

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

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AQ/86/12 Liaison Group (Capt O'Donnell) Team
Opened July 21, 1945. Closed Nov. 5, 1945
July - Oct. 1945

785020

Subject: Liaison Report No. 9.Summary

W.E.L.A. L.O.,
TULSA,
c/o 7 A.M.A.

Phone: BRIDGE 53720-9 ext 130.

TUL/3/3
5 Nov 45.

Report for week 28 Oct - 4 Nov.

1. Heavy rain storms during this week have hindered outdoor activity and have made travel difficult. Fortunately there was a break in the weather on the morning of 4 Nov long enough for Drumsa Division to hold a successful ceremonial parade. In the regrettable absence of Lt. Gen. McCrory and Col. Fleming, Brig. Graham deputized on behalf of the Allied, while WEA was represented by this ID. A large crowd looked on and did a little clapping. An attempt by two thousands of civilians carrying republican and communist flags to join in the march past was tactfully averted without any loss by a staff officer of the Division. I enclosed a translation of the address given by the 500 Drumsa Division.

2. It is noted that, in contrast to past experience, orders and directives from the Ministry of War are reaching territorial HQ very promptly, and sometimes before Allied machinery to implement them has been activated. An recent example has been an order for Dr. Itis and H. Itis to drive the Allied part of their nations from Allied Wino, which the Italians were ordered to carry out by 5 Nov, although no directives have yet come through 32 channels.

103

Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

Distribution: 83 F.E.I.A. (4)

Report for week 29 Nov - 4 Nov.

1. Heavy rain storms during this week have hindered outdoor activities and have made travel difficult. Fortunately there was a break in the weather on the morning of 4 Nov long enough for Cremona Division to hold a successful ceremonial parade. In the regretted absence of Lt. Gen. McDermott and Col. Fildesley, Brig. Graham deputized on behalf of the Allies, while MIA was represented by this HQ. A large crowd looked on and did a little clapping. An attempt by two thousands of civilians carrying republican and communist flags to join in the march past was tactfully averted without any fuss by a staff officer of the Division. I enclose a translation of the address given by the 300 Cremona Division.

2. It is noted that, in contrast to past experience, orders and directives from the Ministry of War are reaching Territorial HQ very promptly, and sometimes before Allied machinery to implement them has been activated. An recent example has been an order for Br. Itin and U. Itis to cross the Allied part of their national front Allied DDEs, which the Italians were ordered to carry out by 5 Nov, although no directives have yet come through HQ channels.

Distribution:- HQ M.H.I.A. (4)
MIA HQ M.H.I.A.
MIA HQ M.H.I.A.

Capt.
Liaison Officer.

785020

Subject: Albanian Report #48.

Belgrade, L.S.,
 10/10/45
 u/o 7 area.

Phone: Albanian 53720-9 ext 130

TUS/3/0

10 Oct 45.

Report for week 22 - 27 Oct 45.

Little of interest in either the military or the political field has been noted during this week. As present the political situation is fairly calm. On 26 Oct the Albanian presented Brig. Dr. Br. in command of Alfa, with the freedom of Turin, and the Brigadier replied in Italian. This event and speech received a good notice in the press. By secretary inform us that she had to stand for some time in a long queue of civilian employees of Allied offices, waiting to change their names at the bank into Italian currency. She says that no camp in the town will accept Allied military lire from a civilian.

Deposited points are noted below.

Key Points

Turin territorial HQ now has at its disposal 41 1st Regt, 310 2d Regt and 526 5th Regt. Of these 515 km is now 500 strong and expects a further 100 2nd Regt within the next few days. It is performing guard duties, and has taken over from 1 5th Regt, shortly to be withdrawn to Rome. 526 km, which is nearly up to strength, is at present undergoing intensive training before being employed. The wedding of 515 km is due in the first week of the month, but territorial HQ has requested that it be delayed until after the 10 day in order that proper accommodation may be prepared for it in Alessandria.

Key Points

8102

1. While considering the batch of 10,000 for the 1st Regt have been dispatched 97, and the 100,000 for the 1st District are now being dealt with, after strong bargaining action on the Italian firm from the 1st Regt. It is hoped that HQ will be able to inform us within a few days of the amount received, which will be 100,000, 100,000, 100,000.

by secretary inform us that she had to stand for some time in a long queue of civilian employees of Allied offices, waiting to change their money at the bank into Italian currency. She says that no one in the town will accept Allied Military Lire from a civilian.

Departmental points are noted below.

14. Points

Terre Territorial 14 has been at 100% its disposal by 1st Regt, 530 5th and 525 1st Bn. Of these 530 is in 100% strong and expects a further 600 xfto within the next few days. It is performing guard duties, and has taken over from 1st Bn, shortly to be withdrawn to home. 525 Bn, which is nearly up to strength, is at present undergoing intensive training before being employed. The remaining 515 Bn is due in the first week of the month, but Territorial 14 has requested that it be delayed until after the 20th in order that proper accommodation may be prepared for it in Alessandria.

