Setting Up U.S. Base In Red N. Italy Tough

By STAN SWINTON

LEGHORN, Italy, (AP) — Bomb-blasted Leghorn is resuming its world war two role of a major American supply base.

Through the still-scarred port, liberated by American soldiers in 1945, flow the supplies of the U.S. occupation army in Austria.

Within a few months, 110 officers, 650 soldiers and 2000 Italian civilian employes will be operating this end of the supply lifeline running by rail through the famed Brenner pass in the Alps.

It's a ticklish job. Leghorn's city government is Communist. The port union and the stevedore's association are bossed by the Reds. So far, however, there have been no incidents involving Italians and U.S. personnel.

COMMANDER

In charge of the new base, granted to the United States by Italy over furious Communist protests, is distinguished, gray-haired Col. Norman H. Vissering of Lake Wales, Fla. A crack member of the army's transportation corps, Vissering was a key figure in supply movements for SHAEF in the last war. When the Korean war flared, it was Vissering who was put in charge of all freight and troop movements by water to Korea.

Vissering has leased a 25-acre dock area north of Leghorn in the same location as the huge wartime dumps of Gen. Mark Clark's fifth army. A bombed-out 15-acre steel works was taken over for warehouse space.

A temporary headquarters has been set up in a former gambling casino at Tirrenia, six miles north of Leghorn.

Five floors of a half-completed new office building will be the permanent headquarters.

The troops are living in a former resort hotel where they eat off white table cloths and have a spic-and-span new post exchange. An American school for dependents opened September 10.

Little postwar reconstruction has been done in Leghorn. Italian capital avoided the city because the Communists pulled strike after political strike in the factories.

HOUSING

As a result there is a housing shortage. When news broke of the new U.S. base, a major Red propaganda claim was that the Americans would make the housing situation even more acute.

Col. Vissering trumped that propaganda ace. He persuaded private Italian capital to build a housing development especially for the Americans. Married soldiers will pay about $60 a month for a home. That's far below the average rent here.

The major task of the new base is to provide a safe, short supply route to Austria.

The former route ran from the German port of Bremen across Germany to Austria. That could be quickly cut if the Russians attack across Germany.

Informed sources say if the Russians struck at Austria, Allied armies would fall back on the easily defended Alps around the Brenner pass. Leghorn could keep ammunition and guns rapidly moving up to forces fighting there.

One indirect result of the U.S. base may be that Leghorn will abandon communism. The city has 14,000 unemployed, according to best estimates. The Americans will lower this by 2000 and also stimulate indirect employment.

Non-Communist Italians here believe the new prosperity may end the Red reign over municipal affairs.

American soldiers in the command are in a peculiar position. Modern Italy never before has permitted foreign garrisons within her borders in peacetime.

The Americans are told by Col. Vissering upon arrival they are in Italy as guests — and subject to Italian civil law. He emphasizes each new man is expected to be on his best behavior.

HITCH

One tricky political problem still has to be solved. The Americans are unwilling to hire dock laborers from the Communist-controlled stevedores association. They have been hiring non-union non-Communists.

Five hundred of the 1300 stevedores in the association are non-Communist. They are bitter that they have been bypassed for jobs.

Leghorn's non-Communists fear bitter labor strife may begin between the association stevedores and the non-union men working the docks for the Americans. They are hopeful a compromise will be arranged in which the U.S. authorities will hire non-Communist members of the stevedores' association under a special arrangement guaranteeing they would not abide by any political strike call.

Canby

By BETH BOWDEN

Mrs. Belle Carson, clerk at the Morrison grocery for the past three years, left last week for Ukiah with her son, Donald. There she will join her husband who has been employed there since the summer.

Mrs. S. E. Loveness, mother of the Loveness brothers, and Mrs. Boo Hall, left last week for her home in Orland, after spending a week in Canby. She came here to visit her grandson, Pfc. Dale Hall, who was on furlough from Ft. Francis Warren. Dale left last Wednesday, driving back to duty in Cheyenne, Wyo.

Mrs. Jim Phillips severly scalded one arm last week when she tipped over a pan of boiling water.

Mrs. Simmie Cates found out the other day that bad news is also good news. In a daily paper she read that the 7th regiment was practically wiped out in a recent battle. Knowing that her son, Clifford, was in the regiment she feared for the worst and was greatly worried. On Monday of last week, she received a letter from her son. It was written from a hospital and stated that the previous day he had been wounded and out of action when the regiment had taken such a beating.

Mary Butterworth, Reno, Nev., was a recent visitor here with her sister, Mrs. Helen Emery.

Mrs. Geneva Cahlan Browne, wife of the late "Hi" Browne, was a visitor in Canby last week. Since the death of her husband she has been living with a sister in Susanville.

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Wilson of Malin were Canby and Alturas business visitors last week.

Charles Whitt nearly lost the end of one finger last week while working on the gren chain at the Ralph L. Smith lumber mill.

Mrs. Joseph H. Bowden, Lincoln, Calif., was a Canby visitor several weeks ago with her family.

Helen DuFault, who is associated with the internal revenue office, stopped enroute to Reno recently for a short visit with her brother, George.

Mrs. Inez Young and son, Clyde, left last week for an extended visit to Georgia.

Jean Richardson has secured employment with the telephone company and started Tuesday of last week.

Mrs. Mary Alice Wright, San Francisco, visited her daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Cades at the Canby hotel several weeks ago.

