

Naples '44 Study Guide

Naples '44 by Norman Lewis (author)

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Plot Summary

Naples '44 is a compilation of diary entries from famous author and British World War II veteran, Norman Lewis. Lewis is a young officer serving as a British intelligence agent. He lands in Italy with the Fifth Army, after much of Italy has been taken back from the Axis Powers and Mussolini has surrendered and died. Lewis's section is mostly representative in purpose, to show British support for the Fifth Army, but his section eventually finds a purpose as counter-intelligent agents in Naples, Italy.

When Lewis's section reaches Naples, they find a city devastated by the war. The people are starving and impoverished, including the former aristocratic classes. Lewis and his section set up shop in a palace and from there they are responsible for security for Naples and the surrounding areas. They must follow-up on reports of German espionage and sabotage, but the inhabitants of Naples take the opportunity to report one another as spies and saboteurs for petty financial and political advantage. Due to terrible living conditions, diseases are widespread, including venereal diseases. One third of the women are prostituting themselves for money to buy food. And rapes are a common occurrence.

Lewis must also investigate marriage applications from British men wanting to marry Italian women. Many Italian women were looking for a way out. Apparently, Naples and the surrounding areas are largely run by mobs, particularly by American-Italian mob bosses, some of whom have returned to Italy after being run out of the United States. The mob coordinates a massive black market in goods and services of all kinds that are mostly stolen from Allied camps. Later in the book, it becomes Lewis's section's job to stop the black market and crush the associated bandits. The main plot line occurs when wire-cutters force Lewis's section to capture the bandits who trade in copper. Since they cannot shut the black market down by capturing the purveyors of stolen goods they must call in other troops (in this case, some lighthearted Canadians) to help them capture bandits who are running goods. Toward the end of the book, they successfully capture some major bandits, but in reality the black market cannot be stopped. Lewis is then quickly called away.

Throughout much of the book, Lewis makes lighthearted observations of the residents of Naples. They survive beautifully and oddly, clinging to their almost medieval spiritual and cultural practices, pursuing strange love affairs and sexual encounters, reviving their love of good food and parties, and always exuding a corrupt but hospitable attitude. However, these images of these people are contrasted with the horrors of war, with images of bombed children, starving peasant women, brutal vendettas over nothing, and spurious arrests. One of the endearing features of the book are Lewis's descriptions of his encounters with notable figures in Naples, including his best informant Vincente Lattarullo. Lattarullo along with so many other residents of Naples have an indomitable spirit that Lewis envies to such a degree that were he given the chance, he would settle in Southern Italy.



September

September Summary and Analysis

Naples '44 is a series of diary entries. As a result, they will be classified according to months for ease of study. September 8th, 1943 brings an armistice with Italy. The main character is to land at Salerno, and they expect the Germans to continue to fight. They know nothing going in. They land on "Red Beach," Paestum on the evening of September 9th. Things seemed peaceful in the bay. His section has eleven members - ten sergeants and a sergeant-major. They have no orders and the Americans were indifferent to them. Further, no one knew where to find the enemy and many of the men had never used a weapon.

His section finds a camp. They awake to explore the next day, dodging a single attack plane. His troop seems accustomed to the war, but the Americans did not feel the same way. The diarist's section continues to be isolated, but the main character - Norman Lewis - is even more isolated because he was a newcomer. He had known the men in his troop for a single week, but the others had fought together in North Africa.

By September 11th, the army has moved forward and the coastline is under repair. Lewis's section is parasitic on the Fifth Army, and no one knows when they will fight. The Fifth Army awaits General Montgomery and the Eighth Army. So the section continues to search the countryside. That night, they hear from the Americans that they have been ordered to kill all German soldiers who try to surrender.

September 12th brings the war. American tanks move forward and gas has been released. The 16th Panzer Grenadier Division attacked and wiped out the headquarters of the fifth army. General Mark Clark was apparently considering retreat. September 14th finds the troop in an olive grove south of Albanella Station. The Italians in the area seem happy, but the German tanks continue to storm forward. Inexperienced American soldiers do not know how to react and begin to shoot at one another.

It turns out that the fifth army will retreat, after all; the main character suspects history will dress up the event. On September 15th, they pack to leave. On September 17th, after the retreat, the main character takes a sight-seeing trip in Southern Italy. By September 20th, the troop reaches Salerno, but a battle is going on outside the town. Lewis's section patrols the streets watching for Germans on September 21st. They meet with Captain Cartwright, and he tells them that their presence at Paestum has no purpose. The five remaining members of the section in Salerno (including Lewis) must nonetheless continue to accompany the fifth army.

On September 28th, Lewis goes to the American Evacuation Hospital with a recurrence or a re-infection of Malaria. He finds the men in the hospital a "very mixed bag."



October

October Summary and Analysis

On the 4th, Lewis is discharged. He takes an American truck to Naples, which had been recaptured by the allies. Lewis notes the rash behavior of General Clark. Many of the villages on the way to Naples had been bombed out of existence on the mere suspicion that Germans were located there. The civilians seem stunned and indifferent. Lewis reports stopping outside Naples and entering a large room of soldiers with a row of prostitutes; one could have sex just by giving them food tins. The women stayed still and said nothing. The soldiers could hardly bring themselves to do it.

On October 6th, Lewis and his traveling companions reach Naples, which has been horribly bombed. Before the Americans captured it, the Germans had blown up anything of value. His section was installed at a Palace in Naples. They protected the palace and lived well there. Their job was to collect information on suspects and go through old documents the Germans left behind. Townspeople began to denounce one another in anticipation of what the section would discover.

Lewis's section had reconvened there but were split apart, leaving four men - Parkinson, Evans, Durham and Lewis, to handle Naples security. He appreciates his fellow section members who work hard to learn Italian. Their section is a bit formal and bureaucratic. On subsequent days, they must check on reports from various American soldiers and civilians about events in the city. Lewis notices that many of the civilians in Naples are starving and scavenging for food far outside of town. People are eating dandelions and cats.

Some believe that the section is a member of the British Secret Police, although it is not. It is not clear to others what they are doing there. Many locals will work for them; some are quite intelligent, but many of their personalities are warped. Civilians complain about looting by Allied troops. By October 13th, the section members realize their work is mostly following up on wild-goose chases. But mail starts to open again, and they must monitor the mail. Over time, the section grows skeptical of reports of spy activity, but they do have to search the city's old catacombs with the Italian Police and American Counter-Intelligence. They find nothing.

