

RECORDS OF ITALY'S THREE NEW GENERALS

Diaz, Giardino, and Badoglio Have Had Both Battlefield Experience and Highest Scientific Training.

THE triumvirate upon whom, as in Roman times of old, the task of coaxing victory to smile once more upon the Italian Army now devolves—Generals Diaz, Giardino, and Badoglio—is practically an unknown quantity outside of immediate army circles in Italy. In other words, the three Generals have never advertised or been advertised, but each of them has an excellent record.

All three belonged to the Stato Maggiore, or General Staff, which speaks of itself for their scientific training; all three have had actual battlefield experience, not only during the last two years on the Isonzo, but previously in the Italo-African wars. And all three are men in the prime of life—Badoglio in his forties, Diaz and Giardino in their fifties.

General Armando Diaz, whose name now appears under the official communications in place of that of Cadorna, has had a wide experience of all branches of the service. He belongs to the artillery, but has also had considerable infantry experience. He has been secretary to three chiefs of staff in succession—first to General Saletta, then to General Pollio, and finally to General Cadorna during the brief year of Cadorna's service in that capacity, just before Italy entered the war. For a time he was in charge of staff appointments, a thankless job at best, but where he put to his credit a reputation for impartial dealing and the knowledge of human values. As he had been a stern official in this bureaucratic capacity, he is said to be an inflexible disciplinarian in actual soldiering. But he works the iron rule on himself as well as on others. His record in the Libyan war is excellent, and his behaviour at Zanzur, where he was wounded, showed the stuff of which the man is made.

Characteristically cool and collected in the face of danger, well balanced and poised in the grind of the daily routine, General Diaz is a southerner, born and bred in Naples, and proves thus that in Italy balance and coolness are not exclusively and characteristically northern qualities, as people in this country are often led to believe. General Diaz is of medium build, of dark complexion and dark hair turning iron gray. He is very slightly cross-eyed, which, by the way, was held as a sign of good luck by the Latins of old, and so Americans may wish that the omen holds good.

General Giardino's name has been lately more in the public eye from a Parliamentary standpoint, as he was

for some time Minister of War in the Boselli Cabinet. As soon as he left this office he asked to go back to the front, where the recent events found him and which evidently must have brought him creditably forward. He had served both

as a Captain and a Major at the War Department in Rome in bureaucratic capacities, but the fighting spirit was in him.

The first Italo-African war, with the fight at Agordat, gave him a good

chance to prove this and to make good the promises of his earlier youth, when he came out first from the difficult tests of the Scuola di Guerra. During the Libyan war he was appointed Chief of Staff by General Caneva, then in command of the Italian forces. He is a Northerner, and belongs to the Bersaglieri. His generous proportions, blonde coloring and mustache, and his well-rounded if somewhat florid speech, altogether combine in making him an impressive person to meet. Those who know him more intimately speak highly of his intellectual power and of his executive ability.

General Pietro Badoglio exemplifies among the three the Napoleonic type of rapid career—the one who has the real stuff in him, and at the same time the good luck that shoves him to the front in circumstances where he can best show it off.

Being only 46 years old he outranks now all of his companions and most of his masters. He is an artilleryman through and through, and has never been anything else, nor, it is said, would he care to be if he could. He also has African experience, and served under Generals Frugoni and Ragni. In fact, he earned his first promotion with signal praise for action on the battlefield at the first battle of Zanzur, that has been rated by military experts a model of "manoeuvred battle," having turned out actually as it had been planned on paper, chiefly on account of the clock-like working of the reserve force, its turning up in the proper places in the nick of time and so forth.

It is said that also in the present war General Badoglio has found himself more than once confronted by superior forces and in difficult circumstances, but always managed to get the best of the situation. One example in point is his brilliant behavior at the storming of Monte Santo. Another time on the Trentino front, having lost contact with headquarters, he took upon himself the responsibility of command and by his prompt determination and brilliant work saved the situation.

General Badoglio and General Diaz, having worked together, may confidently be expected to display team work. In personal appearance General Badoglio is of square and sturdy build, rather tall, with what the soldiers would call in barrack language "a square mug." One eyebrow slightly raised gives him a curiously inquisitive and alert look. He is by birth a Piedmontese, but has long resided in Rome.