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CENSORSHIP SPECIAL REPORTS

JUNE - JULY 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

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

LITJ/mc

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SPECIAL REPORT No. 137

30 July 1945

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Director	
D/Director	<i>John</i>
Chief of Communications	
Chief Postal	<i>WTH</i>
H Q Coms O	
Asst Chief Postal	<i>Q</i>
Censorship	
Chief Clerk	

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CONFIDENTIAL

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1. FOOD SITUATION

The general position shows a worsening of opinion but again the figures vary considerably in different parts of the country. Whereas, for instance, in Southern Italian mail adverse comments were in the majority by 47 to 1, the Northern Italian provinces have an adverse majority of only 14 to 1. At Aosta it is as low as 4 to 1.

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

"It is now some days that the town has been without food. Housewives rioted to obtain a reduction in prices and obtained the opposite result. The authorities are doing their best but one must stay in line for hours for $\frac{1}{2}$ kilo of vegetables." (2/7/45 - Venezia)

"Bread (150 gr. per day) costs 4 lire per kilo with the ration card and does not exist on the black market. Rice (1 kilo per month) costs 10 lire per kilo with the ration card and 40 lire per kilo on the black market. There is no pasta with the ration card and it costs 90 lire per kilo on the black market. Olive oil or butter (100 gr. per month) costs 80 lire per kilo on the ration card and the black market prices are 700 lire per kilo for butter and 300 lire for olive oil. Other prices are: meat 350 lire per kilo, lake fish 230 lire per kilo, potatoes 30 lire and tomatoes 75 lire." (7/6/45 - Aosta)

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

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

"...Now we talk about the actual prices, you are still lucky in comparison with us.....eggs now are at the same

2204

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price as yours at 22 lire each, meat 350-700 per kilo, wine 100-110 lire a litre, cherries 44 lire a kilo, peaches at 80, butter even at 1000 lire and so on....." (24/6/45 - Genoa)

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. CLOTHING

The general situation worsened slightly in the north, the ratio of adverse comments being 19 to 1 against 13.5 to 1 in the previous period. In Southern Italy there was a marked improvement, unfavourable comments being 252 to 1 against 720 to 1 in the previous four weeks. Certain provinces in the north were exceptional and showed better

2203

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

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

"We found some ready made cloth shoes. If one wants all leather shoes, one must have them made and with good leather and workmanship they cost 3500 and 5000 lire. One can find cloth for dresses but it is ersatz material. A suit without lining costs 4000 to 5000 lire, even 6000. Cloth for ladies' summer dresses is around 300 to 400 lire per metre. (17/6/45 - San Remo)

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

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

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

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

"Prices are going down daily in Sicily. Suits which could not be bought previously for 30000 lire now sell for 10000 lire and so on." (30/5/45 - Ragusa)

"A pair of shoes of substitute material cost 1700 lire, pure leather 2000-2200 lire. With a special coupon

203

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

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

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

3. HOUSING

Opinion on this subject took a marked turn for the worse. The adverse ratio of 15.6 to 1 in the previous four weeks advanced to 48.7 to 1. In Turin the adverse ratio was 349 to 1 while the situation deteriorated also in Genoa and Milan. The same situation was found in the South at Naples where unfavourable comments were 145 to 1 but in general Southern Italy showed improvement. As in the case of food and clothing Aosta was the most favourable province with an adverse ratio of only 4.8 to 1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. INCOME

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

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

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

"There are three people in our home, husband, wife and daughter, and we spend daily for food 300 lire but many families with three or four sons cannot get along with 500 or 600 lire a day. All the Italians are almost naked, barefooted. A man earns 250 lire a day digging the soil but it is not enough for bread." (11/6/45 - Syracuse)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

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

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

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

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

2198

CONFIDENTIAL

"Unfortunately the atmosphere is still impregnated with grudges, vendettas, egotisms, thirst for power and the future does not seem very encouraging." (25/6/45 - Turin)

"Have you seen that the new government has placed three Communists in the Ministries which are most important for us: Finance, Agriculture and Justice. The future looks very dark, let us hope for the best." (21/6/45 - Turin)

"Now there is a new cabinet. Let us hope they will collaborate for the good of the people. But there are too many parties but I agree with them on one thing - no monarchy, the main cause of our ruin." (25/6/45 - Genoa)

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

"I believe the nomination of Parri was a very wise move because he holds the balance between the red rioting left and the white and formidable Christian side. Have you heard the Christians are for the Republic? The monarchy is dead. The anachronist institution has collapsed." (23/6/45 - Genoa)

