

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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REPORTS, REGION II
SEPT. - DEC. 1943

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

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IN COLLECTION

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File
SUBJECT:- A.M.C. Activities in Calabria.

IMMEDIATE.

H.M., A.M.C.,
15 Army Group,
C.M.F.

Lt. Col. Lord Middleton,
Civil Affairs L.G.
H.M., No. 2 District.

AUG/72/11

25th November 1943.

1. With reference to No. 2 District Chief Engineer's minute of 20th November 43 on the subject of A.M.C. Calabria: will you please bring the following points to the notice of G.O.C. No. 2 District.
2. Calabria (the provinces of Cosenza, Catanzaro and Reggio), is part of A.M.C. Region II with Headquarters at Matera (Regional Civil Affairs Officer Colonel McCaffrey). The Senior Civil Affairs Officer for the three provinces of Calabria is Lt. Col. Todd, Welsh Guards. So far as I know the only change in local organization is the removal of Lt. Col. Todd's Headquarters from Catanzaro to Cotrone. This officer is not, and does not style himself Military Governor, though he is the local head of the Allied Military Government. The Military Governor of all occupied territory (excluding Apulia) is General Sir Harold Alexander, G.O.C. in C., 15 Army Group.
3. The Senior Civil Affairs Officer for Calabria is responsible, among other things, for law, order and justice, and for feeding the 2,000,000 civil inhabitants of Calabria. From the first moment of occupation, the Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Eighth Army, arranged with the Italian Military Authority, G.O.C. 31 Corps, that Italian military transport would be used to move foodstuffs to feed the civil population by carrying supplies from areas such as Cotrone, where there is a surplus of wheat, and from points such as Reggio, where flour is being imported by A.M.C. to make good local deficiencies. Since there is no other A.T. in the area other than that in the possession of the Italian 31 Corps no other arrangement was possible unless the local population was to be allowed to starve. It is no doubt for this purpose that S.C.A.C. Calabria has been enlisting on G.O.C. 31 Corps for transport and has been using P.O.L. In addition to this, P.O.L. is needed for flour milling.
4. I am aware of difficulties which have arisen with G.O.C. 31 Italian Corps, but whatever these may be, the local representative of H.M.M. and C.M. must realize that the feeding of the local population is a primary obligation which the Allied authorities have undertaken in occupied territories, and if Italian military transport in default of any other is not made available for this purpose, together with the necessary P.O.L., there is a danger of starvation. Any decision involving the termination of existing arrangements would have to be referred to G.O.C. in C., 15 Army Group, in his capacity of Military Governor of all occupied

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is part of A.M.C. Region II with Headquarters at Matera (Regional Civil Affairs Officer Colonel McCaffrey). The Senior Civil Affairs Officer for the three provinces of Calabria is Lt. Col. Rodd, Welsh Guards. So far as I know the only change in local organization is the removal of Lt. Col. Rodd's Headquarters from Catanzaro to Cotrone. This officer is not, and does not style himself Military Governor, though he is the local head of the Allied Military Government. The Military Governor of all occupied territory (excluding Apulia) is General Sir Harold Alexander, G.O.C. in C., 15 Army Group.

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4. I am aware of difficulties which have arisen with G.O.C. 31 Italian Corps, but whatever these may be, the local representative of E.M.M. and C.E. must realize that the feeding of the local population is a primary obligation which the Allied Authorities have undertaken in occupied territories, and if Italian military transport in default of any other is not made available for this purpose, together with the necessary P.O.L., there is a danger of starvation. Any decision involving the termination of existing arrangements would have to be referred to G.O.C. in C., 15 Army Group, in his capacity of Military Governor of all occupied territories.

5. I am sending a copy of this letter to:

G.O.C., 15 Army Group,
E.C.A.C., Region II, Matera,
A.C.C., Brindisi, and
A.M.C. H. (Rear Area) Palermo.

/SCH.

Major General,
Chief Civil Affairs Officer.

Col. Thorne Thorne.

Herewith - a copy
of his letter I
showed you - for
Gen. Ld. Pennell's
consideration.

Widdell
Local.

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COPY

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SUBJECT: AMGOT Activities in CALABRIA

14 C.E. WORKS,
NO.2 DISTRICT.

Tel Extn: 122
Ref:

Date: 20 Nov 43

Colonel A/Q

The following was reported to me by Major Lenzer, B.M.M.
Liaison Officer to 31st Italian Corps.

1. A.M.G.O.T. in CALABRIA is reorganizing itself and Lieut Colonel Rod, Welsh Guards, now head of A.M.G.O.T. is becoming A.M.G.O.C. (Allied Military Governor of CALABRIA) with headquarters at CATRANI. He apparently considers himself Military Governor of CALABRIA. Certain difficulties are arising between this Headquarters and the Italian Army. The chief one of these is that A.M.G.O.T. orders the 31st Corps to provide Petrol and Dieselene for A.M.G.O.T. purposes, and in view of the fact that the 31st Corps is barely able to provide sufficient for its own purposes, it is unable to carry out its commitments in CALABRIA when P.O.L. is taken by A.M.G.O.T.

2. It is understood that A.M.G.O.T. is opening Passenger Services on some of the Railways, and this is likely to have a delaying effect on the production of transport of Timber.

I am giving you this information for what it may be worth and to put you in the picture as to what is happening down there.

(Sgd) B.E.DIXON,

Brigadier,
CHIEF ENGINEER.

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Subject:- Reports

TO:- AMGOT HQ,
PALERMO.

Ref. AL/29/66.

From:- AMGOT HQ,
15 Army Group.

11 Oct 43.

I attach copy of AL/29/65 of 10 Oct for
information and retention.

2. Four copies have been sent to G.O.C-in-C
so that he can forward two copies to M.G.S. A.F.H.Q.
and one copy to the Military Mission, Brindisi, should
he wish to do so. No action is therefore required
by you.

RJPT/ES.

Colonel,
S. S. O.

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General ALBERT Headquarters,
15 Army Group,
C. M. P.

10th, October, 1943.

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief,
Headquarters,
15 Army Group.

In the course of the last ten days I have toured Calabria and Lucania to inspect the set up of the Allied Military Government in those compartments.

Under the original plan the compartment of Apulia (Provinces of Lecce, Bari, Brindisi, Taranto and Foggia), Lucania (Provinces of Matera, and Potenza), and Calabria (Provinces of Reggio, Catanzaro and Cosenza), were together to have constituted Region II of the Allied Military Government of Occupied Territories.

The circumstances which led to the occupation of Taranto and Brindisi by Allied troops consequent upon the Armistice signed with Italy on the 8th September, involved the separation of the Provinces of Lecce, Bari, Brindisi and Taranto from Region II. These Provinces were de jure governed by the King of Italy and his local Government, Marshal Badoglio. It was decided in circumstances of which you are aware that these Provinces would continue to be within the Government of the King of Italy and were not to be considered an area of Allied Military Government. In consequence, the proclamations customarily posted in occupied territory were not posted in the four Provinces named. Taranto which had been destined for the Compartment of Apulia on a reduced scale was therefore seconded by me to the Allied Military Mission under General Hann MacFarlane in Brindisi. Lt. Col. Gifford (RMC), was attached to the Military Mission and his officers who would in the normal course of events have become Civil Affairs Officers, were posted as Liaison Officers with the four Prefectures of the Provinces in question to assist in the relations which the Allied Military authorities would have with the local Italian civil authorities. These officers report direct to Lt. Col. Gifford who himself is directly under the head of the Allied Military Mission. Allied Military Government does not function and is not carried out in any form by any of the officers detached for this purpose, nor have they any executive or legal powers.

At the time of writing, the fifth Province of Apulia, namely, Foggia, is still within 8th Army area and is administered by Civil Affairs Officers attached to 8th Army under Group Capt. C. R. Lucas, R.S.O.

Region II, therefore, consists of the Compartments of Calabria with three Provinces and the Compartments of Lucania with two Provinces.

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At the time of writing, the fifth Province of Apulia, namely, Foggia, is still within 5th Army area and is administered by Civil Affairs officers attached to 5th Army under Group Capt. C. E. Bennett, D.S.O.

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When Operation "Spartan" was envisaged a staff of Civil Affairs Officers including specialists was nominated to proceed with 8th Army in their landings on the Calabrian coast and in subsequent operations. This staff, less the staff for Puglia, under Group Capt. Benson, did in fact land in successive waves and did accompany 8th Army to their present line beyond the northern boundaries of the Province of Reggio. With the occupation of Calabria and Lucania, officers were left in the more important centres and only a skeleton of Civil Affairs Officers under Group Capt. Benson himself proceeded with 8th Army. The staff which was initially detailed to accompany 8th Army under Group Capt. Benson, had, therefore, to fulfill the dual function of acting as Civil Affairs Officers in the immediate rear of the fighting formations of 8th Army and at the same time to provide an administration in the rearward areas. The staff, which was not complete at the time the operation was launched, has consequently been scarce throughout the period with a result that in spite of some reinforcements sent from Sicily, the number of officers available to maintain administration in the rearward provinces occupied, and largely evacuated by the 8th Army, has never constituted more than a skeleton force.

It is becoming clear that Civil Affairs Officers under Group Capt. Benson were likely to be required to operate with 8th Army outside Region II by reason of the development of the campaign northwards, Region II staff as originally envisaged was split into two parts consisting of a Forward Detachment under Group Capt. Benson with a limited number of selected officers to deal with the localities directly they were occupied by 8th Army troops, and of a Region II administration behind. Out of the available staff and the limited quantity of reinforcements, a Regional Headquarters was set up in Region II under Lieut. Col. Harvey Garry (A.M.), who had been Group Capt. Benson's second in command, leaving the latter free to accompany 8th Army Headquarters. After various changes of location, Regional Hqs. was set up and have up to the time of writing remained at Corigliano in the Province of Potenza near the plain of S. Maria. This H. Q. is now about to close at Corigliano and will shortly open at Potenza on one of the main lines of communication between Apulia and the Gulf of Salerno.

The first wave of officers accompanying 8th Army landed on the coast of Calabria and took over the administration of Reggio on the afternoon of 1st day (3. Sept.). The first British and American flags to be hoisted on the mainland of Europe in occupied enemy territory were displayed from the Prefecture of Reggio on the evening of 3. Sept.

