

"ORDINE PUBBLICO"

COMMENTO
- NARRATOR
"PUBLIC CAREER"

0401/A

When the rulers of a country feel threatened by their own people, they have to mobilize the nation's defense forces to maintain "internal security". At this point; the armed forces do an "about face" --- and become police. Thus the Italian government is able to keep 300.000 men under arms in defense of the social and political order.

The Minister of the Interior's own police troops, the Pubblica Sicurezza, are supported in their duties by Italy's legendary police army, the Defense Minister's Arma des Carabinieri.

This police force was built up as a result of events during the final phase of World War Two in Italy. Mario Scelba, former president of the European Community was Italy's Minister of the Interior at the time.

The Allies unload tons of weapons for their continued advance through Italy. The front divides the country in two, from Naples to Foggia.

The American Army has already received the unconditional surrender of Field Marshal Badoglio's Italian army. In order to gain control over the Fascist police, Badoglio has previously placed it under the command of the armed forces.

But in the north, Fascist police and military units are still fighting on the side of the Germans. The Carabinieri behind the lines are then given secret orders to turn their weapons against their former allies and to join up with the partisan units.

For 20 long months, northern Italy is now bombed to pieces by Allies night air raids.

Following the bombers come cargo planes that parachute weapons to the resistance units in the mountains, swamps, and cities.

The people's war, the second front: with British and American automatic weapons, workers, farmers, and students fight their war of liberation.

Against them are arrayed the Germans and the remainder of the Fascist troops. Here, German SS commander Reinhard Heydrich, inspects the former African Colonial Police, the PAI.

The Americans bypass the front and land a mere 40 miles from Rome. Orders are issued to the partisans in the city to undermine the German defenses.

In a partisan attack on the via Rasella, 32 SS men are killed. The German retribution is ten-fold. On March 25, 1944, three-hundred twenty Italians are lined up on the via Rasella. Most of them have been fetched from prisons and police cells: They are soldiers, civilians, Jews. The death-list is drawn up by the Fascist police chief himself -- the Questore, Caruso. He adds Carabinieri and policemen suspected of partisan activities. A total of 335 persons are now executed. Their bodies are pitched into the catacombs. This is the final major showdown before the fall of Rome.

On the morning of the 4th of June, the American 5th Army enters Rome along the Appian Way. Nine months have passed since the Naples landing.

The first Italian troops to arrive are the Carabinieri. The Roman police are back!

But only half of Italy has been liberated. The Americans still have a long way to go.

It will take the Allies one year to advance to the Po valley. During this difficult time, the liberation movement organizes its struggle militarily and politically. Guerilla attacks and sabotage are backed up by strikes and factory occupations. The army from the south will be met by "I vento del nord" -- the wind from the north -- the revolutionary popular uprising.

Because of this, the Germans in the north do not surrender to the Allies - but to the liberation army.

The administration is now taken over by the CLN -- the committees of national liberation -- who also organize a new police corps of partisans.

Collaborators are brought into the open and face the fury engendered by the final phase of the war, in which thousands of civilians were murdered during the retreat of the Germans and Fascists. The war criminals are brought to account.

The corpses from the via Rasella are brought up out of the catacombs. The Fascist police command in Rome is court-martialled and sentenced to death. The Questore, Caruso--- is shot at dawn in front of Allies newsreel cameras.

The country has been bombed to pieces and ruined by two years of bitter fighting. But the war of liberation against the Germans and against the dictatorship has also been a concrete democratic experience. The nation will be reconstructed but with fundamental changes. And all the anti-Fascist forces gather around that which would be worth all the victims of the war---

---the Book of Victory -- the Constitution of the Free Republic.

The country gets a coalition government headed by de Gasperi, a Christian Democrat. Palmiro Togliatti, the legendary leader of the Communist Party, is Minister of Justice.

(text: Genova 1947)

American Marshall Plan aid changes the picture. It can be accepted only at the price of national unity. The coalition governments in Europe break up.

De Gasperi forms a Christian Centrist government and gives Scelba the key post of Minister of the Interior.

Those who fought for democracy have become a threat to democracy -- in the new order.

Sergio Flamigni, Communist deputy and opposition leader on the Interior Committee of the Chamber of Reputies, experience the consequences of Scelba's policies.

The Police School receives the young Scelba.

Here, walking on the left behind his minister, we see a former officer of the colonial police. As we shall see a bit later on in this film, this officer is to have a brilliant career in police training. Scelba also recruits 20,000 new men to be trained for at this institution for their political duties.

Opinions are divided on this type of democracy. Senator Lelio Basso, resistance fighter and secretary of the Socialist Party, saw how the constitution he himself helped to write, was circumvented time and time again.

The right to strike had also been written into the constitution. It was defended by mighty shows of strength by the communist unions.

Togliatti exhorts the workers to fight the anti-labor policies of the Christian Democrats. Scelba introduces a new weapon against the masses: riot police.

Melissa, October 30th, 1949: "La celere" shoot down 3 of the landless farmworkers who had occupied a piece of fallow land owned by a baron. This was the first of endless funeral processions through proletarian Italy.

