

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

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3 DLO / 5-F

RETURNS

Sept. - 1944

- Feb. 1945

(5)
SECRET.

Subject:- SECURITY INTELLIGENCE REPORT - ITALIAN ARMY.

3DLO/5/1
5 Feb. 45.

Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E.

Herewith return called for in your S/I/106/1
of 7 Dec 44.

OUTSTATION:- H.Q. 3 District.
REPORT No:- 1.
AREA COVERED:- SICILY, CALABRIA, CAMPANIA, part LAZIO.

A. GENERAL SECURITY.

1. MORALE.

During the period of the call up in SICILY a certain amount of unrest was reported from the island. There had previously been the incident of the burning down of the Municipio in CATANIA.

Areas principally affected during the riots were VITTORIA, COMISO, and RAGGUSA, where civilians took to armed force in an effort to avoid being called up.

Separatists are primarily responsible for these and similar disturbances though Fascists are also said to be involved.

A party of 100 men of the SABAUDA Div stationed at SYRACUSE ~~were~~ sent to deal with the original outbreak but these were soon disarmed by

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A party of 100 men of the SABAUDA Div stationed at SYRACUSE ~~were~~^{was} sent to deal with the original outbreak but these were soon disarmed by the civilians. A further party of 200 men under orders of Gen RONCO (GOC SABAUDA) were later, after some casualties, successful in restoring order in the area.

Gangs of armed bandits have been reported in the GIOIATAURO area of CALABRIA (D.6583). Italian gds on VPs in that area have been given extra arms and amn but no trouble has so far been reported.

(3 District reports)

Sy. from COMUSIT CATANIA

(contd.)

(2)

2. Fascist, Pro-German, anti-Allied activities.

As far as the Army is concerned, none are reported from 3 District.

3. Illegal storage of arms and amm.

N.T.R.

4. Political activities.

N.T.R.

5. Relations with Allied tps.

These are good. No trouble in this connexion has been reported either by 3 District or the Italian Army.

Certain BR-ITI units habitually complain about their rations and others about clothing but these complaints very often can be traced to the interest taken in the unit by the British Cadre, etc., comds. No complaints of any serious nature have been noted.

(Personal observation.)

6. Discipline.

On the whole discipline is good. No incidents between Allied and Italian tps have been reported.

7. Rumours.

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7. Rumours.

There has been the usual batch of rumours but most of them have only a local bearing. One particularly alarming rumour is that Russia, Germany and Republican Italy are about to sign a treaty; another is that Russia will sign a pact with Germany to allow the latter to turn all her effort onto dislodging the Allies from Western Europe.

A rumour, supposed to have originated in a Naples newspaper (but which cannot be traced)

(contd.)

(3)

has it that the Germans are preparing a hurried withdrawal from the BOLOGNA area.

(Conversations and 3 District I summary)

8. Summary.

The Italian Army is giving very little trouble indeed from a security point of view. Most of the local outbursts are of civilian and especially student origin.

B. PERSONALITIES.

1. Gen di Brigata GINO GRANATA. Age about 50 - 55 years, CE at Comando Territoriale Napoli. This officer appears to be capable insofar as dealings regarding the reconstruction of AFRAGOLA camp have been concerned. He has drive and does not appear to be afflicted with the pomposity and mock courtesy often associated with Italian officers of this seniority. Nothing is known of his political leanings.

(Personal acquaintance)

2. Gen MANNERINI. This officer is responsible for the reception of repatriated Italian ex-PW. Age about 50 but gives the impression of being younger. Only one interview has been held with Gen MANNERINI but it has confirmed the opinion formed on our last encounter in Apr 43 on the occasion of his capture when GOC of the "GRUPPO SAHARIANO" in the Desert, i.e. that of an extremely self-satisfied but probably efficient officer.

(Personal acquaintance)

3. Div Gen SILVIO ROSSI. Age slightly over 50 years. GOC 227 Div. Gives the impression of being a good officer with the interests of his troops at heart.

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3. Div Gen SILVIO ROSSI. Age slightly over 50 years. GOC 227 Div. Gives the impression of being a good officer with the interests of his tps at heart, though how much of this impression is due to the efficiency and drive of his C of S, Major SCOTTO-LAVINA, who is, by the usual standards, outstanding, is hard to tell.
(Personal acquaintance)

Delay in the submission of this report is regretted.