In the course of my tour I visited the three provinces of Calabria in succession. The administration in these places is somewhat haphazard but is in existence in all three provinces, where law and order appear to have been successfully maintained since the initial occupation. The state of health of the population generally appears to be good. There have only been sporadic cases of typhoid and a small epidemic which has now to an end at Scilla (Reggio Province). Water and some electric light is available in Reggio and a steady improvement has been effected in public services. The town, though fairly considerably damaged, is clean and rubble is in the process of being removed. Both the Prefect who is anti-Fascist and the police are satisfactory and show considerable energy. The towns in particular is reported as being a competent and zealous officer. The wave which he, under the then C.A.O. (Capt. G. Smith, A.M.), did in the early days of clearing up Reggio, has been most commendable. The situation in Reggio Province is definitely difficult

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rail communications round Reggio and in the rest of the Province. While there is an adequate supply of wheat available for the immediate future for Reggio Province and also the other Calabrian Provinces in the plain around Crotone, there are no means of transport or methods of communication with which this wheat can be made available to Reggio itself and the high mountainous villages behind Reggio. It was therefore found necessary to divert the balance of the cargo of grain which had been called forward for Catania and Messina to Reggio to provide for immediate needs. This cargo has taken care of the situation, as I estimate, until the end of this month. A further consignment of wheat ordered from Middle East is to be landed in Apulia and at Reggio to take care of a further period there. The west coast of Calabria from Vibo Valentia north and the interior round Cassino seem to be fairly well provided for the immediate future from local resources. With the exception of the mountainous areas in the Sila where little foodstuff is normally grown, there should, in the three Provinces, be sufficient food to take care of immediate needs if it can be transported.

The C.A.O. at Catanzaro (Major Holmstrom), has made a satisfactory arrangement with the C.A.O. Italian troops at Catanzaro, to undertake with Italian Army transport, the distribution of food in Catanzaro Province and the neighbouring districts. This Italian officer who commands 31 Corps with R.A. at Catanzaro, is an appointee of Marshal Badoglio. He has been throughout helpful and co-operative. The British Military Division which had been attached to 31 Corps has now been withdrawn to 7th Army but the C.A.O. 31 Corps continues to maintain excellent and co-operative relations with the C.A.O.

In view of the proximity of the Italian administration in Apulia and the dependence of 31 Corps on the Italian 7th Army R.A. in Apulia, I thought it necessary to make clear to the Italian C.A.O. 31 Corps that in all matters pertaining to civil administration, my officers in Catanzaro Province were responsible to me and that the Government of Marshal Badoglio in that Province was not concerned with civil administration. The Italian General accepted the situation with perfect understanding and without demur, and stating to me in the presence of Major Holmstrom that he regarded himself as entirely under Major Holmstrom as far as all matters of civil administration were concerned, adding that he would do everything he could to assist the Allied Military Government.

I had anticipated that there might have been some difficulty since I found at Palud and at other places that certain Italian 7th Army proclamations dealing with currency matters which were applicable in Apulia had also been posted in the Provinces where your currency Proclamation No. 3 should alone have been displayed. I gave instructions for these 7th Army proclamations to be removed and instructed my C.A.O. to ensure that no further Italian Army proclamations or announcements were published, other than those which dealt with military matters such as the recall of Italian personnel to the colours and the rounding up of stragglers.

In the course of my tour I was struck, more especially in Calabria, with the large numbers of disbanded Italian troops traveling the roads, mainly in a southerly direction. These disbanded troops were all alleged to be Italian soldiers returning to their homes in Sicily in accordance with the ruling which you gave on the subject. I have, however, reason to believe

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In the course of my tour I was struck, more especially in Calabria, with the large numbers of disbanded Italian troops travelling the roads, mainly in a southerly direction. These disbanded troops were all alleged to be Italian soldiers returning to their homes in Sicily in accordance with the ruling which you gave on the subject. I have, however, reason to believe that a large number of these men, are, in fact, Italians returning to their homes in Calabria where no such exemption was granted and probably also, a

certain number.....

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certain number of other Italian dispersed military personnel wandering about in search of shelter and food in preference to returning to military service in accordance with the orders of Marshall Badoglio. I arranged with G.O.C. 31 Corps to have an Italian straggler's post established at Reggio to prevent the passage to Italy of unauthorized personnel. I have had some cases for audacity regarding the traffic across the Straits of Messina of unauthorized people and I have given instructions, as far as is possible, to stop it. Not only is the traffic undesirable inasmuch as it may introduce undesirable elements into Italy as well as disserve, but it provides a means of communication between Italy and the mainland which may be a danger to security. Thus unauthorized traffic is taking the form, not only of the passage of civilians by fishing boat across the straits to the Sicilian coast in the neighborhood of Messina, but is also, I regret to say, being carried on out of kindness of heart, by returning landing craft engaged in the ferry service.

The shortage of personnel and lack of means, partly owing to geographical reasons and partly owing to road breaks, to the higher parts of Calabria, has made it impossible for all the villages in Calabria to be visited. In consequence, a purge of fascist elements has undoubtedly not taken place throughout these provinces and there is, from this point of view, not only a source of grievance, but a legitimate source of grievance, among the part of the population. I also find great uncertainty in view of the developments in Puglia, not only in the minds of the local population but also in the minds of Allied military personnel, including my own, regarding the responsibility for the administration of Calabria. I immediately informed all those with whom I was in contact that until further notice the Allied Military Government, and no other Government, was responsible for the administration. Nevertheless, the uncertainty will undoubtedly continue to exist in certain parts of Region II, notably in Lucania, where, and so long as, visits by the King and Italian Royal Family of a formal nature, are permitted. In the course of conversations with the G.O.C. Military Western Division, I pointed out the difficulties encountered by such visits as a result of which the matter was referred to you and you expressed the view to General Leman that unless on 6th October that such visits outside Puglia could be best postponed for the present.

In contrast with Catanzaro which is untouched by war, Cosenza had been seriously damaged and communications around Cosenza and between that town and Potenza, are in a deplorable condition. This, combined with an acute shortage of staff and transport, has made it impossible for the G.O.C. in charge of Cosenza to do more than deal with a few of the more pressing problems in and around the town. One of these problems has been the Italian civil internment camp at Terranova di Terno where, at the time of the occupation, 2000 civilian internees mainly nationals of central and eastern Europe, were interned. The total had declined from 5000 men and about 100 children. Separate report has been prepared on this camp which is, however, a considerable source of anxiety. Food supplies in the immediate neighborhood of the camp are scarce and such supplies as were formerly held by the Italian Government are difficult to obtain and equally difficult to transport. One half of the internees have dispersed, one of them finding their way to Italy by the illegitimate means which I have described. There are being worked up and at present are being looked after at Catanzaro and Palermo. The camp is now in charge of a liaison officer of the Allied Military Government Headquarters attached to Region II. Such food and rationals from such captured stocks and military sources as are available are being distributed. I have also acted as liaison

the average of personnel and lack of money, many of the geographical reasons and partly owing to road breaks, to the higher parts of Calabria, has made it impossible for all the villages in Calabria to be visited. In consequence, a large of fascist elements has undoubtedly not taken place throughout these provinces and there is, from this point of view, not only a source of grievance, but a legitimate source of grievance, among the part of the population. I also found great uncertainty in view of the developments in Apulia, not only in the minds of the local population but also in the minds of Allied military personnel, including my own, regarding the responsibility for the administration of Calabria. I immediately informed all those with whom I was in contact that until further notice the Allied Military Government, and no other Government, was responsible for the administration. Nevertheless, the uncertainty will undoubtedly continue to exist in certain parts of Region II, notably in Lucania, where, and so long as, visits by the King and Italian Royal Family of a formal nature, are permitted. In the course of discussions with the C.A.C. Military Mission in Lucania, I pointed out the difficulties encountered by such visits as a result of which the matter was referred to you and you expressed the view to General MacFarlane on 6th October that such visits outside Apulia would be best postponed for the present.

In contrast with Calcutta which is untouched by war, Calcutta had been seriously damaged and communications around Calcutta and between Calcutta and London, are in a deplorable condition. This, combined with an acute shortage of staff and transport, has made it impossible for the C.A.C. in charge of Calcutta to do more than deal with a few of the more pressing problems in and around the town. One of these problems has been the Italian civil internment camp at Terracina. At Terracina, at the time of the occupation, 500 civilian internees mainly nationals of Central and Eastern Europe, were interned. The total had been 900 when and about 100 children. A separate report has been prepared on this camp which is, however, a considerable source of anxiety. Food supplies in the immediate neighborhood of the camp are scarce and such supplies as are formerly found by the Italian Government are difficult to obtain and equally difficult to transport. Some 100 of the internees have disappeared, some of them finding their way to Italy by the illegitimate means which I have described. These are being moved up and at present are being looked after at Catania and Palermo. The camp is now in charge of a slave officer of the Allied Military Government Headquarters attached to Region II. Such food and medicines from such captured stocks and military sources as are available are being distributed. I have also asked the American and British Red Cross to take over the supervision of the camp, the indefinite

continuation of...../

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continues of which is, however, entirely unsatisfactory. These intentions are difficult people to deal with and expected, directly the occupation of German took place, that they would not only be set free but transported to all the many destinations to which they wish to go.

The two provinces of Luania present a marked contrast to each other and one of these provinces, Matara, an equally marked contrast to the rest of Region II. In Matara, a good report appointed by General Bogoglio and a competent Italian Civil Administration is carrying on the affairs of the province under three Civil Affairs Officers in more or less normal conditions. In fact, with the exception of a shortage of water due to the interruption of the Aqueduct, conditions in the Province may be said to be normal and prosperous. There is an abundance of food and virtually no war damage except to a few minor bridges and no political unrest. From the point of view of an administrator the Province of Matara has been like a breath of fresh air. The Province is a great wheat growing area extending to the sea near Soguerbo with a substantial exportable surplus of wheat available for public and other districts. The only incident in the Province of Matara took place before the advent of our troops and after the departure of the German troops, when a mob at the village of Montecassiglioso took the law into its own hands and killed the Communist secretary who was also the principal Fascist in the place. The culprits have not yet been arrested but investigations are proceeding. The M.C.O. in charge of the Carabinieri has been relieved of his duties.

In Potenza Province, conditions are an example of broken bridges on road and rail are in a state of chaos. Potenza itself suffered considerable damage and is short of food. Adequate water is available and there is electric current. The more mountainous parts of Potenza Province are likely to suffer privations in the immediate future in spite of the adequate supply of food in the Province as a whole on account of the virtually complete absence of any form of locomotion except by cart. In this Province two riots took place, one, also prior to the occupation of the village of Irina and subsequent to the departure of the German troops. Here also an organized mob assault led to the Carabinieri being harmed in to their police post while another section of the mob killed the Communist secretary who was also the Chief Fascist and subjected the female members of his family, who, however, have not succumbed to their injuries. Here, five ring-leaders have been arrested and are now in prison awaiting trial. At the village of Madita in the northern part of the Province, within the last few days a mob of people stating that they were anti-Fascist proceeded to destroy the tax rolls and Communist records. A patrol of troops was sent to the village which had a quieting effect and the ring leaders have been removed under arrest.

