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CENSORSHIP SPECIAL REPORTS

June 1944 - June 1945

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SORSHIP SPECIAL REPORTS

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G-2/vc

25 June 1945

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 134

SUBJECT: Extracts from Bulletins and Reports on the Albanian Situation.

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

Various Bulletins and Reports, drawn up in the Roumanian language and contained in two sealed packages, were impounded from a Mr. Nikolau on his arrival in Italy from abroad.

The items of interest have been classified as follows:

1) Finances and economics in Albania
2) Mines and industries in Albania
3) Albanian internal politics
4) Albanian foreign policy
5) Monetary transfers, Documents to Tirana

and extracts are given below:

1.) FINANCES AND ECONOMICS IN ALBANIA

The Bulletin of the "Fight for National Liberation" No. 73 of the 23rd December 1944 publishes the declarations of the Minister of Albanian Finance, on the financial situation and on the following subjects: monopolies, fuel, direct taxation, army, and reconstruction war profits taxation, budget and employees.

The Minister of Albanian Finance criticises the feudal fiscal systems of King Zog, which transformed Albania into a vassel State of Italy and which lead to the fascist military occupation in 1939. To cover the expenses for the Army in Albania, fascism caused the first inflation: from 12 million Albanian francs, with a covering of 8 million gold francs and Italian assets, the paper-money circulation was increased to 199 million alb. fr. (1939 - August 1943), though with the same covering, either in gold or in Italian currency.

The Germans on the 31st December 1943 caused a second inflation: they brought the paper-money circulation up to

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311.763.000 alb.fr. The Germans besides this, were guilty of the following financial crimes: they subtracted 708.000 alb. fr., whilst transporting the paper-money from Rome to Tirana; they withdrew one million three hundred and seventy thousand alb. fr. in payment of a consignement of sugar which was never delivered; they stole 27.000.000 alb. fr. from the Albanian National Bank, before their flight and, before leaving Tirana, they stole thirteen thousand five hundred albanian 20 fr. gold coins. In September 1944 the paper-money currency was 850.000.000 alb. fr.

Under King Zog the Alb. fr. was guaranteed by the gold and by currency calculated on a gold basis, under the fascist occupation the Alb. fr. was guaranteed by the Italian lira and by Italian treasury bonds. The Convention of 20th April 1939 established the value of the Alb. fr. at 6.32 Italian lire. The Albanian gold (8.000.000) was transferred by the Germans from Rome to the Reichsbank in Berlin; the currency, which constitutes the other half of the covering, is in the Bank of Italy in Rome.

It is believed, in spite of everything, that the Albanian fr. is one of the most solid currencies, because the paper-money as compared to the number of inhabitants in Albania is of 300 alb. fr. per inhabitant.

The National Bank will become the State Bank and will also substitute the Italian Banks, Banco di Napoli and Banca del Lavoro.

In No. 62 bulletin "Fjala Per Kombin" (Secret report No. 376 of the 11th December 1944 (Secret report No. 376 of the 11th Dec. 1944) there is the report on the decisions taken by the Council of Ministers. The most important are the following:

1. To prepare a long period of decrees in respect of the following:

a. Italian and German property in Albania; direct and indirect taxation; new printing; internal loan; official rate of exchange on a gold basis. With this in view a financial commission has been formed consisting of the Ministers of Finance, Justice, National Economy, the President of the Italian Anti-fascist Youth and Super Albanio Pacmi;

b. To hand over the National Bank to the State;

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c. to fight against the present ills (profiteers, smugglers, hoarders of food stuffs, counterfeiters of money);

d. for the civil mobilization of specialists (engineers, land surveyors, workers, doctors, nurses, agrarian technicians, veterinary surgeons, hydraulics and forest engineers);

e. for the freezing and requisitioning of all building material and means of transport, lubricants, spare parts, tires, big quantities of food stuffs and pharmaceutical products;

f. for the confiscation of all property belonging to political exiles, leaving their families only the bare necessities of life;

2. Confiscation on behalf of the State of all property belonging to Italian or German State or parastatal Institutions; Institutes of State Control on property belonging to Italian and German citizens, Albanian and German undertakings, Italo-Albanian or Germany-Albanian enterprises.

3. Abrogation of all concessions made to Italians; Kucova and Patos oil, Sera Selenites bitumen, Rubik copper, wood coal, chromium and iron; these concessions to be administered directly by the State;

4. Creation at the Ministry of National Economy, of a commission for the study of the actual situation of the big real estate property and that of the exiles; based on these verifications, concrete proposals will be made as to the use and administration of such property;

5. Creation of a commission for the study of the situation of the State property, which will make concrete proposals for the distribution and administration of such property;

6. The sum of 30 Million Albanian francs, paper money, lying in the National Bank, will be put into circulation, when this Bank passes over to the State;

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7. Settlement of salaries and daily pay of all representatives and workers in the service of the state and the assurance that payments will be made regularly.

8. MINES AND INDUSTRIES IN ALBANIA

The Bulletin of the "Fight for National Liberation",

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No. 83 of the 12th December 1944, publishes the declarations of the Minister of National Economy (Circular report No. 330 of the 17th Dec. 1944).

The most important points are:

"All our industries are to be reactivated, because they must obtain maximum production in a short time.... A special Board will be constituted at the Ducat Oil Center under the Presidency of Koco Tecdosi chemical engineer. The State will administrate this Center directly..... When Khoove was liberated, all the oil plants had been destroyed by the Nazis.... In a short time the most important plants and the least damaged were put into a state of efficiency. The ex Italian refinery has been fully repaired and for the last month has been producing 8 Tons of fuel daily, i.e.:

Gasoline	5.500 litars
Naptha	3.500 litars
Oil	500 litars
Lubr. Oil	200 litars

Soon and not later than the 15th January 1945, the damaged ex-German refinery will be repaired, and it will produce 30 Tons per day. With these two refineries, we expect to be able to provide the total supply required for home consumption. After three or four months, when two other ex-German refineries will have been repaired, the oil production will reach 90 Tons per day; Albania will then be in a position to export petroleum products. All concessions granted to foreign companies by the anti-popolare regime, for the exploitation of the Albanian soil and sub-soil, will be annuled and will pass to the State.

The Rubik copper mine plants are in excellent condition and will start work soon.... The productive capacity of these mines can reach 50 Tons per month with a percentage of 99% of copper.

The wood-coal mines, will shortly resume work.... The Selenica and Velora bitumen, will also shortly be included in the production.... It is our intention to organize as soon as possible all the mines which were in the hands of the occupiers, and which they only partially exploited, such as those of chromium, iron, etc., so that they should also gradually produce.....

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3. ALBANIAN INTERNAL POLITICS

In report 300 of the 30th November 1944, the American General at Rome describes the fighting which took place there for twenty days, between Germans and Albanian Partisans, for the liberation of Tirana. There are some descriptions of atrocities committed by the Nazis.

"Drunken German soldiers entered the homes, looted, killed and asked for gold. Who smiled over gold was safe; who had none was shot on the spot (and the corpses were thrown in the fire. Dedi Hoxhaj's wife, in order to save her three children, gave a bag containing five hundred gold napoleons as well as a packet of emeralds)..... Of the 11 people who took refuge in the Catholic Church of Tirana, nine were shot in the Church itself. The Italian families were made to go to their homes and these were set on fire...."

In reports 305 and 306 of the 4th and 6th November 1944 the American Consul at Tirana informs the Government of the constitution of the General Antifascist Council of National Liberation and the Committee, its executive, which acts as a provisional government; reports this to give biographical details of the members of that Government. The age of the 19 Ministers ranges from 31 to 45 years, only two of them were born in the last century; 8 of them have followed University courses, 4 in France, 3 in Italy and 1 in Turkey. It is interesting to note that the Vice-Presidents of the Council, also member of the General Staff, born in 1907, "can barely read or write".

The biographical details regarding Vice President Hodja are interesting: born in 1908 he studied in the French Universities; since he was a youth he was manifestly anti-fascist, anti-Italian and against King Zog, as is to be seen in the French articles published under the pseudonym "Ilio Milesori". In 1936 he returned to Albania and after the fascists occupation he retired into private life.

As regards General Hodja, a pamphlet published and distributed amongst the partisans is of particular interest, as it the personality and activities of Hodja are described (report of the American General No. 370 of the 2nd December 1944). The pamphlet reveals that Hodja has been commander since early days, organiser and leader of the Albanian Communist Party and of all the anti-fascist demonstrations and against the Albanians and also any foreign power. His armed comrades became battalions,

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of his commanders and comissars. Later he did not hesitate to include even military or civilian organizations, in his Party, which had collaborated with the Germans, solely in order to give the Albanian people a solid homogeneous party, i.e. Communist. It seems that he succeeded because he has become General Commander of the National Liberation Forces and President of the Cabinet.

The National Liberation War Bulletin No. 19 of the 26th November 1944 publishes the declaration of the anti-Fascist Council held on the 23rd October 1944 on the rights of citizens (Consular report No. 369 of the 14th December 1944). This deals with the rights of citizens in all real democratic countries. It is perhaps only to be noted: 1) that the voting age of a citizen or the age for election is 18 years whereas "the workers belonging to the Army of National Liberation have this right independently of their age"; 2) that the popular democratic Government insures by law living conditions corresponding to the modern conception of social law (dwellings) to all the workers of the towns and villages."

In December 1944 (bulletin of the War of National Liberation No. 22 of the 14th December 1944, Consular Report No. 377 of the 16th December 1944) the seven Albanian Prefectures peoples Tribunals were instituted in order to judge Albanian or Foreign War-criminals. These Tribunals are composed by Commissions which are charged with the collection of material for the trials. They are formed as follows: two members of the National Liberation Council, one delegate of the women's anti-fascist Union, one Youth delegate, two members of the National Liberation Army, two delegates from the Front, and a Magistrate.

In the Report 364 of the 25th November 1944, the Russian consul at Tirana described the last days of the occupation, i.e. up to the 26th October 1944. Amongst other 2152 he gives a list of a few Albanians and Germans who escaped to Vienna from Tirana by air or by land, namely the German ex-plenipotentiary Minister Schiller, the ex-President of the Albanian Council Verlaci, the ex-Minister Fiscon, the Lieut. Col. Franz V. Schulgen, well known agent of the Gestapo in Albania, etc.

4. ALBANIAN FOREIGN POLICY

The Albanian National Liberation Government does not recognise the foreign representatives who were already in Albania and therefore informs them "in most courteous Turkish manner" that they must leave. For this reasons the Russian consul in Tirana kept the Russian representative at the Hod-

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See (letter No. 307 of the 22nd December 1944) to inform the Russian Foreign Secretary of the state of affairs. Stating that, he inform that the english military mission has pressed to facilitate his journey to Italy.

The letter No. 373 of the 3 d December 1944, containe the communication made by the Russian Consul in Milan to his Government that, fearing a search by the Germans, the cypher No. 82 had been destroyed

With a very urgent confidential circular letter, No. 2815, filed at the Russian General Consulate in Milan on the 7th April 1945, the Russian Foreign Secretary, in view of the special international situation, orders that Russian Representatives abroad should make a collection of the copies of all secret correspondence received or forwarded and to keep such collection in a safe.

The collection, unless special instructions to the contrary, will follow the fate of the archives of the respective representations.

On the National Military Data Processing Unit, "Liaison", the speech was held (consular report No. 371 of the 16th December 1944).

In General Trojia speech the cooperation between Italian Forces and the Albanian ones is constantly growing. Several reasons of particular motive do not allow the execution of the promotion of Lieutenant and Captain to "ad onu" with date to be used as the answer to these claims is "no one will have to be promoted" before we shall know how to defend ourselves".

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b. Monthly Summaries, Military Attaché

Fifty one single sheets or small documents expressed the correspondence sent by the secretariat Office of the Russian Military Attaché in Rome, during the year 1944. Letters and reports about Italian Armed Forces, military, air and naval organization and particularly situation has been of great interest for the Russian Government. The most important matters were those about the collaboration of Italian Army to the allied war effort, the situation of Italian

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/ Consular Staff; the Rumanian schools and churches; up-keep of the premises; pensions; charities to Rumanians or Rumanian Institutions.

The letters of the Rumanian Consulate in Tirana to its Ministry are the acknowledgement of the sums received and the assurance of payments made.

Gordon W. McKean

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

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

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 152 — 14 June 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Reaction to French Occupation of Cuneo.

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

So far the comment sheets we have had from our Cuneo station have contained many references to the French occupation there. Roughly up to 15% of the comments have been concerned with this subject, and the great majority of them have been unfavourable in varying degrees. A fair proportion, however, are not over-critical. Apart from the above there are a few which are favourably disposed towards the French.

The accusation is made that the district has become French, and the feeling that the inhabitants are no longer part of Italy has resulted in bitterness. Coupled with this there are statements that the peasants prefer to deal with the French rather than with the local inhabitants, and thus the latter are often unable to obtain certain food products they require. In accentuation of this position it is further said that prices have risen because of extensive French purchases.

Other complaints are that the French troops cause damage, look manners, make themselves unpleasant and go about in an arrogant manner. Their attitude is said to be the cause of what disturbances have arisen, and their arrogance has led to fights with Italian partisans. There are also a few separate complaints against the Moroccans whose sole interest, it is said, is centred in women.

A minority of letters take a less adverse view of the situation. While some do complain of increased prices, they say that the French do not cause them any worry. At first the inhabitants were inclined to fear the occupying troops, but now say they have no reason to do so. Some writers make no complaints and say that the French are pleasant, and more efficient than Italians in authority.

The comment sheets quoted below have only been allocated locally. None of them have been used in any previous report.

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"Under German fire our patriots entered our village for the first time. Afterwards we had the French occupation. Instead of helping us they substituted French flags for Italian ones, and declared Briga and Tenca to be French territory. In the plebiscite it was necessary to vote for France in order to get a ration card. Our Italian currency (3,000 lire) was changed for French currency. In this way we became French." (9/5/45 - Cuneo, No. 40)

"Nothing is functioning here for the time being. Tunnels and bridges are closed. I don't understand anything. We are quite isolated, and everybody says that we are French now." (10/5/45 - Cuneo, No. 46)

"Now we have the French here. They want to annex Limone, Tenda, Briga and S. Dalmazzo. As a matter of fact there are already French notices in Tenda. The people of Limone are already fed up with the French. They say that they have no manners and that they are arrogant." (25/5/45 - Cuneo, No. 43a)

"Yesterday we had serious disorders in Boves. There have been clashes between the French and Italian partisans which caused a lot of damage in the hotels and frightened the entire population. The French have no right to come to Boves, and yet our village is always crowded with them." (28/5/45 - Cuneo, No. 52)

"Over here the atmosphere is rather unhealthy and sad. You, on the other hand, are breathing Italian air, and who knows how much better off you must be. Here we are worse off than before at the moment. When the Italian flag was taken away, and the French flag hoisted instead, we were all amazed, and there was no enthusiasm." (20/5/45 - Cuneo, No. 51)

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"The Moroccans are trying to get hold of girls and boys for the usual reason. Yesterday night a girl of the "Villa degli Spiriti" received a stab in her thigh." (24/5/45 - Cuneo, 60)

"We have neither vegetables nor fruit, and when we do find anything it is very expensive. Eggs have completely disappeared. The peasants only give them to the French in exchange for other foods. The French have plenty of jam, biscuits, coffee, tomato sauce, salt, etc. which they exchange for eggs, chickens, rabbits and so on. And we beg the peasants in vain to give us one egg. But it is useless to complain. This too will come to an end." (28/5/45 - Cuneo, No. 56)

"Here we have the French and a few negroes. They do not worry us. The only disadvantage is that the French take everything away. They visit the countryside and buy up all they can

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find. The crisis therefore becomes more serious, and prices are increasing without limit." (23/5/45 - Cuneo, No. 29)

"We have had the French here at Pietroporzio for a month now, and we are living much more at ease. We no longer fear them." (24/5/45 - Cuneo, No. 42)

"Eight days ago we became French. They brought us, gratis, relief for 15 days. They exchanged our lire for an equal amount of francs. We have to await a passport before going to Italy." (20/5/45 - Cuneo, No. 52)

"The French are here in Roccaviona. So far nobody has had to complain about them for they are very nice fellows." (24/5/45 - Cuneo, No. 41)

Brandon to Hqs Fleet

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

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

SPECIAL REPORT No. 131

5 June 1945

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

TO : 1 G-2 (Communications Censorship), AFHQ, APO 512.

This report is based on 456,400 letters checked during the four weeks ended 12th May 1945. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

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

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

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

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

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1. FOOD SITUATION

Civilian mail continued to become more unfavourable, as it has been doing for some months past, and unfavourable comments were in a majority of 27.1 to 1 as compared with 23.3 to 1 and 21.5 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. There were no favourable comments at all from Arezzo and Perugia, and only one from Bologna out of a small total of 34 for the latter centre. The position in Rome seems to be worse than ever. Adverse comments, which were in a majority of 77.2 to 1 during the previous period, reached a majority of 101.2 during the four weeks under review. Military mail, on an increased number of comments, showed a 1.9 to 1 adverse opinion as compared with a 2.3 to 1 favourable opinion during the previous period.

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

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

"The prices here are staggering. Sugar is sold clandestinely at 1200 lire per kg., olive oil at 370 lire per kg., bread at 120 per kg., paste products at 250 lire per kg., cheese at 550 lire per kg., bottled peppers at 450 lire per kg., and oranges at 82 lire per kg. Meat sells for 700-800 lire per kg., and butter at 950 lire per kg. Who can buy these things at such prices? Can a clerk live on his small salary?" (6/5/45 - Naples)

"The prices of foodstuffs have increased enormously, more during this year than last year. A small sucking pig costs 10,000 Lire. As you see, money has lost its value here. We have to buy bread on the black market because the government ration is not sufficient for one's needs." (26/4/45 - Ostuni/Bari)

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

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oil is 250 lire per litre, dried broad beans 70 lire per kg., lentils 85 lire per kg., runner beans 100 lire per kg., fresh broad beans 40 lire per kg., eggs 25 lire each, meat 400 lire per kg., fish 300 lire per kg. Some items are hard to find." (23/4/45 - Bari)

"Return here as soon as possible and bring some provisions. The food prices here are prohibitive." (6/5/45 - Bologna)

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

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

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

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

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

"The prices of food items are increasing daily. We can no longer eat. Eggs are 19 and 20 lire each, artichokes 5 lire each, peas 28 lire per kg., and broad beans 14 lire per kg." (3/5/45 - Foggia)

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

"Here in Rome the food situation is very bad. Nothing is to be found except on the black market, and you need four or five hundred lire a day merely to be able to eat soup, bread and greens." (8/5/45 - Rome)

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"We often buy bread on the black market and pay 120 and even 140 lire per kg. Potatoes are 60 lire per kg., flour 120-140 lire per kg., olive oil 440 lire per litre. Some prices are terrifying. Not only does one spend a great deal, but one eats nothing as everything is so dear. Life in Rome is terrible. We spend about 500 lire per day without eating any substantial food." (8/5/45 - Rome)

2. CLOTHING

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

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

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

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

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"Here are the prices of some items of clothing: For men--suit, 24,000 lire; material for a suit, 6,500 per metre; shoes 11,000 lire; shirts, 3,500 lire each; socks 400 lire a pair; and for women - stockings, 700 lire a pair; dress, 10,000 lire; light cotton material, 2,500 lire per metre; shoes 3,000 lire and above a pair." (25/4/45 - Naples)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. HOUSING

The housing situation, which civilian letters have criticised in increasing numbers for some time past, was commented on even more unfavourably than usual during the period under review when adverse comments were in a majority of 38.6 to 1. This compares with 23.4 to 1 and 19.5 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. The situation appears to be worst in Arezzo. There were no favourable comments out of a total of 90. Florence, Foggia and Crosseto, with a smaller number of comments, were also totally adverse. Rome was more pessimistic than during the last period, there being only 3 favourable comments out of a total of 366, as compared with 8 out of 453 during the previous four weeks. Naples, on the other hand, was less gloomy than previously. Military opinion remained unchanged.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. INCOME

Civilian letters became more critical during the period under review, and the unfavourable comments were in a majority of 21.4 to 1 as compared with 14.1 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Florence and Lucca were the most dissatisfied centres. Rome opinion again deteriorated. There was little change in Naples.

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

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

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

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

"As an interpreter for the "Stars and Stripes" I earn 1500 lire a week. It would be a good weekly wage if there were no war and no black market with which to contend. My earnings are not sufficient to meet the expenses required for a decent existence." (16/4/45 - Rome)

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

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

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

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

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

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

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of favourable comments. Arezzo and Naples were very much against the government, the latter area by 9 to 1 as compared with 3.8 to 1 during the previous period. The south generally, as reflected in the external mail, was adverse by 1.7 to 1.

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

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

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

"We are extremely worried as to the fate of our government. The war with its sad consequences has brought a political, economic and social upheaval so great that we do not see where it will finish. You have no conception of what is happening in Italy. The government is unable to cope with the terrible problems that have to be solved. The Lord only knows what will happen unless America soon comes to our aid." (12/5/45 - Bari) 21.8

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

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

6. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Civilian mail was less hostile towards the provincial governments than it was during the previous period, though still more adverse than at any time prior to that. Unfavourable comments were in a majority of 6.2 to 1 as compared with 6.9 to 1 and 4.4 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. Arezzo was outstandingly critical. There was little change in Naples which

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

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES

Civilian mail was more favourable towards the Allies than it was during the previous period when good feeling reached one of its lowest points, favourable comments only being in a majority of 4.8 to 1. During the period under review the figures were 7.2 to 1. Bologna, Lucca and Pisa were the most favourably disposed. Naples opinion improved tenfold as compared with the previous two weeks, but the most outstanding change was in Rome which is usually the most critical of centres. Favourable comments in the capital were in a majority of 16.8 to 1 as compared with 4.5 to 1 during the previous four weeks.

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

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A. Favourable

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

"It seems a dream! We must be thankful to the Patriots and the Allies who have done wonders preventing the war from stagnating here." (8/5/45 - Legnano)

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

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

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

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

B. Unfavourable

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

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

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

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

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

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

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8 AND 9. PRESENT AND FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION

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

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We are all well, but our factory is at a standstill." 3/5/45 - Bologna)

11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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"We are unhappy because this year the harvest in the Tavoliere della Puglie (the great Puglie agricultural plains) will be very meagre. This is chiefly due to the fact that it has not rained at all this year, and the sown fields have suffered a great deal, especially in certain spots where they have been completely burned out." (23/4/45 - Foggia)

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

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

"We have never lacked anything. The Lord has saved all our harvest for us. Even this year the farms have been very fertile and abundant, and that is a sure sign that we shall have bread this year also." (2/5/45 - Bagnolo S. Vito, Bologna)

18. EMPLOYMENT

Civilian mail became increasingly despondent each week during the period under review, and of the total comments for the four weeks the unfavourable were in a majority of 6.5 to 1 as compared with 3.9 to 1 during the previous period. Several centres produced no favourable comments at all, notably Arezzo and Lucca. Naples was a little more pessimistic than last time on a reduced number of comments, and Rome was similarly more despondent. External mail, covering the southern regions, Sicily and Sardinia, was more pessimistic than the average for the country as a whole.

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

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

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

"I am well in health, but it is work that keeps me worried. I have tried very hard, but I have not found any work." (23/4/45 - Cagliari)

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

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

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

"The unemployment prevailing in Siracuse is staggering. The squares are swarming with unemployed labourers." (28/4/45- Siracuse)

"Nine months have passed since I was last employed, because the factory where I worked was almost completely destroyed." (1/5/45 - Pistoia)

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

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

DISTRIBUTION:

1 - Deputy Chief Commissioner
1 - Vice President, Administrative Section, AC
1 - Vice President, Economic Section, AC
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1 - Director, Army Sub-Commission, AC
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1 - Director, Public Relations Branch, AC
1 - Director, War Materials Disposal Sub-Commission, AC
5 - C.S.I.(c) - 15th Army Group
4 - G-2 (CC), AFHQ (requested by letter from CCB/25/5/44)
1 - PWB, AFHQ
1 - G-5, AFHQ
1 - MAAF Int (Con), AFHQ
1 - N-2, AFHQ
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1 - Director, Labor Sub-Commission
1 - Director, Industry Sub-Commission

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APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS (15/

	FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUT MIL SIT
SURVEY ENDING	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F
21/4/45 CIV	1	26.7	1	142.5	1	32.3	1	15.2	1	2.4	1	10	9.9	1	17.6	1	12.
MIL	1	4.4	1	1.3	1	5.6	0	72	1	1	1	1.3	3.6	1	7.6	1	0
28/4/45 CIV	1	23.9	1	99.5	1	46.3	1	23.5	1	1.3	1	6	10.9	1	35.1	1	24.
MIL	1	1.5	1	3.5	1	1	1	13	1	3.4	13	0	5	1	6.5	1	6
5/5/45 CIV	1	21.7	1	126.4	1	36.8	1	19.8	1.2	1	1	5.5	2.4	1	48.5	1	33
MIL	1	1	1	9.1	1.2	1	1	6	1	2.2	0	3	46	1	6	1	30
12/5/45 CIV	1	49.6	1	173.6	1	41.7	1	32.8	1.2	1	1	4.6	35	1	32.2	1	24.
MIL	1	3.8	1	2.8	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.3	1	0
AVERAGE FOR SURVEYS ENDING 12/5/45 CIV	1	27.1	1	131.7	1	35.6	1	21.4	1	1.1	1	6.2	7.2	1	27.8	1	18
MIL	1	1.9	1	3.1	1	1.7	1	32.5	1	1.6	1	1	6	1	5.5	1	36

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APPENDIX A

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

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ING	INCOMES		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
92.9	1	15.2	1	2.4	1	10	9.9	1	17.6	1	22.1	2	1	1.1	1	3.2	1	4.5
5.6	0	72	1	1	1	1.3	3.6	1	7.6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.3	1	23.5	1	1.3	1	6	10.9	1	15.1	1	29.8	1	1	1	1	6.4	1	6.7
1	1	13	1	3.4	13	0	5	1	6.5	1	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
36.8	1	19.4	1.2	1	1	5.5	2.4	1	48.5	1	33	1	1	1.2	1	2.7	1	7.2
1	1	6	1	2.2	0	3	46	1	6	1	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	
43.7	1	32.8	1.2	1	1	4.6	35	1	32.2	1	34.4	1	1	1.1	1	2.1	1	7.8
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
38.6	1	21.4	1	1.1	1	6.2	7.2	1	27.8	1	19.4	1	1	1.1	1	3.1	1	6.5
1.7	1	32.5	1	1.6	1	1	6	1	5.5	1	36	1	0	0	0	0	0	

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CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP, PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 16 April-12 May 1946

PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED)			FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME	
			F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
Ancona		18043	8	17	3	2	0	8	0	3
Arezzo		10869	0	196	0	124	0	90	2	17
Bologna		18014	1	33	3	16	6	33	1	11
Florence		120805	39	80	0	39	0	17	2	91
Foggia	CIV)	26555	6	50	0	33	0	13	3	7
	MIL)	6836	4	9	15	4	1	8	0	0
Grosseto		9534	6	61	3	30	0	30	1	10
Leghorn		55608	44	717	14	62	7	77	24	24
Lucca		18775	9	252	2	139	3	91	1	76
Macerata		35767	4	14	0	2	0	1	0	4
Naples	CIV)	88759	69	2532	40	1567	23	764	26	379
	MIL)	83063	200	433	65	333	58	139	0	90
Pomigia		6358	0	58	0	32	0	8	0	15
Pesaro		29656	7	12	0	2	0	1	0	0
Pisa		22481	269	1640	44	130	46	231	0	16
Pistoia		16665	9	55	4	31	1	15	10	6
Rome	CIV}	86059	27	2732	8	1060	3	358	10	460
	MIL}	50694	42	32	50	6	12	14	2	6
Siena	CIV}	10217	11	41	2	14	0	4	0	3
	MIL}	1271	6	0	0	0	2	0	1	1
EXTERNAL		81714	139	10467	15	14236	28	1858	67	2082
TOTAL CIVILIAN		662856	668	18105	133	17814	125	5504	147	5144
TOTAL MILITARY		150162	252	474	110	342	73	161	5	97
T O T A L S:		813018	920	18579	243	17860	198	5755	150	5241

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This report is based upon 50 letters per censor being checked daily on a 6-day weekly basis. The number of censors employed each week averaged 382 making a total of 458,4[illegible] letters examined for this four-week tally.

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NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
0	2	1	4	15	5	1	1	2	1	7	7	2	4	0	2
5	17	1	53	22	13	11	6	8	0	1	18	10	203	0	444
15	1	1	2	46	4	8	0	0	1	8	10	2	1	6	8
0	1	0	0	9	0	1	0	1	0	8	1	0	0	0	0
0	4	1	2	12	12	0	11	0	0	2	3	5	47	4	16
0	2	0	0	6	2	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	4	0	2	2	2	8	0	0	0	2	6	5	7	0	11
33	13	20	16	41	12	37	7	57	9	22	15	30	9	19	15
0	6	5	9	100	8	4	1	0	0	1	9	0	3	0	41
0	0	1	1	0	5	3	1	3	4	4	3	1	3	0	2
39	84	71	642	365	40	640	82	221	25	267	77	271	303	68	828
42	67	41	39	88	15	320	69	36	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	9	0	7	0	7	0	0	0	0	11	0	5
0	0	0	2	9	3	1	0	4	0	3	3	0	0	1	0
64	35	23	8	201	5	262	4	248	6	92	35	17	11	21	81
1	1	0	1	53	20	42	4	1	0	11	12	8	26	5	20
193	107	2	3	420	25	413	5	137	4	22	35	40	191	9	190
5	8	0	0	20	2	45	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0	5	1	2	0	0	0	4	0	2	18	0	5
0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
165	294	134	366	2226	539	1950	36	1558	64	169	440	491	1095	139	1100
493	561	261	1316	3640	493	3391	150	2226	104	624	674	384	2741	273	1768
47	77	41	39	114	18	590	71	36	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
645	638	302	1655	3654	512	3781	229	2262	105	624	674	384	2741	273	1768

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

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 150 30 May 1945

SUBJECT: Lack of Confidence in Italian Currency, and Consequent Unofficial Exchange Rates.

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

During the last three months there has been a steady trickle of letters expressing doubts as to the value of Italian currency. Though such letters have not appeared in any great numbers, there has been enough of them, compared with others giving details of unofficial exchange rates, to indicate an undercurrent of uneasiness.

Apart from letters merely expressing fear, there are others of a more practical nature in which the writers divulge their plans for buying up any land and houses that can be found, and in which they advise their friends or relatives to do the same. A certain confidence in real estate is as evident here as elsewhere.

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For those whose financial position will not enable them to purchase such properties, the same principle holds good in that they intend to buy up anything they possibly can, furniture, pictures and so on.

There does not seem to be any profound pessimism visualising a protracted period of valueless currency, but rather a belief that there will be a period shortly in which the lire will reach very low levels, rising in value again when the country reaches some stability under a properly constituted government.

The fears for the currency are not based solely on Italy's present economic and political condition, but also on the possible effect of the large amount of occupation currency in circulation. The position would appear to give stimulus to the temptation to indulge in black market activities in order to accumulate quickly as much money as possible for investment in more durable property which can be sold in later times when money has some value again.

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Lack of confidence in the currency is also reflected in letters to the U.S.A. For example, people who are in receipt of allowances from relatives on the other side ask that as little be sent them as is necessary, and that the balance be kept in America where it should not depreciate. Others suggest that no money should be sent through a bank because they can only receive cash at the official rate of exchange, whereas if money is sent them by other and irregular means, they can obtain a much more advantageous rate.

Unofficial exchange rates in Italy seem to vary considerably, according to letters from different centres, as in few examples will illustrate. The lowest rates appear to be in Catania where the dollar will fetch 170 lire and the gold dollar 1000 lire. There is also the statement that the occupation pound and shilling are 45% above official rates. On the other hand the gold pound can command anything from 9000 to 18000 lire. In other places the gold pound commonly reaches 10000 lire, though very much higher figures have been mentioned.

A curious letter from Palermo states that the official rate for the dollar at the bank is 250 lire, while the black market value is from 350 to 400 lire.

Generally speaking, for most parts of the country, the pound sterling will command up to 1200 lire and the dollar over 300.

Many of the comment sheets on which this report is based were disseminated to the appropriate higher levels as soon as we received them, but those quoted below have only been given local allocation. The number of each one is given. There are also some information slips quoted. The latter have no numbers. None of the following have been used in any previous report.

"You should see how whimsical the black market can be. Just think, a paper dollar is sold for 170 lire, and a ten dollar gold piece for 10000 lire. The paper occupational sterling and shilling at a 45% increase. The gold pound sterling is sold at 9,10 and even 11 and 12 thousand. Enough to drive one crazy." (5/5/1945- Naples Ix. No. 6756)

"Here things are not so well. They say money will be valueless because it is all occupation money. Don't send me everything to Italy. Just send me what is barely necessary to get along." (26/4/45 - Naples Ex. No. 6461)

"At present there is a great amount of money in circulation in Italy, money which will be worth nothing to-morrow. Every peasant has his pocket book filled with thousand-lire bills." (9/4/45 - Naples Ex. No. 6309)

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"Try to find out the value of the gold sterling. They quote it here from 10.000 upwards. Let me know what the exact price of it is in Rome." (21/4/45 - Forsia, No. 2541)

"Buy something quickly, for the lira is bound to become completely worthless, and the symptoms are many. Therefore buy something as quickly as you can, otherwise you will end up with empty hands." (17/3/45 - Rome)

"To sell to-day would be the biggest mistake you could make, for the money you gained from the sale would, within the next six months or a year, represent the twentieth part of its present value, while houses and land will always have a real value to be converted into money when the situation improves." (13/3/45 - Rome)

"The rise in all prices, together with the obscure future of the paper currency, creates a state of indescribable panic in everybody, especially among thrifty people, and induces some to deprive themselves no longer of what is necessary, and others to buy pictures, furniture, etc." (7/4/45 - Rome)

"I tell you not to keep cash but to buy as much as you can, and if you sell, buy cattle again or any kind whatver." (6/4/45 - Tuscania)

"I am afraid of the devaluation of money. Disastrous rumours are being spread." (27/3/45 - Chieti)

"I asked Francesco what you wanted to know about the devaluation of the money, but even he knows nothing, for such things come about from one day to another; but certainly the high cost of living makes one think it will come. In any case the thing for him to do is to buy houses. As to sums deposited in the bank, I will not risk them in the loan." (15/3/45 - Rome)

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Gordon W McKean

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

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

AJP/vlb
Date 23 MAY 1945

17 May 1945

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 127

SUBJECT: Maldistribution and Misappropriation of American Relief Packages to Italy.

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

Since the beginning of April 1945 there have been numerous comment sheets on letters complaining of the maldistribution of clothing sent from the U.S.A. for the benefit of the needy. And this is not the only complaint, for in many cases it would appear that much of this clothing is never distributed at all.

It is said that all the best articles of clothing are kept back for the personal use of those in charge of the distribution, and that the poor and needy only receive the discarded items that nobody else wants. Part of the blame for this is placed on the American authorities for their choice of the agents for distribution. Many of these agents are alleged to be Fascists, and thus crooked results were to be expected. A graver charge from Naples is that some of the goods were sold by the Americans themselves.

The selling of the contents of relief packages is the theme of a section of the letters, but it is generally the Italians who are so accused. The black market welcomes anything and everything. In some cases it would seem that items, instead of being sold in the market, were offered to those who needed them, but not as gifts. For example, from Lenola (Littorio) it is stated that oil and flour were demanded in exchange for relief articles; and from Campobasso Province there is a story that coffee, which was meant to be distributed, was offered for sale to the would be recipients at 2000 lire per kg.

There are also direct charges against specified officials. The Mayor of Villa Latina is accused of having sold the greater part of the clothes from America that were put in his charge, while the Mayor of Fignataro apparently contented himself with removing and selling the buttons of the clothing that a lucky

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chance placed in his hands.

Most of the comment sheets on the above were disseminated at once because of their immediate interest, but the following, which deal fairly generally with the situation, have only been given local and not higher allocation, nor have they been used in any previous report. The number of each comment sheet is quoted.

"What has been the good of your personal sacrifices in sending so many clothes to Italy? You will tell me that it was to help the poor and needy. Well, nothing of the sort has happened. The really poor and needy have received nothing or very little. The well-to-do and the rich, certainly not those in need, have received a great deal beyond what was strictly necessary. The really poor and needy have had to exchange olive oil and flour for the things you sent to be given them free. Thus the most shameful camorra has been verified in the distribution of clothing articles that came from America. The authorities have not checked such an indecency." (23/4/45 - Lenola, Littoria, Naples No. Ex. 6548)

"As regards the new Mayor of Villa Latina, Umberto di Vito, you can tell Ernesto and his brother Fiorino Padino about the way he treated us. He sold the greater part that had arrived from America for his own benefit, and distributed the old garments to the population. Thus I am no longer on friendly terms with him, because he did not treat me as he should have done, giving me nothing of what it was my right to receive." (18/4/45 - Villa Latina - Rome No. Ex. 319)

"I am unable to ascertain, as you write, that large quantities of goods and foodstuffs are collected to be distributed among the destroyed towns. On the contrary, I am convinced that there is nothing well organised at all, and that the entire relief programme has absolutely no value, because you cannot imagine what great quantities of goods are stolen here. Instead of being distributed among the needy population, they find their way into the black market." (10/4/45 - Nereto, Teramo - Naples No. Ex. 6392)

A. J. PERRONE,
Commander, USNR,
Acting Civil Censorship Officer.

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Cases Refs	
File 8.112	B/Fwd AJP/wm

Date 23 MAY 1945

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 126 — 16 May 1945

SUBJECT: Contrast between the Living Conditions in Southern and Central Italy as Presented by the Examination of External Mail.

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

About nine months ago, all of our stations south of Naples had been handed back to the Italian Authorities, and thus we no longer had public opinion tallies from centres in that area. Recently, however, we have been examining external mail at Naples - and this includes letters from all parts of Italy south of that city - and we have once more been able to keep such tallies. These are not broken down into figures for each individual centre but are the total figures for the whole area. This is sufficient for comparative purposes; and when we compare them with the total figures for the area further north, covered by our stations examining internal mail, the results are somewhat startling, and give food for thought. But these results can not be taken as conclusive as will be pointed out later.

Living conditions in Southern Italy would appear to be very much worse indeed than they are in the more or less c entral area. Our last Public Opinion Tally for the week ended 28th April 1945 (Special Report No. 125) had a ratio table attached covering the four weeks ending on the same date. When we compare the figures in that table with the figures for the external mail examined at Naples covering the same period, we find the following differences in public opinion:

	FOOD		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME	
	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
Central Italy	1	23.6	1	93.3	1	35	1	17.8
Southern "	1	65.3	1	677.5	1	71.3	1	27.5

From the above it would seem that the clothing situation, which produces the highest proportion of adverse comments in

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central Italy, is also the most acute problem, and in a comparatively higher degree, in Southern Italy. The comments on housing, though next on the list in the high ratio of unfavourable comments are only twice as unfavourable as in the central areas, whereas the food situation produced nearly three times the proportion of adverse comments. Southern opinion on income was 55% more unfavourable than in the centre.

