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POMPEII: FROM NOEL MONKS FOR THE COMBINED BRITISH PRESS

With the Fifth Army.
Thursday.

Within an hour of the Fifth Army's entry into Pompeii on Wednesday, Mrs. A. Jaquinadi of Bond Street, London, a fiftytwo year old naturalised British subject whose five sons are in the British army, and whose husband conducts "Masion Pere" frock shop in Bond Street was doing a record business selling Pompeii souvenirs to British and American troops. Mrs. Jaquinadi is manageress of a tourist hotel here, the Albergo Del Santuario known to thousands of world travellers and she told me today that she had reason to bless her foresight in hiding the bulk of her stock of curios and souvenirs when the Germans came into Pompeii several months ago. "If I hadn't they would have taken them along with everything else they have taken from this town - without one penny payment to anyone" Mrs. Jaquinadi said. More precious to tommies than souvenirs was a store of Ceylon tea Mrs. Jaquinadi had hidden in the hotel cellar. She produced it today and served free teas to British troops. The only other food left in the hotel where once fifteen course meals were served to tourists was an inferior grade macaroni. This tasted good to me after three weeks on army rations. Mrs. Jaquinadi came to Pompeii six years ago for her health - she was born near here - and was about to return to London when Italy entered the war. She told me she wept tears of joy when she saw British soldiers march into Pompeii Square. "They made me feel so homesick. I must get back to London as soon as possible though if I can be of any service to English and American soldiers here I'll stay. The Germans haven't left us much of anything".

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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION