

LARSEN

SOLDIER'S GUIDE TO ITALY



**SOLDIER'S GUIDE
TO
ITALY**

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INTRODUCTION

THIS booklet is designed equally for American and British soldiers. Do not therefore be surprised if some parts do not altogether apply to you. To begin with, Americans are much more familiar with Italians than British are, so Italy will not seem quite such a strange country to them, while if you are an American of Italian origin you will be sure of a warm welcome anywhere. Still, you should remember that Italians in their own country, after 20 years of Fascism, are by no means the same as Italians you may have known in America, and in any case the relations of an occupying force with the occupied nation can never be easy.

For convenience the booklet is divided into two parts. In Part I you will find facts that you will need to know and an outline of what you are likely to encounter and see. Part II contains information of less day-to-day importance about the country for those who are interested.

PART I

Your Assignment.

You and your outfit have been ordered to invade and conquer an enemy country—Italy. That mission will take you or your comrades ultimately to all areas which are Italian-owned or have been under Italian control. Much depends on how you conduct yourself there as a soldier and as a representative of the United Nations.

If you treat the civilian Italians with moderation and tact—and equally with the firmness which your situation demands—you will make your own task easier of accomplishment. Likewise, you may gain the future consideration and support of the Italian people in our effort to restore world order. These are the general objectives which your country expects you to bear in mind.

Until these people have laid down their arms, *they are the enemy*. Once they have laid down their arms, it would be hurtful to ourselves and to the cause of the United Nations to contribute deliberately by act or attitude to their resentment of us. Italy is an Axis country but its people are not all pro-Axis nor were they all pro-Fascist. Many of them are inclined toward democracy. In the appropriate hour we will need the friendship of these people and will need their help in restoring peace to Europe. Whether we win that friendship depends upon whether we can show them that the sense of justice in us is as strong as our determination to vanquish all who take up arms against our country.

Italy our enemy for the first time.

Italy has never before been the enemy of America or Great Britain. In the past she has always been our friend and she fought as our ally during the Great War.

The policy of Britain and America, therefore, is to treat the Italians differently from the Germans. We have entered the country primarily so that, having knocked Italy out of the war, we can set about finishing off our main enemy in Europe, Germany. By getting on well with the Italians and so making more troops available for other fronts you will be helping to end the war more quickly and also make your job more pleasant. As Mr. Churchill said recently, "We must be careful not to get ourselves into the kind of position into which the Germans have blundered in so



St. Peter's with the Vatican Palace in the left foreground and the River Tiber in background

many countries, namely, of having to mould down and administer in detail day by day, by a system of 'gauleiters,' the entire life of a very large population.'

Relations with Civilians.

When you are in occupation of the various regions, an occupation which will be carried out under the recognised terms of international law, you will frequently have to act through and in close collaboration with legally appointed civilian officials, as the greater part of civilian life, once the fighting is over, will continue to be run by Italian civilians. It will be the duty of the troops to assist these officials and to hamper them as little as possible.

Yours will be our first Allied contact with the inhabitants of the mainland since the war and they will judge our good faith largely by the way you treat them. Never forget that the Fascist propaganda machine had for twenty years been trying to give the Italians a completely false picture of British and American behaviour. Many Italians, the younger of whom had never known what it is to have any other government but Fascism, had been taught to believe that you are gluttonous, deceitful, and brutal.

On the whole Italians have stood up remarkably well to this propaganda, for Italians are not so easily led as the Germans and are very proud of their ability to "read between the lines." Nevertheless, some mud will always stick, so you are sure to come across a certain amount of anti-British and anti-American feeling, and, naturally, everyone will be quite ready to turn round and admit that Mussolini was right after all if our behaviour gives them the opportunity. Make allowance for all this in your relations with civilians and regard it as one of your duties to destroy the false picture Italians have of the democracies.

Remember, too, that American and British troops are now occupying territory on the European mainland for the first time. You will already know something of what the Germans have done when they have occupied enemy territory, and it is up to you to avoid doing the things that are habitual to the German. For example :

- (i) DON'T be rude when restraining the curiosity of the inhabitants. The Italians are naturally inquisitive and you will be about the most remarkable event which has happened in living memory. Don't tell them anything of military importance but don't be unnecessarily rude when refusing to do so.
- (ii) DON'T drive furiously through narrow village streets, scattering pedestrians and livestock in all directions.
- (iii) DON'T pick quarrels or make it appear that you despise anyone who isn't fortunate enough to be British or American.
- (iv) DON'T demand your drinks in a loud voice and consider that since you've occupied the country you have a right to be served before any civilian in the place.
- (v) Stay clear of mobs, political demonstrations or public gatherings of any sort unless you are ordered there for duty or unless you have obtained specific permission from your superior officer.

(vi) Respect Italian cathedrals, churches, and wayside shrines as you would respect any place of worship or symbol of religion within your own country.

(vii) Avoid, on every account, a discussion with the Italians on the merits of your nation and that of other allies.

This is always a loophole for Axis propaganda and is playing into their hands. It is inexcusable to be disparaging about your allies.

We know that British and Americans don't usually behave in the way referred to above but innumerable stories confirm that Germans do, when they are outside Germany. That is why they are so well hated in Italy.

The golden rule therefore is : " Show the Italians that the German way isn't the only way of occupying a country."

There are, of course, a great number of other " don'ts," such as, avoid politics, but so long as we treat the Italians humanely we shan't go far wrong.

Italians are very susceptible to a civil manner of approach. You will, therefore, generally obtain more with a smile. We learnt this in Sicily.

Why Italy entered the War.

