

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

785015

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

785015

10000/100/1099

DISTURBANCES
SEPT. 1943 - JAN. 1944

4/9/92

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

785015

FILMED AS FOUND
IN COLLECTION

785015

SUBJECT: Sabotage & Riots.

A.M.C.,
H.C.,
A.O.M.F.

TO: H.Q. A.M.C. Region III.

ME/611/50.
1 Feb 44.

Reference your memorandum of 30 Jan 44.

1. Para. 3 of attached letter (ref. ME/611/48 dated 25 Jan 44) is cancelled. Information will be forwarded to No. 2 District by this H.Q. as received in your monthly report - ME/611/44 of 21 Jan 44 refers.

P. J. Maj

for Colonel,
Chief Staff Officer.

Copy to: HQ. No. 2 District. (Reference above-quoted letter)

2323

PA.

31 JAN Recd
611.80

49

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394, U.S. Army

30 January 1944

MEMORANDUM:

TO : HQ AMG, ACMF.

1. Reference enclosed, Brigadier LUSH to whom I showed it, made the note as written. He intimated that it would be better for us to forward to you a monthly report.

2. No further action will be taken until we receive further orders from you.

Forester.

LORD FORESTER
Lt Col., R.H.G.,
Chief of Staff

1/2 1944

2322

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

SUBJECT: Sabotage & Riots.

A.M.G.,
H.Q.,
A.C.M.F.

TO: H.Q. AMT. REGION III.

AMG/611/48.
25. Jan. 44.

Reference your letter of 21. Jan. 44 with correspondence with No. 2 District enclosed.

2. It is confirmed that the channel of communication is through this H.Q.

3. Will you please supply the information to No. 2 District with copy to this H.Q.

See folio 50

P.P. Maj

for Colonel,
Chief Staff Officer.

Copy to: H.Q. No. 2 District, CMF.
(Your 2022/460 dated 14. Jan. 44 refers)

2321

611 ~~8~~
22 JAN '44

49

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394, U.S. Army

21 January 1944.

107 23/1

MEMORANDUM:

TO : AMG Hq, A.C.M.F.

1. Enclosed letter with copy of our reply is forwarded for information.
2. This Hq is continually being asked to render reports to various formations. Apart from the fact that there is not the personnel to do so, it is understood that this is contrary to policy.

Forester

LORD FORESTER
LT COL, R.H.G.,
Chief of Staff

2320

785015

Subject:- Sabotage and Riots.

CONFIDENTIAL

46

HQ AMG 2 Region

HQ AMG 3 Region

57 Area

52 Area

6 Base Sub Area

71 Sub Area

94 Sub Area

151 Sub Area

HQ 2 District CMF

2022/46 G

14 Jan 44

1. As from this date it is requested that cases of sabotage and riots which occur within your area should be made the subject of a special report to this HQ.

2. It is also requested that on the 1st and 15th of each month a consolidated return of all cases of suspected sabotage of signal lines should be submitted to this HQ. Such returns to give, where possible, date, time, and map reference of the incident.

TOS 1520 A

T. Kennard R, V
Lt col
GS

United States **CONFIDENTIAL**
Equals British **CONFIDENTIAL**

2319

2008 100

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394, U.S. Army

21 January 1944.

Ref 2022/46G

MEMORANDUM:

TO : Hq 2 District, C.M.F.

1. The above letter has been forwarded to AMG Hq, A.C.M.F., which is the only Headquarters to which this formation reports.

2. In the mean time should information be required on any case of riot or sabotage, this Headquarters if contacted, will be only too pleased to help in every way.

LORD FORESTER
LT COL, R.H.G.,
Chief of Staff

2318

45
PM
23/1

785015

44

SUBJECT:- Riots and Disturbances.

Allied Military Government,
H.Q., A.C.M.F.,
C.M.F.

S.C.A.O., A.M.G., Fifth Army.
S.C.A.O., A.M.G., Eighth Army.
S.C.A.O., A.M.G., Region III.
S.C.A.O., A.M.G., Region IV.

AME/611/44

21st January 1944

1. With reference to the last sentence of this H.Q. letter AME/30 dated 16 Nov 43, in view of the fact that details of riots and disturbances are being included in your monthly Public Safety report the rendering of fortnightly reports of such occurrences will be discontinued.

2. As, however, it is important that the earliest information of breaches of the peace of this nature should reach this H.Q., brief particulars of any riots or disturbances seriously affecting public order will be forwarded by signal as soon as possible after the occurrence.

[Signature]
Colonel,
Chief Staff Officer.

2nd 2nd 2nd

2nd 2nd

2317
5/11/47

Summary of Riots and Demonstrations
Avellino Province.

Date	Place	Leaders or Persons causing trouble	Demonstration or incident	Action taken.
15 Dec. 43	Capriglia	People residing in Capriglia	Demonstration, no violence, against Podesta who imprisoned a local baker on charge of sabotaging his administration.	Podesta was selling at higher prices than permitted. A new Podesta was appointed.
17 Dec. 43	Roccabascerano	People residing in Roccabascerano	Demonstration against Communal Administration and lack of food. Crowd entered Municipal offices but failed in attempt to destroy records.	New Podesta appointed. the Secretary transferred to another comune.
25 Dec. 43	Sant'Angelo All'Esca.	CAPOBIANCO, Raffaele Representative of Committee of National Liberation.	A short time after CAPOBIANCO was refused permission to enter the premises of the local Fascio, about 50 young men broke into the place and burned all the records.	Carabinieri are investigating.
27 Dec. 43	Serino	Crowd of people mostly women from Rajano, a part of comune of Serino.	The crowd complained about the non-payment of military pensions for the Months of October and November and the blockade in the free sale of chestnuts. They destroyed Office records at the Municipio. No political significance is indicated.	One man and a few women were arrested and held in Avellino prison.

2315
1944

1944
Roccabascerano

Summary of Riots and Demonstrations
Avellino Province.

Location	Leaders or Persons causing trouble	Demonstration or Incident	Action taken.
Capriglia	People residing in Capriglia	Demonstration, no violence, against Podesta who imprisoned a local baker on charge of sabotaging his administration.	Podesta was selling ^{wet} grain at higher prices than permitted. A new Podesta was appointed.
Roccamandolfino	People residing in Roccamandolfino	Demonstration against Communal Administration and lack of food. Crowd entered Municipal offices but failed in attempt to destroy records.	New Podesta appointed and the Secretary transferred to another commune.
S. Angelo d'Esca.	CAPOBIANCO, Raffaele Representative of Committee of National Liberation.	A short time after CAPOBIANCO was refused permission to enter the premises of the local Fascio, about 50 young men broke into the place and burned all the records.	Carabinieri are investigating.
Serino	Crowd of people mostly women from Rajano, a part of commune of Serino.	The crowd complained about the non-payment of military pensions for the months of October and November and the blockade in the free sale of chestnuts. They destroyed Office records at the Municipio. No political significance is indicated.	One man and a few women were arrested and held in Avellino prison.

14 JAN 1944
42

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394, U.S. ARMY

10 January 1944

SUBJECT: Riots and Demonstrations.

TO : HQ AMG 15 Army Group.

In compliance with your letter dated 16 November 1943,
attached are copies of reports received from Avellino Province.

For the Commanding Officer.

Douglas N. Batson
DOUGLAS N. BATSON.
1st Lt., CMP.,
Actg Asst Adjutant General.

jb

2315

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
REGION 3
PROVINCE OF AVELLINO

Avellino, 2/I, 1943.

Subject: Disturbance at Sant'Angelo All'Esca.
TO: Headquarters A.M.G.-Region 3.

- I. On the 25th of December 1943 a refugee from Milan one Capobianco Raffaele living at Sant'Angelo All'Esca applied to the Civil Commissario for permission to enter the premises of the local Fascio. He was the representative of the Committee of National Liberation and wanted the room and contents for the use of this committee. Acting under instructions the Commissario refused permission.
- II. A short time after about fifty young men broke into these premises breaking the door and windows. They then burned all the records. They then dispersed and no other incident has been reported.
- III. The C.C.P.R. are investigating the affair and proceedings are being instigated against the perpetrators of the outrage.

T. Goodacre Capt.
T. Goodacre, Capt.
C.A.P.O.-Avellino.

1st Ind.

H.Q. AMG Region 3, Avellino Province.

4 January 1944.

TO: H.Q. AMG Region 3, NAPLES.

Forwarded, in duplicate, for your information.

EDMUND A. BALL,
Major F.A., A.U.S.,
S.C.A.O.

2314

40

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
REGION 3
AVELLINO PROVINCE

Avellino,
2 January, 1944.

SUBJECT: Demonstration at Nocca-Bascerana.

TO : Headquarters Region 3,
Allied Military Government.

1. On the 18th December, 1943, information was received that on the 17th a demonstration had taken place at Nocca-Bascerana.

