

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

ACC

10000/120/3513

G4/2

Aug.

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

10000/120/3513

G 4/2 Security Reports

Aug. - Oct. 1945

1228
1254

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

Subject :- Security Report

CONFIDENTIAL

54 British Liaison Unit

G 4/2

To :- HQ
7 ACRA

The following report is passed to you for info.

Some time ago seventy rifles were seized and placed in the Police H.Q. at DOMODOSSOLA. As the population there is rather troublesome and the police, out of nineteen sixteen are ex-partisans, it is suggested that these weapons be withdrawn to a safer place.

A certain "BELLOTTI", well known smuggler who, few weeks ago, was arrested at DOMODOSSOLA and consequently let off on bail, is now employed in the Civil Police (Carabinieri), at Milan. He has enlisted under the false name of "CORSO CARLO" and, in order not to be recognised, he has allowed his beard and side whiskers to grow. Bellotti is the man who helped BRAITA and PANICETTI in many unlawful acts and also in concealing arms and am.

Field
17 Oct 45
JIA/JB

W
for Lt Col,
General Staff.

1264

Subject :- Security Report

CONFIDENTIAL

51 British Mission Unit

G 4/2

To :- HQ

7 ACRA

1. The following report on a meeting which took place at VARENNI on 14 Oct is fwd for info.

At 1600 hrs, at VARENNI, members of the Socialist & Communist Parties addressed a crowd of about 3,000 (in the football ground opposite T. GILBERTO RIES). The speakers explained that the score of the meeting, taking place all over Italy today, was to demonstrate to the Allies that the Italian people were orderly and ripe enough to conduct General Elections, now. MUSCATELLI spoke last and in his speech made the following statements :-

(a) That as the Labour Party, in England, have defeated the Conservatives, who threw the world into ruin and disaster, so the labourers, in Italy, are sure of victory at the polls.

(b) That the Fascists and Royalists are holding back the Allies, in Italy, and accused the latter of protecting Monarchy.

(c) That the present Labour parties intend to go to the polls in a most orderly manner but, he emphasised, if the Republicans will use armoured cars or M.C.s. to fight the elections we shall use the necessary means to defeat them.

(d) Our public meetings will be orderly until we lose patience waiting.

After the meeting the crowd dispersed quietly away.

2. In connection with the above the following extract from a letter by LG at 22 Regt is also fwd.

I have to report for your info, that on the 13th inst, together with C. L. D'AMICO and the Regt I.O., I called on the Prefect of NOVARA and there we discussed Mil precautionary arrangements for Sun 14th.

During this interview, the Prefect told us that MUSCATELLI, after his return from ROME, had to address the people at a meeting, at the Theatre "CAPOVI", of NOVARA, but he had failed to do so owing to an accident; injury to the hand whilst cleaning his revolver and that the Prefect himself had rendered first aid to him.

To-day, I came to know that MUSCATELLI has actually addressed the crowd and after explaining his interview, at ROME he said that it was untrue that RUSSIA had asked for reparations of anything from Italy. Then, alluding to the Allies he said, "it is true that they have helped us they do not give us a chance to forget". ("Ci hanno aiutato, si, ma non ce lo facciano dimenticare"). At this, the audience shouted "AWAY WITH THE ALLIES - we are prepared to go the mountains to throw them out". ("Fuori gli Alleati, fuori - siamo pronti a scendere alle montagne per

who threw the world into ruin and disaster, so the labourers, in Italy, are sure of victory at the polls.

- (b) That the Fascists and Royalists are holding back the Allies, in Italy, and accused the latter of protecting Monarchy.
- (c) That the present labour parties intend to go to the polls in a most orderly manner but, he emphasised, if the Republicans will use armoured cars or M.G.s. to fight the elections we shall use the necessary means to defeat them.
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During this interview, the Prefect told us that MOSCATELLI, after his return from ROME, had to address the people at a meeting, at the Theatre "COMUNALI" of NOVARA, but he had failed to do so owing to an accident; injury to the hand whilst cleaning his revolver and that the Prefect himself had rendered first aid to him.

To-day, I came to know that MOSCATELLI has actually addressed the crowd and after explaining his interview, at ROME he said that it was untrue that BRESLA had asked for reparations of anything from Italy. Then, alluding to the Allies he said, "it is true that they have helped us they do not give us a chance to forget". ("Ci hanno aiutato, si, ma non ce lo facciano dimenticare"). At this, the audience shouted "AWAY WITH THE ALLIES - we are prepared to go the mountains to throw them out". ("Fuori gli Alleati, fuori - siamo pronti a tornare alle montagne a cacciare gli Alleati, fuori").

Referring to his injury, MOSCATELLI told the audience that it was due to a car accident; his car being run into by an Allied armoured veh.

The above shows the true feeling of Sindaco MOSCATELLI towards the Allies.

Field
17 Oct 45
JLS/JB

96
for Lt Col,
General Staff.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: - Province - ASTI - Police Situation of

51 British Liaison Unit

C 4/2

To: - HQ 7 AGRA (2)

The following report on the org of the Questura of ASTI is fwd for
info.

Field.
Oct 15.
JIS/ES.

gr. strength and Capi
for
Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.

A Coy of public security agents has been organized for some time
in the Questura with a strength of 170 men.

This unit, formed after the liberation and consisting mostly of
ex-partisans, showed a serious lack of discipline, order and administration;
the civilian population knows about this and they criticise them severely and
their comments are not at all flattering. It is difficult to ascertain the
facts and make specific charges because of the fear and tenacity of the pop-
ulation who prefer to suffer these abuses rather than present their case to
the Provincial Authorities. However, the following points are what I could
gather from public opinion.

- (a) These auxiliary agents of the P.S. were taken into service without any
enquiries being made about them, so much so that a young fellow who had a
warrant of arrest issued against him, was enrolled; those with extremist views
were preferred.
- (b) Officers and agents on requests from superiors have not signed the decla-
ration that they do not belong to any political party. The majority of them
are members of the Left Parties, especially of the Communist Party which helps
them and gives them its support.
- (c) The officer who commands this unit, promoted to 1st nobody knows by whom,
is a certain LAVAGNINO a protégé of the Questore. The Questore is an ex-
commissioner attached to the P.S.. Lt LAVAGNINO during the unhappy republic-
an period, was a member of the U.F.I. of ASTI and MILAN. Whilst in GERMANY
for a period of instruction, he is said to have denounced and caused the arrest
of, about 100 persons. Some reports sent to the Questore against LAVAGNINO
are said to have been pigeon-holed by the former.
- (d) Disorder and indiscipline reigns in this unit.
- (e) The service is incompetent. The officers do not control and cannot
control their agents, who left to themselves, do not always act in accordance
with the law and with justice; they have been known to ask for and receive sums

1262

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- (d) Disorder and indiscipline reigns in this unit.
- (e) The service is incompetent. The officers do not control and cannot control their agents, who left to themselves, do not always act in accordance with the law and with justice; they have been known to ask for and receive sums of money and other goods which are later sold on the Black Market. It is known that these agents spend fairly large sums of money on women and gambling.
- (f) Some time ago agents who were on duty in the prison had allowed to escape a detained person who had agreed to transfer hidden arms to another locality. The population suffers these nefarious machinations but in its heart it begs the decisive and quick intervention of the Central Authorities to finish this state of affairs.

(sgd) Giorgio Gervasoni,
Comd 21 Inf Regt.

1073
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subject: Political Demonstrations.

CONFIDENTIAL.

51 British Liaison Unit.

To: HQ 7 AGRA.

G 4/2.

Ref this HQ letter of even number dated 9 Oct 45, herewith copy of a letter received by 22 INF REGT concerning the IMTRA incident, translated and passed to you for info.

Field.
18 Oct 45.
JLS/RT.

file

Ms
for Lieut Colonel,
General Staff.

1201

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

To: - The Ministry of War, ROME
The Committee of National Liberation,
N. ITALY, MILAN.
HQ CREMONA DIV, MILAN.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Groups of sailors of many units of the FLEET stationed at TARANTO; groups of sailors of the Merchant Navy stationed ashore, energetically protest against the anti-democratic behavior of HQ CREMONA Division for the arrest of 14 soldiers who were demonstrating against the intrigues of their officers and were proclaiming their right to vote and the discharging of the older classes,

THEY ASK

The immediate release of the said soldiers and expressing their solidarity towards their brothers in the Army blaming once again, the work of certain officers who not understanding the seriousness of the moment, are sabotaging in all ways the growth of a sane democracy to the prejudice of national interests.

