza delle condizioni atmosferiche, nel crudo
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« La reazione tedesca a questo sbarco è stata notevole. Evide
fesa di Roma con la tenacia medesima che dimostrò a Stalingrado,
ansa del Dnieper ».

Sulla situazione interna italiana il Premier fra l'altro ha detto

« Per il momento collaboriamo con il Governo del Maresciallo
stizio dell'Italia in termini di resa incondizionata col Re Vittorio
doglio, che costituivano, e finora costituiscono, il legittimo Gover
ordini la Marina da guerra italiana, non senza rischio e perdit
soldati e gli aviatori che non erano sotto il dominio tedesco pure ob

« Da allora queste forze italiane hanno collaborato con noi in o
da guerra italiane rendono validi servizi in operazioni di guerra
Truppe italiane sono schierate sulla linea del fronte e benchè in u
perdite assai gravi, queste truppe continuano a combattere a fi
italiani combattono pure al nostro fianco.

« La battaglia italiana sarà lunga e dura — ha dichiarato il Prim
convinto della possibilità di costituire un altro governo italian
senso dalle Forze [illegible]rmate. Quando avremo occupato Roma, come
potremo allora liberamente passare nuovamente in rassegna tutt
saremo in grado di farlo in condizioni più vantaggiose di quanto
E' a Roma che un governo italiano su basi più larghe può veni

UNA SERIE DI VITTORIE
NEL 26° ANNIVERSARIO
DELL'ESERCITO ROSSO

In Russia e nei paesi alleati si è celebrato il 23 febbraio il 26. anniversario della fondazione dell'esercito rosso. La data ha coinciso con le splendide vittorie riportate dalle armate sovietiche lungo tutto il vasto fronte dal mar Baltico al mar Nero. Il Maresciallo Stalin stona con la furia di coloro che sanno che il loro destino è segnato: essi lanciano nella mischia le loro ultime forze e riserve, aggrappandosi ad ogni pollice del suolo sovietico.

« E' per questo motivo ch
per quanto grandi siano i no
stri successi è nostro dover
stimare obiettivamente la forz
del nemico ».

Nei giorni immediatament
precedenti e seguenti l'anniver
sario delle Armate Rosse, i co
pi di cannone che hanno sa
lutato la celebrazione si son
intrecciati con quelli annun
zianti la presa di Krivoj Ro

CALMA RELATIVA
SUL FRONTE ITALIANO

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... interna italiana il Premier fra l'altro ha detto:

...o collaboriamo con il Governo del Maresciallo Badoglio. Abbiamo firmato l'armi... termini di resa incondizionata col Re Vittorio Emanuele e col Maresciallo Ba...vano, e finora costituiscono, il legittimo Governo italiano. Ottemperando ai loro ...la guerra italiana, non senza rischio e perdite, si arrese e praticamente tutti i ...i che non erano sotto il dominio tedesco pure obbedirono agli ordini del Re.

...ste forze italiane hanno collaborato con noi in ogni modo possibile. Circa 100 navi ...rendono validi servizi in operazioni di guerra nell'Atlantico e nel Mediterraneo. ...o schierate sulla linea del fronte e benchè in una occasione esse abbiano subito ..., queste truppe continuano a combattere a fianco dei nostri uomini. Aviatori ... pure al nostro fianco.

...taliana sarà lunga e dura — ha dichiarato il Primo Ministro — ma non sono ancora ...sibilità di costituire un altro governo italiano che ottenga il medesimo con... ...rmate. Quando avremo occupato Roma, come sono convinto e ritengo avverrà, ...eramente passare nuovamente in rassegna tutta la situazione politica italiana e ...farlo in condizioni più vantaggiose di quanto non sarebbe possibile attualmente. ...governo italiano su basi più larghe può venire costituito ».

...diziari ed autorizzano l'Alto Commissario ad agire da Pubblico Ministero.

Coi nuovi decreti-legge sono state revocate tutte le sanzioni prese contro le persone riconosciute colpevoli dai fascisti di alcuni delitti politici nel periodo marcia su Roma (28 ottobre 1922) 25 luglio 1943.

Resistenza europea al giogo tedesco

La reazione dell'Europa occupata contro gli invasori tedeschi, aumenta sempre più rivelando per chiari segni la crescente stanchezza dei popoli brutalmente privati della libertà verso i metodi degli oppressori nazisti.

Dall'Italia occupata, veridici rapporti informano che i tedeschi incontrano molte difficoltà nel controllare le truppe italiane ... la zona sotto la loro autorità.

Radio Roma lunedì sera ha severamente ricordato ai coscritti italiani che hanno disertato o non si sono presentati alla chiamata alle armi nel periodo di tre giorni che sarebbe stata imposta la pena di morte. Mussolini è il responsabile del nuovo decreto che è stato pubblicato domenica dalla stampa fascista.

Alla riunione della delegazione del partito fascista della regione di Venezia, Pavolini, Segretario del partito fascista, ha chiesto un maggiore entusiasmo dalla gioventù ed un più grande afflusso di adesioni all'appello fascista di entrare nelle forze fasciste.

Il giornale svizzero «Gazette de Lausanne» scrive che i soldati fascisti si sono rifiutati di essere mandati sul fronte di Nettuno e che un gran numero di essi sono balzati giù dai treni in partenza per il sud. Il giornale aggiungeva che l'Italia centrale non è il solo fronte che non piace ai soldati fascisti. Sono state riferite numerose diserzioni da altri fronti, particolarmente da parte di quelle truppe inviate in Russia.

In Francia, in Polonia, in Danimarca, nel Belgio, in Olanda, nei Paesi Baltici spesseggiano episodi di ribellione e atti di sabotaggio. In Jugoslavia l'esercito di Tito consta ora di 250 mila uomini bene armati ed equipaggiati e impegna da solo 14 delle 20 divisioni tedesche stanziate nei Balcani.

...RIE

...SSO

...di coloro ...o destino ...ano nella ...e forze e ...i ad ogni

pollice del suolo sovietico.

«E' per questo motivo che per quanto grandi siano i nostri successi è nostro dovere stimare obiettivamente la forza del nemico».

Nei giorni immediatamente precedenti e seguenti l'anniversario delle Armate Rosse, i colpi di cannone che hanno salutato la celebrazione si sono intrecciati con quelli annunzianti la presa di Krivoj Rog di Trudi Krasnie, di Dno e di Rogacev.

Per Krivoj Rog, come già per Nikopol, i soldati tedeschi avevano ricevuto l'ordine di resistere ad ogni costo da Hitler, che ha, così, sacrificato migliaia di uomini.

Dno è l'avamposto di Pskov, il suo avanzato importante caposaldo: Rogacev è un grande centro ferroviario nella Russia Bianca oltre il Dnieper.

...A RELATIVA

...FRONTE ITALIANO

Incursioni coordinate

da basi italiane ed inglesi su avioindustrie tedesche

Per la prima volta in questi ...giorni si sono registrate azioni coor...

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dazione dell'esercito rosso, La data ha coinciso con le splendide vittorie riportate dalle armate sovietiche lungo tutto il vasto fronte dal mar Baltico al mar Nero. Il Maresciallo Stalin in un suo Ordine del giorno ha, fra l'altro, dichiarato:

«Per più di un anno l'Esercito Rosso ha condotto una vittoriosa offensiva, sbaragliando le armate degli invasori tedeschi e ricacciandole dal territorio sovietico. L'Esercito Rosso ha avanzato combattendo per 1.700 chilometri in alcuni punti e cacciando via il nemico da circa tre quarti del suolo sovietico occupato.

«Si sta avvicinando l'ora della definitiva resa dei conti per tutti i delitti commessi dai nazisti in terra sovietica e nelle terre invase di Europa. Il nemico barcolla di disfatta, in disfatta ma non è annientato del tutto. I briganti hitleriani resi- [illegible] mischia le loro ultime forze e riserve, aggrappandosi ad ogni [illegible] futuro la celebrazione si sono intrecciati con quelli annunzianti la presa di Krivoj Rog

CALMA RELATIVA
SUL FRONTE ITALIANO

Una relativa calma è succeduta agli intensi combattimenti dei giorni scorsi tanto nel settore della testa di sbarco di Anzio quanto sui fronti della V e della VIII Armata.

Il duro, quanto vano, sforzo compiuto dai germanici nel tentativo di annullare il cuneo che dal mare minaccia le retrovie è nettamente accusato dalle truppe tedesche e dal loro materiale.

Sulla testa di sbarco si sono avuti tuttavia attacchi locali e tentativi di infiltrazione tedeschi respinti. Un'altra Divisione, la 362. di fanteria è accorsa dall'Italia Settentrionale portando così a dieci il numero delle Divisioni impegnate dal nemico.

La Luftwaffe, nei giorni scorsi molto attiva, giovedì non è proprio apparsa sul cielo della testa di sbarco.

Si calcola che nelle ultime settimane sul solo fronte di Anzio i tedeschi abbiano perduto tra morti, feriti e prigionieri, 20mila uomini. Le perdite alleate, per quanto sensibili, sono molto inferiori.

Arti Grafiche «La Nuovissima» - Napoli Vico Pellegrini,

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...celebrazione si sono ...ntrecciati con quelli annun-...ianti la presa di Krivoj Rog

...ELATIVA

ITALIANO

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...de centro ferroviario nella Rus-sia Bianca oltre il Dnieper.

Incursioni coordinate

da basi italiane ed inglesi su avioindustrie tedesche

Per la prima volta in questi giorni si sono registrate azioni coordinate fra le Armate aeree alleate con basi in Inghilterra e la XV Armata aerea americana di base in Italia. La collaborazione fra le grandi unità che raggiungono da due opposte direzioni gli obbiettivi tedeschi si è dimostrata oltremodo fruttuosa.

Così giovedì Fortezze Volanti di base in Italia hanno bombardato ancora gl'impianti Daimler a Steyr in Austria. Scortati da caccia i bombardieri hanno superato un considerevole schieramento di caccia nemici allo scopo di vibrare il colpo coordinato.

Diciotto caccia tedeschi sono stati abbattuti sopra l'obbiettivo dai bombardieri e 11 dalla scorta.

Sono stati colpiti gl'impianti di montaggio e meccanici. L'attacco è durato 18 minuti.

Le fabbriche Daimler di Steyr costruiscono fusoliere, carrelli e altre parti degli apparecchi « Messerschmidt ». Stery è a 152 chilometri ad ovest di Vienna, proprio al centro della zona industriale aeronautica creata dai tedeschi in Austria.

...una centrale nella sua fronte che non piace ai soldati fascisti. Sono state riferite numerose diserzioni da altri fronti, particolarmente da parte di quelle truppe inviate in Russia.

In Francia, in Polonia, in Danimarca, nel Belgio, in Olanda, nei Paesi Baltici spesseggiano episodi di ribellione e atti di sabotaggio. In Jugoslavia l'esercito di Tito consta ora di 250 mila uomini bene armati ed equipaggiati e impegna da solo 14 delle 20 divisioni tedesche stanziate nei Balcani.

NOTIZIE BREVI

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...e « La Nuovissima » - Napoli Vico Pellegrini, 4

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BOLLETTINO DI

26 Febbraio 1944 | A CURA DEL P. W.

NUOVI SUCCESSI alleati nel Pacifico

Fucilieri di marina americani, provenienti dalla zona di Capo Gloucester e forze terrestri americani provenienti da Arawe, dal sud, si sono congiunte nella Nuova Britannia Occidentale.

La Nuova Britannia Occidentale è ora completamente in mani alleate.

Una forte formazione di unità d'assalto della Flotta americana del Pacifico, fra cui diverse centinaia di aerei di base su portaerei, ha attaccato martedì le Isole Marianne.

Nel Pacifico sud-occidentale, il comunicato del Generale Mac Arthur ha annunciato che aerei alleati hanno virtualmente distrutto un altro convoglio giapponese a nord di Kavieng, nella Nuova Irlanda. E' questo il secondo convoglio nello spazio di una settimana che viene praticamente annientato in queste acque. Gli aerei hanno affondato sei navi mercantili, una corvetta e due cannoniere, in tutto nove navi. Oltre a ciò altri mercantili sono stati

LA SITUAZIONE BE

in un discorso di Ch

In uno dei suoi sobri e lucidissimi discorsi pronunziato alla Camera febbraio, il Primo Ministro britannico Winston Churchill ha esposto la appare alla luce degli ultimi avvenimenti.

Dopo aver dichiarato che l'esercito tedesco conta ancora 300 divisioni colpi inflitti alla Germania dalla guerra navale. 19 unità da guerra, 315 sive 835 mila tonnellate oltre a sommergibili motosiluranti e naviglio ausili dalle forze armate britanniche.

L'offensiva aerea contro il Reich è stata sintetizzata dalle seguenti cifr ra compiuti da velivoli britannici, 3 milioni di tedeschi impegnati nella la velivoli britannici perduti dall'inizio del conflitto, 38,300 tra piloti e avier tedesca è orientata verso la caccia, cioè per la difensiva, ma anche la ca

Passando al fronte italiano Churchill descrive le varie fasi della lotta, sbarco ad Anzio. « Non era certo cosa da poco gettare nella mischia un mila uomini nell'incertezza delle condizioni atmosferiche, nel crudo inverno cacia delle fortificazioni avversarie. In sè medesima l'operazione è un mode Lo sbarco non incontrò praticamente alcuna opposizione; ma il volge non è stato conforme ai nostri piani e alle nostre speranze. Un grande ingenti pezzi di artiglieria, di carri armati, di migliaia e migliaia di aut cia verso l'interno i nostri soldati presero contatto con il nemico.

« La reazione tedesca a questo sbarco è stata notevole. Evidentemente fesa di Roma con la tenacia medesima che dimostrò a Stalingrado, in Tunisi ansa del Dnieper ».

Sulla situazione interna italiana il Premier [illegible]

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N. 26

...IO DI NOTIZIE

...RA DEL P. W. B. | NAPOLI

...AZIONE BELLICA

...scorso di Churchill

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...a Il Premier fra Italia ha detto :

Tito Zaniboni

Commissario per l' epurazione

Tito Zaniboni nemico implacabile del fascismo, e che ha passato diciotto anni in prigione per aver attentato alla vita di Mussolini, è stato nominato Alto Commissario per l'eliminazione del fascismo dalla vita pubblica italiana.

Zaniboni, che è stato socialista per tutta la durata della sua vita, ha esercitato le funzioni di presidente del Congresso politico tenuto a Bari il 29 gennaio scorso.

Nel fare rilevare che « vi è grande bisogno di eliminare gli elementi fascisti, filo-fascisti e filo-nazisti che hanno prodotto e producono effetti deleteri nella vita sociale e politica della Nazione mediante la loro attività », i decreti legge investono la Commissione di poteri giudiziari ed autorizzano l'Alto Commissario ad agire da Pubblico Ministero.

