

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

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10000/109/1781

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10000/109/1781

MONTHLY REPORTS, ELBA  
JUNE - OCT. 1944

37  
As Cabarr  
illuminated. No  
Laminia I. Cantista  
his action is  
necessary.  
H 4/10.  
5365

496

36

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
LABOR SUB-COMMISSION  
AFO 394

2 October 1944

Ref/496/23/CA.

23 OCT Recd

SUBJECT: Labour on Elba.  
TO : Col. M. E. Fiske  
Deputy Executive Commissioner

34/35

I attach as promised a copy of the report submitted by Captain Fraser on the conditions of affairs on the Island of Elba. It may be that you will wish to take a different line but in my opinion there will be no need to replace the evacuating French contingent.

If the presence of French troops constitutes a major political issue, their absence should remove the difficulty.

It has been my experience that officers unaccustomed to handling civilian Labour problems are invariably alarmist, and I hold the view that the mere presence of troops is an incitement to unrest. I can agree that it might be worth while to replace the 50 Carabinieri with 50 strangers (strangers of course will not know their way about).

I know of no reason why there should be extraordinary trouble on Elba, but even if we do have trouble on Elba it would be merely a drop in a bucket of trouble I foresee for Italy in general.

*J. T. Bain*

J. T. Bain  
Colonel,  
Director Labor Sub-Commission.

Re. Reg Toscana was of his  
same opinion as Col Bain at SIENA on 27 Sep

pa

U 4/10  
5364

35

496

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
REGION VIII

26 September 1944

SUBJECT: Labor Conditions on the Island of Elba

TO: Director Subcommittee, A.C.C.

1. I proceeded to Elba on the next boat from Piccino after receiving telephone orders from the Labor Subcommittee to report on labor conditions on the island. I was also requested to investigate the matter of the garrison for this island.
2. There are about 2500 unemployed iron miners on the island. They formerly received about 45 lire per day and are very anxious to come to the mainland and work for the AMG wage of 65 lire per day. Inquiry among the citizens revealed that this would have an excellent psychological effect on the island and I recommend that some of these miners be brought over if and when needed on the mainland. At present the biggest problem on Elba is unemployment. The secondary problem is the political one occasioned by having the French garrison on the island. There is, however, no urgent immediate need for laborers at Livorno though the future requirements may change the picture.
3. I have located three boats (30 tonners) which may be used to transport laborers from Elba to Piccino. Each boat could bring 100 men each trip. Transportation from Piccino to Livorno would have to be provided from this end. We are working on the matter of establishing several barracks in Livorno for laborers.
4. The Camera del Lavoro is registering labor in Elba and the organization appears to be very active. I recommend that an employee of the Livorno Labor Office go to Elba, take registration cards (as used in our offices) and take over the functions of a collocamento but it is important that the man actually in charge of the Elba office or offices be an inhabitant of the island.
5. The economy of the island appears unaffected by the war. There is no inflation; prices are very low as well as wages. The citizens receive the same bread ration as the citizens of the mainland. Flour is imported but other foodstuffs are provided locally. Transfer of labor to the mainland meets with wide approval both of the citizens and the AMG officers there. This transfer would not upset the island economy as the difference in living cost on the mainland would absorb the increase in wage received.
6. I breakfasted with Major Murchie, the CAO of Elba, discussed labor and other problems with him and together we dined with the French governor, Col. Boulier, at Villa Napoleon. The French are leaving the island very soon. There are now 1500 French troops on the island and this presents a political problem. It is felt by many citizens, and in this I concur, that it would be much better to have either American, British or Italian troops for a garrison. This would relieve the present tense situation. Probably 150 troops would be sufficient.

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5363

7. I see no hope for the operation of the mines of Elba in the immediate future as this would not be practicable due to lack of transportation for the ore and the destruction of the iron and steel plants on the mainland. There is a large easily accessible supply of labor to Livorno.

ROBERT FRAZER,  
Capt. Inf.  
Labor Office AMG  
Region VIII

Copy:

- BC Region VIII
- PC Livorno
- CAO Livorno

5362

18/

*4/6*  
HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISS  
LABOR SUB-COMMISSIO  
A-0 394

*33*  
*180*

LAB 43281

27 September 1944

28 SEP Recd

SUBJECT : Labour on Elba

To : Colonel Ficks,  
Deputy Executive Commissioner.

An Officer from this Sub-Commission visited Elba and we are awaiting his report, a copy of which will be supplied to you.

*John 31*

*J. T. R. Bain*

J. T. R. Bain  
Colonel,  
Director Labor Sub-Commission.

*28/9*  
*7*

*RA*  
5361  
*SW*

EC. 0 I Uba Monthly Report, August. 32

You have seen the rest of this in Capt Macnamara's report.

2. The main headache appears to be labor troubles (in the future) and a large number (2000) discharges from Army. All concerned know of this but no solution has yet been found.

3. AFHQ informed us today that the main of the French garrison is delayed for a short time (10 days?) due to shipping.

CAB II 2319

1. Would you speak about Military Refugees.

2. How we recommended a small garrison BAFHQ? What is total strength of

Carabinieri?

Ce.

Re by Capt Macnamara, report.

11/24/5

5366  
Discussed at  
Silva. Pa.  
24/9.

24/9 → see 25/6

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HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
R.C. & H.C. Section  
APO 394.

Ref/496/23/CA.

24 September 44.

SUBJECT:- Labour on Elba.

TO : Labour Sub-Commission.

18

1. No reply as yet been received to my 496/18/CA of 7 September, though I understand that an officer from Labour Sub-Commission has visited Elba since that date.
2. An early reply is requested.

SF

NORMAN E. FISKE,  
Colonel,  
Deputy Executive Commissioner.

5359

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

496: SECRET : 30  
Copy No 1.

Ref. CPM/59.

ELBA

TO: G. & M.G. Section, Civil Affairs Branch,  
Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, A.P.O. 394, U.S. Army,

SUBJECT: Third Monthly Report on Elba.

DATE: 7th September 1944.

23 SEP Recd

(a) POLITICAL REACTIONS AND POPULAR OPINION.

The only incident which merits description was a half-hearted clandestine meeting of a political nature, which had as its object the seizure of control of the iron mines.

The attempt was rendered abortive in the following manner:

(1) Three Sindaci, who were known to have attended, were ordered to report to the office of the S.C.A.O. Here they were each handed an envelope containing a copy of Proc. No 3 - with the section referring to the holding of meetings outlined in red crayon. Each Sindaco was then given a letter to sign, in which he acknowledged receipt of the copy proclamation, and moreover noted the implication where he was concerned.

No discussion was allowed and the method was effective.

(2) On the same day that the above meeting took place, an open meeting of a similar political nature was announced for 8 p.m.

It was feared that this meeting might take place because of the late hour at which the warning was given to the Sindaci.

The French were therefore asked to cooperate, and produced 45 Troops armed with Tommy Guns under the command of a Lieutenant. These were in turn under the command of Capt. Bentley of this AMG Detachment, who handled the affair with judgment.

Whereas it is believed here that the meeting had already been cancelled, it is nevertheless a fact that several hundred people had foregathered in groups outside the building at Rio Elba which was the published venue of the meeting.

