

Italian Prisoners Weep at Americans' Gifts of Food

Tunisia Front Newsmen Find Fascists Hungry, Spiritless

By RODERICK MACDONALD

War Correspondent Sydney Morning Herald



WITH THE AEF ON THE TUNISIA FRONT, Mar. 21.—(Delayed)—I never have seen soldiers with less offensive spirit than the Italians who have been captured in the American push on this mid-Tunisia front. Although their losses are understood to have been light, more than 1000 prisoners have been counted as I write this.

Italians who were assigned to the defense of key hill positions surrendered in droves as the U. S. attack intensified. Through this spiritless Italian resistance, American armor and crack infantry have pushed two-pronged drives miles ahead toward the coast of the Gulf of Gabes.

Captive Tears

Many of the Italians had been without food for two days. Their water was exhausted. Some of the captives shamelessly wept as the Americans offered them food and cigarets.



It was astonishing to find that the soldiers, many of them from the Bersaglieri who have been desert fighting for years, were so dispirited. I learned that many Italian units on this front have unusually large military police elements—mainly composed of Germans.