Taranto, 7 Oct 45.

1200
The Healthy Part of the Navy.

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

Subject :- Security Report

CONFIDENTIAL

51 British Liaison Unit

G 4/2

To :- HQ
7 AGRA

Herewith a translation of a poster recently put up in MILAN concerning the INTRA incident. It is regretted that a copy of the original poster is not available.

Field
13 Oct 45
JLS/JB

ms
for Lt Col
General Staff

TEXT

"Everyone is prepared for the liberation of the glorious soldiers of the Cremona Combat Cp".

1259

sgd.

Communist Federation of Milan.

(Written in blue letters on white paper)

SECRET

Subject:- Weekly Security Report

51 British Liaison Unit

G 4/2

To:- HQ 7 ACRA

Herewith Weekly Security Report by ORSADNA GRUPPO, translated and passed to you for info.

Field,
10 Oct 45.
JJS/RS.

gn. Streetfield Capt
for Lieut Colonel,
General Staff.

WEEKLY SECURITY REPORT

1. GENERAL SECURITY SITUATION

The situation remains quiet, with no event of major importance to report. The considerable demands on ITALY recently made by RUSSIA have caused serious anxiety among the population - demands which have been published in the Left Wing Press without comment. The population have very little faith in the police, who seem to indulge in crime themselves, instead of insuring the safety and freedom of the individual.

As the elections draw nearer, the various political parties intensify their propaganda, and it becomes difficult to realise how Italians can expect national unity, in view of the animosity displayed between the various parties. Threats and intimidation are now a commonplace occurrence, and extremist propaganda seems to be nothing but an attempt to camouflage an incipient dictatorship under the guise of liberty and democracy.

2. ATTITUDE OF CIVIL POPULATION AND POLITICAL PROMISES

The majority of the population remains calm. Anxiety is felt over the question of food and fuel for the coming winter. The difficulties encountered at the council of foreign ministers have produced the feeling that all does not augur well for ITALY. Indignation is felt against RUSSIA, but confidence in the AMERICANS has been increased after the treatment of the TRIESTE problem.

3. DEMONSTRATIONS

- (a) 4 Oct - Demonstration at VIMARIA REALE J 0036 by 100 women whose electricity had been cut off. No incident.
- (b) Several political meetings in TURIN. A barbers strike has been reported.
- (c) Col FIORE of ANZ had a good reception when making a farewell speech at CHIVERI.

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(c) Col FIORE of AMG had a good reception when making a farewell speech at CHERI.

(d) 1 Oct at VAREZZA. 2500 workers of the stocking works went on strike in protest against the cancellation of the supplementary bread ration.

(e) Various Communist meetings area GRUGLIATA - VERBANIA - TROIASO.

4. GUARD STAFF

Gd at DUCA d'ACOSTA Barracks ALESSANDRIA increased to one officer and 40 to 61 1400 German Labour Unit.

/Sheet 2.....

5. INFORMATION ON HIDDEN ARMS

Raid carried out 30 Sep area D 7375 successful. VAL POMAZZA area being investigated.

6. GENERAL

Reports have been received of ex-partisans in the VAL VIGANZO attending dances armed.

Some days ago the house of the forestry gd at VARZO D5851 was fired on. On 30 Sep one CAHNETTA of VARZO was arrested for some crimes, and declared his intention to kill the officer of the det at ISELLE D 5151.

Various light signals are seen nearly every night in the mountains round BOGLIANO D 5142.

The following are some of the trouble-makers in the BOGLIANO area:-

PELLANDA Giuseppe son of Giuseppe	-	S. LORENZO
PELLANDA Basilio	"	"
GUARUSO Ercola	"	BACINASCO
CASSETTI Lorenzo	"	PIZZANCO
LORETTI Pietro	"	"
LORETTI Emilio	"	"
PELLANDA Alberto	"	"
CHIO Rodolfo	"	GRANICA
MOSCHI Raimondo	"	BACINASCO
GALLI Pietro	"	BACINASCO
CHIOPI	"	"
PELLANDA Ernesto	"	DORASO
CHILABOTTI Pasquale	"	BACINASCO
FALETTA Emilio	"	"
FRANCHI Francesco	"	S. LORENZO

The following places have been reported on:-

CREMA	-	Discontent among the population because the fascists were not purged. Strong communist feelings.
D 6714	-	Strong communist feelings, it is proposed to take up arms as soon as the Germans go away.
NORLO	-	Dangerous place - strong feelings - meetings - secret gatherings.
D 6411	-	Strong tendencies towards communism. Chiefs inciting revolt.
CESSARA	-	Strong tendencies towards communism. Chiefs inciting revolt.
D 6309	-	Strong tendencies towards communism. Chiefs inciting revolt.
ORTA	-	Strong tendencies towards communism. Chiefs inciting revolt.
D 6505	-	Strong tendencies towards communism. Chiefs inciting revolt.
ARCO	-	Strong tendencies towards communism. Chiefs inciting revolt.
D 6306	-	Strong tendencies towards communism. Chiefs inciting revolt.
ORVIANCO	-	Population not content with the Communists because of the crimes committed by them.
D 5707	-	Little tendency towards communism because of the many crimes committed by communists.
VARALLO	-	Existence of recovered arms dumps and distribution centre for the various villages of VALSUSA. They have not been located so far.
D 5207	-	As above.
BORGOMASIA	-	As above.
J 5397	-	As above.
GRIGLIASCO	-	As above.
J 5593	-	As above.

PELLANDA Giuseppe son of Giuseppe	"	"	S. LORENZO
PELLANDA Basilio	"	"	"
GUARUSO Ercole	"	"	BACINASSO
CASSETTI Lorenzo	"	"	PIZZANO
LORETTI Pietro	"	"	"
LORETTI Emilio	"	"	"
PELLANDA Alberto	"	"	"
CHIO Rodolfo	"	"	GRANIGA
MOSONI Raimondo	"	"	BACINASSO
GALLI Pietro	"	"	BONNINO
OROPPI	"	"	"
PELLANDA Ernesto	"	"	DORASO
CHIAROTTI Pasquale	"	"	BACINASSO
SALETTA Emilio	"	"	"
FRANCHI Francesco	"	"	S. LORENZO

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CHIESA D 6714	- Discontent among the population because the fascists were not purged. Strong communist feelings.
MONTE D 6411	- Strong communist feelings, it is proposed to take up arms as soon as the Italians go away.
CHIESA D 6309	- Dangerous place - strong feelings - meetings - secret gatherings.
ORTA D 6505	- Strong tendencies towards communism. Chiefs inciting revolt.
LETO D 6306	- Strong tendencies towards communism. Chiefs inciting revolt.
CHIVASSO D 5707	- Population not content with the Communists because of the crimes committed by them.
VABALLO D 5407	- Little tendency towards communism because of the many crimes committed by communists.
BORGHESE J 5397	- Existence of recovered arms dumps and distribution centre for the various villages of VALLESIA. They have not been located so far.
GRIGNASCO J 5993	- As above.
MAGGIORA J 6693	- As above
BORGOMANERO J 6994	- Calm.

Persistent rumours say that the spark which will be the beginning of the revolt will be set alight in the VALLESIA. All the partisans of this valley are communists and they are all well armed. They are awaiting orders from NOVARA to come down from the mountains.

In JUL, a Sjt Maj of German SS called ~~HERSE~~ Willy, has been arrested and handed over to the Allies. He was in hiding at the house of a certain ~~SCIOREZZO~~ Pietro, who was also arrested and put in prison.

At DOCCIOLATO there is a strong movement of partisans - all wearing Garibaldi colours (red, with the alpine star). On Sunday 23 Sep there was a meeting of several persons amongst whom the Sindaco of REASCO, Sergio BONFANTINI (a socialist from NOVARA and brother to Dr. Corrado BONFANTINI). The meeting finished at 1600 hrs and some of them left in a dark blue Aprilia No. VO 1302.

On Saturday 6 Oct at 1830 hrs a bomb was discovered in the room of the Prefect of TURIN. It was placed there to terrorise. The bomb was removed and exploded without causing any harm or damage.

(Sgd) Chief of Staff.

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

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

1256

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

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject:- Political Demonstration

51 British Liaison Unit

G 4/2

To:- HQ 7 AGRA

Herewith translation of a letter sent to Comd 22 Regt by the O.L.N. Aziendale Maggichi MILAN, referring to the demonstration which took place at INTRA.