It was stated earlier in this report that the figures for Southern Italy could not be taken as conclusive. One cannot draw the conclusion that living conditions there are quite as bad, in comparison with areas further north, as the tallies suggest. There are two reasons for this. In the first place, people writing to relatives and friends outside the country are apt to exaggerate their grievances. Secondly they are writing to outside addressees in most cases for the first time, whereas they have already ventilated their grievances through the internal mail for a considerable period. The above suggestions are given weight by an examination of the external mail handled at our Rome station. Though there has been comparatively little of this to date, it shows a distinctly more unfavourable opinion towards living conditions than does the internal mail coming from the same area. Therefore the only conclusion one can draw is that living conditions are worse in the south than in the centre, but how much worse it is impossible to say, judging purely from a censorship point of view.

In conclusion it is interesting to note that this same mail is more favourable towards the Allies than is more northern opinion, the figures being 11.9 to 1 in favour as compared with 7.7 to 1. If one may alter an old saying, partial absence seems to make the heart grow fonder.

A. J. FERRONI,
Commander, USNR,
Acting Civil Censorship Officer.

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

4 May 1945

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 123

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

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

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

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

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

1. FOOD SITUATION

Civilian mail, which has been becoming increasingly unfavourable for some months over the food situation, deteriorated still further during the period under review, and unfavourable comments were in a majority of 23.3 to 1. This compares with 21.3 to 1 and 14.9 to 1 for the two previous periods respectively. Perugia, Rome and Naples were particularly gloomy. There were no favourable comments from the first named; Naples again produced a majority of over 50 to 1 adverse comments; while Rome opinion deteriorated very sharply, and the adverse comments were in a majority of 77 to 1. Military mail became a little less favourable.

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

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

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

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

"Life in this city is becoming gradually more difficult. The Americans are cornering whatever they find and pay any price asked. We are forced to live on greens and 200 grams of bread daily. The rest of the food items written on the ration card are not distributed except in very small quantities and at long intervals." (13/4/45 - Leghorn)

"Except for bread we lack almost everything. The prices are sky high. We get some powdered soup with the ration card, and 100 grams of sugar. No meat." (17/3/45 - Pesaro)

"Here there is famine. Women, children, and even monks come to our home continuously asking for some food." (19/3/45 - Pesaro)

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

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

"Here life is still extremely expensive. A kg. of meat costs 500 lire, and fish 600 lire. We cannot get along on our salary." (3/4/45 - Naples)

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

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

"My poor husband is killing himself with work in order to earn a few pence, but he only receives 100 lire a day, and we spend 300 without eating properly, since we have to buy everything on the black market." (20/3/45 - Rome)

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

2. CLOTHING

The clothing situation appears to be going from bad to worse, according to civilian mail. For some time past the comments have been becoming more critical, and during the preceding period the adverse majority reached the then record total of 44.6 to 1. During the period under review there was a further sharp downward movement, and the unfavourable comments reached a majority of 78.3 to 1 in the final week, the average for the four weeks being 58.7 to 1. Several centres produced no favourable comments, notably Perugia. From Arezzo there were only 3 favourable comments out of a total of 273, and from Rome the same number out of a total of 256. In Naples the position would seem to be even worse. Among a record total of comments (5834) the adverse ratio was 152.4 to 1. There was only half the usual number of military comments, and they were as slightly adverse as they were slightly favourable during the previous period.

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

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

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

"As to clothing material, I had better not talk about it. The lining alone of a man's suit costs 800 lire a metre." (19/3/45 - Naples)

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

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

"As to material for mens' clothes, you can't find it here. There is some material at 1800 lire per metre, but I would not advise anyone to get it. Wool costs 3000 lire per kg., and its price is rising. The rare goods of real wool are sold at inconsiderable prices." (5/4/45 - Siena)

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

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

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

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

"The situation here, instead of improving, becomes worse every day. If things continue like this, who knows how we shall end. The biggest problem now is how to clothe oneself considering the prevailing prices. Just think, 20,000 lire are required for the making of a very indifferent suit. Therefore tell me how we can spend such a large sum when the money one earns is not enough to buy sufficient food?" (16/3/45 - Rome)

3. HOUSING

Civilian mail became more pessimistic over the housing situation during the period under review, and the unfavourable comments were in a majority of 25.4 to 1 as compared with 19.5 to 1 during the previous four weeks. These figures, however, do not tell the full story, for more than half the total favourable comments came from Pisa, as they did during the previous period. Leaving the latter centre out of account in both cases, the ratio for the period under review was 46.6 to 1 as compared with 40.1 to 1 for the preceding four weeks. There were no favourable comments from Florence, Perugia, Pesaro or Siena, and only one each from some other centres, notably Grosseto. Naples was noticably more gloomy, and the unfavourable comments were in a majority of 75.9 to 1 as compared with 31.1 to 1 during the last period. Military mail was a little more unfavourable than during the previous period.

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

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

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

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

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

"As to houses, it is very difficult to find a lodging place. If an empty house is found, they ask you astronomical sums for it in rentals ." (26/3/45 - Naples)

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

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

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

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

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

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they demand a deposit starting with a minimum of 150,000 lire, or they want the furniture to be taken over, and this involves an expense ranging from 200 - 600,000 lire! A crazy thing! (21/3/45 - Rome)

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

4. INCOME

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

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

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

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

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

"Things are not at all well, because the prices of goods are entirely too high in comparison with the trebled wage of a labourer or a clerk." (11/4/45 - Naples)

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

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

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

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

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

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

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

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

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Is it possible to think that with such a system of thought and action Italy will ever be able to rise to her feet? I doubt it very much." (28/3/45 - Naples)

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

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

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Civilian mail was more hostile towards provincial administration than it was during the previous period, and the adverse ratio of comments was 8.9 to 1 as compared with 4.4 to 1 during the preceding four weeks. Many centres produced but few comments. Of those that commented freely, Arezzo was the most hostile with only 3 favourable comments out of a total of 94. Naples was 10.8 to 1 against, which is slightly more critical than last time. Rome, on the other hand, was less critical than previously. There were hardly any military comments.

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

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

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"Conditions are still the same, and are gradually becoming worse here. All the provincial authorities do is to promise drastic action against the black market and the general delinquency which has flooded our city in an alarming way." (20/3/45 - Naples)

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7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES

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

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

(a) Favourable

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The Americans are very generous, and I am certain they will not make you lack anything. I have known the English well, and I lived with them fraternally for nearly 8 months, and they treated me like an old friend." (26/3/45 - Florence)

"Really the Polish are those who can better understand us. They are all very kind to me, and even if not so lavish as the others; the little they give you does not represent their surplus but is a gift from their hearts that they give with some sacrifice. This has completely conquered me and made me a very sincere friend of theirs. It has raised my spirits very high." (19/3/45 - Rome)

(b) Unfavourable

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

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

"Universal joy and relief pervade all souls due to the imminent cessation of hostilities. Let us hope that each will get what he justly deserves, and that the liberators will liberate our houses from their "beloved" presence." (5/4/45 - Macerata)

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"Merely to think that the harbour and industrial sections have been destroyed by the Allies! It is painful to see how people stupidly, sceptically adapt themselves so easily to courting and admiring those who are here to recall to us our woeful condition." (27/3/45 - Naples)

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

"We hope the whole of Italy will soon be liberated, and that we shall get rid of all these unwelcome guests we are compelled to bear. Believe me, no one is our friend." (10/4/45 - Rome)

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

8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION

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

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

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

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

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION

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

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"Here we feel that the war will end at any moment now. Let us hope it will be so. It won't be long before the Allies will win a complete victory, for the German army has already been defeated. Thus things will become normal again soon, and peace will re-enter the hearts of men." (3/5/45 - Naples)

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

"We hope that the war will come to an end this month. But what will happen then? To begin with the Germans will use gas as their last resource. Then we expect a revolution, because the labourer cannot go on existing with prices so high that they are out of his reach." (7/4/45 - Grosseto)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS.

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

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

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

A somewhat contradictory letter from the same centre says: "The Rausella mill has been completely destroyed, without any possibility of rebuilding it. The Guastavani mill at Morrovalle has likewise been destroyed. The Ville cotonaze mill, also destroyed, is being rebuilt as a paper factory. When shall we begin to work again? I have little hope, since we lack everything." (9/4/45 - Macerata)

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

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

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

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

"We have begun once more to manufacture our principal products, perphosphor phials, bromurin pills, etc." (27/3/45 - Naples)

"The Naples Naval Steel Mills (S.O.N.M.) is now capable of doing work in cast-iron, bronze, aluminium, etc., besides mechanical constructions of all kinds." (28/3/45 - Naples)

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

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

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11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We have had no rain for two months now. The wheat is growing so low that it cannot be perceived. Unless it rains, the harvest will be very poor." (28/3/45 - Pugliano Terme, Naples)

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

"The farms are in poor shape this year. It will be a wretched harvest because there are no fertilizers. But 2108 hope to raise enough wheat to exist." (19/3/45 - Mandolfo, Pesaro)

"The crops this year have been practically nil, having been destroyed in various ways, such as by looting, fires, bad weather and destructive insects." (18/3/45 - Pesaro)

"As you know, the threshing took place too late. The wheat was spoiled by the rust, in the wheat sense. Of the ears, only the husks were left. The yield was less than 50%. We did not even get any seed grain out of it because hardly 10% of it could possibly grow. The crops harvest has been alright due to the fact of sulphur and copper sulphate." (20/3/45 - Fano, Pesaro)

"Fortunately countrymen are turning a deaf ear to

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

The following strike a more optimistic note:

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

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

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

12. EMPLOYMENT

There was scarcely any change in civilian opinion regarding the position of employment. Although the average figures show that unfavourable comments were in a majority of 3.9 to 1, many centres were decidely more pessimistic that that. Foggia, Grosseto and Perugia produced no favourable comments. Arezzo was about 12 to 1 unfavourable, and Rome 15 to 1. Naples, on the other hand, was less pessimistic than the average.

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

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

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

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

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

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is diminishing daily. More than 5000 people have been laid off, and unemployment is increasing." (27/3/45 - Naples)

"I am again out of a job. It is certainly a point. I have tried several other places, but there is nothing doing. Yesterday I stood in a queue for three hours in front of the ex arms factory (Breda) in via Cristo Re in order to be taken on as a mensile. But no one will look at you. For almost 9 month I have been standing in queues in front of factories." (16/3/45 - Rome)

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

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

2 Incls.
Incl #1 - Public Opinion Daily 14/4/1945.
Incl #2 - Ratio Table, Four Weeks Ending 14/4/1945.

DISTRIBUTION:

1 - Deputy Chief Commissioner.
1 - Vice President, Administrative Section, AC.
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5 - C.S.I.(c) - 15th Army Group.
4 - G-2 (CC), AFHQ. (requested by letter from CCB/23/S/44.
1 - PWB, AFHQ.
1 - G-5, AFHQ.
1 - MAAF Int (Con), AFHQ.
1 - G-2, AFHQ.
1 - JICA, AFHQ.
1 - Dir. Int. ASF, Washington.
1 - IRB, London.
1 - PWB, 15th Army Group, PWB Unit #14, APO 512, US Army.
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Record No. 1453

PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED)			FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME	
			F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
Ancona	(CIV	22,499	35	82	1	35	7	42	7	16
	(MIL	1,809	6	26	0	6	2	5	1	1
Arezzo		20,342	58	455	5	365	3	137	1	2
Florence		81,264	40	118	1	47	0	33	1	141
Forli	(CIV	23,672	9	87	3	33	1	32	6	30
	(MIL	2,052	25	11	2	1	1	8	5	0
Grosseto		21,371	11	202	2	79	1	80	1	55
Leghorn		80,180	49	141	10	72	6	79	11	33
Macerata		7,366	6	16	1	16	0	1	0	4
Naples	(CIV	125,114	91	363	25	303	16	136	52	848
	(MIL	99,854	67	60	12	40	89	69	1	7
Perugia		24,054	0	166	0	100	0	23	2	53
Pesaro	(CIV	13,514	19	64	0	20	0	32	2	15
	(MIL	880	7	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pisa		32,603	140	712	27	147	61	167	25	19
Rome	(CIV	203,034	44	3596	5	232	8	445	22	824
	(MIL	65,270	37	30	25	2	10	14	0	3
Siena	(CIV	30,224	30	112	0	56	0	26	0	19
	(MIL	1,263	12	1	2	0	2	1	1	1
Terni		6,590	3	82	0	18	2	12	0	7
TOTAL CIVILIAN		810,852	698	6441	96	1809	106	3466	129	1813
TOTAL MILITARY		174,861	385	122	56	43	83	66	5	18
T O T A L S :		985,713	779	10637	122	3473	155	2852	134	1831

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This report is based upon 50 letters per census being checked daily on a fifty random basis. The number of censors applying said test averaged 320, making a total of 30,400 letters examined for this renewal thing.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
0	4	0	7	22	10	3	0	3	2	15	10	3	23	5	12
0	1	0	0	13	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	7	3	21	33	3	11	18	4	3	1	0	51	45	6	15
1	5	0	2	30	2	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	6	2	12
3	11	0	3	17	33	1	12	0	0	0	2	16	33	0	12
3	0	0	0	7	2	6	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	6	1	4	31	3	13	5	3	0	0	8	7	10	0	44
15	0	6	5	33	0	34	14	28	4	15	32	16	19	27	36
1	3	1	1	17	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	7	1	0	0
59	223	137	1225	323	160	673	63	623	47	202	131	162	325	183	473
3	19	1	7	21	7	35	38	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	27	2	15	0	23	0	0	4	1	13	0	15
0	0	0	3	27	0	3	5	11	0	3	13	2	14	0	6
2	0	0	0	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	33	14	30	303	15	147	62	151	37	15	25	119	0	39	99
38	103	24	64	163	30	147	10	147	4	12	33	27	34	10	303
3	10	0	0	35	0	16	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	1	3	24	6	12	3	1	0	2	10	15	17	3	24
0	0	0	0	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	4	6	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	6	3
154	466	287	1479	1,554	286	1041	213	982	130	401	405	397	623	301	1,126
10	20	1	3	36	22	101	33	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
207	820	468	1406	3,110	692	3147	245	918	119	424	685	852	1434	592	3,126

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Report
No. 123.

APPENDIX A

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

	FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERN. MENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUT MILI SITU
WEEK ENDING	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F
24/3/45 CIV	1	28.3	1	63.1	1	15.6	1	16.4	1	3.2	1	13	4.3	1	1.4	1	3
MIL	1.6	1	1	1.6	1	4.8	0	0	0	6	0	0	4	1	11	1	0
31/3/45 CIV	1	22.6	1	57.5	1	23.2	1	9.3	1	1.7	1	2.6	5.1	1	4.1	1	3.9
MIL	4	1	1.7	1	1	1.4	0	0	2.3	1	0	0	2.3	0	2.1	1	0
7/4/45 CIV	1	18.8	1	45.5	1	32.3	1	15.9	1	2.1	1	6.8	5.6	1	7.1	1	13.2
MIL	1.3	1	1	2.7	1	1	1	6	1	1.7	1	7	1.9	1	1	2.5	5
14/4/45 CIV	1	24.2	1	78.3	1	30.1	1	16.3	1	3.7	1	7.8	4.6	1	9.4	1	21
MIL	3.1	1	1	1.1	1	2.4	0	0	0	6	0	0	20	1	4.2	1	0
AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING 14/4/45 CIV	1	23.3	1	62.7	1	23.4	1	14.1	1	2.5	1	8.9	4.8	1	4.9	1	7
MIL	2.3	1	1	1.4	1	1.7	1	6	1	2.3	1	7	5.3	1	3	1	5

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APPENDIX A

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

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	HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
3.1	1	15.6	1	16.4	1	3.2	1	13	4.3	1	1.4	1	3	1	1	1.1	1.3	1	1	3.5
1.6	1	4.8	0	0	0	6	0	0	4	1	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.5	1	23.2	1	9.3	1	1.7	1	9.6	5.1	1	4.1	1	3.9	1	1.7	1	1.5	1	1	4.6
1	2	1.4	0	0	2.3	1	0	0	23	0	2.1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	2	32.3	1	15.9	1	2.1	1	6.8	5.6	1	7.1	1	13.4	1	1.3	1	1.2	1	1	4.7
7	1	1	1	6	1	1.7	1	7	1.9	1	1	2.5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	1	30.1	1	16.3	1	3.7	1	7.8	4.6	1	9.4	1	21.9	1	2.4	1	1	1.7	1	4
1	1	2.4	0	0	0	6	0	0	20	1	4.2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	1	23.4	1	14.1	1	2.5	1	8.9	4.8	1	4.9	1	7.8	1	1.5	1	1	1.1	1	3.9
4	1	1.7	1	6	1	2.3	1	7	5.3	1	3	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Director	
Asst Director	
Chief Telegraphs	
Chief Postal	
H Q, Corps C.	
Asst Chief Postal	
Censorship	
Chief Clerk	

7 April 1945

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 112

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 17th March 1945.

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

This report is based on 388,000 letters checked during the four weeks ended 17th March 1945. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

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

None of the comments used in this report have been used in any previous report. 2-03

1. FOOD SITUATION

Civilian letters indicate that the food situation deteriorated still further during the period under review. Unfavourable comments had shown an increase during the previous four weeks, and they increased still further to a marked degree during the four weeks ending 17th March, the adverse ratio being 21.3 to 1 as compared with 14.6 to 1 and 15.1 to 1 during the two previous periods respectively. Arezzo, Foggia, Perugia and Naples appear to be the most distressed centres. There was a huge increase in comments from Naples, and the proportion between unfavourable and favourable comments was 51.7 to 1 as compared with 19.7 to 1 during the last period. The position in Rome eased a little, but the adverse comments were still very numerous, and were in a majority of 50 to 1. This compares with 83 to 1 and 56 to 1 for the two previous periods respectively. Ascoli Piceno, Leghorn and Siena took a far less gloomy view than the average, and in none of these centres were the unfavourable comments in a majority of more than a little over 3 to 1. 2-03

Many writers complain that they can not get along on

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rations goods, and that in any event the latter are not always available. There are often other remarks about the absence of salt and fats, and the fact that milk is not available for young children. People living in, or close to, country districts remark on the scarcity of money because the peasants want other goods in exchange for food. The black market give rise to the usual discontents. The great majority of people can not afford to buy food from this source, and since it is the principle, and often practically the sole source of supply they fare very badly indeed. On the whole the question of price is of greater worry than that of supply. Most of the favourable comments speak only of the availability of food stuffs. Prices do not enter into it. The following comments are representative:

"Food at Terni life is very expensive. One lives bet-ter at Rome. Here one is forced to depend on the black market to eat, because bread is likely to be roped for from rationed foods." (11/8/45 - Terni)

"We have had to give up the most until now, fats, meat, eggs, cheese, milk, sugar, wines, sultas sent etc. We live on bread, vegetables pulses and greens that are scarcely obtainable. Bread has gone up." (10/8/45 - Foreign)

"We are struggling to exist here. In this place also, prices have reached big limits. Imagine, we pay 600 lire a litre for olive oil from the producer, and for lard 800 lire a kg. We have been without meat for a year, and also without fish and wine. The little wine saved from the tenks (nil) is now sold on the black market at 125 lire a litre." (8/8/45 - Pisaro)

"Life is much more expensive here than it is in Sicily. Rabbit meat costs 300 lire a kg., eggs 20 lire each, chestnuts flour 100 lire a kg., wine per kg." (10/8/45 - Leghorn) 2102 e a kg. and pork meat 350

"If you only knew what a great amount of goods (overcoats, suits of clothes, woolen goods, sheets etc.) I had to give the peasants in exchange for land or eggs! Eggs reached a price of 30 lire each. And this was because the peasants, a class of knaves enriched by the war, did not want money but more and more goods." (15/8/45 - Ancona)

"The scarcity of foodstuffs is also being keenly felt here at Ischia. They have taken the milk ration away from 3½ year old babies. I help my children with an occasional egg. Fortunately a few eggs can be found on the black market at 35 lire each. Fish eggs, apples and dried figs I manage to feed the children.

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Recently I bought 200 grams of honey for 110 lire." (17/3/45 - Grosseto)

"As to the very high cost of living, it is useless to speak. It is the same everywhere: hunger and wretchedness, wretchedness and hunger." (17/3/45 - Roselle Terme, Grosseto)

"Here life is extremely difficult. Food items are found only on the black market. The peasants will not part with anything in the way of olive oil, flour, etc., unless you give them other goods in exchange. Things are becoming worse for us labourers." (15/3/45 - Siena)

"At Siena now there is a scarcity of everything, and there is no sale. Until flour cannot be found, not even on the black market. They give us no pasta products, and that is why we always eat polenta here." (13/3/45 - Siena)

"Here life is more expensive than in Rome. Meat costs 150 lire per kg, veal 500 and 600 lire, and flour 170 lire." (12/3/45 - Naples)

"Once upon a time, whenever you wished to belittle something or somebody up to contempt, you would say that he was not worth a dried fig. This expression should now be used in a contrary way to indicate something of great value. Life here is becoming more and more difficult." (16/3/45 - Naples)

"See if you can send us some food for we are unable to live more on your father's salary. A kilo bought there at 350 lire per kg, a price that is liable to be increased even in consequence of the new rise of bread which has been ordered 2784
28 lire per kg. Lard costs 750 lire per kg. First tonight 2101
we are hungry." (5/3/45 - Rome)

"We keep going from day to day hoping things will improve, but instead they get worse. We get allotted nothing with the ration card, and are therefore obliged to live on the black market. Last year we were badly off, but now it can are far worse." (20/2/45 - Rome)

2. CLOTHING.

Civilian mail became increasingly unfavourable during the period under review, and adverse comments reached the huge majority of 44.6 to 1. There was not a single favourable comment from Trieste, Ancona, Pisano, Foggia, Leccese and Terni.

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and only one each from Grosseto and Terni. The yield on Naples would seem to be desperate. Out of a recent bag of 1600 oysters, only 9 were favourable. This is not a selective determination as compared with the previous four weeks, some opinion also seems very pessimistic with a ratio of 30 to 1 against. Milford will now have to prove it.

Most complaints are based on the prohibitive cost of clothing. Some writers are also very poor in English so that even if they could afford them, it would prove a difficult while. The shoe shortage still exists, though there seems to be opening in some centres, but at such a price as that they are out of the reach of most people. And there are letters which make the same complaint that the writer has nothing to wear. Shell clothes have been worn out and there appears scarcely an individual they have been issued to who is complete. The following comments are taken at random from the above:

"We are now living very badly, especially as regard to clothing. We are ragged and barefoot. We don't know what to do." (5/2/45 - Grosseto)

"As an example, the ladies are very [illegible] and cotton material costs 700 lire a metre. A pair of [illegible] costs 1800 lire." (5/2/45 - Terni)

"I am ashamed to tell the sort of clothes because I have not been able to purchase anything for myself for over a hundred days. I lack things, shoes, coats and suits of clothes. I have no silk or clothes during the [illegible] vegetables." (10/3/45 - Terni)

"The price of shoes for men is from 4/- to 5/- and [illegible] and the quality of the material and the workmanship." (19/2/45 - Naples)

"In regard to clothing and shoes we are living from bad to worse. We are without clothing and shoes. Many cannot be found. Shoes are [illegible] and are very expensive. You can't get a pair for less than 4,000 lire. As for clothing materials, the shops have sold it [illegible] nothing can be bought." (4/2/45 - Naples)

"My children are all nearly naked as they have no clothes. They have no clothes except rags. They cannot move from the time [illegible]." (10/2/45 - Ancona)

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"You can't imagine how difficult it is to find textile in this city, and how high the prices are." (9/8/45 - Florence)

"The clothing available is very poor and very extensive. The prices are entirely too high, and the people cannot buy." (10/8/45 - Florence)

"It is impossible to buy new things. I need a pair of shoes, but I never have so much as 100 lire to put aside; and a pair of shoes costs 6,000 lire. You have no idea how much more expensive living has become in Rome. It is unbelievable. Every day prices become more exorbitant." (24/8/45 - Rome)

3. HOUSING.

Civilian mail are very despondent over the housing situation. Although the radio shows that unfavourable comments were only in a majority of 22.5 to 1 during the period under review, as compared with 31 to 1 during the previous period, this was due to a high proportion of favourable comments from Pisa, leaving the latter centre out of account, the figure for the rest of the country was 40.2 to 1. There were no favourable comments at all from Arezzo, Florence, Foggia, Grosseto, Jacoretta and Perugia. Naples took a very gloomy view, and adverse comments were in a majority of 52 to 1. Opinion is here unfavourable, there being only 4 favourable comments out of a total of 473, a higher adverse ratio than ever before. Milan was a little less unfavourable than during the previous four weeks.

Apart from the problem of houses due to the war, there are many complaints about the enormous rents for houses, flats and rooms. Overcrowding also gives rise to bitter comment. Many people often have to crowd into one room in some instances. Other buildings are in such bad repair that they can scarcely be classed as habitable. In Rome it seems to be a practice to pay a huge deposit on a flat in addition to the rent. There is also the complaint that the Allies pay high rents and thus squeeze out the local population from quarters they might have occupied. The following examples are some examples:

2099

"It is extremely difficult to find a furnished room. They ask at least 1,500 lire a month if you do find one. In our house four people sleep in each room." (13/8/45 - Venice)

"We found the entire apartment demolished, for lack of living quarters we have had to adapt ourselves to living in a

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small storehouse." (10/2/45 - Orcasato)

"Believe me, it can't go along like this any onger. There are ten of us living in one room. If I could get a house no more I could go and live there." (10/5/45 - Orcasato)

"The housing of the war hero has been deeply. There are more than seventy families without houses." (1/3/45 - Orcasato)

"They have given a house but in a shameful condition. It is small, a yard, a pool small but not condition. I do not think anyone a great deal, and house can not be found here." (12/2/45 - Terui)

"Over 70% of the residences of Ariai have been destroyed. The number of people who have returned here is one-third number as those who were evacuated. There are no lives" (10/ /45 - Terui)

"We have been in Nagoya since October without house had the good luck to find a house." (10/6/45 - Ogimoto)

"With the imminent destruction brought upon us, and the precipitation of houses by the Japanese, there is no available one room in which to live." (22/8/45 - Simon)

"The only way of finding a house is to go home to pay from 300,000 to 500,000 Yen and buy a completely furnished apartment." (24/8/45 - Ogimoto)

"Furnished apartments of two rooms cost about 1,000 Yen a month, with a deposit of 30,000 Yen and 20,000 as a tip. This is what Mino's cousin had to pay." (9/3/45 - Kono)

"My lady friends, who so far were lost their room in the Allies, do not yet dare to let them go and go. If strangers pressure through to dish cookery they have to work hard to find even a tiny room at 100 Yen a month, since it is not in that which is to be rented legally." (19/2/45 - Kono)

4. Trade

Adverse criticism of wages and salaries than civilian letters slightly increases during the period under review, and unfavourable comments were in a majority of those received with 10.2 to 1 during the previous four weeks. There are no

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favourable comments at all from Forlì, and only 3 from Florence out of a total of 136. Naples took a more placid view than previously, but Rome was less pessimistic than during the previous period though still far more so than the average, the unfavourable comments being in a majority of 50.2 to 1. There were hardly any military comments.

Every complaint rests on the unescapable fact that the cost of living has far outstripped income. It is only the few, including those whose activities are doubtful, who can balance their budgets. The pensioners are the worst off. The white collar workers are also in a very bad way. The following comments are some examples:

"Neither clerks nor teachers could ever make both ends meet without using up all their savings in addition to their meagre salaries." (17/5/45 - Bologna)

"With the high cost of food, the salary we earn is not enough for us to eat." (30/3/45 - Florence)

"It is extremely hard to exist for us workers employees. There are people who think only of profiteering, themselves without bothering about the honest clerk and labourer who can barely have a decent meal with what he earns." (13/2/45 - Naples)

"Life here is very expensive. Even if one earns a great deal, the money earned is not sufficient to get along." (23/1/45 - Crotone)

"The economic improvement proposed by the government for ex-prisoners and pensioned people does not substantially change our situation. Even if the government, with the best possible intention, were to double our salaries and pensions, the fact is that the cost of living has doubled and redoubled ten times over, especially in regard to items of vital importance." (8/3/45 - Income)

2057

"The times become ever worse. The more we work the less we eat. Food is very dear. We workers cannot get along because of our small pay." (8/3/45 - Rome)

"I get the subsidy of 15.50 for myself and 5.10 for each child, so I get 26 lire a day. I pay 10 lire for bread and 7.50 for milk every day. I am left with half a lire to eat. I don't know where to turn. During the night, when I may wake, I weep. I never longed for death as I am doing now." (8/3/45 - Rome)

"The only class which is well off is that of the racketeers, the class which gives itself up to the black market. In order to do that one must be a born swindler. He who is honest and an employee is condemned to starvation. And to avoid die of hunger. It is no good having (M) wage increases. We ought to have an increase of 1000%." (16/2/45 - Rome)

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"Salaries are increased by ten, while the cost of living increased by a hundred. Therefore as proportion is possible." (9/8/45 - Rome)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT -

There was a marked reduction in the number of comments on the National Government during the period under review. Civilian mail, which had become increasingly hostile for some time, was less unfavourable. Adverse comments, which were in a majority of 6 to 1 during the previous four weeks decreased to a 2.4 to 1 majority, though this figure is still higher than any previous ratio except for the immediately preceding period. Many centres hardly commented at all, but of those which did, Rome was the most unfavourably disposed. There were few mild comments, and they were nearly equally divided.

Although the number of comments fell off, the criticisms gained in intensity. It is said that the Government is nothing but speeches and promises, and that the only section, each of which thinks that no other party is any good, only strive to further their own interests. They are pictured as treading an ignoble and selfish spectacle, not only to Italy but to the Allies. Nothing is accomplished, nor do the writers expect anything to be done. The following comments reflect the general tone of most letters:

"In our Government all are running around, all [redacted] making speeches and giving lectures, all proclaim that they themselves are the defenders and protectors of the people. But no one accomplishes anything to ease the sorrowful condition of these oppressed Italy of ours." (5/8/45 - Perugia)

"Fascism did much evil, but another evil is being done today. I now understand, in these troubled times, how wretched mad and politics are. All I have to do is to study our present Government. Under the most beautiful words and phrases you can see all the greed and malice of the powers who know how to exploit the terrible situation." (8/8/45 - Assisi)

"So many people's minds are being recreated that this is a worse Government than the one which came to power after the first world war." (14/8/45 - Perugia)

"The behaviour of many of those who compose our so called Government is indeed disconcerting. Instead of giving evidence of dignity and firmness of purpose before the Allies, in the midst of this unthought of disaster, they carry on in an

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[illegible] agrarian and reliable way." (6/3/43 - Londres)

"While we are in need of a strong government, we look for it in vain. Instead of building a strong government on a firm basis - an absolute necessity in front of the Allies - we are divided into parties and sub-parties, and are formulating programmes of all kinds." (8/3/43 - Amaral)

"Speeches actions, orders of the day, speeches and speeches from down until right now even they themselves realise how much has air they let loose in their speeches... The people are correct. The players have changed, but the music is the same." (10/3/43 - Florence)

"Don't wonder about the more or less senseless replies of the Ministry. This is quite normal owing to the chaos which now [illegible] and which will last until [illegible] knows where." (1/3/43 - Rome)

"Rome is always a great city, but a dissatisfied and [illegible] people. Here one truly sees how [illegible] only of themselves. The Government and all the members of it, and this second, have absolutely nothing to find a remedy." (22/2/43 - Rome)

c. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

Civilian morale was reported of provincial administration during the four weeks under review, and unfavourable comments outnumbered those favourable by 5 to 1 as compared with 5 to 3 during the previous period. Abyssinia became even more hostile towards its administration than it was before, but produced no favourable comments out of a total of 165. Neapolis commented more freely than last time with a marked increase in the proportion of adverse comments. Rome also became more critical. Bari, on the other hand, was more than 5 to 1 in favour. Military mail had nothing to say on this subject. The comments are not usually very enlightening, but the following are some examples:

"We have urgent need here of a good administration, because at present this commune is in great need of so many urgent things, such as, for example, a country physician. The present one, Carlo Bassini, is a mason by trade, and he used to [illegible] to the 120th Infant Legion." (25/3/43 - Montemonaco, ex-[illegible] coll)

Pianteglorio is a town in a province ruled by parasites

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who take advantage of the need to "kill their own bellies."
(20/2/45 - Lucca)

"In Rome the authorities in charge of the distribution of rationed items in the capital take a serious interest in aiding the population, while the authorities in Naples do not give a damn, or, busy with other things, they don't worry about us." (22/2/45 - Naples)

7. REACTIONS WITH ARMIES.

Once again, owing to half of the total comments coming from Rome which was nearly 20 to 1 in favour of the Allies, the ratio for the country appears to have improved. The Leaflet Fine cut of against, the favourable comments for the rest of the country are only in a majority of one to 1. However this is a slight improvement on the results of the previous period which was the culmination of some kudos of favourable reviews. There were no unfavourable comments at all from Lucca, Florence and Livorno. Rome was the only centre where unfavourable comments were in a majority. Naples was less favourably than usual. Opinion is more improved slightly, but is still less favourable than the average.

Favourable comments are usually brief, and express gratitude for what the Allies have done. Unfavourable comments sometimes reveal violent animosity. Generally speaking the criticisms spring from a sense of disappointment. Many Italians supposed that their worries would cease with the coming of the Allies, who were expected to scatter places liberally from their cornucopia. The yen for Italy was hastened. The disillusionment from this dream has left them bitter. In addition there are the usual complaints about requisitioning, behaviour with women and so on. The following are examples of both favourable and unfavourable comments:

A. Favourable

"Half of Rome is occupied by Allied troops. It is right that this is so, because they are the ones who drove Kesselring away." (10/3/45 - Rome)

"I must tell you that in our little house an officer of the Allied troops was set up until a few days ago. They were respectful and kind, and they did not do any damage whatsoever." (10/3/45 - Rome)

"Rome now works in an office. We have no coke along very well with the Americans. We owe a great deal, and to make

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mail." (10/3/45 - Le Tiers)

"Ancona does not look like the old town it was. There is a great deal of movement both military and civilian. Here there are soldiers of all races, all nice people, kind and very polite. It is a real pleasure to talk to them. They are all unarmed, unlike those Assassins who were armed to the teeth. Now we live peacefully without any worries." (11/3/45 - Ancona)

"The Germans went away, but they were all good people unlike the Indians. It is too bad that they stayed here only a few days." (14/3/45 - Nuvoli-Piccolo)

"The Allies are striving very hard to make living conditions less harsh for us, but it is not possible for them to succeed fully, because there is a shortage of the means of transport" (11/3/45 - Florence)

S. E. Unfavourable

"My father, together with numerous other Italians, was right about the Allies. One must honestly admit that our "liberators" have freed us from absolutely nothing." (11/3/45 - Ancona)

"Do you recall Brenna, the one who put the scorpion on the scales in order to weigh the gold which the Romans owed him? The present conquerors are even worse than Brenna." (2/3/45 - Sasso di Serra S. Quirico)

"Things are taking a turn for the worse. We were much better off before. If those Germans were assassins, these Allies are even more so." (9/3/45 - Grosseto)

"The Allied Command has installed two Brazilian majors in my house. They have reduced it to a pigsty. You can't imagine my feelings towards the Allies." (10/3/45 - Naples)

"As to the British, they are doing all for themselves and nothing for us. This is a good reflection for the Italian people. We have been defeated by everybody: first by the Fascists, then by the Germans, and now the Lord only knows who it is who rules us." (12/3/45 - Ancona)

"I have known majors, captains, colonels, and other officers of the American army, and I have not found a good

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impression of any of them. They are ignorant of the elementary rules of good education. They are too rowdy and seem to be unable to do without drunkenness, even the most serious among them." (25/2/45 - Pisa)

"I believe that to overcome our "liberators" we don't need much. You agree with me on this score, don't you? I would take great pleasure in hitting them on the head with a stick. It would make me feel better. As to the negroes, they make me laugh.... It would not take much to beat them.... I am fed up with seeing these ugly mugs.... All we can hope for is to wait for our victory." (12/3/45 - Grosseto)

B. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION.

Civilian mail reveals a more optimistic feeling concerning the present military situation. This is particularly true of Pisa which underwent a complete change of feeling. Lucca was more optimistic than formerly, but Rome moved in the opposite direction. Military mail reflected a less hopeful view. The comments are not very informative. The following are examples:

"If you win your hopes upon the Allies, Bologna will be taken much later than we think, because the Allies are too fond of having a good time." (27/3/45 - Siena)

"There also a little confusion arises in regard to the war. This morning a rumour ran round to the effect that the war had come to an end. They always deceive us. The Lord only knows when that day will come when we shall all of sheer joy."
(18/3/45 - Naples)

"In this war which is so strange and so different from all others, what expectations can one have? Every now and then the end of the conflict seems imminent, but after a short time one's illusions fade. The enemy strengthens resistance, and even counter-attacks here and there, so that the war for the 4th time presents itself as long and arduous." (24/2/45 - Rome)

C. OTHER MILITARY SITUATION.

Civilian letters became more optimistic during the period under review, and favourable comments were in a majority of 7.4 to 1 as compared with 2.7 to 1 during the previous four weeks. The bulk of the comments came from Naples and Pisa, and both centres were much more optimistic than previously, particularly Pisa which was very pessimistic during the preceding period.

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Rome also reflected the general rising of spirits. There were hardly any military comments. The following comments are some examples of reviving hopes:

"Everything seems to indicate that this most cursed war may end very soon. We shall soon be able to drink to the victory of the Allies and to liberty." (23/2/45 - Naples)

"Here we all have great hopes that Germany may ask for an armistice. We expect the end of the war in a few weeks." (22/2/45 - Ischia)

"Nothing new in Naples except that we wait daily for the announcement that Germany has given up.... Even I, who do not pay much attention to the usual empty chatter, feel that the crumbling of Nazism is very near, since Germany has reached the end of her tether now." (20/2/45 - Naples)

"I have great hopes that the war will come to an end very soon." (10/3/45 - Querceto)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS

Civilian mail, which had become more pessimistic during the previous four weeks, was not so unfavourably disposed during the period under review. Arezzo, Grosseto and Ferrara commented more unfavourably that most, and Rome was more pessimistic than previously. Naples, an 100% increase in the number of comments, changed from a majority of adverse remarks to a majority of favourable comments. Military mail was predominantly silent on the subject.

Unfavourable comments speak chiefly of destruction of plants and factories due to the war, and to a shortage of raw materials. Favourable comments tell of new constructions and restorations. The following are some examples of both sides of the picture:

"I am sorry that I am unable to satisfy our friend Salamon in supplying my products. It is impossible now to resume work due to lack of power as the result of demolitions made by the Germans to the generating plants in this zone." (26/3/45- Ancona)

"Things here in Tuscany and elsewhere are very different from what you imagine. In fact, all the industries have been

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destroyed by air bombardments and by the German rabble." (11/3/45 - Graves)

"The factories in the city have been destroyed or deprived of all equipment and machinery by the Nazis." (12/3/45 - Posard)

"There is no prospect of restoring the metal factory to its former position. Its functioning depends upon future circumstances." (14/3/45 - Pesti)

"At present we can not tell you any agricultural machines because our factory has not resumed work due to lack of electric power and as the fact that the machinery ruined by the Germans has not been replaced." (16/3/45 - Jurt)

"Our principal factory of railroad mechanical constructions and locos, including the offices, was destroyed [illegible] by the heavy aerial bombardment of 2nd May last. We can [illegible] helping us to rebuild, a loan representing several millions." (20/3/45 - Florence)

The following extracts reflect a more optimistic attitude:

"The Germans burned all our warehouses. We have repaired some of the equipment of our firm, and we all hope to be able to resume our work as soon as possible." (16/3/45 - Chiarenza)

"By dint of great sacrifices we have reconstructed two machines, and are starting to see the rebirth of our industrial and commercial life. It not as it was before the war, at least partially so." (10/3/45 - Ancona)

2690

"Life in Lodz city is taking great steps towards industrial recovery with a great deal of understanding and zeal, so much so that we are forgetting the great ruins." (7/3/45 - Terni)

"The mill was entirely destroyed as a result of warfare, but it was completely rebuilt by the owners in record time. Although it has still to be completed, it is already in good enough shape to function regularly." (11/3/45 - Arcona)

11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

"There was little change in public opinion on agricultural prospects during the period under review, comments being about equally divided. The radio table for the previous four weeks showed a 3.7 to 1 majority of favourable comments, but this was

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due to an unusual number of letters from Italy, and the country as a whole reflected a similar outlook to that obtaining during the four weeks reviewed here.

