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

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10000/109/464

REPORTS, ABRUZZI
DEC. 1943 - JAN. 1944

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10000/109/464

REPORTS, ABRUZZI-MARCHE REGION
DEC. 1943 - JAN. 1945

TO: O B S

7.

1. Folios 1 to 6 are described as an "Icar-2nd Situation Report" from ABRUZZI-MARCHE Region and form an interesting and brief survey of the Region. Please see particularly the following:

Folio 6 - Personnel. In the second para figures of strengths are given which are rather confusing but the salient ones appear to be:

Assigned and attached 31 Dec 43 174 officers
" " 31 Dec 44 156 officers.

Another point brought out is that at present there are 43 American officers and 93 British officers.

Folio 5 - Agriculture. R.C. predicts that owing to the ~~exorbitant~~ ^{attractive} price for potatoes unless there is strict control by the Italian Government potatoes will be planted in 1945 in lieu of cereals.

Civilian Transport. Attention is drawn to the failure to secure spare parts for captured Italian vehicles and to organize or control schooner traffic.

Education. Mention is made of the closure of a number of schools due to military requisitioning, lack of glass and fuel. Matters on which comment has been made previously.

Folio 7 - Finance. It is reported that 7,000,000 lire in "A" Foros pay-ments have been made.

Folio 2 - Public Safety. The Italian Government is apathetic **725** Black Market.

Remarks on the Carabinieri strike a more satisfactory note but lack of transport is emphasized.

Public Health. Further congratulatory remarks on the American and British Red Cross.

Olive Oil. Bad administration of the national distribution of olive oil.

Folio 1 - Bread Ration. There is ~~an~~ ^{an} emperation at the difference between the ration in Abruzzi and that in Southern Region, emphasized by the export of wheat from Abruzzi-Marche Region to deficiency areas in Southern Region which are receiving a higher ration.

2. Only 2 copies of this report have been received but a wider distribution will be arranged and can include any comment you have to make.

5 Jan 45.

A very illuminating report which I will
send to PEO when you have read it.

W. H. G. G. G.
Captain

Very yours. M.H.G.

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Very yours. *W.H.G.*

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Chief Commissioner.

Attached is submitted for your information/signature/approval.

A summary of the year work in Abruzzi. Thanks
which would interest you.

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JAN 9 1945
P. 51

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TO : HQ ALCOM

FROM: AMG/AC ABRUZZI-MARCHE REGION

No. 532 1 January 1944

YEAR-END SITUATION REPORT
Abruzzi-Marche Region

1. CIVIL AFFAIRS.

During the course of 1944, this Region was responsible for military government in ten Italian provinces, the whole Adriatic slope of the Appennines from Margherita di Savoia to Cattolica. The two southernmost provinces were turned over to Southern Region. The four Abruzzi provinces are now the responsibility of the Italian government, with officers of this Region acting in an advisory capacity only. Military government is still in effect in the four provinces of the Marche, but is being effected through the medium of the regular Italian administrative machinery and by the use of Italian officials.

On 31 December 1943, the Region had 76 American officers and 58 British officers. A disproportionate number of these officers were, however, on detached service and never returned to the Region. The effective strength as of that day was 57 American officers and 48 British officers. This compares with 28 assigned American officers and 52 assigned British officers on 31 December 1944. On the latter date the Region had an even greater effective strength, because 15 American officers and 41 British officers were attached for duty. The totals provide the following comparisons:

Asgd and atchd 31 Dec 43	134
Effective "	105
Asgd and atchd 31 Dec 44	136
Pre-planned Phase III strength	61
Asgd as of 31 Dec 44	80

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Aside from these comparisons, the change in the proportion of American and British officers during the year was the most striking development. On the effective attached and assigned strength at the end of 1944 there were 43 American officers and 93 British officers, compared to 76 Americans and 58 British at the end of 1943.

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2. AGRICULTURE.

Chief agricultural achievement of 1944 was the collection of wheat, which went 5 per cent above the target figure by the end of the year. Total wheat collections in the eight provinces now under Regional control total 233,195 tons; collections in Foggia and Campobasso province were organized under this Region but were completed under Southern Region.

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see M 748

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Since Italian retention laws permit about half the grain produced to be withheld from collection, it is believed that the total crop in the eight provinces of the Region was approximately 500,000 tons. Shipments of wheat to Rome from the Region during the year totaled 14,000 tons.

From the national standpoint, the Region's second most important crop of the year was the Fucino basin potato harvest. From that harvest 6903 tons have been distributed: 3255 tons to Rome for food and 1233 tons to Rome for seed, besides certain distributions in the Region. The present price for potatoes is more attractive to farmers than the price of cereals. It is therefore predicted that unless the Italian government institutes strict control, very large areas of potatoes will be planted in 1945. It is clear that much seed is being retained for that purpose.

2. CIVIL TRANSPORT.

Since arrival in its region, the Civil Transportation Section has organized seven AMG/AC Truck Pools including approximately 500 load-carrying vehicles, licensed some 75 bus lines, and organized a central clearing house for handling civilian and military tire needs.

At the same time, the Regional Civil Transport Officer reports failure to secure adequate spare parts to operate the captured Italian vehicles assigned to the Region and failure to organize or control the schooner traffic on the Adriatic coast of the region.

3. EDUCATION

A total of 294,929 students are enrolled in the schools of the region at the end of the year and 9392 teachers and professors are on the job. Most of the schools are open, except in Pesaro-Urbino province, where only half the elementary schools and none of the secondary schools are open. Military requisitioning and the lack of glass and fuel have closed numerous schools in which courses had begun. Communities are subscribing funds for small and immediate repairs, in which the Genio Civile has co-operated. About one teacher in every twenty has been suspended for investigation of fascist sympathies.

