

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

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ITAL ARM
NOV., DEC.

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ITAL ARMY, SECURITY INTELLIGENCE, MONTHLY REPORT
NOV., DEC. 1944

C.S.O.

Pl. see interesting report in time ref.

FRIULI and CREMONA combat ops.

C.S.O. (Ext. 735)

H. Mason spec.

The usual bomb test and study, unpowered station out in

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SUBJECT: Security Intelligence - Monthly
Report - Italian Army

CONFIDENTIAL

Land Forces Sub Com. A.C.
(M.E.I.A.)
S/I/106/1

7 Dec 44

-8 DEC 1944

TO : Hq A.A.I. (For G.S.I.)

Copy to: A.C.

Ref Appx "A" to our I/106 of 10 May.

Herewith report for month of November.

A. GENERAL SECURITY

1. Morale

For the first time in the history of the Italian Army formations of Italian troops wearing British kaki battle dress and equipped throughout with British arms and vehicles paraded through Rome on two different occasions this month on their way to the front. On both occasions the citizens of Rome crowded the route to give "these Italian tomies" - as one onlooker remarked - a warm and what appeared to be a genuine God speed. These troops were part of the FRIULI and CREMONA Combat Gps who had completed their basic training in the ANNEVINC area.

Most of the Roman papers gave these troops a good write-up and commented favourably on the fact that their clothing, modern equipment and arms are of a quality never previously possessed by Italian soldiers. One Roman paper said, "Our soldiers were not wearing their familiar 'grigio verde' uniforms. This is of no importance. They wear the tricolor on their arms. They are well clothed, well armed and well fed. They will not fall exhausted by the wayside for they travel in vehicles." This paper went on to thank the British for making it possible for the sons of Italy to restore the Honour of their country.

All reports indicate that the morale of these troops is high. One soldier of the "Friuli" remarked to a

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All reports indicate that the morale of these troops is high. One soldier of the "Friuli" Gp remarked to a British officer, "In two months we will achieve more than the Allies have achieved in two years!"

There is no doubt that both the morale of these Combat Gps and that of Italian troops working with the Allies has improved steadily. This improvement is confirmed by personal liaison with the Italians and is mirrored in the Italian Press which has been giving a greater and more spontaneous publicity to the Italian Army, not only in its more glamorous Combat role, but also in its invaluable role as a "silent Army" working for the Allied effort in the shape of muleteers, pack transport companies, engineer and signal units and pioneer labour.

AD 13/12

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(2)

2. Fascist - Pro-Germ. - Anti Allied Activity

Nothing to Report

3. Illegal Storage of Arms

Nothing to Report.

4. Political Activity

Nothing to Report

5. Relations with and Attitude towards Allied Troops

Continue to be good.

6. Discipline

Nothing new this month.

7. Rumours and Indiscreet Talk

Nothing to Report.

8. Summary of Military Security

There has been considerable improvement in Security of Information as indicated by Censorship reports and reports from outstations on the Control of Movement.

Further Intelligence courses for Regimental I.O's have been held during the month in Rome when special instruction has been given on Security. Italian students attending have been instructed to hold Unit Security courses on their return.

Considerable strides have been made in Welfare for Italian troops in the forward areas. A report from FLORENCE states that a certain Italian officer who attended a British Welfare Course in Rome, has organized canteens, a cinema and other welfare facilities for Italian troops in FLORENCE. His work has been greatly appreciated. He has made an appeal to the wealthy families in FLORENCE for assistance and encouragement in this welfare work.

B. PERSONALITIES

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1. Information (white) |) | Nothing to Report. |
| 2. Information (black) |) | |

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- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Information (white) | } Nothing to Report. |
| 2. Information (black) | |

11/15
L.M. [Signature]
Major General M.M.I.A.

SUBJECT: Security Intelligence - Monthly
Report - Italian Army

CONFIDENTIAL

Land Forces Sub Commission A.C.

(M.M.I.A.)

S/I/106/1

8 Nov 44

10 NOV 1944

TO : Hq A.A.I. (for GSI)

Copy to: A.C.

Ref Appr "A" to our I/106 of 10 May.

Herewith report for month of October.

GENERAL SITUATION

1. Morale

Desertions and absenteeism continue. Reports show an appreciable decrease during the month in units under Allied Command owing to the fact that a greater interest in men's comfort and welfare is being taken by Allied Officers. Italian Officers are now attending welfare courses in Rome run by British Army welfare. These are the first courses of this type to be attended by Italian Officers and it is hoped to get Italian Officers welfare-minded. Furthermore, wherever possible, assistance in welfare materials and facilities will be given to the Italian Army by the Allies. It is hoped that this new welfare drive will have a favourable effect on the morale of Italian troops.

2. Fascist - Pro-German - Anti-Allied Activity

Nothing to report.

3. Illegal Storage of Arms

Nothing to report.

4. Political Activity

Very little to report. There are indications that Italian Officers fear a Communist Italy, whilst amongst O.R.s there are signs of a general leaning towards the Parties of the Left.

5. Relations with and Attitude Towards Allied Troops

Continues to be good.

6. Discipline

This continues to be unsatisfactory. As a result of pressure from this H.Q. the Italian War Minister has issued a circular to all Italian H.Q.s outlining the duties and responsibilities of all officers and giving a solemn warning that inefficiency and slackness will not be tolerated. All senior officers are instructed to keep a watchful eye on discipline. All those who are slack or inefficient will be dismissed.

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7. Rumours and Indiscreet Talk
Nothing to report.

8. Summary of Military Security

Intelligence courses are now being held in Rome for the I.O's of the Italian Combat Divisions. In addition to instruction on intelligence in the Field, interrogation of P.R. etc, special periods are given to Security in the Field and Censorship.

PERSONALITIES

1. Information (white)) Nothing to report.
2. Information (black))

L.M. T. G. L. G. L. G. L.
Major General
M.M.I.A.

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