There is evidence in these three cases and in a number of other cases reported from the forward 6th Army areas by Group Capt. Hansen's staff that we may expect anti-Fascist demonstrations of considerable violence on an increasing scale this further north the occupation goes. Unless C.A.O.'s and troops can enter inhabited localities directly after their evacuation by German troops, there is likely to be a repetition of scenes of violence and possible bloodshed on an increasing scale. It must be borne in mind that Fascism played little part on the whole in Sicily where its adherents were relatively few, and too few, to indulge continually in the graver acts of oppression. From Luania north this will no longer be the case and when we get to the industrial

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a great wheat growing area extending to the sea near Metaponto with a substantial exportable surplus of wheat available for Puglia and other districts. The only incident in the Province of Mottola took place before the advent of our troops and after the departure of the German troops, when a mob at the village of Montesaglieso took the law into its own hands and killed the Communal Secretary who was also the principal Fascist in the place. The culprits have not yet been arrested but investigations are proceeding. The M.C.C. in charge of the Carabinieri has been relieved of his duties.

In Potenza Province, examinations on account of broken bridges on road and rail are in a state of chaos. Potenza itself suffered considerable damage and is short of food. Adequate water is available and there is electric current. The more remote parts of Potenza Province are likely to suffer privations in the immediate future in spite of the adequate supply of food in the Province as a whole on account of the virtually complete absence of any form of locomotion except by cart. In this Province two riots took place, one, also prior to the occupation of the village of Irsina and subsequent to the departure of the German troops. Here also an organized mob assault led to the Carabinieri being harmed in to their police post while another section of the mob killed the Communal Secretary who was also the Chief Fascist and maltreated the female members of his family, who, however, have not succumbed to their injuries. Here, five ring-leaders have been arrested and are now in prison awaiting trial. At the village of Irsina in the northern part of the Province, within the last few days a mob of people stating that they were anti-Fascist proceeded to destroy the tax rolls and Communal records. A patrol of troops was sent to the village which had a quietening effect and the ring leaders have been removed under arrest.

There is evidence in these three cases and in a number of other cases reported from the former 8th Army areas by Group Capt. Hanson's staff that we may expect anti-Fascist demonstrations of considerable violence on an increasing scale the further north the occupation goes. Unless C.A.O.'s and troops can enter inhabited localities directly after their evacuation by German troops, there is likely to be a repetition of scenes of violence and possible bloodshed on an increasing scale. It must be borne in mind that Fascism played little part on the whole in Sicily where its adherents were relatively few, and too few, to indulge continuously in the graver acts of oppression. From Lucania north this will no longer be the case and when we get to the industrial centres of Central Italy, I shall expect to see considerable violence and this, in spite of the fact that in many Provinces the Fascist Prefects and some of the

more important....

1903

more important Fascist officials have already been removed by the Redoglio Government, as in the provinces of Potenza and Matera where Redoglio's men are now in office. Since my officers have no escorts and since it will not always be possible to occupy physically, inhabited centres removed from the axis of advance, I see no method of stopping these acts of violence. In some cases my officers have themselves and by themselves, quieted mobs, as yet without much risk to themselves but I cannot be certain that in future cases if they enter inhabited towns where violence is taking place without escorts, that they will necessarily escape danger to themselves. Nevertheless, if they do not enter towns in the more remote places there is a risk of such localities being turned over to crime and rule with all that that implies. As it is, in most of the major places which have been occupied, there has been evidence of looting by the civilian population.

Generally speaking I consider that the food situation in Region II is, for the immediate future, better than I had expected. With the exception of the cases of violence reported, law and order appear to be good and there is as yet no sign of brigandage or violence even by the disbanded Italian troops in the more remote parts of Calabria and Lucania. With the advent of winter conditions and a continuation of the problem of communications, I should, however, not be surprised to hear of brigandage in Calabria.

I might at this point, perhaps be allowed to express an opinion on the subject of Italian military personnel. From what I have seen of the disbanded elements of the Italian Army travelling the roads and from what I judge of the attitude of the population from my contacts and that of my officers, it will be a hard and difficult thing to induce the Italians as a whole to remain an active part in the war, even to assist locally in ejecting the Germans from their own provinces. I have heard of examples of Italian military bodies and civilians sitting by and watching small rear-guard parties of Germans numbering no more than 10 to 15, engaged in the demolition of bridges vital to the communications of the local people. I have heard of no cases in which these parties were even disturbed. The attitude of the Italians generally, as I judge it on much of the mainland as I have seen, is that of a dispirited people who do not very much care what happens to them. I have found little enthusiasm for the Redoglio Government and accounts that I have had of visits of members of the Italian Royal Family to localities in the neighbourhood of Apulia, report a lack of enthusiasm at the appearance of these personages. There is certainly also an anti-Fascist element which is neither enthusiastic to the Royal Family nor given to supporting Mussolini Redoglio. The enthusiasm with which Allied troops have been received, must, however, be accepted as a fact though it must not be construed as indicating a desire to be guided by an Allied military Government which, as I have before stated and desire here to re-state, cannot in my view conduct a direct administration in Italy or do more than direct an incompetent Italian bureaucracy to govern a dispirited and apathetic people.

I have only visited Region I for a short time and am not yet prepared to submit a report on the conditions in Region III.

Major-General,
Chief Civil Affairs Officer.

AL/29/62

Forward AFOT Headquarters,
15 Army Group,
C. M. P.
11. Oct. 43.

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief,
Headquarters,
15 Army Group.

I enclose four copies of a note on
Calabria and Lucania. I am sending one
additional copy in case you should wish to send
one to the Allied Military Mission at Brindisi.

Major-General,
Chief Civil Affairs Officer.

1901

TELEGRAM OUT.

AL/29

6 ~~1/10~~

TO : SEARS FOR ANDOT
FROM : PILLOT FROM ANDOT.

Orig's No. FA 10

Date: 5 Oct

SECRET (.) Situation CALABRIA satisfactory (.) Law order good (.)
Small sporadic typhoid especially SCILLA declining (.) Food
situation except REGGIO area better than expected (.) REGGIO
area especially account demolitions very difficult (.) Many
Italian Army stragglers on roads mostly moving South (.) Ostensibly
Sicilian POW (.) Italian 31 Corps CATANZARO sending party officers
and HQ contact SCAG REGGIO to round up non Sicilian (.) Inform
A.P.H.Q.

Para Two (.) Am inspecting LUCANIA (.)

Para Three (.) LUCANIA and CALABRIA handed over by 8th Army to
SCAG effective 4 Oct by order GOC in C (.) Original order by
mail (.) Region Two and Benson advised (.)

Para Four (.) APULIA with Montfort under MILMES, REYNOLDS,
as previously arranged (.) Includes FOGGIA Town but not
northern part of province for present still with Benson (.)

Arrangement satisfactory all concerned here (.)

If liable to be intercepted
to be sent IN CIPHER.

D. J. [Signature]

TCO : 14.45
THI :

785015

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

SUBJECT: Reports from Region II.

TO: G.O.C.-in-C.,
15 Army Group.

FILE No. AMGOT/91/HQ

AMGOT HQ. SICILY

30. Sept. 1943.

1. In continuation of AMGOT/91/HQ of 24 Sept. 43, copies of two further reports are forwarded for information. Additional copies are enclosed for forwarding to MGS., A.F.H.Q., if so desired.
2. In the absence of the C.O.A.O. from H.Qs., Cp. Capt. Benson's instructions that officers will not be stationed in cities which are in the sole possession of organized Italian Units have been confirmed.

P. Perry Smith
Lt. Col.

CHARLES M. SPOFFORD.
Colonel, G.S.C.
Chief Staff Officer.

B.V. to me when report on Region II
are received from Lt. Col. Perry
Gp. Capt. Perry
B.C.
Gp. 10.

1891

SECRET.C O P Y.OFFICER ONLY.SUBJECT: Political Repercussions.AMGOT H.Q. 8th Army.H.Q. AMGOT,
Palermo.Ref.No.ECA/7/37A/RCAO
21st September 1943.

Throughout the whole area of Reggio Calabria Compartimento varying reports come through of political disturbances of a Communist nature which have occurred, particularly in the Reggio Comune and at Cosenza.

2. There is however no evidence to show that there is any Communist tendency in the Compartimento and the more reasonable explanation is that these disturbances are caused by the usual Calabrian unruly element who have always been against law and order and now for the first time after years of oppression see an opportunity of going back to their old days of Brigandage.
3. I should mention that nowhere has there been any serious disturbance. Frequently one hears of the action of the Camorra. Whenever anything goes astray or something cannot be obtained, it is put down to the Camorra, but in fact the Camorra never have been suppressed even by the Fascists.
4. Generally speaking, Calabria would appear curiously free of real politics. The Calabrese are an agricultural people and appear to want to be left alone to pursue their agricultural work. There is no evidence of any Separist element as was found in Sicily.
5. There is however a definite feeling that sufficient Fascists have not been put in prison. There may be an element of truth in this particularly in places where the Army have passed through quickly or by passed and which are occupied by the Italian Army. In the Reggio region I have given instructions to tighten up on the question of weeding out Fascists.

(Signed)

G. Benson,
Group Capt.

R.C.A.O.

AMGOT H.Q. Region 3.398

C O P Y.

S E C R E T.

OFFICER ONLY.

5B

SUBJECT:- Relationship between AMGOT and the Italian Army.

H.Q. AMGOT 8th Army.

A.A.G.,
8th Army Main H.Q.

Ref. No. ECA/1/254/RCAO.
20th September 1943.

When the original BAYTOWN operation was planned, an armistice had not been arranged, but it was envisaged that there was a possibility of 8th Army going through the toe of Italy without much resistance and the German and Italian armies retiring into a line further north. This would have meant that there were likely to be areas in which there would be no British Troops and no Italian Troops.

2. A directive was given by General Alexander in connection with the distribution of AMGOT Officers where there were not British Troops and instructions were given me along the lines of the Directive by Major General Lord Rennell, H.Q. AMGOT Palermo, a copy of which is attached.

3. As it has turned out, a situation has arisen which is somewhat different. There are many places which are now not in occupation of British Troops, particularly in the South, in Reggio Province and in places such as COSENZA. As far as possible AMGOT Officers have been limited to towns where there are British Troops, or through which L. of Cs. run. Exceptions however must be made owing to the necessity of the Supply problem.

4. There is however a different problem arising now on which a policy ruling is required. Cities are being found in which there are no British Troops but an organized Italian Unit. Such instances are for example ROSSANO and CASTROVILLARI.

5. The point arises as to the position of AMGOT Officers in such cities. Is the AMGOT officer empowered to give definite orders as regards supply, the running of the Carabinieri (which is a military body) and the general maintenance of law and order, which must be obeyed by the Italian Military Commander whatever may be his rank.

6. A typical example is for instance the imposition of curfew, which if it is to be of any value must also include Italian Military.

7. Pending a decision in these matters, I have given instructions that AMGOT officers will not be stationed in cities which are in sole possession of organized Italian Units.