Enrollment statistics are as follows:

Asili	22,987
Elementary schools	232,981
Secondary schools	34,929
Universities	4,032

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PROJECTS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE
JUNE TO DECEMBER, INCLUSIVE

		PROV. AQUILA	PROV. CHIETI	PROV. PESCARA	PROV. TERAMO	PROV. ASCOLI P.	PROV. MACERATA	PROV. ANCONA	PROV. FESARO
BRIDGES	Partially reconstructed	2	2	3	5	-	--	15	5
	Entirely reconstructed	26	11	3	17	25	41	1	8
Temporary wooden Bridges		1	18	17	6	--	10	-	43
Road Diversion Temporary passages Sustaining walls, a.s.o.		74	10	23	33	2	14	-	7
Cleaning of debris (N) of major contracts		2	--	46	-	2	--	2	-
Public Buildings repaired		3	3	10	1	-	-	5	20
Water works and Sewer lines repaired		1	-	7	1	1	-	1	9
Power Station repaired		for a total of 7020 KVA.....							
Power Lines repaired									
		One Cement plant has been put in operation (BOMBA Cement Plant)							

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PROJECTS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE
JUNE TO DECEMBER, INCLUSIVE

	PROV. AQUILA	PROV. CHIETI	PROV. PESCARA	PROV. TERAMO	PROV. ASCOLI P.	PROV. MACERATA	PROV. ANCONA	PROV. FESARO	TOTAL
	2	2	3	5	-	--	15	5	32
	26	11	3	17	25	41	1	8	132
	1	18	17	6	--	10	-	43	95
	74	10	23	33	2	14	-	7	164
s)	2	--	46	-	2	--	2	-	52
	3	3	10	1	-	-	5	20	42
er	1	-	7	1	1	-	11	9	20
	for a total of 7020 KVA.....								16
									6
	One Cement plant has been put in operation (BOMBA Cement Plant)								559

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5. FINANCE.

Principal achievements of the Regional Finance Section have been to bring provincial finance officers to the point of working as a team and to leave no doubts in the minds of Italian officials as to what is expected of them.

Budgets for about 60 statal and parastatal agencies in each province and for about 80 per cent of the 703 communes in the Region, all placed on a quarterly cash basis.

Approximately seven million lire in "A" Force payments have been made in the Abruzzi provinces just north of last winter's battle line, as compensation for assistance given by the Italian civilians of the area to Allied military personnel in German-occupied territory.

6. LABOR.

An organized labor system has been installed in all provinces of the Region, with a Regional office under civilian direction at Ascoli-Piceno. The Italian government has, however, failed to appropriate funds to maintain these offices after the provinces have been turned back to the Italians.

7. LEGAL.

Approximately 8000 cases of all types have been tried in Allied Military courts in the Region since it commenced to function in Italian territory. Accused persons are brought to trial in most cases within a few days of their alleged offenses. At present practically every case is tried by a judicial officer.

Much work has been done towards rehabilitating the Italian judiciary, but there are still many difficulties in inadequate communications and shortage of personnel.

8. MONUMENTS, FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES.

Capt F. H. J. Maxsè, Regional Monuments Officer, completed all his surveys of damage in the Abruzzi provinces and got work underway on all immediately necessary projects, but was forced to go to the hospital before his work in the Marche provinces could be finished. Capt B. Marriott, borrowed from Venezia Region, has continued this work.

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9. PUBLIC SAFETY.

Italian government officials have proved apathetic to the "black market," which has functioned in every season, first in grain, then in potatoes and most recently in olive oil.

The force of carabinieri in the Region has been built up until it is now at full strength. However, the replacement center at Chieti is being kept in operation. Shipments of clothing for the CC.RR. personnel have recently been received, but efficiency is still sharply reduced by lack of transport.

A well-equipped fire brigade is in existence at Ancona, the Region's greatest fire risk, and a system of mutual aid between the Army Fire Service and Italian brigades has been arranged.

10. PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

Approximately 80 tons of medical supplies and between 300 and 400 tons of clothing have been distributed to the population of the Region, particularly in the devastated areas of the Abruzzi, where almost nine months of fighting resulted in the destruction of whole villages. Special medical facilities have been made available to care for the population of those areas during the winter months, and food stock-piles built up for them.

A scheme for control of malaria in Foggia province was completed with very satisfactory results, even before that province was relinquished to Southern Region; few primary cases of malaria were reported there.

A special word of thanks is considered due to the American and British Red Cross personnel for the excellent work it did in helping to re-establish welfare organizations formerly under Fascist control, in distributing clothing and supervising the movement of refugees. Without their help it would have been impossible to carry out the work owing to the shortage of AMG staff.

11. SUPPLY.

The Region's warehouse at Ortona railhead has handled 2958 tons of AMG supplies since 1 July. About 2500 tons of salt have been imported into the region in the last four months. No olive oil has yet been received for the authorized 300-gram ration of December 1944.

This bad administration of the national distribution of olive oil is a most important factor in the failure of the farmers to bring their newly produced oil to the collecting point. In only one province, Teramo, is more oil being voluntarily brought to the warehouses than is being confiscated at the road blocks.

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A fantastic situation exists in respect to the bread ration. This surplus region is expected to live on an insufficient ration of 200 grams while the Southern Region, which is deficient, is given a higher ration. The fact that this Region exceeded its target in grain collection and is exporting large amounts of its grain to other Regions makes it more difficult for the population to understand why there has been no leveling of the ration as indicated by the American president more than two months ago.

The Jesi match factory and the Miliani paper mills at Pioraco and Fabriano, as well as smaller industries, are being gradually reactivated. It is believed that the Region will shortly be self-sufficient in soap.

J. D. Scholtz
J. D. SCHOLTZ,
Lieutenant Colonel,
Executive Officer.

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