

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

785017

ACC

10000/109/784

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10000/109/784

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN SARDINIA
JUNE, JULY 1945

030

Re folio 2 - Brig. Gen. Markley spoke with the Sr Comd. and explained to him steps taken by various Sections. It was agreed that nothing further could be done until officers dispatched to Cardinia returned and made full reports.

ASL
25/6/45

13

Chief Commissioner:

A slightly less gloomy picture of Cardinia

M S L

*Noted by CC
ASL*

17

25

C.S.O. to Executive Commissioner

The report on folio 21, etc., is one apparently compiled by the High Commissioner for Sardinia. It paints a very gloomy picture as for example on folio 20 at I wherein he states that the wheat crop has been a complete failure. This differs radically from the report made by Lt. Col. Albert dated 1 July on file 160/20 where it is stated on folio 35 that "dry weather has taken some toll but estimation of the crop are 80% (upwards) of normal etc" (this about wheat). He goes on to say "we interviewed many farmers and their first reply is that there is nothing and U.S. would have to feed them. But upon further investigation we found their statements greatly exaggerated. As of the opinion that May, being a cool month and although dry, the coolness aided the growing of the grain." Lt. Col. Albert's report was made after Lt. Gensum of A.S. and he had made an inspection trip to gather information in regard to agricultural conditions in Sardinia. A more complete report was written by the Agriculture Sub-Commission after the trip to Sardinia by Major Freeman and Lt. Gensum (see file 103/23). To summarize briefly: Livestock, especially sheep, - position critical because of lack of feed due to drought. Forage situation - very bad. Wheat Report forecasts a 57% reduction for all of Sardinia, however, the report states that Lt. Col. Albert, who has made numerous trips around Sardinia, still believes the wheat crop yield will be 80% of normal. Locusts - Lt. Gensum believes all reports, including that of the High Commissioner, are greatly exaggerated. From the foregoing, it may be assumed that it is a natural tendency for Sardinians to paint as gloomy a picture as possible with the express purpose of interesting the extension of more aid from the Allies or the Italian Government whereas investigations made by Allied personnel show that, although conditions are far from what is desired, they nevertheless are not as bad as reported.

A. B. ARSCHEE
Captain

18 July 45

8

ORIGINAL OF ABOVE MINUTE FILED IN

written by the Agriculture Sub-Commission after the trip to Sardinia by Major Wenzel and Lt. Gattuso (see file 15X/21). No mention is made of the worst, especially sheep, - position critical because of lack of feed due to drought. Foreign attention - very bad. That report forecasts a 37% reduction for all of Sardinia, however, the report states that Lt. Col. Albert, who has made numerous trips around Sardinia, still believes the wheat crop yield will be 80% of normal. Locusts - Lt. Gattuso believes all reports, including that of the High Commissioner, are greatly exaggerated. From the foregoing, it may be assumed that it is a natural tendency for Sardinians to paint as gloomy a picture as possible with the express purpose of interesting the extension of war aid from the Allies or the Italian Government whereas investigations made by Allied personnel show that, although conditions are far from what is desired, they nevertheless are not as bad as reported.

18 July 45

A. D. ALBERT
Captain

86

ORIGINAL OF ABOVE MINUTE 31:3 ON
FILE 836/12C, COPY ALSO ON 160/12C

SH PWT
(see 18) PWT

4043

Date JUL 17 1945 (16)

INTL		INTL	
No.	To.	No.	Fr.
	Vice President		ECONOMIC SECTION
	Brig. Emerson		Production Div.
	Col. Walton		Supply Div.
	Col. Donmore		Agriculture Sub-Comm.
	Lt. Col. Moore		Commerce
	Mr. Hughes		Finance
	Maj. Smith		Food
	Maj. Clark		Industry
	Maj. Teoby		Labor
	Capt. Atkins		P W & U
	Capt. Williams		Transportation
✓	Capt. Highland		Chief Commissioner
	Lt. Dioreto		Executive Commissioner ✓
	Lt. Morgan		Civil Affairs Section
	Lt. Bronsberg		Establishment Section
	Requisition Br.		Attention:
	Price Control Br.		
	Message Center		

For appropriate Action	Note & Return
Remarks/Recommendations	Signature
Dispatch	Investigation & Report
Information ✓	File
Circulation & Return	Note & Return

REMARKS:
 I believe that routing of this letter to
 Econ Sec was erroneous. WMB

(14)

3742

(CAPT ARNOLOV)

Date JUL 14 1945¹⁵

To.	From.
Vice President	ECONOMIC SECTION
Brig. Anderson	Production Div.
Col. Dalton	Supply Div.
Col. Donahoe	Agriculture Div.-Cons.
Lt. Col. Moore	Commerce
Mr. Hughes	Finance
Maj. Smith	Food
Maj. Clark	Industry
Maj. Tooby	Labor
Capt. Atkins	I W & U
Capt. Williams	Transportation
Capt. Highland	Chief Commissioner
Lt. DiLoreto	Executive Commissioner
Lt. Moran	Civil Affairs Section
Lt. Arensburg	Establishment Section
Requisition Br.	Attention:
Price Control Br.	
Message Center	

For appropriate action	Note & Return
Remarks/Recommendations	Signature
Dispatch	Investigation & Report etc.
Information	File
Circulation & Return	Note & Return
REL. REC:	

I am informed that the Exec. Comm's office has now seen the attached letter. Should Exec. Com. do any processing or examining of it before forwarding to Exec. Comm.?