As to why Italy, the friend and ally of 1915-1918, became the enemy in this war, the fault lies with Fascism and its methods of aggression abroad as well as at home. When Mussolini attacked Abyssinia, the League of Nations tried to stop him by applying economic "sanctions" (a form of blockade) to Italy. These measures failed. Mussolini crushed and annexed Abyssinia, broke with the League, and "sanctions" were ultimately dropped. But the Italians, misled by their Fascist leaders as to the real truth of the whole affair, bore a deep grudge for having moved the League to act against them. You may well hear about the "sanzioni" and their effect in weakening Anglo-Italian friendship. Anyhow, the result was that Mussolini turned to Germany for support and the "Axis" was formed. The partnership grew closer as it became clearer that the Western Powers would interfere with Axis schemes of domination. More and more pro-Germans were given key posts in Italy until, in June, 1940, the "Duce" (leader), foreseeing the collapse of France, and thinking that the British would then throw in the sponge, declared war in order to stake a claim on the pickings. It is probably true that over 90 per cent. of the Italian people, after the wars in Abyssinia and Spain, didn't want another war at all, and even less with America than with Britain. Although perhaps they were powerless to prevent it, and they are now paying the price of their leader's folly, remember that it was the people's own folly that they allowed themselves to be run by a "person" such as Mussolini.

Towns and Villages.

The Italians are as mixed a people as any in the world. About half the working population is engaged in agriculture and less than a third in

industry, which is chiefly concentrated in the north, and in mining. They are on the whole sober, hard-working and strong, skilled with their hands, excellent engineers, builders, drivers and mechanics.

If you are stationed in the southern regions of the peninsula you will not be so favourably impressed as when you are in the north. The large cities are relatively few, while the smaller towns and villages sometimes have a dirty air. The majority of the people live by agriculture and wages are low. Education ceases when the children are comparatively young. Industrial raw materials are few and communications poor, hence no great manufacturing enterprises have been created such as would offer labour a higher standard of living. The climate, too, very hot in the long summer and relatively mild in the winter, tends to make the southern Italians indolent.

The further one travels north, the better are the conditions encountered, and in some of the central and northern regions a fair standard of living has been attained, even in some of the country areas. This is true especially of parts of Piedmont, Lombardy, Liguria and Venetia, where both industry and agriculture have been brought to a high degree of prosperity.

Food.

The staple foods of the country are bread, "pasta" (macaroni), "polenta" (a sort of pudding eaten in the north and made from ground maize), rice, vegetables, fruit (fresh and dried), and cheese. Tomatoes and potatoes are available throughout the year, eggs and poultry in fair quantities, and fish along the coast. Olive oil is largely used instead of butter and cooking fats, and little meat (chiefly beef, veal and pork) is eaten. Coffee, of which the Italians are particularly fond, comes from abroad, but tea was never really popular.

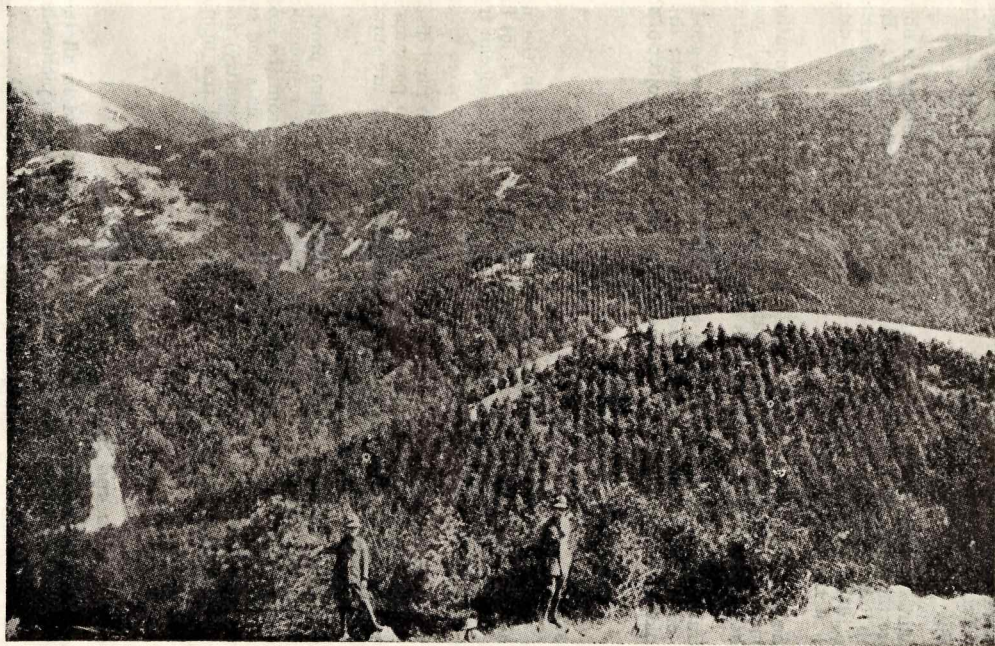
During the war, rationing and price controls were introduced, but the latter were not strictly applied. The peasants hoarded their farm produce, the towns went short and black markets flourished. You will probably find this still to be the case, and are likely to be overcharged for anything you buy. If you are ever offered food, say chicken and eggs, it will be by a black marketeer who will ask you fancy prices. In the interests of both yourself and the local population, you should have nothing to do with such dealers.

Among the foods which were strictly rationed are bread, macaroni, rice, sugar, meat (there are several meatless days each week), milk, butter and eggs. Biscuits and cream ices are prohibited.

The war, indeed, has made all foods very scarce, and some unobtainable. It is to be expected that the final disorganisation that will follow an invasion will reduce many areas to a state of semi-starvation.

Drink.

While you may not be able to buy much to eat from the Italians except fruit, you are always likely to be offered drink for sale. Italy is a big



Wooded Apennines

wine-producing and wine-drinking country, wine taking the place of beer, coffee and tea. Many of the wines are good, but local products are often tricky and stronger than they taste. They will upset your stomach and go to your legs as well as your head unless you know when to stop.

Besides the table wines, there were a number of aperitifs, liqueurs, brandies, vermouths, dessert wines and fruit syrups, all apt to be rather strong.

Light beers, while not so plentiful as wine, could generally be obtained before the war. You will, however, find nothing exactly like the English "pub" or American "bar and grill." The nearest to it is the bar (same word in Italian as in English) and cafe in the towns, and the "osteria" (inn) in the country districts.

The cafe, with its tables set in the open air during the hot months, is a favourite meeting place, especially after the day's work, though you are unlikely to find any coffee there, as it has been banned since the war.

Strange as it may, perhaps, seem to you in a country where good wine was cheap and plentiful, the Italian was always a moderate drinker. Drunkenness is comparatively rare and a drunken man an object of scorn.

Dress.

In the south, lighter clothing is naturally worn than in the north. Clothing of all kinds, incidentally, is strictly rationed. The styles in the large towns, for both men and women, follow the general European trends, with a marked tendency to light and bright colours.

Drabness is the chief characteristic of daily dress in the rural districts, but on fete days this changes to one of gaiety when the peasants deck themselves out in their traditional regional dresses, which are surprising in their variety.

The variety of uniforms to be seen in Italy in peace-time provided a puzzle to the foreigner. The Fascists themselves were responsible for quite a number. To-day you will probably see, apart from the soldiers, few uniforms beyond the swallow-tail coats and cocked hats and swords of the Carabinieri (the semi-military police force of the country) and the more sober uniforms of the public security agents and the municipal police.

Entertainments and Sport.

Cinemas ranging from first-class to mediocre are found in all the big towns, while the smaller centres generally have at least one picture-house.

Opera is, of course, a traditional feature of Italian life. If you can get to a performance at either the Scala Opera House in Milan or the Royal Opera House in Rome, do not miss the chance. Other famous opera houses are situated at Palermo, Naples, Genoa, Florence and Venice.

Sport of all kinds has developed by leaps and bounds since the Great War and it was a part of Fascist policy to encourage it with the aim of toughening Italian youth for the struggle ahead.

Sports grounds, some of them of the finest, are to be seen everywhere. The Italians took enthusiastically to soccer, which is perhaps the most popular sport in Italy. Cycling comes a close second and Italy produced many track and road champions. While cricket and baseball are practically unknown, clubs exist for almost every other sport and recreation, from gymnastics, boxing, weight-lifting to bowls, golf and fencing, this last ranking high with the Italians, who show great skill at it.

Traffic.

Traffic keeps to the right of the road, as in the United States.

The Family and Women.

Like ourselves, to the ordinary Italian, family life means everything. Families are large and united, and divorce is rare. The men are by nature jealous and, particularly in the south, keep a close check on their women. It is true that in the north the younger generation of women, at least in cities, has recently acquired more liberty in their movements and activities, but as a general rule Italian women and girls are everywhere allowed less freedom in their conduct than would be thought normal in America or Great Britain. For example, it is almost unknown in the south for an unmarried girl to travel alone by train, and rare for her to engage in casual conversation with a stranger.

The main thing to remember is that a respectable unmarried girl does not walk out with a man unless they have gone through all the formalities of getting engaged. If a girl breaks this rule she runs the risk of losing her reputation and her chances of getting married. This is naturally resented by members of her family, who may also take offence at the most harmless approaches on your part.

Don't therefore think that you are going to find it easy to pick up a respectable girl in Italy without running the risk of a first-rate row, and remember that a number of Germans came to an untimely end through trying.

Contacts with Women.

Ever since entering the military service you have been warned of the dangers of venereal disease. This warning has sometimes taken the form of telling you to stay away from women; at other times, you have been cautioned frankly that if you do cohabit with strange women, you should do the necessary thing just as quickly as possible—report at the BLUE LIGHT and get a prophylactic treatment. Once you have stepped over the line, there is no other way to safeguard your health, your future and the reputation of your organization.

There are many warm-looking, attractive women in Italy. Prostitution was common in peace-time. The conditions of the war are certain to have increased the number of easy women on the street. But all that has been said about the dangers of fraternization applies with special emphasis to consorting with a "pick-up" anywhere in Italy. You are in enemy country. Thousands of our active enemies will remain undetected among the population. It is notorious that women of the type discussed in this paragraph are in better position to work themselves into a soldier's confidence, ply him with liquor and drain him of valuable information than any other kind of enemy agent. This kind of thing happens not only on the Hollywood screen but in real warfare.

The type of woman who approaches you on the street in Italy and says : " Please give me a cigarette!" isn't looking for a smoke. Yet that first touch may lead to major indiscretions that will endanger many of your comrades and bring a final disgrace upon your own head. Venereal disease is not the only danger arising from such associations in enemy country. Relaxed morals breed loose talk.

Language.

It is not easy to speak Italian really well, but you will soon pick up enough "kitchen Italian" to get along. The local dialects are more difficult to master, but even in the remotest parts of the country pure Italian is generally understood. The dialects, of which there are many, differ from province to province to such an extent that a Venetian, speaking his own dialect, would not be understood by a Sicilian, and *vice versa*.

As to pronunciation, this is not really difficult, once you have memorised a few simple rules. Every vowel (a, e, i, o, u) is pronounced separately, even at the end of words. They have a different sound from Eng sh, however, and should be pronounced roughly as follows :

a—ah ; e—eh ; i—ee ; o—oh ; u—oo as in too. Thus the word eggs uova, sounds something like this : ooh-oh-vah.

