

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

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10000/109/1794  
(VOL. III)

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MONTHLY REPORTS, REGION I  
APR. - AUG. 1944

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 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
 SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS  
 APO 394

MONTHLY REPORT  
 AUGUST 1944

PART I

18 SEP Recd

SECRET

(5 copies)

The collection of grain has occupied the attention of this Headquarters during the month of August. At the beginning of the month a similar indifference everywhere confronted grain collecting officials; and everywhere a defeatist attitude, on the part of Italian officials, was present.

Dissatisfaction with the price, the natural disinclination of the Sicilian to part with his wheat, the appeal to his cupidity, which successful Black Market operations would make, all joined together to make "granai del Popolo" a difficult assignment. There is, moreover, an extensive lack of vehicles for officials responsible for grain collection which is seriously hampering the campaign. Every possible step is being taken to get the local Italian administration to rectify this.

Varying degrees of cooperation, some inspired and tireless leadership among certain Italian officials, and such assistance as the limited Allied personnel now remaining in SICILY has been able to give, have produced some results.

There is no place for complacency. It will be extremely difficult to amass enough grain to insure the full ration for SICILY until the next crop season. But results do appear better than was at one time anticipated.

Excellent assistance has been given by Police officials. A publicity campaign through the press, the radio, the cinema and posters has been continued. The grain campaign will be carried on to its conclusion.

With the removal of A.C.C. officers from this Region, it has become necessary to train and rely upon civilian Italian employees. Greater responsibility has been thrown upon Italian officials and Police. Progress has been noted. Much more progress is desired.

Transportation will be a serious problem for this island for a long time to come. Trucks and automobiles are wearing out. Tire replacements are impossible. Severe limitations are imposed upon the transportation of benzine, kerosene, and coal. The number of motor vehicles has been drastically reduced. Many responsible Italian officials are unable to function to the full extent of their capabilities because of transportation difficulties.

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Transportation will be a serious problem for this island for a long time to come. Trucks and automobiles are wearing out. Tire replacements are impossible. Severe limitations are imposed upon the transportation of benzine, nafta and coal. The number of motor vehicles has been drastically reduced. Many responsible Italian officials are unable to function to the full extent of their capabilities because of transportation difficulties.

The railroad outlook has greatly improved with the reopening of the standard gauge railroad lines over the island. The necessary movement of grain and food can now be insured, subject to available amounts of coal.

Too great dependence upon Allied effort is everywhere present in SICILY. The war has been over for a year for the population. In general, they are not conscious of the difficulties confronting the Allies in conducting a world-wide war on many fronts, though some allowance must be made for the fact that they have experienced 20 years of repressive Government.

Part II is a detailed report and is made a part hereof

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*Mc Carr Bayader*

M. CARR  
Brigadier  
Regional Commissioner

PART II

A. Political reactions and popular opinion.

1. Separatism. Some activity of the separatists has continued, with occasional meetings, but no violence.
2. Political Parties. These continue to be active. It is believed that the Christian Democrats will benefit by the fact that one of their members, Aldisio, has become the High Commissioner for Sicily.

3. Popular Opinion.

- a. In SICILY popular opinion revolves around and depends upon food. Some discontent has existed during most of August over the ration. It was not possible to increase the ration until about 18 August because of the slowness of the amassing of grain. The date of the full ration was first announced for 12 August. These changes marked the administration as weak and indecisive and, to some extent, undermined confidence and gave some encouragement to the Black Market.

- b. In general, the transition from the administration of Musotto to Aldisio has been effected, without difficulty.

D. Local Government.

During the month three new prefects have reported and are now at work in their new posts.

Francesco Mucci - Agrigento  
Giuseppe Cocuzza - Siracusa  
Eduardo Gulotta - Trapani

C. Economics and Supply.

1. The Grain Campaign.

Regional Commissioner

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C. Economics and Supply.

1. The Grain Campaign.

a. The grain campaign has occupied much of the attention of this Headquarters, the office of the High Commissioner, and his Provincial and local officials, the Carabinieri and Agricultural, Public Safety, Legal and Transportation Divisions, as well as the Economics and Supply Division.

b. On 31 JULY 1944 the situation was as follows:

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SECRET"GRANAI DEL POPOLO"

| PROVINCE      | DURUM WHEAT | SOFT WHEAT | COMMON BARLEY WITH HULL | NUDE BARLEY |
|---------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| ACRIGENTO     | 48,700.35   | 3,584.84   | 2,559.67                | 25.00       |
| CALTANISSETTA | 54,172.00   | 73.00      | 3,145.00                |             |
| CATANIA       | 40,034.20   | 0.20       | 1,798.18                | 0.20        |
| ENNA          | 27,444.00   | 330.00     | 288.00                  |             |
| MESSINA       | 361.92      | 11.15      | 1.83                    |             |
| PALERMO       | 4,682.77    | 31.45      | 5.35                    |             |
| RAVUS.        | 14,416.64   |            | 1,672.62                | 10.22       |
| SIRACUSA      | 19,336.00   | 1,120.00   | 2,150.00                |             |
| TORREBELLE    | 20,235.33   | 8.48       | 1,158.85                |             |
| TOTALS        | 229,192.21  | 4,959.17   | 12,759.50               | 33.42       |
| Total Grain   | 254,251.38  |            |                         |             |
| Total barley  | 12,792.92   |            |                         |             |

o. On the 31 August 1944 the situation was as follows:

GRANAI DEL POPOLO

| PROVINCE      | DURUM WHEAT | SOFT WHEAT | COMMON BARLEY WITH HULL | NUDE BARLEY |
|---------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| ACRIGENTO     | 109,352.55  | 5,998.14   | 7,141.53                | 23.00       |
| CALTANISSETTA | 213,739.00  | 260.00     | 19,570.00               |             |
| CATANIA       | 120,340.00  | 5,808.00   | 10,197.00               | 16.00       |
| ENNA          | 102,955.00  | 2,330.00   | 2,371.00                |             |
| MESSINA       | 3,864.65    | 2,311.95   | 206.75                  |             |
| PALERMO       | 60,163.40   | 480.10     | 1,297.50                |             |
| RAVUS.        | 62,241.69   |            | 13,294.11               | 10.22       |
| SIRACUSA      | 64,281.00   | 3,086.00   | 8,849.00                | 24.00       |
| TORREBELLE    | 42,957.16   | 15.27      | 2,601.24                |             |
| TOTALS        | 780,804.47  | 20,399.46  | 65,518.13               | 73.22       |
| Total Grain   | 801,203.93  |            |                         |             |
| Total barley  | 65,591.35   |            |                         |             |

Personnel. Additional officers have been provided through the A.C.C. as follows: Lt Col. H.J. Walker, Major J.W. Clark, Lt R. Sheridan, Lt. G. Sparling, Lt D.J. Stoughton, Lt T.A. O'Connor, the last three being withdrawn during the month and substituted by Capt Watts, Lt E. Woll and Lt E. Whittaker. Capt Howard Owen was assigned to coordinate propaganda. These officers have rendered much useful service.

|                               |           |  |       |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--|-------|
| 11.15                         | 1.83      |  |       |
| 4,682.77                      | 5.35      |  |       |
| 14,416.64                     | 1,672.62  |  |       |
| 19,336.00                     | 2,150.00  |  | 10.22 |
| 20,235.33                     | 1,158.85  |  |       |
| 229,192.21                    | 12,759.50 |  | 33.42 |
| <u>Total Grain</u> 254,851.38 |           |  |       |
| <u>Total barley</u> 12,792.92 |           |  |       |

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Total Grain 801,203.93  
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### c. Enforcement.

(1) Total confiscations to date (in quintals)

| Grain | Barley | Flour | Pasta | Other cereals |
|-------|--------|-------|-------|---------------|
|-------|--------|-------|-------|---------------|

|               |                 |                |                |               |                |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Carabinieri   | 18845           | 1199.12        | 445.65         | 91.82         | 1988.58        |
| Agents PS     | 6540.96         | 388.10         | 480.67         | 123.68        | 498.62         |
| Rail. Pol.    | 433.34          | 0.91           | 180.67         | 42.05         | 39.28          |
| Guar. Fin.    | 728.47          | 99.86          | 52.71          | 31.74         | 78.97          |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>26547.77</b> | <b>1687.99</b> | <b>1139.69</b> | <b>289.29</b> | <b>2605.45</b> |

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(2) Total individuals denounced and arrested to date.

|                 | Illegal detention | Illegal transp. | Illegal purchase | Illegal sale | Stolen |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|--------|
| Carabinieri     | 978               | 3951            | 234              | 198          | 11     |
| Alfanti P.S.    | 458               | 2626            | 941              | 475          | 17     |
| Railway Police  | 2                 | 146             | 2                | -            | -      |
| Guardia Finanza | 117               | 173             | 125              | 52           | 3      |
| Totals          | 1553              | 6896            | 1302             | 725          | 31     |

(3) Legal Activity in the Grain Campaign.

| Province      | Tribunali     | Persons awaiting trial |
|---------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Palermo       | Palermo       | 26                     |
|               | Termini       | unknown                |
| Agrigento     | Agrigento     | unknown                |
|               | Sciacca       | unknown                |
| Trapani       | Trapani       | unknown                |
| Catania       | Catania       | 456                    |
|               | Caltagirone   | 299                    |
| Messina       | Messina       | 62                     |
|               | Patti         | 139                    |
| Siracusa      | Siracusa      | 187                    |
| Ragusa        | Ragusa        | 46                     |
|               | Modica        | 46                     |
| Caltanissetta | Caltanissetta | 160                    |
| Enna          | Enna          | 351                    |
| Nicosia       | Nicosia       | unknown                |

1772

From 1 July 1944 to 26 August 1944 a total of 1219 persons have been tried for the violation of the amassing laws.

For violations of the R.D. law of 1944 the courts are acting with severity. Many persons have been sentenced to sentences of over 3 years' imprisonment, together with appropriate fines. Several maximum sentences of 6 years have been rendered. Very few influential persons have been charged but one Baron has been sentenced to 3½ years in prison.

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|---------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Palermo       | Palermo       | 26                     |
|               | Termini       | unknown                |
| Agrigento     | Agrigento     | unknown                |
|               | Sciacca       | unknown                |
| Trapani       | Trapani       | unknown                |
| Catania       | Catania       | 456                    |
|               | Caltagirone   | 299                    |
| Messina       | Messina       | 82                     |
|               | Patti         | 139                    |
| Siracusa      | Siracusa      | 187                    |
| Ragusa        | Ragusa        | 46                     |
|               | Modica        | 46                     |
| Caltanissetta | Caltanissetta | 160                    |
| Enna          | Enna          | 351                    |
|               | Nicosia       | unknown                |
| Totals        |               | 1772                   |

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## c. Food Rations.

- Ration scale. The new ration scale has been authorized and put into effect for the whole island. It provides 200 grams of bread per day and 550 grams of pasta per week, per person, or the equivalent.
- Minced goods. Several warehouses of milk, soup, and M.V. ration to be turned over to the Italian authorities. In the meantime, instructions have been received that certain of those materials were needed on the main land. Accordingly, the hand-over to Italian authorities has been stopped pending clarification.

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c. Sugar. 2708.51 metric tons of sugar was received during August and a 3 Month's ration will be distributed early in September, remainder to be kept on hand.

d. Finances. 400,000,000 lire are still outstanding as the debt of the Provincial Consorzio. Steps have been taken to recover this amount at the earliest possible moment.

e. Soap. Sufficient sulphur oil and caustic soda are on hand for a 2 months' ration of soap, but additional sulphur oil is necessary to maintain this soap ration.

f. POL. During August the following amounts of POL were distributed to civilian needs.

|                 |       |         |
|-----------------|-------|---------|
| Benzina         | 5895  | barrels |
| Nafta           | 10338 | "       |
| Kerosene        | 5617  | "       |
| Lubricating oil | 563   | "       |
| Grease          | 6920  | pounds  |

Much of this was used for the collection of grain and bus service has had to be skeletonized and curtailed.

g. Coal. 7043 tons of steam coal and 7000 tons of Gardinia coal were received.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Principal activity during August of this division has been with campaign, Mereto reported upon.

Potatoes. 17987 quintals of potatoes have been amassed.

Mules. Certain military requirements of mules are being met by requisitioning.

E. Labor.

Labor unrest has been at a minimum during the period of this report.

1. A strike occurred early in August at the Imora group of sulphur mines, near Caltanissetta. The miners were impatient because of the delay in approving the wage agreement. After a short consultation with Italian labor officials and Region Labor Officer, work was resumed.

f. POL. During August the following amounts of POL were distributed to civilian needs.

|                 |       |         |
|-----------------|-------|---------|
| Benzina         | 5895  | barrels |
| Nafta           | 10538 | "       |
| Kerosene        | 5617  | "       |
| Lubricating oil | 563   | "       |
| Grease          | 6920  | pounds  |

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2. A strike, lasting about two hours, was called by employees of the General Electric Co. When the issues were discussed, the strikers returned to work.

3. The wage agreements, in respect to sulphur workers, have been approved by the Italian Government, in conjunction with the Labor Commission, A.C.C. H.Q.

#### m. Public Works and Utilities.

n. General. With the departure from Sicily of Number 1 District and Public Works military requirements have decreased, but the Italian Navy still continues. Palermo is a most important Naval Base for the American Navy and Messina and Augusta for the Italian Navy.

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2. Exponso. A table of expenses for months of MAY, JUNE and JULY 1944 is submitted herewith.

| TYPE OF WORK          | EXPENSES FOR THE MONTHS OF |            |            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|
|                       | May 1944                   | June 1944  | July 1944  |
| Bridges. Road         | 44,618.993                 | 40,074.204 | 31,878.851 |
| Resurf. Road          |                            |            |            |
| Maintenance.          |                            |            |            |
| Lequoducts and        | 1,702.335                  | 1,105.373  | 1,228.894  |
| Water Supply          | 1,815.709                  | 1,388.954  | 1,395.080  |
| Aria Control          | 4,454.176                  | 946.929    | 714.525    |
| Cancers               |                            |            |            |
| Destruction and       | 6,993.225                  | 4,923.297  | 5,571.375  |
| Removal of Debris     | 2,865.296                  | 3,700.671  | 1,921.914  |
| Schools               | 1,705.396                  | 2,451.464  | 1,841.499  |
| Hospitals             | 843.500                    | 372.728    | 787.932    |
| Prisons & Courts      | 15,819.289                 | 7,134.513  | 5,228.484  |
| Buildings             |                            |            |            |
| Buildings occupied by | 997.379                    | 469.011    | 139.085    |
| Allies                |                            |            |            |
| Maritime & Light      | 351.273                    | 328.227    | 299.651    |
| Houses                | 2,080.222                  | 1,010.978  | 1,411.407  |
| Arts & Monuments      | 5,132.181                  | 8,548.218  | 6,705.498  |
| State Owned Houses    | 350.000                    | 550.000    | 50.000     |
| Gas Plant Palermo     | 1,100.000                  | 1,200.000  | 1,100.000  |
| Electric Company      |                            |            |            |
| Total                 | 90,828.974                 | 74,002.567 | 60,274.195 |

3. Utilities. The electric power situation for the island is improved, due to the completion of the Port Empedocle plant.

C. Public Safety and Courts.

1. Rate of Crime Reported.

|                  | July 1944 | August 1944 |
|------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Murder           | 26        | 34          |
| Attempted murder | 14        | 22          |
| Robberies        | 108       | 193         |
| Abductions       | 6         | 11          |
| Assaults         | 11        | 20          |
| Damages          | 22        | 19          |
| Gravated thefts  | 862       | 920         |
| Simple thefts    | 430       | 405         |

2. Prisons.

the prisons are under

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|                       |            |            |            |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Products and          | 1.702.535  | 1.105.373  | 31.878.851 |
| Water Supply          | 1.815.709  | 1.388.954  | 1.228.894  |
| Water Control         | 4.454.176  | 946.929    | 1.395.080  |
| Power                 |            |            | 714.525    |
| Dredging and          |            |            |            |
| Removal of Debris     | 6.993.225  | 4.923.297  | 5.571.375  |
| Schools               | 2.865.296  | 3.700.671  | 1.921.914  |
| Hospitals             | 1.705.396  | 2.451.464  | 1.841.499  |
| Prisons & Courts      | 843.500    | 372.728    | 787.932    |
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| Buildings occupied by |            |            |            |
| Italians              | 997.379    | 469.011    | 139.085    |
| Maritime & Light      |            |            |            |
| Houses                | 351.273    | 328.227    | 299.651    |
| Arts & Monuments      | 2.080.222  | 1.010.978  | 1.411.407  |
| State Owned Houses    | 5.132.181  | 8.548.218  | 6.703.498  |
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| Electric Company      | 1.100.000  | 1.200.000  | 1.100.000  |
| Total                 | 90.828.974 | 74.002.567 | 60.274.195 |

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##### 2. Prisons.

Plans to relieve the crowded condition of the prisons are under way. Because of the vigorous grain law enforcement campaign, all available new prison facilities will be needed.

##### 3. Registration and licensing of cars.

The total number of cars registered is now 5962.

##### 4. Passes.

Control of travel passes has been turned over to Italian authorities on the basis of regulations issued from H.Q. ---C.C. In collaboration with 56 Area, passes for automobiles to cross the Straits of Messina are issued only in exceptional cases.