8. It must however be realised that such orders will inevitably affect the administrative chain of Military Government, which cannot function if certain areas are excluded, particularly in the allocation of Supplies etc.

(Signed) C. Benson,
Group Captain,
R.C.A.O.
H.Q. AMGOT 8th Army.

Copy to: H.Q. AMGOT,
Palermo.

785015

REGGIO, 21-9-43.

O/O AMSCOF, REGION II.REGGIO PROVINCE.Brief picture of present situation :-

- (1) Maj. Benton-Jones still in Hospital. Saw him to-day, his temperature down, but rather weak still, and must be several days before fit.
- (2) Food situation. All available transport mobilised and food getting out to all parts steadily. Fair distribution to Prov., and I am told stocks will last 18 to 20 days although Col. Ruck may be able to stretch it out further. Another shipment will be required soon.
- (3) Prisoners of War. POWs are full and they have asked AMSCOF assistance to guard them. Have supplied some civil police, but hundreds are wandering all over the place. Some are travelling on foot north and others south. I still adhere to last instructions and pass them on to nearest POW cage to report in at least. Any change in official policy please?
- (4) Civilian Refugees. Drifting wholesale into Reggio from all parts - some want to get to Sicily, others to Africa, Palestine; and others want to go NORTH. We have many on our hands - getting rid of as many as possible. Some destitute and are being fed temporarily from some "M. and V" we got from the Miriam. If numbers increase, I have told Grizzard we may have to start a civilian camp outside the Town, but this does not arise at present.
- (5) Crossing to Sicily. Officially we are NOT allowing any civilians to cross to Sicily (or of course prisoners) although some have got across. NOIC knows the position. Complaints have been received about civilians causing congestion on the landing beaches near Reggio. We have dispersed them but position difficult at times. Are we to continue the policy of banning civilians from crossing to Messina?
- (6) Carabinieri. After 18 days close observation, I am sorry to say that their standard is low (lower even than Sicily which was bad enough) and to be brutally frank, they have lost 'their grip' of the public. Their officers are quite good, helpful and want to assist, and everything possible is being done to coax the men to exert their authority and command respect. I had high hopes of whipping them into shape within a few weeks, but this will not be easy (see note 8 below please).
- (7) Civilian population. Since Italy quitted the war, the civilians are now feeling conscious of a new sense of freedom and liberty which they have not enjoyed for years. They have got the impression that we are soft and easy, and in small communes, there is a certain amount of petty squabbling about who will rule the roost. If a CAO appoints the best man possible; this does not please another section of their men. The position is NOT bad by any means at present.

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(7) Civilian population. Since Italy quitted the war, the civilians are now feeling conscious of a new sense of freedom and liberty which they have not enjoyed for years. They have got the impression that we are soft and easy, and in small communes, there is a certain amount of petty squabbling about who will rule the roost. If a CAO appoints the best man possible; this does not please another section who want their man. The position is NOT bad by any means at present, but unless we exercise a firm hand, I rather anticipate ugly situations which may get out of hand. It must not be construed that I am unduly apprehensive, but I know from experience the need for holding the reins tightly and I feel my responsibility keenly for the preservation of law and order.

(8) ARMS - ARRESTS. Following on 7 and 8 above, there has been a little local /

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2.

feeling at GONDOPURI (population 5,200) and at SAN LORENZO (6,000 population). Local Carabinieri at both places weak and civilians ready to take advantage. RESULTS

GONDOPURI: Lieut. Simpson assisted by other officers searched several places, weapons were found and 13 persons arrested and will be charged under Proclamation 2; Article 1 (5). *①*

SAN LORENZO: At 5 am CAPO Reggio Province and other officers raided TEN houses and arrested EIGHT persons for hiding arms and ammunition (parts of machine guns, one rifle loaded, three shot-guns, five pistols and quantity of ammunition, including 15 live hand ~~grenades~~ grenades).

I would press for IMMEDIATE SITTING OF A GENERAL COURT at earliest possible date, and if found GUILTY, a stiff sentence and published in print in every town and village. In case it is thought I am out for blood, Major HOWE knows I was all out for leniency in SICILY which did help us in our job there, but here it is different, and we must make a firm example.

I ask, therefore, to have a Legal Officer here at REGGIO at earliest possible moment to assist with the cases. Major Franklin, who was sick, went away north a week ago, and at present there is no legal officer in this Province so far as I am aware. Meanwhile, the ~~first~~ Italian original courts are commencing to function, and first hearing should take place in a few days.

J. H. Black

Major,
CAPO Region II (at Reggio).

*① Lt Simpson, with others, has also arrested
civilians with arms etc at GALLINATA.*

FOUR

785015

SUBJECT:-- Report on Region II.SECRET

H.Q., A.M.G.,
15 Army Group,
C.M.F.

Capt L.H. Van Dusen Jr.
Ord

H.Q., A.M.G.,
PALERMO.

AMG/72/12

3rd December 1943

1. After the landings at Reggio organization in that province was initially completed in about a week's time, with A.M.G. representatives in the outlying towns of Palmi and Noceri.

2. A.M.G. representatives proceeded northwards with the H.Q. staffs of the I Canadian Division and the 5 Division, and by 20th September the entire region was covered by an A.M.G. organization as follows:-

Reggio Province:	C.A.O. Major Benton Jones.
Catanzaro Province:	C.A.O. Major Holmstrom.
Cosenza Province:	C.A.O. Major Watts.
Potenza Province:	C.A.O. Major Lord Middleton.
Matera Province:	C.A.O. Major Canby.

Provincial H.Q.s were maintained in the capital cities which bear the same names as the provinces.

3. Regional H.Q.s were established at Corigliano on 16th September, under the command of Group Captain C.E. Benson.

4. During the interval from 15th to 20th September, Lieut-Colonel Gerry proceeded from Crotone to Taranto, where he learned that the four southern provinces of Apulia (Taranto, Bari, Brindisi and Lecce) were to be administered by the Allied Mission and not by Military Government. It was agreed, however, that the province of Reggio would remain under the control of the Allied Military Government.

5. Lieut-Colonel Gerry returned to Region II H.Q.s at Corigliano and on the 20th September assumed charge of Region II as H.Q.A.O. ex Group Captain Benson who proceeded northwards with the Eighth Army, making his H.Q.s at Lucera. Major General The Lord Rennell instructed Lieut-Colonel Gerry to include in Region II the five provinces mentioned above, and the provisions that Group Captain Benson would administer the province of Reggio, since his H.Q.s at Lucera was located in that province.

6. A division of officers between Region II and A.M.G.

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6. A division of officers between Region II and A.M.G. Eighth Army was made on the 20th September, at the time Group Captain Benson departed from the Region. A division of transport, enlisted personnel and supplies was also made.

7. The American officers who left Region II and joined A.M.G. Eighth Army were:-

Capt. A.J. Malatesta
Capt. J.C. Grizzard
Capt. A.M. Schauflier
Lieut. R.E. Torcellini
Capt. W.O. Mavis
Lieut. A.A. Slapson
Lieut. C. Pappalardo
Lieut. J.J. Meccia
2/Lt. H.A. Monaco

/continued over.

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- 2 -

2/Lt. D.A. Tessaro
 2/Lt. F.S. Micossi
 2/Lt. T.J. Shannon
 2/Lt. P. Klepacki
 2/Lt. E.F. Castle
 2/Lt. M.J. Desiderio
 2/Lt. M. Queola

3. The British officers who left Region II and joined Group Captain C.E. Benson at A.M.G. Eighth Army were:-

Wing Cdr. Bear
 Lieut-Colonel R. Lloyd Carson.
 Capt. Willard.
 Lieut G.H. Campbell
 Lieut P. Garrigue

Additional British officers from the Middle East arrived at a later date to equalise the proportion of British and American officers at A.M.G. Eighth Army.

9. Region II officer personnel at the time of the division between Region II and A.M.G. Eighth Army amounted to 52 officers. The total number of officers in Region II is being increased to 92, equally divided between Americans and British.

10. The administration of Region II as a static area was recognised by General Sir H.R.G. Alexander on the 3rd October 43, at which time he appointed Major General The Lord Rennell to serve as Chief Civil Affairs Officer. This had the legal effect of removing all military government administration in Region II from the direct command of the Eighth Army and placing it under the direct command of Major General The Lord Rennell, who in turn was responsible to General Sir H.R.G. Alexander as Military Governor.

11. Permanent H.Q.s for Region II were established in Matera on the 21st October 43 and about a week later (the exact date was given in a letter to Brigadier General F.J. McSherry from the undersigned) the administration of the Region was turned over to Lieut-Colonel McCaffrey as R.O.A.O. Reports on the detailed administration of Region II have been submitted from time to time to the special divisions such as Finance, Supply and so forth. A collection of early reports is appended hereto, from which you may be able to gather a certain amount of detailed data and information of the personal experiences of Civil Affairs officers in the field. These reports should be returned to Region II H.Q.s when you are through with them.

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12. You will have received direct from Major Pollock a report on the number of arrests made for security or political reasons and you will also have learned from him that the entire list of persons thus arrested has been reviewed by Major Pollock in collaboration with G.S.I.(b) Eighth Army, with the result that a number of people have been released. It was also the policy of the Public Security Branch at Region II to review the list of all civilians found in the prisons at the time of our occupation, and the policy has been to release those who were in ill health who had served the major portion of their sentences for light crimes. It was also the policy to arrange for trials of those who had not yet been tried; some individuals who were in on light charges and had not yet been tried were released.

- 3 -

13. Region II H.Q.s has followed a policy not only of ridding the region of Fascist officials, but also to bring to justice private individuals who had committed crimes against the Italian penal code, but who were protected by the Fascist Party. To accomplish this result, committees of outstanding civilians were formed at Catanzaro and Matera for the purpose of receiving complaints of a criminal nature. Great care was taken in the selection of these committees, and an A.M.G. legal officer was always present at their deliberations. The scheme proved very successful and has made the people feel that justice was being done. Evidence of 15 cases at Matera alone has been presented to the Italian prosecuting authorities for trial in Italian courts. One conviction has thus far been obtained in Matera and another one is pending. Allied Military Courts have functioned successfully throughout the region for the trial of Proclamational crimes.

14. Broadly speaking, the supply situation in Region II has been taken care of through the organization of local resources and the import of flour to Reggio. With a few exceptions, a universal ration of 150 grammes of bread per person per day has been maintained. The exceptions were for a few days in Reggio while awaiting arrival of ships, and in Cosenza, where the ration had to be reduced temporarily to 100 grammes owing to breakdown of transport. However, this has since been corrected. It will be necessary to continue to import flour into Region II on the basis of approximately 6,000 tons per month until the next harvest.