Send to Ex. Comm.

[Signature]

Subject: Conditions in SARDINIA

Land Forces Sub Commission A.C.
(M. M. I. A.)
ROME.
Q/53/22

12 July 1945.

To:-

Office of Executive Commissioner,
V.P. Economic Section.

JUL 17 1945

Herewith extract from a report of tour made by Lt. Col. Lester R. Albert in Sardinia, during the period 26 - 30 June, in case this information has not reached you direct.

"Accompanied by Lieut. German, Agriculture Section A.C. Rome, made a two day inspection trip of agriculture conditions on the island and inspected military installations at Nuoro. Went North on the Eastern road and returned by the Central road. Report as follows:-

1. Grain. The greatest grain producing area is in the Southern part of the island, South of the range of mountains. There have not been any grasshoppers in this area. The dry weather has taken some toll but estimate the crop as 80% (upwards) of normal, the heads were good length and in most cases well developed kernels. In the Provinces of Nuoro and Sassari where less grain is grown, the grasshoppers and drought have done more destruction, but still there is considerable amount of grain produced there this year. We interviewed many farmers and their first reply is that there is nothing and U.S. would have to feed them. But upon further investigation we found their statements greatly exaggerated. As of the opinion that May, being a cool month, and although dry, the coolness aided the growing of grain.

2. Poison and Famine. As of the opinion that the drought and grasshoppers have taken a great toll in both. Very little hay was produced and farmers are not selling any to the Army due to the shortage. In spite of the poor pasture, cattle are in very good condition for grasshoppers and this time of year. The sheep are mostly milkers and of a very poor quality and are not in very good condition. Contrary to reports of stock dying from starvation could find no such cases when further questioning, the reports were uncorroborated.

3. Fruits, Nuts and Grapes. Fruit crop is normal production this year. The grapes and nuts look healthy and promise a normal crop.

55/8
14
E. J. ...
M. ...

"Accompanied by Lieut. Germain, Agriculture Section A.O. Rome, made a two day inspection trip of agriculture conditions on the island and inspected military installations at Muro. Went North on the Eastern road and returned by the Central road. Report as follows:-

1. Grain. The greatest grain producing area is in the Southern part of the island, South of the range of mountains. There have not been any grasshoppers in this area. The dry weather has taken some toll but estimates the crop as 80% (upwards) of normal, the heads were good length and in most cases well developed kernels. In the Provinces of Muro and Sassari where less grain is grown, the grasshoppers and drought have done more destruction, but still there is considerable amount of grain produced there this year. We interviewed many farmers and their first reply is that there is nothing and U.S. would have to feed them. But upon further investigation we found their statements greatly exaggerated. As of the opinion that May, being a cool month, and although dry, the coolness aided the growing of grain.

2. Ferme and Pasture. As of the opinion that the drought and grasshoppers have taken a great toll in both. Very little hay was produced and farmers are not selling any to the Army due to the shortage. In spite of the poor pasture, cattle are in very good condition for grass and this time of year. The sheep are mostly millers and of a very poor quality and are not in very good condition. Contrary to reports of stock dying from starvation could find no such cases when further questioning, the reports were unfounded.

3. Fruits, Huts and Graves. Fruit crop is normal production this year. The graves and huts look healthy and promise a normal crop.

4. Grasshoppers. In various trips up the island have observed the great number of grasshoppers, were plentiful in the vicinity of Macomer and farther North. In early May we authorized the loan of 2000 salvage Army tanks to the High Commissioner to combat them in the crawling stage, in all my travels throughout the island the past 2 months only saw four civilians destroying grasshoppers. In certain areas when in the crawling stage, millions could have been collected and destroyed with a little effort. We authorized the transfer of 150 tons, with authority to draw 300 tons more if required, of sulphur chloride from Army Depots on sale to the High Commissioner's Office; only 30 tons were collected."

3741



F. J. Macaul
F. J. Macaul Col.

For Major General.

M. I. A.

See F. 15/16

203/204

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was

Com 13

E/7865

JUL

JUL 021915B

ROUTINE

CAGLIARI (SARDINIA) HIGH COMMISSIONER
DIRECTOR STARS AND STRIPES INFO ALLIED COMMISSION ROME

JUL 13 1945

IN CLEAR.

