

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No.

785017

10000/109/1831

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REPORTS, SOUTHERN REGION
JULY, AUG. 1944

561X
HEADQUARTERS REGION VII

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

CATANZARO ZONE - SOUTHERN REGION

File Ref:

Date: 8 Sept. 1944

16 SEP Recd

SUBJECT: Monthly Report, Catanzaro Zone, August 1944.

TO:

Headquarters,

Allied Control Commission,

R.C. & M.G. Section (Civil Affairs Branch).

COPY:

Regional Commissioner, ~~Southern Region.~~

Herewith Monthly report, in quintuplicate, for the month of August 1944.

A. Political Reactions and Popular Opinion.

1. Political activity in this zone is normal, -- political newspapers are published, political discussion is rampant, but there has been no public disorder. It has been reported to me unofficially that the political party to which the Prefect of Reggio belongs is trying to "oust" him from the party. In my conference with him he made no mention of this matter. The most unusual political development in this zone the past month has been the proclaiming of the village of Castrovillari as a Republic by its Sindaco. This unusual situation was met by appointing a new Sindaco and the wave of republicanism has subsided.

B. Local Government - Provincial.

2. There is a Deputazione Provinciale in full operation in Reggio Province, but both in Catanzaro and Cosenza Provinces they are slow in its formation. Every effort will be made to hurry them along. Each Province is appointing Giunta Communals, and it is hoped that by the end of the month they will all be operating. I have visited a few local communes and find that local Government is functioning fairly well by Italian standard.

C. Public Health.

3. Outside of a small

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Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission,
R.C. & M.G. Section (Civil Affairs Branch).
COPY: Regional Commissioner, Southern Region.

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C. Public Health.

3. Outside of a small epidemic of dysentery and a death from malignant malaria, there is nothing unusual to report. We have no Zone Medical Officer. Medical Supplies are getting low, request has been made for new supplies.

D. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

4. A visit was paid to the Montecatini fertilizer plant on Thursday 5th inst & found the following to be the stocks of fertilizer on hand.

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HEADQUARTERS
16 SEP 1944
A. C. C.

= 2 =

Perfosfato "inerales Solfato Ammonico

On hand 4-9-44: qls

5808,50

2545

Assigned:

Catanzaro Prov.

3120

Reggio Calabria

2140

Lecce

200

248

331

1700

Surplus

5260

2479

548,50

66

5. As regards distribution as usual the main difficulty is transport, but Reggio Calabria was visited yesterday 6th inst & the Consorzio Agrario have promised to organise schooner traffic immediately & commence collecting their assignment. Catanzaro Province can also handle their allotment.

Matera on the other hand have had this assignment of fertilizer for over a year & have been unable to move any of it. The Comptentale Inspector of Catanzaro therefore requests permission to have the Matera allotment re-allocated to his Region and it appears ~~Matera~~ to be a reasonable request as Matera have had imported stocks of Ammonium Nitrate allocated to them & it seems unlikely that they will be able to obtain transport to move the Crotone lot. It would be better to use this on the ground in the Catanzaro Zone rather than leave it in the warehouse particularly as the Montecatini works need the space.

6. Movement of Pyrites. The most important problem from an agricultural point of view is the re-commencement of the production of Superphosphate at Crotone.

Montecatini are expecting a ship load of phosphate rock to arrive this month at Crotone, but at the same time they will need Iron Pyrites ore before they can commence production (1000 tons). The Pyrites is produced at a mine at Gimigliano (sheet 23-1845) which is about 20 kilometres from Marcellinara station & previously the Region had been able to allot two trucks for this haulage. About 200 tons of Pyrites reached Crotone by this method but the trucks have been taken off for other work & catage has ceased. It is tried to get this started up again.

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7. Wheat seed. The wheat seed cleaning establishment of the Consorzio Agrario at Crotone is now in operation & will be a very good job of work. They are sometimes held up through lack of electric power but have already prepared about 300 tons of disinfected seed of a high standard.

8. Government institutions. It was found that the Provincial Committees of both Catanzaro & Reggio Calabria are working well. The Cosenza Committee will be met on Monday 11th.

Granai del Popolo. Stocks in the ammassi on 5-9-44 were found as follows.