Ascoli are before such a very unfavourable view. Peace, on the other hand, has equally gloomy. Military call was practically silent on the subject. The comments are becoming fewer in number, which is to be expected at this time of the year. The favourable comments speak of prevailing future prospects and of good crops that were gathered some time back. Unfavourable comments speak of the scarcity of chemicals and seeds and agriculture generally. The following are a few examples of various points of view:

"As to the country, we are ploughing, and the earth appears to be quite workable, but up to date we have not even had a bit of rain." (12/2/45 - Ancona)

"The weather here has made a good beginning. We have had a fresh fall of rain, but we are all hoping for more. The season seems to begin well." (12/2/45 - Naples)

"The wheat is getting along well. We fertilized it with ammonia nitrate." (24/2/45 - Naples)

"The Sovrento Peninsula there has been a great olive harvest this year." (7/3/45 - Bari)

"I must know whether the sulphur and vitriol (copper sulfate) are available. We need it very badly, and it is difficult to find. Unless we have the vitriol the season will turn out poorly." (20/2/45 - S. Maria Capua Vetere)

"The peasants lack seeds and all agricultural aids. The ministers are conscious of the difficulties I see on the husbandmen, but no one comes to their help. All they get is words. Italy is flooded with empty words. It is disgusting." (13/2/45 - Naples)

"As to the country, the season is good, but it is a little too cool for the wheat. The sowing was poor, and seems to be saying that the beginning badly, and in a worse way... A little wheat has grown, but it is very weak, and there are no means to help it along." (13/2/45 - Bisnati

12. EMPLOYMENT.

Civilian call was less unfavourable towards the employment situation during the period under review, and the unfavourable comments were in a majority of 3.8 to 1 as compared

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with 5.9 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Nevertheless, some centres were more gloomy than ever, notably Arezzo and Perugia. Naples was also slightly more resistantic. There was practically no change in Rome. Military mail had nothing to say on the matter.

Apart from the many complaints that there is no work to be found, and that months are spent in the vain search for jobs, there are letters about temporary work that is little more than a brief spell between periods of unemployment. Other letters speak of longer jobs that are now coming to an end. Graduates and professional men are finding it hard to obtain any kind of position. The following are some typical comments:

A prefect writes: "I am here in the midst of great confusion. Just imagine what it means to administer a comune of 18,000 people in such troubled times, with more than 700 people unemployed. I am extremely anxious to get away from here and to abandon this hell." (14/3/45 - Cavriglia, Arezzo)

"We came here with the hope of finding work, but all we do is to mope around uselessly." (8/3/45 - Grosseto)

"The mines are still closed. We don't even imagine that they will ever open." (9/3/45 - Massa Marittima, Grosseto)

"I have arrived in Naples and have begun to work, but the work is temporary. We scarcely manage to earn enough to eat. Work is very scarce. The men on the ships that were here before have finished. At the present time we are waiting for more ships to come otherwise we shall be idle, perhaps a day now and then merely to exist." (27/2/45 - Naples)

"I have tried very hard to find a job here, but it has not been possible. Life is quite disorganised here." (19/2/45 - Florence)

"Work is not available here anywhere at any time." (12/3/45 - Florence)

"For the present the sea folk are engaged in our shipbuilding yards building fishing craft. But this will not last long, and we shall be unemployed again." (5/3/45 - Pesaro)

"There is appalling unemployment in Rome. Many thousands of young people are jobless, particularly graduates. Those who came to Rome from Southern Italy bitterly regret it." (5/3/45 - Rome)

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"France is making a desperate search for a job. Here in Rome unemployment is increasing, as was natural and anticipated among clerks." (6/3/45 - Rome)

"My search for work here has resulted in nothing. I have appealed to all my acquaintances, and only today I heard from the last one that he has found nothing.... My brother-in-law in the Ministry of Public Works has done what he could for me.... Applications for work have been made by the thousand, and still lie reposing on the shelves at the Ministry." (22/2/45 - Rome)

The following extract remarks on a peculiar situation: "But now I will speak to you a little about our D. Vecchia. Life has taken on its normal character. There is work, but it is all unskilled labour. There are more people without work than employed, because those who have stolen, and who have been engaged in black market activities, will work no longer; and there are many of these." (5/3/45 - Civitavecchia)

Gordon W. Wyllie
GORDON W. WYLLIE,
Lt. Col. Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

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2037

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Report No. 112

CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP. PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 30 Feb. - 27 March 1945

PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED)	FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION	
	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
[illegible]	[illegible]											
[illegible]	[illegible]											
[illegible]	[illegible]										

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CONFIDENTIAL

17 March 1945

	HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
	22	207	39	43																
	5	28	1	4																
	0	262	0	0																
	0	3	1	5																
	5	0	1	2																
	2	29	3	32																
	0	35	2	32																
	3	4	0	3																
	6	56	3	26																
	7	87	5	39																
	0	9	1	32																
	18	238	30	54																
	34	76	1	0																
	0	36	0	99																
	3	30	5	19																
	95	923	4	65																
	1	149	25	362																
	34	9	6	9																
	6	97	35	61																
	2	23	5	4																
	125	4240	159	1645																
	60	249	9	30																
	205	2651	133	1286																

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APPENDIX A

Report No. 112 RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS
(17 March 1945)

WEEK ENDING		FOOD SITUATION F	FOOD SITUATION U	CLOTHING F	CLOTHING U	HOUSING F	HOUSING U	INCOME F	INCOME U	NATIONAL GOVERNMENT F	NATIONAL GOVERNMENT U	PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT F	PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT U	RELATIONS WITH ALLIES F	RELATIONS WITH ALLIES U	PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION F	PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION U	FU... MI... SI... F
24/2/45	CIV	1	20.1	1	39.5	1	15	1	12.1	1	2.6	1	3.8	M.1	1	3.6	1	12
	MIL	1.5	1	1	1.4	1	1.2	0	0	1.4	1	0	0	2.3	1	1.4	1	5
3/3/45	CIV	1	21	1	96.5	1	22.2	1	29.9	1	3.7	1	3.2	4.1	1	3.3	1	4
	MIL	3.7	1	2.4	1	1	1.9	0	0	2.7	1	0	0	2.8	1	3.8	1	2
10/3/45	CIV	1	23.1	1	31.9	1	24.3	1	14.3	1	4	1	3.4	4.6	1	3.3	1	4
	MIL	3.4	1	1.6	1	1	2.1	0	1	0	13	0	0	4.2	1	2.4	1	4
17/3/45	CIV	1	21.3	1	44.1	1	19.6	1	10.2	1	3.8	1	9.2	5.9	1	3.6	1	6
	MIL	3.9	1	2.7	1	2.7	1	1	2.1	1	1.3	0	0	7	1	22	1	1
AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING 17/3/45	CIV	1	21.3	1	44.6	1	19.5	1	14.5	1	3.4	1	4.4	7.9	1	3.5	1	7
	MIL	3	1	1.4	1	1	1.3	1	2.2	1	1.1	0	0	3.2	1	2.6	1	2

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APPENDIX A

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RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

(17 March 1945)

ING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	
32.5	1	15	1	12.1	1	2.6	1	3.8	14.1	1	3.6	1	12	1	1	1.7	1	1.3	1	3.1	
1.4	1	1.2	0	0	1.4	1	0	0	2.9	1	1.4	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
56.5	1	22.2	1	29.3	1	3.7	1	3.2	4.1	1	3.3	1	4.9	1	1	1.3	1.2	1	1	0.5	
1	1	1.9	0	0	2.7	1	0	0	2.8	1	3.6	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	
21.9	1	24.3	1	14.3	1	4	1	3.4	4.6	1	2.8	1	4.6	1	1	2.3	1.5	1	1	3.5	
1	1	2.1	0	1	0	13	0	0	4.2	1	2.4	1	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	
44.1	1	19.6	1	10.2	1	3.8	1	9.1	5.9	1	3.6	1	6.9	1	1	1.2	1.2	1	1	5	
1	2.7	1	1	1.1	1	1.3	0	0	7	1	22	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	
44.6	1	19.5	1	14.5	1	3.4	1	4.4	7.2	1	3.5	1	7.4	1	1	2.6	2.2	1	1	3.5	
1	1	1.3	1	1.2	1	1.1	0	0	3.2	1	2.6	1	2.4	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	

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

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8 March 1945

~~SPECIAL~~ REPORT NO. 102

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on ~~Italian Civilian~~ and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 17th February 1945.

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

This report is based on 385,200 letters checked during the four weeks ended 17th February 1945. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

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

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

1. FOOD SITUATION.

During the previous four weeks the food situation deteriorated as compared with the preceeding period, and this deterioration was maintained and increased during the period under review. The unfavourable comments outnumbered the favourable by 14.6 to 1 as compared with 13.1 to 1 during the last period. Florence, Perugia and Rome seem to be the most despondent centres. Opinion in the Capital became markedly more adverse, and the unfavourable comments were in a majority of over 63 to 1 as compared with 56 to 1 during the previous four weeks. On the other hand, Ancona, Ascoli-Piceno and Macerata appear to be comparatively well off, the unfavourable comments only being in majorities of between 3 and 4 to 1.

2084

High prices are behind most of the complaints, and coupled with this is the charge that ration cards are often useless, thus forcing people to rely on the black market for food. The following comments are some examples of the in-

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creased depression in some areas and the more optimistic note in others:

"Our living conditions are always the same, or, rather, are being made worse by the black market which we have to rely upon to avoid dying of starvation. This is the truth, whether censorship likes it or not. We are not allotted anything through our ration cards, and therefore we are compelled to resort to the black market." (5/2/45 - Rome)

"During the last month the cost of living has doubled. I am quoting the prices of some foodstuffs so as to give you an idea of how terrific they are. Cheese 800 lire per kilo, potatoes 35 lire, dried vegetables 120 lire, tomato sauce 200 lire, fats 600 lire, and eggs 30 lire each." (3/2/45 - Naples)

"The cost of living is very high, perhaps higher than where you are (Cagliari). An egg costs 35 lire, a litre of oil 600 lire, meat 400 lire a kilo. Of course this is all black market stuff. Many people became rich through it, and we get the worst from such a situation." (3/2/45 - Pisa)

"Food distribution has greatly improved. Lately we have been given much tinned meat, and some fats - 250 grams per person." (13/2/45 - Ancona)

"We live quite well in Cingoli. The price of eggs has gone down to 14 lire each. Milk costs 3 lire per litre. We have been allotted a wheat provision for the winter months. A good soup meal is obtainable from the Committee for 8 lire. As far as food is concerned we have no reason to complain." (31/1/45 - Macerata)

2083

2. CLOTHING.

Although the ratio table shows that the unfavourable comments among civilian letters were only in a majority of 11 to 1, this is entirely due to a very large number of comments from Pisa of which over seven-tenth were favourable. The figures for the rest of the country show that the position has, in fact, worsened, and the adverse comments are in a majority of 32.1 to 1 as compared with 30.1 during the previous four weeks. There were no favourable comments at all from Ancona, Florence, Foggia, Macerata, Perugia and Terni. In Rome the position deteriorated still further. Military mail shows an improved outlook, and favourable comments were in a majority of 2.6 to 1 as compared with an adverse majority of 1.8 to 1

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during the previous period.

Nearly all letters complain about prices rather than a shortage of clothing, though shortages are mentioned at times, particularly in respect of shoes. Prices seem to vary considerably in different parts of the country, though all are high. Shoes, for example, are priced at anything from 2000 lire in Ascoli-Piceno to 7000 lire in Terni. The following are examples of complaints:

"In order to give you an idea of the cost of living I will just tell you that men's shirts cost 2000 lire and a suit 10,000 lire! What do you think of it? If it goes on like this we will have to go about undressed." (9/2/45 - Florence)

"I am without shoes, and aunt cannot find any either, new or old. I have been wearing her shoes, but now they are worn out. There is a lot of snow, and my feet are always wet. Let us hope that the summer season will be here soon so that I'll be able to walk bare-footed." (8/2/45 - Ancona)

"In order to buy just one pair of shoes one has to spend 7,000 lire. For a suit one requires 15,000 lire, and for a shirt 2,000. To complete one's attire at least 50,000 lire would have to be spent. That is why it is impossible to live honestly. One has to become an outlaw." (23/1/45 - Terni)

"Here shoes cost about 2,000 lire, a pair of men's drawers 600, and a set of ladies' underwear 4,000. Stockings cost 600 lire a pair, and gloves 550." (6/2/45 - Ascoli-Piceno)

2082

"Our bed-sheets, pillow cases and linen in general are wearing out. A new pair of sheets would now cost not less than 20,000 lire. The price of men's leather shoes is 5,000 lire, and ladies' petticoats at least 700." (29/1/45 - Florence)

3. HOUSING.

Among civilian letters there was a more pessimistic note on the housing situation. Unfavourable comments were in a majority of 31 to 1 as compared with 24.4 to 1 during the previous period. Arezzo and Grosseto appear to be the worst off for accommodation, neither centre producing any favourable comments. Florence, Macerata and Perugia were equally vold, with a smaller number of comments. Naples was less pessimistic than during the previous period, but Rome opinion deteriorated, and the adverse comments were in a majority of 53 to 1. There

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were not many military comments, but on a much reduced number the figures were less unfavourable.

Letters from Ancona, Arezzo and Pisa invariably refer to bombing and the destruction of houses. Generally speaking the other causes of complaint are to be found in requisitioning, refugees and high rents. The following are some examples:

"The housing problem at Ancona is becoming more and more serious. God knows where we shall have to go. It is possible that nobody has any care for all the unlucky ones who were left homeless on account of the bombings." (2/2/45 - Ancona)

"I cannot give you my address because I have not yet been able to settle down. For the time being I am the guest of a family. It is so difficult to find a house in good condition. Arezzo has been bombed very heavily." (10/2/45 - Arezzo)

"Living conditions here are as hard as anywhere else. The housing problem especially is becoming a very serious matter. I had to make the best of a school-room as a dwelling place. I was not able to find anything else." (7/2/45 - Macerata)

"Owing to the innumerable air-raids suffered by this town, and to the fighting that went on for two months around here, the number of houses left in good condition is very small, especially when compared with the number of people who want to live in them. Moreover, many houses have been requisitioned by the armed forces." (6/2/45 - Pisa)

4. INCOME.

2081

Civilian mail revealed a slightly less pessimistic view of wages and salaries, and the unfavourable comments, which were in a majority of 16.5 to 1 during the previous period, fell to a majority of 13.2 to 1. Leghorn, with only a few comments, had actually a small majority of favourable comments. Florence, Perugia and Rome were the most dissatisfied. Perugia produced no favourable comments out of a total of 72, while Rome became even more pessimistic than it was during the previous period, and produced only 6 favourable comments out of a total of 1,116. Military mail had nothing to say on this subject.

Complaints are along the usual lines, which can be summed up by saying that incomes lag far behind the cost of living. Clerical workers and pensioners feel the pinch most.

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There is some reference to wage and pension increases, but usually in a sarcastic vein because of their inadequacy in alleviating the position. The following comments are examples of many:

"Living is twenty times as expensive than it was three years ago, and we still get miserable wages. Where will all this lead to? Our family needs at least 400 lire a day in order to live a very modest life, but it is not always possible to afford that. The wage increase has been so inadequate that it would have made us laugh had we felt like it." (27/1/45 - Florence)

"We work from 9 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., and we only get 200 lire a day. As you can easily understand it is impossible to live on such an income, considering the cost of living in Naples. No less than 500-600 lire a day would be required to struggle on." (30/1/45 - Naples)

"I heartily thank you for the communication referring to the increase in pension rates granted by the Government to our praiseworthy class, now reduced to such pitiful conditions. But the increase is so inadequate in comparison with the high cost of living that our class remains doomed to starvation." (27/1/45 - Lanciano)

"We do nothing but work, and yet we lead a life of suffering and hardships. The cost of living is steadily increasing, and my wages are hardly sufficient to light a fire in the kitchen." (1/2/45 - Ascoli-Piceno)

2080

"My monthly wages, including the recent increase, amount to 2,000 lire, while I need at least 12,000. What a situation." (20/1/45 - Macerata)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

Feeling against the National Government, which has been becoming slightly and steadily more adverse for some time, took a more rapid turn for the worse during the period under review when the unfavourable comments in the civilian mail reached a majority of 5 to 1 as compared with 3 to 1 during the previous four weeks. There were only a few military comments. Leghorn was unique in producing a majority of favourable comments. Many centres did not comment to any great extent. Rome became a little more unfavourable. Pisa commented freely, and was nearly 9 to 1 unfavourable.

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Criticism for the most part is general rather than particular. The government is considered weak and incapable. In the latter respect some writers blame both their government and the Allies as being unable to reach understanding. The following comments are some examples:

"Let us hope for the best; but our government is so weak that, inspite of its good intentions, it is most unlikely to succeed in giving any relief to the Italian population." (25/1/45 - Ancona)

"In Rome things are going from bad to worse. Everything is in the hands of buffoons and good-for-nothings worthy of the past regime. Political parties now number 20 or 30, and the distress of the population has reached the limit." (26/1/45 - Rome)

"If responsible people gave up political struggles and devoted themselves to sound administration of the country, many things would turn out better. The confusion caused by all the newspapers, combined with all the talking done by politicians, will not help the work of reconstruction." (31/1/45 Naples)

"The situation is growing worse. Both the Allied and Italian Governments leave things just as they are: brigandage, prostitution, poverty. They seem willing to do something, but good-will alone is hardly enough. In the first place the two Governments lack mutual understanding." (3/2/45 - Grosseto)

2079

Giving an account of a meeting held by old age pensioners, the sender writes:

"Almost all the orators expressed their disapproval of the Government which, although well aware of the pitiful condition of old age pensioners, causes them to die of starvation on a pension which is only sufficient to buy a newspaper every day." (11/2/45 - Rome)

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

Civilian letters contained a reduced percentage of unfavourable comments during the period under review, due almost entirely to the figure from Pisa. Leaving the latter centre out of account, the rations much the same as it was during the previous four weeks. Military mail was silent on this subject. Arezzo was particularly hostile towards its

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provincial administration with only 4 favourable comments out of a total of 143. Florence was also markedly critical.

Apart from general complaints about the administrations, there are a number of charges that men in administrative positions are little short of criminals or atleast very bad characters. The following are illustrative comments.

"Here is another piece of news I want to give you. Our "beloved" veterinary surgeon has been appointed Town Mayor. You would not believe how wicked this man is. He made many people unhappy at Sestino." (7/2/45 - Arezzo)

"In our town we are ruled by people absolutely unfit to be in leading positions. The foremen of the various political parties want to be in command, being unmindful of the consequences of their narrow-minded actions." (11/2/45 - Grosseto)

"As a result of complaints against Mayor Collepiccolo, the Prefect provided for his substitution. The man who was nominated was warned by Collepiccolo that he would be killed if he accepted the post of Mayor. In the meantime I inform you that this sort of Communist criminal has formed a band of wild youths, belonging to the neighbouring villages. Each night they throw hand-grenades in the neighbourhood of Cantalupo Sabino. This is only in order to alarm the inhabitants so that they should not leave their homes and thus prevent the band from stealing chickens, pigs etc. I also inform you that he collected a good supply of arms, the major part of which he has hidden. He threatens the richer peasants that he will take their land from them, and, frightened of this, the good fellows bring him oil, lard and flour. It is sufficient to say that in the village he is called the second Mussolini. To other simple minded fellows he promises land if they will be on his side. It is said that since he left his shoemaker's bench he has put aside 300,000 lire." (9/2/45 - Rome, c/s No. 9405)

2078

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES.

Civilian public opinion continued to become less favourable towards the Allies during the period under review, though an unusually large number of comments from Pisa resulted in the ratio for the country appearing to be more favourable. However, leaving Pisa out of account, the favourable comments, which had a record low majority of 4.7 to 1 for the previous period, were only in a majority of 3.9 to 1 during the period under review. Naples remained much more favourably disposed than most of the country, but Rome opinion deteriorated still

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further, and favourable comments were only in a majority of 2.9 to 1. Perugia provided a striking contrast with no unfavourable comments among a total of 63.

Favourable comments speak of the joy of being freed from the Germans and the Fascists, and of the help the Allies have given the Italian people in various centres. Unfavourable comments follow the usual lines, and there is nothing new except a more intolerant attitude generally. The following comments illustrate the common feelings:

"Fascists are no longer here to bother us. After the coming of our liberators, things have changed, and life is looking up again. We are happy now." (5/2/45 - Grosseto)

"Luckily the Allies have been very quick in rebuilding the iron bridges and in re-establishing water and electric light services. During the first days they had to support us in every way. If we did not die of starvation, we owe it to them." (9/2/45 - Florence)

"I have read the article you wrote for the "Risorgimento Liberale". Unless you are a perfect idiot you should know that, whatever sacrifice Italy may make, she is and always will be the Allies' slave." (26/1/45 - Rome)

2077

"Britishers are still here, and there is no indication of their being about to leave, much to the disappointment of the population who, I could almost say, hates them." (6/2/45 - Macerata)

"Siena greeted the Allies with unforgettable rejoicing, but very soon people began to be disappointed, and a feeling of mistrust towards our liberators is now spreading." (28/1/45 - Siena)

"You ought to see the way our dear friends, the so anxiously awaited Allies, treat us. I felt very friendly towards them at first, but they treat us like their servants, and this makes me repent of my friendly disposition." (21/1/45 - Aquila)

"Business is not bad, but it could be much better without all the restrictions imposed by the Allied Command. In Tuscany we cannot even go from one town to the other." (1/2/45 - Florence)

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8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION.

The ratio table shows that unfavourable comments among civilian letters were in a majority of 8.4 to 1, but this is entirely due to a mass of comments from Pisa which took a very gloomy view, the adverse comments from this centre outnumbering the favourable by over 40 to 1. Disregarding Pisa, the figures for the rest of the country show a more optimistic feeling than was prevalent during the previous period. Military comments share in this optimism. The comments themselves do not tell us much.

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION.

Feelings about the future military situation in civilian letters which had been gradually becoming less optimistic for some time, started to move in the opposite direction during the period under review. Favourable comments were in a majority of 2.7 to 1 as compared with a minority of 1.1 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Pisa was the only centre which produced a majority of unfavourable comments. Military mail only supplied 8 comments, all of them favourable

This improvement in outlook seems to be due largely to the Russian victories. The following comments are examples: 2076

"I think that everything will soon be over. The Russians are nearing Berlin, and at Bologna the Allies will not have to fight at all, for the Germans will be forced to retreat. This would be a great piece of luck." (9/2/45 - Terni)

"The war news is excellent. The astounding Russian advance makes us hope that this cruel war will soon come to an end." (7/2/45 - Arezzo)

"I am perfectly sure that Germany will soon be defeated by the glorious Russian Army against which fascist propaganda always tried to stir up feelings of hate. The Allies are also progressing on the Western front, and the final defeat of Nazi-Fascism is rapidly approaching." (6/2/45 - Naples)

The following comment is illustrative of a certain trend of feeling among many:

"I take a great interest in listening to war news on the radio, but I can't tell you how worried I get when I hear

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of Russian victories." (5/2/45 - Ancona)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS.

Civilian letters reflected a more unfavourable view than was the case during the previous period. This was accentuated by a large number of comments from Pisa where opinion is more pessimistic than the average. Arezzo and Grosseto have an even more gloomy outlook. Military mail had nothing to say on this subject.

Most comments refer to destroyed factories and to machinery that has been taken away by the Germans. The following are some examples:

"The war which swept through the Fibernia valley caused enormous damage to our plants which are now absolutely inactive. In July last, our factories "Alfa" and "Beta" (Translator's note: The writer is Buitoni Co., one of the largest macaroni producers in Italy) were plundered and set on fire by the Germans. They were entirely destroyed. We have no idea when our activities will be resumed." (24/1/45 - Arezzo)

"Our arms factory is a complete wreck. All the best machinery was taken away by the Germans or plundered by the Republicans." (28/1/45 - Terni)

11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

2075

With the exception of Pisa, which takes a fairly optimistic view of agricultural prospects, the country as a whole was about equally divided during the period under review, though the ratio table shows a 3.7 to 1 majority in favourable comments. This figure was due to the mass of comments from Pisa. Foggia and Grosseto were the only centres to take a decidedly pessimistic view. Military mail was silent on the subject.

Favourable comments speak of good crops. Unfavourable comments refer to scanty crops in certain areas, but more particularly to poor future prospects owing to the difficulties of sowing, and to the weak growth of newly sprouted wheat, etc. The following comments give various sides of the picture:

"The olive crop has been really excellent. We had to employ many labourers for the harvesting." (5/2/45 - Ancona)

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"I inform you that we have had a plentiful crop of all kinds of products." (29/1/45 - Ascoli-Piceno)

"The crop has been scanty and of very poor quality. We are having a season worse than any previous one." (31/1/45 - Ancona)

"During the sowing season the weather was terribly rainy. We had storms and floods which caused much damage." (27/1/45 - Arezzo)

"This year we had a lot of trouble with the harvesting of the olives on account of the weather being so cold. The crop was more scanty than we thought it would be. Agricultural prospects for the next season are not at all promising. The newly sprouted wheat is so small that it can hardly be seen, whereas it should be fairly tall by now. On the pastures there is no grass, and sheep cannot feed." (9/2/45 - Grosseto)

"Things look rather bad in the fields. Few people are able to proceed with the sowing, and even tilled fields show very little sprouting." (3/2/45 - Grosseto)

12. EMPLOYMENT.

Civilian mail was a trifle less unfavourable concerning employment during the period under review. Nevertheless, the following centres were very pessimistic on the subject: Arezzo, Florence, Grosseto, Perugia and Siena. On the other hand Naples revealed a brighter outlook, the adverse comments being in a majority of less than 2 to 1 as compared with over 11 to 1 during the previous four weeks. There was hardly any change in Rome. Leghorn was the only centre to produce a majority of favourable comments.

2074

There is not much in the comments. Most of them reiterate the endless grind of looking for work. Some speak of reductions of staff owing to the lack of raw materials, and others mention the destruction of certain factories. The following comments are typical:

"Since I returned to Florence I have been doing nothing but going around looking for a job. Nothing comes of it. I am terribly depressed." (30/1/45 - Florence)

The writer of the following is the owner of Spinedi Factories, Florence: "The little work we had slackened down so much, owing to shortage of raw material, that we were compelled to dismiss all our personnel." (9/2/45 - Florence)

"I am out of work now, for my job with the Prefecture has come to an end. Nor do I see any possibility of finding another one. Do you think I would have a chance to work at all?

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another one. Do you think I would have a chance to work at all? I would take up anything." (22/1/45 - Aquila)

"I am out of work. I have been looking for a job on land or sea, but all industrial plants are at a standstill on account of the destructions caused by the war." (8/2/45 - Terni)

"I called on countless offices in order to find a job. Nothing doing. The only way out for me is to go down to the wharf and be a longshoreman to the Americans. Do you think it is fair that I should put up with such a humiliation after all I have done since the armistice?" (?/2/45 - Leghorn)

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

2073

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CENSOR NO. 102

CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP. PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 21 Jan - 17 Feb 194 5

PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED)			FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME	
			F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
Ancona	(CIV	15,790	43	151	0	27	7	66	13	47
	(MIL	2,106	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Arezzo		17,756	23	416	1	223	0	169	0	0
Ascoli-Piceno		7,745	43	88	1	36	1	13	2	9
Florence		25,069	3	164	0	13	0	16	2	108
Foggia	(CIV	18,200	4	67	0	26	1	31	4	10
	(MIL	9,212	21	9	12	2	9	18	0	0
Grosseto		23,637	14	324	1	137	0	97	3	14
Leghorn		41,709	53	150	16	79	6	97	22	18
Macerata		7,012	38	71	0	52	0	8	3	10
Naples	(CIV	103,554	91	1792	18	795	30	478	24	184
	(MIL	34,079	208	73	96	37	52	130	0	0
Perugia		21,627	5	177	0	130	0	49	0	72
Pisa		22,444	266	4312	101	3631	119	3675	23	79
Rome	(CIV	813,563	69	4406	8	782	12	656	6	3120
	(MIL	46,186	44	41	14	8	8	4	0	0
Siena		48,865	136	456	31	239	9	214	22	134
Terni		18,410	13	294	0	48	1	44	0	6
TOTAL CIVILIAN:		881,984	968	12678	264	8198	186	5764	138	1600
TOTAL MILITARY:		90,081	274	124	122	48	69	152	0	0
TOTALS		972,075	1142	13002	686	8244	255	5916	138	1600

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This report is based upon 50 letters per censor being checked daily on a 6-day weekly basis. The number of censors employed each week averaged 321, making a total of 365,200 letters examined for this four-week tally.

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NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
1	16	0	7	30	11	24	7	27	2	15	23	3	13	8	20
0	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	4	145	21	2	10	7	2	1	2	61	25	38	6	87
0	1	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	0	1
1	2	1	31	30	25	1	2	0	0	5	20	2	2	1	31
3	5	0	1	20	23	7	20	1	2	2	5	4	17	4	10
0	1	0	0	15	0	20	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2	12	6	3	50	5	11	7	0	2	1	37	7	33	0	21
31	10	10	26	26	32	22	15	26	12	34	25	20	13	33	26
0	2	3	1	14	10	0	0	0	0	3	0	10	1	0	5
27	60	18	44	445	42	214	93	152	55	58	73	43	20	132	220
1	16	0	0	24	26	136	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	4	3	1	63	0	6	1	19	1	2	10	13	3	1	25
128	1136	75	216	1519	68	104	3248	7	152	191	288	1556	134	716	1493
46	203	25	64	183	87	96	30	44	12	25	63	53	49	64	140
4	4	0	0	15	11	61	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	56	0	6	74	80	60	25	18	10	47	122	124	96	11	100
0	5	0	0	7	1	3	6	5	3	5	8	0	0	0	13
248	1490	147	449	2296	356	569	4181	277	204	365	1334	1072	419	442	2504
5	87	0	0	55	27	165	54	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
253	1828	147	449	2351	383	734	4235	285	204	365	1334	1072	419	442	2507

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APPENDIX

Report No. 102

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS
(21 January to 17 February 1945)

	FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		[illegible] SITUATION	
WEEK ENDING	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	
27/1/45 CIV	1	15	1	49.4	1	37.7	1	36.3	1	2.9	1	4.4	7	1	1	2.3	1	
MIL	2.2	1	1	2.7	1	6.2	0	0	2	1	0	0	2.8	1	2.6	1		
3/2/45 CIV	1	16.3	1	23.8	1	52.9	1	22.7	1	2.4	1	2.7	4.5	1	1	14.1	1	
MIL	1.4	1	5.3	1	1	2.6	0	0	1	5	0	0	3.4	1	1.9	1	0	
10/2/45 CIV	1	17.1	1	7.2	1	21.8	1	10.7	1	9.1	0	2.4	9	1	1	15.9	4	
MIL	1.9	1	1.6	1	1	2.2	0	0	0	9	0	0	1.8	1	7.8	1	5	
17/2/45 CIV	1	13.1	1	42.9	1	20.1	1	10.8	1	2.9	1	5.3	4	1	1.7	1	3	
MIL	4.6	1	50	1	1	1	0	0	1	6.5	0	8	1	2	3.5	1	3	
AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING																		
17/2/45 CIV	1	14.8	1	11	1	31	1	13.2	1	6	1	3	6.8	1	1	8.4	2	
MIL	2.2	1	2.6	1	1	2.2	0	0	1	5.4	0	0	2	1	3.4	1	8	

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APPENDIX

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE CURRENTS ON SENTIMENT POINTS
(21 January to 17 February 1945)

	HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
.4	1	37.7	1	16.3	1	2.9	1	4.4	7	1	1	2.3	1.3	1	1	2.9	1	1.9	1	17
.7	1	6.2	0	0	2	1	0	0	2.8	1	2.6	1		0	0	0	0	0	0	1
.8	1	52.9	1	22.7	1	2.4	1	2.7	4.5	1	1	14.1	1	2.7	1	5.4	10	1	1	3.1
1	1	2.6	0	0	1	5	0	0	3.4	1	1.9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.2	1	21.8	1	10.7	1	9.1	0	2.4	9	1	1	15.9	4	1	1	1.2	1.3	1	1	3.7
1	1	2.2	0	0	0	8	0	8	1.8	1	7.8	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
2.9	1	20.1	1	10.8	1	2.9	1	5.3	4	1	1.7	1	3.7	1	1	2.1	1.2	1	1	7.5
1	1	1	0	0	1	6.5	0	8	1	2	3.5	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	1	31	2	13.2	1	6	1	3	6.8	1	1	8.4	2.7	1	1	3.5	3.7	1	1	5.9
1	1	2.2	0	0	1	5.4	0	0	2	1	3.4	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

(WTH/vs

17 February 1945

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 94

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 20 January 1945.

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

This report is based on 372,200 letters checked during the four weeks ended 20th January 1945. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

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

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

1. FOOD SITUATION.

After a slight slackening off in the proportion of unfavourable comments noticed during the previous four weeks, civilian mail became more unfavourable during the period under review, and adverse comments were in a majority of 13.1 to 1 as compared with 10.8 to 1 during the preceding period. The situation in Terni seems to be particularly bad, there being no favourable comments at all as against 118 unfavourable; and Florence out of a total of 107 comments, only produced two that were favourable. Rome and Naples took a much gloomier view than they did during the previous period, and the adverse comments were in a majority of roughly 36 and 36 to 1 respectively. Military mail was also more unfavourable than during the preceding four weeks, though Naples, which is always favorably disposed, became even more optimistic to the extent of about 7 to 1.

Many letters speak of the 200 grms of flour or bread per day as being a totally inadequate ratio, particularly since it is so difficult for many people to get other food stuffs. The absence of oil or other fats is also a constantly recurring complaint. Above all looms the oppressive cloud of high prices.

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Again and again the writers refer to this evil in one way or another. Even among letters admitting that there is a comparative abundance of food items available in various centres - Rome, for example - there is the bitter, qualifying criticism that the prices place these items out of reach. Favourable remarks nearly all come from people who can afford to patronise the black market. The following are a selection of comments illustrating the above complaints:

"As regards food we are in a really bad way. All we get is 200 grams of flour, no pasta, no rice, no fats. Meat is never seen because the Germans took away all the cattle. There are no pigs, no hens, no rabbits. Milk, sugar and salt have also vanished. The black market is spreading, and the price of salt, for one thing, is 500 lire per kilo." (29/12/44 - Bisceglie)

"We are enduring real starvation. We eat what we can find but it is without any seasoning because we are given neither oil nor fats. Some things can now be bought in the black market, but prices are fabulous, and I can't cope with them." (7/1/45 - Arezzo)

"Living conditions here are becoming more and more difficult. Food prices have gone sky high, to say nothing of goods in the black market. Honest people like us can only struggle on by tightening their belts." (17/1/45 - Florence)

"Every day I look forward to the evening with great eagerness so that I may be able to sleep until 9 a.m. the following morning, by this way lessening both hunger and cold." (18/1/45 - Florence)

"It is a long time now since I tasted anything but wharf. Nothing else is available." (29/12/44)

"They give each person one kilogram of paste products a month and 200 grams of bread daily, nothing else, just paste products and water. A kilogram of lentils costs 180 lire. Formerly we were well off, but now, believe me, existing means headaches." (19/1/45 - Grosseto)

"The food situation is always the same, that is, nothing or almost nothing to eat may be found, not even greens. The little food that occasionally comes to the market has fantastic prices." (18/1/45 - Senocaeiano, Pisa)

"Here in Rome life goes on amidst discomforts and the well known privations. I might almost say that the situation has become worse, especially as regards food, with a tremendous

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rise in the price of the few food stuffs found on the market, which are only within the reach of swindlers and inveterate black market dealers." (3/1/45 - Rome)

"When you have to go out early in the morning, your teeth chattering from cold and hunger, without a cup of hot milk and a piece of bread, and you have to stay till three o'clock without eating — when children go to school without picnic lunch and see some of the in school fellows eating ham sandwiches, what must an innocent child suffer? (11/1/45 - Rome)

2. CLOTHING.

Unfavourable comments among civilian mail increased considerably during the four weeks under review, and outnumbered favourable comments by 30.1 to 1 as compared with 22.7 to 1 during the previous period. Ascoli, Foggia, Macerata and Terni produced no favourable comments at all, and there was only one from Arezzo out of a total of 65 for that city. The position in Naples seems to have deteriorated considerably, there being only 5 favourable comments from a total of 753. Rome also revealed a markedly more pessimistic feeling. Except from Naples, there were hardly any military comments, and Naples, usually favourable, was about equally divided during the period under review.

There was a little mention of any shortage of clothing, shoes etc., though that has been the case hitherto. Nearly all the complaints were based on the prices of the various articles on the materials themselves. The following are typical examples:

"To have to buy a suit is a terrible problem nowadays, not to mention shoes and shirts. Five months ago I bought a shirt for 700 lire. Recently a similar shirt, which I had to buy, having run out of underwear, cost me 3000 lire. Materials to make such shirts cannot be bought for less than 800-900 lire per yard." (28/12/44 - Campiglia Marittima)

"A pair of trousers, made of material that will come to pieces in a very short time, cost me 2000 lire. The price of a man's suit is 10,000 lire, and that of a pair of shoes 5000." (29/12/44 - Macerata)

"There is no joking about the clothing situation here. Shoes cost 2000 or 3000 lire a pair; the price of ladies stockings ranges up to 2000 lire, and a spool of thread of about 100 yards costs 100 lire." (30/12/44 - Terni)

"Those who have clothing material to sell also have the audacity to ask 3000 lire a yard for it." (4/1/45 - Staffolo, Ancona)

"We lack clothing, which can only be obtained at astounding prices. Just think that a man's suit of the poorest

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material costs 25,000 lire. How can we office workers afford such expenses? In order to buy three pairs of shoes for my children I had to pay 6,000 lire." (5/1/45 - Terno. Ancoli-Piceno)

"We are greatly in need of children's clothes and socks, of which we are entirely without. The prices of clothing materials are really out of all proportion. If anyone wants to buy a suit he must spend 10,000 lire at least." (14/1/45 - Caserta)

"Our fellow countrymen are all devoting themselves to black market activities. One yard of dress material will not cost less than 1000 lire, and a pair of men's shoes 4000 to 5000 lire. It is terrible to think of how one is to clothe oneself." (12/1/45 - Applenano, Macerata)

5. HOUSING SITUATION.

Civilian opinion on the housing situation took a turn for the worse during the four weeks under review. Unfavourable comments total in a majority of 2:1 to be compared with 20 to 1 during the previous period. There were no favourable comments from Arezzo. This also applies to several other places which produced very few comments. But it is in Naples that the situation seems to be worst, there being only 9 favourable comments out of a total of 666. Military mail was also more unfavourable, but since nearly all the comments came from Naples, the figures cannot be taken as indicating any general opinion.