Other points to note are :

c before a, o, u is pronounced as k in king ;

c before e, i, is pronounced as ch in church ;

g before a, o, u is pronounced as g in go ; g before e and i is pronounced as j in jam ;

ch is pronounced as k in king ;

gh is pronounced as g in go ;

gl is pronounced as ll in million ;

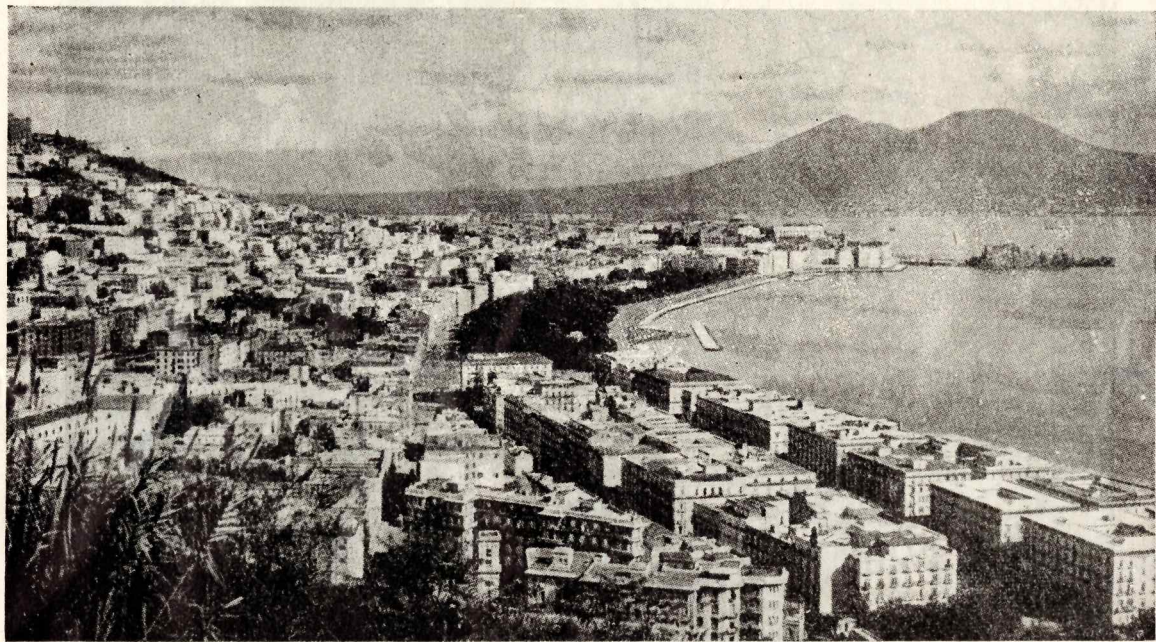
gn is pronounced as ny in canyon ;

z is pronounced ds as in suds.



Florence





Naples with Vesuvius in the background

Som: Useful Words and Phrases.

Good day	Buon giorno	Boo-on jawno
Good evening	Buona sera	Boo-on-ah say-rah
Please	Prego	Pray-go
Thank you	Grazie	Grah-zi-ay
Where	Dove	Doh-vay
Where is	Dove si trova	Doh-vay see troh-va
Where can one	Dove si può	Doh-vay see poo-oh
Have you	Avete	Ah-vay-tay
Give me	Datemi	Dah-tay-mee
Bring me	Po' tatemi	Paw-ta-tay-mee
I wish	vo'glio	Voh-lee-oh
To eat.	mangiare	Mahn-ja-ray
To drink	bere	beh-ray
To buy	comprare	kom-pra-ray
To pay	pagare	Pah-gah-ray
To go	andare	an-dah-ray
How much, how many	quanto	kuh-ahn-to
What is the name	Come si chiama	koh-may see kee-ahm-ah
This	Questo	kwest-oh
That	Quello	kwell-oh
A little	Poco	po-koh
Too much	Troppo	tro-poh
Far	Lontano	lon-tah-noh
Near	Vicino	Vee-chee-noh
Hurry	Fate presto	Fah-tay press-toh
Slowly	Adagio	Ah-dah-jo
I do not understand	non capisco	non ka-pis-koh
Have you understood?	Capito?	Kah-pee-toh
Tea	te	tay
Coffee	caffe	kah-fay
Water	acqua	Ah-kwah
Wine	vino	Vee-noh
Bread	pane	Pah-nay
Egg	uova	Ooh-oh-vah
Fish	pesce	Pess-kay
Meat	carne	Kar-nay
Woman	donna	Don-nah
There is	c'è	chay
Yes	sì	see
No	no	noh
One	uno	Ooh-noh
Two	due	doo-ay
Three	tre	tray
Four	quattro	kwa-troh
Five	cinque	chin-kway
Six	sei	say-ee
Seven	sette	set-tay
Eight	otto	oh-toh
Nine	nove	no-vay
Ten	dieci	dee-ay-chee

Character.

Some aspects of the Italian character have already been mentioned, but a knowledge of other aspects will help you to understand the people better.

The Italian character tends to be individualistic. When faced with the bigger problems, however, the Italian is somewhat easily led into mass enthusiasm and obedience, although these are often merely superficial. They are good judges of character and can size up men quickly as to their worth.

Italians are not so instinctively law-abiding as English-speaking people. Indeed, they often enough view the law as something to be got round rather than obeyed. One of the sayings most familiar in Italy is : "fatta la legge, trovata, l'inganno" (laws were made to be broken). Discipline is generally slack and is observed in a slipshod way typical of Mediterranean civilisation. Climate, incidentally, has always had a strong influence on the formation of the Italian temperament.

One feature of this temperament is excitability. However startling these outbursts may sometimes be to a person new to the country, much of them must be taken for granted. In spite of outward appearances, they are nearly always under control.

Then there is the Italian's vanity, which is sometimes difficult to distinguish from his pride. His vanity can be easily wounded, while his pride is liable to be offended by the most innocent criticism, particularly of his native town or village, the valour of his soldiers or the qualities of his race.

In the mass the Italians are by nature friendly and courteous. They instinctively resent a haughty and arrogant attitude.

The inhabitants will be sore enough as it is at defeat and invasion. Don't rub it in or be patronising. Try instead to bring out such interests as you may have in common. Especially be kind to children. That will create a feeling of human sympathy.