These congregated people were ordered indoors; and complied; and when the S.C.A.O. called to collect Capt. Bentley at 8 p.m. there was no sign of tension.

A further closed meeting, which the Sindaci referred to had promised to attend, was cancelled without further pressure.

(3) This incident (the only one of its kind of any consequence) is reported in some detail as it gives a pointer where the policing of the Island is concerned.

The present programme calls for the withdrawal of the French Troops on or about September 20th and nothing is known here of any intention to replace them.

The S.C.A.O., and all the members of his **5358** feel very strongly that a small garrison of 150 men, with 3 officers, is absolutely essential. These troops could if unavoidable be Italians, though troops of any other nationality would be preferred.

PA  
HEADQUARTERS  
3 Papers sent to Info dir

-2-

In addition and as a further precautionary measure against a possible uprising of the Communist element strongly represented in the civilian population in Elba, it is strongly recommended that the 51 Carabinieri on Elba be exchanged for a similar number from the Pool. 29

The S.G.A.O. is confident that subject to these provisions the Island of Elba will remain calm after the withdrawal of the French garrison.

(b) LOCAL GOVERNMENT - PROVINCIAL.

Conditions are unchanged from those obtaining last month.

(c) ECONOMIC RESOURCES AND SUPPLY - with special reference to FOOD SITUATION.

FINANCE. All the French Francs in circulation in Elba, with the exception of the 500 and 1000 franc notes on the Banque de France, have been exchanged for A.M. Lire.

The Banque de France notes referred to form the subject of a separate report made by Lt Col S.E.V. Smith of the Finance Division, who visited Elba for the purpose.

Decision as to the disposition of these notes is awaited with interest.

IRON MINES. Continue to work on a restricted basis, which will be maintained for a period of two months or until a decision is made with regard to the disposition of the iron ore.

The local Director of Ferromine made a trip to Rome recently, and returned with the funds and the authority to carry on mining for the period stated.

FISH CANNING. See separate report to Trade and Industry Subcommission.

FOOD SITUATION. This has been separately reported on by Supplies Officer to Food Subcommission.

It is felt here that unless the ration scale can be maintained considerable hardships will undoubtedly ensue.

In the first 15 days of September the amount of Flour received falls short of the figure required to maintain the ration scale; and there is nothing to indicate that the balance due will be forthcoming or that any provision yet exists for the last two weeks of the month.

Figures are given in the separate report referred to.

SALT. The salting down of fish could be restarted in the Canning Factories if saltable quantities (quoted in separate report on Fish Canning) could be supplied from Sardinia or elsewhere. Collection of the salt from Sardinia could be arranged by Schooner from Elba.

MEAT. The present ration of 13.3 grammes is quite inadequate.

If due to policy then obviously no comment can be made, but if due to a presumed ~~of~~ ration of Fresh Fish, then further investigation is necessary. 5357

The catch of fish is at present negligible - and cannot be augmented until the Royal Navy allows the use of sunken lights for night fishing.

(Note: the request for salt for canning is also contingent on this).

(d) AGRICULTURE - FORESTRY - FISHERIES.

Under this heading there are no fresh developments.

(e) LABOUR. (See separate report).  
The unemployment figures are unchanged. Relief is being started on September 15th on the basis of 8 lire per head of family with 4 lire for each dependent. This figure allows for little more than the purchase of the bare AMG ration. A favourable decision regarding the accumulated stocks of iron ore would lessen unemployment on Elba to a considerable extent.

28

(f) PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES.  
Conditions unchanged.

(g) PUBLIC SAFETY AND FUNCTIONING OF (1) ALLIED COURTS, (2) ITALIAN COURTS.

POLICE AGENCIES. Request has been submitted for exchange of Carabinieri from the Pool and also for a small garrison of troops to replace the French garrison when they are removed. (See Monthly Report to Public Safety Subcommittee)

PRISONS. A new ration scale received from AGC HQ became effective from September 15th.

MILITARY AND SECURITY POLICE. Garrison troops are behaving well and few complaints received. The French Security Police have been reduced in numbers and no new arrests have been made during the month.

PUBLIC MORALE. Exchange of refugees between the mainland and the island has been carried on at the rate of 10 per day and is functioning satisfactorily.

CIRCULATION PERMITS AND MOTOR PASSES ETC. Free circulation is permitted on the island and permits for vehicles are issued on a priority basis according to petrol supplies available.

Fishing is being permitted during the day time but the catches are very small.

COURTS. Pretura Court is operating in a satisfactory manner.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. Serious crimes did not occur during the month. The 2000 Italian Military on the island present a serious problem and have had to be given relief.

If results be 1000

(h) PUBLIC HEALTH, TO INCLUDE WELFARE AND CONDITION OF POPULATION. The general condition of the civil population leaves little to be desired. Some further medical supplies are required, and steps have been taken to acquire the more urgent necessities.

RELIEF. This is being granted at the following rate:-  
Head of family 8 lire per day.  
Dependent 4 " " "

These figures clear the cost of the civilian ration, plus a small sum to cover the cost of fresh vegetables, etc.  
Note: The cost of living in Elba has not altered appreciably since the invasion.

In the administration of relief the following procedure has been adopted:-

(1) A Central Finance Committee comprising the 8 Sindaci has been formed. This Committee appoints its own President.

(2) In each Comune has been formed a Relief Committee who scrutinize and compile lists of really necessitous cases.

These Communal Committees comprise:-  
a. The Doctor. c. A Woman.  
b. The Cure. d. A Workman.

5956

-4-

(i) EDUCATION.

See separate report on Schools sent to Education Subcommission. 27

(j) REFUGEES.

The only change from last month is that roughly about 150 Elba residents have returned from the mainland.

MILITARY REFUGEES. (See separate report to AGC Hqrs).  
These number 2050, and are divided into 3 categories. Many of them are suffering acute distress and are unable to purchase the civilian ration.

They are therefore being granted relief under the general Relief Scheme, and receive 4 lire per day pending decision as to their future.

(k) COMMUNICATIONS.

Unchanged from last report.

(l) PROPERTY CONTROL.

See separate report to Director of Property Control.

*G.P. Murchie*

G.P. Murchie,  
Major,  
S.C.A.O. Elba.

7 copies.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

SEEN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A.P.G.S.	<u>ayp</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> M.H.F.	
<input type="checkbox"/> B.E.L.T.	<u>ayp</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> J.J.L.	
<input type="checkbox"/> A.K.	
<input type="checkbox"/> J.E.H.	
<input type="checkbox"/> H.J.T.	

Acting Chief Commissioner.

→ Finance Sub-Commission 26  
Pls return to Exec Comm

The attached is submitted for your information/signature.

Elba goes over to Livorno Prov. on the departure of French Troops in Sept 20. No Allied Troops will be stationed there.

→ TTS/1415  
✓ 5354 PA. 1812



and a complete understanding has been shown of local problems. There is complete absence of inflation. There has been no accession of spending power owing to the absence of American or British troops on the island and the cost of living approximates to 30% of that of the mainland.

3. Agriculture is the main industry of the island (65%) producing mainly vegetables and only one month's supply of grain. Fishing and production of iron ore make up the balance. At the moment there is no night fishing, when the largest catches are made (4 - 8 tons Sardines on a catch) and the iron mines are on a care and maintenance basis as facilities for smelting are being sought.