Complaints are based on a variety of causes, though most of them really rest on the actual shortage of houses. Destruction due to the war is naturally the fundamental cause of complaint. Along with this there are letters that speak of too many families crowded into one house, or even one room. Sometimes are also mentioned, and there is the inevitable grouse against requisitioning by the Allies. The following comments are typical:

"Life is very slow in reawakening, and this keeps us worried. There are still 1,500 families who cannot come back to town, for they have no homes. About another thousand live sharing their lodgings with other people." (2/1/45 - Pisa)

"Mamma and I have come back to town, but just when we thought we were safely home after so many vicissitudes, the English came and occupied half of our house." (6/1/45 - Arezzo)

"Leghorn is in a terrible state. Half of it is razed to the ground, and there is no light, water or gas. All the

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houses left standing have been requisitioned by the Allies. The only things left to us are collapsing walls and the rubble." (24/12/44 - Livorno)

"Our house was bombed, and most of our belongings were stolen. Now there are four of us living piled up in one furnished room. Such a housing situation makes our conditions even worse." (15/1/45 - Arezzo)

"It is impossible to live in boarding houses; besides, they have nearly all been requisitioned. Houses to rent are not to be found anywhere, and those that are going to be rebuilt will certainly be let at enormous rents." (9/1/45 - Florence)

4. INCOME.

Civilian opinion on the subject of wages, salaries and pensions became a little more unfavourable during the four weeks under review, and unfavourable comments were in a majority of 16.5 to 1 as compared with 14.1 to 1 during the preceeding period. In many cases the number of comments was small, and no fair deduction can be made from the figures. In the case of Rome, however, there is no doubt that public opinion views this matter with growing concern, and adverse comments were in a majority of 52 to 1. There were no military comments from any centre.

Clerks, office workers generally and pensioners are the worst hit. Letter after letter complains that salaries are not nearly adequate to meet the cost of living. Many people have already used up their savings, and have now joined the ranks of those who are slowly selling anything saleable they can spare. Those who have neither savings nor anything left to sell write in resignation, and speak of tightening their belts, of losing weight, and of becoming run down. Some, in defiance, speak of intending to increase their incomes by dishonest means. The following are samples of the comments:

"We go along blindly, that is, without being able to depend on our salaries. One day we spend 300 lire and another 500 lire, but the salary is only 100 lire a day. It is useless to make any comments. As long as there is something to sell, one sells it; then we shall do as others do. There are people who steal, cheat, deal in the black market or prostitute themselves, and people who starve because they are not capable of doing any of these things. But nobody can get along on their salary alone." (9/1/45 - Rome)

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"Hunger is so pressing that, to satisfy one need, a salary at least six times as high as the one we earn would be required. Nobody takes any notice of the situation of office workers. I have already "eaten up" my share of inheritance as well as all the money I had been saving over many years. I also sold my radio, but the profit has already disappeared." (12/1/45 - Macerata)

"Wages have been increased, but this is not sufficient to cope with the black market. On the other hand, one cannot do without the latter, for what one gets with ration cards is just enough to die from starvation." (23/12/44 - Forni)

"Every day the situation grows worse on account of the prices. One's monthly wages are barely enough to keep one going for a couple of weeks." (27/12/44 - Florence)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

From most centres there were very few comments on the National Government in the civilian mail, but the new total revealed a more unfavourable attitude than during the previous period. Rome and Naples were the only two centres that produced comments in any numbers. There was not much change in Naples, but Rome became a little more unfavourable. Military comments were so few that the ratio figure are of little value.

The mail is not very helpful in giving any specific reasons for the adverse feelings of the majority towards the Government. A general condemnation rather than particular charges are brought against it, though there is some complaint that Fascists are still active, but there are too many political parties, and that there is no united driving force. The following comments give an idea of the general run of letters:

"We had better not make any comments on the sad political and social condition of our poor country. Just when it is necessary to devote every effort to reconstruction, they do nothing but make the situation worse. All that we have gone through has taught no lesson to those who intend to rule the country." (27/12/44 - Ascoli-Piceno)

"The new plutocrats created by the Fascist Regime, and shielded by our so-called Government which calls itself democratic, want to strangle starving people." (15/1/45 - Ancona)

"I wish there were not so many parties in Italy. I would like to see just two of them, united and strong enough to avoid further chaos in our country, especially revolutionary insurrections resulting in a new dictatorship for the people.

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The present situation of Italy could break the heart of anyone who stopped to consider it. Only hard work and harmony can lead, in due time, to the rebuilding of all that has been senselessly and wickedly destroyed." (3/1/45 - Florence)

"The Government ought to do away with so much politics and do something sensible. All the parties should disappear and come back later on." (27/12/44 - Florence)

"We will recall it when the war is over, in the way of a fire-side chat -- but will we enjoy such recalls? I doubt it; for, because the situation will grow still worse, the parties will spoil everybody and everything." (26/12/44 - Macerata)

"Industries are in the hands of children. The survivors of the first twenty years of this century: stubborn, hard-headed and conservative, they are not able to do anything, and they do not want others to do anything." (26/12/44 - Rome)

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

Civilian mail was not so adverse towards the provincial administration as it was during the previous four weeks, but this is due entirely to a big reduction in the number of unfavourable comments from Rome. Seven centres produced no favourable comments at all, notably Arezzo which returned 20 unfavourable ones. Military mail was not concerned with this subject.

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The comments themselves are of little help in explaining the reasons behind the unfavourable attitude towards the provincial administrations. The latter are often blamed for conditions for which they are not responsible, and are sometimes praised in like manner. Little can be said beyond the fact that the provincial administrations are not generally popular.

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES.

The popularity of the Allies, which has been waning for some months, deteriorated still further during the period under review, and civilian comments were only 4.7 to 1 in favour as compared with 5.3 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Naples, Florence, and Macerata seem to be the most favourably disposed with only 5 unfavourable comments between them out of a total of 72. Venice was more favourable than the average, and was even a little more so than during the previous four weeks. Rome opinion, on the other hand, again became less favourable. Mili-

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tary opinion remained much the same, and was more than twice as favourable as civilian opinion.

Favourable comments are based on gratitude and relief; unfavourable chiefly on disappointment. But adverse opinion is also growing because of Allied behaviour with Italian women, and because of requisitioning. The following comments give some idea of the tone of many:

(A) Favourable.

"The Allies have been working miracles, and they have shown themselves to be real gentlemen, generous and kind-hearted. But what could they do after the Germans and their Fascist mates had robbed the town of everything." (16/1/45 - Florence)

"Here in Florence the Allies are preparing gifts which will be given to 500 needy children." (5/1/45 - Florence)

"We seem to live a new life with the English and the Americans who behave very well." (20/1/45 - Florence)

An Italian lieutenant states: "The Americans under whom we are working are very kind towards us, and they help us all they possibly can." (24/12/44 - Foggia)

(B) Unfavourable.

"This war is taking all our strength away. Here 20 3 Allies keep on requisitioning the Hotel, and nobody pays. The Canadians were lodged here during one month. They left the other day and did not pay either." (2/1/45 - Aquila)

"One thing is certain, wherever the Allies go there is terrible corruption among women; instead it does not exist where they are absent." (30/12/44 - Rome)

"Here in Rome there are so many Americans and nearly all the girls go out with them. I don't know why they are not ashamed at the figure they are cutting. I am so angry that, if I were a man, I would take all those who go with the Americans, and also those who go with those ugly negroes, and brand them with a red hot iron." (15/1/45 - Rome)

8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION.

Civilian opinion, which had gradually become less optimistic until, during the previous four weeks, it became

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actually pessimistic, revealed a slight swing towards optimism again during the period under review, and comments were almost equally divided. Rome, Siena and Terni were definitely pessimistic. Military mail, though still optimistic, was less so than during the previous period; but the bulk of the comments came from Naples, and the figures can hardly be taken as representative of the country as a whole. Rome, for example, only produced 3 unfavourable comments out of a total of 22.

There is nothing much in the comments themselves except a sort of resignation at the apparently static state of the Italian front. The position may be summed up in the following brief extract from a letter:

"It seems to me that the Germans are deeply rooted in northern Italy." (26 /12/44 - Grosseto)

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION.

Optimism in the future military situation declined further during the period under review, and in fact the unfavourable comments were in a slight majority. However, most centres hardly commented at all, and only Naples, Rome and Siena produced sufficient comments to provide some indication of the trend. Siena was about equally divided; Naples was over 2½ to 1 optimistic; and Rome was about 6½ to 1 pessimistic. Military comments were negligible.

Favourable comments are based on the belief that the Allies must win eventually, and that their victory will be Italy's victory too. Unfavourable comments arise from disappointment that Italy must go on enduring war. The following are some examples.

"The Allied armies have had some stormy moments as they have had to sustain violent German counter attacks on every front. They have now regained the initiative and are again advancing, slowly, but they are advancing. Have no fear, therefore. Do not allow yourself to be influenced by any secret agent of the Fascist fifth column." (10/1/45 - Rome)

"Everything will go all right. We are hopefully waiting for the Allies to give the Germans the final blow on all the fighting fronts; and that will bring peace to the world, for the Allies' victory will be our victory too." (6/1/45 - Naples)

"Have you heard how bad is the general news about the war? Unfortunately it can be surmised that the war will not end

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In this new year; thus our fate is still not decided, poor us! There is no longer any peace or safety." (4/1/45 - Bolzano)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS.

Civilian mail took a slightly less gloomy view of the industrial situation as compared with the previous four weeks. Leghorn was the only centre that produced a majority of favourable comments. Naples remained about twice as pessimistic as the average, and Rome opinion deteriorated during the period. There were no military comments of any kind.

War damage to factories is the predominant theme in unfavourable comments. The following are examples:

"We are sorry to have it working for some years to come." (12/1/45 - Arezzo)

"As you may already know, almost everyone of us is out of work. The National factory was destroyed, so you can imagine to what a condition S. Sepolcro has been reduced." (16/1/45 - Sansepolcro)

"Personally, I am uninjured, but my factory at Certaldo was entirely destroyed, which caused a loss valued at more than ten millions. Anyhow, we have already accepted rebuilding it." (4/1/45 - Florence)

The two following comments from Florence provide contrast:

"Too many goods are still blocked, from textiles to dyeing products, from woollen-wear to drugs. Such a system is very like the old fascist theories, and the leaders do not seem to realise that the fundamental laws of free commerce are stronger than controlled economy. The situation thus remains very serious, and in the long run the difficulties which producers and sellers have to face tend to notably cut steadily increasing prices." (27/12/44 - Florence)

"The Allied Government has adopted a resolution as to the release of textiles, so I'll soon begin to do something. Let us hope that this release will be the first step towards free commerce." (16/1/45 - Florence)

11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

Civilian opinion showed little change throughout the

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period under review, being very slightly less favourable as compared with the previous four weeks, the ratio being 1.3 to 1 as against 1.4 to 1 in favour during the preceding period. Naples was the only area which was pronouncedly pessimistic. Rome, which was more than 2 to 1 unfavourable last period, swung the other way and was 1.6 to 1 in favour. Military call was almost devoid of comments.

Favourable comments speak of good yields, particularly of olives, and of the high prices brought by livestock. Unfavourable comments refer to flooding and hail, and of vines suffering for the lack of chemical manures. The following are some examples:

"Thanks to the Lord we have already gathered the olives, and they have been plentiful." (17/1/45 - Arezzo)

"Aunt tells me that they have harvested plenty of olives and have also produced a great deal of wine. Now they have also sown the ground, so they will be quite well off." (24/12/44 - S. Oreste, Rome)

"Don't worry because we have enough to satisfy our needs. It turned out quite well with pigs and cattle. Also 300 quintals of beetroots planted. The highest profit was yielded by pigs which were sold at 40,000 lire, and two heifers were sold at 100,000. Wine, beans, potatoes and sweet corn were rather scarce, but high profit was shown by all the rest." (3/1/45 - Arezzo)

"Vintaging has been very poor this year. Grapes suffered from lack of copper and sulphur, and damage was also caused by hail." (23/12/44 - Grosseto)

"Soon after the fields had been sown they flooded them, so everything went rotten." (27/12/44 - Poiano delle Chiana)

"Agricultural work is rather slack here on account of bridges and river banks being destroyed. Much wheat was left unsown, and this is also due to floods that turned the valley into a real sea." (1/1/45 - Forno S. Savino, Arezzo)

12. Livestock.

Civilian mail became more gloomy about agricultural during the four weeks under review, and unfavourable comments outnumbered the favourable by 6.2 to 1 as compared with 4.6 to 1 during the previous period. The only centre which produced a majority of favourable comments was Leghorn. Naples became considerably more pessimistic; and Rome, where the adverse comments

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were in a majority of 13 to 1 during the previous period, increased this majority to 24.2 to 1. Military mail was silent on the subject.

The writers mentioned cuts in the staffs of offices, and offices being closed down. They tell of mines and factories that are closed indefinitely, and of the daily and weekly hunt for jobs, a search which, in many cases, they look upon as hopeless. Many people have been out of work for very long periods. The following comments are some examples:

"I feel so downhearted for many reasons, but principally because of my state of unemployment. Since my office was closed down I have not been able to find any work." (11/1/45 - Florence)

"From morning to night I rush about in all directions in order to find a job which may set my mind at rest about our future, but there have been no results up to now. After tomorrow I'll join a group of labourers who work in a store house for the Allies; but it is only a temporary job." (6/1/45 - Arezzo)

"Notwithstanding the numerous acquaintances of Lorles and her family, I have not been able to get a job. They make me many promises, but only for the distant future. (20/12/44 - Arezzo)

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"I cannot give you a job now because I had to put off more than 600 of my employees who, for the time being, are only getting half their normal wages. All temporary workers have been dismissed." (28/12/44 - Florence)

"We have tried to find work, but in vain, because unemployment here is general. The mines are closed and so are the factories." (10/1/45 - Massa Marittima)

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

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Report No. 94

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CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP. PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 24 Dec 44 - 30 Jan 1945

PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED)		FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME	
		F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
Aosta	7,256	18	83	2	11	1	35	2	10
Aquila	27,715	206	1068	84	455	32	134	20	91
Arezzo	10,460	37	256	1	95	0	44	0	10
Ascoli-Piceno	5,082	19	75	0	28	0	4	2	4
Benevento	82,455	2	106	0	2	0	6	5	8
Bologna (CITY	12,544	9	88	2	37	1	15	3	6
(PROV	6,480	25	23	1	10	0	0	0	0
Bolzano	20,980	36	160	4	120	2	32	0	24
Brescia	51,540	30	174	10	43	2	26	0	13
Brindisi	5,202	14	68	0	34	0	2	5	0
Naples (CITY	148,950	64	2074	5	746	8	675	4	122
(PROV	25,089	790	162	222	234	276	495	0	0
Perugia	19,516	17	63	4	26	4	38	6	5
Rome (CITY	151,190	97	3289	15	307	35	425	16	65
(PROV	34,780	50	32	6	13	6	6	0	
Siena	56,116	90	492	11	211	7	135	10	12
Terni	17,145	0	116	0	10	0	0	0	
TOTAL CIVILIAN	571,940	2359	8844	415	2605	89	1689	74	434
TOTAL MILITARY	73,016	791	161	229	57	180	543	0	
TOTAL:	644,956	3150	9005	644	2662	269	2232	74	434

This report is based upon 33 letters (61 censors) being checked daily by 3 censors. The number of censors employed each week averaged 31 during the week, a total of 372 letters examined per week.

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NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
8	6	0	2	24	42	2	1	2	0	0	3	0	1	0	1
0	1	0	0	15	2	2	2	3	0	30	64	31	73	77	283
2	4	0	32	20	35	0	6	0	1	6	20	44	37	20	28
0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	1
0	4	0	13	13	1	0	1	0	1	2	2	1	5	32	26
0	2	1	3	25	10	0	3	0	2	2	0	2	4	3	17
2	3	0	1	22	2	12	6	0	1	0	0	3	0	3	1
4	1	0	10	19	5	2	3	0	0	4	23	26	12	1	12
6	10	0	0	22	5	24	0	2	0	50	10	30	13	37	18
0	2	0	3	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	230	4	35	171	76	31	72	35	13	32	198	58	82	25	270
2	15	0	0	79	0	822	2,224	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	2	0	0	25	2	12	0	3	1	3	0	30	5	2	10
0	2	0	0	25	2	12	0	3	1	3	0	30	5	2	10
58	137	12	31	84	16	53	30	15	35	21	73	60	87	26	340
3	4	0	0	20	1	10	3	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
16	85	8	5	51	21	13	135	14	16	60	42	107	65	14	110
0	0	0	0	8	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
114	1,062	32	145	1,120	289	155	1,182	87	75	1,253	560	536	208	133	1,150
7	58	0	1	20	15	52	106	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	4
124	1,120	32	150	1,140	304	207	1,288	87	76	1,253	560	538	208	134	1,154

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APPENDIX A

Report No. 94

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS
(24 December 1944/20 January 1945)

		FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION	
ITEM ENDING		F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
30/12/44	CIV	1	14.7	1	43.1	1	26.7	1	27.8	1	3.4	1	11.7	4.5	1	1	1.4
	MIL	9.3	1	1	1.2	1	2.2	0	0	1	2.7	0	0	5.1	1	1	1
6/1/45	CIV	1	12.4	1	20.8	1	14.9	1	12.2	1	2.5	1	2.6	5	1	2.1	1
	MIL	7.1	1	1	3.2	1	4.5	0	0	2	0	0	0	23	1	1.1	1
13/1/45	CIV	1	12.2	1	47.7	1	16.8	1	12.6	1	2.4	1	3.7	4.9	1	1	1.5
	MIL	3	1	1	1.1	1	2	0	0	0	10	0	0	10.3	1	7.5	1
20/1/45	CIV	1	17.5	1	22	1	99.9	1	20.2	1	6.1	1	5.7	7.7	1	1.3	1
	MIL	3.2	1	1	1.7	1	4	0	0	2	1	0	1	37	1	4.3	1
AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING 20/1/45	CIV	1	13.1	1	30.1	1	24.4	1	16.5	1	3	1	4.7	4.7	1	1	1.2
	MIL	4.7	1	1	1.6	1	3	0	0	1	2.9	0	1	10.4	1	2.3	1

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APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS
(24 December 1944/20 January 1945)

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...THING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERN-MENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUST-RIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULT-URAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOY-MENT	
U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
43.2	1	26.7	1	27.8	1	3.4	1	11.7	4.5	1	1	1.4	2	11	1	2.7	1.7	2	1	4.5
1.2	1	2.2	0	0	1	2.7	0	0	5.2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.8	1	14.9	1	12.2	1	2.5	1	2.6	5	1	2.1	1	1.1	1	1	2.9	1	1	1	4.8
3.2	1	4.5	0	0	2	0	0	0	21	1	1.1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
47.7	1	16.8	1	12.6	1	2.4	1	3.7	4.9	1	1	1.5	1	2.7	1	2.4	1.6	1	1	7
1.1	1	2	0	0	0	20	0	0	10.3	1	7.5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
22	1	99.9	1	20.2	1	6.1	1	5.7	7.7	1	1.3	1	2.3	1	1	1.5	1.2	1	1	7.5
1.7	1	4	0	0	2	1	0	1	37	1	4.3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
30.1	1	24.4	1	16.5	1	3	1	4.7	4.7	1	1	1.1	1	1.1	1	2.2	1.3	1	1	6.2
1.6	1	3	0	0	1	2.9	0	1	10.4	1	2.3	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	2

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Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 534, U. S. Army

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 96

FEB 27 1945

SUBJECT: Diminishing Popularity of the Allies in Italy among the Civilian Population, Especially in Rome.

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

This report is based on a review of weekly bulletins and our monthly appreciation and censorship reports on Italian civilian mail for the past eight months, together with more recent information which has not previously been used in any report.

The bulletins show that the popularity of the Allies reached its peak during the four weeks ended 6th July 1944, that is during the period immediately following the liberation of Rome. For that month the favourable comments were in the major[illegible] by of 34.2 to 1, an abnormally high figure due, of course, to enthusiasm over the freeing of the Capital. The following two months showed a violent reaction in the opposite direction but this was not sustained. Good feeling towards the Allies increased again during the next two months, and for the four weeks ended 28th October 1944 the favourable comments were in a majority of 17.5 to 1.

20-5

From then onwards the popularity of the Allies steadily declined, and during the four weeks ended 20 January 1945 the relationship between favourable and unfavourable comments was only 4.7 to 1. Rome figures were below this average for the country and were only 4.3 to 1.

The Allies are criticised on many grounds, some of which are merely different aspects of a general disappointment. Many writers charge the Allies with failing to carry out their promises. Freedom, which they rather unreasonably expected to be immediate and absolute now appears to them to have been an advertisement for goods that were not intended to be available. They also expected that adequate food supplies would be distributed everywhere. This has not been the case. A graver charge against the Allies is that they are responsible for the high prices of the food that is available.

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Coupled with the above it is felt that the Allies are responsible for high prices generally. The Allied soldiers have too much money to spend, and this flood of paper is debasing the Italian currency. Another hardship laid at the Allies' door is the lack of transport.

Requisitioning of hotels, houses and apartments often gives rise to bitter complaints but not so bitter as the remarks concerning the letting of rooms and small apartments to individual members of the forces. Allied officers are charged with offering landlords such high rents that the latter will not let such lodgings to needy Italians who can't afford such rents.

Many Italians feel that the status now granted to their country warrants the return of prisoners in Allied hands. The fact that only comparatively few prisoners have returned is taken as an injustice and as a negation of what Italy's status is supposed to be.

Italy's position generally gives rise to much heart burning. To begin with there is the charge that the war was the fault of the Allies anyway, and that had they looked after Italy in the past, the whole situation would have been different. Other writers go further. They suggest that Italy, in spite of neglect, was reaching towards some greatness, and that she has now been hauled. She has lost her empire, and she feels that the world is inclined to laugh at her. Who was it but the Allies who smashed Italy's power? There is an undercurrent of resentment even when there is relief at being freed from Germany, and this is intensified by the feeling that the Allies may not do much to help Italy after the war.

2054

Strong anti-Fascists have another complaint. They say that the Allies shut their eyes to the fact that many Fascists are still in positions of authority throughout the country. They feel therefore that one of two things may happen after the war as the result of the lack of any firm or positive policy on the part of the Allies. Either there will be a new dictatorship of a Fascist nature, or a revolution followed by a Red dictatorship. It is felt that the Allies could prevent either of these things if they had any real interest in Italy's welfare.

A small section of the community, found among those who grew up under the Fascist regime, still believe in some of the Fascist and Nazi propaganda directed against the Democracies, more particularly against the British. Italy, they feel, will not be allowed to become rich or great; and so on.

An ever growing criticism of the Allies is their

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behaviour with Italian women. There are more comments on this than on any other anti-Allied subject. And these letters are not merely written by jealous men, though this is true of some of them, but by women also. The women complain that they are insulted, that no distinction is made between a prostitute and a respectable woman, and that the behaviour of the Germans towards women was more correct and respectful. General complaints are that advantage has been taken of hunger and want to corrupt many women. It is also said that wherever the Allies go there is a huge increase in prostitution.

Comments from various parts of the country illustrating the above have appeared in our monthly appreciation and censorship reports. The comments appearing below have not been used in any previous report, and they are all from Rome in further illustration of the particular deterioration in good feeling towards the Allies in the Capital.

(A) GENERAL.

"As the rations supplied by the Allies to us are so few, prices are increasing enormously. The Allies are completely in command, and the Mayor and Governor have no say in the matter. Therefore there is much laxity everywhere." (7/1/45)

2053

"There are many complaints here because of the food situation and life in general which has become very much harder than it was last year. The Allies are blamed for this, and, as though doing it purposely, they are doing everything possible to aggravate the situation and to make themselves disliked. We have therefore arrived at the absurdity of hearing people regret past days. Things have come to a pretty pass." (12/1/45)

"I noticed that the Italian purchases in the luxury and clothing lines are very few, and hence I deduced that prices are kept high, not only because our currency is undervalued but because the excessive money of the Allied troops allows them to afford anything at any price." (9/9/44)

"It is really time for them to give to us alone the job of "defending" our country which should never have been sullied by "their" presence/ If you were in Rome you would see many interesting things." (24/1/45)

"As you say, we don't count with the Allies, and perhaps we had too many illusions.

"Confusion is everywhere here, and one meets men belonging to so many different races! Alas, the streets are not safe, and if it continues like this it will be necessary to go out armed at least with a short stick to keep our admirers at bay." (12/8/44)

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"No more free apartments are to be found because the Americans pay 100 to 200 lire a night for them. Everybody lives in Rome because all have intimate relations with the Americans. One girl alone can support the whole family if she can get around with the Americans." (27/8/44)

"Little by little a part of the people realize that "liberty" is a farce, and that the coming American elections have let loose much talk but not many purses. The people are becoming wiser, and judge more impartially the pleasure-loving sons of the Allied Republic." (3/11/44)

"The result of our defeat will be the end of militarism in Italy: no more Air Force, no Navy, no Army, no war for a century to come, no more great power. Ours will be a land of farmers and merchants, and only ruins will be left for foreign tourists to visit." (11/9/44)

The following are extracts from a long letter addressed by an anonymous writer to the students of the University of Palermo:

"With all our strength we must, above all, take action against England. The present world war, which has lasted since 1815, can only be concluded with the dissolution of Great Britain.....The Italian people will fight only against England because England will once again put Brenno's sword on the scales of justice to alter its balance to her advantage; England, after acknowledging the right of people to self decision, will want to settle national agglomerations according to her liking." (7/1/45)

(B) BEHAVIOUR WITH WOMEN.

"The Anglo-Americans have arrived, and I can't describe the enthusiasm of the Romans, particularly of the women, who have turned their enthusiasm into a real calamity of immorality, prostitution and disease. The worst of them have made from 30 to 40 thousand lire a day, but the hospitals and dispensaries are full of sick people." (15/7/44)

"One thing is simply disgusting, and that is how women act like dogs in the street, an unbelievable thing, all with Americans. You do not see a woman without one of these soldiers. It makes you disgusted, a perfect brothel, and besides one has a certain fear in approaching them; there are so many diseases about." (25/7/44)

"As to the moral and social impoverishment, this should

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be sufficient: Allied officers have said:"We could never have believed that in Rome, centre of Christianity, there existed such immorality." Now everything is a little more hidden, but not much. I limit myself by telling you that, especially during the first days, I was ashamed of being an Italian woman." (5/8/44)

"The streets are full of beggars, and not all of them poor. Then the girls behave worse than those ladies. Till a month ago Rome seemed like the antechamber to one of those places of joy, but a very vulgar one." (22/8/44)

"Rome has become a centre of prostitution where soldiers of all races congregate to satisfy their desires." (21/8/44)

"As regards another important problem for young people, that is love, the aspect is radically changing. Here in Rome prostitution holds sway. Nearly all the women, young and old, pretty and ugly, the honest women of a former time or the dishonest ones are competing in giving themselves to the highest bidders, that is to the Allies. Girl friends of mine, companions whom I respected, are doing what other women formerly did in brothels, publicly and shamelessly. Now if you know a girl you take her to the movies one day, and the day after you go to bed with her." (31/8/44)

"It is truly pitiful to see our women so venal, throwing themselves into the arms of soldier to be ill-treated. The hospitals are full of these miserable creatures." (23/10/44)

"There are constant and daily demonstrations in Rome by sailors and civilians who pitilessly cut off the hair of those women who go around with Americans." (14/1/45)

GORDON N. McKEAN,
Lt. Col. Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

Director
D/Director
Chief
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Censors
Chief Clerk

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FROM:

Lt. Col. McKean

TO:

Col. Henderson

Signature

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Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 594, U. S. Army

RJRC/ibm

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 92 31 January 1945

SUBJECT: Serious Riots in Sicily.

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

This report is based on telegrams from Sicily which were examined at our Rome station during December and the first half of January.

Although there had been some mention of disturbances in Sicily as far back as October, it was not until about the middle of December that matters reached any serious proportions. From 14th to 18th December various riots, some of considerable violence, broke out in various parts of the Island. From then onwards there has been a succession of disturbances.

Generally speaking these ruptures of the peace fall into two classes: those against conscription, and those which are protests against existing conditions in Sicily. There is some suggestion that the germ of separatism may be active in both cases, but there is nothing on which to base an opinion that it was the cause. On the contrary, the riots seem to have been what they purported to have been, though the agents of separation may have tried to make a little hay while the sun shone.

The anti-conscription riots sometimes went no further than making vigorous efforts to prevent men being called up from reaching the centres to which they had been summoned. For example, a bridge on the Avola-Siracuse railway line was damaged early in January, and a section of the line between Noto and Siracuse was blown up. There were also incidents in which road transport was held up while the conscripts were removed and prevented from completing their journies.

20.18

But there were other disturbances of a far more serious nature. At Palma Montechiaro, on 14th December, armed youths set fire to the Town Hall, the Revenue Offices and the Customs House. At Delia, on 16th January, over 1000

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pistors cut telegraph wires, attacked Carabinieri barracks and plundered offices and shops. Other similar riots occurred. One which might have been of a chiefly political nature was reported from Solarca on 7th January. The communists there accuse the police of not having interfered when fascist attacked the Red Headquarters shouting that they were not going to fight against their German brothers.

There was considerable damage to buildings in some places, and some casualties. In the more serious outbreaks the rioters were armed with rifles, pistols and hand grenades.

Apart from the above there were various demonstrations against the general conditions in various parts of Sicily. Most of these were not very serious. There was some damage caused by students in Terano because of lack of heating in the school-buildings. Uncertain and sporadic work on strike in Solarca; and there were scattered disturbances. However, at Ajcano, there were more serious demonstrations on account of the closing of the mills. A large and threatening crowd on 17th December was finally dispersed without any grave consequences, but later in the day all the public buildings were pillaged. On this occasion it is alleged that the police did nothing to stop the upheaval.

The following are copies of some of the telegrams on which this report is based. They appear under the two appropriate headings.

1. ANTI-CONSCRIPTION RIOTS.

From Major Scientono to the XII Division Carabinieri Legio Headquarters (3.6/12/44):

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"On 14th December at Pulla Montechiaro (Agrigento), about 300 youths belonging to the recruiting classes started an anti-conscription riot. They were joined by another 600 hot-headed trouble makers who, displaying red flags, rifles, machine-guns and hand-grenades, went through the whole town causing panic among the population. Strategic points outside the town were occupied by the rioters who later set fire to the Town Hall, the Revenue Offices, the Customs House, and also burnt papers taken from the Banco di Sicilia. The Post and Telegraph Office was also damaged. They stopped a bus running from Agrigente to Licata, robbed the travellers of all their belongings and ransacked their luggage. They also stole 30 quintals of spaghetti intended for distribution to the population. Another truck loaded

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with 30 quintals of raisins was stopped on the road and pillaged. Carabinieri and policemen rushed to the spot, fought for several hours, but were unsuccessful in stopping the upheaval. It was only the next day, after obtaining more military help, that it became possible for the Carabinieri to fight their way into the town and to restore public order. Two civilians were killed and two wounded. It has been possible to establish the identity of some of the instigators, but they are so large."

Telegram to the War Ministry, Rome:

"On 15th December in various towns of Ragusa Province public demonstrations against the recruiting set were held. At Chiaramonte the rioters damaged public offices buildings. Public order has not yet been restored."

Telegram to Carabinieri General Headquarters, Rome:

"On 16th December, near Prolo (Messina) about 100 armed people stopped an army truck on which 20 recruits were being conveyed from Palermo to Messina. The men were forced to alight, and the empty truck was allowed to resume the journey to Messina. The same gang stopped another truck which was going to Caltagirone (Messina) in order to pick up more recruits."

Telegram from Catanzaro, dated 16/12/44, to Carabinieri General Headquarters Rome:

"With reference to telegram No. 38E, no recruits have spontaneously reported to this Headquarters."

Telegram from Catania, dated 16/12/44, to the Socialist Party Headquarters, Rome:

"On 16th December serious disturbances, resulting in the destruction of public office buildings, were caused by nearly 2000 youths who are believed to have acted under the instigation of Separatist and fascist elements. Casualties occurred. It is necessary to take drastic steps to avoid further demonstrations."

Telegram to Carabinieri General Headquarters, Rome:

"On 17th December at Mazzarino (Caltanisetta) a crowd of 600 recruits and other people held a demonstration against conscription. The disturbance soon turned into a serious riot. The mob, after having cut the telephone and telegraph wires, overpowered the military garrison, got into

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the Town Hall, and made havoc of the revenue and registry offices. Private houses of some well-to-do people were also plundered. The quick action of the local commander of the Carabinieri thwarted an attack on the Carabinieri and Finance-guards barracks with the rioters, now numbering 4,000, many of whom were armed with rifles, pistols and hand-grenades, tried to carry out. Measures are being taken to restore public order.

Excerpt from a telegram to Carabinieri General Headquarters:

"On 5th January unknown persons blew up the railway line between Nota and Siracusa for a small stretch of 20 cms. This was done in order to prevent the two companies from reporting to the Military District Headquarters of Siracusa."

From a telegram to the Ministry of the Interior, Rome:

"On 7th January at 0030 hrs. unknown people damaged a small railway bridge on the Avola-Siracusa line. The next day a large group of youths threw four hand grenades against the locomotive of an in-coming train at Avola station. The train was forced to a halt, and the rioters interested all the travellers with the purpose of holding up young men who were going to report to the Siracusa Military District Headquarters in accordance with the induction papers they had received. Some of them were ill-treated. Railway traffic on the damaged bridge will be resumed on 10th January."

2045

In a telegram to the leader of the Communist party, Togliatti Palmiro, the pro-secretary of the Communist Party Section of Sciacca, stated:

"On 4th January at 1900 hours several students singing praises to Fascism, and showing their intention and to fight against their German brothers, broke into the premises of the Communist Party Section, causing damage and assaulting some members of the party. Local police did not take any action to stop the aggression."

A telegram to the Ministry of War Home:

"On 4th January at Ragusa, Carabinieri and Police forces had to take action against a gathering of armed civilians who intended to hold a demonstration against conscription. The situation is still very tense."

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A telegram from Caltanissetta to the Ministry of the Interior reports a double purpose demonstration:

"On 14th January, at 1800 hours a serious riot broke out at Delia as a result of the critical living conditions in the town and the recruiting note. More than a thousand rioters, including 15 armed convicts previously escaped, cut the telegraph lines and tried three attacks on the Carabinieri barracks with no results. They then burned the wheat dumps and carried away 1,800 quintals of wheat. The premises of the Land Syndicate and the Customs House, together with some shops in the town, were also plundered resulting in damage valued at three million lire. Public order has been restored by Carabinieri and soldiers who entered the town with no difficulty. Those responsible for the disturbance are being sought. To till now 40 people have been arrested. The stolen wheat has been transferred."

-8- DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST GENERAL CONDITIONS.

Telegram to the Ministry of the Interior, Rome (27/12/44):

"A considerable crowd gathered in front of Alcamo (Trapani) Town Hall this morning, shouting "we want bread" and asking for the mills to be reopened. Workers threatened to go on general strike if they were not allowed to mill their wheat without having to hand over the fixed quantity of flour to the Government Ammo. The gathering dispersed on the intervention of a police officer who promised to use his influence to have the people's wishes satisfied."

Another telegram, which may be a different version of the occurrence above, or the description of a second demonstration which took place on the same day, was sent to Carabinieri General Headquarters Rome:

"On 27th December at Alcamo the population suddenly gathered in the main square threatening to attack and break into public office buildings. Public order was at first restored by the Carabinieri, but soon afterwards the lawyer, Cassarà, addressed the crowd from a balcony of the Sicilia Hotel. He hinted at the possibility of taxes being increased, upon which the enraged mob invaded the Tax Collectors Office, the Customs House and the local Court of Common Pleas, throwing hand grenades and firing automatic rifles. They also attacked the prison and set 29 convicts free. The Town Hall was later broken into. An attempt to attack the Military Barracks was thwarted by the Carabinieri who are accused of being too strict upon the observance of

2044

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the dispositions concerning the gathering of wheat by the Government."

Another version of the above, in which the police are accused of doing nothing, is contained in the following telegram, dated 23/12/44, from the President of the Federation of Labor in Alcamo to the Secretary of the Federation of Labor in Rome:

"Protracted cessation of work in the mills has been the cause of a serious popular riot during which all public office buildings were pillaged and set on fire. The police force did not do anything to stop the upheaval. Work should be resumed immediately in the mills least more serious disturbances take place."

Telegram to the Ministry of the Interior, Rome:

"On 17th December, at S. Agata Militello, about 150 farmers held a demonstration against the oil-searching squad, asking that it should leave the town at once. Resentment was caused by the fact that the squad had been operating against oil smugglers and checking on the suspicious activities of the proprietors of the oil press."

Telegram, dated 11/1/45, to the Ministry of Justice, Rome:

"Following yesterdays telegram we inform you that barristers and solicitors at Biancco have gone on strike."

Telegram from Texano (13/1/45) to Ministry of Interior, Rome:

"Today at 1930 hours two bombs exploded near the High School buildings. Window panes were broken and other slight damage was done. This act of sabotage is believed to be connected with the students' strike, which has been on for three days, as a protest against lack of heating in the school buildings."

2043

Gordon W. McLean

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

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

GWM/lbm

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 87 — 13 January 1945

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 23rd December 1944.

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

This report is based on 303,600 letters checked during the four weeks ended 23rd December 1944. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

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

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

20.1

1. FOOD SITUATION

The proportion of unfavourable comments among civilian letters was a little lower during the period under review as compared with the previous four weeks, though opinion generally remains very adverse. Florence, Rieti and Terni take a particularly gloomy view of the situation with not a single favourable comment. Military mail was a little more unfavourable than during the previous period.

The chief cause of complaint is that of rising prices. Many people are unable to afford the foodstuffs that are available. As regards the commodities themselves, there is probably more anxiety over the absence of fats than of anything else. From some centres there is also the complaint that the peasants refuse to accept money for their products, and that clothing and other articles have to be bartered in exchange for food. Many letters express fear at the prospect of facing the winter without proper nourishment. The following comments give various views of the situation:

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"We prepare our food without oil or fats of any kind, and this has been going on for several months. The last flask (about two litres) of oil we managed to buy cost us 1,000 lire. We are being driven to despair." (13/12/44 - Terni)

"Black marketing has reached unbelievable heights. It is almost impossible to find meat anywhere, and when, by a lucky chance, a little is to be found, it costs 300 lire a kilo. The price of a tin of dried tomato conserve is 250 lire, and the same amount must be paid for a kilo of salt. We live solely on greens." (2/12/44 - Magliano Sabino, Rieti)

"We are going through a terrible ordeal. With the black market spreading wider and wider every day, the food situation has become a real problem. Wheat costs 7,000 lire a quintal, oil 500 lire a litre, beans 100 lire a kilo, and eggs 25-30 lire each." (23/12/44 - Avezzano)

"Winter has come, more squalid and colder than ever. We lack everything because prices have gone sky-high. Only millionaires can feed themselves. If you saw us you would not recognize us. Ebe looks very ill, and so does Fulvia. Nella is in the worst condition of all. We can hardly manage one soup meal a day: with no oil seasoning. We feel so downhearted and discouraged. How can we go on like this? Will we be able to stand all this much longer especially in this cold weather?" (5/12/44 - Aquila)

2040

"There have been no particular changes in the living conditions in Rome since you left, except that shops are full of foodstuffs at inaccessible prices, and no more queues are to be seen. What is distributed through the ration card is hardly sufficient, especially as regards fats." (21/12/44 - Rome)

"In Florence everything is lacking, and prices are much higher than in Rome. Just imagine, one kilo of salt costs 400 lire, sugar 700 lire, one egg 50 lire, meat 500 lire pork 800 lire. Oranges are sold at 150 lire a kilo, and this is the price fixed by the authorities." (23/12/44 - Florence)

"Conditions have changed since last year when everything could be found easily and foodstuffs were very cheap. The present shortage causes prices to rise sky-high. Peasants will,not sell anything, but will only exchange their products for other articles. In order to

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obtain 4 eggs I had to give two old pairs of pants of mine." (16/12/44 - Macerata)

As a contrast to the above comments there are a certain number, such as the following, which reflect satisfaction under particular conditions:

"We are going on rather well now as they have distributed a good deal of tinned food, which is an excellent substitute for fresh food. And it is very cheap too." (6/12/44 - Chieti)

2. CLOTHING

The clothing situation did not produce nearly such a high proportion of adverse comments among civilian letters as it did during the previous four weeks when the proportion between unfavourable and favourable comments was 35.8 to 1. That was an unusually high figure. During the period under review the ratio was 22.7 to 1, which is a more normal figure. The centres of Chieti, Foggia, Rieti and Terni produced no favourable comments at all out of a total of 102 comments between them. Siena was more unfavourably inclined than during the previous four weeks. Military mail reflected a more adverse attitude, but this was chiefly due to the Naples figures which were 4 to 1 against as compared with 2.4 to 1 in favour during the previous period.

