

ITALY: RETROSPECT

(Continued from page 3)
things all his own way. Volumes would be needed to record his deeds and misdeeds. He concentrated the principal offices of State in his own hands. He proclaimed himself infallible. He set up a "totalitarian" Corporative State to discipline all trades and professions; and to make sure they would be manned by Fascists alone he killed off or drove from the country every opponent of real standing—except the philosopher, Benedetto Croce, whose great library was raided, but whom he dared not kill. The press was dragooned and reduced to servitude. No breath of criticism was allowed to stir.

In place of their lost liberties Mussolini gave the Italian people a semblance of glory. In 1923 he had raided Corfu. Then he started huge public works, pushed forward the draining of the Pontine Marshes, strengthened the army, the navy and the air force, built great roads in Tripolitania and Libya, opened a grandiose "Avenue of Empire" in Rome, and talked grandiloquently of restoring the Roman Empire itself, and of making the Mediterranean "Mare Nostrum." Behind this facade corruption and intrigue flourished. Fascist bosses plundered the country. Foreign diplomats, and a multitude of sycophant visitors who flocked to Italy, were dazzled by glittering externals. Those who really knew Italy were persuaded that the vast imposture must end in total ruin. The only question was whether ruin would come before or after disastrous war.

Ten years ago a young Italian university professor came to see me in London by stealth. He brought a letter in the handwriting of my oldest Italian friend, the late Senator Luigi Albertini, who had been the chief proprietor of the "Corriere della Sera" of Milan, but whom Mussolini had turned out, and was keeping under strict police observation. The letter was undated and unsigned. But it said I could speak freely to its bearer. This was not easy. The poor young man had so completely lost the habit of free speech that it took him ten days in London to find his tongue.

At length he opened his heart; and in reply to my questions about the real state of things in Italy he said: "It is total ruin. We have no reserves—economic, financial, political or moral; above all, moral." His own generation, he added, was entirely perverted. Among his youngest students there were, however, some stirrings of conscience, some aspirations for a future not entirely unworthy of Italy's liberal past. Yet of that past they were allowed to know little or nothing. He thought the outlook hopeless on the hither side of a catastrophe.

IMPERIAL DREAMS

The catastrophe was even then in the making. Encouraged by the impunity of Japan after her invasion of Manchuria in 1931, and by the success of Hitler in tearing up the Peace Treaty and rearming Germany, Mussolini was dreaming of the conquest of Abyssinia and of establishing a "Roman Empire" that should squeeze the British out of Egypt and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

1940 PERFDY

When Hitler plunged into war by a long-prepared attack on Poland in September, 1939, Mussolini held in reserve one of his most infamous deeds. He waited until France was tottering under German blows, and then stabbed her in the back. None who had followed his career could be surprised.

It was all of a piece with the character of the man who, in 1922, sent the bomb in an elegant parcel to the Cardinal Archbishop of Milan, and got another man to address it. In comparison with those felon deeds, Mussolini's request in the autumn of 1940 that Hitler would allow Italian aircraft to share in the honour of bombing London was a vain gesture.

ENEMY SHOOT FRENCH PRIESTS

(Special Service)

BY the 1st of August this year at least 55,000 French men and women had been executed by the Nazis and their satellites. Of these, how many were priests? The figure will not be known until after the war, the enemy slyly concealing the calling of his victims, or else classifying them one and all as "Communists".

The names of two of the priestly victims are already known—the Abbe Bompain, Vicar of Rosedael in French Flanders, and the Abbe Folliet, Diocesan Chaplain of the 'Jeunesse Ouvriere Chretienne' in Savoy. The former was assassinated by the Nazis and the second by the Fascists.

Mobilized as a non-commissioned officer on September 3, 1939 and demobilized in June 1940, the Abbe Bompain resumed his cassock, and refused to accept the defeat of France, in which he saw a threat to the spiritual values of which the Catholic Church is the champion and the guardian.

One Tuesday at two in the morning, he was told that he had only two hours to live; he prepared for death, and in his last hours the Abbe Bompain wrote three letters—the first declaring his spiritual resignation and readiness and disposing in detail of his scanty possessions, the second to thank those who had not forsaken him in his misfortune, and the third to bequeath four rosary beads to the first four children he had baptized.

The Abbe Folliet was arrested by Italian Fascists at the Anney railway station and marched through the streets to the town barracks in order to impress the townspeople by whom he was deeply respected, in particular by the working classes who regarded him with feelings of devotion. On June 17th he was shot. One of his colleagues, in a letter addressed to all the clergy in Savoy, wrote: "In the person of the Abbe Folliet, the Fascists struck at the leader of the 'Jeunesse Ouvriere Chretienne' whose only guilt was his recognition of his duty to minister to the spiritual needs of the young workers of every condition."

