

ITALIANS TRICKED VAUNTED GESTAPO IN QUITTING WAR

Delegation to Lisbon in August Escaped Vigilance of Hitler's Organization.

By Clark Lee
Representing the Combined U. S. Press
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Advanced Allied Command Post, Mediterranean Theater, (no date given)—U.P.—Accounts of participants revealed today how Italian representatives outwitted the Gestapo to complete the negotiations for getting Italy out of the war.

Immediately after Mussolini was overthrown, the German Nazi government instructed its agents in Rome and all neutral capitals throughout the world to watch for and prevent any Italian-allied negotiations.

Delegation Departs
But the agents paid no particular attention to the Italian official delegation that departed from Rome one week in August en route to Lisbon to meet the Italian ambassador returning from Chile.

A high Italian army official—Brig. Gen. Giuseppe Castellano, senior officer on the staff of General Ambrosio, chief of staff in Italy—was traveling in plain clothes and under an assumed name on that mission. He was charged by the government of Marshal Pietro Badoglio with arranging to get Italy out of the war. Accompanying him as interpreter and adviser was Franco Montanari, a 1927 Harvard graduate whose mother, an American, lives at Stowe, Vt. Only a handful of Italians knew of their mission.

At Madrid Castellano contacted the British and American governments. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower sent representatives to Lisbon to meet them. They were two of his staff officers.

George Raft in Sunday Drama



George Raft stars with Sydney Greenstreet in the Craterian's sinister "Background to Danger," opening Sunday with

Maj. Gen. Walter B. Smith of the U. S. and Brig. Kenneth Strong of Britain. They went to Lisbon in civilian clothing and met the Italians in the private residence of the British minister.

No Argument

General Smith read the allied demands. There was not then, or later, any argument over terms. When the Italians returned, they took with them a small radio set.

Later an Italian general turned up in Lisbon with the British Gen. Carton Dewar, captured by the Axis in 1941. The Italian explained his superior's worries over the delay. On Aug. 27 Castellano contacted Eisenhower's headquarters by radio and arranged a meeting in Sicily for Aug. 31.

Castellano and Montanari arrived in Sicily by plane the appointed day but a hitch developed, the Italians explaining

their government was no longer free to act because the Germans had occupied the country. Smith and Strong insisted on a definite answer.

Acceptance Given

Castellano gave one on Sept. 2—acceptance. Then after Castellano had flown back to Sicily a second time a hitch developed over whether he was empowered to sign. The advice that he was came through by radio from Badoglio.

The signing by Smith and Castellano took place in a tent under an olive tree at a spot in eastern Sicily. They had to borrow fountain pens. Then they broke off and exchanged symbolic branches from the olive tree.

Eisenhower witnessed the signing, along with staff members and Robert Murphy and Harold MacMillan, American and British representatives in north Africa respectively.

Stars at Holly



Today and Saturday at the Holly are Henry Fonda and Maureen O'Hara in "Immortal Sergeant" companion feature is Tim Holt in "Sagebrush Law."

In War Drama



Bobby Samartzich is the youthful leader of the flaming young cast featured in "Boy from Stalingrad" starting Sunday at the Rialto. Accompanying feature is the Dead End Kids' "Ghosts on the Loose"—a hilarious "horror" film.

VIRGIL MYSTIFIES LARGE AUDIENCE; REPEATS TONIGHT

A substantially made packing box constructed by Medford firemen from lumber furnished by the Crater Lake Lumber Co., proved no prison for the Great Virgil, famous magician, who appeared last night at the High School auditorium under auspices of the Lions club. The Great Virgil will repeat his performance tonight, the show opening at 8 o'clock.

Color was added to the well attended show by request appearances of local youth and adults on the stage to assist the man of magic.

Other highlights of the show were the "Weird Execution on Mars," in which a bullet seemed to pierce the heart of Great Virgil's assistant and lodge in a bullseye at her back; also, "Sawing a Lady in Half," which seemed so realistic that most of a group of twenty boys called on the stage to assist the magician, fled the scene; Julie's "Fabric Paintings," beautiful scenes constructed from bits of cloth, and her "Psychic Phenomena," a "Table Scamance," and "Dematerialization"—a thrilling trunk mystery.

Observers commented on the speed and adroitness of the show, which throughout was spectacular, and places the Great Virgil in the top-most rank of illusionists.

14 CHARGED WITH AUTO INFRACTIONS

Fourteen complaints charging autoists with violations of traffic laws were filed in justice court yesterday as a result of check-up of motorists staged last Tuesday by the state police.

Five cases were heard yesterday before Justice of the Peace W. R. Coleman. The balance were scheduled to appear today.

Robert M. Barker of Phoenix and Thessie May Tye, Rt. 1, Medford, each charged with having no operator's license, were fined \$2.50 and \$4.50 costs. Arthur J. Miracle, Rt. 1, Medford, was assessed \$1.50 and costs for inadequate brakes. Frank W. Hardin, Prospect, \$1.50 and costs for inadequate lights and Carl E. Walker, Medford, \$1 and costs for a defective muffler.

LUCKY G. I. ESCORTED BY CINEMA BEAUTIES

Hollywood, Sept. 17—U.P.—Sgt. Carl E. W. Bell, U. S. army, Rising Star, Tex., toured Hollywood today under the guidance of Film Stars Ginny Sims and Gloria DeHaven after winning honors as the "millionth man" to enter the Hollywood canteen. Bell was met at the door of the canteen last night by Deanna Durbin, Marlene Dietrich and Lana Turner, and escorted to the stage where he was interviewed by Comedian Eddie Cantor.

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