1314

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

JCC 10000|120|6264 (10 & 2 folders)

G/54 (52 BLU)

INTELLIGENCE BULLETINS

Feb. 25, 1945 - NOV. 16, 1945

1315

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

(52 BLU) INTELLIGENCE BULLETINS

1290
1462

1/2

Feb. 25, 1945 - NOV. 16, 1945

SECRET

ASI 4555

Copy Number 27

2 DISTRICT

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 62

16 November 1945

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SUMMARY WILL ON NO ACCOUNT BE COMMUNICATED TO ANYONE NOT HOLDING AN OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE BRITISH OR ALLIED FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT

1462

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
GENERAL STAFF INTELLIGENCE
G 2

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

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 32

26 October 1945

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SUMMARY WILL IN NO INSTANCE BE COMMUNICATED TO ANYONE NOT HOLDING AN OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE SERVICES OF AMERICA [illegible] NATIONS. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE HEADQUARTERS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS [illegible] 2 DIRECTOR

1462

HEADQUARTERS 2 DIRECTOR
GENERAL STAFF INTELLIGENCE
G-2

SECRET

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

1318

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

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS X DISTRICT
Central Intelligence
Unit

XSI 2353

16 Nov 1945

X WEEKLY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

WEEK 42

1 POLITICAL

(a) General

The political scene in the North continues, for the time being at least, to reflect events elsewhere. The government crisis threatened in Rome appears to have been settled. The possibility of such a crisis was derived from the resignation of one section of the Liberal Party that the party should break away from the CLN. There is little doubt that this proposal was connected with the continuing rumours of a government outside the CLN, possibly with NITTI and DeGASPERI.

After obviously heated arguments the Liberals have apparently decided to continue in the present government. Whatever Central and Southern Italy may think, the attitude in the North is still that they will only accept a government representing the Resistance Movement, that the CLN still has this function and that there are no prominent political figures in or representing the North who are outside the CLN Parties.

Whatever opinions may be on the usefulness of local CLNs it is fair to say that most people in the North are willing or resigned to see the present Ministry continue until the Constituente. There is as yet no sign of potential popular support for the alternative coalition of Uomo Qualunque - Monarchist - Liberals and certain people without party connections, even under a respected head such as NITTI.

(b) Addresses by PARRI and LA MALFA, the Ministers of Transport

1461

A number of addresses were given by Premier PARRI and Minister of Transport, La MALFA, (Action Party), in the course of a tour of the North.

PARRI during his visits to UDINE, PORDENONE and VENICE made speeches in which he said his Government was well aware of its responsibilities in the Venezia Giulia question and deplored the mass deportations and other treatment to many [illegible]

(a) General

The political scene in the north continues, for the time being at least, to reflect events elsewhere. The government crisis [illegible] to have been settled. The possibility of such a crisis was derived from the split which [illegible] section of the Liberal Party: [illegible] the party should break away from the CLN. There is little doubt that this proposal was connected with the continuing rumours of a government outside the CLN, possibly with [illegible] and CASATI.

After obviously united requests the Liberals have apparently decided to continue in the present government. Whatever Central and Southern Italy may think, the attitude in the North is still that they will only accept a government representing the resistance movement, that the CLN still has wide function and that there are no prominent political figures in or representing the North who are outside the CLN parties.

Whatever [illegible] may be on the declaration of local CLNs it is fair to say that most people in the North are willing to reserve to [illegible] the present [illegible] continue until the cost-wards. There is as yet no sign of potential opposition on part of the alternative coalition of Uomo Qualunque - Democratici - Liberals and certain people without party connections, even under a progressive head such as PARRI.

(b) Addresses by Prof I am in Milan, the Minister of Armament

1461

A number of addresses were given by Signor Parri and Minister of Armament, Mr Mauro, (Action Party), in the course of a tour of the North.

Parri during his visits to [illegible] and VENICE made promises in which he said the government was well aware of its responsibilities in the Venezia Giulia question and explained the measures [illegible] and other treatment as many of the men countrymen have had to endure over this problem. He urged better relations with the Yugoslav people and justice for the population of [illegible] and the Istrian coastland. On the subject of economic matters he emphasised the need for cohesion in administration, control as well as local, and elimination of political interference in the material and political reconstruction of the country. In all also included a few words of praise for what the Allies had already done for Italy and their continued efforts to quicken her rehabilitation.

...../2

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

I 3 2 0

In Milan on 12 Nov. Mr. I addressed the Prefects of North Italy on the present political and economic state of the country. Mr. I opened his address with the hope that in the near future the Province of the North would be administered by the Italian Government and thus end the present state of semi-anarchy. He talked at length on the political and administrative objectives and said that he hoped the next election where men would be the choice of the people of Italy would be held in December. He concluded with his views on other problems of a political and public order nature, which, he intimated, were not very satisfactory.

Mr. Parri, in his speech in Milan on 14 Nov said that Italy's powers of reconstruction revival must not be doubted. He commended the part played by the CLN in acquiring for Italy her hard-won liberty. He called for unity to meet the political crisis, and understanding of the difficulties the Government has constantly to face. Dealing with foreign relations he said Italy has to remain outside any coalition of the East or West.

2. ECONOMIC

ACTION Meeting for Uniform Wages

There have been no notable developments in connection with last week's one-hour sit-down strike, which was designed to bring about an early meeting between the Government, industrial employers and workers from the North to settle the uniform wages controversy. The strike itself passed off without incident, although certain sections of the press labboured to prove its merits, the event aroused little interest amongst the general public.

As previously reported, the talks were at long last finally planned to be resumed in ROME early this week and 14 Nov was fixed as the opening date but subsequently put off to the following day.

The "trade union mission" started out on its Scandinavian journey over the week-end. Spokesmen of the principal CGIL, DC, UIL, PCI and Trade Unions are reported to have accompanied the representatives of the Industrialists' Union and of the CLN North Italy. Though some of the Labour representatives expressed optimism on the outcome of the discussions and announced that they expected the new agreement would be signed without much further delay, the industrialists started out from Milan with very mixed feelings. This may have been one of the reasons for CLN North Italy representatives' [illegible]

1460

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

intimated, were not very artful story.

In fact, in his opinion in [illegible] it is very much that Lodge's powers of [illegible] were not to be [illegible]. He commended the part played by the CIO in [illegible] for [illegible] liberty. He called for unity around the principal parties, and understanding of the difficulties the Government has constantly to face. Dealing with foreign relations he said it [illegible] outside any question of the East or West.

2 ECONOMIC

UNRRA Meeting for Uniform Wages

[illegible] to last week's one-hour sit-down strike, which was [illegible] but a brief but early meeting between the Government, industrial employers and workers from the North to settle the uniform wages controversy. [illegible] it is proposed will almost immediately, though certain aspects of the matter laboured to prove the points, the recent unrest [illegible] amongst the general public.

As previously reported, the talks were [illegible] long last finally planned to be resumed in [illegible] early this week and it was fixed as the opening date but subsequently put off to the following day.

1460

The "Anglo-Soviet Group" started out on its Southwards journey over the week-end. Spokesmen of the principal [illegible] TUC, LABOUR and Trade Unions are reported to have arranged for the representatives of the Industrialists' [illegible] to the North Italy. Though some of the Labour representatives expressed optimism on the outcome of the discussions and [illegible] they expected the new agreement would be signed [illegible] Labour, the Industrialists entered [illegible] with very mixed feelings. This may have been one of the [illegible] North Italy representatives' warning that should the meeting end in a failure there would be repercussions throughout the country. The employers are fully impressed that the repercussions would be "disquiet amongst the workers" and would be likely to open up a series of "private".

It is understood that [illegible] wages, series of contributions to Health and Unemployment Insurance and Workers Compensation will be discussed and fixed.

...../3

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

Professor [illegible] Visit

Professor [illegible] and Professor [illegible], both in Milan, addressed the Professors of North Italy on [illegible] today [illegible] on the present economic and food situation. Both lectures dealt mainly with the difficulties and gravity of the present crisis. Italy and the Professors were strongly reminded of their [illegible] responsibilities.

Dr. [illegible], before his address in Milan, had visited the UNRRA [illegible] where he had a [illegible] to meet officials. [illegible] part of his remarks on the food situation followed the line that Italy has still to depend upon Allied help for part of the things she needed, to balance the diet of her population. In Milan, after having addressed the Professors on medical problems, he [illegible] attention to the deplorable coal situation and the resistance encountered from [illegible].

Dr. [illegible], UNRRA, very clearly expounded the gravity of the food situation. In short, he demonstrated to his audience how dependent Italy has become, and might well [illegible] a number of the staple foods that make the diet of the Italian half of the new Year were not bright under present world conditions.

After UNRRA's reminder of the great need of discipline in the handling and distribution of all food supplies, Dr. [illegible] invited each Professor to report on the latest position in each of their provinces, with particular reference to their [illegible] problems.

Flight of FIAT Technicians

Education in Turin has been carried [illegible] of people out of proportion to other large centres in the North. It is well known that the FIAT works have a tradition of independence which has its roots in Piedmontese history and, in the new Republic, is unlikely to be difficult to handle than the well-organised [illegible] industrial centres in the North. Undoubtedly a minority of the characteristic of what is generally regarded as the superior type of Italian is [illegible] was given by [illegible] when even in the height of his success he dared only rarely visit the city, and very evidently shrank from visiting the FIAT Works.

The behaviour of the factory CLN's since the liberation has created a situation which both in Italian Government and Allied circles has become to be regarded untenable. According to the "Associazione Fra Industriali" approximately 4000 technicians have been temporarily suspended as they are considered "undesirables". This figure represents 70% of the total number of technicians employed by industry in TURIN. This association recently called a meeting of these "victims", the object being to frame a policy for their defence which, if necessary, they intend to put before the Labour Court, bringing charges against the individual firms and against the members of the factory CLN's.

During his very recent visit to TURIN, TOGLIATTI took a lively interest in the matter, and this action on the part of the Communist leader has engendered [illegible]

1439

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

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

1323

The Food Minister, [illegible], very [illegible] expounded the gravity of the food situation. In [illegible], he [illegible] to his audience how dependent Italy [illegible] the staple [illegible] that the [illegible] half of the new year [illegible] bright under present world conditions.

After [illegible]'s [illegible] of the [illegible] in the handling and distribution of [illegible] food [illegible] each [illegible] to report on the [illegible] position in each of their provinces, with particular reference to their [illegible] problems.

Flight of TURIN Technicians

[illegible] in TURIN has been [illegible] out of proportion to other large centres in the North. It is well known that the TURIN [illegible] of independence which has its roots in Piedmontese history [illegible], being [illegible] he is usually [illegible] difficult to handle than his [illegible] in other industrial centres in the North. [illegible] of this characteristic of what is [illegible] was given by [illegible] when [illegible] the height of his success he dared only once to visit the city, and very [illegible] from visiting the FIAT Works.

The behaviour of the factory CLN's since the liberation has created a situation which both in Italian Government and [illegible] circles has become to be regarded untenable. According to the "Associazione Piatr[illegible] TORINO" approximately [illegible] technicians have been temporarily suspended as they are considered "undesirables". This figure represents 70% of the total number of technicians employed by industry in TURIN. This Association recently called a meeting of these "victims", the object being to [illegible] a policy for their defence which, if necessary, they intend to put before the Labour Court, bringing charges against the individual [illegible] and against the members of the factory CLN's.

1459

During his very recent visit to TURIN, TOGLIATTI took a lively interest in the matter, and this action on the part of the Communist leader has [illegible] hopes of a satisfactory solution.

......../4

The Industrial Situation: a Diagnosis

Below is reproduced a free translation of a leading article by Professor Roberto TREMELLONI published in the MILAN socialist daily "AVANTI" of Sunday 11 November. Professor TREMELLONI, who is president of the "CIAI" (Comitato Industriale alc'Italia) and a member of the Socialist Party, is a well-known economist. His diagnosis of the industrial situation in Italy is of considerable interest as it accords in general with our own appreciation of the position.

"A calm and objective examination of the economic situation as it particularly affects industry brings to light a few factors that are favourable and many that are unfavourable. Amongst the favourable ones are:

a. A keen desire on the part of the whole country to raise itself from the plight into which the war has thrown it, and the unity of purpose, expressed by all the parties, on the need for a policy favourable to production;

b. the fact that for the most part industrial plant is undamaged, in contrast with what exists in Europe which have been seriously hit and where productive capacity has been greatly impaired;

c. the well-to-nigh lack of a rapid improvement in the shipping situation, due to an abundance of merchant ships that should shortly become available, which will bring about a drastic drop in the rising curve of freight rates;

d. the exceptionally high demand for manufactured products due to the war, especially from European markets which are showing an increasingly urgent need of consumer goods.

To the above, two other factors can be added; the first psychological, namely a new faith in the unlimited assistance which science can give man in resolving matters; and secondly, the actual encouragement of "first aid" administered by the Allies in the form of supplies of raw materials and fuel.

There are numerous, however, are the unfavourable factors, some of which are inherent in the very structure of Italian economy and have their roots in its historical origins; whilst others are a consequence of present circumstances. Amongst the latter may be quoted as primary:

a. continuation of inflationary habits, belief in miracles, and impatience at the slowness of the process of readjustment;

b. difficulty of finding a harmonious solution to the problem of relations between the State and the economic world, between those who want a realistic autonomy and an economy based on the province, and those who want everything centralised under State control;

c. persistence of the widespread habit of expecting the

1457

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

itself from the pre[illegible] by all the parties, on the
the unity of purpose, expressed by all the parties, on the
need for a policy for which to provide;

b. the fact that for the most part industrial plants in underused, in contrast with vast areas of Europe which have been seriously hit and whose productive capacity has been greatly impaired;

c. the well-to-nigh lack of a merchant marine in the early post-war situation, due to an abundance of merchant ships that should shortly become available, which will make [illegible] a drastic drop in the trading costs of freight rates;

d. the exceptionally [illegible] demand for manufactured products due to the war, particularly in European countries which are endeavoring to increasingly import most of the consumer goods.

To the above, two other factors can be added; the first presently lacks, namely a new faith in the unlimited possibilities which science can give man in developing nations; and secondly, the natural encouragement of "first aid" available not only through the United Nations but also in the form of supplies of raw materials and fuel.

There are numerous, however, the unfavourable factors, some of which are inherent in the very structure of Italian economy and have their roots in its last rural origins; whilst others are a consequence of present circumstances. Amongst the latter may be quoted at random:

a. continuation of inflationary habits, belief in miracles, and impatience at the slowness of the process of readjustment;

b. difficulty of finding a harmonious solution to the problem of relations between the State and the economic world, between those who want complete autonomy and an economy based on the [illegible] and those who want everything centralised under State control;

c. persistence of the widespread habit of evading and Government to be overtaxing, showing at the same time the greatest intolerance at any measure of control;

d. general lack of advanced economic outlook, of a far-sighted and inquiring mentality; this phenomenon can be revealed by the difficulty in getting long-term planning due to the paucity of information on the real economic conditions of the country and of the world;

.....//

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

4. tendency to avoid any radical change in the structure of Italian industry and the importance of Italian tending to maintain situations created during the "autarchic" period.

The absolute need of a more liberal international structure, which alone can open the road to new opportunities of specialization, makes us feel all the more the grievous effects of the rigidity which Italian economy acquired during "autarchic" era the way period. This rigidity in the [illegible] operating of Italian industrial economy. The wounds [illegible] in relation to the limited amount of capital available is also accentuated by this principal defect. And [illegible] the marked changing character of production demands, both as to trade quality and quantity, encountered by a public which can change its tastes, its choice possibilities, even a speculation [illegible] which is generally soon vanished by inflation.

The predetermination of the [illegible] classes, as a result of the world and severe [illegible] of the currency, is bringing about a fundamental change in demand. Most immediate is the need for vital machinery, new, cheap and [illegible], for the production of which Italy is however ill-equipped.

The slowness with which international trade relations are recovering still further [illegible] in Italy, particularly in view of the unfavorable question rate of Italy's ill-defined international status. Similar slowness is being met with in the recovery of land transport facilities, in the unity the geographical structure of which accounts for the necessity of a network as uniformly rapid and cheap [illegible]. The organization of these international relationships cannot take place unless the arrival of the materials and power [illegible] speeded up.

Still further handicaps to Italian industry are the disadvantages arising out of the long "autarchy" experiment, throughout which any attempt to lower production costs was neglected while the few other new stages which occurred to Italian industry and which enabled it to keep prices down in respect of those of other countries, were thrown away. Examples afforded in the United States, for example, by mass-production methods, already surpass by a long way those which most Italian industries had achieved through cheap labour. Finally, we must not forget the intense industrialization which is taking place in countries which before the war were Italy's customers: in the future it may only be possible for Italy to supply those countries with capital goods or small quantities of high quality products at prices which will have to stand up to international competition."

1457

Foreign Trade

An excellent impression has been created here by a

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

this principal defect. Add to this the rapidly changing character of certain markets, both as regards quality and quantity, engendered by a public which has changed its tastes, has new preferences, its composition and which is generally being revolved by inflation.

The protectionist policy of the Fascist era, as a result of many years of adverse balances of payments, in bringing about a fundamental change in Italy's industrial structure is the need for vital commodities, and I am here thinking of the products of which Italy is however ill-equipped.

In connexion with which Italy's economic relations may receive still further prejudice in future, particularly in view of the anti-Italian question and of Italy's ill-defined international attitude. Similar elements as those met with in the recovery of Italy's transport facilities, that is namely the well-established structure of which rendered the necessity of a network as urgent supply as ever could be. The reproduction of these international market conditions cannot take place unless the arrival of raw materials and primary products is speeded up.

Still further handicaps to Italian progress are the disadvantages arising out of the long "autarchy" experiment, throughout which any attempt to large expansion could not be neglected while the few other avenues which remained to Italian industry and which enabled it to keep pace with progress of those of other countries, were thrown away. Examples afforded in the United States, for example, by mass-produced commodities already surpass by a long way those which most Italian industries had achieved through cheap labour. Finally, we must not forget the intense industrialization which is taking place in countries which before the war were Italy's customers. In the future it may only be possible for Italy to supply those countries with capital goods or small quantities of high quality products at prices which will have to stand up to international competition."

1457

Foreign Trade

An excellent impression has been created here by a speech made at the Milan Chamber of Commerce by Senator [illegible] Industrialists and businessmen by Mr BROOKS SCOTT, Managing Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Italy. The main points made by Mr Scott are that the Americans are pressing the Italian Government on the following lines:

...../6

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

a. [illegible] trade policy in harmony with American practice, i.e. tending to favour free trade;

b. that the country should overcome by all possible means the present serious shortage of raw materials;

c. the long-term measures to be adopted by the Government to facilitate trade with the United States.

Mr SOZZI stated that the principal purpose of their visit is to get private trade going again. State action must be reduced to a minimum and dealings with certain trade commodities such as coal, petroleum products etc. Everything else must return as rapidly as possible within the scope of private trading. In this connection, the one constant that the United States Commercial Corporation will wind its activities by the end of December has given considerable satisfaction, as did Mr SOZZI's assurance that the Allied Commission has already approved the delegation's plan.

Referring to the relation between the Dollar and Lire, Mr SOZZI pointed out that under present conditions it was difficult to assess the present value of either currency. The true value of the Lire could only be established after the signing of a peace treaty and within the monetary limitations laid down at the Bretton-Woods conference. He added that the present rate of exchange was favourable to Italian imports only and that with a view to assisting Italian exports a lower rate of exchange was being studied. It has since been officially announced by SFORZA, Undersecretary for Foreign Trade, that a special import and export rate for the Lire has been fixed for trade between the United States and Great Britain, to cover all kinds of goods and for all markets.

Meanwhile criticism continues to be voiced at the trade agreements now being negotiated by the Italian Government with Switzerland and Sweden. Dissatisfaction with these accords exists not only because of the allegedly hugger-mugger way in which the negotiations were carried out, but also because of the content of the agreements themselves. It is pointed out, for instance, that these agreements stipulate the importation of large quantities of cast-iron joints for water and gas pipes, despite the fact that Italy is not only in a position to produce enough of this commodity to satisfy home demand and have a considerable surplus for export, but still has a stock which is adequate to cover home requirements for at least a year to come.

1456

3 HIDDEN ARMS

Details of raids on arms caches reported during the week are given at Appendix "A".

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

Mr SOZZI pointed out that the need to pay for their visit in [illegible] would be reduced [illegible] push in [illegible] return as rapidly as [illegible] In this connection, the [illegible] Corporation will [illegible] credited to [illegible] Commission was already [illegible]

Referring to the relation between the Italian and Lire, Mr SOZZI pointed out that under present conditions it was difficult because the present value of either currency. The true value of the Lire could only be established [illegible] within the monetary [illegible] ference. He added that the present rate of exchange was favourable to Italian [illegible] a lower rate of exchange was [illegible] announced by SFORZA, Undersecretary for Foreign Trade, that a special [illegible] and exports [illegible] United States and Great Britain, [illegible]

Meanwhile [illegible] trade agreements now being [illegible] Switzerland and Sweden. Dissatisfaction with these countries exists not only because of the [illegible] but also because of the [illegible] negotiations are carried out, but also because of the [illegible] a restrictive character. It is pointed out, for instance, that these agreements [illegible] iron [illegible] only in a position to produce enough of this commodity to satisfy home demand and have a considerable surplus for export, but still has a stock which is adequate to cover [illegible]

3 HIDDEN ARMS

Details of raids on arms caches reported during the week are given at Appendix "A".

Reference 2 District Weekly Intelligence Summary Number 20 paragraph 2(b). A raid was carried out on the STAR MANUFACTURING Works, TURIN on 6 November 1945. No evidence was found of the manufacture of arms. 5 rifles and 375 rounds of S.A. were found in the locker of one workman.

1456

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

AG PG Section are investigating a report that arms are being smuggled between VENICE and GENOA by means of the bi-weekly convoys of displaced persons.

Lt Col
GS

DISTRIBUTION

As for Summary No. 21 dated 9 November 1945
+ Provincial Commissioner, Allied Commission.

