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MONTHLY REPORTS, UMBRIA-MARCHE
REGION
SEPT. 1944 - FEB. 1945

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

ALLIED COMMISSION

APRUZZI MARCHE REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 1945

TO	Init	Date
VP CA Sec	<i>hnd</i>	<i>RIC 2/12</i>
Public Safety	<i>hnd</i>	<i>2/12</i>
Public Health	<i>hnd</i>	<i>2/12</i>
Legal	<i>hnd</i>	<i>2/12</i>
Local Govt	<i>hnd</i>	<i>2/12</i>
Patrols	<i>hnd</i>	<i>2/12</i>
Dispar	<i>hnd</i>	<i>2/12</i>
Education	<i>hnd</i>	<i>2/12</i>
WFA & A	<i>hnd</i>	<i>2/12</i>
Ca Sec	<i>hnd</i>	<i>2/12</i>

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

ALLIED COMMISSION

AMBUULI - MA CHIS REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY - 1945

Part I - Abridged Report.

Part II

Political Reaction and Public Opinion.....	1.
Local Government.....	2.
Economics and Supply.....	3.
Agriculture.....	4.
Labour.....	5.
Public Works and Utilities.....	6.
Communications.....	7.
Public Safety.....	8.
Public Health.....	9.
Finance.....	10.
Property Control.....	11.
Civilian Transportation.....	12.
Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives.....	13.

Part II

Political Reaction and Public Opinion.....	1.
Local Government.....	2.
Economics and Supply.....	3.
Agriculture.....	4.
Labour.....	5.
Public Works and Utilities.....	6.
Communications.....	7.
Public Safety.....	8.
Public Health.....	9.
Finance.....	10.
Property Control.....	11.
Civilian Transportation.....	12.
Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives.....	13.

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5916 -

PART ONE.

1. Imminent withdrawal of the last Allied officers from the Abruzzi provinces has been hailed by left-wing political forces as an opportunity too great to be missed. In Teramo and Aquila provinces particularly the Communists launched in February a program of aggressive action aimed to place them in positions of control the imminent Allied control ends. At the same time, and partially for the same reason, the right-wing political forces and the substantial elements of the population are apprehensive about the news of the removal of Allied Officers. The parties in the two rear provinces of the Marche - Ascoli-Piceno and Macerata - have begun to strain at the long period of military government, with the Communists once more the most impatient and most active. The forward Marche provinces - Ancona and Pesaro-Urbino - are scenes of desolation comparable to last winter's battle line, and the majority of the population is chiefly interested in restoring homes and communications. The importance of Ancona as the experimental capital, however, makes it most attractive to all parties and a large amount of political activity is being induced there outside the province.
 2. Distribution of bread and pasta was satisfactory during the month, although the increased ration did not please everyone. Some complaints were heard that the increase should have been in bread instead of pasta, while others desired to have the increase in flour.
- The collection of olive oil under the impetus of control officers increased 50 per cent in the month of February, but at the month's end only a fifth of the target figure had been obtained. The region was exporting important surpluses of eggs, wheat and alcohol during the month, chiefly from the middle Marche provinces.
- The amassing of wheat came practically to a standstill after the

winter's battle line, and the majority of the population is chiefly interested in restoring houses and communications. The importance of Ausonia as the compartmental capital, however, makes it most attractive to all parties and a large amount of political activity is being induced there outside the province.

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The smawing of wheat came practically to a standstill after the target figure was reached, and there is little inclination on the part of the Italian officials to insist upon further collections. The doubling of the price of potatoes in the middle of the collection period caused chaos in the campaign on that product.

5915

3. Unemployment has been less than expected in the Region and further improvement is expected as soon as weather permits resumption of work on roads, bridges and railways. The very low salaries of state and parastatal employees, including school-teachers, have created a critical situation.

4. Public works reconstruction and highway maintenance have been hampered

chiefly by lack of transport, and somewhat by lack of material. Preliminary work is underway so that three large bridges near Ancona and three near Chieti may be begun as soon as weather permits.

5. Beginnings have been made on civilian telephone services in Ancona city and in civilian mail services in Pesaro.

6. The major crime problem has been extortion gangs which have been formed by the worst elements of the former partisans. Mobile night patrols by Italian and Allied police have reduced the danger.

7. From a health standpoint, the region came through the winter well, without even the increase which had been expected in chest infections. Non-arrival of medical supplies has forced strictest economies along that line. Blankets and clothing have been distributed in the devastated areas.