Remember that the Anglo-American occupation of the country may be a long one. In the early days you will probably be received with great enthusiasm, partly because the Italians will wish to make a good impression and humour you, and partly because they will hope to benefit more from your arrival. Afterwards, as some of their hopes fail to be realised, the early enthusiasm will fade and perhaps tend to transform itself into surliness or indifference, if not actual obstruction.

Currency, Weights and Measures.

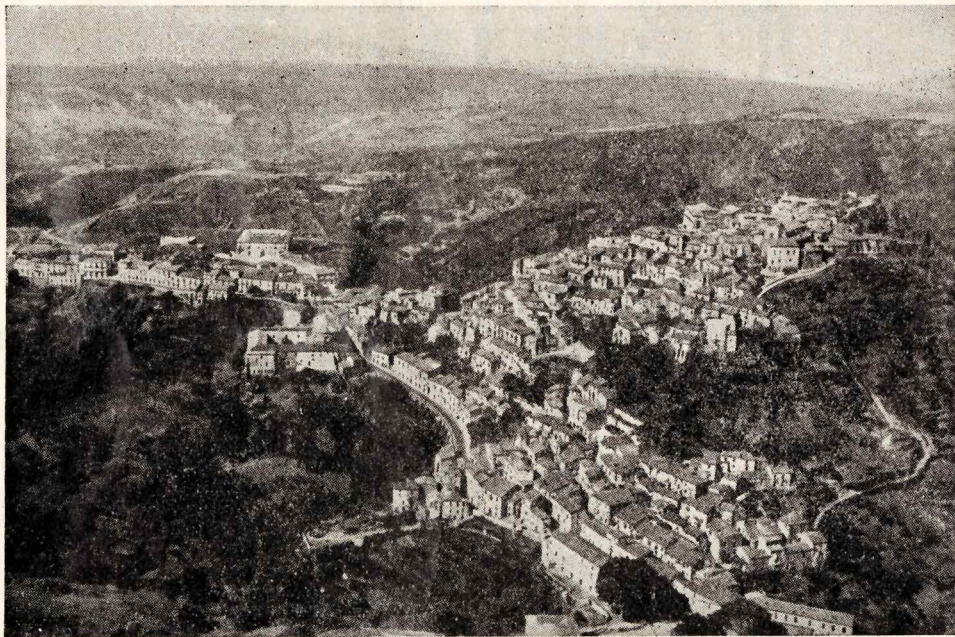
Currency. The unit of currency is the lira (worth about 2½d. at peace-time exchange) which is divided into 100 "centesimi." Small sums are sometimes quoted in the "soldo," or 5 centesimi piece, the equivalent of the British half-penny or American one cent.

Silver and nickel coins have been withdrawn and from the lira upwards all local currency is now paper. The coinage was formerly :

Bronze 5 and 10 centesimi.

Nickel 20 and 50 centesimi : 1 and 2 lire.

Silver 5, 10 and 20 lire.



A typical village in Central or Southern Italy built on the slope of a hill

The rate of exchange for Allied troops has not been fixed at the time of writing.

Don't chuck your money about if the rate of exchange is in your favour and you have many lire in your pocket. You will only encourage the putting up of prices against yourself and prove that the Axis tales about the "haves plundering the have-nots" were right. The people will think you vulgar and foolish; for them a lira is still a lira and pretty hard to come by.

<i>Weights.</i>	100 grammes	= $3\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.
	1 kilogram (1,000 grammes)	= 2.2 lbs. (approx.)
	1,000 kilogrammes (1 metric ton)	= 2,205 lbs.
<i>Capacity.</i>	1 litre	= $1\frac{3}{4}$ pints (imperial)
	1 cubic 'itre	= 220 gallons (imperial)
<i>Area.</i>	1 square metre	= $10\frac{3}{4}$ sq. ft.
	1 hectare	= 2.5 acres
<i>Length.</i>	1 metre	= $39\frac{1}{8}$ inches.
	1,000 metres (1 kilometre)	= 1,094 yards (about $\frac{5}{8}$ of a mile).

PART II

Geographical.

The Kingdom of Italy includes the peninsula, shaped like a top boot and thrust out into the Mediterranean, Sicily, Sardinia, various minor islands and Libya. Its area (excluding Libya) is roughly 120,000 square miles (one third as large again as Great Britain). Four-fifths of the country consists of hills and mountains. Its population is about 45½ millions (roughly the same as that of the United Kingdom), three quarters of whom live in towns and larger villages. The country is poor in natural resources and the birth-rate is high.

Italy's chief cities are Rome (the capital), Milan and Turin (industrial centers), Naples, Genoa, Trieste, Palermo and Catania (ports), Bologna (the oldest university in Europe), Florence and Venice (artistic centers). Of the many smaller towns, some are of great interest and beauty.

Historical.

Italy did not reach her present status of a Kingdom till 1870. Over 2,000 years ago the Romans built up an Empire, which ruled almost the whole of what was then the western civilised world, including Britain, and left its mark on Europe to this day. It ultimately declined and fell, through invasion, corruption and inefficiency.

In the course of its history Italy has been overrun by Huns, Goths and other fighting tribes from the north and east, Moors, Greeks, Normans, Frenchmen, Spaniards and Austrians, who settled in the land, only to be driven out again or assimilated, while a host of local princelings and dictators alternately ruled or lost some province or city.

By the end of the XVth century a revival of learning and the arts, known as the "Rinascimento" (Renaissance or re-birth) was well under way. The country was in a turmoil, but never before or since has it produced finer painting and sculpture or exercised a deeper influence over European art.

Unsettled political conditions lasted well into the XIXth century, when the forces working for national unity came to a head under the leadership of the House of Savoy, the king of Sardinia and Piedmont (a small state in northern Italy), grandfather of Italy's present king, becoming the first king of Italy by a "conquest" of the other states into which the country was still divided. Throughout her struggle for independence and during the years that followed, Italy enjoyed England's support, and the friendship between the two countries was very real, while the closeness of her ties with America grew as more and more Italians emigrated.

