

practically equivalent in many cases to sentence to death by torture.

Apart from the prisons and concentration camps set up in Montenegro itself, it has been so far established that as many as 98,703 Montenegrin men, women and children were interned in Italy, distributed among as many as 195 internment camps. Conditions of confinement in these Italian camps need no detailed description. They can be judged by reference to the already well-known conditions in the German concentration camps. Since the total population of the relative part of Montenegro in 1941 did not exceed 300,000, this means that fully one-third of the population was removed either to die or to suffer permanent ruin of health.

Report No. 3 is principally concerned with the work of Pirzio-Biroli and officers under his command, and is in effect, a continuation of Report No. 2. In the first place, it quotes from the handbook issued by Pirzio-Biroli, as Governor of Montenegro, to the Italian forces fighting in Montenegro. Apart from some dubious Axis propaganda about the "communism of Stalin allied to English gold," this handbook is principally concerned with inciting the Italian soldiery to cast aside all scruples in dealing with the Yugoslav resistance forces. "Hate this people!" it reads. "This is the people against whom we have fought for centuries on the shores of the Adriatic. Kill, shoot, burn and destroy this people! Do not believe the man who shares a glass with you, nor even the man who gives you information. Do not believe the woman who offers you a smile . . ."

Report No. 3 gives a further long list of victims and statement concerning wholesale shooting of hostages.

Reports Nos. 11, 13 and 14 continue to fill in details of the story outlined in Reports Nos. 2 and 3.

The story in each of these reports is the same. As they come to light, details concerning one district after another are being published. The full reckoning has yet to be made.

In considering what has been done here, the economic and social conditions in the highlands of Montenegro must be taken into account. This is notoriously a poor country, with

small and scattered villages and minute towns. Throughout this country under Italian occupation a systematic reign of terror prevailed. In the larger part of Montenegro there is not a single parish which has not suffered in lives and property.

Frequent reference is made in all these reports to the co-operation offered by Yugoslav quislings, notably Chetnik bands under the direct command of General Draza Mihailovic. Report No. 46 (Chapter iii) also records that towards the end of 1941 Sauro obtained a special audience with Mussolini to submit to him an important report on proposals made by "prominent persons" of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who wished to get in touch with the Italian authorities to discuss the Italian future in the Balkans and "subversive movements" on former Yugoslav territory.

Later, on 29 January Sauro sent Mussolini a detailed report on this whole question, which is concerned with his contacts with Dobrosav Jevdjevic and other plenipotentiaries of Draza Mihailovic, who was at that time already in contact with certain Italian generals.

This work of Yugoslav quislings will be the subject of a separate account of quisling war crimes in Yugoslavia. There too will be found the full story of Italian crime in the hinterland of the Adriatic coast, i.e., in Bosnia-Herzegovina, for par excellence in that part of Yugoslavia from the outset of Axis occupation Italian action is inseparable from that of German forces, together with Pavelitch ustasha, Mihailovic chetnik and Neditch forces, though there is no suggestion in this that the guilt of Yugoslav quislings, in Bosnia-Herzegovina (or anywhere else in Yugoslavia) or the co-operation of German forces, in any way exculpates the Italian State from its guilt for long-planned and systematic infringement of fundamental international law and civilised human usages.

Finally, in considering the criminal record of the Italian State and of responsible Italian statesmen and officers in Yugoslavia, we have to return to the first report published by the Yugoslav State Commission for the "Investigation of the Crimes of the Invaders and Their Assistants," which deals with Italian crimes in Dalmatia. This report cites a long list

of Italian high officers and officials, as well as lesser ranks. Foremost among these is Giuseppe Bastianini, first Governor of Dalmatia, one time Ambassador to the Court of St. James and his successor Giunta.

The fundamental document on which Italian war crimes in Dalmatia rest, is the Order promulgated by Giuseppe Bastianini as Governor of Dalmatia on 7 June 1942. This first Order concerned the area of the territory annexed to the administrative district of Zadar, which, though separated from Italian-annexed Yugoslav national territory by many miles of Yugoslav State territory, until the 1941 seizures was included in the Julian Region administrative area. But by subsequent orders of Bastianini and his successor Giunta, this Order was extended to the whole of Dalmatia, including parts of the coast which were at first claimed by the Ustasha puppet state. These orders were of a most drastic nature. They first of all tied down the population to their places of domicile and provided that any persons captured outside the area of their place of domicile should be shot without trial. The basic order further made precise regulations, such as that concerning the area between Obrovac and Zegar, by which no food supplies were to be distributed until at least eight persons of each village presented themselves to the local command to serve as hostages of the district at the disposition of the Italian forces. Any infringement of any order was to be punished by shooting. Yet, lest this should not be a general enough threat of terror, Clause 5 of the basic order also provided that "in every case, on orders of the aforementioned authorities, any persons who give any support or assistance whatsoever to the work of the Partisans should be shot."

