

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

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12/31/14 Liaison Log L.O. Division
July-Nov. 1945

Subject:-- Liaison Report no 9.

SECRET

M.M.I.A. L.O.,
TURLIN,
c/o / AGRA. 6/3/44

Phone: BIRDGAGE 53720-9 ext 130.

TUR/3/G
5 Nov 45.

Report for week 29 Oct - 4 Nov.

1. Heavy rain storms during this week have hindered out-of-doors 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.McCreery and Col.Pislesley, Brig.Graham deputised on behalf of the Allies, while MMLA was represented by this IO. A large crowd looked on and did a little clapping. An attempt by two truckloads 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 GOC 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-Itis and US-Itis to draw the Allied part of their rations from Allied DIDs, which the Italians were ordered to carry out by 5 Nov, although no directives have yet come through ST channels.

Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

Distribution:-- HQ M.M.I.A. (4) ✓
MMLA IO A.ITALY
MMLA IO GERMA

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Distribution:- HQ E.M.I.A. (4)

MMIA LO R. ITALY
MMIA LO GERCA

December 8, 1906 (Mon)

29 oct Gen Pabizins' Conferent.

Prof. Fossicaro re. S. L. 10. 10. 10.

54-42
L.O. added. re. transfer Fresh Veg

Transfer North to 3rd St. 6797

NAME: _____
FILE: ~~67~~ 67114
DATE: 1/3/11

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ADDRESS BY GOO CREMONA DIVISION

We are here to-day, the 4th of November, on the anniversary of a great victory won by the side of our British and American allies over the same enemy of yesterday, to present the decorations for gallantry awarded to the Regimental Colours of Cremona and the 28th Carabinieri Brigade "Mario Cordini", for their meritorious service in the War of Liberation.

Our ceremony, a simple military parade, gains particular importance in that General McCreery, O in C British Troops in Austria, who during the Italian Campaign commanded the 8th Army, of which both Cremona and the 28th Brigade formed part, had accepted my invitation to attend the parade and join with us in our celebrations. Bad weather, however, has prevented him from coming from Vienna, but he is present in our hearts, and his kind thoughts are illustrated in the signal I received from him yesterday:

"What regret had no other has prevented me from flying to attend your parade. My best wishes to all members of Cremona Gruppo and my grateful thanks for all that you have done while with the 8th Army. Good luck to you all."

There is no need for me to dwell on the achievements of Cremona and the 28th Brigade, for the people of Vicenza have already witnessed in September the presentation of Gold Medals and other awards, some of them posthumous, at the Minister of War. The promotion of 32 NCOs and men for meritorious war service is also a recent event. For the rest, it will suffice for me to read out the citations to you.

To the Colours of the 21st and 22nd Infantry Regiments

Silver Medal for Gallantry

First in Gorizia, then across the Po valley from the River Reno to Venice, they have carried forward the battle against the traditional German enemy. They have won the battle for the liberation and reconstruction of tormented Italy, inspired by the great traditions of the "Risorgimento".

Gorizia, 9 September - 3 October 1943
 Ravenna - Venice, 12 January - 3 May 1945.

To the Colours of the 7th Artillery Regiment

Bronze Medal for Gallantry

First in Gorizia, then across the Po valley from the River Reno to Venice, the Regiment has supported the men of the infantry in their struggle against the traditional enemy, and in the victorious battle for the liberation and reconstruction of tormented Italy, inspired by the great tradition of the "Risorgimento".

parade. My best wishes to all members of Corsica (Savoie) and my grateful thanks for all that you have done while with the 8th Army. Good luck to you all."

There is no need for me to dwell on the achievements of Corsica and the 2nd Brigade, for the people of Vicenza have already witnessed in September the presentation of Gold Medals and other awards, some of them posthumous, for the winter of war. The promotion of 32 men and men for meritorious war service is also a recent event. For the rest, it will suffice for me to read out the citations to you.

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Ravenna - Venice, 12 January - 8 May 1945.

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Corsica, 9 September - 3 October 1943
Ravenna - Venice, 12 January - 8 May 1945.

To the 1st Engineer Battalion

Bronze Medal for Gallantry

First in Corsica, then across the Po valley, from the River Reno to Venice, the Battalion has dealt with treacherous minefields and organized the communications throughout the division, in support of the Infantry and artillery in their struggle against the traditional enemy. Their work has been an important contribution to the victorious battle for the liberation and reconstruction of Italy.