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

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

Appendix "A" to GSI
No 2 District Intelligence
Summary No. 22 dated 16 Nov 45

DETAILS OF SUCCESSFUL RAIDS

LOCALITY	Date of Raid	Rifles	MGs	Sub Mach	Pistols	Grenades	Mortars	A/Tk Guns	Recovered by	REMARKS
CHIAVARI P2336	1 Nov			2		17				
TURIN J 02	6 Nov	3							CCRR	Found in a cave
TURIN	6 Nov	31	2		4				7 AGRA	Found in FIAT Mirafiori Works
GENOA O 2611	30 Oct	9	2	7					CCRR	Found in arsenal
[illegible] K 2166	19 Oct	27	6			8			7 AGRA CCRR	Well greased ready for use
RIVOLI M 9030	5 Nov	1	1			5				
MILAN K 26	31 Oct			1	11	3			7 AGRA	F...S.T. Works
PAVIA K 1935	31 Oct	10			10	37			FS & CCRR CCRR	Greased and ready for use
MILAN	16 Oct	1				7			CCRR	
MILAN	19 Oct	11	3	2		75		5 Panzerfaust	CCRR	From ALFA Romeo Works [illegible] greased
MILAN	31 Oct	2		1	5					
[illegible] K 5288	25 Oct	1		1		25			CCRR	Persons searched
VARESE D 9905	17 Oct	1			3				"	" "
VARESE	30 Oct	1			3	15			"	" "
CREMONA K 8824	31 Oct				2				"	" "
SOLZANO (BRESCIA)	21 Oct	3		2		7			"	" "
SALE MARASINO (BRESCIA)	19 Oct			3	3	7			"	" "
MANTOVA F 4823					1				"	" "
FERRARA M 1285, FAENZA G 4102, FORLI M 1417, CESENA M 6006, RAVENNA M 5738, MODENA L 5667, BOLOGNA L 8949, REGGIO EMILIA L 5573	21 - 28 Oct	262	15	4	13	532	6	1 x 47/32, 19 Panzerfaust	CCRR BOLOGNA	Totals given are no of arms recovered by CCRR from 65 raids in the areas listed. No further details of the raids are available
RUSSI M 4333	31 Oct	5							CCRR	Found in flat of rep. of local Communist Party
TOTAL		419	32	23	59	737	[illegible]	[illegible]		

1454

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

1332

CHIVASI P 2736	1 Nov	2 17		CORR / 7 AGRL.	Found in FIAT
TURIN J 02	6 Nov	3			Mirafiori Works
TURIN	6 Nov	31 2 4		CORR	Found in Arsenal
GEN. Q 2851	30 Oct	9 3 7		7 AGRL. / CORR	Well greased
MAPPUGNANO, R 2166	19 Oct	27 6 8			ready for use
RIVOLI H 9030	6 Nov	6 1 1 5		7 AGRL	F.I.A.T. Works
MILAN K 26	30 Oct	1 11 2		PD & CORR	
PAVIA K 1953	31 Oct	10 10 57 6		CORR	Greased and ready for use
MILAN	15 Oct	1 7		CORR	From ALFA Romeo
MILAN	19 Oct	41 3 2 75	5 panzerfaust	CORR	Works. Well greased
MILAN	31 Oct	2 1 9		CORR	Found and searched
BERGAMO K 5285	25 Oct	1 1 25		"	" "
VARESE D 9105	17 Oct	1 2		"	" "
VARESE	30 Oct	1 3 15		"	" "
CREMONA K 8824	31 Oct	1 2		"	" "
BOLZANO (BRESCIA)	21 Oct	3 2 7		"	" "
SALE MARASINO (BRESCIA)	19 Oct	3 31 7		"	" "
MANTOVA F 4823		1			
FERRARA F 1205, PARMA G 4102, FORLI M 4417, CESENA M 6006, RAVENNA M 5730, MODENA L 5667, BOLOGNA L 8949, REGGIO EMILIA L 3373	21 - 28 Oct	242 15 4 13 552 6	1 x 47/32, 19 panzerfaust	CORR / BOLOGNA	Totals given are no. of arms recovered by CORR from 65 raids in the areas listed. No further details of the raids are available
RUSSI M 4353	31 Oct	3		CORR	Found in flat of rep. of local Communist Party
TOTAL		419 32 23 59 737 14	1 x 47/32, 21 panzerfaust		

ARMS RECOVERED

	No. of raids							
EMILIA	66	202	15	4	13	552	6	1 x 47/32, 19 panzerfaust
LIGURIA	1			2		17		
LOMBARDY	15	93	9	10	42	105	8	5 panzerfaust
PIEDMONT	4	47	5	7	4	5		
TOTAL		419	32	23	59	737	14	1 x 47/32, 21 panzerfaust

1434

SECRET

54/29

Ad

Ad

-SI/2355

COPY NUMBER 53

2 DISTRICT

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 21

9 November 1945

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SUMMARY WILL ON NO ACCOUNT BE COMMUNICATED TO ANYONE NOT HOLDING AN OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE BRITISH OR AMERICAN FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT.

1453

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

2 DISTRICT

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 21

9 November 1945

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SUMMARY WILL BY NO ACCOUNT BE COMMUNICATED TO ANYONE NOT HOLDING AN OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE BRITISH OR AMERICAN FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT.

1457

SECRET

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

1335

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

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
General Staff Intelligence
C M F

GSI 2355

1 Nov 1945

2 DISTRICT WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 21

1 POLITICAL

Publication of Armistice Terms

(a) This event, so long awaited, has had so far only minor repercussions. The ground had been somewhat prepared beforehand, consciously or unconsciously, and the average Italian has practically made up his mind as to his reactions on the announcement of the terms. There were obviously some people who still expected revelations of "secret" terms of an unspecified but atrocious character, but expectations of being terrified in this manner have rather fallen flat. The contrast between the text of the armistice and the actual application is so obvious that few protests of any weight have been made or heard.

The local press comment has followed the general trend of public opinion. "UNITA" gave far more prominence to the anniversary of the "October Revolution". Other papers, except for such headlines as "Now we know the cross we have to bear" - "Now we want a peace treaty" - "Official record of a lost war" - "All Italy at the mercy of the Allies" were moderate and reasonably objective in their statements, reporting favourable excerpts from the foreign press.

Typical perhaps is an editorial by MARIO ROSSA in the "CORRIERE D'INFORMAZIONE" of MILAN.

After stating that ITALY had not lost a war in its 75 years as a nation, he goes on to place the blame on MUSSOLINI, by whom the Italians let themselves be passively dragged into a disastrous situation, and on the King, who could have stopped the whole business in 1940 after the MATTEOTTI murder. He hopes the Allies will understand the new democratic state of mind of the Italians and, while continuing their help, allow the Italians, as they become more competent to deal with their own problems, greater liberty of action with less unnecessary executive interference and control.

1457

1 POLITICAL

Publication of Armistice Terms

(a) This event, so long awaited, has had so far only minor repercussions. The ground has been somewhat prepared beforehand, consciously or unconsciously, and the average Italian has practically made up his mind as to his reactions on the announcement of the terms. There was obviously some room for the until expected revelations of "secret" terms of an unjustified but atrocious character, but expectations of being terrified in this manner have rather fallen flat. The contrast between the text of the Armistice and the actual application is so obvious that few protests of any weight have been made or heard.

The local press comment has followed the general trend of public opinion. " MESSA" gave far more prominence to the anniversary of the "October Revolution". Other papers, except for such headlines as "How we know the enemy we have to meet" - " Now we want a peace treaty" - " Official record of a lost war " - " All Italy at the mercy of the Allies" were moderate and reasonably objective in their statements, reporting favourable excerpts from the foreign press.

Typical perhaps is an editorial by MARIO BORSA in the "CORRIERE D'INFORMAZIONE" of MILAN.

After stating that ITALY had not lost a war in its 75 years as a nation, he goes on to place the blame on MUSSOLINI, by whom the Italians let themselves be passively dragged into a disastrous situation, and on the King, who could have stopped the whole business in 1925 after the MATTEOTTI murder. He hopes the Allies will understand the new democratic state of mind of the Italians and, while continuing their help, allow the Italians, as they become more competent to deal with their own problems, greater liberty of action with less unnecessary executive interference and control.

1432

(b) DE GASPERI's speech in MILAN on November 4th, Italy's Armistice day, was on the whole a statesmanlike exposition of Italy's internal and external situation. He did, however, repeat the old accusation that the victorious Western Allies after the last war were responsible for monopolising raw materials.

...../2

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

His rhetorical appeals to Allied military leaders to bear witness to the extent of Italian collaboration and the spirit in which it was given, and his further reference to the hardships and losses incurred, are representative of a still widespread feeling among Italians that pooling of shipping, petrol rationing, travel restrictions, commercial control etc, are limited to Italy and are a consequence of her status as an ex-enemy.

2 ECONOMIC

(a) Strike for Uniform Wages

The series of scattered short-lived manifestations and strikes in support of a rapid solution to the uniform wage problem for industrial workers in North Italy, which has been under discussion for over three weeks, continued this week on a much larger scale involving stoppages of work in large as well as small factories throughout Northern Italy.

The chief reasons for the present discontent amongst industrial workers have already been mentioned in our last two summaries, but the situation has been unhappily aggravated by a muddle over dates and localities of the meeting at which it was ensured the new rates would finally be settled. It appears from various accounts that the responsibility of this prolonged postponement lies with the industrialists and the Government. This irritated the Northern Delegation of the CGIL and forced it to order a one-hour sit-down strike of all industrial workers in Northern Italy.

The strike was originally timed to take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 6 Nov, but was later put off till the morning of Wednesday 7 Nov. Over one million industrial workers in the five Northern Regions downed tools between the hours of 1000 and 1100. No incidents have been reported, and no specifically criminal acts by the CGIL all public services functioned normally whilst the strike was in progress.

It is not quite clear what far-reaching aim may have prompted the CGIL to promote a strike of this nature. Perhaps the urge to demonstrate before the industrialists the strength of their organisation and the solidarity amongst the workers themselves was too great to restrain them from taking action, which in difficult times like the present, would be better averted. At any rate, they may have good reasons to be satisfied with themselves, since it is understood that whilst the strike was on their HQ in ROME informed them that the Government had officially summoned the meeting in ROME for early next week.

It is worthy of note that the CGIL in MILAN publicly

3451

3 3 7

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

(2) Strike for Uniform Wages

The series of scattered short-lived demonstrations and strikes in support of a rapid solution to the uniform wage problem for industrial workers in North Ireland, which has been under discussion for over three weeks, continued to the worst of their scale involving stoppages of work as large as well as small throughout Northern Ireland.

The chief reasons for the unrest displayed amongst industrial workers have already been mentioned in the last two summaries, but the situation has been complicated by a muddle over dates and localities of the meeting at which it was suggested the new rates would finally be settled. It appears from various accounts that the responsibility of which prompted postponement lies both the local officials and the Government. Units instructed the Northern Delegation of the CGIL and forced it to a one-hour sit-down strike of all industrial workers in North of Ireland.

The strike was originally timed to take place on the afternoon of Tuesday 6 Nov, but was later put off till the morning of Wednesday 7 Nov. Over one million industrial workers in the five Northern Regions downed tools between the hours of 10h0 and 11h0. No incidents have been reported, and as specifically ordered by the CGIL all public services functioned normally whilst the strike was in progress.

It is not quite clear what far-reaching aim Mr Wages prompted the CGIL to promote a strike of this nature. Perhaps the urge to demonstrate before the Industrialists the strength of their organisation and the solidarity amongst the workers themselves was too great to restrain them from taking action, which in difficult times like the present, would be termed unpatriotic. At any rate, they may have good reasons to be satisfied with themselves, since it is understood that whilst the strike was in force it is said informed that the Government had officially summoned the meeting in ROLE for early next week.

It is worthy of note that the CGIL in ULSTER publicly announced that it holds the attitude of the ROLFA DF industrialists responsible for the case for unsuccessful negotiations and delay in reaching an agreement.

1451

...../2

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

I 3 3 9

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

(b) Railway Reconstruction in North Italy

Good progress has been achieved in the reconstruction of the railways in North Italy since the "liberation" over six months ago, and even better results are expected before the end of the year.

In his latest review of the railway situation, the Commissario Straordinario for North Italy of the Italian State Railways stated that the recent opening of the railway bridge over the River PO on the [illegible] - GENOA route has cut down the journey from 7 to 4 hours. The reduction in travel time will in a very short time bring a marked improvement in the export and import traffic of the Port of GENOA, which is a natural outlet for Switzerland. Even at this date GENOA is already coping with 60% of its pre-war traffic.

By the end of the year repairs to the Simplon Tunnel, Italian, which was blown up by the Germans, should be completed and direct communication with Paris, via Modane (4050, will have been re-established. Before the end of the present month repairs to the railway bridge at Monte Orlando (830m on the Simplone route (Switzerland) will have been completed. With the reopening of this bridge the Commissario Straordinario believes that the railway network in [illegible] will virtually have been re-established except on certain secondary lines where repairs of a minor character and less importance have yet to be tackled.

In the port of VENICE and the whole of [illegible] work has progressed at a slower rate compared with GENOA, but by the end of December it is hoped to have rebuilt all the main bridges which were heavily damaged by bombing during the war years.

In spite of the large numbers of bridges and junction lines which suffered severe damage chiefly due to bombing, the problem of reconstructing the railway network of North Italy has been skilfully handled, and there is every hope that railway services will shortly have been restored, even if on a reduced basis.

Concurrently with the rebuilding of bridges and repairs to lines, the Italian State Railways have had under construction 5000 goods wagons of the box and open type. They are expected to be put into service during the very early part of the new year. A further ten thousand have already been placed on order and it is said construction has already begun and should be completed within a year. The necessary material for carriages is already available and one thousand will shortly be placed on order with private firms.

The Italian State Railways is short of 40 to 50 thousand goods-wagons, and 200 locomotives which the Germans removed to other parts of the continent. These have not yet been retrieved and, in addition, [illegible]

1340

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

However, Italian industry in spite of its numerous difficulties is contributing the best it can in the reconstruction of the Italian Railways, a public service so vital to the general well-being of the country and so essential to the rehabilitation of its economic life.

(c) The Electric Power Situation in Milan - Further polemics

1) The electric power supply crisis of the city of Milan was the subject of an open letter published in the Milan press on 3 October. The views were of Sir Edison - one of the major services - and its sentiments were reproduced in our Summary No 1 of 19 Oct, para 2c.

The "Comitato Industriale Alta Italia", from which the various industrial committees depend, has replied to the accusations put forward by the Edison Firm, and the following is a translation of the final statement which appeared in the press on 4 Nov:-

"There is no crisis in power production but there is an inadequate distributing network, complains the Edison Company, wondering on an argument which is perfectly true, but of which the majority of the Milan consumers are quite aware, because they have for years suffered its consequences. Immediately following the "liberation" (May), the Edison Co. drew up a "programme of works" to produce a considerable increase in the potential of the distributing network.

The Industrial Committees were approached by the Edison Co. for the consignment of the raw materials needed to carry out the "works" programme. Despite the difficulties presented by the "settling down" phase, the Industrial Committees met almost all the Edison demands. This gives the lie in the best possible way to the statements of the Edison announcement by which the company intended to attribute the blame for the continued inadequacy of the power distributing network to the Industrial Committees."

A complete list of indents and dates of delivery, is also included in the reply. Briefly the documents held by the Comitati Industriali reveal that in all cases delivery was made as speedily as possible, delays never amounting to more than 10 or 11 days. There is no trace of the "numerous bureaucratic difficulties" to which the Edison report refers. The CIAI concludes its reply as follows:-

1449

"All considerations apart, the Comitati Industriali hope that the large assignments of raw materials (copper, lead, aluminium, laminated sheets for transformers, cement etc) requested and obtained by the Edison Co. will soon bring forth fruit in the

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

services - and its statements were reproduced in our Summary No 1 of 19 Oct, para 2a.

The "Comitato Industriale Alta Italia", from which the various industrial committees derive, has replied to the declarations put forward by the Edison firm, and the following is a translation of the C.I.A. statement which is issued in the Press on 4 Nov:-

" There is no crisis in power production but there is an inadequate distributing network, complains the Edison Company, proceeding on an argument which is perfectly true, but of which the origins go far further back than quite recent, but dating many years for years subsequent its consequences. Immediately following the "liberation" (..ay), the Edison Co. drew up a "programme of works"to remedy a condition to increase in the potential of the distributive network.

The Industrial Committees were approached by the Edison Co. for the commitment of the raw materials needed to carry out the "works" programme. Despite the difficulties presented by the "cutting down" phase, the Industrial Committees met almost all the Edison demands. This gives the lie in the most possible way to the statements of the Edison announcement by which the company intended to attribute the blame for the continued inadequacy of the power distributing network to the Industrial Committees."

A complete list of indents and dates of delivery, is also included in the reply. Briefly the documents held by the Comitati Industriali reveal that in all cases delivery was made as speedily as possible, delays never occurring to more than 10 or 11 days. There is no trace of the "numerous bureaucratic difficulties" to which the Edison report refers. The CLNAI concludes its reply as follows:-

1443

"...ll considerations apart, the Comitati Industriali hope that the large assignments of raw materials (copper, lead, aluminium, insulated sheets for transformers, cement etc) requested and obtained by the Edison Co. will soon bring forth fruit in the shape of their improved equipment of the power plants, which is so urgent and indispensable."

...../5

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

(ii) With its rearmament published in the press on 9 Nov the Edison Company was again taken up the challenge and replied on the following lines:-

"On one 4th of this month the Allied made an announcement which had the object of downplaying the statements made by Edison last month, concerning the difficulties met with when trying to build up the ship outputs.

The Edison Co., therefore, feels itself compelled to renew the statement.

Despite the "liberation", the whole organisation of control of materials and the Industrial Committees, set up by the Fascist Regime, remained. Thus between mid most of June without a decision on the treatment of materials being made (apart from the release of 100 tons of cement for the whole of the Edison Group), partly a block was the disorganised state of the Industrial Committees and consequently, the Edison Company on the 14th June, decided to bring the question before the Prefect.

The latter immediately took up the question with the Control Economic Commission, who drew for a report which the Edison Company sent on the 16th June, at the same time requesting the release of 60 tons of magnetic laminated steel, 150 tons of thin metal sheeting, 150 tons of copper, 220 tons of lead, 110 tons of aluminium and 150 tons of cement.

This report, having passed through the Commissariat for Industrial Production (ex-Ministry), brought forth nothing more than 15 tons of magnetic laminated steel. (The 20 tons of copper assigned on the 27th June do not come into the Edison demand, nor have they anything to do with the putting right of the "Edi" network. They were assigned at the direct request of Lt Col Lumsden of the Public Works and Utilities Sub Commission to overhaul the connecting network between the PO Valley and Central Italy).

The Edison Co., therefore, on the 9th July, again up scaled to the Prefect, who on the 16th, presided over a meeting of the Committee with the intention of making them to speed things up. Thus at this meeting assurance was given that 65 tons of magnetic laminated steel would be released to the Edison Co. and this was made available towards the end of July.

1447

Again through intervention by the Prefect, release vouchers were outlined on the 17th July for 220 tons of lead and 150 tons of copper; unfortunately, the firms who were to implement the vouchers were merely guardians of the materials on behalf of the Allies.

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

1344

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

In sending up, it can be said that materials have been obtained after long delays, especially in the case of the copper, necessitating the manufacture of cables and transformers, which took five months or more. Since the manufacture of these requires several months, the new discoveries cannot be made use of in the near past and cables and transformers which could have been ready by the beginning of winter, will now be ready towards the winter's end.

Finally, the Editor C.D. has been accused of working at the mine with the express aim of causing public anxiety and apprehension.

In reply, the Editor C.D. points out:-

(1) that it is within its rights in showing the uninformed public where the responsibility lies, having been charged by the public of such responsibility;

(2) that in a democratic regime it is the duty of every citizen to put to the trial of public opinion the institutions and systems which fall short of expectations, because such a failure is not generally the fault of the men involved, who may be the best possible, but of the intrinsic nature of those institutions and systems."

(iii) As one MILAN paper put it the policy has become a game of "passing the buck". However, the electric supply crises will nevertheless last the whole winter, but if from this mutual recrimination the net result will be some constructive reform in the existing cumbersome machinery, the controversy will have served a very useful purpose.

1 MINOR JOBS

Details of raids reported during the week are given at Appendix "A".

7 ADVs report that it is considered unlikely that any large caches will be found in future, as reports from all informers suggest that dumps are being broken up and the arms concealed individually. Other persistent reports show that there is a traffic in arms from the country areas to the large cities of TURIN and MILAN, where it is considered (and rightly) that the dumps will be more difficult to find. Attempts are being made to break up this traffic by means of road blocks and patrols.

1447

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

In reply, the Odeon Co. points out:-

(1) that it is within its rights in placing the order where it does because the juke box originally [illegible] having been charged by the public a much reasonability;

(2) that in a non-profit regime it is the duty of every citizen to put to the test all public schemes the institutions and systems which will not if unsatisfactory, but any such failure is not generally the fault of the men involved, who may be the best possible, but of the inherent nature of these institutions and systems."

(iii) As one [illegible] paper put it the gramophone has become a game of "passing the buck". However, the electric supply crisis will nevertheless treat the whole matter, for if from this natural reorganisation the new result will be some constructive reform in the existing customs and machinery, the entire very will have served a very useful purpose.

1 [illegible] P.3

Details of [illegible] carried this week are given at appendix "A".

7 ADFA report that it is considered unlikely that any large caches will be found in future, as reports from all informers suggest that dumps are being broken up and the guns concealed individually. Other persistent rumours show that there is a traffic in arms from the country round to the large cities of Perth and Fremantle, where it is considered (not rightly) that the dumps will be more difficult to find. Steps are being made to break up this traffic by means of road blocks and patrols.

1447

/kac

DISTRIBUTION

As for Summary No 20 dated 2 Nov 42.

