

The Canberra Times

To Serve the National City, and through it the Nation.

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BADOGGIO DISCUSSING TERMS OF ARMISTICE MAY DECLARE ROME OPEN CITY

LONDON, Wednesday.
Marshal Badoglio is discussing armistice conditions with the Allies, says the American Associated Press correspondent in Switzerland, quoting a report from Rome.

He adds that it is generally believed that the Italian authorities contacted the Allies in Rome through the British and American representatives at the Vatican.

The Associated Press correspondent in Madrid says that reliable diplomatic sources state that the Pope is making an effort to arrange a settlement between Italy and the Allies at the Vatican (Mr. Harold Tittman) is Allies. The United States Charge d'Affaires active in the negotiations.

It is reported from Bern that, in view of Mr. Churchill's threat that Italy will be bombed continually, Marshal Badoglio is taking steps to have Rome declared an open city, and a communique to that effect is expected shortly.

The Bern correspondent of "The New York Times" (Daniel Brigham) reports that after preliminary contacts with British and American representatives in the Vatican City, Marshal Badoglio was believed yesterday to have sent a delegation of civilian representatives and one army general to discuss the terms of surrender.

A Bern source stated that the principal difficulty in connection with preliminary talks with Italy is due to Marshal Badoglio's desire to provide sufficient time for the German troops to be withdrawn from Sicily, and that Marshal Badoglio was motivated by the fear that the returning German troops may inflict reprisals on civilians and also take thousands of hostages.

It is known that Badoglio discussed current military problems with German high staff officers.

A correspondent of "The New York Times" stated that 82 Italian Blackshirts were killed or wounded and 11 taken prisoner for immediate court-martial when they barricaded the Fascist headquarters in Turin and fought with machine-guns, grenades and pistols against an army patrol for four hours.

General Eisenhower has been given full powers to deal with the new Italian Government or any which might replace it should propitious circumstances arise, said the diplomatic correspondent of "The Daily Mail."

"The Allied terms are complete and uncompromising," he said. "General Eisenhower knows them in detail. General Eisenhower will act with regard to military necessity and will act at all times in conjunction with Messrs. MacMillan and Murphy, who are respectively, British and American political representatives."

"If Marshal Badoglio is anxious for immediate discussions, it is clear from Mr. Churchill's speech that the British and American Governments are prepared to listen," added the correspondent.

The "Daily Telegraph" says that diplomatic circles would not be surprised if the first official peace overtures from Italy were made within 48 hours, or at least the next few days. Overtures are more likely to come through Switzerland than the Vatican.

"That the overtures have not been already made is believed to be due to Marshal Badoglio's efforts to prevent at all costs Italy becoming an Allied and German battleground."

Marshal Badoglio is reported to have been in constant conference with the German Ambassador (General von Mackensen) and a number of Nazi experts in an attempt to solve the difficulties.

Two diplomatic couriers, one Italian and the other from the Vatican, arrived in Lisbon from Rome by air to-day.

Algeria radio quoted the Rome radio as saying that Mussolini was in Switzerland.

Algeria radio broadcast a message from Allied Headquarters to the Italian people urging them to chase the Germans from Italy. "You can and must prevent your historical enemy transforming Italy into a bloody battlefield. You must chase the Germans out of Italy. This is the hour of daring action."

The German-controlled Scandinavian Telegraph Bureau quoted a report from Paris to the effect that Marshal Badoglio unsuccessfully endeavoured to persuade the Germans to withdraw from Italy owing to the German Ambassador (General von Mackensen) having insisted on the Italian withdrawal to the Po Valley.

According to an American Associated Press report from Buenos Aires, the pro-Fascist Italian language newspaper "Mattino d'Italia" in a special dispatch from Rome, says that Mussolini reported to the King on Saturday night on the political and military situation in Rome, and said that he was prepared to resign and help solve the Government's problems.

The King is reported to have conferred with the Crown Prince Umberto, Marshal Badoglio and others, which resulted in a conference between Mussolini and Badoglio on Sunday in the Palazzo Venezia, where the Marshal presumably informed Mussolini that he was being replaced.

The diplomatic correspondent of "The Times" says that some obser-

vers in London suggest that Marshal Badoglio is giving the Germans a chance to withdraw unscathed from Italy before the approaching Allies.

