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MONTHLY RE
SEPT. 1944 - J

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10000/109/443

MONTHLY REPORT, ABRUZZI-MARCHE REGION
SEPT. 1944 - JUNE 1945

A/Sx Clearance

99.

C.S.O.

Umbria Marche (Ltr Abruzzi Marche) Regional's Report for March is at 97.
Passages have been marked for leading
DH. 18/4.

See in particular
p 96 re Effi at Volturno
and p 86 re Art Exhibition
in Perugia. DH 19/4.

23/4 Noted. F.

112.

Executive Commission

Umbria Marche Region report for April is at 111.

DH 9/6/45. FF 9/6.

7/7/46

All documents on this
file now considered
CONFIDENTIAL and SECRET

5561

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C.O.S.

Please see Abruzzi. Marche report for December. It is also well set out from the abridged Monthly Report angle. Part I therefore embodies the principal events of the month which you will read when checking the abridged version but the following additional points are of interest in Part II :-

a) Political - Unrest in Ancona . . . . Encl. 48
b) Olive oil . Amassing very unsatisfactory Encl. 47
c) Wage scales . causing discontent . . Encl. 47
d) Telephones - Progress made . . . Encl. 46
e) Black market . Road blocks a success Encl. 46
f) Devastated areas . Clothing received . Encl. 45,
g) Education. - - - - - - - - - Encl. 44

C.C.S. (Ext. 735)
15. 1. 45

Hthesm S/Ldr.

71

C.S.O.

Please see Abruzzi Marche Report for January. Passages of interest have been marked.

5569

Exec.
19.2.45.

86.

Executive Commissioner

Please see 85 for Abruzzi Marche Report for February.

Good. 5934

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interest in Part II :-

a) Political . Unrest in Ancona . . . . Encl. 48
b) Olive oil . Amassing very unsatisfactry Encl. 47
c) Wage scales . causing discontent . . Encl. 47
d) Telephones . Progress made . . . Encl. 46
e) Black market . Road blocks a success Encl. 46
f) Devastated areas . Clothing received . Encl. 45,
g) Education . . . . . Encl. 44

C.O.S. (Ext. 135)
15. 1. 45

Ithaca 5/Cdr.

(7)

C.S.O.

Please see Abruzzi Marche Report for January. Passages of interest have been marked.

5560

Ex.C.
19.2.45.

Executive Commissioner

Please see 85 for Abruzzi Marche Report for February.

Good.

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TO: C.O.S.

Submitted for reading is ABRUZZI-MARCHE Region's Monthly Report for November. This you will find is a clearly expressed and interesting report, the main points of which are as follow :

Folio 38. Transportation: Comment on transportation difficulties, which you will find mentioned elsewhere in the report also.

Accommodation: Emphasises the accommodation problem with large numbers of troops at rest in the Region. Note that it is proposed to appoint a Liaison Officer with 61 Area and 209 Sub-Area, which seems to be an excellent idea.

Folio 37. Carabinieri: Implies criticism of the standing and morale of the Carabinieri.

Olive Oil: The fact that allocations of olive oil for October and November have not arrived is attributed to the fact that some producers have not received payment for last year's produce.

Folio 36. Transportation: A further reference to this difficulty.

Wheat: It is said that amassing is now being hampered by the requisitioning of warehouses by the Army.

Potatoes: The sending of seed potatoes to ROME is regarded with suspicion.

Folio 35. Labour: There is a paragraph which I take to be implied criticism of AMG EIGHTH Army. I will make enquiries about this.

Food Ration Cards: The withholding of ration cards in ANCONA against production of a labour registration card may provoke political reaction.

Folio 34. Transportation: This subject is again brought up in connection with Public Works, instancing the difficulty of moving labourers to their work. It is said that the construction of 18 bridges is held up through lack of material.

Public Safety: A continued improvement by all police agencies is noted. Unless further clothing and equipment is forthcoming men will be sent on leave.

A | Crime: Armed hold-ups by negro troops in the JESI area where there is a Negro Div at rest. It is reported that 2 armed Negro deserters held up 2 AC officials, the negroes being killed.

Folio 33. Prisons: There was a hunger strike in AQUILA prison when it was heard that occupants of prisons in ROME were receiving an additional ration.

Folio 32. Mine Clearance: 88,520 mines were moved during the month in CHIETI, PESCARA and TERAMO Provinces, at a cost of 10 dead and 42 injured.

B | Education: Wholesale requisitioning of schools in MACERATA is reported. University of MACERATA has been requisitioned.

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B | Education: Wholesale requisitioning of schools in MACERATA is reported. University of MACERATA has been requisitioned.

Folio 31. Finance: Payments by "A" Force are apparently still being made to persons assisting in the escape of Allied PW.

Folio 30. Tyres and Spare Parts: Stresses tyre and spare part shortage.

Monuments and Fine Arts: Anxiety is expressed over the occupation of historical buildings by troops.

14 Dec 44.
Office, Chief of Staff,
Ext. 735.

I will enquire into A 1 B.

Captain.

Seen by COS-NFA fn. 22/12 19/12

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C.S.O.

Submitted opposite is October report of Abruzzi-Marche Region. I am sorry that this was not shown to you before but in order to save time I first used this copy to prepare a draft for the Monthly Report (no "working" copy was sent, as is usual).

Please see passages marked, especially in para. 1 + 3 (~~para~~ Part 2).

All Regional reports have now been passed to you

Seen by CSO 27/11

LtColR
27/11



TO: Chief of Staff

Please see Abruzzi-Marche Region's report for October at folios 14 - 26. Points of interest are:

In Part One:

a) Slowing down of grain collection in provinces handed back to the Italian Government. (para 2)
b) Not enough transport being sent to bring potatoes to Rome (para 4)

In Part Two

c) R.C's fear of possible trouble as a result of unrest caused by high prices (marked passages of paras 1 & 5)
d) Proposal ref increase of grain ration . (beginning of para 3 )
e) Need for further fuel supplies. (end of para 3)
f) Account of ORTUCCHIO incident , (marked passage of para 8)
g) Paragraph on Devasted Areas. (marked passage para 9)

TW/3/44

PP Hoptaine Radclaire
J/Cdr.

28 November 44.

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TW 3/XII

All Hopkins Radclyffe
J/Cdr.

28 November 44.

5557

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0967

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13

13

Col Shupp

1. I should like your views before this is in formal clearance.
2. In connection with suggested reassignment of responsibilities from this Region to Europe, third para page 5 is significant.

G/C

14

Capt Worden.

Regret very Col has been. Wishing does you any harm?

2. Do not put Pol and Intell. sections on list. Pol Sec in HK have interested Pol Sec can in their reports. I suggest that they only want to read Quietly and then pass to suggested list

PRO para 15
Pol Sec para 16
Intell - ~~Unnecessary~~

5556

0968

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

UMBRIA - MARCHE REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL - 1945

E.O. Dist - 16 MAY
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CA Sect
Library Copy

UMBRIA - MARCHE REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL - 1945

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 755017

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see M. 112

(Miss L)

SECRET

(110)

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

UMBRIA-MARCHE REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL - 1945

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PART ONE

As the Region hands over administration to the Italian Government on 10 May, this will be the last Regional monthly report.

During its existence the Region has administered 12 provinces -- Foggia, Campobasso, Chieti, Pescara, Teramo, Aquila, Ascoli-Piceno, Macerata, Ancona, Pesaro-Urbino, Terni and Perugia -- which is believed to be the largest number of provinces that any Region of AMG/AC has had to look after. These provinces embrace a large slice of Italy.

In the lack of any form of trouble during the whole period of control and in the first-class record of wheat and olive oil collection, the Region's administration has been highly successful.

Wheat amassing has reached the total of 124 per cent of the target figure and 76 per cent of the target has been collected in olive oil, with large quantities still to come in.

Although the Region was seriously handicapped by widespread use of schools for the accomodation of troops, the education system of the Regional territory was revived. A total of 295,500 pupils enrolled in schools and approximately 9,500 teachers and professors were on the job.

Special efforts were made to restore the public utilities of the Region and even though raw materials were seriously lacking at times, a surprising progress was made in that field. Over 600 projects have been completed during the life of the Region.

Approximately 8500 cases of all types have been tried in AMG courts of the Region since it commenced to function in Italian territory. Special efforts were made by the Public Safety Section to curb the black market. This drive was so successful that No. 1 District officially acknowledged the fact in its monthly reports.

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At the inception of the Region, there were only two truck pools, one at Foggia and the other at Campobasso. Since then the civil transporation section has activated seven additional pools, which include approximately 500 load-carrying vehicles. About 75 bus lines have been licensed and a central clearing house for handling civilian and military tire needs established.

Approximately 80 tons of medical supplies and between 300 and 400 tons of clothing have been distributed to the population of the Region. The area devastated during the winter of 1943-44 was the main source of trouble, but by providing special medical facilities and setting up stock-piles of food, rapid improvement in the situation was achieved.

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PART TWO

1. POLITICAL REACTION AND PUBLIC OPINION

The situation has not changed appreciably during the past month. The Communists and Socialists appeared to be largely in control and were by far the strongest partiss. Towards the end of the month, there were many"spontaneous" demonstrations, in many cases sponsored by the Communists, to express joy at the liberation of Milan, Turin and Genoa by the Partisans. The demonstrations appeared to be favorable to the Allies and passed off without incident. The report of the shooting of Mussolini and other Fascist leaders, after trial by Popular Tribunal, was received with acclamation, since it was hoped the slow epuration machinery in Rome would benefit by this example of rapid justice.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In Ascoli-Piceno and Macerata Provinces, local administration was severely handicapped by lack of transport. It is thought that although the administration appears to be functioning rather well, corruption is rife among the lower paid officials. In spite of lack of backing from CC.RR. and the moral support of the people, senior officials are doing their best under difficult conditions. In Terni province, all provincial officials are working normally and AMG functions were purely advisory. In Ancona, Provincial administration gave proof that it was well qualified to take over from AMG.

3. ECONOMIC RESOURCES AND SUPPLY

a. Soap. A release of 127 quintali of caustic soda was received for Ascoli-Piceno, Macerata and Perugia provinces for making soap from acid fats available within those provinces. An emergency release of 20 tons

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a. Soap. A release of 127 quintali of caustic soda was received for Ascoli-Piceno, Macerata and Perugia provinces for making soap from acid fats available within those provinces. An emergency release of 20 tons of soap was obtained for use in combatting scabies throughout the Region.

b. Cement. Regional allocation of 1,500 tons of cement was received for reallocation in conjunction with the work of the Regional Engineer.



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c. Coal. Notification was sent to the AF. liaison officer at the Coal Division, Headquarters Allied Commission, of the minimum requirements of Perugia, Pesaro and Ancona for hospitals and small industries.

d. Sulphur. Approximately 1,400 tons of rock sulphur were moved from old stocks at the Carbernardi mine in Ancona province. Agricultural allocations for the Marche provinces were notified and shipments to Umbria were begun, with 20 tons to Perugia and 15 to Terni.

e. Calcium Chloride. An allocation of 12 quintali was obtained for chloriration of water in Perugia.

f. Silk. A tour was made of all the silk factories in the Region and allocation of necessary coal for drying cocoons was obtained.

g. POL. The May demands for POL exceeded the availability by 50 per cent in benzina and by 66 per cent in derv. The reason for this was an increase in the use of truck pool vehicles for grain movement and an increased demand for industrial use, owing to the lack of electricity and the failure of water-power for certain mills. Provinces were instructed to withdraw licenses from enough private cars and trucks to meet the availability, rather than reducing the POL ration to each, because it had been found that insufficient allocations of POL merely create a demand for stolen POL.

h. Salt. The objective has been obtained and at month's end there was no province short or likely to be short of salt. The raising of the ration to the Italian wartime one of 300 grams per head per month, with 100 grams extra for those making their own bread, is now in force throughout Italian Government territory. The maintenance plan was handed over to the Monopolio di Stato through Food Sub-Commission.

i. Eggs. Eggs were supplied to the army in the following numbers during the month: 75,000 in Macerata, 83,000 in Ancona, 160,000 in Ascoli. The Istituto Nazionale Medico Farmologico received 55,000 and the exportable

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j. Grain Movements. In the period 1-22 April, 2547 tons of grain were moved by rail from Ancona to Rome and 4016 tons by ship from Ancona to Bari or heel ports. In the period 1-26 April, 5343 tons of grain were moved by vehicles from Macerata, Ascoli and Teramo provinces to Chieti, Pescara and Aquila provinces. Grain movements from Perugia and Terni provinces were continued as under arrangements with the Italian government. Rail shipments to Rome from Ancona, Pesaro and Macerata ceased in mid-April, presumably to hold grain there for stock-piles.

4. AGRICULTURE

a. Wheat. Lack of rain in the mid-month retarded growth and no predictions of high crop yields can be considered accurate at this time. The good valley land in Ascoli-Piceno, Macerata and Perugia provinces suffered less from the rain shortage than the crops on the lighter soils and hillsides.

b. Maize. Planting took place along the coast in Ascoli-Piceno province, but in most areas farmers waited for the rain before planting.

c. Potatoes. Planting for the late summer-autumn crop continued during the whole month. It was reported that in Perugia province 150,000 quintali of seed had been planted.

d. Fava Beans. A heavy growth was made during the month and on fertile soil the crop was 2½ feet high at cutting time.

e. Sugar beets. Shortage of rain caused much concern. In Perugia province, although 400 hectares of sugar beets were planted, it is expected that at least half of this amount will be plowed in due to the lack of rain. Jesi farmers have not planted beets, because they lacked sufficient fertilizer, nor do they believe there will be sufficient electric current for irrigation.

f. Cattle. In Macerata, there are 2000 head of cattle for breeding

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f. Cattle. In Macerata, there are 2000 head of cattle for breeding purposes. The quoted price is approximately 180 lire per kilogram.

g. Horses and Mules. Plans were being instigated in Pesaro province for the first purchase of surplus army horses and mules. 5049

h. Swine. Discussions took place between the Consorzio Agrario and the Inspector of Agriculture in Pesaro and Macerata for the purchase and transport of a thousand pigs from Macerata to Pesaro. Prices ranged between 380 and 420 lire per Kilogram. Later the limit to be purchased was raised to 5000.-5-

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i. Sheep. Macerata reported a surplus of 3000 head for breeding purposes, at approximately 200 lire per kilogram.

k. Mine Disposal in Farmlands. A unit of Italian soldiers was working in the Foglia valley in Pesaro province and destroyed 4000 mines during three weeks' work. It was estimated there are still 100,000 mines to be lifted in this area.

5. LABOR

In the recently added provinces of Perugia and Terni, complete reorganization of all offices was found necessary. In Perugia a new budget to provide for the increased activity is being reviewed. In Terni, the office was almost unknown, and it was obvious that close attention by a labor officer remained necessary. In every province unemployment increased during the month, generally due to reductions in workers for the Forces. In many cases, the Camera del Lavoro continues its activities and issues orders without advising the labor office directors.

6. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES.

a. Roads. In the Marche, military highways were under maintenance by two experienced contractors from Rome, and the work appeared to be progressing satisfactorily in spite of the difficulty in transporting equipment from Rome to the east coast. In Umbria, the maintenance of roads was confined to military roads, of which there is a great network, and shortage of transport and material made progress difficult.

b. Electrical. Galleto No. 2 - developing 35000 kva - was put into service at Terni on 9 April. The electrical section continued to deal with local distribution and rationing problems. Local offices under Italian civilian engineers were operating in Terni and Perugia and were to be

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c. Industrial Rehabilitation. A materials division of the Engineering Section did considerable work in opening up the brick kilns to assist in the construction operations.

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7. COMMUNICATIONS

Six trucks were procured for the use of the Circola and construction in this area progressed as a result. Many telephone exchanges were reactivated throughout the Region.

With the granting of permission to use the daily train service from Orte to Pesaro, a daily 24-hours service was opened from Rome to Ancona to include mails for all the Umbria-Marche Region and the service from Terni to Rieti was made a daily one. The increase of the Pesaro-Ancona bus schedule doubled the mail service on that line. A daily mail service for 46 provincial offices had been arranged and a twice-weekly service was in effect for the remaining 33 officials.