	Soft qls	Hard qls	Total qls	Barley qls
Catanzaro	41,550	53,167	94,717	7,696
Reggio Cal.	620	3,000	1,600	
Cosenza			53,000	

E. Public Works and Utilities.

9. In Calabria there has been a major change in the operations of A.C.C. during the month of August. The staff has been reduced to a bare minimum necessary to observe the work of the people. This has called for all officers being recalled from the province leaving one regional team of some ten officers, which is contemplated to be changed into a provincial team. The military mission to the XXI Army Corps was recalled from Catanzaro.

Calabria was changed from control of No. 2 district to No. 3 district.

Engineer C. Misini has taken over the position as Chief Engineer of Cosenza Province for the Genio Civile. He speaks some English. The Minister of Public Works visited Calabria this month but was ill during his visit and did not confer with our head quarters. He has ordered the suspension of all national aid to the reconstruction of war damage to private houses.

10. Military Highways. There has been no change in priorities in the military highways in Calabria. Progress on maintenance of roads is not satisfactory due to lack of transportation and materials. Heavy repairs are being made on 61.5 Kilometers of road and ordinary maintenance on 434 kilometers.

The Virtù bridge will be finished by the end of this month.

Five bridges are under construction, the Angitola, Messina, Amato, Petrace and the Bisirico. *Completion?*

The contract was let for the competition of the small bridge and landslide on the mountain north of Morano Calabria. This is the last contract to be let on bridges of major importance on the military highways with the exception of the Busento river bridge in the city of Cosenza. The Petrace, the Messina and the Angitola bridge are being delayed due to the lack of cement.

At the end of August the total value of all work on military highways amounted to L.31,634,000.00 of which an expenditure of over L.10,000,000 has been made.

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At the end of August the total value of all work on military highways amounted to L.31,634,000.00 of which an expenditure of over L.10,000,000 has been made.

11. Other Highways. Approval has been recommended for L.975,915.00 worth of work this month including one bridge, one landslide, and three maintenance and war damage repairs. Bids were taken on two sustaining wall projects. Approval has now been recommended for L.3,030,975 worth of work on non military highways and roads.

12. Public Works. Twenty-five projects were recommended for approval this month amounting to L.3,674,200.00 including three demolition jobs, two barracks, three prisons, two hospitals, four schools, one sustaining wall, four stream control projects, eight public buildings, and one community slaughter house. This brings the total amount of public works projects recommended for approval to L.7,076,200.00.

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Work has started on the Callina Prison. The first project for the placing of the ceilings in the barracks was received the 24th of August and has not been approved. Bids were taken for five public works projects during this month. No report has been received this month on the malaria control campaign. Shoes were received for the workers and forty cans of parais green were distributed to each province.

13. Public Utilities. Six projects amounting to L.1,320,812.50 were recommended for approval this month. These included four projects on the repair of sewers and two projects on the repair of aqueducts. Contract was let on the sewers in Catanzaro Marina. Cement for this job has been released but has not arrived at the present writing.

14. Electricity. The electricity situation in Calabria has been somewhat tense during this month. While putting into force the royal decree the rationing of electricity was supplemented by cutting off lines for periods of approximately four hours during the day-time for various groups of towns at interspersed intervals. Such action resulted in a saving of about 20,000 K.W.H./ day and aided greatly in staying within the A.A.I. allotment. On 5th of August this was suspended as per order Capt. Ryan.

The royal decree was applied only and during the course of the month some 400 industrial consumers, 220 electrical appliance users and around 2,600 private light consumers were cut off. All of the industrial applicants were reviewed for the province of Cosenza and Catanzaro about 40% of those in Reggio Calabria. A survey of the private lighting showed about 82% of the amount consumed in 1942. In as much as the cutting off of this great number of consumers was not feasible it was decided to punish the worst violators during the first month and the examination was made on the following basis:

- (a) Customers using less than 5 K.W.H. were not examined.
- (b) Customers using in 1944 5 K.W.H. were allowed 150% of their consumption in 1942.
- (c) Customers using in 1944 from 10 to 15 K.W.H. were allowed 100% of their consumption in 1942.

F. Finance.

15. Coincident with the absorption of Region VII by the

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F. Finance.