Coi nuovi decreti-legge sono state revocate tutte le sanzioni prese contro le persone riconosciute colpevoli dai fascisti di alcuni delitti politici nel periodo marcia su Roma (28 ottobre 1922) 25 luglio 1943.

Resistenza europea

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di Kavieng, nella Nuova Irlanda. E' questo il secondo convoglio nello spazio di una settimana che viene praticamente annientato in queste acque. Gli aerei hanno affondato sei navi mercantili, una corvetta e due cannoniere, in tutto nove navi. Oltre a ciò altri mercantili sono stati gravemente danneggiati e probabilmente affondati.

Il Ministro della Marina Frank Knox ha dichiarato alla stampa, martedì, che i giapponesi hanno perduto 92 navi nelle prime tre settimane di febbraio — 14 navi di linea e 78 navi ausiliarie — ma ha avvertito: «Una vittoria imminente non è da aspettarsi ».

Il Vice Ministro della Marina, Forrestal, di ritorno da Kwajalein, ha citato le parole dell'Ammiraglio Nimitz « Il problema principale non è quello dei giapponesi, ma quello del Pacifico stesso cioè del rifornimento della flotta attraverso grandi distanze ».

cacia delle fortificazioni avversarie. In se medesima l'operazione è un
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Sulla situazione interna italiana il Premier fra l'altro ha detto :

« Per il momento collaboriamo con il Governo del Maresciallo Bad
stizio dell'Italia in termini di resa incondizionata col Re Vittorio Em
doglio, che costituivano, e finora costituiscono, il legittimo Governo I
ordini la Marina da guerra italiana, non senza rischio e perdite, s
soldati e gli aviatori che non erano sotto il dominio tedesco pure obbed

« Da allora queste forze italiane hanno collaborato con noi in ogni
da guerra italiane rendono validi servizi in operazioni di guerra nell'
Truppe italiane sono schierate sulla linea del fronte e benchè in una
perdite assai gravi, queste truppe continuano a combattere a fianc
italiani combattono pure al nostro fianco.

« La battaglia italiana sarà lunga e dura — ha dichiarato il Primo
convinto della possibilità di costituire un altro governo italiano
senso dalle Forze Armate. Quando avremo occupato Roma, come so
potremo allora liberamente passare nuovamente in rassegna tutta l
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E' a Roma che un governo italiano su basi più larghe può venire c

UNA SERIE DI VITTORIE
NEL 26° ANNIVERSARIO
DELL'ESERCITO ROSSO

In Russia e nei paesi alleati si è celebrato il 23 febbraio il 26. anniversario della fondazione dell'esercito rosso. La data ha coinciso con le splendide vittorie riportate dalle armate sovietiche lungo tutto il vasto fronte dal mar Baltico al mar Nero. Il Maresciallo Stalin in un suo Ordine del giorno

stono con la furia di coloro che sanno che il loro destino è segnato: essi lanciano nella mischia le loro ultime forze e riserve, aggrappandosi ad ogni pollice del suolo sovietico.

« E' per questo motivo che per quanto grandi siano i nostri successi è nostro dovere stimare obiettivamente la forza del nemico ».

Nei giorni immediatamente precedenti e seguenti l'anniversario delle Armate Rosse, i colpi di cannone che hanno salutato la celebrazione si sono intrecciati con quelli annunzianti la presa di Krivoj Rog

CALMA RELATIVA
SUL FRONTE ITALIANO

Una relativa calma è succeduta agli intensi

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l'avversario. In se medesima l'operazione è un modello di attività combinata. ntrò praticamente alcuna opposizione; ma il volgere degli eventi successivi ai nostri piani e alle nostre speranze. Un grande esercito sbarcò, dotato di lieria, di carri armati, di migliaia e migliaia di autoveicoli, e nella loro mar- stri soldati presero contatto con il nemico.

sca a questo sbarco è stata notevole. Evidentemente Hitler si è deciso alla di- nacia medesima che dimostrò a Stalingrado, in Tunisia, e, più di recente, nella

terna italiana il Premier fra l'altro ha detto :

collaboriamo con il Governo del Maresciallo Badoglio. Abbiamo firmato l'armi- rmini di resa incondizionata col Re Vittorio Emanuele e col Maresciallo Ba- o, e finora costituiscono, il legittimo Governo italiano. Ottemperando ai loro guerra italiana, non senza rischio e perdite, si arrese e praticamente tutti i he non erano sotto il dominio tedesco pure obbedirono agli ordini del Re.

forze italiane hanno collaborato con noi in ogni modo possibile. Circa 100 navi udono validi servizi in operazioni di guerra nell'Atlantico e nel Mediterraneo. chierate sulla linea del fronte e benchè in una occasione esse abbiano subito queste truppe continuano a combattere a fianco dei nostri uomini. Aviatori ure al nostro fianco.

iana sarà lunga e dura — ha dichiarato il Primo Ministro — ma non sono ancora llità di costituire un altro governo italiano che ottenga il medesimo con- mate. Quando avremo occupato Roma, come sono convinto e ritengo avverrà, mente passare nuovamente in rassegna tutta la situazione politica italiana e ario in condizioni più vantaggiose di quanto non sarebbe possibile attualmente. verno italiano su basi più larghe può venire costituito ».

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Resistenza europea al giogo tedesco

La reazione dell'Europa occupata contro gli invasori tedeschi, aumenta sempre più rivelando per chiari segni la crescente stanchezza dei popoli brutalmente privati della libertà verso i metodi degli oppressori nazisti.

Dall'Italia occupata, veridici rapporti informano che i tedeschi incontrano molte difficoltà nel controllare le truppe italiane nella zona sotto la loro autorità.

Radio Roma lunedì sera ha severamente ricordato ai coscritti italiani che hanno disertato o non si sono presentati alla chiamata alle armi nel periodo di tre giorni che sarebbe stata imposta la pena di morte. Mussolini è il responsabile del nuovo decreto che è stato pubblicato domenica dalla stampa fascista.

Alla riunione della delegazione del partito fascista della regione di Venezia, Pavolini, Segretario del partito fascista, ha chiesto un maggiore entusiasmo dalla gioventù ed un più grande afflusso di adesioni all'appello fascista di entrare nelle forze fasciste.

Il giornale svizzero «Gazette de Lausanne» scrive che i soldati fascisti si sono rifiutati di essere mandati sul fronte di Nettuno e che un gran numero di essi sono balzati giù dai treni in partenza per il sud. Il giornale aggiungeva che l'Italia centrale non è il solo fronte che non piace ai soldati fascisti. Sono state riferite numerose diserzioni da altri fronti, particolarmente da parte di quelle truppe inviate in Russia.

In Francia, in Polonia, in Danimarca, nel Belgio, in Olanda, nei Paesi Baltici spesseggiano episodi di ribellione e atti di sabotaggio. In Jugoslavia l'esercito di Tito consta ora di 250 mila uomini bene armati ed equipaggiati e impegna da solo 14 delle 20 divisioni tedesche stanziate nei Balcani.

RIE

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SO

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Nei giorni immediatamente precedenti e seguenti l'anniversario delle Armate Rosse, i colpi di cannone che hanno salutato la celebrazione si sono intrecciati con quelli annunzianti la presa di Krivoj Rog di Trudi Krasnie, di Dno e di Rogacev.

Per Krivoj Rog, come già per Nikopol, i soldati tedeschi avevano ricevuto l'ordine di resistere ad ogni costo da Hitler, che ha, così, sacrificato migliaia di uomini.

Dno è l'avamposto di Pskov, il suo avanzato importante caposaldo: Rogacev è un grande centro ferroviario nella Russia Bianca oltre il Dnieper.

Incursioni coordinate

da basi italiane ed inglesi su avioindustrie tedesche

Per la prima volta in questi giorni si sono registrate azioni coordinate fra le Armate aeree alleate

A RELATIVA

RONTE ITALIANO

calma è succeduta agli intensi

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

si è celebrato il 23 febbraio il 26. anniversario della fondazione dell'esercito rosso. La data ha coinciso con le splendide vittorie riportate dalle armate sovietiche lungo tutto il vasto fronte dal mar Baltico al mar Nero. Il Maresciallo Stalin in un suo Ordine del giorno ha, fra l'altro, dichiarato:

«Per più di un anno l'Esercito Rosso ha condotto una vittoriosa offensiva, sbaragliando le armate degli invasori tedeschi e ricacciandole dal territorio sovietico. L'Esercito Rosso ha avanzato combattendo per 1.700 chilometri in alcuni punti e cacciando via il nemico da circa tre quarti del suolo sovietico occupato.

«Si sta avvicinando l'ora della definitiva resa dei conti per tutti i delitti commessi dai nazisti in terra sovietica e nelle terre invase di Europa. Il nemico barcolla di disfatta, in disfatta ma non è annientato del tutto. I briganti hitleriani resi-

che sanno che il loro destino è segnato: essi lanciano nella mischia le loro ultime forze e riserve, aggrappandosi ad ogni

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CALMA RELATIVA
SUL FRONTE ITALIANO

Una relativa calma è succeduta agli intens combattimenti dei giorni rscorsi tanto nel settore della testa di sbarco di Anzio quanto sui front della V e della VIII Armata.

Il duro, quanto vano, sforzo compiuto dai ger manici nel tentativo di annullare il cuneo che da mare minaccia le retrovie è nettamente accusat dalle truppe tedesche e dal loro materiale.

Sulla testa di sbarco si sono avuti tuttavia at tacchi locali e tentativi di infiltrazione tedeschi re spinti. Un'altra Divisione, la 362. di fanteria è ac corsa dall' Italia Settentrionale portando cosi a dieci il numero delle Divisioni impegnate dal nemico.

La Luftwaffe, nei giorni scorsi molto attiva, gio vedi non è proprio apparsa sul cielo della test di sbarco.

Si calcola che nelle ultime settimane sul sol fronte di Anzio i tedeschi abbiano perduto tra mor feriti e prigionieri, 20mila uomini. Le perdite alleat per quanto sensibili, sono molto inferiori.

Arti Grafiche « La Nuovissima » - Napoli Via

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021



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Incursioni coordinate
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Per la prima volta in questi giorni si sono registrate azioni coordinate fra le Armate aerce alleate con basi in Inghilterra e la XV Armata aerea americana di base in Italia. La collaborazione fra le grandi unità che raggiungono da due opposte direzioni gli obbiettivi tedeschi si è dimostrata oltremodo fruttuosa.

Così giovedì Fortezze Volanti di base in Italia hanno bombardato ancora gl'impianti Daimler a Steyr in Austria. Scortati da caccia i bombardieri hanno superato un considerevole schieramento di caccia nemici allo scopo di vibrare il colpo coordinato.

Diciotto caccia tedeschi sono stati abbattuti sopra l'obbiettivo dai bombardieri e 11 dalla scorta.

Sono stati colpiti gl'impianti di montaggio e meccanici. L'attacco è durato 18 minuti.

Le fabbriche Daimler di Steyr costruiscono fusoliere, carrelli e altre parti degli apparecchi « Messerschmidt ». Stery è a 152 chilometri ad ovest di Vienna, proprio al centro della zona industriale aeronautica creata dai tedeschi in Austria.

per il suo. Il giornale aggiungeva che l'Italia centrale non è il solo fronte che non piace ai soldati fascisti. Sono state riferite numerose diserzioni da altri fronti, particolarmente da parte di quelle truppe inviate in Russia.

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BOLLETTINO I

23 Febbraio 1944 | A CURA DEL

LA PIU' GRANDE SERIE DI INCURSIONI

SEIMILA AEREI ALLEATI

SCAGLIATI SULLA GERMANIA

Diecimila tonnellate di bombe sono state sganciate nelle ultime 36 ore dalle più poderose formazioni di velivoli alleati, sul territorio tedesco. L'offensiva aerea ha intensificato e potenziato i suoi attacchi raggiungendo una intensità finora mai registrata.

Nelle ultime quarant'otto ore la Germania è stata bombardata da quasi seimila aerei alleati, che hanno inferto tremendi colpi all'industria aeronautica tedesca, specialmente a quella addetta alla produzione di apparecchi da caccia.

Dei quattromila apparecchi che hanno partecipato alla prima serie di massicce incursioni solo centotredici non hanno fatto ritorno alle basi, il che rappresenta una perdita media del tre per cento sulle forze impiegate. Almeno 126 apparecchi tedeschi venivano distrutti nelle ore diurne di domenica.

Bernberg, a Tutow, a Oschersleben, a Brunswik e ad Halbertstadt.

Il Maggior Generale Arnold, Comandante in Capo dell'Aviazione Americana, ha calcolato a Washington che l'attacco, che egli ha definito « la più grande missione aerea delle Nazioni Unite della storia » ha messo fuori uso il 25 per cento della produzione tedesca di caccia.

Il Generale Arnold ha soggiunto che nelle operazioni sono stat piegati uomini in numero magg di quanto ne conti una divisio fanteria.

Un pilota ha dichiarato ch fine dell'attacco su Lipsia, g nuvole di fumo si levavano fi 7 mila metri. Un altro pilot notato violenti esplosioni, all' dell'attacco, « come vividi fu azzurri che si distendevano su il cielo ».

Anche il centro industria Stoccarda è stato attaccato d derose formazioni di bomba britannici. Infine massicce fo zioni alleate hanno bomba ancora una volta lunedì Brun Mannover e installazioni pres frontiera olandese.

NELLA TESTA DI SBARCO

I TEDESCHI RI

dopo due giorni di

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

N. 25

NO DI NOTIZIE

URA DEL P. W. B. | NAPOLI

che nelle operazioni sono stati impiegati uomini in numero maggiore di quanto ne conti una divisione di fanteria.

Un pilota ha dichiarato che alla fine dell'attacco su Lipsia, grandi nuvole di fumo si levavano fino a 7 mila metri. Un altro pilota ha notato violenti esplosioni, all'inizio dell'attacco, « come vividi fulmini azzurri che si distendevano su tutto il cielo ».

Anche il centro industriale di Stoccarda è stato attaccato da poderose formazioni di bombardieri britannici. Infine massicce formazioni alleate hanno bombardato ancora una volta lunedì Brunswik, Hannover e installazioni presso la frontiera olandese.

Tre vittoriose azioni

nell'Oceano Pacifico

Tre grandi avvenimenti marcano la guerra nel Pacifico; guerra che si svolge su distanze di migliaia di chilometri ed ha per obbiettivi grandiosi arcipelaghi formati da centinaia di isole e di atolli corallini.

Il più importante dei tre è l'attacco alla base nipponica di Truk nelle isole Caroline. Oltre la prima notizia del bombardamento aeronavale della munitissima base, più nulla si era appreso poichè la manovrante flotta americana non poteva rivelare le sue successive posizioni attraverso messaggi radio che sarebbero captati e radiogonometrati. Ma, terminato il silenzio radio, l'ammiraglio Chester W. Nimitz ha reso noti i risultati dell'attacco.