4. Farming this year suffered considerably from the absence of copper sulphate for grapes and a tremendous hailstorm of such weight that no less than sixty land mines were exploded in one field by the hailstones.

5. Reconstruction is proceeding slowly. The one large town Porto Ferrajo is being re-occupied after the official evacuation and surveyed entirely at the moment by private enterprise. There will be subsequent claims for rebuilding and clearance and already 2,000,000 lire has been voted for this purpose. Its re-occupation will relieve the acute shortage of accommodation which exists. Some 80% of the port is destroyed and includes cement and smelting plants.

6. Financial situation is sound with a steady inflow of money into the banks and communal loans are being made at 5 1/2 - 4 1/2%. The money spent by the French has made itself felt, they have mainly skimmed the surplus supplies of wine and vegetables.

5353

Comments and Recommendations.

7. A serious handicap to the recovery of Elba is the presence of the French who persist in part in living on the country. This has caused a serious fall in livestock. Steps to restock are in preparation. It is interesting to note that some 3,000,000 fcs were in circulation after a French Division had been in for a month. Undoubtedly some of the money had appeared during the time the Italians had occupied Corsica. In view of possible operations in Piemonte and Liguria from France this experience should teach a lesson.

8. The re-enlistment of the Forestry Guards emphasises the importance of re-afforestation in Italy. This is a period of private reconstruction and the abuse of plantations by private individuals should not be tolerated.

9. On the handing over of Elba to Region VIII the presence of a resident C.A.O. would be advisable. The island is parochial in outlook and will pull together in its own interest. Only a resident would be thoroughly conversant with the problems and handle the traffic of the island. At the moment permits have to be obtained for travel by sea and no boat leaves the island without remark. The political situation demands a C.A.O. (Major Gillette's report).

*Handwritten notes:*  
A good example of a report  
on the island  
1/4

*Handwritten notes:*  
19.11.54  
Life on the island  
see page 70  
X  
1/4

24

10. As an alternative, a direct handover to the Italian Government would be a satisfactory solution to preserve a local administration.

11. The island should be still maintained as "out of bounds" to troops. On the departure of the French a more healthy situation should develop and on the cessation of their depredations the present administration will have put Elba on a fair way to recovery.

Reports.

**Public Safety.** 1. Carabinieri, morale low. Pre-drafting has been recommended. Forestry Guards have been again put on duty owing to the peasantry grazing their goats on new plantations and unauthorized felling. One prison for minor offences exists. The Assize prison is unfit for accommodation owing to war damage. There is very little crime on the island and none of a serious nature.

**Agriculture.** 2. Granai del Popolo deliveries were duly made.

**Transportation.** 3. A civilian bus service runs once a day from the principal points of the island (4 buses). Distances are long and a civilian petrol allocation is necessary to enable communal life to function. It is understood application has been made.

**Admin Sec.** 4. Local Government is handicapped by the absence of suitable men thus leaving some undesirables in office.

**Refugee Br. Patriot Br.** 5. There are two or three hundred refugees from various parts of the mainland. The main problem are the deserters from the Italian Army. They number some two thousand and in amounting to 7 1/2% of the population they are an intolerable burden to the islanders. They are confined mainly to the more remote western end. A separate report on these has been made.

**Food.** 6. Supply is satisfactory. No oil is included in the island ration and none is produced there - they have been without for two years. Salt which has now arrived in quantity has eased a situation which has witnessed the boiling of vegetables in sea water. The resumption of night fishing would enable the meat ration to be discontinued and an export of a surplus both direct and by the small canning industry which is ready to recommence.

**Labour.** 7. There is some unemployment, \$50 being from the iron mines alone. Apart from refugees very few are fully unemployed as labour is absorbed by the farmers and the reconstruction of Porto Ferrajo. It is doubtful whether a thousand islanders are completely without work.

**Liaison.** 8. The excellence of the liaison between <sup>5352</sup> the French

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Liaison. 8. The excellence of the liaison between <sup>5257</sup> the French has been commented on elsewhere.

R.C. & M.G. Section. 9. Mines and minefields present no problem as they are confined to lonely beaches and wasteland. Minefields at sea exist and communication with neighbouring islands are by courtesy of the Naval authorities.

Estab. Br. 10. Morale and discipline of personnel excellent.

Public Works & Utilities. 11. Electricity is normal, roads though deteriorating are good. The water supply varies in quality. Conditions satisfactory.

Patriots. 12. Patriot situation is subject of separate reports

*Macnamara*  
C. J. MACNAMARA.  
Capt.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

23

Report on Visit to ELBA - 7-10 SEP 44

11 SEPT. 1944 12 SEP Recd

Major F.E. GILLETT, 5 Innis D.G. of the Information Division A.C.C. visited ELBA 7-10 SEP 44 and submits the following report.

PATRIOTS:

1.A

(i) So called Patriots in ELBA constitute a small party under the leadership of a Committee called the National Committee of Liberation.

(ii) This Committee has 20 odd members including 8 leaders, is communist in outlook, and has 200/300 lukewarm supporters.

(iii) Small meetings have been held at street corners when odd fascists have been beaten up. Necessary action was taken and the meetings dispersed.

(iv) (a) Recently a meeting was called in an endeavour to blaim the workers right to take over the iron ore mines.

(b) Immediately on hearing that a clandestine meeting relating to this meeting had taken place, the S.C.A.O. ordered the three Sindacos, who had attended this preliminary meeting, to report to him.

(c) One Sindaco failed to report, was sent for and brought in, by French troops, under arrest.

(d) The 3 Sindacos were then arraigned before the S.C.A.O., sitting with his full complement of C.A.O.'s, and each Sindaco was given an envelope enclosing a copy of Proclamation No 3 with the paragraph relating to the "holding of meetings" under lined in red, together with an appropriate covering letter.

*Settled at  
Sina conference  
13/9  
pa  
30 1899  
15/9  
K...  
J...*

*See p. 4*

*W...  
L...*

*Spoken to Fisher. There is plenty of  
labour in Sina area itself but it is 5351  
the stock area where labour is required.  
Labour etc (at Bain) are visiting Sina this week  
B 18/9 30 12/9*

- 2 -

22

(e) These Sindacos were then ordered to sign a declaration stating that they had had their attention drawn to the above mentioned paragraph and that they fully understood its implication so far as their personal responsibility was concerned.

(f) The Sindacos wished discussion and made an attempt to offer excuse but the S.C.A.O. maintained a strong front saying that simple fulfillment of the proclamation was all that was necessary.

(g) To ensure that the Sindacos were in a position to enforce authority troops were sent to parade the rendez-vous of the proposed meeting. A number of people had congregated in the village square but the meeting had been cancelled. At a later hour, when the S.C.A.O. went himself to collect his C.A.O. who had gone there as observer, he was greeted with cheers and shouts of acclamation.

1.B

OBSERVATIONS

Patriots

(a) It would seem, very definitely, that official support for the Patriots in ELBA is a somewhat delicate question, although there are some, ready to fight anywhere.

Political

(b) A pointer to the immediate political situation can perhaps be found in the following:-

(i) On the one hand there are all the unemployed industrial workers who are confessedly communist in outlook.