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

"The new president is a fine man but he will be able to do little more than that very fine person Bonomi who sacrificed himself for the country." (21/6/45 - Milan)

"I am very discouraged. I walked around for a long time through this town which I hate because I think that it is preparing for Italy a new and worse fascism only with a change in the colour of the shirt and deceiving again the poor Italian people with the usual promises." (20/6/45 2197)

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

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

6. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

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

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES

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

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

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

"If it had not been for the United States we should all have died of hunger. They gave us 200 grs. of bread ²⁴⁹⁶ per day, 2400 grs. of pasta a month and so many other things." (16/6/45 - Messina)

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

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

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

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

"They are really nice people, polite and clean. They are the first to greet and they give instead of taking. Besides, they never carry arms." (10/6/45 - Udine)

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

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

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

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

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

2195

"It seems that the negroes will be replaced by the

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

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

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

"We hope in prompt allied supplies but nothing comes as yet and it is always more difficult to live. I go out very little and I do not have to see the American and British troops moving about. I went to see a famous castle and I found negroes in the courtyard in the Free Italy. Kill yourselves Italians, make room for negroes. I speak lest I cry and I cry lest I speak" (30/6/45 - Udine)

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

"It is the usual story, soldiers all the time, no one pays and we go on this way as long as it lasts. We will never get paid. Not even in the town have they been paid." (4/7/45 - Aosta)

3. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS

2194

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

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

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

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

"A significant renewal of business will be possible only if workers will start work again (they don't feel like doing so and talk only about politics) and if raw materials arrive. The wages are not at all in proportion to the cost of living and here it means that it is impossible to keep going....." (16/6/45 - Como)

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

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

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

2193

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

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

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

9. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS

The continued drought has practically doubled the adverse ratio of comments. In Central and Southern Italy especially writers are very pessimistic. Central Italian external mail shows an adverse ratio of 85.6 to 1. One province alone, Udine, shows a slightly favourable ratio. In addition to the drought the effect of the spring frosts on the fruit crop receives comment. Lack of fertilizer produces many comments. The following comments are typical:

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

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

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

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

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

"This year we have had a fine crop. How lucky we are compared to the others." (16/6/45 - Gussago)

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

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

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

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

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

"This year we'll have a scarce crop, especially in our zone where from a 5 decametres sown field we have drawn but two bundles of wheat. Wheat is abundant and its price is low since has been imported. Also as regards olive oil we suppose we'll have a bad year." (15/6/45 - Trapani)

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

10. EMPLOYMENT

The comments on employment are more pessimistic especially in central Italy where the adverse ratio is 32.8 to 1. Lack of raw materials is the main cause to which lack of employment is attributed. Occasionally a would-be employer finds difficulty in finding persons for a post but this must probably be considered in relation to other statements that the wages offered are often so low as to discourage applicants. Comments as follows are typical:

"At the beginning of July there will be many dismissals including some employees of the foundry." 2191
(45 - Aosta)

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

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

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

"There is no work. I have been dismissed with 500 other girls." (21/6/45 Bolzano)

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

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

"I do not know how to advise you. There is very little work in Genoa. The unemployed are tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands and their number is increasing daily." (23/6/45 - Genoa)

"I would do any type of work for a piece of bread... life is impossible in Milan and I cannot find work." (20/6/45 - Milan)

"After some part time work I have been 6 months completely unemployed. I have looked everywhere to supply my children with bread. A few days ago I found a job as a foreman with the Allies and it only pays 150 lire a day, one quarter of my daily expenses." (7/6/45 - Naples)

Gordon W. McKean

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

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2 Incls:

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

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2-15

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SPECIAL REPORT NO. 133

CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP. PUBLIC OPINION REPORT 13 May - 9 June 1945

PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED)		FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME	
		F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
Bologna	56,547	70	355	36	198	24	610	6	44
Bolzano	4,021	0	24	0	4	0	2	0	0
Brescia	17,500	2	65	1	223	1	47	0	9
Como	24,144	6	112	0	30	1	26	0	8
Cuneo	10,390	2	140	0	9	0	5	0	1
Genoa	69,079	158	908	11	306	17	509	6	124
Leghorn	29,662	46	100	31	73	16	77	17	28
Milan	76,068	176	1156	29	522	44	505	56	266
Naples (CIV)	90,388	178	1797	76	1135	20	751	29	293
(MIL)	79,269	114	65	42	48	37	46	16	29
Rome (CIV)	67,153	71	1633	16	614	2	127	8	290
(MIL)	63,182	80	14	27	4	17	6	23	35
Turin	30,055	17	231	1	67	2	171	3	29
Venice	27,046	9	136	2	52	4	72	4	17
Verona	6,466	2	73	0	23	0	51	1	7
External Mail	305,747	203	1643	35	3763	18	2799	72	3030
TOTAL CIVILIAN:		940	2370	256	2721	368	5760	202	4153
TOTAL MILITARY:		194	79	69	52	54	52	39	64
TOTALS		1134	2317	307	2773	422	5312	241	4217

This report is based on 50 letters per censor being checked daily on a 6-day weekly basis. The number of censors employed each week averaged 301, making a total of 385,200 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
2	2	10	17	32	6					135	71	2	15	119	72
0	1	0	1	7	5					0	0	0	0	0	0
3	1	0	0	17	0					1	21	4	9	0	7
4	5	2	1	20	3					0	16	0	1	0	2
0	0	0	0	16	2					0	2	0	23	0	3
29	46	12	23	400	24					25	56	52	56	56	133
19	8	14	11	28	5					17	12	21	8	11	16
32	117	12	2	637	9					207	134	223	65	92	251
22	87	22	404	348	62					269	133	172	235	56	326
7	21	0	0	28	0					0	0	0	0	0	0
85	123	11	12	293	52					11	17	12	121	5	122
4	8	0	0	18	2					0	0	0	0	0	0
14	7	5	10	146	17					37	47	17	43	8	32
1	0	0	1	59	1					16	29	10	10	10	53
0	7	0	2	59	4					3	0	8	3	1	4
326	611	409	1380	5261	208					104	1241	608	5832	253	2537
														2198	
507	775	503	1864	7422	385					1568	1799	1470	4535	612	3632
12	29	0	0	46	2					0	0	0	0	0	0
513	1104	503	1864	7468	395					1565	1799	1470	4535	611	3632

2512

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 132

RATIO DATA RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (19)

	FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS	
	F	U F	F	U F	F	U F	F	U F	F	U F	F	U F	F	U F	F	U F
AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING 9/6/45 CIV	1	24.6	1	114.5	1	15.6	1	20.6	1	2.1	1	2.7	18.9	1	3	1.1
MIL	2.5	1	1.3	1	1	1	1	1.7	1	2.5	0	0	23	1	0	0

2157

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ATTACHMENT A

TO PARTIAL EXTENT: FACTORIAL AND ESTABLISHED CREDITS ON PRESENT POINTS (1) MAY/7 1965

	INDIAN		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS		AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS		TOTAL	
	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F
1	1	15.6	1	20.6	1	2.1	1	3.7	18.2	1	1	1.1	3.7	1
2	1	1	1	1.7	1	2.6	0	0	23	1	0	0	0	0

2156

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 137

APPENDIX A

RATIO TABLE BETWEEN FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS & PERTINENT POINTS (10 June/

	FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME		NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		RELATIONS WITH ALLIES		INDUST PROSP
	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U	F
AVERAGE FOR MONTH ENDING															
7/7/45 CIV	1	22.7	1	124.3	1	48.7	1	30.5	1	1.9	1	3.0	13.0	1	1

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2186

APPENDIX A

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

FOOD	HOUSING	INCOME	NATIONAL GOVERNMENT	PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT	RELATIONS WITH ALLIES	INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS	AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS	EMPLOYMENT
F U	F U	F U	F U	F U	F U	F U	F U	F U
124.2	1 18.7	1 30.5	1 1.9	1 3.0	13.0 1	1 1.8	1 7	1 11.6

BRAND, J. J. 1943

10 June - 7 July

1943

CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP. PUBLIC OPINION REPORT

PROVINCE (VOLUME CENSORED)	FOOD SITUATION		CLOTHING		HOUSING		INCOME	
	F	U	F	U	F	U	F	U
AOSTA 21663	103	433	10	31	7	54	9	43
BOLZANO 16007	9	42	6	36	0	6	0	0
BIELLA 8534	2	67	0	11	0	64	0	13
COMO 20979	2	100	0	30	0	17	0	0
CREMA 20512	4	94	0	4	0	8	0	3
INTRA 54587	105	1242	15	452	25	876	12	181
LEGNANO 122235	93	1551	99	1034	56	1351	51	359
MANIFRA 40764	16	263	8	354	1	145	6	72
ROGLI 16030	6	304	1	23	0	30	0	32
SESTO 4632	1	14	0	4	0	1	0	0
TRINTE 50767	23	440	7	92	1	565	1	80
VERONA 10791	22	101	0	4	1	33	0	12
VIGEVANO 20557	11	312	1	350	5	102	2	73
VERONA 1135112	134	2027	136	2115	31	2354	16	3250
VERONA 20541	95	2502	213	3344	100	2715	139	4173

