

LEAD

This evening we are at the end of one of the great days of history, a day of peculiar significance for us. For the Armies of Field Marshal Kesselring are in a headlong retreat. Allied spokesmen describe it as a rout, while British Tommies and American Doughboys are in full possession of the oldest inhabited center of civilization. Yes, G.I. Joe from Kankakee and Keokuk, from Stockton and Oakland, from Portland, and Spokane and WassaWassa from Boise and Pocatello, from Provo and Salt Lake City, are having their first look at monuments which they hiterto have known only by reading about then in their school books. Lads from SanLouis Boys Eugene and Redding. are seeing the remains of the great arches that brought water into Rome from the far off Alban hills. Men who have seen shows in the Hollywood are now bazing upon the great Colosseum where

the Roman populace once applauded gladiatorial combats between Christains and Lions.

Columnn of American tanks, armored cars and infantry moved down the broad Via Impero which seven years ago Benito Mussolini pointed out to me, as we stood on the balcony of the Plazzo Venezia, as one of his proudest achievements.

Roman Catholic doughboys and Protestant doughboys are having a hard won rest among the relics of the civic improvements and monuments left by the great renaissance Popes. Every time they turn the corner of a street they run into history, remains of the great traditions of Christianity and democracy which are part of our American Heritage.

Almost seventeen centuries have passed since Rome was founded by Romulus and Remus. Many a time in those seventeen hundred years has the ancient city changed ha hands. But never has a conquering Army been greeted with such cheers of joy by the populace on the banks of the Tiber. Today's conqueror's were neither Goths, nor

Vandals nor Huns, nor Germans. They were our own lads, men and boys from the Forty-Eight States and from the Dominion of Canada and elsewhere in the British Commonwealth.

Military commentators the world over described the capture of Rome as a triumph of the strategic ability of British General Sir Harold Alexander.

On the steps of the historic City Hall of ancient Rome, the Campidoglio, General Mark Clark held a victory press conference. The Commander of the Fifth Army told newspapermen the Germans were out of reach of the Allied armies. Or, as he expressed it, they had "fled out of contact." Then he added that the Allies have destroyed parts of two German armies, the Tenth and the Fourteenth, and he doubts whether the Fourteenth is any longer capable of fighting.

The Allies have taken twenty thousand prisoners so far, and vast quantities of German munitions. Military commentators in London estimate that the total Nazi casualties in this debacle total some seventy thousand men; and, that the Germans have lost seventy-five percent of their combat effectiveness.

One of the toughest jobs the men of the Fifth Army had after they got into the Eternal City was dealing with the exuberance of the Roman people, who were described as deliriously happy. That there was no holding them back. That they were not content with cheering the

victors, but insisted on hugging and kissing them.

The Allied command brought in numbers of Carabinieri, in their colorful uniforms, from southern Italian cities, to police the city. Even so, traffic conditions were in an almost hopeless snarl.

Roman girls literally ~~swarmed~~^{swarmed} the streets by the tens of thousands. A U.P. correspondent reported that in various parts of the city the prettiest of the signorinas managed either to pelt Uncle Sam's doughboys with flowers, or kisses. Nor did they mind how sweaty and unshaven those young soldiers from America and the British Empire were. And, they climbed on jeeps and trucks.

One attractively dressed girl dropped into the lap of a United Press correspondent and rode a few blocks with him. When she playfully took off his helmet, and saw that he was bald, she hopped right out and joined two soldiers, who were not bald.

The Americans were not only glad but surprised to find that ^{the} glorious old city of Romulus and Remus seemed

almost untouched by war. Even the populace appeared not to have suffered too much. One of the first things that met the eye was the contrast between the well-dressed well-groomed and apparently well-fed women on the streets as compared with the ragged, half-starved people the

Americans had seen in the southern Italian cities. And the ancient monuments ~~xx~~ of civilization were uninjured.

~~So the boys from Palanassos and Keokuk and Kankakee walked, where the Caesars used to parade and where Cicero orated, and Mark Anthony.~~

~~xxxx~~ Eleanor Packard, of the United Press, reports that Vatican City was not damaged in any way by all the aerial pounding the Allies had given the Roman railroad yards. And Harold Tittman, Uncle Sam's envoy to the Vatican, confirmed this. Eleanor Packard herself, as she had on a war correspondent's uniform, was not allowed to enter the parts of Vatican City inhabited by the Pope and those around him. But she was permitted inside St. Peter's Cathedral, ~~Wx~~ which she says is unscarred.