14. Points

8102

1. Media blankets: the batch of 100,000 for the Villach area been disposed of, and the 200,000 for the Trieste area now being dealt with, after strong backing action on the Italian firm front. It is hoped that 200 will be able to inform us within a few days of the amount remaining, which may be as much as 500,000. It may be noted that 200 is co-operating fully with us on this and on other matters.

2. Considerable dissatisfaction is felt by 51 Bn with the services of CIE. A letter giving full details has been sent by them to 51 Bn.

14. Points

all

[Signature]
Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

Distribution: HQ S.E.I.A. (4)
SILA to U.S.ITALY
SILA to GISON

785020

Subject:- Liaison Report No 7.SOURCE

M.M.I.A. L.O., *SP*
 TURIN,
 c/o 7 AGRA.

TUR/3/G
 22 Oct 45.

1. I arrived in TURIN on 17 Oct, having spent a day in MILAN gathering information from the Senior IO M. Italy. I was occupied during the next three days in re-opening the TURIN office and dealing with the mass of correspondence that I found there. At the request of 7 AGRA I have moved my office next door. This will be convenient, because the same building houses AMG, 51 HU and ORMONA Day HQ, and will shortly contain the Territorial Hq as well. My address now is:-

CORSE OPERETO 16
 1st floor, Room 137/138.

I am awaiting the installation of a telephone, and will signal my new number as soon as it is available. Cigars and mail address remains c/o 7 AGRA.

2. An Italian officer, who has long had the confidence of Sala and other British Hqs, informs me that there has recently been a recurrence of the 'war against Russia' theme in conversations throughout the town. The idea of England fighting Russia is, he says, generally viewed favourably for the following reasons:-

- a) by the fascists, because it might give them a chance to return to favour and join in a reactionary assault on the left;
- b) by the Army (I presume he means the officers), because they might regain their honour, fighting on equal terms as allies with the British Army;
- c) by the extremists of the left, as an opportunity to strike a romantic blow on behalf of their Russian ~~western~~ friends.

He also mentions a somewhat vague rumour of an unspecified South American diplomat at the Vatican having reported that the British

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ing with the mass of correspondence that I found there. At the request of 7 AGH I have moved my office next door. This will be convenient, because the same building houses AGC, 51 MU and OZKMOA Div HQ, and will shortly contain the Territorial HQ as well. My address now is:-

CURSO GPOZTO 16
1st Floor, Rooms 137/138.

I am awaiting the installation of a telephone, and will signal my new number as soon as it is available. Signals and mail address remains c/o 7 AGH.

2. An Italian officer, who has long had the confidence of XMA and other British HQs, informs me that there has recently been a recurrence of the 'war against Russia' theme in conversations throughout the town. The idea of England fighting Russia is, he says, generally viewed favourably for the following reasons:-

a) by the fascists, because it might give them a chance to return to favour and join in a reactionary assault on the left;

b) by the Army (I presume he means the officers), because they might regain their honour, fighting on equal terms as allies with the British Army;

c) by the extremists of the left, as an opportunity to strike a romantic blow on behalf of their Russian friends.

He also mentions a somewhat vague rumour of an unspecified South American diplomat at the Vatican having reported that the British are sending a lot of war material East for the above purpose.

3. I should like to place on record my appreciation of the orderly state in which I found the office and files left by Captain O'Donnell.

[Signature]
Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

Distribution:- HQ A.L.I.A. (4)
XMA 10 Italy
XMA 10 OZKMOA.

785020

SECRET.

M.M.I.A L.O
TURIN

TUR/3/G

1 Sep 45

Subject:-- Liaison Report No 6.

1. This has been a week of comparative quiet. Territorial HQ is well bedded-in and the wheels are turning smoothly. It is considered that Gen. PRALOMBO has handled the establishment of his HQ with great skill and tact. Though it would be idle to pretend that the Army as such is beloved by all sections of the community in PIEMONTE, it can at least be said that there is no feeling of antipathy against its representatives in this area.

2. When on a trip last Sunday up VAL CHISONA, I noted that the Carabinieri two-man patrols are functioning normally. The prestige of the Carabinieri is still on the up. It must be borne in mind, however, that any civil disturbance that may occur will not be spontaneous but willed by extraneous forces that are not in the least interested in questions of right or wrong, but think purely in terms of ideology.

3. 3 Bn 21 Inf Regt "CREMONA" Group has arrived in TURIN. The news of its arrival seems to have been given in advance to the Press, which was very enthusiastic. The Socialist paper "Avanti" went beyond all the rest in its eulogies of these "magnificent combat troops who covered themselves with glory in the advance up the Adriatic against the nazifascist oppressor"; it then called on the populace to turn out and give the troops a cheer as they rolled into town.

4. Other arrivals are "A" Efficient Vehicle Park, and 530 Bn of 525 Trg Regt with a very reduced strength of 130 AMs. It is expected that Advanced HQ of 3 CREMONA will move into TURIN on 4 Sep.