2. An officer was sent to make an inquiry and to take any necessary action.

3. It appears that a crowd gathered at the Municipio protesting against the Communal administration and also at the lack of grain and foodstuff in general. The crowd entered the municipal offices and threw records and papers on the floor. The CC.RR. arrived and dispersed the crowd and there was fortunately no destruction of records.

4. The officer sent deposed the Podesta' and appointed a new one and arranged for the transfer of the Secretary to another commune. This transfer has since been effected and there has been no further trouble.

1 - Goodacre Capt.
T. GOODACRE Capt.

C.A.P.O.

Avellino Province.

39

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
REGION 3
AVELLINO PROVINCE

Avellino,
2 January, 1944.

SUBJECT: Demonstration at Capriglia.

TO : Headquarters Region 3,
Allied Military Government.

1. On 15th December 1943 information was received that there had been a disturbance at Capriglia. An officer was dispatched to make an enquiry and ascertained the following facts.
2. It appears that the Podesta' had imprisoned the local baker on a charge of sabotaging his administration. This had caused the people to be very discontented and a demonstration was staged against the Podesta' who was said to be a Fascist. There was no violence used in this demonstration.
3. Enquiries produced the fact that the Podesta' had obtained grain in the Province and before selling it to the people he allowed the grain to get wet and sold it at a price higher than permitted. The Podesta' was dismissed and a new one appointed. An agent from the office of the Questore made an enquiry into the alleged fraud by the former Podesta' but there was insufficient evidence to enable proceedings to be taken.

W. Gossamer Capt.
T. GOODACRE Capt.
C.A.P.O.
Avellino Province.

38

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
REGION 3
AVELLINO PROVINCE

Avellino,
2-1-48

SUBJECT: Disturbance at Serino

TO : Headquarters A.M.G. Region 3.

1. On the afternoon of 27th December 1943 information was received through the CC.RR that a disturbance had taken place at Serino. Immediately a party of 10 CC.RR under a Lieutenant accompanied me to Serino. Upon arrival the town was quiet and only a few groups of people to be seen.

2. It appears that at about 10.30 hrs that day a crowd of people mostly women from Pajano, a fraction of the Commune, presented themselves at the Municipio. They complained bitterly about the non payment of the military pensions for the months of October and November, also about the blockage in the free sale of chestnuts.

3. Incited by few extremists they threw the office records out of the windows into the street and they burned them. By the time that the CC.RR had arrived the crowd had begun to disperse.

4. CC.RR were posted in the various fractions of the Commune and inquiries were commenced to find the ringleaders.

5. On the 28th December 1943 one man and few women were arrested and lodged in the prison at Avellino and the people are being proceeded against by summons.

6. No political significance indicated in this disturbance but merely a crowd of excited women incited by a few extremists.

Hoodman Capt

T. GOOLACRE
C. A. P. O.
Avellino Province

785015

1. On the afternoon of 27th December 1943 information was received through the CC.RR that a disturbance had taken place at Serino. Immediately a party of 10 CC.RR under a Lieutenant accompanied me to Serino. Upon arrival the town was quiet and only a few groups of people to be seen.

2. It appears that at about 10.30 hrs that day a crowd of people mostly women from Rajano, a fraction of the Commune, presented themselves at the Municipio. They complained bitterly about the non payment of the military pensions for the months of October and November, also about the blockage in the free sale of chestnuts.

3. Incited by few extremists they threw the office records out of the windows into the street and they burned them. By the time that the CC.RR had arrived the crowd had begun to disperse.

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6. No political significance indicated in this disturbance but merely a crowd of ~~excitable~~ women incited by a few extremists.

1st Ind.

H.Q. AMG Region 3, Avellino Province.

TO: H.Q. AMG Region 3, NAPLES.

Forwarded in duplicate for your information.

4 January 1944.

EDMUND A. BALL,
Major F.A., A.U.S.
S.C.A.O.

T. GOODEACRE
C. AP. O.
Avellino Province

2312

Robinson Capt

611
DEC 1943

37

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 464, U.S. ARMY

23 December 1943

SUBJECT: Riots and Demonstrations.

TO : HQ AMG, 15th Army Group.

- 5
1. In compliance with letter, your HQ, dated 16 November 1943, the following report of riots, demonstrations etc, is submitted.
 2. This report is based on reports submitted to this HQ by Provinces concerned.

For the Regional Civil Affairs Officer:

Paul Revere

PAUL REVERE.
Major, AGD.,
Adjutant General.

KKK/jb
PST.

Ry. 4/1

11/2 5/1

2311

PROVINCE OF NAPLES.

9 November 1943 - NAPLES CITY. No riots. Rowdiness at meeting at Via Roma through caused by failure of Prefettura to recognize person appointed as President of Confederation of Labourers. No incident.

4 December 1943 - PORTICI - 100 women invaded Municipal House to protest failure of local authorities to distribute bread sent by Allied authorities for distribution. Flour distributed and order restored.

5 December 1943.- RESINA. 500 women and children gathered and demonstrated at Communal House because of insufficiency of food, and for prices not proportionate to economic scales. Also protested because of non-payment of military allowance. No violence.

6 December 1943 - CICCIANO - 300 women gathered, protesting against non distribution of food and demanding removal of Podesta. Carabinieri were attacked and attempts made to disarm them. Several Carabinieri wounded by rifle shots - non fatally. Responsible persons arrested.

6 December 1943 - SOMMA VESUVIANA -- Demonstration by inhabitants because of food shortage or failure of distribution. No further incident.

6 December 1943 - CASORIA. Merchants demonstrated against employees of Fiber Textile Consorzio because of that Agency's inventories of hemp supply. Two employees assaulted while attempting to check stock. Slightly injured. Investigations made.

6 December 1943 - TORRE ANNUNZIATA. Demonstration by 200 persons at Municipio demanding payment of war allotment overdue. Threatened to burn building. Dismissed without further incident but close watch being maintained.

7 December 1943 - PROCIDA. 400 persons protest failure to distribute flour. Accused Communal Secretary and employees with failure to distribute rationed goods. Crowd want local officials replaced. Flour which was on hand ordered to be distributed. No further incident.

PROVINCE OF AVELLINO.

30 September 1943 - LACEDONIA. A number of ex-convicts attacked the prison and freed three prisoners. The houses occupied by several public officials were also attacked. Two persons in the group were wounded.

30 September 1943 - CALITRI. There was a demonstration against the municipal authorities, arrests were made, and the prosecutions are being handled in the Italian courts.

1 November 1943. - LIRI. A crowd of about 400 persons made a demonstration, broke into the Municipio and burned records and documents. 60 persons were arrested by the Carabinieri.

4 November 1943 - ALTAVILLA. About 200 persons made a demonstration in the attempt to force a miller to grind their grain without the persons producing the necessary permits.

5 November 1943 - ALTAVILLA. An attack was made on the Municipio, furniture was smashed and records were destroyed. The claim was lack of food. 31 persons were arrested.

14 November 1943 - FRIGENTO. Two days after the appointment of a new Podesta, the crowd attacked the Municipio and burned records. Claim was made that it was an anti-Fascist demonstration, but in the opinion of this office the claim is unfounded. In fact 56 people were arrested.

17 November 1943 - PORTANAROSA. About 400 people made a demonstration in front of the Municipio demanding replacement of all officials. The Carabinieri dispersed the crowd and order was re-established.

18 November 1943 - MORRA. A crowd of over 1000, mostly farmers, made a demonstration demanding abolition of ration cards, milling permits, etc. Records and furniture were removed from the Municipio and burned. One member of the Carabinieri was wounded by a stone. On the following day when a rioter was being arrested, a fight developed and the rioter was shot in the leg. A number of persons (number not known) were arrested.

34

5 December 1943 - MONTEFORTE. An attack was made on the Podesta.
He was struck on the head. Later in the day there was a demonstration
against all the Communal officials.

6 December 1943 - ROCCABASCIERANA. A crowd of about 300 persons,
mostly women, attacked the Municipio and forced all members out of
the building. The Carabinieri re-established order.

7 December 1943 - SCICERA. A crowd of about 400 persons damaged the
Municipio in protest against the non-payment of military persons
and lack of food. The Carabinieri re-established order.

33

PROVINCE OF BENEVENTO.

2 November 1943 - MONTESALCONE DI VAL FORTORE. Demonstration by 1000 persons in front of the Municipio. Set fire to furniture and books resulting in destruction of building by fire. Same mob then proceeded to Direct Taxes office and forced entry and burned tax collector's records. Cause believed to be because taxes and ration cards have not been abolished. Resentment of activities of local Amasso by farmers expressed. Twelve leaders have been arrested.

4 November 1943 - COLLE SANBITA. Crowd of 200 assembled in front of Municipio armed with sticks and after noisy demonstration proceeded to burn records of Comune on ground floor of Municipio. Investigation by AMG and PS Police netted twelve arrests of leaders, including ex-political secretary of Comune who was sentenced to prison for six months. Remaining persons released owing to lack of evidence. Dissatisfaction in taxation and rationing and local officials appears to be the cause.