Field.
9 Oct 45.
JLS/RS.

NO
for 1255
Lieut Colonel.
General Staff.

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

C O P Y

G.L.N. AZIENDALE MAGNAGHI
MILAN
Via Valtorta 38

Subject:- Protest

Milan, 28 Sep 45

To the military HQ at INTRA

All the personnel of the S.P.A. Magnaghi of Turzo, whilst complaining about the arrest of 14 servicemen of the Cremona Division stationed at INTRA, guilty of having organised a demonstration of protest against the reactionary intrigues to which the officers of the unit submitted them

PROTEST !

to the effect that they be immediately released.

REMINING !

that they have shouted out the truth and, therefore, it is just that they ask for the epuration of the reactionary officers and fascists, having thus given proof of democracy amidst the army.

This Committee has completely and unanimously agreed on this matter.

COMITATO DI LIBERAZIONE NAZIONALE
Ditta Magnaghi

12

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

Subject:- Political Demonstration

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

51 British Liaison Unit

C 4/2

To:- IN 7 AGRA (2)

C 4/2 ?

Further to my C 4/1 of 1 Oct.

I enclose translations of articles in the "Popolo" of 28 Sep
and "Unita" of 29 Sep.

na

Field,
6 Oct 45.
JES/KS.

[Signature]
Major,
General Staff.

1253

CONFIDENTIAL

ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE 'POPOLO' No. 153 DATED 28/9/45. NORTHERN ITALY
EDITION

A little bit

Yesterday's 'Unita' published news of a demonstration by a party of soldiers stationed at Intra, last Sunday. In spite of the order given to the contrary given by the Right Officer, the soldiers marched through the streets of the city carrying placards thus written "Right to Vote for the Soldiers", "Demobilisation of the Older Age Groups", "Down with the Monarchy", "Liquidation of Reactionary Officers". They proceeded with the demonstration in spite of repeated intervention by Senior Commanders, who, on the following day put 14 of the demonstrators under arrest remanding them to the Military Authority at Alessandria.

This bit of news, which the communist newspaper referred to under the title: "For having claimed their own rights"; was commented upon with indignant surprise at the unheard-of audacity of the commanders who have wanted to take disciplinary measures against soldiers, who, says the 'Unita': "are guilty of having carried out the real truth, of having dared to demand the liquidation of fascist and reactionary officers, of having given proof of democracy within the Army".

Now, that a party of soldiers should have gone to the extreme of carrying out demonstrations incompatible with the special duty of soldiers, is a deplorable affair; but, that a communist comrade should be so ready to justify this act and to praise it as if these responsible for the demonstration has rendered themselves worthy of some proud deed is a fact which we fail to understand. The 'Unita' writes, "For having claimed their own rights" and by this they are satisfied of having said everything. Thus it is established that whoever has or thinks he has some rights is authorized from now onwards to claim them, to demand them in any manner, disregarding everything, including that discipline and conduct in which a soldier is asked to give an example, no matter with whom he is dealing and under what circumstances.

The 'Unita' praises frequently the Russian Army. It is right to do so as it is a great army of a great people. But do not imagine that in the Red Army, things run so smoothly that it can't be found amongst the soldiers, some discontent however small or fallacious it might be. Does the 'Unita' believe, that Russian Officers, these strict Marshalls that we have seen conducting their troops to hundreds of unforgettable victories, allow their soldiers to leave their barracks, and follow their disturbances with a paternal and benevolent air, everytime that the "boys" put it into their head to "demand" something with processions, posters and meetings?

We told you the other day how Marshall Sukov was dressed; but we did not tell you about his face. We now repair the omission, assuring you, on our word, that he has not the face of a man who understands democracy as the 'Unita' understands it on this occasion, where it ends its article attributing to the comrades of the punished soldiers the "desire to know" when, will a bit of democracy also be introduced into the Army.

A little bit of democracy today, a little bit of democracy tomorrow. Anyway a progressive democracy. But in what? In indiscipline and confusion.

title: "For having claimed their own rights," was commented upon with indignance at the unheard-of cruelty of the commanders who have wanted to take disciplinary measures against soldiers, who, says the 'Unita' :- "were guilty of having cried out the real truth, of having dared to demand the expunction of fascist and reactionary officers, of having given proof of democracy within the Army".

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1252

CONFIDENTIAL

ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE 'UNITA' No. 150 DATED 20/2/45. HORMIER ITALY
EDITION

When
There is no choice

"Beware of pitfalls" is what one would like to say to the correspondent of the "Popolo".

In fact it is always dangerous to discuss arguments with which one is not familiar thus risking deceiving oneself.

In connection with the more than legitimate demonstration of the soldiers of the Gruppo "Crimena", the Russian Army and Zukov himself are dragged into the subject.

It is perfectly true that the soldiers in Russia do not put up similar demonstrations which, on the other hand, would certainly not be tolerated.

But Russian soldiers have no minority and as they have the right to the vote they can influence the politics of the Government. They also have their "Soldiers' Clubs" where they can enjoy their free discussions. They hold periodical meetings, attended by their officers, in which all questions touching them are debated. It is from the soldiers themselves, through the Control Commissions existing in all barracks, that continuous suggestions are made to perfect discipline, training, the conditions and organization of the units.

Every unit has its wall newspaper carrying their free criticism. Every Corps is entitled to a printed newspaper edited and published by a committee elected by the soldiers. The youth organization of the "Komsomol", to which 40% to 50% of the soldiers belong, has the power of life and death over the soldiers in the Army.

On the contrary, in Italy, the only democratic institution organized by the Ministry of War, is a Commission, composed of soldiers and NCOs, for the control of rations. This Commission is strongly opposed by some reactionary officers who do everything to irritate the soldiers.

These men are soldiers who for too many years have been restricted into a miserable abnormal life, veiled and oppressed all the time by antidemocratic measures, and to whom it is desired to deny the right of participation in the political life of the country.

We too want a disciplined, strong, democratic army ready to give proof once again in any eventuality, of that valor and heroism that has distinguished our "Gruppi di Combattimento" in the war of liberation by the side of the Allies.

Even we dislike to watch our soldiers walking in processions through the city streets instead of admiring their marching in formation.

But when there is no choice one fights for one's rights with the means at one's disposal.

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

But Russian soldiers have no minority and as they have the right to the vote they can influence the politics of the Government. They also have their "Soldiers' Clubs" where they can enjoy their free discussions. They hold periodical meetings, attended by their officers, in which all questions touching them are debated. It is from the soldiers themselves, through the Control Commissions existing in all Barracks, that continuous suggestions are made to perfect discipline, training, the conditions and organization of the units. Every unit has its wall newspaper carrying their free criticism. Every Corps is entitled to a printed newspaper edited and published by a committee elected by the soldiers. The youth organization of the "Komsomol", to which 40% to 50% of the soldiers belong, has the power of life and death over the soldiers in the Army.

On the contrary, in Italy, the only democratic institution organized by the Ministry of War, is a Commission, composed of soldiers and NCOs, for the control of nations. This Commission is strongly opposed by some reactionary officers who do everything to irritate the soldiers.

These men are soldiers who for too many years have been restricted into a miserable abnormal life, veiled and oppressed all the time by antidemocratic measures, and to whom it is desired to deny the right of participation in the political life of the country.

We too want a disciplined, strong, democratic army ready to give proof once again in any eventuality, of that valor and heroism that has distinguished our "Gruppi di Combattimento" in the war of liberation by the side of the Allies.

Even we dislike to watch our soldiers walking in processions through the city streets instead of admiring their marching in formation.

But when there is no choice one fights for one's rights with the means at one's disposal.

Subject :- Weekly Security Report

51 British Liaison Unit

C 4/2

To :- HQ 7 AGRA

Herewith Weekly Security Report by CREMONA GRUPPO, translated and passed to you for information.

Field

2 Oct 45
JLS/FMA

for Major
General Staff

1. GENERAL SECURITY SITUATION

Largely unchanged. The press, particularly the left, has forecast a demonstration throughout Italy, organised by the Communists and Socialists, to demand the formation of the "Costituente" and provisions for the protection of the working classes. No details have yet been announced. The end of the trade agreement is given as the reason for the demonstration.

The situation on the whole appears quiet, but the flame of discontent is being continually fanned by extremist propaganda, and the majority of the population are anxious as to the result of it. The area of GUERASSO is persistently rumoured to be a base for future revolutionary movements.