8. PUBLIC SAFETY

a. Crime. The general situation throughout the Region was satisfactory, apart from one or two cases of robbery.

b. Possession of Firearms. Considerable numbers of arms were illegally held and searches continued during the month. In two cases dealt with by AMG superior courts, complete machine-guns were found.

c. Conduct of Allied Troops. Great numbers of troops left the Region and the conduct of those remaining was generally good. The majority of military police, except thoseiin the two northern provinces, were withdrawn.

d. Venereal Disease. Military police and Italian agencies maintained good control and venereal disease was no great problem.

e. Functioning of courts. In Pesaro province, four superior and 20 summary courts were held during the month, Two hundred prisoners appeared, of whom 181 were convicted. In Ascoli, work in the Italian courts was satisfactory, though very slow. Italian courts in Macerata had many

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five cases were dealt with for unlawful possession of firearms and six people were sentenced to from four to eighteen months in prison for acquiring 486 gallons of petrol. Functioning of Italian courts in Perugia was very unsatisfactory; persons have been awaiting trial since the early days of occupation. In Perugia's AMG courts, the situation was normal.

f. Civil Disturbances. In Pesaro, a demonstration by 300 women took place outside the Prefettura. A delegation was appointed to meet the Prefect, and grievances were discussed. These included the increased price of grain and bread, unemployment and a lack of electric light. The demonstration was orderly and undoubtedly was organized by U. D. I.

g. Public Meetings. The Communists held the greatest number of meetings. All meetings were orderly.

h. General Security Situation. As a result of the landing of enemy agents on the coast last month, security measures were improved and the general situation is satisfactory.

i. Licensing and Registration. Police agencies were instructed to enforce the registration system. A few cases were reported in which civilians entered the army area without proper authorization.

j. Fire. The Italian fire service functioned well in conjunction with the Army Fire Service, but there is a general shortage of good equipment and transport.

k. Prisons. In Pesaro province, records were found to be well-kept and all information was supplied to this office. The numbers of convicted prisoners is 214 and 130 await trial. In Perugia province, general conditions in the 12 prisons were satisfactory; convicted prisoners numbered 300 and there were 467 awaiting trial, 440 by the Italian courts and 27 by AMG. In Ascoli and Macerata provinces, general

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9. PUBLIC HEALTH

The health of the Region continued very good. All hospitals continued to function and were sufficient for the needs of the population. The Perugia sanitorium was released by the military during the month and at month's end was being prepared for reopening. All provinces received a further supply of drugs from ENDIMEA, and there was an ample stock of dressings and drugs, mostly supplies hidden from the Germans. A supplementary supply of insulin was requested by the medico provinciale of Perugia and supplies of drugs for venereal disease treatment were limited throughout the Region. No fresh welfare projects were undertaken, because the Red Cross personnel was under orders to move. Italian welfare organizations were functioning in a satisfactory manner. There was no refugee movement during the month. One case of smallpox involving an Italian soldier was notified from Ancona. The scabies epidemic in the Marche provinces was being slowly brought under control.

10. FINANCE

a. General. All provincial finance officers except one were withdrawn during the month and contact with provincial officials was maintained by Regional officers through civilian staffs remaining in the provinces. Although activities were well maintained during the month, uneasiness and confusion continued to be caused by the delays which frequently occurred in implementing Italian government decrees in AMG territory; this was particularly the case in respect to DLL 116, regarding increases in salaries, the results from the delay being most disquieting.

b. "A" Force. The number of new claims decreased, but withdrawal of provincial finance officers made it impossible to keep up to date with lists of authorized payments as received for Ascoli-Piceno and

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c. Budgets. Budget returns for the Marche provinces are well up to date and the number of arrearages in the Umbria provinces, recently brought under control of this Region, was reduced to what may be considered a satisfactory level.

d. Revenue. Returns continue to show increases over last year's figures. Bank reports show increases in deposits and government securities. The new Treasury bond issue is selling well, though lack of transport has made intensive canvassing impossible outside the main centers. Postoffice business shows general increases.

e. Monopolies. The production of cigarettes is still limited and distribution to the public continues below requirements.

11. MONUMENTS AND FINE ARTS

An excellent exhibit of Umbrian painting over a period of four centuries in the late Medieval and Renaissance periods was opened at Perugia. Objects from the Civic Museum at Foligno were reported to have been recovered almost intact. The improper requisitioning of the Palazzo della Signoria at Jesi (a "starred" monument) was corrected and it was evacuated by troops. Repairs were completed at Ancona to permit the communal library there to house also the archives and the historical library. Progress was made on repair work to monuments in Urbino, Fano and Gradara.

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Colonel,
Regional Commissioner.

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SECRET

TO: HQ A.C. Chief of Staff.

APR 17 REC'D

FROM: HQ AMG Umbria Marche Region.

SUBJECT: Regional Monthly Report - March 1945.

REF: R5/502/10

DATE: 14 April 1945.

Regional Monthly Report in sextuplicate for the month of March 1945 is forwarded herewith.

For the Regional Commissioner:

HEADQUARTERS 17 APR 1945 G. A.

J.D. SCHOLTZ,
Lt. Colonel,
Deputy Regional Commissioner.

Ex. Com's Dist — 17 Apl. 45.

1 - File Copy
1 - CA Sec
1 - Econ Sec
1 - PRB, circulate to Est Sec.
1 - PWB 5542
1 - Working Copy.

See him. 99.

# SECRET

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

ALLIED COMMISSION

UMBRIA - MARCHE REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 1945

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

ALLIED COMMISSION

UMBRIA - MARCHE REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 1945

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

U.S.FIFTH ARMY BRANCH REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH - 1945

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PART ONE.

1. On March 16th the Region took over the Provinces of PERUGIA and TERNI. On April 1st it handed back to the Italian Government the Provinces of the Abruzzi, viz. Aquila, Chieti, Pescara and Teramo. The Region is now known as Umbria Marche Region and consists of Ascoli-Piceno, Macerata, Ancona, Pesaro-Urbino, Perugia and Terni.

Expressions of the greatest regret were made in the Provinces of the Abruzzi on the cessation in those provinces of Allied Control. It is always difficult in this country to know just how far such expressions are sincere, but I am satisfied that in certain places our going away is being viewed with anxiety, and has certainly caused an appreciable amount of heartburning.

Looking back over the past 9 months of our occupation, particularly in that part known as the devastated area, it is surprising what progress has been made in reconstruction. If raw materials were only a little more regularly available the progress would have been much greater. In this respect mine clearance, of course, has been a bug-bear, but even so, the countryside at the moment shows the hard work which the population has put in during the extremely trying winter. The crops everywhere are magnificent.

2. Special efforts have been made recently in certain Provinces to stop the activities of the Black Marketeers. These were so successful as to result in a pat on the back from the Security Branch of No. 1 District who stated in their Monthly Report that the cost of living in the areas affected was lower than in any other part of the area administered by No. 1 District. The efforts made were mainly in the form of Road Blocks which were set up in various places, and shifted when it was felt that the Block would serve a better purpose elsewhere. The Army were asked to co-operate with us. It did so ungrudgingly and the result has been a considerable decrease all round in the price of foodstuffs.

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3. In Ancona 340,000 eggs are being amassed monthly, and better still they are being sold to the public at 10 lire each. In other parts of the Region we have got the price of eggs down to 9 lire each.

4. It is pleasing to report that wheat amassing for this Region has now reached 122% and for olive oil 55% of the target figure.

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PART TWO.

1. POLITICAL REACTION AND PUBLIC OPINION.

The Region was quiet throughout the month. In Aquila the position is unchanged, with the Communist party showing some initiative. In general the public is apathetic. Ascoli has shown a certain leaning towards Communism and too much encouragement is given to the formation of political parties, and not enough to reconstruction and hard work. In Pesaro strength increases are shown in both the Democratic Christians and the Communists.

Permission has been given for political parties to publish a weekly newspaper, in three of the Provinces, but here again the apathy of the public is apparent.

The favourable course of the war, with the expected offensive in Italy is having a good effect on public opinion. With the spring the greater amount of work to be done on the land tends to occupy the people's minds and offsets to a certain extent the propaganda of political leaders.

It would appear that there is much apprehension about the withdrawal of A.C. officers and little pleasure was noticed on the publication of the news.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

A little more responsibility is being shown by local officials, but good administration is still lacking due to the shortage of senior officials. The Vice Prefect has not yet arrived in Aquila. A request for the removal of the Prefect of Ascoli has been received. This is probably due to an outburst against authority rather than for personal shortcomings.

3. ECONOMICS AND SUPPLY.

Bread and Pasta. The bread subsidy was removed; distribution has been satisfactory and an economic price established throughout the Region.

5537

Fuel. Arsa Coal at Nobel Works Bussi and Pratola handed over to UPIC subject to certain allocations.

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Eggs. Macerata furnished 500,000 eggs to Rome and a regular allocation of 13,000 per week was made for the Istituto Nazionale Medico Farmacologico.

Sulphur. Caberhardi putting out approximately 600 tons per week.

Leather. It has been pointed out that the policy of allocating all leather to the Italian Armed Forces is turning all the leather into the Black Market. This Region has had not one square inch released for civilians for boot repairs, much

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less boot making, in 6 months, although there are many tanneries in Ascoli and Macerata.

POL. No complaints have been received after the first month's control of POL by the Italian Government.

Ration Cards. The distribution to this Region of 1,500,000 heavy workers supplementary ration cards, Scale "A" and "B" has been completed.

Foodstuffs furnished to the Army. Reports received during the month show that the following foodstuffs (local produce) have been furnished to the Army for use in hospitals:

| | |
|---|---|
| Ancona. | 20,000 eggs during February 45.<br>1,782 Litres wine during February 45. |
| Macerata. | 107,000 eggs during February 45.<br>43.60 q.li wine during February 45. (English and Polish troops).<br>70.00 q.li wine during February 45 to Italian troops. |
| Ascoli. | 40,000 eggs per week from 1 October 44 to 20 February 45.<br>500 kgms poultry during December 44.<br>Cauliflowers..... 2,482.00q.li.<br>Cabbages ..... 341.00 "<br>Fennels ..... 18.00 "<br>Oranges ..... 16.00 "<br>Mandarines ..... 5.30 "<br>Lemons ..... 3.77 "<br>Nuts ..... 9.00 "<br>Dried Figs ..... 55.70 "<br>Dried and pressed figs ..... 15.40 " |

Soap. An allocation was made to Ascoli and Macerata of refined sulphur from Bellisio Refinery (Pesaro) for sulphur ointment to combat scabies. It is hoped that the allocations of sulfure oil and caustic soda will be granted in order that soap making may commence in the Marche Region.

Cement. A request was made to the Commerce Sub Commission for 100 tons of cement monthly to be sent to Ancona for allocation by the RSO.

5536

Glass. A small stock of plate glass was reported by RSO Ancona and priority needs will be decided upon by the RSO.

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43.60 q.li wine during February 45. (English and Polish troops).
70.00 q.li wine during February 45 to Italian troops.

Ascoli. 40,000 eggs per week from 1 October 44 to 28 February 45.
500 kgms poultry during December 44.

| | | |
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| Cauliflowers | 2,480.00 | q.li. |
| Cabbages | 341.00 | " |
| Fennels | 18.00 | " |
| Oranges | 16.00 | " |
| Mandarines | 5.30 | " |
| Lemons | 5.77 | " |
| Nuts | 9.80 | " |
| Dried Figs | 35.70 | " |
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Warehouse. A good 2,000 ton Consorzio Agrario warehouse was found at Porto Civitanova (Macerata) needing only partial re-roofing. It is close to the port and a request was made to HQ A.C. for the allocation of a 100 ton schooner to take grain out of the port, and bring back salt, wine, etc.

Citrous Fruits. 400 tons of citrous fruits arrived in Ancona by schooner from Sicily, and figs, fruit and nuts arrived in Ortona from the South.

/Fishing.....

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Fishing. Fishing has not been a great success as so little can be got in the 800 yard limit.

4. AGRICULTURE.

Olive Oil. Olive Oil collection Officers were withdrawn from Chieti and Pescara Provinces on March 23th, and are now being employed in Perugia Province, where no oil collection Officers have previously been employed.

The Prefect of Chieti has not co-operated in the amassing of oil and a report on his persistent disobedience of his own government's orders has been sent to the Agriculture Sub Commission.

Wheat. Much wheat is still coming in, and at the present rate of movement many Provinces will have much of their storage space still occupied when the new crops begin to come in.

Potatoes. Out of the estimated surplus of 50 - 60,000 tons (Italian figures) only about 8,000 tons have been amassed since the crops first started to come in last autumn. The raising of the price by the Italian Government to 16 lire per kilo, in the vain hope of raising potatoes for seed for the Rome District, was an action calculated to cause chaos and upset the whole structure of Italian Agriculture. The new price has only brought in 672 tons in the period February 28 to March 23. 4,000 tons of seed potatoes have arrived from the U.K. and are being sold to the farmers at 20 lire per kilo. British hospitals in forward areas are paying 34 lire per kilo for Italian potatoes. This is £82 per ton.

Swine. Macerata continues to have a surplus of young pigs roughly estimated at 100,000 head weighing between 10 and 15 kilograms. The price has varied between 250 - 400 lire per head.

Dairy Cattle. In the Northern Provinces there is an increasing need of dairy cattle. In Pesaro Province the Inspector of Agriculture stated that there were 300 head of milk cows, whereas before the war there had been 1,200. It is understood that the Minister of Agriculture is making arrangements to transport 100 Brown Sardinian cattle to the Area.

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Cheese. Throughout the entire Region requests have been received for rennit to assist in cheese making.

Mine Disposal in Farm Lands. Trained Mine Disposal Labourers are reported to be working on the Gothic Line minefield, and receive a bonus for this dangerous work as well as their regular wage. Deaths to farm labourers have been reported

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from Chieti Province.

Grain spoilage. Angoumois grain moth and granary beetles in Ascoli-Picono have caused damage to the grain there. This will continue until Carbon Bisulphite can be used.

5. LABOUR.

Increases in the wage rates of statal and parastatal employees have given some satisfaction, but these increases have not taken place in all Provinces.

In Macerata there have been differences in opinion between the Camera del Lavoro and the local authorities regarding wage rates, and also dissatisfaction at the wage rate contrasts paid to Army and civil employees. In Ascoli unemployment has been relieved by work on the coast railway, and there have been general increases in employment by the Genio Civile and in increased farming and fishing activities.

6. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES.

Roads and Bridges. Heavy military traffic and the winter weather have left the roads in a bad state of repair. A great deal of work is being done on Provincial highways and communal roads. Difficulty in obtaining railroad cars to transport contractors' materials from ROME to ANCONA for the maintenance of highway 16 is holding up repairs on this, the 8th Army Supply Route, and the most important road in Eastern Italy.

In Ancona Province 3 road projects have been completed, 3 started and 13 are about to start. 6 Bridging projects are now complete, 4 started and 21 about to start.

5534

The military authorities have requested and expect to take over road maintenance and construction in the Port of Ancona by 1 April 45. In Perugia Province 382 miles of military highways are now repaired at a cost of 32,000,000 Lire.

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Projects have been prepared in the hope that materials can be obtained to ease the situation and to assist in the replacement of bridges and the repair of military highways throughout the Region.

Electrical. Reconstruction and repairs have continued, with the result that the power situation in the Region has improved. An additional bulk allocation of 7,500 kw from Terni has been distributed throughout the Region - Aquila receiving from 500 - 750 kw and the balance going to Ancona - Pesaro Provinces.

/Local.....

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(4)

Local power stations have provided reasonably well for Ascoli Piceno Province and Chieti and Pescara Provinces have received supply from the Verdi Group, supplemented by the bulk allocation from SME. Completion of repairs to small commercial establishments has resulted in numerous requests for power, some of which have been met, but strict control of power is still necessary.

The STE Caterina Station has been completed and is producing 400/500 kw DC for the operation of Porto S. Giorgio - Amendole railway. The 30 KV line between Ancona and Fabriano has been repaired as far as Chiaravake and is working at 6 KV and should be completed to Jesi by April 1st.

By arrangement with 20 CRE power from S. Quirico power station has been diverted to the Cabernardi sulphur mine.

Transport. All work is handicapped by a chronic lack of transport.

Communications. Nothing to report.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY.

CC.RR. In most of the Region the standard of efficiency has been maintained. Disturbances in Ascoli culminating in a demonstration made several changes necessary amongst the officers and NCOs. Much clothing is still required and replacements are already needed. The transport situation continues to be bad.

