

I REMEMBER.....

THE STRANGE CITY OF BATH

By P. MORTON SHAND

AS a boy I used to pay periodic visits to Bath. My grandfather still lived in the house where my mother had been born. And a positive horde of her maternal aunts and cousins had been settled in and round Bath ever since.

Like so many boys and girls of my generation I had a great-aunt who was considered a really quite extraordinary character in the family. This great-aunt, it is almost necessary to add, lived in Bath; but nobody in Bath itself seemed to think her in the least peculiar.

It was the only occasion on which I was not taken to see her by my mother or a Bath uncle who specialized in 'bringing out the old lady' to inculcate his fund of anecdotes.

AS I remember them, the widows and elderly spinsters were just as individual as the young ladies who were rumoured to depend on the degree of copulation they showed.

Another maiden lady of the same circle had the floor of her servants' hall dug up and a bay tree planted in a circular bed neatly edged with Dutch tiles in the middle of it.

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vigorously with the whip. The door was opened by a scared, completely submissive maid. Refusing my arm, my aunt rose to her feet with astonishing agility and unimpaired dignity.

During lunch I was informed that she had that morning selected two particularly inward poems by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. The first she would require me to translate into Greek hexameters and the second into Latin hexameters during the holidays.

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They Are Silenced Now



The big German cross-Channel guns captured by the Canadians at Cap Gris Nez. These were the guns which the Germans used to shell Dover. This soldier wanted a better view of the Channel and the English coast, and this is how he got it.

TWO AMERICANS VISITING BADOGLIO BEFORE ARMISTICE A SECRET MISSION TO ROME

By Major Richard Thruelsen and Lieutenant Elliot Arnold

Major Thruelsen, formerly of the Saturday Evening Post, and Lieutenant Arnold, formerly of the New York World-Telegraph, are both with the U.S. Army Air Forces.

Badoglio began immediately to try to ease Italy out of what obviously was a hopeless military situation and on August 19, he sent General Giuseppe Castellano, one of his senior staff officers, on a secret mission to Lisbon, Portugal, to offer Italian services to the Allies.

SITTING ON THE FENCE

By NATHANIEL GUBBINS

"WHAT are you blubbering about now?" asked the Sparrow, glaring at his wife, who was knitting by the fire.

"I expect you'll spend most of Christmas at the Tree Tops Club," said the Sparrow. "It's the only place where I shall find room to park my tail," said the Sparrow.

SPORTSMAN'S SCRAPPY

ARE ATHLETES OF TODAY TOO PAMPERED?

By Our Sports Editor

There is little doubt that the athlete of today is far too pampered and has been trained up to a pitch at which he cannot participate in major sports unless he is provided with ideal conditions for his performance.

A glaring example of this is seen in Lawn Tennis, which has been at a discount during the war because its competitive structure was for a luxury state of life that could find no place in wartime.

Not only is the player indulged to the limit, but the ground on which he plays must be prepared and maintained with the greatest care; it must be neither too hot nor too hard, or his ankles will be unable to absorb the shock.

While it is not expected that Stanley Matthews, Tommy Lawton, Stan Cullis or Brvn Jones should ever again play the Wembley final in this manner, there is surely some limit to be applied to the over-indulgence of players.

Billiard Table Wickets Much the same thing applies to cricketers. The days of village cricket and Hambledon are gone for ever and few can say that the game is the more interesting through the present over-luxurious conditions under which the present day starts play.

Amateur Sport is The Solution These remarks apply, of course, to the professional player as far as football and cricket is concerned; the man who receives something like ten pounds an hour to play games on the soccer pitch and an equal remuneration for

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# TWO YANKS in NAZI-INFESTED ROME

(Continued from Page 5)

It was agreed that a public announcement of this armistice would be made at 6:30 on the night of September 8, simultaneously by General Eisenhower from his headquarters and by Marshal Badoglio from Rome.

What General Castellano was not told, however, was that the American invasion was scheduled for the early morning of September 9, and that the airborne invasion of Rome was to start on the evening of September 8, at 6:30 p.m., the exact hour that the armistice announcement was to be made.