2099

Some centres complain chiefly of the high cost of clothing. Others bewail the fact that there is little to be bought anyway. Shoes and boots remain one of the major problems. Many people are so short of clothing that it is common to find letters begging relatives or friends for cast off clothing. The following comments are examples of various types of complaint:-

"My children are bare-footed, and they go about almost undressed. Winter is coming, and I cannot find a yard of material to make anything for them." (5/12/44 - Loreto Aprutino, Pescara)

"Not only myself but the four of us in the family are very badly off both as regards shoes and clothes. See if you can spare some old pieces of clothing of yours, no matter in what condition they are. Snow has already fallen here, and we are dying of cold." (2/12/44 - Rocca di Mezzo, Aquila)

"Dress materials have completely disappeared. If something can be found - which is almost impossible - the prices are frightfully high. Lining of the poorist quality would not cost less then 1000 lire per metre." (2/12/44 - Terni)

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"When something can be bought here it can only be purchased at black market prices. In fact they ask 16,000 lire for a suit and 20,000 for an overcoat. Shoes are priced at 7,000 lire." (11/12/44 - Ascoli Piceno)

"I would like to know whether clothing or shoes can be found where you are. In this place there is absolutely nothing left." (5/12/44 - Teramo)

"We have been reduced to misery. We have no shoes and no clothing of any kind. Nobody can fully realize it with seeing it with his own eyes. Men and women go about clad in rags of all kinds and colours." (5/12/44 - Guardiagrele, Chieti)

5. HOUSING

Civilian comments on housing, though extremely unfavourable, with a ratio of 20 to 1 against, appear to show a remarkably less unfavourable attitude as compared with the previous four weeks when the ratio was 46.1 to 1 against. The apparent change is largely due to a much reduced number of comments from Naples. Leaving Naples out of the picture for both periods, the change for the better is slight. The position in Naples remains acute, nor does it seem to be much better in Rome.

In some places the situation is obvious enough. Destruction of property due to the war has produced a housing shortage. General complaints hinge on excessive rents. Though there is some mention of refugees having occupied all available space in certain districts, and there is an increase in the number of letters complaining of landlords who prefer to let furnished rooms and flats to the Allies because of the higher rents they can get from the latter. The following comments illustrate various types of complaint:

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"Our place has been destroyed by the Germans, and we are now dwelling among the rubble. About 20 houses are left standing in all, and people live jumbled up in the stables with the cattle." (13/12/44 Castel di Sangro)

"There are plenty of furnished rooms but everybody prefers renting them to the Americans because the profit is much higher. Just imagine, they can earn from 300 to 450 lire a night by letting a room with two or three beds." (4/12/44 - Rome)

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"Here at Terni the rents are appallingly high. After having searched for three months I found a flat which costs me 1000 lire a month. How can I cope with this when my wages only amount to 2,500 lire a month?" (5/12/44 - Terni)

"Neither flats nor single rooms are available here. This place never had many housing facilities to offer to strangers. There have always been few houses to let, and now the refugees have occupied them all. As regards rents, they are as high as you can possibly imagine." (6/12/44 - Marifredonia, Foggia)

"For the time being I am living in a room near Nicky's at the club. It is a kind of store-room where all kinds of odds and ends are kept. But very soon I'll have to leave because the Americans will take the place over. My friends are helping me search for another room, but it is a hopeless job because many houses have been destroyed, and those left standing are being let to the Americans who pay monthly rents amounting to 3 or 5 thousand lire." (6/12/44 - Foggia)

"It is no use coming to possess for the time being. It is impossible to settle down in any lodging. All those who come back find their houses down, and they have to sleep in the doorways." (9/12/44 - Pescara)

"It is easier today to find a thousand lire note in the street than a room. Those who possess any little hole rent it to the Americans." (5/12/44 - Rome)

"At Foggia the situation is becoming more and more critical....Only 500 houses are inhabitable; and according to what I read in the papers there are still 48,000 people homeless." (14/12/44 - Foggia)

4. INCOME

There was a smaller proportion of unfavourable comments on income among civilian letters, the ratio being 14.1 to 1 against, as compared with 20.1 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Some sections appear to be the most pessimistic centres. Some areas hardly commented at all. There were no military comments whatever.

As usual the chief complaint is that wages and salaries fall far below the cost of living, and this particulary applies to office workers. Many people supplement their meagre salaries from their savings if the latter

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have not been exhausted, or from the sale of their effects. Old age pensioners are in an even worse position. The following comments are typical of many:

"Just imagine that we have to spend 6-700 lire a day, and I earn 1,800 lire a month in the office where I work. If I had to live on my salary alone I would die of starvation." (13/12/44 - Rome)

"In spite of my husband's wages having been increased, they are still insufficient to provide us with food through the whole month. In order to keep going we are gradually spending the money we had saved so carefully during a life-time of hard work." (6/12/44 - Ancona)

"We old age pensioners have not yet received any increase in our allowances, not even the 70% about which a resolution was adopted a long while ago. I know most pensioned people of this town, and I also know their present living conditions. They are tragic." (13/12/44 - Napoli Piccolo)

"You say you are planning to have us come to Rome: but where shall we find work? I earn 800 lire every two weeks and mother gets 688 lire. At the end of the month we have not a cent left." (11/12/44 - Leonardo)

"Everyday the situation is becoming worse, and goodness knows where it will lead us. The difference between wages and the cost of living is growing more of all proportion. Only merchants can be considered well-off people, while the silly fool who sticks to his job, and tries to live on his wages, dies of hunger or else struggles on in a most miserable way." (8/12/44 - Pescara)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

The steady decline in popularity of the National Government, noticed for some time past in civilian letters, was arrested during the period under review, and the proportion of unfavourable comments was slightly less than during the previous four weeks. However, except from Rome and Naples, there were few comments, and some centres did not comment at all, so that the picture for the area as a whole is incomplete. Military comments were too few in number to suggest any opinion, though 37 out of a total of 58, nearly all from Naples, were unfavourable.

As usual the comments on the Government do not give any definite picture of the feelings of the people towards it.

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except that they are mostly unfavourable. But there are hints that the underlying cause of the dissatisfaction is due to a feeling that the present combination is unequal to the problems confronting it, due to there being too many parties resulting in too much talk and not enough action. The following comments give some idea of what the man in the street is writing.

"The way Italians are behaving is causing no great bitterness. They reveal themselves as a bunch of good-for-nothings led by politicians who do not differ much from their predecessors. Such a Government will do nothing but drive the country from bad to worse." (15/12/44 - Ascoli Piceno)

"The Italian Government is absolutely insufficient. Nobody worries about the serious situation in which we are." (8/12/44 - Rome)

"Liberty is a precious gift under normal conditions. But when people are in such a state as we are, the only aim of a Government worthy of the name should be that of doing its utmost to call all youths to the colours to fight for the liberation of the territory still invaded by the oppressor. As regards living conditions, the Government ought to do something to ensure the minimum food distribution necessary to avoid starvation." (16/12/44 - Santa Maria a Vico)

"It seems to me that there is a great confusion as a result of the political unrest of all the parties. That, of course, is a serious drawback to re-establishing the Nation. There are too many opinions, and, above all, there is too much talking." 7/12/44 - Ascoli Piceno)

2035

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

The growing hostility towards the provincial administrations, noticed for some time past, increased during the period under review, and the proportion between unfavourable and favourable comments reached 6.5 to 1 as compared with 7.2 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Military mail was not concerned with this subject. In most centres there were very few comments, only Rome and Naples producing any quantity. In the latter city there was only one in favour out of a total of 55.

Criticisms are chiefly directed against the type of men in office, and against what the writers allege to be their complete lack of interest in the needs of the community. There are also charges that some administrations are merely

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gangs working in their own interests. The following comments give some idea of what letter writers are thinking:

"The Prefect and his old clique have succeeded in keeping Cisterna attached to the Littoria Provincial Administration. We dislike this very much because, unless we are under the control of the Rome Province, we shall be subjected to the usual ill-treatment. The present town mayor of Cisterna - who was appointed by the Prefect - is a mechanic, and such a narrow-minded man that there is no wonder why we go from bad to worse. The air-raid shelters are still full of dead bodies; the fields are still mined; and it will not be possible to proceed with the sowing this year. The clothes sent by the Red Cross have disappeared. The Carabinieri are powerless because they are overwhelmed by criminals." (3/12/44 - Cisterna)

"We are on the way to starvation. The old town mayor has been dismissed, and Rivera has been appointed in his place. The latter, together with Sciattiglio and Giovannino, have set up a big three gang, and the town is being sold off." (5/12/44 - S. Ambrozio sul Garigliano)

In a letter addressed to the Prefect of Rieti, the sender writes: "It is time you took the matter in hand and looked into what is going on in the provincial administration of this place as well as in Collevecchio. The old town mayor, who has now been dismissed, held the position for ten years running, and the people believed in him because he was upright and took bold action in the interest of the town. Now the place has been turned into a lunatic asylum. You should see to it that more reliable men be assigned to the leading jobs at the Town Hall; men capable of a sound administrative policy for this town, which, at present, is nothing but a plaything in the hands of children." (12/12/44 - Magliano Sabino, Rieti)

2034

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES

Civilian comments on the Allies for some months past have become less favourable, though there was a movement in the opposite direction during October. During November, however, the deterioration in popularity continued, and the proportion between favourable and unfavourable comments was only 11.1 to 1. During the period under review this proportion went as low as 5.3 to 1. Aquila was the most favourably disposed, there being only 3 adverse comments out of a total of 120. Rome opinion deteriorated further, the ratio between favourable and

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unfavourable comments being only 4.6 to 1. Military comments, on the other hand, increased in favour over the period, and from Foggia there were no adverse comments at all from a total of 62.

Favourable comments continue to be based on gratitude in one form or another. Unfavourable comments spring from the belief that the Allies are responsible for all the present ills of the country - high prices, lack of food, prostitution, and so on. The following are typical examples of many letters:

(A) FAVOURABLE

Since the day the Allies came we have been quite well. There does not seem to be a war any longer." (11/12/44 - Nora Montaro)

"In these times of misery, hunger and destructions, nearly all of us are ready to forget that the Allies are still at war and are shedding their blood for us, while up till now the Italian war effort has been a mere trifle." (4/12/44 - Rome)

"Our liberators have made us quite happy. Now we feel safe." (10/12/44 - Ascoli Piceno)

"Thank God we are quite well under the Allies. 2033 were so eager to be rid of those cursed Germans." (8/12/44 - Giulianova, Pescara)

(B) UNFAVOURABLE

"After waiting for years and years for the end of the Fascist Regime and for the help supposed to come from Allied hands, I am greatly disappointed, because the Allies do not pay the least attention to distressed people who beg for relief." (3/12/44 - Chieti)

"You are quite right in feeling resentful towards the English and American people who forget - purposely forget - how the Italians have always wanted to fight for democracy and have always opposed Fascist tyranny. The best answer to that misleading and deceitful tendency is to prove, as clearly as we can, that the Italian people have been the first enemies of Fascism." (2/12/44 - Rome)

"Much to our disappointment we are not well under the Allies. Poor people have nothing but bran with which to feed themselves. Nothing like it has ever been seen round here before." (6/12/44 - Frosinone)

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"I have been told that you are having a good time with an American Red Cross nurse. It is simply an exchange. In Rome there are no more women. They have been requisitioned by the Allied Forces. The poor Italians go thirsty, and so I beg of you to revenge yourself." (23/12/44 - Rome)

Answering an article published in "Italia Nuova", written by Cyril James of the "Union Jack", an Italian major writes:

"Allow me to remark that the Allies are to be held partly responsible for this state of things, just as they are responsible for the incredible spreading of delinquency, thefts, highway robbery and pillaging which make the capital of Italy a dangerous place in which to live....During the German occupation Tincone's shop was broken into one night and was looted. Three days later some of the guilty people were caught and shot by the German authorities. The looting of shops ceased immediately.... At the present time from 15 to 25 shops are looted every night, and the number of thefts is increasing owing to the impunity enjoyed by the robbers. The Allies are displaying such a lack of organization that one almost wishes for the hard times of German rule to be back again." (22/12/44 - Rome)

2032

8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION

Civilian opinion has been becoming less optimistic for some time, and during the period under review the unfavourable comments were in the majority for the first time, the proportion being 1.7 to 1. During the previous four weeks the figures were 1.1 to 1 in favour, which was the lowest favourable figure recorded since tallies have been kept. Thus the present swing over to a preponderance of unfavourable comments is not so surprising. The reason is obvious enough. Military comments were a little more optimistic than they were last month. There is nothing in the comments themselves beyond resignation at what appears to be a stationary front line in Italy.

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9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION

Optimism in the future military situation has also declined sharply and continuously for some time. During the last three preceding periods the favourable comments outnumbered the unfavourable by 75.3 to 1, 16.6 to 1, and 5 to 1 respectively. During the four weeks under review the ratio was only 1.7 to 1 in favour. However, the number of comments also declined considerably, so that it is difficult to estimate how accurately these figures represent public opinion. There were very few military comments, and what there were nearly all came from Rome, and were nearly equally divided. Nevertheless, it is quite clear that optimism has shrunk further.

This is almost solely due to disappointment over the prospect of further months of war, but even some of these pessimists still feel that the fighting will cease this year, so that one may safely conclude that the figures quoted are little more than a reminder of the volatile Italian nature. Gloom and elation are never far apart. The following are examples of the present tone of letters:

"It is a proper mess. Up to last October there were hopes of the war's coming to an end, but now we are sure that it will not be over before September 1945 - 20 21 are lucky. Next summer northern Italy might be liberated, but there again I doubt it." (19/12/44 - Grosseto)

"If it were only the end! I am afraid this war will last another year, perhaps longer. If there is to be an end, I don't think this will be before December 1945. Next Easter will find us still at war. Germany is a hard nut to crack." (?/12/44 - Rome)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS

Civilian letters, which reflected a slightly brighter view last period when favourable comments were in a majority of 1.3 to 1, were more pessimistic during the four weeks under review, and produced a majority of adverse comments in the ratio of 2.4 to 1. This was largely due to a change of front from Naples. Many centres hardly commented at all, and military mail was completely blank.

Unfavourable comments usually refer to luck of electric power, destroyed factories, and shortage of raw materials. Favourable comments speak of repair work, and of hopes of a resumption of activities.

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The following are some examples:

"The factory where I used to work has been closed down, and we have all the other factories in the Maremma district. This is due to the shortage of electric power, and there are no hopes of an early resumption of work." (15/12/44 - Grosseto)

"Industrial activities are paralysed on account of damage suffered." (4/12/44 - Pescara)

"Industry and commerce are inactive owing to the destructions caused to plants." (16/12/44 - Florence)

An official of the "Istituto Farmacologico Serono", an important chemical concern in Rome, writes:

"We are aware of the present needs of the population as far as drugs are concerned. No matter how hard we try, we shall never succeed in raising our output to a level that will satisfy the essential requirements of wholesalers and chemists. We suffered damage in the two bombings of our plants, and there is the well known shortage of raw materials.... (3/12/44 - Rome)

"The damage suffered by the factory through bombing, burning and German robberies amounts to a million and a half lire. But now we have resumed work, and little by little we will make up for all the damage suffered." (12/12/44 - Macerata)

"Our mine was merely flooded, so, if the engineers of the A.C. decide that it be drained, and obtain for us 20 Kv. electric power, in a short time we will be able to carry out the draining of the mine and restore it to working order." (19/12/44 - Siena)

II. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS

Civilian mail was a little less optimistic over agricultural prospects than during the preceeding period, though Naples and Rieti were the only centres that produced a majority of unfavourable comments. Aquila and Grosseto were the most optimistic by roughly 2 to 1 and 5 to 1 respectively. Military mail had nothing to say.

Favourable comments all speak of satisfactory or of exceptionally good crops. Unfavourable comments refer to the lack of oxen for plowing or to regional drawbacks due to the war or the weather. The following are some examples:

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"This year's crop has been plentiful as regards apples, sweet corn, potatoes, beans and other products." (6/12/44 - Sulmona)

"You ask me what the harvest was like. Well, it was very satisfactory indeed. We had a wheat crop of 130 quintals which is more than we have ever harvested. Other produce was also plentiful, so we have no reason to grumble." (2/12/44 - Servigliano)

"We have harvested 80 quintals of wheat, 24 quintals of sweet corn, and 40 quintals of grapes, which is very good." (2/12/44 - Recanati, Macerata)

"We are very satisfied with this year's crop. All manner of products have given a considerable yield." (3/12/44 - Ascoli Piceno)

"This year we were not able to proceed with the sowing due to the continuous shelling that went on for some months. Potatoes, wheat and sweet corn are extremely scarce, and their price is very high. Those who grew these things did so at the risk of their lives." (6/12/44 - Rapino, Chieti)

"This year we have not been able to till the ground in the proper way, and this is because there were no oxen available for agricultural work." (4/12/44 - Settefrati)

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12. EMPLOYMENT

There was a slight less gloomy view prevailing in civilian letters during the period, the ratio between unfavourable and favourable comments being 4.6 to 1 as compared with 5.9 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Rome was by far the most pessimistic centre with an adverse ratio of 13 to 1. Military mail was almost silent on the subject.

Favourable comments usually come from those who have just got jobs, and say little beyond expressing relief. Unfavourable comments speak of long periods of unemployment, the futility of looking for work, staffs still being reduced, and concerns that show no signs of resuming activities. The following are some examples:

"Here the employees, instead of giving work to poor people who are dying of starvation, keep on dismissing employees. The number of unemployed increases day by day, and, what is still worse, hunger increases too." (13/12/44 - Rome)

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"This morning I took a typing test in an office. The result was quite good, but I don't know whether I'll be lucky enough to get the job. Just imagine, there are 27 vacancies in that office, and the applicants amount to 700." (4/12/44 - Ascoli Piceno)

"Guiseppe is out of work. He has not been working for the last four months. The Americans and British have banned his work, namely, taking photographs. They only granted permission to 12 photographers and not to the others. Eight photographers were arrested because they carried on with their work, and now they are inactive. Guiseppe is amongst them. As long as the Allies stay here Guiseppe will not be able to work, so goodness knows what is in store for us." (23/12/44 - Florence)

"An order has been issued to dismiss 75% of the Provincial Labours Office's personnel. The situation is tragic." (23/12/44 - Rome)

"The three of us are out of work, so I leave it to you to imagine what sort of condition we are in now. Everybody is unemployed here." (5/12/44 - Aquila)

"All of us are unemployed and are depending on Pina's salary. Owing to the urgent need she is sacrificing herself, even giving lessons at home by night." (13/12/44 Rome)

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Gordon W. McKean

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

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REPORT NO. 67

CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP. PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 23 Nov. 23 Dec. 1944

PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED)		FOOD SITUATION F	FOOD SITUATION U	CLOTHING F	CLOTHING U	HOUSING F	HOUSING U	INCOME F	INCOME U
Aquila	43,640	262	1823	24	545	19	330	30	69
Arezzo Pisano (Civ.	30,285	2	76	2	23	0	2	2	6
(Mil.	1,403	1	14	0	0	0	1	0	0
Chieti (Civ.	38,521	17	715	0	36	0	23	5	18
(Mil.	3,764	2	4	2	3	2	3	0	0
Florence	36,336	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foggia (Civ.	12,052	0	102	0	25	2	20	2	1
(Mil.	7,495	14	31	10	20	0	37	0	0
Grosseto	25,057	30	254	8	66	8	35	5	21
Macerata	5,237	13	94	1	23	1	2	1	5
Naples (Civ.	17,549	155	1707	21	781	78	550	6	102
(Mil.	20,256	439	66	392	68	207	404	0	0
Pisa	6,472	0	65	0	17	0	13	0	2
Rome (Civ.	289,605	209	3770	19	506	18	383	17	737
(Mil.	27,402	39	22	0	14	15	4	0	0
Siena	55,462	106	651	47	306	30	220	2	77
Terni	10,363	0	133	0	24	0	3	0	0
Total Civilian:	500,747	314	2803	127	2878	83	1764	75	1056
Total Military:	78,223	594	184	393	181	221	455	0	6
TOTALS:	572,969	908	2987	520	3059	303	2219	75	1062

This report is based upon 30 letters per census being checked daily on a 6-day weekly basis. The number of persons employed each week averaged 253, making a total of 303,600 letters examined for this fourteen day life.

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NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTUPAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
5	5	1	3	117	8	11	4	31	24	27	36	29	42	76	166
0	1	0	0	15	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2
0	1	0	1	0	1	25	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
0	6	2	11	6	10	0	2	3	0	5	11	2	6	3	19
0	0	1	0	2	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
3	5	1	4	10	16	0	21	3	0	0	0	1	1	3	5
1	1	0	0	62	0	10	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	4	1	3	118	11	3	10	0	0	1	1	27	22	7	27
0	1	0	0	16	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2
49	197	1	34	235	51	72	121	51	17	56	168	56	91	40	249
15	30	0	0	96	8	232	76	16	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	10	0	3	7	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	5	0	2
98	172	14	104	281	61	26	30	7	5	20	43	89	64	30	590
4	4	0	0	20	6	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	7	1	5	10	2	2	24	53	117	30	23	65
0	1	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
147	391	22	196	869	165	126	209	70	40	19	393	313	294	202	134
21	37	1	1	170	17	305	87	17	15	0	0	1	0	1	0
[illegible]		[illegible]		1039	170	426	296	87	55	19	280	313	294	205	934

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APPENDIX A

REPORT NO. 87 RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

		FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION
WEEK ENDING		F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F
2/12/44	CIV	1	14.4	1	17.2	1	14.6	1	12.1	1	4	1	28	6.4	1	1	1.7	6
	MIL	4.8	1	4.6	1	1	1.2	0	0	1	2	0	0	11.3	1	1.6	1	0
9/12/44	CIV	1	9.5	1	22.8	1	47	1	11.9	1	4.8	1	4.1	4.8	1	1	1.6	1
	MIL	1.2	1	4.7	1	1	1.8	0	0	1.3	1	0	0	9.5	1	73	0	1.
16/12/44	CIV	1	9.2	1	38	1	12.7	1	13.3	1	1.9	1	10.4	4.2	1	1	1.8	1
	MIL	2.2	1	2.1	1	1	2.8	0	0	1	1.3	1	0	9.2	1	4.9	1	1
23/12/44	CIV	1	11.2	1	20.4	1	25.7	1	20.4	1	1.8	1	14.7	6.1	1	1	1.6	2.
	MIL	5.1	1	2.3	1	1	2.6	0	0	1	11	0	1	11.3	1	3.3	1	0
AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING																		
23/12/44	CIV	1	10.8	1	22.7	1	29	1	14.1	1	2.7	1	8.9	5.3	1	1	1.7	1
		2.8	1	3	1	1	2.1	0	0	1	1.8	1	1	10	1	9.5	1	1

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APPENDIX 4

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

	HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL REPORTS		AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS		EMPLOYMENT	
U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
02	1	14.6	1	12.1	1	4	1	18	6.4	1	1	1.7	6	1	1	3	1.7	1	1	4.7
1	1	1.2	0	0	1	2	0	0	11.3	1	1.6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.8	1	47	1	11.9	1	4.6	1	4.1	4.8	1	1	1.6	1	1	1	1.8	1.2	1	1	4.9
1	1	1.8	0	0	1.9	1	0	0	9.5	1	73	0	1.1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	1	12.7	1	13.3	1	1.9	1	10.4	4.2	1	1	1.8	1	2.3	1	3.6	1.2	1	1	5.3
2	1	2.8	0	0	1	1.3	1	0	9.2	1	4.9	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
0.4	1	26.7	1	20.4	1	1.8	1	14.7	6.1	1	1	1.6	2.4	1	1	1.9	1.4	1	1	3.8
1	1	2.6	0	0	1	11	0	1	11.3	1	3.3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.7	1	20	1	14.1	1	2.7	1	8.9	5.3	1	1	1.7	1.7	1	1	2.4	1.4	1	1	4.6
1	1	2.1	0	0	1	1.8	1	1	10	1	3.5	1	1.1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

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GWB/mdf

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

21 October 1944

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 62

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

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

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

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

1. FOOD SITUATION.

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

2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The greatest difficulty here is due to the fact that this is a poor region which produces little because it is mountainous and sterile. Nothing arrives from the outside, and the prices reach fantastic heights - fats from 600 - 900 lire per kilo, olive oil from 500 - 800 lire per litre, wheat from 5,000 - 12,000 per quintal, and beans are over 100 lire per kilo." (25/9/44 - S. Demetrio, Aquila)

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

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

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

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

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A soldier writes: "We are well off here. Food is plentiful. You should see how fat I have become now. I have never felt so well before." (23/9/44 - Taranto)

2. CLOTHING.

Although the proportion of adverse comments fell off somewhat during the period under review, public opinion remains overwhelmingly unfavorable. Apart from food, the most discussed subject is clothing, and the adverse ratio for the period was 38.2 to 1 out of about 4,000 comments. Military comments were 5.1 to 1 against.

Bari and Naples feel the clothing situation most acutely. The former center produced 649 adverse comments and not a single one in favor. Naples was almost as emphatic with 615 unfavorable comments to three favorable. The feeling in Rome eased a little during the period, but the ratio of comments is still high at 45 to 1 against. Foggia and Siracusa, with a small number of comments, produced none in favor. The following extracts from letters tell their own stories:-

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

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

"Giovanna's son, Peppino, has bought a suit of clothes without lining and without having been made up, and paid 5,000 lire for it. Here the prices of things are increasing daily." (15/9/44 - Taranto)

"Here as well as in other cities it is extremely difficult to buy clothing material. A common, ordinary suit of clothes costs 15,000 lire. We cannot afford to buy one." (16/9/44 - Taranto)

"We have suffered a great deal, and now poverty in everything stares us in the face. We are naked and barefooted. Prices of goods are highly exaggerated. We have nothing to wear; nor have we any longer the machines to manufacture clothes." (29/9/44 - Fossa, Aquila)

"In Rieti the Allies are distributing parcels of clothes to the poor, which makes a noticable improvement in the serious problem of clothing. Let us hope that they may also provide clothes that may be bought by the rest of the population." (17/8/44 - Rieti)

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3. HOUSING.

Housing is almost as frequent a topic as clothing, and it also produces a very heavy preponderance of adverse comments. During the four weeks under review there was a slight deterioration on in opinion, the proportion of comments being 31.1 to 1 against, as compared with 29 to 1 during the previous period.

The position in Bari and Naples appears to be extremely acute, the two centers producing 694 and 724 unfavorable comments respectively with not a single one in favor in either case. It is interesting to note, on the other hand, that the Naples military mail was favorable to the extent of 8.9 to 1.

The following comments give various sides of the picture:

"It is a good thing you did not come over here because it is very difficult to find any lodgings. Even if you were lucky enough to find a room to share with somebody else, the minimum price you would have to pay would be 500 lire a month." (23/9/44 - Taranto)

"It is impossible to rent a house in Rieti, so I am forced to live in an hotel, and have to put up with great expenses." (16/9/44 - Rieti)

"The rent of a room here is from 1500 to 2000 lire a month." (15/9/44 - Taranto)

2021

"My dear, I am looking for a house in every quarter of Rome, but I cannot find any as the few that remained have been occupied by the evacuees." (30/9/44 - Rome)

"The housing situation in Ortona is very serious because 70% of the houses are uninhabitable. In many cases two or even three families live huddled up together in one single flat." (28/9/44 - Ortona)

4. INCOME.

Wages and salaries, and their inadequacy in the face of the enormous rise in the cost of living, have become an increasing source of irritation. The ratio of adverse comments increased during the four weeks under review, and the figures were 11.7 to 1 against as compared with 9.3 to 1 during the preceeding period. Military mail was so erratic that the figures tell us little except that there were no comments of any kind from either Naples or Rome.

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Bari and Palermo were outstandingly pessimistic with 808 and 168 unfavorable comments respectively, and with not a single favorable comment between them. Taranto was the only district where there was a majority of favorable comments. The following extracts illustrate a variety of difficulties:-

"While municipality called up various workmen, but on hearing that the pay was only 68 lire a day, they only worked for one day." (19/9/44 - Aprilia)

"I was sacked because it was impossible to go to the office. The work was too heavy, and the salary was not sufficient to meet the travelling expenses to Taranto." (16/9/44 - Laterza, Bari)

"The woeful plight of the office-working class is well known. The monthly wages we earn are not enough to keep us going, and give us no possibility of looking after our wretched health." (23/9/44 - Taranto)

"As I have already told you, our wages have not been increased up till now. So here we are, starving and expecting God knows what. Such treatment is shameful and inhuman." (23/9/44 - Bari)

"Within the last few months the cost of living has risen to astronomical heights. Having sold everything superfluous, that is a little gold and other treasured objects, we must now begin to sell our furniture. One works solely to buy coal, candles, olive and tomatoes. For this type of life, and without ever buying new clothes or anything else, one needs no less than 12 - 15 thousand lire a month. I only earn a third of that sum." (19/9/44 - Rome)

"It is not a question of increasing salaries because the result of doing so would be a higher cost of living. But may the war end and life regain, even partly, its normality. Salaries have been doubled, but the cost of living has increased from 10 to 15 times as much as it was in pre-war days." (15/9/44 - Rome)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

There has been a steady though slight decline in the popularity of the National Government noticeable in the correspondence during the past two months. During the period before the last, the comments were 1.5 to 1 in favor. The following four weeks the comments for and against were equal. During the period under review the unfavorable comments were in a majority of 1.3 to 1. Military comments are a trifle more favorable than during the previous four weeks.

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Naples and Siracuse were distinctly in favor of the government. Taranto was more than 2 to 1 against it. Rome, which was slightly in favor during the previous period by 1.33 to 1, changed over to an adverse opinion of 1.4 to 1. Comments on political matters are apt to be of an acid or confused nature. The following are some examples:-

"Our government has not the means of facing and solving the present situation. Yesterday's cowards and traitors, the same who led the country to ruin, have now become reactionaries in the shade of a criminal monarchy. They speculate on the nefariousness of the situation on behalf of the monarchy, which is their accomplice, and of the Italian militarism which has failed. They feign to forget that they are the very men responsible for this situation..." (5/9/44 - Rome)

"Here in Rome everybody is fed up with the government and with these cursed six parties of which the C.L.N. (National Liberation Committee) is composed. In particular the Socialists and Communists are behaving worse and worse, and everybody is getting tired of them. One of their latest exploits has been the outraging of the national flag..." (16/9/44 - Rome)

"Here there is an incredible confusion as the result of the "purging", which seems a mockery because the high political officials, and, above all, the military authorities, being responsible for the disaster, remain undisturbed. It is all a disgusting shame." (18/9/44 - Rome)

"Let us hope that they will fix things soon. We have a very good government, excluding, naturally, the Lieutenant General of the Realm." (30/9/44 - Rome)

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

There has been little change in opinion concerning provincial administration during the period. Apart from the Rome and Taranto areas there were hardly any comments at all, and those two centers, particularly Rome, were less unfavorably disposed than during the preceeding period. Military comments, except from Bari and Rome were almost entirely absent, and of the 15 received from Bari, 15 were unfavorable, while Rome's total of 14 were all unfavorable. Generally speaking the communes tell us nothing.

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES.

After deteriorating steadily for some time, opinion became more favorable towards the Allies during the period under review. The proportion of 8.9 to 1 in favor recorded during the previous period increased to 14.4 to 1.

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On the other hand military comments decreased in favor from 12.7 to 1 last period to 9.3 to 1 during the four weeks here reviewed. The improvement in civil opinion was largely due to the Rome figures, the ratio in favor increasing by nearly 100% during the period. Taranto, on the other hand, was responsible for the falling off in favorable military opinion.

Comments generally tell a story of unbounded relief and gratitude on the part of those more recently liberated, and reveal a tendency to become more critical as time goes on. But in all areas the favorable comments are largely the product of gratitude for benefits received, or of relief at the comparatively benevolent attitude of the Allies. There is also the hope that the Allies will aid Italy after the war, both materially and politically.

Unfavorable comments frequently spring from disappointment at the Allies not having done as much as had been expected of them. Some writers even go as far as admitting that the Allies have done much, and then finish by saying that they have not kept their promises and have fallen short of what was expected. Other adverse remarks are concerned with the behavior of men and officers in the cities, particularly towards women. Correspondents here and there point out that the Germans were more correct in their behavior in this respect. Another cause of complaint is that the freedom they expected has not come to them. The hotels in Rome come in for criticism because of what goes on in them, and there is some grumbling over prices being raised because of the amount of money the Allied troops can spend. The following comments illustrate various trends of thought:-

2018

(A) Favorable.

"Thanks to the victorious Allied Army we are extremely well off here. We enjoy absolute liberty after eight months of unheard of sufferings. Victuals are not lacking." (26/9/44 - Chieti)

A girl writes: "We have travelled with the Poles and the English. They are really good and respectful people." (29/9/44 - Aquila)

"Today I would gladly stay with the Allies, even without food, chiefly because of tranquillity, but also because they are civilised people and act in a kindly way towards everybody." (28/9/44 - Aquila)

"It is certainly true that, now the Allies have arrived, we have begun to breathe again because of their kind treatment and because we have regained our liberty." (30/9/44 - Sulmona)

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"I have travelled over hundreds of kilometers, and in every town and city I have seen how hard the German yoke has been. In contrast you now see serene faces lacking that mask of terror which the German hordes left upon the countenances of our people during their stay here." (23/9/44 - Naples)

"At last we breathe an atmosphere of freedom, and we owe it to the gallant armies of the two most civilized countries of the world - England and America. Their soldiers are always so friendly with us, and people get along with them in a brotherly spirit." (11/9/44 - Rome)

"In the last few days the Allies have distributed double food rations. It is really marvelous what they are doing. To think that they have loaded their shoulders with such a burden as supporting 43 million people." (11/9/44 - Rome)

"Thank God we are being helped by the Allies, and they do it in such a gentlemanly manner. Let us hope they will not abandon us amidst all these widespread ruins." (16/9/44 - Taranto)

(B) Unfavorable.

"What do you think of the newly reached "freedom"? Are you really enjoying anything like it? Here the population is disappointed, for they had pinned great hopes on the Allies, and they now feel they have been deceived. For instance, the Germans did not have many cars, and yet they never refused to allow us to travel on their trucks whenever we asked them. With the Allies there is nothing doing. They simply won't dream of giving us a lift." (10/9/44 - Teramo)

2017

"Thank and bless God for being away from Rome in such a period of hardship. We still lack many indispensable things, and the Allies, who had promised so much, are just leading us to a slow and happy death." (14/9/44 - Rome)

"When the Allies came my house was plundered once more. At Ceccano French and Moroccan troops raised hell. In my house they smashed up all the furniture, broke the looking-glasses and the window panes. They slashed everything with their sabres." (11/9/44 - Ceccano)

"I was afraid of the Germans. Now I have greater fear of the Moroccans. They are very ugly. Their very appearance inspires fear. You were right when you described them to me as resembling wild beasts." (4/9/44 - Rieti)

"All the hotels and best buildings here in Rome have been requisitioned by the Allies, above all by the Americans who have turned them into clubs and.... where they ask Roman women who are proving to be of an incredible corruptness.

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They requisition cars too, so be careful. So far we are being treated as a beaten country. Although the Allies are doing a lot they have not kept their promises....an American soldier gets 6,000 lire a month, an Italian workman 55 lire a day which is insufficient for one person's food. From this you'll get an idea of what life is like here." (19/9/44 - Rome)

"Life during the nine months of German occupation was relatively quiet, more than they would have made you believe. Anyway, living was cheap, whereas today we live only on the black market, and the Allies' behavior is such that it makes us regret those who have gone. One cannot go about in Rome without hearing oneself addressed with a more or less undesirable compliment by one of them. Besides they do not know how to distinguish between the good and the bad. In short, I never wanted them, and now less than at first." (16/9/44)

8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION.

Optimism declined during the period. Civilian comments during the previous four weeks were 25.4 to 1 in favor, whereas the figures for the month under review were 15.2 to 1. Military comments showed an even greater decline in optimism, the relative figures being 10.5 to 1 and 4.5 to 1. In only one case, however, were unfavorable comments in the majority, and that was amongst the Rome military mail which produced 37 unfavorable 30 favorable. The following are a few typical opinions:-

2016

"Our country must remain under the control of the Germans for a short time yet, because the Allies are tightening their grip round Germany still more from all sides, springing offenses from which the Germans cannot escape." (7/9/44 - Taranto)

"The enemy is given no respite, and the Allies are advancing in an admirable way. Their forces and equipment are powerful, and their organisation is astonishing. It is sufficient to notice that they have means of assault and transportation everywhere." (30/9/44 - Naples)

"Sometime ago I was hoping that our dear ones in German occupied Italy would soon be free. But things here taken on a very slow rhythm. And meanwhile there will be total destruction there." (20/9/44 - Taranto)

"I was hoping that after the taking of Pisa the Allies would just race to La Spezia and thus liberate Torreglia also. But they are just marking time, and the Lord only knows when they will set free our dear ones." (11/9/44 - Taranto)

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9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION.

Civilian opinion on the future military situation, unlike the loss of optimism on the present situation, surged upwards during the period under review, and the comments were 75.3 to 1 in favor as compared with 23.6 to 1 during the previous four weeks. The figures for military opinion are deceptive: Neither Rome nor Naples produced any comments at all; and whereas the previous period produced no adverse comments from our source, the period under review mustered 20 as against 324 favorable. Therefore the ratio figures for the two periods appear to show a tremendous set back in optimism, and this in fact is not the case. The following are typical extracts:-

"Our country will soon be out of German hands. For the Allies are tightening their grip on Germany every day." (16/9/44 - Taranto)

"The Allies have liberated France and Belgium. Now they are freeing Holland and are fighting on German territory. Russia and Bulgaria have declared war on Germany, and their armed forces, together with Russian and Yugoslav armies, are liberating their countries from the German oppression. The Russians are doing well in East Prussia too. As you can easily understand, Germany may collapse at any moment." (16/9/44 - Taranto)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS.

Civilian opinion on industrial prospects became markedly more unfavorable each week throughout the period, though the extent of the movement was slight. The total effect was that the ratio of unfavorable to favorable comments increased from 1.4 to 1 during the previous period to 2.3 to 1 during the four weeks under review. Military opinion showed no change, and, as during the previous period, neither Rome nor Naples produced any military comments.