Crime. There has been little serious crime within the Region. Several cases of possession of Allied property have been dealt with in the courts and some cases of hoarding uncovered. In Macerata several arrests have been made in an alleged Fascist Party. The possession of firearms continues to be a menace in certain areas.

Black Market. In present economic circumstances action is extremely difficult and the public show no desire to cooperate, but 12 FS Section, who cover the Ancona Macerata and Ascoli area, report that the Black Market is comparatively under control. It is still possible for a family of three persons to live on 3500 to 4000 lire per month in that area.

Olive oil, grain, flour, tobaccos, wool, eggs, potatoes and pasta have all been seized during the past month in various provinces and Road Blocks have been invaluable in these seizures.

Strikes and Lock-ups. There have been a number of strikes of short duration.

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Strikes and Lock-ups. There have been a number of strikes of short duration. Italian state employees and 400 workers of the Genio Civile struck for an increase in wages. The contrast in statal and parastatal wage rates, and Army and AMG wage rates causes much discontent.

Civil Disturbances. There have been demonstrations in Ascoli, Aquila and

/Spoletto.....

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Spoletto. None were of special importance, but the Ascoli disturbance called attention to the inefficiency and complete apathy of the CC.RR. Investigations and changes are being made.

Italian Courts. There is still much delay in dealing with certain cases, and in Ancona, Ascoli, Aquila and Chieti there are many cases outstanding.

/Licensing.....

Licensing and Registration. There appears to be deliberate non-co-operation in enforcing the regulations, and though it should be possible to control the scheme in AMG territory, it is feared the regulations will be almost entirely disregarded in Italian Government territory, following the withdrawal of A.C. Officers.

Public Meetings. Between 40 - 50 public and political meetings were held during the month. They were all orderly. The Communist Party, as usual, held the greater number.

Fire. Personnel are efficient throughout the Region and their equipment in a fair condition.

8. LEGAL.

AMG Courts. No general courts were held in Marche during the month, but several are pending. One General Court was tried in Perugia, presided over by the C.J.O. 33 Superior Court cases were tried in the Region. 5 Summary courts were held in Terni. The work in Pesaro-Urbino Province is increasing. There have been an increase of over 40 summary courts in Pesaro and 200 in Perugia. The number of Summary Courts cases in Ancona is 40 less than last month. Jail accommodation in Ancona is inadequate due to the large number of Italian Army deserters. In the early part of the month there was some civil disturbance in Ascoli, and several persons were arrested and tried before the Superior Court. The trials are reported to have had an excellent moral effect.

Italain Courts. The Court of Appeal in Ancona will return to Ancona when HQ 61 Area release the accommodation for housing the personnel of the Court. The economic situation of the officials continues to be bad, due to the very high cost of living.

Appeals from Ascoli and Macerata continue to be heard in Tolentino.

Ancona has been without a Primo Presidente for almost three months and without a Sostituto Procuratore Generale for over four months. It is, however,

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Courts of Assize. These courts have now been constituted for Ancona and Pesaro. The first hearing for the Court in Ancona is to be held in Ancona on 16th May 45.

/9.....

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9. PUBLIC HEALTH.

Health of Population. The health of the Region has been very good during the month, and there has been no prevalence of any special ailment.

Hospitals. The hospital facilities in all provinces are sufficient to meet the needs of the population. The number of battle casualties amongst the civilian population in the forward areas has shown a marked decrease.

Medical Supplies. No medical supplies have been distributed by wholesalers but a consignment is at present in the hands of ANDIMEA, and I am informed they will be in the hands of the Provinces in the next week or so.

Welfare. The programme as planned for the month has been completed and the Italians made to accept all responsibility in the Provinces of Pescara, Teramo, Chieti and Aquila.

Refugees. Approximately six hundred refugees were repatriated through the efforts of the American Red Cross in Ascoli and Macerata.

Infectious Diseases. No epidemics have been reported. The number of cases of typhoid have continued to show a further decrease. Scabies in the forward areas was causing some anxiety but is gradually being brought under control.

Venereal Disease. A number of new cases have been reported in the forward Provinces. Arrangements for the inspection and treatment of these are working satisfactory and have proved adequate.

Devastated Area. The supply of clothing and blankets reported as due to arrive last month were received, and arrangements for their distribution before the end of the month.

5329

General. The administration of the Provinces of Terni and Perugia were taken over on the 16th March. The Provinces of Pescara, Teramo, Chieti and Aquila, which will pass from the Region on the 1st April 45 are all running their own medical and welfare services, and should continue to function in a satisfactory manner.

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10. FINANCE.

Financial activities have been well maintained during the month.

"A" Force. Payments have been made throughout the Region on behalf of the Screening Commission, and outstanding in the Provinces which recently reverted from A.C. are negligible. The situation in regard to claims, however, is far from satisfactory, due, largely, to the time limit within which claims must be made.

/Some.....

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Some hundreds continue to come in, supported by the flimsiest evidence, apparently as a try-on.

Budgets. The necessity of putting an end to unauthorised borrowing by local government administrators was once more stressed to the Prefects and as a result there was a sharp increase in the number of communal budgets received.

Revenue. Returns continue to show an increase over last years figures. Civilian traffic in the various ports has not shown any sign of expansion.

Monopolies. Production of cigarettes is still limited and distribution to the public still below minimum requirements.

Financial Institutions. Bank reports show increases in deposits and investments in Government Securities. Counterfeit notes continue to circulate in Perugia Province. A total of 32,500 lire has been reported to the P.P.S.O. from 1 - 20 March all in 1,000 and 500 lire notes.

Post Offices. Post Office business is satisfactory and shows good results.

11. PROPERTY CONTROL.

Nothing to report.

12. EDUCATION.

In general schools are functioning on an almost normal basis in all Provinces. The new elementary text books are available but the amount available is not sufficient to meet the demand. In Aquila the Provveditore agli Studi has been transferred. His successor is expected to arrive soon. The Istituto Magistrale of Sulmona will soon re-open after being temporarily closed in order to investigate the giving of false credentials to unqualified students during 1942-44.

9528

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The secondary schools in Pescara City were opened on March 1st. School repairs have started in most of the comunes of this Province.

In Teramo Province troops have evacuated the schools which are now being repaired prior to re-opening.

/General.....

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General. In Marche Region school personnel have been included in the new financial allottments to improve living conditions.

Epuration is proceeding and is almost completed, due to the excellent work of the hearing committee.

UNRRA. UNRRA has a free lunch programme for school children which will be put into operation in the near future.

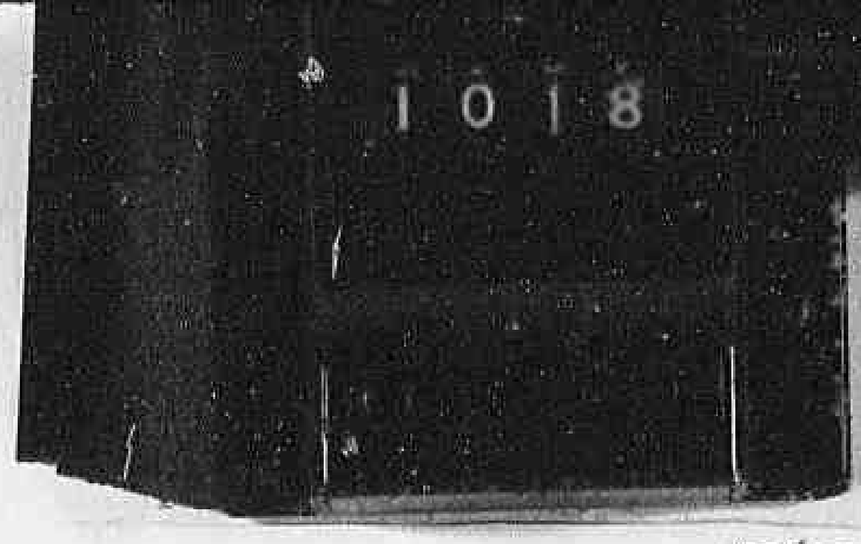
13. MONUMENTS, FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES.

Fine Arts. It is planned to hold shortly an Art Exhibition in Perugia to commemorate the birth of Perugino.

The pictures have been chosen and the catalogue is being prepared.

C.H.A. FRENCH,
Colonel,
Regional Commissioner.

5527

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SECRET

EXEC COMM (5)

TO : HQ AC Chief of Staff

FROM : Hq AMG/AC Abruzzi-Marche Region

SUBJECT : Regional Monthly Report - February 1945

R & S : R5/502/10

DATE : 14 March 1945

MAR 16 1945

Regional Monthly Report in quintuplicate for the month of February 1945 is forwarded herewith.

For Regional Commissioner:

J. D. Scholtz
Lt. Colonel
Executive Officer

15 MAR 1945
A.C.

EX COMMR DIST

1 — File copy PSO, A.E., etc.
1 — CA Sect
1 — Economic Sect
1 — PW to circ to Estat Sect
1 — Cpt Martin.

53256

# SECRET

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

ALLIED COMMISSION

ABRUZZI MARCHE REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 1945

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

ALLIED COMMISSION

ABRUZZI MARCHE REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 1945

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**SECRET**

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

ALLIED COMMISSION

ABRUZZI - MARCHE REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY - 1945

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Part I - Abridged Report.

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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.

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Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives.....13.


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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 moment 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 compartmental 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 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.

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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.

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4. Public works reconstruction and highway maintenance have been hampered

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chiefly by lack of transport and somewhat by lack of materials. Preliminary work is underway so that three large bridges near Ancona and t e 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 CT 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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PART 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 Teramo and Aquila. In the latter, upon the announcement that AC 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 AC 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 February allocation of olive oil through Italian channels duly arrived, and was distributed.

Eggs. In Ancona it is proposed to publish a decree whereby 540,000 eggs will be amassed monthly. These are to be distributed to the military and [illegible] and to the civil population. They will be collected at the rate

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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

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of this venture.

Fruit. Large amounts of citrous 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 authorised for industrial messes as well as ECA 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 2300 and 0600 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 Pesaro. Aproximately 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 Bussi and Pratola works of Nobel (Montecatini) was in great part allocated with Coal Division approval to supply fuel chiefly for all-important brick kilns for reconstructions, sufficient for

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1100 tons to Pescara.

1100 tons to Teramo.

5518

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.

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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 - Aquila 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 Aquila 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 Bussi Mine has been supplied to Chieti, Pescara and Teramo. PSO Ancona arranged lignite from Brenca 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 Genio Civile. Decchetti Rail Wagons 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 Bussi Works, with stocks taken from Bussi 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, salvage-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 PSO Chieti.

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4. AGRICULTURE.

Wheat. The amassing of wheat appears to be coming to a standstill. It is felt that vigourous 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.

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Potatoes. This vegetable has caused the main headache of the month in the Region. The facts are well known to all concerned. The prices for seed potatoes originally agreed at the potato conference in Rome at 7.2 lire per kilo have been rocketed up by the Italian Ministry to 16 lire per kilo.

Fertilizers. A severe shortage of all types of fertilizers still exists throughout the Region.

Fish. Fishing is being carried out in many of the coastal sectors, but is handicapped by lack of fuel in the case of Teramo, and a restriction on "off-shore" distance in Ancona. First quality fish prices have had to be increased, but the rise has had little effect on the public as most of the first quality fish is takenby local resources who are in agreement with the increase.

5. LABOUR.

Labour offices throughout the Region have been completely re-organised and their staffs brought up to strength.

Generally speaking there has been no great reduction in the unemployment figures throughout the Region, though with the recommencing of work of roads, bridges and railways, and an improvement in weather conditions, reductions may be shown in the near future. Despite shortage of labour in Ancona there is a fairly large number of unemployed in the outlying communes where transport is impossible, or the distances too great.

There are very strong feelings still in evidance regarding the low salaries of statal and parastatal employees. The Regional Labour Officer has made a survey, and his recommendations as to the scale of increases has already been forwarded to Rome.

6. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES.

Roads and Bridges. The Region has been requested to proceed with the reconstruction of three large bridges - two on Highway 16 south of Ancona and one on Highway 76. The materials for these are not at present available, but it is expected they will be obtained in time for the work to commence after the spring floods subside. Contracts have been let for three bridges on route 16 in Chieti

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The maintenance of Highway 16 from Loretto to Ancona has been taken over, and work is progressing quite satisfactorily. Arrangements are being made to take over the maintenance of the stretch between Ancona and Pesaro.

There has been movement of large numbers of troops throughout the Region during the month, with a consequent heavy demand for maintenance on many of the

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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 Boulognola in half at the time when Carassai was out, have now been eased by the thaw and the receipt of current from Terni.

Reconstruction at Pescara III and IV and of Aventino 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 Cocchetti 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 20 CRZ to divert the total output of S. Quirico power station (100 kw) to the sulphur mines at Cabernardi.

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 is greatly restored. Clothing is now arriving for the CC.RR, but much more is required. The CC.RR are still poorly clad. It cannot be too strongly stressed that in units of this kind smartness in turn-out breeds self-respect, and every effort should be made to get this force properly clothed and equipped if they are

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Crime. There has been little serious crime throughout the Region. Possession of, and dealing in, Allied property is the most prevalent offence. In the main, responsibility for the disposal of the property to civilians is traced to Allied personnel.

In the inland areas small groups of young men have been operating

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against the population, using threats and intimidation to obtain money and property. These groups seem to be the backwash of the partisans, and the methods employed in extortion are reminiscent of former days. To combat this Italian police agencies, in conjunction with CMP and FSS, have organised mobile nightly patrols, and the areas are now under control. Two cases were dealt with by a Superior Allied Court during the month. One for possession of large quantities of arms and ammunition by patriots - the two persons concerned receiving sentences of 8 and 6 years respectively. In the second case - stealing and conspiracy - which involved Italian soldiers and civilians, the five persons concerned received varying sentences from 2 to 4 years.

Black Market. CC.RR road blocks were instrumental, in Macerata and Ascoli, in confiscating 51,000 eggs, 30 quintali of flour, 38 various animals, 1,000 kilograms of pasta, and 1,300 kilo rams of olives, during the month.

Civilian Passes. Control of civilian movement still remains satisfactory.

Italian Courts. These are continuing to deal with Proclamation cases in a satisfactory manner. Some slowness has been shown in dealing with certain cases. This matter has been taken up by the PLO and it is hoped that some improvement will be shown.

AMG Courts. These courts are functioning well, and in Pesaro Province four superior and fifteen summary courts were convened, and 143 persons dealt with. Of these 128 were convicted and 15 discharged.

Mine Clearance. The latest information available shows that 258,639 mines have been cleared in the Chieti-Pescara Area since June 1944. Of these 136,610 were disarmed and the remainder destroyed, in situ. 690 aerial bombs were cleared; 260 of these were destroyed, and about 750 tons of explosives were recovered.

9. PUBLIC HEALTH.

General Health. The health of the Region has been very good during the month. There has been no prevalence of any special ailments, and the increase of chest infections (which was to be expected as a result of the severe winter conditions) has not been manifest.

Hospitals. The hospital facilities in all provinces are sufficient to

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Black Market. CC.RR road blocks were instrumental, in Macerata and Ascoli, in confiscating 51,000 eggs, 30 quintali of flour, 68 various animals, 1,000 kilograms of pasta, and 1,800 kilograms of olives, during the month.

Civilian Passes. Control of civilian movement still remains satisfactory.

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Hospitals. The hospital facilities in all provinces are sufficient to meet the wants of the population. All the time an effort is being made to help improve the conditions which prevail as a result of the war.

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Medical Supplies. No further medical supplies have been distributed. A notification has, however, been received from HQ stating that recent requisitions sent in by the Medico Provinciali are being prepared for distribution

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to the wholesalers. A notification has been received from the Public Health Sub Commission, AC, stating that owing to the non-arrival of supplies for January, February and March, the strictest economy must be exercised in the use of all supplies. A notification to this effect has been sent to the provinces.

Welfare. Excellent work continues to be done by the Regional Welfare Officer and American Red Cross Field Representatives in all phases of this branch, and no difficulties have been encountered which were not capable of being dealt with.

Refugees. No movement to report.

Infectious Diseases. No epidemics have been reported. One case of small-pox was reported by 'phone from Pescara, but on investigation proved to be a severe case of chicken-pox.

Venereal Disease. No marked increase in the incidence of venereal disease has been reported. Control methods in operation appear to be satisfactory.

Devastated Areas. Further supplies of clothing and blankets are being made available and will be distributed by the committees under the supervision of Red Cross to the communes specified.

10. FINANCE.

General. Financial activities have increased as a result of improved weather conditions and the re-opening of communications.

"A" Force. Payments on behalf of the Screening Commission continue to be made by officers, but several communes in mountain districts where claims are most numerous are still snowbound. The policy of the Screening Commission has been requested regarding the collection of claims and subsequent payments in AC Territory which will be shortly be vacated. Such payments are likely to run into several thousands.

Budgets. The position in AAC Territory continues to be satisfactory. In Ascoli Province the blocking of accounts of Communes which were in arrears has resulted in the completion of over 50 per cent of the budgets. Little help is given by the Prefettura of Ancona Province in connection with communal budgets owing to the long delay in the appointment by Rome of a new Chief Accountant.

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Revenue. Revenue returns for February have shown an increase over the previous year. Civilian traffic coming into the port of Ancona has been negligible.

Monopolies. A limited quantity of cigarettes continues to be produced for distribution through Government channels. More salt has arrived and the supply in the Marche provinces shows marked improvement.

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Protests against certain types of taxation and claims for "tollerance" by certain types of firms etc, have, as a result of our advice to Prefects, been refused.

Cash deposits have substantially increased during the month, partly as a result of the financing of grain having been practically completed, and partly by deposits from the British Field Cashier in the northern provinces.

Sales of Treasury Bonds have continued to be satisfactory. A report of further forged notes has been received. All have been informed.

Post Offices. Considerable increases have been shown during recent months in all forms of deposits and accounts.

Sub Accountants. Returns of sub-accountants are up-to-date, and a watching brief continues to be maintained over Truck Pool accounts.

11. TREASURY CONTROL.

Nothing to report.

12. CIVILIAN TRANSPORTATION.

Truck Pools. Truck Pools of this Region have the following 45 trucks assigned: 152 - 1½ ton (2½ton) Chevrolets; 21 - 3 ton Dodges; 3 - 6 ton captured Italian trucks; 33 - 3 ton Fiats. The potential load-carrying capacity if 6,750 quintali but with an average of 40 vehicles off the road daily because of maintenance repairs or inspection, the average daily lift is approximately 4,750 quintali.

Plans are completed for the beginning of Truck Pool No. 8 with HQ at Pesaro. This pool will consist of ten (10) 3 ton Dodge trucks to begin with, but will be increased as more trucks become available from the southern section of the Region.

Bus Service. The following Bus Permits have been issued to date, and are operating in conjunction with the Regional Postal Officer:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aquila Province | - | 11 permits. |
| Chieti Province | - | 7 |
| Pescara Province | - | 3 |
| Teramo Province | - | 1 |
| Ascoli Province | - | 12 |
| Macerata Province | - | 6 |

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11. PROPERTY CONTROL.

Nothing to report.

12. CIVILIAN TRANSPORTATION.

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| Teramo Province | - | 1 |
| Ascoli Province | - | 12 |
| Macerata Province | - | 6 |
| Ancona Province | - | 9 |
| Pesaro Province | - | 9 |
| Inter-provincial | - | 20 |
| Total | | 67 permits. |

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Maintenance within the Region is fairly well standardised.

Twenty tons of s[illegible]e parts were received for US W[illegible] vehicles assigned to Truck Pools. These parts were distributed on a pro rata basis throughout the Region.

GT Companies. The 1002 GT Company is operating in the Abruzzi Compartimenti with operational instructions coming from the Regional Supply Office (Major Moriarty). The Company is located as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Giulianova | - | HQ and W/Shop Section. One platoon. |
| Ascoli. | - | One platoon. |
| Teramo. | - | Two platoons. |

The approximate capacity daily lift of the Company is 400 tons. Primary mission is the haulage of grain.

1004 GT Company is operating in the Marche Compartimenti with operational instructions coming from the Ancona PSO and from Captain Bent. Location is as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Osimo | - | HQ and W/Shop. Two platoons. |
| Ancona | - | One platoon (variable) |
| Chiaravelle | - | One platoon Section (variable) |
| Falconara | - | One platoon section (variable) |
| Cabernardi | - | One platoon section (variable) |

The function of this Company is hauling grain - hauling from the Ancona Port Area - and hauling sulphur.

1002 GT Company is also operating in the Marche Compartimenti with operational instructions coming from the Macerata - Ancona PSOs and from Captain Bent. Location is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Pollenza | - Two platoons and W/Shop Section. |
| San Giovanni (nr Cattolica) | - HQ Two platoons and W/Shop Section. |

The two platoons located at Pollenza are primarily engaged in the haulage of grain to railheads for shipment to Rome. The two platoons located at San Giovanni are engaged in the haulage of supplies from Ancona Port to Forli Warehouses.

Ancona Port and Warehouse Groups. Approximately 1800 tons of AMG supplies are now stored in Ancona warehouses. A large amount of the supplies are in covered storage. Work is progressing rapidly on the Port Tobacco Warehouse [illegible] several thousand tons

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Ascoli. - One platoon.
Teramo. - Two platoons.

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Osimo - HQ and W/Shop.
Two platoons.
Ancona - One platoon (variable)
Chiaravelle - One platoon Section (variable)
Falconara - One platoon section (variable)
Cabernardi - One platoon section (variable)

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13. MONUMENTS AND FINE ARTS.

Work continues on the repair, reconstruction and protection of monuments etc, particularly in the Ancona - Pesaro localities.

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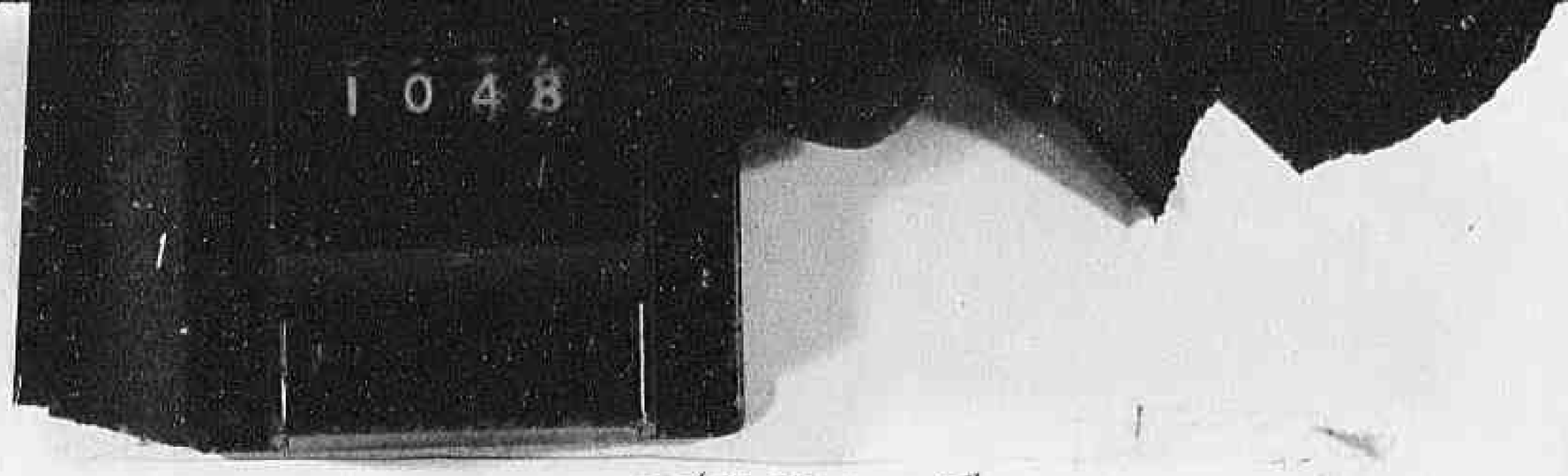
J. D. Ormsby
Lieut. Colonel.
for C.I.A. MEXICO.
Colonel.
Regional Commissioner.

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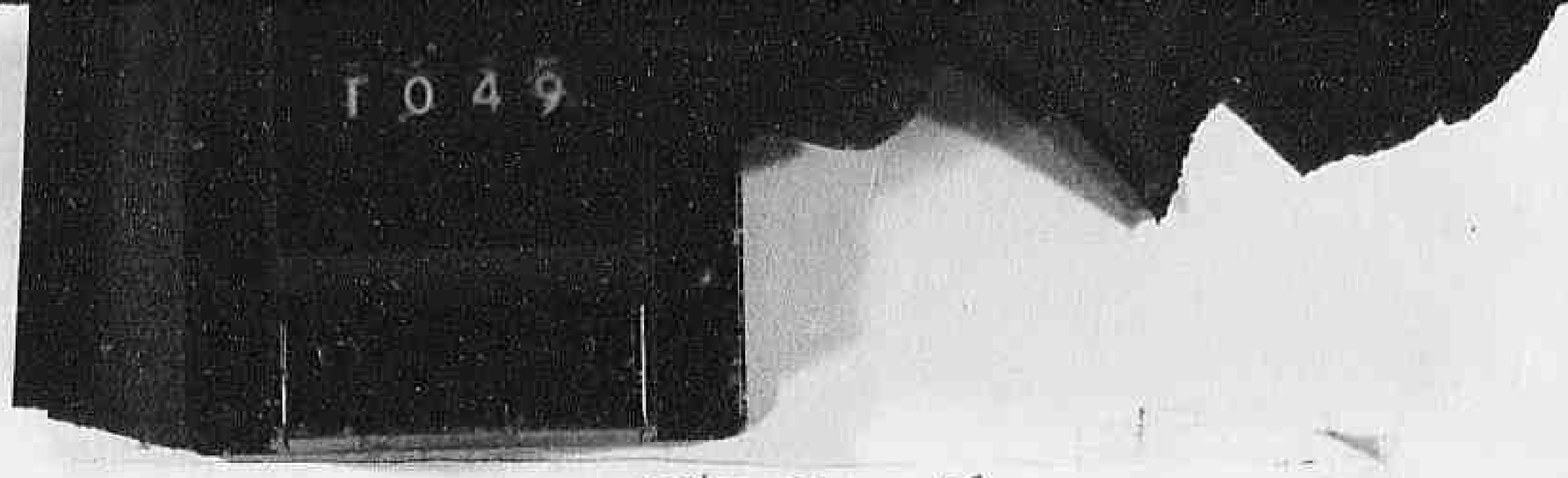


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SECRET

To: HQ AC Chief of Staff.

From: HQ AMG/AC Abruzzi Marche Region.

Subject: Regional Monthly Report - January 1945.

Ref: R5/502/10.

Date: 13 February 1945.

FEB 15 1945

Regional Monthly Report in quintuplicate for the month of January 1945 is forwarded herewith.

FOR THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER:

HEADQUARTERS 15 FEB 1945 A. C.

EUGENE R. McPHEE.
Lieut. Colonel.
Executive Officer.

RGY.

28/2

COS DISTRIBUTION

1 - File copy CSO, cofs & cc
1 - CA Sec
1 - Econ Sec
1 - Capt Morden
1 - PRO to circulate, Estab Sec & Political Sec.

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(69) 4

# SECRET

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

ALLIED COMMISSION

ABRUZZI MARCHE REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 1945

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

ALLIED COMMISSION

ABRUZZI MARCHE REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 1945

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

ALLIED COMMISSION

ABRUZZI-MARCHE REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 1945


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PART ONE.

66

1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

One of the matters which is causing grave concern in this Region is the grossly inadequate pay of statal and parastatal employees, i.e. the black coated workers. Most of these classes do try to perform the duties imposed upon them in reasonable manner, under, in many cases, the most trying conditions. A scandalous state of affairs exists in the low salaries at present being paid. Many of these black coated workers receive less than unskilled labour and do not appear to be entitled to such additional allowances as "caro-Vita", 14th month, Risanamiento Residenza, or other such little extras.

How any of this class manage to eke out an existence on their present salaries I cannot imagine. But I do know that the large majority, to make ends meet, sell their private possessions and dig into what little capital they possess, or have possessed. It is felt that the head of the Italian Government might be forced to improve their conditions if permission were granted to raise the standard of living of these in AMG territory.

2. STORAGE AND DRYING.

The weather during the month of January has caused many difficulties in grain and olive oil assessing. The situation with regard to olive oil is not good. An improvement should be shown in the near future as the officers for duty on olive oil assessing have now arrived. With regard to wheat the situation is extremely satisfactory and the target for the Region is now 111 . Teramo province reports that it will have an estimated exportable surplus of 11,000 tons, and the Prefect has received a letter of congratulation from Rome on the satisfactory assessing results achieved so far.

3. COMMUNICATIONS.

Special consideration is being given to the province of Pescara in this matter. The province has some 500 bridges down, making communications difficult in the extreme. To cope with the present state of affairs it has been necessary

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1 of 5

scandalous state of affairs exists in the low salaries at present being paid. Many of these black coated workers receive less than unskilled labour and do not appear to be entitled to such additional allowances as "caro-vita", 13th month, family allowances, or other such little extras.

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2. [illegible].

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3. [illegible].

Special consideration is being given to the province of Bari in this matter. The province has some 500 bridges down, making communications difficult in the extreme. To cope with the present state of affairs it has been necessary to divide the province into five districts, and officers have to trudge as much as 20 kilometres to reach their farthest communes, and wade through feet of mud and snow to the "Mr. Livingstone I presume" part of the territory, which otherwise would become republics run by so-called Partigiani.

It is hoped to increase the number of officers in this province and thereby overcome many of the difficulties being experienced at present due to conditions.

PUBLIC SAFETY.

65

CC.RR. In order to re-establish the morale and prestige of the CC.RR. a grand parade of all available personnel was held in Ancona and the parade inspected by the Area Commander. The dress varied from full dress to half dress, and a condition which might be said to be "drill dress". A smart-looking lot of CC.FF and a quite admirably turned out Vigili del Fuoco were also represented. The whole parade was a great success, delighted everybody, and it is felt that it succeeded in its intention. A remarkable improvement has been noted in the general performance of the CC.RR since this ceremonial.

Arrest. The outstanding arrest of the month was that, at Pescara, of Giacomo Acerbo, an ex member of the Fascist Grand Council and holder of many important posts under the Mussolini Fascist Regime. He was transferred to Rome on the day following his arrest under guard of the Questure.

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

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ANNEXURE "A".

Schedule of existing black market prices in TRIPOLITANIA, as at 22nd January 1945.

| COMMODITY. | LIRE. | |
|---|---|---|
| Flour. | 5000 to 6000 | per quintal |
| Grain. | 4000 to 5000 | " |
| Potatoes. | 3000 to 3500 | " |
| Beans. | 6000 to 8000 | " |
| Barley. | 3800 to 4000 | " |
| Olive Oil. | 300 to 400 | per litre |
| Sugar | 600 to 650 | 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 | " |



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PART TWO.

1. POLITICAL REACTI AND PUBLIC OPINION.

This last month has been fairly quiet throughout the Region. An undercurrent of political activity, however, exists below the surface, mainly among the Communists and Socialists. Aquila has been the most active so far as these parties are concerned, and several demonstration marches have been made on various Municipii. Interest in National Political issues has been generally lukewarm and overshadowed by domestic economical problems. A certain amount of trouble has also been experienced in Ascoli due to so called Patriot elements endeavouring to do their own epuration by intimidation, or worse. It would appear that the present discrepancy in rates of pay in [redacted] being used by the Communist elements as a political lever.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Hardship is being experienced in local government administration in some of the provinces due to vacancies in certain local government offices not having been filled by the Ministry. In Chieti some trouble has been experienced with the Prefect, but this matter is at present under investigation. Generally speaking little has happened during the past month and the situation may be said to be reasonably satisfactory.

3. ECONOMICS AND SUPPLY.

Bread and Pasta. The system whereby certain exporting grain provinces get less than certain importing ones still exists. Although, so far, there has been little political trouble due to this, an opening is presented and this may at any time be used. Trouble with the electricity supply in Chieti caused a suspension in the distribution of the pasta ration, and in Teramo it affected the milling, and grain had to be issued instead of flour in all communes except Teramo itself.

Olive Oil. The allocations made by the Italian Government have been received and distributed. Ancona and Pesaro, however, had no issue during last [illegible] but it is hoped that sufficient will be received during February to make a

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Salt. 1,000 tons arrived at Ancona during the month 5561 considerably eased the situation. A further 400 tons monthly, however, by sea to Ortona is requested.