Against these two murders, no protest was received from the Vichy authorities, who presumably still hope and work for a Nazi victory.

A GOSPEL LESSON

By AUSTIN M. BORN, O.P.
"WHEN THOU ART INVITED, GO SIT DOWN IN THE LOWEST PLACE"

18th Sunday after Pentecost
THE Evangelist says: "Jesus spoke to them that were invited, marking how they chose the first seats at the table. Saying to them: when thou art invited, go sit down in the lowest place." Human wisdom alone would be ready to accept this advice. But Jesus closed the parable with a warning which has reference, not only to the festive board, but to our whole life, saying: "Because everyone that exalted himself shall be humbled, and he that humbled himself shall be exalted."

How necessary is it that everyone who wishes to live and die as a Christian, should reflect upon these words of Christ, and resolve to quell pride and self-esteem! Pride is that pernicious human tendency of man to give to himself an honour due to God.

The perverse tendency of the human heart in its very nature, opposes the aim for which God has created this world, namely, His glory. This is the end of creation and it could not have been any other, since God is the primeval, eternal cause and is in Himself infinite perfection; therefore He could not have created the world for anything but then His glory.

If we earnestly desire not to offend God and knowing that every sin is founded in pride, we must be firm with the firmness of St. Francis de Sales, and say: If I knew there was still one fibre of pride within me, I would root it out.

And we will the more readily do this if we reflect upon the absurdity of pride. We all know that the qualities which the proud man behold in himself are nothing but the effects of imagination.

We must not allow ourselves to be carried away by our pride. God alone is Great and we are only mere specks shrouded in weakness, infirmity and poverty. If there is something good in us it belongs to God, and not to ourselves. Of whatever class, family or position in life and with whatever ambition, we are all children of the tomb and we have no right to consider ourselves better or higher than any other human being. Only such a conviction will lift us to the glory of heaven.

Here and There in Britain

The silver medal of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has been awarded to Mrs. Edna Clark of Belvins Road End, Fulham, who dived into an emergency water service dam to rescue a dog.

The National Society of Children's Nurseries, which has just under 1,600 nurseries affiliated to it, has received a congratulatory message from Mr. Ernest Bevin on the splendid work which the children's nurseries are doing in enabling mothers to help in the war effort.

Torches need no longer be dimmed as the bulbs are of lower amperage.

The sale of a 2/6 North African Military Occupation note, signed by General Montgomery, realized £10 at the Datchet Golf Club Red Cross auction.

Milking goats are fetching record prices at the Essex market, because of the increasing popularity of goats' milk.

The Kent potato crop is estimated to be double that of 1939.

Brighton is appealing for women to drive Corporation-owned motor and trolley buses.

Damage estimated at £200,000 was caused on the night of Sunday September 28, by a fire which destroyed or damaged 75 per cent of the buildings and machinery at a Tyseley, Birmingham, factory.

Daventry Liberals have adopted Mr. W. G. E. Dyer of Nottingham as their prospective candidate.

SCOTLAND: In four years' service, Lieutenant J. Aitken, R.N., of Balfron, Stirlingshire, North and South Africa and the Mediterranean. During that time he has helped to destroy German ships, sink U-boats and bring down enemy aircraft and has won the D.S.C.

The shop stewards in a West Scotland factory with 6,000 employees have arranged a "good attendance" campaign. A bonus will be paid to all good timekeepers. This will be earmarked for the Comfort Fund for the 51st Highland Division.

The relatives of 20 Glasgow soldiers stationed in India have seen and heard them send greetings in a privately shown film "Calling Brighty" by the Scottish Welfare Command, and shot in a cantonment in India. It will be shown in several Glasgow cinemas.

Plans are being made by the Board of Trade to see that Scotland gets a better supply of kettles.

WALES: Douglas of Barry, the old Welsh international and member of the Welsh Rugby Union for 20 years, is dead aged 80. He was associated with the Cardiff Rugby club since 1882 and was a member of the first Welsh international side to hold England a draw.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

VEGETABLE SEEDS

Gardeners are informed that Ghannieri Testid Vegetable Seeds are now available for sale from the following premises:—

Government Farm, Ghannieri, Marsa.
Agricultural Stand 123, Valletta Market, District Agricultural Office:—Constitution Road, Mosta; 58, St. Paul's Street, St. Paul's Bay; "Dekoz" Naxxar Road, Birkirkara; 48, Church Square, Zejtun; 60, St. Michael Street, Zarricca.
Stud Rabbit Centres:—Palm Square, Misida; Mrabat Street, St. Julian's; Luqa Briffa Street, Naxxar; 55, Francis Zahra Street, Mellieha.
Office of Agriculture, Sant Anton Public Gardens.
Joseph Howard Garden, Rabat.