Il Segretario della Marina aveva dichiarato sabato che l'attacco è stato una « vittoria ». Quanto grande sia stata questa vittoria è detto laconicamente nel seguente comunicato dell'Ammiraglio Nimitz, diramato oggi :

« La flotta del Pacifico ha reso a Truk la visita fatta dalla flotta giapponese a Pearl Harbor il 7 dicembre 1941, ed ha parzialmente saldato il debito.

« Nel corso degli attacchi del 16 e del 17 febbraio i nostri aerei di base sulle portaerei hanno distrutto 201 aerei nemici, 127 dei quali furono abbattuti in combattimento. Oltre 75 altri aerei nemici sono stati danneggiati al suolo. Non vi è stata alcuna opposizione aerea nemica nel secondo giorno dell'attacco.

« Le navi di superficie nemiche affondate comprendono due incro-

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ESTA DI SBARCO DI ANZIO

SCHI RICACCIATI

giorni di vani attacchi

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duzione di apparecchi da caccia.

Dei quattromila apparecchi che hanno partecipato alla prima serie di massicce incursioni solo centotredici non hanno fatto ritorno alle basi, il che rappresenta una perdita media del tre per cento sulle forze impiegate. Almeno 126 apparecchi tedeschi venivano distrutti nelle ore diurne di domenica.

Il comunicato dell'aria americano diramato nelle prime ore di lunedì reca :

« Il corpo di bombardieri pesanti dell'8 Armata Aerea ha attaccato un grande numero di stabilimenti per il montaggio degli apparecchi da caccia e le più grandi fabbriche di parti di apparecchi in Germania nella giornata di domenica. All'assalto ha partecipato il più gran numero di bombardieri pesanti che sia stato mai impiegato in un'operazione diurna.

I bombardieri erano scortati da grandi formazioni di caccia americani di lunga crociera ed erano appoggiati da caccia della RAF dei Domini ed Alleati.

Di particolari risultati sono stati gli attacchi sulle fabbriche di montaggio per aerei a Lipsia, Gotha e Bernberg e sulle fabbriche di parti di apparecchi a Brunswick e Lipsia».

Lipsia, che era ancora in fiamme, dopo il terrificante attacco notturno della RAF che ha lanciato sabato notte sulla città 2.300 tonnellate di bombe, è stata ancora una volta ieri l'obbiettivo principale del più grande attacco diurno che sia stato fatto in questa guerra.

Duemila tra « Fortezze volanti » « Liberator » e caccia alleati sono partiti rombando dalle basi britanniche.

Gli obbiettivi, costituiti da una serie di fabbriche di aerei di importanza vitale per la Germania, sono ubicati su un arco di 560 chilometri la maggior parte a sud e sud ovest di Berlino: a Lipsia, a Gotha, a

I TEDESCHI RICA
dopo due giorni di va

Nella zona di sbarco reparti di fanteria e di carri hanno ricacciato il nemico, dopo aver resistito per 48 ore sferrato da sei divisioni. Lo sforzo alleato è stato molto a appoggio di reparti navali alleati, formazioni aeree e de cana. Sono state catturate alcune centinaia di prigionie subito gravissime perdite. Reparti anglo-americani hanno azioni di difesa e di contrattacco.

I Tedeschi hanno sul fronte italiano 18 Divisioni, nov zona di sbarco. Esse sono: la 26. la Divisione Corazz la 3. e la 29. di Granatieri Corazzate e la Divisione sfuhrer, la 715. e la 114. Motorizzate, la 65. Divisione di F Paracadutisti. Le sei Divisioni impegnate nello sforzo prin sbarco sono la 26., la 65., la 715., la 114., la 29., e la

Lo sforzo del nemico per sfondare la testa di ponte tato dalla strada Albano-Anzio, ha assunto il carattere gico che si sia avuto finora. Il nemico ha fatto uso di r da ricognizione e corpi ausiliari della contraerea in se forzare l'operazione.

L'attacco tedesco lungo la strada Anzio-Albano e punto a circa tre chilometri e mezzo a sud di Carroce contrattacco degli alleati nelle prime ore del pomerig carri armati e fanterie bene appoggiate dall'artiglieria e

Verso il cadere della notte sul 20 febbraio, il co scacciato i tedeschi per più di un chilometro e mezz gravi perdite e catturando più di 700 prigionieri.

Attua'mente la situazione è questa: le truppe alleate chilometri e settecento metri da Carroceto e le posizioni

L'Armata russa combatte

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DESCHI RICACCIATI
ue giorni di vani attacchi

di sbarco reparti di fanteria e di carri armati della 5° Armata il nemico, dopo aver resistito per 48 ore ad un poderoso attacco ivisioni. Lo sforzo alleato è stato molto alleggerito dallo splendido rti navali alleati, formazioni aeree e dell'artiglieria anglo-ameri- catturate alcune centinaia di prigionieri, mentre il nemico ha perdite. Reparti anglo-americani hanno partecipato alle riuscite e di contrattacco.

anno sul fronte italiano 18 Divisioni, nove delle quali sono nella Esse sono: la 26. la Divisione Corazzata «Hermann Goering», i Granatieri Corazzate e la Divisione Corazzato di S. S. Reich- la 114. Motorizzate, la 65. Divisione di Fanteria e la 4. Divisione sei Divisioni impegnate nello sforzo principale contro la zona di 26., la 65., la 715., la 114., la 29., e la 4.

el nemico per sfondare la testa di ponte lungo l'asse rappresen- Albano-Anzio, ha assunto il carattere più violento e più ener- avuto finora. Il nemico ha fatto uso di reparti del genio di unità e corpi ausiliari della contraerea in servizio di fanteria per rin- one.

desco lungo la strada Anzio-Albano era penetrato in qualche e chilometri e mezzo a sud di Carroceto quando lo sorprese il li alleati nelle prime ore del pomeriggio del 19 febbraio, con nterie bene appoggiate dall'artiglieria e dall'aviazione.

lere della notte sul 20 febbraio, il contrattocco alleato aveva chi per più di un chilometro e mezzo all'indietro, infliggendo catturando più di 700 prigionieri.

la situazione è questa: le truppe alleate rimangono a circa due cento metri da Carroceto e le posizioni risultano stabilizzate.

e del 17 febbraio i nostri aerei di base sulle portaerei hanno distrutto 201 aerei nemici, 127 dei quali furono abbattuti in combattimento. Oltre 75 altri aerei nemici sono stati danneggiati al suolo. Non vi è stata alcuna opposizione aerea nemica nel secondo giorno dell'attacco.

«Le navi di superficie nemiche affondate comprendono due incrociatori leggeri, tre cacciatorpediniere, una nave carica di munizioni, una nave portaidrovolanti, due petroliere due cannoniere e otto navi da carico.

«Le altre navi nemiche probabilmente affondate comprendono un incrociatore o grosso cacciatorpediniere, due petroliere e quattro navi da carico.

«Le nostre perdite sono state di 17 aerei. Nessuna delle nostre navi è andata perduta ma una ha subito danni non rilevanti».

Il secondo evento consiste in nuovi gravissimi colpi inferti al traffico mercantile nipponico: un convoglio di 12 mercantili e tre piccole navi da guerra di scorta è stato totalmente annientato, in due giorni di attacchi, da aerei americani. Altre sensibilissime perdite sono state inflitte da sottomarini.

Infine - terzo successo della serie - truppe statunitensi sono sbarcate nell'atollo di Eniwetok, isole Marshall, e lo hanno conquistato. L'atollo possiede un aerodromo che viene a trovarsi a 1200 chilometri da Truk e faciliterà le azioni contro questa ed altre basi delle Caroline.

PESSIMISMO in GERMANIA
sull'esito della guerra

Relazioni sicure giunte negli Stati Uniti mettono in evidenza la campagna nazista contro il dilagante pessimismo, circa l'evoluzione della guerra, che sta permeando la Germania.

Ecco alcune manifestazioni della campagna nazista:

Un giornale nazista pubblica un editoriale che dice: «Perchè vi corrucciate?

a combatte

NOTIZIARIO

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partiti rombando dalle basi britanniche.

Gli obbiettivi, costituiti da una serie di fabbriche di aerei di importanza vitale per la Germania, sono ubicati su un arco di 560 chilometri la maggior parte a sud e sud ovest di Berlino: a Lipsia, a Gotha, a

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gravi perdite e catturando più di 700 prigionieri.
Attua'mente la situazione è questa: le truppe
chilometri e settecento metri da Carroceto e le

L'Armata russa combatte nei sobborghi di Krivoj Rog

I comunicati sovietici annunziano notevoli progressi delle offensive russe, sia nel settore settentrionale che in quello meridionale.

A sud-ovest e a sud di Luga le armate sovietiche hanno occupato numerose località abitate. L'offensiva ad ovest e a sud del lago Ilmen, progredisce sensibilmente e con successo. I russi hanno occupato Sholzi, centro distrettuale della regione di Leningrado, la città di Kholm centro distrettuale della regione di Ka'inine. Nell' avanzata i sovietici hanno occupato altre 100 località.

Le armate russe hanno iniziato la offensiva in direzione di Krivoj Rog nell'ansa del Dnieper. I russi hanno sopraffatto la resistenza germanica e, avanzando, hanno occupato 50 altri abitati e la stazione di Dolizievo.

I sovietici stanno serrando le loro forze su Krivoj Rog. I combattimenti si svolgono con successo.

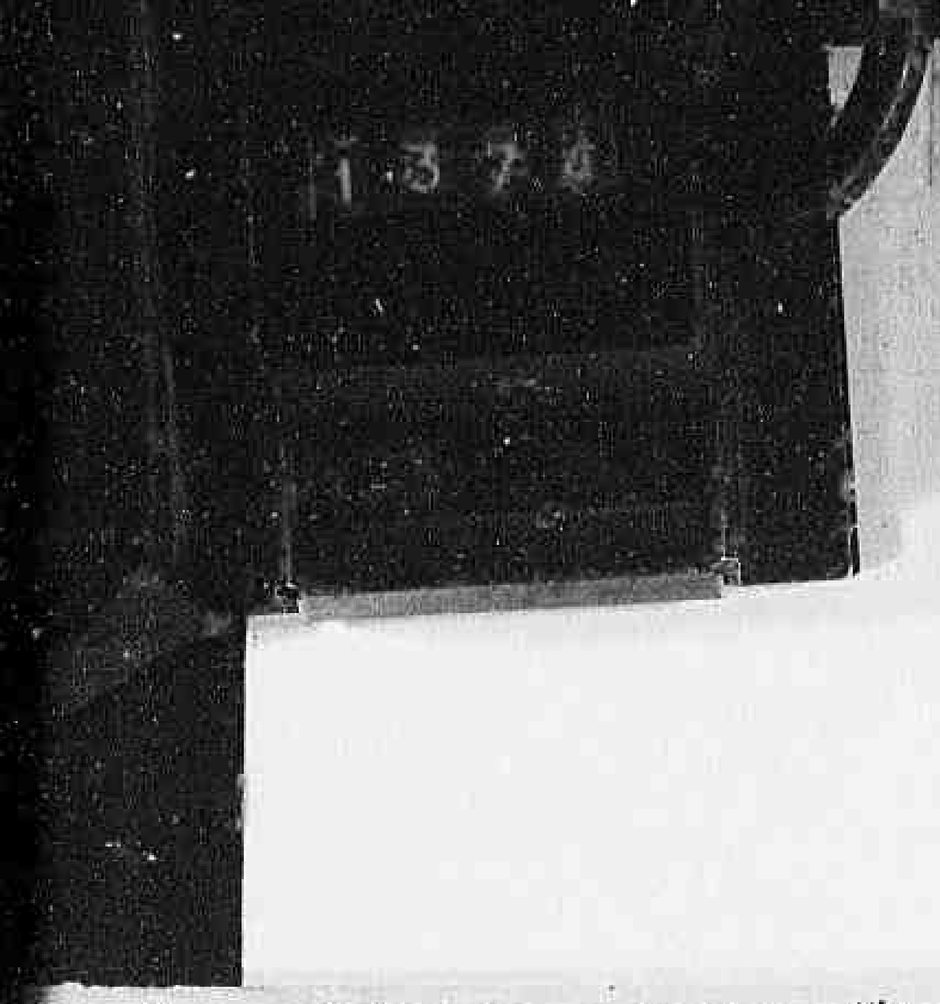
Si combatte giá nei sobborghi della città che è stata direttamente investita in alla irresistibile offensiva rata con grande decisione forze russe.

Con Krivoj Rog i te perdono un altro dei portanti centri metallurg dustriali e vedono sempridotte le loro disponib ferro, acciaio ed altri tuibili metalli.

Uno speciale comu diramato a Mosca an che nello scorso mese morti in battaglia 90 m deschi.

Arti Grafiche « La Nuovissima » - Napoli Vi

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...iù di un chilometro e mezzo all'indietro, infliggendo ... più di 700 prigionieri.
...ne è questa: le truppe alleate rimangono a circa due ...i da Carroceto e le posizioni risultano stabilizzate.

...mbatte ...rivoj Rog

... direttamente investita in seguito alla irresistibile offensiva sferrata con grande decisione dalle forze russe.

Con Krivoj Rog i tedeschi perdono un altro dei più importanti centri metallurgici industriali e vedono sempre più ridotte le loro disponibilità di ferro, acciaio ed altri insostituibili metalli.

Uno speciale comunicato diramato a Mosca annuncia che nello scorso mese sono morti in battaglia 90 mila tedeschi.

NOTIZIARIO

● **I CONTRATTI STIPULATI dagli Enti pubblici sotto il regime fascista verranno assoggettati ad una severa revisione e, se necessario, annullati, in base ad un recente Decreto emesso dal Governo Badoglio.**

● **SEICENTO MILIONI per la ricostruzione delle strade d'interesse militare nell'Italia liberata sono stati stanziati da un Consiglio di Ministri presieduto dal Maresciallo Badoglio.**

● **UN RADUNO DI UOMINI e di mezzi senza precedenti nella storia del mondo si va effettuando in Inghilterra in vista dell'invasione dell'Europa - ha dichiarato il generale di Corpo d'Armata americano Brehon Somervell.**

● **OLTRE CINQUEMILA PILOTI e quasi altrettanti osservatori sono stati addestrati nelle scuole di allenamento aereo del Sud Africa.**

sull'esito della guerra

Relazioni sicure giunte negli Stati Uniti mettono in evidenza la campagna nazista contro il dilagante pessimismo, circa l'evoluzione della guerra, che sta permeando la Germania.

Ecco alcune manifestazioni della campagna nazista :

Un giornale nazista pubblica un editoriale che dice: « Perchè vi corrucciate? E' necessario per i capi tedeschi di non pensare al fatto che lo sviluppo delle operazioni belliche ha preso una svolta oscura per la Germania ».

L'editoriale prosegue dicendo che il cerchio delle Nazioni Unite attorno alla Germania si è ristretto. Ammette il fallimento della campagna sottomarina. Ammette l'impossibilità per la Germania di impedire gli attacchi aerei alleati. Il solo rimedio che il giornale nazista può suggerire è « non pensateci ».