15. Political conditions have, on the whole, been satisfactory, although it is understood that recently there has been some disorder at Cosenza. Through the activities of A.M.G. officers, objectionable officials formerly connected with the Fascist Party were removed in all places, including the smaller towns, so that the disorders in Cosenza cannot be said to be due to any irritation on the part of the population against Fascist officials. The latest report on the subject appears to show that certain individuals calling themselves Communists have objected to the Prefect of Cosenza, who they state is a Socialist. The manifestations do not appear to represent in any sense the population as a whole, but rather do they appear to be the result of the activity of certain individuals, some of whom were not reputable in character. It is understood that Major Pollock has recently been investigating reports that organized disorder has been directed by undercover personages at Reggio and possibly from Cosenza. No doubt further information can be obtained in due course from him and from the S.C.A.D. at Cosenza.

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HSG/8CH

HARVEY E. GERRY,
Lieut Colonel, AUS,
D.C.C.A.O.

1912

16th September 1943.

REGGIO PROVINCIAL C. 4.4.4. A. - Report No. 4.

The following is the position briefly between 3.9.43. and 15.9.43.:-

- (1) ENTRY OF ENEMY Canadians entered Reggio 10.30 a.m. on 3.9.43. No trouble, no resistance, and numerous prisoners. They were glad to see the Allies and some remarked "Why have you been so long?"
- (2) CIVILIANS On 3.9.43. 17,000 civilians in Reggio town. There were 140,000 in July and when air activity and shelling commenced the figures dwindled to 60,000. For a fortnight prior to our landing there was a general exodus northwards mainly. When we entered, civilians said that they had had scarcely any food for the past four months. They appeared to be hungry, had in fact little food, but were certainly not starving. Their morale was low.
By 15.9.43. there are now at least 50,000 people in Reggio and suburbs. For the past week there has been a steady trickle into the town, mainly from the south. Up to 10.9.43. military banned the entry of civilians but from that date civilians have been allowed to enter from the south and east only. Military traffic is still heavy going northwards. We are still trying to prevent civilians from entering the town from the north but this is rather difficult. Some difficulty is being experienced on the landing beaches by crowds of civilians who wish to get back to Sicily. This is not being allowed and we have taken strong measures to disperse them and keep them away from the beaches where they have been hindering military movements. Night Carabinieri guards have been assisting in these measures.
- (3) ENTRY OF ALLIED OFFICERS At 14.00 a.m. on 3.9.43. Lieut. LEMMAN first in town - did good work by preventing looting by civilians of goods lying in the street.
At 7.00 p.m. on 3.9.43. Major HENRY JONES, JUNIOR, and RULLOCK, Capt. GRIZZARD, Lt. SIMMONS and VITI arrived in Reggio town and established ALLIED office at the Municipio. At 7.10 p.m. on 3.9.43. proclamations nos. 1, 2 and 3 posted, also curfew notices. We also posted notices in Italian firing curfew between 8.00 p.m. and 5.30 a.m. being the period approved by the Military Commander.
Lieut. VITI was sick on arrival and had to be taken to Hospital.
American and British flags flown by 8.00 p.m. on 3.9.43.
- (4) PROCLAMATIONS As stated above Proclamations 1, 2 and 3 and No. 2 in Italian, also Curfew Notice posted on 3.9.43.
Proclamations Nos. 4, 5, 8, 11 and 13 and General Orders Nos 1 and 2 posted in Reggio town on 15.9.43. and will be posted throughout the Province on 15.9.43.
- (5) PASCALIS Practically every leading Fascist (including all on our Black List) was recalled to Rome on 28.7.43. after Badoglio came into power. These Fascists have not returned and P.S.S. are satisfied that they are not in this area. The Prefect was among them.
- (6) AIR RAIDS SINCE 3.9.43. Between May 1943 and the end of August 1943 the official Police figures of casualties (civilian) in air raids and from shelling in Reggio town and San Giovanni (Villa) - the worst bombed place in Reggio Province - were 3,000 killed and 5,000 injured. These are the figures quoted by the chief of the Carabinieri and may be on the high side. Perhaps 25% of Reggio town has been damaged by bombing and shelling.
- (7) AIR RAIDS SINCE 3.9.43. When ALLIED were arriving on 3.9.43., the landing beaches were being bombed by enemy machines - only minor damage and no casualties. One

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four months. They appeared to be hungry, had in fact little food, but were certainly not starving. Their morale was low.

By 15.9.43, there are now at least 50,000 people in Reggio and suburbs. For the past week there has been a steady trickle into the town, mainly from the south. Up to 10.9.43, military banned the entry of civilians but from that date civilians have been allowed to enter from the south and east only. Military traffic is still heavy going northwards. We are still trying to prevent civilians from entering the town from the north but this is rather difficult. Some difficulty is being experienced on the landing beaches by crowds of civilians who wish to get back to Sicily. This is not being allowed and we have taken strong measures to disperse them and keep them away from the beaches where they have been hindering military movements. Night Carabinieri guards have been assisting in these measures.

(3) ENTRY OF AMBROSIO OFFICERS At 11.00 a.m. on 3.9.43, Lieut. LAMBERTI first in town - did good work by preventing looting by civilians of goods lying in the street.

At 7.00 p.m. on 3.9.43, Majors HERMAN JAMES, JENNICK, and POLLOCK, Capt. GRIZZARD, Lt. SIMPSON and VITI arrived in Reggio town and established AMBROSIO office at the Municipio. At 7.10 p.m. on 3.9.43, proclamations nos. 1, 2 and 3 posted, also curfew notices. We also posted notices in Italian fixing curfew between 8.00 p.m. and 5.30 a.m. being the period approved by the Military Commander.

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Proclamations Nos. 4, 5, 8, 11 and 13 and General Orders Nos 1 and 2 posted in Reggio town on 15.9.43, and will be posted throughout the Province on 16.9.43.

(5) FASCISTS Practically every landing Fascist (including all on our Black List) was recalled to home on 28.7.43. after Badoglio came into power. These Fascists have not returned and F.S.S. are satisfied that they are not in this area. The Prefect was among them.

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(7) AIR RAIDS SINCE 3.9.43. When AMBROSIO were arriving on 3.9.43, the landing beaches were being bombed by enemy machines - only minor damage and no casualties. One empty house was demolished, a building hit and slight fire caused. At 1.15 p.m. on 4.9.43, ten enemy machines flew in low over Reggio harbour and bombed the landing beaches and gun sites. A direct hit was unfortunately scored on a heavy A.A. gun on "B" Beach, killing the officer in charge and seven men of the gun crew. The eighth died before he reached hospital.

Only slight enemy air activity since - one building of no importance hit, and no casualties.

(8) AIR RAID WARNING SYSTEM On 15.9.43 a system of air raid warnings has been introduced in Reggio town. The RED warning will be sounded by orders of M.O.I.C. / by means of

by means of a series of sub blasts on a siren situated on roof of the Harbour Offices. The ALL CLEAR - prolonged blast on the siren.

The U.M.P.A. or A.R.P. system has not yet resumed work - some of their vehicles are missing, but the Fire Brigade is fairly efficient and Carabinieri motor cyclists are standing by day and night ready to summon Ambulances or Fire Brigades as necessary.

(9) FOOD When we entered on 3.9.43. some 40-50 tons of grain was stored on the ground floor of the Municipio, and civilians had been helping themselves. The Canadian C.O. very kindly loaned us six armed guards, which saved the situation. This supply was able to keep the civilian population going for several days.

At 11.00 a.m. on 2.9.43. the ship "MIRIAM" brought to Reggio 2,000 tons of flour etc. Immediate distribution was commenced, at first transport was a problem, but this is being overcome, and supplies are now getting through to those parts of the Province where the need is greatest. Bread has been baked for several days, and this white bread is greatly appreciated by the population who have not seen it for several years.

(10) LOOTING Fortunately no looting on a large scale has taken place. On the first two days there were certain complaints, and separate report has been submitted of 11 specific cases, e.g. C.A.F.O. found seven Canadians in possession of brand new sewing machines, typewriters, adding machines, stationery, paint brushes, paint etc. The particulars were taken and reported to the C.O. 1st Canadian Division. Only a few civilians were concerned in the looting from premises. Some 17 have been arrested and await trial. A few others were arrested in possession of property and brought to C.A.F.O. They said that they had been given the articles by Canadians, and as the articles were of trifling value and no direct evidence the cases were thrown out.

Seven Indian soldiers were arrested on 5.9.43. for looting from a hardware shop. On the same date 2 British soldiers were arrested by A.D.C. officers who found them inside a shop. They were in possession of many articles of jewellery, watches, cigarette lighters, cigarette cases, gold rings etc. A Court Martial is now pending in this case.

On 5.9.43. house of C.O. Carabinieri forcibly entered and every room ransacked. Jewellery, chocolates, cigarettes and soap were taken, but in addition sinners were damaged, door locks were forced and panels splintered. Canadians were had been seen in the vicinity during the afternoon. Major POLLOCK took up the enquiry and eventually traced the two Canadians who admitted going to the house. Upon searching their kits, several of the stolen articles were found in their possession. Later two other Canadians were found to be in possession of some of the property, all of which was immediately identified by the C.O. Carabinieri. The men's C.O. (Col. GOMES) was present during the investigation by Major POLLOCK and gave every assistance. Two of the men have received 2 months imprisonment, and the others will probably receive heavier sentences.

On 7.9.43. Majors SMITH and POLLOCK caught Mauritanians (2) stealing articles in a bombed house. One drew a knife and attempted to stab Major POLLOCK who disarmed him. In the scuffle that followed, in the darkness, both coloured men were able to escape. Later a search was made of their billets, and one man was still missing. A suspect who returned late could not be identified, and was given the benefit of the doubt. The other culprit is still at large.

On 6.9.43. A.D.C. officers arrested another two British soldiers for theft and handed them over to Military Police.

On the question generally this serious problem was tackled as effectively as possible right from the start. Within six hours of the landing, 50 Carabinieri and 30 Municipal Guards were patrolling the streets, and military authorities had some 30-40 men patrolling. By midday of 4.9.43. the following were on duty:-

107 Carabinieri, (Uniform with Arm Bands)

42 mounted

42 mounted with Arm Bands, each working with 4 Carabinieri

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107 Carabinieri, (Uniform with Arm Bands)
42 Questorini
33 " (Main Clothes, with Arm Bands, each working with 1 Carabinieri)
30 Municipal Guards (Uniform, with Arm Band)
8 Guardia Finanza

At first, most of the above were dirty, unshaven and slovenly, particularly the Questorini, whose chief had gone to GINQUERMEDE with the Commissars and left them without a proper leader. I will refer to them later. At least they were anxious to cooperate, and we have had no obstruction of any kind, from the outset.

(11) LOOTING BY GERMANS I think that this matter should be mentioned. On very sound authority I have been told that during the months of May, June, July and August the Germans were virtually in possession of the town of Reggio. They systematically looted from the town practically everything of real value, e.g., civilian motor cars and lorries, many tyres, machinery, machine tools, brass fittings, valuable paintings and even antique furniture.