15. Coincident with the absorption of Region VII by the Southern Region, the staff has been reduced to one Finance Officer, namely Capt. H. Poad. It is contemplated that the Finance Officer will make his Headquarters at Catanzaro and service Cosenza and Reggio from Headquarters. Heretofore three bank accounts were maintained, one in each province but for simplification purposes a consolidation will be effected and one account established at Catanzaro.

The Regional Finance Officer, Major A.E. Fucinelli, has received orders for re-

Capt. M.E. Scott, Economic and Supply Division Accountant has received order to report to A.C.C. Headquarters for re-assignment.

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16. Prices. With the virtual termination of the vegetable and fruit season in the provinces of Calabria, it is estimated that the cost of living has taken a rise. As an illustration, in recent weeks the price of meats have enhanced from 100 lire per kilo to 120 lire per kilo, with the possibility of reaching 150 lire. Enumerated below are essential food and miscellaneous items with legal and black market prices.

<u>Article</u>	<u>Legal Price</u>	<u>Black Market</u>
Bread	L. 5 kilo	L. 50/60
Olive Oil	" 32,50	" 90/100
Eggs	" =	" 11
Fresh Cheese	" 115/135 kilo	" 200
Paste	" 7	" 80/100
Shoes	" =	" 1.200/3.500
Shirts	" =	" 850/1.300
Socks	" =	" 160
Women Stockings	" =	" 500
Radio	" =	" 10.000/50.000
Cigarettes(Amer.)	" =	" 90/100
Meat	" 120 kilo	" =
Fish	" 26/100 "	" =
Sugar	" 20 "	" 180/200
Potatoes	" 22 "	" =
Beans	" =	" 80/90
Milk	" 12 "	" 15
Flour	" 5 "	" 100

16. Allied Financial Agency. AFA/Bari continues to service Calabria in a most efficient manner. During the month of August there was a transfer of funds from Bank of Italy Catanzaro No.1 Account to Bank of Italy Bari, in the sum of lire 40.000.000.

Recent instructions were issued by the Finance Sub-Commission regarding a modification of the procedure to be followed in the payment of silk exporting invoices. In substance, the invoices, properly examined and approved will be forwarded to AFA Bari for payment. The accompanying invoice, certificate of possession and approved Voucher form T/3 will be transmitted to AFA after which the check will be issued and forwarded to the beneficiary. By having AFA Bari make the disbursements it will automatically reduce the amount of cash formerly carried by Finance Officer.

Below are Provincial Bank Balances of AFA with the Bank of Italy as of 25th August 1944:

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L. 5 kilo	L. 50/60
" 32,50	" 90/100
"	" 11
" 115/135 kilo	" 200
" 7	" 80/100
"	" 1.200/3.500
"	" 850/1.300
"	" 160
"	" 500
"	" 10.000/50.000
"	" 90/100
"	"
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" 26/100 "	" 180/200
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Below are Provincial Bank Balances of AFA with the Bank of Italy as of 25th August 1944:

<u>Province</u>	<u>No. 1 Account</u> July 25th '44	<u>No. 1 Account</u> August 25th '44
Catanzaro	89.212.133	68.100.787
Reggio	73.456.416	76.656.011
Cosenza	43.985.700	34.591.738
Total	206.654.249	179.348.536

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18. Payment to U.S. and U.K. Distressed Nationals. If it is contemplated to continue assisting U.S. and U.K. distressed Nationals, it is fitting that more expedient and simplified method of payment be considered. Under present arrangements applicant are placed to considerable inconvenience, often traveling considerable distances fruitlessly. That is, with one Finance Officer endeavouring to service several Provinces, it is difficult to regulate the element of time. The present procedure effecting payment could be simplified by either using the services of the Bank of Italy and Bank of Naples or revising present forms and centralizing all payment with AFA Bari or Naples. To ensure prompt payment to the beneficiary a Postal Money Order could be used in lieu of a bank check. The question of accelerating payment to distressed Nationals merits consideration.

19. Records. All records and files pertaining to the Regional Finance Office of Region VII have been turned over to the Zone Finance Officer. This includes the general files No. 601 to 637 Inc.