Potatoes. Prosecutions are stated to have frightened some 800 tons

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into the Amassi. Distribution has been made difficult by the severe weather conditions prevailing duri the month.

Transport. Road conditions caused a heavy loss in working truck days. By intelligent anticipation and in spite of inadequate transport most districts were safely stockpiled. Castel di Sangro, however, was cut off from all sides and 10 tons of grain had to be dropped by air. Only 6 tons of this is claimed to have been collected. Later 1002 G.T. Coy got 15 tons through from the South. Two officers of the Lovat Scouts assisted by making a ski reconnaissance for us.

Fuel. Coal was obtained for Ancona, Chieti Gas Works, and Bamba Cement Works. Stocks of Italian coal dust at Pratola, in Aquila, have been used for allocation in the Region, chiefly for industrial purposes. Lignite mines at Scappito and Bussi are operating satisfactorily.

Alcohol. The release was authorised in Ancona for 20,000 litres during the month for hospitals, manufacturing and retail chemists, liqueur and wine manufacture.

Matches. The SAFFA match factory at Jesi recommenced production on 15 Jan 45 after power had been ~~xxxxxxx~~ made available between 2300 and 0600 hours daily. During the first 7 days of operation over 54 million matches were produced.

Leather. The possibilities of using tanning and production facilities to the full in the Marche Area are being discussed during February. One of the main obstacles is that while skins are uncontrolled, finished leather is controlled and released by AFLRS with first priority to the Army.

Soap. Soap factories are still remaining idle in the Ancona Area due to lack of fats and caustic soda. Outbreaks of scabies are generally reported due to the lack of this commodity.

4. AGRICULTURE.

Harvest. Wheat amassing has reached 11% of the target set for the Region. Teramo is in urgent need of solfatorame and zolfa if a repetition of 1944's heavy loss on the grape harvest is to be avoided.

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Potatoes. Weather conditions have prevented any large movement of potatoes. This caused some hardship in certain provinces, particularly Ancona.

Olive Oil. Work on amassing has been at a standstill as no officers reported for work on the olive oil drive. Officers have now reported and our plans are being put into operation.

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5. LABOUR.

Due to weather conditions a certain increase in unemployment has occurred, particularly in Chieti, Teramo and Ascoli. The reorganisation of the Provincial Labour Offices has been completed and there has been a general inspection of the safety and general working conditions in the industries that are now operating. According to normal standards these are pretty bad, but according to the Italian Inspectors they are fairly good.

Differences between salaries and wages in Ancona are causing some hardship, and dissatisfaction is felt generally regarding the salaries of statal and parastatal employees, who are receiving less than AMG employees, and in many cases less than unskilled labour. Whilst there have been no political disturbances or major labour difficulties these present pay conditions are providing some very good propoganda to swell the ranks of Communism.

6. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES.

Roads and Highways. Reconstruction work on all highways has been held up to a large extent by weather conditions. In spite of this, however, progress has been general on all projects of military importance. The Region has been requested to take over the maintenance - by contract - of Route 16 south of Ancona, and routes 76 and 77. Material and transport is to be supplied by Army. This we will not be able to do until transportation for the contractors' equipment by rail from Rome is completed.

Bridges. Priority is being given to the construction of seven new bridges to replace the Bailey Bridges at present in use.

Housing. There is still a lack of materials and this is causing a delay in the work on hand.

Electricity. Weather during the last month has retarded this work. Progress, however, has been made in the reinstallation and repair of a few more generating plants, and the completion of certain power lines.

Transport. No improvement can be shown on the previous month.

7. COMMUNICATIONS.

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7. COMMUNICATIONS.

Telephones. At Ancona the civil long distance telephone exchange has been repaired and reinstalled. Part of this exchange is now available for civilian use. In other parts of the region there has been a steady increase in the number of towns to which a telephone service is now available. Work continues on the repair of routes, but this has also been held up to some extent by weather conditions.

5.99

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Postal. Plans are being made to reopen - on 12 Feb 45 - the postal services in Pesaro-Urbino province. It is expected that this service will be rather limited at first owing to the state of the b[illegible]ges.

8. PUBLIC SAFETY.

CC.RR. As stated last month the CC.RR. are functioning fairly well in spite of severe handicaps. It is not possible for this body to command the respect they should when they are armed with weapons inferior to the modern arms in possession of most delinquents. Their numbers are insufficient to properly enforce the law, and it has been known that, at times, they have had to yield to threats from certain lawless elements. They are poorly clothed and fed, and are further handicapped by a lack of communications and transport. Their salary is too low to ensure that degree of honesty which is necessary in any force of this kind. Under these difficulties it is remarkable that the force operates as satisfactorily as it does.

Crime. Several cases have again occurred of robbery and robbery with violence. Two major arrests during the month were: Giacomo Acerbo, an ex member of the Fascist Grand Council in Pescara, and another man arrested on a murder charge as a sequel to a case of highway robbery in December. There has been no marked increase in crime for the last month.

Black Market. A prosperous black market is operating in Pesaro. Counter measures in the form of special squads, organized under the direction of the Questure and composed of CC.RR., P.S. Agents., and GG.RR. are meeting with some success. One of the first cases has been dealt with by an AMG Court, and each of the offenders sentenced to 3 years imprisonment and fined 250,000 lire. In addition, 900,000 lire worth of eggs, chickens, etc., were confiscated. Ancona reports that the only serious activity in this direction is in the influx of persons from Rome. Road blocks are operating in Ascoli, Teramo and Chieti. Movement of olive oil in the black market is prevalent in Pescara.

Civilian Passes. The control of civilian movement generally is satisfactory.

Italian Courts. These are functioning normally and are dealing with

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Italian Courts. These are functioning normally and are dealing with a considerable number of cases. Some speeding up of the local Italian machinery has created a good impression, and the functioning of the courts generally can be considered satisfactory.

5,93

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AMG Courts. These continue to operate satisfactorily. One general court case was held during the month, the charge being "wrongful possession of Allied aircraft components", and "possession of two wireless transmitters". The offender was found guilty and sentenced to 6 years and 5 years - the sentences to run concurrently.

Conduct of Troops. With the exception of Teramo the conduct of troops has been good. Some trouble was experienced in Teramo through the drunkenness of troops in the town, causing many disturbances.

Public Meetings and Disturbances. Eight minor disturbances occurred in the Region. Six of these comprised mainly of demonstrations by the public in Pescara, Chieti, and Aquila against certain local government officials. These were all dispersed and public order restored without injury to persons. Two instances occurred in Teramo in which explosives were used. One case was suspected to have been caused by friends and relatives of 9 people who were arrested by the CC.RR, and the other by students as a protest against the insufficient heating in the schools during the recent cold spell. Damage was caused in the second of these instances to public and private buildings, but no injury to persons resulted. Investigations are still proceeding.

V.D Control. This is being satisfactorily handled.

Mine Clearance. Approximately 66,000 mines have been cleared in the Chieti - Pescara area during the last month, making a total of 213,800 cleared in this area since June 1944.

9. PUBLIC HEALTH.

General Health. Considering the weather conditions general health of the local population in the Region is satisfactory.

Hospitals. Increased accommodation in Ancona has been made possible through the release by the military of certain buildings.

Infectious Diseases. A diminuition is shown in the number of typhoid cases during the month.

Welfare. Reports received state that the Italian Welfare organisations are being fairly well readjusted by American Red Cross field representatives, and



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Welfare. Reports received state that the Italian Welfare organisations are being fairly well readjusted by American Red Cross field representatives, and are functioning fairly well in all provinces.

5,97

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Devastated Areas. All clothing and blankets which were received have now been distributed.

Transport. As in all Divisions, the transport problem remains acute.

10. EDUCATION.

A considerable number of schools have had to close down for periods ranging from a few days to several weeks during the recent cold spell due to lack of fuel.

School Lunches. Reports generally indicate that more communes in the Region have taken advantage of the school lunches during the last month.

Text Books. Elementary school text books are now on sale at important Librarie in the provinces of the Region.

11. REFUGEES.

Ascoli has been having some difficulty in coping with the numbers of refugees coming in from the North, but is handling the matter satisfactorily in conjunction with UNRRC.

In Teramo there are 11,022 refugees, of which 10,025 came from Regions already liberated but for whom no accommodation exists in their home provinces. The remainder are from occupied territory. The main problem with all these is boots and shoes.

12. FINANCE.

"A" Force. The Screening Commission have approved further claims in Aquila, Ascoli and Macerata. Payments in Aquila are substantially completed.

Budgets. The position in AMG Territory continues to be satisfactory except in the case of Ascoli where Communal budgets are very much in arrears. The position is being improved by sending a further officer to assist the FAO in this area.

In AC Territory the position regarding the delay in the financing of the provinces is no better.

There are still a number of vacancies to be filled by stated officials.



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There are still a number of vacancies to be filled by stetal officials. 5496

Revenue. Direct taxes in all provinces except Teramo have shown an increase. Protection and manufactories taxes and customs duties are inevitably low.

Banks. Banks report an improvement in the volume of business. This is due to stocks being turned over with greater frequency as it is now easier for tradesmen to replenish. There has been an increase in the investments in

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Government securities. There has also, unfortunately, been an increase in the number of forged notes in circulation.

13. PROPERTY CONTROL.

Nothing to Report.

14. CIVILIAN TRANSPORTATION.

A large number of spare parts have been received from Hq AC with a consequent improvement in the maintenance standards throughout the Region during the month.

Six bus permits were issued, mainly in Ancona and Macerata provinces.

No further supplies of tyres were received during the month. The remaining truck tyres were sold to private bus and truck dealers through PSOs, all provinces receiving their pro rata share for civilian sales.

ENAC began the registration of vehicles in Abruzzi Marche Region during the last few days of the month.

Truck Pools. Truck pools operated quite efficiently during the month with the exception of Aquila (Truck Pool No. 4), which was snow bound for a week. Some trouble was experienced in procuring chains for these particular trucks, but it was eventually solved by obtaining them from Truck Pool No. 1 in Foggia.

15. MONUMENTS, FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES.

Work continued on approved projects.

C.H.A. FRENCH.
Colonel.
Regional Commissioner.

COS Distribution

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CoS Distribution 5.95

1 File copy. C.S.O : CoS : C.C
1 C.A. Sec
1 Economic
1 Capt Holden
1 P.R.O. to circulate to Lab & Pol.

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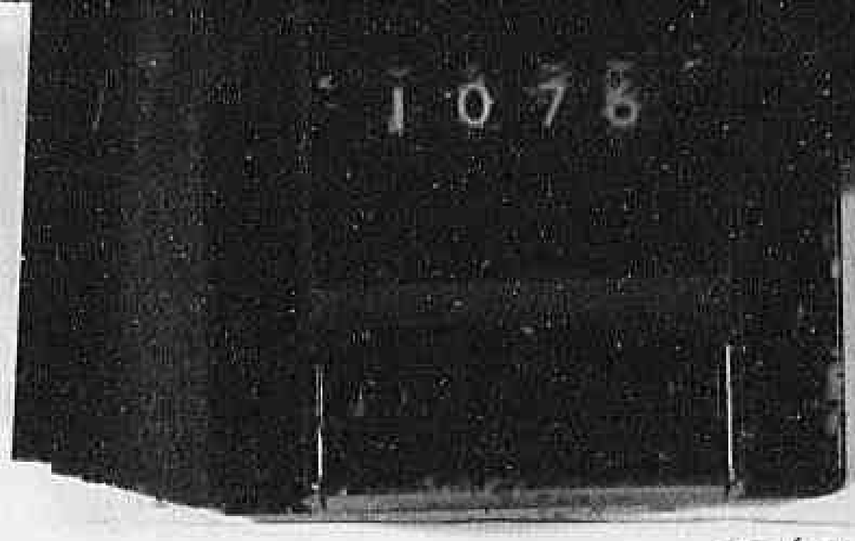


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817 (1)

C o S

SECRET

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7711

TO : HQ AC Chief of Staff.

FROM : HQ AAC/AC Advd. 1 - Marche Region.

SUBJECT : Regional Monthly Report - December 1944.

REF : R/502/10.

DATE : 11 Jan 45.

JAN 12 1945

Regional Monthly Report in quintuplicate for the month of December 1944 is forwarded herewith.

FOR THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER:

J.D. SCHOLTZ,
Lt Colonel,
Executive Officer.

/WEC.

5493 see Minute 56

(54)

# ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

## ALLIED COMMISSION

## ABRUZZI-MARCHE REGION

## MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 1944

5492

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

ALLIED COMMISSION

ABRUZZI-MARCHE REGION

# MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 1944

5492

**SECRET**

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

ALLIED COMMISSION

ABRUZZI-MARCHE REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 1944.


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PART ONE

1. POLITICAL REACTION AND PUBLIC OPINION

Although on the surface there seems to be quiet on the political front, underneath there is an ever-present activity. While the more cultured and intellectual heads of other parties are talking ways and means among themselves, the active Communist leaders are showing greater aggressiveness in actually doing the work necessary to get additional members and thereby votes for their party, when and if the announced popular elections are held in the coming spring.

The bulk of the population, however, is more concerned with the food situation, as it applies to them individually, than worried by the political situation, present or future. They cannot understand why the 300-gram bread ration promised by President Roosevelt some sixty days ago is not forthcoming. This applies particularly to those surplus producing provinces which ship grain to areas which receive 500 grams while they, the producers of apparent plenty, are allowed only 200 grams.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT - PROVINCIAL

The arrival in some provinces of this Region of newly appointed officials has a tendency for the time being at least to stabilize government.

A good many capable communal officials have been lost through resignation in the past because of demonstrations against them, caused by their inability to fulfill the pre-liberation

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2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT - PROVINCIAL

The arrival in some provinces of this Region of newly appointed officials has a tendency for the time being at least to stabilize government.

A good many capable communal officials have been lost through resignation in the past because of demonstrations against them, caused by their inability to fulfill the pre-liberation promises of ample food, cigarettes, chocolate, etc., made over the radio. This leaves only second or third choice men to govern in the future.

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3. ECONOMIC RESOURCES AND SUPPLY

Bread and Pasta. The 300-gram ration, which was discussed and agreed to at the Forward Region conference in Siena in October, is still being awaited with keen anticipation.

Olive Oil. The 300-gram ration authorized and allocated by the Ministry for the months of December 1944 and January 1945 has not arrived.

Potatoes. Snow and cold weather and recalcitrant farmers have greatly hampered the collection and distribution of potatoes for food purposes.

Salt. About 800 tons have been distributed in the provinces from the Ortona railhead during December. The shipments by schooner have not materialized.

Transport. The arrival of the 1002 GT Company has been a boon to the supply situation in the Region. This company is being employed in the distribution of grain from the surplus provinces to the deficient provinces and to the devastated areas, as well as to the railhead at Jesi for shipment to southern Italy.

4. AGRICULTURE.

Harvest. The Abruzzi-Marche Region has now reached 107% of the target set for the collection of grain of the 1944 crop. Grain is still coming in and a substantial amount more is expected to be collected.

Potatoes. The amassing of potatoes has been very poor for a variety of reasons. The difference in prices between the grower

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Olive Oil. The 500-gram ration authorized and allocated by the Ministry for the months of December 1944 and January 1945 has not arrived.

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Potatoes. The amassing of potatoes has been very poor for a variety of reasons. The difference in prices between the grower and the retailer in Rome is one, and the much higher prices accorded the growers in the Naples area is another. I believe the producers are withholding supplies for seed purposes next 5488 spring, as the return from this crop is so much greater than the yield from cereals.

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Livestock. Livestock markets have been held in the Region and a fair amount of cattle have been moved. It is suspected that a considerable movement exists illegally, but inadequate facilities and the removal and destruction of ownership records prevent a close check upon the situation.

Olive Oil. Amassing is very unsatisfactory, and with the exception of the Province of Teramo is practically nil. Road-blocks have confiscated comparatively small amounts from civilian purchasers, but it is only a drop in the ocean. The larger producers have more confidence in the value of the oil than they have in Italian money and are holding it back for that reason.

5. LABOUR.

All provinces in the Region now have organized Labour offices. Due to the great number of troops billeted in the Region, there is no great question of unemployment. Present differences in wage rates between adjoining provinces, particularly Ancona and Macerata, are causing some discontent.