Major,
MMIA IO,
3 District.

1 C. File this in 3D40/5

Arms & arms return
to MIA by
10th of every month.

See file 22.

QVR 5.
MEDY V. LROF NR6190 IMPORANT

FROM MMIA 051100A

TO 50 BLU 52 BLU 53 BLU 56 BLU 3 DISTRICT

QX GR15 BT

1159 RESTRICTED FOR MMIA LO'S . REF OUR S/I/106/1 OF 7 DEC . REQUEST
YOU DESPATCH REPORT SOONEST

SENT 6190 1455 REB AR K

R 6190 1456 SC B1

050337

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

050337

MM 1A Liaison Officer
Discharge

Important

SECRET

SUBJECT: Security Intelligence - Monthly
Reports - Italian Army

LAND FORCES SUB-COM. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
File No. S/I/106/1
7 Dec 44

TO : All M.M.I.A. L.O's

Ref our I/106 of 10 May 44 not to all.

1. You are requested to submit a Monthly Security Report on matters as listed in attached Appendix "A".
2. Reports will be classified "SECRET" and will on no account be sent through Italian channels.
3. Reports should reach this H.Q. by 25th of the month, and should be consolidated by Senior MMIA L.O's in areas where applicable.

(Signature)
Lt Col
G3

SECRET

Appendix "A" to S/I/106/1 of Dec 44

Security Intelligence Report - Italian Army

Outstation.....Area Covered.....

Report No..... Period from to.....

A. GENERAL SECURITY

1. Morale - Include details of unrest, complaints, unmet with grievances, desertions. Any seditious or subversive influences likely to undermine morale.
2. PRO-GERMAN, PRO-GERMAN, ANTI-ALLIED activities or trends.
3. ILLEGAL STORAGE OF ARMS & AMMUNITION.
4. POLITICAL ACTIVITY - Propaganda, monarchism.
5. Relations with and attitude towards Allied Troops.
6. DISCIPLINE
7. RUMOURS and Indiscreet TALK - Breaches of Security.
8. SUMMARY of MILITARY SECURITY situation including any other matters that cannot be correctly listed under 1 to 7, above.

B. PERSONALITIES

1. Information (white) on high r leaders.

Note 1*

2. Information (BLACK) - ditto.

Note: 2

SOURCES It is essential to give source and assessment of reliability of each item of information i.e. personal observation, visit, interview, second-hand from....., repeated by etc. Sources considered reliable, doubtful etc.

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Note 1* Rank, appointment, age. Information co-operative
negative - obstructive - political attitude -
efficiency - energy.

Subject:- Weekly Liaison Log No. 2.

CONFIDENTIAL

3BLO/5
24 Sep 44

Military Mission Italian Army, (3)
R O M E .

(a) (b) Elements of CIL continued to arrive by rd and ry throughout the week.

Balance of 417 Pnr Lab Regt departs 25 Sep for Ancona.

(c) Attended conference at MMIA on Lab and Manpower problems (20 Sep 44).

(d) I visited 125 Vet Hosp (ex 125 Infermeria Quadrupedi) at Persano on 24 Sep 44. This unit has only recently been taken over by the Brit cadre and the unit is having the usual teething troubles most important of which is that out of a WE of 99 all ranks (Italian) 76 are due for demobilization on age grounds and a further 2 are AWOL. A request for rfts will be made in due course.

(e) NTR

(f) At an interview with OC Brit Cadre 1003 (Tt) GT Coy RASC and ST 3 District, it was decided that in view of the large number of desertions in that coy (88 since it was formed and the expressed intention of a further 120 Bolognese of deserting as soon as Bologna is liberated) to transfer it to some other part of Italy, probably Sicily, to take over the vehs and employment of some other coy of 3-tonners. At present, since 1003 Coy is equipped with tippers, it is necessarily spread out over an extremely large area and the necessary control over the personnel is almost entirely lost.

Steps are meanwhile being taken to allow the OC Coy to proceed into the Army zone to arrest and bring back deserters who will be awarded summary and exemplary punishment with the unit. 264

Owing to the difficulty in obtaining good trained dvrs for the Brit/Italian Line Secs now forming, 3 District

2.