1346

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

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

1347

Exhibit "A" to
USI PR-2 Application
Docket Cross Gateway
Dt. 24 Oct. - Vlbg 1945

RESULTS OF SHOTHOLE TESTS

E Gallery

[illegible]	[illegible]	27 Oct	6		1	1			10 Ins clay	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	27 Oct	25	1	[illegible]	1	2		"	"	
[illegible]	[illegible]	28 Oct	25	1					"	"	
[illegible]	[illegible]	26 Oct					33	1	"	"	
[illegible]	[illegible]	26 Oct	6			2	33		"	"	
[illegible]	[illegible]	27 Oct	5				1		"	"	
[illegible]	[illegible]	28 Oct	1				1				
[illegible]	[illegible]	28 Oct	5			1	33		"	"	
[illegible]	[illegible]	29 Oct	4				50		"	"	
TOTAL			14	1	2	12	72				

	No. of Holes						
[illegible]	4	15			6	35	
[illegible]	1	9				2	
[illegible]	4	30	1	2	5	33	
TOTAL	9	44	1	2	11	71	

1446

1348

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

SECRET

GSI/2355

COPY NUMBER 37

SEEN BY	
G.S.O. I.	
DAA & QMG	
DADOS	
DDST	
Gp Capt Trg	
S.C. Pers.	
G.S.O. II.	
CLERKS	

2 DISTRICT

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 20

2 November 1945

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SUMMARY WILL ON NO ACCOUNT BE COMMUNICATED TO ANYONE NOT HOLDING AN OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE BRITISH OR AMERICAN FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT.

1445

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
GENERAL STAFF INTELLIGENCE
O K T

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

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

S.C. PERS.	
G.S.O. II	
CLERKS	

NUMBER 20

2 November 1945

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SUMMARY WILL ON NO ACCOUNT BE COMMUNICATED TO ANYONE NOT HOLDING AN OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE BRITISH OR AMERICAN FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT.

1445

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
GENERAL STAFF INTELLIGENCE
C M P

SECRET

1350

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

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
General Staff Intelligence
C M F

GSI/2355

5 Nov 1945

2 DISTRICT WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 20

1. POLITICAL

(a) Election Dates

The political situation in the North has been quiet. The press has limited itself to reporting, with little comment, the national and international news items which may have a particular bearing on the future political status of the country.

The most important home news was the Government announcement on the election dates. For many months now this question has been the subject of party discussions and press polemics. But the Northern public as a whole, has shown complete apathy at a time when so many pronouncements, official and unofficial, have been made on the degree of democratic maturity reached by the Italian public, so recently freed from almost a quarter of a century of fascist rule. The few comments which have been allowed, mainly from censorship, indicate the lack of confidence people have in the ability and honest intentions of the leading politicians who all seem to aspire to the leadership of the country. Thus it is really not surprising that so far there should have been no public reaction to a long-awaited decision calling on the population to vote at the local elections before the end of 1945 and at the elections for the Constituents by the last Sunday in April 1946.

The Government decision that the local elections will be held first constitutes a victory for the Christian-Democrats, who have steadily opposed the Communist and Socialist view that they should follow the major elections.

The Communists more than the Socialists, fear that in the rural districts, where the influence of the Church is still strong, local elections may not be favourable to their cause, and that this might have repercussions on the elections for the Constituents.

(b) " Giornata della Solidarietà Popolare" 1444

Preparations for the "Giornata" continued throughout the week. In Milan, a coordinating Committee, formed from all the political parties, organised

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

1 POLITICAL

(a) Election Dates

The political situation in the North has been quiet. The press has limited itself to reporting, with little comment, the national and international news items which may have a particular bearing on the future political status of the country.

The most important home news was the Government announcement on the election dates. For many months now this question has been the subject of party discussions and press polemics. But the Northern public as a whole, has shown complete apathy at a time when so many pronouncements, official and unofficial, have been made on the subject of democratic maturity rendered by the Italian public, so unanimously freed from almost a quarter of a century of fascist rule. The few comments which have been allowed, mainly from censorship, indicate the lack of confidence people have in the ability and honest intentions of the leading politicians who all seem to aspire to the leadership of the country. Thus it is really not surprising that so far there should have been no public reaction to a long-awaited decision calling on the population to vote at the local elections before the end of 1945 and at the elections for the Constituente by the last Sunday in April 1946.

The Government decision that the local elections will be held first constitutes a victory for the Christian-Democrats, who have actually opposed the Communist and Socialist view that they should follow the major elections.

The Communists more than the Socialists, fear that in the rural districts, where the influence of the Church is still strong, local elections may not be favourable to their cause, and that this might have repercussions on the elections for the Constituente.

(b) " Giornata della Solidarietà Popolare" 1445

Preparations for the "Giornata" continued throughout the week. In Milan, a Co-ordinating Committee, formed by all the anti-fascist parties, movements and workers' organisations, issued a joint statement. This emphasised that the promoters of the idea are two Christian-Movements who therefore, should preside over any local joint committee. It called on all citizens, parties, and organisations, to give generously, and stressed the appropriateness of the event at a time when the Italian people normally dedicate themselves to religious manifestations, on All Saints Days.

...../2

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

Meanwhile the Communists endeavored to convey the impression, mainly through their press, that the "Olivetta" was just as much their concern as that of the Christian-Democrats. This move was spared no criticism and a telegram subsequently intercepted also revealed the concern of some Christian-Democrats at the lack of precise details about the responsibility for the collection of funds and gifts in kind. It was feared that the Communists, who would naturally have members on all the local committees, would not stop with. The leaders of the Christian-Democrats were keen upon the fact that although they were supposed to be the sole collectors, this had not been given enough publicity.

On November 1st, All Saints' Day, candle-vendors have traded according to schedule, and many are said to have collected throughout Northern Italy. Despite the announcement that speeches would be made only by Christian-Democrat orators, in several centres representatives of the other leading parties spoke. The general theme of their pronouncements was "help for the unfortunate", and the significance of the manifestations.

It appears that a repetition of the "Olivetta" is planned for Sunday, 4 Nov. It is understood that the Foreign Secretary, DE GASPERI, Christian-Democrat) will participate in the meetings in Milan on that day.

2 ECONOMIC

(a) Milan Wage Discussions

Our last week's summary contained a report on the results of the discussions in Milan regarding uniform rates of wages throughout North Italy. Following the deadlock caused by the differences of views between the representatives of the Lombardy/Veneto/Emilia and those from Piedmonte/Liguria, it was agreed to adjourn the discussions to a meeting to be held on 26 Oct in Milan, at which the Minister of Labour Signor GRONCHI intended to preside. Unfortunately, all except the Minister attended: in his absence the Prefect of Milan presided.

Having regard to the importance of the issue at stake, it was unanimously agreed to postpone discussions on the rates, since it was considered essential to hear the Government viewpoint first, in view of probable repercussions in Central and Southern Italy.

A few other decisions were, however, taken at this meeting. It was fixed at all agreed to deal with immediate effect advances on account of future increases for the period up to 15 Nov, by which [illegible] it is hoped that a new agreement will have been reached. It was also agreed to take such new rates as may then be fixed retroactive from 1 Oct throughout North Italy, (with the exception of Milan, where the retroactive date will be 15 Oct.).

It has now been decided to hold the next meeting in ROME, (possibly to make sure [illegible]

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

1354

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

Sporadic short-lived demonstrations have continued in support of a rapid solution of the problem. They have, as usual, taken the form of anti-fascist cries on the part of the workers' organisations. There is no reason to believe, however, that the situation will get out of hand.

(b) South's Coal Situation

There has been considerable disappointment in industrial circles at the small quantity of coal due to be imported during the month of November. The total for the whole of Italy is 247 thousand tons, as against an expected quota of 350 thousand tons for each of the last four months of the year. The total for North Italy for November has been fixed at 108 thousand tons for all purposes, of which only 41 thousand tons are for industrial use. In October 150 thousand tons were allotted for industry. Industrialists are thus placed in a very awkward position, for not only are reconversion plans seriously retarded but production programmes must be drastically curtailed, thus making it increasingly difficult for employers to maintain their side of the bargain not to dismiss surplus workers. The importance of adequate supplies of coal and raw materials to enable industry to retain the largest possible number of workers on the pay-rolls can hardly be too strongly emphasised as a factor in the preservation of public order this winter.

(c) Aspects of the Consumer-Goods situation

For two or three weeks now the aspect of the main Northern towns has changed. Lit [illegible] the shop windows, in both the main thoroughfares and the [illegible] have become brighter, neon signs flashing again, and a [illegible] of wares in once more on sale. Moreover, prices of most goods, except food, show a marked tendency to fall.

It might be thought from superficial observation that this arises from an improved economic situation encouraging a rebirth of confidence. In fact, there is a variety of concomitant causes, outstanding among them being the lifting of controls, the release of many goods - mainly textiles - and the "unloading" of stocks held by speculators and merchants who fear that new production goods shortly expected to appear on the market will benefit from lower costs, or will have to be sold at cut-rate prices.

In spite of the abundance of goods on offer, the public generally seems in no undue haste to purchase, partly because it is deliberately abstaining in the expectation of lower prices, partly because it has not the money, an ever-increasing proportion of its [illegible] income being absorbed in buying food. In the circumstances, a further fall in prices would appear more probable than a renewal of the upward trend.

(d) [illegible]

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

month of November. The total for the whole of Italy is 223 thousand tons, as against an expected quota of 350 thousand tons for each of the last four months of the year. The total for North Italy for November has been fixed at 108 thousand tons for war purposes, of which only 41 thousand tons are for industrial use. In October 130 thousand tons were allotted for industry. Industrialists have thus placed in a very awkward position, for not only the reconversion plans gradually initiated but production programmes might be drastically curtailed, thus making it increasingly difficult for employers to maintain their side of the bargain not to dismiss surplus workers. The importance of adequate supplies of coal and raw materials to enable industry to retain the largest possible number of workers on the pay-rolls can hardly be too strongly emphasized as a factor in the preservation of public order this winter.

(c) Aspects of the consumer-goods situation

For two or [illegible] there has been the impact of the rain Northern towns has changed. Lights [illegible] the shop windows, in both the main thoroughfares and the [illegible] have become brighter, neon signs flashing again, and [illegible] of goods is more keen on sale. Moreover, prices of most goods, except food, show a marked tendency to fall.

It might be thought from superficial observation that this arises from an improved economic situation encouraging a rebirth of confidence. In fact, there is a variety of concomitant causes, outstanding among them being the lifting of controls, the release of many goods - mainly textiles - and the "unloading" of stocks held by speculators and merchants who fear that new production goods shortly expected to appear on the market will benefit from lower costs, or will have to be sold at controlled prices.

In spite of the abundance of goods on offer, the public generally seems in no undue haste to purchase, partly because it is deliberately abstaining in the expectation of lower prices, partly because it has not the money, an ever-increasing proportion of its [illegible] income being absorbed in buying food. In the circumstances, a further fall in prices would appear more probable than a renewal of the upward trend.

(d) [illegible] Refugee Problem

There have been further illegal exports in the campaign, largely sponsored by the Local Government authorities, to clear out of [illegible] the remaining considerable number of indigent Southerners who flocked into the city before the advancing Allied Armies (see our WIS No. 15 para 2b).

...../4

I 3 5 6

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

During a recent meeting of civic authorities presided over by the Prefect of MILAN it was decided that steps will be taken to find accommodation outside the city limits for those refugee workers whose services are required in MILAN but whose residence in the city is not considered necessary. Lodgings have already been earmarked.

The presence of these people aggravates the difficult housing and feeding problems which the civic authorities have to face. The efforts of the MILAN Refugee Office to get them out of the city are being paid considerable attention from the local Italian authorities, who feel that " more practical results" are badly needed.

3 HIDDEN ARMS

Results of raids on arms caches reported during the week are given at Appendix "A".

7 AMG report that there have been further conferences with Partisan leaders at which the latter were urged to instruct their followers to hand in their arms. As a result a few more were handed in at PINEROLO and SUSA.

Arms Manufacture

(c) FSS report that reliable information has been received that 25 light automatic weapons were manufactured at the ANSALDO Works, TURIN in the last days of Sep 45. They were produced by workers-members at the request of the local Communist Party. Informant states that no arms have been made recently, and, as will notify FSS immediately should any attempt be made to do so.

(b) A less reliable source reports that 4,000 workers remain after working hours at the FIAT-TORINESE Works, TURIN to produce weapon parts or to repair weapons. They are alleged to do so with the complicity of the management. This report is being checked.

/sgd

Lt Col
GS

DISTRIBUTION : As for Summary No 19 dated 26 Oct 1945.

1441

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

Appendix 'A' to
GSI a District
Intelligence Summary
No 20 dated 3 Nov 1945

DETAILS OF SUCCESSFUL RAIDS

Locality	Date of raid	Killed	Wnd	Sub Mch	Pistols	Grenades	A/Tk Gun	By whom established	Remarks
MUZZA di S ANGELO M 4543	25 Oct				3	2		CCRR	Found in possession of 3 youths by CCRR patrol
NOVELLA P 6473	21 Oct 32		2	20		37		10 Inf Div	Recovered by patrol
FERRARA M 1286 VOGHIERA 12377 RUFFIO M 0653 CASTELNUOVO L 8346 TERR. DEL SOLE M 5614 CASTAGNARO M 5611 S MARTINO IN STRADA M 4314 S PIETRO IN CASNO R 5677 CASTELNUOVO MONTI L 1345	14 - 21 Oct	18	5	2	27	52		Regionale Territoriale di SOLOGNA	No details of arms recovered in individual raids are available
BOLZANO M 9871	19 Oct	2	4	12	3	43		CIC	Found in house of former Partisans
PORNO D 6301	22 Oct	1				5		7 AGRA CCRR	
PINEROLO M 7410	12 Oct	1						CCRR	
VILLARETTO M 7095	22 Oct	1		2	4			Questura	
PINEROLO M 7410	24 Oct	2		8		45 Panzer Faust		AMG & CCRR	
CARUZZO M 8483	21 Oct	19							Handed in to CCRR
CUNEO M 8754	9 Oct	21	1		5	67		AMG & CCRR	Found in houses
BORGARELLI O 4997	7 Oct	1	1			29		AMG & CCRR	
MAGLIANO ALFIERI O 3192 NEIVE O 3588 MURGO O 5703	20 Oct	92		2	2			AMG & CCRR	Details of individual raids not available

1440

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

								CORR Patrol	
NOVARA P 6473	21 Oct	32	2	20		37		10 Ind Recovered by patrol Dec	
FERRARA M 1286 VOGHERA M 2377 MATERA M 0693 CASTELVECCHIO L 6346 TERR. DEL SOLE L 3614 CASTROCARO M 3611 S LORENZO IN STRADA M 4334 S PIERO IN BAGNO L 5677 CASTELVOLTO MONTI L 1345	21 Oct	18	3	2	27	52		Regionale Territoriale di Polizia	No details of arms recovered in individual raids are available
BOLZANO M 9871	19 Oct	2	4	12	3	43		CIC	Found in house of former Partisans
BAGNO D 6301	22 Oct	1				5		7 AUS.	
PINEROLO M 7410	14 Oct	1						CORR	
VILLASANTO M 7038	22 Oct	1		2	4			Questure	
PINEROLO M 7410	24 Oct	2		5		45 pistol 8 rifles		AMG & CORR	
SANUZZO M 6583	21 Oct	19							Handed in to CORR
CUNEO M 6754	9 Oct	21	1		5	67		AMG & CORR	Found in houses
PEDEMONTELLI O 4997	7 Oct	1	1			29		AMG & CORR	
MAGLIANO ALPIENO O 5192 MONVE O 3588 MANDO O 3783	20 Oct	92	4	2	2			AMG & CORR	Details of individual raids not available
MONDALVO J 4928	20 Oct	1			4	2		AMG & CORR	
ALESSANDRIA J 7605	Oct	10						"	
FRASCARO O 0638	9 Oct	10	1			20		"	
SAN GERMANO J 4956	?				1			"	
TURIN	5 Oct	9							From offices of Gazetta d'Italia
TURIN O 02	20 Oct			1	5	5			From houses of workers in TURIN
TURIN(Arsenal)	20 Oct	17	4	2		120		"	Arsenal

1440

...../2

1359

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

Locality	Date of mail	Rifles	MGs	Sub MGs	Pistols	Grenades	A/Tk guns	By wood field mails	Remarks
CASTELNUOVO NOVARESE C 7298	9 Oct	11	1			20	5 panzer CCRR Faust		
APUSANDRI. " 1505	9 Oct	42						"	
CASTELLO DEL ROSTIGLIO (MANTOVA) C 02	11 Oct	18		1		18		"	
TOTAL		308	17	52	54	400	50 panzer-faust		

ARMS RECOVERED

Locality	No of mails	Rifles	MGs	Sub MGs	Pistols	Grenades	A/Tk Guns	
PIEMONT	25	256	6	16	21	256	50 panzerfaust	
EMILIA	10	50	5	22	27	89		
LA SPEZIA	1				3	2		
VENEZIA	1	2	4	12	3	25		1437
TOTAL	37	308	17	52	54	400	50 panzerfaust	

1360

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

[illegible]	9 Oct	11	1			20	5 penner CCRR Pabst			
..IPHASAWENI.. [illegible] 1505	9 Oct	42						"		
C.RIELLO DEL CHILO (PENCHO) 02	11 Oct	18		1		16		"		
TOTAL			306	17	52	54	400	50 penner-faust		

...DS RECOVERED

Locality	No. of Pers	Rifles	SMGs	Sub MGs	Pistols	Grenades	w/Pk Guns	
PIEMONT	25	256	8	16	21	186	50 penner/faust	
EVILL.	10	50	5	22	27	89		
In BARDI	1				3	2		
TOTAL	1	2	4	12	3	25		1432
TOTAL	37	308	17	52	54	400	50 penner/faust	

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

SECRET

54/27

GSI/2355

COPY NUMBER 37

SEEN BY	
G.S.O. I.	
DAA & QMG	
DADOS	
~~DADST~~ RASC	
GIII	
G II TRG	
TRG MAJOR	
S.C. REME	
G.S.O. II.	
CLERKS	

2 DISTRICT

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 29

25 October 1943

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SUMMARY WILL ON NO ACCOUNT BE COMMUNICATED BY ANYONE NOT HOLDING AT OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE BRITISH OR AMERICAN FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS.
2 DISTRICT.

1437

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
GENERAL STAFF INTELLIGENCE

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

GIL TRG	
TRG MAJOR	
S.C. REME	
G.S.O. II.	
CLERKS	

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

[illegible] 20

25 October 1945

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SUMMARY MAY ON NO ACCOUNT BE COMMUNICATED TO A PERSON NOT HOLDING A OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE SERVICE OF ALLIED FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS 2 DIVISION.

1437

[illegible]

SECRET

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

1364

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

S E C R E T

[illegible] 2 DIST. INT.
General Staff Intelligence
C M F

GSI/2555

26 Oct 1945

2 DISTRICT WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 19

1 POLITICAL

(a) General

Six months have passed since the "liberation" of Northern Italy, and the political picture is less clear than the least optimistic Italians might have expected it to be by this time.

The international situation has not been sufficiently clarified and the Italians who rather naively expected an early solution, favourable to themselves, of this complex problem, tend to attribute internal confusion to external causes.

The internal situation, however, is characterised by often feverish activity in local party politics, by an atmosphere of expectancy on general national problems, coupled with a hope or a fear that the present Government will fall and in some circles that the Costituente will solve all.

Italians still do not know where to turn for guidance in their political affairs. They are finding increasing comfort in their illusion of political maturity, and in their over-estimation of the importance of Italian events to the outside world, particularly the Allied Nations.

(b) French Election Repercussions

The French election results, although having little impressed the Northern population which only a few months ago showed a much greater interest in the elections in Great Britain, drew unbounded satisfaction from the Communist, Demo-Christian, and Socialist, press, which at the same time claimed success for their own particular parties. The international talks regarding the publication and "softening" of the Italian armistice terms are still in progress, and, together with the Italian point of view, have been given much publicity in the press. The Socialist Party announcement

1437

1 POLITICAL

(a) General

Six months have passed since the "liberation" of Northern Italy, and the political picture is less clear than the least optimistic Italians might have expected it to be by this time.

The international situation has not been sufficiently clarified and the Italians who rather naively expected an early solution, favourable to themselves, of this complex problem, tend to attribute internal confusion to external causes.

The internal situation, however, is characterised by often feverish activity in local party politics, by an atmosphere of expectancy on general national problems, coupled with a hope or a fear that the present Government will fall and in some circles that the Costituente will solve all.

Italians still do not know where to turn for guidance in their political affairs. They are finding increasing comfort in their illusion of political maturity, and in their over-estimation of the importance of Italian events to the outside world, particularly the Allied Nations.

(b) French Election Repercussions

The French election results, although having little impressed the Northern population which only a few months ago showed a much greater interest in the elections in Great Britain, drew unbounded satisfaction from the Communist, Demo-Christian, and Socialist, press, which at the same time claimed success for their own particular parties. Two international talks regarding the publication and "softening" of the Italian armistice terms are still in progress, and, together with the Italian point of view, have been given much publicity in the press. The Socialist Party announcement in ROME at the close of the Socialist Party Central Committee meetings on the "uselessness" of creating a new workers' party by a fusion between themselves and the Communists - described by NENNI as a final aim and not a means to an end - reestablished the principle of the independence of the Socialist Party. Northern anti-fusionists have been much encouraged by results of the Rome Socialist Party Central Committee deliberations and good authority has it that meetings have already taken place in the North between anti-fusionists

1437

...../2

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785720

and Acti n Party representatives. It is also said that the Action Party is aiming at the establishment of a " left of centre" coalition and since they are traditionally considered more anti-clerical than the Socialists they are endeavouring to enlist the support of the Christian-Democrats through the good offices of the right-wing socialists. Minister SCELBA, a very important member of the Christian-Democrat Party, in a recent speech, let it be known that he favoured a rapprochement between his party and the Socialists. Publication of proposed coalition of the French Socialist and MRP (Christian-Democrat) parties has of course strengthened this view. All new trends in Party politics are worth watching as the developments promise to be interesting and rapid.

(c) Christian-Democrats Showing the Flag

Perhaps more out of a sense of time-won popularity which they wish to test, rather than from an urge to excite the Socialist-Communists, a "GIORNATA PER LA LIBERTA' DEL POPOLANO" has been promoted by the Christian-Democrats.

The manifestations will be held throughout Italy on " All Saints Day" 1 Nov and will take the form of an appeal to the Government for immediate improvement in the general economic conditions of the working population and for assistance to the needy, by contributions in kind or money, in view of the coming winter hardships. In all the provinces money collections will be made by the Party Secretariats with prior permission of the Questure.

Outwardly this bears no resemblance to the manifestations of Sunday 14 Oct, since there are as yet no indications of large-scale public meetings being organised, and, apart from localised gatherings, there is no reason to believe the "GIORNATA" will take any other form than the above plus an effort to "show the flag". This is confirmed by a Party Secretariat statement welcoming the backing of other parties but making it quite clear that the local speakers will be chosen and briefed by the Party HQ. It is worthy of note that this came after the Communist Party had hastened to announce its intention to support actively the "GIORNATA" and wherever necessary to contribute speeches.

2 ECONOMIC

(a) Uniform Wages for North Italy

During the first half of this month the workers of the large FIAT concern in TURIN began an agitation for higher wages. They said that FIAT wages had not been revised since 1 May 1945 , in spite of the increased cost of living. They also drew attention to the fact that several other industrial enterprises had in the meantime already signed new wage agreements and that now no reason

1436

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

(c) Christian-Democrats Hoisting the Flag

Perhaps most out of a sense of time-honored ceremony which they wish to treat, whether they can, as duty to match the Social-Communists, a "GIORNATA DELLA BANDIERA" has been promoted by the Christian-Democrats.

The manifestations will be held throughout Italy on "All Saints Day" 1 Nov and will take the form of an appeal to the Government for immediate improvement in the general economic conditions of the working population and for assistance to the needy, by contributions in kind or money, in view of the coming winter hardships. In all the provinces money collections will be made by the Party Secretariats with prior permission of the Questura.

Outwardly this bears no resemblance to the manifestations of Sunday 31 Oct, since there has as yet no indications of large-scale public meetings being organized, and, apart from localized gatherings, there is no reason to believe the "GIORNATA" will take any other form than the above plus an effort to "show the flag". This is confirmed by a Party Secretariat statement welcoming the backing of other parties but making it quite clear that the local speakers will be chosen and briefed by the Party HQ. It is worthy of note that this came after the Communist Party had endeavored to announce its intention to support actively the "GIORNATA" and wherever necessary to contribute speakers.

2 ECONOMIC

(a) Uniform Wages for North Italy

During the first half of this month the workers of the large FIAT concern in TURIN began an agitation for higher wages. They said that FIAT wages had not been revised since May 1945, in spite of the increased cost of living. They also drew attention to the fact that several other industrial enterprises had in the meantime already signed new wage agreements and they saw no reason why the time was not ripe for a betterment of their position. 14316

A meeting between the Industrialists' Union and Camera del Lavoro followed and resulted in a provisional agreement covering various principles involved in the make-up of total remunerations, which was then submitted to an inter-regional meeting in TURIN consisting of representatives of employers and workers presided over by Minister of Labour R.ROMITA.

...../3

1367

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

No irreconcilable views existed on agreement on the question of contingency pay and the terms governing the new accord were soon settled. Negotiations, however, broke down over the matter of uniform basic wages for the whole of North Italy. A clash has now arisen between PIEDMONT/LIGURIA on the one side and LOMBARDY/VENETO/EMILIA on the other.

LOMBARDY industrialists backed by representatives of VENETO and EMILIA appear to be violently opposing a Communist inspired suggestion to raise all wages in North Italy to the PIEDMONT/LIGURIA levels.

Higher wages in PIEDMONT, LIGURIA and LOMBARDY have recently been agreed to but the disparity between regions is considerable and PIEDMONT scales are normally regarded by LOMBARDY industrialists as being too high.

During a meeting of LOMBARDY industrialists in MILAN this week, a motion was passed reaffirming the stand taken by their representatives in TURIN on the ground that it would be against the interests of industry in LOMBARDY to alter the already increased wage levels agreed to recently for LOMBARDY. They have also called on the Government to intervene in support of their point of view on the ground that it is serving the interest of future private business and public economy to check the upward trend of wages and prices.

As soon as the workers became cognizant of this attitude of their employers, representatives of the principal MILAN factory workers' organisations, supported by the Camera del Lavoro, started an agitation in favour of the PIEDMONT levels. The other day an "order of the day" was left at the MILAN Prefecture declaring the will of the workers to establish a uniform wage for all North Italian workers on the basis proposed in TURIN and inviting the Government to exert pressure on Northern Italian industrialists to modify their "intransigent" attitude.

The situation is regarded as very delicate, but as yet there are no indications that public order is likely to be affected. Discussions are to be resumed this week in TURIN when [redacted] is expected back from ROME.

(b) MILAN Hotel and Restaurant Strike Off

The strike of MILAN Hotel and Restaurant workers which was threatened for this week - the chief objects of which were outlined in last week's summary - can now be considered as off for the time being.

1437

Both parties have been in consultation but no agreement has yet been reached. Employers seem, however, to be buying time by making counter-suggestions which, if of no other practical effect, have at least been useful in maintaining the peace. It is understood that [redacted]

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

industrialists as being too high.

During a meeting of [illegible] industrialists in [illegible] this week, a motion was passed reaffirming the stand taken by their representatives in CUNIC on the ground that it would be against the interests of industry in [illegible] to alter the already increased wage levels agreed to recently by [illegible]. They have also called on the government to intervene in support of their point of view on the ground that it is serving the interest of future orderly business and public economy to check the upward trend of wages and prices.

As soon as the workers became cognizant of this attitude of their employers, representatives of the [illegible] Milan factory workers' organisations, supported by the Camera del Lavoro, started an agitation in favour of the [illegible] levels. The other day an "order of the day" was left at the [illegible] Prefecture declaring the will of the workers to establish a uniform wage for all North Italian workers on the basis proposed in CUNIC and inviting the Government to exert pressure on Northern Italian industrialists to modify their "intransigent" attitude.

The situation is regarded as very delicate, but as yet there are no indications that public order is likely to be affected. Discussions are to be resumed this week in CUNIC where [illegible] is expected back from [illegible].

(b) Milan Hotel and Restaurant Strike Off

The strike of Milan Hotel and Restaurant workers which was threatened for this week - the chief objects of which were outlined in last week's message - can now be considered as off for the time being.

1437

Both parties have been in consultation but no agreement has yet been reached. Employers seem, however, to be buying time by various counter-suggestions which, if of no other practical effect, have at least been useful in maintaining the peace. It is understood that employers have informed the workers' representatives that they will accede to their demands if they will support them in their claim for the abolition of free trading - a move which would benefit the employers and workers but not the population as a whole.

It appears CGIL have been approached by the employers and asked to support this policy as it is their intention to submit the suggestion for Government approval. However, CGIL, realising that a bad principle is involved, has shown unwillingness, and has justified its refusal on the grounds that the food situation remains critical and still demands the strictest control over distribution and prices.

...../2

1369
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

3. HIDDEN ARMS

(a) During the period 17 Oct 45 - 23 Oct 45 raids on arms caches have continued with fair results. Once again most arms have been found in PIEMONTE and LOMBARDY.

(b) Information on arms caches continues to be scanty. In addition that obtained has proved less reliable than hitherto and, as a result, a number of raids were fruitless.

(c) Where raids are successful it is often extremely difficult to connect the caches with any political party or organisation.

(d) Details of raids are attached at Appendix "A".

Lt Col
GS

DISTRIBUTION: As for Summary No 18 of 19 October 1945

1434

1370

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

S E C R E T

Appendix 'A' to
G2I 2 District
Intelligence Summary
No 19 dated 26 Oct 45

HIDDEN ARMS

	No of raids	Rifles	LMGs	SMGs	Mortars	A/Tk Weapons	Grenades	Pistols	Amn
PIEDMONT	18	154	10	4	10	8 A/Tk rifles	76	16	Qty Sm. 2 expl
LOMBARDIA	16	95	9	3	-	-	151	41	Qty Sm
EMILIA	3	10	-	1	1	4 Bazookas	21	13	Qty Sm
LIGURIA		No reports received							
VENEZIA		No reports received							
TOTAL	37	259	19	8	11	12	228	70	-

1437

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

P. PIONT	18	154	18	4	10	6 A/T; Mines	76	16	Qty Sm. & expl
LOMBARDIA	16	95	9	3	-	-	151	41	Qty Sm
EMILIA	3	10	-	1	1	Grenades	21	13	Qty Sm
LIGURIA		No reports received							
VENEZIA		No reports received							
TOTAL	37	259	19	8	11	12	288	70	-

1437

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

Appendix 'B' to
GSI & District
Intelligence Summary
No 19 dated 26 Oct 45

DETAILS OF SUCCESSFUL RAIDS

Locality	Date of Raid	Rifles	MGs	Sub MGs	Pistols	Grenades	Mortars	A/Tk Guns	By Whom Raid was made	Remarks
RONAGNANO J 6386	17 Oct			1	1				CCRR	
CANELLANO J 1017	1 Oct	1							1/2 Tk .MG & rifles CCRR	
SANVIGLIANO R 9762	5 Oct					35			"	
ARBA O 2886	13 Oct			2					"	
S. CLODIO D'ACRI-SUD R 6791	5 Oct	1							"	
NEIVE O 3508	15 Oct	3			1	1			"	
Nr NEIVE O 3590	"	22		1		17			"	
FRATTA SESIA J 6260	?			3			10		"	
BARBOTTE DI PRATO SESIA J 6286	?			4					"	
VILLANOVA MONTERRATO J 6736	10 Oct	2		1	6	12			"	
BORGOMANERO J 4994	?	13							"	
BENZANO J 2530	?				2				"	
CASTELLO D'AGOGNE J 5201	13 Oct	2							"	
SUSA H5440	?	110		1		10			hauled in by CCPR at SUSA	
RA PIOCH J6206?2	16 Oct				1					
SALE J9213	?			1	5	1			10 Ind Div	
LAMPUGNANO K 1966	19 Oct	27		6		8			A/G & CCRR hidden by Partisans in barn	
BERGAMO K 6488	?	4		3					"	1432
BRESCIA P 0558	?	48		2	7	95			"	
MANTOVA P 4822	?	2		1	9	7			"	
MILAN K 26	?	12			6	7			"	

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

AIELLO O 2856	13 Oct			2				"
S. GIACOMO D'ACRI 800 M 0791	5 Oct	1						"
NERVI O 3588	15 Oct	3			1	1		"
Nr NERVI O 3590	"	22	1			17		"
FRAZ. MESOLA J 6285	?		3				10	"
BARISCIANO DI MONTE SIST. J 5260	?		4					"
VITERBO/MONTEFIASCONE J 6756	10 Oct	2	1		6	12		"
SORBOLUNGO J 4994	?	13						"
SERRANO J 2530	?				2			"
CASTELLO D'ARGILE J 5205	13 Oct	2						"
SUSA H5440	?	110	1			10		Haarlem fra IX CORPS at SUSA
Nr Plesk J 6267	18 Oct				1			
SALE J 9213	?			1	5	1		10 Ind Div
LAGUNGRO K 1966	19 Oct	27	6			8		AMG & CCRA Handed by Partisans in Bern
BERGAMO K 6468	?	4	3					" 1432
BRESCIA L 0598	?	46		2		35		"
LANTOSCA F 7822	?	2		1	5	7		"
MILAN K 26	?	12			6	7		"
LUGANO K 0479	?	1			16	5		"
VARESE D 7405	?	1			10	9		"
BOLOGNA L 6949	19 Oct	4					1	4 Swedes (Germany) CIP & CCRA
FERRARA K 1265	?	6		1	15	21		CCRA

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

SECRET

G/

54/26

GSI/8355

COPY NUMBER 44

2 DISTRICT

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 18

19 October 1945

SECRETARY	
G.S.O. I.	
D&A & O G	
DADOS	
HED	
G II TRG	
TRG MAJOR	
G-4	
S.C. REME	
G.S.O. II.	
CLERKS	

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SUMMARY WILL ON NO ACCOUNT BE COMMUNICATED TO ANYONE NOT HOLDING AN OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE BRITISH OR AMERICAN FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT.

1431

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

DAA & O G	
DADOS	
[illegible] HED	
GE TRG	
FGC HAGR	
Bonte	
S.C. REME	
G.S.O. II.	
CLERKS	

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 16

19 October 1945

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SUMMARY WILL ON NO ACCOUNT BE COMMUNICATED TO ANYONE NOT HOLDING AN OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE BRITISH OR AMERICAN FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT.

1431

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
GENERAL STAFF INTELLIGENCE
C M F

SECRET

1376

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

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

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
General Staff Intelligence
C M F

GSI/2353

19 Oct 1945

2 DISTRICT WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 18

1 POLITICAL

(a) Giornata Della Costituente

This took place as advertised (See Summary No. 17) on October 14th, although in some localities meetings were held on the previous day.

Attendance was on the whole good, although not as large as reported in the leftist press. Enthusiasm was not noticeable or great. The speeches were mostly off the subject of the COSTITUENTE itself, and followed the trite and vague lines of protest which are now becoming familiar. All representatives of those involved agreed that the desired evidence of political maturity of the Italian masses was given. This is taken to mean principally that no one was shot or beaten up at the meetings or in connection with them.

Generally speaking, apart from the Communists and Socialists, the following parties, where locally active, took part: Party of Action, Republican and Christian Left. In many cases speakers from Unione Donne Italiane, Fronte della Gioventu and U.D.I. took part. In some places Christian Democrats were represented.

Of the several meetings organised on both days the most important was the MILAN rally on Sunday at the "Arena", a sports ground. An estimated crowd of 75,000 persons, (200,000 according to AVANTI and UNITA) half of whom had watched a football match earlier in the afternoon, applauded the shorter speeches but the greatest ovations were reserved for TOGLIATTI and NENNI and perhaps quite naturally as since their parties were the prime movers of the meetings throughout ITALY.

The main points in TOGLIATTI's speech were:

(1) Strong stand with regard to the Allies.

(2) Democratic maturity of the Italian masses.

He argued that the "masses" would be ready to "fight" for their political existence in the same way as they helped to defeat the Hun; if proof were needed to show that Italians were ready for democracy, the work-people had shown this by their orderly attendance at the meetings.

NENNI adopted a more moderate line in his speech and refrained from "digging" at the Allies. He touched on economic

(a) Circolate Della Costituente

This took place as advertised (See Summary No. 17) on October 14th, although in some localities meetings were held on the previous day.

Attendance was on the whole good, although not as large as reported in the Italian press. Enthusiasm was not noticeable or great. The speeches were mostly off the subject of the COSTITUENTE itself, and followed the trite and vague lines of propaganda which are now becoming familiar. All representatives of parties involved agreed that the desired evidence of political maturity of the Italian masses was given. This is taken to mean principally that no one was shot or beaten up at the meetings or in connection with them.

Generally speaking, apart from the Communists and Socialists, the following parties, where locally active, took part: Party of Action, Republican and Christian Left. In many cases speakers from Unione Donne Italiane, Fronte della Gioventu and A.N.P.I. took part. In some places Christian Democrats were represented.

Of the several meetings organised on both days the most important was the MILAN rally on Sunday at the "Arena", a sports ground. An estimated crowd of 75,000 persons, (200,000 according to AVANTI and UNITA) half of whom had watched a football match earlier in the afternoon, applauded the shorter speeches but the greatest ovations were reserved for TOGLIATTI and NENNI and perhaps quite naturally as since their parties were the prime movers of the meetings throughout ITALY.

The main points in TOGLIATTI's speech were:

(1) Strong stand with regard to the Allies.

(2) Democratic maturity of the Italian masses.

He argued that the "masses" would be ready to "fight" for their political existence in the same way as they helped to defeat the Hun; if proof were needed to show that Italians were ready for democracy, the work-people had shown this by their orderly attendance at the meetings.

NENNI adopted a more moderate line in his speech and refrained from "digging" at the Allies. He touched on economic problems and emphasized the need of United States' assistance in reconstructing ITALY.

He confirmed that the date for the COSTITUENTE assembly would be fixed before the end of the month - a decision which had already been taken by the Council of Ministers and made public before the meeting.

Both the "UNITA" and "AVANTI" reproduced at length the texts of the speeches and went through great pains to give the meetings in MILAN and other large, as well as small, centres an importance which in reality was sadly lacking for the reasons quoted above.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

1379

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

1380

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

SCOCCIMARRO betrayed a sense of anxiety with regard to the concerted Anti-Communist campaign which is gradually developing principally amongst the less extreme parties and in other quarters in ITALY (meaning mainly, apolitical elements, the clergy, etc.). In his review of ITALY and her relations with the Western Allies and Soviet Russia he expressed concern at the continued "interference" of the former in Italy's "domestic" problems, implying that the Allies are supporting the "reactionaries" forgetting the promises made in the Atlantic Charter.

Socialist, Republican, Social-Christian and Christian Left representatives spoke at the opening session and tendered the good wishes of their parties. Stress was laid on the unity of purpose which exists between the parties of the left.

A reliable source who was present on the first day states that the audience was small and noticeably unenthusiastic. After SCOCCIMARRO's two hour address and the apathy of those present, which was so marked by the conspicuous lack of applause, it was evident that the party feels that not all is well within its own ranks and outside the party itself. That the leaders and chief exponents of the Communist faith are suffering from a persecution complex, which also seems to be infiltrating into the party rank and file, finds confirmation amongst the population and was once again manifested by TOGLIATTI and other Communist leaders recently.

2 ECONOMIC

(a) An Important Strike Temporarily Averted.

A large part of the population of MILAN was nearly faced this week with a very awkward feeding problem. As is already known several thousand Milanese are dependent for their meals on popular restaurants, and any change for the worse or interference with the smooth functioning of these establishments would obviously lead to a tense situation.

For some weeks Milan hotel and popular restaurant workers have been agitating for higher wages. It appears that about a fortnight ago employers agreed on principle to the idea but have systematically delayed in actually signing the agreement. The employers have since been accused of ill-faith and as a result the Trade Union decided to take a firmer stand.

On the evening of 17th October a large crowd assembled at the MILAN Camera del Lavoro with the object of discussing the steps to be taken in order to obtain their demands. Only after much persuasion and insistent appeals for restraint did the Trade Union and Camera del Lavoro officials succeed in averting a strike to commence the following morning.

However, a CCIL representative who was present at the meeting stated that during the stormy meeting it was announced that an agreement had been reached for bar and cafe workers only, granting them increases amounting to only part of their original demands. A resolution was, therefore, passed stating that if an accord for remaining categories was not reached by 22 Oct the Trade Union would proclaim a strike.

It is feared that if the strike does take place the general situation in MILAN would be seriously effected possibly upsetting present

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

so marked by the conspicuous lack of applause, it was evident that the party finds that not all is well within its own ranks and outside the party itself. That the workers and old supporters of the Communist faith are suffering from a persecution complex, which also seems to be infiltrating into the party rank and file, finds confirmation amongst the population and was once again manifested by PCdI MPs and other Communist leaders recently.

2. ECONOMIC

(a) An Important Strike Temporarily Averted.

A large part of the population of Milan was nearly faced this week with a very awkward feeding problem. As is already known, several thousand Milanese are dependent for their meals on popular restaurants, and any change for the worse or interference with the smooth functioning of these establishments would obviously lead to a tense situation.

For some weeks Milan hotel and popular restaurant workers have been agitating for higher wages. It appears that about a fortnight ago employers agreed on principle to the idea but have systematically delayed in actually signing the agreement. The employers have since been accused of ill-faith and as a result the Trade Union decided to take a firmer stand.

On the evening of 17th October a large crowd assembled at the Milan Camera del Lavoro with the object of discussing the steps to be taken in order to obtain their demands. Only after much persuasion and insistent appeals for restraint did the Trade Union and Camera del Lavoro officials succeed in averting a strike to commence the following morning.

However, a CGIL representative who was present at the meeting stated that during the stormy meeting it was announced that an agreement had been reached for bar and cafe workers only, granting them increases amounting to only part of their original demands. A resolution was, therefore, passed stating that if an accord for remaining categories was not reached by 22 Oct the Trade Union would proclaim a strike.

It is feared that if the strike does take place the general situation in Milan would be seriously effected possibly upsetting present good public order. It is, therefore, earnestly hoped by Allied as well as local authorities that by Monday of next week employers and workers representatives will have at least met and agreed on some sort of higher remuneration acceptable to both sides.

1382
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(b) Milanese Inhospitality

Reference is made to our Weekly Intelligence Summary No. 8 of 4 August which reported the appearance throughout MILAN of signs and posters bearing the inscription "MILAN AI MILANESE" (Milan for the Milanese).

It was never considered that the insinuation was aimed at the Allies but it was assumed that the campaign was directed at the large number of evacuees and others who did not normally live in MILAN and were thus aggravating an already bad economic situation.

In line with that bill-sticking, factory shop committees have been requested by the Milan Refugee Office to submit lists of personnel taken on payrolls since the armistice, viz, 8 Sept 43. They have justified this move by declaring as their avowed object the desire to assist the local authorities in their task of returning refugees to their places of origin. The ultimate aim, of course, is really another measure to provide more work for unemployed Milanese.

Concurrently with the above statement it was also announced during the week that the last date for registration entitling displaced persons, who, for one reason or another, took refuge in the city of MILAN after the chaos caused by the splitting of forces and allegiances in Sept 1943 to travel free to their place of origin, was 15 Oct 1945.

It seems that not all have taken advantage of these free travel facilities and it is estimated that there still remains in MILAN some 30 thousand people in this category.

The refugee office has now publicly threatened them with forcible expulsion if they do not leave the city forthwith.

This drive against refugees and evidence of actual dismissals is confirmed by censorship of Italian mail.

(c) Administrative Confusion - a typical example

In spite of the much publicized efforts of AMG and of the numerous CLN and other Italian bodies to restore normal conditions in the public services in Northern Italy, at a distance of 5 months from the liberation, the views of one of the major services, namely the electric power supply of the city of MILAN, as set out in an open letter published in the press on 5 October, throws a significant light on the deplorable confusion which still exists in this field.

The service in question is provided in part by the 1427 Soc; EDISON and its statements carry considerable weight. Translation of the statement follows : -

"Public anxiety over the problem of household heating during the coming winter usually appears in the press in the form of comments on the alleged short-sightedness of the electric-power companies and on the latters'

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

The ultimate aim, of course, is really another measure to provide more work for unemployed Milanese.