27 November 1943 - SAN SALVATORE TELESINI. 1500 people assembled, seized 134 kgs of flour from mill and distributed flour among themselves. Cause believed to be a rumour of theft of some flour from mill. Two ringleaders under prosecution.

3 December 1943 - CAPPALONE. Sixty women assembled before the Municipio in demonstration because of non-payment of military allowance and shortage of bread. Crowd dispersed by CC.BB without further incident.

5 December 1943.- SAN GIORGIO DEL SANNIO. Demonstration by 300 farmers caused by the fact that they were refused milling cards because they had failed to deliver grain in compliance with orders of Alimentation Committee of Benevento. Nine leaders arrested.

6 December 1943.- SAN LEUCIO DEL SANNIO. Demonstration by 40 women in front of Municipio because of bread shortage. Dispersed without further incident.

6 December 1943 - RUVIANO. Demonstration by 150 people claimed caused by bread shortage. Dispersed without incident.

7 December 1943 - S. AGATA DEI GOTI. 1000 persons assembled and demonstrated before the Municipio owing to bread shortage. The Maresciallo of CC.BB was struck on the head by a woman of ill repute but peace was restored and the crowd did not resort to more violence. The woman is to be prosecuted.

32
16 December 1943 - SAN BARTOLOME IN GALDO. Municipio destroyed by fire. 2 CC.HR agents injured by hand grenades thrown by rioters. At time of this report to this HQ (18 December 1943) no detailed information was available. Further report will be submitted after investigations are completed. Superior Court and CAPC officers and combined CC.HR, Finance Guards and Security Police sent in lorry.

2306

611

23 DEC 1943

31

HEADQUARTERS
AMG 5 ARMY
A.P.O. 464 U.S. ARMY

21 December 1943

SUBJECT: Riots & Demonstrations.

211/CA

TO : HQ AMG, 15 Army Group.

Reference your AMG/651/30 dated 15 December, 1943.

Up to the present no reports of riots or demonstrations have come in from the various corps areas. Public Safety Division, Region 3 will keep you informed of any reports of this kind which have occurred in that part of AMG 5 Army territory in rear of rear corps boundaries.

for the Commanding Officer.

D.R.B. MYNORS Capt.
D.R.B. MYNORS.
Captain, SCOTS GUARDS.
ASST ADJUTANT GENERAL.

Distribution: HQ AMG 15 Army Group.
Public Safety Division, Region 3.
File.

DRUM/KR

PA 3
B

2305

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

SUBJECT: RIOTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

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

30

TO: S.C.A.G. AMG 5 Army.
R.C.A.O. AMG Region III.
R.C.A.O. AMG Region IV Adv.

AMG/611/30.
15. Dec. 43.

- 5
Attention is drawn to AMG/30 of 16. Nov. 43 making
that reports concerning all riots or demonstrations should
be forwarded to this H.Q. Nil reports are not required.

773
R.J.P. THORNE THORNE
Colonel,
Chief Staff Officer.

/RAC.

Copy to: AMG Region IV Main.

P/A 15/12
E

2304

Subject: Riots & Demonstrations.

611 ~~18~~
20 DEC 1943

29

H.Q., A.M.G.
Eighth Army.

OA/72/
10 Dec 43.

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

5

Herewith copies of three reports on the above subject sent to this Headquarters. This is in reference to your AMG/30 dated 16 Nov. 43, addressed to S.C.A.O. 8th Army.

2. These are all the reports returned to this Headquarters on the above subject to date, as a result of the request sent to all A.M.G. Officer personnel in 8th Army Area two weeks ago.

John D. Ames Major,
for Group Captain,
Officer Commanding,
H.Q., A.M.G. Eighth Army Main.

C.S.O.

To see 26-8 w.r.v. 5.

Concerning the incident reported at 26 and probably the incident reported at 28 (judging by the date) have already come to CCAO's notice and have been mentioned in his memo. at 4. I do not think CCAO will wish to take any action on these reports but I will send a reminder to the last three addressees at 5.

John D. Ames
13/12

McCoy

CCAQ. J.M.H. for information.

13/12

2303
13/12

785015

COPY.

28

To: O.C. A.M.G. H.Q. 8th Army.
through channels.

Subject: Demonstration in Riccia.

1. Reference your communication OA/72/19A dated 26 Nov 43: a small demonstration is reported as follows:

a, Date: Oct 31. 1943
b, Place: Riccia, Campotasso Prov.
c, Account: About 75 to 100 people met spontaneously in front of the AMGOT H.Q. and protested vocally against the Podesta. The whole affair was directed against him personally and there was no unfriendliness to Allied Troops or Military Government. The gathering was easily broken up, thoroughly investigated, settled to the satisfaction of all factions and there was no further trouble. It was firmly impressed on all that A.M.G. would tolerate no interference with its rule, but was anxious to hear all sides in the interest of fair play.

(Sgt) SEHAUFFLER Capt.
A.M.G. Liaison 2 N.Z.
Division.

2302

COPY.

27

Subject: Riots & Demonstrations.

H.Q., A.M.G.O.T.
Campobasso Province.
Ref: CR/A24/SC
4 Dec 43.

To: A.M.G. Main
Eighth Army.

1. Reference your OA/72 of 1 Dec 43 since this Prov H.Q. took over Campobasso Province no riots or demonstrations of a serious nature have been reported by C.A.Os.

2. The incidents which have occurred are as follows:

- (a) Cercemaggiore. Demonstrations by inhabitants against Podesta for previous fascist activities. The Podesta has been removed and no other incidents have been reported.
- (b) Sepino. Refusal of six producers to hand over grain. Ringleader was arrested but evidence was not sufficient for conviction. No further incidents reported.
- (c) S. Felice (Palata District) Officer i/c R.E. Unit reported trouble might break out at S. Felice owing to Podestas previous Fascist record. The case was investigated and has resulted in the Podesta being removed from office and committed to two years hard labour for not surrendering arms.

3. The time between the receipt of the original letter from H.Q. AMG via 29 Nov 43 and its circulation to C.A.Os has not enabled replies to be received at this H.Q. from C.A.C on any demonstrations or riots which may have occurred prior to their taking over and which records may exist at their H.Q.

(Sgd) B.C. TALBOT

2301

Major

S.C.A.D. Campobasso Province.

785015

COPY.

26

Subject: Riots & Demonstrations.

Ref: FP/PUBLIC SAFETY
5 Dec 43.

To : A.M.G. Main 8 Army.

From: S.C.A.O. FOGGIA PROVINCE.

Reference your OA/72 dated 1 December, 43.

There have been no demonstrations in this Province of a serious nature. There occurred, however, at LUCERA a small congregation of women at the Municipio protesting against non-payment of the Sussidi Militare. Investigations proved that there was no political implication or action behind this small demonstration which immediately dispersed on being told that the matter was in hand and that the payment would be commenced a few days later.

(Sgd) C.R. BRIGGS

Lieut-Colonel
for S.C.A.O. FOGGIA PROVINCE.

2300

785015

SUBJECT:- Food Situation.

25

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

A.C.C.,
Brindisi.

AMG/611/25
4th December 1943

24 refero
Attached for your information is a copy of a
memo from C.S.D.I.C. (CSDIC/E/2/3/1243) dated 2nd
December 43 on the food situation in South Eastern
Apulia.

2299

TFS/SCH

Major General,
Chief Civil Affairs Officer.

E.L.S.D.

24 for information

1 Farley - We have released 4400
tons of wheat from Messina for Apulia and
Apulia is awaiting the shipment with
2 District.

Wmgs
5 Dec

785015

Subject: Food Situation611
4 DEC 1943C.B.D.I.C. (East)
No 2 District, CMF

CSDIC/E/2/3/1243

2 Dec 43

To: A.M.G., 15 Army Group

The food situation in SE APULIA is serious. There have been drastic cuts in rationing during the month of November 43. Pasta and milk are now unobtainable. This has caused a growing feeling of resentment against the Allies. Fascist officials are spreading propaganda claiming that the Allies have broken promises to feed the population. This situation is typified by the following cases:

At TALOZZA Presidente del Consorzio is the previous segretario Politico del Fascismo named Mario INGLETI.

At OTRANTO a teacher named MONTANARI, a well known Fascist, takes advantage of the situation to criticise the Allies.

Demonstrations have taken place in different towns in SE APULIA in front of the PREFETTURA asking for an amelioration of the situation.

Different sources assured me that the existing stock of flour is sufficient only up to the end of December 1943.

(The above is an extract from a report by Capt P.G. Mitracchi to Cdr. The Hon. G.G.N. Road, R.N.)

R. Glynn Fairhurst

R. Glynn Fairhurst 2298

Capt,

Officer i/c CSDIC (East) CMF.