N.0391 GAB VOLUME N. 2 of the 13th of June 021 STARS AND STRIPES has published my interview from which it seems that the ALLIED COMMISSION has assigned inadequate naval means for transportation of cattle from SARDINIA to the continent. On the contrary The ALLIED COMMISSION has agreed with all my requests for said means to such extent that the "FANNY BRUNER" was kept as superfluous because of particular reasons caused by the internal situation of the Island and returned to the Allies. As for the shipment of coal by rail, the stocks imported from SARDINIA during March last should have been enough up to the month of September only that a greater consumption of that product than that foreseen, due to the special situation has exhausted the supplies so that they are enough only up to the 16th of June and not up to the 16th of July as published by the newspaper. Even on that occasion the ALLIED COMMISSION has generously helped us in our needs and allowed a further supply of more than 3000 tons from SARDINIA, which has occurred during my absence and therefore was not within my knowledge at the moment of said interview and which has improved conditions considerably.

HIGH COMMISSIONER PINNA

DLST

- ACTION: STARS & STRIPES
- Info: Chief Commissioner
- Econ Sec
- FR Br
- Tn S/C 2
- Coal Div
- Agric Div
- File 2
- Fleet
- Ex Commissioner

3749

4043

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Transportation Sub-Commission

AMMOC/1d

JWP

Our ref.: AC/523/19/Tn 3

30 June 1945

SUBJECT: Report on visit to Sardinia
23-28 June '45.

JUL 11 1945

TO : See Distribution

[Handwritten signature]

1. LIVESTOCK

(a) A meeting was held in Cagliari on Monday 25 June at which were present the High Commissioner and his Agricultural adviser.

The High Commissioner expressed his regret at the situation which had arisen over the "PANNY BRUNNER", saying that he had to some extent been misinformed on the livestock position, and that when he returned to Sardinia after the meeting held in this office on 9 June, he found that owing to the doubling of the "LANGANO" schedule it would be impossible to make use of the "PANNY BRUNNER". A signal to this effect was sent by him to AC Headquarters on Sunday 24th June.

A further reason given was that during the period of re-fitting of the "PANNY BRUNNER" the situation deteriorated sharply and animals, particularly sheep, got so thin that it was impossible for them to travel in their weak state. The minimum live weight requirement in Rome was stated to be 300 Kilos for cattle and 30 kilos for sheep. This situation should have been visualised before hand.

On the question of price the main trouble was stated to be the cost of transportation. This applies mainly to sheep, for which the cost of transport from Sardinia to Rome, is approximately 1200 lire per head. The selling price of sheep varies with supply and demand, while that of cattle is fixed, and the cost of transportation for the *Aug* is

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A further reason given was that during the period of re-fitting of the "FANNY BRUNNER" the situation deteriorated sharply and animals, particularly sheep, got so thin that it was impossible for them to travel in their weak state. The minimum live weight requirement in Rome was stated to be 350 Kilos for cattle and 30 kilos for sheep. This situation should have been visualised before hand.

On the question of price the main trouble was stated to be the cost of transportation. This applies mainly to sheep, for which the cost of transport from Sardinia to Rome, is approximately 1200 lire per head. The selling price of sheep varies with supply and demand, while that of cattle is fixed, and the cost of transportation for the latter is more in proportion. However by the end of July few cattle and probably no sheep, will be available, and it was therefore decided to cancel the schooner PIN ANTONIO (which had been allocated to run between Olbia and Civitavecchia with sheep) as from 30th June. The "LANGANO" will continue to load to capacity until end of July, when it is probable that she will have to be taken off the run.

The question of internal transportation does not constitute a major problem, though in the early days more animals could have been moved if there had been a larger allocation of railway coal. This situation no longer exists. Appendix "A" shows State Railway cars available in Sardinia.

(Info:- Nov Rail - Rail Div)

Copy to : LEXEC. ~~Copy to~~

(Ref 4043/2/LEC dated 21 June)

(Copy Necessary)

- (b) On Tuesday 26th June a visit was paid to Sassari, where a meeting was held with the High Commissioner and the Chairman of the sheepgrowers' Association, at which the decisions regarding transportation made at the Cagliari meeting were confirmed. Further details of the meeting which was primarily of an agricultural nature, will be given in Major Fromeman's report (Agricultural Sub-Comm.)
- (c) On Wednesday 26th June a visit was made to Olbia by Italian seaplane, with a view to seeing livestock unloaded from trains and loaded into "LANGANO". The cattle were very thin, but generally speaking in not too bad a condition. All the sheep on the other hand were in a very bad state, and Major Fromeman stated that in his opinion they were unfit for human consumption and he considered it a waste of shipping space to export any further sheep.
- (d) The final situation is therefore that the transportation of livestock from Sardinia is from now on confined to the shipment of cattle per "LANGANO" from Olbia to Civitavecchia, and that this is likely to cease at the end of July, after which there will be no further call to ship livestock until the late autumn after there has been some rainfall. For the future, the High Commissioner has been told that no further emergency moves will be considered by A.C. unless a certificate is forthcoming stating a) All prices are agreed, b) no internal transportation problems exist, c) the cargo to be moved is immediately available and that there will be no delays to shipping.