This report is based on 10 letters per source checked daily on a 5 day weekly basis. The number of sources employed each week averaged 397 making a total of 476400 letters examined for this four weekly tally.

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NATIONAL GOVERNMENT	F	U	PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION	F	U	RELATIONS WITH ALLIES	F	U	PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION	F	U	FUTURE MILITARY SITUATION	F	U	INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS	F	U	AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS	F	U	EMPLOYMENT	F	U
	3	5	1	3	88	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	32	13	30	2	23			
	0	1	8	3	83	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0			
	0	4	1	2	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	26	3	7	0	26			
	0	4	0	0	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	7	0	0	0	0			
	1	2	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	7	4	22	0	7			
	35	61	24	27	431	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	124	40	89	46	368			
	110	30	6	2	710	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	104	383	123	303	116	530			
	4	24	3	122	40	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	42	23	53	11	74			
	2	52	-	-	81	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	30	-	60	5	10			
	0	5	0	0	4	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	1	0	0	1			
	10	63	1	13	182	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	117	28	153	7	161			
	1	1	0	0	0	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	3	5	21	1	1			
	12	38	2	12	139	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	52	30	22	30	100			
	28	45	506	1075	4867	313	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	831	1321	429	603	130	1120			
	428	202	421	1265	6421	422	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1108	101	1227	7240	364	1537			

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CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 324, U. S. Army

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Chief Postal
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Asst. Chief Postal
Censorship
Chief Clerk

6 July 1948

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 136

SUBJECT: Living Conditions in Turin from a Survey of Civilian
Mail for the two weeks ending 23rd June 1945.

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

This report is based on 53,492 letters checked at our Turin station during the two weeks ended 23rd June 1945, and on two weekly reports, for the weeks ended 13th and 23rd June respectively, issued by the above station.

It is abundantly clear that the citizens of Turin are far more worried about the housing situation than about any other aspect of their living conditions. Of the 174 comments on this subject, only one was favourable. The food situation does not appear to be so bad as in many other northern centres, though it is worse than in Milan. Comments on clothing and income were few in number. As regards the former, there is a tendency towards a less pessimistic feeling than was noticed earlier. Of the few comments on income, none were favourable, but as the criticisms were directed more against the value of the Lire and the position of French currency than against the prevailing wages and salaries, it is difficult to measure the degree of dissatisfaction with incomes in relation to the cost of living. A more detailed survey of the four subjects mentioned in this paragraph appears under the appropriate headings below.

2154

1. FOOD

There is dissatisfaction over the ration cards which are said to be useless. Apparently the shops are unable to supply those foods which should be available to all. Coupled with this there is the complaint that the bread is of poor quality, but there is mention of some signs of improvement in this respect. There seems to be a general opinion that plenty of food is available on the black market, but this is not of much help to the majority because of the high prices. The growth of the black market in the North is sometimes blamed

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Date 6/7/45

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on the farmers who are suspected of forcing up prices. Others, however, say that the South is to blame, and they say this because the rise in prices became markedly noticeable only after the cessation of hostilities. The following are a few representative comments:

"Peanut wine at 120 lire per liter, meat from 300 to 400 lire a kilo, and butter from 800 to 1500 lire. It would be necessary to earn mountains of money to live. All prices have been raised to the stars. I thought that the end of the war in Europe would mean that prices would be lowered, but instead the so called south wind brought about a further rise in prices."

"As far as living conditions are concerned we are getting along badly. What is the use of the ration card when one considers that we have not been able to get anything for the past four months."

"With regard to provisions obtainable from the black market you can get anything you like, but I care not much at what prices."

"With the ration card you can obtain bread from time to time which is absolutely bad. The butchers have closed their shops. However, you can easily get as much meat as you like provided you pay for it without discussing the price."

"Food is so excessively dear."

Favourable Comments: 15; Unfavourable Comments: 334.