5. On 30 Aug, in Caserma CAVOUR, TURIN, the Megaglia d'Oro al Valore Militare (posthumous) for services on the Front of Enemy Occupied Italy was presented by Gen. CADORNA to the small son of the late Brig. Gen. PEROTTI, executed by the enemy 5 Apr 44. This officer apparently organised the patriot movement in PIEMONTE and was generally esteemed as a gallant soldier and a noble character. Scenes of great enthusiasm marked the proceedings, which were broadcast, and the Press really let itself go. The ceremony was attended by reps of the Allied military authorities

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Distribution.

HQ., M.M.I.A. (4)
MMA LO NW Italy
MMA LO GENOA

Edo Dowell,
Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

6 Points.

(a) French Activity.

When the French forces pulled out of the MOJA Valley in mid-July, a Liaison Officer and a few SOGs were left in the TRADA-BRIGA-SAN DALMAZZO area on the frontier SOUTH of CUNEO town. It is said that a propaganda service is being conducted there with delivery from FRANCE of an anti-Italian and anti-Allied newspaper "La Liberté de Nice et du Sud Est". There is considerable activity on the part of an organization known as "la Comité de Rattachement à la France". This area, owing to destruction of communications, will be cut off from the rest of CUNEO province in the winter, and supplies will be available only from across the French border. FSS are investigating.

(b) Political Activity.

(1) There are indications of serious attempts to rally monarchist supporters by the foundation of a new party which would incorporate such existing groups as the Gruppo d'Unione CAMILLO CAVOUR. The man behind the idea would seem to be a Col. Marchese PAOLUCCI di CALBOLLO, stated to be prominent in Court circles, who feels it would be worth while to organize monarchist sympathizers in PIEMONTE. Hitherto, the sole vociferous monarchist group has been the CAMILLO CAVOUR, which does not seem to have much popular support. It is my feeling that there are in PIEMONTE many people who, though favouring the monarchy as an institution, would support a republic if the only alternative were Umberto as King. Feeling against him as a person is rather bitter, and it is thought that he is the main obstacle in the way of the monarchical institution in Italy.

(11) There still seems good reason to believe that the Communist Party is steadily losing adherents, mainly to the Partito d'Azione and the Socialist Party, and, in country districts, to a new Peasants' Party. The Communists, however, hold many key points in civil administration, representative unions, associations, etc. Their influence is out of all proportion to their numbers.

(c) Economic Situation.

The harvest has been a failure. What is worse, the peasants are not handing in to central distribution depots such crops as they have saved, despite all the efforts of the authorities. Winter food prospects look grim.

(d) Crime.

There has lately been a slight falling off in crimes of armed violence. The situation is still bad, however, and a Special

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(d) Crime.

There has lately been a slight falling off in crimes of armed violence. The situation is still bad, however, and a Special Tribunal, consisting of an Army officer of general rank, some civil legal representatives, etc., will be set up in TURIN to deal with such offences. The Tribunal will have power to inflict the death penalty even in cases where life was not lost.

(e) Police Preoccupation.

The sudden arrest of six men well known in ALESSANDRIA on charges of murder, violence and robbery since the Allied occupation has caused a local scandal. Left Wing papers are busy denying that the accused - who are liable to die young - had any connection with Left Wing organisations or with the mainly Left Wing POLIZIA del POPOLO. Since at least five of the accused had long been considered leading lights of such organisations and the sixth member of the gang was a prominent Fascist gunman, the citizens of ALESSANDRIA are asking where do we go from here.

A Points.

Discipline.

The loss of a number of bags of sugar from 203 DID - Guarded by troops of 1 Coy 503 Gd Bn - led to the arrest of the 2 NCOs and 9 men forming the guard on the night in question. S.I.B

investigators were convinced of connivance on the part of the guard. These have been tried by their Coy Comd and sentenced to terms of from 10 to 30 days Arresti di Rigore on a charge of wilful neglect of duty.

Q Points.

(a) BIELLA Blankets.

Ref your letter Q/12/1 dated 25 AUG signed KERR.
See my message Q/11 of to-day's date.

(b) Irregular Requisitioning - Partisans.

Ref your letter Q/5/10 dated 25 Aug signed KERR.
Situation unchanged as from my letter TUR/11/Q dated 24 Aug.
No further developments of information available.

(c) Transport.

Lists of all transport held by cooperatives in the Province of TURIN, and AMG circular explaining the right of the Italian military authorities to take over all military transport, have been received from AMG TURIN Province. Terr. HQ is planning the necessary campaign now, and it is hoped that this way the maximum possible transport will be recovered, though I feel that there is still a considerable amount of M.F hidden in the country which will only come out in the case of civil strife. AMG has promised full support to Territorial HQ in their attempt to get back transport from cooperatives.

Within the next few days the information relative to the remaining provinces within the jurisdiction of TURIN Territorial HQ will be available.

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SECRET.

Subject: Liaison Report No 3.

M.A.I.A L.O.