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5. The Italian Government has retained the provisional Regional organization for Public Safety agencies, substantially as originally instituted before 10 February 1944 by A.M.G.

6. Because of the large effort put forth by police agencies in grain collection, it is not surprising that there is some increase in serious crime. It can be expected to increase as long as large numbers of police officials are required to devote their full time to the collection of grain and the prosecution of offenders against the grain laws.

7. A.M.G. Courts.

a. No cases tried. The death penalty imposed at Catania in June 1944 has been commuted to life imprisonment.

b. General review of certain categories of A.M.G. cases has resulted in some suspensions of sentences, in accordance with directions from the Legal Sub-Commission.

8. Italian Courts. Italian Courts have functioned in a fairly satisfactory manner and during August have devoted much time to the trial of violations of the grain laws. Their dockets of normal cases show some increase for, in many places, judges have been taken from civil trials to help with the accumulation of criminal cases.

9. Public Health and Public Welfare.

1. Public Health.

a. The health of the island population continues to be well above the average.

b. There is some increase in infectious diseases and a rapid increase in typhoid and malaria, but amoebic dysentery shows a decrease.

c. Vigorous action is being continued against V.D. by treating those found with this disease.

2. Education.

1. Seasonal school work has occupied the attention of the various provveditori for the month of August, including consideration of the examinations given in July, preparation of transfer lists for elementary school teachers, and planning for and arranging the new school year.

2. Many school buildings are still unavailable.

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## 2. Education.

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2. Many school buildings are still unavailable for use because of damage caused by the war and the continued occupation by military authorities.
3. Text books are being reprinted and paper has been made available.

## J. Refugees.

All Communes with refugees from the Mainland have been visited during the month. In general, the refugees are being well cared for with limited exceptions. Attempts were made to correct the bad conditions, on the spot. Refugee camps at Siracusa and Termini have been closed and the staffs cut to the minimum. Both camps can be

SECRET

## Region I Headquarters - Monthly Report AUGUST - continued - Page 8.

re-opened on short notice, when repatriation begins, and will be used as staging camps.

K. Communications.1. Highways.

- a. Military highways and other highways are in fair condition, considering the traffic and the shortage of materials.
- b. Sufficient materials are on hand to carry out the present program of work.
- c. The bridge construction program will be completed before the rainy season commences.

2. Rail.

- a. During the month of August the gaps in the railroad lines between Palermo and Messina, between Messina and Catania and the Simeto Bridge between Catania and Palermo have been completed and on 28 August 1944 these lines were opened for traffic.

- b. A special Diesel took a party of Italian Railway Officials and A.C.C. Officials over the newly opened lines from Palermo to Messina to Catania and back to Palermo.

- c. During the first days of September the line from Marsala to Castelvetrano will be opened to traffic, this being the last section of standard gauge railroad in Sicily to be put in condition for traffic.

- d. Passenger and freight service will depend upon the amount of coal to be allotted.

tele-communications. No particular difficulties have been encountered during the month in telephone and telegraph service, which is functioning throughout the island.

Post. The postal system is functioning throughout the island, mail-service generally improving.

L. Property Control.

The property control division has rendered general supervision of all properties in custody or under control and some progress has been made, looking towards final liquidation of the custodianship of this division.

d. Sufficient materials are on hand to carry out the present program of work.

e. The bridge construction program will be completed before the rainy season commences.

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e. Tele-communications. No particular difficulties have been encountered during the month in telephone and telegraph service, and is functioning throughout the island.

f. Postal Service. The postal system is functioning throughout the island, and service generally improving.

## L. Property Control.

The property control division has rendered general supervision of all properties in custody or under control and some progress has been made, looking towards final liquidation of the custodianship of this division.

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 UNITED STATES COMMISSION  
 SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS  
 APC 594

MONTHLY REPORT - JULY 64

REGION I

20 AUG Recd

*Plus 2-38*

A. GENERAL.

1. During July the grain campaign has overshadowed all other forms of activity in SICILY, absorbing not only A.C.C. but also Italian Army, Carabinieri and Government officials, as well as affecting policies, Separatism and crime. Prospective changes of High Commissioner or Prefect, of Order Justice or Sindaco, are all measured in terms of their effect on the grain collection: and even the Black Market has reacted to the new conditions. The officials of A.C.C. the campaign has brought each member of first efforts to feed SICILY just a year ago, and today such of the work of A.C.C./A.C.C. over the last twelve months is now assessable. To some extent therefore this report is in the form of a stock taking over a year and to that degree may exceed in principle the usual monthly record of events.

B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

2. High Commissioner - "To be or not to be" A.D.I.S.I.C. has been a question dominating much of party and provincial politics. For the first week of JULY MUSCOTTO was in GALLERIA and ROSE visiting BOSCARA and other Government officials and returned to turn over all his efforts into the grain campaign, feeling that his position was strengthened. From 6-15 JULY GALLERIA made a successful visit to SICILY during which he made a public address at PALERMO which was later broadcast. He returned to PALERMO after authorising the Regional Commissioner to cable A.C.C. that he felt any change in High Commissioner at the present time was most undesirable. Consequent political pressure for the appointment of A.D.I.S.I.C. continued, and at the end of the month notice appeared in the ROSE press of the change in High Commissioner for SICILY. To official notice, however, reached MUSCOTTO who determined to remain at his post and to what he could to enforce grain collection while A.D.I.S.I.C. remained away in ROSE. Finally, on the last day of the month, a telegram was despatched by the Secretary to the Cabinet but not to the High Commissioner. It was characteristically addressed direct to Prefect PALERMO instructing him to inform all Prefects and newspapers of the island of the replacement of MUSCOTTO by A.D.I.S.I.C. With this final political and administrative manoeuvre, MUSCOTTO disappeared from his office: to a man who had served SICILY well for a year since the invasion it was an ungracious and unwelcome parting salute from his Government.

3. Unofficial - (Members to see the meeting) and various

directing, police, separatism and crime. Irrespective changes of  
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all measured in terms of their effect on the grain collection, and  
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the officials of A.C.O. the campaign has brought back memories of  
first efforts to feed 500,000 just a year ago, and today much of  
the work of A.M.U./A.C.O. over the last twelve months is now  
assessable. No one could therefore this report is in the form  
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diminishing the usual monthly record of events.

B. SOCKS GOVERNMENT

High Commissioner - "To be or not to be" AIDISIO has been a question dominating each of party and provincial politics. For the first week of JULY MUSOTTO was in SALERNO and Rome visiting BONOMI and other government officials and returned to inform all his efforts into the grain campaign, feeling that his position was strengthened. From 8-13 JULY ORLANDO made a successful visit to SMOULT during which he made a public address at Palermo which was later broadcast. He returned to Rome after authorizing the regional Commissioner to cable I.C.O. that he felt any change in High Commissioner at the present time was most undesirable. Completion followed pressure for the appointment of AIDISIO continued, and at the end of the month notice appeared in the Rome press of the change in High Commissioner for SMOULT. No official notice, however, reached MUSOTTO who determined to remain at his post and to what he could to enforce grain collection while AIDISIO remained away in Rome. Finally, on the last day of the month, a telegram was despatched by the Secretary to the Cabinet out not to the High Commissioner. It was characteristically addressed direct to Prefect PALERMO instructing him to inform all Prefects and newspapers of the island of the replacement of MUSOTTO by AIDISIO! With this final political and administrative discourtesy MUSOTTO disappeared from his office: to a man who had served SMOULT well for 1 year since the invasion it was an unexpected and unwelcome parting salute from his government.

3. Regional - Needless to say, the uncertainty and various considerations surrounding the position of Italian Colonizationist led Britain to enhance the powers of this office, and Protectorate are still disinclined to accept regional decisions. The British position has however been somewhat softened by the Italian Regional officials - administrative and agricultural, even if much of the latter has had to be abandoned.

6. Provincial - Whatever success to date has been achieved in certain collection has been more due to regional inspectors and native backed up by all the efforts of the Cambridge Road rather than to ability on a provincial level. The responses of the different provinces have been largely correlated with the presence or absence of prefects, and their relative abilities. PACTS, with prefects present in various districts, has 5771

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outstanding due to his prompt and untiring efforts. PALMICO under Prefect D'AMATO - a political appointment made by ARIISTO - has conversely shown most discreditable figures to date for grain collection. CALABRISSEIRA and SIRASUA have suffered due to continued failure - now over a period of more than 4 months - of the Government to appoint Prefects. The elderly Prefect PANCARO of AGRIGENTO has viewed the grain laws with distaste and his early replacement by a career prefect is essential. To deal with a race such as the SICILIAN, with very strong political leanings, the advantage of a career over a political Prefect is beyond question. During early A.M.C. days countless political Prefects did invaluable work, but now that the political field is open to party strife and counter-move, career men are needed to maintain honesty of purpose and equanimity in administration.

5. Communal - The grain campaign has had a very satisfactory effect on communal administration in enforcing a communal responsibility to collect an assessed quota in each district. In many cases weak mayors have been skewered and replaced by Prefects or High Commissioners, and in general communal agrarian committees are functioning - though mainly only under the eyes and drive of the Carabinieri. It is difficult to acclaim this campaign as a democratic victory, for it is only thanks to complete mobilization of the Carabinieri for this one purpose that communes are making the required response.

6. A.C.C. - With new summons for Provincial Commissioners to go to the Mainland, further assignments are now planned. MESSINA, with a small sub-office, is to become part of A.C.C. MESSINA, SICILY Administration under its Colonel A.S. GILES O.B.E., M.C., who from CALABRIA will also overlook the Province of SIRACUSA and together with PALMICO and TRAPANI, by the Regional Executive Officer from Regional Headquarters. Further reductions in personnel are in view which will leave A.C.C. SICILY functioning mainly from the two offices in the two rival cities of PALMICO and CALABRIA. The cost will be cut according to the cloth - and today the essential work of the Allied Control Commission appears mainly to advise the High Commissioner and Prefects from an entirely disinterested, non-political standpoint, and otherwise to act as a form of economic mission.

### 7. POLITICAL.

7. Separatism - This movement has proceeded under more openly direction during the month, in a belated attempt to reverse the authorities and probably in prospect of the appointment of ARIISTO who is credited with the intention of crushing Separatism. Incitement to resist the grain collection law has been dropped, though it still continues underground. There is much talk of alone contacts being maintained with the United States, and the most recent button-hole emblem of a separatist group is the

5. Communal - The Grain Campaign has had a very satisfactory effect on communal administration in enforcing a communal responsibility to collect an assessed quota in each district. In many cases local mayors have been shown up and replaced by prefects or High Commissioners, and in general communal agrarian committees are functioning - though mainly only under the eyes and drive of the Carabinieri. It is difficult to acclaim this campaign as a democratic victory, for it is only thanks to complete mobilization of the Carabinieri for this one purpose that communes are making the required response.

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### C. POLITICAL.

7. Separatism - This movement has proceeded under more orderly direction during the month, in a belated attempt to appease the authorities and probably in prospect of the appointment of ALFONSO who is credited with the intention of ending Separatism. The attempt to resist the Grain Collection law has been dropped, though it still continues underground. There is much talk of close contact being maintained with the United States, and the most recent button-hole emblem of a Separatist group is the "American" super-imposed on the centre of "OLD COUNTRY" as a "Right State". There is some suspicion of attempts at political reorganization of the Mafia, and in some districts it is understood that Sindaci have received unobscured warnings regarding certain of their legitimate actions which have not been viewed favorably by Mafia groups. It may be that some alliance could exist between Separatism and the old form of Mafia.

8. Sicily's opportunity - After a year as the first liberated part of ITALY and EUROPE it seems that SICILY is likely to miss the greatest opportunity she has had in her history of becoming an important part of ITALY, with perhaps influence in the Mediterranean and Southern EUROPE. As a dominant territory of ITALY her trials and ordeals force on her a longing for a hypothetical form of political independence, while countries of similar dependence on some other power. Man, of her

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Report of her own making. Intensely disliked and alienated, her relations with the island are viewed by Italians with a reserve founded on suspicions of her sincerity. Given a firm grasp Commissioner able to unite the administration of the island, and a readiness to share with Italy in the common burdens of external war and the legions of Fascism, SICILY could still do much to steer herself and assist Italy towards a brighter future. Much depends on the High Commissioner's influence over the next six months.

#### D. ITALIAN ARMED FORCES.

9. Close liaison has continued with III Corpo d'Armata for the necessary adjustments to guards for A.C.C. warehouses, following on the removal of I.B.S. The Corps Commander, Generale MARCONI, has attended a number of conferences in connection with the grain campaign, and has redrafted the limited number of troops at his disposal in order to strengthen the action of the Carabinieri in the principal grain areas. Sections have been attached to a number of CC.MR. Stations weak in numbers, and combined patrols and road blocks by Carabinieri and Italian troops are operating successfully.

10. A visit to A.C.C. Regional Headquarters was paid by Ammiraglio BOBBIERI - Italian Naval Commander in Chief SICILY waters. Exploratory discussions were entered upon in regard to strengthening control on schooners and prevention of contraband and the illegal passage of the MESSINA straits. In addition, the arrest by the Italian Naval Mobilisation Authorities of naval personnel working in Allied Dockyards and charged with desertion following the occupation has been clarified and rendered satisfactory for both M.O.S. Palermo and British Naval Authorities NASION SICILY.

11. P.A.D. - Satisfactory arrangements have been made for the operation by the Italian civil authorities of limited P.A.D. schemes in CATANIA and PALERMO.

#### E. LIAISON ALLIED MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

12. SC Area has assumed command of the island on departure of I DISINCO and close liaison has been maintained with Brigadier CRIPPS who has shown particular interest in the problems and progress of the grain campaign. Advice has been given by SC AREA on the preparation of P.A.D. schemes in CATANIA and PALERMO.

13. On the departure of I.B.S., A.C.C. has assumed certain administrative responsibilities, mainly administrative. In conjunction with Garrison Commander PALERMO and U.S. NAVAL OPERATING BASE, A.C.C. has agreed to offer certain facilities at MONSIEUR hotel for officers in transit.

14. On 4 JULY, Independence Day, A.C.C. British Officers entertained at dinner the U.S. Officers of A.C.C., Mr. Webster, U.S. Consul-General, 12. Place, U.S. Consul PALERMO, Comd 56 Area,

on the removal of I.S.S. the Corps Commander, Generalissimo MARIANO, has attended a number of conferences in connection with the grain campaign, and has redistributed the limited number of troops at his disposal in order to strengthen the action of the Carabinieri in the principal grain areas. Sections have been attached to a number of CO.M. Stations west in numbers, and combined patrols and road blocks by Carabinieri and Italian troops are operating successfully.

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## B. LIAISON ALLIED MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

12. 56 Area has assumed command of the island on departure of 1 DISBURG and close liaison has been maintained with Brigadier CHIFFS who has shown particular interest in the problems and progress of the grain campaign. Advice has been given by 56 AREA on the preparation of P.A.D. schemes in CATANIA and PALERMO.

13. On the departure of I.S.S., A.C.C. has assumed certain additional responsibilities, mainly administrative. In conjunction with Garrison Commander PALERMO and U.S. NAVAL OPERATING BASE, A.C.C. has agreed to offer certain facilities at MICHESIOR Hotel for officers in transit.

14. On 4 JULY, Independence Day, A.C.C. British Officers entertained at dinner the U.S. Officers of A.C.C., Mr. Westar, U.S. Consul-General, Mr. Peck, U.S. Consul PALERMO, Command 56 Area, Comd I.S.S., representatives U.S. M.O.B., and P.W.B. The occasion was most successful and enhanced Allied inter-relations.

## C. VISITORS.

15. Italian official visitors have included Vittorio Emanuele ORLANDO, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, ANTONIO GIULIO, Minister for AGRICULTURE, MARIANO (Sicilian) under-secretary for Education, Generalissimo PALERMO inspecting the Italian Red Cross, Generalissimo, presiding over Italian Military Tribunal, MARIANO, to the office is president of the Sicilian Court, and, to a social conference at CATANIA - the Ministers SALERNO, CATANIA and MARIANO.

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16. Allied visitors included first and foremost Colonel Young with reference ZHANGHONG in connection with the Grain Campaign. The Chief Executive is Colonel MUB-SHIN visited PALMISTO to arrange pay questions for officers and other ranks on the removal of the greater part of the British military garrison from STON. Major Barrani - C.S.O. Intelligence III DISTRICT - also came to coordinate P.S.S. and Public Safety problems in the island. From A.C.C. came also Major Franklin accompanying Generale TRAINA, Lt Colonel BROWN of Transportation, and Majors Ellis and Reyes representing G-5 on reduction of personnel.

