

Italian Navy Surrender

Laid to Propaganda

By the Associated Press.

MORGANTOWN, W. Va., Oct. 30.—The part Allied propaganda played in bringing about the surrender of the Italian fleet was told last night by Ferdinand Kuhn, deputy director of the overseas branch of the Office of War Information.

Speaking at the West Virginia Journalism Conference, the former New York Times correspondent credited an OWI radio engineer, whom he did not identify, with solving the problem of relaying appeals to the Italian Navy to surrender their ships, rather than to scuttle them or turn them over to the Nazis.

"This engineer managed with great ingenuity," the deputy director said, "to shift the radio messages to the international distress frequency * * * and this was repeated at 15-minute intervals for a 24-hour period."

"Admiral Cunningham was standing on the bridge of his flagship at Malta when the first of the long line of Italian ships came into view. He spotted them through his glasses, turned to his aide and said, 'Tell Gen. McClure (of the psychological warfare branch of the Army, of which OWI is a part) that he has accomplished more with propaganda in one day, than I have been able to do in three years with all the ships of the Navy.'"

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you fear so much."

Mother Hears From Marine Reported Dead for Months

By the Associated Press.

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct. 22.—Nearly 18 months ago Mrs. Alfred Doran was officially advised that her son, Pvt. William Doran, a marine, had been killed when the Japs swarmed over Corregidor.

But, she said, she "just couldn't believe William was dead. Everywhere I went, I felt his presence close to me. I kept faith that he was alive."

So, regularly each week, despite efforts of other members of her family to dissuade her, she wrote and mailed a letter to him.

Yesterday she received a card

written in her son's handwriting and mailed recently from a Japanese prison camp and felt that her faith had been vindicated and her prayers answered.

"We will be home together before we know it," he wrote.

He mentioned nothing about the letters his mother had sent during the months since he was reported dead.

War Department Seeks Way to Ease Anxiety Of Kin of 'Missing'

War Department officials are seeking a means of relieving some of the anxiety of the relatives of the large number of servicemen who are classed in the casualty lists as "missing in action."

Hundreds of letters are received daily by military officials from the mothers, fathers, wives—"next of kin"—of the missing, asking for information in addition to the telegrams they received. The problem was brought to a head when 40 Kansas City mothers and fathers of missing men took their problem to Congress.

Plan May Be Adopted.

One plan which may be adopted calls for following up the rather curt telegram of notification with a letter explaining to the next of kin some circumstances of the action in which the soldier was engaged and describing as closely as possible his chance of survival.

The telegram now is the only word the relative receives until the man is held officially dead, or he is found to be a prisoner of war. A letter, though it probably would contain nothing definite, would help ease some of the tension and uncertainty in the minds of the families. The War Department says, however, it does answer direct requests for more information.

Proponents of the letter plan point out that many of the missing are flyers who were shot down, many over enemy territory. The letter might explain a man's chances of survival in such instances. Along this line, Gen. H. H. Arnold, commander of the Army Air Forces, said at least half of the 593 crew members lost in the Flying Fortress raid on Schweinfurt are "alive as prisoners of war on the basis of past experiences."

Flyers' Logs Scanned.

In another effort to determine the possible fate of missing men the logs of flyers returning from raids will be scanned closely to see if there is additional information there.

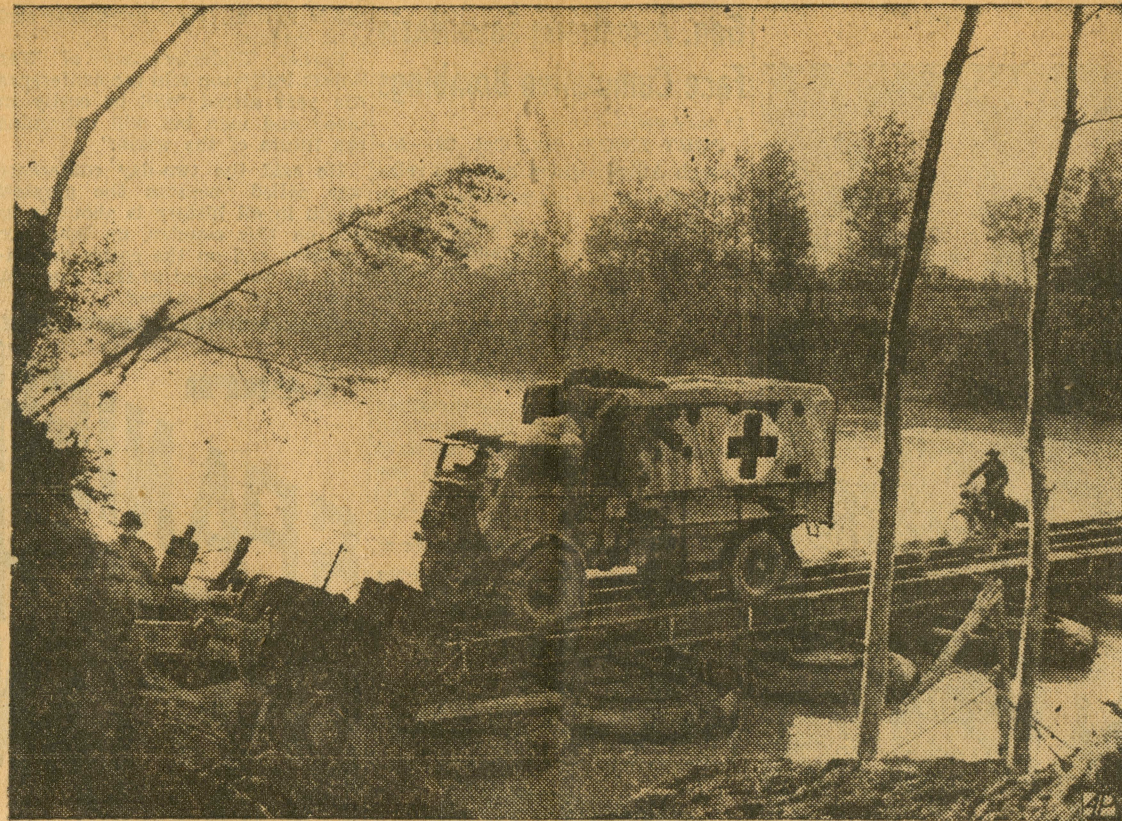
War officials point out they generally are faced with tremendous problems in the effort to establish the status of the missing. Even when a man is captured it is not easy, and there are long delays. Information on war prisoners is obtained through the International Red Cross. The Germans are prompt in reporting their prisoners—some three months. The average time in getting information on prisoners of the Japs is six months.

The last Office of War Information casualty total, issued September 17, reported 32,905 American men as missing in action, of whom 10,788 were Philippine Scouts who disappeared in the early days of the war.



FOGGIA, ITALY.—ENEMY CHUTES GO INTO CLOTHING—Thousands of enemy parachute containers were abandoned on one of Foggia's airfields, and peasants were quick to carry away the silk for making clothing. Wheat, flour, food and clothing stores were burned by the retreating Germans. —Wide World Photo.

De Marigny Defense



A Red Cross truck passes over the Volturno River in Italy on a pontoon bridge built by American Army engineers. Official British photo. —A. P. Wirephoto.