2. CLOTHING SITUATION

2183

There were not many comments on the clothing situation, which may suggest that it is not a matter of major concern. On the other hand, of the 43 comments only 5 were favourable, and this certainly indicates a general dissatisfaction. This is certainly true as far as prices are concerned, for the bulk of the comments complain about the cost of clothing. However, there is a note of optimism in a few letters. The writers expect a supply of raw materials from the Allies, and they thus look forward to the increased manufacture of clothing articles.

Favourable Comments: 5; Unfavourable Comments: 40

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3. HOUSING SITUATION

The housing situation is viewed more unfavourably than any other matter, there being only one favourable comment out of a total of 174. Many people had left the city to take refuge in the country. They now wish to return, but are unable to do so because of a shortage of accommodation. In consequence rents have soared, thus adding to the worries of house hunting. Requisitioning seems to be a particular cause of complaint. Apparently all authorities are requisitioning premises. The Allies and the Italian authorities are equally blamed. In addition it is said that the Allies have hired all the best hotels for a period of years. The following comments are some examples of the above:

"Now everybody is requisitioning houses, the Mayor, the Prefect, the Housing Commission, the Group Quarters and the numerous Allied authorities, regardless of the persons concerned."

"There is a general air of pessimism. The city is invaded by the Americans and the South Africans. They have not requisitioned but hired the best hotels in the city for five years. It is therefore very difficult to contemplate an overnight stay at a hotel here."

"The availability of lodgings is practically nil, while the demand is increasing enormously day by day."

"Someone suggested that the premises and villas, formerly occupied by the Germans, should now be used as public lodgings."

Favourable Comments 1

Unfavourable Comments 173

4. INCOME

2152

Under this heading there are few letters that discuss wages and salaries as such, though there are some that complain about the gap between income and necessary expenditure. Most of the writers - and there were only 23 comments altogether, all of them unfavourable - seem more concerned with the value of the Lira, and they obviously fear inflation. There is also apprehension in connection with French currency, for it seems that people in Paris have hoarded a certain amount of French notes,

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and the French are now calling in such notes. The point is that these must be taken to a bank in French territory, and the Italian holders are unable to go to French territory. The following comments are examples from the mail:

"In Turin the wages are absolutely inadequate to the exceedingly high cost of living."

"You will no doubt be aware of the fact that the French Government has issued an order to the effect that, from 15th June, the Bank of France will refuse to recognize any old banknotes. All old banknotes are supposed to be delivered to some French bank in French territory before the above mentioned date. It may be of interest to you to know that this applies to French subjects only, for the simple reason that the French authorities have established a rigorous block-line of control all along the Italo-French frontier, by which means all foreigners are prevented from entering France. In other words, the French banks refuse the deposit of French banknotes by foreigners. This is a kind of swindle, damaging to all foreigners and particularly to Italians who hold French banknotes to the value of several millions."

Favourable Comments: 0

Unfavourable Comments: 23

Gordon W. McKim
GORDON W. MCKIM,
Lt. Col. Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

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2191

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Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 304, U. S. ARMY

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 135

29 June 1945

SUBJECT: General Fall of Prices in Rome and Naples

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

Since the liberation of Northern Italy there has been a growing number of comments on falling prices in Rome and Naples. The writers, some of whom are connected with business firms, attribute these decreases to the much lower prices obtaining in the North.

Quite a large proportion of letters state that business is at a standstill in Rome and Naples. They say that many stores, which bought goods at high prices, are now unable to sell them, and that financial loss will be the inevitable result. The populace do not wish to buy, hoping, of course, that prices will fall still further.

However, it is not only the populace who are hanging back. Retailers, who are making efforts to sell off their stocks at any price, are themselves reluctant to purchase anything further from the wholesalers. They too are hoping to buy more advantageously later on.

Clothing materials and cars seem to have suffered the heaviest fall in prices. For example, in both Rome and Naples it is said that cars are now 50% cheaper, while printed artificial silk materials, which were marked at 2000 lire a metre in the shops, are now to be seen at 990 lire. Wholesale prices for similar materials are down from 650 lire to 450-500 lire per metre.

Shoes have come down in Naples, but are apparently still very highly priced in Rome. Even foodstuffs have shown some decrease in prices. One significant feature is that real estate is said to be available on a rapidly falling market.

A few writers seem to think that prices will not come down much further for the time being, for they say that there has already been an upward movement in the North, and that a medium level has been, or is being reached, throughout the country.