On the other hand, Reuters correspondent inside Europe says that unconfirmed reports state that strong forces of Germans are streaming through the Brenner Pass into Italy.

The United States Secretary for the Navy (Col. Knox) at a Press conference, said he did not possess exclusive information on Italy.

He added that newspaper reports indicated that some attempt was being made to get Italy out of the war. A reporter asked, "Do you mean some attempt by the King and Badoglio?"

Col. Knox replied "Yes," and expressed the opinion that moves would be made in the reasonably near future.

Col. Knox said he did not know of any evidence of internal cracking in Germany similar to the upheavals in Italy.

Early Collapse Expected

The Stockholm correspondent of "The Times" reports that the Berlin-Rome telephone was opened yesterday for the first time since Sunday, but only for urgent and State calls. Few Germans expect Italy to make separate peace, but believe that Fascism is done with. Such general interest has not been aroused in Germany since the Stalingrad disaster, but the general attitude can be described as "wait and see."

Prominent Nazis in Stockholm, however, are convinced that Italy will be out of the war within two or three weeks, after which the Allies will use Italy as a base against Germany.

Swiss Frontier Closed

Stockholm newspapers publish reports that Gestapo officials are leaving Italy on Badoglio's orders, while a message from Bern stated that Swiss frontier guards were ordered not to admit to Switzerland Fascists fleeing from Italy.

According to a report from Madrid the elements in Italy have caused a deep depression in Spain.

Travellers arriving from Rome by air say that Hitler told Mussolini that the German plans called for a stand being made in the Po Valley, and suggested the evacuation not only of the Italian army to this line, but the withdrawal of all rolling stock, food stores and harvest, so the Allies would have to face the problem of supplying the population.

On Sunday, before the public was informed of the resignation of Mussolini, the Fascist Party took steps to protect its leaders. Mussolini went to a villa at San Rostin, between Rome and Ostia. The secretary of the party (Scorza) was placed under preventive arrest and Di Duce's other collaborators were confined to their rooms.

The announcement of the resignation was made after Badoglio had advised the Germans of his decision that Italy must leave the war. The Germans agreed.

Travellers say there may be some doubt abroad whether Mussolini's resignation meant the end of Fascism, but there is no doubt in the minds of the Italian people.

The Fascist garrison in Rome made preparations to resist, but crumbled swiftly when Badoglio sent regular army units, fully prepared for action, demanding their surrender.

The demonstrations in Milan reached a climax with a march to the palace of the Count of Turin, brother of King Victor, when cheers for the Royal Family lasted for hours.

De Gaulle Warns Italy

Algiers radio declares that General de Gaulle, in a broadcast to Italy, stated that Mussolini's fall was definitive and that the democracies are capable of overcoming all authoritarian regimes.

"Despite the horrors of the situation in which our country is plunged, a settlement could neither be valid nor lasting without France. It would not be valid because the war between France and Italy was started by the Fascist aggression," de Gaulle added.

Berlin radio stated that Baron Guariglia, the new Italian Foreign Minister, was still in Istanbul and was received by the Turkish Foreign Minister. It added that Guariglia was leaving Turkey as soon as possible.

NO RETURN OF TERRITORY TO ITALY

LONDON, Wednesday.
An emphatic no was the reply which the Foreign Secretary (Mr. Anthony Eden) gave to Mr. T. Magnay (Lib. Nat.) in the House of Commons, when he asked if the Government intended to restore to Italy her former possessions in North Africa after an honourable capitulation.

The New York newspaper, "P.M.," declared that Guariglia had a long record as a Fascist collaborator, and for 20 years had been a very intimate friend of Mussolini.

Reuters correspondent at Stockholm stated that towns in Northern Italy had been flooded with booklets, calling on the Italian people to revolt if Badoglio did not reach a rapid solution and seek peace.

The booklet demanded an honourable peace with the Allied Nations, the Germans to be driven out of Italy, the arrest of leading Fascists, the restoration of democratic principles and the release of political prisoners.

Rome radio, after its midday news bulletin, read the following announcement: "Irresponsible elements are circulating sensational rumours solely to disturb public order. Citizens are advised not to listen to the rumours."