Wm 9
5 Dec

785015

SUBJECT:- Riots and Demonstrations.

611

AMG.HQ.Eighth Army.

1 DEC 1943
13
JA/72/22A.

23

29 Nov.43.

AMG.HQ. 15 Army Group.

1. Reference AMG/611/17 dated 27 Nov.43. Information requested in your letter AMG/30 of 16 Nov.43, is being collected by the quickest and best means available.

2. Until information requested on this subject from all AMG personnel in Eighth Army area arrives at this HQ, no complete report to date can be given.

BSU/20/12

BSU

10/11

13

noted

John D. Anna

Major, AUS,
AMG.HQ.Eighth Army.

2297

SUBJECT: Demonstrations & Riots

AMC.HQ.Eighth Army

04/12/1943

26 Nov. 43.

AMC Liaison Officer 13 Corps
 " " " 5 " "
 " " " 1 Can.Div.
 " " " 73 Div.
 " " " 8 Ind.Div.
 " " " 5 Div.
 " " " 2 N.Z.Div.
 " HQ Region 4
 S.O.A.O. - Foggia
 S.O.A.O. - Campobasso
 All S.O.A.Os.

1. This HQ has been requested to send in a report covering all riots and demonstrations which have occurred to date in the Eighth Army Area. Date, place, brief account and cause are requested. Will all AMC Officers who have any knowledge of these matters, and were responsible for the area at the time, forward the information immediately to this HQ.
2. Reports of any disturbances of this nature occurring in the future will be forwarded to this HQ as soon as possible.
3. Action on this matter is urgent.

Major John A. Leman
 Lt. Group Captain,
 Officer Commanding,
 AMC.HQ.Eighth Army
 2296

DRAFT.

TELEGRAM OUT.

=====

336

19

TO : SEARS FOR FARGO.

FROM : FILPOT FROM AMG. FROM RENNELL.

Reference your signal Fargo 757 (S-2749) of 19 Nov 43 (.)
Keep me informed of food situation SIMILY to enable me keep
Military Governor in touch with situation (.). Forward
written report showing in detail what supplies were asked
for and did not arrive, thus causing ~~grave~~ food situation
and disturbances (.).

✓

2295

18
Col. Thorne Thorne.

Have found there.

Tell Palermo to keep
me in touch for Mil. for.

I want a written report
showing what supplies which
didn't arrive even as to
be which led to this situation.
Pl. let me see diff.

30/12 . J.

SUBJECT:- Riots & Demonstrations.

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

H.Q., A.M.G.,
Eight Army.

AMG/611/17
27th November 43

Reference your OA/4 of 18th November 43, it is requested the particulars asked for in our letter AMG/30 of 16th November 43 be furnished.

Further, the reply should be addressed to A.M.G., H.Q., 15 Army Group, and not to a particular officer.

DGP/SCB

1/11/43
Major,
Military Assistant to
Chief Civil Affairs Officer

2293

SUBJECT: Disturbances in Eighth Army Area.

AMG. HQ. Eighth Army.

AMG. HQ. 15 Army Group.

0A/7/1.

25 Nov. 43.

1. No riots have been reported other than those which are already known, and which it is understood are to be investigated by Major Ouseley. This officer has not arrived at this H.Q.

2. It has not been possible to prove that there is any real organisation behind the riots and in every case AMG authority has been recognised. The 13 Corps Liaison Officer, who was asked to investigate and submit his views, reports as follows:-

In my opinion these disturbances need not be taken too seriously. They are definitely not directed against the Allied Forces in occupied territory or against AMG, nor do they have any particular political significance other than a very local one. However, it is essential in the interests of good order and government, and as a point of discipline in occupied territory, that any set up approved by AMG, cooperating with FSS, should receive the support of the population, and for this reason riots and demonstrations have been rigidly suppressed wherever they have occurred. It is to the credit of AMG officers in the field that it has not yet been necessary to call upon military units in the neighbourhood to assist them, and incidents such as the one recorded below, where an officer has tackled an angry mob single handed are not infrequent. The prompt action of Lt. Gerigae in this case broke up what would certainly have developed into a bad riot.

The reasons may be summarised very briefly as follows:-

- (1) A not unexpected reaction towards Fascism. The peasant now feels that he is now at liberty to have his say without fear of immediate arrest and imprisonment.
- (2) A knowledge that owing to lack of communications and transport it is impossible for civil police to call in reserves to quell a riot of any size.
- (3) A definite shortage in certain commodities (every effort is being made to import essential supplies).
- (4) The belief that by making trouble he may in some way get his own back on the more wealthy citizens and local officials who true to Fascist form, have in the past corruptly exploited the peasants.

The above are probably the chief reasons for the riots. Unfortunately the rioters are seldom able to supply a workable solution to their problems, and this is one of the reasons why it is important to retain where possible the existing trained officials who do at least have some knowledge of local government, and, provided they are closely watched it should be possible to prevent them misusing their authority to the extent they did in the past.

It is important to note that up to the present, no evidence has come to light which would indicate that this rioting has behind it any sort of organization from which riots are planned locally and for reasons obviously expressed there

one. However, it is essential in the interests of good order and government, and as a point of discipline in occupied territory, that any set up approved by AMG. cooperating with FSS, should receive the support of the population, and for this reason riots and demonstrations have been rigidly suppressed wherever they have occurred. It is to the credit of AMG officers in the field that it has not yet been necessary to call upon military units in the neighbourhood to assist them, and incidents such as the one recorded below, where an officer has tackled an angry mob single handed are not infrequent. The prompt action of Lt. Garigue in this case backs up what would certainly have developed into a bad riot.

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It is important to note that up to the present, no evidence has come to light which would indicate that this rioting has behind it any sort of organization from without. Riots are purely local affairs and for reasons very fully expressed they should be dealt with severely at the outset. At the same time the views of the peasants should not be ignored entirely.

3. There are also attached reports on the rioting in Colle Sannita on Nov. 4th. The first report made by Lieut. Garigue, who himself handled the situation alone in an admirable manner, and the second by 412 F.S.S. These reports are given in detail as they are typical of the type of riot occurring.

4. There is undoubtedly a feeling of dissatisfaction amongst the people, particularly in the back areas that the "political choice" which they have been promised is not eventuating as quickly as they hoped. This feeling is accentuated probably by the fact that the form of government which we are using is still totalitarian in fact, though we profess that it is not in theory. For example the Prefect is still the dominating figure in the province and his decision as regards appointments of podestats are those which are and should be listened to. You will therefore find that a violently anti-Communist prefect will be influenced in his appointments by his

(2)

politics - views, which is inevitable until such time as elections can be held. This is impossible in an operational zone, particularly as elections in this country will almost certainly lead to serious demonstrations.

Captain

Group Captain,
Officer Commanding,
AMG. HQ. Eighth Army.

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

785015

1677

COPY.

COLLE SANNITA,

Province EST.

6.11.43.

To : O.C. i/c No. 412 F.S.S.

Subject: Report on Commune of COLLE SANNITA.

From : Sgt. RLB.

Sir, Following on a personal visit of the AMTOT officer for the Commune of Colle Sannita (Lt. Garigue) to our section H.Q. reporting the occurrence of a riot in that town on the previous day; I proceeded to COLLE SANNITA on the morning of the 5th inst to make investigations and also a general survey of conditions in the commune.

The following is a very brief account, substantiated by independent witnesses, of the riot that had taken place in COLLE SANNITA on the morning of the 5th inst:

At approx. 18.30 hrs. on the morning of the 4th Nov. 1943, a mixed crowd of agricultural peasants from the frazioni IECORATA, SANERA, and CIUMENA (in the commune of COLLE SANNITA) converged on the Municipio building in COLLE SANNITA, made forcible entry into the premises and commenced throwing out office furniture and files into the street. Others outside the building set fire to these with the aid of petrol and incendiary material brought along specifically for the purpose. Efforts were made by the few employees of the Municipio to prevent this and in the ensuing melee several were struck and injured, among them the Communal Secretary. These injuries proved later to be very slight. The conflagration in the street had assumed serious proportions when the AMTOT officer (Lt. Garigue) arrived on the scene, having just been informed that some form of demonstration was taking place outside the Municipio. He promptly took action in dispersing a large crowd of about 200 people and entered the building to prevent the incendiaries doing further damage to the building and property. As the fire was threatening to take hold of the building itself, Lt. Garigue instantly formed a fire squad which succeeded in putting out the conflagration. During this time no members of the COM. had appeared on the scene. Only after the affair was ended did the Maresciallo and one of the Carabinieri appear on the scene. From many of the witnesses I learned that only the quick and courageous action of the AMTOT officer prevented a serious riot and that I was informed that seven of the rioters had been arrested later by the AMTOT officer.

From inquiries made, it was obvious that the whole affair had been pre-arranged as the different contingents arrived in town at the same time. The subject of the demonstration was difficult to understand and the participants in general had only a confused notion of what it was all about.

Interrogation of the people gaoled, and also of peasants in IECORATA, was extremely difficult, but the main grounds for the demonstration seemed to have been:

- a) Shortage of food like, Bread, Salt, Oil etc.
- b) Heavy Taxes imposed on the peasants
- c) Lack of funds to assist indigent people
- d) Grain Mill not working sufficiently to meet communes needs.

These matters had already been taken in hand by the AMTOT office, Lt. Garigue and

785015

At approx. 18.30 hrs. on the morning of the 4th Nov. 1943, a mixed crowd of agricultural peasants from the frazione IECORATA, BAVERA, and CIUMENA (in the commune of COLLE SANITA) converged on the Municipio building in COLLE SANITA, made forcible entry into the premises and commenced throwing out office furniture and files into the street. Others outside the building set fire to these with the aid of petrol and incendiary material brought along specifically for the purpose. Efforts were made by the few employees of the Municipio to prevent this and in the ensuing melee several were struck and injured, among them the Communal Secretary. These injuries proved later to be very slight. The conflagration in the street had assumed serious proportions when the AMGOT officer (Lt. Garigue) arrived on the scene, having just been informed that some form of demonstration was taking place outside the Municipio. He promptly took action in dispersing a large crowd of about 200 people and entered the building to prevent the intruders doing further damage to the building and property. As the fire was threatening to take hold of the building itself, Lt. Garigue instantly formed a fire squad which succeeded in putting out the conflagration. During this time no members of the CCN had appeared on the scene. Only after the affair was ended did the Maresciallo and one of the Carabinieri appear on the scene. From many of the witnesses I learned that only the quick and courageous action of the AMGOT officer prevented a serious riot and fire. I was informed that seven of the rioters had been arrested later by the AMGOT officer.

From inquiries made, it was obvious that the whole affair had been pre-arranged as the different contingents arrived in town at the same time. The object of the demonstration was difficult to understand and the participants in general had only a confused notion of what it was all about.

229

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- c) Lack of funds to assist indigent people
- d) Grain Mill not working sufficiently to meet communes needs.

These matters had already been taken in hand by the AMGOT office, Lt. Garigue and since, the requisite action taken.

It was freely stated by the dissatisfied peasants that the food shortage, heavy taxes, etc., were due to the late outgoing Fascist party. Their action, however, had been misguided in attacking the Municipio and leaving unmolested prominent ex fascist officials.

The absence of Carabinieri during the occurrence was rather curious, and there seems to be reasonable grounds for supposing that the present Maresciallo, ARCOPIETTO Giuseppe fu Pietro, had fore-knowledge of demonstration and lacked the courage or resolution to deal with the issue. During my stay he was very cooperative but did not appear to disclose all he knew of the affair, nor does he seem energetic enough to run his present commune. There are 4 Carabinieri under the Maresciallo, covering COLLE SANITA, CIRCELO, IECORATA and REINA., and under present circumstances this force could possibly be slightly augmented. With reference to the Maresciallo, it should be mentioned that the new Podesta

(see later para.) i desirous that the present Maresciallo should be transferred elsewhere.

During the evening of the 5th inst (approx. 18.00 hrs.) the Maresciallo of the CCRR came and informed the AMOT officer and myself that an attempt was to be made that night by peasants from the frazione DECORATA to storm the gaol and release the seven locals arrested that day for complicity in the riot. We arranged for the Carabinieri to patrol the town and vicinity of the gaol, whilst the AMOT officer, his driver mechanic and myself went down to DECORATA to speak with the local inhabitants. There were no signs of an impending raid and we discussed with the peasants, their grievances and also the cases of the relatives already in gaol. From inquiry of these people and subsequent interrogation of the prisoners, it was found that two men: FILIA Giorgio fu Angelo (nicknamed FACCHINO) of Centada Monti (near COLLE SANNITA) and BASILE Giuseppe of Ciunina (near DECORATA) were the ringleaders of the disturbance. The latter was presumably in flight, but FILIA Giuseppe was arrested the following day by the CCRR. It is expected that BASILE Giuseppe will be arrested within a few days. The seven people gaolled primarily, proved to have been minor tools, stupidly following the promptings of the two men named above. They will be released in small groups shortly as soon as the gravity of their offence penetrates their rural skulls.

In view of the strained situation, it seemed incumbent on us to make further changes in the administration of the communes. Working in close collaboration with Lt. Garigue, the AMOT officer, it was arranged to replace the Podesta PAINTERI Vincenzo, lawyer, born 1909, in office for the past 6 years and wishful of resigning, by another person. The obvious choice seemed to be DI NELLA Vincenzo, fu Giuseppe, Via Leandro Galgalletti 99, COLLE SANNITA, pensioned ex Clerk to Court, Age 70 yrs, who was held in popular esteem and had been always anti fascist. This change of Podesta has been greatly welcomed by the people.

The Communal Secretary, D'ENTELLA Alberto, although previously in office under the fascist regime could not be classed as an extreme fascist and the general opinion of the people in the commune seemed to be in his favour. At the request of the new Podesta it was arranged for D'Entella to continue on a period of trial in his present office.

As a great deal of the whole trouble in the district was an aftermath of the fascist administration I took into custody the late political secretary, DE PAULIS Guido, as an assurance to the populace that fascism would be rooted out. The following particulars on DE PAULIS were obtained locally:

DE PAULIS Guido fu Raffaele. Piazza Garibaldi 13, COLLE SANNITA. Arrested 17.00 hrs 5.11.43. Piazza Garibaldi by F.S.S. Profession: Chemist (pharmaceutical). Born: 7.3.84 at Colle Sannita. Was Political Secretary from 13.10.41 to dissolution of party, and previously had been Istruttore dei Giovane Fascisti - pre militare. Joined P.M.F. on 24.11.1922 (NOT Squadrista). Status - Widower (5 children) 1 epileptic daughter only at home. Military Status: Sottotenente and Tenente during last war, in Italian Infantry. Promoted Captain (in Congo) 9.12.39, transferred to Corpo Sanitare Militare on 30.12.39. During present war was excused all military duties as he was the only dentist in the district. Identity Card: U.N.U.C.N. No. 192, issued 17.5.30.

A search of the house and pharmacy was made and all fascist files and stamps collected. An automatic pistol was found, loaded, in the pharmacy, but it was found subsequently that the Maresciallo had mistakenly made out a permit for DE PAULIS to carry a pistol when out on night duty. This permit has been withdrawn, and the CCRR informed that they have no power to authorize any persons to carry arms.

It is expected that BASILE Giuseppe will be arrested within a few days. Seven people gaoled primarily, proved to have been minor tools, stupidly following the promptings of the two men named above. They will be released in small groups shortly as soon as the gravity of their offence penetrates their rural skulls.

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The Communal Secretary, D'EMILIA Alberto, although previously in office under the fascist regime could not be classed as an extreme fascist and the general opinion of the people in the commune seemed to be in his favour. At the request of the new Podesta it was arranged for D'Emilia to continue on a period of trial in his present office.

As a great deal of the whole trouble in the district was an aftermath of the fascist administration I took into custody the late political secretary, IE PAULIS Guido, as an assurance to the populace that fascism would be rooted out. The following particulars on IE PAULIS were obtained locally:

IE PAULIS Guido fu Raffaele. Piazza Garibaldi 13, COLLE SANNITA. Arrested 17.00 hrs 5.11.43; Piazza Garibaldi by F.S.S. Profession: Chemist (pharmaceut) 28.4 Born: 7.3.84 at Colle Sannita. Was Political Secretary from 13.10.41 to dissolution of party, and previously had been Istruttore dei Giovane Fascisti - pre militare. Joined P.N.F. on 24.11.1922 (NOT Squadrista). Status - Widower (5 children) 1 epileptic daughter only at home. Military Status: Sotto: Tenente and Tenente during last war, in Italian Infantry. Promoted Captain (in Congedo) 9.12.39, transferred to Corpo Sanitare Militare on 30.12.39. During present war was excused all military duties as he was the only chemist in the district. Identity Card: U.N.U.C.M. No.192, issued 17.5.30. A search of the house and pharmacy was made and all fascist files and stamps collected. An automatic pistol was found, loaded, in the pharmacy, but it was found subsequently that the Maresciallo had mistakenly made out a permit for IE PAULIS to carry a pistol when out on night duty. This permit has been withdrawn, and the OCRR informed that they have no power to authorise any persons to carry arms.

Opinion locally classed IE PAULIS as being the most active fascist of the district. Nevertheless, there was no evidence to show that he had been an extreme fascist or had used his office to further his own ends. He does not appear to be dangerous at all, but owing to the local feeling having run high against the old regime it was thought politic to have him taken into custody. There does not appear to be any strong feelings locally against IE PAULIS, a colourless individual.

WHITE LIST.

RUCCLA Alfonso, Leandro Garganetti, 74, Colle Sannita. Age 35 yrs. Prof. Music Teacher (M.A.), graduated from Royal Conservatory of Music Naples. Went to America 10/7/39 returning through death of parents. Politically anti fascist, refusing to be officer in G.I.L., consequently unemployed for long period. Very intelligent, speaks English fairly fluently. Reliability, A1.

3.

The situation at present in the commune of COLLE SANNITA is quite normal, and thanks to the efforts made by the AMFOT officer, (Lt. Garigue) most of the mills are working again. The changes in the local administration have also been greatly welcomed, and the obvious intention of the AMFOT organisation to do all possible locally has been realised and appreciated. There seems very little likelihood of any recurrence of trouble in this commune of COLLE SANNITA.

Sgd. 10350045.
Sgt. H.L. Broad,
412 F.S.S.

2288

Report on riot in the Comune of COLLE SANNITA
on the 4th November 1943.

1. On instructions from Capt. MALATESTA, AMOT Liaison 5 Div. to visit COLLE SANNITA, I arrived at this town on the 3rd Nov. 43, at approx. 16.00 hrs.
2. On arrival, I went directly to the MUNICIPIO, where I found a meeting of 23 persons who were holding a reunion on the question of food supply to the Comune. I immediately took the chair, and after finding out the names and occupations of the persons present, carried on with the meeting. The situation was, as presented to me, the following.
 - a) A shortage of grain.
 - b) A shortage of petrol to get this grain milled.
 - c) Various other produces, i.e. Salt, Oil, etc., of which the comune is without.
 - d) The lack of fund within the Comune to pay its employees or the Public Assistance money to poor families.
3. During the meeting, there was suddenly a great amount of noise and shouting coming from the street. On inquiring for the reason, I was told that some women were making a demonstration, the reason being the lack of bread. I was outside and saw approx. 20 women which were shouting loudly. After explaining to them what we were doing to ease the situation, they went home.
4. At the end of the reunion, I included a short mention on AMOT, and explained the relationship with the civil Government.
5. After this reunion, I took the Commissario Prefetizio and the Marechallio of the Carabinieri apart, finding out from them more about the situation within the comune. No mention was made at any time, by them, of any critical situation. On the contrary they both assured me that, beside the shortage of food everything was very quiet and the people were satisfied. 2287
6. The next morning, at about 08.00 hrs, a civilian person came to the house where I was billeted and informed me that some large demonstration and riot was taking place at the Municipal building.
7. I immediately went out. Outside the streets were full of people and outside the MUNICIPIO there was a crowd of well above a 100 persons.
8. The MUNICIPIO had been broken in, and civilians were throwing out of the windows the various records and documents into a fire. At the moment of my arrival some chairs, desks, tables were being dragged out and placed on the top of the fire. No Carabinieri were present. The crowd itself was shouting "Viva America" when they saw me in the street.
9. I dispersed the crowd by firing six shots into the air, and entered the MUNICIPIO where I found a dozen persons, of the poor class judging by their dresses breaking up the remaining of the office furniture and records desks. It was impossible for me to carry out immediate arrest owing to their large number and to the fact that the fire was gaining rapidly and they started started rushing out from the building when I entered.

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- b) A shortage of petrol to get this grain milled.
- c) Various other produces, i.e. Salt, Oil, etc., of which the commune is without.
- d) The lack of fund within the Commune to pay its employees or the Public Assistance money to poor families.

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2287

6. The next morning, at about 08.00 hrs, a civilian person came to the house where I was billeted and informed me that some large destruction and riot was taking place at the Municipal building.

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10. On returning into the street, I got hold of a few civilians which were still outside and organised them into a fire squad. Their prompt action saved the building.

11. After putting out the fire, I started the inquiry into the causes of the riot, the names of the persons present who took active part in it, and the places at which they lived.

12. It was not until approx. 10.30 hrs that I was able to find any of the Carabinieri.

- 10
13. During the riot various members of the Commune Staff had been injured. the Secretario himself badly beaten up. I obtained from him a list of names of the persons which were responsible for the riot. From this list I arrested during the day seven persons, who all owned up to the fact that they were within the MUNICIPIO building during the riot.
 14. Detail report is being made by the Marechallio of the Carabinieri and all documents relative to this case are being collected.
 15. From further investigations it appears that this riot is a reaction from the Fascist regime. Owing to the fact that the same people which were the heads of the commune are still there and are still carrying most of the fascist practices, they felt that this was the only way out of it. Their grievances is also related to the shortage of food; and the misuse by the heads of the commune of the available grain storage.
 16. The riot itself seems to have been prepared over a period of time. Most of the rioters are peasants from the surrounding district and had walked as much as 10 kms to come in. Bottles of petrol were used by the rioters to set fire to the building as was also some German incendiary (or explosive material), those exhibits are held at the Barracks of the Carabinieri. The prompt action of the Fire squad, who collected these bottles and this material before the fire got under way saved a major incendiary. There is no organised fire service in this village and no running water.

2285

(Lt. P. Garigue)
C.A.O. AMOT.

COLLE SANITA until tomorrow evening.

P. Garigue, Lt.

Colle Sanita 18.00 hrs.
4 Nov 43.

785015

SUBJECT: Riots & Demonstrations.

611

AMG.HQ.Eighth Army.

OA/14

18 Nov.43.

Major Pirie.

1. Riots or demonstrations have occurred in the following towns:
Celle Sannita, Cercemaggiore, Riccia, Gildone, Sepino, all on west flank
13 Corps area, also at Lucera.
2. The S.C.A.Os of Foggia and Campobasso can, in all probability, give names of
other places of current importance in this matter.
3. This memorandum is the result of a request for this information for you from
Wing Commander Beer.

2285

P./A.
27.11

John D. Ames Major,
AMG.HQ.Eighth Army.

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

785015

SECRET

US. CLIMBER MESSAGE
IN

FOLIO NO 08213
23RD NOV 43

FROM : BILLY FOR FARGO

TO : DISTONE

RID FREDDIE FOR LGS, 7 A.M., FATHA, FILLOT FOR LGS

ORIG. NO: CITE 817

TCO 0830/23

CHI MEL

FOR 1400/23

NO DISTURBANCES REPORTED SINCE BUT FOOD SITUATION STILL SERIOUS
PATRIC L. RLY IN WEST.

ALLOT

4 ACTION

C.S.O.

TO SEE

J.C. 14514/03

T.P. 16054/03

JED

SECRET

BR MESSAGE IN BY ALS

FOLIO NO: 06969

DATE: 18 NOV '43

TOO 1700/18

THI 1845/18

TOR 1800/19

FROM: DISTONE

TO: (1) AFHQ INFO: (2) 55 AREA
 (3) 56 AREA (4) 59 AREA
 (5) 15 AIRGROUP (6) NUMBER 2 DISTRICT
 (7) 1 CEN CORPS

ORIG NO: 0 696 FILE 1530/G

SITREP 171800AFIRST.

1 CEN MED REGT LEFT 56 AREA FOR MAINLAND.
 ADV PARTY 1 CEN CORPS TRG WORKS MOVED IN.

SECOND.

CIVIL DISTURBANCE OCCURRED BETWEEN 161100 AND 161500A.
 APPROX 1000 PERSONS INVOLVED.
 CAUSE NO HEAD PAST TWO DAYS.
 GUARDIA MUNICIPAL FIRED INJURING CHILD.
 GUARDIA SUBSEQUENTLY THROWN BY CROWD FROM SECOND FLOOR WINDOW AND INJURED.
 BAKERY RECORDS DESTROYED.
 (3) POSSIBILITY SUCH DISTURBANCE IS FORECAST.
 MOBILE CORPS DETAINED.

INFO DISTRIBUTION.

30	5	OTHER
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 EJ 22837

785015

SUBJECT:- Benoxia.

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

S.C.A.G. Eighth Army
S.C.A.G. Fifth Army
S.C.A.G. Region III
S.C.A.G. Region IV

10/11/50/

16th November 1941

I am directed by the S.C.A.G. to request you to forward as soon as possible a report concerning all riots, demonstrations etc. which have taken place in your district since your arrival there.

This report should mention the date, place, brief account of event and probable cause.

In future would you please render a fortnightly report on the lines above mentioned.

DM/501

B. L. use in.
Chief Civil Affairs Officer

P.A.#

2282

611
SUBJECT:- Unrest in Villages in Eighth Army Area.

SECRET.

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

General Officer Commanding in Chief,
15 Army Group.

AMG/30/17
17th November 1943

1. In the course of my recent tour of occupied territory in the Eighth Army area and discussions with S.O.A.C. (Op. Capt. Benson) and with other of my officers in the area I have heard of several instances of unrest in villages. This unrest has not up to the present assumed either dangerous or difficult proportions, but it may be significant of what is going on if, as I suspect, the individual incidents have some connection with each other.