#### G. ECONOMICS AND SUPPLY.

##### 17. The Grain Campaign.

a. Control of the High Commissioner's efforts throughout all provinces on behalf of the grain collection has been the main theme of the work of A.C.C. and has involved the Executive, Economics & Supply, including Agriculture and Food, Public Safety, Legal and Transportation Sections of this Region.

b. Additional Officers have been provided through Headquarters A.C.C. as follows: -

- i. to supervise system of grain collection: Lt Col M.V. Walker
- ii. assistant - assigned Eastern STAFF : Maj C.W. Clark
- iii. lent from A.A.I for one month : assigned CALABANZON AREA  
AGRICULTURE  
PALMISTO
- iv. to coordinate Public Safety and military requirements : Col Young  
Magdione Sanchez
- v. to coordinate Propaganda : Captain Howard Owen

c. Immediately following the Regional Commissioner's return on 6 JUL from conference at NARIES on the Grain situation, a final full coordinating conference was held with the Italian authorities to ensure maximum pressure throughout the island to enforce grain collection. Thereafter daily contact has been maintained with the High Commissioner, Carabinieri and Legal Official, and A.C.C. officers have concentrated upon field-work in provinces and communes.

d. Propaganda has been extensively used, and much credit is due to Mr Bernard BIVAN of P.M.B. for the magnificent hand extended to help this campaign. The film of the warlord del Popolo has arrived together with a sound-

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b. Additional Officers have been provided through Headquarters A.C.C. as follows: -

- i. to supervise system of grain collection: Lt Col H.V. Walker
- ii. assistant - assigned Eastern Sector: Lt Col F.W. Glavin
- iii. sent from A.A.I. for one month: Lt R. Sheridan, Lt C. Spurling, Lt D.J. Stoughton, Lt T.A. O'Connor
- iv. to coordinate Public Safety and Military requirements: Col Young, Maggiore Mancino
- v. to coordinate Propaganda: Captain Howard Owen

c. Immediately following the Regional Commissioner's return on 3 JUL from conference at LIMA on the grain situation, a final full coordinating conference was held with the Italian authorities to ensure maximum pressure throughout the island to enforce grain collection. Thereafter daily contact has been maintained with the High Commissioner, Carabinieri and Legal Officials, and A.C.C. officers have concentrated upon field-work in provinces and communes.

d. Propaganda has been extensively used, and much credit is due to Mr Bernard BRYAN of T.W.B. for the magnificent and extended help in this campaign. The film of the National Red Popcorn has arrived together with a sound-film-van: both these are being directed by Captain Howard OWEN of A.C.C. Public Relations.

e. Minimum quotas have been fixed for each province by the High Commissioner's Inspectorate of Agriculture, and these broken down by Provincial Inspectors so as to provide a target figure for each commune. The total minimum quota for the island was fixed at 2,100,000 quintals which is sufficient to feed the rationed part of the four million plus population of Sicily for one year - the daily figure required being approximately 2,000 quintals.

f. On 30 JUL 4,200 quintals had been collected; on 5768254,251 quintals. The provincial quotas and total figures collected to date are as follows:

57  
3643

| PROVINCE      | MINIMUM QUOTA<br>TO BE CONFISCATED | GRAIN CONFISCATED<br>27 JUN - 5 AUG 44<br>QUINTALS | PERCENTAGE<br>OF MINIMUM<br>QUOTA |
|---------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| AGRICULTO     | 500.000                            | 63.000                                             | 13                                |
| CALABRISSETTA | 600.000                            | 72.100                                             | 12                                |
| CATANIA       | 400.000                            | 44.800                                             | 11                                |
| ETNA          | 500.000                            | 50.000                                             | 10                                |
| MESSINA       | 50.000                             | .700                                               | 1.4                               |
| PALEMO        | 600.000                            | 7.900                                              | 1.3                               |
| LACUSA        | 90.000                             | 23.350                                             | 26                                |
| SIRACUSA      | 200.000                            | 34.500                                             | 9                                 |
| TRAPANI       | 300.000                            | 23.900                                             | 8                                 |
| TOTAL         | 3,100.000                          | 292.250                                            | 9.4 %                             |

8. Denunciation and confiscation continue as a result of maximum effort of Carabinieri throughout the island. The following figures show seizures to date:

i. Totals of confiscations since start of campaign:

|                | (Grain) | (Barley) | (Flour) | (Pasta) | (Other cereals) |
|----------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| Carabinieri    | 6506    | 516      | 163     | 59      | 203             |
| Guard. Finanza | 534     | 75       | 20      | 14      | 18              |
| Agencia P.S.   | 1790    | 79       | 152     | 46      | 170             |
| Railway Police | 150     | -        | 76      | 19      | 13              |
| TOTALS         | 8905    | 670      | 411     | 138     | 503             |

ii. Total denunciations and arrests are:

|              |           |          |         |        |
|--------------|-----------|----------|---------|--------|
| Illegal      | Illegal   | Illegal  | Illegal | Stolen |
| denunciation | transport | purchase | sale    |        |

|           |           |         |      |
|-----------|-----------|---------|------|
| PALESTINE | 600,000   | 700     | 1.4  |
| HAUSA     | 90,000    | 25,350  | 1.3  |
| SIRAGUSA  | 200,000   | 24,300  | 28   |
| TRAPANI   | 300,000   | 23,900  | 9    |
| TOTAL     | 5,100,000 | 224,250 | 8    |
|           |           |         | 9.4% |

g. Denunciation and confiscation continue as a result of maximum effort of Carabinieri throughout the island. The following figures show seizures to date:

i. Totals of confiscations since start of campaign:

|                | (Grain) | (Barley) | (Flour) | (Paste) | (Other cereals) |
|----------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| Carabinieri    | 5558    | 313      | 155     | 59      | 303             |
| Guard. Finanza | 584     | 75       | 50      | 14      | 18              |
| Agenti P.S.    | 1750    | 79       | 135     | 46      | 170             |
| Railway Police | 150     | -        | 78      | 19      | 12              |
| TOTALS         | 8042    | 467      | 411     | 136     | 503             |

10423

ii. Total denunciations and arrests are:

|                | Illegal detention | Illegal transport | Illegal purchase | Illegal sale | Stolen |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|--------|
| Carabinieri    | 311               | 2582              | 154              | 108          | 5      |
| Guard. Finanza | 53                | 139               | 45               | 19           | -      |
| Agenti P.S.    | 136               | 609               | 231              | 174          | 7      |
| Railway Police | -                 | 273               | 145              | -            | -      |
| TOTALS         | 500               | 3593              | 575              | 301          | 12     |

h. Local Division report the following number of persons denounced and arrested for train contraventions up to 29 JUL - 5767. Proportion being from ABRUZZO and CAMPANIA:

33

|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| Illegal detention | 300  |
| Illegal transport | 3593 |
| Illegal purchase  | 573  |
| Illegal sale      | 301  |
| Stolen            | 13   |

Total

4961

In CALABRIA sentences of three to four years and over have been passed on 31 persons with fines ranging from L. 11,000 - L. 30,000. Also two in CALABRITUSSE, one of 3 years imprisonment and L. 56,800 fine and the other 4 years imprisonment and a fine of L. 373,200. Although all judicial results are not entirely satisfactory, a marked improvement is shown.

16. Food - The tense situation, referred to in the JUL report owing to the annihilation of the imported rations before the new wheat crop was ready for milling, was averted by the arrival of the mentioned L. FLOUR at CALABRIA with 8,000 tons of wheat, 7,000 of which were loose and required sackage. For the first time the civil authorities took over the food as ship-side and, with the indefatigable assistance of Major DRILL, the work was done to timetable, and two grain despatched by rail, road or schooner to the various provinces. The 400 tons of flour borrowed from SO AREA was also repaid. At the end of JULY the harvest collections showed some improvement, but only approximately one week's supply remained collected and unconsumed in the island. It was therefore necessary throughout JULY to advise the High Commissioners to suspend the issue of pasta and to limit the ration temporarily to 200 grs of bread. Stocks of sugar are still lacking, and no issues have been made to the population since JULY 24.

18. Transfer of canned foods to civil authorities - Delay in handling over supplies has continued as Commissioner BRUSCHI has still received no orders from his government concerning payment. The hand-over of 10 more warehouses is therefore stopped, and serious depreciation of stocks is taking place.

20. Balance of Trade - As APPENDIX A to this report is included the list of commodities imported for civilian use from date of occupation to 31 JUL 44. APPENDIX B shows the goods exported giving a value of lire 543,563,120 to U.K.: lire 21,885,000 to USA: lire 242,014,235 to ITALY.

21. Imports - The greater part of the month has been spent in surveying and organizing the supply of stores for lemon groves for the considerable export programme envisaged for the winter. Major SUTHERLAND and Mr. PACHIA have been on tour in CALABRIA to conclude these arrangements.

22. P.O.L. - The following amounts of P.O.L. have been issued for essential civilian use in SICILY during JULY:

18. Food - The tense situation, referred to in the JUNE report owing to the examination of the imported rations before the new wheat crop was ready for milling, was averted by the arrival of the "MAGNET" L. TRUCK at SALAMIA with 9,000 tons of wheat, 7,000 of which were loose and required sacking. For the first time the Civil Authorities took over the goods at ship-side and, with the indispensable assistance of Major DAVIS, the work was done to timetable, and the train despatched by rail, road or schooner to the various provinces. The 400 tons of flour borrowed from 56 ships was also regaled. At the end of JULY the harvest collections showed some improvement, but only approximately one year's supply remained collected and uncommenced in the island. It was therefore necessary throughout JULY to advise the High Commissioner to suspend the issue of rations and to limit the ration temporarily to 200 lbs of bread. Stocks of wheat are still lacking, and no issues have been made to the population since MAY 44.

19. Transfer of surplus foods to Civil Authorities - Del. in handling over supplies has continued as Commissioner BRUSCHI has still received no orders from his government concerning payment. The hand-over of 10 more warehouses is therefore stopped, and serious depreciation of stocks is taking place.

20. Balance of trade - As APPENDIX A to this report is included the list of commodities imported for civilian use from date of occupation to 31 JUL 44. APPENDIX B shows the goods exported giving a value of Lira 348,666,110 to U.K.: Lira 31,625,000 to USA: Lira 342,614,225 to ITALIA.

21. Exports - The greater part of the month has been spent in surveying and organizing the supply of stocks for lemon cases for the considerable export programme envisaged for the winter. Major STUBBINS and Mr. FASANELLA have been on tour in CALABRIA to conclude these arrangements.

22. P.O.L. - The following amounts of P.O.L. have been issued for essential civilian use in SICILY during JUNE:

|                 |         |              |
|-----------------|---------|--------------|
| PETROL          | 232,238 | U.S. Gallons |
| MAFIA           | 422,510 | " "          |
| PENOLIO         | 123,900 | " "          |
| lubricating oil | 24,346  | " "          |
| GREASE          | 9,735   | " "          |

Total civilian issues since 1 NOV 43 are shown in APPENDIX A. Generally speaking the P.O.L. allocation worked out well and with necessary adjustments internally is sufficient for the island's essential requirements: there has been consistent pressure to increase the number of permits for civilian cars, but such action has been discouraged.

23. Agriculture - The greater part of the entire month's work of

Region I Headquarters - Monthly Report JUN continued - PAGE 7.

C. This division has been devoted to the Grain Campaign. The figures for potatoes delivered to the conscripts up to 29 JUL are below expectations at 18,560 quintals. Army requirements appear to be lessening: Black Market prices are 50 - 65 lire per MT.

#### M. LABOR.

24. No strike has occurred during the month, though action has been threatening among sulphur miners in CALABRITTO who are still awaiting action on the agreement between owners and miners which was submitted to A.C.C. and Italian Government at the beginning of the month. Agreements with railway workers are also pending decisions at ROME.

25. The reduction to the S.A.I.A. bus services from PALERMO owing to fuel cuts resulted in a discharge of 200 employees, with consequent unrest. It has been possible to arrange for a temporary resumption on a reduced basis.

26. Difficulty is experienced in obtaining unskilled labourers for the Armed Forces at lire 50 per 8 hr day. For a recent operational priority contract it was necessary to authorise payment at a higher rate in order to obtain completion on schedule.

27. A PALERMO Port Executive Committee has been formed by M.W.T. with a view to coordinating the Allied problems encountered during use of port facilities. The following personnel attend:

Commissioner PALERMO

rep U.S.N.O.B.

M.W.T. officials.

rep T.S.S.

rep R.A.S.C. (fuel)

S.T.O. (R.M.)

A.C.C. Labor Officer

A.C.C. Fuel Officer

#### I. PUBLIC WORKS.

28. The past month has seen the regularisation including preparation of decrees and payment of contracts for many jobs carried out under A.V.O.

29. Work in the city of MESSINA is progressing and from OCT 43 to JUN 44 about lire 100 M. have been spent there and much value obtained for this outlay.

30. Two Baller bridges have been successfully relaunched for C.R.M. during the month and traffic maintained by temporary or other means.

31. Efforts are being made to accelerate all bridge programmes before the arrival of winter rains. The PALERMO cement works is operating to assist these works for a period of 6 - 8 weeks.

25. The reduction to the S.A.I.A. bus services from PAMUNGO owing to fuel cuts resulted in a decrease of 200 employees, with consequent unrest. It has been possible to arrange for a temporary resumption on a reduced basis.

26. Difficulty is experienced in obtaining unskilled labourers for the Armed Forces at lire 50 per 8 hr day. For a recent operational priority contract it was necessary to authorize payment at a higher rate in order to obtain completion on schedule.

27. A PAMUNGO Port Executive Committee has been formed by M.M.T. with a view to coordinating the allied problems encountered during use of port facilities. The following personnel attend:

Garrison Commander PAMUNGO

Rep U.S.M.O.B.

M.M.T. officials

Rep J.S.S.

Rep R.A.S.C. (Fuel)

S.I.O. (R.M.)

A.C.C. Labor Officer

A.C.C. Fuel Officer

# I. PUBLIC WORKS.

28. The past month has seen the regularisation including preparation of decrees and payment of contracts for many jobs carried out under A.M.C.

29. Work in the city of MESSINA is progressing and from OCT 45 to JUN 46 about lire 100 M. have been spent there and much value obtained for this outlay.

30. Two BATTERY Bridges have been successfully de launched for C.R.I. during the month and traffic maintained by temporary or other means.

31. Efforts are being made to accelerate all bridge programmes before the arrival of winter rains. The PAMUNGO cement works is operating to assist these works for a period of 5 - 6 weeks.

32. Prisons - Work is starting to enlarge accommodation facilities at CALMANISSINIA, and plans are being prepared for PAMUNGO and AGOSTA.

33. Up to 30 APR 46 the total expenses for PUBLIC WORKS and UTILITIES amounted to lire 735,615,650. A break-down is shown as Appendix C.

# J. UTILITIES.

34. The gas works at PAMUNGO closed 31 JUL owing to decision of A.M.I.R.D. (STORM) to cease further coal allotments. The works had been in action since the middle of MAY, but had proved uneconomical owing to low strength of gas-arrival due to general location of pipes caused from bombings. The closing of these works

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Region I Headquarters - Monthly Report July continued - Page 3

All increased the demand for charcoal for cooking.

85. The electric system has been improved during the month with the re-impregnation of the FOM and the planing of which the motor has been repaired by U.S.A.S.I. and though assigned for 5,000 K.W. is now capable of running at 3,000.

#### K. PUBLIC SAFETY.

86. The grain campaign has been the principal occupation of the police forces during the month, and to this work the police have been committed to a minimum degree.

Nevertheless crime has held its own: one large armed band in CALTAUSSETTA province, and another in AGRIGENTO province have been successfully attacked and dissipated, and some of the wing-leaders killed or arrested, but there has been an increase in armed hold-ups in TRAPANI province, and a large armed band is suspected in GARTANI province.

87. The rate of serious crimes is still high, but is on the decrease as compared with last year.

|                   | Dec 43 | Nov 44 | Jul 44 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Voluntary murders | 36     | 40     | 25     |
| Attempted murders | 34     | 50     | 14     |
| Robberies         | 213    | 289    | 109    |
| Extortions        | 11     | 9      | 6      |
| Swindles          | 13     | 15     | 11     |
| Crimes            | 56     | 41     | 33     |
| Untraced thefts   | 2129   | 1706   | 358    |
| Simple thefts     |        | 645    | 430    |

The general average of crimes brought home by police is 40%. About 500 dangerous criminals are known to be at large, and firearms including hand-grenades are plentiful.

88. There has been an appreciable increase in convictions and registrations for Black Market offences, as follows:

| MONTH | Value of registrations | Arrests |
|-------|------------------------|---------|
| MAY   | 845,630 lire           | 157     |
| JUN   | 1,113,532 lire         | 201     |
| JUL   | 4,831,279 lire         | 930     |

89. The visit of Colonel Toms, Deputy Director of A.C.C. Public Safety Division, coincided with the completion of "stable plans" for the grain campaign in conjunction with the army and all police forces. General BLANCA of 6th Legion Carabinieri has insisted on the utmost devotion to the grain collection and has had therefore much influence on the communal committees. The grain results shown by registrations and arrests are given in pages 17, 18, 19, and 20 above.

90. The visit of Colonel Toms, Deputy Director of A.C.C. Public Safety Division, coincided with the completion of "stable plans" for the grain campaign in conjunction with the army and all police forces. General BLANCA of 6th Legion Carabinieri has insisted on the utmost devotion to the grain collection and has had therefore much influence on the communal committees. The grain results shown by registrations and arrests are given in pages 17, 18, 19, and 20 above.

by recovered and dissipated, and some of the wing-leaders killed or arrested, but there has been an increase in armed hold-ups in MARATHI Province, and a large armed band is suspected in GADHAR Province.

37. The rate of serious crimes is still high, but is on the decrease as compared with last year.

|                   | Dec 43 | Feb 44 | Jul 44 |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Voluntary murders | 56     | 26     | 26     |
| Attempted murders | 34     | 30     | 14     |
| Robberies         | 213    | 199    | 108    |
| Extortions        | 81     | 8      | 6      |
| Swindles          | 19     | 19     | 11     |
| Drunkards         | 54     | 21     | 32     |
| Aggravated thefts | 2183   | 1106   | 868    |
| Simple thefts     |        | 624    | 430    |

The General Average of crimes brought home by police is 50%. About 500 dangerous criminals are known to be at large, and firearms including hand-grenades are plentiful.