Modena, January 9th, 1950: The police gun down 6 of the workers who have occupied a factory in order to keep it running.

77 agricultural and industrial workers are killed by Scelba's police during his first four years as Minister of the Interior. It is a crusade against the Communist Party.

FINE
I RNL CO

II RWLLO

(text: ROMA 1954)

The Carabinieri school celebrates the 140th anniversary of the foundation of the corps. Scelba has reached an apex of his career: He is both Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior.

At the same time, an epoch comes to an end: The Christian Democrats begin to discuss the possibility of "an opening to the left".

This is the same court yard 20 years later. Here, the legendary Italian Carabinieri are trained. Each recruit must consecrate his life to the corps. In order for him to be accepted, a senior officer must vouch for his department. He must be physically healthy and ideologically uncontaminated. He is not allowed to marry before the age of 27, and his wife must be approved by the corps. He will serve in what is called "the armed forces foremost branch". He will get a special additional appropriation in parliament every year. He has the highest uniform allowance in the armed forces.

Boxing is part of their basic training, hard physical conditioning, self-defence, and hand-to-hand combat. Requirements are tough. The corp. motto is: SILENT OBEY, AND SILENT DIE!

Specialised training is given at the N.C.O school in Velletri.

From the day's schedule: First Platoon -- drill, physical conditioning, police laws small-arms training. Second Platoon -- drill, hand grenade throwing, English, and radio communications.

Special units are trained for service in the south and on the islands of Sicily and Sardinia. The special task of these police contingents is to neutralize the so-called "banditry" which has flared up during the post-war period, particularly on Sardinia. This "banditry" is a complicated mixture of peasant uprising, Mafia activities, and regional independence movements. The police units -- particularly the feared "blue berets" from Padua -- are trained for guerilla fighting. They provide permanent protection for the NATO bases in the area and consequently for NATO's entire southeastern flank.

St. Michael, the patron saint of all policemen, watches over the Pubblica Sicurezza.

In the courtyard of the police corps Military academy in Rome, the Pubblica Sicurezza demonstrates new riot equipment. They have benefitted by the experience of the Paris police in the spring of 1968 but the original model comes from the Praetorian Guard of Imperial Rome.

The highest military police command is trained at this academy.

The school commandant has risen as a career policeman from Mussolini's African police, via Scelba's motorized regular police, to his present high position.

FOR THE SECURITY OF THE FATHERLAND I EDUCATE THE BEST OF ITS SONS!

stands written above the entrances of the Academy. It means the already highly trained cadets will be further trained here, the cadets who are to be in command of peasants' sons and working-class lads in the police force's own class society.

Because only 3% of the ordinary recruits have received any previous, education above primary school level, 85% of them are recruited from Italy's most poverty stricken agricultural districts.

The general has had his say. In reality the trainees at the police schools spend a good deal of their training time on duty with the regular police units as mass meetings, demonstrations, and strikes.

This is the educational institution for budding superintendents.

Pupils learn, among other things, to read fingerprints, to conduct investigations, and to provide security service; they also learn elementary law, communications technique and the tactics and strategies of "ordine pubblico". Teachers in weapons technique and military subjects are taken from the officers' academy. Coordination is important -- once in service, the civil superintendent will lead Carabinieri units as well as police contingents.

The police forces have watched over a large demonstration and here follows a textbook example of police combat command: "Don helmets!"

The superintendent decides that the crowd has become violent. So he has the attack signal blown on the trumpet. As a symbol of commando he wears the a three-colored band across his chest. And off he sends his reluctant policeman.

From here on, it's all clear for the clubs.

Here Scelba's motorized cavalry show up again in the so-called merry-go-round.

Those of the demonstrators and spectators whom the police can catch are arrested and carried off to the police buses for registration and prosecution.

The movie camera is an important instrument for studying the course of these clashes, for investigation work, and for registration of suspects. The trainee superintendents are taught advanced photographic technique. In a moment, we shall show a film from a police clean-up of an occupied block of flats in Milan in 1972. But the film instructor was reluctant.

FINE T.R.V.C.D

Rullo 3

(text: ROMA 1960)

Inspection at the police school. Fernando Tambroni, with a record from Mussolini's militia, has become Minister of the Interior after Scelba and is now Prime Minister with the support of the neo-fascists. Tambroni promises to build up a modern police force modelled on the FBI. He wants to establish a "psychological bureau" and a "political bureau" within the police force. He says: "Prevention rather than repression!"

But when the Resistance movement demonstrates against the return of open fascism, Tambroni abandons psychology and hits back with Scelba's old weapons: jeeps, clubs, and water cannons. Open war breaks out in the streets of Italy, beginning in Rome on July 5th, 1960.

Furious, the workers beat back the police army in Genoa. The clashes begin when Tambroni allows the MSI, the neo-fascist party, to hold its congress here in the old capital of the Resistance (movement). Tambroni sends in his police forces as protection. The result is a defeat, and Tambroni does not intend to be defeated again.

On June 7th, the police open fire. For forty minutes, the units shoot into a crowd in Reggio Emilia. 5 workers are killed.

The following day, another 5 people are gunned down in Palermo and Catania.

This is the terrible month known as "Tambroni's July": 12 people are killed in the course of 4 days.

The aging Togliatti works from coffin to coffin.

Tambroni is swept from office by the ensuing storm of public opinion, but his political police have come to stay.

It is the workers who are sentenced to long prison terms for what happened in Genoa and Reggio. The policemen who shot are cleared by testimony given by their colleagues and superiors. A long struggle now begins for legal and political control of the police forces.

The Carabinieri force is a powerful military machine with one of the world's most modern combat-information centres. From here, even unit can be reached in a moment -- from the divisions in the large cities to the two-man patrols out in the villages. The total striking power can be directed from a single room. It can also be coordinated with the entire NATO defence system.

This unit of an American Honeywell 6,000 computer system can provide exact details on the strength, equipment, and position of every Carabinieri unit anywhere in Italy in a matter of seconds. Conversely, every patrolling policeman can obtain immediate information on suspected persons or vehicles by radio-telephone from the computer memory.

The computer centre has more than just military and police functions. So-called "restricted information" on citizens is also issued from here to authorities, official agencies, and others.

Each year 20 million items of personal information are processed and issued from the Carabinieri information centre.

We have gone back a few years to the inauguration of the new command (centre) in 1966. The man on the right, General de Lorenzo, has ordered the installation. Thereby successfully concluding a task begun

The generals and the colonels are rightly impressed. TV cameras in helicopters now make it possible to survey public order and to direct forces from the command(centre).

Prime Minister Moro and Minister of the Interior Taviani inspect their subjects from above.

The Carabinieri school in Rome. General de Lorenzo is speaking. He has made a lightning career for himself from the artillery to the army intelligence service and from there to the post of commandant of the Carabinieri. Under his leadership, the corps has developed into an army with its own combat-information organization and its own intelligence service. It can now assume responsibility for public order on its own.

The General also provides considerable services for the Vatican. He guarantees the Pop's safety during his dangerous visit to the Middle East. The secret personal files that he has collected contains information on 4,500 worker-priests and other worrisome Catholics. The Holy Father blesses the flags of veterans Carabinieri.

Here are the final elements of de Lorenzo's plan for international security: the detention camps out on the islands.

(text: ROMA 1964)

June 14th. The Carabinieri celebrate their 150th anniversary. De Lorenzo takes both the military and politicians by surprise by having a hitherto unknown armoured brigade drive through the streets of Rome.

The Centre-Left government has fallen. President Segni is the key politician. De Lorenzo works for a caretaker government in which he himself is to be Minister of Defence.

But in August the President suffers a stroke. The game is over.

De Lorenzo is brought down by his own kind. Two generals, Gaspari and Zinza, appear as crown witnesses in parliament. Before the eyes of the appalled deputies, the third principal witness collapses and dies: General Mánés, de Lorenzo's deputy commandant.

De Lorenzo's career finally comes to a end in the neo-fascist parliament group together with party leader, Almirante and former NATO Admiral Birindelli.

(sign: ROMA 1969)

The 1964 events force the new Centre-Left government to be even more careful.

Their reform policy has come to a halt. The trade unions begin to press political demands, pressed in turn by wildcat actions in the factories and by the new political power of the students. The police clear streets and meeting halls.

The teacher at the police college holds a lecture in public relations. Behind him is the bust of a citizen above all suspicion: the superintendent of the police political bureau in Milan, Luigi Calabresi. Calabresi is an example to the budding superintendents. He was a modern policeman, trained in the US; and he acted with considerable independence during the violent and bloody political events around 1970: the bombs at the Milan exhibition, the massacre in the Farmers' Bank, the murder of Feltrinelli.

On the evening of May 5th, 1972, Calabresi himself was assassinated by a professional killer outside the entrance to his home. Someone had decided that Calabresi knew too much.

We shall now show two unique filmsequences. This one is from the trial in which Calabresi was called upon to explain the fall of the anarchist Pinelli from the fourth floor of police headquarters during interrogation on the night after the Milano massacre.

The next filmsequence shows the court inspecting of the scene: the political bureau at the Questuro in Milan.

It is not Calabresi who is on trial. The accused is the newspaper, "Lotta Continua" which provoked the trial by slandering Calabresi and the head of the political bureau, Dr Allegra. This manoeuvre made it possible to circumbend the political and legal protection afforded policemen and to look into police headquarters.

The neo-fascists have been allowed to grow strong through the concessions of the Christian-Centre Government. For the first time in 30 years, even monarchist flags are appearing. Every fascist meeting is an open

counterdemonstrations. And that is what the police are waiting for. They form a protective ring around the meeting. The superintendent gives his order in accordance with regulations.

A victim has been gunned down. The pattern has not changed. Once again, the police army has carried out its duty.

Italy is called the "country of the five police forces". Our film has only dealt with the two largest and has ignored the equally militarized Guardia di Finanza, Guardia Forestale and Guardia Carceraria. Their joint holiday celebration will suffice to represent them all.