In Report No 1, as in other statements made by the Yugoslav State Commission, a long list of mass shooting without trials, destruction of property, acts of torture of individuals and terrorisation of whole districts, as well as of the deliberate annihilation of people and homes in districts regarded by the Italians as key centres for colonisation, has been filed. Altogether this constitutes a devastating indictment of the ruthlessness with which the Italian State was prepared to

endeavour to establish permanent Italian possession of what was proposed as the reward which had actuated Italy in entering the 1914-18 war on the sides of the Allies, yet which in 1917 Italy was prepared to relinquish in order to make peace, had Germany and Austria been ready for this. ("Lloyd George War Memoirs," Volume 2, page 1189.)

(e) CONCLUSION.

To summarise once again the area of these innumerable crimes reviewed here, it consists of :

Firstly—The Yugoslav inhabited portion of the County of Gorica, Trieste (including the Slovene Littoral) and Istria (including Fiume and Zadar), annexed to Italy *de facto* in 1918, later confirmed by the Treaty of Rapallo in 1920, and the Nettuno Convention of 1922 (the "Julian Region") ;

Secondly—The districts annexed immediately after the Axis invasion of Yugoslavia in April, 1941, namely, the eastern hinterland of Trieste and the Julian Alps, being the "Province of Ljubljana," and the Yugoslav littoral with hinterland immediately around the Port of Zadar, and between this and Fiume ;

Thirdly—Montenegro in the south, as the hinterland overlooking the Gulf of Kotor ; and

Fourthly—The whole of the remainder of the Yugoslav littoral, in between the northern area (Julian Region, Istria, Zadar, etc.) and the south (Gulf of Kotor).

Finally, it must be recorded that these Italian crimes, as borne out by the evidence possessed by the Yugoslav "State Commission for the Investigation of the Crimes of the Invaders and Their Assistants," constitute a planned attempt to exterminate the whole South Slav population of the Adriatic and its hinterland, by deportation of population, terrorisation with a view to enforcing renunciation of Yugoslav nationality, and sheer annihilation.

APPENDIX

The compulsory Italianisation of the surnames of innumerable South Slav families of the Julian Region, and the change of others under unbearable pressure, was one of the methods of Italian oppression. It was accompanied by the change of all possible place names.

The history of Italian legislation concerning change of family and place names, of the application of Italian laws concerning these, and of the arbitrary change of names by local authorities without regard for the existing laws, may be of interest.

The provisions of the old Civil Code of the Kingdom of Italy concerning changes of personal names were designed quite naturally not to facilitate such procedure, but to make adequate provision against arbitrary or frivolous changes, and to see that any change was duly registered in all necessary official records.

The provisions are contained in Chapter VIII (Article 119) of a Royal Decree, No. 2602 of 15 November 1865 which is based on Law No. 2215 of 2 April 1865 and Royal Decree No. 2358 of 25 June 1865. This Article of Chapter VIII of the Law lays down that any person wishing either to change his surname or to add some other name to this should make application to the King through the Ministry of Justice, giving reasons for his request and furnishing a certificate and other documents. Clauses 120 to 125 inclusive made further provision for publication in the Official Gazette and other authorised newspapers of the proposal to effect a change of name, and for a period of four months to elapse before any further steps could be taken, during which any objections to a change of name could be lodged.

After the 1914-18 war, two areas of former Austrian territory were acquired by Italy, namely the South Tyrol, known in Italian parlance as the Trentino, and the Julian Region, known in Italian parlance as Venezia Giulia. On 10 January 1926 in the third year of the Fascist regime, Law No. 17 was passed concerning the change of personal and place names in the Trentino. The main provisions of this Law are contained in Article I, and provided that "Families of the province of Trento bearing a surname of Italian or Latin origin translated into other tongues, or deformed by foreign spelling or by the addition of a foreign suffix, should reassume their original surname in its original form.

"Similarly, surnames of place-name origin, the basic place-name of which has been translated into another tongue, or deformed by foreign spelling, or otherwise translated or reduced to a foreign form, shall be similarly restored to the Italian form."