Demonstrations at Fall of Fascism

According to reports from Bern, four Fascist leaders, including a party secretary, were killed and three others admitted to hospital as the result of demonstrations in Milan. Two demonstrators were killed and 22 admitted to hospital when soldiers machine-gunned the crowd storming the secretary's home.

A correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph," somewhere in Europe, gives an extraordinary picture of demonstrations held day and night from end to end of Italy against Mussolini, Fascism and the Germans.

"Reports are pouring in from all cities of joyful demonstrations at the fall of Fascism and angry riots against the Fascists and Nazis. During rioting at Milan on Monday, Italian troops and police rushed to reinforce the guards at the German barracks."

"Masses of Socialists paraded the streets, carrying banners attacking Mussolini. The crowds looted luxurious villas belonging to Fascist leaders."

"In Trieste, long processions of demonstrators marched through the streets during the day carrying tricolour badges, patriotically inscribed."

"Similar demonstrations occurred in Brindisi, Florence, Bologna and Modena. In some parts of Italy the crowds assaulted former Fascist leaders and forced them to remove their party badges," concluded the correspondent.

Revolt Threatens in Milan

Milan is reported to be verging on a revolution, stated the correspondent of the American Associated Press, who is on the Italian frontier. Despite the martial law crowds swept through the streets shouting: "Liberty. We want peace."

"Shots were fired and the situation is described as extremely grave. All workers are reported to have left their jobs."

Swiss radio declared that the disturbances continued throughout Tuesday at the Milan prison. The police were called in. The victims include one prisoner killed and others injured.

The Stockholm newspaper, "Aftonbladet," stated that during the demonstrations at Milan 11 public buildings were burned down, while at Como the crowd trampled a Fascist leader to death.

Reuters correspondent on the Swiss frontier advised that all work was reported to have stopped in Milan, the entire population flocking to the streets and clamouring for peace and liberty.

Rapid American Advance Along N.E. Sicilian Coast

LONDON, Wednesday.
It was announced officially in Algiers that the Americans had advanced another 15 miles along the north-east coast of Sicily and had overrun Cefalu and Petralia.

Two Italian divisions managed to escape to the east.

The Algiers communique announced that Canadians were engaged in stiff fighting and were making progress against strong opposition.

The Rome communique reported intense artillery fire on both sides in the central sector. The Luftwaffe attacked shipping at Augusta and Syracuse, sinking a corvette and a tanker and setting fire to six transports.

The American planes made minor raids on Calabria locality, anti-aircraft fire shooting two down.

An Italian submarine carried two torpedoes hit on an aircraft carrier in the Atlantic.

Parachutists Landed in Thousands

WASHINGTON, Wednesday.
Major-General Joseph Swing, who was attached to General Alexander's staff as adviser of U.S. air operations, told a Press conference that parachutists landed on Sicily in the darkness and held a German armoured division for 30 hours, thus blocking a drive to the sea between the American First and 45th divisions.

They landed with bazookas and 75 m.m. guns, turning back 60-ton Mark VI tanks. It was the largest simultaneous air-borne operation ever undertaken, the men landing by the thousands.

ITALIAN AIR FORCE PATHETIC SHADOW OF FORMER MIGHT

LONDON, Wednesday.
The Italian Air Force, once one of the world's great air forces, is now reduced to a pathetic shadow of its former might as the result of corruption among Air Ministry officials, competition between inefficient aircraft companies, crippling losses in North Africa, and absorption by the Luftwaffe, states Reuters aeronautical correspondent.

Italy entered the war with 2500 first-line planes. Its losses were 1500 shot down by the Allies, 1070 damaged, and untold hundreds destroyed on the ground, while replacements were negligible.

The strength at present was about 1500 machines of inferior quality, used for defence patrols on the mainland and attacks on shipping. The present output was about 100 a month.

MARSHAL PIETRO BADOGGIO

Leader of Anti-Fascism in Italy

When the original band of Fascists made their "March on Rome" in October, 1922, a military officer pleaded with the King of Italy, "Give me three battalions and I will scatter this rabble with a whiff of grape-shot." King Victor Emmanuel refused.