TURIN

TUR/3/G

16 Aug 45.

1. During the week this office has been visited by Lt-Col. MERRISON and Maj. BIRD.

2. A conference was held at office MIA 10, TURIN, on the morning of 16 Aug, subject the recovery and concentration of arms in dumps throughout Piemonte. There were present Brig. GRAHAM, 7 ABRA - who called the meeting - Gen FALCONE, Lt-Col. MERRISON, Maj BIRD, Capt O BOWMAN and an officer of 31st. Brig. GRAHAM explained that, given the present disturbed situation, he was very preoccupied about the large number of inadequately guarded dumps of small-arms, small-arms ammo and hand-grenades in PIEMONTE, theoretically under the control of AMG, who had withdrawn them from partisans, but actually guarded by some partisan elements. He desired to see these arms, and other arms in secret dumps at present not located, to be withdrawn and centralized in Turin. This he was unable to do with his own troops owing to his present heavy commitments. He had, therefore, requested Gen FALCONE to examine the possibility of concentrating these arms with Italian personnel. Gen FALCONE had declared himself willing to do this, but needed up to since his 1st Coy was under strength in vehicles. The vehicle question has then been raised with AG Regional Tpt Officer, who had agreed to release 20 vehicles from a number being run in CUNEO province. Were MIA reps agreeable to these vehicles being taken? MIA reps were being convinced that the vehicles in question were Italian Army vehicles irregularly held). Lt-Col. MERRISON then told Brig. GRAHAM that there was no objection to Italian troops being used for the transportation of this material provided the provisions of ARHQ Directive AG 366.3/163 LOR-0 of 22 Jun 45 were adhered to, and it was understood that the Italians were not empowered to carry out a search for hitherto unlocated material.

On 16 Aug, Territorial HQ started a check system.

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GRAHAM explained that, given the present disturbed situation, he was very preoccupied about the large number of inadequately guarded dumps of small-arms, small-arms ammo and hand-grenades in PLEMONTE, theoretically under the control of AMG, who had withdrawn them from partisans, but actually guarded by some partisan elements. He desired to see these arms, and other arms in secret dumps at present not located, to be withdrawn and centralized in ruins. Also he was unable to do with his own troops owing to his present heavy commitments. He had, therefore, requested Gen. FALCONE to examine the possibility of concentrating these arms with Italian personnel. Gen. FALCONE had declared himself willing to do this, but needed up to since his 1st Coy was under strength in vehicles. The vehicle question had then been raised with AMG Regional Tpt Officer, who had agreed to release 20 vehicles from a number being run in CUNEO province. These AMG reps agreed to these vehicles being taken? AMG reps were (being convinced that the vehicles in question were Italian Army vehicles irregularly held). Lt-Col. GASKIN then told Brig. GRAHAM that there was no objection to Italian troops being used for the transportation of this material provided the provisions of AFHQ directive AG 366.3/163 LGS-9 of 22 Jun 45 were adhered to, and it was understood that the Italians were not empowered to carry out a search for hitherto unlocated material.

3. On 16 Aug. Territorial HQ started a check system on military transport being run by unauthorized persons. 9 trucks were recovered in the first day.

4. 18 Italian Eng. Coy arrived TORIA 13 Aug.

5. The date now given for the withdrawal of AMG from PLEMONTE is 10 Sep. The populace believes that this means that ALL Allied forces are going, and it is rumored that certain subversive elements are busy checking up on their warlike stores.

Go Donnell

Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

HQ., M.A.I.A. (4 copies)
MIA 10, NW Italy

SECRET.M.M.I.A L.O
TURIN

TUR/3/6

11 AUG 45

Subject:- Liaison Report No 4.

1. On Thursday 9 Aug Maj KYLE paid a visit to this area to confer with and advise the Rationes Dept of Direzione Commissariato, and to inspect the Food Distribution Depot. Everything went smoothly - the Rationes people here are good at their job.

2. 7 AGRA is now master of PIEMONTE. It looks as if the delinquency mentioned in my last report may shortly be under control. The other night not less than 200 Criminal and armed elements among the populace were rounded up, and no doubt the sight of M.P. tenney-gun patrols will cause lots of people to think desply.

3. Some points for Branches are attached.

60 Donnell.

Capt.,
Liaison Officer.0 Points.

In a church near NOVARA several hundred rifles and six machine-guns with ammunition were found by a search party. It does not seem that there is any evidence to connect these arms with the most dangerous man in PIEMONTE - MONCATELLI, the Communist sindaco of NOVARA.

A Points.

NIL

0 Points.

8-96

sight of M.P. tenney-gun patrols will cause lots of people to think deeply.

3. Some points for Branches are attached.

60 Howell.
Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

G Points.

In a church near NOVARA several hundred rifles and six machine-guns with ammunition were found by a search party. It does not seem that there is any evidence to connect these arms with the most dangerous men in PIEMONTE - MOSCATELLI, the Communist sindaco of NOVARA.

A Points.

NIL

8096

Q Points.

Transport.