This Law was introduced in the South Tyrol to Italianise names of German origin. In this province, foreign names other than those of German origin, or names to which a foreign termination had been added would be extremely rare. There is little doubt but that this Law speaking of "names translated into *other tongues*" was designed as a basic law to apply to all the territories newly annexed from Austria. And indeed, after various representations from Fascist authorities in the Julian Region, a Royal Decree No. 494 of 7 April 1927 was promulgated, for the "extension to all territories of our new province of the provisions contained in the Royal Decree of 10 January 1926 No. 17, concerning restitution of surnames of the families of the Julian Region to an Italian form.

"The restoration to the Italian form will be declared by a Decree of the Prefect of the province, of which the persons interested will be notified, and which will be published in the Official Gazette of the Kingdom and recorded in the official population registers.

"Any person who following the restoration of his name makes use of a surname in foreign form, will be punished by a fine of from 500 to 5,000 lire."

This Decree was made law by an Act of 24 May 1926 No. 898.

By these Acts a facade of legality was given to the Italianisation of South Slav personal and place names in the Julian Region. The thesis of the Italian State was that a large number of names were of Italian or Latin origin but had been slavified. A dictionary of these names and their Italian equivalents was drawn up by a special commission, and all persons bearing these names were obliged to accept the Italian form. A sample page from this dictionary is given here (Fig 12 p. 37), in which it will be seen that even so obviously slavonic a name as Horvat, i.e., Croat, is to be changed to Crevato while other derivatives are to be changed in a similar way; thus so that Horvat becomes Crevato, Hervatich becomes Crevati, Hervatin, Crevatin, and so on.

Thus a cloak of legality, however spurious, was given. Persons with surnames recognized by the Italian authorities as indubitably not of Latin origin were merely pressed themselves to apply for a new, fully Italian, surname. Wherever the Italian authorities had decided that a name represented a Latin or Italian name "slavified," the change was compulsory, and the legal excuse (i.e., the Fascist authorities method of obtaining at least ostensible regard for the basic Code Civile of 1865) was that it was not matter of a "change," but of a "restoration" of the original form of a name.

That this argument was in itself ridiculous in many cases is obscured for those who are not philologists by the circumstance that in every country a basic stock of names which are the common heritage of European civilisation is drawn upon for many

names. It would therefore only be possible to *prove* that IVANICH is derived from GIOVANNI or "Johnson," or is not so derived, by consultation of family trees, or by circumstantial evidence such as that provided by the fact that derivatives of IVAN (Old Slavonic *ioannu*) are to be found scattered in their tens of thousands, if not millions, throughout the comparatively vast populations of all the Slav countries, while derivatives of JOHN or GIOVANNI are comparatively rarer in Italy.

Take another example, provided by the Italian "restoration of names" dictionary—BOZHICH or BOZIC. This is a fairly common South Slav name, from Adriatic to Black Sea. It is a derivative of *bog* or "God." In the supposed Italian "original form" we see only a comparatively rare Italian name.

One example more: to the uninitiated DEBELLI might seem quite a reasonable Italian name-form, built on the Latin *bellum* or *bellus*. It is offered in this Italian "restoration of name" dictionary as the original of the good South Slav name DEBELJAK or DEBELIAK. How many Italians may not have murmured indignantly, reading this ridiculous dictionary, against the Slav barbarians who added so "bruto" a termination as the Slavonic *ak* to the beautiful word "of Italian or Latin origin."

Unfortunately, DEBELJAK is indubitably of Balkan Slav origin. It is derived from Turkish TEMBEL = lazy. In the South Slav languages, following the common law of migratory words, a special case of the original meaning has taken root, and *debeli* means, not lazy, but "fat." DEBELJAK is a name which par excellence denotes a Balkan Slav origin.

Finally, we may glance again at the initial order of the Commission Extraordinary. This, dealing with only the more striking marks of "foreign deformation," deleted the final *ch* of the South Slav surname of many families. One may imagine the reaction of Scot or Irishman, had Whitehall attempted to turn them all into Sassenachs, by removing the "Mac" from their names. Yet, to the philologist, *Mac* at the beginning of a Gaelic name, or *-ich* at the end of a Slavonic name, are not merely *formally* the same, both being indications of descent, but are also philologically the same, the "M" of *Mac* being merely a phonetic prefix, so that from the philologist's standpoint Gaelic *Mac* or *ac*, Welsh *ap* and Slavonic *-ich* are identical.