Bari and Syracuse were the most pessimistic of the centers. Chieti and Naples, on the other hand, produced a majority of favorable comments. The two following comments from Bari gives the picture of the prospects of a town whose industries the Germans evidently set out to destroy.

"Work is lacking because all the plants have been damaged by the Germans, who also took all the machinery away. Our factories are docked to a standstill for a long time to come. In fact I don't see how they can be set to work again." (16/9/44 - Bari)

"The war at Rieti did not cause damage to the buildings. But the industries, which absorbed so much labor before the war, are all inactive today due to the damage caused by the retreating Germans, and there is little hope of their going back to their former activity." (6/9/44 - Rieti)

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11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

There has been little change in civilian outlook on agricultural prospects during the period, though the optimism of military staff has decreased by half as compared with the previous four weeks.

Bari was particularly optimistic, comments being 15 to 1 in favor. Rieti and Siracusa also took a happy view. Indeed there were no centers in which unfavorable comments were in a majority. The following extracts from letters give the results of various crops:-

"The season here has been excellent. We have plenty of wheat, beans, potatoes, flour, corn etc." (4/9/44 - Rieti)

"The wheat harvest has been very good. The grapes, although having suffered from disease, will be sufficient for us. They are a little late in ripening." (15/9/44 - Rieti)

"As to the harvest the outlook is very good. The vineyards look better than last year. The wheat harvest has been abundant for us. The beans are plentiful. In short it is sufficient to say that, rather than a shortage of products of all kinds, we shall have more than we need." (28/9/44 - Pretola Peligna, Aquila)

"We have had an abundant harvest of corn, and also other products." (27/9/44 - Tornimparte, Aquila)

"Thanks God the Germans did not take away any cattle with them, so we have quite a good number of cows and calves." (30/9/44 - Tasa, Aquila)

"Most of the laborers have resumed their activity, and the peasants are restoring the war-damaged country. The inhabitants are rapidly returning home both to Leghorn and Pisa." (14/9/44 - Leghorn)

"Regarding the land we have had a good wheat crop, about 11 quintals, and 10 of corn, although for the latter, owing to the war, we have not been able to hoe the ground. We have also finished vintaging a short time before normal because the grapes have suffered owing to the lack of copper sulphate, and we could not buy it at 300 lire the kilo." (28/9/44 - Frosinone)

"The almonds have been harvested, but with very poor results. Now we have started vintaging. The quantity and quality of the grapes are not exceptionally good, but just a fair average. Let us hope that the prices won't go down for we have to pay very high wages to the laborers." (28/9/44 - Taranto)

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12. EMPLOYMENT.

Civilian mail took a slightly more gloomy view of employment during the period, the proportion of unfavorable to favorable comments being 6.7 to 1 as against 5.9 to 1 during the previous four weeks. On the other hand military mail became more optimistic.

Naples and Rome took a particularly pessimistic view. Comments from the former city were in the proportion of 24.5 to 1 against, while the capital's figures were 12.2 to 1. In both cases these figures represent a marked worsening of opinion since the previous period. Siracusa also registered extreme pessimism, its total of 68 comments being all unfavorable. Taranto, as in the previous period, was the only center in which favorable comments were in the majority.

Closed factories and the reduction of office staffs have contributed to unemployment. Professional men are also finding that there is nothing for them to do. The following comments give variations of a similar story:-

"Here everyone is unemployed because the factory is closed, and I want to beg you, if possible, to help my sons, Peppino of 19 years and Gigetto of 17 years, to get work in Naples." (10/9/44 - Rieti)

"At Rieti there is much unemployment. All my brother accountants are out of work. It is a true misfortune." (14/9/44 - Rieti)

"What can a woman do with a law degree? Not even men with this degree can find work, and there are thousands of temporary employees with degrees who have been dismissed and cannot find anything to do." (18/9/44 - Rome)

"Unemployment is raging in Rome, and many office workers are selling personal belongings and even furniture to avoid starvation." (18/9/44 - Rome)

"In the line of unemployment the situation in Rome is hopeless. The closing down for good of innumerable offices has caused 200,000 people to be out of work. How can anyone hope to find a job in such a chaos?" (11/9/44 - Rome)

"Thousands of unemployed workmen have no other way of making a living than by going in for black market activities." (18/9/44 - Terni)

"Life is blooming again here. There is plenty of work, especially in my line; and when work is obtainable, one has nothing to worry about." (30/9/44 - Taormina)

2013

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

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2012

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REPORT NO. 52

CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP, PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 3/9 - 30/9 1944

PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED)		FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS WITH
		F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F
Aquila	38,180	106	850	18	445	24	190	7	47	2	2	1	0	72
Bari (Civ.	116,100	17	927	0	649	0	694	0	209	20	23	0	0	367
(Mil.	67,356	13	458	6	240	12	181	3	85	102	8	3	15	209
Chieti	32,685	43	146	11	67	8	71	0	0	1	3	2	1	16
Foggia	25,607	0	57	0	30	0	13	0	14	0	4	2	0	13
Naples (Civ.	184,118	31	1745	3	619	0	724	6	134	58	15	2	0	339
(Mil.	12,418	254	11	130	8	133	15	0	0	5	18	0	0	212
Palermo	156,469	8	188	5	130	2	53	0	165	0	15	1	0	66
Rieti	11,399	20	235	3	25	2	14	0	1	1	1	0	4	26
Rome (Civ.	903,363	673	6324	20	888	22	459	45	896	199	283	56	97	1081
(Mil.	26,812	38	44	8	29	3	16	0	0	14	6	0	14	17
Siracusa	14,674	6	177	0	53	0	36	18	27	48	6	0	0	46
Taranto (Civ.	35,216	156	280	20	154	23	143	51	30	37	122	43	34	93
(Mil.	115,919	636	484	65	368	19	78	4	11	27	24	1	2	453
Total Civilians	917,811	1060	10929	80	3060	77	2397	128	1499	368	474	84	157	2349
Total Military:	222,497	941	997	209	645	167	290	7	96	148	51	4	31	895
Totals:	1,140,308	2001	11926	289	3705	244	2678	135	1595	494	525	88	188	3012

This report is based upon 50 letters per censor being checked daily on a 6-day weekly basis. The number of censors employed each week averaged 250, making a total of 300,300 letters examined for this four-week tally.

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9 - 30/9 1941

	HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
45	24	190	7	47	2	8	1	0	72	2	6	5	6	0	30	32	52	20	12	69
49	0	694	0	209	23	23	0	0	367	6	336	0	503	0	18	102	134	5	25	75
240	12	181	3	85	102	8	5	15	299	10	350	25	389	15	15	58	25	25	12	44
67	8	71	0	0	1	3	1	1	16	7	9	1	0	0	14	6	10	6	10	14
30	0	13	0	14	0	4	2	0	19	4	3	1	4	2	0	0	4	4	2	5
619	0	724	6	134	38	13	2	0	339	26	127	2	120	0	12	38	93	40	1	329
8	133	15	0	0	5	26	0	0	212	3	194	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
130	2	53	0	165	0	15	1	0	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	2	14	0	1	5	1	0	4	36	7	1	0	0	0	0	7	14	1	0	17
888	22	459	45	896	197	283	36	97	1031	83	306	13	98	7	42	331	94	38	34	685
29	3	16	0	0	14	6	0	14	29	23	15	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
53	0	36	18	27	18	6	0	0	46	0	54	0	40	0	0	46	69	11	3	58
254	23	143	51	30	57	122	41	34	93	12	60	27	2	2	45	57	259	205	96	76
368	19	78	4	11	27	24	2	2	453	69	276	205	55	8	26	44	233	99	11	86
3060	77	2397	128	1497	366	474	84	357	2229	147	802	44	758	30	140	432	637	254	288	1348
645	167	290	7	96	148	52	4	31	695	95	346	183	384	25	41	96	262	124	22	76
9705	244	2678	135	1595	494	525	86	158	3632	848	1648	432	1337	33	431	611	698	376	228	1428

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REPORT NO. 6

ANNEX A

RATIO TABLE RELATING FACTORS AND OPERATIONAL CONCEPTS IN DIFFERENT FORMS

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2010

		FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION
WEEK ENDING		F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F
9/9/44	CIV	1	0.3	1	4.9	1	20.9	1	12.3	1	1.1	1	0	13.3	1	39.7	1	43
	MIL	1	1.2	1		1	1.7	2	64	1	1	1		10.5	1	9.2	1	175
16/9/44	CIV	1	19	1	46.1	1	84.3	2	32.1	1	1	1	1	13.4	1	17.9	1	97
	MIL	1	1	1	3.2	1	1.3	1	2	10	1	1	7	10.8	1	3.5	1	45
23/9/44	CIV	1	13.9	1	34.9	1	32.2	1	11	1	1	1	1	13.2	1	11.9	1	146
	MIL	1	2.1	1	1.0	1	11.2	0	16	2.2	1	1	8	6.6	1	3.1	1	6
30/9/44	CIV	1	12.0	1	30.1	1	28.1	1	11.2	1	1	1	4	7.7	1	5	1	5
	MIL	1	1	1	2	1	2.2	1	2.2	1.7	1	1	4	7.7	1	5.3	1	8
AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING																		
30/9/44	CIV	1	10.4	1	28.2	1	21.1	1	11.7	1	1	1	1.9	14.4	1	10.2	1	75
	MIL	1	1.3	1	2.1	1	1.7	1	1.67	2.9	1	1	7.7	9.3	1	4.5	1	15

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2010

INCOME	EDUCATION	NATIONAL PATRIOTISM	PROVINCIAL PATRIOTISM	RELATIONS WITH ALLIES	PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION	FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION	RADICAL	CONSERVATIVE	POLICY ORIENT
F U	F U	F U	F U	F U	F U	F U	F U	F U	F U
1 20.9	1 12.9	1.1	1 1.0	13.3 1	39.7 1	43.2 1	1 3.2	3.6 1	1 5.1
1 1.7	0 64	4	1 0	30.5 1	9.2 1	175 0	1	1	1 34
1 84.7	1 12.1	1	1 1	13.4 1	17.9 1	97.5 1	1 2.7	2.6 1	1 9.3
1 1.8	1 9	10 1	1 7	10.8 2	3.5 1	45 1	1 2.7	1.3 1	2.5 1
1 12.6	1 11	1 1.6	1 2.3	18.3 1	11.9 1	140 0	1 1.0	2.1 1	1 1.5
1 11.2	0 15	2.7 1	1 0	6.6 1	3.1 1	6.2 1	1 2.6	2.1 1	1 1.5
1 28.1	1 11.3	1	1 1.7	1 4	7.7 1	5.3 1	1 6.3	1 1	1 3.6
1 2.1	1 2.2	1.7 1	1 4	7.7 1	5.1 1	9.2 1	1 1.9	1.4 1	1 1.6
2 21.1	1 11.7	1 1.4	1 1.9	14.4 1	18.2 1	75.3 1	1 2.2	2.2 1	1 9.7
1 1.1	1 1.57	.9 1	1 7.7	9.3 1	4.5 1	15.7 1	1 .3	.4 1	1 3.5


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CENSORSHIP SPECIAL REPORTS

June 1944 - June 1945

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CENSORSHIP SPECIAL REPORTS

June 1944 - June 1945

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

GWM/mdf

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 55 29 September 1944

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 2nd September 1944.

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

This report is based on 327,600 letters checked during the four weeks ended 2nd September 1944. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

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

2009

1. FOOD SITUATION.

Food continues to be the most widely discussed subject. During the four weeks under review the position appears to have deteriorated, for the ratio of unfavorable comments among civilian letters has risen from 4.6 to 1 in the previous period to 13.3 to 1 during the current four weeks. Military mail, on the other hand, reveals increased satisfaction, and adverse comments are only 30% more than those in favor. As usual Naples was heavily in favor and Bari was markedly unfavorable.

From the civilian point of view Bari was extremely pessimistic, the ratio of the comments being more than 100 to 1 against. The position in Foggia has deteriorated badly. During the previous period the comments were 3.6 to 1 against, but the ratio has risen to 14.2 to 1 during the period under review. In the great majority of cases the complaints hinge on the prices of food stuffs. The following comments are typical:-

"Every day the situation is getting worse. Prices have doubled. A quintal of wheat costs 15,000 lire. How can people afford this? We do our best to carry on, but an income of 10,000 lire a month would hardly be enough to keep us going". (6/8/44 - Frosinone)

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are starving. We have no milk, no sugar, no oil, no fats. We live on greens and tomatoes, but they are awfully expensive too, the price ranging from 20 to 25 lire a kilo. Potatoes cost 45 lire a kilo, and fresh fruits are even more expensive. This morning sweet-peppers were being sold at 35 lire a kilo". (2/9/44 - Rome)

"Not having succeeded in transferring us to northern Italy, the Nazi-Fascist rascals thought of making us starve by giving us only 100 grams of lousy bread made of lupin seeds and sawdust. Everything else we had to buy on the black market at incredible prices: bread 150 lire a kilo, flour 240 lire, cheese 500 lire, potatoes 25 lire, sugar 400 lire, and oil 2400 lire a two-litre flask". (29/8/44 - Rome)

"Soon after the Allied occupation prices went sky-high. Sugar costs 150 to 200 lire a kilo, meat 220 lire, eggs 15 or 20 lire each, a chicken 300 lire etc. We haven't seen salt or matches for months". (11/8/44 - Campobasso)

"When I arrive I will tell you all about what we have been through and what we are still suffering. It is sufficient to say that we only eat one piece of bread every 24 hours. But my real worry is on account of the girls who go fasting to school in the morning, and when they return they do not have what they would like". (1/8/44 - Rome)

2005

"....So many people have had to sell everything, and one of my friends who lives in Via Emanuele Filiberto has had to sell everything, furniture, clothes, and last week her father had his gold teeth taken out and sold them too". (8/8/44 - Rome)

From Taranto, where the position is more favorable, there are letters with passages such as the following:-

"It is not so bad now because they give us 440 grams of bread, and we also get tinned meat of all kinds". (27/8/44 - Taranto)

"Our living conditions are much better now, for we are given flour, pasta, dried vegetables etc... Thank God plenty of food is obtainable". (10/8/44 - Taranto)

2. CLOTHING.

Civilian mail is extremely pessimistic about clothing. Since the previous period the adverse comments have increased from 13.1 to 1 to 47.8 to 1. The chief cause of complaint is that of prices, though the absence of shoes is also the subject of many letters. There were no favorable comments at all from Bari and Foggia. In Rome, where unfavorable comments outnumbered those favorable by 12 to 1 during the previous four weeks, the ration for the period under review had risen to 56 to 1. Military mail showed an opposite movement of opinion, and the adverse figure of 3.6 to 1 compares with 9.1 to 1 during the previous period. Nearly all comments, such as the following, refer to prices:

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"It is impossible to buy anything. A tailor in Bari asked Albert 35,000 lire for a suit. Albert's brother, who got married last week, paid 18,000 lire for a suit made of such bad material that he wanted to denounce the merchant who sold it to him". (31/8/44 - Bari)

"People must keep indoors because they have no shoes and no dresses. The minimum price of cotton dress-material is 700 lire a yard. I am trying to carry on with that old frock you gave me". (26/8/44 - Taranto)

"The question of clothing is a real problem, and it cannot be ignored, for shoes at least must be repaired frequently or renewed. They are sold at enormous prices". (29/8/44 - Crispiano)

"I bought a ready made working suit made of very poor material for 600 lire, but I can only wear it a few hours a day for if I soiled it, and had to wash it, it would come to pieces". (29/8/44 - Taranto)

"The clothes once sold by Seraponi at 3,000 lire are now sold at 12,000 to 15,000 lire, and sometimes at 18,000". (17/8/44 - Manziano)

3. HOUSING.

Housing also is becoming a more acute problem according to civilian mail, and there has been a large increase in the proportion of unfavorable comments during the period under review, the ratio being 39 to 1 against as compared with 19.1 to 1 during the preceeding period. Every center without exception is pessimistic; and in Bari there was not a single favorable comment. The chief causes of complaint are requisitioning by the Allies and the high rents. Another evil has grown up in the case of apartments with controlled rents, for landlords have tried to get over this by refusing to let unless the prospective tennant buys the furniture, and of course an exorbitant price is placed on the latter. The following comments give various aspects of the problem:-

"However far your imagination may go, you will never succeed in realising what a tragedy life is here in every way. Try to find a room in a boarding house! It would mean an expenditure of at least 10-12,000 lire a month for two people. I am now earning 2,000 lire a month, but having board and lodging I feel quite well off. Linda has been hunting for a room for the last six months, and she is still hunting for one". (29/8/44 - Rome)

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"Houses are to be found but at very high prices. If one finds some place with a modest rent it is because it is controlled, and the landlord wants one to buy the furniture in it, and wants prices that always go from 100,000 lire upwards". (18/8/44 - Rome)

"The scarcity of lodgings here is also a cause of hardship, worse than hunger. This is not due to a lack of lodgings, but to the fact that the American soldiers have invaded all the furnished rooms". (28/8/44 - Rome)

"I am looking for a house in Bari as I would like to settle down with my family there. But, believe me, it's impossible. Just think that the rent of a tiny three roomed flat is 8,000 lire a month". (12/8/44 - Bari)

"House requisitioning swept on us like a tornado. All families and their houses occupied in some way, either by Americans, English or others. And requisitioning still goes on". (25/8/44 - Bari)

4. INCOME.

Civilian mail shows a less unfavorable opinion towards wages and salaries than during the previous period, but military mail is more pessimistic than ever, and the ratio of comments was 98.5 to 1 against. The comments from Taranto are interesting in that it is the only center in which civilian comment had a favorable majority. There were no military comments at all. The worst conditions appear to be in Bari, Foggia and Palermo. The chief trouble is that prices keep going up while wages and salaries remain much the same. The following are a selection from the comments:

"Are the wages you earn sufficient to keep you going? For us it is absolutely impossible. We have had to borrow 10,000 lire from the Insurance Company on an advance on the 60,000 which come to maturity in the current year". (26/8/44 - Cr.ttaglia)

"I tell you that notwithstanding Alexander's monthly wages amounting to more than 6,000 lire, my own wages of 2,000 lire, plus an extra allowance of 4,000 lire, we have not got a cent left over. Life is very bad for everybody. If we were to buy a pair of shoes for each of us, it would cost us 6,000 lire". (29/8/44 - Taranto)

"Life is awfully expensive here and we are at a loss how to carry on. Every month office workers have to sell some personal belongings in order to add something to the scanty wages they earn". (12/8/44 - Siracusa)

"We are struggling on. Our scanty wages are always kept down to the same level, while prices are rising daily. We have to make enormous sacrifices in order to manage a one course meal a day". (11/8/44 - Bari)

2066

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"The State gives me a pension of 45 lire a day and the freedom of choice between throwing myself into the River or slowly dying of starvation". (20/8/44 - Rome)

"Life has become a regular torment. In order not to die of hunger I see that about 9,000 lire are spent monthly, whereas the salary is about 6,000 lire. It is all very discouraging and despairing, but we must be optimists and not lose our faith in the future". (20/8/44 - Rome)

"Angelo earns 3,000 lire a month, but what is the good of this when one needs at least 2,000 lire to get along on a modest scale. You can have no idea of the cost of life in Rome. Everything can be found, but only in the black market; and at what prices!" (9/8/44 - Rome)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

Both civilian and military mail show the National Government as having dropped in favor. Civilian comments were equally divided during the period, whereas the previous four weeks produced a ratio of 1.6 to 1 in favor. Military comments were generally more unfavorable than otherwise except from Bari where the proportion was about 10 to 1 in favor. Thus the ratio in Appendix A is somewhat misleading, for its favorable figure is due entirely to Bari.

Among civilian letters we find that Bari, Naples and Syracuse were well in favor, with Rome slightly in favor. Taranto and Palermo were decidedly adverse. The comments themselves do not tell us very much except that the unfavorable ones are due either to fear, to the continued presence of Fascists in governmental posts or to a feeling that the administration is incompetent and muddled. The following extracts are examples:-

"They are a lot of hypocrites and liars. Instead of working for the welfare and the reconstruction of the country, they do nothing but talk and make fools of themselves. Under the Fascist regime thieves ruled us, but now there are even more rogues about". (20/8/44 - Crotone)

"I would like to tell you more, but I am afraid of writing because in Italy no one is allowed to express his opinion freely. And this happened not only under the dictatorial Fascist regime, but it still goes on under the present 'free government'". (7/8/44 - Lucera)

"When you come back you will find that many things have changed. They have done away with Fascism only to let Bolshevism in. Italy will soon be a Bolshevistic country". (31/8/44 - Bari)

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"[illegible] those who had been ringleaders of Fascism have remained in the ministry. The innocent are punished. It is shameful and cowardly the way they go on. Let us hope that one day the wheel will turn for them also. I wish, my dear, that the war would finish quickly so that I could escape from this city full of infamous people and traitors". (30/8/44 - Rome)

"There are ably decrees that ruin everything. The further we go on and the more difficult they make everything for us, the more bitter existence becomes for us in every respect. I would be happy if some scandal arose because the people can not go on any longer, so that these others would have to think of adjusting matters a little instead of indulging in so much vain gossip. They think only about purging and the purge, [illegible] how many there are among them who ought to be purged; may the devil take them. However they all continue to laugh at our troubles while many are dying unpleasantly. Now do not say that I am making up a tragedy and that I have exaggerated. There is an unbearable situation here, and I fear that at some time or another a last straw will break the Camel's back". (20/9/44 - Rome)

"How frustrated at the War Ministry are all those who came from Salerno where they enjoyed all the consideration, while the dangers and the [illegible] were our lot. However, to those of us of a certain age nothing is surprising. There remains only the bitterness of seeing Italy in the hands of people who do not know how to command". (31/8/44 - Rome)

SECRET

5. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

Opinion concerning provincial administration took a decided turn for the worse during the four weeks under review. During the previous period the comments were 8 to 1 in favor which was an improvement; but confidence has slumped, and the figures for the period under review are 7.6 to 1 against.

Palermo was the most decided in its views, there being no favorable comments at all from that quarter as against 317 unfavorable. Rome was also heavily unfavorable. Bari was the only center with a majority of favorable comments. There were very few military comments, but they were nearly all unfavorable.

"The High Commissioner has gone. Let us hope that the newly appointed one won't be such an idiot as his predecessor was". (7/8/44 - Catania)

"Since the Italian Provincial Administration has been established here, things don't run smoothly any longer. The Italians are incapable of ruling, and they can't get the farmers to bring in wheat to the depot". (7/8/44 - Palermo)

3176

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The following favorable comments seem to show that abstinence is not a cause for objection when benefits are likely to result:-

"It seems the authorities have never been so strict before. At the mill no one is allowed to grind any grain exceeding the quantity legally permitted. This is done in order to avoid cornering, and is the only system that may lead to an increase in food rations for everybody". (7/8/44 - Matera)

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES.

Both civilian and military mail maintained the downward trend of opinion noticed during the previous period. However, postal censorship at Palermo and Siracusa produced not a single unfavorable opinion, and Bari only one as against 101 in favor. Rome and Naples were the lands favorably disposed centers, both as regards civilian and military mail. Favorable comments are actuated by relief at being freed from Fascism and the Germans, by a feeling that justice will be done, and by gratitude for benefits received. Unfavorable comments are often due to bitterness over Italy's unhappy lot, a feeling which includes a tendency to place the blame on the Allies for not looking after Italy better in the past. There is also resentment at what is considered to be contemptuous treatment at the hands of the Allies, and also the inevitable criticism over behavior towards Italian women. The following comments illustrate some of the various favorable and unfavorable viewpoints:-

2003

"At last we are enjoying the freedom brought to us by the magnificent Allied troops, troops of the most civilized peoples in the world, that is the English and the Americans. We owe this freedom to the brave and generous Anglo-American forces who like us and who fraternize with the people". (2/9/44 - Rome)

"After so many years true justice is triumphing in Italy. This is the work of our liberators who will now release you too. A few days ago I went to the Palace of Justice and was present at 7 various cases. I was struck by so many things -- less bureaucracy The judge is an Allied officer, as is also the Public Prosecutor. Then there are some Italian interpreters, very young men and girls or a wholesome mind, not contaminated by Fascism. So the accused finds himself faced not so much by a judge as by a father with understanding and human justice". (5/9/44 - Rome)

"The Allies ought to do away with the contemptuous attitude they show towards the Italians on every occasion. It is not by enslaving us that they can relieve our weariness. We are starving and we need food, that's true, but we want to be enabled to work for our living, and not to be left to live on alms thrown at us like crumbs from the rich man's table to the starving beggar". (2/9/44 - Rome)

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"Let us hope that peace be finally reached, and that the so called Allies will not give Italy such unfair treatment as they did at Versailles". (18/8/44 - Brindisi)

"I hear that you have sold the calf as you feared the French troops might seize it. I am rather worried on account of these things. Don't ever go about alone, and don't carry money on you, because it might be taken from you. Be careful, as those people are very treacherous, especially the Moroccans". (17/8/44 - Taranto)

"Casati is all out with lots of well meant purposes and designs, but his action is hampered by the difficulty of making the Allies understand our wants. It is difficult to get along with people who have an entirely different way of thinking and feeling than we have". (13/8/44 - Rome)

8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION.

Civilian mail took a more favorable view of the present military situation during the period under review, the proportion of favorable to unfavorable comments being 25.4 to 1 as compared with 15.7 to 1 during the previous four weeks. Military mail showed little change, except that Rome produced more unfavorable comments than favorable, being the only center to do so. Unfavorable comments are usually due to weariness.

"The end of the war is at last looming up, and the final defeat of the Germans is nearing. All the world is longing for freedom and peace". (18/8/44 - Francavilla Fontana)

"It is not necessary to comment on present developments of the war as you can easily follow them. One thing is certain, the war will end soon with the victory of the Allies". (23/8/44 - Taranto)

"The war seemed to be nearing its end, but it is still going on endlessly. As if ruins, destructions and sorrows were not enough. Let us still hope for the best, though we have even got tired of hoping". (2/9/44 - Taranto)

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION.

Civilian mail showed less optimism than it did during the preceeding four weeks, the ratio in favor dropping from 40 to 1 to 23.6 to 1. With the exception of Bari military mail produced no comments at all, and Bari's figures were 353 favorable to nil unfavorable.

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"The future development looks very promising. The continuous Nazi defeats, and the dark and troublesome internal situation in Germany may mean only one thing, a rapid and more speedy victorious solution to this enormous conflict". (14/8/44 - Bari)

"The future looks very good from the military standpoint. The conditions in Germany are gradually becoming more disastrous, caught in a steel trap from all sides, bombed daily, with its industries destroyed or reduced to uselessness. We all believe that the day of complete and absolute victory for the United Nations is near at hand. Justice and liberty are soon to win over oppression and barbarity. Victory is appearing luminous and real on the horizon of oppressed and weary Europe". (21/8/44 - Bari)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS.

Civilian mail views the industrial prospects of the country less hopefully than it did during the previous period when the ratio of comments was 1.3 to 1 in favor. The figure for the period under review is 1.4 to 1 against. Bari and Siracusa were the most pessimistic. Naples appeared to be very optimistic on the few comments made, and Palermo and Taranto also showed favorable figures. Rome was considerably less pessimistic than during the preceeding period. The following comments give various aspects of the problem as seen by the writers:-

"For the moment it is impossible to make use of one's own initiative in Rome, considering that even large firms, ours included, strain themselves to start new work, partly because of the purposefully indifferent attitude of the Allies, partly because of the Anti-Fascist struggle which involves everyone in suspicion, and partly because of shortage of building material and transport". (2/9/44 - Rome)

"The future? I don't know. We can indulge in a lot of wishful thinking but we cannot predict the future. We are desperate and downhearted. Industries have been destroyed, the factories and works completely denuded of machinery which the Germans carried away, and the power station is flattened. (We have 16 hours of current every 4 days, and it will go on like this for months and months.) Perhaps within a fortnight we will have three hours of gas a day. There is still no sign of an economic recovery, and the difficulties of getting even a little work are truly tremendous". (1/9/44 - Rome)

"As regards marketing activities I am of the opinion that the situation will grow worse and worse because of the shortage of transport. Even if the use of sailing boats and of motor vessels were allowed, the situation would not improve much". (15/8/44 - Taranto)

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11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

Hopes in the agricultural position have shrunk somewhat during the period. Whereas the comments were 4.4 to 1 in favor during the preceeding four weeks, the figure has shrunk to 2.7 to 1. Military mail, on the other hand, was more hopeful. Naples and Palermo areas showed the greatest optimism, and Bari was also very hopeful, particularly in the military mail. No center produced a majority of unfavorable comments.

"This year wheat is really beautiful, and the crop will yield twice as much as last year. Maize is also abundant, and so are beans". (5/8/44 - Mortello Avellino)

"Here we have everything, though the prices are very high. There is plenty of oil, and as regards the wheat crop, what could be produced at Ginosa should be enough for the whole of Italy. If one bushel of grain is sown here, 25 or 30 bushels are sure to be reaped". (19/8/44 - Ginosa)

A writer describing the country round Rome, and stressing the abundance of the products cultivated there, goes on:-

"Vineyards are loaded with grapes, and pears and peaches are also good". (15/8/44 - Rome)

"At Campo degli Uccelli we are threshing the grain, but the harvest has been very poor. There is no crop of beans or of lentils either". (8/8/44 - Campobasso)

2000

12. EMPLOYMENT.

Compared with the previous period, the letters during the four weeks under review took a slightly less gloomy view of the problem of employment; and yet it was dark enough, only one person in six seeming to be at all satisfied. Palermo was particularly pessimistic, and produced not a single favorable comment. Rome opinion deteriorated, and the adverse figure rose from approximately 6 to 1 in the last period to 8.5 to 1 in the present period. Taranto was the only center where favorable comments were in the majority, the ratio being 1.3 to 1 in favor. The following comments tell various stories:-

"There is no hope of resuming our posts, and we won't be given our back wages either. That's the reward we get for having refused to follow Mussolini's government to Northern Italy. For me things are just as bad as they were before. Opportunists seize every chance to get on, and silly idealists are left behind". (10/8/44 - Naples)

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"The class of office clerks and employees is the one that suffers most. They are actually dying of starvation, and nobody worries about their condition". (31/8/44 - Bari)

"From a financial point of view the war has greatly affected real estate owners and people earning fixed wages, whereas countrymen and speculators of all kinds have benefitted from it. Laborers make plenty of money. To these people war-time is the ideal business time. We must wait and see. Something is bound to happen". (26/8/44 - Taranto)

"Unemployment is ripe, and it is difficult to arrest its growth. Even professional men have been out of work since June 1943. Clerks find it impossible to meet the costs of living". (15/8/44 - Rome)

"We absolutely cannot carry on in this way anymore. I do nothing else but go round Rome from morning till night, and all this mortifies and demoralizes me because I would like to settle into any sort of work, but it is impossible because there is a state of unemployment that has never been known before". (12/8/44 - Rome)

"I am doing everything I can to find some work, but in this respect things are rather at a standstill. I don't believe I have ever been so disheartened. Here it is not a matter of saving in order to go on. I'm doing all that I can. We lack everything. Sometimes I do not have the strength to go on". (31/8/44 Rome)

1599

GORDON W. McKEAN,
Major, Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

CROSS REF. FILE E TWO

30.9.44.

Director
D/Director
Chief Telecoms
Chief Postal
H. Q., Coms. O.
Asst. Chief Postal
Censorship
Chief Clerk

DISTRIBUTION:
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1 - Vice President, RC & MG Section (Exec Com), ACC
1 - Vice President, Administrative Section, ACC
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1 - Director, Information Division, ACC
5 - G.S.I.(c), A.A.I.
4 - G-2 (Communications Censorship), AFHQ
1 - PWB - AFHQ
1 - G-5 - AFHQ
1 - A.C. of S., G-2, Washington, D.C.
1 - M.I. 12, London
1 - M.I. IV, London
1 - CCG File

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

CONFIDENTIAL

Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 534, U. S. Army

C8/6/14

23 September 1945

CCG/1085-14

SUBJECT: Information from Captured Mail.

TO : All Allied Zones Control Officers.

1. A tremendous amount of valuable material has been found in letters removed from liberated cities by the US Forces being of Civil Censorship Group. The RAF has shown a great interest in a number of subject. To all you and your staff in the examination of the captured mail the following list of topics is forwarded to you.

2. Immaterial where read, the contact sheet should show in the "type mail" column the words "captured mail". The block must be filled in with the name of the city from which the mail was seized.

3. Captured Enemy Mail: RAF Intelligence Requirements

Enemy Air Forces Airfields:	Location of, size, layout. NOTE - Levelling, drainage work, use of concrete mixers, construction of new roads etc., may indicate work on new airfields.
Seaplane Bases:	Location of, layout, numbers, types.
Airfield Defence:	Location of guns, searchlights, numbers.
Aircraft:	Types of, details of performance, armament, electrical and navigational equipment, likely routing (gen, officers, classified wireless equipment of aids, suicides and personnel.
Communications:	Where and when by day and night. Numbers of machines engaged. Signals etc., to returning aircraft.
Bombs:	Type and weight carried, details of effect and machine-gun ammunition.

1998

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

Camouflage: of machines and airfield buildings, smoke etc; decoy and dummy airfields (see information re lights thereon)

Casualties: casualties, non return of machines from operations. Identification photos from machines giving numbers, dates etc (sometimes collected by souvenir hunters and sent thru the post)

Battle Orders: Numbers of aircraft engaged in particular operations, tactics; flying maps, diaries, log-books.

Dumps: Storage and assembly points and depots.

Air Raid Damage: To all targets and areas. Give information concerning damage to roads and railways, public utility works, aircraft, bridges, barges. Special Note: All references to alternative rail and roads as result of damage done to normal routes. Information concerning partly damaged war factories is valuable, particularly if numbers of employees remaining at work in bombed factories are given. Information also wanted about factories which have been moved to other areas in order to escape bombing. Targets missed should be mentioned in consent sheets.

Air Photos: of airfields, possible targets, railway junctions, stations, bridges, sidings. GROUND photos of above are also valuable, particularly premises occupied by the enemy as Headquarters - whether Air Force, Army or other Services.

Air/Sea/Rescue: Equipment of aircraft, launches etc, used for the rescue of air-crews, members and methods.

Escape: of enemy air force personnel, also of British and USA Air Force personnel, or information where they are hiding, and also of civilians who have crossed enemy lines from N Italy and who may not have been interrogated.

1997

Personnel: Names of air force officers, their exploits etc. Note: Names of officers are important, sometimes indicating movements of units or groups and special activities.

Plans: past, present and future; movements, tactics.

Transport: air and ground ferry services; routes used for taking supplies to troops in the field. Also details of enemy civil air services, carriage of mails etc.

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Weather:	when airfields are not usable owing to snow, mud etc, or when transport (road and rail) is held up owing to bad weather.
Maintenance:	and servicing of aircraft. Details of shortages, difficulties. Information of assembly places for the repair of aircraft.
Subversive:	activities against R.A.F.
Maps:	Local maps of enemy and occupied countries, also large scale general maps.
Organization:	of enemy air forces, co-operation with the Army and Navy, system of supply etc.
Technical:	publications published in Germany and occupied countries, particularly those dealing with enemy Air Forces, war production (chemical, engineering, iron and steel etc.) Railway Time Tables, Telephone Directories, Business Directories of enemy and occupied countries (N Italy, Hungary, Yugo-Slavia etc) if of fairly recent date are most useful.
Targets:	In enemy and occupied countries:- War factories details of production, number of employees, movements to other areas. Oil installations Docks and shipping Electricity, gas works, reservoirs, dams, canal and river traffic. Road and railway bridges and details of traffic Army, Naval and Air Force Hqs. Troop and naval concentrations Food stores All DEPOTS linked up with the supply of war materials of all kinds. Experimental Stations
Signals:	methods of communication, details of beacons; locations of radio equipment and signals stations.
RAF Leaflets:	Reaction of enemy and neutrals to leaflets dropped in their midst.
Casualties:	Any information concerning RAF personnel brought down in hostile territory.
Neutral Air Forces:	Details of strength, new machines, new equipment, experiments, airfields etc.

1996

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

Partisans: All information of partisan troops operating in rear of enemy lines is of interest. References to dropping of supplies by RAF should be given.

For the Commanding Officer:

ALFRED F. TRIA,
Captain, CAC,
Chief, Postal Subsection.

Copy to file: CCG 5

1995

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

CONFIDENTIAL

Mtchd. 3.9.44

Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 512, U. S. Army

5 September 1944

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 43

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report on Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 5th August 44

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

This report is based on 350,400 letters checked during the four weeks ended 5th August 1944. This does not include any military mail from the front lines.

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

1. FOOD SITUATION.

There is a fractional increase in the proportion of unfavorable comments as compared with the previous period. It is interesting to note that during the letter period each of the first three weeks showed a more favorable outlook than the previous one. There was then a slight slump. Possibly the effect of an increase in rations was wearing off. The period under review reveals an opposite movement of opinion. Civilian mail, in the first week, was unfavorable by 2.8 to 1. Each week thereafter the proportion of unfavorable comments increased, and closed at 7.8 to 1. Military mail was variable, but was generally less unfavorable than civilian.

Bari, Palermo and Siracusa are centers where the food situation seems to be particularly bad. Benevento was the only district where civilian comments were chiefly in favor. Military mail reveals violent contrasts. At Bari, for example, unfavorable comments were nearly twenty times more than the favorable, while at Naples, where the Italian troops participate in Allied rations, the comments were about 15 to 1 in favor. In Rome civilian comments are about 80% less unfavorable than the average for the country as a whole, while military comments are slightly in favor.

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The chief complaint in most centers is that of high prices. Even where food is comparatively apundant it is out of the reach of most people, and since the ration cards only entitle the holders to a limited variety of commodities, and often to small amounts of the same, there is much genuine hardship. The following comments are typical of many:

"Here living is very expensive. Bread sells at 90 and 100 lire per kg., fish for 150 and 200 lire, and the same applies to other food items." (27/7/44 - Triggiani, Bari)

"Everything may be found here, but at very high prices. One kg. of cheese costs 400 lire, dry cottage cheese 250 lire, beef 180 lire, and lamb 150 lire. As to fruit we have never seen such prices before." (27/7/44 - Canosa di Puglia, Bari)

"To satisfy your curiosity I shall quote some prices, but don't let them frighten you! An egg costs from 50 to 70 lire, fruit 70 lire per kg., lemons 40 lire per kg., a litre of olive oil 2,000 lire, and salt 150 lire per kg. I am not quoting the rest in order not to bewilder you any further." (12/7/44 - Rome)

"There is much hunger in Rome. We are deprived of everything, even of salt. This precious and basic food item is sold at 350 lire per kg. on the Black Market. Olive oil sells at 2,000 and more lire per fiasco (less than 2 litres); bread at 120 per kg. Meat can no longer be found. Paste products, rice, beans, etc., can always be found, but they cost 300 lire per kg. (13/7/44 - Rome)

As a contrast to the above, the following letters particularly those from Avellino and Benevento, speak of the improved conditions in those centers:

"The city has had a magnificent re-birth, and the dealings that are sold are in such great quantities that the place looks like the old, pre-war Avellino. In the midst of so much abundance I think with sorrow about you and the little ones existing in Rome among privations; I mean that in Rome you do not yet see cottage cheese, butter, cheese and similar dairy products, and milk, bread, potatoes and fruit in the very great quantities that we have here. Our rations are quite abundant... The market is overflowing with vegetables and the prices are very reasonable." (25/7/44 - Avellino)

"As to food we are doing fairly well here. The distribution by the commune office functions very well, and this month we shall also be given canned meat. On Sunday our butchers' shops will begin to operate, and beef will be available to the people." (Benevento - 13/7/44)

"You wish to know how we are getting along here. Well, not so badly. Our rations were increased. Now we get 300 grams of bread daily. On 1st August we shall get 400 grams of bread and 100 grams of paste products. Potatoes are abundent at 11 lire per kg." (Apice - 13/7/44)

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"Here at Martina life is back to its normal rhythm. Nothing has been lacking to us for some time now. The Black Market is disappearing daily so that all that may be eaten comes from our ration cards. Our rations are satisfactory, and monthly per head we get 400 grams of meat with vegetables, 400 grams of sausage, 250 grams of sugar, 250 grams of vegetables, 400 grams of beans and dried pies, 100 grams of soap, and besides we get 200 grams of bread daily, and 550 grams of flour weekly while we aree waiting for finished paste products." (22/7/44 - Martina, Tarento)

2. CLOTHING.

Both civil and military mail have been less unfavorable during the period under review, though the situation is still very unsatisfactory, and adverse comments are in a very large majority. Bari and Naples are the worst centers from the civilian point of view, and the ratios of unfavorable to favorable comments were 348.5 to 1 and 60.8 to 1 respectively. All other centers were preponderently unfavorable, with the exception of Naples, military mail was also very unfavorable throughout.