/Corsica,.....

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Cordona, 9 September - 3 October 1943
Ravenna - Venice, 12 January - 30 April 1945

To the Colours of the 28th Gariboldi Brigade "Mario Cordina"

Silver Medal for Gallantry

First in the clandestine battle, then under Allied Command, and finally in conjunction with a formation of our reorganised army; inspired by the great traditions of the Risorgimento and the Gariboldi volunteers, the Brigade has fought against the traditional German enemy, and has helped to win the battle for the liberation and reconstruction of Italy.

Ravenna - Comacchio - River Brenta
15 September 1943 - 30 April 1945.

I believe this to be the first occasion that the Colours of all the Regiments of a Division have received, on the same day and for similar achievements, a tangible recognition of their work. This proof of the common ideal that inspired all the soldiers of Cremona with the same objective - the liberation of their country and the attainment of liberty.

This common ideal was apparent as far back as the 9th of September 1943, when Cremona unhesitatingly took up arms to drive the Germans from the island. This ideal of liberty sustained us during the hardships of our stay in Sardinia, when we were short of food and equipment. It encouraged us during the period of changing to British equipment, of learning to handle new weapons and new methods, and it helped us to live through four months in the line, which were not without honour.

When we went into the line we shared a sector with the 28th Gariboldi Brigade, "Mario Cordina". We were unknown to each other, but not many days had passed when Bulow said to me: "General, I have a request for your soldiers". We had already understood and appreciated each other, and we went forward united to a single objective.

We were told by the Minister of War when he visited us, in Turin and in Pallanza, of the unity which should bind all Italians at the present time. This has been stressed also by the press, and the soldiers of Cremona and the Partisans of Bulow have given a practical demonstration of how this can be achieved. This, I consider augurs well for the future. It is the intention of Cremona to continue this work, with vigour, industry and good faith.

It would, however, have been quite impossible for Cremona to achieve what has been achieved, without the strong support of the Allied Commanders. This support was not only of a material, but also of a moral nature; for not only did they make it possible for us to equip ourselves with their arms and learn their up-to-date methods, but also they gave us real

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When we went into the line we shared a sector with the 28th Airfield Brigade, "Mario Cordini". We were unknown to each other, but not many days had passed when Bulow said to me: "General, I have a respect for your soldiers". We had already understood and appreciated each other, and we went forward united to a single objective.

We were told by the Minister of War when he visited us, in Turin and in Pallanza, of the unity which should bind all Italians at the present time. This has been stressed also by the press, and the soldiers of Gromona and the Partisans of Bulow have given a precious demonstration of how this can be achieved. This, I consider ensures well for the future. It is the intention of Gromona to continue this work, with vigour, industry and good faith.

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General Browning, the first Allied officer to visit us has done much for us. He made it possible for our men to have leave to visit their families on our return from Sardinia, a gesture of sympathetic understanding of the moral needs of the troops, which we have always appreciated.

The memorable visit of Field-Marshal Alexander in November 1944 was particularly important for the great interest he took in the well-being of our men. Through his intervention we received an important increase in rations. During his visit the Field-Marshal accepted the Regimental badges from the Commanders, which he wore on his later visit to Gromona - a gesture which filled everyone with pride.

/I could have.....
6795

I would have liked to remind General McCreery of his visits to Genoa. Besides his encouraging visits to the troops in the line, we are greatly heartened by the special interest he always took in our Welfare Organisation and Rest Centres. He always insisted on seeing everything, and learning every detail of our needs, and he afforded us at all times the most generous help, making available to us the welfare efforts and supplies, which were needed to make our centers more useful and attractive.

Men are led, above all, by understanding and affection, and General McCreery gave us the proof, the means and the example.

It was through this moral support that, in spite of difficulties, we were able to continue our efforts, and to ask him at the start of the great Spring Offensive, when we were due for rest after three months in the line, not to leave us behind but to include us in his plan of operations. Thus from the 10th - 13th of April, we were able to take part in the operations, and earn the appreciation of the Army Commander, who sent us the following signal:

"My hearty congratulations on the successful attack by Genoa on the 10th of April. Your troops have shown great enterprise and vigour. I know that you will continue to make an important contribution to the 5th Army offensive. With best wishes".