Concurrently with the above statement it was also announced during the week that the last date for registration entitling displaced persons, who, for one reason or another, took refuge in the city of MILAN after the chaos caused by the splitting of forces and allegiances in Sept 1943 to travel free to their place of origin, was 15 Oct 1945.

It seems that not all have taken advantage of these free travel facilities and it is estimated that there still remains in MILAN some 30 thousand people in this category.

The refugee office has now publicly threatened them with forcible expulsion if they do not leave the city forthwith.

This drive against refugees and evidence of actual dismissals is confirmed by censorship of Italian mail.

(c) Administrative Confusion - a typical example

In spite of the much publicized efforts of AMG and of the numerous CLN and other Italian bodies to restore normal conditions in the public services in Northern Italy, at a distance of 5 months from the liberation, the views of one of the major services, namely the electric power supply of the city of MILAN, as set out in an open letter published in the press on 9 October, throws a significant light on the deplorable confusion which still exists in this field.

The service in question is provided in part by the 1427
Soc; EDISON and its statements carry considerable weight. Translation of the statement follows : -

> "Public anxiety over the problem of household heating during the coming winter usually appears in the press in the form of comments on the alleged short-sightedness of the electric-power companies and on the latters' alleged obstructionist spirit. The Edison Company, whose attempts to improve the situation in time by a display of initiative have been frustrated by the complexities of bureaucracy, has now joined in the fray and wishes to tell the public its reasons.

1384

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

There is a shortage of electric power in MILAN, not because production is insufficient, but because the distributing network is not able to carry to the consumer the quantity which the latter would, at the present time, like to have. As has already been complained several times last winter, the transformers at the power-stations, unable to carry the excessive load which the widespread use of electric fires and ovens imposes on them, burn out and thus create a breakdown in supply. The distributing network of the Edison Co. - now carrying a load which is proportionately three times greater than the pre-war load - can no longer meet the daily demands of consumers.

Some time ago a programme of works was drawn up which aimed principally at improving the situation by increasing the potential load of the distributing network.

The execution of these plans, however, demanded various raw materials for the manufacture of cable, cables, conductors and transformers. As far back as the beginning of May, the Edison Co. had approached the the Industrial Committees (which at the time of the liberation had taken over the functions and organization of the 'Gufunet' Confederazione and German RUK organisations) in the hope of having an allocation of the necessary materials. Already early in June, however, it was only too evident that the end in view would not be achieved through the Industrial Committees, although it was outlined to them what importance the project would have in alleviating the difficult conditions with which the public would most certainly have to put up during the coming winter.

To break the deadlock the Edison Co. took up the question directly with the Prefect and at the latter's request the Central Economic Commission asked for a detailed report which was presented by the Co. on the 15th of June. A similar report was presented on the following day to the Commissioner of the Comitato on non-Ferrous metals.

Only from the Iron and Steel Commission was a favourable result obtained. Following further pressure by the Prefect some of the Comitati declared that they were not fully informed on the question of actual stocks of material and were unable to allocate material already brought to light because of the protests which would thus be raised by those persons at present holding the material.

1420

Further hold-ups were encountered when some Comitati insisted on establishing, through the allocations of material, the firms from which the Edison Co. would have to order the machinery, whilst the allocation of power depended [illegible]

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

1386

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

By dint of such labours, release vouchers for the materials were finally obtained but up to date only a part has been available for collection.

If the 'vinculistic' (i.e. which exerts excessive controls over stores etc.) regime had not existed with all its blocking and unblocking, the stores would probably have been available within a fortnight of making the request, in view of the fact that there is no shortage in N. ITALY of such material.

At the present state of affairs, following delays due to the causes outlined above, the public must therefore realise that it will not be possible to allow a proportion of electric power for heating purposes during the coming winter and that in the kitchen electricity will represent only an auxiliary means."

4 HIDDEN ARMS

(a) Information on arms caches has again been scanty during the week. A number of raids have, however, been made with fair results. Details of arms recovered during the week are given at Appendix "A".

(b) Two more reports have been received from the TURIN area of the clandestine manufacture of arms. These reports are being investigated.

(c) Totals of arms reported recovered between 1 Sep 45 and 30 Sep 45 in the various Regions are as follows : -

Region	Rifles	MGs	S-MGs	Pistols	Mortars	A/Tk Weapons	FA. guns (over 20 mm)	W/T Sets
EMILIA	66	2	8					
LIGURIA	378	69	50	4	12	2	1	1
LOMBARDY	223	38	80	53	1		1	
VENEZIE	145	47	26	6	2			
PIEDMONT	1006	177	86	30	49	21	30	23
TOTAL	1818	333	250	93	64	23	32	24

Large quantities of ammunition, grenades and explosives were also recovered. [illegible] guns and 1 tracked vehicle were found in PIEDMONT.

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

whether and what is on record at Section [illegible] only an invalid by source."

4. MEDDEV .263

(a) Information on arms caches has remained very scanty during the week. A number of raids have, however, been made with fair results. Details of arms recovered during the week are given at Appendix "A".

(b) Two more reports have been received from the TURIN area of the clandestine manufacture of arms. These reports are being investigated.

(c) Totals of arms reported recovered between 1 Sep 45 and 30 Sep 45 in the various regions are as follows : -

Region	Rifles	MGs	3-inch	Pistols	Mortars	A/Tk Weapons	Fd. guns (over 20 mm)	W/T Sets
APULIA	66	2	8					
LIGURIA	378	69	50	4	12	2	1	1
LOMBARDY	223	38	80	59	1		1	
VENEZIE	145	47	26	6	2			
PIEDMONT	1006	177	86	30	49	21	50	23
TOTAL	1818	333	250	93	64	23	52	24

Large quantities of ammunition, grenades and explosives were also recovered. 7 immobilized captured guns and 1 tracked vehicle were found in PIEDMONT.

[illegible]
Lt Col
GS

DISTRIBUTION:

As for Summary No. 17 of 12 October 1945.

1388
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

1389

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

			ARM WOUNDED			
REGIMENT	Killed	Died	Slightly (Not Evac)	Evacuated	Returned to Duty	A/Tk Guns
PISTOIA (H7412)	24	17	3			1 A/Tk Gun 2 Mortars 2 Bazooka
BOSCHETTA (J8525)	2		2			
CUEVAS (J7303)	4	1		1	1	
FIRST (J6729)			1			
[illegible]		1				
[illegible]				1		
[illegible]			1			
[illegible]	26	1	10	3		
[illegible]			1			
[illegible]	20	2				
[illegible]				1		
[illegible]	2			1		
[illegible]	5	3		1		
[illegible]	10	1		3		
[illegible]	125	5	33		3	
[illegible]	46	3	450			
TOTAL	324	37	527	36	4	1 A/Tk Gun 2 Mortars 2 Bazookas

4 Feb 44

1390

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

Appx. "A"

	Rifles	MGs	AT/AC Sub Mch	AT/AC Mortars	Mortars	A/TK Guns	T/K Guns	FA Guns
	24	17	3			1 A/TK rifle 9 Recoilless		
	2		2					
	1	2		1	1			
			1					
		3						
				1				
			0					
	56	3	10	3				
	77							
	42	3						
	7			1				
	2			1				
	9	3		1			1	
	10	1		6				
	136	5	20		1			
	68	3	450					
	328	37	517	35	2	1 A/TK rifle 9 Recoilless	1	

1

SECRET

54/25

OSI/2355

COPY NUMBER 44

2 DISTRICT

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 17

12 October 1945

SEEN BY	
G.S.O. I.	
DAA & QMG	
~~ADOS~~	
~~DADST~~	
G-	
S.C. REME	
G.S.O. II.	
CLERKS	

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SUMMARY WILL ON NO ACCOUNT BE COMMUNICATED TO ANYONE NOT HOLDING AN OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE BRITISH OR AMERICAN FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT.

1423

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
GENERAL STAFF INTELLIGENCE
C M F

1391

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

DIST	
G-	149
S.C. REME	
G.S.O. II	
CLERKS	

NUMBER 17

12 October 1945

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SUMMARY WILL OF NO ACCOUNT BE COMMUNICATED TO ANYONE NOT HOLDING AN OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE BRITISH OR AMERICAN FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT.

1423

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
GENERAL STAFF INTELLIGENCE
G.H.Q.

SECRET

I 3 9 2

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

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
General Staff Intelligence
C M F

GSI/2355

12 Oct 1945

2 DISTRICT WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 17

1 POLITICAL

(a) Electoral Propaganda

Socialists and Communists are actively pursuing the preparations for the "GIORNATA DELLA COSTITUENTE" to be held in all major towns on 14 Oct. (see our Weekly Intelligence Summary No. 16), and much capital is made out of the presence on that date in MILAN of TOGLIATTI and NENNI, who will also appear in TURIN the day before.

The "GIORNATA" was originally planned as a purely Socialist-Communist affair, but the section of the Socialist party which is against fusion with the Communist party has succeeded in getting the other CLN parties invited to attend. It is believed that the Party of Action has accepted, and possibly some of the others.

In any case, the principle has been established that the show is open to all, and this has caused much annoyance among Communist and pro-fusion Socialist elements, who had hoped to benefit from such success as the manifestation may have.

In fact, original announcements stated that this was to be an example of the joint action program of the two parties; and the organizers were not limiting the subjects of discussion and manifestations to the COSTITUENTE, but were ready to bring up other questions, such as epuration, cost of living, "reactionary" intrigues and so forth. Whether this will be done in view of the participation of other parties remains to be seen.

Meanwhile, it does not appear strange to the supporters and organizers that two important members of the Government should be widely advertized as taking part in what is essentially a meeting of protest against the presumed faults of the government itself.

(b) Socialist Party

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

1 POLITICAL

(a) Electoral Propaganda

Socialists and Communists are actively pursuing the preparations for the "GIORNATA DELLA COSTITUENTE" to be held in all major towns on 14 Oct. (see our Weekly Intelligence Summary No. 16), and much capital is made out of the presence on that date in MILAN of TOGLIATTI and NENNI, who will also appear in TURIN the day before.

The "GIORNATA" was originally planned as a purely Socialist-Communist affair, but the section of the Socialist party which is against fusion with the Communist party has succeeded in getting the other CLN parties invited to attend. It is believed that the Party of Action has accepted, and possibly some of the others.

In any case, the principle has been established that the show is open to all, and this has caused much annoyance among Communist and pro-fusion Socialist elements, who had hoped to benefit from such success as the manifestation may have.

In fact, original announcements stated that this was to be an example of the joint action program of the two parties; and the organizers were not limiting the subjects of discussion and manifestations to the COSTITUENTE, but were ready to bring up other questions, such as epuration, cost of living, "reactionary" intrigues and so forth. Whether this will be done in view of the participation of other parties remains to be seen.

Meanwhile, it does not appear strange to the supporters and organizers that two important members of the Government should be widely advertized as taking part in what is essentially a meeting of protest against the presumed faults of the government itself.

(b) Socialist Party

The Socialist party congress, which was due to meet at about this time, has been indefinitely postponed. Instead, the party executive committee will meet in ROME from the 17th to the 21st of this month. It is pretty certain that both fusionists and anti-fusionists are playing for time, neither wishing for a show-down as yet. It is probable that anti-fusionists are not yet strong or organized enough in spite of their efforts (see Weekly Summary No. 15) to prevail at the committee meeting. The MILAN and ROME editions of "AVANTI" are still under the control of NENNI, and of course wield great influence.

A general party congress meeting perhaps in late November could, however, mark a turning point, and it is to this end that the anti-fusionists are working.

1394

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

(c) CLNs (Committees of National Liberation)

As time goes on, it is increasingly felt - especially in right-wing circles - that, now the liberation period is over and a regular Government is functioning, there is no longer any valid justification for maintaining "Liberation" committees. This tendency is, of course, being strongly opposed by the parties of the left and by all those who, before and after the liberation, have succeeded in securing power within or through the various CLNs.

In order to consolidate their position, the Central CLN in ROME and the CLNAI (North Italy CLN) initiated talks on 26 Sep with a view to ultimate fusion of the two bodies. But after several days of discussions between the members of the North and those of ROME, no agreement could be reached, and the meeting was adjourned "Sine die". These discussions have confirmed once again the different attitude of the various political parties towards the CLNs, the Liberals favouring their abolition, the Socialists and Communists clinging their retention with all the powers they acquired during the resistance period, and the other parties taking an in-between attitude.

Meanwhile the CLNs, who are often taking the law into their own hands, have had a curious warning in the form of an open letter addressed on the 29 September to the population and the officials of the province of OPERANO by the AMG Provincial Commissioner. In this letter, the Commissioner denounces the abuse of authority and arbitrary acts accomplished by many communal CLNs. He points out that the CLNs have no executive powers whatsoever, since the date of the arrival of AMG, and that their only function in that of a consultative body for AMG. The Commissioner also warns all officials that they will be discharged if they take any orders from, or have any official dealings with, any CLN. He concludes by threatening the dissolution of all CLNs disregarding his instructions.

This letter caused the CLN of LOMBARDIA to visit the Regional Commissioner in MILAN, who fully supported the attitude taken by the Provincial Commissioner.

2 ECONOMIC

(a) A Labour Victory

After the announcement of the new labour agreement reached in ROME at the end of last month (the main terms of which were set out in Summary No. 16) the Northern Delegation of the CGIL convened in MILAN representatives from all the Camere del Lavoro to examine the terms of the agreement and to hear the views of those who are in close touch with the workers.

The meeting is said to have been successful in that the CGIL representatives succeeded in convincing their colleagues that present conditions did not make it possible to secure more favourable terms and that it was incumbent upon them to drive this point home to the workers. 1421

Following this meeting the Camere del Lavoro have been

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

the other parties taking an in-between attitude.

Meanwhile the CLN's, who are often taking the law into their own hands, have had a salutary warning in the form of an open letter addressed on the 29 September to the population and the officials of the province of CHIETI by the ALG Provincial Commissioner. In this letter, the Commissioner denounces the abuse of authority and arbitrary acts accomplished by many communal CLN's. He points out that the CLN's have no executive powers whatsoever, since the date of the arrival of AMG, and that their only function is that of a consultative body for AMG. The Commissioner also warns all officials that they will be discouraged if they take any orders from, or have any official dealings with, any CLN. He concludes by threatening the dissolution of all CLN's disregarding his instructions.

This letter caused the CLN of LANCIANO to visit the Regional Commissioner in AQUILA, who fully supported the attitude taken by the Provincial Commissioner.

2 ECONOMIC

(a) A Labour Victory

After the announcement of the new Labour Agreement reached in ROME at the end of last month (the main terms of which were set out in Summary No. 15) the Northern Delegation of the CGIL convened in MILAN representatives from all the Camere del Lavoro to examine the terms of the agreement and to hear the views of those who are in close touch with the workers.

The meeting is said to have been successful in that the CGIL representatives succeeded in convincing their colleagues that present conditions did not make it possible to secure more favourable terms and that it was incumbent upon them to drive this point home to the workers.

Following this meeting the Camere del Lavoro have been energetically urging [illegible] to obtain [illegible] all over the country and emphasising how much the success of all the clauses of the new agreement [illegible] depended on the loyalty with which they were carried out by all employers. It is evident that these clauses are favourable to labour.

1421

1396

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

Though it is believed that "canvassing" has not been completed yet throughout the Northern Regions, it is understood that favourable reports so far received have induced the Northern Delegation of the CGIL to signal their head office in ROME to the effect that the Camere del Lavoro have been successful in securing the workers' adherence and that the new accord should be implemented without further delay.

In our summary last week it was reported that employers viewed the agreement with some concern. It would now seem that a more thorough study of its implications has confirmed them in their opinion that, from an economic point of view, little useful change to the already unsatisfactory employment situation has been effected by the new accord. While "capital" has shown itself prepared to swallow this latest imposition on the part of the workers, partly because employers are realising that the hoped for speeding up of production is going to be still further deferred, capital finds itself at a disadvantage in all negotiations with labour. We have it on good authority that employers are, nevertheless, determined to take a firmer stand in the forthcoming talks in the course of which the text of a new agreement for 1946 (to be substituted for the present one expiring on 31 Dec 45) will be negotiated.

(b) Strikes and Demonstrations

The strikes and demonstrations in some LOMBARDY localities, which started with the introduction of the new bread rationing scale on 1st Oct, became more widespread in the centres mentioned in our Summary No. 16 and also spread to other parts of the Region. The firm stand taken from the outset by Allied and Italian authorities led to considerable success. Not only did their action succeed in containing the agitation but it also had the salutary effect of putting an end to the unrest without yielding to the demands made.

On 9 Oct approximately 40,000 building trade operatives made a demonstration outside the premises of the MILAN Camera del Lavoro calling for higher wages retroactive to 3 Sep. It would appear that negotiations which have been going on between representatives of operatives and employers broke down, as the latter would not conform to the new minimum wages requested by the operatives with back-pay as from 3 Sep. NO incidents occured during the demonstration, and the demonstrators passed a vote of confidence in the representatives of the building workers trade union. The union representatives were called upon to persist in their demands. Similar demonstrations have also been reported from several of the other communes in MILAN province.

1420

(c) Industrial Unemployment in North Italy

The spectre of unemployment, actual and potential, still looms large in the forefront of most discussions in the economic field and provides alike the constructive elements with serious food for thought and the extremists with an ideal stick for beating the "reactionaries". In order to attempt to appreciate the real size of

1397

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

because employers are realising that the hoped for speeding up of production is going to be still further deferred, capital finds itself at a disadvantage in all negotiations with labour. We have it on good authority that employers are, nevertheless, determined to take a firmer stand in the forthcoming talks in the course of which the text of a new agreement for 1946 (to be substituted for the present one expiring on 31 Dec 45) will be negotiated.

(b) Strikes and Demonstrations

The strikes and demonstrations in some LOMBARDY localities, which started with the introduction of the new bread rationing scale on 1st Oct, became more widespread in the centres mentioned in our Summary No. 16 and also spread to other parts of the Region. The firm stand taken from the outset by Allied and Italian authorities led to considerable success. Not only did their action succeed in containing the agitation but it also had the salutary effect of putting an end to the unrest without yielding to the demands made.

On 9 Oct approximately 40,000 building trade operatives made a demonstration outside the premises of the MILAN Camera del Lavoro calling for higher wages retroactive to 3 Sep. It would appear that negotiations which have been going on between representatives of operatives and employers broke down, as the latter would not conform to the new minimum wages requested by the operatives with back-pay as from 3 Sep. NO incidents occured during the demonstration, and the demonstrators passed a vote of confidence in the representatives of the building workers trade union. The union representatives were called upon to persist in their demands. Similar demonstrations have also been reported from several of the other communes in MILAN province.

1420

(c) Industrial Unemployment in North Italy

The spectre of unemployment, actual and potential, still looms large in the forefront of most discussions in the economic field and provides alike the constructive elements with serious food for thought and the extremists with an ideal stick for beating the "reactionaries". In order to attempt to appreciate the real size of the problem, an endeavour has been made to gather and collate such statistics as are available and, by interpreting them, to draw such conslusions therefrom as seem reasonable.

The following analysis tries, by various methods, to ascertain the actual size of present unemployment, only partially discernible from the figures available at the Employment Exchanges, and also to estimate the degree of unemployment that would be likely to arise should industry regain its freedom of action in the matter of sacking redundant staff so as to reduce labour forces to dimensions more in keeping with present production levels.

1398

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

All industries (excluding handicrafts) are covered in this study which deals with the regions of PIEDMONT, LOMBARDY, LIGURIA, EMILIA, VENETO and VENEZIA GIULIA. It is to be observed that from such data as are available precise figures of present unemployment cannot be given, nor can potential unemployment be accurately gauged. It has, however, been possible to arrive at some estimates which are of considerable interest.

A first calculation (See Appendix "B") of present and potential unemployment in North Italy has been made, taking as the basis the pre-war employment figures (office and factory labour) and determining, for each type of industry, the variations of the numbers of workers on the strengths of firms and the relation between employment in 1938 and 1945 expressed in percentages. The data have been culled from Trade Union employment statistics; the Labour Inspectorate statistics of numbers of hours worked; other workers' and industrial organisations; and have been collated after talks with representative firms in the various branches of industry. In Appendix "B", the figure for the number of inactive workers among the total number of workers presently employed, being based on the present level of industrial activity and on normal output criteria, is almost certainly lower than the actual number of workers which industry would in practice dismiss were it free so to do. In calculating the number of potentially unemployed by adding the number of present unemployed to the difference between the labour forces on the strength in 1938 and those on the strength in 1945, it has been assumed that this difference represents the actual number of unemployed, that is to say workers who return to the labour market or who find their way there from among the younger age-groups of the working population. This naturally presupposes that aged workers who fall out are replaced by young ones. It will be seen, therefore, that this method of calculation gives us a total estimated figure of actual and potential unemployment in industry of a little over one million souls.

A direct estimate of present and potential unemployment can also be made on the basis of the following statistical data: -

(a) number of unemployed registered at the Employment Exchanges -

(b) number of workers totally suspended in receipt of the dole from the Cassa Integrazione -

(c) number of partly employed workers whose pay is made up by the Cassa Integrazione.

These are obviously data which can illustrate only part of the phenomenon. The numbers of people registered at the Employment Exchanges in search of jobs account only for a part of the total number actually unemployed, and this because in many areas there are no Employment Exchanges and also for the reason that many unemployed persons who are not entitled to the dole do not register at the Exchanges, registrations being considered as optional.

Italy

The number of workers who receive the dole from the ISTITUTO DI PREVIDENZA SOCIALE in virtue of the fact that they are either wholly or partly out of work, is indicative of the potential unemployment

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

organisations, and ... firms in the various branches of industry. In Appendix "B", the figure for the number of inactive workers among the total number of workers presently employed, being based on the present level of industrial activity and on normal output criteria, is almost certainly lower than the actual number of workers which industry would in practice dismiss were it free so to do. In calculating the number of potentially unemployed by adding the number of present unemployed to the difference between the labour forces on the strength in 1938 and those on the strength in 1945, it has been assumed that this difference represents the actual number of unemployed, that is to say workers who return to the labour market or who find their way there from among the younger age-groups of the working population. This naturally presupposes that aged workers who fall out are replaced by young ones. It will be seen, therefore, that this method of calculation gives us a total estimated figure of actual and potential unemployment in industry of a little over one million souls.