38. There has been an appreciable increase in convictions and sequestrations for black market offences, as follows:

| MONTH | Value of sequestrations | Arrests |
|-------|-------------------------|---------|
| MAY   | 845,620 lire            | 187     |
| JUN   | 1,113,582 lire          | 201     |
| JUL   | 4,881,279 lire          | 930     |

39. The visit of Colonel Young, Deputy Director of A.C.C. Public Safety Division, coincided with the completion of "stable plans" for the Grain campaign in conjunction with the army and all police forces. Generale BLANCA of 8th Legion Carabinieri has insisted on the utmost devotion to the grain collection and has had thereby much influence on the communal committees. The Grain results shown by sequestrations and arrests are given in paras 3. 17. 3. i. and ii. above.

40. The issue of passes for travel between SICILY and the Mainland is confused and requires constant attention. A number of persons are permitted to cross from the Mainland to SICILY without proper passes and on occasions with a car.

41. The announcement from the Italian Government which appeared in the Press stating the dissolution of "tutte le forze della polizia" had an adverse effect on the police morale during a critical period when their utmost endeavours were being demanded for the Grain campaign.

42. AUS DIPLOMATS. A number of diplomats formerly representing enemy powers at the VATICAN arrived in GADHAR by air 15784 for enforced seclusion at HOTEL MIRAMAR, GADHAR. They are in good conditions there under guard but are anxious to proceed on their way. Major PEARSON of the Political Section was sent to supervise

Region I Headquarters - Monthly Report continued - Page 9. 30/

their stay.

#### L. ITALY.

43. NO cases have been tried in Allied Military Courts during the month, and none are pending.

44. Accumulations of pending cases still persist, but efforts have been made to urge early action. The summer vacation will not be observed as normally, but Italian tribunals and Preture will continue to function with a reduced personnel. Courts of Assisi will close 1 AUG to 29 SEP.

45. All the Italian Military Courts in Sicily were visited during the month by Generale TRALLA and Major FRANTZEN.

46. AT APPENDIX D is given a return of cases affecting Allied interests. In view of the abnormally large figures shown on early investigation is to be made.

#### M. PUBLIC HEALTH.

47. The health of the island continues generally satisfactory.

48. 36 persons were bitten by dogs suspected of having rabies: 30 of them in the Province of CATANIA.

49. Civilian stocktaking at the Central Medical Depot CANTINISSENTIA has helped the distribution of medical supplies to provinces.

50. The campaign against V.D. is being continued vigorously despite departure of many troops from the island.

#### N. REFUGEES.

51. No further organized parties of refugees have arrived, but considerable numbers of SICILIANS have made their way back from the mainland causing some confusion. At the same time, certain Prefects attempted to organize premature repatriation of refugees to ITALY on instructions received direct from the ITALIAN government. These movements have been prohibited.

52. Plans have been completed at MESSINA to send SICILIANS entering the island by all means, and thousands of Germans, Czechs, and ITALIAN Navy are cooperating.

53. Agricultural refugees are anxious to return to their districts.

#### O. COMMUNICATIONS.

54. Communications of A.O.C. have increased with the closing of 1 DISSEM and I.E.S.

55. The cable with M. TONE has been active regarding submarine cables between islands of the IONIAN group.

46. At APPROXIMATE D is given a return of cases affecting Allied interests. In view of the abnormally large figures shown an early investigation is to be made.

M. PUBLIC HEALTH.

- 47. The health of the island continues generally satisfactory.
- 48. 56 persons were bitten by dogs suspected of having rabies; 40 of them in the province of CATANIA.
- 49. Civilian stocktaking at the Central Medical Depot CALAMITASSIMA has delayed the distribution of medical supplies to provinces.
- 50. The campaign against V.D. is being continued vigorously despite departure of many troops from the island.

N. REFUGEES.

- 51. No further organized parties of refugees have arrived, but considerable numbers of SYRIANS have made their way back from the mainland causing some confusion. At the same time, certain protests attempted to organize premature repatriation of refugees to ITALY on instructions received direct from the ITALIAN government. These movements have been prohibited.
- 52. Plans have been completed at MASSARA to check SYRIANS entering the island by all means, and quarters at PINARA, CAMMARFIELD, and Italian Navy are cooperating.
- 53. Agricultural refugees are anxious to return to their districts.

O. COMMUNICATIONS.

- 54. Communications of A.S.C. have increased with the closing of 1 DISTRICT and 2.S.S.
- 55. The cable ship PORTONE has been active repatriating submarine cables between islands of the IOLIAN group.
- 56. The decision of 3.30. 1 DISTRICT that the TRIPAT-PARTIMENT cable may not be used for security reasons causes difficulties in maintaining contact with this island under A.S.C. control.

P. TRANSPORTATION.

- 57. Adequate transportation has been provided for the "granai del popolino", but shortages of tires and particularly tubes are severely felt. About 150 otherwise sound V.M.C. lorries are off the road for this cause. In July I.M.T. spent five I.M. on tires in the women market.
- 58. The island railway system has continued to progress towards normality. Many works have been speeded up and the MASSARA-CATANIA

29  
 Section I Readings - Monthly Report JULY continued - Page 10.

Line is 75% finished expecting completion by 10 SEP. The PALMISTO-NESSITA line and the SIERO bridge should also be in running order within the month of AUGUST.

50. Arrangements have been made for a number of vehicles to be made available for the Mainland:

3 Diesel coaches, 400 railcars including 75 tanks, and 30 (best) engines. Suffolent will be left to maintain a restricted service.

#### 1. PROPERTY CONTROL.

50. All former Fascist properties have now been handed over to the Italian authorities, with the exception of the "COMUNISMO DI SICILIA" at CANTINA which is awaiting confirmation.

#### 2. POSTAL.

51. Civil Consorsia is now in PALMISTO and STRADUS only.

52. Civil mails for ITALY have been dispatched to NAPLES satisfied only in the past through the ITALY. In future it is intended to despatch direct from Provincial centres.

53. Telegraphic services are working and Army Mail has been speeded up.

#### 3. FINANCE.

54. Prices and cost of living continue to increase. During January 44 index figure is 100, February was 101.2 and June 103.95.

55. Transfer of foodstuffs to Italian authorities was held up by COMM. BRUSCHI of U.N.D. as from 31 JUL because of high prices fixed for sale, and since BRUSCHI had received no instructions on subsidies permissible to bridge the gap between the official price and that which the public can afford.

56. 800 million A.M. lire notes have been moved to Headquarters ROME during the month.

57. The accounts section withdrew to ROME early in JULY together with Major BLAY of A.M.A.

58. The Banca d'Italia has been instructed by its Head Office to transfer metropolitan lire 300 million to CANTINA via ISSA. In view of the need for currency on the island in connection with the grain campaign, the Banca considered only lire 100 million could be spared.

59. Normal commercial banking operations are still practically at a standstill, and deposit accounts in general are on the increase. Some business in local estate is evident. Postal savings deposits

R. FOREIGN.

61. Civil censorship is now in PALERMO and SIRACUSA only.

62. Civil mails for ITALY have been detached to SUPPLIES sent out only in the past through the ITALY. In future it is intended to despatch direct from provincial centres.

63. Telegraphic services are working well and mail has been speeded up.

S. FINANCE.

64. Prices and cost of living continue to increase. During January 44 index figure is 100, February was 102.2 and June 109.95.

65. Transfer of foodstuffs to Italian authorities was held up by COM. BRUSCHI of U.K.D. as from 31 JUL because of high prices fixed for sale, and since BRUSCHI had received no instructions on subsidies permissible to bridge the gap between the official price and that which the public can afford.

66. 800 million A.M. lire notes have been moved to headquarters Rome during the month.

67. The accounts section withdrew to Rome early in JUL together with Major BRAY of A.F.A.

68. The Banca d'Italia has been instructed by its head office to transfer metropolitan lire 300 million to CATANIA via MESSINA. In view of the need for currency on the island in connection with the grain campaign, the Banca considered only lire 100 million could be spared.

69. Normal commercial banking operations are still practically at a standstill, and deposit accounts in general are on the increase. Some business in Real Estate is evident. Postal savings deposits are increasing.

70. Revenue collection continued satisfactory. June figures show lire 205,243,719 as compared with 100,753,773 of June 1943.

71. The following are the four main present day problems requiring attention of Regional Finance Division:

- a. Method of payment for exports to U.K., U.S.A., North Africa and India.
- b. Method of payment for imports from U.K., U.S.A.
- c. Final channelling of responsibility in relation to blocked accounts.
- d. Advances to Neely Nationals.

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# II. PERSONNEL

72. Strength of Region I on 1 JULY was

| Assigned |      | Attached |      |
|----------|------|----------|------|
| BR       | U.S. | BR       | U.S. |
| 34       | 34   | 3        | 6    |
| 50       | 53   | 10       | 4    |

Officers  
EJ/OR

73. During the month the following numbers left for fresh assignments.

| British |    | U.S. |   |
|---------|----|------|---|
| 5       | 5  | 7    | 7 |
| 13      | 13 | 9    | 9 |

Officers  
EJ/OR

A number are alerted for August.

74. MAJ GEN 3375 Regt U.S. - Administration has become increasingly difficult on the departure of IBS and is not aided by the phone difficulties between PALMISTO and RAIL. NO pay-polls had arrived from I.C. by 7th of next month.

75. MAJOR ELLIS and MAJOR ELLIS of C-5 examined staff problems of SICOM Region I during JUL with a view to the "mobilization" at some later date of A.C.C. personnel, or perhaps of its substitution by an economic mission.

## V. CONCLUSION

76. SICOM has now been under A.M.C. or A.C.C. counsel for just over one year. Perhaps the greatest fault - or is it praise - that can be found in Region I is a too rapid return to a state of normal peace-like economic activity together with local politics and slow administration. As for over three thousand years, SICOM still suffers from internal disunion and too great a spirit of selfish independence and local pettiness. Had again a mission which is being run under the High Commissioner even if greatly aided by A.C.C. pressure - will be the touchstone of SICOM's ability or failure to administer herself. For the future, the prosperity or poverty of SICOM is a matter for SICOM herself to make - there is little more A.C.C. can do for her.

*William H. Coe*

A.M. LANCOR  
Colonel

Regional Commissioner

U.S.  
7  
9

British  
3  
12

Officers  
EL/CR

A number are alerted for August.

?

74. "A" Coy 2375 Regt U.S. - Administration has become increasingly difficult on the departure of IIS and is not aided by the phone difficulties between PALMICO and RML. NO pay-rolls had arrived from R.C. by 7th of next month.

75. Major WILIS and Major LINES of G-5 examined staff problems of SICUM's Region I during tour with a view to the "revitalization" at some later date of A.C.C. personnel, or perhaps of its substitution by an economic mission.

U. COMMISSION.

76. SICUM has now been under A.M.C. or A.C.C. counsel for just over one year. Perhaps the greatest fault - or is it praise - that can be found in Region I is a too rapid return to a state of normal peace-like economic activity together with local politics and slow administration. As for over three thousand years, SICUM still suffers from internal disunion and too great a spirit of selfish independence and local pettiness. The grain campaign which is being run under the RML Commissioner even if greatly aided by A.C.C. pressure - will be the cornerstone of SICUM's ability or failure to administer herself. For the future, the prosperity or poverty of SICUM is a matter for SICUM herself to make - there is little more A.C.C. can do for her.

*Anthony R. Coe*  
A.M. HATHCOCK  
Colonel  
Regional Commissioner

17  
17 AUG 44

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# APPENDIX "A" to July Report

## IMPORTS TO SICILY OF COMMODITIES FOR CIVILIAN USE FROM DATE OF OCCUPATION

TC 31 JUL 44

|                                |         |               |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------------|
| Flour.....                     | 721,168 | Qtls          |
| Wheat.....                     | 493,104 | "             |
| Pasta.....                     | 12,851  | "             |
| Pasta..... from Malta          | 2,718   | "             |
| Sugar.....                     | 65,630  | "             |
| Potatoes.. (Seed).....         | 45,744  | "             |
| Coffee.....                    | 1,123   | "             |
| M. & V. Stew.....              | 65,633  | "             |
| Milk Condensed Sweetened.....  | 1,041   | "             |
| Milk Powdered.....             | 4,075   | "             |
| Milk Tinned.....               | 19,050  | "             |
| Soya Flour.....                | 223     | "             |
| Dehydrated Soups.....          | 65,048  | "             |
| Bouillon Cubes.....            | 332     | "             |
| Biscuit British Army.....      | 9,285   | "             |
| Vegetables Dried.....          | 54,871  | "             |
| Rations... (Tinned foods)..... | 11,234  | "             |
| Corned Beef Hash.....          | 13,094  | "             |
| Corned Beef.....               | 3,519   | "             |
| Vegetable Puree.....           | 342     | Cases.        |
| Chili Con Carne.....           | 1,563   | Qtls          |
| Vienna Sausage.....            | 337     | "             |
| Hash M. & V.....               | 1,938   | "             |
| Luncheon Meat.....             | 1,769   | "             |
| Soap Laundry.....              | 3,373   | "             |
| Medical Supplies.....          | 8,292   | Cases         |
| Newsprint.....                 | 3,765   | Qtls          |
| Paper.....                     | 732     | "             |
| Matches.....                   | 126     | "             |
| Insect Spray.....              | 36      | (5 Gall cans) |
| Insect Powder.....             | 2,691   | Cases         |
| Calcium Hydrochloride.....     | 169     | Qtls          |
| Nitrate.....                   | 11,522  | "             |
| Potash.....                    | 10,636  | "             |
| Rock Phosphate.....            | 23,751  | "             |
| Calcium Carbide.....           | 1,267   | "             |
| Calcium Chloride.....          | 1,225   | "             |
| Sodium Carbonate.....          | 180     | "             |
| Clothing.....                  | 1,533   | Cases         |
| Cloth.....                     | 807     | "             |
| Roofing Paper.....             | 40,347  | Rolls         |
| Soda.....                      | 9       | Qtls          |

|                                       |                    |   |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Milk Powdered.....                    | 1,041              | " |
| Milk Tinned.....                      | 4,075              | " |
| Soye Flour.....                       | 19,050             | " |
| Dehydrated Soups.....                 | 223                | " |
| Bouillon Cubes.....                   | 65,048             | " |
| Biscuit British Army.....             | 332                | " |
| Vegetables Dried.....                 | 3,285              | " |
| Rations...(Tinned foods).....         | 54,871             | " |
| Corned Beef Hash.....                 | 11,234             | " |
| Corned Beef.....                      | 13,094             | " |
| Vegetable Puree.....                  | 3,519              | " |
| Child Con Carne.....                  | 342 Cases.         | " |
| Vienna Sausage.....                   | 1,563 Qtls         | " |
| Hash M. & V.....                      | 337                | " |
| Luncheon Meat.....                    | 1,938              | " |
| Soap Laundry.....                     | 1,769              | " |
| Medical Supplies.....                 | 3,373              | " |
| Newsprint.....                        | 6,292 Cases        | " |
| Paper.....                            | 3,765 Qtls         | " |
| Matches.....                          | 732                | " |
| Insect Spray.....                     | 126                | " |
| Insect Powder.....                    | 36 (5 Gall cans)   | " |
| Calcium Hydrochloride.....            | 2,691 Cases        | " |
| Nitrate.....                          | 169 Qtls           | " |
| Potash.....                           | 11,622             | " |
| Rock Phosphate.....                   | 10,636             | " |
| Calcium Carbide.....                  | 23,751             | " |
| Calcium Chloride.....                 | 1,267              | " |
| Sodium Carbonate.....                 | 225                | " |
| Clothing.....                         | 180                | " |
| Cloth.....                            | 1,523 Cases        | " |
| Roofing Paper.....                    | 807                | " |
| Caustic Soda.....                     | 40,347 Rolls       | " |
| Hemp for Binder Twine.....            | 9 Qtls             | " |
| Copper Sulphate.....                  | 728                | " |
| Sprayers Knapsack Type.....           | 2,347              | " |
| Paper Safety Green.....               | 140 Units          | " |
| Hides Sheep from Sardinia.....        | 896 Qtls           | " |
| Coal....to 31 May 44.....             | 400 Units          | " |
| Coal....Sardinian...to 31 May 44..... | 1,133,550 Qtls     | " |
| Nafta....1 Nov 43 to 31 Jul 44.....   | 225,820            | " |
| Benzina....1 Nov 43 to 31 Jul 44..... | 10,500,000 Litres. | " |
| Petrolie...1 Nov 43 to 31 Jul 44...   | 7,500,000          | " |
|                                       | 3,200,000          | " |