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The following extracts are from information slips and so bear no numbers. None of them have been used in any previous report.

"Business in Rome is completely at a standstill. Not one lira's worth of goods is being sold. Even losing on the deal, we cannot sell the rather large quantity of goods we had bought at very high prices." (20/5/45 - Rome)

".....As for the rest, I can confirm that the market is at a standstill. Offers are very numerous and, what is even worse, nobody buys. As a consequence prices remain low. Let us hope that the sanitary cordon, which separates us from the North, may soon be opened. The Brandizzi firm is making no purchases since it is passing through a period of panic like all the others." (19/5/45 - Rome)

"Since Northern Italy has been liberated there has been a big decrease in the prices of textiles and threads; but they must decrease still further. The prices of shoes, on the other hand, are still very high." (24/5/45 - Rome)

"As regards business, we have noticed that sales have been at a standstill for a few weeks, and there is still a marked reluctance on the part of buyers. The wind blowing from the North is the cause of this." (20/5/45 - Rome)

"A standstill in local trade is noticeable, and prices have finally begun to fall. Just imagine it, printed fabrics in artificial silk had reached more than 2000 lire in price, while now you can see them on sale in the shops at 990 lire per metre. Cars, which used to cost about a million lire, now cost half that price." (17/5/45 - Rome) 2179

"Nowadays the market is at a complete standstill, even the regular one. Nobody buys anything at whatever price. Everyone is waiting for the big decrease that will come because of the North. In Northern Italy, at the time of the liberation, the prices of all articles were much lower than in Rome but now they have risen towards the high prices here, and we have a medium stationary price. Despite all this it is not possible to start any business. Everything is at a standstill, and nobody risks buying. Those who have goods on hand try to get rid of them although they paid high prices for them. To give you an example of the prices of textiles, two months ago printed artificial silk was sold in lots at 650 lire per metre, but the lots are now offered at 480-500 lire per metre, and there are no purchasers. In Milan the same things are sold at 250-300 lire. Another example: In April Dario bought a bullfinch car for 550,000 lire. It now costs 300,000 lire, and in Milan 180,000 lire." (6/6/45 - Rome)

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"Black market prices fluctuate in consequence of the forthcoming opening of the Northern market. Rice has dropped to 450 lire, Parmesan cheese from 2500 to 1700, butter from 1100 to 300." (9/5/45 - Rome)

"Here in Rome prices of real estate are going down fast, and this is a clear sign that perhaps money is still worth something." (23/5/45 - Rome)

"I suggest that you wait a little time since prices seem to be about to fall rapidly. In Naples the prices of shoes have fallen by half." (21/5/45 - Naples).

"Commerce is paralyzed since nobody buys and nobody sells. Every day prices are falling." (7/6/45 - Benevento)

"Having to purchase some pure alcohol, I beg you to tell me the exact price, because here the market is at a standstill, and the price is tending to fall steeply." (21/5/45 - Naples)

"Every newspaper advises against buying anything because sellers will have to reduce their prices." (28/5/45 - Naples)

"In Rome we could not sell the shoes so we brought them to Naples. Nobody wants to buy because various goods cost less than they did a month ago." (28/5/45 - Naples)

"Here the prices of manufactured goods are rushing downwards. After the liberation of the North the prices of cars fell by 50%. But the prices of foodstuffs seem to be increasing." (21/5/45 - Naples)

"The market is at a standstill, and prices are falling." (6/6/45 - Naples)

"There is a revolution in market prices. The sellers want to get rid of what they have in their stores as quickly as possible, but they do not want to purchase from the wholesalers. The liberation of the North has fortunately turned things upside down. We are expecting a fall in prices." (21/5/45 - Naples)

"The whole market is at a standstill here. Nobody buys and nobody sells. The market price of cars has fallen by more than 50% (25/5/45 - Naples).

"A pair of shoes, which recently cost 5000 lire, today costs only 2000 lire, and perhaps tomorrow they will go

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down to 1000." (2/5/45 - Naples).

Gordon W. McKean

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

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2177

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

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Asst. Chief	<i>Wm</i>
Com. Sec.	
Chief	25 June 1945

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 133

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

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

This report is based on 386,200 letters checked during the four weeks ended 9th June. This does not include any military mail from frontier areas.