2. COAL

- (a) A meeting was held in Cagliari on Monday 25th June at which were present the High Commissioner, the Head of the State Railways in Sardinia, and his Chief Engineer. They were apparently unaware that the allocation of imported coal for Sardinia was 1900/2000 tons per month, and requested confirmation of this from Coal Section A.C. This has already been given. Stock on hand at 1 January '45 was 1700 tons. 8346 were imported in January, making a total of 10,046 tons, which they understood had to last

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- For the future, the High Commissioner has been told that no further emergency moves will be considered by A.C. unless a certificate is forthcoming stating a) All prices are agreed, b) no internal transportation problems exist, c) the cargo to be moved is immediately available and that there will be no delays to shipping.

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They were apparently unaware that the allocation of imported coal for Sardinia was 1900/2000 tons per month, and requested confirmation of this from Coal Section A.C. This has already been given. Stock on hand at 1 January '45 was 1700 tons. 8346 were imported in January, making a total of 10,046 tons, which they understood had to last them until the end of September, which would allow them 1116 tons per month.

Up to the 25th June they have consumed 7862 tons at an average rate of 1310 tons per month. Appendix "B" shows the consumption of imported coal from March to June '45, during which period the average monthly consumption was 1965 tons.

(Info-Action:- Coal Div. Commerce S/O
Rail Div)

- (b) The question was raised whether the production of the Sardinian mines could be increased by increasing the allotment of imported coal for haulage of Sardinian coal.

The answer was in the negative, in view of the fact that the sulcis coal is carried by train to San Antonio where it is loaded into ships for export, with the exception of 15,000 tons per month for the Island, for gas, electricity, etc. This is distributed by trains burning sulcis coal for the most part. (There are approximately 12 locos in service fitted with sulcis burning fireboxes).

(Info:- Coal Div., Commerce S/C
Rail Div.)

(c) With regard to Seui mine, it is required to move 4000 tons of powdered coal before the anthracite can be reached. 300 tons of additional imported coal would clear this powdered coal from Seui to Arbetax after which about 25 tons of anthracite per day could be produced. This mine is served by a narrow-gauge line on which there are no sulcis-burning locos.

No other difficulties are being experienced with the railways from Seui to the distribution points.

(Info:- Coal Div., Commerce S/C
Rail Div.)

(d) At the present time four cattle trains per week are being run from Macomer to Oloia. These are operating within the present railways allocation of 2000 tons of imported coal per month, and in view of the drought conditions prevailing, with consequent shortage of livestock suitable and available for export, it is recommended that there should be no further increase in the coal allocation on this account.

(Info:- Coal Div., Commerce S/C
Rail Div.)

M. M. McClure
M.M. McCURE
Major, R.A.

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Rail Div.)

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(Info:- Coal Div., Commerce S/C
Rail Div.)

A.M. McClure
A.M. McCLURE
Major, R.A.

DISTRIBUTION:

- Director
- Deputy Director
- Chief, Movements Div.
- Planning Staff
- Movements Rail
- " Shipping
- Rail Division (Tx 4)

3138

- Ports & Warehouse Div.
- Economic Section
- Agricultural S/C.
- Coal Division, Commerce S/C
- Food S/C
- Public Relations Branch

APPENDIX "A"

State Railway Cars available in Sardinia

150 - Open and flat (100 of which with damaged floors, and can therefore only be utilized for certain commodities i- hay in bales, timber etc.)

For ordinary requirements of transportation in the Island the following cars are in continuous use :-

200 - Closed cars for cereals - food - cattle for the Island - except - etc.

40 Closed cars for military transportation.

200 - Open cars with high sides for the transport of coal from Sulcis to Iglesias, coal imported for the consumption of the Island, military transportation etc.

100 - Open cars with high sides (damaged floors) for military transportation, cork, straw, tiles etc.

For ordinary requirements of transportation in the Island the following cars are in continuous use :-

- 200 - Closed cars for cereals - food - cattle for the Island - about 100 etc.
- 40 - Closed cars for military transportation.
- 200 - Open cars with high sides for the transport of coal from Sulais to Iglesias, coal imported for the consumption of the Island, military transportation etc.
- 100 - Open Cars with high sides (damaged floors) for military transportation, cork, straw, tiles etc.