2. I wish here to differentiate between two types of incidents of which there have been instances since the first landing on the mainland. The first class of incident is one which has taken place at or prior to the occupation of places by Allied Troops. These incidents have taken the form of serious rioting, in certain cases leading to bloodshed. Instances in point are the riots that took place at Irsina in Potenza Province and at a village in Matera Province. In both these cases the mob invited the Municipal Offices and lynched the Communal Secretary, who in both cases was an ardent Fascist. One Carabinieri's throat was also cut. In one of these two cases the mob also attacked and injured, but not fatally, the wife and family of the Communal Secretary. These instances have been accompanied by brutality and mutilation. There have been one or two other cases in areas further North where similar incidents might have taken place but for the intervention of my officers arriving with the troops and calming the crowd. These incidents are quite understandable, and can readily be explained by the desire of the crowd to revenge themselves on persecution under the Fascist regime. It is perhaps surprising that more incidents of this nature have not taken place. They have all been marked by bloodshed and brutality.

3. The second class of incident is quite different. In every case in this category the incident has taken place quite some time after the occupation of the village by Allied Troops and after most of the Allied Troops had passed through to positions further forward. There have been two such incidents in Potenza Province and there may have been more of which I am not aware since A.M.G. Region II, in which Potenza Province is included, has passed out of my direct jurisdiction. One of these two incidents at the village of Meschito, in Northern Potenza, is precisely paralleled by others of the six to eight similar instances which have taken place since the occupation of the provinces of Foggia and Campobasso.

4. These incidents have two elements in common; the first is that all the events have taken place subsequent to occupation when the heat of revenge should have passed over, and the second; the fact that more of the incidents has ended in bloodshed or serious violence. Moreover, all these incidents appear to have in common an appearance of having been severely organised. For instance, at Lucera in Foggia Province an incident occurred quite recently of several hundred women suddenly appearing and refusing relief payments on the grounds that they wanted to have their military separation allowances. Now it is, remarkable

occupation of places by Allied Troops. These incidents have taken the form of serious rioting, in certain cases leading to bloodshed. Instances in point are the riots that took place at Irsina in Potenza Province and at a village in Matera Province. In both these cases the mob invaded the Municipal Offices and lynched the Communal Secretary, who in both cases was an ardent Fascist. One Carabiniere's throat was also cut. In one of these two cases the mob also attacked and injured, but not fatally, the wife and family of the Communal Secretary. These instances have been accompanied by brutality and mutilation. There have been one or two other cases in areas further North where similar incidents might have taken place but for the intervention of IV officers arriving with the troops and calming the crowd. These incidents are quite understandable, and can readily be explained by the desire of the crowd to revenge themselves on persecution under the Fascist regime. It is perhaps surprising that more incidents of this nature have not taken place. They have all been marked by bloodshed and brutality.

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5. While the incidents appear after the event to have had some sort of prima facie justification, they took place without warning or prior complaint. They had in fact no real foundation which could not have been dealt with in the ordinary course of administration, as all such complaints are dealt with

/continuously.

continuously. Moreover, in every case the crowds have been quite readily and easily dispersed by the Carabinieri without using force.

6. After discussing the situation with my Senior Civil Affairs Officer at Eighth Army I have come to the conclusion that there is some reason for all these incidents and that reason is political, though what precisely this political movement consists of I am as yet unable to say. The local Italian authorities who, whether they are Fascists or not, are of course predominantly anti-Communist, attribute the incidents to Communist agitation. I understand, moreover, that Poggia City has always been very radically minded. I am also aware of political activities which are being conducted by groups under various names such as "Anti-Fascist Front," "Christian Democrats," "National Liberation Committee (or Front)," etc. But I have no evidence to attribute these disturbances to any particular party or underground movement.

7. It may perhaps here be relevant to report that in the village of Miravino in Borgo which lies south of Canosa and almost due west of Bari, a house in the main square was observed on the 14th November to be displaying three large red flags, the hammer and sickle emblem, and a conspicuous red shield.

8. I must also draw your attention to the instructions received from A.P.H.Q. on the subject of political activities contained in a telegram which reads as follows:-

"In view of the special situation prevailing in Naples, with particular reference to the press and political activity, paragraphs eight and ten of the AHSOT Political Directive are to be interpreted as follows:-

1. Expressions of political opinion, including criticism of the Italian Government, shall be permitted in the press. Censorship of the press for military security will continue, and no newspapers will be permitted which does not submit to military censorship. Furthermore, general control of the press will continue in order to avoid risks of reprisal.

2. Normal, orderly political activity will be permitted except that public meetings and demonstrations will continue to be prohibited because of the general condition of the Naples area."

"Above was subsequently extended to 8th Army areas."

These instructions have been duly communicated to S.O.A.O.s, Fifth and Eighth Armies, who will use their discretion under the instructions of their S.O.A.O.s in according liberty for political discussion and activity.

9. I do not at all wish to exaggerate the importance of the incidents nor can I suggest that anything has taken place, as yet, which has had any effect on the security of your troops. Indeed, such political activities as have been reported to me as being carried on by radically minded individuals have all taken the form of expressing wholehearted support of the Allies and their military operations and I believe insofar as propaganda has been used by these persons that they have enjoined upon their supporters the necessity of doing everything in their power to help the Allied troops. It is, however, possible, that they have been influenced by the propaganda of the Axis.

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Major General,
Chief Civil Affairs Officer.

/SOL.

785015

611 *New file Disturbances*
REGION II H.Q.

A.M.G. MATERA.

16th November, 1943.

To General Lord Rennell.
15th Army Group. H.Q.

Subject: Civilian situation in Region II.

18 NOV 1943

I have read Major Pollock's hasty summation of the Civilian situation and I think it will give you a fair picture of the present position in this Region.

As you are well aware, we are still facing a potentially explosive situation which, as the winter season wears on, will probably become more tense, particularly if we cannot obtain and distribute reasonable amounts of supplies.

The extreme shortage of personnel in this Region has been a great handicap. Today the first re-inforcements arrived and more are on the way, but even when all are who are selected to come arrive, we shall be spread to gossamer thinness.

We shall however continue to do our utmost to keep the lid on the situation.

G.H. McCaffrey
G.H. McCaffrey, Lt-Col. Inf.,
R.C.A.O.,
A.M.G. Region II.

2279

Public Safety Division,
Region 2 Headquarters,
MATERA,

16th November, 1943.

Subject: CIVILIAN SITUATION IN REGION 2.

To: Gen. Lord RENNELL (through R.C.A.O.)

I have just heard through Lieut. Berizzi that Lord Rennell would like a report from me, through you, on the civilian situation generally, with examples of any trouble we have had with Italian civilians. Without staff at the moment and many other urgent problems, perhaps it will suffice meanwhile if I attach copies of various rough reports I have submitted which touch on the civilian situation :-

1. At 1A is copy of my Public Safety Report at the beginning of this month with regard to Region 2. Attention is invited to passages marked in blue pencil.
2. At 2A, et seq., is copy of report submitted yesterday to Palermo answering certain points with regard to civilians arrested, public officials replaced etc. At 2D is a list of the civilian internees at Tarsia Camp - we are have some trouble with a few of these and ex-internees, trading in black market and other activities. When my enquiries are complete, I hope to launch a prosecution against several - failing a prosecution, the facts are already strong enough to kick them'lock, stock and barrel' out of this country.
3. At 3A is a report on situation at Corigliano where we had to arrest certain individuals - not only in Allied Military and security reasons, but for the safety of the individuals concerned. I can say now that there was a plot on part of certain irresponsible individuals with Communist leanings to lynch certain of these Fascists if they set foot in Corigliano again. Why I include this report is because it is a typical example of the growing feelings in villages and towns everywhere, which I will refer to later. (See also 7A)

4. At 4A is copy of ROSSANO report which ~~is~~ again illustrates the rising feeling in the country. There are a few extreme Communists (or who profess to be, but are simply unemployed good-for-nothings) going around ready to stir up trouble where they can. I was ready to smash up this proposed Communist-versus-Socialist demonstration if necessary, but all was quiet. Please see the passages I have marked. My R.C.A.O. (Lt. Col. McCaffrey) is issuing an order forbidding public meetings, demonstrations and assemblies of a purely political nature. This, I repeat again, is a growing menace and unless we face the problem firmly and squarely, it will get out of hand. The people are not yet in fit condition to govern themselves and it would be a calamity - I am convinced - to drag out and let them run their own show. I am not an alarmist - my job is in Region 2 to maintain law and order, and we can only do this by having AMG officers either in the larger towns, at Provincial HQ, or touring round, to 'show the flag'. The people are not bad or want leading in the right direction.