When we commenced heavy bombing at the end of July, and when the place was being heavily shelled in August, no less than 50-60,000 civilians fled to various parts of the Province. Thousands left their homes without taking furniture or effects. At least 70% of the shop owners left the town and of this number a big percentage have not yet returned.

Contrary to expectation very few complaints from the public have been received. In my view practically all claims for compensation should be resisted. As in Sicily, I find that most of the Italians think that we are generous and "easy". They have abandoned their homes and shops and one cannot have much sympathy when they return and squeal. Only in cases where they can prove that soldiers did interfere with their property is the matter being reported and passed to Claims and Hirings. The few complaints we have had have been referred to either the Military Police or the local Civil Police.

(12) STOPS All closed when we took over. Not a lot of stuff in them, many completely empty, and perhaps 25% damaged by air raid damage or blast. Steps were taken to board up damaged doors and windows, where valuables were stored, and all property exposed in windows or streets removed to the Questura where it has been kept and locked in a separate room. The property has been put in bags labelled and recorded, and in due course will be handed back to the owners. **Price lists for food, wine and services have been filed and were published 15/9/43.**

(13) CIVILIAN CARS On the morning of 3.9.43. over 40 civilian cars, Fire Engines, an Ambulance and several civilian lorries were alleged to have been taken away by the Canadians during their advance southwards. The vehicles are being recovered gradually. There are not many civilian cars available, and the few left are mostly without wheels or tyres.

(14) CARABINIERI The total strength of the Carabinieri in the Province is:- 1 Major, 4 Captains, 4 Lieutenants and 980 other ranks.

At the end of August the Major in charge was called by the Prefect to their Provincial Headquarters at CUNQUEFAMIDI, and he was not able to return to Reggio until 10.9.43. when we captured that town. In his absence however the Reggio Captain was in command, and right from the outset was most helpful and co-operative. He is 35 years of age, tall, smart and clean, well-educated and comes from an old military family. I cannot speak too highly of this officer who has been in constant touch with us day and night. At first his men were hopeless, but I hold high hopes of having a first class, clean and efficient force throughout the Province. So far as Reggio is concerned, one must not overlook the fact that they stuck to their posts all through the heavy bombardment by air and shelling, for some weeks, which undoubtedly shook their morale. Their barracks was hit and badly damaged, one Brigadiere and 6 Carabinieri being killed outright and several injured. In the course of the first few days over 40 were released from P.O.W. cages, re-fitted with uniform etc., and were again on duty.

Generally speaking they are doing good work, but want a lot of supervision, schooling and instruction. My remarks in reports on Sicily apply to the Carabinieri here in Italy. They all need individual instruction on Police work and one would like to commence courses of instruction, but the time is not ripe for this.

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Generally speaking they are doing good work, but want a lot of supervision, schooling and instruction. My remarks in reports on Sicily apply to the Carabinieri here in Italy. They all need individual instruction on Police work and one would like to commence courses of instruction, but the time is not ripe for this.

A Captain was wounded at LORCHI and I have sent a suitable Lieutenant as replacement, as a temporary measure.

The Major is a man about 43, with a strong type and a good disciplinarian. Many hours have been spent on instructing the Captains and him, and there is no reason why, with their assistance, we should not be able to expect a noticeable improvement in the standard of the Force, within a short space of time. I am fully satisfied that the Major is the right type of man in charge, and that he is fit to continue in charge. Some weeding out of the enlisted men will have to take place, but this will take a little time. Most of them have, by now, been vetted by the F.S.S.

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Two doubtful Marescialli may be arrested shortly by F.S.S., in conjunction with AMOZ. Most of them have been paid for the month of August. There are 110 Carabinieri now serving in Reggio town, and certain domestic changes have been made to meet local conditions.

(15) QUESTORA As mentioned above, in Para. 10, the Vice Questore and the Chief Commissario were missing when we took over on 3.9.43. The remaining Commissario was ill, and on the verge of a nervous breakdown. He had been sleeping in his cellar for weeks, and was certainly not fit to have charge of a Provincial Police Force. No doubt the shelling had got him down. His 45 men were, generally speaking, dirty, unshaven, and unkempt. Rather than looking like a Police Force they reminded me of the Boho street corner type. A great deal of firework was necessary before we got them moving. Their Station was filthy, records badly kept and they had certain articles of property (e.g. three wireless sets) which could not properly be accounted for. However, after working out a few we got the remainder vetted, cleaned up, with Am Landa, and got them out patrolling the streets, interspersed with the Carabinieri.

On 13.9.43, after CIMENTARELLI fell we sent transport for and brought back the Vice Questore and one of his Provincial Commissars. I was unfavourably impressed with them both right from the start, and neither was in my opinion fit to take over the reins. Lieut. SIMPSON, C.A.P.O., the F.S.S., and the A.P.M., with whom I was in close liaison, all shared this view.

After very careful investigation by the F.S.S., Field Security arrested both of them, on 13.9.43, on security grounds. I concurred in this action. Both were unquestionably well mixed up with Fascism, and they were no doubt both ringleaders in enforcing Fascist principles and doctrines on the public. Both confessed that they had had dealings with the O.V.R.A. activities over a number of years. I certainly would not countenance their continuance in running the Police Force during Allied Occupation. The finding of a suitable deputy proved a not too easy task; however, a young Provincial Commissar called BARILLA, aged 30, was placed in command temporarily on 14.9.43. He is clean, very smart and I think should be efficient. He has been in the Police Force for several years and underwent a full University Law course in Rome. He was able to satisfy the F.S.S. that he had no political leanings. He has been placed on a month's trial and I have high hopes that he will prove suitable. He commands respect and obedience, and there is a striking difference already in the appearance of the Questorini. He knows what is expected of him, and he appears to be going all out to give satisfaction. His Station has been cleaned up from top to bottom and I have closely observed that every man has to toe the line.

We are submitting the names of 25 men who he thinks should be cleared out. I have, with Lieut. SIMPSON, seen some of these men, and certainly agree that they must go. Most of these individuals were enlisted men of doubtful reputation and they will certainly be no loss to the community. No hardship will result, because there is plenty of other work waiting for them if they want it.

It may be some time before we are able to cleanse them - if ever, but the position will be carefully watched. When we landed they were about to be paid for the month of August, and with the help of the Finance Officer they have now all been paid.

(16) MUNICIPAL GUARDS This Force comprises a total of 69 men. The Commandant was missing for the first two days, and when he did turn up he did not appear to display much interest in his job or to have any sort of control over the men. In any case he was an elderly man, and Lieut. SIMPSON and I agreed to let him go. Their principal job is traffic and bread

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- (17) POLIZIA FORESTALE (Forestry Police) Eighty-five men in uniform under a Captain who is quite a good, clean, smart and efficient man of 45 years of age.

Eleven men are still absent from duty and several are old and useless. The Captain wants to get rid of them and this will be done. The men are spread out in two over the whole province. Their principal function is to govern and regulate the distribution of firewood and charcoal, cutting timber, etc. The Captain is in touch with the supply officer on the matter.

(18) CARPO VIGILI del FUOCO (Fire Brigade) Run on a Provincial basis under a Commandant 2 officers and 236 men, with sections at Reggio, Palmi, Siderno, Bagnara, and Villa San Giovanni (last two not functioning owing to bomb damage and loss of equipment). Some fire vehicles were taken away by military which makes their work difficult and it is advisable to have their contingents reformed at Villa San Giovanni and Bagnara as early as possible. Local CAROS have the matter in hand.

(19) RAILWAY POLICE Formerly under the control of the questore at Rome before we took over. 60 of them were working on the railways in charge of a Commissioner who I have seen and appears to be a fairly efficient "live wire". He says that during the past 2 months half the number were allotted to the questore for police duty in guarding railways etc. and another ten travelling to and fro between Rome and Reggio, ostensibly for the purpose of preventing crime, pickpockets etc. These ten probably provided a link for OVVA and other underground channels and I have warned the Commissioner they will not re-assume duty before being vetted by F.S.S. and without my express authority. As all the railways in the south are still under control of the military, the problem does not arise at present.

(20) GUARDIA FINANZIARIA Colonel in charge, who is ill with bronchitis at LECCE. I have seen his captain who has 1 lieutenant and a total staff of 700 throughout the province. There are 300 old enlisted men who are undisciplined, very possibly corrupt and the Captain wants to get rid of them, as in any case they have nothing much to do, in fact there are too many of them. I am in touch with Major McFadden with the object of reducing their numbers considerably. F.S.S. too are interested in keeping a very close eye on them as many of them are definitely suspect. Their duties are to enforce the customs laws, internal finance laws control the movement around the sea shore, and act as tax collector. Most of the staff are uniformed, but a few work in plain clothes. A married man receives 1000 lire a month, which is probably an answer to their doubtful acts.

Apart from the officer I have ordered the withdrawal of the pistol to Carabinieri. They resented this at first but I have maintained a firm attitude for the time being at least.

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(20)

GUARDIA FINANZIA

Colonel in charge, who is ill with bronchitis at Lecce. I have seen his captain who has 1 lieutenant and a total staff of 700 throughout the province. There are 300 old enlisted men who are undisciplined, very possibly corrupt and the Captain wants to get rid of them, as in any case they have nothing much to do, in fact there are too many of them. I am in touch with Major McPadgett with the object of reducing their numbers considerably. F.S.S. too are interested in keeping a very close eye on them as many of them are definitely suspect. Their duties are to enforce the customs laws, internal finance laws control the movement around the sea shore, and act as tax collector. Most of the staff are uniformed, but a few work in plain clothes. A married man receives 1000 lire a month, which is probably an answer to their doubtful acts.

(21)

Prigioni

Apart from the officer I have ordered the withdrawal of the pistol to Carabinieri. They resented this at first but I have maintained a firm attitude for the time being at least.

21 prisons in the province. A few are fairly modern but many are small, old, dirty and insanitary. Reports are not complete from the 4 CAPOs who have been exceptionally busy on other pressing matters but I will refer to a few, if only to give a hurried picture of the situation.

Reggio Prison Modern, now clean, and with accommodation for 300 prisoners - 57 on the staff. When heavy bombing commenced

all the 80 prisoners were dispersed to other prisons.

At present 72 persons are in custody (others have been handed out on suitable cases pending their appearance at Court) of whom 21 are prostitutes in temporary confinement (see para () below. a great number of the prisoners were arrested for being in unlawful possession of a variety of goods and clothing (of stealthy derivation!) and others for simple larcenies. 3 will be explained later, the Procuratore della Legge and other legal officers have been seen and are commencing to open the civil courts forthwith.

Gallina Prison - badly damaged by air attack some weeks ago - some prisoners killed - 42 escaped.

Locri Prison - accommodation for 200 but prisoners distributed some weeks ago owing to danger of bombing.

Giulosa Prison - 27 inmates including a man who killed the local Podesta. other violent criminals.