On October 15th, Lewis describes his most successful contact, Vincente Lattarullo. Lattarullo is a lawyer, but poor and acts like he knows everything about Naples. On October 20th, Lewis is almost killed on his motorcycle by an explosion of a delayed-action device left by the Germans. They later discover that the Germans had rigged many of the buildings with bombs. They had to calm the people and get the engineers to find the bombs and defuse them, but it was unlikely all the bombs would be found. That night, the city suffers an air raid and receives significant damage.



On October 22nd, Lewis notes that near-famine conditions continue. Many are looting and raping the local women. On October 23, they receive a report from a supposed captured soldier that many of the delayed-action bombs will still explode. A million people must have crowded the streets, including the sick and dying. Nothing comes of it. The next day, the diarist's field-sergeant officer (FSO) tells him that the fiasco of the previous day was a plot to bring chaos to the city. The captured German soldier had stayed behind on orders to spread the lie. Sauro, the soldier, must be interrogated. Lewis must go to the prison. When Lewis arrives at the prison, he finds that Sauro, a boy no more than eighteen, is prepared to die. The Major in charge of Sauro, Davis, was hesitant to have him executed, and neither would Lewis. He reported that the boy was insane to save his life.

The entry of October 25th notes the practically medieval conditions of postwar Naples. Everyone is scrounging for food. But the class structures and associated social behaviors banned by Mussolini were reappearing. The diarist is invited to have dinner at an upper-class Italian home. On October 28th, Lewis must communicate on behalf of a woman named Lola about her lover, a captain in the RASC, Captain Fraser. She offers herself as an informant and knows much about the affairs of the former Fascist leadership.



November

November Summary and Analysis

Counter-intelligence funds have been sharply reduced to a pound per week per section member. But the money won't matter in the end. Informants do not inform based on money but values and social status. Later Lattarullo calls with news on black market operators. He appears leaner and hungrier than usual. As they walk together in the city, Naples feels like it is still tumbling apart. Few shops are open, and the restaurant they go to has little food and does not keep out the starving. Tragedy and mutilated children surrounded them. Lewis has a conversion experience, realizing that not all people come to terms with their suffering.

On the 5th of November, Lewis discusses two of his new contacts, Ingegnere Losurdo and Avvocato Mosca. He then notes that Naples was already in trouble before the war; the war hadn't destroyed everything and much of the city was gone already. The only jobs for men in those days are to serve as diplomats. On November 10th, Lewis comments that the citizens of Naples have surprising sexual attitudes. A Prince tries to give his sister to the British Army's brothel, but there is no such brothel. The sister is disappointed. People have sex in the cemetery, too.

On the 15th, Lattarullo has Lewis out to lunch again. He meets a guest named Cavaliere Visco, at the restaurant. Lattarullo called the meeting because he was a member of a separatist organization wanting to restore the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Visco was a party leader. Lewis finds their ideas absurd and fanciful. Towards the end of the meal, Visco asks Lewis to request help for their cause from the Allies. Lewis can barely keep from laughing.

Lewis notes how much the Neapolitans love food and how resourcefully they adapt to food shortages. He reports attending a spaghetti-eating competition. By the end of November, most of the major restaurants have reopened. On the 26th, the diarist runs into Captain Frazer, who had changed in appearance and was gaunt. They discussed his relationship with Lola.

December

December Summary and Analysis

Lewis hates the part of his job where he has to arrest people, particularly as the arrests are unnecessary and result from vendettas. He had to arrest Signora Esposito-Lau, a German married to an Italian businessman. The charge against her was spurious; nearly all Italians had collaborated with Germans. The husband, Esposito-Lau felt the arrest was due to his successful business; Lewis thinks he is probably right. And Lewis felt inept arresting people, as he had no experience with or training for the task. During some arrests, Lewis made some friends.

On Sunday, December 9th, Norman has a day off. He explores neighborhoods and describes the scenery. He notes that the poor and rich are living side by side and interacting while not really being aware of each other's presence. Lewis describes more of the local scenery and then notes the degree to which luck is important to the Neapolitans.

On December 18th, the vendetta arises again and accusations fly. The chiefs of police, villains in Lewis's opinion, are often the main complainants. Italian police-marshals are basically the dictators of small Italian towns. Lewis and his section are really too busy, but Lewis felt obligated to help those who fought with them. A police marshal in Torrito, Benvenuto, is trying to carry out a vendetta against a famous partisan named Giovanni Albano. Lewis catches up with Albano who recounts his story. Albano had asked for the Marshal's help during a fire-fight, but the Marshal refused. Some of the men died at the hands of the Germans and when the Allies arrived, Benvenuto arrested Albano for working with the Germans. The charge was bizarre.

Lewis took statements from two women and when he interrogates them, their stories fall apart. He then interviews Benvenuto; his accusation is also indefensible, but Benvenuto claims he locked up Albano because Albano was involved in many blood-feuds. Had he not locked up Albano and someone had killed him, the feuds would have gotten out of hand. Lewis sympathized.



January

January Summary and Analysis

The January 1st entry notes that the counter-intelligence unit has to deal with telephone-wire cutting. Lewis hates the job; it is frustrating and never works and few can catch the wire cutters. The wire is stolen because it contains copper, and copper is valuable. It just isn't clear how to stop the problem. Lewis tried to catch the thieves but could not until the next day when a British soldier captured one red-handed. They locked him up. When interviewed, the man claimed someone else cut the wire; he only took the scrap to save it. This was a cover-up. The man was to be executed, but Lewis tried to stop this from happening.

The January 5th entry notes that Lewis was responsible for security in several towns north of Naples, including Casoria, Afragola, Acerra and Aversa. In reality, they cannot be effectively protected, but Lewis tries to discover what he can about these towns anyway. He writes that the towns are fully of misery and poverty; a few landlords own the land and the peasants work under slave conditions. Many of the Allied-appointed mayors are members of the mob. The Camorra mob makes the rules in the area, and they lived by their own laws and used their own court system. Only Mussolini had ever stood up against them.

All the police are corrupt; they can't live on their salaries. But corrupt police were better than no police as they manage to keep the law alive. On January 7th, Lewis finds his first contact among the Camorra-controlled areas. A widow, Donna Maria, employed her own private army to protect her estate. The Camorra, however, didn't allow women, but Maria could be counted on for information. On the 12th, the wire-cutting continue despite efforts to stop it. Many purveyors of the copper had been arrested, even though they probably should not have been. That afternoon, Lewis goes to Afragola; daily gunfights rage. He recommends a local prisoner's release.