**A Cobelligerent**

The Italian officer then announced he now regarded himself as a full collaborator of the Allies. He opened a brief case. He had many papers with him. The Germans, he said, had brought many divisions of their best troops to Italy, but these troops were not in the Rome area. The Nazis were still permitting the Italians to guard their own capital. It was a one-sided military conference. Castellano was verbose, enthusiastic, told everything. Allied officers listened and revealed nothing of their own plans. They felt the Italians were to be trusted. It was even thought possible that Badoglio might be still working with the Germans.

American officers agreed that the paratroop and airborne landings were feasible at the time. The Allies planned amphibious landings at Salerno and they figured that the airborne troops would provide a sound diversion. It was understood by each that an American force of 2,000 men could not by itself take Rome, but Castellano again assured the Allied officers that the thousands of Italian troops in the Rome area would join the British and American troops as soon as they hit the ground.

Castellano worked through the day and night with the Allied officers. There were many questions he could not answer, and he prevented any slip-up by deciding what someone had to do to Rome ahead of time and make further arrangements with the Italians.

General Taylor and Colonel Gardiner immediately volunteered to do this.

**The Job**

The job was to arrange for the paratroop part of the mission and Colonel Gardiner was to handle the intelligence work for the mission. The two were to go to Rome, from the last details, get things ready at the airfield, and then wait.

Word was flashed to Rome that the two Americans were coming. Rome answered fine, send them over. Arrangements were made with Italian naval officials for transportation and Taylor and Gardiner prepared to go.

The two American officers were given final instructions. Each detail of their mission was worked out. There were 2,000 highly trained fighting

## THE AIR-BORNE LANDING WHICH WAS CALLED OFF

must be postponed. The paratroop landings must be cancelled. He quoted the figure of 200 men and equipment of the Rome area, reaching them carefully and almost automatically, as though Carboni had just rehearsed him.

Badoglio repeated again and again that his sympathies were with the Allies, but Colonel Gardiner and the men who had been to find out things, trying to learn of the exact place and time of the amphibious invasion. In the light of his new attitude the Americans trusted him less than before and the interview had a wary, cat-and-mouse quality.

"If I announce the armistice and the American don't send strong enough reinforcements, the Germans will enter the city and take us out and replace us with the Fascists," he said. "I am as much as enough to stress that he was not a Fascist."

He could not make the announcement as he promised and he was afraid. He might be harmed himself, persecuted.

Then Taylor began to wonder whether his message directing the cancellation of the landing had been strongly enough. He sat down and drafted another message. This message was sent out at 8:20. Gardiner and Taylor then began to await some word of the cancellation. The minutes raced by. At 11:30 there was still no acknowledgment.

Suddenly they heard the distant roar of airplanes. They looked out the window. They saw the black clouds of the sky. The black clouds came off after 11:30. Hours ticked by. The clouds could not see the planes. Was this another trick? They had an idea. They had just bombed the German headquarters at Pescara. And a good job of bombing it was too.

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**AN ITALIAN BOMB-SHELL**

The corvette reached Gaeta at 4:30 on the afternoon of the 7. The Americans were impatient. Time was short. It was now only six hours before the landing was to take off. They climbed onto the gangway. Curious Italian sailors on the docks watched them. In keeping with the story that the Americans had been captured at sea, the Italian officers pushed them rudely down the gangway and spoke harshly to them. The Italian officers followed. One of them carried two suitcases containing a radio receiver and transmitter, to be used later at the landing in the American planes.

A naval car was waiting on the quay. The Americans were loaded roughly inside. The Italian officers followed. A few miles outside the city the car pulled into a side road. There an Italian ambulance was parked. The men changed over into the ambulance. The ambulance swung back into the Appian Way and headed north. At 10:30 on the night of the 7, the ambulance entered Rome and brought the party to the Palazzo Caprara, opposite the War Office.