(ii) On the other hand there is the conservative agricultural community, part of which is undoubtedly fascist and a great part of which, in the past, paid lip service to fascism.

(iii) Whatever may have been the political status of the latter (ii) they are all attacked as fascists by the former (i).

5350

(c) I am convinced, that as soon as AMG leaves ELBA, active communism, under the leadership of the National Committee of Liberation will, immediately endeavour to assume power.

(d) From information obtained locally it is deduced that of the island's population, the Communists and Fascists are about of equal number. If this assumption is correct, it would appear that a small body, with authority, should be able to maintain the balance.

A.M.G.

(e) During my brief visit to the island I have been increasingly impressed with the efficiency with which Military Government has been implemented in the island and I have no hesitation in stating that the report by the S.C.A.O. at the recent monthly conference and such other information as is available at HQ ACC does scant justice to his efforts or those of the other officers concerned.

Not only is the liaison with the French Military Garrison on a most friendly and co-operative basis but it is also obvious that a firm understanding exists with the islanders of whatever political persuasion.

Garrison

(f) It is understood that the S.C.A.O. has put forward a recommendation that 100 Garrison Troops be sent when the hand-over takes place.

(g) Since discussing the foregoing (para f) with the S.C.A.O. agreement has been arrived at that, to maintain law and order efficiently, it is essential to divide the island into 3 areas (viz, at MARCIANA MARINA, PORTOFERRAIO, and RIO MARINA - Total 3 officers 150 men). Allied troops being unavailable, it is recommended that good Italian troops be sent to the island.

2.

Italian personnel available for service.

(1) It seems there is a number of italians available for service. These are divided into 3 categories:-

(a) 1400 Italian nationals of service age who evaded service for one reason or another and who are resident in ELBA.

(d) 400 in a similar category to (a) but who are resident on the mainland.

(e) 250 who carried arms under German pressure and who deserted on the arrival of the Allies. In this category there are 12/20 individuals whose loyalty is in doubt.

(ii) The personnel mentioned in (a) (b) (c) above is not included in the official recorded island population and consequently a problem arises in regard to their welfare.

(iii) Most of these Italians have been issued with Ration cards but cannot buy AMG rations. Some time ago they were supported by the inhabitants, but now, in view of the reduced ration, steps are being taken to see that all are in possession of Ration cards and also to grant relief at the rate of 4 Lire per diem (Present AMG ration costs only 2 Lire per diem - ELBA scale of relief is 8 Lire for the head of a family, 4 for others).

*They are 15,000 that in Livorno area. Why not work them up?*

OBSERVATION.

The foregoing would appear a simple and satisfactory solution to the problem for the moment.

3.

CIVILIAN RELIEF

(1) In regard to civilian relief a decree had been issued and a scheme is in force in the 8 Communes.

(ii) In each commune a committee of 4 is formed comprised of the Dector, Curé, a workmen and a woman.

(iii) These committees scrutinise and agree the lists of persons requiring relief.

(iv) These committees are, in turn, responsible to a central finance committee which is comprised of the 8 Sindaces who are not permitted to serve on the relief committees.

4. Communications.

The question of communications has been enquired into and is being taken up with the various HQs concerned



F.E. GILLETT  
Major,  
5 Innis D.G.

Distribution:

- V. President Political Section.
- Executive Commissioner.
- Civil Affairs Branch.
- Patriots Branch
- M.M.I.A.
- Regional Commissioner - Region VIII
- S.C.A.O. - ELBA
- File.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
R.C. & M.G. Section  
APO 394

FI 98  
484034 18

Ref/496/18/CA.

7 Sept. 1944.

SUBJECT: Labour on ELBA.

TO / Labour Sub-Commission.

1. This is to confirm conversation this evening (Col. Bain - Col. Smith - Major Felbot).
2. I will be grateful if you can arrange to investigate the iron ore labour situation in Elba at an early date. The matter has come to a head following a request by SCAD ELBA for an ~~allied~~ Garrison to replace the French Garrison when it is withdrawn on or about Sept. 20.

15/9  
Spike hit Major Betworth  
of whom I've who has been  
in Elba recently. He promised  
a reply tomorrow 16/9

*[Signature]*  
NORMAN E. FISKE,  
Colonel,  
Deputy Executive  
Commissioner.

15/9  
*[Signature]*

~~P7A~~ 23/9 noted  
5346  
By one [unclear]  
SV

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
R.C. & I.C. SECTION  
APO 394

17

REF: 496/17/CA

2 September 44

*Dear Markie*

Reference para J. of your report of 1 August 44.

Public Safety Sub-Commission are at present trying to get permission to recruit Italian ex-soldiers into the CC.RR. up to the limit of the CC.RR. ceiling. If and when this approval is given Public Safety Sub-Commission thinks the 10000 ex-soldiers to whom you refer may well be used as CC.RR. I.M.I.A. as I told you won't play nor will Italian Refugee Branch. I don't see what else we can do any more.

*h  
B*

SCAO. AMB.,  
E L B A.

5345

*P/A*

16

TO: Lt.Col.Shipp.

1 Sept 44.

ELBA.

1. Please see Exec. Commissioner's pencilled minute at 8.
2. I have taken up the points on the report at 10 as follows :
  - (a) Para. C page 2 - Finance. Lt.Col.S.E.V.Smith has gone to ELBA to report.
  - (b) Para. C folio 9 - Iron Mines. Mining Division say the ore is good and suitable for blast furnaces at PIOMBINO and BAGNOLI.
  - (c) Para. C folio 9 - Oil. The information has been passed to Pet. Sec.
  - (d) Para. C folio 9 - Distilleries. Industry Sub-Comm. have been informed and will report.
  - (e) Para. J folio 6 - Refugees. Italian Refugee Branch say these ex-soldiers must remain where they are for time being, since MMIA cannot help. Public Safety however can probably use them for CG.RR if and when they get approval to use ex-soldiers for CG.RR. I will so inform Murchie.
  - (f) Para.K folio 6 - Information put in Daily Bulletin.

Motta Bruno

9/19

  
E. FALBOT.  
Major.

5344

(15)

Ref. 14 para 3. Showed the further information to  
Acc Co. (ref 13) for transmission to AFHQ if required.

Ref 14 para 1. Letter written to SI enclosing two letters  
for Major Murchie.

Ref 14 para 2. Spoke to Spier and pressed for a  
Roths Profile or Comm: Standardis to cover gap  
between Murchie leaving when Elba is run independently  
till firm is released by S. King and can be  
taken over. Col Spier will take up matters  
line and let us know.

Col Spier informed us that  
to East. will let us have a Comm.  
Standardis a same such man. He  
Spier will confirm in writing.

to East candidate selected as  
Fazlul, new man being chosen.

8/7/9

8/1/9

Bu 13/9

~~Bu 4/9~~ *Noted*

*JL*

29/8.

*15/8/50*  
*1/1/9*

Amly.  
Elba

PERSONAL

(14)

To: Col. Fiske.

Handed to Col Fiske

Subject: Elba

by Maj Kunchie 29/8,

Date: 29. 8. 44

8

① I enclose my copy of personal letter sent you from Elba. Final para. refers to two enclosures — only one of these available — enclosed hereunder.