There was one interesting scene outside the Palazzo Venezia, once official residence of Benito Mussolini. Remember that Balcony? Nine years ago the Duce stood on that balcony and roared out the proclamation which started the world on the road to war, when he announced that he was going into Ethiopia. Well, in the square below there were today no crowds shouting: "Duce! Duce!" Instead, there were columns of American trucks and tanks and infantry, moving endlessly. Today Roman men, women and children stood watching the victorious columns when suddenly their attention was attracted to that celebrated balcony -- and a couple of Uncle Sam's G.I.'s clambered up and stood where Mussolini used to yell and make all those silly faces. With hilarious gestures they made a speech about the ~~fall~~ fallen Duce. The Italians on the street below couldn't understand a word they were saying, but, they cheered just the same.

Pope Pius himself publicly ~~gave~~ gave his thanks to God that Rome had been spared. The Pontiff appeared

on the central balcony of St. Peter's, dressed in his white pastoral robes, with a crowd of some two hundred thousand milling in the piazza below; Americans among them. The Pontiff used these words: "Rome yesterday was still fearful for the life of her sons and daughters and her incomparable treasures of religion and art. Rome today," he went on, "has new hope and confidence in ~~her~~ her safety."

The capture of Rome has made a great impression on the world--including the Russians, among others. All the Soviet papers and commentators today enthusiastically acknowledged it to be a victory of major political and strategic importance. Ibw id rgw foremost military commentators in Moscow attributed it to the brilliant strategy and maneuvering of British General Sir Harold Alexander. And, he said further that it ought to lead soon to the expulsion of all Germans from Italy. This military expert added that the failure of the Germans to try to make a stand in Rome itself was due to the success of General Alexander's plan.

A broadcast from Moscow says that the smashing of Marshal Kesselring's defenses proves that there is no such thing as fortifications that are impregnable, if the attacker has enough forces to send against them.

And the fall of Rome seems also to —>

have had a definite repercussion in Hitler's own Reich,
~~that~~ as demonstrated in a message that Propaganda Minister
Goebbels sent out today. He appealed to Nazi fighters to
show more initiative on the field of battle. ^{which} would
seem to be a definite admission. ^{TP} At the same time, the
Nazi high command issued a new stringent order, ~~to~~
^{by} commanded all officers to be more strict in imposing
death sentences on members of the Nazi army, not only for
desertion and espionage, but for actions against discipline
or the code of military courage. That sounds like a clear
indication that some German units at least are beginning
to weaken on the field of battle.

Of course the Axis powers put the best front they
could on the fall of Rome, but did ^{that it's} not deny ~~it was~~ a real
blow. Berlin announced that the city had been evacuated
in order to spare its cultural monuments. The Nazi
Trans-Ocean News Agency used these words: "A certain
loss of prestige is not denied in connection with the

evacuation. However," the message adds, "this was largely offset by the correctness of the German attitude in doing its share to spare monuments of culture."

A later broadcast from Berlin claimed that the Nazis had gained a distinct advantage by evacuating Rome, since from now on the Allies will have to feed the Romans.

— yes, he's still over there somewhere
Benito Mussolini acknowledged that the loss

of the Eternal City was painful, and said for his part he did not belittle the scope of this event.

— 0 —

Now Hugh, it's up to you
— for a moment or two!

ROOSEVELT FOLLOW ITALY

All Americans tonight felt sympathy with ^U
~~the~~ a note of ex~~h~~altation in the voice of President Roosevelt
when he commented on the fall of The first of the three
great capitals of the Axis powers. When he said, "one
up and two to go". ~~Probably any of those listening in~~
~~listening to me no doubt heard him~~
~~now heard what he broadcast~~ less than two hours ago, ~~when~~
he pointed out the hum-bug in the Nazi claim that the
Allied armies are in Rome tonight because the Nazis
evacuated so as to save the ancient monuments of the
Eternal City. The Allied Generals maneuvered so
skillfully, said Mr. Roosevelt, that the Nazi could
only have stayed long enough to damage Rome at the risk
of losing their armies.

Then he announced that the Allies anticipated
the fall of Rome and made full preparations to feed its
populace.

The President also uttered a warning. "Victory,"
he advised us, "still lies some distance ahead." ^Q distance
that will be covered in due time, make no mistake about that,
said he. And then
~~that~~ he added, "it will be tough and it will be costly".