Having crossed the Senio and Sant'Anna and opened up Route 16, we advanced across the Po, the Adige and the Brenta, and reached Venice on April the 29th with our leading troops on the flank of British units.

The Certificates for Commendation for service with the 11th Army, which to-day are being awarded to representatives of the Division, will represent to each member of Genoa a treasured and cherished memory. It will remind us above all of the respect and friendship accorded to us by the Allies, a standard which we must provide ourselves to live up to in the future, so that Italy, in a regime of freedom and good international relations, may again assume her rightful place in the world, in relation to the industry of her people, and the contribution which in the past she made to the progress of civilisation.

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from the 10th - 13th of April, we were able to take part in the operations, and earn the appreciation of the Army Commander, who said us the following signal:

"My hearty congratulations on the successful attack by Geronima on the 10th of April. Your troops have shown great enterprise and vigor. I know that you will continue to make an important contribution to the 8th Army offensive. With best wishes".

Having crossed the Sanio and Senterio and opened up Route 16, we advanced across the Po, the Adige and the Brenta, and reached Venice on April the 29th with our leading troops on the flank of British Units.

The Certificates for Commendation for service with the Eighth Army, which to-day are being awarded to representatives of the Division, will represent to each member of Geronima a treasured and cherished memory. It will remind us above all of the respect and friendship accorded to us by the Allies, a standard which we must provide ourselves to live up to in the future, so that Italy, in a regime of freedom and good international relations, may again assume her rightful place in the world, in relation to the industry of her people, and the contribution which in the past she made to the progress of civilization.

6794

Subject:-- Liaison Report No 8.

SECRET

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

Phone: BIRDCASE 53720-9 ext 130

TUR/3/0
30 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. At present the political situation is fairly calm. On 26 Oct the Sindaco presented Brig. Graham, commander 7 AGRA, with the Freedom of Turin, and the Brigadier replied in Italian. This event and speech received a good notice in the press. My secretary informs me that she had to stand for some time in a long queue of civilian employees of Allied offices, waiting to change their wages at the bank into Italian currency. She says that no shop in the town will accept Allied Military Lire from a civilian.

Departmental points are noted below.

10. Points

Turin Territorial HQ now has at 225 its disposal HQ 1 Gd Regt, 520 Gd Bn and 525 Gd Bn. Of these 520 Bn is now 600 strong and expects a further 200 rfts within the next few days. It is performing guard duties, and has taken over from 1 Gd Coy, shortly to be withdrawn to Rome. 525 Bn, which is nearly up to strength, is at present undergoing intensive training before being employed. The sending forward of 515 Bn is due in the first week of the month, but Territorial HQ has requested that it be delayed until after the 20 Nov in order that proper accommodation may be prepared for it in Alessandria.

10. Points

1. Biella blankets the batch of 100,000 for AMG VILLACH have been disposed of, and the 200,000 for Urd 2 District are now being dealt with, after strong hastening action on the Italian firm from WMD TURIN. It is hoped that WMD will be able to inform me within a few days of the amount remaining, which may be as much as 800,000. It may be noted that WMD TURIN is co-operating fully with me on this and on other matters.

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

10. Points

ALL

Distribution: HQ M.M.I.A. (4)
MIA LO N. ITALY
MIA LO GENOA

Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

6783

9/31/4
D. R. 12/11

Subject: - Liaison Report No 7.

SECRET

M.M.L.A. L.O.,
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 AME, 51 BDU and CREMONA Div HQ, and will shortly contain the Territorial HQ as well. My address now is:-

CORSO CORTO 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 AGRA.

2. an Italian officer, who has long had the confidence of MMLA 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 ~~XXXXXX~~ 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.

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- c) by the extremists of the Left, as an opportunity to strike a romantic blow on behalf of their Russian ~~enemy~~ 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.



Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

6792

Distribution:- HQ M.M.I.A. (4)
MMIA LO N Italy
MMIA LO GENOA.

0 3 2 0

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. PRALORNO 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 CHISONE, 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 ARs. 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 Brigadier General PEROTTI, executed by the enemy on 5 Apr 44. This officer apparently organized 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 - incl your L.O - Italian Armed Forces, highest civil and ecclesiastical authorities, ex-partisan elements and numbers of the civil population. The whole thing was well stage-managed, and

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(K)

E. O. Donnell

Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

Distribution.

