

ITALY

L.T. - Sunoco. Tuesday, July 27, 1943.

Tonight the peninsula shaped like a boot remains an enigma - shrouded by censorship, enveloped in

silence. Even after several days, Italy without

Mussolini seems strange. - ~~like ham without eggs, or~~

~~Mutt and~~ without Jeff. And this feeling of oddity

about the enemy country adds to the general air of

puzzle and wonder. Are King Victor Emanuel and

Marshal Badoglio making under-cover moves to get Italy

out of the war? *Well, in the* ~~We have only a few scattered facts,~~

~~although there is no lack of rumor. There seldom is~~

~~when secrecy surrounds important events, and in the~~

case of the boot that gave the Duce the boot, the rumor

factory is busy.

One report is that the new regime at Rome is arranging for peace overtures to be made through the

Vatican. And we hear that there is all sorts of activity

in Papal diplomatic quarters. ~~Stockholm gives us a~~

~~story ^{via} Switzerland that negotiations are being started, and also mentions the Vatican.~~

London has a rumor in rather impressive style. It comes from the British Press Association, which is regarded as being close to the Foreign Office of the Churchill Government, and speaks of the likelihood of a peace move within forty-eight hours. "It would cause no surprise", are the words the British Press Association uses in stating the probability. This London version says the overtures are likely to be made through Switzerland. ^{TP} ~~The Rome radio, which is being listened to carefully these days, has made no mention of peace, but has also made no mention of Germany, which seems to be an eloquent omission.~~

A Stockholm newspaper declares that the Nazi Gestapo is leaving the peninsula, the Hitler secret police having been ordered out by Marshal Badoglio.

Other advices tell of mutinies by Italian troops in Jugoslavia - and that points to one of the most difficult problems the new regime in Rome will have to solve in making peace. The armies that Mussolini sent to help the Nazis in the Balkans would have to be taken out or remain hostages of the Germans, and now we hear that the overturn in Italy is inciting them to rebel.

Spain tells us that the new Badoglio Government has abolished the Fascist Party in Italy. This statement is said to emanate ~~from~~ from some travelers who arrived in Spain from Rome. They say that, with the ousting of Mussolini, the whole Fascist political machine has been tossed into the rubbish can.

One account states in particular detail that Badoglio has ousted Mussolini's old propaganda boys, headed by Gayda. The whole world knows about Gayda, long reputed to be the Duce's mouthpiece. Mussolini

now needs no mouthpiece, so good-bye Gayda.

~~The Swiss radio says that Mussolini's own personal newspaper has not appeared this week, and presumably has been suppressed. Other sources tell of Fascist newspaper editors being replaced by journalists not identified with the fallen regime.~~

Reports continue to dwell on the popular jubilation in Italy, the people giving Fascism a joyful farewell. Even the official Nazi news agency admits that there were violent anti-Fascist demonstrations in ~~Italy~~ ^{Milan} on Sunday night. ~~The Nazi admission takes the form of a statement that the demonstrations have been suppressed.~~

Switzerland tells of five new political parties that have been formed, or at least have come out into the open in Italy - now that the Mussolini suppression is removed. These five, one of which is

the Communist Party, have joined in issuing a manifesto demanding that Italy yield to the United Nations right away.

Enemy Japan chimes in with a dispatch, which states that the Italian Ambassador to Tokyo has notified the Japanese Government that Italy intends to stay in the war, to which the echo might seem to repond. How?

The Number One enigma is - the whereabouts of Mussolini. There is nothing new on that score other than yesterday's reports that he is being held under arrest.

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt today denounced a broadcast flashed in the direction of Italy by the Office of War Information last night. This broadcast was one of a propaganda series that the O.W.I. has been sending, and it created quite a sensation because of bitter attacks that it made on the King of Italy and Marshal Badoglio.

TP The O.W.I. propaganda message described Victor Emanuel as "a moronic little king;" also as "the Fascist king." The broadcast blasted Badoglio by calling him "a high ranking Fascist."

The general tenor of the ^{*repudiated*} O.W.I. thesis was that the ousting of Mussolini by the King and the putting of Badoglio in the Duce's place, does ^{not} mean a thing, that it's all window dressing to conceal just another ^{*this White House rebuked*} Fascist regime. ~~The~~ O.W.I. angle was that we must have nothing to do with the new government of Italy, and must reject any peace overtures that it may make.