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EXPORTS FROM SICILY

APPENDIX "B" to July

## 1. Goods exported from Sicily to U.K. to 31 Jul 44

| Total Value :<br>Lire | Commodity           |       | Sicily total: | Palermo   | Catania    | Messina   | Syracuse |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------|---------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|
| 81.993.395            | :Lemons             | cases | 525,892:      | 253,299:  | 167,166:   | 80,643:   | 24,788   |
| 10.649.175            | :Bitter Oranges     | "     | 60,663:       | 6,966:    | 387:       |           | 53,310   |
| 8.581.700             | :Oval Sweet Orang   | "     | 24,049:       |           |            |           | 24,049   |
| 42.041.156            | :Lemon Oil          | kilos | 133,044.16 :  | 38,729:   | 89,506.36: | 4,808.80: |          |
| 7.964.388             | :Orange Oil         | "     | 17,519.92 :   | 3,000:    | 14,591.92: |           |          |
| 1.661.077             | :Tangerine Oil      | "     | 2,582.54 :    |           | 2,582.54:  |           |          |
| 30.190.000            | :Bergamot Oil       | "     | 48,000 :      |           |            | 48,000    |          |
| 2.393.719             | :Lemon Juice        | gals  | 77,215 :      |           | 68,530     | 8,685     |          |
| 102.950               | : " "               | kilos | 2,059 :       |           |            | 2,059     |          |
| 158.080               | :Orange Juice       | "     | 1,976 :       |           |            | 1,976     |          |
| 35.295.740            | :Filberts           | Qtls  | 15,515.79 :   | 2,757.64: | 4,444.45:  | 8,313.70: |          |
| 12.906.240            | :Almonds, shelled   | "     | 4,302.08 :    | 4,302.08: |            |           |          |
| 40.276.427            | :Almonds, unshelled | "     | 38,534.60 :   | 3,705.60: |            |           | 34,828   |
| 8.450.187             | :Argols             | "     | 3,875.32 :    |           | 2,375.32:  | 1,500     |          |
| 5.234.000             | :Wines              | "     | 900 :         | 900       |            |           |          |
| 4.008.000             | :Sumac ground       | "     | 4,175 :       | 4,175     |            |           |          |
| 230.184               | :Pumice stone       | "     | 2,433 :       | 2,433     |            |           |          |
| 486.000               | :Mustard seed       | "     | 486 :         | 486       |            |           |          |
| 30.270.300            | :Sulphur            | tons  | 13,167 :      | 44        | 1,881      |           |          |
| 571.392               | :Dried figs         | qtls  | 119.04 :      |           |            |           | 119.04   |
| 20.402.000            | :Citric Acid        | "     | 2,750 :       | 2,500     |            |           |          |
| <u>343.666.110</u>    |                     |       |               |           |            |           |          |

## 2. Goods exported from Sicily to United States to 31 Jul 44.

|                   |            |       |        |       |        |  |
|-------------------|------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--|
| 7.552.000         | :Wines     | Qtls  | 1,250  | 1,250 |        |  |
| 14.074.000        | :Lemon Oil | kilos | 45,400 |       | 45,400 |  |
| <u>21.626.000</u> |            |       |        |       |        |  |

## 3. Value of goods exported from Syracuse to Malta to 31 Jul 44.

|           |            |           |            |        |            |     |
|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|--------|------------|-----|
| Oct 43... | 1,599,230  | Jan 44... | 19,295,894 | Apr... | 35,817,844 |     |
| Nov 43... | 9,961,470  | Feb 44... | 48,961,965 | May... | 50,622,610 |     |
| Dec 43... | 15,498,005 | Mar 44... | 34,893,720 | Jun... | 11,575,899 |     |
|           |            |           |            | Jul... | 14,387,588 | Tot |

EXPORTS FROM SICILYAPPENDIX "B" to July Report

om Sicily to U.K. to 31 Jul 44

| Quality     | Sicily total | Palermo  | Catania   | Messina  | Syracuse | Licata | P.to Emped |
|-------------|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|--------|------------|
| cases       | 525,892      | 253,299  | 167,166   | 80,643   | 24,786   |        |            |
| anges "     | 60,663       | 6,966    | 387       |          | 53,310   |        |            |
| et Orang "  | 24,049       |          |           |          | 24,049   |        |            |
| kilos       | 133,044.16   | 38,729   | 89,506.36 | 4,808.80 |          |        |            |
| "           | 17,519.92    | 3,000    | 14,591.92 |          |          |        |            |
| Oil "       | 2,582.54     |          | 2,582.54  |          |          |        |            |
| Oil "       | 48,000       |          | 48,000    |          |          |        |            |
| ce gals     | 77,215       |          | 68,530    | 8,685    |          |        |            |
| kilos       | 2,059        |          |           | 2,059    |          |        |            |
| ice "       | 1,976        |          |           | 1,976    |          |        |            |
| Qtls        | 15,515.79    | 2,757.64 | 4,444.45  | 8,313.70 |          |        |            |
| shelled "   | 4,302.08     | 4,302.08 |           |          |          |        |            |
| unshelled " | 38,534.60    | 3,705.60 |           |          |          |        |            |
| "           | 3,875.32     |          | 2,375.32  | 1,500    |          |        |            |
| "           | 900          | 900      |           |          |          |        |            |
| und "       | 4,175        | 4,175    |           |          |          |        |            |
| one "       | 2,433        | 2,433    |           |          |          |        |            |
| eed "       | 486          | 486      |           |          |          |        |            |
| tons        | 13,167       | 44       | 1,881     |          |          |        |            |
| qtls        | 119.04       |          |           |          | 119.04   | 1,030  | 10,206     |
| "           | 2,750        | 2,500    |           |          |          |        | 250        |

5759

m Sicily to United States to 31 Jul 44.

|       |        |       |        |  |  |  |  |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|--|--|--|--|
| Qtls  | 1,250  | 1,250 |        |  |  |  |  |
| kilos | 45,400 |       | 45,400 |  |  |  |  |

orted from Syracuse to Malta to 31 Jul 44.

|           |            |          |             |
|-----------|------------|----------|-------------|
| Jan 44... | 19,295,894 | Apr...   | 35,817,844  |
| Feb 44... | 48,961,965 | May...   | 50,622,610  |
| Mar 44... | 34,893,720 | Jun...   | 11,575,899  |
|           |            | Jul...   | 14,367,588  |
|           |            | Total... | 242,614,225 |

## APPENDIX C

to JULY report

PUBLIC WORKS and UTILITIES

| Type of work                         | Expenses from occupation<br>until April 30 1944 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Bridges                              |                                                 |
| Road Resurf.                         |                                                 |
| Road Maint.                          | 843,948,837                                     |
| Aqueducts and<br>Water Supply.       | 28,315,884                                      |
| Malaria Control.                     | 8,468,987                                       |
| Sewers.                              | 41,517,088                                      |
| Demolition and<br>Removal of Debris. | 84,283,537                                      |
| Schools.                             | 44,613,623                                      |
| Hospitals.                           | 9,892,192                                       |
| Prisons and<br>Courts.               | 10,340,000                                      |
| Buildings.                           | 97,213,030                                      |
| Buildings occupied<br>by Allies.     | 17,068,381                                      |
| Maritime and Light Houses.           | 1,503,458                                       |
| Arts and Monuments.                  | 36,995,985                                      |
| Gas Plant Palermo                    | 3,000,000                                       |
| Electric Co.                         | 10,700,000                                      |

Total

738,613,950

APPENDIX D  
to JUNE Report 24REMARKS OF CASES AFFECTING ALLIED INTERESTS.

| Province      | No. of loc.<br>awaiting trial<br>in custody. | Awaiting trial<br>not in<br>custody. | Average prison<br>period awaiting<br>trial. |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| PALERMO       | 403                                          | 153                                  | 2 - 3 months                                |
| CATANIA       | 706*                                         | 3430*                                | 3 - 4 "                                     |
| MESSINA       | 386*                                         | 475*                                 | 3 - 5 "                                     |
| MERA          | 1                                            | -                                    | 1 - 2 "                                     |
| AGRIGENTO     | 1                                            | 17                                   | 1 - 2 "                                     |
| RAGUSA        | (included in Catania)                        |                                      |                                             |
| SIRACUSA      | -do-                                         |                                      |                                             |
| CALTANISSETTA | 5                                            | 33                                   | 1 - 2 "                                     |
| TRAPANI       | 23                                           | 53                                   | 1 - 2 "                                     |

\* It is felt these figures must include cases other than those affecting Allied interests.

521 *Civil Affairs 23*  
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
 SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS  
 APC 394

MONTHLY REPORT - JUNE 44

REGION I

*July 17-23*  
 11 AUG Recd

A. GENERAL

1. The fall of ROM and subsequent advances of the Allied armies, the Allied invasion of France, the progress of Russia and the rise of the new BONOMI government in Italy have combined to give a firmer background to SICILIAN politics and a momentary closer unity with the Mainland. The majority of the people, however, have not been much affected. For SICILY the war is considered as over, and all the people ask for is the minimum interference from any government in power. Meanwhile the keynote of their lives is adherence to or evasion of the grain collection laws.

B. POLITICAL

2. Activity - The political situation has remained quiet with no large demonstrations. The fall of ROM met with general approval, but a hasty attempt of the Committee of Liberation to organize a ceremony of jubilation in PALERMO to which the local Allied commanders were invited, fell very flat. The change of government has led to a certain clarification of political objectives, but BONOMI is not popular as he is considered too old and insufficiently strong, and, by his former record, in part responsible for acquiescence in the rise of Fascism. The credit of most parties, much of the political activity of the island has been devoted to propaganda for grain collection.

3. Separatists

Two separatist groups appear to be forming: one in PALERMO and Central SICILY under VINCOCCHIARO APRILE and one in MARSALA SICILY under BRUNO DI BELMONTE and others. The VINCOCCHIARO APRILE propaganda has opposed the grain collection, and also service in the Italian Army.

4. High Commissioner

Consistent political pressure is continuing for the removal of MASOTTO which was thought to ahead by the arrival of AIDISIO then Minister of the Interior on 6 JUL. It appears that an object of his visit was the tentative offer of the post to BAVIERA, the Rector of the University of PALERMO. AIDISIO also had in view a complete change of the Giunta Comunale of PALERMO, the Prefects of MESSINA and AGRIUMMO; both this Giunta and the

to give a firmer background to SICILIAN politics and a momentary closer unity with the mainland. The majority of the people, however, have not been much affected. For SICILY the war is considered as over, and all the people ask for is the minimum interference from any government in power. Meanwhile the keynote of their lives is adherence to or evasion of the grain collection laws.

## B. POLITICAL.

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## 3. Separatists

Two separatist groups appear to be forming: one in PALERMO and Central SICILY under Vincenzo Arile and one in EASTERN SICILY under Bruno di Belmonte and others. The Vincenzo Arile propaganda has opposed the grain collection, and also service in the Italian Army.

## 4. High Commissioner

Consistent political pressure is continuing for the removal of Musotto which was brought to a head by the arrival of AIDISIO then Minister of the Interior on 6 JUL. It appears that an object of his visit was the tentative offer of the post to BAVIERA, the Rector of the University of PALERMO. AIDISIO also had in view a complete change of the Giunta Comunale of PALERMO, the Prefects of MESSINA and ACQUINNO; both this giunta and the two Prefects were A.M.G. appointments. His objective appears to have been an attack on Separatism and the improvement of the position of his political party, the Christian Democrats. It will remain to be seen whether this programme will be carried out following the eclipse of AIDISIO on the fall of the BADOGLIO government. Since his return to SICILY it is understood that he now hopes personally to replace MUSOTTO as High Commissioner, and he is understood to have come to terms with the LA LOGGIA group.

All this uncertainty and persistent sniping for the post of High Commissioner have not helped the growth of a Regional control, but MUSOTTO has courageously continued to press for the rehabilitation of SICILY and to prepare for the harvest though without apparent Italian Government support. At the end of the month MUSOTTO left for PALERMO at the request of BONOMI and it is hoped that this visit will bring a clarification.

3. Giunta consultiva for SICILY - ALDISIO's visit as Minister also appears to have brought the position of the High Commissioner's Giunta to the fore. The first meetings have now been held and MUSOTTO appears to have come out very well from his first encounters. The position is curious as the Giunta has never, as yet, been appointed by Royal Decree and there are no statistics or rules from precedent for the conduct of its meetings or indeed any definition of the Giunta's powers. At present the Giunta is largely dominated by LA LOGGIA, and prior to its official meetings with MUSOTTO has been meeting unofficially in the house of SAVIERA. Perhaps its main interest is to find a High Commissioner less determined than MUSOTTO and who would be more easily influenced by political considerations.

#### C. GENERAL MORALE.

6. The over all picture shows little change. The Allies advance and the Italian Government has changed, but the dominating interest in SICILY this month has been preparation for the harvest, discussion of the price of grain, and hopes for an increased ration. In the coastal areas wheat and barley cropping began about 10 JUN and by 27 JUN the 1944 harvest was in full swing. There are indications that much grain is going underground, as the price of 1600 lire per quintal is felt to be uneconomic and below cost of production to the small holder. This has had its general effect on morale, and has provided valuable propaganda for the separatists.

#### D. LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

7. Regional - Slow progress, but all the same progress, has been made in the growth of a Regional system. Delays in control are evident due to Governmental red-tape, and the uncertainty of the personal position of the High Commissioner has not given the system a very fair trial. There is always an underlying feeling of local independence between one Province or Comune of SICILY and another, and certain Prefects are more insular than others: the appointment of the office of High Commissioner has done much to create greater unity between the various provinces. The main administrative efforts have been directed to organization for grain collection.

8. Provincial - All provinces have been pressed to complete organization of communal agricultural committees and to be ready for the grain harvest. CALTAJUSCILLA and SIRACUSA have been gravely handicapped by the continued failure to appoint any Prefect: the posts in each case have been vacant since the end of March. In AGRIGENTO, the position of the Prefect is also unstable. In PALERMO, the new Christian-Democrat Prefect DIAMONTI appointed by ALDISIO has not come up to full expectation and it is feared that this may have a reaction on the Palermo grain return during the next month.

9. Communal - Administration has been directed almost entirely to the grain campaign, and Sindaci have been instructed by the High

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9. Communal - Administration has been directed almost entirely to the grain campaign, and Sindaco have been instructed by the High Commissioner to regard this as their primary duty.

10. A.C.C. Assignations - These have continued. Lt Col Thomas, the Provincial Commissioner for PALERMO and TRAPANI, is now called to the Mainland. TRAPANI and PALERMO provinces will therefore be controlled henceforward directly from Headquarters Region I and the A.C.C. Provincial offices there are being closed. In AGRIGENTO Lt Col Walters is also leaving, and the Food Officer Captain DETMERS will function also as Acting Provincial Commissioner. No adverse reactions to these steps are anticipated.

### E. ITALIAN ARMED FORCES.

11. Liaison has continued closely with XII CORPS who provide the

necessary military assistance in the event of any disturbance arising beyond the powers of the Carabinieri. From conversations with Senior officials it is evident that the change from BADOGLIO to BONOMI is met with disfavor among the majority of officers. On the departure of 1 DISTRICT and I.B.S. and with the grain collection in view the Comd of XII Corpo d'Armata is most anxious to obtain the second Division of Italian troops nominated for some time for SICILY.

#### F. LIAISON AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

12. The Allied Military garrison of SICILY is on the point of departure, leaving only 56 Area with probably less than a Bt Infantry but one A.A. Bde. and British and Naval Operating Bases will be remaining. In addition a Naval Combined Operations Training Centre has opened at MESSINA.

13. 1 DISTRICT left at the end of the month and the operational command of SICILY has passed to Brigadier General Comd 56 AREA. 56 AREA is part of 3 DISTRICT (Maj Gen COLLIER). Liaison has been effected and no difficulties are anticipated.

14. I.B.S. is alerted to leave, and Colonel STUBBS has already left and been replaced as Commanding Officer by Colonel BONSHELL. British A.A. troops are taking over from U.S. A.A. troops at PALERMO.

15. Consequences are mainly administrative. Rations are being provided A.C.C. by U.S. Navy in Western SICILY, and A.C.C. is having to provide facilities for R and U.S. Army Officers and R.A.F. in transit at PALERMO. Guards of A.C.C. warehouses are being provided by Italian XII Corps and military assistance will be given from the same source on demand. Lt Col ALBERT of M.M.I.A. is remaining with A.C.C. for Liaison with Italian Army.

#### G. VISITORS.

16. Visitors - were much fewer this month as all eyes appeared turned to ROME and the NORTH. From the Italian Government came Generale Pettorelli Laletta, Chief of Personal Staff to first BADOGLIO and now BONOMI, and also Under-Secretary for Navy RAMIREZ. From A.C.C. for the Provincial Commissioner's Conference came Lt Colonel SHIPP. Colonel HAMCOCK and Lt Colonel Fletcher both visited MARINES at the beginning of JUNE and renewed valuable contacts with Headquarters A.C.C. They were also received by Marshal BADOGLIO with the approval of Executive Commissioner.

#### H. ECONOMICS AND SUPPLY.

17. Food - A tense situation developed in the last week of the month owing to the exhaustion of imported stocks of wheat and flour before the new wheat crop was ready for milling or distribution. It had been expected that supplies would hold out until 15 JUL, but on the last day of JUNE under 4 day's supply remained in the island. This was due to the actual landings.

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#### 6. VISITORS.

16. Visitors - were much fewer this month as all eyes appeared turned to ROME and the NORTH. From the Italian Government came Generale Rettorelli Lallata, Chief of Personal Staff to first BADOLIO and now BONCHI, and also Under-Secretary for Navy RAUREZ. From A.C.C. for the Provincial Commissioner's Conference came Lt Colonel SHIPP. Colonel Hancock and Lt Colonel Fletcher both visited EARLES at the beginning of JUNE and renewed valuable contacts with Headquarters A.C.C. They were also received by Marshal BADOLIO with the approval of Executive Commissioner.