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COAL CONSUMPTION = MARCH TO JUNE 1945 (IN METRIC TONS)

	STATE RAILWAYS	SOUTHERN RAILWAYS	SUPPLEMENTARY RAIL	SARDINIAN RAILWAYS
MARCH 1945 - Monthly consumption	1364	61	395	222
Weekly average	273	12	79	44
APRIL 1945 - Monthly consumption	884	100	284	151
Weekly average	221	25	71	38
MAY 1945 - Monthly Consumption	816	73	288	184
Weekly average	204	18	72	46
JUNE 1945 - Monthly Consumption	880	110	242	154
Weekly average	220	27	60	38
TOTAL CONSUMPTION - March	1364	61	395	222
April	884	100	284	151
May	816	73	288	184
June	880	110	242	154
	3944	344	1209	711
TOTAL.....	232	20	71	42
	986	86	302	178
Weekly average				
Monthly average				

N.B. June figures cover the period up to the 23/6/45, and do not include the last estimated consumption for this week equal to preceding averages (408 tons) to 2039 and the total monthly average rises from 1.965 to 2.015 tons.

CAGLIARI 25 June 1945

COAL CONSUMPTION - MARCH TO JUNE 1945 (IN METRIC TONS) APPENDIX "B"

	STATE RAILWAYS	SOUTHERN RAILWAYS	SUPPLEMEN TARY RAIL	SARDINIAN RAILWAYS	GAS WORKS	MISCELL.	TOTAL CONSUMP.
Consumption	1364	61	395	222	375	294	2711
per day	273	12	79	44	75	58	542
Consumption	884	100	284	151	300	120	1839
per day	221	25	71	38	75	30	459
Consumption	816	73	288	184	300	20	1681
per day	204	18	72	46	75	5	420
Consumption	580	110	242	154	245	=	1631
per day	220	27	60	38	61	=	408
	1364	61	395	222	375	294	2711
	884	100	284	151	300	120	1839
	816	73	288	184	300	20	1681
	580	110	242	154	245	=	1631
TOTAL.....	3944	344	1209	711	1220	434	7862
	232	20	71	42	71	25	462
	986	86	302	178	305	108	1965
per day average							
per day average							

the period up to the 23/6/45, and do not include the last week of current month. With an assumption for this week equal to preceding averages (408 tons) the total June consumption reaches a monthly average risen from 1.965 to 2.015 tons.

COPY

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 194
AGRICULTURE SUB-COMMISSION

AGR/114

6 July 1945

JUL 10 1945

SUBJECT: Report on Agricultural Situation in Sardinia as of June 25, 1945

TO : Economic Section, (Attention: Gen. McKinley)

1. Major Froneman and Lt. Germann, of Agriculture Subcommittee, made an inspection trip to all provinces of Sardinia during the period June 23-29 to check on reports of conditions existing in Sardinia because of locust plagues, drought and other miscellaneous reasons. These reports had been issued by the High Commissioner for Sardinia, as well as other Italian officials in Sardinia, and they have received considerable space in the Italian press and also in the Stars and Stripes.

2. The above-mentioned agricultural officers contacted the High Commissioner for Sardinia, Departmental Inspectorate, the Provincial Ispettorati, the Italian Director of R. Osservatorio Fitopatologia of Sardinia, MMIA American Chief Liaison Officer, Sardinia Railway Officials, representatives of livestock associations and at least fifty farmers scattered throughout the three provinces of Sardinia.

3. This is a summary of independent reports submitted by Major Froneman and Lt. Germann, inasmuch as they did not travel together all the time they were in Sardinia.

4. The subjects with which they were chiefly concerned were:

- (1) Livestock and forage situation.
- (2) Wheat production
- (3) The extent of damage caused by locusts.

(1) Livestock and Forage

The livestock situation, especially for sheep, is critical. Sheep presently are in very poor condition because of lack of feed as a result of the drought, and this condition is further aggravated by their infestation with internal parasites. Because of this poor condition, because the price of sheep in Rome is not fixed but subject to the fluctuation of supply and demand, and because transportation, marketing and slaughtering charges per sheep from Sardinia amount to 1,073 lire, the farmers are not assured of an economical return for any sheep sent to Rome, therefore, they hesitated in shipping. In addition, there is a ready market in Sardinia for any sheep in medium to good condition at approximately 50 lire per kilo.

Cattle are not suffering to as great an extent as sheep, but they also are losing considerable weight. This fact, however, is a normal condition at this season of the year. Cattle are still in fit condition for slaughter and will continue to be sent to Rome for sometime inasmuch as the fixed price in Rome for beef assures them of an adequate return.

See No 9

(7)

The presence of foot and mouth disease throughout Sardinia during the past several months has limited the normal export of Sardinian cattle to the mainland. Exports at present can only be for slaughter.

The forage situation is extremely critical because Sardinia is presently experiencing one of the worst droughts in its history. Because of the drought and because of locust damages in the northern provinces, pasture lands are practically barren of feed at this time. However, stubble fields, where much of the grain has recently been harvested, offer some temporary relief for the next 30-40 days. Between the time the stubble fields have been completely grazed and the time when the fall rains set in, the feed situation will be most critical. Some movement of livestock within the island has taken place, but possibilities of moving cattle to better forage areas are very limited.