On January 14th, Lewis notes the commonality of rumors that are mostly unreliable. But that day the FSO realized a rumor of a planned invasion at Anzio, south of Rome was true. Lewis must find the leak to expose it and get the operation called off. He goes to see Norah Esposito-Lau for information. Norah had an Irish mother, and Lewis played on her British loyalties. He got the name Ingeniere Crespi. Crespi tells Lewis that she learned of the invasion from a British civilian technician in the Navy, revealing the information after becoming tipsy and boastful. He had breached security, and now the Germans could know and the invasion should probably be halted. On the 19th, Lewis continues his attempt to protect civilians against spurious charges; many of the trials are fiascoes and farces. And on the 22nd, the Anzio landing took place. It was a success. The Allies had found operational maps.



February

February Summary and Analysis

The Field Security Headquarters for Italy are located in Castellammare castle, and thieves have scaled it, taking a variety of things. The Italians barely respect the Allied operations. The Italians would scavenge anything—they even stole telegraph poles and penicillin. On the 12th, Lewis writes that he has come to believe that the Neapolitans are completely indifferent to the fate of those in the countryside. These people are incredibly impoverished and Lewis regularly confronts this poverty.

The people in these towns seem to live in an ancient time, as well, practicing odd rituals and having little access to the outside world. Bloody dramas also played out there. Lewis must continue to protect the prisoners in these areas from harm. Lewis meets four small men who had been in solitary confinement for murder. They had murdered quickly and would do it again for honor. And on the same day, one of the men Lewis had been trying to protect, Antonio Priore, was sentenced to three years in prison on totally spurious charges; all he had done was cut some wires. Lewis asked the MPs if he could do anything; they told him to keep quiet.

Later in February, Lewis goes to Pomigliano to arrest Cesare Rossi, the old Press Secretary for Mussolini. He had probably been involved in a murder. Rossi was in a barber's shop when Lewis found him; Rossi went with Lewis quietly. The man was quite dignified and his deep inner reserves allowed him to face pain with little sign of it. On the ride to Naples, Rossi told Lewis about the murder affair. The details were complex, but Lewis thought he was telling the truth. He had had Matteotti killed. Lewis hands him over to the insane jailer in Naples.

February 28th comes, and winter is ending. The sun is warm and Naples is coming alive again. Storytellers are out and crowds of young boys are listening to them tell the stories of all the wars that took place in Italy over the millennia. Yet the common Italian man had changed little. Lewis describes more of the local townspeople.



March

March Summary and Analysis

March arrives and another plot by the A-Force has ended badly. There were attempts to stop the spread of venereal diseases in Southern Italy, and local prostitutes were rounded up and sent to a guarded villa in Vomera. They were pampered there, but they had to be discreet. Further, they had powerful pimps to protect them, which allowed venereal diseases to continue spreading. On the 5th, Lewis notes that many people are crossing illegally between Italy and Germany. Counter-intelligence picked up one of the letter-carriers across lines, Giovanni Patierno. He was temporarily an A-Force agent. When captured, Patierno caved in and showed them all the letters he was paid to deliver but never did. They released him, since they had little business with him, leaving him to the mercy of those he wronged.

The Allies and Italians continue trying to crush the black market, Lewis notes on the 13th, but the only people who are caught are poor and expendable. Lewis doesn't think the markets can be stopped and that everyone is in on it. Some higher-level figures were caught, but this arrests had few good consequences. On the 14th, he gives another example of how much the poor are hurt when the army tries to crush the black market. A raid on the 15th incurs too many civilian casualties, mostly of poor people, including tiny children. Both Germans and the Allies murdered only poor people during these raids. For whatever reason, troops were handed leaflets about how to refuse the offer of prostitute services. They suggested declining by saying, "I am not interested in your syphilitic sister" in Italian. Lewis noted that this would be incredibly offensive to the Southern Italians and lead to violence.

On the 19th, Mt. Vesuvius erupted; it was incredible but caused little damage. And on the 20th, the sky was filled with fog and ash, covering the city. Some worried about military installations. On the 22nd, the violence of the eruption increased and the people became more afraid. Some towns might be hit by the lava stream, especially San Sebastiano. But the people there, despite being in Vesuvius's path, would never move. When the lava reached the town, priests tried sprinkling holy water on it and praying. Lewis regarded this as a tragedy. The lava enveloped the town slowly and quietly. The stream slowed, however, and half the town would probably be saved. By the 24th, the eruption had slowed and half the city was saved. A fellow lawyer friend of Lattarullo tells Lewis the story of how the people of Naples and surrounding areas reacted to Vesuvius over the centuries. Apparently it had always been with saint-related superstition. On the 24th, many are concerned that the blood of one of the local saints, San Gennaro, will fail to become liquid (as it was usually said to). This would apparently cause a riot, as everyone had become particularly superstitious and medieval due to the war. Reports of miracles and mass hallucinations are everywhere.

On the 26th, Lewis notes that Naples's streets are full of peddlers of many types. He tells some stories about his encounters. During this time, Lewis's section and related

organizations became unsure of their purpose. They are told to investigate the applications of Italian women to become married to British soldiers. Lewis, with frustration, must take up the task. On the 29th, he runs across the later famous Padre Pio who claimed to have flown into the sky and saved an Italian pilot. Lewis is quietly bemoaning Italian superstitions.



April

April Summary and Analysis

Lewis goes on a trip with Captain Frazer, Lola and a friend to take supplies to the town of Capri. The friend's name is Susanna. Frazer brought some white bread and the ladies eagerly ate it. In Capri, there is an area known as the Piazza Municipio which was full of escapism and an attempt to ignore the war. They order food and eat. Many Americans are there and sexual services are being arranged. The girls were happy; this was as good as life got for them. They were all surprised that Capri was as serene as it was. At the end of the day, Frazer decided that his relationship with Lola is unsustainable and decides not to see her again. On the 3rd, Frazer comes to see Lewis, upset that he has been sharing Lola sexually with another man, which he had only recently discovered. Frazer decided to continue but fears being attacked by the man. Her other lover eventually beat him. Frazer ultimately decided that he must give her up.

On the 5th, they had completed twenty-eight investigations of the brides; twenty-two were prostitutes. It was not hard to discover them. Nearly one-third of the 150,000 women in Naples served as prostitutes to make ends meet. How they find men with any money to pay them is beyond Lewis. On the 7th, Lewis interviews five British privates who had fled a German prison camp and needed to be re-posted. The locals gave them clothing and food during their escape. No British soldiers had been given over to the Germans by the locals.