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 -

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

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

1. FOOD SITUATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Olive oil costs 600 lire per litre, sugar 800 per kilo. If the black market is not checked, those who have survived the war will certainly die of starvation." (18/5/45 - 2174 S. PIETRO IN CA. PO D' LLDA)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"A fall in the prices of all foodstuffs on the Rome market has been noticed recently. Let us hope that everything will soon return to normal, and thus we will get along better." (26/6/45 - ROME)

2. CLOTHING

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

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the position is a cause of greater worry even than that of food. Nevertheless, the feeling was less adverse than during the previous period. From Southern Italy, for example, the unfavourable comments were in a majority of 720 to 1 as compared with 947.7 to 1 during the preceding four weeks. The corresponding ratio for Naples was 15.7 to 1 as against 39.2 to 1 formerly, and for Rome 45.2 to 1 as against 360 to 1 during the previous period. In Northern Italy the adverse ratio was 13.3 to 1, but in several centres the adverse ratio was several times greater, notably in Brescia where there was only one favourable comment out of a total of 223, and in Como, Turin, Venice and Verona. There were not many military comments, but there was a slight favourable majority as compared with a 3.1 to 1 unfavourable majority during the previous four weeks.

As in the case of food, the clothing situation is criticised chiefly from the point of view of prices. The most notable point, however, is the very wide differences in prices in the various centres, and that even the lowest of these are considered to be exorbitantly high. Shoes, for example, are quoted at the comparatively low figures of 3000 to 5000 lire a pair in Genoa, and so on through various levels till we read that they cost 12000 lire a pair in Catanzaro. The highest price quoted for a man's suit was 35000 lire in Lecce, and the lowest was from 8000 to 10,000 in Turin. The prices of dress material are also a cause of bitter complaints, though in Rome we read that there has been a not inconsiderable drop in prices. But even so, the prevailing figures are beyond most people. The following are typical examples of some of the comments:

"Thousands of lire are not enough to meet the cost of living, and we have to give up any idea of buying clothes or shoes. Such things can only be afforded by those who deal in the black market. A suit costs 30,000 lire, and muslin, which used to cost 7 or 8 lire per metre in the past, now costs 1,500 lire, and so on." (15/5/45 - NAPLES)

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

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

CONFIDENTIAL

850 lire; stockings from 200 to 500 lire; men's shirts with short sleeves from 600 to 1000 lire, and with long sleeves from 1200 to 1300 lire; socks from 85 to 300 lire. These prices are really too high." (5/5/45 - GENOA)

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

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

"The few things we can find in the market are very expensive and of an inferior quality. A pair of shoes costs from 4000 to 5000 lire, and the national material 2000 lire per metre. We wonder how we will manage." (28/5/45 - BOLOGNA)

"We have fallen into an absolute misery and are completely without clothes. A pair of shoes costs about 8000 lire, and a spool of thread, which used to cost 10 centesimi, now costs 350 lire." (6/6/45 - TRIESTE)

"A pure wool suit costs 2000 or 10,000 lire, an artificial silk dress 3,000 lire, a pair of stockings 110 lire, and a pair of men's shoes 3000 lire." (7/6/45 - TURIN)

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

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

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

"There has been a certain decrease in prices, but they are still too high for us. Printed fabrics now cost 600 lire per metre, and pure silk 1,500 lire, but you still need many thousands to be able to make a summer dress." (2/6/45 - ROME) 2171

3. HOUSING

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

CONFIDENTIAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The landlady of my house, in order not to lose any time, has raised the rent from 300 to 620 lire. Just imagine it!" (3/6/45 - BOLZANO)

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

CONFIDENTIAL

4. INCOME

Civilian opinion on the question of wages, salaries and pensions remained much the same as it did during the previous period, there being no marked differences between the northern, central or southern regions. Unfavourable comments were in a majority of 20.6 to 1. Naples was less critical than formerly. There was little change in Rome or Southern Italy.