(if cont) are about to establish a driving school for these at Nocera on "private army" lines.

HQ 56 Area are leaving Sicily on 25 Sep and will take over from 57 Area by 1 Oct when 57 Area becomes inoperative. Wef 22 Sep 70 Sub Area assumed comd of Sicily and Calabria.

A bn of 46 Inf Regt Sabauda Div moves from Palermo to Calabria on 24 Sep 44 to take over gd duties on the Sila installations from the two bns of 76 Inf Regt Mantova Div.

2 Bn 417 Pnr Lab Regt which left recently for 5 Army, each man equipped with one blanket, was found upon arrival to be over 300 blankets short. There is as yet no news as to the cause of the disappearance but 1st 3 District is investigating.


Major,
MILANO,
3 District.

Subject:- Weekly Liaison Log No. 1.

CONFIDENTIAL

3DLO/5

17 Sep 44

Main HQ MMIA, (3)

ROME.

Ref your G/21 of 9 Sep 44, herewith report called for.

(a) (b). There has lately been by mov of Italian Units into and out of the area, the most important of which are the arrival of the CIL in the Piedimonte d'Alife area and the Cremona Div to Benevento - Altavilla. Strong rfts (principally for 2 and 3 District lab) have arrived from Sardinia.

417 Lab Regt is in the process of moving fwd to under comd 5 Army and 412 Lab Regt, less two HQs, has already gone to Leghorn, also to 5 Army.

10 Artieri Coy (ex Sabauda) and 3 Artieri Coy have both arrived to under comd CIL.

(c). Apart from the normal thrice weekly District conference I attended the following :-

1. A District conference on Calabria at which was discussed the eventual removal of Mantova Div and the taking over of its gd duties by a bn of Sabauda Div. Also discussed was the ~~stripping~~ policy of stripping Calabria of all unnecessary Italian tps. The conference was attended by CE 3 District and Comd 56 Area. I later managed to obtain the assistance of Capt Gentile who gave a clear picture of the situation in Calabria especially from an E pt of view.

2. A conference at the CMP Depot at Ottaviano regarding the fm of Italian Traffic Control Coys. This was principally to clear up their rather hazy picture of channels of sup, adm and comd vis à vis the British and Italian Armies and MMIA.

(d) On 14 Sep I inspected the Italian Wing of the CMP Depot where three coys are trg for TC duties. I found it 26?

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(d) On 14 Sep I inspected the Italian Wing of the CMP Depot where three coys are trg for TC duties. I found it ²⁶² remarkably well run establishment. Dinners were excellent, cook houses, sleeping accn and latrines tidy and spotless. The Italian personnel seem happy and willing and show a considerable aptitude, given the right treatment, for the work. It was, in fact, a good example of what can be done with unselected Italian tps in a few weeks.

(e) NTR.

(f). (i) I find it as hard as ever to make British units employing Italian units as well as the Italian units themselves, understand for what purpose MMIA exists. It is only by personal visits that this difficulty can be cleared up. This will take time in view of the extent of my parish.

(ii) Liaison with Comando Militare Calabria is proceeding satisfactorily by means, for the present, of TPMs. Later I shall pay them a visit with GSO I, 3 District.

(iii) 56 Area is in the process of handing over Sicily to 70 Grn. The latter is being up-graded to Sub Area status.

(iv) The hosp sit in Campania is at present bad. No suitable accn has so far been found for even 200 beds in any one place except two locns that have been offered both very inaccessible and both under snow during the winter months, ~~and~~ the rds to them frequently blocked. I ~~at~~ present tapping PBS and am in close touch with Col Ferri (Italian DDMS). This matter will be the subject of an early letter.

(v) Tpt requirements for moving Italian tps arriving from Sardinia and elsewhere have at times only been met by 3 District through the most energetic appeals by the MMIALOs concerned. I get the impression that 3 District do not realize the extent to which we need their assistance if we are to org and maintain the Italian Army properly with the limited means at our disposal. The same attitude is apparent in their dealing with the hosp sit mentioned above.

(vi) This outstation is at present not 100% efficient. My veh is off the rd but I hope to get the necessary spares for its repair shortly, my batman-dvr is sick and it has not yet been possible to release my future clerk from his duties at HQ. When these matters are rectified work and results should show a considerable improvement.

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