

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

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"Welfare" Reports

Apr. 1945

3200
5610

Ministry of War

Office of the welfare of the troops

Translation

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Memorandum for the Minister

Report of the activity of the a/m Office during December 1945

1. Moral and material assistance:

Strong increase of the assistance under various forms (advices given, money grants, approaching other branches)

Persons received : 345

Extraordinary grant of money: L. 40.500 .

Extraordinary grants of money to various organs working for the welfare of the troops and their families .

2. Recreation assistance .

1) Theater shows: two of variety in Rome (the Mil. Territorial Commands have also provided for other shows by themselves;).

2) Film shows effected at Units being far from the towns, by autocinema and sound equipped trailer.

3) Instruments and clothing distributed to the military companies of art of the mil. territorial Commands

4) No. 10 receiving radio sets and film projectors salvaged, have been repaired;

5) 19 radios, 4 film projectors and 22 accordions, have been distributed;

6) we have given various games (for Rest Centres, Transit Camps and as individual gifts), (bowls, draughts, games of chess, play cards, ping_pong and so on : 5610 total 239.

7) we have assigned sport instruments and games (42 footballs,

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7) we have assigned sport instruments and games (42 footballs, olympic javelins, 10 boxing gloves;

8) we have assigned reading books (2 small libraries with 134 books)

9) we have required and partially obtained free and reduced_price tickets of the cinematographs, for the soldiers .

The a/m assistance was given by us; similar activity was done by the Welfare Offices of the Territorial H.Q.s and of the Pile Formations.

A/C

COL. FERRARA

REPORT ON WELFARE TOUR
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A. MILAN TERRITORIAL HEADQUARTERS.

Personnel.

The officer trained in Welfare for this HQ has been sent "in congedo": his place has been taken by Major I.D. de Baisio, a Regular officer. He seems to have a very firm grasp of the situation, understands what he should do, and has the support of his G.O.C. (General Marras)

Major de Baisio's time is fully occupied with Welfare, and he is assisted by two civilian clerks.

Clubs, Canteens etc.

A bar and rest room is open at the Central Station. A club is being prepared in the city, premises having already been secured, and a rest camp is projected at the lakes. Securing suitable premises for the latter is difficult in view of Allied requirements, but the Carabinieri are assisting in this.

Funds.

The progress of all work is hampered by shortage of funds: what there are appear to have been wisely employed.

Discharged Soldiers.

This problem is keenly felt, and some attempt has been made to meet it. General Marras has personally asked for a grant of 15,000 for each discharged soldier: Major de Paisio runs a small employment agency, and takes whatever steps he can to assist these men to get work and accommodation etc.

General.

The co-ordinating function of the Ufficio Benessere at the War Ministry is felt and appreciated, and it is clearly understood that the ^{service} ~~service~~ is for all Italian troops and there is no "unit only" complex.

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REPORT ON WELFARE TOUR (continued)

B. "LA PATRIA" - MILAN

Personnel.

The Editorial Staff consists of 4: the Military Editor, and three civilians. It was claimed that the whole paper is written by these people, and that there is no outside work at all. This was a matter of some pride, and attention was drawn to a series of cartoons of the Rome Editorial Staff, numbering about twelve. I pointed out two or three different names to articles in one Milan edition, and was told that they were all the same man.

Syndication.

Articles were received from Rome, and printed; it was darkly hinted that these were written by Col. Maraldi's friends. Communication with Rome was necessarily limited to one telephone call a day, which does not appear to worry them in the least.

Pictures.

Instructions had been received from Rome to restrict the number of photographs and drawings: this is contrary to the Milan Editorial's conception of the requirements of a soldier's paper, and they said that the order was given because the Vatican thought the edition immoral.

They asked if more photographs could be made available as they had used all they had, I agreed to take this matter up.

General.

The Editorial Staff at Milan are somewhat independent, and are inclined to regard Rome control as unnecessary and aimed at lowering their edition to the dull level of Florence.

They asked that I should represent their views in the appropriate quarter.