The officer was Pietro Badoglio. To-day, 21 years later, Marshal Badoglio steps up to take Mussolini's place.

Excessive optimism about any sudden swing to democratic enlightenment on Italy's part, under the leadership of Marshal Badoglio is hardly justified by the facts. Badoglio was the man who won Abyssinia for Italy with mustard gas.

Pietro Badoglio, Marquis of Sabotino, Duke of Addis Ababa, now aged 72, has been active in all Italy's wars since the Emperor Menelik of Abyssinia routed the Italian Army in Eritrea in 1896.

He was a lieutenant when Italy entered the First World War. In 1916, after planning the capture of Monte Sabotino, he was promoted to be the Italian Army. He organised the Fascist Party, and planned the campaign which, with the help of British and French forces, forced the capitulation of Austria-Hungary after the victory of Vittorio Veneto.

At the end of the war he was Chief of the General Staff.

After Mussolini's assumption of dictatorship, Badoglio became Italian Ambassador to Brazil. From 1929 to 1933 he was Governor of Libya.

RETURN TO POWER
The failure of Marshal de Bono in the opening of the Abyssinian war brought Badoglio back to full military power. At first he moved cautiously. Then, three months later, he was named supreme commander of the Italian forces at Adi Quala. Tanks, heavy artillery and huge masses of

GERMAN FORCES ARE TRAPPED AT OREL

Only One Road Open for Retreat

LONDON, Wednesday.
A message received from the B.U.P. representative at Moscow stated that the Russians are early expected to cut the last retreat route for the Germans from Orel.

The sole remaining passage is a narrow dirt road leading to Kurk and the Russian spearheads are expected to reach the road at a point 40 miles south-west from Orel.

The last of the German forces are withdrawing from the south of Orel, under cover of a desperate rearguard action, in an attempt to extricate themselves from the encircling movement of the Soviet forces. The Germans are carrying out a scorched-earth policy and are also taking with them Russian labour for work behind the lines.

The B.U.P. correspondent declares there is another "Salisbury" in the offing for 250,000 Germans in Orel. With the Russians consolidating the bridgehead along the west bank of the Oka River, which runs north-east from Orel, and with Russian forces pushing up from the south, the Red Army is hourly expected to begin the assault on Orel.

Reuters correspondent says that in pouring rain, which converted the fighting area into swamp, eight Russian armies are closing in on Orel. They are battering their way along three highways, three railways and three river valleys.

Fierce fighting has been due south from Bolkhov, where the Germans counter-attacked.

Berlin radio says the Russians south of Orel are hurling in vastly superior tank forces and, after stubborn resistance by a Silesian division, succeeded in pushing through the German lines.

BULGARIANS OCCUPY MACEDONIA

ISTANBUL, Wednesday.
Confirmation was received in Turkey that Bulgarian troops had occupied the whole of Eastern and Western Macedonia, with the exception of Salonika and its immediate surroundings, which remain under German control.

It is estimated that two or three Bulgarian divisions were sent to carry out operations against Greek guerrilla bands, replacing Italian troops which were probably recalled to Italy.

The Bulgarian occupation extends as far as the Albanian frontier, on which the Bulgarians have begun constructing fortifications facing to the west.

men, completed the conquest. Badoglio became Viceroy of Abyssinia and Duke of Addis Ababa. He was the hero of Italy. Abyssinia's climate, however, was not to his liking, and he resigned to return to Italy. His pay in the Abyssinian campaign was secured to him for life, and he was made a citizen of Rome.

When Italy entered the Second World War, he became Commander-in-Chief of the Italian Army, only to resign again after his failure to stem the Italian debacle against Greece in Albania.

Since then he has been the recognised centre of anti-Fascist disaffection in Italy. Fascists have made several attempts to kill him. Towards the end of last year he was reported to have led a peace movement which attempted to persuade the Vatican to mediate with the Allies.

This peace move, it was reliably said, was made with the full knowledge of King Victor Emmanuel, Crown Prince Umberto, and the Foreign Minister (Count Ciano).

CLOSE TO THRONE
Indeed, Badoglio has always been regarded as a close confidante of King Victor Emmanuel. He has never made much effort to conceal his dislike of Mussolini. When, after the Abyssinian war, he joined the Fascist Party, it was only at the direction of the King.