The Camera del Lavoro, organized along political lines, is causing trouble with labour, particularly in Ancona Province.

6. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES.

Roads and Highways. Work is still progressing on military roads, as well as on other highways. It is terribly hampered by lack of transport, both for officials and for the hauling of materials. Special attention is being given to roads leading to

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Roads and Highways. Work is still progressing on military roads, as well as on other highways. It is terribly hampered by lack of transport, both for officials and for the hauling of materials. Special attention is being given to roads leading to isolated communities which are apt to be cut off during the snows. During the year ending 31 December 1944, a total of 164 road projects and 259 bridges have been completed in the Region.

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Bridges. Because of the lack of other materials, wooden bridges are being erected in places where urgent repairs are necessary.

Housing. Operations are progressing slowly because of the lack of building materials.

Electricity. Work on all projects is progressing very satisfactorily and a general improvement is expected shortly.

Transport. The same condition exists in all divisions. Inadequate.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY.

CC. RR. The carabinieri are functioning fairly well. They want clothing, equipment and transport.

Crime. Several cases of robbery with violence have been reported in Pescara. Sentences up to four years' imprisonment have been inflicted in the case of theft of octane spirits.

Black Market. With the cold weather and the shortage of essential foodstuffs, Black Markets are increasing tremendously. These racketeers are taking a rich toll from the civil population, who, because bread is about the only controlled food available through legal channels, are forced to go to the black market to prevent starvation.

Italian Courts. The Tribunali was moved from Lanciano to Vasto without the knowledge of this HQ.

Mine Clearance. 90,200 mines of various types were extracted during the month of December by the Mine Clearance Coy in Chieti Province. Work

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Mine Clearance. 90,200 mines of various types were extracted during the month of December by the Mine Clearance Coy in Chieti Province. Work is being held up through lack of transport.

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PART II.

1. POLITICAL REACTION AND PUBLIC OPINION.

This last month has been fairly quiet from the political point of view, with the exception of Aquila and Ancona Provinces. In Aquila the Socialist and Communist Parties have been more vociferous, and several marches have been made on various Municipii. There is a good deal of unrest in Ancona, due mainly to intensification of hardships and prolonged occupation by troops.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVINCIAL.

Following the arrival of new officials in Ascoli-Piceno, the administration seems to be settling down.

Aquila is much hampered by a weak Prefect who, against advice, is constantly changing communal government bodies. Teramo Province is still without senior officials, while in Chieti investigations are being made into the Prefect's activities.

Local Government in Ancona might be said to be functioning, if somewhat shakily in the communes situated some distance away from AC officials.

3. ECONOMIC RESOURCES AND SUPPLY.

Bread & Pasta. The promised 300 gr ration expected for the last month has still not materialised.

Olive Oil. A 300 gr ration has been authorised, and Provincial Supply Officers have been instructed to endeavour to meet this target. Allocations from the Ministry have been received from December 1944 and January 1945, but the December amounts are not yet to hand.

Potatoes. The amount for food has dwindled to nil. Aquila Province will receive none for food until the demands of Teramo, Ascoli and Macerata have been met.

Salt. About 800 tons have been distributed from the Ortona Railhead

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Salt. About 300 tons have been distributed from the Ortona Railhead during December. The Monopolio has been instructed to make a check on high prices and maldistribution.

Transport. The supplies' highlight of the month has been the arrival of the 1002 GT Coy. They are being employed in the removal of grain from Ascoli, Teramo and lower Macerata to the deficiency Provinces, which likewise

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are the "devastated areas", last winter's battle line.

4. AGRICULTURE.

HARVEST. Wheat amassing has reached 107% of the target set for the Region, and there is still a good deal to come out, especially in the Northern Provinces. The General Tpt Coy is proving of great assistance in the transport of grain to deficiency areas.

Potatoes. The amassing of potatoes has been very poor, this partly due to the farmers retaining an enormous number for planting next year in order to resell at an advantageous price on the black market.

Livestock. A fair amount of cattle movement has gone on within the Region, due to the markets being held. Most of this movement is legal, but a strict watch continues, or illegal movement will increase. A great increase of sheep movement to the lower pastures has been seen during the month.

Olive Oil. Very unsatisfactory, with a large black market situation. Farmers are quite determined not to amass. Olive oil control officers are kept extremely busy in Chieti Province, and their latest efforts to prevent illegal movement included the holding up of a train. It is the greatest reflection on the farmers that 3683 kg of olive oil have been sequestered to date, against 3500 kg amassed.

5. LABOUR.

All the Labour Offices in this Region have now been organised. During the past month there have been no political or labour disturbances. Generally speaking, there have been increased demands for labour, though a good deal of unemployment still exists.

The only disturbance has been caused by the Camera del Lavoro. This organisation apparently feels itself uncontrolled and boundless in its activities. It issues orders for the payment of the indemnity of "Carovita" and also fixes wage rates and wage adjustments. In Ancona it is operating a Collocamento office. In Asimo they set a rate of 140 Lire

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Present wage scales are giving rise to discontent, particularly in Ancona and Macerata Provinces.

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6. PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES.

Roads & Highways. Work is being pushed ahead on military highways and on the others. Constant repairs are required on bituminous roads on account of the existing traffic. These are out of the question owing to the lack of transport. Special attention is being given to the opening up of roads to isolated communities. During the year ending 31 Dec 44, 164 road projects and 259 bridges have been completed.

Bridges. Wooden bridges are being erected in places where urgent repairs are required and no other materials are available.

Housing. Operations are progressing very slowly, chiefly due to lack of building materials.

Electricity. Progress continues to be made on all projects.

Transport. The position is growing steadily worse. Materials have ceased to be transported on all other then military projects. Even these are seriously retarded; transportation is often not available even for officers on tours of duty.

Railways. Repairs on the railway Ortona - Ancona have begun.

7. COMMUNICATIONS.

Telephones. The main switchboards have been repaired. Macerata, Teramo, Pescara, Chieti now give a joint Army/Civilian service. The coastal telephone and telegraph route Ancona to Pescara has been repaired for the use of the Army by joint army and civilian labour organised by this Region.

8. PUBLIC SAFETY.

CC RR. The Carabinieri are functioning fairly well, but are still hampered by lack of transport and equipment.

Crime. Several cases of robbery with violence are reported from Pescara. The influx of Allied personnel has caused an increase in the number of persons being found in possession of Allied property. The cases of theft of octane spirit referred to in last month's report are now

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Black Market. Road blocks in Macerata and Ascoli are showing results, and a considerable amount of food has been stopped leaving these Provinces. There is traffic in olive oil in Chieti Province.

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Civilian Passes. The issue of civilian passes is being tightened up, particularly to civilians travelling in MD vehicles.

Italian Courts. The organisation of Italian Courts is practically completed throughout the Region. Judicial officials continue to be appointed; a fair number have been transferred during the month, mostly at the suggestion or with the consent of the Ministry. The matter of Italian Courts giving inadequate sentences has been taken up strongly.

The Tribunali was moved from Lanciano to Vasto without the knowledge of this HQ.

AMG Courts. These continue to function satisfactorily. The majority of cases have been for travel misdemeanours.

Conduct of Troops. The conduct generally is good despite the large number of troops in this Region.

Prisons. There are reports of overcrowding in Ancona Prison, as a result of which many cases are being dealt with by fine rather than imprisonment.

Public Meetings and Disturbances. There have been several political meetings during the month, all of an orderly nature. There was a strike of street cleaners in Aquila for 10 days; work has now been resumed.

No demonstrations of a serious nature have been reported.

V.D. Control. Control continues to be effective.

Mine Clearance. 90,200 mines of various types were extracted during the month of December by the Mine Clearance Coy in Chieti Province. Work is being held up through lack of transport.

9. PUBLIC HEALTH.

General Health. This is satisfactory, and no prevalence of any particular disease is shown. One case of smallpox is reported from Pescara.

Hospitals. These are meeting all demands made upon them.

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Welfare. Nothing unusual to report.

Devastated Areas. A large supply of clothing from USA has been received and is being distributed in the communes.

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Transport. A lack of ambulances and tyres constitutes a handicap to the Medical and Veterinary services.

10. EDUCATION.

The educational system continues to function in spite of unheated school buildings, no window panes and the general requisitioning of schools.

School lunches are not proving altogether satisfactory, as the poorer communes are unable to finance the scheme.

Epuration committees for the suspended school personnel are required urgently in the Provinces passed to the Italian Government.

The shortage of books continues.

11. REFUGEES.

No refugees have been passed from the forward areas during the month.

12. FINANCE.

"A" Force. Payments are now being made in Aquile and Macerata.

Budgets. The budget programme has been functioning satisfactorily in AMG territory, but in AC territory there has been considerable delay in obtaining sufficient funds for the various State Departments.

Revenue. There is an improvement in the revenue collected over the same period of last year. Lotto has been resumed in Aquila.

Banks. A slight improvement is shown in the currency position. Loans are greater in demand, while a shrinkage is shown in investment in Treasury Bonds.

13. PROPERTY CONTROL.

Nothing to report.

14. CIVILIAN TRANSPORT.

General. No further vehicles have been received from official

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13. PROPERTY CONTROL.

Nothing to report.

14. CIVILIAN TRANSPORT.

General. No further vehicles have been received from official sources during the month. Three acquired from Eighth Army Salvage Depot are proving useful in supplying spares.

Nine additional bus permits have been granted.

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Truck Pools. A total of Lire 33,728,370.35 is owed to the Truck Pool's account up to 1 Dec 44, mainly from State-controlled agencies.

Tyres and Spare Parts. While maintenance shows an all-round improvement, tyres still remain an unsolved problem. A few spares have been received from HQ Allied Commission, and arrangements have been made for the supply of spares for US/WD from the Air Force Ordnance Depot.

Efforts have been made to get tyre chains for trucks, but with no success.

15. MONUMENTS & FINE ARTS.

The work continues on approved projects. Several of the listed monuments, which had been requisitioned for billets for troops, have now been vacated.

Action has been taken during the month to prevent the further taking of timber surrounding the Villa Imperiale.

C.E.A. FRENCH,
Colonel,
Regional Commissioner.

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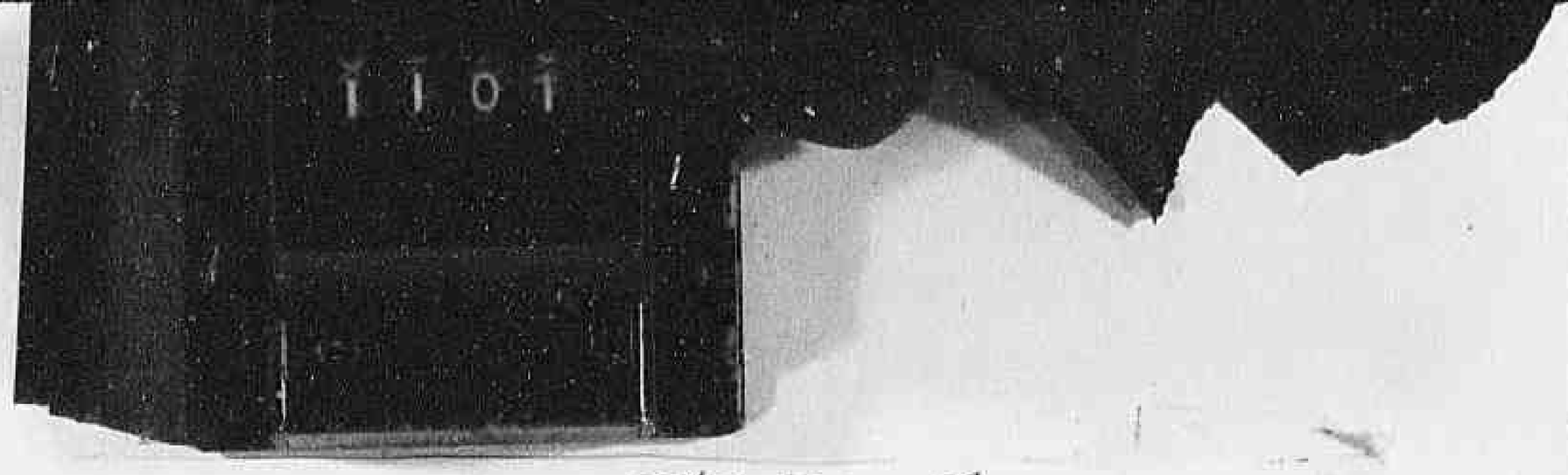

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Tel. 478201

Ref. 817/41/008

11 December 1944

SUBJECT: Monthly Report.

TO : Regional Commissioner,
ABRUZZI-MARCHE Region.

1. Receipt is acknowledged of your report for the month of November.

2. To ensure complete distribution at this HQ it is necessary that we have 5 copies. Will you kindly arrange accordingly in future.

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

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5221

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10 DEC 1944

# ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

## ALLIED COMMISSION

## ABRUZZI-MARCHE REGION

## MONTHLY REPORT

## NOVEMBER 1944

C of S Distribute

1 - File Copy (Sq C of S, etc.)
1 - - - CA Sect
1 - - - Economic Sect
1 - - - PRB to circulate to Pol Sect & Estab Section

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

ALLIED COMMISSION

ABRUZZI-MARCHE REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER 1944

C of S Distribute

1 - File Copy (Sig C of S, C.C.)
1 - - - CA Sect
1 - - - Economic Sect
1 - - - PRB to circulate to Pol Sect & Estab Sections

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

ALLIED COMMISSION

ABRUZZI-MARCHE REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER 1944


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ABRUZZI-MARCHE REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

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PART ONE.

GENERAL REMARKS.

A fairly quiet month politically. A few disturbances caused mainly by privations suffered by the civil population rather then from any deep seated political convictions. The Italian administration leaves a lot to be desired.

The harvest has come in well, but no olive oil has yet been received. Salt is coming in fairly well.

Work continues on communications and public works - bridges in the North of the Region constitute a very big problem.

The Police are functioning better, but are held up somewhat by lack of equipment. No serious crimes. General health remains good so far, even in the devastated areas.

Between Ortona and Jesi - over 180 miles - there are no railways; the problem of stockpiling the devastated areas and of moving 250,000 tons of assessed grain out of the Region to deficiency Regions is one of transport. With the amount of transport now in the Region, about half of the grain will be still in the warehouses at the next harvest. I realise that every Region calls for more and more transport, but the need for it in this Region is not a parochial but a national one, and unless I have at least one more G.T. Coy in addition to those already here, the economy of the Region must break down, and the nation will suffer accordingly.

There are at present five divisions at rest in the Region and in addition a Corps H.Q. This will obviously constitute a very difficult problem in accommodation during the winter months. It has already caused prices to rocket. I propose to appoint a Liaison Officer with both 209

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A fairly quiet month politically. A few disturbances caused mainly by privations suffered by the civil population rather than from any deep seated political convictions. The Italian administration leaves a lot to be desired.

The harvest has come in well, but no olive oil has yet been received. Salt is coming in fairly well.

Work continues on communications and public works - bridges in the North of the Region constitute a very big problem.

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PART TWO.

1. POLITICAL REACTIONS AND POPULAR OPINION.

Politically speaking this has been a fairly quiet month (on the surface) in this Region. The Communists are well to the fore so far as noise is concerned; in one Province the other political parties are showing a certain amount of unrest due to Communist propaganda.

Political agitation can be traced to the shortage of certain foodstuffs, the wholesale requisitioning of property by the Army, the inefficiency of the Italian administration and, in the case of Aquila, a feeling that whatever the disturbance the promoters thereof can get the better of the CC RR.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT - PROVINCIAL.

The Provincial Government varies considerably in the different Provinces. Generally speaking the administration has not completely settled down. Officials are still being "epurated". The population have no confidence in their present officials. These appear to be either inspired by self interest, or they are of weak character, acceding too easily to any request which may be made to them.

3. ECONOMIC RESOURCES AND SUPPLY.

Olive Oil. The October and November allocations have not yet arrived. This is due to the fact that up to date some producers have not received payment for last year's produce already delivered and therefore are in doubt as regards payment for this year's crop. The present scarcity of oil tends to drive the new crop into illicit markets. An allotment of

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Potatoes. The intake leaves a lot to be desired. Producers are failing to declare or deliver as ordered, realising that the average Italian official is quite indifferent if his decrees are observed or not.