2. ATTITUDE OF CIVILIAN POPULATION AND POLITICAL PROMISES

The majority of the population do not seem to be in sympathy with the intense political strife, and look upon the Army as the only hope and guarantee of peace for the nations.

3. DEMONSTRATIONS

(a) ACQUI. A meeting took place on 23 Sep, the occasion of the official constitution of a section of the "Partito Repubblicano". Prof DE ANDRE and Prof BIGNARDI spoke.

(b) INTRA. On 23 Sep the first regional congress of the Communist Party took place. SCHIAPPARELLA denied that subversive politics were being carried out by the Communist Party, as some people alleged.

(c) TURIN. The 7th meeting of the "CAMILLO CAVALIER" Group was held on 27 September at the Istituto Superiore Femminile (School of Maria Pia di Savoia). Dr CREMONA spoke on "Why we are monarchists".

On 28 Sep a meeting of the Liberal Party, "Partito di Milano", took

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On 28 Sep a meeting of the Liberal Party, "Barriera di Milano", took place at 12 Via Alessandria, to discuss the election of the Communal Directing Committee.

(d) PIEMONTE. A meeting of the Liberal Party took place on 27 Sep at the "Teatro Sociale" to discuss present day problems.

(e) DOMODOSSOLA. Ceremony held on 23 Sep to celebrate the anniversary of the Vallée liberation, took place without incident.

(f) The speech of the Minister of War was not well received by the partisans, who felt that insufficient importance was attached to their work.

...../2

- 2 -

4. GUARD STATE.

- (a) Guard at Caserma DUCA d'ACOSTA in ALESSANDRIA increased to 1 officer and 20 to guard German Stores Coy.
- (b) Special grain duties ceased on 26 Sep.
- (c) 11/22 have withdrawn the following frontier posts :-

34 - D 7578, 35 - D 5963, 39 - D 4536, 40 - D 3926, 44 - D 3326.

5. INFORMATION ON ARMS DUMPS

On 28 Sep at GRIGNASCO two small bombs were found at the house of one CACCIANI (of BELLINZONI) when four vehicles were being investigated. Area around GRIGNASCO still suspected of harbouring arms.

6. GENERAL

- (a) The personnel of OMBEDIA at CRODO have succeeded in capturing the murderers of the Swiss Cdt SAMUEL Artur. It appears that a LAUSANNE newspaper has been reporting the investigations into this matter carried out by soldiers of 22 Regt. The murderers were SCHMIT Dente from AGIRO (BACENO) and one PERINO of LA MAUDAL-INA Giuseppe from CADARUSE, six accomplices, one a woman, were arrested at the same time. During the course of these investigations two people, who had beaten up a Swiss Cdt about a month ago, were also arrested.
- (b) In the VAL VIGORZO, two trains were stopped at OMBEDIA by 5/22, and contraband goods were seized.

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

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1250

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

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject :- Security Report.

51 British Liaison Unit

G 4/2

To :- HQ 7 AGRA

Ref this HQ letter G 4/2 dated 22 Sep 45.

A translation of an article which appeared in 'L'Unita' on 27 Sep 45 is forwarded to you for information.

Field
/ Oct 45
JLS/FEM

gn
for Major
General Staff

1240

DEMOCRACY IN THE ARMY

SOLDIERS DEMONSTRATE BUT THE OFFICERS ARREST THEM

INTRA

26 Sep 45

On the 16th Sep, at about 1600 hrs, the soldiers of the CREMONA Division, stationed in our city, organised a demonstration to protest against the reactionary intrigues of which they have been made the subject for some time by the officers of the Division. Forming up within the Bks, with prepared written placards reading

"Right of Vote for the Soldiers" "Demobilization of the older classes" "Down with the Monarchy" "Epuraton of the reactionary Officers", the demonstrating soldiers went out in spite of the veto imposed upon them by the Piquet Officer who at any cost wanted to obstruct the demonstration.

The population applauded the soldiers and the higher command ordered the interruption of the manifestation. But the soldiers carried on forming a mass meeting in which a soldier spoke in defence of the democratic rights of the soldiers of the new Army.

The demonstration broke up without any kind of incident, but next day 14 soldiers were arrested and taken first to the prisons of PALLANZA and later to those of ALESSANDRIA.

The CLN, at the request of the representative of the Communist Party, intervened first with the Italian Command and then the Allied Command to receive explanations with regards to the arrests; but without any success.

At the Italian Command words were spoken of a prosecution "for insubordination to military discipline", the identical kind of speech once adopted during the times when the Army was in the hands of fascist generals and the soldier was compared, in all manifestations of military life, to a "doormat".

The population showed signs of restlessness at the news of the intended prosecution of the 14 soldiers guilty of having cried out the truth, of having dared to demand the epuration of reactionary and fascist officers, and of having given proof of a democracy in the army. The workers' unions threatened to strike. A Commission made up of representatives of the CDL and UDI went to the Colonel whose reply was that they were not to do anything which might aggravate the position of the soldiers. As if it was a question of men guilty of the most serious crime.

The soldiers of the Bn are demoralized on account of the lot of their comrades and are asking themselves when, a little bit, of democracy will be introduced into the army.

1095

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

785020

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12.1

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

Subject:- Security Report

CONFIDENTIAL

51 British Liaison Unit

G 4/2

To:- HQ, 7 AGRA

Herewith report by CREMONA GRUPPO translated and passed to you
for info.

FIELD.
28 Sep 45.
JLS/RS.

40
for Major.
General Staff.

1240

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

Subject:- Intelligence

No. 215/ 'I'

27 Sep 45

A reliable informant reports that at NOVARA, small bands of Communists meet every day at different places. At all these meetings these bands are being mentally prepared for an early armed move. The commune 'Dopolavero' is one of the places where such reunions take place.

At the 'Casa del Mutilato' (whose secretary is the communist ROGNONI) meetings are held by communists every night from 0100 hrs to 0200 hrs; to obtain entrance to the building it is necessary to know the password. Last week the password was 'ROMA'. The countersign is not known. The reunions are held in the cellars.

At ORNAVASSO D6724 a JUGOSLAV subject known as 'PETER' lives with a certain Lidiana MARTANELLI. He claims to be an officer and expresses his communist sentiments stating that soon he will come into the open - in the streets - armed with a SMC.

1240

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

Subject: Security Report

51 British Liaison Unit

To: - NO
7 AGRA

G 1/2

Herewith translation of a handbill which was distributed to some commercial and public agents of CYAN 07575, for your info.

Field
26 Sep 45
JLS/JB

for
for Major,
General Staff.

1244

DECLARATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ALGERIA

(Communist Free Algerian Federation)

With the 30 September the agreement prohibiting employers from dismissing surplus workers will expire and many workers and industrialist employees will be thrown out to starve. After 30th September the "Oases Intergovernmental" will cease to function and nobody will receive more than the most miserable aid, the humiliating charitable pitance of the unemployed. The black misery will knock at your doors, envelop your children and your families. This is the blatant truth which the Government and the Capitalist seeks in vain to hide with their usual promises.

Remember to reject the history of those who have been the cause of the war and its destructions.

UNLESS to agitate the sensation of a fascist that returns to rule or impede the revival of work, everyone is familiar with the situation.

OUR MAIN DUTY

If we are no coward let us arise! Ready for the battle! No unambiguous reaction, we oppose the first pretext, unity, and our strong determination to fight for our right to live. We hasten to state that we do not want disunity, but desire peace, bread, work and a lot of comfort for all. We want to rebuild Italy.

Let a threat be necessary for those who deny us bread. We want this threat to be a real one and not a vain one like their promises.

Let the Government in office make it their duty, as soon as possible to put under sequestration the capital required to give us bread and work! Otherwise the workers united in one continuous decision, five and heroic if necessary, will see to this themselves.

THE PARTY. No authority will be able to dominate our impulse. It is time to end prison. We want the capitalists to be "squeezed" (as Marx said) before they are squeezed by the people.

THE POSITION OF THE POOR HAS REMAINED THE SAME. We want entrance of work, education the women (through the full of their) will be forced by need to working to any justified means.

Capitalist Capitalist! Capitalist Industrialists, enough with peace overtures that prepare for reaction. The responsibility of the present is upon your shoulders!

We therefore LET FOR THE 30th SEPTEMBER

The ruins cry out for labour, and we labourers are prepared to provide it. We want work, or the right to live on, because the food is scarce.

LET US UP BLACK MEN! - the starving wages and unemployment. A portion of the tax on luxury should be spent on salaries and wages. A portion of the tax, useless promises, decisions, but execution.