The 14th rolls around and they have examined another five bridges. One case bears mentioning. A woman, Contessa della Peruta, wanted to marry a British officer. The reviewers of the proposal gave positive recommendations. The woman was beautiful and charming. Four days after the interview, Lewis discovers that Contessa and her neighbors had faked her nice clothes and rich possessions. She was impoverished despite an aristocratic past; she is upset, but Lewis comforts her by telling her the marriage would go through.

On the 15th, Lewis meets his first bride who tells him the truth about where she got her money. An Italian major and American corporal had given her the funds. Food was expensive in Naples and Lewis was surprised people were not starving. On the 18th, Lewis notes that the black market is even more powerful than it was before. Most of the Neapolitans' incomes comes from trading stolen Allied goods. A full third of Allied equipment regularly disappeared. The Allied Military Government advised Lewis to stay out of tracking down these transactions; this is probably because the AMG has ties to the American and Italian mobs.

On the 24th, Lewis sees Frazer again. He is still wrapped up with Lola. He had discovered another lover of Lola's. He tried to end things, but she threatened suicide, so they were together again. Frazer played a role in dismissing Lola's third lover and then



had to commit to her more formally. He was being drawn into Neapolitan affairs. Lola now had Frazer acquiring stolen goods for her. Frazer expected to be caught by the marshals. Lola wanted to announce their engagement publicly, as Lola wanted it, so they had a party. The next day, Frazer and Lola invite Lewis to have dinner with them, and they include Susanna. The women were dressed well. Frazer recounted the engagement party; Lewis thought it sounded awful. The cake had come from the black market and was disgusting. For lunch, Frazer had procured some army rations which the people loved. But Lewis and Frazer thought they were disgusting. And at lunch, another air raid occurred. It was the worst that Lewis had encountered. The raid ended quickly and the house next door collapsed, but they were fine.



May

May Summary and Analysis

Summer begins and life in Naples slows down. Fans are displayed, and Whitsun, the day on which the blood of San Gennaro is supposed to turn to liquid, is coming. Fortune is thought to rest on this event. A quick liquefaction is a good omen, slow liquefaction an evil one—a catastrophe, in fact. The Whitsun pilgrimage has been vetoed and the people are upset. Lattarullo made much of this, but Lewis wonders if she exists or not. He also wonders whether a man as cosmopolitan as Lattarullo believes that San Gennaro will stop the lava from Vesuvius, or that Padre Pio flies in the sky.

On the 3rd, Lewis notes the "Robin Hood" tradition in the area; many are bandits. One local bandit, Lupo, was released by the allies, and he got into black market practices again. Lupo had to be stopped due to his attacks on trains, but he was popular among the poor; however, he was a womanizer and thus had a weakness. The police forces organized to bring him down by exploiting his weakness for women. When the forces reach Lupo's house, he is on the ground, having jumped from his window; he broke his leg and blood was pouring from his mouth. Lupo will probably go to prison for life and one of his brothers will kill the girl with whom he was sleeping.

On the 7th, San Gennaro's blood liquefied partly slowly. This was seen as a bad omen, but not so bad as to precipitate revolt. Crowds formed in the morning, and the fear of hysteria dissipated as the day went by. The town was in a sort of frenzy and there were some disturbances. At 8 pm, the liquefaction took place, and many went home to bed. The same day, the Italian General wants mass arrests of black market participants, not being satisfied with Lupo's imprisonment. Lewis thus participated in a raid on a bandit hideout. Fifty men moved in and the bandits surrendered. They also found a fifth bandit. Their fates are grim; Lewis wonders if it would have been more humane to shoot them.

The 9th comes, and black market mischief and audacity rages. Massive amounts of allied cargo are stolen and the marketers are so brazen that they advertise in the open. Even the car of the Papal legate displayed stolen tires. The Army now faces supply shortages, even of medicine. The penicillin market had to be stopped. Lewis's section collaborates with the American Counter-Intelligence Corps (CIC) on the matter, along with the AMG. Lewis describes their relationship with the CIC as fairly amicable and full of trades. An American Agent, Frank Edwards, said there is nothing to be done. The market was run by the mob, especially an American mobster, Vito Genovese, who had return to Italy to escape being charged for murder. American-Italians in the AMG ran everything.

Lewis, partly out of frustration, confronts Fortuna, a man lower on the totem pole, but Fortuna says Lewis can do nothing. Lewis hauls him away anyway. On the 11th, Lewis returns to see Fortuna, who was still doing well. It seemed he knew he would get out. Lewis knew he was probably right to think this. He then notes the lawyers and legal



mechanisms that would more or less guarantee his acquittal. Lewis tries to round up witnesses to testify against him, but Fortuna was not weakened. He was treated like royalty in jail. The assistant to the governor calls up Lewis and gives him a false excuse for why they were releasing Fortuna. Lewis was frustrated.

On the 28th, Lewis notes that the French colonial troops, mostly Moroccans, are marching; when they conquer an Axis city, they rape the entire population. Lewis visits some of the victims. And on the 31st, Lewis makes some notes about Italian politics; it continues to fragment, with sixty recognized parties. Many of these parties are insane. Lewis expects the Christian Democrats - the part of the Church and the wealthy landlords - to win the coming election. The whole Church is in on it, with nuns going to homes telling voters it would be a sin for them to vote for any other party. Lewis meets the head of the community party in Italy, Eugenio Reale. The party is strong, and Reale is happy about political fragmentation; he seems to think it will lead to revolution. Lewis asks him for names of secret fascists, and surprisingly, Reale gives him the names of the four most dangerous men in Naples, but they turned out not to be dangerous, just enemies of Reale.

June

June Summary and Analysis

Some Moors are poisoned, castrated and beheaded after entering an Italian home on the 4th. On the 7th, things look better since Rome fell the previous week. Lattarullo's fortunes have improved as a result. He will not play a role at cemeteries as "the uncle from Rome," but Lewis worries he will be recognized. But Lattarullo has a good act. The 9th brings another bout with malaria for Lewis; he learns that Frazer had been posted and the affair with Lola was over. He expects Lola's lover, the Federale, to send his wife to summer exile in Capri.

On the 27th, Lewis writes that there has been a week of fiestas, marches and miracles. Marian piety and fervor is on great display. Lewis recounts the events of the day.

