

Mussolini Mouthpiece Jailed After Losing U. S. Citizenship

'Cry of Race' Editor
Was Friend of Il Duce . . .
PM Exposed His Activities

By LEO J. MARGOLIN

Domenico Trombetta, a Mussolini spokesman in the U. S. A. since 1923, was denaturalized in Brooklyn Federal Court yesterday and immediately arrested as a dangerous enemy alien.

Trombetta was editor of the anti-Semitic and pro-Axis *Il Grido della Stirpe* (*The Cry of the Race*). From 1937 to 1939, he proclaimed in the paper's masthead that it was the "organ of Italian Fascist propaganda in America."

PM reported that Trombetta published the final issue of his weekly paper on Dec. 11 and then moved from his office at 225 Lafayette St. to Room 409, 324 W. 42d St.

Frequent Trips to Italy

Trombetta, a close friend of Mussolini ever since the days Il Duce was an anarchist rather than a Fascist, came to the U. S. A. in 1903. He made frequent trips to Italy. In 1939, on his last trip, the Italian Fascist Government paid all expenses. On that visit he was photographed with Count Ciano, Foreign Minister.

He was naturalized May 9, 1924, six months after founding *Il Grido*.

A general idea of how Trombetta felt about acquiring citizenship, which the Government charged he obtained "with mental reservations," came in an *Il Grido* editorial he wrote Jan. 9, 1939:

"They (Italian-Americans) already have made a sacrifice when they renounced Italian citizenship to become American citizens. Il Duce and all the hierarchy are following us carefully."

Acquitted of Murder

Trombetta was acquitted of murder in the first degree on Staten Island in 1934, when he was accused of killing an associate in one of his Fascist groups.

Trombetta was associated with the Fascist League of North America, the Lictor Federation, a Fascist-front group, and the Dante Alighieri Society. He was not a member of the latter group, but published a special weekly page in 1937 devoted to that organization's activities.

The Fascist-sponsored concert which PM exposed in May, 1941, included Trombetta as one of the most vociferous sponsors. He devoted an entire issue of *Il Grido* in color to plug the concert, which finally was banned by the State Dept. after PM had exposed it as a phony benefit, the sole purpose of which was to replenish Mussolini's depleted foreign-exchange coffers.