#### 7. ECONOMICS AND SUPPLY.

17. Food - A tense situation developed in the last week of the month owing to the exhaustion of imported stocks of wheat and flour before the new wheat crop was ready for milling or distribution. It had been expected that supplies would hold out until 15 JUL, but on the last day of JUNE under 4 day's supply remained in the island. This was due to the actual landings of flour or wheat from IES to ILY averaging 18,350 tons per month as against an agreed quantity of 15,700 tons allotted by FOOD Sub-Commission. To meet the situation 500 tons of flour were borrowed from 56 AREA R.A.S.C. and A.C.C. Headquarters diverted a ship to CATANIA on the last day of the month containing 9,500 tons of wheat. There were no other food arrivals during the month and the island has had no sugar distribution. Large stocks of bacon, fish, and other rations remain under guard for A.C.C. at the I.B.S. dump.

18. Transfer of foodstuffs to civil authorities - This scheme is proceeding very slowly due to the financial difficulties involved. Commendatore BRUSCHI, the Italian representative of the Ministry of Finance, is entirely without instruction from his Government.

19. P.O.L. and Salvage - P.O.L. issues for the month were considerably reduced, and a stringent cut has been made in private vehicles from over 8,000 to approximately 3,750 vehicles. Disposals of salvage have continued at a satisfactory level.

20. Agriculture. During the month Capt G.F. Pike R.A. took over Regional Agricultural Division from Major A.P. Mough. Naturally the Grain Campaign has been the preoccupation of this division during the month, and the preparation of provincial and communal organisations for the harvest and its collection are well advanced. As the harvest was not in full swing until 27 JUN only 5,000 quintals have been rendered to the Granai del Popolo by 30 JUN. On 29 JUN a Conference was held at Regional Headquarters under chairmanship of Colonel Hancock to discover the extent of co-ordination of the Sicilian civilian authority grain programme. The Conference was attended by the High Commissioner, his staff or Agricultural, Alimentation and Grain experts, and by the Commanders XII Corps, Carabinieri, Guardia di Finanza and Pubblica Sicurezza. The broad lines of a scheme for immediate application were put forward by Dr. M. M. M. the Italian Regional Agricultural Inspector, and general approval was obtained. The chief difficulties still to be contended with are: almost universal unwillingness to render up grain at a price considered to be below cost or production, shortage of transport and above all tyres. While the machinery for collection exists, and the efforts of the High Commissioner and Carabinieri are untiring, the scheme may well require considerable military force in the long run if a just proportion of the expected 8 million quintal harvest is to be collected. There is a sombre note of anxiety as we look forward to progress in JULY.

#### I. LABOR

21. An agreement between employers and employees of the General Electric Society has been completed, submitted and approved.

22. A strike occurred at the AGOD Mines RABUSA on 1 JUN: workers partially returned on 3 JUN with complete resumption by 6 JUN. At a conference at the High Commissioner's office on 13 JUN it materialised that the prima facie cause of the strike was the high cost of living. The High Commissioner stated that the bread ration would shortly be increased which gave satisfaction. The company also agreed to subsidize its co-operative store so that the workers could buy certain necessities at a reduced cost. The sum involved was estimated at about 20 lire per man per day.

23. Disatisfaction among State employees has been caused by the order of the Finance Minister of the cessation of payment of the bombing indemnity. Prompt action by the High Commissioner averted a strike for the present.

24. Unrest still exists among sulphur miners due to their unsatisfactory rates of pay. A strike occurred at the GRABO MINE.

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# I. LABOR

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22. A strike occurred at the ABD Mines RACUSA on 1 JUN: workers partially returned on 5 JUN with complete resumption by 5 JUN. At a conference at the High Commissioner's office on 13 JUN it materialised that the prime facie cause of the strike was the high cost of living. The High Commissioner stated that the bread ration would shortly be increased which gave satisfaction. The company also agreed to subsidize its co-operative store so that the workers could buy certain necessities at a reduced cost. The sum involved was estimated at about 20 lire per man per day.

23. Dissatisfaction among State employees has been caused by the order of the Finance Minister of the cessation of payment of the Bombing indemnity. Prompt action by the High Commissioner averted a strike for the present.

24. Unrest still exists among sulphur miners due to their unsatisfactory rates of pay. A strike occurred at the MARONELLA mine on 22 JUN, with full resumption by 28 JUN. The matter is now under negotiation. A general sulphur agreement has been signed by mine owners and workers, and has been submitted.

# J. PUBLIC WORKS.

25. Progress in works in hand has continued, but is endangered for the future owing to shortage of cement. The bridge programme has advanced, and 2/3 ~~are~~ <sup>have</sup> now 90% completed. With the departure of 1 DISTRICT and I.B.S. the work on the Military Highways appears to have lost importance.

# K. UTILITIES.

26. Gas has continued in PALERMO, but is found to be unsafe factory

Region I Headquarters - Monthly Report JUNE - Continued - Page 5

and very weak owing to the general dislocation caused during the bombardments. Its discontinuance is under discussion.

#### L. PUBLIC SAFETY

27. Crime has continued to decrease during the month. In LESSIMIA Province an underground Fascist group of 24 persons connected with the Italian Unity movement has been arrested by P.S.3. A further forgery case involving 1,000 and 500 lire notes has been discovered in PALERMO.

28. AT PACICO in TRAPANI Province an interesting military exercise was rehearsed after warning to the inhabitants. The town was invested by parachute troops, and completely sealed off and searched from house to house - as an exercise. The opportunities afforded were however taken, and 20 50 ton trucks were required to remove the weapons, ammunition, and Allied military materials and food which were found. Similar exercises would be of great value elsewhere.

29. For the Grain Campaign, close planning has been made with Generale BRANCA so that the Carabinieri may devote the maximum time to this one duty of enforcing collection and preventing illegal transit of grain. By the end of JUNE 1945 quintals of grain had been sequestered, 94 persons arrested and 665 denounced.

#### M. LEGAL.

30. One General Military Court was held during JUNE at CATANIA, with Colonel V.R. Jordan as President - the following sentences were found:

##### SCARPATO Natale

- i. Found guilty of homicide - Penalty death.
- ii. Found Not guilty of non-declaration of an arm
- iii. Found guilty of carrying arms without authorization - Penalty 6 months imprisonment.

SCARPATO N/seo. Found Not guilty - ACQUITTED.

SCARDUILL Rosa Found Not guilty - ACQUITTED.

31. The Italian Courts in SICILY continue to function quite satisfactorily, but there are a large number of outstanding cases in spite of extended court hours.

32. Many cases still outstanding in the Italian Civil Courts but affecting Allied interests, are being transferred to the Italian Military Tribunal for disposition under Article 13 of the Italian Military Code. The Military Tribunal is handicapped by shortage of military judges and other limited personnel.

28. At PACICO in TRAPANI province an interesting military exercise was rehearsed after warning to the inhabitants. The town was invaded by parachute troops, and completely sealed off and searched from house to house - as an exercise. The opportunities afforded were however taken, and 28 3/4 ton trucks were permitted to remove the weapons, ammunition, and allied military materials and food which ~~were~~ found. Similar exercises would be of great value elsewhere.

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31. The Italian Courts in SICILY continue to function quite satisfactorily, but there are a large number of outstanding cases in spite of extended court hours.

32. Many cases still outstanding in the Italian Civil Courts but affecting Allied interests, are being transferred to the Italian Military Tribunal for disposition under Article 15 of the Italian Military Code. The Military Tribunal is handicapped by shortage of Military Judges and other limited personnel.

#### N. PUBLIC HEALTH.

33. Though the general health of the public remains remarkably high, there is some evidence that tuberculosis of the lungs is on the increase. A recommendation has been made to the Civil Authorities that this be included among the notifiable diseases.

34. V.D. The campaign against Prostitutes continues to be pushed with vigour with satisfactory results.

35. Between 5 and 600,000 vaccinations have now been completed against smallpox in the last three months.

36. Rabies. One case has been notified during the month 5752

O. REFUGEES.

37. The number in the region now amounts to about 12,000: their health calls for no special comment. The chief desire is for the agricultural workers to return early to their lands.

P. COMMUNICATIONS.

38. By the end of JUN all military ON wire routes in Eastern SICILY had been handed over to the civil telecommunication agencies for maintenance. Sabotage and/or theft of considerable distances of suspended cable continued during the month despite increased efforts by police and military. The French Airborne Training Centre in TRAPANI continued to cut down wire despite protests through I.B.S. In the last two months these French troops have removed about 80 miles of state owned wire under the orders of their commanding officer, Colonel GEMINI. The work of the section is hampered by shortages of wire and solder, and poles are almost unobtainable.

Q. TRANSPORTATION.

39. The island road haulage is suffering severely from lack of tyres, tubes and vulcanising or repair materials. Of the 685 IMV vehicles approximately 100, otherwise in good running order, are off the road for lack of tyres. There are 2371 registered civilian load-carrying vehicles for control of which the Italian government consorzio scheme is awaited.

40. The island railway system continues its rehabilitation. On 31 MAY 31 major repair jobs were in hand, of which 11 have now been completed. The PALERMO-MESSINA gap which is covered by road transport is now reduced to 19 miles, and the line to MARSAIA from PALERMO via TRAPANI is now opened. 1 DIESEL 50 locos and 600 cars are in process of despatch to the Mainland.

R. FINANCE.

41. Revenue is in a healthy condition generally, and all provinces show an increase.

42. Industrial loans and real estate are inactive. Commercial loans show a slight increase, but a degree of business is kept underground by black-market operators and is not handled by the banks. Deposits are increasing.

43. The financing of the grain harvest awaits the government decision on subsidy. The Bank of SICILY is attempting to corner all this business, and protests from the other banks.

44. The possibility of an issue of War Savings Certificates or a long term liberation loan has been discussed and is regarded as unlikely to be profitable.

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## 2. TRANSPORTATION.

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44. The possibility of an issue of War Savings Certificates or a Long Term Liberation Loan has been discussed and is regarded as unlikely to be profitable.

45. Forgeries - A further forgery plant issuing 1000 500 lire notes has been seized in PALERMO. In addition a new type of forged 100 lire note is now in circulation being distributed by street hawkers. The Banks turned in about 200 counterfeit 1000 lire notes during JUNE.

## 3. PROPERTY CONTROL.

46. The ownership of the newspaper CORRIERE DI SICILIA is claimed by the liquidator of Dissolved Fascist organisations. The title is under investigation with a view to returning the machinery and plant to the State.

Region I Headquarters - Monthly Report JUN continued - page 7 17

T. A.M.C. ISLANDS.

47. Military Government of PANTHERIA, LAMPEDUSA and LIMOSA continues satisfactorily and supplies are adequate.

U. PERSONNEL.

48. During the month the following have been called away to serve on the Mainland

|           | British | U.S. |
|-----------|---------|------|
| Officers  | 16      | 16   |
| E.M./O.Rs | 31      | 31   |

V. CONCLUSION.

49. The problem facing SICILIA is the collection of the grain harvest. The machinery is there, but it is backed by a very small degree of force should such be called upon, and Region I Headquarters staff is now too limited to have an appreciable effect down to communes. To ensure collection there must be direction on the ground and, in a final resort, military force available to concentrate in certain areas of maximum grain production. Meanwhile, by strengthening the Italian administration in every possible way, and by relying on the carabinieri as the main means of enforcing collection, grain will begin to arrive in the Granai del Popolo.

*A. H. Hancock Col*  
A.H. HANCOCK  
Colonel  
Regional Commissioner

12  
JULY 44.

Officers

M.M./O.Rs

18

21

16

21

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 REGION I

MONTHLY REPORT - MAY 44

REGION I

## A. POLITICAL

1. Activity - Two factors have ruled Sicilian politics during the month of MAY; one, the price of grain and methods for its collection; two, the particular and party interests of ALDISIO, Minister for Interior, and also head of the Sicilian Christian Democrat Party. While the problems in connection with grain were the interest of every party, the main effort of ALDISIO was to combat Separatism with the aid of Christian Democrat nominees, and to obstruct where possible the work of the High Commissioner, MUSOTTO, in whose shoes he had at one time hoped himself to be, with a view to having him replaced by a more pliable personality.
2. Parties - May was a month of general party strengthening, while the leaders waited for the expected changes in the composition of the government following the imminent fall of ROM. The decision on the price of grain was regarded by every party as "disastrous", but was thereafter used for differing ends. The Separatists have made of this decision splendid propaganda against any form of Italian government for Sicily, and also made capital out of the apparent complete disregard of the differing conditions in Sicily. Some parties have seized the opportunity to use it for discrediting the High Commissioner and his institution and, in a conflicting and confused atmosphere, these conditions have done much to strengthen the vacillating opinion of the public towards a regional if not finally Separatist administration. For the Communists and parties of the left the appropriate propaganda has been easy, for all visualise the secretion of grain, a future Black Market, and a period of disorder amongst the poor following resultant grain shortage next winter.
3. ALDISIO - the Minister of the Interior has had three main planks in his policy regarding SICILY. The first, a vow to exterminate Separatism; the second, his sincere belief that only men of his own Christian-Democrat party could help SICILY and ITALY in future administration; and third, his policy of ousting his old adversary MUSOTTO from the post of High Commissioner. In his place he is believed to favour the weak rector of the University of Palermo, BAVIERA, or, perhaps, himself should he fall from Ministerial rank following the expected fall of ROM.
4. Giunta Consultiva - Concurrently with the "gunning" for MUSOTTO, who fell into bad odour with the Government as a result of his protests in April against a Giunta Consultiva being posted over his head without prior consultation, the looking for the

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4. Giunta Consultiva - Concurrently with the "gunning" for MUSOTTO, who fell into bad odour with the government as a result of his protests in April against a Giunta Consultiva being posted over his head without prior consultation, the jockeying for the Giunta continued. During the month it is believed that a number of unofficial meetings of some members of the Giunta have taken place under the auspices of the rector of the University - not a member - but probably under the leadership of the veteran LA LOCCA. ALDISIO discussed the final composition this month with both the High Commissioner and myself, and it is understood that the numbers will not be increased, but that ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Giunta~~ <sup>Giunta</sup> of CATTANIA and ALTOMARE of MESSINA will be replaced. Meanwhile the Giunta is expected to start its official meetings early in JUNE. Actually, it is not yet a strictly legal body, as the decree of appointment has not yet been published in the Gazzetta Ufficiale and no powers or rules of procedure have been defined.

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4 spores

5. Freedom of the Press - An attack was made on LO VERDE, the editor of SICILIA LIBERATA, by the Communists, who produced a well-authenticated letter of LO VERDE to the Fascists. It became advisable to change the editorship and at the same time to free the paper from P.W.B. ownership. Plans have been made to re-introduce the sixty year old paper "GIORNALE di SICILIA" in place of SICILIA LIBERATA. The editorial staff will first be approved by the Committee of Liberation prior to appointment by P.W.B. in agreement with the editors, the ARDIZZONE brothers. In CATANIA it has been decided to detach the CORRIERE di SICILIA from the arrangements which functioned under AUG and to adopt a procedure similar to the one prospected for the GIORNALE di SICILIA. The method of transfer is now being considered by P.W.B., Property Control and A.C.C. Similar plans are in hand in MESSINA to arrange for the liquidation or hand-over of a newspaper which was run there under A.M.G. and Prefectural control, which is now unsuitable in Italian Government Italy.

#### B. GENERAL MORALE.

6. Peace - SICILY experienced the forces of invasion for so short a period that her war memory is brief. There is a continual tendency to consider that "SICILY is out of the war". Return to normal life, the gradual cutting down of A.C.C. administration with evidence of decreasing numbers, rumours of the imminent departure of I DISTRICT and U.S. troops all tend to strengthen this belief so that to appeal to patriotic instincts to hand over grain or to stop the Black Market in order to do their share in the war effort only arouses a fleeting interest. In the case of SEPARATISM, it is reported that PINOCCHIARO Aprile has gone as far as to tell the Sicilian that it is a shame to see the gray-green Italian army uniform in the streets of the isle, and to advise against any Sicilians joining the army to fight for Italy.

7. Italian Relations with Allies - These remain warm and, despite the peaceful attitude encountered, a real interest is taken in the advance of the Allies, with much conjecture on the expected invasion of Western Europe. On 24 May, the anniversary of Italy's entry into the 1914-18 war, wreaths were laid on the PALERMO War Memorial in memory of the Allied Fallen. The ceremony was attended by Regional Commissioner and Senior Officers of A.C.C., and the High Commissioner delivered a stirring oration.

8. The Committee of Liberation is active, but is less effective outside PALERMO. The individual parties are lively, with scant regard for any form of truce.

9. For the people, the chief preoccupation is neither the war nor politics, but the simple economics of the home as reflected by the Black Market and the next harvest. There is universal dismay at the wheat price imposed on SICILY, and al-

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9. For the people, the chief preoccupation is neither the war nor politics, but the simple economics of the home as reflected by the Black Market and the next harvest. There is universal dismay at the wheat price imposed on SICILY, and already many are said to be making arrangements to buy up their complete supplies of grain for next year. This anxiety is also reflected in the minor forms of labour unrest during the month, all of which have been connected with the costs of living or shortage of ration.

### C. LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

10. Regional - The office of High Commissioner has gained in stature during the month by the patient, yet firm, attitude of MUSOTTO in forming his new administration, and in persisting in his administrative duties despite lack of support from Aldisio, and consequently the Government, and with unconstructive criticism from the critically-conscious Sicilians of 5748 ties.