On October 12 a blue and pink shower was held at the home of Mrs. Jack Tulfer in honor of Mrs. Douglas Rand whose husband is now stationed at Ford Ord. Those presnt beside the guest of honor were Jewel Rand, Juanita Bowden, Emma Fohee, Faye Every, June Boyd, Marie Adcock, Lenore Billingsley, Jewel Cates, Hazel McDonald and Mary Martin.

Mrs. Louise Ward spent Tuesday in Alturas visiting at the home of her sister, Mrs. Marvie McKernand.

The Women's Fellowship and Study group met at the Canby community church October 11. The group's monthly birthday party will be held October 25 at the home of Mrs. F. G. McKimens, with Mrs. Bruce McKenzie and Mrs. Simmie Cates as co-hostesses.

The Dunamis (men's school) class of the Canby community Sunday school held a party in the school building a week ago. Supper was held with games following.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Gladwin Nelson, who are now living at Bly. Ed Nelson, paternal grandfather, said it was the seventeenth grandchild, but the first boy.

CLARK WOUNDS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif., (AP)—Maj. William D. Clark, 26, medaled son of Gen. Mark Clark, left by air Monday for Walter Reed hospital in Washington to be treated for Korean war wounds.

Grand Canyon's Beauty Gets 688,673 Tourists

By JACK STEVENSON

AP Newsfeatures

GRAND CANYON, Ariz. — The vast beauty of the Grand Canyon first seen by white men more than 400 years ago, this season drew a record number of visitors to this national park.

In 1540, Don Lopez de Cardenas and his party first viewed the mile-deep chasm dug by the Colorado river in its search for the sea. The 1950-51 travel year, which started on October 1, 1950, was the greatest in history, with 688,673 persons entering the park. This was an increase of 34,325 over the previous year.

Facilities on the South Rim of the canyon are open the year around but heavy snows force the winter closing of those on the North Rim.

Entirely within the state of Arizona, the Grand Canyon National Park was established by act of congress, February 26, 1919. It contains an area of 1009 square miles.

One hundred and five miles of the Grand Canyon's 217 are within the national park limits. The average width is 10 miles but varies from four to 18.

LONG TIME IN MAKING

Little change has been made in the canyon itself since Cardenas first arrived. Most geologists estimate it took from 7,000,000 to 9,000,000 years to cut the gorge to its present size and depth—the greatest example of erosion and one of the greatest spectacles in the world.

Giving the Grand Canyon its name often has been credited to Maj. John Wesley Powell, a one-armed veteran of the Civil War who led the first boat expedition through the gorge in 1869.

Powell began what has now become a regular summer sport but one which has cost more than 10 lives. This year several parties made the trip from Lees ferry through the canyon to Lake Mead of about 300 miles.

CAN PET DEER

There have been 180 species of bird life recorded at the park, 60 species of mammals and 25 of reptiles. Deer roam the surrounding forests and many are tamed enough to be petted.

The helicopter has gone into competition with the time established burros as means of viewing the canyon and going into its depths but the sure-footed animals remain the favorite.

Facilities include modern lodges in addition to pueblo camp grounds.

Occasionally there's an unexpected thrill for visitors. This summer an Indian girl distraught because her boy friend dated another, jumped over the edge of the canyon in front of a main lodge. Fortunately she chose one of the few places where she could dive and live. A ledge about 100 feet below stopped her rolling descent before she reached a sheer drop.

Earlier in the year three burglars attempted to rob the safe of the Fred Harvey Co., which operates the South Rim facilities. An alert guard shot and killed one and the two others were caught before the night was over.

Those who take pictures discover in the Grand Canyon a challenge found nowhere else. The bright colors in the walls of the various minerals, are given variations as the sun's rays change their direction.

Indians in the Grand Canyon region represent four distinct nations. In addition to the little known Havasupai tribesmen from the Navajo, Hopi and Paiutes often work in the area while others display and sell handicraft.

Approximately 500 ruins of the ancient Pueblo dwellings of prehistoric people have been found in the National Park, and the oldest rocks known to man, those of the Archean age, are exposed in the area.

Excellent roads, foot trails and bridle paths present view after view of the canyon's colorful panorama. To familiarize visitors with the canyon, its history and points of interest, lectures are held daily by the park rangers.

Keeping the park ready for the tourists provides a never ending job for the service force under the direction of Superintendent H. C. Bryant.

ADVERTISING HEADS

SAN FRANCISCO, (AP) — P. I. Jackson of the Oregon Journal in Portland was reelected Monday as president of the Pacific coast division of the bureau of advertising of the American Newspaper Publishers Assoc. Bureau members also unanimously reelected other officers and directors, including William K. Blethen, publisher of the Seattle Times, second vice president. Directors M. J. Frey, general manager of the Portland Oregonian; and Frank Jenkins, publisher of the Klamath Falls Herald and News.

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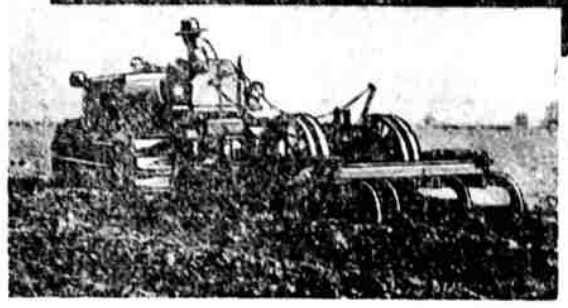

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