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

FILED	6/24/44
DATE: 8/29	

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G Points.

(a) French Activity.

When the French forces pulled out of the ROJA Valley in mid-July, a Liaison Officer and a few NCOs were left in the TENDA-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 organisation 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.

(i) 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 CALBOLLI? stated to be prominent in Court circles, who feels it would be worth while to organise monarchist sympathisers 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.

(ii) 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 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

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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.

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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.T 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.

Subject:- Liaison Report No 5.

SECRET.

M.A.I.A L.O
TURIN

TUR/3/G

18 Aug 45.

1. During the week this office has been visited by Lt-Col. EGERTON and Maj. BIRD.
2. A conference was held at office MMIA LO, TURIN, on the morning of 18 Aug, subject the recovery and concentration of arms in dumps throughout PIEMONTE. There were present Brig. GRAHAM, 7 AGRA - who called the meeting - Gen FRASERMO, Lt-Col. EGERTON, Maj BIRD, Capt J. D. M. and an officer of SIM. 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 ex-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 FRASERMO to examine the possibility of concentrating these arms with Italian personnel. Gen FRASERMO had declared himself willing to do this, but needed up to since his 1st Coy was under strength in vehicles. The Officer, who had agreed to release 20 vehicles from a number being run in CUNEO province. Were MMIA reps agreeable to these vehicles being taken? MMIA reps were (being convinced that the vehicles in question were Italian Army vehicles irregularly held). Lt-Col. EGERTON 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 AF 385.3/163 LOG-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.
3. On 16 Aug, Territorial HQ started a check system on military transport being run by unauthorised persons. 9 trucks were recovered in the first day.

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

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

4. 18 Italian Engr Coy arrived TURIN 13 Aug.

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

MMIA	
FILE:	G/314
DATE:	1/2/48

Go Downall 6788
Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

HQ., M.M.I.A (4 copies)
MMIA IO, NW Italy

10 3 2 7

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

Subject:- Liaison Report No 4.

SECRET.

M.M.I.A L.O

TURIN

TUR/3/0

11 Aug 45

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

2. 7 ASBA is now master of PIERONTE. It looks as if the delinquency mentioned in my last report may slowly 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. tommy-gun patrols will cause lots of people to think deeply.

3. Some points for Branches are attached.

might be
recommended
for Rome

Go Downell

Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

2 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 PIERONTE - MOSCATELLI, the Communist sindaco of NOVARA.

4 Points.

NIL

0 Points.

MIMIA-C	
FILE:	2/31/47
DATE:	11/12/47

10 3 2 8

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

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might be
recommended
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3.

Go Downell

Capt.,
Intelligence Officer.

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Communist sindaco of NOVARA.

A Points.

NIL

Q Points.

MMIA-C	
FILE:	6/3/44
DATE:	10/1/48

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. The
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 kind
vehicles on the road sooner.

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

6787

Distribution:- H.Q., MMIA (H)
MMIA L.O., NW Italy.

0 3 2 9

Subject: Liaison Report No 3.

SECRET.

A.M.I.A I.O
TURIN

TUR/3/G

4 AUG 45

G/3/14

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 Liaison Report No 2. Their commitments will be taken over by 7 A.G.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 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 "MMIA IO, TURIN".
5. TURIN airport is now closed, and British Movement staff have been transferred elsewhere.
6. A visit was paid to a dump of surrendered enemy material near IVREA - M.R of dump J 252628, ITALY J: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 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 snafus when the Italians assume full responsibility on 6 Aug.

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GSO 2 (Ops)
GSO 2 (SD)
GSO 2 (WS)
GSO 2 (I)
GSO 2 (S)
GSO 2 (Gen)
GSO 2 (D)

Go Downell
Capt., 6786
Liaison Officer.

Distribution.

HQ MMIA
"G" Branch
"A" "
"Q" "
Float File

MMIA IO, NW Italy

MMIA - C
FILE 9/31/14
D K/10/14

3 Points.

(a) What follows is an attempt to analyse and comment on the political situation in PIEDMONT. 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 TURIN as elsewhere, the Communist Party. Their signs are to be found everywhere, and in many shops and from street-vendors' narrow 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 MILAN 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 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 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.

"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 and ammunition are hidden throughout this region. Most reports agree that the main armament areas are the Canavese and the Biellese respectively NORTH and North EAST of TURIN, and the province of

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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 Canavese 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.