Farmers requiring seeds in bulk should apply direct to the Government Farm, Ghannieri or to their District Agricultural Officer. Should any difficulty be experienced in obtaining seeds please communicate with the Horticultural Officer, Ghannieri, Phone C. 4016.

LEATHER BELTS

The Department of Agriculture has received a consignment of leather Belting 4" wide.

Farmers and other persons who require such belting should register their name with the District Agricultural Officer of their village, stating the length of belting required.

Only applications from farmers and persons who are in urgent need of such belting will be considered.

The applications will be received up to Monday, the 27th instant.

As stated above the belting is 4" wide and persons requiring any other width should not apply.

Persons who have applied previously should reapply otherwise their original requests will not be taken into consideration.

VITAL STATISTICS

From the 1st to 31st August 1943, there were 610 deaths in Malta and Gozo, of which 283 were males and 327 females. Of these 203, all babies under two years, died of enteric fever and diarrhoea, and 89 died of typhoid fever.

During the same period there were 612 births, of which 294 were male and 318 females.

The statement of cases of communicable diseases for the same period shows that there were 813 cases of enteric fever as compared with 145 for the corresponding month last year, whereas there were only six cases of whooping cough as compared with 37 last year.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

A total of £29,713 were invested in National Savings during the past week of which £26,890 went into 3% Defence Bonds and £2,823 for Certificate Units.

To date £2,324,330 have been invested in 3% Defence Bonds and £280,511 in Certificate Units, giving a grand total of £2,604,841.

TO THANK

Mr. J. Cost Critien and children wish to thank all those who in any way have shown them sympathy in their recent bereavement.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Albanese and Miss Tessie Albanese wish to thank all those who in any way have shown them sympathy in their recent bereavement through the death of their mother, Mrs. Mary Albanese.

Mrs. J. Bonnici, Miss M. Bonnici Mr. J. Bonnici and Mr. and Mrs. W. Pace Bardon wish to thank all those who in any way have shown them sympathy in their recent bereavement.

Mr. and Mrs. U. Tua wish to thank all those who in any way have shown them sympathy in their recent bereavement through the death of their beloved son Hugh and their beloved daughter Poppie.

Mrs. Pauline Darmania and family wish to thank all those who have kindly showed them sympathy in their recent bereavement through the death of Mr. Paul Darmania Supervisor, H.M. Dockyard.

TOMBOLA AT BIRGU

A Tombola is being held today Sunday, at Victory Square, Birgu, at 5 p.m., for the benefit of the Duke of Edinburgh Band Club.

Official night begins at 8.30 a.m. and ends at 5.45 a.m.

BUS SERVICES RESUMED

It was announced early yesterday afternoon that after a meeting with the Government the Malta Bus Owners' Association had issued instructions for the buses to resume running forthwith.

APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. F. Masini, L.D. to be a Supplementary Magistrate in the Islands of Għawdex and Kermuna to be surrogated to sit in the Court of Magistrates of Judicial Police for the Islands of Għawdex and Kermuna, in lieu of Mr. S. Attard, LL.D., now a Magistrate.

Mrs. Samuel Lowell and family wish to convey grateful thanks to all those who, in any way, have shown them sympathy in their recent heavy bereavement.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Colonel Laurence Carr Hill, D.S.O., M.C., to be Controller of Building Materials, from September 2nd 1943, vice Brigadier A.H.D. Edwards, O.B.E., M.C.

REQUIEM MASSES

On the initiative of the Medical Superintendent, Officers and Staff of the St. Vincent de Paul Hospital (the Poor House), Masses for the repose of the soul of the late Miss Maed Bernard will be said on Tuesday next, October 5, at 8 a.m. at the various emergency sections of the Hospital, San Catecondio, Seminary, Orphanage, Victoria School and the Dominican Sisters, in Għawdex.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of Mrs. Edwige England, nee Mrs. Daman, who departed this life on October 3, 1937.

MISCELLANEOUS

R.A.O.B. GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND Meeting of the above body, Tuesday at 87, Pleva Wharf, Pleva at 5.30 p.m.