A direct estimate of present and potential unemployment can also be made on the basis of the following statistical data: -

(a) number of unemployed registered at the Employment Exchanges -

(b) number of workers totally suspended in receipt of the dole from the Cassa Integrazione -

(c) number of partly employed workers whose pay is made up by the Cassa Integrazione.

These are obviously data which can illustrate only part of the phenomenon. The numbers of people registered at the Employment Exchanges in search of jobs account only for a part of the total number actually unemployed, and this because in many areas there are no Employment Exchanges and also for the reason that many unemployed persons who are not entitled to the dole do not register at the Exchanges, registrations being considered as optional.

The number of workers who receive the dole from the ISTITUTO DI PREVIDENZA SOCIALE in virtue of the fact that they are either wholly or partly out of work, is indicative of the potential unemployment figure, but it does not give the complete figure. It is well known in fact that many firms have so far abstained from suspending their redundant workers and that in many cases the working hours on the basis of which firms calculate the workers' pay are more notional than actual, also because of the fact [illegible] per man. An attempt is, however, being made to obtain more precise data on this subject for all the Northern Italian provinces. Meanwhile set out below are such figures as have been collected to date :

1479

1400

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

Lombardy	Wholly Suspended Workers	Workers Waiting to be Dismissed	Partly Suspended Workers	Unemployed Registered at Employment Exchanges
Bergamo	16.500	—	17.500	23.280
Brescia	8.000	--	10.000	26.000
Como	16.757	1.000	25.419	20.000
Cremona	1.196	356	1.946	3.544
Mantova	382	--	840	2.752
Milan	80.000	3.000	145.000	27.529
Pavia	9.343	269	8.038	6.953
Sondrio	398	--	1.047	1.286
Varese	22.000	300	40.000	2.237
Total	154.576	4.865	251.790	113.583

LIGURIA : - Numbers registered at the Employment Exchanges in the provincial capitals 28,000

Numbers wholly suspended in GENOA and SPEZIA. .. 17,000

Numbers partly suspended in GENOA and SPEZIA... 7,500

Piedmont	Workers Receiving Whole or Part Dole from Cassa Integrazione	Unemployed Registered at Employment Exchanges
Alessandria	2.237	2.672
Aosta	9.870	995
Asti	3.280	973
Cuneo	2.998	809
Novara	31.794	6.506
Turin	94.000	5.810
Vercelli	34.417	926
Total	178.596	18.892

For the VENETO and EMILIA Regions, statistics so far to hand refer to few provinces only. Estimates from the Prefects, Economic Commissions and Labour Offices have, however, been received. For PIEDMONT, LIGURIA, and LOMBARDY further subsidiary figures have also been received. Thus, taking into account all the data collected one arrives by this method at an approximate estimate of the present and potential industrial

141

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

Sondrio	398	209	8.038	27.529
Varese	22.000	--	1.047	6.953
		300	40.000	1.280
				2.237
Total	154.576	4.865	251.790	113.503

LIGURIA : - Numbers registered at the Employment Exchanges in the provincial capitals 26,000
Numbers wholly suspended in GENOA and SPEZIA. .. 17,000
Numbers partly suspended in GENOA and SPEZIA.... 7,500

Piedmont	Workers Receiving Whole or Part Dole from Cassa Integrazione	Unemployed Registered at Employment Exchanges
Alessandria	2.237	2.872
Aosta	9.670	995
Asti	3.280	975
Cuneo	2.998	809
Novara	31.794	6.506
Turin	94.000	5.810
Vercelli	34.417	926
Total	176.596	18.892

For the VENETO and EMILIA Regions, statistics so far to hand refer to few provinces only. Estimates from the Prefects, Economic Commissions and Labour Offices have, however, been received. For PIEDMONT, LIGURIA, and LOMBARDY further subsidiary figures have also been received. Thus, taking into account all the data collected one arrives by this method at an approximate estimate of the present and potential industrial unemployment (excluding unemployed repatriates numbers of whom are still turning up) :-

Piedmont	175,000
Liguria	90,000
Lombardy	450,000
Emilia	110,000
Veneto	150,000
Total	975,000

141

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

A figure of about the million mark finds confirmation in other calculations based on statistical methods. Table the changes in the number of working hours in industry to be followed. On the basis of such data, it is estimated that during the last few months the total hours of work done has fallen to about half the level reached during the first six months of 1943. During that period industrial employment in the Regions of PIEDMONT, LIGURIA, LOMBARDY, VENETO and EMILIA, according to the General Association of Industrialists' Union, amounted to about 2,250,000 workers. In order to maintain an output of work per worker equal to the average of the first six months of 1943, 1,125,000 workers would be unemployed. On the other hand, total industrial activity during the first six months of 1943, on the basis of the numbers of hours worked, was about 10% higher than that pre-war (average 1937-40); so that the present level is equal to 55% of pre-war activity. This figure also finds confirmation in another enquiry carried out in reference to July 1944; and, as the pre-war employment figure amounted to 2,185,000 workers, we arrive at a present figure of 1,201,000 workers employed and, therefore, at a present unemployment figure of 984,000 workers. This lower figure is explained not only by the different statistical methods used, but also by the greater average number of working hours per worker done during the first six months of 1943 as compared with pre-war.

3 HIDDEN ARMS

(a) There has been a sharp drop in the number of hidden arms recovered during the week. Information has not been so readily forthcoming as formerly in PIEDMONT and LIGURIA and, as a result, fewer raids have been made. The total number of arms recovered during the week is MGs 47, rifles 1, sub-guns 5, pistols 3.

The reason for the present lack of information is not known. A possible explanation might be that rumours of the imminent departure of AMG may have made informants fearful of possible reprisals against them later.

(b) HQ 7 AGRA report that negotiations are now in progress with former partisan leaders in the FERRUCCIO (M7410) area, and it is hoped that they will agree to influence their followers to hand in the arms they still possess.

(c) 10 arms factories in PIEDMONT Region have been visited during the week. In one a quantity of small parts for arms were declared and confiscated and in another some spare linings and gun cradles were broken up.. Otherwise nothing of interest was found.

1417

Lt Col
GS

1403
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

figure amounted to 2,185,000 workers, as against at present figure of 1,201,000 workers employed and, therefore, the present unemployment figure of 984,000 workers. This lower figure is explained not only by the different statistical methods used, but also by the greater average number of working hours per worker kept during the first six months of 1945 as compared with pre-war.

3 HIDDEN ARMS

(a) There has been a sharp drop in the number of hidden arms recovered during the week. Information has not been so readily forthcoming as formerly in [redacted] and [redacted] and, as a result, fewer raids have been made. The total number of arms recovered during the week is MGs 47, rifles 1, sub-MGs 5, pistols 3.

The reason for the present lack of information is not known. A possible explanation might be that rumours of the imminent departure of SHAEF may have made informants fearful of possible reprisals against them later.

(b) HQ 7 ARMY report that negotiations are now in progress with former partisan leaders in the [redacted] (H7613) area, and it is hoped that they will agree to influence their followers to hand in the arms they still possess.

(c) 10 arms factories in [redacted] Region have been visited during the week. In one a quantity of small parts for arms were declared and confiscated and in another some brake linings and gun cradles were broken up. Otherwise nothing of interest was found.

1417

Lt Col
GS

DISTRIBUTION:

As for Summary No. [redacted] of October 1945.

1404

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

Appendix "A"

ITALIAN FOREIGN TRADE

For some months now industrial and commercial circles in MILAN, TURIN and GENOA have been perturbed at the apparent silence of the powers-that-be as to the possibilities of and the steps that may have been taken to make possible the starting up again of Italian foreign trade, which has always played an important part in the national economy.

Attached to this Appendix are extracts from Chapter X of the Italian Basic Handbook (Part II "Economic Structure") which illustrates the basic structure of Italy's foreign trade and provides the indispensable skeleton background to the problem.

It is obvious that the war, besides bringing about a radical alteration in the main sources of supply of most commodities which Italy needs to import, also cut her off from many of her traditional export markets. Moreover, although the bulk of her manufacturing potential in the North is fortunately still intact, despite appreciable destruction and plant removals by the Germans, she still has to confront and solve a sizeable problem of reconversion before her industry will be ready and able to cope with export trade requirements on anything like pre-war scales.

The Achilles heel of Italian economy always was, is and will remain, her shortage of the principal raw materials, first among which is fuel. What has been termed the "first-aid" import programme for 1945/46 is reported to have been approved by the Government and now awaits practical implementation on the part of the Allied authorities in WASHINGTON and elsewhere. Small quantities of raw materials, including coal, cotton and copper, are now starting to arrive and some at least of the basic manufacturing industries which are now largely at a standstill, may reasonably be expected to commence work during the coming winter. While it is obvious that internal demand for most commodities cannot be satisfied for a long while to come, it is none the less evident that Italy must start exporting as quickly as possible if she is to be able to earn foreign exchange with which to pay for essential imports. It is largely around the cardinal point as to just how the first step to break out of the vicious circle is to be made that controversy is rife.

It has been remarked elsewhere that Italy is apparently helplessly rift with ideological problems which seem to confront her Government with insoluble dilemmas. In the field of foreign trade the politicians of the left advocate straight state trading, with individual industries playing merely a minor internal role. The industrialists and "liberals" generally are not unnaturally pressing for conditions that may make it possible for private initiative to enjoy the freest possible rein. Between these two view-points, it now appears that the Government is likely to steer a middle course and favour state controlled private trade. To judge by the statements of ENZO STORONE, the Under Secretary for Foreign Trade,

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

the indispensable skeleton background to the problem.

It is obvious that the war, besides bringing about a radical alteration in the main sources of supply of most commodities which Italy needs to import, also cut her off from many of her traditional export markets. Moreover, although the bulk of her manufacturing potential in the North is fortunately still intact, despite appreciable destruction and plant removals by the Germans, she still has to confront and solve a sizeable problem of reconversion before her industry will be ready and able to cope with export trade requirements on anything like pre-war scales.

The Achilles heel of Italian economy always was, is and will remain, her shortage of the principal raw materials, first among which is fuel. What has been termed the "first-aid" import programme for 1945/46 is reported to have been approved by the Government and now awaits practical implementation on the part of the Allied authorities in WASHINGTON and elsewhere. Small quantities of raw materials, including coal, cotton and copper, are now starting to arrive and some at least of the basic manufacturing industries which are now largely at a standstill, may reasonably be expected to commence work during the coming winter. While it is obvious that internal demand for most commodities cannot be satisfied for a long while to come, it is none the less evident that Italy must start exporting as quickly as possible if she is to be able to earn foreign exchange with which to pay for essential imports. It is largely around the cardinal point as to just how the first step to break out of the vicious circle is to be made that controversy is rife.

It has been remarked elsewhere that Italy is apparently helplessly rift with ideological problems which seem to confront her Government with insoluble dilemmas. In the field of foreign trade the politicians of the left advocate straight state trading, with individual industrials playing merely a minor internal role. The industrialists and "liberals" generally are not unnaturally pressing for conditions that may make it possible for private initiative to enjoy the freest possible rein. Between these two view-points, it now appears that the Government is likely to steer a middle course and favour state controlled private trade. To judge by the statements of ENZO STORONE, the Under Secretary for Foreign Trade, who has recently been addressing meetings of industrialists and Chambers of Commerce in MILAN and TURIN, the aim of the present Government will be to foster private enterprise in foreign trade within a gradually lifting framework of state control. It is obvious that a degree of control over Italian foreign trade is necessary at least for a time in order to bring it within the orbit of world trade which is itself subject to national and international controls.

1406

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

As a result of the war, it is probably inevitable that there will be some change in the basis of Italian foreign trade. Some industries (based on the now discredited autarchic theory) are destined to disappear or wane, if they have not already done so. Others which benefitted under the Fascist system from special bounties or subsidies, may possibly no longer find themselves able to face free world competition where goods may be expected to find their own level and to compete on their merits in a free market. Others again may find their installations so destroyed or dilapidated that in the national interest it may no longer be worth while to resuscitate them. Certain basic Italian manufactures will however remain or resurge. Apart from agricultural products or other materials from the soil such as sulphur and mercury, for all of which markets will always be assured, even at high prices, it seems likely that textiles and chemical products, (to mention only the two more important) may be expected to provide the bulk of Italy's exports for some time to come.

The first step to break the present deadlock must obviously be the importation of raw materials, possibly in compensation against the exportation of manufactured products for an equivalent value. Meanwhile various problems have to be solved, such for instance as the question of exchange rates and the difference between internal and world prices (sometimes as much as ten times) and how to equalise these. And first and foremost the promulgation by the Italian Government of appropriate Trading With The Enemy legislation and the adoption of the United Nations so-called "black-lists", in the absence of which the Italian importer or exporter would find himself in the enviable position of having emancipated himself from restrictions to which his British or American counterpart have been subject for six long and wearisome years. These and other aspects have been ventilated by STORONE and others, and have gone some way to allay the feeling generally held here "that nothing was being done about it". The Government have unofficially asked the Chambers of Commerce and other appropriate bodies to formulate proposals and suggestions upon which to base forthcoming legislation, and it may reasonably be expected that shortly a definite step forward may be realised.

Extracts from Chapter X, Italian Basic Handbook referred to above.

A. IMPORTS

Italy's imports in pre-war years amounted to between 20 and 25 million tons a year, of which about 60 per cent were sea-borne and more than one-half came from outside the Mediterranean. The most important imports and the principal countries of supply are shown in the following table, in which the figures for 1938 to the nearest five thousand tons are given:-

Commodity	Quantity '000 m. tons	Principal Countries of Supply
Wheat+	550	Australia, S.E. Europe
Meat	40	Argentina, Uruguay
Fish	95	Norway, Denmark
Coffee	40	Brazil, N.E.I.

1415

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

The first step to break the present deadlock must obviously be the importation of raw materials, possibly in compensation against the exportation of manufactured products for an equivalent value. Meanwhile various problems have to be solved, such for instance as the question of exchange rates and the difference between internal and world prices (sometimes as much as ten times) and how to equalise these. And first and foremost the promulgation by the Italian Government of appropriate Trading With The Enemy legislation and the adoption of the United Nations so-called "black-lists", in the absence of which the Italian importer or exporter would find himself in the enviable position of having emancipated himself from restrictions to which his British or American counterpart have been subject for six long and wearisome years. These and other aspects have been ventilated by STORONE and others, and have gone some way to allay the feeling generally held here "that nothing was being done about it". The Government have unofficially asked the Chambers of Commerce and other appropriate bodies to formulate proposals and suggestions upon which to base forthcoming legislation, and it may reasonably be expected that shortly a definite step forward may be realised.

Extracts from Chapter X, Italian Basic Handbook referred to above.

A. IMPORTS

Italy's imports in pre-war years amounted to between 20 and 25 million tons a year, of which about 80 per cent were sea-borne and more than one-half came from outside the Mediterranean. The most important imports and the principal countries of supply are shown in the following table, in which the figures for 1938 to the nearest five thousand tons are given:-

Commodity	Quantity '000 m. tons	Principal Countries of Supply
Wheat+	550	Australia, S.E. Europe
Meat	40	Argentina, Uruguay
Fish	95	Norway, Denmark
Coffee	40	Brazil, N.E.I.
Bananas	25	Italian Somaliland
Oilseeds	175	India, Argentina
Vegetable oils	40	Belgian Congo, N.E.I. S.W. Africa
Timber	570	Germany, Yugoslavia
Cellulose	250	Germany, Sweden, Finland

1415

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

Commodity	Quantity '000 m.tons	Principal Countries of Supply
Rubber	30	Malaya
Hides	25	Argentina, Indian Africa
Jute	40	India
Cotton	150	U.S.A., Egypt
Wool	40	Australia, S. Africa, Argentina
Coal	12,000	Germany U.K.
Coke	200	Germany, France
Petroleum products	2,500	U.S.A., Rumania, Dutch W. Indies, Iraq, Iran
Iron ore	400	Morocco
Scrap iron and steel	600	U.S.A., France
Iron and steel semi-manufactures	250	Germany, Spain, France
Machinery	50	Germany
Manganese ore	60	India, U.S.S.R.
Copper	80	Chile, N. Rhodesia, Belgian Congo. U.S.A.
Phosphates	850	Morocco, Tunisia
Nitrogenous fertilisers	100	Chile, Germany
Potassic fertilisers	40	Germany

* Average for 1936, 1937 and 1938.

B. EXPORTS

Before the war Italy was an exporter of certain foodstuffs (citrus fruit, tomatoes, early vegetables, rice nuts, wine and cheese), a few raw materials (silk, hemp, sulphur, mercury), and some manufactured goods (textiles, chemicals, motor cars and machinery) The latter were made very largely from imported raw materials. Her African colonies were her best customers, taking about one-quarters of her exports, and of other countries Germany was first, taking nearly one-fifth. Whereas the colonies took mainly manufactured goods, Germany and other countries were more interested in the foodstuffs and raw materials.

1414

C. TRADE BALANCE

The values of imports and exports in recent years have been:-

	Imports	Exports	Balance
	(Millions of lire)		
1931-35 (average)	6,562	6,695	- 1,867
1936	6,039	5,542	- 497

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

Iron ore		Iraq, Iran
Scrap iron and steel	400	Morocco
Iron and steel semi-manufactures	400	U.S.A., France
	280	Germany, Spain, France
Machinery	50	Germany
Manganese ore	30	India, U.S.S.R.
Copper	60	Chile, N. Rhodesia, Belgian Congo, U.S.A.
Phosphates	850	Morocco, Tunisia
Nitrogenous fertilizers	100	Chile, Germany
Potassic fertilizers	40	Germany

* Average for 1936, 1937 and 1938.

B. Exports

Before the war Italy was an exporter of certain foodstuffs (citrus fruit, tomatoes, early vegetables, rice oats, wine and cheese), a few raw materials (silk, hemp, sulphur, mercury), and some manufactured goods (textiles, chemicals, motor cars and machinery). The latter were made very largely from imported raw materials. Her African colonies were her best customers, taking about one-quarters of her exports, and of other countries Germany was first, taking nearly one-fifth. Whereas the colonies took mainly manufactured goods, Germany and other countries were more interested in the foodstuffs and raw materials.

1414

C. Trade Balance

The values of imports and exports in recent years have been:-

	Imports	Exports	Balance
	(Millions of lire)		
1931-35 (average)	8,562	6,695	- 1,867
1936	6,059	5,562	- 497
1937	12,942	10,434	- 3,508
1938	11,265	10,476	- 789
1939	10,509	10,823	+ 314
1940	15,220	11,519	- 1,701
1941	11,409	14,490	+ 3,081

In comparing the figures for 1937 and later with those for earlier years, allowance must be made for the devaluation in 1937 of the lire to 61 per cent of its previous value. The low figures for 1936 are largely explained by "sanctions". Before the war Italy had an adverse balance of trade which was compensated largely by invisible exports, including particularly tourist trade and emigrant remittances.

1410

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

The main categories of foreign trade are shown in the following table:-

Imports	1938	1939	1940	1941
	(millions of lire)			
Industrial raw materials	5,348	4,580	5,512	5,525
Semi-manufactures	2,411	2,263	3,337	4,045
Finished manufactures	2,076	1,880	2,382	2,415
Livestock and foodstuffs	1,430	1,586	1,989	2,483
Total Imports	11,265	10,309	13,220	14,469
Exports				
Industrial raw materials	624	745	984	1,822
Semi-manufactures	1,916	2,148	2,404	3,519
Finished manufactures	4,344	4,520	4,154	4,335
Livestock and foodstuffs	3,572	3,370	3,977	5,814
Total Exports	10,476	10,823	11,519	15,490

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785720

1412

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

Appendix "B"

Estimate of Potential Industrial Unemployment in Northern Italy

(a) Branches of Industry	(b) Employed in 1938	(c) Percentage Differential 1945/1938	(d) Employed in 1945	(e) Difference Compared with 1938	(f) Percentage of Idle Workers	(g) Inactive Number	(h) T
Food	230.890	60	138.534	- 92.356	25	34.633	
Mining	36.790	80	29.432	- 7.358	15	4.415	
Engineering	517.690	105	543.574	+ 25.884	45	244.608	
Metallurgical	75.301	140	105.421	+ 30.120	40	42.168	
Metals	104.770	60	62.862	- 41.908	15	9.429	
Building	283.814	40	113.525	-170.289	10	11.352	
Chemicals	81.490	115	93.713	+ 12.223	22	20.617	
Paper & Allied	41.521	65	26.988	- 14.533	35	9.446	
Printing & Allied	34.978	60	20.987	- 13.991	25	5.246	
Textile	520.388	85	442.329	-- 78.059	55	243.281	
Hides, Skins and Leather	52.653	75	39.490	- 13.163	35	13.821	
Clothing	47.663	90	42.896	- 4.767	30	12.868	
Timber & Allied	69.283	95	65.819	- 3.464	25	16.455	
Production & Distribution of Electric Power Water and Gas	23.529	95	22.352	- 1.177	5	1.176	
Sundry	64.225	140	89.915	+ 25.690	25	22.478	
Totals	2.184.985		1.837.837	347.148		691.933	1

1413

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

ntial Industrial Unemployment in Northern Italy

(c) Percentage Differenbial 1945/1938	(d) Employed in 1945	(e) Difference Compared with 1938	(f) Percentage of Idle Workers	(g) Inactive Number	(h) Total Number of Potential Unemployed
60	138.534	- 92.356	25	34.633	126.989
80	29.432	- 7.358	15	4.415	11.773
105	543.574	+ 25.884	45	244.606	218.724
140	105.421	+ 30.120	40	42.168	12.048
60	62.862	- 41.908	15	9.429	51.337
40	113.525	-170.289	10	11.352	181.641
115	93.713	+ 12.223	22	20.617	8.394
65	26.988	- 14.533	35	9.446	23.979
60	20.987	- 13.991	25	5.246	19.237
85	442.329	- 78.059	55	243.281	321.340
75	39.490	- 13.163	35	13.821	6.894
90	42.396	- 4.767	30	12.868	17.631
95	65.619	- 3.464	25	16.455	19.919
95	22.352	- 1.177	5	1.176	2.353
140	89.915	+ 25.690	25	22.478	3.212
	1.837.837	347.148		691.933	1.039.141

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

SECRET

45

2 DISTRICT

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 16

5 October 1945

SEEN BY	
G.S.O. I.	
DAA & QMG	
DADOS	
DADST McD	
G2 (TECH)	
TRG MAJOR	
G 3	
S.C. REME	
G.S.O. II.	
CLERKS	

[illegible] IS SECRET AND ON NO ACCOUNT IS IT TO BE COMMUNICATED TO ANYONE NOT HOLDING AN OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE BRITISH OR ALLIED FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS OR UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT.