The Government.

The King. Italy even under Fascism was still, in theory, a constitutional monarchy with a King, Victor Emanuel III, whose only son, Umberto Prince of Piedmont, is heir apparent.

It is probable that the majority of the Italians are still loyal to the Crown. Many regard the royal family with affection. You will often come across their pictures, especially in official buildings. Be considerate. Though the King has admittedly fallen in the estimate of many of his people, any disrespect shown by foreigners would be resented.

There are, however, other political currents, many of them republican, which are generally associated with left-wing politics. So, it is advisable not to express any opinion on what is a purely Italian matter.

The position of the monarchy as a result of the fall of Mussolini is still unclear at the time of writing.

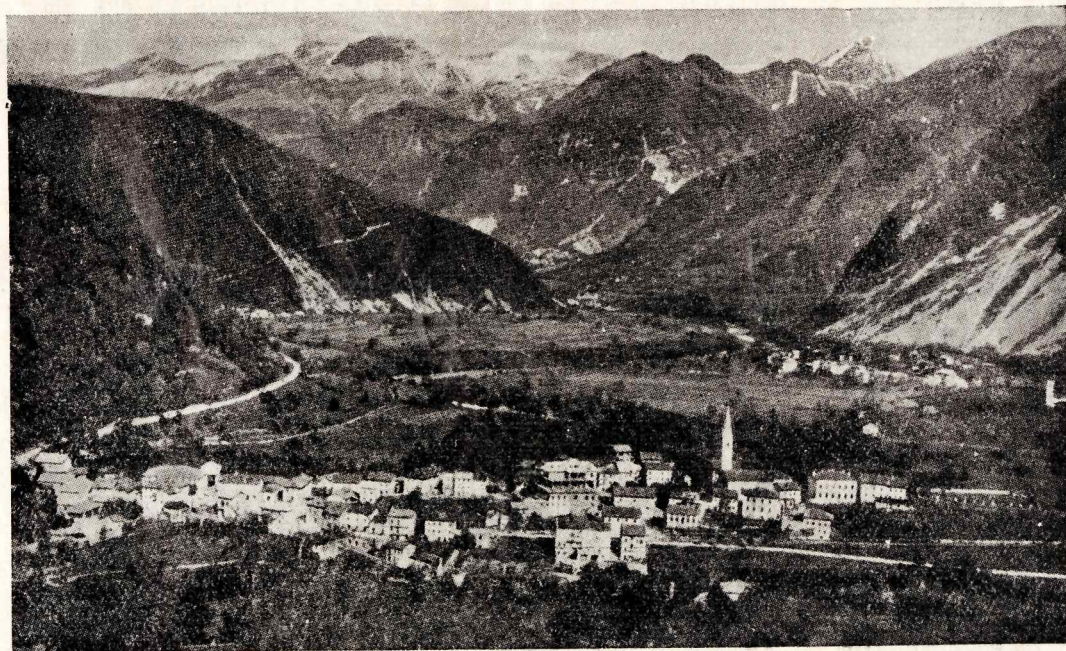
Mussolini and the Fascist Party.

The Fascist Party has been dissolved. It is, however, important to know something about it in order to understand the background of the people.

This so-called Party was the only one allowed in Italy, and was not in the least like an American or British political party. It was created and was led by Mussolini who, taking advantage of the weakness of the Government of the day and of unrest in the country, threatened to seize power by force with the help of his original Fascist gangs (the so-called "March on Rome"). To avoid a conflict, the King appointed him head of the Government (31st October, 1922), an office he always held in addition to other appointments which he from time to time assumed.

The Fascists put their own men into all Government and Municipal posts, and so controlled practically every phase of civilian life. Their new government abolished all other political parties, trade unions, independent workers' associations and even masonic lodges (many of these organisations will doubtless come to life again now that the Fascist Party has been abolished). Having stifled all opposition, they set to work "conditioning" the people. The Fascist political creed looked to the State, in this case really the "Duce" and his Party, as something above and beyond the people. "Everything in the State, nothing outside the State, nothing beyond the State" was a favourite Party saying. Thus, there was no room for individual liberties. The State did not exist by and for the people, but the people by and for the State. In fact, Mussolini used every device of modern propaganda and publicity to boost himself into the position of the biggest man in Italy.

You must not think because of all this that the Italians are fools or have no sense of humour. True, some joined the Party for their own selfish ends, and others were honestly mistaken when they gave their allegiance to it. Most members, however, were blackmailed or bullied into submission and gradually cut off from the outside world (except Germany, where the same harsh rule is in force) until the more simple people and much of the youth of the country came to accept blindly all they were told and do as they were directed for fear of worse. The



A typical Alpine valley

penalty for speaking against the Government or Party was often banishment to a solitary spot or an island jail. Some Italians, however, even when they appeared to be "Fascists," nevertheless retained their free thought and judgment and were openly critical of the Government in private conversation.

Do not forget all this when dealing with Italians. What you do and say may seem at least as strange to them as their ways of life will to you. Their minds have become so deformed by the stream of Fascist propaganda that they will not see things the way you see them. They will appear to you amazingly misinformed about conditions in other countries, and maybe even in their own. Could it be otherwise when they have been compelled to read only Italian and German newspapers and to listen to only Fascist radio for the last three years and more?

The Church.

Practically every Italian is a Roman Catholic, the official religion of the country being Roman Catholicism.

The head of the Roman Catholic Church (now Pope Pius XII) is sovereign of, and lives in, the Vatican City State, a tiny, independent neutral state with a population of under one thousand and an area of a couple of hundred acres, mostly situated within Rome itself.

The Pope is regarded by Roman Catholics the world over (and there are about 300,000,000 of them) as the Vicar of Christ, Successor of St. Peter the Apostle, first Bishop of Rome, and as the highest religious authority in all Christendom. His influence is thus considerable, both in and outside Italy. He maintains diplomatic relations with most countries, including Italy itself, and America and Britain have a diplomatic representative in the Vatican City.