It was noticeable that the President made no reference to the retirement of King Victor ~~Am~~ Emanuel. Instead of that he threw out a hint which may be significant. The Italian people he said are ~~xx~~ capable of self government and we cannot lose sight of their ~~virtues~~ virtues as a peace-loving nation.

He retired, gave up the authority he had held for nearly forty-four years, turned over his powers to the Crown Prince. The document he signed virtually made Umberto the Regent of Italy. ~~It was understood that the title~~ actually given to him was Lieutenant General of the realm.

It is stated specifically that Victor Emanuel did not abdicate. However, he turned over all his powers without exception, to Umberto, who will hold them irrevocably so long as he lives. Nevertheless, Victor Emanuel retains his title as King of Italy and head of the House of Savoy.

KING

Early this afternoon there was an important meeting at Naples. ~~It was~~ ^Q session of the governing Council of Italy, Marshal Badoglio and his Cabinet, Victor Emanuel the Third and the Crown Prince Humbert. And There Victor Emanuel carried out his promise to the Allies. He retired, gave up the authority he had held for nearly forty-four years, turned over his powers to the Crown Prince. The document he signed virtually made Umberto the Regent of Italy. It was understood that the title actually given to him was Lieutenant General of the realm.

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AIR WAR

During all the excitement over the recapture of Rome, the air war against Fortress Europe has continued relentlessly. Some twenty-five hundred Allied planes stepped up their attack on the Atlantic wall of Hitler's empire, dropping some two thousand, two hundred and fifty tons of bombs. Of those planes, one thousand, two hundred and fifty were Uncle Sam's heavy bombers and fighters. It is calculated that in the last four days thirteen thousand tons of bombs have been dropped on the Nazi defenses, railway yards and other installations in France.

CARRIER

~~The Navy has a piece of bad news for us tonight.~~

TP For the first time in this war, an American aircraft carrier has been sunk in the Atlantic. However, it is not as bad as it might have been, for the Navy adds that casualties were light.

— the Block Island —

It was a baby flattop, an escort carrier, which the enemy sank. The Navy does [^]not say whether it was done by U-boat or by planes, or where it happened.

~~It was the carrier BLOCK ISLAND.~~ The only other baby flattop sunk was the LISCOMB BAY, which went down last November, in the Pacific Ocean, during an operation against the Gilbert Islands. Altogether, we have lost only six aircraft carriers, all but one in the Pacific.

SUBS FOLLOW CARRIER

And to balance that, not only our own department of the Navy but the British Admiralty, published ^{communiqués} ~~communication~~ today, reporting submarine victories. The Allied undersea boats have sunk forty-seven more Axis ships. Thirty-one of them were Germans, torpedoed in the Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea by the British.

^{sub}
Uncle Sam's ~~big boats~~ sent sixteen Jap vessels to the bottom of the Pacific. Among these were one large transport, five cargo transports, and ten cargo ships. In the last thirty-five days, our Navy has destroyed a total of fifty-seven Jap ships, at a rate of better than one a day.

BURMA

The Chinese and Americans in Myitkyina have not yet captured that vital place. General Frank Merrill's Mauraunders have had to bayonet their way through carefully prepared positions, and their progress is being measured in yards. And the word is that casualties have been heavy.

The Japs now are entrenched in the Bazaar and along the Irrawaddy Riverfront.

Chindits, brought in by air, have blocked the road southeast of Myitkyina, the last route by which the enemy can escape.

In the Mogaung Valley, Stilwell's forces are still forging ahead toward Kamaing. And there, too, the enemy is being cut off from all escape.

COOGAN

In Washington this evening newspaperman interviewed a bronzed young fellow, of the Army Air Forces who had been flying ~~xxi~~ out in Burma. Last March he had taken part in the first operation of flying troops by glider into battle against the Japanese. *He was with the* ~~British~~ Chindits. The ~~young man~~ *is* was Flight Officer John L. Coogan; Jackie Coogan, ~~to you~~ ~~was~~ "The Kid" whom Charlie Chaplin made famous some twenty-six years ago.

Coogan is an officer in one of Colonel Phil Cochran's air commandos. It was he who piloted the first glider ^{which} landed March Sixth at a landing field in the Burmese jungle. It was a night-time operation. After the Commander had landed they had to keep the strip open until many air transports had disembarked their men. They kept the field open five days and ^{7/2} then moved out with all their engineering equipment and seven gliders.

Such was the latest role of Jackie Coogan, no longer a kid, but husky, nearly thirty years old and practically bald. — *and a Commando.*
And now Hugh.