The immediate supposition was that this blast by the Office of War Information could not have been made without being okayed by the higher-ups in Washington and that it therefore meant official American policy - no dealings with the Victor Emanuel-Badoglio combination in Rome.

Today, however, President Roosevelt stated that the broadcast had been made without the authorization of the President, ^{of} ~~and~~ the State Department, or of Robert E. Sherwood, head of the O.W.I. section that shoots radio propaganda overseas. Some minor O.W.I. people put the thing through ~~and~~ without any okay from officials in charge of our foreign policy. The President stated that the broadcast should never have been ^{put on the air,} ~~made,~~ and added that ^a vigorous investigation is being made to determine who was responsible for it. The President was most outspoken in his denunciation of the propaganda radio

remarks that assailed Victor Emanuel and Badoglio in such uncomplimentary fashion. *apparently under the aegis of our own government.*

As for our policy toward the new regime in Rome, the President reaffirmed that our demand is still one of - "unconditional surrender." He didn't go into details of policy, but then perhaps there was no need of this. For an Allied statement ~~of policy~~ was made by the other end of the Churchill-Roosevelt combination, and in his news conference today President Roosevelt referred to the Churchill statement and said he liked it very much.

All of which put a focus of increased interest on the British Prime Minister's address to the London House of Commons today.

CHURCHILL

On previous occasions, when Churchill has made one of his important speeches, I have felt that I couldn't do any better than refer frequently to his own words -- Winston Churchill being not only a creator of contemporary history, but also one of the ~~greatest~~ masters of English phrase. Tonight his words are more than ever to be consulted. ^{TP} "I cannot doubt," says Churchill,

"that the main wish of the Italian people is to be quit of the German taskmasters, to be spared a further and perfectly futile ordeal of destruction and to revive their former democratic and parliamentary institutions.

"These they can have," he continues. "The choice is in their hands - and what is the alternative? The Germans," Churchill reasons, "naturally desire that Italy shall become a battleground." And he adds: "If the Italian government and people choose that the Germans have their way, no choice is left open to us."

And this is followed by an almost terrifying passage of Churchill eloquence, which certainly should be made to ring in the ears of the Italians: "We shall continue," he cried, "to make war on Italy from every quarter - north and south, and from the sea, and from the air, and by amphibious descents."

He states that if Italy does not yield to the Allies, it won't make much difference in the course of the war. "The only consequence," he says, "will be that in the next few months Italy will be seared, scarred and blackened from one end to the other.

"I know little of the new government," he told the Commons. "I express no opinion upon it.

So far, "^{Winston Churchill} ~~he~~ declared, "we have had no approaches from the Italian Government - and therefore no new decision is called from us, except those decisions connected with bringing the maximum avalanche of fire and steel upon all the targets of military significance throughout the length and breadth of Italy." ^{So stated} ~~he~~ Winston Churchill.

All this was saying, in words of devastation - that it is up to the new government of the King and Badoglio. It is for them to yield and place Italy

in the category of free nations, or subject their country to the most frightful ruin of war.

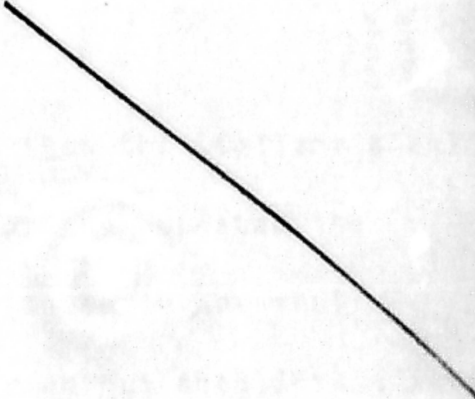
Churchill
Then ~~he~~ went on to what was perhaps the most ^{significant} ~~meaningful~~ part of his address. "It would be a grave mistake," he reasoned, "for the rescuing powers of Britain and the United States ^{so} to act as to break down the whole structure and expression of the Italian State."

"We certainly do not seek," he continued, "to reduce Italian life to a condition of chaos and anarchy and find ourselves without any authority with whom to deal."

Such chaos and anarchy, he reasoned, would compel the Allied armies to occupy and police and administer every inch of the whole country. That would take large military forces. And, more important, it would take time.