Recommendation:

That the livestock and grazing situation in Sardinia be regarded as an emergency situation and that emergency measures be adopted to cope with,

- a. Cheap railway and freight rates to remove as many animals from Sardinia as can be marketed and slaughtered.
- b. Investigate the possibility of surplus forage on the mainland that can be baled and moved to Sardinia for maintenance of the better livestock. This may necessitate subsidizing freight charges, as well as ultimate cost of forage to the consumer.
- c. Investigate the possibility of lower freight rates and selling costs on exports for slaughter and that a fixed price be established for sheep as well as beef in the Rome market.
- d. To intensify the work on disease prevention and the control of parasites.
- e. Encourage movement of straw in Sardinia from surplus to deficit areas.
- f. That priority be given to the maintenance of the better cattle, such as the Brown Swiss herds, in preference to the lower grade native cattle which are better able to maintain themselves under adverse conditions, if only limited supplies of forage can be sent to Sardinia.

(2) Wheat

The greatest wheat production in Sardinia is from the southern province of Cagliari and here a 30% reduction from 1944 was forecast on June 15. In the provinces of Nuoro and Sassari, which are not as well adapted to wheat production as they are for grazing lands, the forecast reductions from 1944 are 43% and 45%, respectively, or an average forecast reduction of 37% for Sardinia as a whole. The total production for Sardinia for 1945 as forecast on June 15 is 85,000 tons and is not adequate to meet the legal retention of 99,000 tons that were made in 1942-43. Much of the wheat on the island is of the durum type and of fair quality. Threshing of the wheat has already started in some of the lowest yielding areas. Better yields are expected as the threshing season progresses. Many of the producers contacted on this trip reported reduction from 1944 of as much as 50%, but Lt Col Lester R. Albert, MMIA American Chief Liaison Officer, has made numerous trips about the island and feels

(6)

that the 1945 production will be about 80% of that in 1944. The Agricultural officials feel that the 50% production figure is too pessimistic, while the 80% production is perhaps on the optimistic side, and present indications are that the June 15 forecast reduction of 37% may remain quite firm.

(3) Locusts

Lt Germann is firmly convinced that the reports of the Chief High Commissioner, as well as the public press reports on the damage caused by the locusts, have been grossly exaggerated. The attached table worked out in cooperation with Dr. Francesco Rosselli, Director of the Station of Osservatorio Fitopatologia, shows the percentage of area of crops having grasshopper damage. Locusts or grasshoppers are an annual occurrence in Sardinia. Considerable work has been done in locating the areas in which grasshopper eggs are usually deposited and carrying out poisoning campaigns at the time they hatch. Sodium arsenite, which is the poison commonly used for their control, was not available in adequate supply in 1945 (even though it was requisitioned in September 1944, it was delivered too late for the 1945 control campaign), and substitute poisons were not used to the full extent to which they were available because of difficulties in handling.

5. To meet the emergency conditions found existing in Sardinia, plans are under way to locate any surplus forage on the mainland that can be baled and moved to deficit areas in Sardinia. Even though surplus forage is found, it will be necessary to get reductions in freight rates so that it can be delivered to farmers in Sardinia at prices they can afford to pay. If reduction in freight rates can be secured for any surplus forage which may be located, it is planned to have authorized purchasers come from Sardinia to take care of the necessary transactions. It will be possible to ship it back to Sardinia on the SS Longano which brings livestock to the mainland from Sardinia.

The reports on the yield of wheat per hectare will be secured as the threshing season progresses so as to be able to check on the June 15 forecast production.

Needs for sodium arsenite used in the preparation of poison bait for control of anticipated locusts in 1946 are now being determined, so that the needed supply can be secured in time.

(sgd) H. M. Bergersen, Capt, OMC f
JAMES M. MERRITT or
Director

Enclosure

Table as per para (3) Locusts

3734

5

Percent of Area of Crops
Having Grasshopper Injury

Crop	Percent of crop area having grasshopper injury			Notes
	Cagliari	Sassari	Nuoro	
Wheat	1%	1%	10%	Damage from slight to total destruction on percentage of crop indicated
Oats	1%	15%	11%	Damage from slight to total destruction on percentage crop indicated
Barley	1%	10%	7%	Damage from slight to total destruction on percentage crop indicated
Fava	none	none	none	-
Tomato	none	none	none	-
Grapes	less 1%	5%	5%	Injury greatest on new planted vineyards
Fruit & nuts	slight damage	slight damage	slight damage	
Pastures	Production 7% reduction	Production 30% reduction	Production 33% reduction	Pastures suffered great reduction in production
Corn	slight damage small acreage planted	small acreage planted	small acreage planted	Corn only important in irrigated area
Potatoes	slight damage small acreage planted	great damage small acreage planted	great damage small acreage planted	Potatoes non important crop on the island
Alfalfa	slight damage small acreage in province	great damage small acreage in province	great damage small acreage in province	Small acreage of alfalfa on the island
Vegetables	slight damage important vegetable production area	damage considerable	damage considerable	

The above percentages were suggested by Dr. Francesco Bosselli, Director of the Station of B. Osservatorio Fitopatologia, who is the entomology specialist of the island, Prof. Francesco Passino, Inspector General for Sardegna and Dr. Felice Medda, Chief Inspector for the Province of Cagliari.