If we are no longer let us arise! Ready for the battle! To tremendous reaction, we oppose the first perfect unity, and our strong determination to fight for our rights to live. We hasten to state that we do not want disorders, but desire peace, bread, work and a life of comfort for all. We want to rebuild Italy.

Let a threat is necessary for those who deny us bread. We want this threat to be a real one and not a vain one like their promises.

Let the Government in office make it their duty, as soon as possible to put under persecution the capital required to give us bread and work! Otherwise the workers will in one day make a decision, force and heroic if necessary, will see to this themselves.

NO PART. No authority will be able to diminish our impulse. It is time to our promises. We want the capitalists to be "hanged" (as they said) before they are strangled by the people.

THE PARTISAN OF THE POOR MAN KILLED THE KING. We want a nation of work, otherwise the nation (though it is full of workers) will be forced by need to resort to any justified means.

Capitalism Capitalists; Capitalism Industrialists, namely with force overtures that prepare for reaction. The responsibility of the report is upon your shoulders!

We therefore LET US RUN ON JOSEPH BERNARDINI

The rulers are out for labor, and we laborers are prepared to provide it. We want work, or the money to live on, because the food is there.

STANDARD OF BLACK BLOOD - the starving wages and unemployment.

STANDARD OF THE TWO OR THREE THOUSAND on salaries and wages.

STANDARD OF THE TWO, useless promises, conditions, and examinations, plans lower plans etc. - We want work.

WORKERS in the name will and action of parties.

12 September

(copy in the name of the
THE NATIONAL UNION OF
LABORERS)

1243

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

Subject :- Weekly Security Report

CONFIDENTIAL

51 British Liaison Unit

G 4/2

To :- HQ
7 AGRA

Herewith Weekly Security Report by CRIMONA GRUPO. Translated
and passed to you for info.

Field
26 Sep 45
JLS/JB

90
for Major,
General Staff.

1242

Subject :- Weekly Security Report

Ref 202 "I"

23 Sep 45

1. GENERAL SITUATION

The situation in the area TRIN - ACQU - ALESSANDRIA - INVARA, may be considered as calm. No event of any particular importance has occurred. There has been news of three robberies and some thefts in the area of CASALE, and rumours, as yet unconfirmed, of the existence of a gang of bandits operating in the agricultural region between ALESSANDRIA and ACQU.

The situation in the ORSOLA and VAL FORMAZZA areas remains, however, delicate. The activities of political parties, especially of the Communist party, continue to develop in intensity.

To the intimidation of the people by the ostentatious threat of immediate violent actions, is added with equal intensity, a subtle subversive propaganda tending to ruin and break up army discipline and the national army itself.

Another indication of unrest, increasing firmness and tenacity is the lying propaganda, referring to Allied troops as "invaders" and therefore to be considered as enemies.

It is obvious that the preventive or repressive actions of the agents of law and order, are causing much annoyance to those who live outside or on the margin of the law, or attempt to act in an illegal manner. This explains the cold and reserved attitude of a section of the local population towards our soldiers.

2. ATTITUDE OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AND LOCAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

The majority of the population by nature quiet and desirous of peace and order look on, nauseated and disgusted, at the machinations of a gang of criminals who taking advantage of the misfortunes of the Country, attempt to drag it further into fresh misfortunes and ruin.

To this state of mind reflected in the internal situation, one must add the general nervous expectation to hear the conditions of peace that will be defined for this Country in the international field.

There remains a general feeling amongst the population of apprehension lest they be left without military garrisons, at the mercy of local terroristic bands. Every reference to, or actual move of an army unit into areas not usually occupied, creates understandable confusion and preoccupation.

No doubt, the delay of these elections, is causing ferment and nervousness amongst extreme parties.

12-
Amongst the people, the fear of revolts and armed disturbances still exists. News to this effect still continues to be received.

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...../2

3. POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS AND MEETINGS

16 Sep - In AQUI - The lawyer Filippo GUERRIERI of the "Demo-Christian" party held a conference explaining the chief characteristics points of his party's programme.

In ALESSANDRIA - A conference was held at the Teatro Alessandrino by the action party on the subject "The Action Party at the Costituente" - The Communist Party held a conference at "Chiampine" on the subject "Reaction and Reconstruction".

In GRAVELLONA - A commemoration ceremony was held to celebrate the anniversary of a battle in which 26 partisans lost their lives.

In the various demonstrations taking place that day, the Prefect of NOVARA, MOSCATELLI, the Parish Priest, the Chaplain of the MOSCATELLI Bde, the lawyer ALBERTONI, PIPPO COPEO (ex Sindaco of OMEGLIA), all spoke. The speeches of the Prefect and the Parish Priest were calm and sensible. Weak and unimportant those of PIPPO COPEO and the others. MOSCATELLI's speech was significant in that he, whilst recommending to the people to remain within the law, did not forget to make explicit references to the Allies and the forces of the Nation, adding that legality was necessary to avoid that the liberties only lately gained be drowned in blood. The speech of his chaplain was most inopportune and senseless. Amongst other things he even pointed to the Allies as "invaders" and thus, he said, "not to be considered as our friends."

17 Sep -

In the premises of the "Casa del Partigiano" in ALESSANDRIA a conference was held for those belonging to the movement. The advantage of forming an association to look after the rights of the Partisan, that the Govt and the people do not want to recognize, was held.

18 Sep - In ALESSANDRIA -

The printers declared a strike. The strike continues as no agreement has at yet been reached between the interested parties.

20 Sep - In ALESSANDRIA -

All women suspended work from 1600 hrs to 1615 hrs as a sign of protest against the convictions by the Allied Tribunals of those responsible for the SOHO incident.

22 to 24 Sep

In GRAVELLONA - On the occasion of the religious festival of St Mauritius a mustering of a military character is expected. It is not as yet known who is going to take part.

25 Sep -

A demonstration at DOMODOSSOLA is expected. In ALESSANDRIA a conference was held by the Socialist party at the Cinema Modemo. The speaker, a certain BONFI, spoke on "Political Panorama".

30 Sep - At PIEMONTE -

(near GRAVELLONA) - A religious festival will be held.

1240

Chaplain of the MOSCATELLI Bde, the lawyer ALBERTONI, Pippo COPPO (ex Sindaco of ORTONA), all spoke. The speeches of the Prefect and the Parish Priest were calm and sensible. Weak and unimportant those of Pippo COPPO and the others. MOSCATELLI's speech was significant in that he, whilst recommending to the people to remain within the law, did not forget to make explicit references to the Allies and the forces of the Nation, adding that legality was necessary to avoid that the liberties only lately gained be drowned in blood. The speech of his chaplain was most inopportune and senseless. Amongst other things he even pointed to the Allies as "invaders" and thus, he said, "not to be considered as our friends."

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22 to 24 In GRAVELLONA - On the occasion of the religious festival of St Mauritius a mustering of a military character is expected. It is not as yet known who is going to take part.

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30 Sep - At PIEMONTE - (near GRAVELLONA) - A religious festival will be held.

4. GUARDS

No important changes. It was thought advisable to place a guard at the bridge of DOENICO. Traffic posts were stationed in the vicinity of MASERA and near DUCO (Val VIGORZO).

The III/24 Inf Regt has provided guards in TURIN at

(a) DID - 1 WO., 1 NO., 9 ORs

(b) Petrol

Depot - 1 WO., 1 NO., 15 ORs.

...../3

- 3 -

5. INFO ON RAIDS FOR HIDDEN ARMS.

- (a) On 18 Sep a raid was carried out at VIGORLA MONFERRATO J 5847. Arms and am were found. Another raid on the same day at ALTAVILLA MONFERRATO J 5746 produced a negative result.
- (b) On 18 Sep, on info given by the Sindaco of VARALLO the local OCRR raided the area of VAL INGGIA (VARALLO) and found 1000 rifles and some hand grenades.
- (c) On the 19 Sep a raid was carried out at MONTALBANO (vicinity of BOCA - J 6592). Arms and am were found.
- (d) On the 20 Sep. GUTENASCO J 5593 was raided. Arms and am a/m were captured.
- (e) On the 20 Sep a raid in the vicinity of CALLENA (about 5 Km SE of VARALLO) brought in arms and am.
- (f) On the 24 Sep a church in the area of FIANIA D 6457 was raided. The church is only a short distance from the houses of PANCHETTI and BRATTA. Arms and am were found.
- (g) Further info of hidden arms in the area of VALSTENA, W of ORONA, are being investigated.