July

July Summary and Analysis

July 12th comes and Lewis has not yet been to Pozzuoli, so he takes a CIC jeep there to tour it. The city endured occupation well. Lewis describes the beauty of the city and its history as a home to great and terrible Romans. Lewis describes his lunch at Vincenzo a Mare. The city is full of ruins and legend, some of which Lewis recounts.

On the 24th, Lewis notes how extraordinary Naples' history is. The city seems largely un-European. Many of the rituals, particularly death rituals, are primitive and ancient. Evans and Lewis are sent to look through the possessions of Prince Pignatelli, who had been arrested for espionage. He had many great treasures. Lewis describes the history of some of the areas surrounding the Prince's home. Lewis's next entry records that a member of his section had to transfer a dangerous woman to Rome for interrogation. The section member, John Dashwood, had to observe her constantly. Lewis describes this and his adventure arresting an Italian general, which illustrated his general point that the time they spend in Naples brings many adventurous happenings.



August

August Summary and Analysis

An infiltrator and saboteur, Salvatore Loreto, has been captured at a hospital. Lewis is sent to decide whether Loreto is in good enough health to be imprisoned. The ward is run by Sister M. of the 100th General in Algeria. Loreto is horribly wounded and incoherent. The man will die within a day or two. On the 12th, the section is ordered to move to Benevento to take over security there from a Canadian section who were leaving. They go to Benevento, an ancient city of 50,000 that had been destroyed for no reason. The poverty there is awful. The Canadians had a bad reputation; the sergeant major whipped many of the people.

Lewis writes about the town Marshal, Francesco Altamura, of the secret police. He is now at Lewis's disposal. That evening, Altamura takes Lewis to meet the town's important people. Lewis describes some of them. Lewis needed a car, and the Marshal thought he could find one. The car was broken, but the Marshal thought he could find the missing parts. The coming days bring small events that acquaint Lewis with some of the local townspeople. On the 18th, Lewis notes he has been stationed in the Hotel Vesuvio, which used to be the nicest hotel in the town. Lewis tires of being served spaghetti there and one day he asks a friend to invite some people over for a party. Lewis met several other town notables.

On the 20th, the Marshal is concerned about bandits. He wants Lewis's help, but Lewis said it is none of his business, but the Marshal wouldn't let up, so they discuss plans. They remark that the bandits have a lot of firepower perhaps supplied to them by the OSS so they can lead a separatist movement. On the 21st, plans continue; Lewis and the Marshal discuss the plans with Don Ubaldo, the schoolmaster. Later, when the 25th comes, an MP sergeant named Peters narrowly escapes the bandits outside of town. Some local law enforcement officials and agents get together to make a plan. They decide to wait for some FS sections to arrive and then take action.

On August 28th, Lewis writes the Benevento has had a bad outbreak of smallpox and typhoid. Lewis was concerned about getting malaria again. Basically, Lewis notes, they are living in the Middle Ages. On the 30th, Don Ubaldo asks for medicine through a friend. Lewis goes to Naples to give his weekly report but tries to find medicine on the way. He finds some, noting that he is being sucked into the system of corruption. On the 31st, Lewis gives the medicine to Don Ubaldo, who appears sick. The epidemics were getting worse. Two Canadian cowboys arrive in Dodge lorries with lots of supplies. Twelve Canadians come in all, and they all refer to each other by first name. They were excited to tango with the bandits, but they were terrified of bad hygiene and hated how dirty Italy was; yet that did not discourage them from seeing prostitutes.



September

September Summary and Analysis

Some of the Canadians' spirits were broken by one night in Hotel Vesuvio with the mosquitoes and some moved to Avellino to find better conditions. Lewis was left with a sergeant-major and four sergeants. They were kind and got to know the children. They hated flies. On September 3rd, Don Ubaldo died. Upon the urging of the Canadians, Lewis found an empty farmhouse in Sigranella for them to live in which was isolated. The scenery there is beautiful. On the 6th, Lewis reports that the Canadians are very kind and giving. Lewis is later assigned to research a secret political party in the Naples area. Many of these parties are crazy. Lewis describes the odd, impromptu meetings of these parties and the bizarre speeches given there. After a small amount of research, Lewis learned all he needed to about the Forza Italia movement. On the 11th, war-related crises keep many busy and there is never true calm in Benevento. Lewis recounts a murder with a sawed-off shotgun.

The 16th brings news that Bernard Durham, a member of their section, has been hurt during a bandit fight. He was not hurt too badly. This focuses Lewis further on how to deal with the bandits, despite believing them none of his business. The Canadians want to fight, and Lewis begins to regret his alliance with Altamura. They hold a meeting with the Marshal to decide what to do. The Marshal wanted Field Security to be involved. Lewis tracks bandits on the 19th, and he and the Canadians get into position at ten p.m. that night. Routine travelers had been cleared from the road. At three in the morning, the men are still waiting. Shots began to be fired; they weren't properly alerted, and then the battle ensues. A Carabinieri shoots an American defector and handcuffs him. They are told that escaped bandits are hiding in some farmhouses. They leave the defector and run to a farmhouse, finding a bandit shot twice in the thigh and bleeding. They handcuff him. At the checkpoint, Lewis discovers that the Canadians had scared off the bandits. They had caught eight bandits, and only two were wounded. None of their men were hurt.

September 20th is a bad start to the week. Tracking down asset seizures was still difficult. The Marshal's attitude towards Lewis, his section and the Canadians was becoming negative, as were the townspeople's attitude. Lewis and his men have "upset the balance of nature" there. The social rules in the area are complex; his men don't understand them. By the 23rd, Lewis moves back to Vesuvio. He discovers he may now have the evil eye, a bad sign. He was losing favor and senses that the people are tiring of them. On the 25th, Lewis meets up with one of his old fellow soldiers from Tunisia, Neil Armstrong, who had accustomed himself well to life in Southern Italy. They exchange stories. After the meeting, Lewis must tend to some duties, transmitting a message for Altamura and investigating a rape allegation. It was strange for a rape complaint to be filed, given how commonplace it was.



October

October Summary and Analysis

Lewis returns to Naples and work waits for him. His section has been sick; they press on, but their health gradually declines. On the 8th of October, a group of local boys assaults some girls who were accompanied by American soldiers. The American soldiers were beaten up, which was embarrassing. The section has to go out with machine guns to protect the Americans, but there was no trouble. The situation in Naples was falling apart, though. The 10th brought rain, and Lewis describes how the Neapolitans react to it. Lewis describes a falling out with Ingeniere Crespi over some information being leaked. They still go out together to a lake to go duck-hunting, but they were unlikely to find anything. Ingeniere's son Andrea goes with them. They caught a few birds, larks, black-caps, warblers, etc. They killed eighteen birds.

