

ITALIAN WAR PRISONERS AT TORRANCE LAPE HOSPITAL

Members of the Italian service company composed of prisoners of war who volunteered and are serving at the Los Angeles Port of Embarkation have made their appearance at the LAPE hospital in Torrance.

Intermingled with United States Army troops manning the big hospital are several scores of the Italians who are to be accorded limited liberty in company with American officers and interpreters for weekends in various points of interest in Southern California.

These volunteers for non-combat duty have the status of cobelligerents and, although technically still prisoners of war, are subject to U. S. Army regulations.

The past few days have been highly interesting to these men. Even those who do not clearly understand English—and most of them do not—have listened intently to the radio when off-duty to learn something of the invasion of France and of the Allied march into Rome and beyond.

Humberto's Men
Members of the unit call themselves Humberto's men, after the present ruling monarch of Italy, as contrasted with Mussolini's fascist troops. And what they think of Mussolini cannot be told in print.

Wearing G.I. issue clothing with their own insignia of rank and non-commissioned ratings, the men have the word "Italy" as a shoulder patch for identification. They are performing usual duties of service troops all over the Port and will do work for which any enlisted men can be used. Their vocational skills are comparable to a similar group of Americans.

With minor exceptions, their pay scale, correspondence they are allowed to send home or receive and other privileges are the same as for any prisoners held by the Allies. Freedom of movement about the area and escorted trips in small groups are an important difference.

To Visit L. A.
Lt. Col. Harry E. Brown, Jr., Camp Ross commander, said that as fast as practicable, the men will be sent to visit sights of the Los Angeles area, accompanied by an American officer and an interpreter. Visits and social functions among members of the large Italian-American population of Southern California will be permissible when properly arranged.

Many of the men speak a smattering of English and understand more of it, Capt. William Miller, their American commander said. Classes in English are being offered them.

The men are quick to praise their method of treatment and hospitality of Army officials.

Interesting invasion sidelights were provided by two soldiers of the unit. Cpl. Dino Pierallini, native of Rome and former student at the university there, said:

"From the standpoint of planning and execution, the invasion was perfect." He marveled at the 11,000-plane umbrella protection landing forces received, recalling that in the Libyan des-

Walteria P.T.A. Group Meets and Installs Officers

Climaxing an eventful year, the Walteria P.T.A. meeting last Thursday started off with a delightful luncheon in the summer house of the school grounds. After the lunch, the gathering went into the auditorium for their regular meeting.

Mrs. George P. Thatcher presented the following program: A demonstration how arithmetic is taught today was conducted by Mrs. Fischer with her second and third graders. The children made an excellent showing and all agreed that our teachers deserve a great deal of credit for a job well done.

The next order of business was a community sing led by Mrs. Walter Wagner. The singing was interrupted by a Western Union messenger boy delivering brief annual committee reports to the president, Mrs. Don Rae, and expressed felicitations to her.

Mrs. Dorothy Jamieson of the Torrance Library gave a very entertaining and educational talk on "Books—Amunition for Service." Mrs. Jamieson described the care taken in the selection of proper books and the desire to include the type of books most popular with the reading public.

A short business meeting was conducted by Mrs. Don Rae, president.

Mrs. C. H. Turner of Redondo Beach, past state P.T.A. president, presided over the installation of officers, admonishing each as to their respective duties, with the following members installed: Mrs. Don Rae, president; Mrs. George P. Thatcher, first vice president; Miss Mary Charlotte Waddell, second vice president; Mrs. B. J. Michels, secretary; Mrs. J. K. Burchfield, treasurer; Mrs. B. R. Conners, historian and parliamentarian; Mrs. Sam Correia, auditor.

The following appointments were made: Mrs. Sam Correia, program chairman; Mrs. Joe Reynolds, emblems and publications; Mrs. H. P. Cagle, hospitality and Sunshine; Mrs. George Powell, publicity; Mrs. R. J. Deurloo, association goals and parent education; Mrs. Roy Palmer, membership; Mrs. W. J. Ehde, room mother; Mrs. Dorothy McEwen, War chest; Mrs. Walter Wagner, music chairman.

ort war not so long ago Italian troops thought a 50 to 60 plane attack extraordinary.

Agreeing with Cpl. Pierallini, Pvt. Pietro Martino of Tunis, even said he wished he could be in the invasion. "I will fight anywhere they want to send me," he declared.

Martino wants to stay in America and bring his aged mother from Tunisia.

Nothing can make a man truly great but being truly good, and partaking of God's holiness.—Matthew Henry.

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