Altri giornali nazisti riportano discorsi di oratori nazisti, membri del Partito, contro coloro che non portano il distintivo nazista e non fanno il saluto hitleriano. Un giornale lamenta che i tedeschi rispondono ora frequentemente al saluto « Heil Hitler », con un timido « gutea abend » (buona sera).

Il giornale di Amburgo *Fremdenblatt*, riferisce che la direzione della Gestapo locale ha amaramente commentato il fatto che i tedeschi sono restii a collaborare con la Gestapo nel combattere il disfattismo tedesco.

...e « La Nuovissima » - Napoli Vico Pellegrini, 4

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BOLLETTINO DI

12 Febbraio 1944 | A CURA DEL P. W

UN GRANDE PASSO VERSO LA RICOSTRUZ

Le regioni liberate

sotto la giurisdizione del G

I territori a sud dei confini settentrionali delle prov
insieme con la Sicilia e la Sardegna trasferiti all

La decisione del Comandante in Capo delle Forze Armate delle Nazioni Unite ha il carattere di riconoscimento della coesione nuovamente raggiunta dal nostro paese, per il quale dobbiamo essere grati.

Essa pone sotto l'Amministrazione del Governo italiano quasi tutta l'Italia liberata e ne fa un tutto unico, nel quale la legge italiana ed il lavoro italiano tornano a collaborare perchè le condizioni sociali e civili si ristabiliscano e possa iniziare la ricostruzione.

Come ognuno ricorda l'armistizio lasciava nella decisione degli Alleati la ricostruzione della sovranità e dell'amministrazione. Mentre due grandi battaglie si svolgono a pochi chilometri da Napoli, nelle quali il miglior sangue delle Nazioni Unite si versa per la liberazione dell'Italia del Nord, è un segno della benevolenza e della riconquistata fiducia l'avere restituito al governo italiano quasi tutte le provincie liberate.

Il provvedimento è diretto a permettere al governo italiano di riorganizzare la vita unitaria in modo che la maggior collaborazione possa venire alla guerra di liberazione.

IL PROCLAMA DEL

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Edizione straordinaria **N. 22**

NO DI NOTIZIE

URA DEL P. W. B. | N A P O L I

O VERSO LA RICOSTRUZIONE DELL'ITALIA

iberate ritornano

5865

ione del Governo italiano

entrionali delle province di Salerno, Potenza e Bari Sardegna trasferiti all'Amministrazione italiana

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lontà del popolo italiano, quando potrà essere adeguatamente espressa.

10. - La Commissione Alleata di Controllo curerà l'effettuazione di quanto sopra. Secondo le condizioni dell'Armistizio, essa fungerà da anello di congiunzione, comunicando i desiderata delle Nazioni Unite al Governo italiano, ed assicurando l'uso efficace delle risorse italiane nella guerra comune. Contemporaneamente curerà che ven-

UN'ORDINANZA del Governo Italiano

Il Governo Italiano ha emesso la seguente ordinanza:

Ritenuto che le Nazioni Unite hanno aderito alla richiesta del Go-

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IL PROCLAMA DEL GENERALE WILSON

ANNUNCIO

DI RESTITUZIONE

DI TERRITORIO ITALIANO

1. - In qualità di Comandante in Capo delle Forze Alleate desidero fare il seguente annunzio:

2. - L'11 febbraio 1944, quella parte della Penisola italiana che è situata a sud dei confini settentrionali delle Province di Salerno, Potenza e Bari, insieme con le isole della Sicilia e Sardegna sarà rimessa sotto la giurisdizione del Governo Italiano. Senza pregiudizio dei diritti che competono alle Nazioni Unite in virtù dell'Armistizio e che sono esercitati per conto delle stesse dal Comandante in Capo delle Forze Alleate e dai suoi rappresentanti, ivi compresa la Commissione Alleata di Controllo, d'ora in poi tutti i poteri di Governo spetteranno al Governo Italiano. Ove il Governo Militare Alleato abbia operato nei limiti del territorio che viene riportato sotto il Governo Italiano, resta inteso che tale attività, dovrà aver termine.

3. - Quando le Forze Alleate occuparono per la prima volta il territorio dell'Italia metropolitana, le operazioni militari e l'interesse stesso della popolazione resero ne-

berazione, l'occasione di usufruire delle libere istituzioni che sono parte integrante della democrazia politica. Nell'esecuzione, l'A.M.G. intraprese l'effettuazione di questi scopi al massimo possibile per quanto permesso dalle necessità militari.

5. - Dovunque il successo delle Armi Alleate lo ha reso possibile, la grande maggioranza degli italiani ha ripudiato il fascismo in tutte le sue forme e manifestazioni.

L'Armistizio del 3 settembre 1943 non è stato solamente l'ammissione della sconfitta militare, ma anche la condanna ufficiale del gruppo politico che aveva messo l'Italia in mani germaniche. La dichiarazione di guerra italiana contro la Germania, fatta il 13 ottobre, ha segnato la rottura definitiva del popolo italiano col fascismo dominato dai tedeschi.

6. - Il 1 novembre i Governi degli Stati Uniti d'America, del Regno Unito e dell'Unione Sovietica, hanno espresso le linee fondamentali della loro politica verso l'Italia nella dichiarazione di Mosca dei rispettivi Segretari agli Esteri. La dichiarazione ha ribadito il principio fondamentale che «il fascismo e tutte le sue dannose influenze ed emanazioni debbono essere completamente distrutti», aggiungendo che «agli italiani dovrà darsi ogni occasione

rò di essere guidata e di ricevere istruzioni dalla Commissione Alleata di Controllo per l'Italia.

Il passaggio venne raccomandato con l'intesa che venisse sottoposto a due condizioni: che l'Amministrazione sia centrale che locale, venisse effettuata da funzionari di provata buona fede e di dimostrata simpatia per la causa Alleata, e che il passaggio non comprenda nessun impegno verso l'attuale Amministrazione dopo la conquista di Roma.

9. - Queste condizioni sono coerenti con i principi più generali già dichiarati dai Governi Alleati. Gli Italiani di tendenze sincere e democratiche devono porre le basi per il futuro del loro paese. Essi dovranno realizzare questo futuro in maniera democratica, secondo la vo-

Il Proclama del G

PROCLAM

Visto che ho assunto tutti i nel territorio dell'Italia e della Sici e sugli abitanti del suddetto terr verno Militare allo scopo di eserci territorio, sotto la mia direzione e

Visto che nell'esercizio di tal ordinanze, sono state emesse di t

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dell'Italia del Nord, è un segno della benevolenza e della riconquistata fiducia l'avere restituito al governo italiano quasi tutte le provincie liberate.

Il provvedimento è diretto a permettere al governo italiano di riorganizzare la vita unitaria in modo che la maggior collaborazione possa venire alla guerra di liberazione.

...A DEL ...ILSON

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10. - La Commissione Alleata di Controllo curerà l'effettuazione di quanto sopra. Secondo le condizioni dell'Armistizio, essa fungerà da anello di congiunzione, comunicando i desiderata delle Nazioni Unite al Governo italiano, ed assicurando l'uso efficace delle risorse italiane nella guerra comune. Contemporaneamente curerà che venga data occasione al popolo italiano di sviluppare le sue attività politiche in un clima di lealtà e libertà.

11. - Per le ragioni indicate al principio di questo proclama, sarà necessario che il Governo Militare Alleato continui a funzionare nella zona di operazioni. Ma è altresì previsto che, man mano che i nostri eserciti avanzano e vengono ristabilite le condizioni normali di vita nei territori ulteriormente occupati, saranno effettuati altri trasferimenti. La situazione che ora si va creando, permetterà che questi futuri trasferimenti di potere vengano fatti ad un'Italia rafforzata ed ingrandita.

Facciamo affidamento sul popolo italiano perchè traduca questa possibilità in ferma realtà e perchè collabori per la comune vittoria.

H. MAITLAND WILSON
GENERALE
Com.te in Capo delle Forze Alleate

UN' ORDINANZA del Governo Italiano

Il Governo Italiano ha emesso la seguente ordinanza:

Ritenuto che le Nazioni Unite hanno aderito alla richiesta del Governo Italiano di restituzione secondo le modalità e le condizioni necessarie per la efficace prosecuzione della guera, di determinati territori finora occupati dalle forze alleate,

IL CAPO DEL GOVERNO, PRIMO MINISTRO, SEGRETARIO DI STATO ORDINA:

1. - Dato che il Governatore Militare Alleato ha posto fine al Governo Militare nei territori restituiti all'Amministrazione italiana, tutti i poteri statali e giurisdizionali nei territori restituiti, e sopra gli abitanti di essi, nonchè la suprema responsabilità amministrativa vengono riassunti dal Governo Italiano, salvo i diritti riservati alle Nazioni Unite.

2. - Tutti i Bandi e le Ordinanze, finora emanati dal Governatore Militare Alleato, o in nome dello stesso dai suoi delegati nei territori suddetti e che il Governatore Militare ha abrogato in occasione di tale restituzione, sono riconosciuti dal Governo Italiano, per il tempo in cui hanno avuto esecuzione, come validamente emanati ed aventi gli stessi effetti giuridici come se emanati dal Governo Italiano e come tali saranno riconosciuti da tutti i Tribunali e funzionari italiani.

3. - Tutti gli atti compiuti da qualsiasi membro delle Forze Alleate in applicazione dei suddetti Bandi e Ordinanze, nonchè tutte le

Il Proclama del Gen. Alexander

PROCLAMA N. 16

Visto che ho assunto tutti i poteri statali e giurisdizionali nel territorio dell'Italia e della Sicilia occupate dalle mie truppe e sugli abitanti del suddetto territorio ed ho stabilito un Governo Militare allo scopo di esercitare questi poteri in suddetto territorio, sotto la mia direzione e:

Visto che nell'esercizio di tali poteri, dei proclami e delle ordinanze, sono state emesse di tratto in tratto da me e per la

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Alleata di Controllo, d'ora in poi tutti i poteri di Governo spetteranno al Governo Italiano. Ove il Governo Militare Alleato abbia operato nei limiti del territorio che viene riportato sotto il Governo Italiano, resta inteso che tale attività, dovrà aver termine.

3. - Quando le Forze Alleate occuparono per la prima volta il territorio dell'Italia metropolitana, le operazioni militari e l'interesse stesso della popolazione resero necessario un Governo Militare. È stata una necessità militare il ristabilimento ed il mantenimento dell'ordine tra la popolazione civile nelle retrovie, in modo che le truppe Alleate potessero continuare a combattere nelle condizioni più favorevoli. È stata, d'altra parte, una necessità umana che uomini, donne e bambini dei territori occupati fossero alleviati il più possibile dalle condizioni disagiate in cui si trovavano in seguito alle operazioni militari. Pertanto si venne alla costituzione del Governo Militare Alleato sulla base del diritto internazionale, condotto con giustizia ed umanità.

4. - L'eliminazione del fascismo ed il ristabilirsi della libertà di parola e di stampa per gli italiani furono stabiliti nei piani originali come obbiettivo fondamentale del Governo Militare Alleato.

Questi scopi provenivano dalla ferma credenza che la guerra degli Alleati in Italia era diretta contro i fascisti ed i loro padroni nazisti, e che al popolo italiano bisognava dare al più presto, dopo la sua li-

6. - Il 1 novembre i Governi degli Stati Uniti d'America, del Regno Unito e dell'Unione Sovietica, hanno espresso le linee fondamentali della loro politica verso l'Italia nella dichiarazione di Mosca dei rispettivi Segretari agli Esteri. La dichiarazione ha ribadito il principio fondamentale che «il fascismo e tutte le sue dannose influenze ed emanazioni debbono essere completamente distrutti», aggiungendo che «agli italiani dovrà darsi ogni occasione possibile per la costituzione di istituzioni governative o di altra specie basate sui principi democratici».

7. - Questa dichiarazione venne riflessa nella formazione della Commissione Alleata di Controllo, che assunse i poteri e compiti relativi il 10 novembre. Il suo principale compito era di stabilire i provvedimenti di controllo, secondo la lettera dell'Armistizio, per trasformare l'Italia in un efficace strumento di guerra contro la Germania. Ma la Commissione venne altresì incaricata di disporre il graduale passaggio del territorio all'Amministrazione italiana. Il Governo italiano venne invitato a rafforzare la sua struttura amministrativa in previsione di questo passaggio.

8. - Il 15 dicembre il Consiglio Consultivo per l'Italia, composto di rappresentanti del Regno Unito, degli Stati Uniti d'America, dell'Unione Sovietica e del Comitato Francese di Liberazione Nazionale, dette il parere che il territorio italiano su descritto venisse trasferito all'Amministrazione italiana, passibile pe-

Il Proclama del

PROCLA

Visto che ho assunto tutti
nel territorio dell'Italia e della S
e sugli abitanti del suddetto te
verno Militare allo scopo di eser
territorio, sotto la mia direzione

Visto che nell'esercizio di
ordinanze, sono state emesse di
mia autorità nel territorio sudd

Visto che un Armistizio co
chiuso ed una Commissione All
Visto che il Governo Italia
Germania ed è diventato cobell

Visto che le Nazioni Unite,
liano hanno approvato la restit
del Governo Italiano, di tanto
sia compatibile con le esigenze

Ora, quindi, io Sir Harold
C. S. I., D. S. O., M. C., Genera
il territorio occupato, in virtù d
investito dal Generale Capo Com
Wilson G. B. S., K. C. B., D. S.

Il Governo Militare Alleato
mi e le ordinanze finora emessi
quella parte dell'Italia continen
trionali delle Provincie di Saler
ed isole dipendenti (salvo Pant
sono terminate cominciando da
giorno di febbraio 1944. Da all
strerà il suddetto territorio ferm
immunità delle Nazioni Unite, d
Alleate e della Commissione All

8 febbraio 1944.

