

Last evening we received the news of the surrender of the German Armies in Italy. It was great for us to know that at least a portion of the V-E had been attained. The news did not come as a complete surprise to us here because we knew just how much of a parting the enemy forces were taking or had taken since the push here in Italy began - about three weeks ago.

You can well imagine the joy of the Italian people. Church-bells have been ringing at a steady rate since the news was released. Last night we went into town - I wanted to see & hear just exactly how the town folks were taking it. I think you will be interested in what we saw.

On every street corner were gathered knots of people - every one seemed to be talking at once - some were smiling others had tears in their eyes - Italian flags & banners of all sorts were flying from almost every balcony & window.

of the dwellings. A group of young men - carrying good sized flags - were leading - what we would term a victory parade back home. They were all either singing or shouting Viva Italia. The parade grew larger as on-lookers joined the marching. It was a boisterous but orderly display of joy mixed with relief & sadness too - because many of the women dressed in black could feel no real joy.

Two things I noticed that will give you a fair idea of the way the people felt. First although it was quite late - whole families were out in force including the young children - the first time I've seen any youngsters out after dark - except for a few waifs - since I've been here. Secondly three or four boys crossed in front of a machine & forced it to slow almost to a stop - & as they passed I heard one say - "After the Italian pass then the machines may go on!" I imagine a good Irishman would say "it's a great day for the Irish".