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Salt. Now arriving fairly well, but arrivals not yet up to standard. Monopolio have no idea of their responsibilities with regard to distribution.

Fuel. The coal stock of the Avezzano Sugar Factory has now been released. The "find" of 5000 tons of low grade coal in a destroyed factory near Sulmona has helped a little. Lack of transport is as usual the difficulty.

Transport. Unless further transport is received the provisioning programme will be seriously jeopardised this winter. Attempts are being made to acquire further civilian trucks for railhead work.

4. AGRICULTURE.

Harvest. This is coming in well, and the assessing figure is 99% of the target of 2½ million quintals. Assessing is hampered by the Army in Ancona and Pesaro Provinces, as many warehouses have been requisitioned by the troops. In Macerata 30,000 quintals of maize is ready as soon as storage becomes available.

Potatoes. These are coming in at the rate of under 100 tons a day - well below the anticipated figures. I regard the sending of seed potatoes to Rome with great suspicion. I feel they will be used for food as soon as they arrive in Rome.

Livestock. Little illegal movement of cattle has gone on during the last month. A check has been made of cattle movement and arrests made.

No control whatsoever appears to be shown by the Italian authorities in controlling purchasers at markets and fairs. A large fair (1850 animals) was held at Magliano di Marsi with no sign of interest or supervision being shown by local officials.

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Olive Oil. The crop is now ripe and is being pressed. A certain amount of difficulty in Teramo in obtaining the necessary power for the pressing machines is being experienced.

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5. LABOUR.

A general increase in unemployment is shown throughout the Region, and this is likely to increase during the winter. Prices are rising, and black market commodities increasing in variety.

Organisation of Provincial Labour Offices has been completed in the Region with the exception of Ancona and Pesaro Provinces. Reorganisation has been necessary here as the original set-up, organised by Eighth Army, did not conform in any way with AC standards and directives.

There have been two attempts to strike during the month, neither of great importance. One was a threat from the Provincial Doctors: they stated that the increased allowances paid in respect of panel patients are inadequate.

Macerata was the scene of a demonstration caused by the quantity of food decreasing and prices rising. This in turn was caused by a general increase in wages in Ancona Province, resulting in the workers of Ancona going to Macerata to buy extra food, thus running up the price there. Food ration cards in Ancona are being withheld against production of a labour registration card. This may have political reactions.

The Communists are behind political disturbances involving the Labour Office. They are inclined to feel that labour is a communist monopoly.

6. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES.

Roads and Highways. Work in progress is very much hampered by lack of transport and materials. The same can be said of the military roads. This applies particularly in the two northern Provinces.

Bridges. I am much concerned over the communications problem [illegible] parts of this Province are inaccessible, and

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Bridges. I am much concerned over the communications problem in Pesaro Province. Several parts of this Province are inaccessible, and I have asked the ACC No 1 District to consider the erection of Bailey Bridges on several important routes where, owing to lack of transport and materials, it has been impossible to continue the construction of permanent bridges.

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Housing. Estimates have been submitted showing the amount of materials required for the rehabilitation of houses in this Region, but to date NO materials have been received.

Electricity. Generally speaking this has improved, though winter conditions have caused an amount of trouble. Work is again held up through lack of transport

Water. Work is progressing favourably on waterwork projects and supply systems.

Transport. Unless sufficient and adequate transport is forthcoming in the near future, work will fall off considerably. It is getting increasingly difficult to get the workmen to their places of work, and materials to where they are required. In Marche area alone the construction of 18 bridges is held up through lack of material.

7. COMMUNICATIONS.

Telephones. The telphone situation varies considerably from Province to Province, varying from very few telephones to 75% of requirements.

Postal Services. This is being augmented throughout the Region. One or two changes have been made in unsatisfactory key personnel.

8. PUBLIC SAFETY.

CC RR. Continued improvement is shown by all police agencies in carrying out their duties. Unless further clothing and equipment is forthcoming, however, a number of men will have to be placed on leave.

Crime. Several armed hold-ups by Negro troops have been reported in the Jesi area. In Aquila Province two armed US Negro des-

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Black Market. This is noticeably on the increase since the



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free movement of civilians has been prohibited. Small reports of big black market in arms. Efforts to prevent this are being made in conjunction with the Army authorities (61 Area).

Civilian Passes. Nothing to report.

Italian Courts. The Court of Appeal of Lecche is functioning in Valentino, good headway being made with the cases. Arrangements are in progress for one section of the Court to go on circuit, this necessitated through lack of general communications. Courts of Assize are being set up throughout the Region; names of judges have been submitted and are being screened.

AMG Courts. The majority of cases heard in AMG Courts are for theft. Next in numbers are travel misdemeanors and breaches of curfew.

Conduct of Troops. Good. No trouble as yet with the Italian Division which has moved into the Region. One case of serious altercation between a Canadian MP and some Italian civilians resulted in an Italian being injured and the MP arrested by the CMP.

Public Meetings and Disturbances. Several meetings have been held, but no incidents are reported. There have been several disturbances, but these do not appear to have any prearranged political significance. Three out of four disturbances were against the Italian authorities, who were accused of inefficiency and self interest in the carrying out of their duties. Trouble in Macerata resulted in the Prefect fleeing for home in a hurry. He has been replaced.

V.G. Control. The situation is normal and control effective.

Prisons. There was a hunger strike in Aquila Prison during the month owing to the prisoners hearing that some prisoners were receiving additional bread rations.

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Civilian Forces. Nothing to report.

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Mine Clearance. The Mine Clearing School at Chieti has made a successful start, 32 out of 40 volunteers having passed the first Course. They have now started work. A second Course starts on 3 December for approx 30 volunteers.

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As a consequence of accidents, there have been three killed and five wounded during the month, bringing the total of casualties to date to ten dead and 42 wounded. The total number of mines cleared during the month in Chieti, Pescara and Teramo Provinces amount to 82,520.

9. PUBLIC HEALTH.

General. The general health of the population remains satisfactory. Typhoid cases show a decline, and there have been no outbreaks of infectious diseases during the month.

Hospitals. These are functioning satisfactorily, and so far accommodation is just adequate. Arrangements are being made to hand over a refugee camp at Ortona to the Italian Red Cross for use as a hospital. The 20 tons of medical supplies referred to in our last month's report are being distributed. Transport is again the main difficulty.

Welfare. Further American Red Cross personnel have been assigned here and Italians are taking more interest in their own welfare work. The work is going well.

Devastated Areas. 900 tons of clothing are expected for distribution, and food stocks are being amassed in the more mountainous areas. Immediate action is being taken in view of the approaching winter.

10. EDUCATION.

The educational system is gradually being resumed. Wholesale requisitioning of schools in Macerata will mean an end to all progress in that Province. The University of Macerata has been taken over by the troops and will have to be closed down for educational purposes.

There is a general shortage of books. A problem for the next [illegible] months will be the heating of the school premises.

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11. REFUGEES.

A few have been passed through the camps during the month.



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12. FINANCE.

A four days Course for PROs and their Italian staff has been held during the month.

"A" Force. The payment of 80,000 lire has been authorised for the helpers of escaped Allied POWs.

Budgets. There is a general delay in approval of budgets. It is hoped that the Italian Government will be as determined about the presentation of LCB & SB Forms as the AMG officials have been.

Revenue. Collection of taxes shows an increase, except in Aquila Province.

Banks. The shortage of currency appears to have been remedied. Enquiries are being received regarding our future financial policy and the maintenance of the value of the lire. [illegible] considerably better.

13. PROPERTY CONTROL.

Satisfactory.

14. TRANSPORTATION.

General. Six vehicles captured by Eighth Army and handed over now bring the total of load hauling vehicles in the Region up to 208.

A further 12 bus permits have been issued. Some operators are complaining of an insufficient margin of profit on the official tariff rate; this is being investigated.

Truck Pools. A new Truck Pool (No 7) has been inaugurated in Ancona/Pesaro Provinces.

The new accounting system is proving a success. Difficulty is being experienced in obtaining sums due from the Consorzio Agrario, and

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The addition of soldiers to the truck pool staffs is proving a good thing, and vehicles are being maintained considerably better.

Tyres and Spare Parts. 38 tyres only have been received from



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AC against 1000 demanded. One third of the Fiat trucks held are off the road owing to a lack of spare parts. Unless tyres and spares are received, transportation of any kind in this Region will come to a finish.

15. MONUMENTS, FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES.

A certain amount of anxiety is felt over the occupation of historical buildings by troops, especially when units are constantly being changed.

Work is being done in the preservation of monuments against the winter weather, as in many cases the temporary arrangements are not strong enough.

Estimates are being prepared for the restoration of many buildings, and routine inspections are being carried out.

C.M.A. [illegible],
Colonel,
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# ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

## ALLIED COMMISSION

## ABRUZZI-MARCHE REGION

## MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 1944

Distribution C of S

1 — File Copy, CSO, C of S, A/cc
1 — — — C.A. Section
1 — — — Economic Section
1 — — — P.R.B for circulation to Estat Sect, and Political Sect

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

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ABRUZZI-MARCHE REGION

MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 1944


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PART ONE

GENERAL REMARKS

1) Political activity has been more widespread, with meetings throughout the Region. The Christian Democratic party are reported to be in the lead with numbers, but the Communist party are well to the fore with propaganda.

2) Collection of grain has slowed down considerably in the past two weeks, especially in those provinces handed over to the Italian government. The weather has been very bad and it may be that this is the reason.

3) While the salt position has improved, the olive oil position has deteriorated. The olive oil allocations for October and November have not yet arrived.

4) Up to the date of handing over Aquila province to Italian administration, potatoes were coming in faster than they were could be transported. While some may not be getting all its requirements, it is getting all for which transport has been sent, I am doubtful if the same conditions prevail under A.C.C. administration.

5) Work continues on the reconstruction of roads and bridges, though such work has been hampered by the weather recently.

6) An improvement in the electricity supply is expected shortly, when it will be augmented by an allotment of power from Southern Region.

7) ~~This~~ Region continues to be free from serious crime and no large black market activities are reported.

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8) The political demonstration staged at Ortucchio appeared at one time to be formidable. It was firmly handled by the carabinieri and it is not thought that another such outbreak is likely to occur.

9) The health of the population is very satisfactory and ~~the~~ twenty tons of medical supplies just received will be of great benefit.

10) Owing to the large number of troops coming into the Region for rest, considerable difficulty is being experienced ~~throughout the Region~~ in retaining accomodation of which A.M.G./A.C. is in possession. Divisional and Area commanders seem to have very little consideration for A.M.G. when they require accomodation for troops, even when these troops are only in transit.

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PART TWO

1. POLITICAL REACTION AND POPULAR OPINION

Political meetings have been held throughout the Region, chiefly of a communistic nature. Feelings are running high against us on account of the 200-gram ration. The Communist party is showing itself very active, though it is not believed to be numerically as strong as the other parties, in particular the Christian Democrats.

The amount of printed propaganda put out by the Communists is far in excess of that put out by all the other parties together.

An increasing undercurrent of unrest is evident against high prices, and I fear disorder during the next six or eight weeks.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT - PROVINCIAL

Changes continue to be made in the Italian personnel and each change is welcomed. Prefects are co-operative and beginning to try to take their full share of responsibility.

A provincial epuration committee has been set up in Ancona and Pesaro provinces.

3. ECONOMIC RESOURCES AND SUPPLY

Grain. I consider it important that the ration should be raised to 200 grams of bread daily, plus 350 grams of pasta a

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Changes continue to be made in the Italian personnel and each change is welcomed. Prefects are co-operative and beginning to try to take their full share of responsibility.

A provincial epuration committee has been set up in Ancona and Pesaro provinces.

3. ECONOMIC RESOURCES AND SUPPLY

Grain. I consider it important that the ration should be raised to 200 grams of bread daily, plus 350 grams of pasta a week. The present ration is inadequate in view of approaching winter and the population are obliged to supplement it by purchasing on the black market.

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A year's ration of grain, amounting to a daily ration of 200 grams, has been issued in Ancona and Pesaro provinces on the authority of AMG 8th Army. As was anticipated, it has already caused complications, not only in Ancona and Pesaro provinces, but in the neighboring ones.

Diffidence appears to be felt by the Italian officials with regard to the checking of the correct collection of grain by the Granai del Popolo and attempts are being made to improve on this through the medium of harvest officers.

Olive Oil. The promised allocations for October and November have not yet arrived. This is causing considerable grumbling.

Potatoes. These have been coming in very well during the past month.

Salt. A distinct improvement has been shown since last month; it is now coming in well.

Fuel. The need for further supplies of fuel is pressing. Requests have been made to Headquarters AC to release a stock at Avezzano and if this is released it can be used for Chieti-Pescara and Teramo priority needs.

4. AGRICULTURE

Harvest. The collection of grain in this Region is approaching the target figure, over 1,900,000 quintali having been collected.

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4. AGRICULTURE

Harvest. The collection of grain in this Region is approaching the target figure, over 1,900,000 quintali having been collected. It is interesting to note that there was a sharp fall in the weekly total collected in those provinces recently turned over to the Italian government.

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Potatoes. As was expected, potatoes are now coming in faster than they can be transported. Rome is receiving all for which transport is sent and deliveries are being made to other provinces in the Region, as well as to Rieti and Frosinone.

Livestock. The problem of transferring livestock from one province to another in order to equalize the situation was considered at a conference in Rome of Inspectors of Agriculture. It is expected that some progress in this direction will be made shortly.

5. LABOUR.

Civilian labour offices have now been organized in all provinces under the jurisdiction of ~~this~~ Region except in Ancona and Pesaro.

There is still some conflict and confusion between the Ispettorato dell'Industria and the Ispettorato del Lavoro. For the most part, the Uffici dell'Industria have been absorbed by the Uffici del Lavoro. Chieti province is the only exception and this will be shortly completed.

The existence of the Ufficio dell'Industria merely leads to a duplication of the work of the Ufficio del Lavoro and in my opinion, the latter is in a better position not only to do the work but to do it more efficiently.

There have been no widespread clashes between employers and employees, but dissatisfaction continues regarding the relationship

other provinces in the Region, as well as to Rieti and Frosinone.

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There have been no widespread clashes between employers and employees, but dissatisfaction continues regarding the relationship of wages to purchasing power. The season for fresh fruit and

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vegetables is coming to an end, and beans, peas and dried corn are selling for from five to ten times the fixed price, while the bread ration continues at 200 grams.

It is evident, I think, that on this account labour disturbances may develop in the near future, more especially in view of agitation attributed to the Communist party.

6. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES.

Roads and Highways. State roads are being opened up as rapidly as possible and work on provincial roads is proceeding satisfactorily. The Ascoli-Rieti road is now open; the Ascoli-Teramo and Ascoli-Macerata roads are passable except in abnormal weather. In Macerata many diversions are in use and are being improved, but it is doubtful whether some will stand the winter.

Progress on military roads continues; in spite of the removal of Bailey bridges, these are all passable.

Bridges. In the forward provinces, the Germans have made such an excellent job of bridge demolitions that it might be said they were only practising in the more southerly provinces. Many bridges are being reconstructed on both military and non-military roads and many diversions have been completed, but there is still a lot to be done.

Housing. The Genio Civile has been notified that the repair of dwellings will be considered and also that [illegible]

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Housing. The Genio Civile has been notified that the repair of dwellings will be considered and also that the responsibility of shelter for the winter rests with the Italian government in Italian government territory. It is hard to say what progress will be made, though every opportunity is taken of impressing the importance of housing on the Italian officials.

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Buildings. A number of plans for the rebuilding of schools, government offices, etc., have been approved, the largest of which is the reconstruction of the Avezzano prison at a cost of L. 2,400,000.

Electricity. A great deal of work has been done, but a great deal still remains to be done with regard to electrical supply. Unfortunately the results are not commensurate with the work done.

Water. No serious difficulties have been encountered. Reconstruction of civil communal supply systems is in progress and estimates for the necessary improvement of others have been submitted.

Drainage. The repairs to the drainage system of the Fucino Lake were inspected and approval given to the Torlonia estate for their continuation. The Germans did considerable damage to these drainage tunnels and an attempt is being made to repair them prior to the rainy season.

7. COMMUNICATIONS.

Telephones. A considerable amount of work continues to be done and the improvement in communications has been very noticeable.

Postal service. Despite a number of changes in personnel, the service has been extended and is running efficiently.