Region I Headquarters - Monthly Report 14 - Continued - Page 3.

Together with the Regional Commissioner, he has toured every province this month and received a very favorable reception. Some shortcoming of the High Commissioner by direct messages to Prefects still exists, probably because the Government officials have been used for long to communicate direct with Prefects. The Head of the Government, however, has given orders that all communications must go through the High Commissioner in the future. As long as the Regional system is maintained, I feel this practice will remedy itself by usage.

11. Sovrintendenza Alimentazione. AVV CAMMARATA took it upon himself to issue in the CATANIA press his proposals for increasing the bread ration to 300 grammes, though without prior notice or approval from this Headquarters or P.W.B., or the Italian Authorities. Violent reaction to this attempt to force the Government hand was experienced, and provided the Government with the occasion to implement the long-discussed decision to abolish his post.

12. A.C.C. Amalgamations. This month has seen the biggest step in A.C.C. history in SICILY since the formation of Region I, as following numerous reductions in Officers and E.M./O.R.s it has become necessary to amalgamate certain provinces for purposes of control. Luna has been absorbed by Provincial Commissioner CALTANISSETTA, RAGUSA with SIRACUSA, and TRAPANI with PALERMO. These amalgamations have been received with expressions of regret by the Sicilians concerned, but have produced few important reactions other than the difficulty of giving advice in a number of places at once with a very limited staff.

13. Provincial. Prefects. CALTANISSETTA and SIRACUSA are still without Prefects, and the lack of drive in the grain campaigns within these provinces is consequently noticeable. Trapani has lost Prefect D'ANTONI who has gone as Prefect PALERMO, but the former vice-Prefect LONGO has taken his place as "regenter" to general satisfaction. The vice-Prefect of MESSINA - CIPRIANI - is now only functioning as Prefect of RAGUSA.

14. Communal. With the numerous changes and absences of Prefects the Communes have steadily continued to find their own feet. Communal kitchens for refugees, communal shops against Black Market, further appointments of giuntas and the planning for the new communal agricultural committees, are all giving valuable lessons in forms of democratic government which is becoming once again the background of local life here. There are still too many Commissari Prefettizi, particularly in CATANIA province, but efforts are being made to reduce these.

#### D. ITALIAN ARMED FORCES

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#### D. ITALIAN ARMED FORCES

15. Liaison has continued with all three arms, and Italian military assistance was given during the incident at LICATA described under Public Safety. Ammiraglio BOBBIONE has visited the various ports of the Island and left for the Mainland. Lt Colonel ALBERT of the R.M.I.A. has set up offices in PALERMO during the month to maintain liaison with Italian Air Corps.

#### E. Liaison Allied Military Authorities

16. Relations have continued to be closely maintained with 1 DISTRICT, I.B.S. and British and US Navies. Personal and frequent contact has been kept with I.B.S., and my Liaison Officer has been with 1 DISTRICT until 28 May. From now on his work will be performed by Provincial Commissioner CATANIA. In addition during a tour of the island, both High Commissioner and Regional Commissioner visited Headquarters 1 DISTRICT at CATANIA, and

Region I Headquarters - Monthly Report MAY - continued - Page 4.

British NAVAL Headquarters at AUGUSTA. Outstanding points were satisfactorily discussed. I.B.S and U.S. Navy have given much help to this Headquarters. In addition Regional Commissioner and High Commissioner visited French troops at TRAPANI, on the 14th MAY, for the fete of St. Jeanne D'Arc.

#### F. VISITORS

17. From outside A.C.C. have come during the month Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham, Mr. Spriggs of Reuters and Mr. Dumb of The Times, Generale de Sevin and Commandant Panafieu, Mr Fred W. Snipman, Rector of T.D.R. Library, M. Toudicon for International Red Cross GENEVA, and Italian Ministers ALDISIO (Interior) TARCHIANI (Public Works) with Under-Secretary TIZZONI, and Generale di RAIMONDO (under-Secretary Communications).

18. From A.C.C. have come Col Crawshaw, Col Denham Young, Lt Col Lapper, Maj Page, Lt Col Bowman, Col Clough, Major White, Major Cunliffe, Captain Howard Owen, Lt Col Carroll and Major Keen. Also Lt Col Mitchell of G-5, Col Wyles of A.F.H.Q. (Petrol) with Mr West, and Mr Minifie of P.W.B.

#### G. ECONOMICS AND SUPPLY

19. Food. The groundwork of a scheme has been agreed between Regional Commissioner and High Commissioner to transfer sufficient wheat and flour to the Civil Authorities to carry the administration at standard ration to 15 JULY. The basis was 15,700 metric tons per month of flour. Owing to the abolition of the post of Sovrintendenza Regionale dell'Alimentazione, the hand-over of warehouses has been delayed, but arrangements are now in hand. 1500 tons of canned rations have been handed to A.C.C. by I.B.S. Of this 40,000 lbs of tinned fish has been loaned to Italian army. The dried soup, M.A.V. etc offered by A.C.C. to supplement rations are not being bought and large quantities will be left on our hands unless prices are drastically reduced.

20. Salvage. The following have been sold -

|       |                           |            |
|-------|---------------------------|------------|
| 52812 | cans oil                  | 5 Gallons  |
| 37000 | Batteries B.A.            | 30 Class D |
| 800   | Bulbs B.A.                | 50         |
| 28365 | long tons, cans, various  |            |
| 5600  | asphalt drums, 55 gallons |            |
| 10    | tons light ferrous        |            |
| 100   | kilos wire (scrap)        |            |
| 1     | lot light ferrous (scrap) |            |

21. Coal and Petrol. Coal stocks have been maintained, but petrol and oil issues have been reduced by approximately 50%.

22. Miscellaneous: two sulphur Dioxide plants have been

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23. Exports. The trade to Malta has been maintained at the same level as last month. 10,000 tons of sulphur have been exported to U.K. and the commitment of 2,200 tons for North Africa is in hand. It has been decided not to export the Sicilian lemon crop as the fruit is of a poor quality. Trade to the Mainland has been held up pending decisions from NAPLES on what may be permitted and with reference to the schooner pool.

24. Agriculture - Harvest reports are universally good, both for wheat and barley. Cotton from 9,000 hectares will be collected in CALABRESSE and PROVINCE. Communal agricultural Committees have been formed in the majority of Communes - the tariff committee are being accelerated by A.C.C. Officers. All officers in provinces

Region I Headquarters - Monthly Report - continued - Page 5.

have helped in this work, but passive resistance and a feeling of hopelessness have been encountered from Prefect to farmer in view of what all SICILY regards as an entirely uneconomic price of collection. The Italian officials fear a very large proportion of grain will go under ground, and it appears unlikely that the Carabinieri can exert sufficient pressure. The High Commissioner has loyally worked his utmost for the success of the Government scheme both by personal example, exhortation and by able press propaganda.

25. Black Market. Certain bakeries have been closed during the month in Palermo for breaches of regulations, and the Carabinieri have arrested 50 persons and denounced 341 for Black Market trading. 40 tons of flour stolen in PALERMO from military sources have been recovered during the month.

## II. LABOR.

26. Negotiations with Labor in the island have been maintained satisfactorily. Disputes in the port of Messina were settled with a clarification to interested parties of the provisions of standard contract. There was a strike among sulphur miners which has been settled on a temporary basis: a complete wage study is being obtained. An agreement between the employers and employees of Societa' Generale Elettrica is in the process of completion. Generally, the month has been quieter though anxiety over Black Market prices and the future of the harvest remains as a sword of Damocles over all labor discussions. The following are the pressing problems -

- a. Rectification of wage agreements for Public Utility Employees
- b. Wage adjustment for State Railway Workers
- c. Wage adjustment in sulphur mining industry.
- d. Establishment of Social Benefit program for employees of Armed Services.

## I. PUBLIC WORKS.

27. With better weather work has been proceeding on all jobs and particularly those works on roads and bridges included in Lt Colonel Jenny's programme. This programme consists of 200 separate jobs including 70 bridges, and, with the exception of 4 jobs, all work has been started and many jobs now finished. The work on the Military Highways determined between Lt Colonel Jenny and I DISTRICT is continuing under Major Canale.

## III. UTILITIES.

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J. UTILITIES.

28. In Utilities, the Gas Works in PALERMO have been reopened during the month operating 7 hours a day for cooking only, and a cement works which can produce 6,000 tons a month has been restarted to use Sardinian coal after treatment by the Gas Works. This will relieve the pressure on the Villafranca cement works at MESSINA and save the long road or rail haul from there to Western SICILY.

29. In order to step up electric power to ROME Headquarters A.C.C. found it necessary to remove the complete hydro-electric generating unit from Alto Belice near PALERMO. Disassembly started on 10 MAY and the unit will be ready for shipment on 5 JUN. The Societa' Generale Elettrica have given full co-operation, and I.E.S. have given considerable assistance in the dismantling and transportation. The machine was capable of generating 3500 KVA output and in future site is expected to provide 1500 MW.

Region I Headquarters - Monthly Report 1944 - continued - page 8.

#### K. PUBLIC SAFETY

30. Crime has continued to decrease during the month. As compared with April the following decreases are recorded:

|                  |        |      |        |
|------------------|--------|------|--------|
| Murder           | APR 39 | from | MAY 36 |
| Manslaughter     | 9      |      | 5      |
| Robbery          | 170    |      | 131    |
| Delinquency      | 19     |      | 9      |
| Thefts           | 1455   |      | 1197   |
| Fraudulent fires | 16     |      | 4      |

The proportion between crimes discovered and crimes committed by unknown persons remains about 50%.

31. Disturbances. The general number has also decreased, though two serious cases occurred - one at LICATA and the other at REGALIBUTO. The LICATA incident was very carefully planned and the town placed in a state of siege; Italian Military Assistance was invoked to restore order; investigations are proceeding to ascertain the causes. The REGALIBUTO incident was a clash between communists and separatists during a meeting held by VINCENZIARO APRIL. Shots were fired both by crowd and Carabinieri resulting in 1 dead and 3 wounded. The leader of the communists died of heart failure shortly after.

32. Sabotage. No serious cases have occurred, but sabotage of telephone wire and cables continues on a considerable scale. Counter-action is being planned.

33. Courts. All offences are now turned over to the Italian courts which are functioning satisfactorily if slowly. Overcrowding of prisons is becoming serious.

#### L. PUBLIC HEALTH

34. The general standard of health continues high. An island-wide investigation of reports of malnutrition is in progress; only 3 provinces are to date completed. From these it appears that rickets in children and primary pulmonary T.B. in adolescents are on the increase. Though locally the blame is laid on the general rationing scheme, it appears that such increases are probably due to short supplies of animal fats and carbohydrates over the war period.

35. Typhus. Two cases occurred during the month: one fatal, a child of 5 at CANICATTI, the other a lad of 17 at PORTO TROPEACE, who is recovering. The child was a refugee from MONTENO and the lad had been in contact with refugees. Live lice were found in both cases.

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36. Medical supplies. The immediate needs of all hospitals and institutions are being fulfilled. The arrangements to hand over the Medical stores at CALANISSIMA to the High Commissioner will be completed shortly.

37. Venereal disease. The Army authorities have expressed satisfaction at a positive reduction in the V.D. rate.

38. Animal disease. 40 animals in ASSORO and LIGONFORTE (LMA) have died of salmonellosis and the area has been declared an infected zone with prohibition on movements of animals.

39. Anti-malaria. During the month there were two ~~57~~ <sup>58</sup> cases of men engaged in this work in Eastern SICILY. These were due to low wages which have since been partly adjusted from 50 lire a day to 65 lire.

Region I Headquarters - Monthly Report MAY - continued. Page 7.

#### M. REFUGEES

40. Upwards of 10,000 refugees have been received to date and dispersed to communes. The sick rate among them is negligible. Seven young women, whose ages ranged from 12 - 30, complained of interference by Allied Coloured troops on the Mainland. A commission has been appointed to carry out an investigation.

#### N. EDUCATION.

41. Educational relationships with the Italian authorities remain satisfactory, but investigations indicate that the quality of Italian education is distressingly low from every point of view.

42. Student strikes occurred in PALERMO, CATANIA and SIRACUSA caused first by an error on the part of the Ministry in not upholding the school calendar for SICILY as established by A.M.C., and secondly by the order that final examinations must be held. The error was corrected, and the Ministry is supported in its stand on examinations.

#### O. COMMUNICATIONS.

43. The repair, rehabilitation and reconstruction of telegraph circuits has proceeded: 80% of SICILY's communes are now served by telegraphic communications. Eight additional telephone circuits have been put in operation. During the month 80 faults occurred mainly due to dry joints and cracked insulators: the average time for location and repair was 12 hours. Ten cases of sabotage of wire have been reported: one included removal from TRIPANI area of 3,000 yds copper wire, 21 poles and 50 insulators.

#### P. TRANSPORTATION

44. I.M.F. Over 600 roadworthy trucks have been operated over SICILY in the month. Future reduction appears probable through:  
a. Lack of replacement parts, tyres, batteries, etc. and  
b. Reduction of fuel.

45. Railways. Operations have continued satisfactorily, and further stretches of line made available. Only 29 km of the PALERMO - MESSINA line is now out of action and it is hoped to run a through service by rail cum truck in early JUN. Progress is slow on the SIRACUSA bridge, but the line to AGRIENTO will shortly reopen. All members of Sub-Commission have made an island-wide inspection tour with Lt Colonel Brown and Generale di PALLONDO, the Under-secretary for communications.

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### Q. MINING.

46. Sulphur production this month was around 1000 tons. Supplies and explosives are still short. Workers are increasingly reluctant to return to work because of low wages and insufficient rations.

47. Asphalt. Lack of supplies is causing production difficulties.

48. Lignite. A second lignite mine at MESSINA has been opened. Demand is less than production capacity.

### R. FINANCE.

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49. Difficulties have been experienced in defining the position of regional directorates and their provincial satellites as between the High Commissioner and Comm. BRUSCHI of the Ufficio di Region-  
eria Delegato. Co. . B

Region I Headquarters - Monthly Report MARCH - continued - Page 8.

Comm. BRUSCHI proceeded to SALERNO at the end of the month in order to obtain clarification.

50. Control of expenditure has been hampered by the slowness of Communes to forward budgets for 1944: only 116 out of 353 Communes have so far complied. A dwindling staff renders more difficult the collection of these budgets from recalcitrant communes.

51. Revenue receipts in general continue to maintain an upward trend, though there is room for improvement in MESSINA and CATANIA. Investigations to improve these positions are in progress.

52. Currency is plentiful in circulation. One further case of forgery has recently been reported and is under investigation.

53. Increase of deposits throughout the island continues but the rate of growth is uneven.

### S. PROPERTY CONTROL.

54. Transfer of all balances under control has been arranged from Provincial Branch Banks to Head Offices in PALERMO, so as to facilitate supervision with diminishing staff. The following declarations of custody have been completed during the month and forwarded to Headquarters:

CATANIA - 2: MESSINA - 40: AGRIGENTO & ENNA - 1.

### T. A.M.C. ISLANDS.

55. Military Government of LAMPEDUSA and LINGOSA continues satisfactorily. Supplies have been and are reaching the islands adequately. Arrangements have been made for the fishing catch to be sold to MALTA: MALTA providing transport and containers. Some trouble was caused by ex-Fascists, one an Italian Army Chaplain, but firm action was taken by the C.A.O. who brought those concerned to AGRIGENTO. The question of their disposal is under consideration.

### U. PERSONNEL.

56. During the month the following have been called away to serve on the mainland:

|           |         |      |
|-----------|---------|------|
| Officers  | British | U.S. |
| E.M./O.R. | 25      | 4    |
|           | 29      | 7    |

### V. CONCLUSION.

57. Administration, commerce and daily life continue to improve

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### U. CONCLUSION.

57. Administration, commerce and daily life continue to improve in a slow if uncertain way. Apart from Separatism, politics are moderate and democracy is not so far distant, but the real politics of the people of this isle concern their staff of life - the wheat harvest. This, nature has this year given them in plenty, but they feel the administration is trying to deprive them of the fruits of their labor and at an unjust price. In theory they wish to help in the war effort, but basically selfish and material interests always prevail - if a war bonus or additional inducement could be granted the farmer and peasant, his contribution would be made easier.

*Antony Cole*

A.N. HANCOCK  
Colonel

Regional Commissioner 5742

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JUN 44.

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

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ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS  
APO 394

FILE:RC/319.1

11 May 1944

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - APRIL

TO : Executive Commissioner  
R.C. & M.G. Section  
A. C. C.

Herewith 5 copies Report Region I.