Stillo Prison - 15 men and 3 women prisoners, small place, not yet visited.

Ardire, Coulonia and Siduno Prisons - small empty.

Seminara - I visited on 11/9/43 with C.A.P.O. and F.S.S. rep.

I have submitted a separate and detailed report. Filthy place

150 years old and resembles old farmyard outhouses. The C.C.

was given 24 hours to clean up the place from top to bottom or

probably find himself inside, himself. 16 prisoners were

confined and I dealt with them as follows, action approved by our

legal officer who is sick. - 4 political released to Reggio for

examination and vetting - 5 Italian deserters sent to I.O.W. camp

One elderly man drunk in the street and sentenced to 6 months

imprisonment 15/4/43 - released. 6 have been there for months

without any trial:- Man struck his fiancée in the face with

his fist and put in prison May 1943 - o trial - released.

Germans threw a man in 3/8/43 - he had some argument with them -

released. Mother and 2 daughters (ages 15 and 16) arrested and

put in the gaol 16th April 1943 for brawling together in the street.

- NO TRIAL - released forthwith (the humorous part is that they

refused to leave because they had no home and were destitute!

Another woman (prostitute) arrested 21 January of this year and

simply left in jail without trial. I am having her medically

examined and if free - allowed to go on condition she does not go

near troops (no danger of this - she also wants to stay put)

Cinque Pronda Prison I visited the place with CAO and local

Pretore, and vetted each prisoner confined. Six serving long

sentences for serious crime - they must remain. Five others have

served more than half their long sentences for lesser offences (e.g.)

(a) family fighting 18 months November 1942 (b) row in nephew's house

15 months 15/7 42 (c) woman ill with cancer) altering name in a

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at least sentence) for long periods one as far back as 1941. 11 for crime and I have asked our legal officer (who has been sick) to expedite their trial at earliest possible moment. Three others

In custody without trial, as follows:-

(1) DEBARO woman age 30 with young baby in army: imprisoned in Reg for assault and battery - Nine months in jail - immediate release suggested.

(2) NIGHT man age 34 - alleged swindling - jailed since Jan. 1944 without trial, presumably because the prosecutor or complainant, in the army - immediate release suggested. 1009

(3) WINTER woman age 10 arrested in May, 1942 for assault and battery. The facts briefly are that whilst her husband was away in the army now a prisoner) a man tried to interfere with her. She frankly admitted that she slashed him with a knife. Been in prison well over a year without trial and in the circumstances she was released. Legal officer has formally approved the action.

It has not been possible to get round the other prisons, but I am afraid we will find a similar state of affairs elsewhere, which is, say the least, really shocking. It is evident that during the last 18 months the whole legal and prison system not only deteriorated but to pieces, people being arrested and thrown into prison without any Greater latitude should be given to C.A.O.s and C.A.P.s to exercise their discretion in the release of such prisoners.

(22) Liaison with Army: The closest contact exists between ANGOT and Military Police, D.F.M., A.F.M., S.I.B., Field Security, Naval Authorities, etc. When I visited Col. Woodington, R.N. sub-Area Commander on 17 Sep; 43, he and his officers expressed appreciation of the close harmony between us.

(23) Claims and Hiring: They set up office in ANGOT Regio Province on 13 Sep. 43 (Lt. Col. Keith and McQueston, Majors Burr and Morris have discussed with them the various difficulties experienced with regard to improper requisitioning and handed to them separate detail reports of all cases within our knowledge, looting reports, and a number of receipts obtained in the course of our inquiries.

(24) Brothels and Prostitutes: Two registered brothels in Regio - one officially known elsewhere. Both places were closed for business before we entered (one still had a painted notice "Für deutsche Soldaten verboten") and we have kept them closed. 24 prostitutes have been rounded up, medically examined and removed to local prisons. With four exceptions all were diseased, some badly, and are undergoing treatment. I spoke to the Sub-Area Commander on 17 Sep 43 about the question as to release of women who are not diseased but he asks that they remain in prison for a further period.

(25) Street Sellers: The sale of fruit, lemonade, nuts etc on the street boxes or stalls was completely prohibited right from the start. 71

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(25) Street Sellers: The sale of fruit, lemonade, nuts etc on the boxes or stalls was completely prohibited right from the start. This has resulted in less trouble and kept the streets neat and tidy.

(26) Provincial Officials: For some months practically all the important provincial officials went to Cinque Frondi by order of the Prefect who also set up his office there. Our bombing, plus the fear of invasion, was no doubt the reason. As soon as Cinque Frondi fell we brought back in all 111 officials including the Prefect, the Vice-Prefect and the Major i/c Carabinieri (the lastnamed had only been three days in Cinque Frondi. I was suspicious at first that he had deserted his post and run off, but it was by express orders of the Prefect).

(1) Dr. Rosario POCIALI, aged 60 years, the Prefect was appointed by Badoglio on 1 Aug 43. States that he always was ROSE-Fascist and was formerly the Prefect of Ferrara 1931-39 and for a time at Rome

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has been vetted in common with all the others who returned by F.S.S. who have not quite decided yet about his bona fides. However, he is quite a good type and anxious to help and co-operate. He is taking a live interest in the welfare of the population but appears perhaps a little too easy.

(2) The Vice-Questore, CIMAPELLI, aged 53 yrs., was second in command Regio for some years and took charge on 28 Jul 43. When Radoglio recalled the Questore who has not returned and who, I am told, has not been seen since. Looks a bad nasty slimy type. He is unknown and he is evasive in his answers. Met a suitable man to be in charge of police and I was relieved when the F.S.S. decided on 28 Sep 43 to arrest. The population was also relieved but this fact had no real bearing on the situation.

(3) His Commissioner (and I should add his Marshal-Commissaire) has also been arrested by the F.S.S.

(4) Rest of staff seem average and no reason at present to interfere then.

(27) Wine Shops: Were all kept closed until 10 Sep 43 and this firm decision saved us a great deal of possible trouble. A few selected registered shops are now in bounds to troops and wine prices controlled. Permitted hours of sale 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Practically no drunkenness observed.

(28) Fishing: Approved between Cape Spartevento and Schillo - boats andermen being licensed by the Provincial C.A.P.O. and necessary regulation framed. We are hoping to get official approval to extend fishing north on both sides of the peninsula.

(29) Courts: Major Franklin, Legal Officer, is preparing a separate report on the Legal System. There are Tribunali at Reggio, Locri and Palmi, of which will commence to function very shortly. A number of cases are awaiting trial.

(30) Registration of Labour: Arrangements in hand to register all males aged of 16 to 60 not employed by Allied Military Government. There is difficulty in getting labour for local requirements.

(31) Conduct of Troops: Generally very good.

(32) General Observations: (1) I would like to refer again to the most valuable help and co-operation given to AMGOT personnel by all branches of the Navy and Army. We have maintained close touch with Military Police, Field Security, SS Area, Navy House etc., who have all been most helpful and this has made our task much easier.

(2) From a Police point of view I have little more to say. We have had-and have-many difficulties still but on the whole things are running very smoothly. The Civil Police organisation of course is far from satisfactory and as I mentioned in a previous report from Sicily one would like to see the whole system of policing completely reorganised. The existing system of separate branches and separate control is not only unwieldy but results in general lack of efficiency.

The total population of the Province is 582,000 (see figures attached for Communes) and is policed by 1,000 Carabinieri, 200 Quentari, 70 Municipal Guards and over 500 Guardia di Finanza, apart from Railway, Maritime and Forest Police (more than one police official to every 300 civilians) with the result that administration generally is top-heavy.

(3) Courts and prisons need our attention badly and I have already quoted one or two scandalous prison examples which reflect of the former judicial system as a whole. Let's hope Allied influence will improve the whole legal system.

Pollock Major
C.A.P.O. Reggio Province

(33) SECURITY ARRESTS Over 30 arrests of civilians have been effected throughout the Province on Security grounds (apart from Proclamation offences. Major Pollock is representing AMGOT for Region 2 area, and consulting with G.S.I. (b) on each case individually. First sitting held at Reggio on 18-9-43 with Captain Long; 8th Army GSI(b).

(34) SHOOTING OF POLICE. At 3 pm 18-9-43 in Reggio Town; a British soldier (drunk) shot an RM Military Police Sergeant in the leg. Fortunately; wounds not serious - soldier concerned in custody.

18-9-43.

Major
C.A.P.O. Reggio Province.

REGGIO (PROVINCIAL) C.A.P.O. Report No. 1.

- (1) ENTRY of Troops. Entered Reggio 10-30 am 3.9.43 - no trouble many prisoners - some remarked "Why have you been so long". All civilians in Town seemed delighted to see the Troops.
- (2) CIVILIANS. 17,000 in Town. There were 110,000 before air activity and shelling took place. Then figures dwindled to 80,000. During last month general exodus north, to villages and hills few miles out both sides of the Town. Civilians say they have had little food for past 4 months. I should say they have been very hungry, had little food, but not starving. Their morale is low.
- (3) AIR RAIDS. From May, 1943, to date we entered, official police figures of casualties in air raids and as result of shelling in Reggio Town and immediate suburbs no less than 3,000 persons (including many children) have been fatally injured, and 5,000 civilians injured. These are official figures quoted by the O/C Carabinieri but I think they are on the high side. (Street ^{not} ^{bad}) About 25% of the Town damaged by bombing and shelling.
- (4) AIR RAIDS since 3.9.43. At 7 p.m enemy planes bombed the beaches and gun sites at Reggio - only minor damage and no casualties. One empty house demolished, another hit and slight fire - soon extinguished.
At 1-15 p.m. 4-9-43 ten enemy machines flew in low over Reggio harbour and bombed the landing beaches and gun sites. One Focke Wilfe dived and scored a direct hit on the heavy A.A. gun on B.beach. Unfortunately the officer in (a Lieut-and ~~his~~ his eight men were all killed. They were attached to 319 Batty 97 Regt. C.A.P.O. assisted.
- (4) ANGOT officials. At 11 am 3-9-43 Lt. Lenmon first in Town - did good work, preventing looting by civilians and established ANGOT office at Municipal Buildg.
At 7 p.m. 3-9-43 following officers arrived -

Major Bentont-Jones,	Prov. C.A.C.
" Jonwick	" Health Officer.
" Pollok	" C.A.P.O.
Capt. Grizzard	Reg. C.A.O.
Lt. Simpson,	Reg. C.A.P.O.
" Viti (Supply -	he was sick on arrival and had to be taken to Hospital - (Malaria).

At 7-10 pm 3-9-43, Proclamations Nos. 1, 2 and 3 posted on most important buildings. Also Curfew Notice. Notice also posted in Italian fixing Curfew between 8 pm. and 5-30 a.m. This time was approved by military.

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Notices ordering surrender of arms, ammunition etc.

posted 6 p.m. 4.9.43. Place of surrender - Carabinieri bks. and final date for surrender 10.9.43. - Register being kept of surrenders.