In Italy, the Church and religious orders have always played an important part in the life of the people. As in most Roman Catholic countries, the higher clergy are not without power, while the "parroco" (parish priest) is a person to be reckoned with, especially in rural districts, and is likely to increase his influence when Fascism has disappeared. He and the local schoolmaster are generally the best educated men in the village, particularly in the south where illiteracy is greater than in the north. Life in the smaller villages is still often centred as strongly on the local church as on the local Fascist headquarters.

To Protestants, Italian pious customs may well seem surprising. Southern people are more demonstrative and exuberant than northerners and this is shown in their manner of worship. Those of you who are Catholics will have no difficulty in understanding the religious ceremonies of the Italians.

One more point: Italians know little, if anything, about Protestantism. They have been told by German and Fascist propaganda that the American and Briton are against religion, and the Catholic Church in particular. Your attitude and behaviour can prove that this is sheer nonsense.

Art.

Italian towns, even quite small ones, are often full of fine old buildings, pictures and sculpture, of which the inhabitants are rightly proud. It

should be among your first cares to watch over them. A fanatical Fascist may well attempt to injure or even destroy them, so that the injury or destruction may be laid at the door of the British or American armies.

Italy has such a long history that you will frequently come across the remains of several layers of civilisation: Greek and Roman monuments and ruins; medieval castles and churches; Renaissance palaces, town halls and fountains. Italian Renaissance art has inspired architects throughout the world.

If you are interested in art, you will have a wonderful chance for study; if you are not, there will still be plenty to look at and enjoy. Italy is so rich in art treasures that she is herself like a huge art gallery. In any case, you will have a great opportunity to learn something about Italians at their best.

Industries.

The greater part of the land area is under cultivation, grapes occupying a large part of the acreage. Other valuable crops are wheat, olives, corn, beans, oats, potatoes, barley, rice, rye and sugar beet. Sheep and cattle farming are also important. Silk culture is carried on in all parts of the country, most intensively in LOMBARDY, PIEDMONT, and VENEZIA. In the great manufacturing region in the north shipbuilding and machinery, silk, cotton and chemicals are the leading industries.

COMMUNICATIONS

Highways.

The old saying that "all roads lead to ROME" was literally true in the days of the Caesars, and to a certain extent to-day, for as in ENGLAND, the old ROMAN roads are still in existence and their alignment followed by modern routes.

During recent years the road system has received a great deal of attention from the Fascist regime and many new roads—"Autostrade"—have been constructed, while the existing roads have in numerous places been improved.

In the north extending over the flat LOMBARDY plain there is an intricate network of excellent roads linking all the industrial centres and leading southwards towards ROME and NAPLES by two main coastal routes. South of NAPLES the road system is less extensive and generally speaking is confined to the highway which closely follows the coast-line of CALABRIA and the main road NAPLES-TARANTO.

The roads are divided into five general types. The first two—the "Autostrade" or motor road and the State highways—are modern, well engineered and capable of taking fast, heavy traffic. The Provincial roads are usually fairly well maintained, tarmac (or asphalt) routes; the third type, the Communal roads, are rough, one way, metalled roads, while the Local roads are narrow, usually poorly constructed and generally in bad condition.

Railways.

Railway communications are adequate for normal needs and closely follow the alignment of the roads. Once again it is in the industrial north

that the system has been extensively developed, both to serve internal needs of the country and to maintain communications with FRANCE and GERMANY through the ALPS.

The rail system is standard gauge and owing to the plentiful water power available, has been largely electrified. The main route south extends as a double track electrified line as far south as Battipaglia (S. of Naples) and then as a single track electrified line to REGGIO, the mainland terminus of the SICILIAN train ferry service.

Water Supply.

The larger ITALIAN cities have modern water purification facilities, but in many of the smaller towns and villages they are lacking. Although water may have passed through a treatment plant, it is frequently not drinkable at the tap, either because of inadequate treatment or because it has passed through a water main which is subject to contamination. Many water supply systems are ancient, and for one reason or another are subject to cross-connection with the sewers. Water is frequently not piped to the entire city and community taps are found in the poorer areas. Likewise in the rural districts community springs and wells are common.

There are, however, plentiful supplies of water in most parts of ITALY, particularly in the north in the LOMBARDY plain and at the foot of the ALPS. In the "heel," the area around TARANTO, BARI and BRINDISI, water is scarce and rationed during the dry season.

For drinking purposes all water must be considered dangerous and, unless instructions are issued to the contrary, should be treated before use by military personnel.

Electricity.

ITALY has exploited its water power, and this source alone supplies 90 per cent. of the energy used to produce electricity. The greatest concentration of hydro-electric power is in the lake region to the north in the area between the line MILAN-BRESCIA and the SWISS frontier, where the heavy industries are the principal consumers.

All the cities and larger towns, also many of the smaller towns, are provided with electricity taken from the grid network extending throughout the country. As has previously been stated many of the railroads are electrified.

Gcs.

Gas utilities are not highly developed, this being possibly due to a shortage of natural coal deposits. The use of gas has been restricted almost exclusively to kitchen ranges and in a lesser degree to household boilers. Consumption for street and private lighting is practically negligible.

Principal Towns.

ROME

(Pop. 1,300,000) the capital, is an ancient city on the banks of the R. TIBER, rich in historical relics. It contains the VATICAN CITY, the



Winter in the East Italian Alps

capital of the Roman Catholic Church and the great domed church of St. Peters. Although maintaining its original design, of recent years it has expanded considerably and become much modernised and is now the largest city in ITALY.

NAPLES

(Pop. 930,000) is the principal commercial port for Southern Italy and its location at the foot of Vesuvius and environs are among the most beautiful in the world. The city itself is not attractive but the many treasures preserved in museums amply compensate for this deficiency. Of latter years an industrial quarter has sprung up at POGGIO REALE, where locomotives, railway carriages, machinery, edible goods, chemicals, textiles are manufactured.