(a) In the GARAVINI workshops there are 21 new FIAT 626 chassis paid for by the Germans and in the process of being built as ambulances - a process stopped by an unknown American officer, in the early days of the occupation, who said they should be converted into load-carriers. At the moment the firm is doing so but slowly, owing to the uncertainty as to who pays. Terr HQ is taking the matter up with Ministry of War, but action on the part of MMIA might help get these fine vehicles on the road sooner.

(b) As above for 10 FIAT 1100 at present in shops of PININFARINA, TURIN.

Distribution :-

HQ, MMIA (4)
MMIALD NW Italy

SECRET.M.A.I.A I.O
TURIN

TUR/3/G

4 AUG 45

Subject: Lieison Report No 3.

1. The main news of interest from this area this week concerns the Allied rather than the Italian set-up.
2. On 10 Aug, HQ 151 Sub Area will cease to exist, as indicated in my Lieison Report No 2. Their commitments will be taken over by 7 A.O.R.A (Comd Brig. W.D.McN. GRAHAM, DSO OBE). It is anticipated that most of the staff of 151 Sub Area will be attached to HQ 7 AGRA.
3. It is expected that HQ AMG PIEMONTE will cease to function during the last week in August. When it moves out, Brig GRAHAM will become military governor of PIEMONTE as well as commander of the 4 troops in the area. He has already contacted the leading Italian military, civil and ecclesiastical authorities in TURIN.
4. It is recommended that pending clarification of the future Signals set-up, correspondence for this office be addressed to "NMIA IO, TURIN".
5. TURIN airport is now closed, and British movements staff have been transferred elsewhere.
6. A visit was paid to a dump of surrendered enemy material near IVREA - M.R of dump J 252626, ITALY 1:200,000, Sheet 4. The dump, which is now guarded by 7 AGRA troops, contains approx 500 German and Italian horse drawn vehicles of all sizes, of which it is estimated that 300 are serviceable. In addition, there is a large number of German and Italian military and civilian motor vehicles driven into the dump by the surrendering Germans. The present condition of these vehicles is tragic - wheels, tyres and batteries removed, seats and upholstery destroyed and in some cases engines and fuel tanks smashed. The sight is depressing. An officer of 25 Recovery Commission will be sent to list, examine and report on Italian military vehicles.

7. I have inspected the TURIN Food Distribution Depot. As mentioned in my last report, the Italians have this week received their rations in bulk from 203 DIB, and have been making detailed issues to units. Everything has gone smoothly. The Depot is not anticipated to be closed.

during the last week in August. Then it moves out, Brig CHAMM will become military governor of PIEDMONT as well as commander of the 4 troops in the area. He has already contacted the leading Italian military, civil and ecclesiastical authorities in TURIN.

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5. TURIN airport is now closed, and British Movements staff have been transferred elsewhere.

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7. I have inspected the TURIN Food Distribution Depot. As mentioned in my last report, the Italians have this week received their rations in bulk from 203 DID, and have been making detailed issues to units. Everything has gone smoothly. The Depot is well set out and efficiently run. It is not anticipated that there will be any major snags when the Italians assume full responsibility on 6 Aug.

So Donald

Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

Distribution.

- HQ MMIA
- "Q" Branch
- "A" "
- "Q" "
- Fleet File
- MMIA LO, NW Italy

6 Points.

(a) What follows is an attempt to analyse and comment on the political situation in RUMANIA. It is not claimed that it is at all a thorough or complete analysis, for there are so many conflicting rumours and opinions that it is at the moment practically impossible to get at the truth. It is just the situation as I see it.

Political Activity.

The most active and vociferous of the parties is, in TURIA as elsewhere, the Communist Party. Their signs are to be found everywhere, and in many shops and from street-vendors' barrows one can buy the hammer-and-sickle badge. It is, however, not so easy to find people who wear it. It is my opinion that the more moderate Socialist Party has considerably more adherents, who view the proposed merger with the Communists with profound distrust. The Action Party, the Christian Democrats and the Liberal Party are not so much in evidence as they are in ALBANIA and South and Central Italy, though there is no doubt that the Christian Democrats have a large if politically quiet following.

Strikes.

Up till a week ago, it was fashionable in TURIA to hold a strike for any or no reason at all. Now however, there are indications that the mass of the workers is getting just a little fed up with all the strikes, since the novelty of striking has worn off and it is becoming evident that these strikes are as unnecessary as they are futile. The local humorous weekly published an article on strikes which suggested that the magnificent strike organisation was due to the fact that the organisers had spent the last twenty years organising fascist cheer parades on the occasion of visits by prominent "Gexarchi". It would seem that many of the strike marchers have to be coaxed, cajoled or dragged into marching.

"Red Revolt".

Rumours of an imminent rising on the part of the Communists are still as rife as they were two months ago. The general run of these rumours is that the rising will come as soon as the Allies clear out of the country - it is popularly feared or believed, according to individual political affiliation, that this will take place between the end of September and the end of the year. The mainline-the-street would NOT welcome an Allied evacuation.