G. Public Safety and Italian Courts.

The situation in Catanzaro Zone shows that violent crime is definitely on the decrease and that the efficiency of the Police services is increasing, as for example, of 5 murders committed in Reggio Province the culprits were arrested within a short period. One crime (murder) of special interest in Reggio occurred at Taurianova. LIGIANA Filipo landed proprietor was killed by hand grenade and rifle shot stated to be for political reasons but on investigation proved to be personal vendetta accentuated by difference in politics - 3 arrests were made.

20. Courts. No Allied Military Courts held during the month. Italian Courts functioning satisfactory and dealing expeditiously with cases affecting Allied Military interests.

21. Allied Military Deserters. Report of alleged offences having been committed by Allied Military deserters throughout the Southern Region during the month have comparatively decreased. This is partly due to the active interest taken by the Public Safety Dpt in conjunction with the Town Major of Reggio and also the appointment of a Military Police Officer at Reggio who is circulating. A full report of these military deserters was submitted to AFHQ on August 31st. By whom?

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H. Education.

22. The Provincial Provveditores are preparing their budget for the coming school year, there is no unusual problem confronting them except the usual need of repair and maintenance of school buildings, which for lack of material, is giving them some concern.

I. Refugees.

23. No change in the refugee problem. They are not allowed to move northward; we are waiting for the Repatriation Programme. One small town reported insufficient food a couple of days ago which I am having investigated.

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J. Economics and Supply.

24. With the approach of winter no more ships will be able to be off-loaded at either Crotone or Reggio unless of 22 and 19 feet draft respectively as they can no longer be lightened outside of the harbours.

25. Stocks in the warehouses have not yet been handed over and will not be until specific instructions as to procedure is received in writing. Food situation is good and there is sufficient food to last until 10th October. Prices show tendency to be on the rise.

26. Rail transportation on the whole can be considered to be good. The export ship is now loaded and ready to sail anyway. In this connection it is pointed out that the responsibility for the loading at of export ships rests with the Commerce Sub-Commission and in respect of this particular ship the information supplied was very poor and the ship would not have been loaded if it had not of been for Lt. Berizzi and Major Stephens.

K. Transportation.

27. Traffic. Approximately 14730 tons military timber and 300 tons British military stores moved during the month. Also 175 tons Italian Military. 550 tons A.C.C. Supply distribution, olive oil and timber for timber section. 400 tons of Italian Civilian traffic was moved within the division.

Hundreds of bids for civilian traffic outside division are received but even when tonnage is allowed it cannot move due to scarcity of wagons. Not including the 299 wagons of Sicilian stock received during the month 366 more wagons left division via Metaponte and Agropoli than have been received via those junctions. This adverse balance, is due to the divisions bordering on the north not returning wagons. Agreed that a few in the grain move and a small part of what M.R.S. order do come in. Results are that grain clearing from ship must be loaded in open cars, complaints from military timber shippers and no civilian traffic going out of the division. M.R.S. has been kept advised.

Through train service Palermo and Catania to Messina is starting on 8th Sept. Proposals have been forwarded to H.Q. TR SUB-COMM in detail asking for authority to change schedules of connecting trains on mainland.

The ICTs fitted with track were used, in conjunction with the ferry, to bring 299 cars from Catania and Messina to the mainland.

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28. Shipping.

REGGIO Commodities discharged from ships during month.

P.O.L. (CIP) III tons Supplies (A.C.C.) 1490 tons.

Cargoes loaded - nil

CROTONE

Discharged

Supplies (A.C.C.) 6267 tons

Cargoes loaded.

Dunnage "ESDB one" 1361 tons

Mil timber for Ancona 1520 tons

The "Audun" arrived Crotone 12 Aug. and was held awaiting loading instruction and cargo until 21 Aug.

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<u>FERRY</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>	<u>VEHICLES</u>
Messina-Reggio	1465	372
Reggio-Messina	539	196

Ferry was also used for three trips to Catania to bring over Sicilian stock. Was also used in lighter service to unload two liberty ships "Robert R. Randell" and "Russol E. Crittendon" with A.C.C. supplies, drawing too much water for Messina and Reggio. Supplies were unloaded onto open wagons on the ferry moored at ships side.

L. Communications.

29. Generally satisfactory.

M. Property Control.

30. Nothing reported, LT. Shane was here on a special case for a couple of days, but has left.

W. R. Irish
 W. R. IRISH,
 Lt-Colonel Inf,
 Zone Commissioner,

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