

North and Central Italy Occupied By Nazi Troops, Says Hitler's Spokesman

Germans Have Decided to Reinforce Their Po Defences and Fight to Last Man According to Berlin Story

London, Sept. 9.—(CP)—A German military spokesman asserted to-day that "north and central Italy have been occupied by German troops," a Berlin broadcast said. "In so far as the occupation had not been carried out already it now has been done," declared the spokesman. "In most towns of Italy the armed forces allowed those forces to be disarmed (by Germans) without offering resistance."

Report Not Confirmed

At the same time the spokesman claimed Allied troops which landed Tuesday on the Gulf of Eufemia, north of Palmi, had been enveloped by German troops and "their annihilation was imminent Wednesday evening." This claim lacked confirmation.

Reuters News Agency reported from Stockholm that Hitler had held a war council to-day at which it was decided to reinforce the German Po line in northern Italy and fight to the last man.

At the same time the German radio began issuing a stream of orders, apparently for the purpose of confusing the Italians and contradicting earlier steps taken by the surrendering Badoglio regime in Italy.

One Berlin broadcast said a new "Italian Fascist Government set up by the Germans in Germany had issued orders to Italian ships to remain in Continental ports and that the "air force would bomb ships which sail for North Africa," as was

ordered by Marshal Badoglio yesterday.

A second announcement from the Berlin radio said a military spokesman declared that "conformably with an agreement with the Italian army in Greece, Italian troops after surrendering heavy material, will withdraw to the coast and there await further instructions from the German high command."

Another Nazi-controlled radio in Norway said Nazi and Croat puppet police units occupied the Italian legation and consulate in Zagreb, Croatia, last night after disarming all Italian forces in the city and arresting leading Italian personalities.

Meanwhile, a Reuters dispatch from Stockholm indicated that the Italian peace was having repercussions in Germany itself. The dispatch said blackshirted Elite guards were patrolling the streets of Berlin and that Swedish correspondents reported an atmosphere of tension prevailed in the city.

The Germans tried to put a frail prop under capitulated Italy by announcing the formation of "a national Fascist government in the name of Mussolini, which by all possible means will bring Italy out of the war with her honour intact and her future life assured."

This announcement over the Berlin radio foreshadowed bloody fighting for control of Italy between the Allied armies which landed far up the coast at Naples during the night, and 18 belligerent German divisions believed to be garrisoned in the northern and northwestern sectors of the country.

Out of the chaos of a country prematurely celebrating peace came unconfirmed reports, via Stockholm, of other Allied landings at Genoa, at two other points near Rome and on Sardinia. Among the welter of other reports was one broadcast by the Swiss radio that "hundreds of Allied planes were about to land on the Italian mainland."

In his broadcast to the Italian people announcing the creation of the new "Government which stands and acts in Mussolini's name," the Berlin commentator cried:

"Soldiers! Do not obey the false orders of treason. Refuse to surrender to the enemy. Refuse to fight against your German comrades in arms. Those who can, continue to fight at their side, let the others reach their homes and await orders, which will be promptly given.

"From shame and suffering, let us make Italy emerge untainted and powerful. The Italian national Fascist Government will inexorably punish the traitors, the men who are solely responsible for defeat."

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