Clothing prices are so prohibitive that they are clearly beyond the means of the vast majority of people. The following extracts give some idea of the situation as seen by the ordinary civilian:

"A sui t of clothes for men costs no less than 20,000 lire. Material for an overcoat has been sold for as much as 24,000 lire. Spools of sewing thread cost 300, 400, 500 and 600 lire. We cannot go on like this. Only those who engage in trade (i.e. Black Market) live well. Many people go from here to Naples with vehicles, taking olive oil, macaroni and flour and return here bringing skins, clothing materials and drugs which they sell at exorbitant prices." (27/7/44 - Bari)

"An every day or work-shirt cannot be bought for less than 800 lire. A pair of trousers costs 1000 lire. One needs no less than 5000 or 6000 lire to have a pair made. A fairly good pair of shoes may be had for 2000 or 3000 lire, so just imagine the position we are in as regards clothing. The only way to obtain an article of clothing is by exchanging goods, that is trade with some flour, olive oil, lard, or other food items." (28/7/44 - Piane di Falerona, Bari)

"For a suit of clothes and a pair of shoes for little Gustavo I have spent 30,000 lire. Merely for one pair of snake-skin shoes I have paid 5000 lire." (28/7/44 - Avellino)

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"Clothing and shoes cannot be found. And if something is found on the Black Market, the price is prohibitive." (29/7/44 - Campobasso)

"What is the use if the stores are brimful of clothing materials if one is even unable to buy a single handkerchief." (29/7/44 - Reggio)

3. HOUSING.

Civilian mail was more pessimistic during the period under review than it was during the previous period. Bari seems to be a particularly bad center. Even the military mail produced 389 unfavorable comments to 7 favorable, while the remaining military centers only mustered 35 comments all told in the proportion of 1.3 to 1 in favor. The following extracts are examples of the lack of housing or the prohibitive rents when accommodation is available.-

"These last few days I have been running around like a mad person right and left trying to find a hole in which to live, but it has been impossible. There are no houses to be had anywhere." (21/7/44 - Rome)

"We have asked so many people about a house. There are some four and six roomed houses but at rents ranging from 20,000 to 30,000 lire per annum. Merely thinking about such horrifying prices makes one's blood run cold." (30/7/44 - Palermo)

1991

"We are trying hard to get an appartment. We have begged from proprietors known to us. For the present it is impossible to find anything." (4/8/44 - Taranto)

"The housing problem is a very hard one to solve. There are few houses available, and those few have windows without any glass. What bewilders one is the high prices asked for rent. They range from 800 to 1200 a month. One would have to earn 6000 lire a month in order to be able to support a small family with such a rent." (21/7/44 - Avellino)

4. INCOME.

Unfavorable comments increased throughout the month and the average figures for the period were 75% higher on the adverse side than for the previous four weeks. Military mail produced a freak average figure, but, even discounting this, the trend of opinion was definitely downward. Bari, Naples and Palermo were the most pessimistic centers. Taranto was the only area in which favorable comments were in the majority.

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In most cases the high cost of living have had the effect of rendering salaries inadequate. In the cases of some government employees the situation has been aggravated by reason of the fact that salaries have been reduced. Clerks and government employees generally seem to feel the pinch most, indeed they often receive much below the wages paid to laborers. The following extracts give various points of view:-

"Having returned under the Italian Government, we government employees have lost the extra money formerly paid by the government to those employees who were at their work during the bombardments. Therefore we now have at least 1000 lire deducted from our monthly salaries. Imagine the possibility of trying to live with only 2000 lire a month to support eight people! We are forced to eat potatoes daily, and we need more than 150 lire daily to eat." (21/7/44 - Avellino)

"He has got a job with the Action Party -- 3,000 lire a month. He has written that that will last him until the 20th of the month. Woe to us! What a terrible state we are in. It is enough to drive one mad. May the Lord help us." (10/7/44 - Avellino)

"The income we receive compared with the cost of living is extremely low, and in order to exist I would have to rely on other resources... In fact laborers nowadays receive 100, 200 and 300 lire daily, while a clerk cannot but look like a beggar and a starved dog with his 40, 50 and 60 lire a day." (20/7/44 - Moltola)

"Living everywhere is expensive. Our salary lasts ten days; and then we must do our best to get along on those few pence saved during 25 years of service, money earned and accumulated by the sweat of our brow and which is now taken away from us by parasites who never work and who sell bread so dearly." (11/8/44 - Siracuse)

"Here life is horrible beyond expression. Food items, besides being very scarce, are extremely expensive... Imagine what our existence is like with our most wretched salary which is not sufficient for one week." (14/8/44 - Lentini)

The following favorable comment gives some idea of what is considered to be an adequate though sparse income:-

"I have now been discharged from the army for two months. I am working as a barber. I earn about 6000 lire a month. It is not a great deal, but such as it is I manage to keep going." (18/7/44 - Turanto)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

Civilian opinion on the National Government shows no change from that obtaining during the previous period, the comments being 1.6 to 1 in favor.

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Military opinion, however, has swung from being slightly unfavorable during the previous period to a three to one majority in favor.

Bari and Siracuse civilian letters were very heavily in favor of the government by approximately 10 to 1 and 26 to 1 respectively. Rome and Taranto were the only centers where adverse comments were in the majority.

Favorable comments are often but brief expressions of hope. The unfavorable remarks range from extremely muddled and involved theorising to accusations that Fascism is still a force and that the government is incapable of governing. There is no clear picture in political matters, but the following adverse comments illustrate the types of fog through which the writers are peering:-

"Italian political life as one sees it here (Rome), where everything is being forged, is in a chaotic condition, and God only knows whether something vital will come out of it or whether we shall be led to destruction. There are idle talkings, grudges, revenges, ambitions, but nothing on which something concrete can be built. Twenty years of Fascist miseducation have deprived us of the men fit to lead and save our country in such a tragic hour as this, so we had to apply to people over seventy." (1/8/44 - Rome)

"The government is absolutely incapable, has no way out of the difficulties and does not worry about them. The Allies do not give the matter a thought and may have good reasons for not doing so." (Rome - 25/7/44)

"There exists only a nominal government who can do nothing without the approval of the Allies who, for the moment, must think of winning the war." (25/7/44 - Rome)

"Our future lies in the hands of God and of the ministers of the democratic regime consented to by the Allies, which regime will cause us to go bare-footed and naked next winter." (24/7/44 - Salerno)

1959

"You complain about having troubles, who does not? War troubles are not the only ones; besides they may be justified. But troubles due to men, especially those who call themselves the champions and pillars of liberty, are those we cannot stomach. I am referring to those Italians who reside in Rome and practice there the misgovernment of Italy. I am realizing that deprecated Fascism is rising again due to their efforts. Equity and justice no longer exist." (1/8/44 - Campobasso)

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

There was a paucity of comments on Provincial Administration during the period under review, and as more than half of them came from Rome alone, the figures in the ratio table (Appendix A attached) are apt to be misleading.

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Rome comments were 4.6 to 1 in favor. Bari produced 57 civil comments only 4 of which were unfavorable; while Taranto's 94 comments were approximately 2 to 1 against. Apart from the above three centers there were hardly any comments at all. In general the comments are brief and to the point, such as the following:-

"Our living conditions show a decided improvement due to our civil administration. We get water frequently enough, and also electricity and telephone service." (12/7/44 - Taranto)

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES.

Civilian opinion has dropped steadily throughout the period. During the first week the favorable comments outnumbered the unfavorable by 53.4 to 1, but by the last week the proportion had gone down to 9.6 to 1. The average for the whole period was 18.6 to 1 as compared with 34.2 to 1 during the preceeding four weeks. Military mail produced no unfavorable comments except from Bari, and there were only 23 as against 2166 in favor from the same center.

As usual the favorable comments are chiefly expressions of gratitude, though there are a fair proportion reflecting genuine good feeling that does not rest on material benefits received. Unfavorable comments generally fall into one of three groups: requisitioning of houses and appartments; conduct towards women; and a resentment because Italy was prevented from realising her ambitions. The following extracts illustrate various standpoints:-

"Now it looks as though the dawn were rising; and the Allies, realising our necessities, are doing all that is possible to help us. It is a good thing that they are so good, and surely they will always help us." (28/7/44 - Naples)

"We must always be grateful to Badoglio for the armistice, otherwise we would all have died of starvation. It was due to the Americans and the British, who are great and civilised people, who have saved us by giving us food and by helping us in all ways possible." (9/7/44 - Benevento)

"The Allies have conducted themselves towards us like true friends, and they have never let us suffer from hunger... The Allies have even thought of keeping our morale high by inviting us to receptions.." (22/7/44 - Taranto)

"If it had not been for the noble gesture of the Allied Command at Campobasso, we would still have remained suffering. They have brought us back to work and to life, and have acted towards us like intelligent and practical people." (5/8/44 - Campobasso)

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"You will know that all our houses have been occupied by the Americans, and also our quarter. We were very sorry about it because they pushed us out of our homes and used our things as though they were their own." (29/7/44 - Cagliari)

"The Allies are not complimentary with our women and young girls and, alas, very sad things have happened everywhere... You know that I have always hated Fascists and Germans. On the other hand I believed in the goodness and straight forwardness of the Allies, and many times I have had discussions and endured bitterness for having strenuously defended this idea, this conviction of mine. Now I speak no more, discuss no more, and am compelled to swallow the tears that blind me. My anguish is so great. Poor Italian people, tortured, humiliated, despised..." (27/7/44 - Rome)

"We feel even smaller and more wretched compared with them and faced with all their might. But there is one thing they will never bend, and that is our pride. They will never succeed in reaching our civilization. Compared with us they are primitive, and our race is superior to theirs." (12/7/44 - Rome)

8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION.

Optimism has increased each week throughout the period as reflected in civilian letters, whereas military mail revealed a less optimistic note during the last two weeks. This is probably due to the fact that morale in the Italian army is going down owing to lack of activity, but this was the subject of a special report recently and no more need be said here. As regards comments generally, they are difficult to separate from comments on the future military situation. Extracts from letters dealing with the latter appear under the next sub-heading.

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION.

The proportion of favorable comments dropped during the 1947 period, but the average for the four weeks still remains high at 40 to 1 in favor among civilian mail and 35.2 to 1 among military letters. The four weeks under review had closed before the invasion of Southern France took place. The following extracts are among many that express complete confidence in the ultimate outcome of the war:

"Even the Germans are aware of the fact that Germany has lost the war and that things are going worse from day to day and hour to hour. The wizardry of Hitler no longer has any effect, and his treatening speeches only make people laugh, even those who believed in him blindly.

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The war will soon end, and this makes me very happy; but there is one thing that does not satisfy me, and that is the fact that Germany will capitulate before one yard of her territory is invaded by the Allies." (30/7/44 - Rome)

"The Anglo-Americans will win. I knew this from the very beginning of the war, and I have always maintained it, even during the Fascist drunken spree. They will win, and that will be a great act of goodness since they alone can guarantee that true liberty which the world needs so much." (1/8/44 - Palermo)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS.

Both civilian and military mail took a less rosy view of industrial prospects, but while the former produced a slight majority of favorable comments, the latter revealed an adverse majority of 2 to 1. Palermo was particularly optimistic, while Siracuse was just the opposite. Rome comments were about equally divided. Various reasons are given for viewing the industrial outlook gloomily, including lack of transport, demolitions and air-raids. The following are a few typical comments:-

"I read what you told me about your intentions of working. But undeceive yourself about the possibilities of acting as an agent for industrial factories because none of these exist here. What has not been destroyed by air-raids or by war has been scientifically destroyed by the Germans who have dismantled and taken away everything." (30/7/44 - Rome)

"You ask me to be more explicit concerning the prospects of our Group. It is very difficult to express oneself on such a subject because today, and perhaps to-morrow even more so, stands on a quicksand. Will those plants, entirely or partially intact up till the present, be able to work? Even if they could, and supposing they were freed, will they be allowed to function? You surely know the fate of those plants in this zone that still remain in running order. The best thing to hope for in my opinion is that peace arrives before liberation, but, even if that were the case, what possibilities will be left to our industries. The future is very, very gloomy and it as well to keep these prospects in mind." (31/7/44 - Rome)

4556

"As to commercial trends, I understand the situation quite well. Industries are in a bad way chiefly because of transport difficulties. Even if we succeed in obtaining permission for the use of merchant ships, commerce will never make a good come-back?" (31/7/44 - Taranto)

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11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

Both civilian and military mail show an increased confidence in agricultural prospects. Compared with the preceding period, civilian comments are two and a half times more favorable while military comments show a 20% increase in the same direction. Palermo was particularly optimistic, there being no unfavorable comments. In no centers were unfavorable comments in the majority. The complaints in nearly every case were based on lack of rain; and favorable comments in many cases mentioned the abundance of rain. The following extracts are illustrative of this:-

"It rains here frequently. This year there will be an abundant corn harvest. We have already threshed the wheat. The quantity is slightly greater than last year." (4/8/44 - Benevento)

"You must know that the harvest in general has been very good this year, especially the wheat harvest. The maize is also in good condition because it has rained four times this summer at regular intervals. Every 15 or 20 days it has rained without ever disturbing the crops. The same happy prospects are foreseen as regards grapes, potatoes and beans." (13/7/44 - Atripalda)

"The wheat harvest is excellent, and the same may be said about potatoes, vegetables and maize, but they are all controlled products. The potatoes will be abundant in September." (29/7/44 - Campobasso)

"A magnificent harvest is in view this year. The farms look promising, and let us hope that with God's help hunger may cease a little." (29/7/44 - Gildone)

"The harvest this year is much inferior to that of last year owing to lack of rain. It seems that the rain has forgotten Castellaneta since it is always raining in the surrounding areas. The Castellaneta zone is becoming totally dry." (22/7/44 - Castellaneta)

"Michele did the threshing yesterday, a total of 54 quintals of wheat and 25 tumuli of oats. Corn would be good if it were not for the lack of rain. It has not rained since 24th June. The grapes and olives are promising." (31/7/44 - Tora)

"The bean harvest looks very poor. The plants are all dried and there are no beans in prospect. The wheat harvest has been completed already." (24/7/44 - Avellino)

1985

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

12. EMPLOYMENT.

Civilian mail revealed a more depressed outlook during the period than that prevalent during the preceeding four weeks Military mail, on the other hand, was more cheerful, yet even so the comments were about seven to one against. Palermo was outstandingly gloomy, producing 568 adverse comments and not a single one in favor. Taranto was the only center in which favorable comments were in the majority, the proportion being about 2.5 to 1 in favor. The following extracts give a variety of reasons for and against:-

"Here there is a great deal of unemployment. The Americans are all leaving, and we are starved." (1/8/44 - Palermo)

"I must find some occupation or I shall join the army. My situation is very bad. Since I have been here I have never had any work." (2/8/44 - Campobasso)

"Plenty of people are unemployed at present. Only laborers succeed in finding something to do, and then only for a short time. As one can not go on like this one tries to do something through the Black Market." (20/7/44 - Rome)

"There is a crisis here in our civil life, a crisis among workmen, which was expected as a natural result of the last events. But as soon as electric power and gas are restored we trust things will change." (3/8/44 - Rome)

"The women work to mend clothes for soldiers. Everybody gets money, and unemployment is diminishing thanks to the Englishmen." (27/7/44 - Siracusa)

"Each and everyone of us tries to fare better than the next fellow. At present I am doing very well and earn about 3000 lire a month, but I am working very hard." (16/7/44 - Taranto)

Gordon W McKean

GORDON W. McKEAN,
Major, Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

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REPORT NO. 43

APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

	Food Situation		Clothing		Housing		Income		Nat'l Gov't		Provincial Governments		Relations with Allies		Present Military Situation		Future Military Situat
Week Ending	#	U	#	U	#	U	#	U	#	U	#	U	#	U	#	U	#
15/7 Civ	1	2.8	1	13	1	13.6	1	5.5	2	1	3.9	1	53.4	1	11.8	1	27.6
Mil	1	2.8	1	30.2	1	30	0	44	4.4	1	4	0	18.3	1	16	1	139
22/7 Civ	1	3.4	1	18.7	1	26	1	32.5	1.5	1	1	1.6	18.3	1	14.6	1	385
Mil	1	1.7	1	6	1	5.2	1	9	2.6	1	1	1	105.4	1	54.3	1	132
29/7 Civ	1	6	1	21.6	1	20.8	1	17.3	1.2	1	1	1	17.8	1	16.7	1	99
Mil	1	2	1	11	1	16.3	0	19	3.2	1	1	4.5	7.4	1	8.5	1	20.8
5/8 Civ	1	7.3	1	29.3	1	33.5	1	14.4	1.8	1	1.4	1	9.6	1	20.8	1	19.4
Mil	1	3.2	1	7	1	48.7	1	39.5	2.6	1	1	1	44.7	1	7.3	1	8.8
Average for month Civ	1	4.6	1	19.1	1	19.2	1	12.6	1.6	1	2.1	1	18.6	1	15.7	1	4.0
Ending 5/8/44 Mil	1	2.5	1	9.1	1	17.7	1	74.5	3	1	2	1.3	43.5	1	1.9	1	35.6

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CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX A CONFIDENTIAL

TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

	Housing		Income		Nat'l Gov't		Provincial Governments		Relations with Allies		Present Military Situation		Future Military Situation		Industrial Prospects		Agricultural Prospects		Employment	
U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
	1	13.6	1	5.5	2	1	4.9	1	13.4	1	11.8	1	27.5	1	2.6	1	7.4	1	1	3.8
2	1	30	0	44	4.4	1	4	0	18.3	1	16	1	139	0	2	1	2.4	1	1	7.5
7	1	16	1	12.5	1.5	1	1	1.6	10.6	1	14.5	1	185	1	1	1.7	4.5	1	1	4.6
	1	5.2	1	9	2.6	1	1	1	105.4	1	54.3	1	132	0	1	4	2	1	1	2.6
6	1	20.8	1	17.8	1.2	1	1	1	17.8	1	16.7	1	99	1	1.1	1	4.7	1	1	6.5
	1	16.3	0	19	3.2	1	1	4.5	7.4	1	8.5	1	20.8	1	0	14	2.4	1	1	2.4
9	1	33.5	1	14.4	1.8	1	1.4	1	9.6	1	20.8	1	19.5	1	1.3	1	2	1	1	15.1
	1	43.7	1	30.5	2.6	1	1	1	44.7	1	7.3	1	8.8	1	1	1.6	6.1	1	1	8
1	1	19.1	1	12.6	1.6	1	2.1	1	18.6	1	15.7	1	1.0	1	1.3	1	4.4	1	1	6.2
1	1	17.7	1	74.5	3	1	1	1.3	43.5	1	1.9	1	35.2	1	1	2	3.1	1	1	7.5

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Province (Volume Censored)	Food Situation		Clothing		Housing		Income		National Government		Provincial Administration	
	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	
Avellino 33182	66	81	0	23	0	18	0	9	0	0	0	
Bari (Civ. 131,735	29	1295	2	692	6	424	13	287	116	14	53	
(Mil 109,969	61	1134	3	360	7	388	2	142	220	16	7	
Benevento (Civ.10969	44	10	0	2	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	
(Mil.145	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	
Campobasso 12969	50	98	3	25	0	11	2	32	1	0	0	
Naples (Civ.181,463	163	1059	6	365	12	297	3	78	71	24	0	
(Mil. 18,679	160	11	25	6	9	6	0	0	0	0	0	
Palermo 120,266	42	527	38	295	25	538	5	754	9	9	0	
Roma (Civ.386,713	1611	5811	50	648	23	349	20	237	77	106	171	
(Mil. 28,291	136	93	1	18	11	9	0	0	6	2	2	
Siracusa 22005	27	476	11	227	13	160	13	100	79	3	0	
SPS (Outgoing 1258	33	80	11	113	7	10	0	7	12	2	0	
Taranto (Civ.47006	162	369	26	195	15	145	63	48	101	153	30	
(Mil. 90527	266	189	23	224	0	0	0	0	16	18	0	
Total Civ. 950998	2206	9804	137	1948	102	1942	119	2525	490	307	254	12
Total Mil. 247594	609	1428	66	625	27	403	2	142	445	39	9	1
Totals: 1,193,592	2817	10232	203	2573	129	2355	121	1667	635	340	263	13

This report is based upon 50 letters per censor being checked daily on a 6-day weekly basis. The number of censors employed each week averaged 299.5, making a total of 359,400 letters examined for this four-week tally.

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...f	Income		National Government		Provincial Administration		
	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
	18	0	9	0	0	0	17
	424	33	287	116	34	53	4
	388	2	142	120	16	7	2
	0	0	2	3	0	0	0
	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
	11	2	12	1	0	0	4
	297	3	78	73	24	0	5
	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
	538	5	354	0	0	0	0
	349	20	237	77	108	171	37
	9	0	0	6	2	2	10
	160	13	100	79	3	0	0
	10	0	7	12	2	0	0
	345	63	49	101	152	30	64
	0	0	0	16	18	0	0
	3912	179	1525	490	301	254	125
	403	2	142	145	32	9	12
	2355	121	1607	635	340	263	137

...e below checked daily on a 6-day weekly ...k averaged 299.5, making a total of ...ses.

Relations with the Allies		Pres. Mil. Situation		Future Mil. Situation		Industr... Prospec...
F	U	F	U	F	U	F
48	8	0	0	4	1	0
786	28	452	9	310	2	39
2186	23	506	31	458	13	23
46	0	3	0	0	0	0
5	0	3	0	0	0	0
61	18	6	2	0	0	1
275	6	142	5	66	0	51
68	0	125	0	0	0	0
350	0	329	0	138	0	124
2625	171	67	19	51	7	71
14	0	60	20	60	20	0
294	0	187	0	41	0	5
49	0	26	0	13	0	1
70	31	64	37	6	7	69
156	33	65	13	0	0	9
4734	297	1277	85	631	17	355
2429	23	761	51	518	33	32
7263	320	2933	136	1149	50	387

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6 July - 5 August 1944

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Relations with the Allies		Pres. Mil. Situation		Future Mil. Situation		Industrial Prospects		Agricultural Prospects		Employment	
F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
46	8	0	0	4	1	0	0	53	5	1	4
786	28	453	9	310	2	39	57	165	27	53	89
2186	23	508	31	458	13	23	57	158	40	26	344
46	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	0	0
5	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
61	18	6	2	0	0	1	0	64	18	6	6
275	6	142	5	66	0	51	34	97	17	7	91
68	0	125	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
350	0	329	0	138	0	124	0	197	0	0	566
2825	171	67	19	51	7	73	74	83	483	72	422
14	0	60	20	60	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
294	0	187	0	41	0	5	57	245	53	23	108
49	0	26	0	13	0	1	1	0	0	1	2
70	31	64	37	6	7	63	51	180	89	117	46
156	33	65	13	0	0	9	7	128	48	0	0
734	297	1277	85	633	17	355	278	1130	242	250	1336
129	23	761	51	518	33	32	64	286	98	26	164
263	320	2033	136	1149	50	387	342	1436	340	306	1480

0202

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

CWM/mcf

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 35 10 August 1944

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report of Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 8 July 1944.

TO : Communications Censorship Branch,
AFHQ, APO 512, U. S. Army.

This report is based on 1,461,457 letters checked during the four weeks ended 8 July 1944. Various stations that figured in the last report are no longer operating. On the other hand the Rome station has come into being, and during the period under review no less than 558,122 letters were examined there.

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

1. FOOD SITUATION.

This still remains the chief topic in correspondence. Military opinion remains much the same as it was last period, but civilian opinion has become more optimistic, and the proportion of unfavorable comments has dropped from 6 to 1 down to 4 to 1. Bari, Brindisi, Naples, Palermo and Siracuse were all centers of widespread complaint. Adverse comments in the remaining areas were considerably less. It is interesting to note that the newly opened station in Rome revealed a comparatively low proportion of unfavorable comments. It is still true that complaints from most parts of the country are based on prices rather than on an actual shortage of food. Many writers still say that they are starving. The following comments give various points of view:-

1980

"I can't explain our situation to you. I only tell you that we have been starving since we arrived in Rome, and we have had to buy fruit in order to satisfy our hunger, but our salary is not sufficient to last even for ten days." (5/7/44 - Rome)

"Here we are very badly off because there are no vegetables and no fish. Besides, the communists wish to eat all the mills." (26/6/44 - Brindisi)

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"I have never been in such a bad situation. Bread is scarce, and I do not eat it in order that I may give it to my children. Everything is scarce and dear ... I and Luigina (his wife) are facing up to this hard life, but the children are always crying because, to tell you the truth, they are hungry. We parents are much grieved and are doing our best to help them, but often we can do nothing." (18/6/44 - Sassari)

"We have no complaints as to the food situation. We get 300 grams of bread, plenty of potatoes and everything we wish. The Black Market has almost faded out." (8/7/44 - Benevento)

"As to the food situation we can't complain. It would be an injustice to do so because, we must admit, the Allied Commissions do their best to provide food for the whole population." (2/7/44 - Taranto)

"On the 1st July the bread ration will be increased to 300 grams per head. Therefore the bread problem is solved for us. The Black Market will get a hard knock." (21/6/44 - Sassari)

2. CLOTHING.

The clothing situation appears to be going from bad to worse. Military comments have always been very adverse and are becoming increasingly so; but adverse civilian comments are growing in numbers even more rapidly. During the last period the average ratio for the four weeks was 12.8 to 1 against. The average for the period under review has advanced to 51.2 to 1 against. During the second week of the period the ratio soared to 151.5 to 1 against. There is a compleint in Rome that, after the city was freed, people from other centers came to buy materials and pushed up the prices. The following are typical comments:-

"What used to be sold here at L. 5 per metre is now scarcely to be got for L. 500; and even supposing you can afford such a price you feel reluctant to give it to those thieves. Anyway we must resign ourselves. I think such thievery as is practised in Rome is not to be matched in any other place. Some people are growing rich while others are reduced to beggary." (8/7/44 - Rome)

"Since Rome has been freed, the Neopolitans come to Rome and buy large quantities of cloth, so prices have gone up from 150 lire to 450 lire." (8/7/44 - Rome)

"Rodolfo was asked 36,000 lire to have a woolen suit made. Here (at Laurenzana) they charge us 50 lire for a tin of shoe polish, 1000 lire for a dozen common handkerchiefs. The better quality ones cost 300 lire each. We pay 100 and even 200 lire for a spool of thread, 800 for a pair of stockings and 600 for a pair of socks." (7/7/44 - Laurenzana)

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3. HOUSING.

There has not been much change in public opinion concerning the housing situation, adverse civilien comment having increased only slightly. Military opinion was erretic, but the average ratio for the period was much more adverse than for the previous period. However, military opinion on this subject is based on relatively few letters, and the comments are of little value.

One writer points out an interesting aspect of the situation in Rome. He says that, in the case of old buildings, the rents are the same as in 1939 and will not meet the taxes. Thus the owners are in a bad way. The tenants, on the other hand, sub-let the appartments for ten times as much as they pay for them. Other types of comment follow:-

"I have been looking for a furnished room in this boarding house, but there are none left. The Allies have requisitioned five rooms. You cannot find any more lodgings, all available flats being occupied by them." (9/7/44)

"Here at Taranto it's impossible to find a free house. There have been very many people looking for houses for a long time, but they can't find anything." (3/7/44 - Taranto)

"Rents are very high because there are so many refugees." (5/7/44 - Taranto)

"I had the chance to get a comfortable furnished room. I pay 300 lire a month, that's 10 lire a night, while a room in a hotel costs 50 lire a night." (3/7/44 - Taranto)

1978

4. INCOME.

Salaries and wages have given rise to increased complaint during the period under review, both in civilian and military comments. The position in Bari, Naples and Palermo seems to be particularly bad. Excluding the figures for Cagliari (Sardinia) the ratio for the rest of the country is 11 8 to 1 against, so that the figures 7.2 to 1, as shown in Appendix A, are misleading.

The real trouble is that the mounting prices of commodities have outstripped wages and salaries thus rendering the latter of little value. Comments are all very much along the same lines, such as the following:

"Living here has reached hyperbolic prices, and those who suffer most are the men on fixed salaries who live in hunger every day. Nobody troubles about their sad and unfair position." (8/7/44 - Bari)

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"Here life is becoming worse and worse. We can't make do any longer because our money is not sufficient." (11/6/44 - Siracusa)

"Our salaries are not high enough to allow us to buy food in the Black Market. I'm always hungry. Even the peasants don't wish to work because they say that 400 lire a day would be too little at the present time." (4/7/44 - Grevino)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

The National Government gained a little in favor during the period, the ratio of civilian comments improving from 1.1 to 1 to 1.6 to 1. Bari, Cagliari and Siracusa were heavily in favor. Palermo, as usual, remained very much in opposition. Military comments swung backwards and forwards from week to week and gave no clear picture of opinion other than that the latter, taken over the whole period, is fairly equally divided. Civilian comments give little real indication of the trend of thought. Hope seems to be chief impulse, or the absence of hope. The two following comments are typical illustrations:-

"We are glad to have you in our government. We hope you will do the best you can for our country." (21/6/44 - Taranto)

"I have no hope for the future from the government because of the terrible difficulties ahead. The railways are damaged, there are not enough trains..." (20/6/44 - Brindisi)

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

Civilian mail reveals a less adverse opinion than that which prevailed during the preceeding period. Bari, Palermo and Rome, judging by the few comments made, appear to be well on in favor of their provincial administrations. But, apart from Cagliari, most centers produced very few comments on the subject of provincial administration, which may point to the fact that there is no widespread dissatisfaction nor, for that matter, any enthusiasm. Military mail ignores the subject. Of the 38 comments, 37 of them came from one center, Bari, and completely reversed the very favorable civilian opinion from the same area. The following extracts from civilian letters will give some idea of the impulses behind the adverse comments:-

"The people of the councils will always be the same in any regime. The population will always be treated as they deserve." (7/7/44 - Taranto)

"There are people who, before the war, could hardly live, and now they have bought land worth some millions." (undated-Taranto)

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"Here the Fascists are still ruling and they haven't been punished yet. We staged a demonstration against a commissary of the Prefecture. The result was that we have had two communist representatives in the municipal council." (4/7/44 - Brindisi)

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES.

There is an improvement in civilian opinion on the Allies over that prevailing in the preceeding period when the ratio of favorable to unfavorable comments was 8.5 to 1. During the period under review the ratio advanced to 34.2 to 1. Military comments were particularly favorable during the first two weeks of the period, but fell away heavily during the last two weeks when the ratio of about 13 to 1 in favor was much the same as the average for the preceeding period. In both civilian and military mail, except when inspired by some major Allied advance, the favorable comments are largely the result of gratitude. Unfavorable comments usually follow well worn lines, prostitution, lack of housing due to requisitioning, drunken soldiers, loss of Italian prestige etc. The following extracts are typical of many:-

"As soon as the armistice was signed we were liberated by Allied soldiers who, in Calabria, had already helped us to drive out the enemy, and they gave us food which we appreciated very much. They gave us well being and freedom, and we appreciate the help they bring to the whole world." (3/7/44 - Bari)

"My brother Giovanni was seriously wounded by the cursed Germans, and we owe everlasting gratitude to the Anglo-Americans who operated on him immediately with real Christian charity, and he is now safe. God bless the Allies who are civilised and humane people." (7/7/44 - Taranto)

"We must recognise that our true friends, the Anglo-Americans, fighting against the barbarians of Europe and giving us their bread, are helping us to resolve the situation created by the Nazi-Fascists." (6/7/44 - Rome)

"Here there are no more Fascists. The Allied government has sent them away, and we are better off now." (7/7/44 - Brindisi)

"Do not complain for here also there does not exist a house that has not been requisitioned by the Allies. We may consider ourselves lucky that they did not take complete possession of them as they did in the case of so many buildings. Here they boss everything. Cinemas and coffee-houses are for their exclusive use." (8/7/44 - Taranto)

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8. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION

Civilian opinion reached its peak in the first week of the period when the ratio of favorable to unfavorable comments was 163.7 to 1. The following week the ratio fell very sharply to 13.5 to 1, and in the last week was 11.4 to 1 in favor, soaring in the second week to 348.5 to 1, and then slumping sharply to the level of civilian opinion in the last week. The fall of Rome, and the rapid advance afterwards, were responsible for the sudden boost. A more normal feeling than prevailed, but it was, nevertheless, more optimistic than the average for the preceeding period. Comments do not tell us very much. Most writers refer to the future which is analysed and illustrated in the following paragraph.

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION.

Extreme optimism prevailed throughout most of the period, though a more sober view was well evident at the close. The average ratio figures in Appendix A are apt to be misleading. Messina is the only station which provided a majority of adverse comments. In Taranto both the civil and the military mail showed less enthusiasm than most centers. The key note of favorable comments is that the war is nearly over. The following are examples.-

"The war can't last any longer the way things are going now. Let us hope Germany will fall this year. The Allied troops are smashing her day by day. The German people themselves are extremely down. It's a question of months; and you'll find, someday when nobody is thinking of it, that we'll have the news of Germany's fall." (8/7/44 - Taranto)

"I'm sure the war is over, and I trust the Allies." (22/6/44 - Palermo)

"I'm glad the fighting in France is going well, and I hope the war will soon be over." (6/6/44 - Syracuse)

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS.

Each week of the period produced a greater proportion of favorable comments among civilian letters than did the corresponding week of the previous period, and the period as a whole showed a proportion of two to one in favor. Syracuse and Taranto were the only centers in which unfavorable comments out numbered the favorable. There were few military comments. Over the whole period they were equally divided, though Bari produced 10 adverse comments and none in favor. Comments generally are not very illuminating, though there are various references to shortage of materials.

"This is the third day the mill has been working, and all is proceeding very well. We are the only ones to have started milling in the whole province. Thus I leave it to you to imagine the number of comments there are about us, admiring and envious." (30/6/44 - Benevento)

1975

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"We have increased the wages of both workmen and clerks. But capitalism must be brought down, and we'll ask for a new board." (7/7/44- Brindisi)

"By the 15th July we expect to have ready 2000 metres of cloth made from the wool given us last December. Besides we are asking for an increase in price per metre of cloth because we have to increase the wages of the workmen." (8/7/44 - Brindisi)

"Joiners are not working on account of the lack of glue." (? June 1944 - Sassari)

11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

On the whole both civilian and military comments are more optimistic than they were during the preceeding period. Cagliari was the only center in which adverse comments were in the majority. Bari and Messina produced the highest proportion of favorable comments. There is some complaint about lack of rain and the consequent adverse effects, and a few letters mention a shortage of labor. Favorable comments produced a crop of superlatives.

"We are happy because the harvest is going to be a wonderful one. The situation in general is also very promising." (30/6/44 - Benevento)

"The wheat harvest is very good as well as the maize and beans, but less so in two or three areas of this region where it does not seem to want to rain while everywhere else there has been an unceasing deluge." (26/6/44 - Lazio)

"I let you know that we are having a good harvest this year. We are gathering a great load of wheat and oats." (4/7/44 - Taranto)

"We shall have a good harvest; vegetables and oats are good, and so are the grapes and olives." (26/6/44 - Brindisi)

"The potato harvest is very bad this year because of the lack of rain." (18/6/44 - Castellanta)

"The harvest is good in some centers. In others there are complaints of lack of laborers because the latter should be getting agricultural leave but the commands do not grant them."

12. EMPLOYMENT.

Both civilian and military letters are more pessimistic concerning the prospects of employment than they were during the previous period. The centers of Cagliari, Messina, Palermo and Siracuse are particularly pessimistic, and Brindisi and Naples are not very hopeful either.

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Bari and Taranto were the only centers where favorable comments were in the majority. The great bulk of the military comments came from Brindisi so that the ratio in Appendix A is misleading in that it hardly reflects the opinion of the country as a whole. Comments generally do not tell much of a story. The favorable ones are invariably due to the fact that the writer has secured a job, often with the Allies. The two following adverse comments tell their own story:-

"Two months ago the employment situation was better, but now that the Allies are going away there is less work." (7/7/44 - Brindisi)

"There are many workless people. Some of the refugees that come from the big towns prefer to remain workless in the small towns rather than to go to a big center where life is very expensive." (7/7/44 - Taranto)

GORDON W. McKEAN,
Major, Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

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APPENDIX A

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RATIO TABLE REFLECTING FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

	FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOMES		NAT'L GOV'T		PROVINCIAL GOV'T		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION	
	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U

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APPENDIX A

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TO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

HOUSING		RETIRE		NAT'L GOV'T		PROVINCIAL GOV'T		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		TOURIST-RIST PROSPECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS		EMPLOYMENT	
F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
1	13.8	1	8	1.1	1	1	2.7	44.6	1	169.7	1	111	1	1.2	1	3.1	1	1	9.3
1	8.3	1	1.3	1	2.4	1	12	57.8	1	40	1	566	1	1.2	1	4.6	1	1	13.5
1	21.6	1	6.1	1.6	1	1.2	1	82.7	1	13.5	1	652	1	1.3	1	2.6	1	1	10
1	24	0	10	8	1	1	1	87.3	1	340.9	1	301	0	1.5	1	4.4	1	1	46
1	11.9	1	7.3	2.1	1	1	2.2	44.3	1	13	1	26.6	1	1.6	1	3.3	1	1	2.7
1	30	1	5.3	1	2.8	0	0	33.8	1	21.3	1	570	0	2	0	2.6	1	1	4
1	13.3	1	12.2	2.3	1	1	7.6	26.7	1	13.4	1	54.4	1	2	1	1	1	1	4.4
1	93	1	7.7	2.2	1	0	23	13	1	21.1	1	17.9	1	0	2	3.1	1	1	7.5
1	14.4	1	7.2	1.6	1	1	1.9	34.2	1	15.2	1	72.6	1	2	1	1.8	1	1	4.7
1	28	1	5.1	2	1.3	1	18	23.8	1	28.9	1	139.6	1	1	1	2.5	1	1	11.4

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

15 July 1944

CCG/16-21

SUBJECT: Report on Civilian Censorship Activities for the Period 15 June to 15 July 1944.

TO : Director, Communications Sub-Commission, A.C.C.

1. During the subject period, the following are considered to be the more important developments:

Change in Location of Headquarters: On 27 June 1944, Civil Censorship Group Headquarters opened at Advance Headquarters, Allied Control Commission.