Arms.

There is no doubt at all that considerable quantities of arms

are being accumulated in various parts of the country.

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and Central Italy, though entire Democratic have a large if politically quiet following.

• 2021.11.15

Strikes.

Up till a week ago, it was fashionable in TURIN to hold a strike for any or no reason at all. Now however, there are indications that the mass of the workers is getting just a little fed up with all the strikes, since the novelty of striking has worn off and all the strikes, since the novelty of striking has worn off and it is becoming evident that these strikes are as unnecessary as they are futile. The local humorous weekly published an article on strikes which suggested that the magnificent strike organisation was due to the fact that the organisers had spent the last twenty years organising Fascist cheer parades on the occasion of visits by prominent "Gerarchi". It would seem that many of the strike marchers have to be coaxed, cajoled or dragged into marching.

wood Revolt.

"Red Revolt".
Rumours of an imminent rising on the part of the Communists are still as rife as they were two months ago. The General runs of these rumours is that the rising will come as soon as the Allies clear out of the country - it is popularly feared or believed, according to individual political affiliation, that this will take place between the end of September and the end of the year. The man-in-the-street would NOT welcome an Allied evacuation.

• 1995 •

Arms. There is no doubt at all that considerable quantities of arms and ammunition are hidden throughout this region. Most reports agree that the main armament areas are the Casanvase and the Biellese respectively NORTH and North EAST of TURIN, and the province of CUNEO. Whether there exist actual dumps or not, would be hard to say in the absence of accurate information, but it is by no means unlikely that this is the case.

Custom of Violence.

Crimes of Violence.
Armed robbery, with or without resultant bloodshed, is on the increase. It is not uncommon to hear bursts of tommy-gun fire at night as police and criminal elements have it out.

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Police Forces.
There are two police forces - the Polizia del Popolo, ex partisans who have replaced the old Questura agents, and the Carabinieri. The Polizia del Popolo is much better armed than the CC.RR, since they still have Stens, Schneissers and other automatic weapons. They are not, however, very much trusted by the citizens, since they undoubtedly still contain elements of questionable moral character. The unfortunate Carabinieri suffer from the fact that they can be and are called on to react with a single-shot carbine

against determined criminals armed with automatic weapons. Owing to this, they are not as effective as they might be, but they are undoubtedly still a fine police force. Since the re-establishment of the CC.RR organisation, they have gone far to winning the esteem and confidence of the population.

Economic Situation.

The news that in September the law governing continuance of workers' pay will be abrogated, has caused much concern among the workers. By this law, employers were bound to continue to pay their workers even if the firm was not in production and even if it were bombed out. As a result many of the smaller firms are almost bankrupt. There is very little work in Piedmont, and the number of workless is increased by arrivals from further South of people who hope to find employment in the industrial North. The general feeling both among workers and industrialists is that the expected coal and raw materials from Allied sources will not be forthcoming, and the optimism caused by years of honey-voiced Allied broadcasters promising "all this and Heaven too, has given place to a mood of gloomy despair. The cost of living remains high and will undoubtedly increase as the winter draws on and stocks of cheap - comparatively - fruit and vegetables diminish. Owing, too, to the continuing drought and the rainstorm of the crops, this is going to be a pretty grim winter. I anticipate that economic discontent will win back for the Communists much of the ground they have lost during the past month.

Signwriting.

The local wall-decorators are orthodox - down with/death to Stalin, Lenin, Giurco, Matteotti, Fico, Partisans etc. The local Mearchiate confine themselves to writing - in English - "We will have a king in Italy". The cement usually found beside it - i.e., that the post might well be offered to H.M. King Farouk I of Egypt - is believed to be the work of irresponsible members of the Union Defence Force.

A Points.

NIL.

8.9.43

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A Points.

NIL.

8.43

Q Points.

Accommodation for No 1 Terr HQ.

The move of Allied HQ's from TURIN will solve the present unsatisfactory position of accommodation for Gen. PRALORNO's HQ. The ninth former block of offices of 1 Army Corps, at present occupied by AMG, will be available for the Italians. This is a magnificent building of some 500 rooms. It is hoped, too, that the eight of the Army moving back into its own old premises will have the effect of raising its prestige.

SECRET.

M.M.I.A L.O
TURIN.

BIRDCAGE - 51104

TUR/3/G

30 Jul 45

Subject: Liaison Report No 2.