6. GENERAL

- (a) There are rumours that on 30 Sep, the South African tps would leave their present area. Immediately this happens, certain extremists are planning to start several demonstrations, which, if successful would lead to the occupation of the Valleys and the start of a revolution.
Though these rumours cannot totally be believed, the following should, however, be noted :-
 - Arms were found in VAL FORAZZA which confirm the existence in this area of the so called "nucleus of immediate employment".
 - Traces of fd works at dominating points.
 - Continuous contacts of outside agents with our soldiers.
 - Evidence of interest in our affairs by certain persons.
 - Meanwhile we have intensified our watch in this area.
- (b) On the 18 Sep, an unknown person, profiting by the thick fog and a storm, approaching the flag mast attempted to lower the flag of the detachment of CASCATTA di TOCE. As soon as the unknown noticed our guard, he ran away.
- (c) On the 18 Sep, at DOMODOSSOLA, a certain JERMAN Luigi of JURSILIV nationality was arrested for carrying arms.
- (d) On the 18 Sep the Swiss authorities on the frontier announced the disappearance of one of their policemen; later on info was sent that his corpse had been found, killed by a shot in the back, on the frontier line.
- (e) During the raid carried out in the area of PRATA it was noticed that the walls of the church had loopholes let into them. On the outside, at dominating places in the surrounding area, pits had recently been built. The weapons found had iron tripods fitted for them. These tripods showed recent signs of filing. All weapons

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(e) During the raid carried out in the area of PIZIA it was noticed that the walls of the church had loopholes let into them. On the outside, at dominating places in the surrounding area, pits had recently been built. The weapons found had iron tripods fitted for them. These tripods showed recent signs of filing. All weapons were perfectly maintained.

(f) At VAZZO, the partisan comd, "PRIMO" of OMENA, is believed to have stated that the present army is a republic and that the partisans would see to its elimination.

(h) It has been reported that about 20 days ago, two Allied soldiers were unhandled at the Casa del Popolo at DOMBOSSOLA (or VILLA d'OSOLA). It has not yet been possible to confirm this report.

(i) Two partisans, GIRARDI PRIMO and TURRONI Paolo, both living in INTRA, were arrested by the Swiss guards for contraband activities in cloth. They were taken to the prisons of DOMBOSSOLA.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject:- Demonstrations

51 British Liaison Unit

G 4/2.

To:- HQ. 7 AGRA

Herewith report by CREMONA GRUFFO on the demonstration that was made at INTRA on 16 Sep by soldiers of III/22 Regt.

Field.
22 Sep 45.
JLS/KS.

7/0
for Major.
General Staff.

1238

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject:- Demonstration of a Political Character

On the 16 Sep, at IMIRA, at about 1400 hrs, a party of about 50 soldiers belonging to the 11 Coy, III/2d Inf Regt, leaving their Barracks Rooms, went towards the exit of the Barracks, carrying placards reading thus:-

" Hurrah for the peoples Army - Give us the Constituents - Discharge the older classes - We want to democratise the Army - Hurrah for Liberty, we the sons of the people want to be of the people."

The Piquet Officer (2/Lt Di Lorenzo) closing the gates, ordered the soldiers to return to their barrack rooms and to desist from putting on such a demonstration. The demonstrators, using force against the officer, succeeded in leaving the Barracks and marched towards the centre of the town singing patriotic songs.

At about 100 metres away from the Barrack gates, the En Comd, notified of the incident, met the demonstrators ordering them to return to Barracks and to desist from such irresponsible demonstrations. But neither his persuasive words or his orders had any effect to make them change their minds.

Arriving in the square near the steam boat pier, the soldier PADI made a speech to those present, repeating the usual phrases of "democratizing the Army", discharge for the older classes, right to vote for soldiers, etc". Then, the group of demonstrators, always decreasing in number and surrounded by the jeers of the population, broke up.

It is probable that the organisers may have hoped in a larger support by the soldiers as well as by the civilian population.

At the same time as the demonstration was taking place, handbills were being distributed and stuck on walls, apparently also by some civilians. A copy of the handbill is attached herewith at Annex 'A'.

Before breaking up the party of demonstrators was photographed, probably for propaganda purposes.

First enquiries have ascertained the guilt of 15 soldiers, who have been arrested and charged accordingly.

It is practically certain that the incident was organised and planned outside military circles. The day was well and artfully chosen to coincide with the visit of the War Minister JACOBI, on the occasion of the distribution of medals to the soldiers of the Regiment.

The placards and posters were printed and prepared by civilians.

Enquiries are still proceeding to ^{determine} pin the responsibility. Results will be communicated in due course.

Meanwhile the En Comd has been replaced.

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The placards and posters were printed and prepared by *civilian* ~~propagandists~~.

Enquiries are still proceeding to *determine* ~~pin~~ the responsibilities. Results will be communicated in due course.

Meanwhile the En Comd has been replaced.

CITIZENS : WORKERS : FARMERS :
MANUAL WORKERS AND CLERKS :

The soldiers, the real sons of the people, the people in arms, come out, to-day in the square like they have come out in all the squares of Italy, to defend the right and vitality of democracy. To democratise the Army.

They come out in the square to-day like they have come in the trenches yesterday, they fight shoulder to shoulder with the people and for the people, so that the people can be really free and not oppressed any more by a reactionary caste which is bleeding it.

What do they ask ?

They ask to vote for progressive democracy, for which many have fought, for which they have shed a lot of blood in common with the partisans.

They ask that their ranks be purged of all reactionary officers, the ex petty, fascist chiefs of yesterday, blind tools of reaction (free masonry, monarchist cliques, etc, etc).

They cannot be anything but the internal enemies of the people, and thus of us soldiers, the best sons of the people.

And what else do they ask ?

They ask that the old classes be discharged instead of the young ones (volunteers), by the sacred right of precedence that they have over the others. Also to the above mentioned comrades an assured job which will be given to them as a right and gift which will enable them to return to a normal, civil life.

Comrade soldiers put your hearts on high ! Look towards the East. From the East the sun of liberty has risen.

Long Live Democracy ! Long Live the Army ! Long Live Italy !

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Long Live Democracy ! Long live the Army ! Long Live Italy !

123v

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject:- Security Report

54 British Liaison Unit

G 14/2

To:- HQ, 7 AGRA

The following reports received from CLEMONA CRUTO are passed to you for info.

Field.
21 Sep 45.
JLS/KS.

ms
for Major.
General Staff.

1. FORNARA, the Prefect of NOVARA, has obtained through a certain ZATPELLI of LAURIANI a passport for himself and the Lawyer ROZZIO GIOVANOLA, ostensibly for the purpose of dealing with the Swiss authorities on the subject of using the MILAN - VENICE canal for trade with SWITZERLAND. The s/m FORNARA, while in SWITZERLAND will make contact with two Spanish communists. His instructions are to arrange an illegal entry into ITALY for them.
2. In the area of PALLANZA D 7618, the partisans intend to hold public demonstrations and out the half of girls who have been going about with Allied soldiers, on 30 Sep. The date has been arranged as the 30th, as it is expected that by then the S.A. and Americans will have left the area.

1233

CONFIDENTIAL

54 British Modern Unit

C 4/2

Subject: Weekly Security Report

To: H.Q. 7 AREA.

Herewith Weekly Security Report by CHIEF CHIEF, translated and passed to you for info.

Field
19 Sep 45
/msms
for Major
General Staff1. General Security Situation.

- (a) Situation in AGU - KENYATTA - GAWA - NYAMA - WINDHIA area mainly calm, but armed robberies continue to take place. At 0230 hrs on 9 Sep at AGU, three men armed with ICS robbed 15 persons near the bus.
- (b) In the VAL D'ORANGE area rumors from various sources have hinted at an attack on the garrison of VAL D'ORANGE. D7268 which should have taken place on 8 Sep, but was forestalled by the arrest of these responsible for putting the plan into operation. This opened counter-activity, extremist political propaganda and contact with foreigners across the frontier, all tend to create a continued state of unrest in this area. As a result, the attitude towards our troops is not favorable.

2. Attitude of Civilians and Political Problem.

The majority of the population is in favor of law and order, and anxiety is felt when troops move away from an area because the control of the situation is likely to pass into the hands of trouble-makers.

A certain anxiety was caused by the first news about the conditions to be imposed on ITALY by the Peace Treaty.