Arti Grafiche « La Nuovissima » - Napoli Vico Pellegri

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Il Proclama del Gen. Alexander

PROCLAMA N. 16

Visto che ho assunto tutti i poteri statali e giurisdizionali nel territorio dell'Italia e della Sicilia occupate dalle mie truppe e sugli abitanti del suddetto territorio ed ho stabilito un Governo Militare allo scopo di esercitare questi poteri in suddetto territorio, sotto la mia direzione e:

Visto che nell'esercizio di tali poteri, dei proclami e delle ordinanze, sono state emesse di tratto in tratto da me e per la mia autorità nel territorio suddetto e:

Visto che un Armistizio col Governo Italiano è stato conchiuso ed una Commissione Alleata di Controllo, nominata, e:

Visto che il Governo Italiano ha dichiarato la guerra alla Germania ed è diventato cobelligerante delle Nazioni Unite, e:

Visto che le Nazioni Unite, sulla richiesta del Governo Italiano hanno approvato la restituzione alle autorità competenti del Governo Italiano, di tanto del territorio occupato quanto sia compatibile con le esigenze militari:

Ora, quindi, io Sir Harold R. L. G. Alexander G. C. B., C. S. I., D. S. O., M. C., Generale Governatore Militare di tutto il territorio occupato, in virtù dell'Autorità della quale sono investito dal Generale Capo Comandante Sir Henry Maitland Wilson G. B. S., K. C. B., D. S. O., prociamo quanto segue:

Il Governo Militare Alleato stabilito da me e tutti i proclami e le ordinanze finora emessi da me o per la mia autorità in quella parte dell'Italia continentale al sud dei confini settentrionali delle Provincie di Salerno, Potenza e Bari, nella Sicilia ed isole dipendenti (salvo Pantelleria, Lampedusa e Linosa), sono terminate cominciando dalle ore 0001 dell'undicesimo giorno di febbraio 1944. Da allora il Governo Italiano amministrerà il suddetto territorio fermi restando i poteri, diritti ed immunità delle Nazioni Unite, del Capo Comandante delle Forze Alleate e della Commissione Alleata di Controllo.

H. R. ALEXANDER
Generale
Governatore Militare

8 febbraio 1944.

sciuti dal Governo Italiano, per il tempo in cui hanno avuto esecuzione, come validamente emanati ed aventi gli stessi effetti giuridici come se emanati dal Governo Italiano e come tali saranno riconosciuti da tutti i Tribunali e funzionari italiani.

3. - Tutti gli atti compiuti da qualsiasi membro delle Forze Alleate in applicazione dei suddetti Bandi e Ordinanze, nonchè tutte le misure ufficiali di qualunque genere adottate dal Governo Militare Alleato in applicazione di tali Bandi ed Ordinanze, comprese tutte le nomine e le rimozioni da qualsiasi ufficio pubblico e privato, saranno riconosciuti legali, validi ed impegnativi da tutti i Tribunali e funzionari italiani.

4. - Tutte le sentenze emanate dai Tribunali Militari Alleati saranno riconosciute dal Governo Italiano valide, legali ed aventi gli stessi effetti come se emanate dai Tribunali e funzionari italiani, a meno che non vengano revocate o modificate dalla Commissione Alleata di controllo o con il consenso di questa.

5. - Con Regi Decreti Legge in corso di pubblicazione, vengono sanzionate le antescritte disposizioni.

Salerno, 11 febbraio 1944.

IL MARESCIALLO D'ITALIA
Pietro Badoglio

Grafiche « La Nuovissima » - Napoli Vico Pellegrini, 4

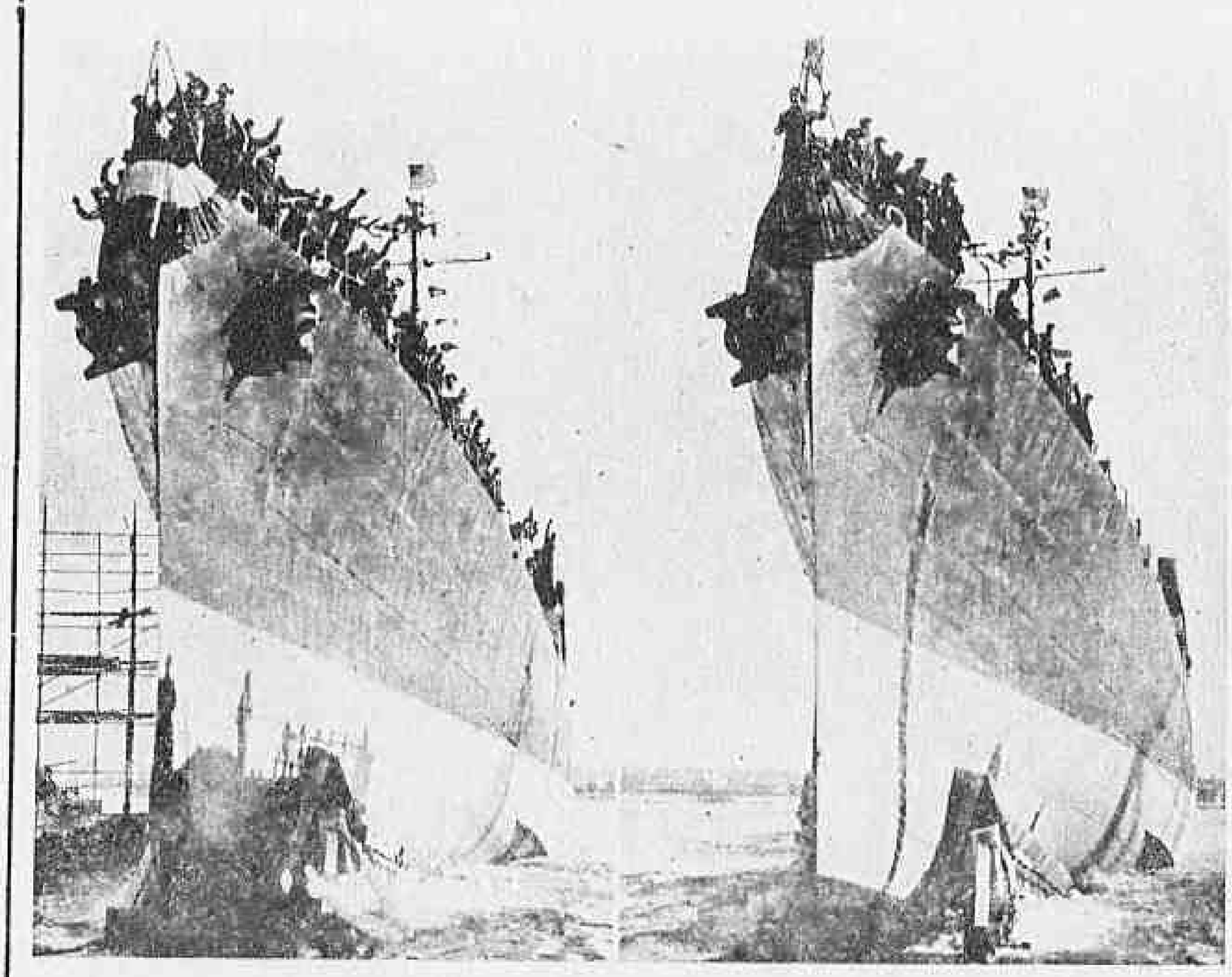
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BOLLETTINO I

11 Febbraio 1944 | A CURA DEL

NAVI... NAVI... NAVI...



Il meraviglioso sforzo dei c tieri alleati è uno dei principali tori della vittoria. Le statist segnano cifre altissime.

Negli Stati Uniti, dall'inizio d guerra, dicembre 1941, alla del mese scorso erano state struite 2775 navi per un tonnel gio di oltre 26 milioni. Per comp dere l'entità di questa cifra f pensare che se tutte le navi cost te si mettessero in convoglio co intervallo tra l'una e l'altra di 150 metri, si avrebbe una fila in rotta da Genova a Palermo, ga cioè quanto il Tirreno.

I cantieri britannici, da p loro, hanno prodotto dall'i della guerra una nave da gu ogni due giorni ivi comprese, vette, draganine e piccolo navi

L'ITALIA RINASCE

LE ARMATE RUSS

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N. 21

NO DI NOTIZIE

URA DEL P. W. B. | NAPOLI

NAVI....

Il meraviglioso sforzo dei cantieri alleati è uno dei principali fattori della vittoria. Le statistiche segnano cifre altissime.

Negli Stati Uniti, dall'inizio della guerra, dicembre 1941, alla fine del mese scorso erano state costruite 2775 navi per un tonnellaggio di oltre 26 milioni. Per comprendere l'entità di questa cifra basti pensare che se tutte le navi costruite si mettessero in convoglio con un intervallo tra l'una e l'altra di soli 150 metri, si avrebbe una fila interrotta da Genova a Palermo, lunga cioè quanto il Tirreno.

I cantieri britannici, da parte loro, hanno prodotto dall'inizio della guerra una nave da guerra ogni due giorni ivi comprese, corvette, dragamine e piccolo naviglio.

TE RUSSE

FRONTE ITALIANO

La situazione è apparentemente statica sia sul fronte principale che va dal Garigliano ad Ortona, sia nella zona della testa di sbarco di Anzio. Tuttavia si tratta di ingannevole apparenza poichè gli accaniti combattimenti nel settore di Cassino e nella zona di Cisterna logorano fortemente il nemico, lo costringono ad impiegare preziose riserve di uomini e materiale, gettano le premesse delle future mosse strategiche.

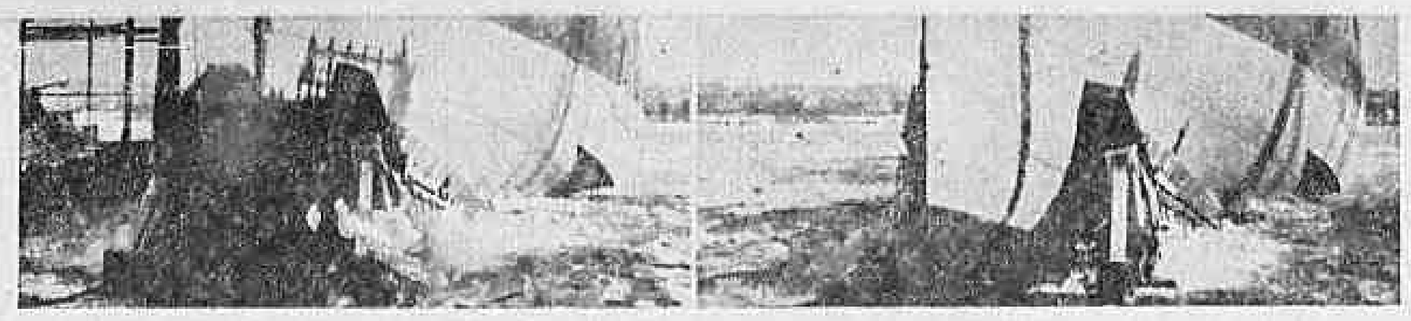
A Cassino si continua a combattere metro per metro, casa per casa, con lenti ma costanti progressi alleati.

Nella regione del Garigliano inferiore le truppe britanniche hanno attaccato sulle accidentate montagne degli Aurunci, conquistando la vetta Cerasole.

Nella zona di sbarco, le truppe della

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ga cioè quanto il Tirreno.

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L'ITALIA RINASCE

Le regioni liberate restituite dagli Alleati al Governo italiano

Un memorabile evento di storica importanza si è verificato l'11 febbraio. A partire da questo giorno, tutti i territori situati a sud dei confini settentrionali delle province di Salerno, Potenza e Bari, insieme con la Sicilia e la Sardegna ritornano sotto la giurisdizione del Governo italiano.

Gli altri territori, formanti la vera e propria zona di operazioni, resteranno sotto il Governo Militare Alleato; ma con l'avanzare degli eserciti liberatori saranno man mano effettuati altri trasferimenti.

La notizia, che costituisce la pietra basilare della costruzione della nuova Italia, è stata comunicata al popolo da un nobile proclama del generale Sir Henry Maitland Wilson Comandante in Capo delle Forze Alleate nel Mediterraneo.

Nel proclama è ricordato che l'eliminazione del fascismo ed il ristabilirsi della libertà di parola e di stampa per gli italiani furono stabiliti nei piani originali come obbiettivo fondamentale del Governo Militare Alleato.

Un altro proclama del generale Alexander dichiara che il Governo italiano amministrerà il territorio restituito fermi restando i poteri diritti ed immunità delle Nazioni Unite del Capo Comandante delle Forze Alleate e della Commissione Alleata di controllo.

LE ARMATE RUSSE

puntano su Krivoj - Rog

La guerra sul fronte russo è piena di amare sorprese per l'aggressore tedesco. Quando è appena riuscito a riaversi da un grave colpo infertogli in un settore, quando può dopo centinaia di chilometri di ritirata, dire nei suoi reticenti comunicati che «le nostre truppe si sono attestate su posizioni prestabilite», misero eufemismo per nascondere la sconfitta patita, ecco che i russi, padroni della iniziativa, menano un più grave colpo a cento o mille chilometri di distanza.

Così è avvenuto in questi giorni: l'attenzione di tutti era attratta dalle due grandi battaglie di Ucraina ed ecco che le truppe sovietiche riprendono l'offensiva sul fronte settentrionale. La città di Luga è stretta da vicino da forze provenienti da nord e da est e nuovi progressi sono stati realizzati.

Tuttavia è sempre nel settore sud che gli eventi sono suscettibili di più ampi sviluppi. Ivi le truppe liberatrici, convergendo da tre direzioni, puntano su Krivoj-Rog e ne distano soltanto 15 chilometri. Ora Krivoj-Rog è uno dei più grandi centri siderurgici e la sua perdita significherà per la Germania la perdita di milioni di tonnellate annue di ferro ed acciaio.

Già la perdita di Nikopol ha costituito un gravissimo colpo per i germanici perchè ha tolto loro la più grande fonte di manganese che essi possedessero e che era anche la sola

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ATE RUSSE

su Krivoj - Rog

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Nella regione del Garigliano inferiore le truppe britanniche hanno attaccato sulle accidentate montagne degli Aurunci, conquistando la vetta Cerasole.

Nella zona di sbarco, le truppe della 5ª Armata hanno continuato il perlustramento offensivo della regione ed il rafforzamento delle proprie posizioni invano contrattaccate dal nemico.

Neve e pioggia hanno ridotto l'attività sul fronte dell'8ª Armata.

L' EUROPA CONTRO LA GERMANIA

L'Europa tutta freme, si agita e non vuol saperne del giogo tedesco. Anche quei popoli che avevano accettata l'alleanza con la Germania hanno ora aperto gli occhi e ne scorgono i rischi ed i pericoli. Nessuna maschera di cortesia riesce a coprire a lungo la vera natura tedesca che è sopraffattrice ed egoista, avida di dominio, nutrita di prepotenza. Noi italiani fummo tra i primi a comprendere che una alleanza con i tedeschi era qualche cosa di forzato, di contro natura che soltanto un regime cieco e sordo ad ogni necessità di popolo aveva potuto stringere. Tre quarti della impopolarità del fascismo trasse la sua origine da questa causa internazionale e fu essa che sgretolò anche le cosidette gerarchie.

Ora è la volta della Rumenia, dell'Ungheria e della Bulgaria a sentirsi stanche del predominio teutonico che tutto chiede uomini, merci, denaro e nulla dà, neppure la sicu-

folgorante avanzata russa. Le nazioni dove i tedeschi sono penetrati con la violenza, Francia, Jugoslavia, Grecia, Polonia, Norvegia, Danimarca, Belgio, ecc. sono, poi, più o meno in aperta rivolta ed alimentano una spossante guerriglia.