② appt. of Vice Prefect.  
Am strongly in favour of this. We have a suitable man in Elba — name escapes me but will forward on my return. He was Sindaco Portofraio for 4 months but fell out with Germans.

③ A letter exists in Elba — sent by Gen. de Gaulle — asking for <sup>5342</sup> Director of Ferronnes to be available for 1 week — to investigate mining situation in connection with French expert.  
@. Unmelial map

F.L.

13

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
R.C. & H.C. Section

Phone:  
431034

Ref A.96/13/CA

23rd August, 1944

Subject: Report - ELBA  
To: H.C. Allied Armies in ITALY

1. We have received the following report from SCAG, ELBA:

"It is abundantly clear that ELBA is regarded as a place to be denuded in favour of GURIGNA. Under cover of organised searches for military stores, discreet pillage takes place either with or without the blessing of the French Command.

The local Deputy Military Governor, Col. Petit, appears to share the view that only urgent military necessity warrants the adoption of military collection methods. If this is true it suggests pressure from above."

2. Perhaps you would consider taking this matter up with the French Command?

*SV*  
Brigadier,  
Executive Commissioner,  
For A/Chief Commissioner.

*Drafted by E.C.*

Copy to: AFHQ (G-5)  
SCAG, ELBA

see 10

*PA*

5347C  
25/8

FLBA.

12

Exec. Com.

1. Second report on FLBA to read at 10.  
I will see that copies go to -

Adm. Sect.  
Sec. Sect.  
P.R.O.

2. A.B.S. Combs are still not yet open.  
I will ask Legat to stand by to see they  
open as soon as the island becomes  
part of Repu' VII.

3. "Relation's with the French" on p. 10  
with resolve themselves when Repu' VII  
taken over.

4. Re para J on page 6. I have referred  
to MMIA whose reply is at 11. I suggest  
these ex-soldiers be left there till  
called up. Murchie doesn't seem to mind them.

5. I am having para K on page 6  
put in Daily Bulletin.  
5340

Sec. Sect  
P.R.O.

2. A.P.S. Courts are still not yet open. I will ask Legal to stand by to see they open as soon as the Island becomes part of Rapa'i VIII.

3. "Relation's with the French" on p. 10 with various stem-solms when Reynu taken over.

4. Re para J on page 6. I have referred to AMIA where reply is at 11. I suggest there ex. Solms be left there till called up. Murchie doesn't seem to mind them.

5. I am having para K on page 6 put in Daily Bulletin.  
5349  
28/8.

Take up points with Econ. & Admin. // Sec 16.

Section. Will me know results.

Is Mr. Parkie coming here for DE's marking?  
Was present  
for 2/8

MS 28/8

SUBJECT: Italian Military in Elba

496 Z

11

Ar Sub Commission (MMIA)  
H. C. A.C.C.  
ROME  
I/103/2  
18 Aug 44

R.C. & M.G. Section H.C. A.C.C.

18 AUG 1944

Copy to: Patriot Branch A.C.C.

1. The ex-soldiers of the old Italian Army on Elba referred to in the Report under reference are civilians until called up in the new Italian Army. It is probable that they will not be called to the colours for some time owing to the reduction of the ceiling for the new Italian Army.
2. It is suggested that A.C.C. may send a screening agency from the Parties available to the Patriot Branch to recruit volunteers if A.C.C. desires to remove some of them from the Island.

CGL.

*W.R. Selby, Capt*  
Maj Gen  
Army Sub Commission

~~Nonsense~~

~~Pleasant~~

*M 25/8*

MINISTRO BELLE (mirrored text)

M. N. I. A.

Please see folio 6 para  
J. What do you wish  
done with these men?

Escobar  
17/4

5338

#96 & CA Br 687  
SECRET 10  
(at copying)

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

E L B A .

TO:- R.C. & M.G. Section, Civil, Affairs Branch, Hqrs. A.C.C.

SUBJECT :- Second monthly report on Elba.

16 AUG Recd

DATE:- August Ist. 1944.

(A)

POLITICAL REACTIONS AND POPULAIR OPINION.

Little to report. Conditions much as described in last month's report. Coloured troops have now left the Island, and have been replaced by Algerians who appear better disciplined. Everything is calm. During the month three minor disturbances of political origin occurred, but were handled expeditiously by the Carabinieri directed by Major Goodacre. A murder was committed at Porto Longone, and three arrests have been made. The persons arrested will be tried in the immediate future.

Relations with the French.

It is abundantly clear that Elba is regarded as a place to be demuded in favour of Corsica. Under cover of organised searches for military stores, discreet pillage takes place either with or without the blessing of the French Command.

Whereas the foregoing could be considerably enlarged upon, it is nevertheless a fact that some measure of co-operation is experienced when formal protest is made. The local Deputy Military Governor, Col. Petit, appears to share the view that only urgent military necessity warrants the adoption of military collection methods. If this is true it suggests pressure from above. X

A ruling is now formally asked for on the following :-

(1) The term "urgent military necessity" should only be properly applied to the needs of the occupying troops. In the alternative, that any goods or materials shipped out of the Island to Corsica should be held for the Allies., or specifically authorised by the Allies. The removal of even captured stores, unless held at the disposition of the Allies, appears to be based on nothing more than the slender right following military conquest.

(2)  
(3)

That the property of civilians should be left severely alone. The French have already had a comfortable picking out of Elba; and it is suggested that an embargo should now be placed on the shipping of any goods whether military or otherwise to Corsica; with the possible exception of stocks of ammunition which in themselves constitute a danger to the civil population.

Successful protest has occasionally been made on the lines indicated above. What appears to be required however is a word to the French Higher Command.

(B)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT - PROVINCIAL.

Functioning smoothly in each of the 8 Communes. Some changes have been made, notably in Rio Marina and Capoliveri, where unsuitable Sindacos appointed originally by the French have been replaced by more suitable men.

Prises X  
A.A. 1  
ex 10013  
H. M.  
Island  
Communes under  
Petit  
Col. Petit  
made in Port  
handled  
by 11/17/44

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Functioning smoothly in each of the 8 Communes.

Some changes have been made, notably in Rio Marina and Capoliveri, where unsuitable Sindacos appointed originally by the French have been replaced by more suitable men.

A similar change will be made shortly in Rio Elba. Conditions generally have shown steady improvement, and it is anticipated that this will be maintained.

PA Ses X  
AA 1  
es 13  
es 13

1/11/42  
Island  
Commune under  
Petit  
Col. Petit  
make in  
order to  
this can  
handle  
1/11/42

(B)  
AA 1  
AA 1

1 Admin. Sec. 2 Capoliveri  
1 Admin. Sec. 1 Capoliveri  
1 Admin. Sec. 1 Capoliveri  
1 Admin. Sec. 1 Capoliveri  
5337/60

(2)

ECONOMIC RESOURCES AND SUPPLY - WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE FOOD SITUATION.

Finance. (See separate report to Finance Sub-Commission) A number of 1,000 and 500 franc notes, drawn on the Banque de France, have made their appearance in the Island. Circulation has been stopped. These notes were distributed by both the Germans and the French. It is impossible to apportion blame, as even statements made by the civilians are not without bias. It is generally assumed that notes emanating from the French may possibly be honoured; but that notes of German origin constitute a complete loss to the holder, and statements are to some extent based on this assumption. Exact figures cannot yet be submitted, but will be available shortly after August 10th. Banks have now been re-opened, and restricted facilities are now available to the public. Separate statements have been sent into the Finance Officer simultaneously with this report, together with all relevant documents.