It is noteworthy, however, that this fiction of legality by which personal names admitted by the Italian authorities not to have had Italian or Latin origin, are to be changed only on application of the head of the family bearing the name was maintained by legislation after the assumption of power. But a large measure of compulsory Italianisation of names had already been accomplished by the Italian local authorities in the newly annexed Julian Region

considerably before the Fascist March on Rome and assumption of power. A Commission Extraordinary functioned in the Julian Region in the immediate post-war period, and for example, by its Act No. 5672 of 21 December 1921 signed by Pier Dominico Schiavi, determined a list of Croat and Slovene surnames of the district under Schiavi's authority and the new Italian names which were to be applied in place of them.

Thus, here too, in the detailed question of the Italianisation of names, it must be observed that there was continuity of action by the Italian imperialist interests throughout the whole period of occupation of the Julian Region following the first act of forcible annexation of this area by the Italian Liberal Government in the autumn of 1918.

For the interest they offer, we append reproductions (reduced by one-half linearly) of a number of documents from the official Italian archives of the authorities in the Julian Region, which are illustrative of the action pursued by the Italian State.

Figure 13 (p. 38)

Letter from the Podesta of Albona to the Prefect of Istria at Pola, stating that: "In this commune the slavised surnames were largely corrected by measures taken by a Decree of the Commission Extraordinary of 21 December, 1921, No. 5672." The Podesta further reports that 300 personal names covering about 1,900 families in his area have already been changed, and 700 place names. Therefore, there remain only some 50 more names to be changed.

Figure 14 (i) (ii) (pp. 39, 40)

Copy of a circular from the Prefect of the Quarnero, concerning the extension to Venezia Giulia of the articles of the law of 10 January, 1926, giving legal form and camouflage to the work of Italianisation already begun. The circular says: "In this work it should be borne in mind that it is a case solely of *restoring to the original form* surnames of *Italian or Latin origin* which have been deformed, and not of changing names of non-Italian or Latin origin." Since the reasonability of this provision was dependent on the definition of "Italian or Latin origin," and such definition solely on arbitrary and tendentious Italian decision, this instruction is merely guidance how Italianisation is to be cloaked.

Figure 15 (i) (ii) (pp. 41, 42)

Letter from the Ministry of Justice to the Prefect of the Province of Pola (Istria) informing him of the extension to the Julian Region of Articles 1 and 2 of the Law of 10 January, 1926, concerning change of names in the South Tyrol.

Figure 16 (i) (ii) (pp. 43, 44)

Letter from Lazzarini, Podesta of Albona, to the Prefect of Pola, transmitting to him a copy of the "note," i.e., provision of No. 5672 of 21 December 1921 "with which the then Commissar Extraordinary, Pier Dominico Schiavi proceeded to the rectification of slavised surnames . . ." and pointing out that since there was no legal machinery for the registration of such names (i.e., names forcibly changed) the matter was not put in proper order. Nevertheless, ". . . tacitly in the schools, conscription lists and various subsequent registers concerning the population, surnames were inscribed in the correct form, and have thus attained public usage." Lazzarini concludes by observing that as in 1921 only the most obvious marks of slavism (the Commissar Extraordinary had merely laid down that "the termination *ch* is always to be avoided") were removed and "more radical transformations" were not undertaken, it was now necessary "moreover commonsense (*con tatto e buon senso*) to make a general and thorough revision of the whole matter."

Figures 17 (p. 45) and 18 (p. 46)

The Director of Education of the Julian Region transmits to school inspectors and secondary school masters a special circular enjoining them to bring "tactful persuasion" to bear on their charges to obtain the maximum Italianisation "of their surnames of foreign form."