Cameras, binoculars, radio sets, civilians cars and lorries being registered later by C.A.P.O.

(5) FLAGS. American and British flags being flown.

(6) FASCISTS. Most leading Fascists were recalled to Rome when

Badoglio came into power. These fascists have not returned. Prefect among them. F.S.S. and C.A.P.O. rounding up remaining Fascists on Black List 5.9.43.

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(7) CARABINIERI. Captain in charge - appears good man and willing to co-operate. We will use him until properly vetted. 30 men now on duty in and doing useful work. Were dirty and slovenly but being cleaned and smartened up. 40 released from P.O.W. cages 4.9.43. 1 Brig. and 6 carab. killed in air raids recently and one of their barracks heavily damaged by bombing. Carabinieri patrolling in uniform with carabinieri - NO pistols.

(8) QUESTURA. Questura is in country and place at present in enemy hands. Probably a Fascist from Rome and he will be dealt with later by C.A.P.O. At present in Reggio on duty - 2 Commissars (very doubtful individuals) 42 uniform Questurini, and 33 plain clothes. I am using the uniformed members (one with a Carab.) on street patrols to prevent looting, also covering railway stn., banks, post offices and other essential places in town as a temporary measure until they are all properly vetted by F.S.S. and C.A.P.O. As for the plain clothes men, at present they are working with armbands, all unarmed (uniform men also unarmed). Plain clothes men NOT allowed to operate after curfew. Some ~~plain~~

~~uniform~~ weeding out will be necessary in conjunction with Lt.

Simpson.

(9) Municipal Guards. 30 on duty - their chief is sick and I am seeing him later. The men are in uniform, with arm bands - and regulation traffic, keeping civilians and non-essential civilian traffic off the main thoroughfares whilst military operations in progress. Dirty and slovenly lot - say they are hungry, and generally poor specimens. Will have them cleaned and tidied up later. They are dealing with bread queues and at market places (not yet re-opened).

(10) CIVILIAN TRAFFIC. Tendency for civilian to return in town. Carab. guards being placed at main entrances round town to discourage returning but difficult to stop.

(11) SHOPS. All closed - not a lot of stuff in them - and many completely empty. About 30 % of shops damaged by air raids, etc., shops with valuables, I have sent Carab. to trace the owners to get them board up their damaged doors and windows. It appears that practically ALL owners of the shops have fled and are mostly out of town. As they have not stayed to look after their premises. All future claims for compensation and allegations that their property has been removed should be resisted. In Sicily - streams of applications for compensation received after they returned. If they cannot stay and look after their own property then they must suffer the consequences.

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- (12) LOOTING. Fortunately; very little observed since our entry. Some looting has taken place undoubtedly but on small scale and mainly petty articles. C.A.P.O.s had to deal with several cases caught red-handed but articles were trifling and several soldiers (Canadians) were involved. They were strictly cautioned as C.A. P.O. so full with other pressing tasks. A.P.M. and Canadian M.P.s contacted and as a result we hope to have closer liaison on the looting problem. Some 40 Military police now in town.

- (13) CIVILIAN CARS. Some 45 civilian cars, fire engines and tenders, one ambulance, and several civilian lorries, taken away by the Canadians on 3.9.43 on their advance southwards. It is hoped to recover some of them shortly.

- (15) PRISON and PRISONERS. Nearest prison outside town undamaged. No prisoners - gaol capable of holding about 300. Fair state. Prison at GALLINA (penal) badly damaged by direct hit some weeks ago - some prisoners killed - 42 escaped. NO POLITICAL PRISONERS were inside and NO political prisoners elsewhere in the Town.
- NO civilians prisoners in custody at present.
- (16) SUSPECTED POISONING OF TROOPS. Lt. Lonmon reported that a soldier and 2 civilians poisoned after drinking wine from a building in Littore. Immediate investigation taken up by Major Pollock and Major Jonwick. The sergeant concerned was a Canadian attached to Beach landing and had been taken to hospital in semi-conscious condition with poisoning. After investigation is transpired that the Sergeant had taken FLYSOL (equivalent of our FLIT) in mistake for WINE. I think he has for his own folly in grabbing what the thought was a decent drink.
- At the outset, however, as a precaution. I ordered every wine shop to remain closed temporarily until properly vetted. Town Major agrees with action at present.
- (17) BROTELS AND PROSTITUTES. TWO registered brothels in Town. One at VIA FINANZA and VIA OSSANO. Were closed for business before we entered and are remaining CLOSED at present. S.C.A.O. agrees. There are between 15 and 20 prostitutes (some out of Town). Likely to return soon. All are being arrested, and medically examined by arrangement with Major JONWICK. Those diseased will be removed for hospital treatment, others after re-registration by police will be strictly cautioned to keep away from troops, and if possible discouraged firmly from carrying on their profession. Fortunately, the police authorities in this Region were against brothels and prostitutes and there is no acute problem at present. Will be watched carefully.
- (18) SALE OF BRUIT AN LEMONADE IN STREETS. Prohibited ENTIRELY as from 4.9.43.
- (19) PRICES. Notices posted in ITALIANS ALL prices of commodities and food to remain same as before Allied Occupation.
- (20) HOARDING FOOD. Great food scarcity and little likelihood of much hoarding in the province. Anyhow, Questurini and Carabinieri ordered to confiscate any surplus foodstuffs.
- (21) STREET CLEANING. Streets in Reggio surprisingly clean. About 40 cleaners out on duty sweeping up - others being recruited.
- (22) FASCIST SIGNS AND SLOGANS. A number of Fascist slogans painted on walls bear evidence of being recently obliterated. Very few slogans about.

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Major
Reggio Prov.
C. A. P. O.

10th September 1943.

TO: C.A.O., C.A.P.O. Reggio Town.

FROM: C.A.O., Reggio Province.

1. CIVILIAN MOVEMENTS.

Area Commander agrees now that civilians may reenter Reggio from the South and East only. For the time being civilians must not return from the North. A.P.M. is withdrawing the prohibition signs South of Reggio.

Carts must be kept off the main roads north of Reggio, as far as possible. Necessary instructions to be issued by C.A.P.O. Reggio Town.

2. SHOPS.

Shops may be opened forthwith in Reggio and suburban villages. Meat will not be sold to troops. Hygiene authorities in conjunction with A.P.M. and C.A.P.O. Reggio Town will vet suitable places "in bounds to troops" where fruit etc., may be sold.

3. WINE SHOPS.

C.A.P.O. Reggio Town in conjunction with A.P.M. to select certain suitable wine shops "in bounds to troops". Prices to be clearly shown - permitted hours as arranged at Conference on 9.9.43. - permitted hours for sale - 12 noon to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. A.P.M. will select suitable places in bounds to troops.

No sale of wine permitted in unlicensed premises.

4. STREET TRADERS.

No lemonade, fruit, nuts etc., to be sold in the streets either from barrows, stalls, baskets, etc. Fruit may only be sold from a few authorised market stalls in fixed places, vetted by local Hygiene in conjunction with A.P.M. Fruit must be washed in chlorinated water and 86 Area should be asked to provide chlorination material.

5. PROSTITUTES.

Brothels to remain closed and prostitutes continue to be arrested, medically examined and detained in prison by order of military until further orders. Military have refused to feed them and therefore local arrangements must be made from ordinary civilians rations sources.

6. FISHING.

N.O.I.C. has approved fishing between SCILLA in the North and CAPE SPARTIVENTO for a distance up to 3 kilometres from the shore, not to land in Sicily, boat to be registered and fishermen licensed and permits issued, in conjunction with Lt.-Col. Ruck who will arrange prices etc., copy of orders to go to C.A.O. PULI, MESSINA and CATANIA. Provincial C.A.P.O. will arrange this, C.A.O. MESSINA and CATANIA to be informed.

7. DANGEROUS WALLS.

There are several walls and buildings dangerous, likely to collapse and injure civilians. C.A.P.O. Reggio Town to take early steps to have a census prepared by City Engineer's Dept., and have them dealt with as early as practicable. 86 Area should be asked to assist in any bad cases which may hamper the military movements.

8. IDENTITY CARDS.

Civilians who have lost their identity cards should report the facts to the Questura, be vetted by P.S.S. etc. If they have no objections, applicants should then be dealt with at the Municipio and should receive duplicate cards at the Municipio. Regg. C.A.P.O. Reggio Town should supervise this.

9. REGISTRATION OF MALES.

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3. WINE SHOPS.

C.A.P.O. Reggio Town in conjunction with A.P.M. to select certain suitable wineshops "in bounds to troops". Prices to be clearly shown - permitted hours as arranged at Conference on 9.9.43. - permitted hours for sale - 12 noon to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. A.P.M. will select suitable places in bounds to troops.

No sale of wine permitted in unlicensed premises.

4. STREET TRADERS.

No lemonade, fruit, nuts etc., to be sold in the streets either from barrows, stalls, baskets, etc. Fruit may only be sold from a few authorised market stalls in fixed places, vetted by local Hygiene in conjunction with A.P.M. Fruit must be washed in chlorinated water and 86 Area should be asked to provide chlorination material.

5. PROSTITUTES.

Brothels to remain closed and prostitutes continue to be arrested, medically examined and detained in prison by order of military until further orders. Military have refused to feed them and therefore local arrangements must be made from ordinary civilians ration sources.

6. FISHING.

M.O.I.C. has approved fishing between SCHILIA in the North and CAFF SPALIVENTO for a distance up to 3 kilometres from the shore, not to land in Sicily, boat to be registered and fishermen licensed and permits issued, in conjunction with Lt.-Col. Buck who will arrange prices etc., copy of orders to go to C.A.O. PARI, MESSINA and CATANIA. Provincial C.A.P.O. will arrange this, C.A.O. MESSINA and CATANIA to be informed.

7. DANGEROUS WALLS.

There are several walls and buildings dangerous, likely to collapse and injure civilians. C.A.P.O. Reggio Town to take early steps to have a census prepared by City Engineer's Dept., and have them dealt with as early as practicable. 86 Area should be asked to assist in any bad cases which may hamper the military movements.

8. IDENTITY CARDS.

Civilians who have lost their identity cards should report the facts to the Questura, be vetted by P.S.S. and if they have no objections, applicants should then be dealt with at the Municipio and should receive duplicate cards at the Municipio. P.S.S. C.A.P.O. Reggio Town should supervise this.

9. REGISTRATION OF MALES.

Registration of all males between sixteen and sixty years of age, are not employed by the Allied Government should commence on 19.9.43, C.A.O. Reggio to arrange with Major Simcock for this to be done. Names, addresses, age should be taken and of former occupation. Numbered cards to be issued in all cases.

Copiesto: C.A.P.O. Province.

A.P.M.

P.S.S.

P.C. Sute Tan

Major,

C.A.O. Reggio Province.

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