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
GENERAL STAFF INTELLIGENCE
C.M.F

1411

SECRET

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

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
General Staff Intelligence
C M F

GSI/2355

5 Oct 1945

2 : ICT WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 16

1 POLITICAL

(a) Consulta

All political personalities having gone to ROME for the CONSULTA, political activities in NORTHERN ITALY have practically come to a standstill, except for the normal routine work. Public opinion has shown remarkably little interest in the inaugural period of the CONSULTA, being unable to discover anything constructive in the usual vague statements made by many exponents of the various parties. People are now waiting for tangible results - if any - and recommendations from the CONSULTA.

(b) Elections

The main interest is still concentrated on the future elections which are brought even more into the spotlight by the local elections which have just taken place in FRANCE. In ITALY both the Socialists and the Communists claim victory for their French counterparts; the Communists because they have obtained the greater number of individual votes, and the Socialists because they secured an overwhelming majority of seats. This will no doubt be an additional inducement for the Communists to ensure that the new Italian electoral laws are worked out in such a manner as to provide an allotment of seats in direct proportion to the overall number of votes obtained.

However, and however much they may be divided on other points, Socialists and Communists insist on early political elections. In order to give their demand the widest possible support, headquarters of both parties have decided to organise jointly on the 14th October the "GIORNATA PER LA COSTITUENTE", with big popular manifestations to be held in all provincial capitals. Early elections will be the main topic, but no doubt the organisers will take full advantage of this opportunity to carry out their general propaganda and to repeat their standard attacks against "capitalists, profiteers and other reactionary forces". 1411

In view of the official attitude of the Communist party to reprove all violence, it is not expected that these organised manifestations will lead to public disturbance.

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

(a) Consulta

All political personalities having gone to ROME for the CONSULTA, political activities in NORTHERN ITALY have practically come to a standstill, except for the normal routine work. Public opinion has shown remarkably little interest in the inaugural period of the CONSULTA, being unable to discover anything constructive in the usual vague statements made by many exponents of the various parties. People are now waiting for tangible results - if any - and recommendations from the CONSULTA.

(b) Elections

The main interest is still concentrated on the future elections which are brought even more into the limelight by the local elections which have just taken place in FRANCE. In ITALY both the Socialists and the Communists claim victory for their French counterparts; the Communists because they have obtained the greater number of individual votes, and the Socialists because they secured an overwhelming majority of seats. This will no doubt be an additional inducement for the Communists to ensure that the new Italian electoral laws are worked out in such a manner as to provide an allotment of seats in direct proportion to the overall number of votes obtained.

However, and however much they may be divided on other points, Socialists and Communists insist on early political elections. In order to give their demand the widest possible support, headquarters of both parties have decided to organise jointly on the 14th October the "GIORNATA PER LA COSTITUENTE", with big popular manifestations to be held in all provincial capitals. Early elections will be the main topic, but no doubt the organisers will take full advantage of this opportunity to carry out their general propaganda and to repeat their standard attacks against "capitalists, profiteers and other reactionary forces".

In view of the official attitude of the Communist party to reprove all violence, it is not expected that these organised manifestations will lead to public disturbance.

(c) Communist activities

Most recent secret police intercepts confirm once more the lack of unity within the various political parties, particularly the Socialists, the Liberals and the Action Party. So far, the only well disciplined party is the Communist which is more active than ever, trying to penetrate all circles, and apparently giving special attention to the younger elements. Besides the FRONTE DELLA GIOVENTU, and U.D.I. (Unione Donne Italiane) in both of which, especially since the withdrawal of the Liberals and the Democristians (the Action Party have their own GIOVENTU D'AZIONE), the Communists play the leading role

SECRET

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

1418

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

they have also created the GNUDI - [illegible] SECOLI STUDENTI COMUNISTI. Other organisations, although [illegible] fully controlled by them, are certainly subject to strong [illegible] influence. Among them are:

(i) Fronte della Cultura:
Communist-inspired organisation aiming, through support and assistance given to painters, writers, etc, at penetrating and controlling intellectual life in ITALY. It is reported that the "FRONTE" is concentrating its efforts on authors, painters and artists, previously aided or subsidised by the Fascist regime and at present in difficult financial conditions.

(ii) Associazione Studentesca:
Born during the clandestine period to organise resistance among students. After the insurrection, the A.S. became the labour committee of the "FRONTE DELLA GIOVENTU". Later on, it became an autonomous association.

(iii) Convitti Scuole Per Ex-Partigiani:
A type of boarding-school for, and run by, the partisan-students themselves. Students are paid 40 lire a day plus a monthly grant of about 2,000 lire for each dependent. Board and lodging, books, etc., are free. In MILAN, a first "CONVITTO" for 50 students has been opened at Via Conservatorio 9. These "CONVITTI" are partially financed and controlled by A.N.P.I. (Associazione Nazionale Partigiani Italiani) a national non-partisan welfare association (see our Intelligence Summary No 10).

(iv) Organizzazione "B" of A.N.P.I.:
A branch of "I.R.R.", working in conjunction with C.A.T.E.P. (see below), and dealing mainly with the transportation of persons.

(v) Cooperative Auto-Trasporti Ex-Partigiani (C.A.T.E.P.):
A number of small transport cooperatives, whose members are ex-partisans, and who enjoy a semi-official status.

The Communist net also extends to official organisations such as the QUESTURE and local and auxiliary police. In these as in other local government organs, Communist penetration is generally greatly aided by the lack of opposition from representatives of other parties through inertia, absence or plain fear of taking any action or backing any policy contrary to the Communists.

1409

Consequently, the uninformed general public is often faced with decisions made by organisations in the name of all parties as in

(ii) Associazione Studentesca:
Born during the clandestine period to organise resistance among students. After the insurrection, the A.S. became the Labour committee of the "FRONTE DELLA GIOVENTU". Later on, it became an autonomous association.

(iii) Comitati Scuola Per Ex-Partigiani:
A type of co-training-school for, and run by, the partisan-students themselves. Students are paid 40 Lire a day plus a monthly grant of about 2,000 Lire for each dependent. Board and lodging, books, etc., are free. In TURIN, a first "CONVITTO" for 50 students has been opened at Via Conservatorio 9. These "CONVITTI" are partially financed and controlled by A.N.P.I. (Associazione Nazionale Partigiani Italiani) a national ex-partisan welfare association (see our Intelligence Summary No 10).

(iv) Opera Nazionale "B" of A.N.P.I.:
A branch of [illegible], working in conjunction with O.N.P.I. (see below), and dealing mainly with the transportation of persons.

(v) Cooperativa Auto-Trasporti Ex-Partigiani (C.A.T.E.P.):
A number of small transport cooperatives, whose members are ex-partisans, and who enjoy a semi-official status.

The Communist net also extends to official organisations such as the QUESTURE and local and auxiliary police. In these as in other local government organs, Communist penetration is generally greatly aided by the lack of opposition from representatives of other parties through inertia, absence or plain fear of taking any action or holding any policy contrary to the Communists.

Consequently, the uninformed general public is often faced with decisions made by organisations in the name of all parties, as in the CLNs, or of several parties as in the Camera del Lavoro, which while officially being a joint effort, normally only represent the extreme left view.

(c) Editor and Manager of TURIN UNITA Sentenced

Following the arrest of a partisans charged with the murder of a fascist in SETTIMO, the newspaper L'UNITA of TURIN published a very violent article which was considered to be danger public order and security. The case was brought before the Allied Military Court in TURIN

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

who, on 28 Sept, imposed the following sentences: 6 months imprisonment, of which 3 suspended, to the chief editor; and a fine of 60,000 lire to the manager of the paper.

As was to be expected, this sentence was bitterly commented on by the Communist press, and in particular by the MILAN UNITA which, on 29 Sept, published the article a translation of which is given at Appendix "A".

The Regional Piemontese CLN has decided to cover the 60,000 lire, whilst other subscriptions have also been opened and the amount of the fine has already been covered several times.

(f) Situation in FERRARA.

FERRARA province, always considered a troublesome area, and the stamping-ground of BALBO and other prominent squadrists in early Fascist days, seems to be living up to its past reputation.

After a big jail break, the usual post-liberation spate of murders and general lawlessness, the killing of the Questore's son and the wounding of the Questore (See Summary No 14), threats have been made against the "Allied Command" in FERRARA, based on occupation of factory buildings by troops. Furthermore, the CCRR, having arrested four people after a hidden arms raid, were forced to release them as a result of a threatening crowd and pressure from the local CLN and other authorities.

2 ECONOMIC

(a) New Labour Agreement

The 8th July agreement (see our Intelligence Summaries Nos 5 and 12) which was reached in MILAN between representatives of workers and industrialists included a statement to the effect that by 30 Sept, the date of expiry of the agreement, the Interministerial Committee for Reconstruction would have worked out a plan aimed at combatting unemployment.

Since then, there have been several statements made by employers and workers, all of which tended to aggravate an already unsatisfactory situation rather than hold out any hope of a solution acceptable to both sides. 140

However, recent meetings in ROME between representatives of the two Confederations of employers and workers, assisted by several members of the Government, resulted in the drafting of certain proposals which were later approved by the Italian Cabinet and issued as a Decree.

1420

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

(f) Situation in FERRARA Hill.

FERRARA province, always considered a troublesome area, and the stamping-ground of MSI/FO and other permanent hooligans in early Fascist days, seems to be living up to its past reputation.

After a big jail break, the usual post-liberation spate of murders and general lawlessness, the killing of the Questore's son and the wounding of the Questore (See Summary No 14), threats have been made against the "Allied Command" in FERRARA, based on occupation of factory buildings by troops. Furthermore, the CCRR, having arrested four people after a hidden arms raid, were forced to release them as a result of a threatening crowd and pressure from the local CLN and other authorities.

2 ECONOMIC

(c) New Labour Agreement

The 6th July agreement (see our Intelligence Summaries Nos 5 and 12) which was reached in MILAN between representatives of workers and industrialists included a statement to the effect that by 30 Sept, the date of expiry of the agreement, the Inter-ministerial Committee for Reconstruction would have worked out a plan aimed at combatting unemployment.

Since then, there have been several statements made by employers and workers, all of which tended to aggravate an already unsatisfactory situation rather than hold out any hope of a solution acceptable to both sides. 1408

However, recent meetings in ROME between representatives of the two Confederations of employers and workers, assisted by several members of the Government, resulted in the drafting of certain proposals which were later approved by the Italian Cabinet and issued as a Decree.

Unemployment in the whole of ITALY during the coming months will, according to the Inter-ministerial Committee for Reconstruction, average two millions. The new Government decree has as its chief aim the lowering of this figure and the assurance that those worthy of earning a living are given first choice. The authors of the agreement have tried to be as impartial and practical as two parties with such contrasting interests could be and, to achieve this, they based the agreement on the following two fundamental principles:

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

a) Dismissal of surplus staff by weeding out of OVRA (Fascist Secret Police) and Fascist-oriented elements, stocking of personnel with family and other private sources of income, and transference back to former occupation (largely agriculture and building) of workers taken on payrolls of firms after 30 June 43, excepting refugees, ex-partisans, apprentices and political victims. Personnel thus dismissed will be awarded a lump sum indemnity and daily allowance of 30 lire by employers whilst unemployed, for a maximum period of two months. In addition they will receive the standard Government dole of 46 lire per day.

b) Reduction from 48 to 40 hours week with consequent loss to each labourer of one full day's work and pay; but in order to maintain the same volume of work, unemployed workers will be taken on to fill the gap caused by the reduction in weekly working hours.

For workers retained on payrolls but for whom no work could be found the 6th July agreement gave 75% of the full wage, of which 25% was borne by the employers. An important clause in the new decree is the grant to such workers of only 50% of the full wages for idle hours up to the maximum of 40 per week. This 50% will be paid by the State, so that in this respect the new decree relieves employers and penalises workers.

The new agreement will become operative throughout ITALY on 15 Oct and remain effective till 31 Dec. Meanwhile the terms of 6th July agreement have been extended and will remain in force in North ITALY until 14 Oct.

Early reactions to the agreement have proved negative. Amongst the workers, there is a feeling that additional sacrifices are still being demanded of them whilst application of new fiscal laws and a capital levy - which would affect the richer classes - is still being delayed. Employers, on the other hand, are sceptical about the value of the new decree as dismissals will be limited to only a few and workers will take every advantage to drag out their working time to the 40 hours mark.

(b) Minor Crises on the Food Front

The new ration scales which came into force on 1 Oct (See Summary No 14) heralded a series of agitations which have in some places taken the form of strikes.

In certain LOMBARDY Region localities, changes in bread scales have evoked reactions amongst classes of workers (mainly "extra-heavy workers") affected by reductions on the old scale and, on 1 Oct, metallurgic workers of the most important factories in BERGAMO (45,000) started a sit-down strike, which may spread to other industries in the same area.

1407

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

workers will be taken on to fill the gap caused by the reduction in weekly working hours.

For workers retained on payrolls but for whom no work could be found the 6th July agreement gave 75% of the full wage, of which 25% was borne by the employers. An important clause in the new decree is the grant to such workers of only 50% of the full wages for idle hours up to the maximum of 40 per week. This 50% will be paid by the State, so that in this respect the new decree relieves employers and penalises workers.

The new agreement will become operative throughout ITALY on 15 Oct and remain effective till 31 Dec. Meanwhile the terms of 6th July agreement have been extended and will remain in force in North ITALY until 14 Oct.

Early reactions to the agreement have proved negative. Amongst the workers, there is a feeling that additional sacrifices are still being demanded of them whilst application of new fiscal laws and a capital levy - which would affect the richer classes - is still being delayed. Employers, on the other hand, are sceptical about the value of the new decree as dismissals will be limited to only a few and workers will take every advantage to drag out their working time to the 40 hours mark.

(b) Minor Crises on the Food Front

The new ration scales which came into force on 1 Oct (See Summary No 14) heralded a series of agitations which have in some places taken the form of strikes.

In certain LOMBARD Region localities, changes in bread scales have evoked reactions amongst classes of workers (mainly "extra-heavy workers") affected by reductions on the old scale and, on 1 Oct, metallurgic workers of the most important factories in BRESCIA (K6286) started a sit-down strike, which may spread to other industries in the same area.

The whole of the working population of GALLARATE (J9587), numbering approximately three to four thousand workers, also struck on 2 Oct, staged street demonstrations, and booed the Mayor and Comcm del Lavoro representatives when they appealed for restraint. This strike finally ended on 5 Oct. Complaints have also been voiced from VARESE (D9905).

1407

1423

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

According to AMG authorities the new scales do not in fact imply any actual change in the rate, but are certain categories of workers are better off than they were previously. In any case it is understood that Local Authorities have been instructed not to negotiate with organizations since the scales have been fixed on a nation-wide basis.

It appears that only very slight progress has been made since the middle of August last when the Italian Minister of Agriculture impressed on all Prefects in Northern Italy their responsibilities in all matters dealing with agriculture and food at this juncture. AMG [illegible] reports that Prefects are still hesitating and temporising in dealing of the Segni and in particular of Allied duty. Of the provincial officials are accused of lacking any sense of civil duty, being only concerned with their own personality and swayed by politics. The problem is regarded as likely to [illegible] when the transference of the Northern regions to Italian administration. The continuance of such a state of affairs cannot be too strongly condemned since the overall food availability is generally regarded as satisfactory.

(c) [illegible]

During the early part of last week "AMG, INVERGORDON" (Rossosh Plain) (P0568) from Lubumbo stated a strike for higher remuneration, which lasted for three days and involved eighteen thousand Porto Labourers. The strike was settled after a great deal of the increases in money and kind originally demanded by the strikers.

Feelings between workers and owners are high and although only slight incidents have been reported it was only due to the presence and intervention of Italian and Allied police that owners were able to attend to the maintenance of their animals and milking of cows. Damage to animals fortunately is said to have been on the whole small.

(d) Comando del Lavoro Activities

When the N.CLNAI Allied Staff met with Italian Unity Labour Committee to exchange Italian Labour for C.M.A. PW, Major Alfieri gave graphic expression of the disappointment during Parri's visit to the N.CLNAI Comando del Lavoro. Whilst he was in the position coping with demands made by the part Labour disclosed by the Allied authorities, hostile demonstrations went on outside the building and after Mr. Parri had left, the crowd broke into the Comando del Lavoro building and practically wrecked the place up.

Reported Allied intent as to employ 500 Italian PWs for [illegible] clearance in Genoa-Voltri area has caused the Comando del Lavoro to lodge a protest with AMG. The basis of [illegible] is said to be fear of the irritating effect such a scheme might have on [illegible] workers in the effort to [illegible] in view of the imminent [illegible] labour situation which will arise out of the latest Labour Decree sanctioning dismissals. However, it should be borne in mind that the clause permitting dismissals [illegible]

1406

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

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

1425

all food availability is generally [illegible]

(c) Higher [illegible] for [illegible]

During the [illegible] part of [illegible] [illegible] (Brescia Plain) (F0565) farm labourers [illegible] for higher remuneration, which lasted [illegible] and [illegible] thousand farm labourers. The strike [illegible] part of the increase [illegible] strikers.

Feelings between workers and [illegible] although only slight incidents have been reported it [illegible] due to the presence and intervention of [illegible] that [illegible] attend to the maintenance of their animals and milking of cows. Damage to animals fortunately is said to have been on the [illegible] small.

(d) [illegible] Activities

When the [illegible] last month decided to exchange Italian labour for [illegible] expression of the disapproval during [illegible] visit to the [illegible] all [illegible]. Whilst he was in the [illegible] the port labour [illegible] building and after [illegible] the crowd broke went on outside the building [illegible] into the [illegible] building and proceeded to [illegible] the place up.

[illegible] 400 [illegible] for debris clearance in [illegible] area has caused the [illegible] to lodge a protest with AMG. The reason [illegible] for the protest is said to be fear of the [illegible] labour situation which will arise out of [illegible] that the sanctioning [illegible] clause [illegible] considerably. It would appear that the [illegible] rather prompted by a desire to [illegible] than to forestall an abnormal situation.

The [illegible] that it has received a deputation of representatives from the [illegible] of the principal factories in [illegible] (a [illegible] hot-bed).

1406

Workers are said to be showing signs of restlessness and the causes enumerated are briefly the following:

1) Compliance at a national increase in cost of living and in levels of public services.

2) Demands for an immediate distribution of fire wood at moderate prices; food items, clothing, footwear, etc.

3) Complaints at delay of industrialist in settling terms for a new wage agreement.

The Commerce and Labour has promised to act forthwith. It is pointed out that the situation is well in hand and that for the moment there is no reason to believe that the agitation will spread to other Districts. The GOC in CHIEF feels, however, that these new demands have to be handled carefully and with understanding since workers still feel that they are being made to carry more than their share of the country's sacrifices.

(e) New Textile Wages for LOWERBY

Following the SWS. Valley textile strike and final settlement on 10 Sep (see Summary No 13) an agitation start d in LOWERBY textile circles for similar proportional assessment. On 1 Oct suitable agreement was reached in CHILD between representatives of textile employers and workers for the provinces of HILLN, COKO and V.ALLEY.

The new rates are back-dated 3 Sep and LOWERBY textile industry is now on an equal footing with SLOPEDOWN.

(f) An account of the Indian Share-Cropping System is given at Appendix "B".

3 HIDDEN ARMS

Twenty-nine successful raids have been made during the week. Once again the majority of caches have been found in PIEDMONT and raids carried out in that region have produced almost four-fifths of the arms recovered. One large dump of arms (i.e. over 200 weapons) was found at VALLOSIA (J59:7), but most raids have produced only small quantities. The total of arms recovered, which shows an improvement on the preceding week, is: Rifles 203; Mas 153; sub-MGs 73; Mortars 34; Pistols 13; Grenades 618; M/t sets 2; bazooka 1; A/tk rifle 1. Two immobilized cars have also been recovered.

1405

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

demands have to be handled carefully and with understanding but we must still feel that they are being made to cover more than their share of the country's shortfalls.

(c) New Textile Wages for LOWELL-DEX

Following the GUS Valley textile strike and final settlement on 10 Sep (see Summary No 13) an initiative start in LOWELL-DEX textile circles for similar proportional increment. On 1 Oct a double agreement was reached in LOWELL between representatives of textile employers and workers for the provinces of LOWELL, DEXO and VARSH.

The new rates are based on Sep and LOWELL-DEX textile industry is now on an equal footing with GUS VALLEY.

(d) An account of the Allied Shore-Dropping System is given at Appendix "B".

3 [redacted]

Twenty-nine successful raids have been made during the week. Once again the majority of caches have been found in [redacted] and raids carried out in that region have produced almost four-fifths of the arms recovered. One large dump of arms (i.e. over 200 weapons) was found at VALLEVILLE (J59.7), but most raids have produced only small quantities. The total of arms recovered, which also shows an improvement on the preceding week, is: rifles 302; MGs 15; sub-MGs 79; Mortars 24; Pistols 15; Grenades 648; W/t sets 2; bazookas 1; A/tk rifle 1. Two fortified cave hides also been uncovered. 1405

[redacted]
Lt Col
GS

DISTRIBUTION:

As for Summary No 15 of 28 September 1945.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

Appendix "A"

WHO WILL JUDGE THE JUDGES?

The case against Comrade LAJOLO (Ulisse), Chief Editor, and Comrade UGOLINI, director, of the movement "UNITA" based on the article "Granchi Mind in Jail" written by the former, has been tried by an Allied Court in TURIN.

A six-month sentence was meted out to LAJOLO (one month to be served and five suspended), while UGOLINI was fined 20 thousand lire. The indictment speaks "of the grave consequences of the effect which the wide circulation of the article might have on the maintenance of law and order".