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8. PUBLIC SAFETY.

CC. RR. Police and agents are working well. There is still room for improvement in equipment and clothing.

Crime. There has been one murder committed during the past month and a case of wholesale theft of aero spirit. In both cases, arrests have been made. Otherwise no serious crimes have been reported.

Black Market. Nothing on a large scale has been reported; there is, however, a slight local increase in this type of activity in Macerata. An increase is also shown in the illegal movement of cattle and measures have been taken and decrees issued to counteract this tendency.

Civilian Passes. The work has slackened considerably owing to the transfer of provinces to Italian control. The CC.RR. appear to be carrying on their work in this connection efficiently.

Italian Courts. The Italian courts are functioning satisfactorily and returns of all cases tried are being made to the Regional Legal Officer.

Conduct of Troops. This has been excellent since the departure of the Polish forces from the Region.

Public Meetings. The meetings held have been orderly and without incident. Not a great deal of enthusiasm is being shown. The communist party is making the biggest effort to get going again.

A political demonstration was staged at Ortucchio, when [illegible]

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A political demonstration was staged at Ortucchio, when 5455 peasants seized privately-owned land belonging to the Duke of Torlonia for their own cultivation. The crowd was fired upon by the CC.RR. and one man was killed and six injured. Following this the demonstration broke up. The ringleaders are up for trial and the situation is under control, but the whole question

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requires attention from the political point of view. It is known that this demonstration had the backing of the Communist party.

V. D. Control. Supervision is satisfactory. A special check has been made in Macerata, following the entry of troops into the area and a case of V.D. being reported.

Mine Clearance. ~~No less than~~ 41,000 mines have been removed during the month from the provinces of Chieti, Pescara and Teramo. There have been four fatal accidents and seven injuries. There is still a very great amount of clearance to be done. This is also the case in Pesaro province, from which area the battle has only recently gone forward.

9. PUBLIC HEALTH.

General. The health of the population remains at a generally satisfactory level, with no marked occurrences of any particular disease. No outbreaks of infectious diseases have been reported and the decrease in the number of typhoid cases continues.

Hospitals. These are functioning satisfactorily, though war damage and lack of electricity and medical supplies are hampering the efforts in certain instances. Twenty tons of medical supplies have been received and their distribution, which will be completed early in November, should meet all requirements.

Welfare. With the arrival of Red Cross representatives, a new welfare programme has been drawn up and it is to be hoped that it will be completed before they are withdrawn.

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Welfare. With the arrival of Red Cross representatives, a new welfare programme has been drawn up and it is to be hoped that it will be completed before they are withdrawn.

Devastated Areas. Housing and clothing in the areas north of the Sangro remains an urgent problem. Hardship is being felt by refugees in the hilly districts of Macerata, owing to acute shortage of fuel, clothing and edible fats.

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10. EDUCATION.

Schools. The majority of the schools ~~in this Region~~ have been reopened, with the exception of those in the province of Pesaro-Urbino. Reopening in the northern provinces has been hampered owing to the lack of accommodation, the schools being either destroyed or occupied by the Army. This position is not likely to improve with the coming of winter, as the Army will be requiring accommodation all over the Region for use as winter rest camps.

Epuration. Defascistisation of the teachers continues. There is a general shortage of text-books.

Universities. New rectors have been elected in the three universities of the Region and examinations are being held prior to reopening.

11. REFUGEES

About 1500 refugees were received from the forward areas and dispersed in the provinces. The organisation for their reception and dispersal functioned admirably and no difficulties were experienced.

12. FINANCE

Despite the return of four provinces to the Italian government, work has not abated, as the Italian ministries failed to

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Universities. New rectors have been elected in the three universities of the Region and examinations are being held prior to reopening.

11. REFUGEES

About 1300 refugees were received from the forward areas and dispersed in the provinces. The organization for their reception and dispersal functioned admirably and no difficulties were experienced.

12. FINANCE

Despite the return of four provinces to the Italian government, work has not abated, as the Italian ministries failed to issue proper instructions to their departments with regard to work to be taken over.

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Work is being hampered by the late submission of returns and data by the Italian organisations. Steps have been taken to correct this.

Confidence in the banks remains steady. Satisfaction has been shown in the reopening of the Buoni Postali Fruttiferi in six provinces.

"A" Force claims are still being received but the payments continue to be delayed.

13. PROPERTY CONTROL.

This work continues to be administered through the medium of Italian liquidators, under supervision of the Regional Finance Officer.

14. CIVILIAN TRANSPORT

General. There is now a total of 190 load-hauling vehicles in this Region to meet civil transport needs.

The plan to transport goods from Macerata to Jesi proved impracticable owing to the unsuitability of the trucks sent for the purpose.

Forty-eight bus permits have been granted during the past month.

Truck Pools. The addition of 15 RM/ORs to the truck pool staffs has helped considerably. A new and improved accounting system has been inaugurated in conjunction with the Regional

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14. CIVILIAN TRANSPORT

General. There is now a total of 180 long-hauling vehicles in this Region to meet civil transport needs.

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15. MONUMENTS, FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES.

Repairs are being carried out wherever possible. The outstanding problems of the Abruzzi-Molise district have been handed over to the superintendents, thus leaving the M.F.A. & A. officer to devote his time to the much-damaged provinces of Ancona and Pesaro.

C. H. A. FRENCH,
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CONFIDENTIAL.

To: HQ ACC (RC and MG Section)

From: HQ ACC Abbruzzi - Marche Region.

Subject: Monthly Report.

Ref: RS/502/30/1.

Date: 5 October 1944.

6 OCT Recd

Herewith Regional Monthly Report (in quintuplicate)

for Abbruzzi - Marche Region.

HEADQUARTERS 6 OCT 1944 A.C.C.

C.H.A. FRENCH.
Lieut. Colonel.
Regional Commissioner.

see Minutes 13 & 14
5454

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

ABRUZZI-MARCHE REGION

Recd

MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1944


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PART ONE

GENERAL REMARKS.

Political activity has been at a minimum during the past few weeks, owing perhaps to the harvest-gathering. While the people have work to do, political matters take second place. The Communist party has been the most noticeable party and it has been more vociferous than active.

The Italian administration, despite the changes made among the senior officials, continues to function smoothly and well. These officials are still in need of the encouragement given by AMG officers, but I think they will soon be as able to stand on their own feet as they are ever likely to be.

Amassing of grain proceeds very satisfactorily, though the people in grain-producing provinces are shortly expected to rebel against the 200-gram ration, as it is well known that in ACC territory the ration is 300 grams. There is a certain amount of justification for the feeling of the people, as this Region has already collected three-quarters of the total amount at which it aimed and that amount represents one-sixth of the total amount collected in liberated Italy.

The lack of olive oil and salt is also another cause of dissatisfaction, but this is likely to be rectified during the coming month. The olive harvest is reported to be good and if

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The potato crop produced in the Avezzano district has been given such prominence lately that the farmers now have an exaggerated idea of the importance of their product. It is anticipated that the matter will be dealt with satisfactorily during October, since the main part of the crop will then have been dug and collections thus made easier.

The repair and reconstruction of roads and bridges is proceeding as fast as the problems of labour, supply and transportation can be surmounted.

Electricity remains a problem which is not easily overcome, though every effort is being made to improve on the existing arrangements.

Mine clearance presents an almost hopeless situation and deaths continue to be reported. One Italian mine clearing coy. has been transferred from the Pescara-Chieti area and one coy. is left. In one comune alone there are 150,000 mines and the coy. left to deal with the whole devastated area has only seven detectors. ?

The Public Safety Section report that the region is practically free from serious crime. The lack of boots however is likely to impede the work of the police forces in the near future unless new boots are forthcoming.

Health is good and there have been no epidemics.

Those schools not rendered unusable will be opened as

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Health is good and there have been no epidemics.

Those schools not rendered unusable will be opened as from 1st October, as far as possible.

Owing to lack of officers on the ground, the Region almost gives one the impression of unoccupied rather than occupied territory.

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PART TWO

1. POLITICAL REACTION AND POPULAR OPINION.

September has been a busy month for those engaged in agriculture, the economic activity upon which this region largely depends, and little interest, therefore, has been taken in politics. The communists are looked upon as being the largest party, but this may be due to their being the most vocal. No reliable evidence is forthcoming as to the size or popularity of any party.

The feeling of the majority of the people is definitely pro-Allied.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT -- PROVINCIAL.

Many changes in Italian personnel have been made by the Interior Sub-Commission, all of which have been acceptable. This should considerably help the provinces concerned.

The Italian administration is improving and is co-operative, but is still in need of the encouragement given by A. M. G.

3. ECONOMIC RESOURCES AND SUPPLY.

GRAIN. There is some dissatisfaction among the people because they have had their ration reduced from 380 grams (German ration) to 200 grams and are now expected to export grain to ACC territory, where the ration is 300 grams. As a palliative, authority has been given to issue 150 grams of bread and 40 grams of pasta (or flour for pasta); thus giving more variety.

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The grain crop is coming in extremely well -- 75 per cent of the total promised has been collected. Aquila and Chieti -- deficient in grain -- are importing winter supplies slowly, but so far satisfactorily.

OLIVE OIL. Although the ration is 300 grems per month, it has been impossible to issue it. Two hundred tons were received for the Region in August, none in September, and we are promised 200 tons for October. Here again, the people realize that there is a regular ration in ACC territory.

POTATOES. There are complaints from provinces exporting grain to Aquila. They are naturally demanding that Aquila send potatoes to them in return for grain.

The digging of potatoes in Aquila has been hampered by the collection of other crops (grain, etc.) and the main crop has not yet been harvested. Further, the producers are unwilling to sell to the Consorzio at the price of six lire. This price is a good one, but the producers unfortunately know that in the Salerno-Naples area as much as 8 and 9 lire per kilograph has been paid and is still obtainable.

SALT. Only approximately 60 per cent of the amount asked for was received in September. This is a serious matter, as salt is required for preserving food -- principally pork -- as well as for human consumption and it is intended to build up a winter stock-pile.

It is worthy of note that while the Region is so sadly

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POTATOES. There are complaints from provinces exporting grain to Aquila. They are naturally demanding that Aquila send potatoes to them in return for grain.

The digging of potatoes in Aquila has been hampered by the collection of other crops (grain, etc.) and the main crop has not yet been harvested. Further, the producers are unwilling to sell to the Consorzio at the price of six lire. This price is a good one, but the producers unfortunately know that in the Salerno-Naples area as much as 8 and 9 lire per kilograph has been paid and is still obtainable.

SALT. Only approximately 60 per cent of the amount asked for was received in September. This is a serious matter, as salt is required for preserving food -- principally pork -- as well as for human consumption and it is intended to build up a winter stock-pile.

It is worthy of note that while the Region is so sadly lacking in this commodity, storage difficulties are being encountered at the salt stock-pile at S. Margherita di Savoia.



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4. AGRICULTURE.

HARVEST. The recorded collection of grain has now passed the 1,400,000-quintali mark and many thousands of quintali remain to be recorded. Transport is a proolem in the movement of grain from store to railhead and this matter has been taken up with ACC headquarters.

POTATOES. In Aquila this question looms very large. A vigorous policy in the amassing is being carried out and it is hoped to see a larger volume being dealt with by the Consorzio Agrario.

As Aquila provides potatoes not only for food but also for seed for southern Italy, the question is more of a national problem than a Regional one.

The farmers are, at the moment, discontented with the price of six lire per kilo, though no suggestion is made by this Region that it be raised.

LIVESTOCK. Some provinces are short of young stock and desirous of purchasing from other oprovinces. This problem is not easy to solve, as those provinces having stock are unwilling to sell to those who have not. The matter is now under consideration.

OLIVES. The harvest promises to be good, though the shortage of fiscoli is likely to be troublesome. The Agricultural Sub-Commission, ACC, have the matter in hand and ~~we~~ ~~are~~ I am relying on them to provide sufficient filters to meet the Regional requirements. The lack of electricity for the larger mills may hamper the I am

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5. LABOUR.

During the month, labour offices have been organized in Macerata and Pescara.

There appears to be less dissatisfaction on the part of the labourers now than there has been for some months. At the end of November, however, a number will be unemployed and the picture may be different.

There have been no labour disturbances, but there is a certain amount of unrest among the workers owing to the uncertainty about their future. This is probably brought about by undercover political activity and the fact that the workers are unable to save from their earnings, due to the high cost of living.

6. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES.

ROADS AND BRIDGES. Work on non-military roads is proceeding and budgets are being submitted for ordinary and extraordinary maintenance. The Genio Civile have been ordered to discontinue all improvements to dry-weather diversions and to concentrate on all-weather diversions.

Most of the work on military highways has been done under army supervision and the work has proceeded satisfactorily.

HOUSING. The question of housing for devastated areas is urgent and the early promulgation of a policy is necessary. In any case, I feel it is now so late that great suffering must be

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ELECTRICITY. Great difficulties have been overcome and a small amount of current is available for lighting in most large towns and many smaller communes. No optimistic views are held as to the increase in the near future of the amount already being supplied.

SEWERS. In the city of Pescara the principal drains are now repaired and the sewage system is normal in neighboring communes.

WATER. The water in Pescara Centrale is now functioning almost normally and with the removal of explosives and repairs to the reservoirs it is anticipated that the pressure will eventually increase.

PORT OF PESCARA. The work at this port is proceeding slowly owing to lack of equipment.

7. COMMUNICATIONS.

TELEPHONES. Long-distance lines are now in operation and local telephone services are operating in the cities.

POSTAL SERVICE. This is proceeding satisfactorily with the aid given by the opening up of new bus services.

8. PUBLIC SAFETY.

CC.RR. There have been certain changes in the senior ranks at Ascoli-Piceno and it is hoped that the new officers will considerably improve the efficiency. Clothing, equipment and transport appear to be satisfactory, except for the lack of boots, which is

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CRIME. This Region is fairly free from crime and no serious cases have been reported during the month.

BLACK MARKET. In this area, the black market does not appear to be serious. Dealers from Rome continue to endeavor to take potatoes from the Avezzano area without authorisation, but road blocks are functioning and many vehicles have been impounded.

CIVILIAN PASSES. Permits for movement south of Army Rear Control Line are now being issued by the CC.RR. and the system is working well.

ITALIAN COURTS are functioning satisfactorily. There are no changes to report in the administration from last month other than the removal of four of the personnel on account of Fascist activities.

AMG COURTS. One general and five superior court cases have been tried during the month. In general, the sentences imposed in summary courts have been very consistent and there has been a considerable stiffening in the sentences imposed.

9. PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health of the population has remained satisfactory. Further small quantities of drugs, dressings, etc., have been distributed and the programme for distribution of Red Cross clothing completed. No epidemics of infectious diseases have been reported and the seasonal cases of typhoid are decreasing.

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10. EDUCATION.

The educational system is still in the process of reorganisation, but all schools possible will open as from 1st October.

The screening of teaching personnel, now nearly completed, continues in all provinces.

Text-books and school programmes are needed throughout the Region and until such books are available, personnel are being encouraged to use their imagination.

11. REFUGEES.

No refugees have been received into this Region from the forward areas, and those previously in refugee camps have been dispersed to the communes. In the devastated areas the return of the population is presenting a great difficulty, as the Italian army continue to carry hundreds of civilians on their vehicles. While this happens, minor refugee problems will always occur. These people are brought from the south and not from the north.

12. FINANCE.

Italian officials are now more prompt in the rendering of budgets, but those connected with revenue are rather slower at appreciating the situation. Every province is short of staff in this sphere, made worse by the unavoidable removal of some senior officials.

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"A" Force payments continue to be made.

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13. PROPERTY CONTROL.

This work continues to be administered through the medium of Italian liquidators.

14. CIVILIAN TRANSPORT.

GENERAL. There is still a need for a further 300 tons of transport to move grain from warehouses and railheads and it is hoped that this will be available early in October.

BUS SERVICE. Bus lines are now operating over the Region, due to great strides made during the month in starting new services. This will expedite the distribution of mail. A few wood-burning buses are running.

15. MONUMENTS, FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES.

Tours of inspection have been made concerning the repair of monuments, etc., in this region and estimates submitted to the Public Works and Utilities Division.

Contact has been made with the Italian personnel concerned, who are always grateful for the interest shown by AMG in their problems.

C. H. A. FRENCH,
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