

tions involving some sort of concession to the adversary, whoever it may be. In a few brief sentences the author describes how Eisenhower invoked Munich to Churchill in 1954 in order to obtain the latter's assent for joint action in Indochina, only to have Churchill—the man who had said “no” to Munich—refuse because Dien Bien Phu was not Munich. Just as Eisenhower, in 1956, refused to countenance British and French pleas in behalf of their Suez invasion as a step to prevent a “Mideastern Munich,” because Nasser was not Hitler, the Suez Canal not Czechoslovakia, and the world not as it was in 1939. America's expulsion from bases in Morocco and France did not carry with it a roll-back of bases in other countries. Nor did the Communization of Czechoslovakia in 1948—this time with America standing mutely by—bring about the collapse of Western Europe; on the contrary, it gave an enormous impetus toward the creation of NATO. “In deciding when to decide,” says Schlesinger, “the criterion must be the human consequences—the results for people, not for doctrine.” In Vietnam that option already has been exercised: “Chinese-inspired Liberation War doctrine” is going to be stopped once and for all, and hang the costs to the Vietnamese.

Which brings us to Vietnam and American democracy. Here the returns are far from in, and neither the Congressional elections of last November nor anybody's public opinion polls shed much light. Schlesinger sees McCarthyism on the rise and what he calls “explosions of political irrationality” on both Right and Left, not to speak of rising government pressures against *any* dissent. To be sure, he finds bright spots on the horizon in the leadership of some public figures and parts of the press; but he considers that the Establishment failed the country in the McCarthy era and is now failing again. He does not mention, however, the future price that may have to be paid in America for the Vietnam war, win, draw, or lose, when hundreds of thousands of young men come home completely injured to fighting in a semi-civilian environment where those civilians often suffer more than the military opponents. The resulting trauma is known to the French, after their Indo-chinese and Algerian adventures, as the “centurion complex”—the tendency of the returning frustrated military to apply “pacification” at home. Much of what passes here for pacification might work for a time in Georgia or Harlem, but let us hope that it never will.

Arthur Schlesinger has not got all the answers to the war in Vietnam (nobody has), but it provides an inescapably lucid background for asking the right questions.

SR/February 4, 1967

## A Cause for Castelfuoco

***The Searchers: Conflict and Communism in an Italian Town*, by Belden Paulson with Athos Ricci (Quadrangle. 354 pp. \$6.95), employs the tape-recorder approach to set down the attitudes of a cross-section of the citizens of Castelfuoco, 70 per cent of whose voters are Communist. Charles F. Delzell, professor of history at Vanderbilt University, is a specialist in modern Italian history and author of “Mussolini's Enemies: The Italian Anti-Fascist Resistance.”**

By CHARLES F. DELZELL

**I**MAGINATIVELY organized and skillfully written, *The Searchers* offers to both the general reader and the specialist many revealing insights into the ways Communism has appealed to different social groups in postwar Italy. More than just the story of a small hill town thirty miles from Rome, where 70 per cent of the electorate vote Commu-

nist, Belden Paulson's book is a study of the individuals who happen to live in Castelfuoco and have both molded and been molded by it. The author is concerned with these people's search for self-realization—however they may define it or, as is often the case, how someone else defines it for them. Because their lives intersect, the fulfillment of one may deny it to others, Paulson emphasizes.

The book is the outgrowth of long acquaintance with Italy's social problems. During the 1950s Paulson spent six years there working with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, helping to establish the Casa Mia center in the slums of Naples and a new community in Sardinia. In the summer of 1961 an Italian editor told him about the hill town with one of the highest percentages of Communist voters in the nation. He also put Paulson in touch with Athos Ricci, who, after joining the Communist Party in the 1940s and becoming one of Castelfuoco's most effective local officials, had left the Party because it threatened his individuality and negated

## Your Literary I. Q.

Conducted by John T. Winterich and David M. Glixon

### HERE DWELLETH

The characters in the middle column resided, for a shorter or longer time, in the homes listed in the first column. Lorraine Wise of Winnipeg challenges you to match up the place, the character, and the story in which they appear. The key to the directory is on page 46.

1. Kellynch Hall	Ashley Wilkes ( )	A. <i>Ivanhoe</i>
2. Woodview	Lord Emsworth ( )	B. <i>A Scandal in Bohemia</i> (Doyle)
3. Satis House	Edward Rochester ( )	C. <i>The Portrait of a Lady</i>
4. Thrushcross Grange	Irene Adler ( )	D. <i>Summer Lightning</i> (Wodehouse)
5. Manderley	David Balfour ( )	E. <i>Gone with the Wind</i>
6. Thornfield Hall	Anne Elliot ( )	F. <i>Wuthering Heights</i>
7. Rotherwood	Isabel Archer ( )	G. <i>Great Expectations</i>
8. Briony Lodge	William Latch ( )	H. <i>Rebecca</i>
9. Twelve Oaks	Catherine Linton ( )	I. <i>Kidnapped</i>
10. Blandings Castle	Maxim de Winter ( )	J. <i>Persuasion</i>
11. Shaws	Miss Havisham ( )	K. <i>Jane Eyre</i>
12. Gardencourt	Lady Rowena ( )	L. <i>Esther Waters</i> (Moore)

the values of integrity and justice that had first attracted him to it. After talking at length with Ricci, Paulson decided to spend the autumn in this walled town of 4,000 and try to learn why its people were attracted to Communism. He obtained lodging in a nearby Dominican monastery, and walked every day through the piazza and countryside, talking to the inhabitants.

