

Members of Italian Royal Family Are Held by Nazis In Concentration Prisons

Guglielmo Emanuel, veteran INS correspondent in Italy who remained in hiding in Rome throughout the Nazi occupation of the Eternal City, reveals in the following dispatch that several members of the Italian royal family have been seized by the Germans and placed in concentration camp.

He also discloses for the first time the dramatic circumstances under which Marshal Pietro Badoglio's son, Mario, was arrested by the gestapo and taken away as a hostage.

By GUGLIELMO EMANUEL

ROME.—(INS)—A large number of Italian notables, including several members of the royal family and Marshal Pietro Badoglio's son, are prisoners of the Nazis—locked up behind barbed wire in a German concentration camp.

Among them is King Victor Emmanuel's daughter, Mafalda, Princess of Hesse, and Count Calvi di Bergolo, the husband of Princess Yolanda, the king's eldest daughter. It was Di Bergolo who negotiated the surrender of Rome to the Germans on Sept. 9, 1943, but now he is just another hostage in the hands of the gestapo.

In the same concentration camp is Mario Badoglio, son of the marshal who until recently was prime minister of Italy. With him is the former police prefect of Rome, Dr. Carmine Senise, who carried out the king's orders when Mussolini was ousted from power on July 25.

Aug. 13 he surrounded by the utmost secrecy. The marshal felt under the circumstances that the more members of his family he had around him in official positions the safer he would be.

After I met him in August, Mario Badoglio entrusted me with a semi-official mission. He knew that I was a friend of Harold Tittmann, American representative at the Vatican. He asked me to see Tittmann and ask him to transmit a request to the Allies to avoid bombing Italian cities, notably Rome, now that negotiations were in progress. I was to tell Tittmann that bombardments such as had recently taken place were weakening Badoglio's position as premier.

Many persons wondered why Badoglio left his son behind in Rome when he himself fled the city on the morning of Sept. 9 to escape capture by the Germans.

Actually, the marshal thought he was running a greater risk by going than his son by staying. The ring of German troops was closing all around the city. Would he get through? It was doubtful, but duty called him to follow the king, who was already on his way to Ortona. But why expose his son, he thought, figuring Mario probably would be safer in Rome.

Badoglio, in fact, narrowly escaped death during his escape when a few shots were fired at him as his car sped through the rapidly closing pincers of the German ring.

The persecution of Badoglio's relatives did not stop with his son's arrest. His two nephews, the Valenzano boys, also were the victims of Nazi agents.

A man approached them one day and offered to find a way for them to cross the lines and join the Allies.

The two boys fell for it. They went to the appointed rendezvous. Instead of the truck they expected to find waiting for them, they found a gestapo patrol car—and in it they were taken off to prison.

Mario Badoglio's arrest came as a terrific shock and from the German viewpoint he probably is considered their most important hostage.

I had become acquainted with Mario at the beginning of last August, only a few days after his father had taken office as premier. Mario was then chief of cabinet in his father's ministry office.

The marshal had appointed him because it was necessary that the negotiations which had been opened with the Allies on

Mario was trapped by a spy, despite most elaborate precautions to keep his hiding place in Rome a secret.

An ardent Catholic had given Mario shelter and concealed him as the Germans took over the Italian capital.

But a certain monsignor, who was a frequent visitor to the house, unwittingly caused the arrest of Mario. A young Fascist happened to stumble on the fact that this monsignor knew the whereabouts of Mario Badoglio, and frequently saw him. He tipped off the German gestapo—and the rest was simple.

The gestapo simply followed the monsignor one day, and, when he entered the house where Mario was hiding, they went right in after him and arrested the marshal's son.

Mare Has Twin Mules

SALEM, Mo. —(U.P.)—A saddle mare owned by Dock Pelton, local farmer, gave birth to twin mule colts here recently.