

500 Italians Reported Slain by Nazis in Rome

Former Premier and Badoglio's Son Among Hostages Executed at Colosseum

LONDON, March 26.—(UP)—German machine gunners executed 300 Italians, possibly 500, in the Rome Colosseum Thursday, unconfirmed British press dispatches from the Swiss-Italian border said tonight. The killings were said to be in reprisal for a bomb attack and street fighting earlier in the day in which 24 German Gestapo officers and 14 Italian militiamen were killed.

Among the victims, the unconfirmed dispatches said, were 83-year-old Vittorio Orlando, former premier and one of the Allied "Big Four" at the Versailles peace conference; Mario **Badoglio**, son of Marshal Pietro **Badoglio**, and Count Paolo Thaon di Revel, former finance minister.

Dispatches said that the street clashes started when bombs were thrown and shots fired during a procession marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of Fascism. When patriots fired into the procession, it was said, Germans fired into a crowd and many women and children were casualties.

Four hundred women and 700 men were arrested and those who could not produce identity cards were executed summarily, it was said, and others were driven with blows from rifle butts to prison. Those who fell were shot, it was asserted.

Later those selected as hostage were taken to the Colosseum in trucks and machine gunned in groups, the dispatches added.