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5. At 5A is one report at random showing how we are tackling the difficult problem of arrests on Security grounds. In the early days of fighting, many arrests were effected by FSS and AMG. After the fighting forces are no longer interested in these cases, AMG is faced with the problem of dealing with these persons still detained in prison. We have still to vet and examine cases of several hundred suspects who were not roped in.
6. At 6A is another brief list of decisions in 2 provinces of arrests on security grounds. Over 250 cases have so far been dealt with.
7. To come now to the trouble with civilians generally. A few examples are quoted :-

(a) **IRSIHA** (Matera province). When our troops were advancing through, on 22.9.43, an angry mob killed the Secretary of the Comune (ardent Fascist who was intensely hated by the people). 12 arrests have been made and await trial (a delicate situation indeed).

(b) **MONTESCAGLIOSE** (Matera province). On 23.9.43, civilians killed the Political Secretary (again a Fascist of the old gang whose day arrived). Here again several arrests have been made and awaiting decision.

(c) **COSENZA**. On 4.11.43, when the CAO and CAPO were absent, a mob rushed the Prefettura (alleged communists) hit the Prefect over the head with a chair, and forced him to resign there and then. Actually, the CAO had instructions to replace this man, and it was awaiting the selection of a suitable successor when the crowd took the law into their own hands. I regret to say no arrests have so far been effected, but I hope to go there myself within next few days, and I feel convinced that the culprits will be roped in.

(d) **COSENZA PROVINCE**. Following the incident described in (c) above, two Mayors in outlying Communes, without waiting to be asked, handed in their resignations. From this can be judged the local feelings.

(a) **COSENZA PROVINCE**. Towards end of October, there were two separate bread riots (mostly women) as a protest against small rations or unfair distribution (in Cosenza province for some time the daily allowance was only 100 grammes). Some 20 arrests were made by the Carabinieri. Many are still in prison for this and I DO NOT LIKE IT AT ALL.

(e) **COSENZA PROVINCE**. A few days ago, there was another small demonstration, starting with food complaints, in an outlying village. The Carabinieri were outnumbered (or to put it in blunt terms - lost control of the situation) and the mob rushed the Carabinieri and tried to snatch away TWO prisoners. Carabinieri fired on the crowd and TWO civilians are seriously injured. Arrests have been made. There was also another similar incident in an adjoining village where the crowd was fired upon - two slight injuries only.

(f) **CASTROVILLARI**. About ten days ago a small demonstration occurred over the distribution of flour - Carabinieri used their carbines and one woman was badly wounded.

(g) **RAZZA (REGGIO PROVINCE)**. On 3-10-43 a rowdy crowd assembled - mostly women with a few men. Carabinieri lost control of the situation and later the Maresciallo and his men threw several hand grenades at them. As a result six civilians were injured, some seriously.

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- (g) RAZZA (REGGIO PROVINCE). On 3-10-43 a rowdy crowd assembled - mostly women with a few men. Carabinieri lost control of the situation and later the Maresciallo and his men threw several hand grenades at them. As a result six civilians were injured, some seriously.
- I have heard since that another similar instance of grenade throwing took place at a small place in CATANZARO PROVINCE where some people were also injured.
- As soon as I heard of the 3-10-43 incidence at REGGIO I ordered the immediate withdrawal of all hand grenades from all C.C.R.R. Caserma. Immediate orders were issued throughout Region II ordering the destruction of the grenades, or alternatively handing them over to the nearest Military Authority.
- (h) REGGIO PROVINCE. In the first week in September, last, I arrested over fifty civilians for looting and petty pilfering some were sentenced to terms of imprisonment, others I released after they had spent some time in prison and before we had the courts functioning. In most of these cases the articles stolen were paltry and the temptation was great, because shops were blasted and bombed, the owners had fled and clothes, shoes, and boots were lying in the roadway. In fact within the first four days I had collected from bombed premises well over one hundred sacks full of new property.

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These sacks were taken to the Questura and the contents properly registered. Full lists were prepared and referred to the Claims and Hirings who later took over the control of the property.

- (i) LOOTING - GENERAL STATEMENT. There has been a fair amount of looting by civilians also in other provinces, mainly in CATANZARO TOWN, CROTONE, VIBO VALENTIA, PULZO, and at NICCASTRO (in this town after the bomb damage a looter trying to escape with property property was shot dead by Carabinieri.) A little in CONENZA TOWN and in POTENZA.
- (j) CRIME- GENERALLY. I am sorry to report that crime is on the increase - mainly petty pilfering and black market activities which I will refer to later in this report.
- (k) DEATH OF BRITISH MAJOR. Four weeks ago a Major of the A & S Highlanders sustained a fractured skull following a brawl in a house with two soldiers over a woman. I heard of this case unofficially some eight days later and I took up the enquiry. Subsequently I arrested an Italian civilian when under caution he confessed to me that he struck the Major over the head with a shovel shaft. This man was charged and he now awaits trial by General Court on a charge of 'Killing an Allied Soldier'. The Major died in hospital ten or twelve days ago.
- (l) CROTONE. At the end of September a BASUM soldier was found mortally wounded suffering from two gun shot wounds, in a place where complaints had been received that coloured soldiers had been molesting women. A Civilian was arrested for this shooting, has been found guilty of the Murder, and he awaits sentence.
- (m) BLACK MARKET ACTIVITIES. Please see my remarks in para. 8 of 1E attached.

This is still on the increase and the reason is this: There is a food scarcity as is well known. Black market prices are rising. There is a current rumour abroad - ~~freely~~ inspired by the enemy - among civilians that there is going to be a serious food shortage soon in the country, civilians are therefore hoarding flour and other food stuffs and this accounts for the higher prices.

8. To get down to the root cause of the trouble, the main reasons are:-

- (i) Dissatisfaction over the low amount of the bread and flour ration. We have tried to give 150 grammes per day but unfortunately in CONENZA PROVINCE, for the last four weeks only 100 grammes daily has been given. This has caused serious repercussions and the Supply Officer has arranged to step up the ration to 150 grammes. This is a serious problem, WHICH WE MUST FACE UP TO NOW. I recommend that we find ways and means of giving each person 200 grammes a day. I shall never be convinced that this is not possible.
- (ii) MILITARY SUBSIDY. This has now been approved and is in the ~~process~~ of being paid from the beginning of November. The arrears are not being paid and this is a sore point with many people. Let's cut out the RED TAPE and pay them the back money.
- (iii) FASCIST OFFICIALS. A big section of the public is very disappointed that we have allowed so many of the old Fascist clique to remain at liberty and in fact that many are still holding some kind of public office. It is an old argument that all the best and leading Officials were leading Fascists, and ~~are~~ in any case are difficult to replace. However, ~~the~~ problem in No. II Region and we are now in the

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(iii) FASCIST OFFICIALS. A big section of the public is very disappointed that we have allowed so many of the old Fascist clique to remain at liberty and in fact that many are still holding some kind of public office. It is an old argument that all the best and leading Officials were leading Fascists, and are in any case are difficult to replace. However, we are facing up to this problem in No II Region and we are now in the process of a ruthless weeding out of the old undesirables. Our Com- out will necessitate investigation into no less than 15,000 cases of Public Officials, school teachers etc., This task with a mere handful of personnel is by no means easy.

(iv) SALARIES. We are holding a grip on the question of salaries to prevent inflation. Before we came, most public officials and the Carabinieri were very much underpaid. The average working class Italian and public official, also the Carabinieri, who are the backbone of our law and order here, are finding it difficult to make ends meet. Sooner or later we must face up to an increase in salaries.

(v) COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES. This is a greater menace than most of us realise and I have a strong suspicion there is a little enemy propaganda behind it. Going round the towns and villages, Officers say 'There are only a handful of communists - they count for nothing'. Perhaps so, but they do constitute a danger to public law and order.

We have now banned the holding of any public meetings, demonstrations or processions of a purely political nature. In places where I have clamped on Communist demonstrations, I have invariably called together the leading representatives of ALL the political parties, and given them a thirty minute talk on OUR POLICY. In the end they have always been ready to agree that now is not the time for squabbling in public or to decide who is going to be TOP DOG. I have told them however that they are at perfect liberty to put forward in writing to the Allied Military Government any views, suggestions or recommendations they may wish to make without fear or favour. I have promised that any such petitions will be forwarded through the appropriate channels to the right authority for full consideration.

- (9) CONCLUDING REMARKS. The general consensus of opinion of the public is that they want an Allied Officer in the bigger towns to obviate this bickering between the rival political factions. I have never yet come across one single instance where the civilians were not amenable to our orders or instructions. The Italians in this Region are not vicious or bad, but they are simply in dire need of good leadership. I repeat, that a few selected officers are ESSENTIAL in each Provincial Capital and a few officers touring round all towns and communes. I say again, that a few selected officers must be detailed for this duty. I am most emphatically opposed to the school of thought that it is better to have a form of Remote Control over the Italians and to let them run their "Own Show". After twenty years of Fascism they are not yet ready to govern themselves and if we pull out and leave them to it, there will be without doubt RIOTS, CIVIL COMMOCTIONS BLOODSHED AND REVOLUTION.

J. H. H. H.

Major.
C.C. POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION.
A.M.G. REGION II.

2276

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