8. "A" force payments for aid to Allied evaders and escapees in enemy territory have been completed except in snow-bound communes. Revenue by the governmental units of the Region for February was above the figures for the same month last year. The grain harvest resulted in substantial increases in bank and post office deposits.

9. Six truck pools, with 169 trucks lifting an average of 475 tons per day, and three Italian GT Companies, provide for the transport needs of 8 provinces. A total of 67 bus lines, 20 of them inter-provincial, are licensed to operate.

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5914

PAGE TWO.1. POLITICAL REACTION AND PUBLIC OPINION.

The Region, in general, has been quiet throughout the month, the Communist party alone displaying any initiative, particularly in Pescara and Aquile. In the latter, upon the announcement that AG officers would be withdrawn, a flare-up of political activity occurred, and the provincial Communist party celebrated the occasion and let it be known that they were prepared to take aggressive action once we were out of the way.

It would appear that most of the responsible elements of the population are rather apprehensive about the withdrawal of AG officers, and the news was not treated with any signs of joy.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

There is still some difficulty in Local Government administration due to certain provinces being short-handed.

In Chieti the position with regard to the Prefect still remains unsatisfactory, and will not improve until he is removed.

Application has been made to Rome for a replacement for the present Director of the Post Office in Ancona, who appears to be quite incapable of carrying out his duties.

3. ECONOMICS AND SUPPLY.

Bread and Pasta. The distribution of these commodities has been satisfactory throughout the Region during the month.

Olive Oil. With the olive oil control officers now in the field, and the preliminary spade work completed, results in amassing are becoming more noticeable

the necessary allocation of olive oil through Italian channels duly

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3. ECONOMICS AND FINANCE.

Bread and Paste. The distribution of these commodities has been satisfactory throughout the Region during the month.

Olive Oil. With the olive oil control officers now in the field, and the preliminary episode work completed, results in assessing are becoming more noticeable

The February allocation of olive oil through Italian channels duly arrived, and was distributed.

Eggs. In Ancona it is proposed to publish a decree whereby 340,000 eggs will be assessed monthly. These are to be distributed to the military and civil hospitals, and to the civil population. They will be collected at the rate of 2 eggs per hectare of land per month, and prices are fixed at 7.5 lire **5413** producer, 9 lire to the hospitals, and 9 lire plus tax to the civil population. The balance over 340,000 can be sold on the free market. Failure to assess will carry severe penalties.

Whilst this is in the nature of an experiment it is definitely a step in the right direction, and the province is optimistic regarding the success

of this venture.

Fruit. Large amounts of citrus fruits, dried figs and almonds arrived from the South through arrangements made with Food Sub Commission.

Soup Kitchens. The Pope's soup kitchen have started in the devastated areas with authority for the new soup-kitchen ration. This new soup-kitchen ration, including pasta, dried veg. and oil, is now authorized for industrial uses as well as RDA and will be a Godsend to industries who want to look after their workers.

Matches and Leather. The SAFFA match factory at Jesi, working during the night hours only, has increased its production from 54 million to 70 million weekly during the last month.

The Rocatti tannery at Jesi is still without power, and application has been made for power between 2500 and 6600 hrs. It is hoped on this basis to be able to start the tannery shortly, and with the new ruling that 50 per cent of tanning materials released to civilian firms may be used for civilian purposes, the plant should become a great asset.

Alcohol. 6,000 litres have been released by Ancona to Chieti for hospitals, pharmacies, etc.

Scrub. The lack of this commodity is still causing outbreaks of scabies in many parts of the Region. 100 quintali has been manufactured in Ancona, of which 5 tons have been sent to Pesaro. Approximately 15 tons have been reserved in this Province for civilian hospitals, prisons, schools, dock workers, and other civilians.

Bricks. All available kilns in Ancona are operating, and four more are expected to commence during the month of March.

In Teramo bricks have been blocked and requisitioned by the Army for

The Rocetti tannery at Jesi is still without power, and application has been made for power between 2300 and 6600 hrs. It is hoped on this basis to be able to start the tannery shortly, and with the new ruling that 50 per cent of tanning materials released to civilian firms may be used for civilian purposes, the plant should become a great asset.

Alcohol. 6,000 litres have been released by Ancona to Chieti for hospitals, pharmacies, etc.

Soap. The lack of this commodity is still causing outbreaks of scabies in many parts of the Region. 100 quintali has been manufactured in Ancona, of which 5 tons have been sent to Pescara. Approximately 15 tons have been reserved in this Province for civilian hospitals, prisons, schools, dock workers, and other civilians.

Bricks. All available kilns in Ancona are operating, and four more are expected to commence during the month of March.