Iron Mines. (See separate report to Economics and Supplies) It is pointed out that mining, on a reduced scale, has been resumed, the present output being 250 tons per day. This figure could easily be increased to 1,000 tons per day. There are already 90,000 tons of screened high-grade 50% ore awaiting shipment; and loading facilities in deep water are in working order, and jetties are undamaged.

Practically the whole economic life of Elba revolves round the mines, and it is strongly urged that early use be made of the accumulated stocks. Apart from other considerations this would substantially relieve unemployment.

Finch Canning. The previous report was inaccurate, in that one factory, situated at Cavo, could be brought into service at 24 hours notice. tins are in stock, sufficient for output.

Salt, in the absence of oil, could be used; and would be required in the following quantities :-

Heavy Diesel Oil. Between 2000 and 3000 tons are available in storage tanks situated underground at Portoferraio. These tanks formed a part of the German submarine base, but will be difficult to tap as the output to the waterside has been damaged. The premises have been searched for mines and booby-traps, with a negative result. Nevertheless a further search would be advisable before attempting to draw off the oil. It is again emphasised that the oil is of the heavy variety.

(C)

Feor

See

Digitized by...

unavailable to complete Report follows.

See

1/10/50

Feor

See

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Distilleries. One of these, situated at San Giovanni, has in stock approx 7,000 litres of 78 degree alcohol (Grappa), now 2 years old. This stock was hidden successfully from the Germans but disclosed freely to A.M.G. This fact gives some indication of the reactions of the people of Elba generally. Production could be resumed at short notice. Output would be at rate of 600 litres per 24 hours.

See

*Spitfire*

*unable to complete Report follows.*

*over*

*no permit to port*

*Feor*

*And of: Strachan with Feor*

(3)

FOOD SITUATION.

Plans have been made for supplies to be sent via PIOMBINO. The warehouse and A.M.C. offices have been removed to Rio Marina in which place the schooners will be able to berth within 50 yds. of the warehouse. This arrangement when operative should effect a saving in both time and handling.

Prices of food in Elba. (See separate report from Supplies Officer to Economics & Supplies)

There has so far been no marked increase in the cost of living in Elba; and no particular importance appears to have been attached to the published rate of exchange. In the absence of any instructions to the contrary it was therefore decided to base to sale price of imported food on the prices ruling in Sardinia. Notice was also taken of the prices in Elba prior to occupation, and of the local wage rates. It now appears that these prices are substantially below those obtained in Rome, but, as stated above, a detailed report has been submitted under separate cover.

Flour.

The Island output this year will be lamentably small and will not materially affect the quantities required from Italy. The poor crop will be due to drought conditions and to the effect of a heavy tropical hail-storm. It should be noted however that the full normal harvest is only equal to one month's consumption based on 300 grammes per day.

Olive Oil.

Nil. Urgently required. Even a small quantity - for example one ton - would be of inestimable value for issue to invalids.

Salt.

Should be included in monthly consignment. Island stocks nil.

Meat.

Daily ration of 55 grammes now being distributed. For the time being it will not be practicable to consider reducing the meat ration; though later, when full unrestricted fishing is allowed, it should be possible to effect a substantial reduction.

Milk.

Island milk is insufficient to cater for invalids and children. A suitable supply, (based on a population of 32,000, and not 30,000 as originally estimated) should be included in daily ration.

Soap.

Will always be an urgent necessity.

(D)

AGRICULTURE - FORESTRY - FISHERIES.

Agriculture.

A full report has been sent under separate cover to the Agricultural Section.

Briefly the position is that the chief crops grown are :-

Fruit- Vegetables (potatoes practically non-existent) -

Wheat (referred to under "Flour"- above) - and Vines. *Grapes*

The production of fruit is sufficient for the Island needs.

The grape crop this year will be poor; damage having been caused by

the heavy hail-storm referred to, and due also to the shortage of

certain chemicals details of which appear in a separate report.

Vegetables with the exception of potatoes are in adequate supply.

Fisheries.

Daytime fishing was re-opened for the first two weeks in July. Catches

*Feed*

*Handwritten notes and scribbles*

*Feed*

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Fisheries.  
Daytime fishing was re-opened for the first two weeks in July. Catches were small and were largely bought by the occupying troops despite instructions issued to the contrary. The Island received little benefit. For the past two weeks however it has been necessary to suspend all fishing,

*File*

*55000  
Milk: 32,000*

(D)

*File*

(4)

Fishing, as the result of representations made by C.I.C. officials from Piombino which aimed at the complete isolation of Elba for the time being. Fishing is being reopened in a very restricted form on August 6th. under rigid control; and ~~one week later~~ if the results of the control system are satisfactory unrestricted daytime fishing will be allowed. Night fishing involving the use of sunken lights is the method normally employed, and prodigious catches are the rule, both of sardines and of other kinds of fish. It is however unlikely that permission to fish at night will be accorded for some months. When granted it will have the immediate effect of reducing the daily meat ration by at least 50%.

(E) LABOUR. (See separate report addressed to Labour Section)

Unemployment constitutes a problem which can only be solved by resumption of the mining industry. Some 2,000 men were out of work, but 240 are now employed on surface mining, and this number could easily be materially increased. Before this increase can be effected a decision is required as to the disposition of the Iron Ore which is steadily accumulating.

(F) PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES. (See separate report to Public Utilities, A.C.C.)

Electricity.  
Now functioning normally throughout the Island for lighting. Some power is also available to a limited extent.  
Water Supply:-  
Normal.  
Sanitation:-  
Satisfactory. Mains being repaired in Portoferraio.  
Transportation:-  
A motor coach service is now in operation and covers the whole Island. In addition to passengers, internal mail is carried.  
Sea traffic now operates from Rio Marina instead of from Marina di Campo as formerly.  
Roads have deteriorated still further during the month under review, but with certain notable exceptions are still in reasonable condition.

(G) PUBLIC SAFETY AND FUNCTIONING OF :-  
(1) ALLIED COURTS.  
(2) ITALIAN COURTS.  
(See separate report by Major Goodacre to Public Safety Div. A.C.C.)

The work of the Police generally is handicapped to some extent by a shortage of uniforms and arms. Nevertheless results have been satisfactory, and all departments have

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The work of the Police generally is handicapped to some extent by a shortage of uniforms and arms. Nevertheless results have been satisfactory, and all departments have carried out their duties in a co-operative spirit.

Some difficulty has been encountered by Major Goodacre during the month in relations with the French Security Police are concerned. This was to a large extent due to the many changes of Officer personnel which took place, resulting in temporary loss of contact. Every endeavour was made from this end, but despite repeated assurances to the contrary, the French appeared to have difficulty in co-ordinating their activities with those of A.M.G.

Constant pressure will in due course have the effect of rectifying this state of affairs.

One murder was committed in Capoliveri, and three persons were in consequence under arrest. No other serious crimes were reported.

3334

*Adm.*

- (5)
- (1) Assesed Courts:-  
None yet convened.
  - (2) Italian Courts:-  
The first court will be held on August 12th 1944.