Crimes or 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.

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

0333

against determine criminals armed with automatic weapons. Owing to this, they are not as effective as they may 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 Alexandria, 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 rainwater 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, Giurcil, Matteotti, Fiva, Partisans etc. The local Monarchists confine themselves to writing - in English - "We will have a king in Italy". The comment 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.

Q Points.

Swi!!!

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A Points.

NIL.

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 ~~main~~ 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 sight of the Army moving back into its own old premises will have the effect of raising its prestige.

6784
6784

Subject:- Liaison Report No 2.

SECRET.

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

BIRDCAGE - 51104

TUR/3/G

30 Jul 45

1. Apart from the usual mass of detail, work in TURIN A during the past week has been chiefly concerned with M/I. 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 LO 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.

Donnell
Capt.

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W. J. Donnell
Capt.,
Liaison Officer.

Distribution:-

H. Q., M. M. I. A.
G Branch

A " " (with appendix)
U " " Float File

ROMA 10, N.W. Italy

6783

030900

3 Points:

(a) 1 Territorial Gd Coy - ex 303 QM Coy - arrived from S. Army area 27 Jul 45, strength 3 ofrs 200 ORs No tpt. MMIA IO
Italy has taken this matter up with MMIA IO 5 Army.

(b) The funeral of the Liberal leader Marcello SOLERNI gave the local Italian Army authorities a chance to come out into the light of day. The Army was represented by Lt-Gen. FRALORNO 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. BELLIGRA 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.E.G in FIAT works, 312 have been released to civilian firms during the week.

(c) On Monday of this week, 30 July, Commissariato 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.

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6782

Subject:- Liaison report No 1.

MMIA

FILE: 6/31/14

24/7

M.M.I.A L.O

SECRET

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. 751 Sup Area - Rooms 58 and 59. Tel. No is TURIN 51104, on BIRDCAGE 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 DADOS and DAQMG+Q(AS), H.Q. M.M.I.A. We 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 FEITER, 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 will cooperate.

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6. I also interviewed Lt-Col FLORE, AMG Provincial Chief, and Maj MALATESTA, TURIN City SOAO, to prospect the removal by them of a "Partisan Transport Cooperative" from Cavalier 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 W.E. This question had been raised by Capt CLARK before his illness and since then by Terr H.Q.; the only result being promises 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 PIAT Repair Shops with Lt-Col COLLI and identified a number of Italian military vehicles in various stages of repair and disrepair, and all under the General AMG block. When I

6781

24700

Get the list of "target" numbers, engine numbers, etc, these x
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 C.C., R.A.S.C, H.Q 151 Sub Area.

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

Go Downall,
Capt.,
Maison Officer.

Distribution

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

G Branch

A "

Q " (with Appx A)

Fleet

MMIA IO N.W Italy

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

0342

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

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

67800

"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 organisation. 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 BERETTA 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 1st Regt, I have seen occasional groups of soldiers and civilians talking over the evening vino. I suspect a certain amount of "line-shooting" - names like CASSINO, MONTE MARTELLA and GUARDIA-GRATE were being bandied about.
- 6) From conversation with Allied officers, I gather that the Italo-French frontier can be crossed easily by Allied military personnel. Whether there will be stricter control when the "CHAMOUNA" 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 organised 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 declaring that "chi legge La Stampa è un fascista".

rather one of indifference. Regt, I have seen occasional groups of soldiers and civilians talking over the evening vino. I suspect a certain amount of "line-shooting" - names like CASSINO, MONTE MARIONE and GUARDIA-GRISIA were being bandied about.

(6) From conversation with Allied officers, I gather that the Italo-French frontiersmen are crossed easily by Allied military personnel. Whether there will be stricter control when the "CHRONONA" takes over from the South Africans - as I believe will happen shortly - is yet to be seen.

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"A" Points.

- (1) The number of Patriot volunteers in ELEMONTIS for the Army is now 466. Some Gruppo 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 as a couple of weeks only.

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"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.PP. - 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 Arm'd 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 R.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 vpt 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 ~~exists~~ of military premises in TURIN with their present occupants is being prepared and will be forwarded when available.

population.

2. Rations.

The previous lack of oil and fats in the rations supplied by 203 D.I.F. 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 WURIN.

4. Accommodation.

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

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