4043

File

(4)

Extract of Minutes of Executive Commissioner's Meeting held on 22 June 1945.

Situation in Sardinia.

Ex C had received a gloomy report from USIA Liaison Officer on Sardinia, which had also appeared in the "Stars and Stripes." OC was anxious to send two officers from Econ Sec to see what help could be given. Econ Sec said there was a dispute over shipping, which had not been used to the maximum extent.

Ex C stated that there was a shortage of imported coal, and there was a possibility that the trains would stop running if further supplies were not received before 15 July. There was enough food until the end of August and then increased shipments would have to be made. He suggested that USRA should be asked to help. Econ Sec to ask USRA Liaison Officer.

97

(2)

Ref: 4043/2/EC.

21 June 1945.

SUBJECT: Economic Conditions in SARDINIA.

TO : A/Vice President,
Economic Section.

(1)

Folio 13 file 836/EC

1. The monthly report from the Allied Commission Liaison Officer in SARDINIA paints an extremely gloomy picture on the economy of the island. The "Stars and Stripes" carries the same story in its issue today. The Italian Government should be drawn to these conditions and particularly to the facts as reported:

X

- (a) that it will be necessary to continue the import of flour after the end of July;
- (b) the export of animals should be expedited, if possible;
- (c) the reactions to the price for the 1945 grain crop;
- (d) the lack of imported coal;
- (e) the lack of fishing materials;
- (f) the lack of transport in CAGLIARI;
- (g) the lack of tyres all over the island.

2. The Chief Commissioner would like one or two Allied officers to visit SARDINIA including an agriculture officer, if they can be spared. Will you let me have your comments.

POST FILE
S/L
3/19/47

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

MSL/JG.

Seen by CSO

see M.3

AA

ER Horton
26/6

82

Stricken Sardinia Is Problem For New Italian Government

By Sgt. GINO BARDI
Staff Correspondent

ROME, June 20.—A stark picture of Sardinia as a fearful "dust bowl" due to drought and cattle disease, stricken by a tremendous invasion of grasshoppers, was revealed recently by General Pietro Pinna, High Commissioner of Sardinia.

Like the seven plagues of Biblical Egypt, one calamity after another has hit Sardinia, the post-war year, and the specter of famine faces the island unless aid is soon forthcoming.

Sardinia's worst year in many decades began last autumn, when pig-raising was seriously hit by disease resulting in a loss of two-thirds of all swine stock, according to General Pinna. At the same time, cattle stock was affected by mouth disease which resulted in a mortality rate of 20 percent up to as high as 100 percent in some districts.

During 1942, Sardinia raised 227,000 head of cattle and 1,150,000 pigs, according to the Information Division of the Allied Commission. Extraordinary efforts to save the major part of this year's livestock were made in 1943 because of an insufficient supply of vaccine.

The remaining stocks of pigs, cattle and sheep are just dying of starvation because of the continued drought which has destroyed extensive areas of pasture land. Following the lack of normal rain last autumn, water and spring there hasn't been a drop of rain since January 22. Fields and pastures are baked dry.

SAY, LIVESTOCK

Part of the livestock might still be saved, General Pinna reports, if it were possible to ship it to pasture in Italy proper. The two states available to Sardinian authorities for this purpose, however, are capable of transporting only 1,000 head of cattle and 2,000 sheep each week. This is considered inadequate to make any serious headway to relieve the situation. The stock has to be prematurely slaughtered in the meantime to save it from slow death by starvation.

In addition to the drought, an unusual lowering of temperature in the early days of May brought on a frost which destroyed the late grain just about ripening, and damaged grapes in the most important localities.

Following the unprecedented frost, hot east winds panned a steady hand over the island, burying crops and grazing along the coast, and in the hills and mountains already hard hit by the drought.

The invasion of grasshoppers came at the end of March, devastating vast areas of practically all vegetation. General Pinna estimates that 250,000 hectares of land (about 625,000 acres) — including cultivated fields of cereals, peas and broad-beans, as well as pasture — were ravaged by the grasshoppers.

ONCE A FEED BAG

Famed as one of the chief granaries of ancient Rome, Sardinia

SUPREME COMMANDER DECORATED



Field Marshal Sir Harold R. L. G. Alexander (left) chats with Prince Ludovico Chigi Albani after the Supreme Allied Commander, MTO, received the Grand Cross of Merit of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta at the headquarters of the Order of Malta, in Rome. Prince Albani, Grand Master of the Order, made the presentation.