(H) PUBLIC HEALTH. at Poggio  
The number of patients now in hospital, is down to 80. At Rio Elba there are some cases of fever having the symptoms of paratyphoid; but local doctors combine to agree that the outbreak is not serious and is quite usual at this time of the year. Nothing resembling an epidemic is anticipated. Apart from the above the condition of the civil population is good. The question of relief for the poorer elements is under consideration at the moment; and a scheme is being prepared, under control of local committees formed in each Comune, which will be put into operation in the very near future.

(I) EDUCATION.  
Schools are still closed. Children of from 12 to 15 years are however catered for to a limited extent, and in a casual manner, by young teachers giving private lessons.

(J) REFUGEES.  
Civil:- The situation is still much as described in last month's report; except that roughly 1,000 refugees have drifted back to Portoferraio.  
Military:-

In this connection a problem has arisen which is being studied in relation with the French Military and Security Police. There are stated to be approx. 1,000 men who are known to be on the Island, and who evaded military service under the Germans. This figure includes about 6 Officers and a larger number of N.C.O's; but should not be confused with Italian troops who fought against the French.

At this moment a census is being prepared, but no further steps will be taken until a ruling has been received. It is suggested that this ruling should be sought without delay from the Army Sub-Commission. No separate report has been submitted in this instance.

(K) COMMUNICATIONS.  
Telephone:- Still restricted to use by the military. Civil lines are undergoing repair, but there is a serious shortage of instruments and batteries. The cable to Piombino is now in operation, and it is possible to telephone to A.M.G. in Elba by ringing VALUE - Advance & IIG-ring two.  
Postal arrangements:- Internal mail now being carried by bus service. Separate reports have been submitted to P.O. Admin. A.C.C.

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*J.R.V.S.I*

(K) COMMUNICATIONS.  
Telephone:- Still restricted to use by the military. Civil lines are undergoing repair, but there is a serious shortage of instruments and batteries. The cable to Piombino is now in operation, and it is possible to telephone to A.M.G. in Elba by ringing VALUE - Advance & II6-ring two.  
Postal arrangements:- Internal mail now being carried by bus service. Separate reports have been submitted to P.O. Admin. A.C.C. 5333

*Put in Bulletin Daily Bulletin*

(L) PROPERTY CONTROL.  
A separate report has been submitted to Property Control ACC.

*C. P. Murchie*

( C.P.MURCHIE, Major.  
Senior Civil Affairs Officer)

Col. Fiske. 6/

Major Murchie in his report on Elba states that Allied Comds not yet functioning. There would be no need for them to function if he has published no proclamations. Would you please take this matter up with him on your visit. It may be necessary to send a legal officer or wait until Elba comes within Reg. III

J. K. Murchie

25/7.

~~B. U. [unclear]~~  
[unclear]

Ex Comm: (J)

Report on ELRA: (J)

5  
J

This is the first report we have had from Elba, received today. It is an excellent report, I think, and I will see copies go to: -

Admin Sect.

Econ "

Pot. "

PRO

Refugee Br

Info Div

but I thought you would like to see it first.

CAB

Thanks.

Why are ATRG costs not working?

The report was written to my personal knowledge 3 weeks ago, but received only 2/17?

I should like an officer to go to Elba soon after discussion with or in company with an Econ. Sec. Offr. Please arrange.

W. J. Reacher 2/17  
M. F. ...

CR  
Fisher  
L. ...

Underlying information. Call Elba  
Monthly under Reg VIII

2/17  
5332

21 JUL Recd 1496

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
ELBA.

~~SECRET~~

0 AOR (Sapin)

To: R.C. & M.G. Section, Civil Affairs Branch, A.C.C.Hqrs.

Subject: First monthly report on Elba.

Date: June 30th. 1944

(a) POLITICAL REACTIONS AND POPULAR OPINION.  
 Political reaction in so far as the industrial population is concerned appears to be mainly Communistic. The agricultural people are moderate and rather more Socialistic in their views.  
 Popular opinion is strongly in favour of the Allies, and a maximum co-operative effort is being encountered from every direction. The population is very calm, despite the presence of coloured troops who tend to inspire fear in the young girls and women of the Island. During the first three days after the cessation of hostilities these fears were not without foundation; but measures adopted by General Magnan gradually brought the situation under control. Investigation established that although there were cases of interference with womenfolk, complaints were for the main part greatly exaggerated.

*So long as it is only fear it is all right.*

(b) LOCAL GOVERNMENT - PROVINCIAL.  
 This was found to be badly disrupted due to the early evacuation of Porto Ferraio - holding nearly 50% of the population of the Island. This evacuation began in Sept. 1943, when the Germans bombed and shelled Porto Ferraio prior to occupation as the result of a somewhat feeble resistance offered by the Islanders. Moreover a form of passive resistance followed occupation, and appears to have continued on a diminishing scale up to the time of the taking of the Island by the French. Bombing of Porto Ferraio by American and British bombers in April 1944 resulted in complete evacuation of the town and surrounding district.  
 Looting by the Germans, aided to some extent by the civilians, followed. The population of Porto Ferraio sought refuge in other Communes, thus creating partial chaos, and Local Govt. arrangements suffered accordingly. When the French arrived very few Govt. officials could be found. Some had been deported by the Germans and others had gone into hiding. This state of affairs is already partially rectified, in that local Govt. officials have been appointed in each of the 8 Communes, and life is slowly reverting to normal.

(c) ECONOMIC RESOURCES AND SUPPLY - WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE FOOD SITUATION

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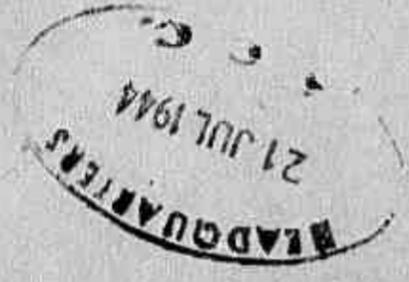
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(c)

ECONOMIC RESOURCES AND SUPPLY - WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE FOOD SITUATION.

The main industries have been completely disrupted since Sept. 1943. Agriculture engages approx. 65% of the working population; Transport, Industry, and Mining 20%; and General Commerce 6%. Finance. Communes all facing deficit. Loans required to balance. Taxes paid up till end of April only. Rateable values down following war damage and evacuation. Many State employees have had no salaries for 4 to 5 months. A full report under this heading will be included in next month's report. Insufficient time has elapsed since the cessation of hostilities for the preparation of reliable figures.



SECRET. 3

(2)

Iron ore mines. These turn out very high-grade ore reputed to contain over 60% pure iron. Mines mainly surface-operated could rapidly be brought back into production; but all smelting plant is completely destroyed. It will be necessary to consider shipping the ore elsewhere for treatment.

Fish Canning. Stopped for 3 reasons:-

(a) No Oil. (b) No metal for tins. (c) No fishing. Daytime fishing, to cover local food requirements only, will be resumed shortly.

Calcium mines. Situated at Rio Marino. Could be rapidly brought back into service.

Cement works. Porto Ferrajo. Damaged and looted, but not beyond repair. Production could probably be recommenced in about three months.

Distilleries. Several- very small- structurally undamaged but looted. Could resume output at short notice.