On the 16th, Lewis is following up a lead from Robert Parkinson from Professor Placella, a gynecologist who restores virginity. He was trying to figure out the cause of the VD epidemic. Women were arrested to be examined. Lewis goes as a witness. The examinations humiliate the women, and the tests are disgusting. Placella believes that two prostitutes had syphilis, but they were rich enough to buy themselves out of the tests. The women were arrested as a result. The man who certified them as healthy would be arrested, but he would probably get off. On the 20th, Lewis notes that the marriage applications for Allied forces to marry Italians were increasing too quickly. These marriages rarely lasted and were discouraged.

Lewis is sent to vet a widow, Liana Pagano. She is cheerful and was in love with a sergeant and wanted a father for her child. Gradually, Lewis was edged out of the marriage investigations, as he was getting too sympathetic with the Italians. Parkinson replaced him, as he had no such attitude. Robert next interrogated Liana; her request was denied, as were many subsequently.

On the 24th, Lewis was ordered to go to Taranto as soon as possible. He must go to Port Said to find three thousand Russian soldiers who fought with the Germans and return them to the Soviet Union. His stay in Naples has come to an end. He has only a few hours to say goodbye to his friends. He is nostalgic and makes the best he can of his situation. Norman Lewis packs his things, says his goodbyes and makes a final observation about the city. He hopes to have a chance the next morning to see Lattarullo, who he believes would give him a great send-off.



Characters

Norman Lewis

Norman Lewis lives from 1908 to 2003; he was a well-known British writer who became famous later in life for his travel writing. Born in England, Lewis was part of British intelligence during World War II. *Naples '44* is his diary during his time serving as an intelligence official in Italy during the Allied occupation of Italy in 1944. We discover little about Lewis during *Naples '44*. While he is the main character of the story, Norman never so much as mentions his name in his entries. There are no mentions of his past long ago, of family members, of his childhood, descriptions of his interests; he almost never mentions anything embarrassing about himself, but almost exclusively describes his reactions to others. Lewis's journal is hardly about him at all, but instead records his observations of local scenery, characters and the events of each day. Lewis and his section are stationed at the Palace of the Princes of Satriano throughout much of their stay in Naples, where they tend to various tasks related to keeping Naples and surrounding areas secure. They must track down reports of espionage, secure buildings rigged with explosives, watch for rioting, investigate marriage applications, arrest criminals, quash local black-market bandits and purveyors of stolen goods, prevent theft of Allied property and investigate local politics. Lewis seems to not enjoy many of these jobs and has reservations about the Neapolitan people, but he comes to love Naples, its culture and its people.

Vincente Lattarullo

Vicente Lattarullo is one of Lewis's best contacts. He knew the ways of Naples well and claimed that he was motivated to inform because of his "passion for justice." Lattarullo was learned, high-class, and appeared fragile and sometimes unhealthy. He was one of over four thousand lawyers in the Naples area and as such was quite poor despite being well-educated; somehow he survived, living off of a small legacy he had. But he also had a scam that brought in income. Lattarullo would often go to funerals, claiming to be the "uncle from Rome" of the local person who had died. He would then collect some of the dead person's assets. This became difficult for him before Rome was captured by the Allies, but later in the story when Rome is recaptured, Lattarullo is back in business.

Lewis and Lattarullo often have lunch together; during this time, Lattarullo will usually tell Lewis about relevant information. On one occasion, Lattarullo reveals he is involved in a small Italian separatist political party and invites a friend and party leader, Vesco, to ask Lewis for help. He would often implore Lewis to help various local townspeople. Over time the two men develop a close friendship that Lewis greatly valued. Lewis notes that despite Lattarullo's excellent education, he was still deeply connected to Naples, including its half-Catholic/half-Pagan religious practices. Sadly, Lewis did not



have time to say goodbye to his best friend in Naples, but the book ends with Lewis imagining that Lattarullo would have given him a wonderful send-off.

Lewis's Section

Lewis's Section was the group of men involved in British counter-intelligence operations in Naples.

Captain Frazer

A friend of Lewis's, Frazer was involved with a local woman, Signora Lola. They had a torrid love affair, due to which Frazer was almost killed from being involved in the local community and competing with several men for Lola's affections.

Signora Lola

Frazer's lover, Lola was a dangerous woman, involved with many men at once, much to Frazer's later surprise. They are engaged at one point.

Marshal Altamura

Altamura was the Marshal of Benevento, the second town where Lewis was stationed. He encouraged Lewis to pursue local bandits.

The Canadians

The Canadians were a group of field soldiers sent to help Lewis uproot some local bandits. They are a congenial and optimistic bunch but are partially corrupted by Neapolitan culture.

Bandits

Local bandits were responsible for running goods on the black-market. One of the main conflicts in the book arises when the bandits become brazen enough to steal needed medicine and cut copper wires needed for intelligence gathering. Lewis leads an assault on a bandit hideout.

The Americans

The Americans were the primary Allied forces in Italy. Lewis saw them as mostly green and incompetent, despite their power, energy and wealth.



The Neapolitans

The people of Naples, with bizarre social practices and sexual habits, primitive religion, a great love for food, and an indomitable spirit. They eventually win Lewis's admiration and affection.

Lupo

A local bandit leader who Lewis is eventually able to capture with the help of local law enforcement and the Canadians.

The Mob

The Italian Mafia controlled and ran most of the black market. They also controlled large portions of the Allied Military Government, so little could be done to stop them.

The Fifth Army

The Allied forces with which Lewis's section arrived in Italy.



Objects/Places

Italy

Allied occupied Italy is where the book's major events take place.

Naples

The famed Italian city where Lewis is stationed for most of the book. He comes to love the residents of Naples, the Neapolitans.

The Evacuation Hospital

The hospital where Lewis receives treatment for malaria.

The Palace of the Princes of Satriano

The palace in Naples where Lewis and his section are stationed.

Benevento

The second town where Lewis is stationed.

Empty Buildings

The war has left many building in Naples and Benevento empty. Secretive actions occur here, and many time-delayed Axis explosive are buried around them. Events often caused these buildings to collapse.