Triste ma giusta sorte quella del popolo tedesco, di un popolo che può forse incutere paura ma non riesce ad ispirare simpatia ed è condannato alla solitudine fin quando gli ideali ultra nazionalisti con i quali lo si nutre nelle scuole e nelle fabbriche, non cedano il posto a concetti di vera democrazia; fin quando l'impossibile sogno di popolo eletto, destinato a dominare tutti, si muti in un sincero desiderio di collaborare per un mondo migliore.

Il valore strategico delle isole Marshall

La conquista dell'intero atollo di Kwajelein otto giorni dopo i primi sbarchi americani in quella località, permette agli alleati il controllo di oltre ottanta isole nell'atollo lungo 96 Km. e che è la base più importante nelle Marshall.

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biliti nei piani originali come obbiettivo fondamentale del Governo Militare Alleato.

Un altro proclama del generale Alexander dichiara che il Governo italiano amministrerà il territorio restituito fermi restando i poteri diritti ed immunità delle Nazioni Unite del Capo Comandante delle Forze Alleate e della Commissione Alleata di controllo.

Gli italiani di tutte le regioni apprenderanno il provvedimento con gioia e gratitudine poichè da esso trae la sua origine il primo nucleo della Patria comune e il lavoro e l'ingegno italiani potranno iniziare la gigantesca opera di ricostruzione. Dopo tanti anni di malgoverno fascista, dopo il lungo periodo di dominio tedesco, prima larvato e nascosto poi sfacciatamente prepotente, alcune fra le più nobili contrade d'Italia, quelle stesse dove l'idea della libertà sorse nei più lontani secoli, sono ora messe in grado di provare al mondo la capacità costruttiva del nostro popolo, la sua intima adesione agli ideali democratici.

3988

Tutti dobbiamo essere grati agli Alleati per la fiducia che nutrono, per i propositi che li hanno animati nell'affrettare la ricostituzione della nostra Patria. È una nuova prova, una dimostrazione inconfutabile che lo scopo di questa immane guerra è uno solo: avviare tutti gli uomini di buona volontà verso un mondo migliore.

15 chilometri. Ora Krivoj-Rog è uno dei più grandi cen
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Già la perdita di Nikopol ha costituito un gr
colpo per i germanici perchè ha tolto loro la più grand
di manganese che essi possedessero e che era anche
Ora senza manganese non si fanno acciai per corazze ne
leggere .a base di alluminio,
indispensabili per l'industria aeronautica. Perciò un tecnico
americano ha potuto affermare:
«La perdita di Nikopol significa che numerose divisioni corazzate naziste e squadriglie della Luftwaffe sono state distrutte prima di essere create».

Nell'ansa del Dnieper continua intanto l'annientamento delle forze nemiche accerchiate e le truppe attaccanti hanno liberato diverse località abitate. Formazioni russe si spingono verso Nikolajev e Kerson.

OGGI

● **LE LEGGI CONTRO G**
polo civile, sono state aboli
artificiosa differenza tra

● **PARLANDO DELL'A**
nico degli Esteri, Eden, ha
possono decidere mentre i
nico sta tuttavia esaminan
l'abdicazione stessa.

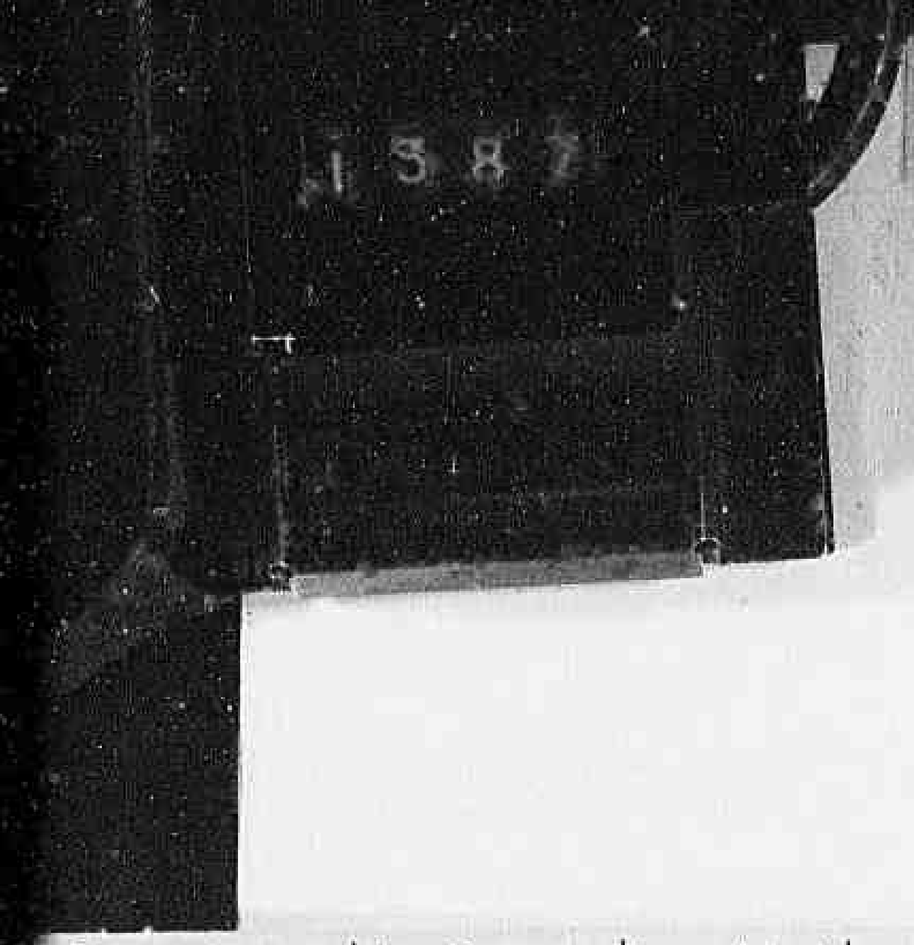
● **LA PUNIZIONE DEI C**
nione pubblica mondiale. I
una Corte speciale dovre
ucciso, rubato, violentato o

● **165 MILA VOLATORI**
ed altri tecnici, sono stati i
degli Stati Uniti.

● **UNA FORMALE PRO**
l'Ambasciatore tedesco per
silica di S. Paolo a Roma. Ag
per arrestarvi ufficiali italia
si erano rifugiati.

Arti Grafiche «La Nuovissima» - Napoli Vi

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Ora è la volta della Rumenia, dell'Ungheria e della Bulgaria a sentirsi stanche del predominio teutonico che tutto chiede uomini, merci, denaro e nulla dà, neppure la sicurezza di difesa dei confini dei disgraziati paesi già minacciati dalla

OCCHIO SUL MONDO

● **LE LEGGI CONTRO GLI EBREI, inumane e disonoranti per ogni popolo civile, sono state abolite in Italia con decreto del 20 gennaio. Ogni artificiosa differenza tra cittadini della stessa Patria, è così cancellata.**

● **PARLANDO DELL'ABDICAZIONE del Re d'Italia, il Ministro britannico degli Esteri, Eden, ha dichiarato: «la questione non è di quelle che si possono decidere mentre infuria la lotta per Roma». Il Governo britannico sta tuttavia esaminando la richiesta dei partiti antifascisti circa l'abdicazione stessa.**

● **LA PUNIZIONE DEI CRIMINALI DI GUERRA interessa molto l'opinione pubblica mondiale. I più grandi giuristi inglesi sono del parere che una Corte speciale dovrebbe giudicare gli «arcicriminali» che hanno ucciso, rubato, violentato o torturato.**

● **165 MILA VOLATORI, fra piloti, puntatori, naviganti, mitraglieri ed altri tecnici, sono stati istruiti in un anno dalla scuola dell'aviazione degli Stati Uniti.**

● **UNA FORMALE PROTESTA è stata presentata dal Vaticano all'Ambasciatore tedesco per la violazione dell'extraterritorialità della Basilica di S. Paolo a Roma. Agenti della Gestapò e fascisti vi penetrarono per arrestarvi ufficiali italiani, tra cui il generale d'aviazione Monti, che vi si erano rifugiati.**

Il teatro strategico delle isole Marshall

La conquista dell'intero atollo di Kwajelein otto giorni dopo i primi sbarchi americani in quella località, permette agli alleati il controllo di oltre ottanta isole nell'atollo lungo 96 Km. e che è la base più importante nelle Marshall.

L'ammiraglio Chester W. Nimitz Comandante in Capo del teatro di operazioni del Pacifico, che ha ispezionato sabato Kwajalein mentre la battaglia era in corso, ha dichiarato che la conquista dell'atollo era di una grande importanza strategica e servirà ad affrettare i tempi della guerra del Pacifico.

L'ammiraglio Nimitz ha detto che oltre alla neutralizzazione di altre basi nemiche nelle Marshall, il possesso di Kwajalein accorcia definitivamente le comunicazioni tra il sud e il sud-est del Pacifico e che «il maggiore ostacolo nel Pacifico è costituito non tanto dai giapponesi quanto dalla distanza».

«I giapponesi — ha aggiunto — sono ora fortemente in imbarazzo anche per la mancanza di caccia torpediniere per scortare i loro convogli o per mettere assieme una adeguata flotta da battaglia».

Un numero straordinario del Bollettino di Notizie, che uscirà fra 24 ore, recherà i particolari sulla restituzione dell'Italia liberata al Governo italiano.

Arti Grafiche «La Nuovissima» - Napoli Vico Pellegrini, 4

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

BOLLETTINO DI

28 Gennaio 1944 | A CURA DEL P. W

Scontri di carri armati nell'Agro Pontino

La testa di sbarco a sud di Roma viene costantemente allargata ed approfondita da inesauribili ondate di uomini, materiali e rifornimenti. Dopo la liberazione di Nettuno è stata ufficialmente annunciata quella di Anzio. Nella mattinata del 26, la zona in possesso degli alleati è larga 20 chilometri e profonda 24. La via Appia e la direttissima Napoli-Roma sono cadute in mano alleata, cosicchè all'ala destra tedesca è impedito ogni movimento verso la capitale. Ai nemici, per alimentare il fronte del Garigliano, resta soltanto la ferrovia Cassino-Roma e la via Casilina passante per Frosinone, entrambe, però, sotto il controllo aereo alleato.

Presso le sponde del canale Mussolini nell'Agro Pontino si è avuto, tre giorni dopo lo sbarco, il primo scontro di carri armati, risoltosi col pieno successo degli anglo-americani. A sud ovest di Littoria gli alleati hanno respinto attacchi locali sferrati dalla divisione corazzata germanica "Goering". I nemici venivano ricacciati con perdite. La resistenza tedesca, dapprima inesistente, va delineandosi.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

N. 17

NO DI NOTIZIE

CURA DEL P. W. B. | NAPOLI

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Le quattro libertà

1) LIBERTÀ DI PENSIERO
2) LIBERTÀ DI RELIGIONE
3) LIBERTÀ DALLA PAURA
4) LIBERTÀ DAL BISOGNO



Sembra incredibile che l'umanità, quasi alla metà del secolo XX, debba ancora lottare per una libertà di religione. L'intolleranza religiosa sembrerebbe cosa d'altri tempi eppure negli stati totalitari si sono avute e si hanno ancora delle vere e proprie persecuzioni che, in qualche caso, non hanno nulla da invidiare alle antiche persecuzioni pagane. Quello che la Germania hitleriana ha compiuto contro la chiesa Cattolica e contro gl'israeliti è quanto di più fosco sia da annoverarsi nella storia degli ultimi secoli. Anche il regime fascista che menava gran vanto della Conciliazione ha predicato una morale nettamente in contrasto con la morale religiosa, ha monopolizzato la gioventù educandola al culto della forza e della violenza, ha disciolto le associazioni cattoliche, ha avversato la stampa cattolica con minacce e con imprese teppistiche e infine si è unito alla Germania hitleriana nella orrenda lotta contro gli ebrei, chiudendo le loro chiese, cacciandoli in prigione e nei campi di concentramento, sfogando contro di essi una rabbia tanto più crudele quanto più ingiustificata. Nel mondo che deve venir fuori da questa guerra, ogni uomo dovrà essere libero di adorare Iddio nella forma in cui l'adoravano i suoi padri. Vogliamo ricostruire un mondo dove non si dica più «egli è un ebreo, o egli è un ariano» ma si dica «egli è un fratello uomo, figlio dello stesso Padre, avvolto nello stesso mistero, egli è un essere immortale, un uomo libero».

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Sul fronte della V. Armata le truppe francesi hanno conquistato un tratto importante di altopiano, avanzando per parecchi chilometri nella zona montagnosa a nord di Cassino.

Nel settore adriatico intensa attività di pattuglie.

Senza soste gli attacchi aerei contro il sistema stradale e ferroviario che si irraggia da Roma. Colonne motorizzate nemiche sono state efficacemente colpite.

OFFENSIVA AEREA

Anche in questo periodo meteorologicamente poco favorevole l'offensiva aerea contro gli obbiettivi tedeschi militari e industriali in Cermania, Belgio, Olanda e Francia è continuata intensa.

L'offensiva, che si svolge particolarmente nelle ore diurne, continua a dare risultati di grande importanza. La presenza della caccia di scorta origina continui duelli aerei nei quali le squadriglie tedesche di intercettazione hanno sovente la peggio. Tra il 1 e il 26 gennaio oltre 20 mila tonnellate di bombe sono state sganciate sulla Germania e sui territori ad essa sottoposti, superando ogni primato. Sempre più intensa la partecipazione degli aerei americani con basi in Gran Bretagna.

Anche nel settore del Pacifico continua senza soste l'offensiva contro gli obbiettivi militari nipponici delle terre e delle isole occupate. L'aeroporto di Lorungan (isole dell'Ammiragliato) è stato bombardato ed incendiato. Anche tre navi ognuna di mille tonnellate risultano incendiate mentre altre due rimanevano danneggiate.

L'aerodromo di Lukanai nel settore di Rabaul (Nuova Britannia) è stato attaccato da bombardieri in picchiata. Otto apparecchi di-

Io non amo la guerra. Furono le lagrime degli oppressi a pormi la spada nel pugno.

GARIBALDI

Il colossale incremento delle costruzioni navali ed aeree negli S. U.

NOTIZIE VARIE

TUTTI I COMANDANTI del secondo fronte si trovano ora in Inghilterra. Il Generale Eisenhower li ha riuniti al suo Quartiere Generale per i necessari scambi di vedute, preludio alla invasione.

Erano presenti, fra gli altri, il Generale Montgomery, i Marescialli dell'aria Mallory Trafford Leigh e Arthur W. Tedder. Il Tenente Generale Carl Spaatz, comandante delle squadre aeree da bombardamento.

IL GOVERNO BOLIVIANO, composto di una camarilla rivoluzionaria che si è impadronita del potere, non è stato riconosciuto nè dagli Stati Uniti nè dalla Gran Bretagna nè da dodici repubbliche del centro e del sud America.

TRE NAVI OSPEDALE benchè recassero i prescritti segnali e fossero illuminate, sono state attaccate di notte al largo di Anzio da

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BALDI

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unito alla Germania hitleriana nella orrenda lotta contro gli ebrei, chiudendo le loro chiese, cacciandoli in prigione e nei campi di concentramento, sfogando contro di essi una rabbia tanto più crudele quanto più ingiustificata. Nel mondo che deve venir fuori da questa guerra, ogni uomo dovrà essere libero di adorare Iddio nella forma in cui l'adoravano i suoi padri. Vogliamo ricostruire un mondo dove non si dica più «egli è un ebreo, o egli è un ariano» ma si dica «egli è un fratello uomo, figlio dello stesso Padre, avvolto nello stesso mistero, egli è un essere immortale, un uomo libero».

RUSSIA

Dei quattro grandi settori in cui è diviso il lunghissimo fronte russo, i due più interessanti in questo momento sembrano quelli dell' estremo sud (Crimea) e di Leningrado. Il presidio tedesco in Crimea si trova in pessime acque. Vive in stato d'assedio e riceve i rifornimenti da una sola via quella del mare. Ma non è una via sicura poichè le rotte marittime sono costantemente bersagliate dall' aviazione. I moti dei partigiani in questo settore sono in enorme progresso.

Sul fronte di Leningrado le battaglie continuano a svilupparsi con successo per i sovietici. La grande linea difensiva tedesca disposta a ferro di cavallo intorno alla città va gradatamente frantuman-

nodo ferroviario di Golikovo e 40 altri centri abitati sono stati occupati.

Le truppe sovietiche, superando una forte resistenza nemica hanno conquistato la città di Tosno, notevole centro nella regione di Leningrado anch'esso nodo ferroviario.

Il comandante delle forze sovietiche del settore di Leningrado generale Godorov, ha annunziato in un suo ordine del giorno che Leningrado è ormai completamente liberata dal blocco tedesco. In dodici giorni di accaniti combattimenti i russi hanno sfondato e sopraffatto le difese tedesche lungo tutto questo fronte. Settecento località fra cui Gatchina e Pushkin sono state liberate. Sul fronte di Leningrado i tedeschi sono stati costretti a delle ritirate

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L'aerodromo di Lukanai nel settore di Rabaul (Nuova Britannia) è stato attaccato da bombardieri in picchiata. Otto apparecchi distrutti al suolo e 17 postazioni antiaeree colpite, 36 aerei nipponici abbattuti sicuramente, 14 probabili.

Anche gli aerodromi di Wewak e di Borum nella Nuova Guinea hanno subiti attacchi che causavano incendi e distruggevano 4 aerei a suolo.

Anche l'Argentina

ROMPE LE RELAZIONI CON LA GERMANIA ED IL GIAPPONE

Il governo argentino ha rotto le relazioni con la Germania ed il Giappone. Il generale Ramirez, presidente della repubblica, ha dichiarato che era stata scoperta una organizzazione nazista di spionaggio nella quale erano coinvolte eminenti personalità argentine.

Ormai tutte le nazioni del continente americano o sono in guerra o hanno interrotte le relazioni diplomatiche con i nazisti.

GARIBALDI

Il colossale incremento delle costruzioni navali ed aeree negli S. U.

Donald Nelson, capo della produzione bellica degli Stati Uniti ha dichiarato che nel 1943 le costruzioni navali, che hanno battuto ogni record, comprendono due corazzate da 45 mila tonnellate, undici incrociatori, quindici portaerei, cinquanta portaerei da scorta, 128 cacciatorpediniere, 306 navi minori da scorta e 56 sottomarini.

Il programma delle costruzioni navali per il 1944 prevede un aumento di quasi il 50 per cento sul tonnellaggio costruito nel 1943. In dicembre sono stati consegnati 8802 aerei con un grande aumento nella produzione di bombardieri pesanti e a largo raggio. La produzione aerea si estenderà ancora nel 1944. È stato progettato l'aumento del 65 per cento rispetto alla produzione del 1943 includendo accessori e parti di ricambio.

La produzione di mezzi da sbarco nel 1944 per i bisogni della invasione sarà aumentata di più del 175 per cento su quella del 1943.

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● TRE NAVI OSPEDALE b
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● SI RIUNISCE A BARI il
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Arti Grafiche « La Nuovissima » - Napoli Vico

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

BALDI

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SI RIUNISCE A BARI il congresso dei partiti antifascisti italiani rappresentati dai membri dei comitati di liberazione. Parlamentari inglesi di tutti i partiti hanno inviato un nobile messaggio di saluto augurando che il congresso sia uno dei pilastri della ricostruzione dell'Italia democratica il cui aiuto sarà benvenuto nella lotta contro il nazismo.

TRE QUARTI DELLA BOSNIA centrale sono stati liberati dall'esercito di Tito. Aspri combattimenti si svolgono nella Bosnia orientale mentre una lotta accanita è in corso nella fascia costiera croata.

LA FORTEZZA EUROPEA è destinata a capitolare, scrive un giornale turco, rilevando come ormai i tedeschi non parlano più di offensive ma di strenua difesa. I tedeschi, conclude, hanno perso la guerra perchè ogni fortezza assediata tosto o tardi deve capitolare.

le battaglie continuano a svilupparsi con successo per i sovietici. La grande linea difensiva tedesca disposta a ferro di cavallo intorno alla città va gradatamente frantumandosi. Le truppe russe hanno occupato Gàtchina (Krasnogvardejsk) caposaldo nemico a sud ovest di Leningrado e importantissimo centro ferroviario. Su questo fronte in dieci giorni il nemico ha perduto più di 40 mila uomini. Dieci divisioni di fanteria sono state sbaragliate ed altre due hanno subito gravissime perdite.

Inoltre un ordine del giorno del Maresciallo Stalin annunzia che la linea ferroviaria Leningrado - Mosca è ora completamente liberata dal blocco tedesco. L'importante fese tedesche lungo tutto questo fronte. Settecento località fra cui Gatchina e Pushkin sono state liberate. Sul fronte di Leningrado i tedeschi sono stati costretti a delle ritirate varianti dai 65 ai 100 chilometri durante le quali hanno subito perdite assai elevate. Ingente la preda bellica caduta in mano dei russi. Centinaia di cannoni e di carri armati, migliaia di mitragliatrici, milioni di proiettili e cartucce sono stati finora elencati, e tuttavia l'inventario continua, mentre la capacità produttiva tedesca diminuisce.

In Ucraina l'offensiva di Von Mannstein si è allargata in ampiezza ma non ha avuto successo. I contrattacchi tedeschi sono stati respinti con sanguinose perdite per i nemici.

Arti Grafiche « La Nuovissima » - Napoli Vico Pellegrini, 4

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BOLLETTINO DI

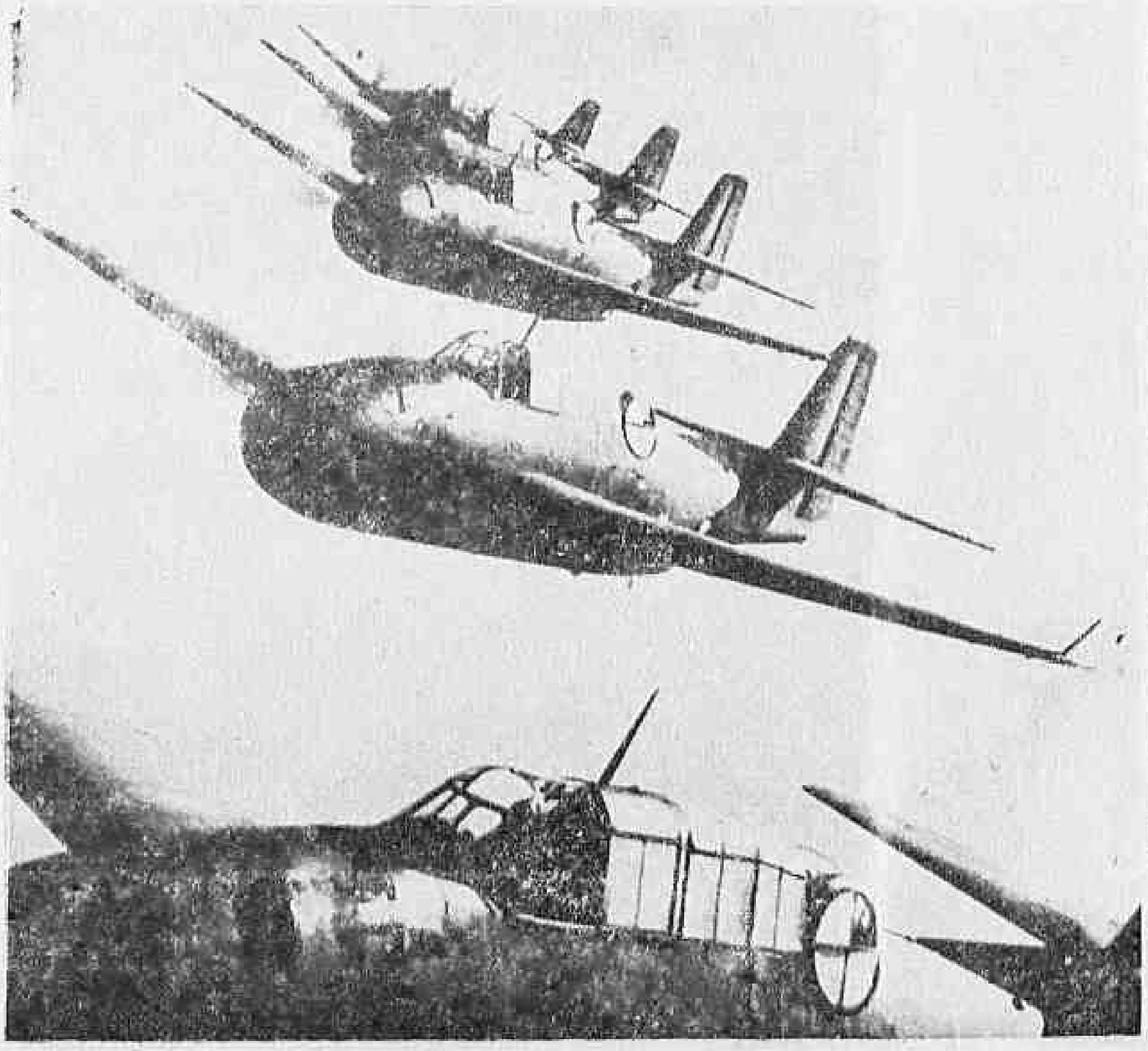
16 Febbraio 1944 | A CURA DEL P. W

IL DOMINIO DELL'ARIA

Gli alleati erano in netto svantaggio all'inizio della guerra. Nel campo aeronautico la Germania aveva già mobilitato le industrie e costruito molte migliaia di apparecchi al momento in cui sferrò l'offensiva in Polonia. L'apporto del fascismo fu minimo: si limitò quasi alla famosa frase di Mussolini «i nostri apparecchi oscureranno il sole», frase del solito stile bluffistico ed incosciente poichè nè prima nè durante le operazioni l'aeronautica italiana potè allineare più di 500 apparecchi in grado di volare, compresi quelli scuola ed allenamento.

Ma la potenza industriale e la genialità inventiva inglese ed americana hanno totalmente rovesciato la situazione: oggi la Luftwaffe non è neppure in grado di difendere il territorio tedesco e l'ala alleata domina tutti i cieli d'Europa, del Pacifico e dell'Atlantico. La sola America è in grado di produrre 100 mila apparecchi all'anno.

Nella fotografia la superba vi-



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N. 23

NO DI NOTIZIE

URA DEL P. W. B. | NAPOLI



DURISSIMI COLPI
al traffico nipponico nel Pacifico

Il Ministro della Marina Nord-Americano Frank Knox ha dichiarato che sottomarini degli Stati Uniti hanno affondato altre 12 navi giapponesi. Tra esse si annoverano tre navi trasporto, due grandi petroliere, sei navi da carico ed una grande nave ausiliaria. Tutte sono state affondate nelle acque del Pacifico e dell'Estremo Oriente Knox ha soggiunto che «questo è un bel bottino di navi nemiche affondata da sottomarini degli S. U.».

L'Associated Press riferisce che in seguito agli ultimi affondamenti il totale delle navi giapponesi affondate probabilmente affondate o danneggiate dai sottomarini da quando è scoppiata la guerra, ammonta a 584 unità, e che gli ultimi affondamenti incidono ancora di più nel sistema dei rifornimenti giapponesi.

Venendo a parlare delle battaglie terrestri nelle isole del Pacifico, il Segretario della Marina ha detto che in molti casi le guarnigioni giapponesi sparpagliate sulle varie isole «muoiono d'inanizione». Nel dire ciò egli si è riferito in specie alle isole del gruppo delle Marshall nel Pacifico Centrale ove l'occupazione americana di Kwajalein ha tagliato fuori parecchie altre basi nemiche dello stesso gruppo, ed a Bougainville, soggiungendo che «poco cibo si trova in quelle isole, ed i giapponesi devono rifornirle».

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FRONTE AEREO

La zona del passo de Calais, così densa di fabbriche che lavorano per l'industria tedesca e così importante dal punto di vista delle comunicazioni è stata ancora una volta in questi giorni intensamente bombardata dall'aviazione alleata.