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

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

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

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

"During the 10 months of your imprisonment I received, little by little, 3,000 lire. I also received a subsidy of 19.5 lire per day. With such an income alone, Nellina and I would have starved indeed." (25/5/45 - ICNIA)

"This morning I bought 100 grammes of butter at 80 lire, i.e., the daily wage my husband receive. If wages don't increase and the cost of living come down, we will not possibly be able to go on." (25/5/45 - ICNIA)

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

CONFIDENTIAL

advance." (7/3/45 - MILAN)

"They cannot go on alone, since your father's pension is not even sufficient to buy the bread." (29/3/45 - NAPLES)

"Life is quite unbearable. Our pay only lasts until the 15th of the month, and from the 20th to the 27th we really do not know how to get along." (16/3/45 - LEGHORN)

5. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

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

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

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

2167

CONFIDENTIAL

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

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

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

8. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

The great bulk of the comments on the provincial administrations came from Southern Italy, and in these regions civilian opinion became nearly twice as critical as it was during the previous four weeks. From Rome there were hardly any comments and these few were about equally divided. Naples, which was unfavourably disposed by 2 to 1 during the previous period, became more critical to the extent of 18.4 to 1 during the period under review. The northern cities produced only 129 comments between them all, of which 61 were favourable and 68 unfavourable.

The comments themselves were frequently vague, and often attributed faults or virtues to the provincial administration in matters which did not concern them. This failing, plus the general paucity of comments, except from Naples and the South generally, makes any assessment of opinion from censorship sources valueless. 2466

CONFIDENTIAL

7. RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIES

Civilian opinion of the Allies underwent some curious changes, during the period under review, in those parts of the country for which we have previous figures. Southern Italy, for example, where favourable comments were only in a majority of 5.6 to 1 during the previous period, produced a 25.9 to 1 majority of favourable comments during the period under review. Rome and Naples, on the other hand, became distinctly less favourable, each city producing the same ratio of 5.6 to 1 in favour as compared with 16.6 to 1 and 9.1 to 1 respectively during the preceding four weeks. Northern Italy was favourable by 20 to 1. Milan was outstanding. Out of a total of 896 comments only 9 were unfavourable. There were only a few military comments, 48 in all, of which only 3 were unfavourable.

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

A. Favourable

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

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

"We have the Americans camped here. They are so good that they often give us what we need." (2/6/45 - RIVIN)

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

CONFIDENTIAL

2165

CONFIDENTIAL

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

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

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

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

B. UNFAVOURABLE

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

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

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

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

C. INDUSTRIAL PROSPECTS

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

CONFIDENTIAL

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

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

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

"The Chitignano plant has been destroyed, but that of Marengo has been only slightly damaged. We hope to resume our work soon." (13/5/45 - BOLCONA)

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

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

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

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS

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

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

CONFIDENTIAL

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

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

"Owing to the absence of rain we have no hay for our cattle this year. The 27th day being Holy Trinity, we hope that God will grant us some water from heaven. Otherwise we will be doomed to starvation this year. There is still time for the corn and maize to be sowed, but our cattle will remain without fodder." (25/5/45 - FROSINONE)

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

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

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

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

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

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

The corn and the oats will not shoot, and in many places the sheep have been turned into the fields to eat what is there. And now it is too late to expect the rain to do any good to the fields, especially as far as vegetables are concerned, for they are completely burnt." (16/5/45 - EARL)

"Another misfortune has fallen upon us. Since the melting of the snow it has not rained, and that is bad for the cattle, and for the crops which will be very meagre." (31/5/45 - BOLOGNA)

"This year the crop will be very poor because we could not plough the ground owing to the lack of oxen." (31/5/45 - VENICE)

"The meadows have been spoilt by trucks and hundreds of soldiers who passed over them.. It is a difficult problem to feed the cattle." (26/5/45 - VENICE)

"People are worried since frost burnt the greater part of the grapes along the Sesia and a certain amount along the banks of the Po. The wheat has not grown due to the drought, and the crop will certainly not be as abundant as last year's." (7/6/45 - COMO)

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

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

10. EMPLOYMENT

2160

The general tone of civilian mail was a little less despondent concerning employment than it was during the previous period, the unfavourable comments being in a majority of 5.9 to 1 as compared with 6.5 to 1 previously. Bologna was the only centre to produce a majority of favourable comments. Naples became more pessimistic during the period. There was little change in Rome where spirits have been very low for some time. Milan was less pessimistic than any of the big centres. Southern Italy as a whole was more despondent than the rest of the country, excepting Rome.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

"I have been looking for a job for eight days, but I cannot find anything. There are no jobs for stone-masons because there is no material." (12/6/45 - TRENTO)

"We can find work at S. Giovanni Lupatoto. One

219

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

Gordon W. McKim
GORDON W. McKIM,
Lt. Col., Cavalry,
Civil Censorship Officer.

2 Incls:

- Incl #1 - Ratio Table, Four Weeks Ending 3/6/45. — see Cover
Incl #2 - Public Opinion Tally 3/6/45.

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0291