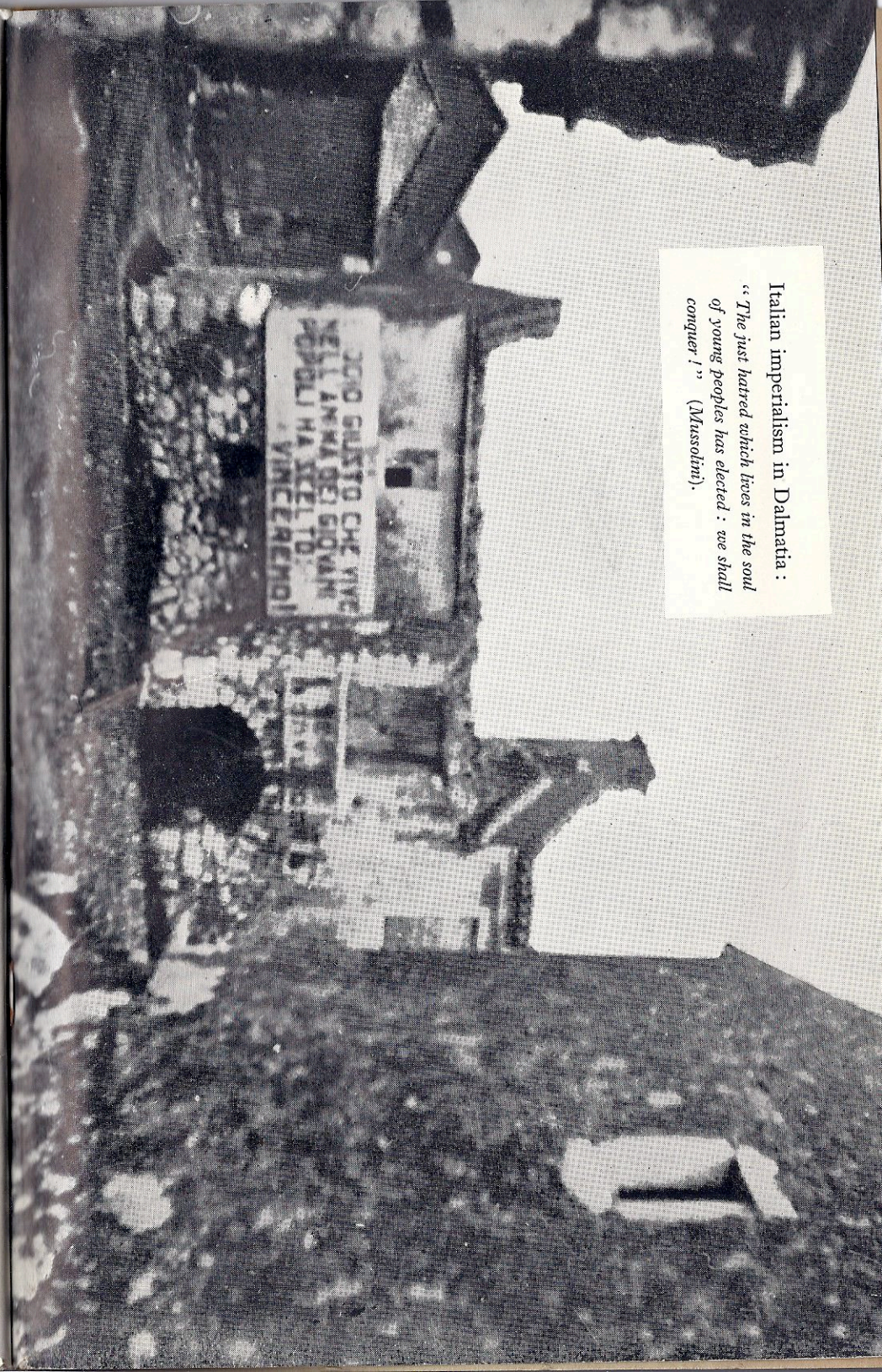
Figure 19 (p. 47)

The Governor of the Province of Istria, Lazzarini, informs all "Committees of Patronage," child welfare organisations, and also the Prefecture of Istria and the Provincial Federation of Child Welfare Organisation of the steps to be taken to Italianise the surnames of illegitimate children.

Figures 20 (p. 48), 21 (i) (ii) (pp. 49, 50), and 22 (p. 51)

Letter from the Ministry of the Interior to the Prefect at Pola, pointing out that various pensioners have failed to register the proper changed form of their names. Italo Foschi replies at some length reporting that some 56,000 persons resident in Istria out of a total population of 302,980 have changed their names, and throws part of the blame on local authorities for not duly reporting the changes of names. He concludes by saying that he has requested from the Treasury authorities in Pola a full list of the persons in receipt of pensions in Istria, in order to be able to make a thorough revision of this question of change of surnames.

The arbitrary measures and ostensible legislation in Italy regarding the change of Slav names to Italian forms, is the subject of Report No. 75 of the State Commission for the "Investigation of the Crimes of the Invaders and their Assistants."



Italian imperialism in Dalmatia:
 "The just hatred which lives in the soul
 of young peoples has elected: we shall
 conquer!" (Mussolini).

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