Staff Photo by Pvt. Joe Redmond

Postwar Problem Solved By Hill-Billy Troubadour

By Sgt. DEAN BOSWELL
Staff Correspondent

NAPLES, June 20.—A one-man recuperation program got underway here the other day when a 39-year-old 1st Armored Division veteran with 117 points acquired a "git-tar" and started strumming his way back toward the hill-billy music circuit. When sleepy-voiced Pvt. Dixie Lee of Cincinnati, Ohio, joined the Army in 1941, his guitar-playing and soulful songs of mountain romances, trains that always ran late, and sparkling boogie-woogie had carried him over the U. S. and to spots on many broadcasting stations.



Field Marshal Sir Harold R. L. G. Alexander (left) chats with Prince Lodovico Chigi Albani after the Supreme Allied Commander, MFO, received the Grand Cross of Merit of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta at the headquarters of the Order of Malta, in Rome. Prince Albani, Grand Master of the Order, made the presentation. (Staff Photo by Prof. Joe Redmond)

Postwar Problem Solved By Hill-Billy Troubadour

By Sgt DEAN BOSWELL
Staff Correspondent

NAPLES, June 20—A one-man reconversion program got underway here the other day when a 39-year-old 1st Armored Division veteran with 17 points acquired a "git-lar" and started strumming his way back toward the hill-billy music circuit. When sleepy-voiced Pvt. Dixie Lee of Cincinnati, Ohio, joined the Army in 1941, his guitar-playing and soulful songs of mountain romances, trains that always ran late, and sparkling border serenades had carried him over the U. S. and 10 spots on many broadcasting stations.

AP Decision Hailed By Marshall Field

CHICAGO, June 20 (AP)—

Marshall Field editor and publisher of The Chicago Sun, whose application for membership in the Associated Press was denied three years ago, termed "most gratifying" the Supreme Court's decision holding that AP by-laws violate the Sherman Anti-trust Act. "It's important here in the fact that the Government's loss didn't establish real freedom of the press has now been won," Field said in a statement.

The Chicago Sun applied for Associated Press membership in 1942 but the application was rejected by AP members in a vote. The Government filed suit Aug. 25, 1942, to compel AP to open its membership to any newspaper willing to pay its proportionate share of the news-gathering cost. Col. Robert B. McCormick, publisher of The Chicago Tribune and an AP director, said the text of the decision means that as a next step, "we must go to Congress."

**A Year Ago Today
In Stars And Stripes**

SAVE LIVESTOCK
Part of the livestock might still be saved, General Finca reports, if it were possible to ship it to pasture in Italy proper. The two ships available to Sardinia, authorities for this purpose, however, are capable of transporting only 1,000 head of cattle and 2,000 sheep each week. This is considered inadequate to make any serious headway to relieve the situation. The stock has to be prematurely slaughtered in the meantime to save it from slow death by starvation.

In addition to the drought, an unusual lowering of temperature in the early days of May brought on a frost which destroyed the late grains just about ripening, and damaging strawberries in the most exposed localities.

Following the unprecedented frock hot east winds passed a deadly haze over the island, burning cereals and grains along the coast, and in the hills and mountains already hard hit by the drought.

The invasion of grasshoppers came at the end of March, devastating vast acres of practically all vegetation. General Finca estimates that 200,000 hectares of land (about 525,000 acres) — including cultivated fields of cereals, peas and broad-beans, as well as pastures — were ravaged by the grasshoppers.

ONCE A FEED BAG
Famed as one of the chief grain areas of ancient Rome, Sardinia now faces a serious food shortage. General Finca reports that two-thirds of the wheat crop is already irreparably lost and the quotas assigned to the island people's grain areas are sufficient to last only a month.

The Sardinian Consultative Council and local labor organizations have already recommended steps to make certain the next planting gets under way efficiently. Among suggestions is the payment of an indemnity to farmers who have suffered loss. It has also been recommended that the exportation of livestock be permitted and that ships be made available as well as the coal necessary to run extra trains to transport the cattle from the interior to the ports.

The situation is further complicated by the critical problem of transportation, reports General Finca. Under the Fascist regime, locomotives were put into use on the railroad system unable to utilize the native Sardinian coal. Reserves of exported coal will be exhausted by July 16 and General Finca forewarns that island activity will be completely paralyzed unless there is immediate aid. Even now, he says, some towns have been isolated from vital centers for months because of lack of transportation.

An island of 9,200 square miles with a population in 1936 of 1,134,120, Sardinia always required a surplus by its people to wrest life from the stony and unproductive soil. Their present plight, part of the bitter fruit of Fascism and war, is one of the many difficult problems confronting the new Italian Government.

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1867