San Gennaro's Blood

The blood of a saint held by the Neapolitans. Each year at Whitsun, the town prays that the blood of San Gennaro will liquefy quickly, which indicates a good year to come. If San Gennaro's blood liquefies slowly, this indicates the coming of great suffering.

Whitsun

The day on which the Neapolitans see if San Gennaro's blood will liquefy.



Venereal Diseases/Syphilis

Outbreaks of venereal diseases are very dangerous in Naples, not only for the townspeople but for Allied troops. Several events in the book are about trying to control the spread of venereal disease and Syphilis.

Army Rations

The food given to Allied troops. Most of the troops hated it, but the Neapolitans were so starved they would eat anything.

Hotel Vesuvio

The hotel in Benevento where Lewis was stationed during his time there.

Mt. Vesuvius

The famed volcano near Benevento and Naples; it erupted in 1944 threatening to destroy some local towns.

Southern Italian Towns

The small Italian towns surrounding Naples and Benevento; Lewis's section is also responsible for their security, but Lewis knows that they cannot be effective in those places.

Marriage Applications

Italian women often apply to the Allied government to marry Allied troops. Lewis and his section must investigate these applications to see if the women are prostitutes trying to get money.

Copper Wire

The wire that Lewis's section uses to communicate. Bandits and townspeople often cut the wire to sell it, as copper is quite valuable in the area, due to its short supply.

Penicillin

Everyone needed Penicillin, but even the Allied troops had less than they needed due to black-market thieves.

Padre Pio

The famed Catholic saint who reported having the stigmata and claimed to possess what amounted to superhero powers. During Lewis's stay in Naples, Padre Pio came through town and claimed to have flown in the skies and saved an Italian pilot who was shot down. Lewis uses Padre Pio to illustrate the backward and primitive religion of the Neapolitans.

Time-Delayed Explosives

The Nazis left time-delayed explosives to wreak havoc in Naples after they left.



Themes

The Horrors of War

Naples '44 is a story that takes place towards the end of World War II. The United States has ended the war and the Allied invasion of Europe is moving forward. Italy has surrendered and Mussolini is dead, but the Germans continue to defend parts of Italy. Lewis and his section enter Italy with the Fifth Army of the Allied forces. Eventually, with the Eighth Army, the Allied forces are able to take Italy. During the story Rome is conquered, but when Lewis and his section reach Italy, much of Italy is under Nazi control and Nazi sympathizers are around, as are some Italian partisans. They have laid traps and laid waste to the cities they once controlled; further, they have spies in the area. When Lewis reaches Naples, and even along the way, he notices the incredible devastation the war has caused. The Americans are so green that many of them are shooting themselves; the Italians are constantly at one another's throats, denouncing one another over the pettiest of matters.

The Neapolitans are absolutely impoverished, and the surrounding towns are even worse. Many people are eating dandelions and theft of food is common. In order to avoid starvation, nearly one-third of Neapolitan women are prostituting themselves to Allied soldiers and any Italian man with a tin of food. Epidemic is widespread, especially malaria, typhoid, syphilis and other venereal diseases. The black-market runs rampant and mob violence is always associated with it. Further, soldiers and other men have become incredibly callous towards violence, often murdering each other savagely without a second thought. All of these matters are recorded by Lewis from time to time with great disgust; his disgust is also universal - it covers the indifference and savagery of the Americans, British, Italians and Germans alike.

Incompetence, Corruption and Chaos

One of the most startling observations Lewis makes throughout his diary is that the war effort and the management of Italy - by the Allies and Italians alike - is incompetent, corrupt and chaotic. He notes that the movements of the Fifth Army seem erratic and his section is practically ignored. Lewis receives bizarre orders and has to tend to the most menial matters, like approving marriage applications by Italian women to marry Allied soldiers. It is quite clear that the army has no purpose for them at all, and as a result, they mostly take care of themselves. Further, the Italian political system is in tatters—there are more than sixty-five parties and many of them are absolutely insane.

The country is more or less run by the mob (especially Italian-American mob bosses) anyway. The mob has corrupted everything it touches. It has near complete control of the Allied Military Government, such that the mob's black-market operations can continue unabated. They kill anyone who stands in their way. Lewis is unable to make any progress against the black-market bandits because Lewis's section is low enough



on the totem-pole of authority to be easily replaced. Further, many Italian towns are run by Marshals, law enforcement chiefs who rule like arbitrary dictators. The courts are wholly corrupt, manipulated by the most arbitrary and vindictive factors, and everyone either steals and/or uses obviously stolen goods. Lewis notes that even the tires of the Papal Legate's automobile were stolen and even Lewis was even pressed into using stolen parts from time to time. Further, prostitution is out of control, with one-third of Neapolitan women selling themselves for food. As a result, sexually transmitted diseases run rampant.

The Indomitable Spirit of the Neapolitans

The consequences of World War II were horrific as was the deep corruption and incompetence widespread across Italy and within Naples; nonetheless, Lewis comes to have a deep admiration for the Neapolitan people. He often observes their oddities. For instance, they fiercely pursue vendettas, are strongly family-oriented and have bizarre sexual practices, such as having sex in cemeteries. Their religion is surprisingly primitive, a bizarre combination of polytheistic saint worship and Catholicism. Lewis is amazed at their excited pursuit of love, their care for their families, their devotion to honor and their profound piety in the face of all they have suffered.

The Neapolitans are a beautiful people; as soon as they were able, they began to collect food and cook. They were even more devoted to good food than they were to sex, Lewis tells us. They made due with so little. Lewis often notes that the level of malnutrition and hunger in Naples was appalling, yet many Neapolitans survived, even children who had been maimed by the war. Old traditions asserted themselves, and the Neapolitans moved forward just as they have for centuries. In fact, Lewis tells us, the Neapolitans had devastation and war in their bones, having faced it for millennia. They have been around since the Roman Empire. They weren't going anywhere and seemed to believe that no matter what happened, they would survive it together.

Style

Perspective

The author of the diary, Norman Lewis, was a famous British writer. He was born in England and served as part of British intelligence during World War II. Since *Naples '44* is his diary, the reader can expect that it will reflect his perspective and biases in great detail. However, the diary is unusual in that Lewis not only never tells the reader his name but never discusses his past, never mentions family members, and rarely discusses anything outside of the present context. The reader has little idea what his interests are or the things he enjoys. We find nothing embarrassing about Lewis; instead, the descriptions of things in the diary stick to external matters.