In Teramo bricks have been blocked and requisitioned by the Army for railway contracts at a fixed price of 800 lire per thousand, which owing to the cost of coal and transport will mean bankruptcy for the manufacturer.

Fuel. The Arsa coal dust at Busci and Fratola works of Nobel (Montecassini) was in great part allocated with Coal Division approval to supply fuel chiefly for all-important brick kilns for reconstructions, sufficient for 1945 season.

1100 tons to Chieti.

1100 tons to Pescara.

1100 tons to Teramo.

The kilns of these provinces are engaged on a high priority supply of bricks for reconstruction of the coast railway. Teramo also has a ceramic factory in valuable production of crockery.

5912

150 tons monthly for Feb and Mar 45.... Ascoli.

150 tons monthly for Feb and Mar 45..... Macerata.

for essential heating and brick kilns.

100 tons - Ascoli for brick kilns.

60 tons - Sulmona (monthly allowance) for local railway.

The good coal at the sugar factory in Avezzano was sparingly used for essential heating. Industry Sub Commission maintain that they will re-activate this factory this year to produce 10,000 tons of sugar. Chieti Gas works received necessary coal, and Sardinian coal was obtained for Bomba Cement Works. A further allocation of 150 tons (to arrive in March) for Ancona was received from the Coal Division. Coke from Chieti Gas Works was allocated to small priorities in Ancona and Ascoli, and the remainder went to Teramo, Pescara and Chieti. 20 tons of coke were obtained from Terni for Tolentino Foundry. Lignite from the Ascoli mines was distributed, and Ascoli and Macerata put in touch to get allocations now that backloads of the GT Coy are available to carry it. They have carried most of the Arsa coal that has been collected so far. Lignite from the Russi Mine has been supplied to Chieti, Pescara and Teramo. 100 Ancona arranged lignite from Brenna mine (Perugia) by rail to Ancona daily. Charcoal is allocated by Italian Ministry and deficiency provinces have collected as and when they can.

Cement. Bomba Cement Works produced 120 to 150 tons of cement for Benio Civile. Cecchetti Rail Works and Machinery Repair Works at Oltanova is in action again on truck and machine repair, and work for the coastal-railway reconstruction. A regular supply of electricity was obtained for the works.

Chemicals. Nobel (Montecatini) started a program of chemical production at their devastated Russi Works, with stocks taken from Russi and Prestola, with the approval of Industry Sub Commission.

Shoes. The Socomare factory at Pescara, and another smaller factory,

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Cement. Bomba Cement Works produced 120 to 150 tons of cement for Genio Civile. Cecchetti Rail Wagon and Machinery Repair Works at Citanova is in action again on truck and machine repair, and work for the coastal-railway reconstruction. A regular supply of electricity was obtained for the works.

Chemicals. Nobel (Montecatini) started a program of chemical production at their devastated Busi Works, with stocks taken from Busi and Pratola, with the approval of Industry Sub Commission.

Shoes. The Socomare factory at Pescara, and another smaller factory, have started production of canvas topped, valvage-rubber soled shoes. Socomare, who have enough to produce 100,000 pairs, were put in touch with Industry Sub-Commission for nails, twine, and cardboard needed for this output. This production and prices and output are under the control of PSC Chieti. 5911

4. AGRICULTURE.

Wheat. The assessing of wheat appears to be coming to a standstill. It is felt that vigorous action by the Italian officials in enforcing their own laws would result in much more wheat being turned in. Necessary action is being taken in this matter. A shortage of sacks in Macerata has been restricting the export of grain from this province.

communal and provincial roads.

All forms of maintenance work are still hampered by lack of transport.

Electrical. With the advent of better weather work in reconstruction and repair has been resumed. Services for Ascoli and Aquila, which were endangered when the river froze, cutting the output at Rodognoles in half at the time when Garassai was out, have now been ceased by the thaw and the receipt of current from Terni.

Reconstruction at Pescara III and IV and of Avezzano is continuing.

Repairs and general maintenance of power stations continued throughout the month and have been aided by the receipt of 120 tons of transformer oil.

Supplies of electricity were arranged during the month for the Gocchetti Engineering Works at Porto Civitanova, enabling part of these works to restart. Power was also supplied for the carbide factory at Ascoli. Arrangements are in progress with ENEL to divert the total output of S. Quirico power station (140 kw) to the sulphur mines at Gabernardi.

Transport. All work is handicapped by (a) lack of transport, and (b) the chronic mechanical condition of available transport.

7. COMMUNICATIONS.

Telephones and Telegraph. In Ancona civilian subscribers now have 500 telephone lines independent of the military exchange. With the improvement in weather conditions, a general speeding up has started on the maintenance and repair of both telephone and telegraph lines.