3. Incidents.

- (a) Political situation at AGU 0 5200 on Sep 2. 10 incidents.
- (b) At GAWA 36432 on 11 Sep, two strikes took place, one of cement workers, the other of rice-outlets, for an increase of salary. Work suspended 24 hrs. No incidents.
- (c) At KENYATTA 2000 0639 version of about 2000 persons was held to commemorate the battles in the VAL D'ORANGE. After the ceremony various speeches were made by members of the Communist Party. There was no disorder.

4. Grand State.

No change.

123

(a) Situation in AQUI - L'ESPRESSO - CASALE - VERONA - VERONA area mainly calm, but armed robbery continues to take place. At 0230 hrs on 9 Sep at AQUI, three men armed with IEDs robbed 15 farmers near the Rural.

(b) In the VAL D'AGNEA area rumors from various sources have led to an attack on the position of VAL PAVIA D7269 which should have been taken place on 8 Sep, but was forestalled by the arrest of those responsible for putting the plan into operation. Wide-spread communist activity, circulating political propaganda and contact with foreigners across the frontier, all tend to create a confused state of unrest in this area. As a result, the attitude towards our troops is not favorable.

2. Attitude of Civilians and Political Problems.

The majority of the population is in favor of law and order, and anxiety is felt when troops move away from an area because the control of the situation is likely to pass into the hands of trouble-makers.

A certain anxiety was caused by the first news about the conditions to be imposed on ITALY by the Peace Treaty.

3. DISSENTING OPINIONS.

(a) Political situation at AQUI 0 6200 on Sep 7. No incidents.

(b) At CASALE 36432 on 11 Sep, two soldiers took place, one of cement workers, the other of wine-makers, for an increase of salary. Work suspended 24 hrs. No incidents.

(c) At CHAVILLER. TON 56999 number of about 2000 partisans was held to commemorate the battle in the VAL TESSIN. After the ceremony various speeches were made by members of the Communist Party. There was no disorder.

4. General State.

No change.

123*

5. Hidden Arms Deposits

Incidents are being made at VAL VIGORIO D7442, VAL SANTA D6317, and SIZZANO 36600.

6. Misc.

(a) The following is reported to have been overheard at CHAVILLER. "We still need arms, and with a few more people on our side, we could rule all Northern Italy."

(b) A certain Communist of CHAVILLER is reported to have said "We need the Revolution to make the Partisans respected".

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

Subject :- Security Report.

CONFIDENTIAL.

51 British Liaison Unit

To :- HQ
7 ACRA

G 4/2

1. Ref this HQ G4/2 of 5 Sep 45 para 1(c), herewith further report by GIUNGHIA GRUPPO. Following the incident which took place between GATTINARA J6285 and ROMAGNANO J6387, the CO of III/21 Regt called a meeting of the mayors and the presidents of the CIN of the two towns. He was given assurances concerning the future behaviour of civilians, and a formal apology for incidents brought about by irresponsible persons.

2. The main points of the interview are given in the attached report by CO III/21.

Field
8 Sep 45
JLS/JB

ms
for Lieut Col,
General Staff.

1230

Statements made by the President of the CLN of RIMACINNO Sesia.

In connection with the incidents occurring at MANTUARA - RIMACINNO Sesia I have sent for the mayors, and the Presidents of the CLN of both towns.

The President of the CLN of RIMACINNO is an interesting character and his statements even more so.

He had been political commissar of the area during the clandestine period and as such he has offered me his assistance to clean the area of the undesirable individuals who have turned bandits.

He excluded the possibility that the incidents were caused by people from the two towns.

To my hypothetical suggestions that the incidents were meant to be in retaliation for the seizure of arms in LOMBOLO and C. del BOCCO and for the arrest of the three partisans from LOMBOLO, he had nothing to say.

Proceeding with the discussion, he excluded the possibility that the arms in the possession of the partisans could be seized. These arms are in places and in the hands of those he knows well.

Those that are armed are instead outlaws and as such should be hunted down.

To my querying the existence of these arms deposits, when proclamations issued made these deposits illegal, he answered that he did not deem it opportune to hand these arms while the Allies were still in Italy as "it was necessary to have a reserve".

He admitted candidly that the Democrats, liberals and those of the Partito d' Azione also had arms but added that these arms were better hidden in as much as they were in the hands of people who were not in the habit of boasting of the fact, such as the communists do.

The President of the CLN of RIMACINNO, whose number I do not remember is also a member of the "Camera del Lavoro" of SEVARA.

(sgd) Lt Col Leonardo Genovese.
CO III/21.

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The President of the CIN of RUMAGNANO, whose number I do not remember is also a member of the "Camera del Lavoro" of NOVARA.

(sgd) Lt Col Leonardo Genovese.
CO III/21.

1234

CONFIDENTIAL
 21 British Legion Unit

C 4/2

Subject: Weekly Security Report

To: HQ 7 AREA

COIL, 2 District

Herewith Weekly Security Report from CATHERINA (H280), translated and passed to you for info.

Prods.
 5 Sep 45.
 JAW/RS.

for
 for Ident Colonel,
 General Staff.

1. GENERAL SECURITY SITUATION

(a) AREA area 06280

situation on the whole quiet. There is still a feeling of dissatisfaction about the economic situation (distribution of ration irregular, black market, etc), the political party strife, and the continual thefts and burglary. As regards the latter the situation has been somewhat improved by the capture of elements of the PIRATA MARINERO and by the execution of their leaders.

The dimension between PIRATA and PIRATA which has already caused considerable trouble, and which necessitated the intervention of our troops, has been temporarily alleviated by the creation of the command of PIRATA, half way between the two villages. The responsibility for local government has been shared between the two villages.

(b) AREA area 06422

situation quiet. The economic situation still provides grounds for discontent. Propaganda from the various political parties is as ever, active and insidious.

(c) AREA area 08065

The situation, while it is quite quiet in the area itself, can be summed up better by viewing the condition of VANDIA and the surrounding area. Such places as this, already centres of partisan activity, are always in a state of ferment caused by partisans of the extremist type, who all adapt themselves to a return to normal. This is the area where the recent seizures of arms have been made.

In the evening of the 29th, as the road between CATHERINA 06295 and PIRATA 06387, civilians armed with a US stopped and threatened two soldiers of the IIR/24. The same evening some unknown persons killed 40

(a) AGUILA area 06280

Situation on the whole quiet. There is still a feeling of dissatisfaction about the economic situation (distribution of ration irregular, black market, etc.), the political party strife, and the continual thefts and banditry. As regards the latter the situation has been somewhat improved by the capture of elements of the PRIMA HERMANA and by the execution of their leaders.

The discussion between PRIMA and PRIO which has already caused considerable trouble, and which necessitated the intervention of our troops, has been temporarily alleviated by the creation of the Comando de Valles de Toluca, half way between the two villages. The responsibility for local government has been shared between the two villages.

(b) ALPESHERA 7505 - CERRIL area 7642a

Situation quiet. The economic question still provides grounds for discontent. Propaganda from the various political parties is as ever, active and insidious.

(c) MEVABA area 78065

The situation, while it is quite quiet in the town itself, can be stirred up better by viewing the condition of VERGATA and the surrounding area. Such places as this, already centres of partisan activity, are always in a state of ferment caused by partisans of the extremist type, who all adapt themselves to a return to normal. This is the area where the recent seizures of arms have been made.

In the evening of the 29th, on the road between CERRIL 76295 and ALPESHERA 76387, civilians armed with a 10 stopped and threatened two soldiers of the MEVABA. The same evening some unknown persons (200) 46 men of the same in from an unidentified car. It is presumed that this is a form of retaliation against the execution of arms which has been carried out. These incidents have not yet been fully investigated.

(d) VERGATA area 78228

Situation quiet. On the evening of 29th Aug, a civilian tried to interrogate a soldier of MEVABA on our organization, dispositions and strength in the area. Since this occurrence it has been suggested that in future any person trying to obtain information in this manner shall be arrested and handed over to the CC. RR.

/on the 1st.....

05019

On the 1st of Sep at HAWA, during a service held in memory of local partisans who were shot by the Nazi-Fascists, a certain REINHOLD WOODS was recognized as having been a member of the Redgate Home. He was beaten and thrown in the lake. After being rescued by the O.O.B., he was taken to their barracks and later escorted to ALBIA. 7800

40 men and 4 couriers from III/22 intervened, and order was soon restored. The local population commented most favorably on the prompt intervention of our men.