After returning to America for a few years, Paulson went back to Castelfuoco and its monastery in the summer of 1964. With the collaboration of Ricci and the help of a research grant from the University of Wisconsin, he launched an "in-depth" study of the community. Lugging tape-recorders, the investigators approached the townfolk at three different levels: first, they chose some of the "central characters" who either had made local history or who typified members of historic groups; second, a number of "supporting actors" who represented significant local interests; third, as a random sample, 200 of the 3,000 voters.

When the local people decided that Paulson was really an honest professor and not an embassy spy, most of them became surprisingly communicative. At the start of each chapter the editors introduce the characters (who are given such suggestive pseudonyms as Cristiano Terra, Amleto, and Spartaco) and provide a short synopsis. Otherwise the speakers are allowed to tell their own stories with a minimum of editorial revision. The interviews focus on several themes: the end of rural society, the decline of the aristocracy, the coming of Fascism, the advent of the Communist "idealists," the politics of the Communist organization men, the priests, the Christian Democrats, the bourgeoisie, the youth, and the rise and fall of a Communist Party secretary. The concluding chapter is entitled "Search for Commitment."

What emerges most clearly from the interrogations is that the end of World War II ushered in a period of popular ferment in Italy perhaps never before equaled, and that into this moment of intense search for a more equitable, forward-looking society the Communists stepped vigorously, offering the people a "revolution." Although they talked of class struggle and great social forces, their message was at the same time highly personal, and they generally succeeded in persuading people to join them in their cause. Many of the interviews reveal that a substantial portion of voters consider the Christian Democrats and other centrist groups to be really "reactionary" and incapable of offering effective competition to the Communists. Often they talk about liberal democracy as if they were discussing a punch-drunk boxer or a defrocked priest.

Paulson and Ricci's book partially explodes such stereotypes about Italian Communism as the belief that it will inevitably decline as *la miseria* is reduced or as political stability emerges; that it possesses monolithic unity; that all of its members regard themselves as atheists, and that the Party is simply a power-hungry, international revolutionary conspiracy not really concerned with improving local conditions.

The authors offer no quick solution. What is necessary, they insist, is not a new political party but action by small

nuclei of individuals who seek to kindle genuine humanitarianism and to bring out in the Italian people those qualities that are wasting away.

The research methods employed are probably not as novel in contemporary Italy as the authors seem to suggest; but in any case they are useful and can shed additional light on our understanding of Italian political behavior. This excellent study would have been even better, however, if the authors possessed greater familiarity with the literature dealing with modern Italy.

## Hitler's Tenfold Revenge

***Death in Rome*, by Robert Katz (Macmillan. 334 pp. \$6.95), details for the first time in English the World War II massacre of the Ardeatine caves, in which 335 Italians were shot in reprisal for the killing by partisans of thirty-three German soldiers. Walter Guzzardi, Jr., was formerly Time-Life bureau chief in Rome.**

By WALTER GUZZARDI, JR.

**D**URING the war in Italy no one was a Fascist and everyone was a partisan—or such, at least, is the way Italian memories choose conveniently to gild the past. Such delusions, coupled with the very real and very embarrassing fact that the partisan movement was largely directed by the Communists, have made almost impossible the proper reconstruction of some of World War II's most intriguing episodes. The fabled treasure which Mussolini was rumored to have hidden at Dongo during his attempted escape is one of those persistent mysteries that is caught, even today, in a web of pride and prejudice, and so is unlikely ever to be cleared up.

Some of the same elements are pre-

sent in a horrible incident that the Italians refer to as *Le Fosse Ardeatine*, the Ardeatine caves. Italian partisans, most of whose activity was confined to the north, struck at German SS troops in the heart of Rome, on the Via Russella, one block from the Piazza Barberini. A bomb planted in a heap of rubbish exploded; it was followed by four mortar shells. Thirty-three German soldiers were killed. The German reaction was swift, predictable, and terrible: Hitler and Himmler ordered tenfold revenge. Italians picked up from Rome's Regina Coeli prison and swept at random off the streets were herded to the Ardeatine caves and shot. The mouth to the caves was blocked off by explosives, although that action did not conceal the crime for long. Altogether, 335 Italians were executed; the five extra ones were killed, in the words of one German officer, "because they were there . . ."

The details of this atrocity have never been published in English. Robert Katz, a young writer who has lived in Rome, has now reconstructed the events of those forty-eight hours, setting off his account with an introductory passage called "The Eve" and two concluding chapters, "The Aftermath" and "The Epilogue." Katz has searched faithfully through the records of the time, which include depositions from witnesses who testified before the Ardeatine Cave Commission, set up by the U.S. Fifth Army. He has supported his research with extensive personal interviews, and he writes his account with care, right down to documenting conversational fragments with footnotes.

All this should make an interesting book, and it is not easy to say why it doesn't. On analysis, though, several factors contribute to its lack of success. To begin with, Katz is a lusterless writer. Staccato sentences and short paragraphs, calculated to have shock effect, create only an impression of jerkiness in style