The Americans were marched past numerous sentries, Italian and German, who saluted the Italian naval officers and glanced at the Americans. They were not questioned. When they entered the Palazzo, Taylor and Gardiner asked to see General Carboni, the commander of Rome immediately, so that they could start work. But they found they were expected to stay in the Italian Hotel. It was now eleven o'clock and the planes were to be airborne in less than twenty hours.

"We were in a spot," Colonel Gardiner said. "They apparently thought the invasion was scheduled weeks away. We could not let them know our close-up was. We had to get on with the job."

They ate the meal, complete with a desert of grapes, fruit, and then, instead of seeing General Carboni, they were further delayed. The General was finally produced, sleepy and full of wonder at these strange Americans.

When he wakened sufficiently to speak, he tossed a casual bombshell into the air. The paratroop invasion would have to be called off. The armistice itself would have to be postponed indefinitely.

In the last few days, he said, the Germans had occupied the Rome area in great strength and had virtually disarmed and immobilized the Italian Garrison. The city was now impregnable. He had the figures on hand to prove it. There were now 12,000 Germans, mainly paratroopers, the most fanatic and the fiercest Nazi fighters of all in the Tiber Valley. There was a panzer grenadier division, increased by attachments, and it was now 24,000 strong. There were 100 pieces of artillery, most of them the deadly 88mm. guns. There were 150 heavy and 80 light tanks.

Carboni held out his hands helplessly. At the first announcement of an armistice this formidable German force would sweep Rome, would cut the Tiber, and would do personal harm to the high Italian officials who were responsible for the surrender. No, the armistice and

orders to return to Allied headquarters to present them. General Taylor sent another message in which he agreed that in view of the information given by Badoglio the paratroop landings were now impossible. He pointed out in his message that the Italians lacked gasoline and ammunition.

When the messages were given out, he sat over the secret radio. Badoglio tried to relax. He became very emotional and talked at great length about his account as a collaborator. He implied the Americans to trust him and swore that he was not going to trick the Allies. Gardiner stuck him closely, and later said he thought Badoglio had "the nagging look of an old fraud—d-g—wise as a bean."

It was now almost 3 a.m. There were only fifteen hours left before the first planes were to run up their motors and then take off.

**AN ANTI-CIMAX**

Taylor and Gardiner still could not sleep. While they waited in this number state several Italian officers suddenly burst into their room. They shouted excitedly that Americans had landed at Salerno. Taylor and Gardiner froze. But they were still alert enough to suspect a trick and they began to look for the landings. Later the report of the landings brought a message from Algiers that the messages had been received.

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# ECONOMIC NOTES AND VIEWS CALL FOR LOWER WAGES

By BUSINESSMAN

Among the demands recently voiced at a meeting of the Haifa Branch of the Manufacturers' Association the call for lower wages figures prominently. As I was prevented from attending that meeting I do not know whether it was really lower wages the President called for or lower cost of labour. There is a difference.

The wages at present paid in industry are, by agreement between the Manufacturers' Association and the General Federation of Jewish Labour (Histadrut) based on the Living Index. If the index rises by more than five points the addition to the basic wages rises correspondingly. If the index falls the addition is reduced. As long as this agreement is in force, calling for lower wages would mean calling for a lower cost of living. It is the cost of living which has increased since the beginning of the war. The index has risen by 224 points in May to 255 in August, to exceed by six points only in September. I do not see how a lowering of wages could be brought about within the framework of the agreement. The agreement could of course be rescinded by the manufacturers. It would represent an attempt to break the vicious spiral of inflation by giving wages the same precedence over the cost of living. The Histadrut would probably strongly resist such an attempt because it would be tantamount to reducing the standard of living of the workers.

**Cost of Living**

I do not think that the manufacturers contemplate such a step, at any rate as long as they are not prepared to accept on the local market at present prices. A different situation may arise if foreign products are brought in at lower prices before the local cost of living allows a sufficient reduction of the wage level. In that case the manufacturers would probably have no other choice than to resort to the termination of the present wages agreement.