1. Apart from the usual mass of detail, work in TURIN A during the past week has been chiefly concerned with M/T. MMIA letter Q/5 dated 24 Jul 45 has been received and noted, particularly the action to be taken on the instructions laid down in para 5(c). I am becoming more and more convinced that if the reclaiming of Italian military vehicles is to be carried out with success, Territorial HQ and MMIA IO must first be in possession of the fullest available information regarding the location of all illegally held vehicles. Otherwise, our drive will be abortive, and we shall get only a small percentage of these vehicles, for most of them will disappear, either to be hidden away for a future date or to be sold as so many tyres, wheels and spare parts. In order to obtain this necessary information, I am and have been, either personally or through Territorial HQ, keeping in contact with CC.RR, R.A.C.I., and A.M.G and their Provincial Transportation Officers. A.M.G, however, tends either to doubt the chances of recovering vehicles or to predict gloomily that it will lead to civil strife. Certainly, those people who are in possession of vehicles that are not their own will be most unwilling to give them up, but I do not agree that they would be prepared to fight to hang on to their loot.
2. There has been no great political activity in this area during the last week, except that the announcement of the results of the elections in Great Britain caused a "Viva-Inghilterra-Socialista" procession and enabled the editors of the local press to indulge in columns of embattled political prose.

Go Downell

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Go Downell

8092

Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

Distribution:-

H.Q., M.M.I.A.

G Branch

A

Q " (with appendix)

Float File

MMIA IO, M.W. Italy

Q Points:

- (a) 1 Territorial Gd Coy - ex 303 QM Coy - arrived from 5 Army area 27 Jul 45, strength 3 effrs 200 ORs No tpt. MMIA LO NW Italy has taken this matter up with MMIA LO 5 Army.
- (b) The funeral of the Liberal leader Marcelle SOLERI gave the local Italian Army authorities a chance to come out into the light of day. The Army was represented by Lt-Gen. FRALORMO and his staff, and by some of the artillery of the "LEGNAME" Group.
- (c) 151 Sub-Area is moving out within the next fortnight. Their commitments are being taken over by H.Q staff of 7 AGRA plus Services reps. The installations at present run by 151 Sub-Area will remain.

A Points.

- (a) A parachutist discharged from FOLGORE Gruppo to his home in TURIN was refused clothing, coupons etc, by a local Assistance Committee on the grounds that he was NOT a Partisan. On investigation it turned out that this organisation was in fact started for the purpose of helping needy partisans. Does the War Ministry have any scheme for helping its own discharged men?

Q Points.

- (a) The question of the blankets in BIELLA is at the moment static, owing to the fact that there are conflicting claims as to its ownership - see copies of correspondence attached as appendix to Q Branch copy this report. In the meantime, the material is held blocked by Regional Commerce Officer who is not moved by the strong language of Mr WHITE in MILAN. It is pointed out that Gen. PELLIGRA can furnish MMIA with the full facts and history of this case in order to ~~disprove~~ disprove any claim to ownership on the part of A.C.
- (b) Of the 400 new loadcarriers mentioned in my last report as being available but blocked by A.M.G in FIAT works, 312 have been released to civilian firms during the week.
- (c) On Monday of this week, 30 July, Commissariate of TURIN takes over rations in bulk from 203 D.I.D for distribution to units, so that the personnel of Italian D.I.D will be back in practice when the new all-Italian system comes in.

SECRET

Subject: Liaison Report No 1.

M.M.I.A L.O

TURIN.

Ref TUR/3/G

21 Jul 45

1. I arrived in TURIN to replace Capt CLARK in the afternoon of 13 July. Since Capt CLARK had been evacuated to hospital almost immediately after his arrival here, I found that there was a considerable amount of back correspondence to clear up, that some local details needed immediate attention and that the domestic problem of setting up an office was well to the fore. The office is now set up and situated in the building occupied by H.Q 151 Sub Area - Rooms 58 and 59. Tel. No is TURIN 51104, on BIFDCAGE Exchange.

2. My impression is that Terr H.Q have been doing their best to carry out their job with the limited means at their disposal. There is still a considerable quantity of material to be recovered and concentrated - the work is being delayed by inadequacy of tpt. As is already known to H.Q., M.M.I.A, the greater part of the available Italian military tpt in the North is in the hands of non-military organisations or individuals.

3. Terr H.Q has proceeded with great tact in setting themselves up. there has been no friction with partisans or pseudo-partisans. A number of Army officers - including some very good ones - who served with the patriot movement, have been taken on to complete W.E.

4. During the last week this area was visited by DALOS and DAQUAG-4(AE), H.Q, M.M.I.A. He inspected the Commissariat Stores and the Ufficio Militare - boot- and clothing-factory. At Appx A to "Q" Branch copy this report are inventories of materials held at TURIN as at this date.

5. I interviewed Lt-Col RAITER, AMG Regional Commerce officer, on the question of blankets and woollen materials at Biella in the VERCELLI Province (see your Q 446 dated 17 July and my TUR/11/Q and TUR/11/Q/2 dated 20 July). I gathered the impression that some at least among AMG officers are not informed of official rulings on the disposal of captured enemy materials, and left him a copy of AFHQ directive dated 22 June on the subject. I think he

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6. I also interviewed Lt-Col FIORI, AMG Provincial Chief, and Maj MALATESTA, TURIN City SCAG, to prospect the removal by them of a "Partisan Transport Cooperative" from CAVALLI Barracks. This building is at the moment partly occupied by Terr H.Q. M.T. section, and will be needed when we start getting vehicles up to N.E. This question had been raised by Capt CLARK before his illness and since then by Terr H.Q.; the only result being promise of action by AMG. I too have had the promise that these "partisans" will be removed when AMG have found them premises for which they can pay rent - we shall see what happens.