With the rout of Italy in Africa and on the Mediterranean, and the eclipse of Mussolini by the Nazis, the people have increasingly looked to Badoglio for new leadership.

Now King Victor Emmanuel has elevated him to that leadership. It may be well in this connection, to remember that responsible quarters have long held the belief that the Nazis, as Mussolini's personal popularity waned, would attempt to use Badoglio as a substitute.

This may not be what has occurred, but judgment must be suspended until events take their course. But, whatever occurs, it will be difficult to forget that Marshal Pietro Badoglio was the white officer to use gas against a native population.

Thought for To-day.—Courage is adversity's lamp.—Vauvenargues.

SALAMAUA PEELS HEAVIEST ALLIED RAIDS

(From Our War Correspondent, Geoffrey Hutton)

SOMEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA, Wednesday.

Maintaining a relentless blitz against Salamaua, American bombers yesterday made the biggest attack to date on the town. Four formations of Mitchells, followed by three of Liberators, dropped 123 tons of bombs in 38 minutes, leaving the town and nearby villages under a thick pall of smoke and flame.

Fires and explosions were caused in the town and 'drome areas and at Logui and Kela villages. Direct hits were seen on the wireless station, barracks, several gun positions and a bridge across the Francisco River. Marauders also caused explosions and fires at Lae, 20 miles to the north.

No air activity was reported from the Komiatum area, but a late day spatch states that a sharp patrol clash occurred north-east of Mount Tambu.

Mt. Tambu Cleared of Enemy

Australian parties cleared the top of Mt. Tambu after beating back repeated counter-attacks by greatly superior numbers.

The Americans have pushed up the coast from Nasau Bay to Tambu Bay and are now holding the Australians' right flank, five miles south of Salamaua.

R.A.A.F. Bombers, Beauforts and Beaufighters made strikes against the south coast of New Britain yesterday, destroying two small coastal vessels, which they drove ashore, and the wharf at Gasmata. Fires were left burning in the town.

Japs Raid Woodlark

The Japs made two ineffective strikes. They bombed American positions north of Lake Salus, between Tambu Bay and Nasau Bay, and also attacked Woodlark. This is the first attempt to bomb positions at Woodlark.

Heavy Defences at Munda
The Americans, attacking Munda, have made another gain in a close fighting against Japanese fixed defences. The latest dispatches report that they have pushed their left flank past the coastal village of Tetero, which is less than one and a quarter miles east of the airstrip.

The Americans had already made a beachhead on the east side of the point of land overlooking Munda, and they have fought their way across to the west side. Lambert coconut plantation lies between them and the strip.

The advance is being made in face of Japanese defences of a type used at Buna. Well-concealed dug-outs are dotted through the jungle, covering each other so that attack on one corner into the field of fire of another point in the rear.

Without great artillery or tank strength it is impossible to advance rapidly against such a defensive system.

Dive-bombers are being used to lay down a barrage on Japanese positions. Dauntless and Avengers yesterday morning dropped 35 tons of bombs, scoring several direct hits in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire on Bibolo Hill, to the north-east of Guraasi, just west of the strip and Munda.

One Fortress was shot down by Japanese night-fighters in another pre-dawn attack on Kahili 'drome, where the Japanese are concentrating their aircraft. Many direct hits were scored on runway areas.

Official Communique
North Western Sector
Timor: Our medium units bombed Koepang at night.

North Eastern Sector
New Britain—Vitu Islands: One of our heavy units, on armed reconnaissance, bombed enemy buildings on Munda and Unea Islands, starting fires.

Jaquinet Bay: Our medium units and long-range fighters bombed and strafed the supply ships beached off Cape Cunningham as a result of our previous attacks. The ships were set on fire and are considered to be a total loss.

Gasmata: Our attack planes and long-range fighters, in low level attacks, bombed and strafed enemy installations. The wharf was destroyed with direct hits and fires were started.

New Guinea—Lae: Our medium bombers attacked enemy barge concentrations and supply dump areas, causing explosions and fires. Four enemy fighters in the air did not attempt to intercept.