*A. N. Hancock*  
A.N. HANCOCK  
Colonel  
Regional Commissioner

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ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS

MONTHLY REPORT - APRIL 44

Region 1

A. POLITICAL.

1. Activity - April has been a period of considerable political activity of an orderly and quiet kind, generally modelled on what has taken place on the mainland, and directed towards organisation and definition of party objectives. The local parties have been contacting central committees at NAPLES and have been slowly feeling their way towards freer and more ordered politics. There is the inevitable tendency to consider politics as administration.
2. Regionalism and Separatism. While regional administrative autonomy can be said to be a basis of the political belief of every Sicilian party, Separatism is now not such a strong factor. A Separatist meeting attended by 1,000 persons was held at PALERMO on 23 APR and passed off without incident. At the meeting FINOCCHIARO APRILE attacked the Badoglio government and the High Commissioner, and he promised his supporters a plebiscite next October to decide the fate of SICILY. Naturally Separatism will continue to receive the support of ardent patriots, but in general the Sicilian remains indifferent to any government.
3. Political reactions. The Badoglio visit ended on 1 APR with his departure from CATANIA after a swift visit to MESSINA. While his tour did not affect many of the people, the quiet influence of his sincerity and call for unity appears to have impressed and directed the policy of party leaders with whom he came in contact. Later, with the formation of the new government, a lessening of the political tension appeared among the parties: the island outside the big cities and political classes appeared, however, indifferent save that among many there is alarm at the prospect of a merger between socialist and communist parties and it is even stated that this may lead to the exchange of one dictatorship for another.
4. Giunta Consultiva. There had been considerable lobbying over the composition of the Giunta for SICILY, and a decree without prior consultation with the High Commissioner provoked considerable criticism, and offered a useful weapon to the Separatists. The High Commissioner considered offering his resignation, and flew to SALERNO where he remained for a week in discussion with the Head of the Government and the new Ministers. With his return his position appears to have been strengthened.

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Criticism of the appointment of the Giunta was particularly strong in PALERMO, CATANIA, MESSINA and TRAPANI, and the names of the representatives nominated from CATANIA and MESSINA were decidedly unpopular. In consequence, the Prefects of TRAPANI, ENNA and AGRIGENTO - all non-career officials appointed by A.M.G., and supporters of the High Commissioner - were sufficiently uneasy over the situation that they approached the Regional Commissioner during the High Commissioner's absence in SALERNO, with the proposal that they should place their posts at the disposal of the new government. They were advised to remain at their posts.

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Page 2.

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5. Freedom of the Press. While meetings of the Allied *Publications* Board in SICILY have not been satisfactory due to the conflict of powers expected from the Board and those granted by the Italian decrees to the Prefects, the co-operation of the Press with P.W.B. has remained unaffected. Recognised political parties are beginning to achieve their own papers with authority from NAPLES, and the greater freedom now permitted is to date wisely used. The visits of Mr. Edman, Lt Col Munro and later of Major Bulloch helped to clarify the issue to some extent but a more definite procedure is needed.

6. Defascism. This has proceeded slowly in both administrative and educational appointments, as Prefects have been loth to act without fuller clarification from the government. The High Commissioner expects to implement the latest ministerial directives more fully during the coming month.

7. Landowners and Agricultural policy. A good symptom of the effect of the new government on the feudal families of the island, has been a recent determined effort to secure a common agricultural policy through a recently formed Agricultural Union. Meetings have been held in PALERMO and in CALTANISSETTA, the centre of the grain producing area of SICILY. The Union is anxious to put its own house in order, and to find a solution for maximum amassing, and consequent cutting out of Black Market. This group has put forward plans meriting consideration in view of the different conditions for grain production in SICILY as compared with the mainland. All agricultural interests, official and otherwise, insist that an adequate price, not less than Lire 1500 per quintal is essential to the success of any amassing scheme.

#### B. GENERAL MORALE.

8. Throughout SICILY the morale of the people depends entirely on the supplies of bread and pasta. Despite the closing to a greater extent of the so-called safety valve of the Black Market, due to diminishing supplies, there have been few bread disturbances during the month. The poorer population is however uneasy, and its anxiety has been reflected in temporary labor stoppages. Wage conditions have not kept pace with the rise in costs of living.

9. While party politics have been re-organising, not much effect has been seen in the provinces, though the Communist party is credited with a strengthened position. A few Fascist supporters still exist in certain provinces, and are able to cash in on the slow Allied progress (military) during the month. It has been noted in some towns that the young men are becoming more and more recovered from the effects of the defeat,

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#### C. LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

10. Regional. The growth of regional government and control is slow and due to three main causes. First, the difficulties experienced by the High Commissioner in finding either suitable staff or a headquarters. Second, the short-circuiting of the High Commissioner by the Italian government, whose ministers frequently have been sending directives straight to individual Prefects. Third, the uncertainty concerning the powers of the High Commissioner himself, and the doubt as to the continuance or powers of the various regional institutions set up under A.M.C.

Region I. Monthly Report APRIL 44. Continued. Page 3.

11. Provincial. Due to the vacancies caused by the appointment of a High Commissioner (ex Prefect Palermo) his Secretary General (ex Prefect Syracuse), of ALDISIO (ex Prefect Caltanissetta) to the Ministry of the Interior, a number of vacancies for Prefects have still to be filled. PALERMO still has an acting Prefect. ALDISIO having left CALTANISSETTA, LONGO - the career Vice-Prefect of TRAPANI, is suggested as his successor. The Vice-Prefect of CALTANISSETTA, VADALA, is expected to leave on grounds of defascism. RAGUSA and SYRACUSE are still without Prefects.

12. Communal. Local government responsibility is growing with added emphasis on preparations for refugees, communal feeding, the distribution of A.C.C. additional supplies of M & V and de-hydrated soups etc., and communal efforts to combat the Black Market and extortionate prices. Communal administration remains backward in forwarding budgets for 1944 or accounts for the last quarter, and special efforts are being made to obtain these.

13. A.C.C. Handover. More opportunity is being sought to accelerate the hand-over to the Italian administration. The difficulties of the High Commissioner, as mentioned above in paragraph 11, have been a delaying factor. It is found that the work of counsel and advice to further this acceleration has largely increased at Regional Headquarters and has added to the demands made on the Regional Commissioner, rather than reducing them.

On the other hand, the work at the Provincial level is decreasing and with continuing cuts in personnel it should be possible in the near future to combine provinces as far as A.C.C. administration is concerned. The Italian tendency is to regard A.C.C. advice still as orders. With the reduction of personnel, and the gradual increase of turn-over to the Italian authorities, it is most necessary that demands for returns of statistics by Headquarters A.C.C. are kept to the minimum.

#### D. ITALIAN ARMED FORCES.

14. Close liaison has been maintained with all three services. The XII Italian Corps is planning for the reception in a month's time of two Italian divisions. The Navy has been represented with the arrival of Ammiraglio BOBBESE, and the Air Group has continued active in salvage of equipment formerly belonging to I.A.F. All three services have been interested in possible future recruiting campaigns and, for the present, in the registration of all former personnel of the armed forces now at liberty on the island. One result of liaison has been to put the Italian Army in touch with 1 DISTRICT over the question of purchase of mules and fodder, in which it was found that one army was competing against the other. Colonel PIDSLEY of Army Sub-Commission visited PALERMO during the month.

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#### E. LIAISON ALLIED MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

15. Relations have continued to be closely maintained with both 1 DISTRICT and I.B.S. Following the incident with French troops stationed near TRAPANI, all subsequent investigations and recommendations were made as the result of close co-operation. Warm relations have also been maintained with Commodore DOUGHERTY of U.S. Naval Operating Base PALERMO, who is shortly believed to be leaving. He has given considerable assistance in reviving the SICILIAN fishing industry, in co-operation over dock labour, and by repairs in his shops for essential electric equipment.

Region I. Monthly Report APRIL 44. continued. Page 4.

16. Requisitioning continues to be a point of issue as both districts are inclined to requisition both houses and materials without reference to A.C.C. or Prefect, and in contradiction of terms of A.A.I ADM Instruction No 6. Provincial Commissioners also experience difficulty in agreeing with the army on what is a "military necessity" under the terms of this instruction.

#### F. VISITORS.

17. From outside A.C.C. the island has received this month - Mr. JUNG, then Italian Minister of Finance; Consul to the Netherlands, Mr. MIDDLEBURG with Consul to the Belgians, Mr. CALLIER both from BARI; TEDESCHI of NAPLES, a prominent leader of Italian Communist party, and representatives of Royal Yugo-Slav Mission.

18. Through A.C.C. Headquarters - Brigadier LUSH, who visited PALERMO, CALTANISSETTA and MESSINA and also saw other officers from ENNA, SYRACUSE and RAGUSA. Lt Col Campbell, Lt Col Patrick, Lt Col Thibodeaux, Major Waters, Mr Casey and Mr. Nalder - all members of the Combined Supplies Group of the C.C.A. Commission visited SICILY and discussed and examined many of the local problems. Colonel Legge and Evans were also welcome visitors as well as Mr. Jenkinson and Capt Brooke. Lt Col Munro and Mr. Ednam (PWB) ~~noted~~ attended the Allied ~~Pres~~ Board weekly meeting, and Major Bulloch (PR) the April conference of Provincial Commissioners.

19. Though official visitors undoubtedly occupy a considerable time of various officers at this Headquarters, their visits are always much appreciated. Not only are they able to see and discuss this administration at work, but visitors often bring advance information or clarification of policy and provide the background for a wider viewpoint.

#### G. ECONOMICS AND SUPPLY.

20. Food. Enough flour is in the island to feed the population until the end of June on the present ration, irrespective of stock piles. Distribution difficulties are considerable, particularly in the East of the island. To combat this Economics and Supply Division hope to obtain greater use for the future of shipments to MESSINA, which is isolated by rail both from CATANIA and PALERMO. Arrangements have now been completed for issues throughout the island of supplies of miscellaneous food stuffs, M & V, de-hydrated soups etc. A tendency has been observed in some districts to open communal shops where fish and other general alimentation items can be bought at reasonable prices.

21. Black Market. The campaign against the Black Market has been continued with the help of the Italian authorities. Hidden grain supplies have been found both in PALERMO and AGRIGENTO. In the latter 14 tons were collected in 15 days. The

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22. Bread Raiser. An official experiment was held before suitable Italian authorities and bakery representatives at PALERMO to determine the increase in weight when flour is made into bread. The experiment produced a figure of 37% increase, and details of the experiment were published in the local press.

23. Agriculture. Harvest expectations are high as crops are looking very good following the APRIL rains. It is too early to

give any accurate assessment. An initial amount of fertiliser for the Autumn has already arrived at PALERMO, and 800 tons have been distributed to provinces.

24. Fisheries. Fishing has shown an improvement with the removal of limits for tunney fishery, and general fishery has been better though prices remain high. Efforts have been made to repair nets, though the shortage of hemp is a limiting factor.

#### H. LABOUR.

25. There has been unrest due to food shortage rather than due to low wages, and several work stoppages have been notified as follows - 3 cases of stoppages among Sulphur miners (5 days), 1 day involving railway workers, 1 day involving other sulphur miners. In all cases the demands were for additional flour and pasta rations, or for higher wages in lieu. A study of wages in the Sulphur Industry has been completed and the necessary recommendations for wage adjustments have been forwarded to Headquarters. In general employment has stayed at a steady level, and insurance claims have decreased by about 10%.

26. Labour Day plans. Uncertainty concerning Labour Day existed due to differing instructions from H.Q. A. C. C. and the Italian Government. The celebrations and meetings timed for Sunday 30 APR were conducted [redacted] throughout the island in a most orderly manner.

#### I. PUBLIC WORKS.

27. Work on roads and bridges has been continuing, but limits have been due to shortages in cement, lumber and bitumen. A military highway scheme is now to be worked out over and above the present priorities, the necessary finance being specially provided from NAPLES. A further shortage noted is in bricks, which are in limited supply and are required still for essential priorities for machine protection and emergency repairs.

#### J. UTILITIES.

28. Further progress has been made in the hand-over of former German and Italian army lorries to INT, which now has over 600 vehicles. This is approximately 1/4 the number of lorries on the island. Prices are strictly controlled, and are lower than other transport prices by 1/4. Electricity production has been maintained, and plans have now been completed for an early resumption of gas distribution in the PALERMO area.

#### K. PUBLIC SAFETY.

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#### K. PUBLIC SAFETY.

29. General crime has shown a slight decrease, and food disturbances have lessened. A separate report has been forwarded on the incidents at XITTA (TRAPANI) between FRENCH parachute troops billeted nearby, and ITALIAN civilians. The matter was promptly handled by A.C.C. Public Safety officer in the province, and by reinforcements of Carabinieri. The questions at issue have been taken up with the military authorities at A.A.I. by I.B.S. and 1 DISTRICT. No further incident has occurred between FRENCH and civilians, but a minor fracas took place on 30 APR between these FRENCH troops and AMERICAN troops in the locality.

30. The successful arrest has been made of a gang of forgers of 1,000 lire notes, together with their equipment and 43 million lire worth of forged notes.

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31. Police Conference. A conference of all the Police and Security authorities on the island was held by A.C.C. at CATANIA in the first week of APR in order to ensure fuller co-ordination. Police, Intelligence and Security representatives attended from 1 DISTRICT, I.B.S., BR and U.S. Navies, and A.C.C. Carabinieri and Italian Army representatives attended on the second day.

32. Courts. The Italian Courts are functioning, but somewhat slowly and prisons are full. There have been 7 Allied Courts during the month for cases of counterfeiting, bearing of arms and unauthorised use of transport.

#### L. PUBLIC HEALTH.

33. The general standard of health is phenomenally high, and there has been less sickness this winter than for a number of years. Despite food scarcity, no malnutrition is evident, and the authorities are now preparing a special report on this subject. The campaign against V.D. is progressing and the rate of contact is falling. Hospitals for V.D. are now operating in MESSINA, CATANIA, SYRACUSE, PALERMO and TRAPANI.

#### M. EDUCATION.

34. The work of this division has been channelled as follows - in revaluation of the Italian school system and of its objectives; in investigation for defascism where necessary (this has been limited due to lack of policy directives from the Italian government); examination and issue of books; in attempting to co-ordinate the relationships to education of the Italian Minister, the High Commissioner, the Giunta and the National Inspectors. This co-ordination has been lacking. The execution of the school programme throughout the island has been generally successful, and even MESSINA has been able to operate on a modified basis.

#### N. REFUGEES.

35. Over 4,000 refugees have been received during the month by either sea or rail and through SYRACUSE or TERMINI reception camps. From thence refugees have been dispersed to communes in 5 to 6 days.

36. The condition of the majority on arrival has been good. Two old ladies have died, but the sick rate has been abnormally low and no infectious cases notified. At SYRACUSE 23 were hospitalized out of 3,841 and at TERMINI 16 out of 744 refugees. The first parties which arrived by boat were noticeably less fatigued than those that came by overland route; the rate of illness

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37. Invaluable assistance in the organization of the SYRACUSE camp has been given by 1 DISTRICT. From early in MAY this assistance will be considerably reduced, and full administration accepted by the Italian authorities. The TERMINI camp has been run from the first by the Italian RED CROSS and Civil Authorities under the guidance of A.C.C. Both camps have been undoubtedly successful.

38. Procedure on arrival in Communes has been disappointing in some cases, and the High Commissioner has been pressed to demand adequate preparations and aftercare from the Prefects and Sindaci. The Italian Red Cross have been admirable.

39. Members of the Friends Ambulance are starting visits to communes which have received ~~received~~ refugees in order to ascertain the conditions of refugees after arrival.

40. COMMUNICATION

40. Progress is reported with the opening up of telephonic communications with NAPLES and SALERNO, and on the island additional lines have been connected to RAGUSA and TRAPANI. In all, 101 out of a total of 352 communes are now connected for telegraphic purposes.

P. RAILWAYS.

41. Better passenger and freight services have been provided during the month, and in addition over 3000 refugees were handled to reception areas and thence to dispersal points without dislocation of normal services. During the month 11,080 tons of sulphur were moved to ports without difficulty.

Q. SULPHUR MINING.

42. Production this month was around 1200 tons, the 11,000 tons moved to ports being old stocks. 6,400 tons have actually been shipped out, and another 8,200 tons are now loading. Wage rates and the food scarcity are both causing unrest among the miners and add to the working difficulties.

R. FINANCE.

43. The R.C.F.O. made a complete tour of the provinces during the month, and as a result has been able to carry out considerable re-organisation. Anxiety has been expressed concerning forgeries of Allied currency and the consequent threat to confidence in the lira. The recent seizure of operators and plant referred to in the Public Safety report is reassuring.

S. A.M.G. ISLANDS.

44. Pantelleria. A report was received during the month from A.F.H.Q. stating that serious food conditions prevailed there. As a result the Provincial Commissioner of TRAPANI flew to the island with a Q.M. representative from E.B.S. The report of serious food conditions was found to be an exaggeration. PANTELLERIA has a population of about 10,000 of whom 17% are on relief. The island has a one crop economy of vines, and has not the same food variety to be found in SICILY. There were no signs of malnutrition, and there have not been food disturbances. The flour ration is already greater than in SICILY and stocks are plentiful. To enable a greater variety of food to be provided E.B.S. are making arrangements to hand over certain stocks of Army food at present stored on the island. A.M.G. administration under Lieut GASPARINI is progressing satisfactorily, but communications are difficult.

45. Lampedusa and Linosa. Allied Military Government of the islands continues successfully, and the supply position is adequate. Owing to non-existent communications the work of the C.A.O. is difficult. Negotiations to supply fish to MALTA are in hand.

T. CONCLUSION.

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#### T. CONCLUSION.

46. Administration, commerce, and employment continue to progress towards more normal conditions, but the basic industry of this island is agriculture which remains its chief political and administrative problem. With a promising harvest, a system of collection and surrender of the whole crop adapted to Sicilian mentality and conditions, and a price consistent with local production costs, the island should make favorable headway in its contribution to the new Italy.

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10 MAY 44

A.N. HANCOCK

Colonel

Regional Commissioner

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