Questi ripetuti attacchi ad una regione di importanza vitale per il

NOTIZIE VARIE

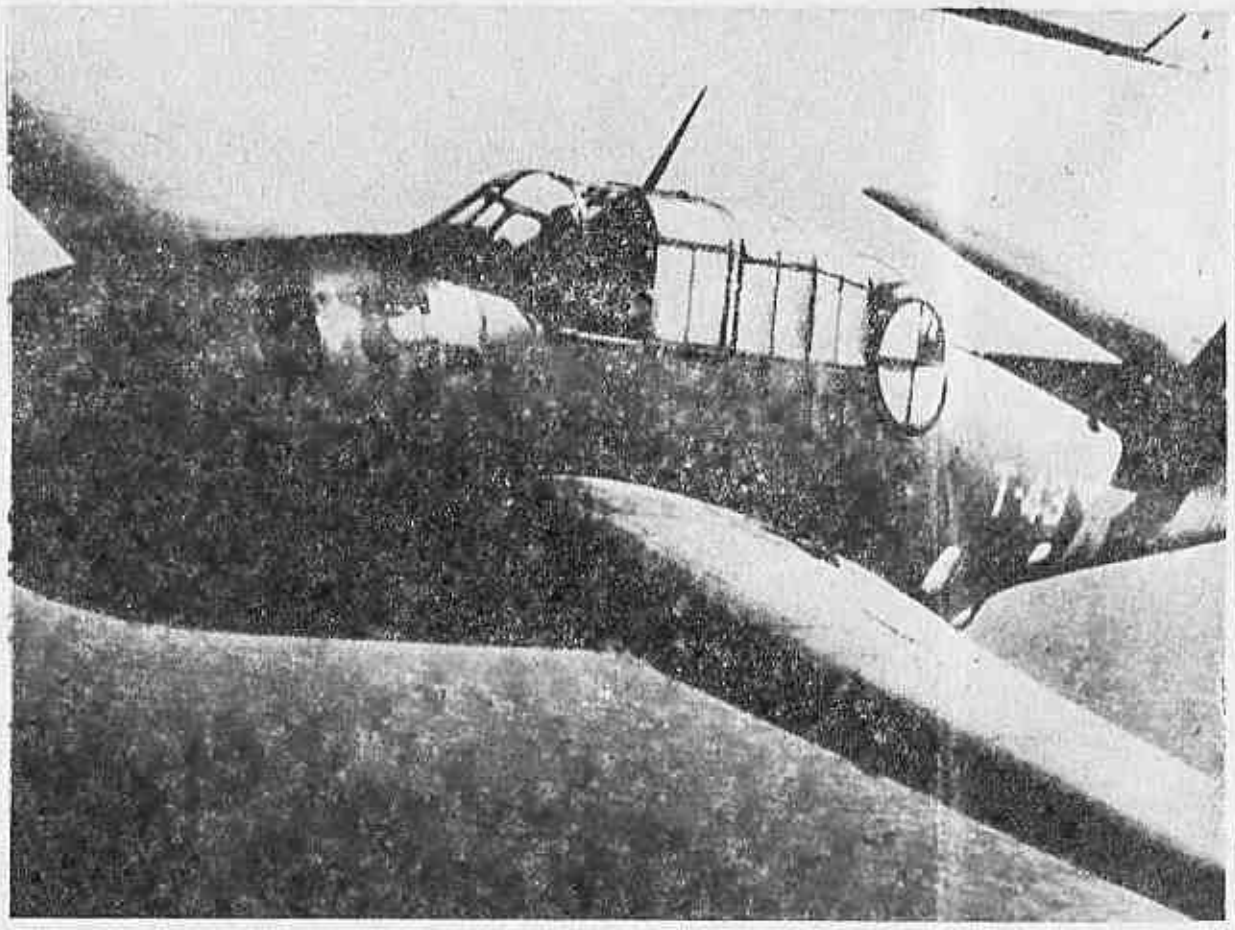
● **IL PONTEFICE HA RIVOLTO un appello ai cattolici tedeschi perchè preservino il cattolicesimo germanico dalle negatrici e perniciose dottrine naziste in materia religiose.**

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allenamento.

Ma la potenza industriale e la genialità inventiva inglese ed americana hanno totalmente rovesciato la situazione: oggi la Luftwaffe non è neppure in grado di difendere il territorio tedesco e l'ala alleata domina tutti i cieli d'Europa, del Pacifico e dell'Atlantico. La sola America è in grado di produrre 100 mila apparecchi all'anno.

Nella fotografia la superba virata di una pattuglia di aerosiluranti americani che ha preso il volo da una portaerei. Il micidiale siluro è racchiuso nel ventre dell'apparecchio insieme alle ruote; basterà che il pilota prema un bottone e gli sportelloni si apriranno e una guizzante carica di acciaio e di esplosivo si avvierà verso l'obbiettivo, mossa dal suo potente e perfetto motore ad aria compressa.



Un mese di offensive

sul fronte italiano

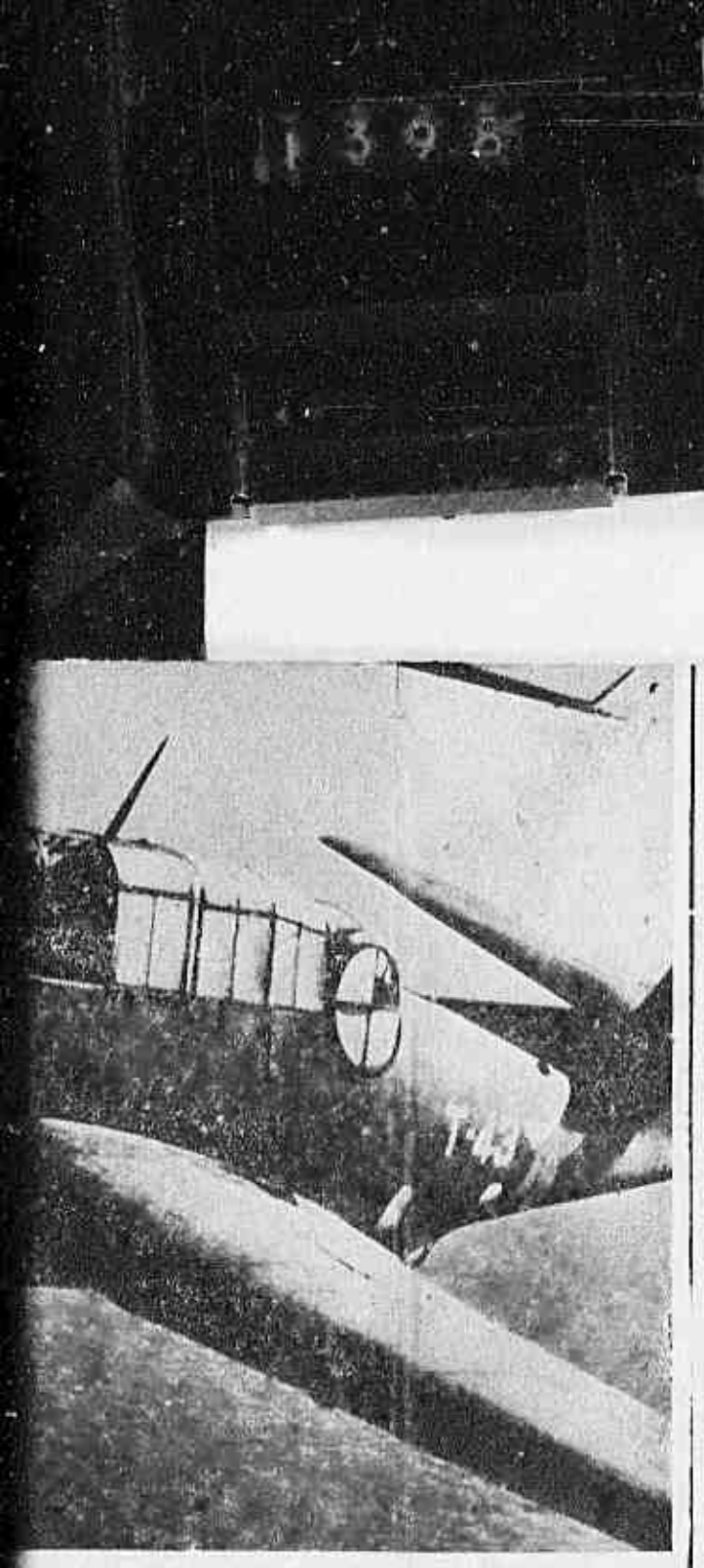
Esattamente un mese fa gli alleati iniziarono una fase offensiva che aveva lo scopo principale di distruggere la decima Armata tedesca, operante a sud di Roma.

La linea Gustav che avrebbe dovuto, secondo il piano tedesco, tener immobili gli alleati per tutto l'inverno, fu vivacemente attaccata prima alle due estremità che vennero smantellate dopo aspri combattimenti, poi al centro nella zona di Cassino che falle sul fronte russo. L'azione alleata in Italia ha quindi una portata strategica che interessa tutta la fortezza europea.

Negli ultimi giorni la lotta è stata violenta specialmente intorno alle diroccate case di Cassino che i tedeschi difendono una per una con grande accanimento senza riuscire ad impedire i lenti ma costanti progressi degli attaccanti, che hanno occupato oltre un quinto della città. Nella testa di sbarco, arginate e respinte le prime mosse controffensive nemiche, le truppe alleate hanno cominciato a sferrare riusciti attacchi locali, riconquistando quasi tutto il terreno perduto e mantenendo la pressione contro lo schieramento avversario.

LA BATTAGLIA DI ROMA VERRA' VINTA

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GLIA DI ROMA

A' VINTA

FRONTE AEREO

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Questi ripetuti attacchi ad una regione di importanza vitale per il nemico, si aggiungono a quelli che hanno avuto per obbiettivo zone della Germania occidentale, Francoforte e Brunswick. Francoforte ha subito il quarto attacco alle sue industrie aeronautiche in due settimane e le fabbriche di Brunswick sono state, a loro volta, duramente colpite. Anche aerodromi in Olanda sono stati neutralizzati da tempestivi attacchi. Un tecnico ha calcolato che la potenzialità costruttiva aeronautica della Germania è già diminuita del 40 per cento.

Nelle 48 ore che vanno dal venerdì 11 febbraio alla successiva domenica 137 caccia tedeschi sono stati abbattuti, in gran parte dai cacciatori alleati scortanti i bombardieri. 60 aerei alleati risultavano perduti nello stesso periodo. In due settimane nella vana difesa del cielo della Germania i tedeschi perdevano 500 aerei.

Aerei tedeschi hanno tentato la notte tra la domenica e lunedì di attaccare la zona di Londra. Metà degli attaccanti è stata abbattuta. Non sono stati provocati danni.

NOTIZIE VARIE

● **IL PONTEFICE HA RIVOLTO un appello ai cattolici tedeschi perchè preservino il cattolicesimo germanico dalle negatrici e perniciose dottrine naziste in materia religiose.**

● **UN INTERO CONVOGLIO di 148 navi partito dalla Gran Bretagna è giunto al completo, senza perdite nè danni, in un porto dell'Africa del nord.**

● **TRE PATRIOTI ITALIANI sono stati condannati a morte ed uccisi dal tribunale tedesco di Torino. Tre altri vennero condannati all'ergastolo e dieci a 30 anni.**

● **NEL CONSEGNARE ALLA MARINA FRANCESE un cacciatorpediniere americano Roosevelt ha dichiarato: «La Francia non è fuori di questa guerra. Questa non è la sola nave che riceverete da noi; altre ne costruiremo che avranno per equipaggi vostri marinai».**

● **KALININ, PRESIDENTE DELL'U.R.S.S. ha dichiarato di esser convinto che quest'anno i russi daranno il colpo di grazia agli invasori liberando il territorio della Patria.**

LUGA LIBERATA
dalle truppe sovietiche

Nel settore di Luga le truppe sovietiche, spezzata la resistenza del nemico, hanno occupato la città. Altre località sono pure state occupate. I russi hanno così completamente liberata dal nemico la ferrovia Leningrado-Bateskaja-Novgorod. Tutto il fronte settentrionale è in avanzata e le armate liberatrici sono a meno di 50 km. da Pscov.

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be dovuto, secondo il piano tedesco, tener immobili gli alleati per tutto l'inverno, fu vivacemente attaccata prima alle due estremità che vennero smantellate dopo aspri combattimenti, poi al centro nella zona di Cassino che costituisce la chiave di volta del sistema difensivo nemico. Mentre duravano i combattimenti avvenne il riuscito sbarco nella zona di Anzio, seguito da un rapido potenziamento della testa di sbarco con l'afflusso di uomini e materiali.

Traendo le sue riserve dalla Francia e dall'Italia settentrionale il comando germanico è riuscito a raccogliere 17 divisioni di prima schiera e 7 di riserva nel tentativo di parare entrambi i colpi, ma per far questo ha dovuto spostare sul fronte italiano uomini e materiali che gli sarebbero stati di grande aiuto nella lotta contro i patrioti o per turare le intorno alle diroccate case di Cassino che i tedeschi difendono una per una con duto e mantenendo la pressione contro lo schieramento avversario.

LA BATTAGLIA DI ROMA VERRA' VINTA

E' stata diramata a Londra una dichiarazione, dalla residenza del Primo Ministro, in merito alla situazione in Italia. In tale dichiarazione, il Primo Ministro informa di aver ricevuto comunicazioni dai comandanti Alleati Generale Wilson Comandante in Capo delle Forze Alleate e Generale Alexander Governatore Militare, secondo cui ambedue i comandanti esprimono la loro fiducia che la grande battaglia in corso, per la conquista di Roma, verrà vinta.

La dichiarazione dei due Generali Alleati continua:

«Nella testa di ponte gli Alleati dispongono di una potente armata e godono di una superiorità sia in forze di artiglieria che in quelle corazzate. Quantunque il maltempo abbia di tanto in tanto interrotto l'arrivo dei rifornimenti, i quantitativi già sbarcati sono notevolmente superiori a quelli previsti prima dell'inizio delle operazioni, e cioè alle riserve accumulate durante i periodi in cui le condizioni atmosferiche sono state favorevoli».

La dichiarazione così conclude: «Tutte le battaglie quando si avvicinano al loro apice sono causa di ansietà; ma quanto riferiscono le notizie fornite dalle autorità responsabili non giustifica in alcun modo un atteggiamento pessimistico».

GLI ORRORI delle carceri fasciste

Il giornale svizzero «Libera Stampa» riporta in data 5 il testo di una lettera, nella quale vengono descritte le condizioni della prigione fascista di S. Vittore a Milano:

«Non manca nessuna specie di tortura. I prigionieri vengono percossi per ore intere, sono costretti a fare dei bagni di acqua ghiacciata, poi vengono lasciati nudi nelle celle delle prigioni. Il cibo è nauseabondo, freddo ed insufficiente. S. Vittore significa, per la maggior parte dei prigionieri, la morte quasi sicura tra le torture più atroci. Fino a pochi giorni fa — continua la lettera — le celle erano occupate da circa 200 ragazzi ebrei in tenera età. Essi hanno patito le stesse sofferenze degli altri carcerati. I loro singhiozzi erano la cosa più orribile di questo luogo sinistro che ha visto tante ingiustizie».

Arti Grafiche «La Nuovissima» - Napoli Vico Pellegrini,

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LIA DI ROMA
VINTA

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Luga era stata trasformata dai tedeschi in una fortificatissima piazzaforte ritenuta pressochè imprendibile, costituente la chiave di volta di tutto il sistema difensivo tedesco all'estremo nord del lungo fronte. La liberazione della città prelude a vasti movimenti che interessano molto da vicino gli Stati Baltici.

La conquista di Shepetovka rappresenta un altro gravissimo colpo per le forze germaniche operanti nella Russia meridionale. Essa assicura ora alle truppe del primo fronte ucraino la via diretta e le comunicazioni per Kowno e Luck da un lato e per Berdicev e Belaja-Cercov dall'altro.

A nord di Svenigorodka-Shpola è continuato l'annientamento delle unità nemiche accerchiate. Nonostante la resistenza accanita, le truppe sovietiche hanno occupata la città di Korsum, centro mandamentale della regione di Kiew. In pari tempo a nord ovest di Svenigorodka si sono svolti aspri combattimenti contro grosse forze carrate e di fanteria nemiche, che cercavano aprirsi un varco per aiutare le unità accerchiate. A prezzo delle più gravi perdite il nemico è riuscito ad incunearsi per poca profondità nelle posizioni difensive sovietiche.

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