Electrical Plant. Privately owned. Very little damaged. Already back in service for lights only. Diesel oil required. Consumption 3/4 ton daily in summer: 1 1/2 tons daily in autumn and winter.

#### FOOD SITUATION.

Flour. Almost non-existent. A 5-day famine was reported on arrival of the French. This has since been rectified and a full ration of 300 grammes daily is now being distributed to all Communes. No grain is available for milling; and the milling facilities are inadequate in that they are obviously only designed to cater for the output of grain grown in small-holdings on the Island. It is impossible to estimate at this juncture what proportion of the population can be catered for by the locally grown grain. This year's crop will be poor, due to a 7 month's drought. This has also affected the vegetable gardens.

Olive Oil. None distributed since Sept. 1943.

Salt. Urgently required. None produced and stocks nil. Meat. None distributed for two months. Small farmers not badly off, but grave shortage in towns. Live stock protected by co-operation of French General. Stock of tinned meat in hand which is about to be distributed in accordance with schedule.

Milk. Urgently required for children, nursing mothers, and invalids. Not included in present relief scheme. Region 6. asked to obtain and supply. The very small local output is insufficient to cater for invalids.

Soap. Grave shortage.

COMMENT:- The people of Elba are very grateful, and have through local officials expressed their keen appreciation of the assistance being rendered.

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(d)

AGRICULTURE-FORESTRY \* FISHERIES.

Agriculture. See para. "C" above. (Copper Sulphate required for vines).

Forestry. Practically nil.

Fisheries. Momentarily at a standstill. It is proposed to resume day-time fishing shortly. Stopped originally by Germans, and at present impossible to resume due to known presence of mines. Shortage of nets.

(e)

LABOUR.

Plentiful. 2,000 ex-steelworks and mining employees available. Recommend resumption of surface mining for Iron Ore, otherwise heavy relief charges will have to be met.

SECRET 2

(3)

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES.

Telephones. Lines being repaired. Use at present being restricted to military needs.

Roads. Fairly good. Deteriorated rapidly during operational period owing to passage of heavy vehicles. Unlikely to get much worse. Bridges practically undamaged. No tunnels.

Water supply. Wells in rural districts. Running water in towns. Mains in course of being repaired.

Gas. Nil.

Sanitation. Normal except for Porto Ferrajo.

Railways. Nil.

Transportation. Bus service. At present out of action. Will be resumed shortly subject to provision of Diesel oil asked for. Horse-drawn traffic negligible.

Ports. PORTO LONGONE:- wharves and jetty blown up. Port navigable except for mines. RIO MARINA:- excellent port facilities with warehouses. PORTO FERRAJIO:- largest port. Good depth. Badly damaged. Jetties and wharves destroyed. Mined. Sunken ships in channels.

MARCIANO MARINA :- Small but undamaged. MARINA DI CAMPO :- Operational landing made here. Shelving beach- two jetties- one blown up during landing. Shipping. Apart from a few small fishing craft, nothing of consequence remains afloat.

(g)

PUBLIC SAFETY AND FUNCTIONING OF  
(1) Allied Courts  
(2) Italian Courts.

(1) Allied Courts not yet functioning.

(2) Pretura Court closed.

Carabinieri. Were disbanded, but are now back in service. Lieut. i/c had left for Mainland prior to French invasion.

Guardia di Finanza. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Controlled by a 2nd. Lieut. Total strength 41. Now completely equipped and operating.

Commissariato of Public Safety. Comprises 8 Agents under control of Commissario.

Guardia Municipale. Present in each Commune. Limited to one or two per Commune.

Fire Brigade. Comprises 21 full-time firemen, equipped and operating from temporary station in outskirts of Porto Ferrajo.

Prisons. State penitentiary at Porto Longone. All prisoners removed to Mainland by Germans. Premises occupied by troops. Steps taken to remedy this.

Another State penitentiary in Island of Pianosa (included in Commune of Rio Marina) at present holding 386 persons serving sentence. 24 political prisoners were removed by Germans. Conduct and morale both good.

At Capoliveri there is a Mandamentale prison which was holding 7 detained persons since released by the French.

*Handwritten signature and notes*

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holding 7 detained persons since released by the French.  
Orders given for their re-arrest.  
Condition of all prison buildings good. Sanitation  
normal. Foodstocks nil. No work being done by  
prisoners due to lack of raw materials.  
Civil Defence. Non-existent on Island. Rescue and  
First Aid undertaken by Fire Brigade. Ambulance  
requisitioned by French. Civil defence in factories  
non-operative and equipment lost. <sup>524</sup>  
Military Police. An irresponsible body effecting  
arrests on an erratic scale without any reference to  
this Hqrs. Exact number of persons arrested not known.  
Situation being slowly remedied due partly to change  
of personnel employed; and as result of repeated  
representations made to French General.  
Looting. This took place on a prodigious scale. It  
is impossible to determine the direction or degree of  
responsibility; as looting was indulged in first by  
the Germans, then by the civilians, and lastly by the

*W. J. ...*  
*...*

SECRET

(4)

by the French native troops who appear to have been trained on the principle that victory automatically entails the right to spoils of war. This situation is also now well under control.

(h) PUBLIC HEALTH, TO INCLUDE WELFARE AND CONDITION OF POPULATION.

No infectious or contagious diseases. Malnutrition rare despite the food shortage. The hospital formerly at Porto Ferrajo was evacuated by Germans to Poggio. Number of patients at present 120. Medical supplies urgently needed. Stock of medical supplies intended for civilian needs on Island was lost or passed into hands of French. Endeavour being made to obtain replacement from French; and in addition request forwarded to Region 6. for further supplies. Welfare and Public Assistance necessary for certain elements of industrial population. Grave shortage of Boots and shoes.

(i) EDUCATION. All schools were closed some months before the arrival of the French, by order of the Germans. It is not proposed at this juncture to institute any early change.

(j) REFUGEES. The whole of the inhabitants of Porto Ferrajo, amounting to more than 12,000 were dispersed between Sept. 1943 and April 1944 into other Communes all over the Island. This does not in itself constitute any immediate problem as all were housed on an emergency basis more or less well before the French arrived. Nevertheless a heavy percentage of these people are homeless and in due course the problem will have to be faced. It is not merely a matter of damaged houses; the contents have been completely pillaged. The financial plight of some of these homeless refugees is dire in the extreme- and is not improving. There is however no danger of rioting or serious disturbance. The population even in over-crowded country districts is very calm.

(k) COMMUNICATIONS. Roads... Good. Rail... Nil. ~~Telecommunication~~... Repairs in hand. At present limited to use by the military. Postal arrangements... Not working. Can be resumed at short notice. Mainly a transport problem. Officials available. Radio and Cables... Radio station blown up. Nothing known yet as to condition of cables to Mainland. Bus service... Being resumed within a few days by three Diesel-engined vehicles. Oil for these included in amount asked for from G.4. at A.C.C.Hqrs.

(l) PROPERTY CONTROL. A separate report under this heading is being prepared and will be forwarded when

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(l) PROPERTY CONTROL. A separate report under this heading is being prepared and will be forwarded when the organisation now being set up is in operation.

*Chumaline*

(C.P. MURCHIE) Major.  
Senior Civil Affairs Officer.

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