Lewis's attitudes become clear early on. He is appalled by the wanton violence and evil of World War II and often seems aware that the war has wholly warped the personalities of some people. He notes the gruesomeness with which some soldiers killed others, the sheer incompetence of much of the Allied command and the Italian and Neapolitan governments, and the undignified and humiliating way women were treated. He is deeply shaken by the extreme poverty in Naples and surrounding areas. He is rather skeptical of Neapolitan religious practices, seeing most of their rituals as highly superstitious and primitive. He is clearly depressed by much of what he sees, noting at some points in the diary that he has lost all hope in humanity. He writes that while he once believed humans for the most part came to make sense of the suffering, that this was not true. On the brighter side, it is clear Lewis loves to travel and describe the Southern Italian scenery. He appreciates fine art and artifacts and is a man of some culture. Finally, he comes to a great admiration of the Neapolitan people and claims that if he settled in any country other than England, it would be Italy.

Tone

The tone of *Naples '44* is comprised of five distinct and contrasting elements: light-heartedness, admiration, seriousness, frustration, and repulsion. In many parts of the book, Norman Lewis writes in a light-hearted fashion. Despite the fact that his diary entries are usually brief, sometimes he paints beautiful portraits of the surrounding scenery and characters. Lewis seems to enjoy life and approach it happily when things are not particularly terrible. He often records jokes and happy events and references fun night and times he had with the Neapolitans.

Because of Lewis's acquaintance with the Neapolitans, he writes with a tone of admiration. Lewis routinely comments on the spirit of the Neapolitans and notes how they survive despite the odds. Such an attitude is reflected in his writing. The reader often encounters a story about some individual struggling against incredible odds and burdens, and Lewis describes the individual accordingly - not in heroic terms, but



appreciably. Towards the end of the book when he speaks of the Neapolitans, Lewis usually does so with admiration.

However, there are also times in Naples '44 where the tone turns serious, particularly when Lewis is dealing with a crisis such as the wire-cutting problem, the venereal disease crisis or air raids. He writes in frank terms, leaving out few details. The writing becomes matter of fact and resists falling into dramatic modes of speech and attitude. Lewis also often writes of his great frustration with various groups he must work with (or against) in Naples and Benevento. His tone becomes terse, his language hard and his expressed attitude one of impatience. Finally, Lewis often writes in a repulsed tone, particularly at disgusting scenes, the sight of horrific poverty or when he witnesses an outburst of human cruelty.

Structure

Naples '44 is a diary. As such, it has no chapters; instead, the book covers the period from Lewis's arrival in Italy in 1943, to his departure from Naples in October 1944. Each entry covers the events of a single day and sometimes longer. Each month is mentioned, but more happens during some months than others and therefore he writes more in those time periods. Naples '44 is a diary so does not have a main plot line. The diary functions as a portrait of the struggles of the Neapolitan people and the resident Allies during the period leading up to the end of World War II. While various events pop up here and there, they rarely last longer than a few days.

Dramatic events are not the main focus of the book anyway; instead, it is focused on characters and their struggles. Thus, when Lewis introduces a character he often includes a description of some detail and builds on his description of the character as he or she arises in the book. Within each day, the structure varies. Sometimes Lewis writes a brief entry describing the events of the day. Other times his entries concern a single event, and on other days he discusses different events by separating them with line breaks. Many entries tell several stories simultaneously, with Lewis switching back and forth. Lewis rarely reports much about himself and reveals little about his inner life; thus, the structure of the book is based around the external actions and events that occur in Naples (and Benevento) during that period.



Quotes

"We know nothing." (11)

"This was the greatest invasion in this war so far - probably the greatest in human history - and the sea was crowded to the horizon with uncountable ships ..." (12)

"'Would you like to take this man away, and shoot him?' The private's reply was to spit on his hands, and say, 'I don't mind if I do, sir.' The most revolting episode I have seen since joining the forces." (21)

"I did all the damage I could. I'm only sorry it couldn't have been more. Whatever I did was for the Fuhrer. You can shoot me whenever you like." (46)

"Until now I had clung to the comforting belief that human beings eventually come to terms with pain and sorrow. Now I understood I was wrong, and like Paul I suffered a conversion - but to pessimism. ... I knew that, condemned to everlasting darkness, hunger and loss, they would weep on incessantly. They would never recover from their pain, and I would never recover from the memory of it." (53)

"For ten centuries the invading armies have come and gone. Foreign kings have ruled in Naples, and enslaved its people. Revolutions have been drowned in blood. But nothing of this has made the slightest impression on the imagination or memory of the common man" (93)

"I am not interested in your syphilitic sister." (101)

"People, Del Guidice said, will believe anything." (107)

"The war has pushed the Neapolitans back into the Middle Ages." (108)

"Considering these figures, it seems extraordinary that the Neapolitans have the strength to walk, let alone work, and that one does not actually see them dying of starvation in the street." (119)

"Much as I deplore the fact that living in the twentieth century we should be so obsessed by these relics of medievalism, I'm afraid that even I am not immune to mass suggestion." (132)

"What do you expect? This is Naples. These are the facts of life." (143)

"Naples is extraordinary in every way." (157)

"The fact is that we have upset the balance of nature here." (185)

"Here, to all intents and purposes, we were living in the Middle Ages. Only the buildings had changed." (171)



"I am gradually becoming drawn into the system!" (172)

"And what is the prize that is to be eventually won? The rebirth of democracy. The glorious prospect of being able one day to choose their rulers from a list of powerful men, most of whose corruptions are generally known and accepted with weary resignation. The days of Benito Mussolini must seem like a lost paradise compared with this." (187)

"Anything could happen in Benevento." (191)

"A year among the Italians had converted me to such an admiration for their humanity and culture that I realize that were I given the chance to be born again and to choose the place of my birth, Italy would be the country of my choice." (203)

My intuition warns me that my stay in Naples has come to an end ..." (204)



Topics for Discussion

Why is Lewis's section tied to the Fifth Army?

What exactly is Lewis's section doing in Naples? What are some tasks they must perform?

Why can't Lewis's section seem to stop the black market?

What does Lewis like about the Neapolitans? What does he dislike?

What does Lewis think about Neapolitan rituals and spiritual practices?

Near the end of Naples '44, Lewis comments that he has been won over by the Southern Italians. Why? And how did this happen in your view?

One theme of Naples '44 is incompetence and meaninglessness. What are some of the most meaningless events in the book? What are some of the best illustrations of incompetence?