Replacement of Military Personnel with Civilians: A program for replacement of military personnel with civilians has been commenced so as to make available additional military personnel for field assignments in civil censorship.

"S" Force Censorship Detachments: Two detachments have been formed and are now operating with "S" Force-Florence and "S" Force-Livorno. Included with these detachments, are the personnel selected to organize and operate the censorship stations in these two cities.

Censorship of Vatican City Communications: A plan is now being formulated by AFHQ for the censorship treatment of Vatican City communications including those of neutral and enemy diplomats accredited to the Vatican.

Telephone Censorship: On 19 June 1944 telephone censorship was commenced in Taranto. The experience to date in this type of censorship, indicates that its greatest value lies in furnishing telephone surveillance of suspect persons, whose names have been submitted by security agencies. In this work they have been particularly successful in furnishing valuable information to the agencies involved.

2. Normal operations have continued without any unusual incidents or trends.

3. A proposal has been submitted by G-5, AFHQ, for the transfer to Allied Control Commission of the responsibility for censorship of mail from and to Italian Prisoners of War, held by the Germans. This work was formerly done by Prisoner of War censorship detachment in Algiers. A reply has been sent pointing out the

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advantages of leaving the responsibility where it now rests, however, if G-5 does not concur in this view, agreement has been expressed to take on this additional task.

4. Plans have been completed for the organization of censorship up to the Pisa-Rimini line, the personnel is available and the stations will be organized in time to insure against delay, when communications are opened.

Gordon W. McKean

GORDON W. McKEAN,
Major, Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

File

DIRECTOR. Legmt
D/DIRECTOR.
S.O.(T).
S.C.P. [illegible]
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Rec'd 14.7.44

1970

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

CWM/mdf

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 18 — 8 July 1944

SUBJECT: Appreciation and Censorship Report of Italian Civilian and Military Mail for Four Weeks Ending 10 June 1944.

TO : Communications Censorship Branch,
AFHQ, APO 512, U. S. Army.

This report is based on 427,200 letters checked during the four weeks ended 10 June 1944. Attached is a table (Appendix A) which shows the relation between favorable and unfavorable comments on every subject each week. In all cases the lowest number of comments is reduced to one, and the second figure shows the corresponding number of comments of the opposite opinion.

1. FOOD SITUATION:

This remains by far the most predominant subject of correspondence. The situation appears to be a little better than it was during the previous period; and during the last of the four weeks under review the unfavorable comments showed a sharp drop in civilian mail. On the other hand military comments became more unfavorable over the last two weeks, though on the whole they were not so unfavorable as the civilian.

The situation is particularly bad in certain areas. From Trapani and Agrigento, for example, the month produced 1971 and 212 unfavorable comments respectively with not a single one in favor in either case. Other bad areas are: Cosenza, Matera, Messina, Palermo, Potenza and Naples, though in the case of Naples the military comments were more than four to one in favor. One of the chief complaints generally is that bread is unobtainable or very scarce. The following are typical comments:-

"We get 150 grams of bread per person daily, and sometimes we go three and four days without bread." (Cosenza - 18/5/44)

"We are worried because here we cannot find anything to eat, not even bread. As you know, they ask for terrifying prices, and we have so little money." (Cosenza - 31/5/44)

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"Food is scarce, especially bread. At night we go to bed hungry, in spite of the fact that every month we spend over 4000 lire. Living is becoming more costly day by day." (Catanzaro - 22/5/44)

"If you only realised what a terrible thing it is to suffer hunger." (Naples - 6/6/44)

"The 14 lire I receive as daily pension are not enough even to buy onions. I need at least 50 lire daily for the minimum necessities." (Catanzaro - 23/5/44)

"We have reached the limit. Every day I weep because I can't bear to see my dear children suffering from hunger." (Cosenza - 2/6/44)

"I have become very, very thin. Today in the market there is nothing. Even vegetables, pumpkins and fresh beans cost 30 lire per kilogram. We have one loaf of bread a day. We are not dying of hunger but we are very weak." (Sassari - 9/6/44)

In many cases the complaints about food are due to the fact that the people have insufficient money with which to buy it and not to the fact that food is unavailable. From the same station as the above letter we have this:-

"We can say that here we are in a little earthly paradise. Nothing is lacking. Of course everything is very dear, but it's possible to get anything." (Sassari - 31/5/44)

The following favorable comments give two different viewpoints:-

"As to the food problem here we cannot complain. Meat costs 100 lire per kilogram, fish is available every day and costs 40 lire per kilogram, yesterday anchovies were selling at 10 lire per kilogram, eggs at 9 lire each, and cheese at 100 lire per kilogram. Then there is an abundance of cottage cheese, fruit and vegetables." (Catanzaro - 23/5/44)

"Here they have given us wheat instead of bread, and we have ground it and baked bread. May the Anglo-Americans be blessed who have made it possible for us to have our daily bread." (Cosenza - 4/6/44)

Military mail again shows that soldiers messing with Italian units complain of bad food and little of it, while those with Allied units are satisfied.

"We are working with the British, but as to food we are badly off because we depend upon Italian units. Unless we are attached to the British for food rations we shall never be satisfied with the food." (APO 186 - 20/5/44)

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"I have been here for the past few days on duty with the British. Therefore I am very well off. One could desire nothing better." (Catanzaro - 22/5/44)

"I live with the British soldiers, and I eat what they eat. I am very well off and lack nothing." (Salerno - 15/5/44)

"Nowadays nothing can be found or bought, not even fresh fave (like beans). Moreover, the food they give us is little and bad." (Catanzaro - 28/5/44)

N.B. of the 2382 favorable civilian comments, 1550 came from Cagliari alone. Thus, for the rest of the country, the proportion of unfavorable to favorable comments was 14.3 to 1.

2. CLOTHING:

All parts of the country are dissatisfied with the clothing situation, and although there has been a decrease in the proportion of unfavorable comments over the period, they are still preponderently adverse. Civilian opinion fluctuated rather violently. In the first week unfavorable comments out numbered the favorable by 23.2 to 1, dropping to 7 to 1 in the following week, then rising to 22.5 to 1, and finally falling to 13.4 to 1 in the last week. On the other hand military comments reveal a steady rise on the adverse side, jumping violently in the last week to 41.2 to 1 against; the average for the month being 15.7 to 1 as compared with 6.9 to 1 for the previous period. Both civilians and soldiers complain chiefly about the lack of shoes. The following comments are typical:-

"You must bring me a pair of shoes because there aren't any to be found here." (Cosenza - 31/5/44) 1977

"To make a shirt one needs 1200 lire, and one needs 5000 lire for a suit." (Cosenza - 4/6/44)

"Let me know if you can find something to wear, for here we are all naked." (Catanzaro - 23/5/44)

"A shirt costs 1000 lire, and is made of very poor cloth." (Catanzaro - 2/6/44)

"Women's shoes here cost from 1500 to 2000 lire. Let us not mention materials for clothing. The prices have jumped from 10 and 15 lire per metre." (Pizzo - 21/5/44)

"I am ashamed to go outside on account of my lack of clothes." (Nuoro - 8/6/44)

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"Here we are bare and bare-footed. There is nothing, and we are desperate." (Nuoro - 6/6/44)

As in the case of food, many of the complaints are due to high prices rather than to an actual shortage of commodities. The following favorable comments give more hopeful views:-

"I have walked around the city, and one can find everything. Cloth and materials are found in the show cases as well as in the shops. But the prices are very high." (Castrovillari - 4/6/44)

"As to clothing, I may sincerely tell you that a considerable improvement is noticeable. The prices are no longer chaotic and sky-high, beyond everybody's reach.... Thus clothing is an easier problem and no longer a woeful question mark. Let us hope that footwear will have lowered prices. It is about time." (Caltanissetta - 6/6/44)

Two different military points of view are given in the following extracts:-

"I have roamed around the entire day up and down the military command offices trying to find some summer cloth for a suit of clothes, but I have not succeeded in finding it. I am still wearing the British winter uniform." (Taranto - 3/6/44)

"We are all wearing wooden shoes, and our clothes are all in tatters." (Reggio Calabria - 30/5/44)

3. HOUSING:

1966

Opinion on the housing situation was even more unfavorable during the period under review than during the previous four weeks. In the second week there was a big drop in the civilian unfavorable comments, but they rose steadily thereafter. Military comments showed a violent drop in the proportion of unfavorable comments in the third week, but this did not reflect the general opinion in that, of the total favorable comments numbering 106, no less than 100 came from Reggio Calabria alone. The average for the month was also affected by this, and though the figures appear to show an improvement over the previous month, actually, for the country as a whole, the situation worsened.

Military comments were not specific, but the following civilian comments give various points of view:

"I weep every day because I have not yet found a house, and I am forced to sleep at Amleto's. You well know that he has no space for his children to sleep, and I am being tossed about from one place to another." (Taranto - 26/5/44)

"Let us hope to find a little room here soon, otherwise there will be trouble." (Cosenza - 4/6/44)

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"The problem which cannot be solved in any way whatever, and which keeps us under a continuous nervous tension, is the lodging problem. This holds true especially for us who have had our houses destroyed by bombardments. We live in filth with odd pieces of furniture found here and there, and also among strange people who do not know what "hygiene means". (Agrigento - 30/5/44)

"It is impossible to find a lodging, in fact most of the employees who came back to Cagliari are sleeping in their offices." (Nuoro - 8/6/44)

"After our having suffered so much, the local administration does not realize the need for reconstructing quickly the damaged buildings. We are very badly off here in regard to lodging. One cannot even find a pig-sty in which to sleep." (Gela, Sicily - 7/6/44)

As a contrast to the above we have:-

"As to lodging, we are much better off now due to the interest shown by both the Prefect and the Engineer Corps." (Caltanissetta - 7/6/44)

4. INCOME:

The proportion of adverse comments has dropped slightly during the period under review as compared with the previous four weeks, both as regards civilian and military mail. The average figures for military mail, as shown in Appendix A, are misleading because the total of 146 favorable comments include no less than 115 from Reggio Calabria alone. Excepting this station the average for the country is 12.3 to 1 against.

1965

The following comments give variations of a similar theme:-

"It is impossible to go on living in such dire economic conditions, receiving a salary which, compared with the present high cost of living, is absolutely ridiculous." (Naples - 10/6/44)

"Here living has become very expensive. One's salary is just enough for the first few days. For the rest of the month we have to tighten our belts." (Cosenza - 10/6/44)

"Here we suffer about everything because we must buy everything, and the money I earn monthly does not last ten days." (Taranto - 10/6/44)

"The 70% increase in our wages has been useless since the prices fixed by the authorities have increased by 400%." (Sassari - 21/5/44)

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"Since the declaration of war my financial condition has become gradually worse....Certain expenses are absolutely indispensable. I must think of my family....it is impossible to exist. I should steal, but I prefer to die first." (Cosenza - 29/5/44)

The harvest has been a help in Sardinia. The two following extracts are illustrations.

"Country-men have a great deal to do on account of the pea harvest. They are working and are satisfied. We have already derived 40,000 lire from peas and 20,000 from onions and 'vignaredda'. There is nothing to complain of." (Sassari - 15/5/44)

"We twelve women are working in the pea harvest. We are earning very well." (Sassari - 15/5/44)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT:

Since the last period, when unfavorable comments were slightly in the majority, opinion has moved more in favor of the national government, but still remains fairly evenly divided from the point of view of total figures. However, when reckoned in localities, opinion is two to one in favor of the government. Sicily is a particular case, and is almost unanimously against the government. In all cases the mail examined related to the Badoglio administration. The period under review does not embrace the new government.

The mail does not give any clear picture of what the writers really think of the government, but two rather virulent comments from Salerno, where communism is much to the fore, may give some idea of the views of the left.

"We have the impression that we are administered by a paralytical government, bankrupt from it's very beginning; and the lack of faith in it on the part of the population increases daily ....In fact the poor employee is being tossed about between the tuberculous white market and the flourishing and unapproachable black market. No one provides a solution to the essential problem of the working classes." (Salerno - 2/6/44)

"To understand the state of indignation and revolt against the actual institutional form of the state, one must approach the masses starved by the black market...." (Salerno - 30/5/44)

Yet we get the following in a letter concerning Salerno.

"We have received good news from Salerno about the new directives of the Badoglio government. It seems that the ministers are elaborating something good and positive." (Castanissetta - 22/5/44)

0720

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6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION:

There is little change in opinion since the previous period, on average figures, though the last two weeks produced a greater proportion of unfavorable comments in civilian mail. They rose from 2.3 and 1.2 against in the first two weeks to 4 and 2.9 against in the last two weeks. Military comments are of little value, but the following civilian comments give some idea of the reasons for complaint:-

"These wretches at the city hall are true rascals because they promise us a great deal and never keep their promises." (Catanzaro - 22/5/44)

"The fact is that we lack everything, and the administration cares little about the needs of the population." (Cosenza - 4/5/44)

"The situation has become serious during these last few months under the rule of that dog and usurper, Prefect Mancini. Fortunately they have changed him now." (Cosenza - 25/5/44)

"We are sailing on in the dark...Among this famous administration there are not any people but those who think of their own personal gain, and who abandon the population to its fate." (Caltanissetta - 23/5/44)

"We have become very lean...we are spending about 300 lire a day as we are buying everything in the black market. The authorities make no provision for they can get everything free." (Sassari - 8/5/44)

"This is the time of the year that all diseases spread, and it is deplorable that the local authorities do nothing about cleanliness. Dirty clothes are washed in the streets, garbage accumulates, and the municipal guard does nothing about putting an end to such a condition." (Apollosa - 30/5/44)

1963

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES:

The average for the period under review shows a reduction in the proportion of favorable civilian comments. In the previous period they were 11.5 to 1 in favor, while during the last four weeks they have receeded to 8.5 to 1. Opinion fluctuated. In the first week it was 11.6 to 1 in favor, dropping to 4.5 to 1 in the second week, and rising to 15.7 to 1 in the third week. It then fell away to 12.7 in the last week. The average military figures remained the same as in the previous period, being 13.4 to 1 in favor. During the last week, however, there was a very sharp rise to 48.6 to 1 in favor. Messina was the only place where adverse comments exceeded favorable comments. This was among civil mail. Salerno provides an interesting contrast, for the civilian mail produced no unfavorable comments at all during the period. Whilst the military mail, in the third week of the period, produced 30 adverse comments out of a total of 65 for the whole country.

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Many of the favorable comments are born of gratitude, which is inevitable, but others seem to be genuine expressions of goodwill and natural inclination towards the Allies.

"We love the Allies with a sincere and deep love because they deserve it. I answer your question by stating that our relations with the Allies are and will always be good, and we hope that this damned war will end soon in order that there may be a rebirth for all concerned. The Allies have been our great saviours, those who have opened for us the golden gates of Liberty." (Caltanissetta - 24/5/44)

"My dear Henry, you were right. The British are winning and will win, because they are the creators of true justice." (Cosenza - 24/5/44)

"I have been very happy upon learning that you are working with the Americans who treat you very well, because I have learned that the Americans are kindhearted people from my experience with them." (Catanzaro - 23/5/44)

"I am well off here, and the Americans treat me very well indeed." (Catanzaro - 21/5/44)

"I am doing well, working for the British with whom I earn 65 lire daily besides food and lodging. The food is very good. I work eight hours daily, that is from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. the rest of the time is at my disposal." (Brindisi - 5/6/44)

"Our dear Allies are victoriously advancing. May the Lord protect them." (Nuoro - 30/5/44)

Military comments are brief, and speak chiefly of material benefits. The following are typical:-

"We are with the Allies, and they treat us very well." (Cosenza - 25/5/44)

"I work in an American Supply Office. We have all comforts here, and I can assure you that I am well off." (Cosenza - 25/5/44)

1942

Adverse comments are usually due to some form of readily understandable resentment. The following are illustrations of two such cases:-

"What do you think of the Allied advance? I may be a fool, but I would prefer to stay another year in arms so that the war may not pass pitilessly over all of Italy. They were at Cassino? it would have been better if they had remained at Cassino?" (Taranto - 2/6/44)

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"If your husband had been at home the Americans wouldn't have had the honor of being served by my wife. Look out, and think of your dear one who is far away. When these people are drunk they don't reason any more. Here also there are incidents happening every day." (Sassari - 7/6/44)

3. PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION:

There has been a natural upward surge in favorable comments on the present military situation during the period under review. Nevertheless there has been an element of caution among civilians, and the ratio has only risen from 1.8 to 1 against to 5.7 to 1 in favor, whereas military comments have advanced from 2.1 to 1 in favor to 26 to 1 in favor over the previous period. However, during the fourth week of the period, i.e. that ending on 10th June, there was a very marked wave of optimism, and civilian comments rose to 10.6 to 1 in favor, while military comments reached the figure of 107 to 1. Only two centres produced a majority of unfavorable comments over the period - Catania and Reggio Calabria. In both cases the unfavorable out numbered the favorable by about two to one.

Comments are difficult to classify, for the present and the future situation are usually combined in somewhat extravagant language. The following are typical:-

"But soon the great and immortal Rome is to be liberated by the valiant Allied forces who are already at its gates. They will give no moment of respite to the German enemy until he is definitely thrown from the sacred soil of our dear and martyred Italy. The moment of liberation draws near with gigantic strides." (Cosenza - 4/6/44)

"I am thoroughly convinced that the war will end soon due to the imminent colossal landings of the Allies. Therefore there will be full, absolute and incontrovertible victory for the entire world." (Cosenza - 2/6/44)

"The powerful war machine of the United Nations is now directed towards its goal. It will not take long to crush the enemy force will ever stop it. Laurels of glory are being gathered on all fronts. This is substantiated by the recent landing in France... I was frightened upon hearing the number of methods employed. We may now be sure that the war is drawing near to its twilight." (Murzi - 9/6/44)

"This week is bringing us a great joy. As soon as I knew the news concerning the deliverance of Rome and the landing in France I drank to the Allies' victory and I got drunk. I had never been drunk before in all my life." (Sassari - 9/6/44)

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From Military mail there are the following:-

"The Allied victories with their rythm seem to accelerate the moment when our country will be free. Here we are all following the unfolding of the operations with great expectations. We often complain because it is not given to us to be up there to taste the joy of victories as we used to do when the Messina Division knew neither respite nor defeats." (Taranto - 29/5/44)

"I am happy that the military operations in North Italy are going along so well, and I believe that it won't be long now before we obtain complete victory and peace." (Cosenza - 5/6/44)

9. FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION:

Civilian comments became increasingly favorable as the period progressed. The ratio in the first week was 11.4 to 1 in favor. This increased steadily over the next two weeks, and finally, in the fourth week, it rose to 202.1 to 1. Military comments, though showing a slump in the second week when the ratio fell to 28.2 to 1 in favor, became almost unanimously in favor in the final week when the ratio was 629 to 1. Comments were brief, and often tended to become over optimistic. The two following are examples:-

"The war is about to finish. The enemy will soon leave our beloved country. Our gallant soldiers and the brave Allies have saved us once more." (Nuoro - 30/5/44)

"The war is going very well. I think that Italy will be delivered in a month." (Nuoro - 6/6/44)

As against the above we have the following example of caution:-

"In spite of the defeats which the Germans are suffering on all fronts, I am convinced that this monstrous tragedy is not drawing to its end. Hitler's Germany, with cold boldness and cynical indifference, is now as ready as she was on the first day of the war to hurl into the greatest tortures and sufferings new millions of human lives in the vain search for a way of salvation from her catastrophe." (Salerno - 2/6/44)

1960

10. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS:

A slightly more hopeful view has prevailed during the period under review. Whereas unfavorable comments were about 10% in excess of those favorable throughout the previous four weeks, the position was reversed but with a 20% excess of favorable comments. Cagliari, Catania, Messina and Syracuse still take a more pessimistic view. On the other hand Lecce, Naples and Palermo are definitely optimistic. Most other centers are fairly equally divided with a tendency towards the optimistic. Comments are not very helpful in assessing the situation. The following are examples:-

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"At Modica a textile industry has arisen. The old looms are again functioning, and woolen, linen and cotton stuffs are being woven. The products are a little heavy, but they are preferable to a fig leaf." (Ragusa - 17/5/44)

"As to my business, I have renewed my activity in some ways. But the work is proceeding slowly owing to lack of transport." (Cosenza - 25/5/44)

"I wish to inform you that saddle makers have been without leather for a long period of time. They state that they will not be able to make any repairs on leather articles for the forthcoming agricultural work." (Brindisi - 1/6/44)

11. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS:

Opinion became increasingly optimistic over the period in both civil and military mail. Although there was a slump in favorable comments during the first week, hopes rose sufficiently in later weeks to give a ratio of favorable to unfavorable comments in excess of that for the previous period. Both Lecce and Cagliari areas were particularly optimistic. Brindisi civilian mail, on the other hand, was rather pronouncedly unfavorable. Comments from Cosenza are contradictory. Many speak of good harvests, while others complain that lack of rain or fertilizers has ruined their prospects. Other centers also complain of lack of rain.

"You want to know how the crop is coming along this year. It is very good. The wheat is magnificent. Let us hope that nothing will happen as it did last year with hail and bad storms." (Cosenza - 31/5/44)

"I wish to tell you that we have already tasted the new potatoes. The harvest is abundant, and this year we shall have more than we did last year. There's an abundance of cherries and lima beans." (Covicati - 5/6/44)

"This year seeded fields are going very well. We have already mown barley and oats. In a few days we'll begin to mow wheat." (Sassari - 7/6/44)

1959

"The harvest of hay was plentiful. Kitchen gardens promise very well. Barley and wheat will certainly yield very much." (Nuoro - 8/6/44)

"Up to the present time the harvest seems to be good. Even the vineyards and the olives are promising. As a result there is no lack of work here." (Cosenza - 1/6/44)

"Here we are without rain. The wheat is now lost without remedy, and the same perhaps applies to the potatoes and the rest of the products." (Cosenza - 6/6/44)

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"Nothing can be found to fertilize the soil. A sack of sulphate costs 10,000 lire and it is not possible to buy it. Thus the fields wither away daily." (Salerno - 27/5/44)

"Even this year a poor harvest is forseen due to the absence of rain. During the past winter we had lots of snow, while now that we need only a few hours of rain we don't even get a drop of water." (Avellino - 2/5/44)

"The crop this year is worse than last year's because it has not rained for a long time, and the products we have planted are all disappearing through lack of water." (Catanzaro - 20/5/44)

12. EMPLOYMENT:

Both civilian and military mail reveal a more gloomy view on the subject of employment, and the ratio of unfavorable to favorable comments has about doubled over that prevailing during the preceeding period. Civilian mail showed a slightly less pessimistic trend during the last two weeks of the period, but military opinion moved sharply in the opposite direction. This was accentuated by the Palermo figures which were unusually pessimistic. Bari and Taranto were the only centers where favorable comments outnumbered unfavorable, being civilian comments in both cases. As a contrast, Agrigento and Trapani, with 35 and 23 unfavorable comments respectively, produced not a single favorable one between them. The comments themselves are not very illuminating, and are merely individual complaints.

"While still waiting for rehabilitation and work, I hope God allowes me to obtain a job tomorrow because there is a hope of it. I have been sleeping on the ground since the 25th." (Taranto - 30/5/44)

"I have a very great fear of remaining unemployed during the whole of this period, and I shall then also die of hunger." (Trapani - 2/5/44)

"I am sorry you are unemployed. Why do you not look for employment with the Allies who are giving a strong impulsion to the coal mines? I think that, if one is willing to work, one may easily find work." (Sassari - 15/5/44)

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"Let us hope that Mario may get a job. He is very bored with his conditions as he isn't earning and is eating with his family." (Nuoro - 8/6/44)

GORDON W. McMAH,
Major, Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

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1 - Vice President, RC & MC Section (Exec Comm), ACC
1 - Vice President, Administrative Section, ACC
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Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

15 June 1944

SUBJECT: Report on Civilian Censorship Activities for the Period 16 May to 15 June 1944.

TO : Director, Communications Sub-Commission, A.C.C.

1. During the subject period, the following are considered to be the more important developments:

Reduction of Personnel: Pursuant to NATOUSA order, the authorized American personnel for CCG was reduced by 9 officers and 14 enlisted men, leaving a total of 31 officers and 41 enlisted men (U.S.). The reduction constitutes a contravention of the agreement under which the Commission accepted responsibility for the operation of civil censorship in Italy. Appropriate representations have been made to disclaim responsibility for the results with the reduced staff.

Assignment of CCG Personnel to ACC: INC Section, AFHQ has advised the Commission that G-1 has objected to the outright assignment of the U.S. personnel tothe 2675th Regiment, ACC. The present attachment status of the personnel continues. At a later date, a decision will be reached by the Commission as to whether the existing basis can be continued or the CCG turned back to INC Section, AFHQ.

Reorganization of Italian Censorship: In order to prevent censorship from being used for unjustifiable purposes, the operation of internal censorship has been transferred from the Ministry of Interior to the Commando Supremo. Coincident with this change, the supervision and operation of internal censorship in Italian government controlled territory has been given back to the Italians and the Allied Censor Control Officers withdrawn. This provision excludes the provinces of Bari, Taranto, Palermo and Cagliari from which points external mails are handled. Complete control of all censorship in these provinces remains with the Allied officers. All policy control over all censorship will be retained by the Commission.

Discontinuance of Internal Censorship in Certain Areas: After receiving the concurrence of A.A.I., the Commission on 11 June 1944 directed the cessation of internal mail and telegraph censorship in all of government controlled territory, except the following provinces:

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a.) Mainland: Bari, Brindisi, Taranto, Salerno

b.) Sicily : Palermo, Siracusa

c.) Sardinia: Cagliari, Sassari

"S" Force Censorship Detachment: A detachment of four officers and two enlisted men were detailed to and participated in "S" Force operations in Rome. Their principal function was the seizure and expedition of captured German mail. The results obtained both in their primary function as well as in supplemental intelligence indicates the wisdom of including similar detachments with any future forces.

Rome Censorship Detachment: The Rome detachment moved in with Region IV personnel and are now prepared to effect both postal and telephone censorsip.

Telephone Censorship: Telephone monitering of subscriber lines has now been extended so as to include Naples, Bari and Rome. Within 10 days it is expected that monitering will be commenced in Taranto.

Organization of Yugoslav Section: A special section for the censorship of Yugoslav mail has been set up in Bari.

2. Normal operations have continued without any unusual incidents or trends.

Gordon W. Mc Kean

GORDON W. MC KEAN
Major - Cavalry
Civil Censorship Officer

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Province (Volume Censored)	Food Situation		Clothing		Housing		Income		National Government		Provincial Administration	
	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
Avellino 31.024	41	54	0	8	0	6	0	2	0	2	0	7
Bari (Civ. 117,133	71	1250	3	595	0	437	5	241	109	12	30	5
(Mil. 129,612	69	1329	2	633	1	301	11	82	66	105	1	36
Benevento (Civ.9169	19	20	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0
(Mil. 509	3	0	0	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brindisi (Civ.33,147	3	571	0	391	0	131	2	2	11	1	6	2
(Mil.44,819	152	187	5	181	0	132	5	0	1	0	0	0
Cagliari 19,773	755	2550	23	2996	68	1597	195	983	203	25	109	240
Caltanissetta 30,860	13	55	4	38	2	18	2	8	15	6	2	11
Messina 30,221	2	211	0	95	0	43	3	39	3	32	1	30
Naples (Civ. 160,980	160	1191	23	295	41	158	3	74	143	60	7	7
(Mil. 16,821	140	18	13	2	15	6	0	0	3	0	0	0
Palermo (Civ. 69,873	53	805	29	499	41	197	1	518	15	157	7	0
(Mil. 12,926	13	29	4	22	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	3
Rome 558,122	587	760	4	23	17	70	7	26	27	18	13	5

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Relations with the Allies		Pres. Mil. Situation		Future Mil. Situation		Industrial Prospects		Agricultural Prospects		Employment	
F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
28	9	0	0	1	0	0	0	36	5	0	2
622	6	302	5	112	5	39	22	184	10	76	41
865	53	1001	23	1320	12	0	10	165	42	6	25
20	1	5	0	1	0	2	0	17	2	0	0
2	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
290	0	176	3	201	0	41	16	323	221	12	44
734	8	600	4	432	1	35	30	335	177	18	256
1612	59	1221	92	926	0	268	137	514	559	25	714
20	0	10	18	0	0	0	3	41	2	0	48
578	11	301	18	148	9	78	37	88	64	14	83
54	0	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
334	11	188	0	161	0	73	20	401	65	0	123
15	0	13	0	4	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
2390	51	68	2	14	0	106	7	21	8	44	76
18	0	15	0	26	0	20	7	16	4	2	4

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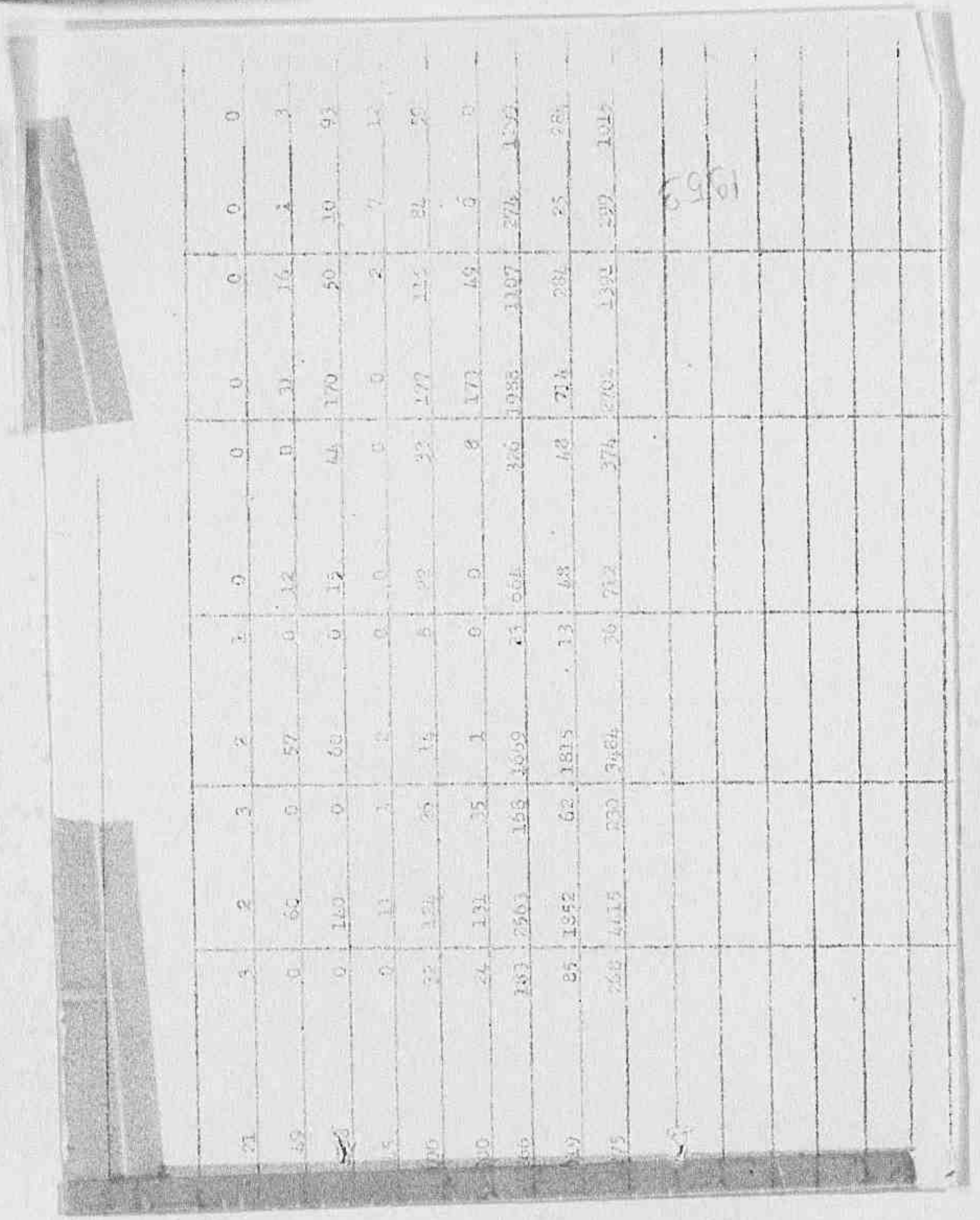
Cheshi (Div. 7556	33	60	1	54	0	7	1	0	0	1	0	
(Mil. 3923	38	62	0	39	1	15	0	0	2	1	0	
Syracuse 27,461	17	283	5	103	0	109	21	03	102	14	0	
SPS (Veterans 662%	7	92	3	40	1	5	11	17	5	0	0	
Toronto (Div. 51,080	163	375	11	139	39	203	35	50	93	106	12	
(Mil. 29,587	454	45	32	167	4	0	0	0	22	15	0	
Total Div. 1,153,065	1904	8284	105	5376	4200	2081	280	2054	727	445	187	
Total Mil. 306,402	839	1960	61	1102	20	460	36	82	107	133	2	
TOTALS 1,461467	2743	10244	166	6478	4220	3344	1302	2136	834	579	189	

This report is based upon 80 letters not counted being checked daily on a 5-day weekly basis. The number of sensors employed each week averages 910, making a total of 372,900 letters checked for this four-week tally

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RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT

APPENDIX A

	FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NAT'L GOV'T		PROVINCIAL GOV'T		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUT MIL SIT
WEEK ENDING	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F
CIV 20 May	1	10	1	23.2	1	18.6	1	6.2	1.4	1	1	2.3	11.6	1	2.1	1	11
MIL	1	2.5	1	10.7	1	48	1	10.5	1.5	1	1	4.3	7.6	1	6.5	1	64
CIV 27 May	1	6	1	7	1	10	1	6.3	1	X.6	1	1.2	4.3	1	4	1	15
MIL	1	2.3	1	11.4	1	26.6	1	8.3	2.4	1	1	1.4	18.3	1	17.6	1	2
CIV 3 June	1	8.9	1	22.5	1	19.5	1	6.2	1.8	1	1	4.6	15.7	1	7.4	1	2
MIL	1	3.4	1	16.5	1	2.9	1	1	1.3	1	1	4	12	5	24.9	1	6
CIV 10 June	1	3.1	1	13.4	1	24.3	1	4.5	1.3	1	1	9.9	12.4	1	40.6	1	
MIL	1	3.4	1	41.2	1	9	1	13.7	1	1.2	1.3	1	48.6	1	107.1	1	6
AVERAGE FOR 4 WEEKS	1	6	1	12.8	1	13.8	1	5.9	1.1	1	1	2.9	8.5	1	5.7	1	
ENDING 10 JUNE 44	1	2.8	1	15.7	1	6.4	1	2.6	1.5	1		1.7	13.4	1	25	1	

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TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS ON PERTINENT POINTS

APPENDIX A

HOUSING		INCOME (C)		NAT'L GOV'T		PROVIN-CIAL GOV'T		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION		FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION		INDUST-RIAL PROSPECTS		AGRI-CULTURAL PROS-PECTS		EMPLOY MENT	
F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
1	18.6	1	6.2	1.4	1	1	2.3	11.6	1	2.1	1	11.4	1	1.1	1	2.4	1	1	4.4
1	48	1	10.5	1.5	1	1	4.3	7.6	1	6.5	1	64.7	1	3.3	1	2.6	1	1	3.4
1	10	1	6.3	1	3.6	1	1.2	4.3	1	4	1	15.3	1	1.1	1	3	1	1	5.5
1	26.6	1	8.3	2.4	1	1	1.4	18.3	1	17.6	1	28.2	1	1	1.7	3.7	1	1	2
1	19.5	1	6.2	1.8	1	1	4.6	15.7	1	7.4	1	29.7	1	1.3	1	3.9	1	1	3.4
1	2.9	1	1	1.3	1	1	4	12	5	24.9	1	69.1	1	1	1.5	1.6	1	1	12.8
1	24.3	1	4.5	1.3	1	1	9.9	12.4	1	40.6	1	202.1	1	1.6	1	6.9	1	1	3.4
1	9	1	13.7	1	1.2	1.3	1	48.6	1	107.1	1	629	1	1.4	1	3.4	1	1	27.2
1	13.8	1	5.9	1.1	1	1	2.9	8.5	1	5.7	1	42.9		1	1.2	1	1	1	4.3
1	6.4	1	2.6	1.5	1	1	1.7	13.4	1	26	1	34.7		1	1.2	1	3.5	1	9.1

Province (Volume Censored)	Food Situation		Clothing		Housing		Income		National Government		Provincial Administration	
Province	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
Agrigento 60,595	0	212	0	130	0	56	0	2	21	0	11	17
Avellino(Civ.36,459	5	143	0	10	0	0	0	12	0	4	0	5
(Mil. 82	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	45	0	0	0	0
Bari (Civ. 81,126	39	1095	1	555	0	304	5	305	81	15	8	9
(Mil. 87,374	91	1320	11	778	2	360	15	238	212	87	14	28
Benevento (Civ.1,666	1	6	1	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	1
Brindisi (Civ. 31,950	35	336	4	282	12	148	14	26	19	5	14	2
(Mil. 62,522	254	525	19	376	1	186	1	1	18	0	1	1
Cagliari (Civ. 26,797	1556	2406	289	2892	133	1864	194	869	307	277	82	367
(Mil. 2,143	114	14	27	50	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0
Caltanissetta 30,909	10	43	7	34	4	22	2	8	15	5	0	4
Catania 24,329	50	757	11	302	6	175	3	10	39	61	21	75
Cosenza (Civ.140,533	52	537	14	135	1	27	13	21	19	0	2	15
(Mil.36,162	3	30	0	8	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	1
Enna (Civ. 77,795	7	305	2	45	0	4	0	7	1	1	1	2

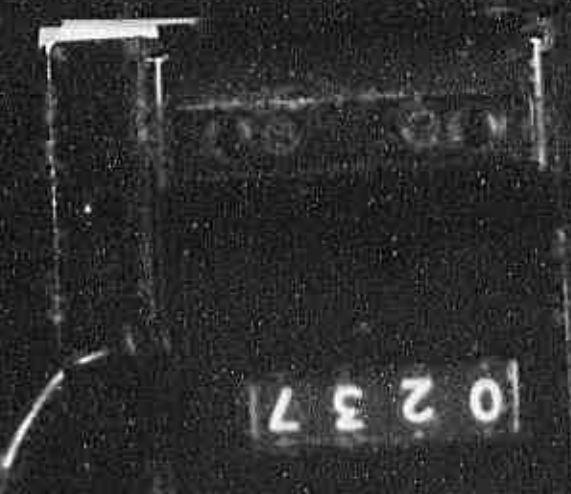
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OPINION REPORT 1944

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Relations with the Allies		Pres. Mil. Situation		Future Mil. Situation		Industrial Prospects		Agricultural Prospects		Employment	
F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
124	0	37	0	10	0	0	9	0	18	0	38
56	31	7	0	4	0	0	0	3	7	0	5
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
347	15	81	8	39	5	55	26	154	55	71	52
770	46	911	15	661	10	19	55	334	68	30	65
9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
75	0	30	4	19	0	59	32	196	289	26	71
348	4	396	1	454	2	3	4	257	138	5	64
1903	191	810	82	1570	28	202	275	1113	236	77	590
74	34	0	11	39	0	50	0	0	0	0	11
15	1	1	1	4	1	3	0	0	3	4	27
193	18	24	44	16	2	56	73	274	60	55	182
18	9	28	12	9	0	12	7	82	57	0	7
2	2	9	5	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	1
1	2	1	0	0	0	1	4	12	27	0	4

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