MILAN

(Pop. 1,225,000) the second largest city, is the capital of LOMBARDY. It is situated in the plain not far from the ALPS. It is the chief railway junction, the wealthiest manufacturing town and the financial capital of ITALY, and is also the largest silk market in Europe. In modern painting and sculpture MILAN vies with VENICE and ROME.

VENICE

(Pop. 290,000) once the most brilliant commercial city in the world, now a provincial capital, is a commercial and naval port. The city is built on piles upon 117 small islands and is intersected by over 150 canals which are crossed by 378 bridges. The famous lagoons are separated from the sea by long low sand hills "lidi." This city is steeped in historical interest, the most important sights being the Palace of the Doges and the Church of St. Mark.

TURIN

(Pop. 700,000) lies in a fertile plain half enclosed by the Western ALPS, on the left bank of the Po. Of its flourishing industries the most important is the manufacture of motor cars, including the great FIAT works now successfully bombed by the R.A.F.

GENOA

(Pop. 660,000) one of the oldest seaports in the MEDITERRANEAN, maintains the reputation of being the second commercial port. Its matchless situation, splendid harbours and glorious past, to which numerous palaces still bear witness, have ever impressed its visitors.

FLORENCE

(Pop. 355,000) lies on both banks of the ARNO, picturesquely surrounded by the spurs of the APENNINES. It was here in ancient times that the Italian language, literature and art attained their prime. A marvellous profusion of treasures of art, nowhere else to be found within so narrow limits, important historical associations, and its delightful environs combine to render FLORENCE one of the most interesting and attractive places in the world.

SANITATION

Sanitation is primitive and inadequate. Only in a few of the larger towns and cities are water-borne sewage disposal facilities maintained, and even then the raw sewage is usually emptied into the streams or the sea. In country districts, pit privies (known in America as "Chic Sales"), or the pail system of night soil collection is used, the excreta forming manure for the cultivated fields. In the north, particularly in the vicinity of VENICE, septic tanks are used, but soil pollution is common.

Hygiene and Health.

The Italian has become immune from many diseases which the Allied soldiers are likely to contract.

The insanitary condition of the country is one of its best defences against an invader, and casualties from disease could well be higher than those caused in the field.

Malaria. The malaria season is from June to November. Unless protective measures are vigorously enforced, the disease may decimate our forces. Malaria is spread in one way only—by Anopheline mosquitoes. The malaria mosquito of Italy breeds principally in the pools and lagoons of streams and rivers and in swamps. It is also found in brackish water. It bites only after sundown, during the hours of darkness. The risk of contracting this crippling disease will be minimised if the soldier is acquainted with and strictly observes the simple methods of personal protection. Anti-malaria discipline involves:

- (a) Careful use of bed nets.
- (b) Regular taking of anti-malaria tablets.
- (c) Use of mosquito repellents.
- (d) Wearing of slacks and long-sleeved shirts in the evening.
- (e) Using head nets and gloves when on sentry duty.
- (f) Practising insect destruction:

The free use inside tents of a good anti-mosquito spray every morning and evening destroys most of the infected mosquitoes and provides much protection against other insects. These measures must be understood and their need truly appreciated by the soldier, for anti-malaria discipline is of the first importance at the front line. Later it may be supplemented by site selection for encampments and larvae destruction to bring the mosquito under control.

Sandfly-Fever. This disease is common and may prove a very great hazard to health and fighting efficiency. The disease is transmitted by a small midge-like insect and the fever comes on within a few days of being bitten. Breeding places of this insect are difficult to locate, but they are found in large numbers where there is moisture, shade and food. They breed freely in cracks and fissures in soil, ruined buildings, and in the sides of banks and culverts where moisture and organic refuse are present.

(i) Preventive measures are the same as for malaria, *i.e.*, protect yourself against bites by sleeping under your net, by using anti-mosquito cream or liquid, and wearing slacks and long-sleeve shirts. (ii) Attack breeding grounds with oil and apply "scorched-earth" policy—spray buildings and tents with insecticide.

Dysentery. A fly-borne disease which is widespread. Flies spread the germs which are picked up at latrines, refuse dumps, and from manure, including human manure which is used for cultivating vegetables.

Prevention is best achieved by good sanitation which includes correct disposal of faeces and urine, filth and rubbish of all sorts. The motto should be 'COVER,' 'BURY,' and 'SWAT THAT FLY.'

Typhoid. Usually a fly-borne disease. Also conveyed by infected food and water. Not so dangerous where every soldier has been inoculated within the past 12 months. HAVE YOU?

Malta Fever. This is a disease which affects goats, and is conveyed to man by drinking or eating unboiled milk products—locally-produced cheese, butter and junket. It can be prevented by putting out of bounds all restaurants and cafes until they have been examined, and by not eating food from unauthorised sources.

Typhus. War always breeds Typhus and there is a danger of it spreading, not merely in ITALY, but all over EUROPE. Lice carry it. If soldiers are clean and fit and their clothes are changed often enough, they should run little danger of catching Typhus. In addition, anti-louse powder will be supplied to rub into the seams of under-clothes. Also, avoid contact with civilians as much as possible.

Water-borne Diseases. Can be avoided by drinking water only from Army supply which has been tested and treated. All water must be considered infected until it has been treated.

ROAD SIGNS

LIGHT AND HAND SIGNS THAT MUST BE OBSERVED








ATTENZIONE (Globe)

VIA LIBERA





Compulsory direction Stop! Customs near Stop! on meeting Postal coach on mountain roads

INFORMATION SIGNS









Sign indicating whereabouts of first-aid posts Mechanical first-aid post Telephone Box Parking Caution School Place name sign







Place name sign Signpost Cross-roads warning and direction sign Fork warning and direction sign Fork warning and direction sign