(c) VAL D'OSSIA

The situation is always of a rather troublesome nature and is being watched carefully. It is influenced by extremist partisan activity, and continued dealing, both of which are incompatible with law and order. So there is a feeling of hostility towards our troops. There is much local political intrigue.

On the evening of 30 Aug near REINHOLD WOODS 16426 came armed bandits stopped and robbed a civilian car. The car was abandoned and the driver taken away to GALLARATE 19587, near REINHOLD, and given a receipt signed by the Black Hawks. A nightly patrol along Route 53 in this area was requested by AL.

On the afternoon of 2 Sep there was an incident at CHERO 16352 between civilians and men of III/22. Some casualties were caused, and various arrests made. Detailed report is being made.

2. ATTITUDE OF CIVILIAN & POLITICAL POPULATION

(a) The attitude of the majority of the population is, in general, favorable to our troops, who represent order and security. One naturally discounts the more original types who belong to the 'Left' parties, and all those (partisans, bandits, etc) who seek to profit by unresisted conditions. This is very pronounced in VAL D'OSSIA, and neighboring. For example, at a meeting of the Communist Party at VAL D'OSSIA on the evening of 26th Aug, it appears to have been declared that the maintain pass, (perhaps that of the REINHOLD) should return to the charge of the partisans.

(b) As regards local political problems, these are always marked by violence and quarrels between the various parties. The difficulty of solving these problems is therefore aggravated.

In general, the majority of the population abstain from direct participation in political life, but, either through fear or wishing for a quiet life, submit to the active propaganda which every party produces.

3. REINHOLD WOODS

(a) On the 30th Aug in ALBIA 17505, there was a meeting at the Railway Club of members of the Communist Party. They approved a motion calling for a republic.

(b) On the 31st Aug at CHERO 09133, following a dispute about the selling price of salt fired by the Prefect of REINHOLD, there was a meeting between the CLP and the Communist. All three persons involved in their resignation as a protest: the town as a result has no administration. At the same time the employees of the council went on strike.

taken away to GALLAGHER 49587, near ELIAS, and given a receipt signed by "The Black Hand". A nightly patrol along Route 33 in this area was requested by HQ.

On the afternoon of 2 Sep there was an incident at CHICO 06352 between civilians and men of 11/22. Some examinations were carried out, and various arrests made. Detailed report is being made.

2. ATTITUDE OF CIVILIANS & POLITICAL PARTIES

(a) The attitude of the majority of the population is, in general, favorable to our troops, who represent order and security. (We usually discount the more radical types who belong to the "left" parties, and all those (partisans, bandits, etc) who seek to profit by unsettled conditions. This is very pronounced in VALPARAISO, VAL D'AGUIA and neighboring areas. For example, at a meeting of the Communist Party at VALPARAISO 02551 on the evening of 26th Aug, it appears to have been decided that the main aim was, (perhaps that of the COMRADES) should return to the change of the partisans.

(b) As regards local political problems, there are always marked by violence and quarrels between the various parties. The difficulty of solving these problems is therefore aggravated.

In general, the majority of the population abstain from direct participation in political life, but, either through fear or wishing for a quiet life, submit to the active propaganda which every party produces.

3. DETERMINATIONS

(a) On the 30th Aug in ALMAGUERIA 47503, there was a meeting at the Railway Club of members of the Communist Party. They approved a motion calling for a republic.

(b) On the 31st Aug at CHICO 09133, following a dispute about the selling price of salt fixed by the Prefect of IVRA, there was a meeting between the CGP and the Town Council. All those present backed in their resignation as a protest the town as a result has no administration. At the same time the employees of the council went on strike. 1230

4. CHICO 02421. - No change.

5. VALPARAISO 01 02402 and CHICO 02402

Inspection continues in the area (ALMAGUERIA 46185 - BELICHER 46387 - BELICHERIA 45597 - VALPARAISO 46994).

6. GENERAL. - None.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject :- German Sjt-Maj SCHAFER, Karl, and Sig GROER, Antonio

To :-
HQ
7 AGRA

54 British Liaison Unit

GL/2

The following report from Oxmouth Gp is forwarded for information

- 1 On 18 Aug, a German Sjt Major SCHAFER, Karl, was arrested by 1/22 Inf Regt, billeted in VARALLO SEDIA D 5403. It was later found out that this Sjt Major had been living with Sig GROER, Antonio, residing in 33 VIA ROMA of the same town. SCHAFER was handed over to the Military Police of the 6 S A Arm Div and this fact was later reported to the HLI.
- 2 Following orders received from 54 HLI Sig GROER was arrested and handed over to the CC ER, and charged with having attempted to hide a German soldier (in contravention of AMG Proclamation No 1 Art 4 Sec 9).
- 3 GROER was handed over to the CC ER of VARALLO SEDIA on the 14 Aug. Following his interrogation and inquiries made by the CC ER, the following facts have come to light :

- (a) GROER is an Italian citizen of Swiss origin, a person of high esteem, and is greatly respected by his fellow citizens because he has helped them in their troubles
- (b) GROER admitted SCHAFER into his house on 3 May. SCHAFER comes from ALSACE, and had deserted on 22 April to join the Partisans. SCHAFER's wife gave shelter to GROER's married daughter and niece in STOCANDA, when their house was bombed
- (c) GROER wrote to the Committee of Liberation of VARALLO on 4 May and to the Sindaco of NOVARA, Sig MASCARELLI, on 14 May, informing them that he had admitted SCHAFER to his house. The CC ER of VARALLO have copies of these letters
- 4 The CC ER of VARALLO found that GROER was not guilty and he was released.

Field
21 Aug 45
JES/RGP

Blair
Lieut Colonel
General Staff

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- 4 The CC ER of VARALLO found that GROER was not guilty and he was released.

Field
21 Aug 45
JES/EST

Walter May
Lieut Colonel
General Staff

1220

Subject :- Weekly Security Report

CONFIDENTIAL

1:-

51 British Liaison Unit

6 S A Arm'd Div

64/2

Weekly Security Report by Gruppo CREMONA is forwarded.

At 0340 hrs

1 9 Aug - A hand grenade was thrown at the bandstand during a dance held in the Hotel Italia, ACQUI. No damage and no casualties. This follows a similar incident occurring in the same place on the 6th. It is presumed that these incidents took place as a protest against dancing as a card bearing the inscription "No Dancing but Bread" was found attached to a telegraph pole in the vicinity of the Hotel on the 10th Aug.

2 10 Aug - In the area North of INTRA (in the locality of ARIZZANO) a party of about 20 armed men was seen. The A M G was informed by the C I N.

3 10 Aug - Civil servants and public utilities companies' employees started a strike in ALESSANDRIA. In the afternoon of the 11th, following agreements between strikers and the authorities, the strikers returned to their work. Mr FERRARI Ercole, secretary of the Chamber of Works, spoke to representatives of the strikers at 11 a m of the same day in his office.

4 The re-instatement to the office of Prefect of the Hon. LIVIO PISANO was favourably received by the people of ALESSANDRIA.

5 11th Aug - In the evening the Chief of Staff, Col FEDERZANI, held a private reception in his own quarters at which the G 1 and officers of 51 BLU as also some officers of the Gruppo with their families were present. At about 2330 hrs a hand grenade was thrown by unknown persons against the balcony windows of the room wherein the reception was taking place. One lady was slightly injured in the leg.
12th Aug - The Chief of the BLU called the Prefect, the Quaestor and the Vice President of the C I N of ALESSANDRIA and warned them that he would hold them personally responsible for any other attempt on the security of soldiers and officers of the Italian or Allied Armies.

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12th Aug - The Chief of the BLU called the Prefect, the Quasstor and the Vice President of the C L N of ALESSANDRIA and warned them that he would hold them personally responsible for any other attempt on the security of soldiers and officers of the Italian or Allied Armies.
- 6 11th Aug - Information was received confidentially by the Gruppo that (1) Automatic weapons were being manufactured during the night in the cellars of a bar used as "Circolo degli Spinacci," in Corso Risorgimento (on the road to VIGNALE about 1 kilometre away from NOVARA). (2) Weapons were hidden in the "Magazzini Generali Belloni" - Regione BOSCHETTO - NOVARA.

.../see over -

6 (cont) This information was communicated the same day by the Chief of the BLU to the A M G at NOVARA for his action, offering the assistance, if required, of the 21st Inf Regt "Cremona," stationed in NOVARA.

Field
12 Aug 45
HAS/RGT

del
Lieut Colonel
General Staff

1128