Foodstuffs being the main component in the cost of living index, the whole issue will probably narrow down to a race between British efforts and foreign manufactured goods. As the international supply position for the more important foodstuffs, like wheat, is not unfavourable and as foreign manufactured goods are likely to trickle in, for the time being, the cost of living index might come down first. That would certainly be the best means of reducing the cost of living. It would, however, require not only an effort on the part of the Food Controller but also a reduction in the food production sections of the local population, vegetable growers and egg producers included.

The ultimate level to which we shall have to bring down wages in industry will have to be that level which will prevail in the British market after the war, or a slightly lower one, the reason being (as set out in a previous article) that our goods exchange will be mainly with Britain and our currency connected with Sterling. This implies that productivity of labour will also have to be at least equal to that of British labour. This brings one to another interpretation of the demands of the Haifa President of the Manufacturers' Association. He may have asked for a lower cost of labour, that is to say, for a smaller share of labour in the cost of the finished product—in other words, for higher productivity. If he meant that I would heartily agree.

**Productivity**

Productivity in Britain, as measured by production per head, was about half that of the U.S.A. some years before the war. It has been calculated that productivity in Palestine was considerably below that of Britain. During the war, productivity in Britain has very much increased. If this cannot be said of Palestine we shall have to make up for the deficiency as rapidly as ever we can. We have to buy new and modern machinery as soon as we can obtain it, machinery still being the biggest factor in attaining higher productivity.

But higher productivity is not achieved by mechanical means alone. It must be accompanied by better organization of labour within the work shop. It is no use my introducing two or three half-automated lathes in place of my antiquated mechanical ones, if I have only one worker. The same worker probably will do more than one or two workers in their supervision. If I buy these lathes I shall probably be visited by a delegation of the workers to tell me that they would not allow the three lathes to be served by only one worker. The same worker probably will do more than one or two workers in their supervision. If I buy these lathes I shall probably be visited by a delegation of the workers to tell me that they would not allow the three lathes to be served by only one worker.

**Unit Labour Costs**

There are plenty of possibilities in Palestine workshops to improve on the purely labour side of the cost sheet. Factory management, as we know it from the U.S.A. and England, has hardly started here. We have scarcely begun reducing labour costs, and under proper guidance from experts trained abroad we could vastly improve the efficiency of our manufacturing establishments and the productivity of our economy as a whole. This does not mean that even the individual workman need suffer. High earnings and high productivity are not contradictory. On the contrary, they are complementary. But earnings and efficiency must be coupled with each other. Rate settings must be such that the workman is interested in his output. The higher the efficiency the higher his reward. What has been successfully achieved abroad should be capable of achievement here.

**The Histadrut**

The key position in this respect, lies with the Histadrut, which cannot but realize that with low productivity our industry will be unable to hold the local market once cheaper supplies from abroad become available, not to speak of export markets at which we aim. If we have the ambition to supply the needs of Palestine with the products of our own factories, we cannot reach that goal merely by asking for protective tariffs. We have to adapt our productivity to that of the countries which compete with us. If we aim at high and stable employment we cannot achieve this aim by forcing the local consumer to buy from us at high prices thus weakening his consuming power.

Thus the Histadrut itself is interested in greater efficiency. They themselves should cooperate in every step which is likely to reduce cost of production. It is not for the Histadrut to insist on rationalization, piece rates, and wage incentives as machinations of the employers to increase their profits. There will anyhow not be much profit to be made in the deflation period and any improvements made by them, one worker should take care of four looms instead of two workers. The local workers councils are not unaturally determined that no working places are lost. Similarly, if I reduce the piece rate for a worker, it is no use starting with them if I have not at the same time reduced the piece rate for the men working on them; and difficult as it was to introduce piece rates at all, I shall have a long fight before I get the workers' agreement to that piece rate which alone makes the new press economical.

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The other day I said that deflation and reconstruction will put the leaders of our industry to the test. Today I would like to add that it will put the leaders of the Histadrut to the test, too.

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