Salamaua: Strong forces of our heavy and medium units bombed and strafed Kela and Salamaua townships and Logui village, dropping 123 tons of high explosives on enemy installations.

Fires and explosions in the target area indicated that damage was heavy. Direct hits were scored on gun positions, the bridge, barracks and wireless station.

Komiatum: Sharp patrol clashes occurred in the area north-east of Mt. Tambu.

Woodlark Island: A single enemy aircraft dropped four bombs harmlessly during the night.

Nasau Bay: Enemy aircraft attacked the area north of Salus Lake, causing no damage.

Solomons
Bougainville: Buna Point: Our heavy units bombed Kahili 'drome before dawn, scoring many direct hits on the runway area. The heavy unit bombed Balika 'drome. Enemy night fighters intercepted over the area and we lost one plane. During the night one of our medium patrol units bombed enemy barges at Jakobina.

New Georgia—Munda: Our forward elements continued their pressure against enemy centres of resist-

ance and passed the coastal village of Tetero. Our escorted torpedo and dive-bombers, in direct support, dropped 35 tons of explosives on enemy positions on Bibolo Hill, Guraasi and Munda Point.

Kolombangara: Our medium units, on night patrol, bombed Vila 'drome.

U.S. TROOPS SLASH FORWARD TO MUNDA AIR BASE

NEW YORK, Tuesday.
United States troops are slashing forward from several directions in a drive against Munda, but the Japanese apparently are determined to fight to the last man, says a naval spokesman at South Pacific headquarters.

The spokesman indicated that the Japanese succeeded in reinforcing Munda, but not in considerable numbers and probably by small barges at night.

American troops had made good progress in the face of stubborn resistance. Light tanks were used wherever the terrain allowed. The Americans are finding it necessary to search out every Japanese and kill him, since there appears to be no surrendering.

He added that the capture of Munda 'drome would not necessarily mean the end of Japanese resistance, as the remnants may flee to the hills, but it is unlikely that many will escape.

A Navy communique announced that Liberators attacked Wake Island on Saturday. Thirty Zero fighters intercepted and five others destroyed, four probably and five others damaged. The bombers scored many hits and caused large explosions. One plane did not return.

The Japanese Army spokesman (Yahagi), according to Tokyo radio, said that the American Air Force in China was being continuously reinforced through India, despite crushing blows dealt by the Japanese, apparently for an air attack on Japan.

Jap Submarine Claim

NEW YORK, Wednesday.
The Tokyo communique claimed that a Japanese submarine, in the waters of San Cristobal Island on July 20, met an enemy formation of one cruiser of the San Francisco class and three destroyers.

The submarine forced its way through the protecting screen of destroyers and sank the cruiser.

U.S. Offensive Demanded in Pacific

NEW YORK, Wednesday.
The Washington correspondent of the "New York Times" said that Representative Mass predicted that unless the United States initiated a real offensive in the Pacific right now, there was a good chance that Japan would never be defeated. Once Japan obtained industrial strength we would not be able to beat her.

He added that the policy of beating Hitler first was fallacious because when that time came the facts of the world would not be able to break through the chain of air bases established by Japan.

Mr. Mass is a Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve and served in the South Pacific area last year.

GERMANY ANXIOUS OVER HUNGARY'S FUTURE POLICY

LONDON, Wednesday.
The American United Press quoted a Turkish statement to the effect that German troops were massing at several points on the Hungarian frontier, but the report is unconfirmed.

However, it is known that the Germans had exerted considerable pressure on Hungarians in an attempt to turn any effort to cease participation in the war.

Budapest radio stated that the Hungarian Cabinet met on Tuesday night to discuss current affairs.

HARASSING ENEMY SHIPPING

LONDON, Tuesday.
British submarines continue to harass the enemy in coastal waters in the Northern Mediterranean, says an Admiralty statement. They also bombarded a number of shore targets in the Gulf of Salonika, the island of Lemnos and elsewhere.

A number of supply ships and small vessels were destroyed.

S. AFRICAN ELECTION APPEAL FAILS

PRETORIA, Wednesday.
The National Party failed a second time to prevent the counting of the ballot votes in the Union elections. A judge of the Supreme Court refused an urgent application that an interdict should be placed against the counting of the votes on the grounds of irregularities.