GRAND SALE BY AUCTION at No. 7, St. BARBARA BASTION, VALETTA on THURSDAY 7th OCTOBER 1943 and following day at 2.30 p.m. of each day, the Antique and Modern Household Furniture consisting of:—Antique inlaid olive wood chest of drawers and side table, English mahogany mahogany dining table, sideboard, showcase, card, work and side tables, elegant abouted chifferoni inlaid with brass, drawing room suite, jardiniere, mahogany altar. Also antique English heavy cut glass, stone, china, dinner services, oil paintings, engravings, satsums large vases, cut glass chandeliers, etc. carpeting, iron money safe and a quantity of old silver ware. Belonging to the late Mrs. GUILA SCHEMBRI. The lots will be on view on Wednesday 6th instant from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. A.B.C. GINGELLA, Auctioneer, 4, Gharr-H-Lombi, Sliema.

AUCTION SALES AT HAMRUN. Mr. ULISSSE AZZOPARDI has been favoured with instructions to sell by public auction at ELSTREE BUILDING No. 813, HIGH STREET, First Floor, HAMRUN on TUESDAY 5th October, 1943 and following days at 2.30 p.m. the entire elegant and modern household furniture. Also Gold articles. The property of the Estate of the late Mrs. Carmela Biaghi. The lots may be viewed on the morning of the day of sale. Catalogues may be obtained from the Auctioneer's Office and from the above place of sale. Conditions as usual. ULISSSE AZZOPARDI, Auctioneer & Appraiser, 156/a, Kingsway, Valletta.

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START OF Some Prospects

by TOM

TODAY, Sunday, October 3, in Malta. Siema Athletic military team with whom the season. Reasons of security have come of the Infantry Regiment side opposing Siema this afternoon who remembers the triumphs among those played in season 1943-44 will immediately, and yellow jerseys.

SLIEMA ATHLETICS

Sliema Athletics face the season with confidence. They have been doing better this year than last when they got as far as the Semi-Finals of the Victory Cup. The team to play in the new season's competition has yet to be decided upon. Some of the players may be expected to glisten at the last minute. But this afternoon's match the Sliema will have the help of "vis" in goal, Gardener at half back or inside forward and Membrini in the attack. As for the military team, they will be minus the assistance of the crafty and experienced side-left, Scott, who is in hospital with an eye injury. A most interesting game of football, to be covered by Scott Hall, will be produced as the result of these two teams' reunion.

Why Not For Malta?

One of the most interesting discussions yet on the subject of football in Malta was that held in Jim's Bar, Floriana, during the week, when a number of soccer enthusiasts—and a couple of the leading Services footballers—talked about the possibility of Captain Alex Jackson bringing the side to Malta to play a couple of games in aid of the local and Service charities. It was argued—very strongly, in my opinion—that such stars as Gracie Fields, George Formby and the Western Brothers could come to Malta to entertain the troops, it should not be beyond the bounds of possibility for a short visit to be arranged for the footballers drawn from the ranks of the Army which threw Rommel out of North Africa.

One view expressed, and generally supported, was that the Services and local Association should get together with a view to asking the Commander-in-Chief for permission to invite the 8th Army soccer eleven to Malta during 1943-44.

City's Best

On this page are published the names of the gentlemen sitting on the Committee of the new Valletta club—St. Paul's-Preston F.C. This marks the end of negotiations and behind the scenes talks by the Council of the M.F.A. and delegates of the two clubs. It will be remembered that during the close season there was a controversy in these columns between the Secretaries of St. Paul's F.C. and Valletta Preston F.C. as to which club should represent the City in the senior division of the game. A recent meeting the Council asked the two clubs to amalgamate on the principle of one-club-per-district representation. The Preston did not agree to the suggestion.

MELITA F.C.

Mr. J. Bencini, the Hon. Secretary of the Melita F.C., notifies that training will take place from Monday October 4th, at 5 p.m. at the Empire Stadium. All players are requested to attend.

INFORMATION OFFICE BROADCASTS

To-day Sunday
10.30 a.m. Farmers' Talk (M)
11 a.m. Talk by Mr. E. Cantar (M)
11.30 p.m. Music while you work (M)
12.30 p.m. Information—B.B.C. Variety Orchestra (Rec.) 4.15 p.m. Talk by Lecturer (M) 4.30 p.m. London Series On (Rec.) 5.15 p.m. Hon. Sec. N. W. 7th Edition (M) 5.45 p.m. Light on Sport, by Scott Hall (M) Variety Programme—Rec. on the piano: L.G. Bartley and his American newsletter: A Tribute by Canadian to his American