Postal. During February civilian mail services were started in Pesaro on a limited scale.

8. PUBLIC SAFETY.

CC. RR. The standard of efficiency continues to improve, and confidence

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J. D. Deherty
for
Lieut. Colonel.
C.H.A. French.
Colonel.
Regional Commissioner.

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5904

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- 5902

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

ALLIED COMMISSION

ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 1945

Part I	Local Government.....	1.
	Economics and Supply.....	2.
	Communications.....	3.
	Public Safety.....	4.

Part II	Political Reaction and Public Opinion.....	1.
	Local Government.....	2.
	Economics and Supply.....	3.
	Agriculture.....	4.
	Labour.....	5.
	Public Works and Utilities.....	6.
	Communications.....	7.
	Public Safety.....	8.
	Public Health.....	9.
	Education.....	10.
	Refugees.....	11.
	Finance.....	12.
	Property Control.....	13.
	Civilian Transportation.....	14.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Part II	1.
Political Reaction and Public Opinion.....	1.
Local Government.....	2.
Food and Supply.....	3.
Agriculture.....	4.
Labour.....	5.
Public Works and Utilities.....	6.
Communications.....	7.
Public Safety.....	8.
Public Health.....	9.
Education.....	10.
Refugees.....	11.
Finance.....	12.
Property Control.....	13.
Civilian Transportation.....	14.
Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives.....	15.

5901
5901

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important posts under the Mussolini Fascist Regime. He was transferred to Rome on the day following his arrest under guard of the Questura.

Black Market. A prosperous black market still exists in the Region. Appended is a list of Black Market prices existing in Terni Province. Some success is being achieved in combating this activity by the imposition of heavy fines, imprisonment and the confiscation of goods.

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A.P.N.I.X. "A".

Schedule of existing Black Market prices in THAMBO PROVINCE, as at

22nd January 1945.

<u>COMMODITY.</u>	<u>PRICE.</u>	
Flour.	5000 to 6000	per quintal
Grain.	4000 to 5000	"
Potatoes.	3000 to 3500	"
Beans.	6000 to 8000	"
Barley.	3500 to 4000	"
Olive Oil.	300 to 400	per litre
Sugar	400 to 500	per kilo
Butter.	700 to 750	"
Charcoal	1600 to 2000	per quintal
Lard	500 to 600	"
Eggs.	25 to 30	each
Soap.	300 to 350	per kilo
Gasoline	70 to 80	per litre
Matches.	25 to 30	per box.
Men's Shoes.	2200 to 3500	per pair
Women's Shoes.	1500 to 3000	"
Men's Suits.	10000 to 20000	each
Socks for men.	350 to 400	per pair
Women's Silk Stockings	700 to 750	"
	1500 to 1800	each

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Sugar	400 to 500	per kilo
Butter,	700 to 750	"
Charcoal	1600 to 2000	per quintal
Lard	500 to 600	"
Eggs,	25 to 30	each
Soap,	300 to 350	per kilo
Gasoline	70 to 80	per litre
Matches,	25 to 30	per box.
Men's Shoes,	2200 to 3500	per pair
Women's Shoes,	1500 to 3000	"
Men's Suits,	10000 to 20000	each
Socks for men,	350 to 400	per pair
Women's Silk Stockings	700 to 750	"
Men's Shirts,	1500 to 1800	each
Automobile Tyres,	25000 to 30000	"
Truck Tyres,	45000 to 50000	"

5897

5898

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

ALLIED COMMISSION

AMUNT-1-MARCHES REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 1944.

PART I

1 Political Reaction and Popular Opinion

2 Local Government - Provincial

3 Economic Resources & Supply

4 Agriculture

5 Labour

6 Public Works & Utilities

7 Public Safety

PART II

1 Political Reaction and Popular Opinion

2 Local Government - Provincial

3 Economic Resources & Supply

4 Agriculture

5 Labour

6 Public Works & Utilities

7 Communications

8 Public Safety

9 Public Health

10 Education

4	Agriculture	
5	Labour	
6	Public Works & Utilities	
7	Public Safety	
1	PART II	
1	Political Reaction and Popular Opinion	
2	Local Government - Provincial	
3	Economic Resources & Supply	
4	Agriculture	
5	Labour	
6	Public Works & Utilities	
7	Communications	
8	Public Safety	
9	Public Health	
10	Education	
11	Refugees	
12	Finance	
13	Property Control	
14	Civilian Transport	
15	Monuments & Fine Arts	

5888

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