7. Visited FIAT Repair Shops with Lt-Col COLLI MEDAGLIA of Terr H.Q. Repairs Directorate and the director of the Shops, who identified a number of Italian military vehicles in varying stages of repair and disrepair, and all under the general AMG block. When I

Get the list of "targets" numbers, engine numbers, etc, these vehicles will be removed to military workshops for necessary servicing.

8. Routine conferences were held with heads of services at Terr H.Q and with O.C., S.A.S.G, H.Q 151 Sub Area.

9. Notes on G, i, and Q points are attached.

Go Downell
Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

Distribution
H.Q., H.M.I.A.
G Branch
A " (with Appx A)
Q " (with Appx A)
Fleet
MIA IO N.W Italy

"Q" Points.

- (1) Terr H.Q. is in power and carrying out its functions.
- (2) All districts and depots are in position and functioning, though lack of apt facilities and size of areas are giving some difficulty.
- (3) "Patriots" are still to be seen walking around in para-military uniform and with coloured scarves, but there does not seem to be any overt organization. Public Safety, AMG, has formed two "Mobile Police Battalions" as auxiliary Questura agents, out of selected element of the patriot movement.
- (4) A small number of old rifles and one BRETIA automatic pistol have been handed over to the authorities. None of the other automatic weapons that were so much in evidence in TURIN at the time of the insurrection have been seen or found since.
- (5) There seems to be great ignorance among the citizens about the part played by the Italian Army since 8 Sep 43. There is, however, at least no open antagonism to the Army - the feeling is rather one of indifference. Since the arrival of the coy of 10d Regt, I have seen occasional groups of soldiers and civilians talking over the evening vine. I suspect a certain amount of "line-shooting" - names like CASSINO, MONTE MARONE and GUARDIA-GRANDE were being bandied about.
- (6) From conversation with Allied officers, I gather that the Italo-French frontier has been crossed easily by Allied military personnel. Whether there will be stricter control when the "Cassa" takes over from the South Africans - as I believe will happen shortly - is yet to be seen.
- (7) The re-appearance of the newspaper "La Stampa", formerly a Fascist organ, was viewed with great perturbation by the city Reds, who promptly organized a protest march to the "La Stampa" buildings where a certain amount of machinery suffered from the enthusiasm of the protesters, as in fact did the newly arrived stock of a nearby tobacconist who stood and watched instead of pulling down the shutters. The crowd were then addressed by the Prefect who agreed that the appearance of this paper was an insult to partisan fighters, and by AMG Provincial Commissioner who pointed out that in permitting the re-appearance he was only carrying out orders, and said that he would refer the matter again to higher authorities. The crowd then went off cheerfully, talking and smoking. Even should higher authorities again permit the re-appearance of this paper, however, there are now notices in the town indicating that the paper is to be printed in the

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8089

"A" Points.

- (1) The number of Patriot volunteers in PIEDMONT for the Army is now 468. Some Gruppi officers are believed to be touring the villages in an effort to increase this figure.
- (2) The news of ITALY's declaration of war on JAPAN has caused numbers of young men to think they would like to volunteer for the Far East. The idea seems prevalent, however that the formation of an Italian Expeditionary force would be a matter so a couple of weeks only.

"Q" Points.

1. Transport.

- (a) The shortage of transport in this area continues.
- (b) Numbers of Italian military vehicles - figures not known but believed considerable - are illegally held by "cooperatives". A directive on this question would be appreciated - as it is of general importance. I am taking

no local action that might be prejudicial to any plans emanating from a higher level. I have reason to believe, however, that the CC.RR - though not at the moment too effective - might eventually be in a position to produce lists of data relative to illegally held military transport.

Some FIAT 1100/M open staff cars, newly produced for the Republicans and awaiting collection by them, were requisitioned from FIAT works by AMG, 6 S.A Armad Div and others. I will shortly have the full facts from FIAT - may I be informed whether to go ahead then and get them back, or is it felt that this is a fight that I might lose while action by H.Q.M.M.I.A could win? It is pointed out that there are many civilian cars not requisitioned by AMG, and the passengers generally carried around TURIN are of no great military importance.

FIAT have in their works at the moment approx 400 newly completed load-carriers of civilian pattern and meant for the civilian market. They can not be sold without an AMG authority and meanwhile they lie idle - presumably the military tpt in the hands of "partisans" is sufficient to maintain the civil population.

2. Rations.

The previous lack of oil and fats in the rations supplied by 203 D.I.D has now been got over.

3. Clothing and Equipment.

See Appx A to "Q" Branch copy of this letter for inventory of stores held at TURIN.

4. Accommodation.

There is sufficient for present and estimated immediate future needs - but see my para 6. A list ~~of~~ of military premises in TURIN with their present occupants is being prepared and will be forwarded when available.

15541