Churchill declared that the United Nations must not get in the positions into which the Germans

blundered in the countries which they occupied -- where they now have to administer every detail of order and economy. "Such a course," said Churchill, "might well in practice turn the sense of liberation of the Italian people into sullen ~~and~~ discontent against us and all our works.



"The rescuers," he pointed out, "might soon indeed be regarded as tyrants and might be hated by the Italian people as much or almost as much as their German ally. I certainly do not wish in the case of Italy to tread a path that might lead to execution squads and concentration camps," said he.

His thesis then, is that the Italians should put in order their own house, and he repeated the practical contention that the Allies do not want, in his words, "to have to carry on our shoulders a lot of people who ought to be made to carry themselves."

He contended that the unconditional surrender of Italy should be brought about - "wholesale, not piecemeal," said he. In other words, we should prefer to surrender from the whole Italian nation and its government rather than by subjugating and occupying the country gradually.

All of which brings the following bit of summarizing advice from Churchill. He says: "We should let the Italians, to use a homely phrase, stew in their own juice for a bit - and heat up the fire to accelerate the process." Meaning, keep the pressure on the Italians until in the Prime Minister's words "we obtain from their government, or whoever possesses the necessary authority, all the indispensable requirements that we demand for carrying on the war against our prime and capital foe, which is, not Italy, but Germany."

All this from the British Prime Minister, and we are going to have something tomorrow evening from President Roosevelt. The White House tells us that the President will make a nationwide radio address of major importance tomorrow at nine-thirty p.m. There is no indication

their plight would indeed be peculiar if the new regime in Rome should yield to the Allies. Nevertheless, the Nazi armored battalions are fighting hard.

And what about the Italians with them? They haven't dropped out of the fight, apparently - perhaps they can't. Today's dispatch from Allied headquarters states that the Italians in the Axis army in Sicily are being what it calls - "bolstered." The dispatch adds that they are being - "watched", by the Germans.

The enemy there has received reinforcements by air, although the line of Axis transport ^{is} being hit hard. Today British Spitfires shot down twenty-one *more of those* big Junkers transport planes packed with Nazi troops.

AIR WAR

In the war of the air based on Britain, the name in the news ^{once more} is "Hamburg." That great German seaport has been smashed five times in sixty hours. In one raid alone, twenty-three hundred tons of bombs were dropped on Hamburg.

And London tells us that this is the first time that the theory of round-the-clock bombing has been applied to a single city. Air experts say that it is a test of the doctrine that the way to subjugate a city completely is to bomb continuously until all activities break down.

RUSSIA

The latest from Russia tells of new advances by the Red Army against the German salient at Orel. Soviet troops pushed forward from two to four miles all around the bulge that the Nazis hold, and captured fifty ^{more} towns and villages. ^R Two hundred and fifty thousand Germans are crammed in ^{that Orel} a pocket and their plight seems to be desperate - especially as the Red Army has cut their last important line of communication, ~~this is~~ the highway running from Orel to Kursk. The Russians have got to within a mile of it, and have that key artery of transport under heavy artillery fire. ^{So} ^A The Germans can't use it, and now have only poor secondary roads for communication with the main body of their forces.

^{TP} ^{as we have said,}
Orel may well turn into another Stalingrad, surrounded and besieged. The Soviet troops are concentrating their assaults to the south and southwest of Orel, and are preparing for an all-out assault against the salient.

MUNDA

In the southwest Pacific, American troops are battering at the outskirts of Munda. They have been driving for thirty-six hours for the push that is called - "the last mile." United States soldiers have driven deeply into the enemy lines, and now are moving through coconut groves that ring the flying field of the big air base.

However, the Japs are fighting fiercely, fighting to the death. An American military spokesman today stated: "Jap resistance has been very stubborn, but good progress has been made." He warned against any expectation that Munda would fall soon, because the Japs have succeeded in getting some reinforcements through and the garrison ~~at Munda~~ is fighting to the end.

PACIFIC

2
The Navy today announces another air raid against Wake Island, which the marines defended so bravely early in the war. Big Liberators hit the Japs on Wake, and ^{to do so} ~~they~~ had to fight their way through heavy resistance. Thirty Zeros intercepted them on their way. ^{zeros} Four were destroyed, and five others damaged. When the United States bomber fleet reached Wake, another wave of fighters assailed them - this in addition to heavy anti-aircraft fire. The giant warplanes scored heavy hits on the airfield, and lost only one plane.

1
And now Hugh James.