We Italians have a very old legal tradition and a fine legal perception with which few can compete, and for that reason we instinctively wrinkle our noses at such an indictment.

The incriminating article appeared in the TURIN "UNITA" on the 12th of September. As yet no "effect on law and order" has been noticed. On the other hand we do not know what effect such a verdict will have on the "law and order" of the TURIN workers.

And if this happens, who then is to judge the judges ?

1404

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

1429

WHO WILL JUDGE THE JUDGES?

The case against Comrade LADEJO (Djibo), Chief Editor, and Comrade UGOLINI, director, of the bi-weekly "UNITE" based on the article "A new Israel in Haiti" written by the former, has been ruled by the Appeal Court in TUNIS.

A six-month sentence + a total fine to LADEJO (one month to be served and five suspended), while UGOLINI was fined 50 thousand lires. The indictment speaks "of the grave consequences of the affect which the wide circulation of the article might have on the maintenance of law and order".

We Haitians have a very old legal tradition and a fine legal profession with which few can compete, and for that reason we instinctively wrinkle our noses at such an indictment.

The incriminating article appeared in the TUNIS "UNITE" on the 12th of September but on "affect on law and order" has been noticed. On the other hand we do not know what effect such a verdict will have on the "law and order" of the TUNIS workers

And if this happens, who then is to judge the judges ?

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

Appendix "B"

The Share-Cropping System

Approximately half the population of Italy is dependent directly or indirectly for livelihood on agriculture. Moreover, agricultural products accounted pre-war for nearly half of the national export trade. The significance of farming to the country's economy is, therefore, self-evident. And the importance of a prosperous and contented peasantry and farmer class can hardly be exaggerated.

The structure of Italian agriculture presents some peculiar features. Apart from some areas of relatively large farms (i.e. over 100 acres) found mainly in the LOMBARDY plain and in SARDINIA and a few remaining large estates still to be found in the South and in SICILY (the latter are usually divided into small plots, cultivated by tenant farmers), farming in Italy is based mainly on peasant holdings, including some 500,000 held under various share-cropping systems, which associate the land-owner and the peasant in the exploitation of the soil.

The classical share cropping system in ITALY is generally known as "mezzadria" which might be translated as "the half and half system" and is of mediaeval if not of more ancient origin. Variously known as "mezzeria", "masseria" or "colonia", the "mezzadria" is in substance a contract between a land-owner and a peasant under the terms of which the latter undertakes to cultivate the land and to share the produce in equal proportions with the landlord. While there are innumerable variants of the "mezzadria", following time-honoured local customs and usage, the typical "mezzadria" contract provides that the landlord shall furnish to the joint enterprise the land and the buildings which constitute the farmstead ("colonia"), the farming equipment and the live-stock, and shall pay for any improvements to the land and buildings, and shall purchase additional or replace worn-out equipment; in a word the landlord provides the capital. The "colono" or "mezzadro" (tenant) is responsible for providing the labour required to farm the land and for the maintenance of the land and buildings and the up-keep of the live-stock. Usually the "colono" works the land with members of his own family only; but if additional labour is required (as may in certain types of farming be additionally necessary) - he must pay for it. The seeds, and usually though not always, the fertilisers are provided jointly and paid for in equal shares by the landlord and the "mezzadro". The crops are shared equally between them.

From the foregoing it is readily apparent that the "mezzadria" system of share-cropping is an ideal way of associating capital and labour in the joint exploitation of the land. In good years, both owner and peasant do well: in lean ones, neither gets an unfair advantage; that is, there is no question of a rent having to be paid irrespective of whether the land was fructified or not. In practice, however, even in years of crop failure, the peasant and his family can still live from the produce of the land because he is by custom entitled to cultivate his own little vegetable garden, to [illegible] and poultry and, however bad

1403

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 763020

SICILY (the latter are usually divided into small plots, cultivated by tenant farmers), farming in Italy is based mainly on peasant holdings, including some 50,000 fully unit various share-cropping systems, which according to the land-owner and the peasant in the exploitation of the soil.

The classical share cropping system in ITALY is generally known as "mezzadria" which might be translated as "the half and half system" and is of mediaeval if not of more ancient origin. Variously known as "mezzeria", "mezzadia" or "colonia", and "mezzadria" is in substance a contract between a land-owner and a peasant under the terms of which the latter undertakes to cultivate the land and to share the produce in equal proportions with the landlord. While there are innumerable variants of the "mezzadria", following time-honoured local customs and usage, the typical "mezzadria" contract provides that the landlord shall furnish to the joint enterprise the land and the buildings which constitute the farmstead "colonia"), the farming equipment and the live-stock, and shall pay for any improvements to the land and buildings, and shall purchase additional or replace worn-out equipment; in a word, the landlord provides the capital. The "colono" or "mezzaro" (tenant) is responsible for providing the labour required to farm the land and for the maintenance of the land and buildings and the up-keep of the live-stock. Usually the "colono" works the land with members of his own family only; but if additional labour is required (as may in certain types of farming be seasonally necessary) - he must pay for it. The seeds, and usually though not always, the fertilizers are provided jointly and paid for in equal shares by the landlord and the "mezzaro". The crops are shared equally between them.

From the foregoing it is readily apparent that the "mezzadria" system of share-cropping is an ideal way of associating capital and labour in the joint exploitation of the land. In good years, both owner and peasant do well: in lean ones, neither gets an unfair advantage; that is, there is no question of a rent having to be paid irrespective of whether the land was diversified or not. In practice, however, even in years of crop failure, the peasant and his family can still live from the produce of the land because he is by custom entitled to cultivate his own little vegetable garden, to keep a pig and poultry and, however bad a year may be, the peasant does not starve, although there may be nothing at the main crops to share with the landlord.

The "mezzadria" is found largely in TUSCANY where the accentuated peasantry and the prosperous appearance of the farmsteads testify to the suitability of the system to the Italian nature. In Northern ITALY it is found widely in PIEDMONT and EMILIA (particularly in ROMAGNA) and it is largely in the latter zone that the Communists

1403

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

have been endeavouring to work up agitations and discontent. They have however met with scant success and a ground reconnaissance by officers of this section who talked with "mezzadri" in the allegedly discontented areas of ROMAGNA, leads us to the conclusion that little serious trouble may be expected from this class of land worker.

In other parts of ITALY, variants of the "mezzadria" system are to be found, for instance (notably in the APPENNINI) the "terzeria" usually in the case of straight-forward grain (mainly wheat) farming. Here, in consideration of the appreciably smaller amount of labour involved, one third of the crop goes to the peasant and two-thirds to the landlord, who it should be added usually provides the whole of the fertilisers required.

The latest Italian official statistics (based on the 1956 census) provide some interesting figures on share-cropping generally and in view of the slow-moving nature of changes in agriculture may be taken as roughly indicative of conditions to-day. Out of a total of 4,196,266 farms covering a total of 26,251,744 hectares, 550,625 farms (12.6%) covering 4,157,969 hectares (15.8%) are held under various types of share-cropping contracts. The total share-cropping population is given as 3,706,705. The importance of share-cropping is recognised by the Italian law, and the Civil Code dedicates no less than 18 articles (Nos 1647 to 1664) to sanctioning and protecting this type of contract.

In conclusion, it may be said that the share-cropping system constitutes one of the basic factors in Italian farming that has withstood all the tests of time: it represents the ideal association between capital and labour. And it can hardly be too strongly stated that in a country so wildly tossed in the storm of ideological and social disputes, any attempts to upset or to interfere with one of the few really satisfactory features of an otherwise almost completely disordered economy, should be sternly met and thoroughly discouraged.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

SECRET

GSI/2555

COPY NUMBER 43

SEEN BY	
G.S.O. I.	
DAA & QMG	
DADOS	
~~DADST~~ MED.	
G III (I)	
G II (TRG)	
TRG MAJOR	
S.C. [illegible]	
[illegible]	
CLERKS	

2 DISTRICT

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 15

26 September 1945

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SUMMARY WILL ON NO ACCOUNT BE COMMUNICATED TO ANYONE NOT HOLDING AN OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE BRITISH OR AMERICAN FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT.

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
GENERAL STAFF INTELLIGENCE
C M F

1401

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

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SUMMARY WILL ON NO ACCOUNT BE COMMUNICATED TO ANYONE NOT HOLDING AN OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE BRITISH OR AMERICAN FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT.

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
GENERAL STAFF INTELLIGENCE
C M F

1401

SECRET

1434

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

1435

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
General Staff Intelligence
C M F

GSI/2355

26 Sep 1945

2 DISTRICT WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 15

1 POLITICAL

(a) London Conference

With the opening of the London Conference, the Italian people had great hopes of an immediate settlement of Italy's status and that of her colonies. These hopes have now vanished, and it is generally felt here that the "Italian Question" has completely changed its complexion during the last few weeks and that it has been superseded by much vaster and farther-reaching international political problems in which Italy is only a minor factor.

This has created bitter disappointment in all Italian circles. This, together with the departure in the near future of AMG, the fact that so far no definite new agreement has been reached between workers, employers and the Italian Government as to what will be the position of the unemployed after 30th Sep, rumours about probable strikes at that date and about a possible "coup d' etat" by extremists, are contributing to a general feeling of uneasiness which is being exploited fully by the Communist press. In order to distract attention from Russia's claims and attitude - mainly responsible for the difficulties in London - the Communist papers launch daily increasingly violent anti-Allied attacks and are carrying out a large scale pro-Russian propaganda programme.

(b) Consulta

The opening of the Consulta on September 25th marks a definite step forward in Italy's political rehabilitation. This body, numbering about 450 members, is to act as a consultative organ for the Government. The latter is not bound by the recommendations of the Consulta, nor is compelled to seek its advice, except on three points: a) State budget and accounts b) Tax laws c) electoral laws, and even in these three cases does not have to follow the advice given. The composition of the Consulta, which is made up largely of representatives of the six CLN parties, plus some outsiders such as the Monarchists, some

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

1 POLITICAL

(a) London Conference

With the opening of the London Conference, the Italian people had great hopes of an immediate settlement of Italy's status and that of her colonies. These hopes have now vanished, and it is generally felt here that the "Italian Question" has completely changed its complexion during the last few weeks and that it has been superseded by much vaster and farther-reaching international political problems in which Italy is only a minor factor.

This has created bitter disappointment in all Italian circles. This, together with the departure in the near future of AMG, the fact that so far no definite new agreement has been reached between workers, employers and the Italian Government as to what will be the position of the unemployed after 30th Sep, rumours about probable strikes at that date and about a possible "coup d' etat" by extremists, are contributing to a general feeling of uneasiness which is being exploited fully by the Communist press. In order to distract attention from Russia's claims and attitude - mainly responsible for the difficulties in London - the Communist papers launch daily increasingly violent anti-Allied attacks and are carrying out a large scale pro-Russian propaganda programme.

(b) Consulta

The opening of the Consulta on September 25th marks a definite step forward in Italy's political rehabilitation. This body, numbering about 450 members, is to act as a consultative organ for the Government. The latter is not bound by the recommendations of the Consulta, nor is compelled to seek its advice, except on three points: a) State budget and accounts b) Tax laws c) electoral laws, and even in these three cases does not have to follow the advice given. The composition of the Consulta, which is made up largely of representatives of the six CLN parties, plus some outsiders such as the Monarchists, some representatives of labour, cultural, professional and partisan bodies, and those few anti-Fascist deputies and senators still alive and untainted, guarantees, however, that the Government will be rather strictly bound by such decisions as may be made.

It will be interesting to see if the meetings of this body will produce debate and results consistent with its quasi-parliamentary character (See Weekly Intelligence Summary No 7). Whether the usual CLN unanimity, often necessarily negative, will prevail, or whether the various groups will be able to form logical alliances for decisions on various questions, there is no doubt that the Consulta will be a rehearsal for later legislative bodies, and will provide some indications of longer-range political tendencies.

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

So far there have been only the formalities of election and inaugural speeches, with some enthusiasm for a Republic manifested among the delegates. As there are very few leading political figures left in the North at this moment, such popular interest as exists is focussed on likely results from the first gathering of representatives from the whole country. Rumour is chiefly concerned with a possible government change, and with the continuing and as yet undecided problem of national versus local elections.

(c) Socialist Party Problems

The general vagueness of the programmes of Italian political parties, often mentioned in these summaries, has made it easy and indeed fashionable to report or predict splits and dissensions within individual parties. These, often ascribed to geographical or personal reasons, have in fact so far come to nothing of any importance.

It appears, however, that dissension within the Socialist party, previously manifested in fusion resolutions (See Weekly Intelligence Summary No 8), is becoming increasingly grave, and may possibly be aired at the Party National Congress, due to be held in ROME early in October.

Lines within the party itself are becoming fairly clear. The extremists, advocates of fusion with the Communist party, and subconsciously or otherwise aiming at a totalitarian realisation of Socialist doctrine, are led by NENNI and BASSO; the old-line Socialists opposed to fusion and desiring an independent party, include SARAGAT, PAPAVELLI, CORRADO and MARIO BONFANTINI. PERTINI, hitherto considered a fusionist, may be weakening in his idea; MORANDI, president of CLNAI, is considered probably anti-NENNI.

It is believed that the weekly "Critica Sociale" is representative of the anti-fusionists. They expect to recruit most of their strength from three groups, a) the party veterans of pre-fascist times b) younger elements of the party especially in Central and Southern Italy c) former members of the Matteotti brigades, estimated to number 50,000 and to be animated by a strong esprit de corps. Support is also expected from the provincial party federations especially in PIEDMONT and EMILIA, while a very active propaganda and penetration campaign is due to be carried on amongst the industrial workers' groups, at present considered to be closest to their communist counterparts.

1399

Should this independent wing of the Party succeed in over-

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

(c) Socialist Party Problems

The general vagueness of the programmes of Italian political parties, often mentioned in these summaries, has made it easy (and indeed fashionable) to report or predict splits and dissensions within individual parties. These, often ascribed to geographical or personal reasons, have in fact so far come to nothing of any importance.

It appears, however, that dissension within the Socialist Party, previously manifested in fusion resolutions (See Weekly Intelligence Summary No 8), is becoming more singly grave, and may possibly be aired at the Party National Congress, due to be held in ROME early in October.

Lines within the party itself are becoming fairly clear. The extremists, advocates of fusion with the Communist party, and subconsciously or otherwise aiming at a totalitarian realisation of Socialist doctrine, are led by NENNI and BASSO; the old-line Socialists opposed to fusion and desiring an independent party, include SARAGAT, PIRAVELLI, CORRADO and MARIO BONFANTINI. PERTINI, hitherto considered a fusionist, may be weakening in his idea; MORANDI, president of CLNAI, is considered probably anti-NENNI.

It is believed that the weekly "Critica Sociale" is representative of the anti-fusionists. They expect to recruit most of their strength from three groups, a) the party veterans of pre-fascist times b) younger elements of the party especially in Central and Southern Italy c) former members of the Matteotti brigades, estimated to number 50,000 and to be animated by a strong esprit de corps. Support is also expected from the provincial party federations especially in PIEDMONT and EMILIA, while a very active propaganda and penetration campaign is due to be carried on amongst the industrial workers' groups, at present considered to be closest to their communist counterparts.

1399

Should this independent wing of the Party succeed in overthrowing or neutralizing NENNI and his followers, the Party may then appeal very strongly to those left-wing members of the Christian Democrat and Action parties who are dissatisfied with the clerical background of the former and the excessively broad and confused programme of the latter. It is also possible that recruits may be gained from the Republicans.

All this will take time to develop, and, should it occur, may seriously affect the Government and the CLN structure. Nor should it be forgotten that the Socialists even though more "moderate" than the Communists, are still a revolutionary party, and will vigorously and even violently press for radical reforms in the political, social and economic life of Italy.

1438

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

(d) Youth Movements

On 23 Sep was celebrated in several localities the "GIORNATA NAZIONALE DEL GIOVANE", (National Youth Day) organised on the initiative of the Unified Communist-inspired "FRONTE DELLA GIOVENTU", but open to the youth of all Italy without distinction of parties. At the Congress held at the Odeon theatre in MILAN spokesmen of all political parties delivered speeches filled with the usual well-worn phrases concerning unity, reconstruction and opposition.

(e) Alleged Fascist Organisation in GENOA

An article in "l' Unita" of 7 Sep 45 under the headline "A Vast Fascist Organisation Exists in Genoa" has attracted some attention. It is a sensationalist account of the arrest of a few youths, members of the "White Flames" anti-Communist organisation subsequent to a bomb-throwing incident. The event was investigated by FS, and judged of minor significance.

(f) South Tyrol

Notes on the Political and Security situation in SOUTH TYROL are attached as Appendix "A".

2 ECONOMIC

Dismissal of Workers

Pending the new agreement on the fate of "sole" and surplus workers which is now being negotiated with the Government and the employers and is expected to be made public before the end of the month, important announcements have been made by some industrialists and workers' representatives.

Some of the large firms like PIRELLI, BREDA and FIAT have declared their intentions not to dismiss on 30th Sep any of the workers on their present payrolls and in order to allay understandable apprehension of surplus workers that would find themselves on the dole by 1 Oct a meeting of Secretaries of all Camere del Lavoro and provincial Trade Unions was called by the CGIL. An official statement was later issued reminding workers that the 8 July agreement will remain in force until a new agreement has been concluded.

3 HIDDEN ARMS

(a) Raids

31 successful raids on arms caches have been reported during the week. The majority of the caches have again been found in PIEDMONT where determined raiding continues to give satisfactory results. One large dump (i.e. over 200 weapons) was found in TORRIGLIA (P1559), but the majority of raids have produced only small quantities

1398

1439

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

(f) South Tyrol

Notes on the Political and Security situation in SOUTH TYROL are attached as Appendix "A".

2 ECONOMIC

Dismissal of Workers

Pending the new agreement on the fate of "idle" and surplus workers which is now being negotiated with the Government and the employers and is expected to be made public before the end of the month, important announcements have been made by some industrialists and workers' representatives.

Some of the large firms like PIRELLI, BREDA and FIAT have declared their intentions not to dismiss on 30th Sep any of the workers on their present payrolls and in order to allay understandable apprehension of surplus workers that would find themselves on the dole by 1 Oct a meeting of Secretaries of all Camere del Lavoro and provincial Trade Unions was called by the CGIL. An official statement was later issued reminding workers that the 8 July agreement will remain in force until a new agreement has been concluded.

3 HIDDEN ARMS

(a) Raids

1398

31 successful raids on arms caches have been reported during the week. The majority of the caches have again been found in PIEDMONT where determined raiding continues to give satisfactory results. One large dump (i.e. over 200 weapons) was found in TORRICELLA (P1559), but the majority of raids have produced only small quantities of arms. The total of arms recovered is rifles 546; MGs 79; sub MGs 73; mortars 22; pistols 12; grenades 577; A/T weapons 7; cannons 22 (20 mm and 12.7 mm); 1 Breda Land Gun; Six Armoured Cars (all without wheels) have been found - 5 in the SPA works at CASSINA (J6581). One tracked vehicle was also found in the works. In an unoccupied barracks at AOSTA 16 guns (75 mm and 105 mm) were discovered.

1440

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

(b) Poster Publicity

Through the initiative of 7 ^GRA large posters signed by MOSCATELLI and other ex-partisan leaders have appeared in PIEDMONT ordering that all arms be handed in. Since their appearance small dumps of arms have been found by patrols at the roadsides. A translation of the poster is attached as Appendix "B".

(c) Clandestine Manufacture of Arms

The possibility that arms are being manufactured clandestinely in factories is being investigated. One report has been received that workers in the Aeronautica di Italia factory in TURIN are making arms when other work is lacking.

Lt Col
GS

DISTRIBUTION:

As for Summary No 14 of 21 September 1945

1397

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

1442

Appendix "A"

Notes on Political and Strategic Situation in SOUTH TYROL

PART

1. Events to 1939.

a The 1919 treaty of St. Germain gave to Italy, for the first time since the creation of that national state, the southernmost part of Austrian territory known to-day by their Italian province names of BOLZANO and TRENTO, with a small part (round CORTINA d'AMPEZZO) of present-day BELLUNO province.

Of these three provinces BOLZANO and TRENTO together formed the region known as South Tyrol. TRENTO province, despite much historical and cultural affinity with BOLZANO had been penetrated by Italian settlers centuries before, and its population had for long spoken Italian, which was indeed one of the nine official languages of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and it fell without undue difficulty, though not entirely with enthusiasm, into the ways of the Italian Kingdom.

b South Tyrol proper, that is to say that part of the centuries old Austrian dependancy known as Tyrol, was as foreign to Italian people and ways as it could well be. Its chief town, BOZEN, had for long been the cultural centre of all Tyrol, and MERAN the ancient capital, where stands the village and castle of the Lords of Tyrol, the traditional shrine of the country. Culturally, socially, traditionally and historically, North and South Tyrol, now separated for the first time by a political frontier at the Brenner, had for many centuries formed a closely-knit whole. The population of South-Tyrol (BOLZANO province) was in 1919 approximately:

235.000 German-speaking Tyroleas
16.000 Ladins

1396

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

PART

1. Events to 1919.

a The 1919 treaty of St. Germain gave to Italy, for the first time since the creation of that national state, the southernmost part of Austrian territory known to-day by their Italian provinces names of BOLZANO and TRENTO, with a small part (round COMELICO d'ALTEZZO) of present-day BELLUNO province.

Of these three provinces BOLZANO and TRENTO together formed the region known as South Tyrol. TRENTO province, despite much historical and cultural identity with BOLZANO had been penetrated by Italian settlers centuries before, and its population had for long spoken Italian, which was indeed one of the nine official languages of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and it fell without undue difficulty, though not entirely with enthusiasm, into the ways of the Italian Kingdom.

b South Tyrol proper, that is to say that part of the centuries old Austrian dependency known as Tyrol, was as foreign to Italian people and ways as it could well be. Its chief town, BOZEN, had for long been the cultural centre of all Tyrol, and MERAN the ancient capital, where stands the village and castle of the Lords of Tyrol, the traditional shrine of the country. Culturally, racially, traditionally and historically, North and South Tyrol, now separated for the first time by a political frontier at the Brenner, had for many centuries formed a closely-knit whole. The population of South-Tyrol (BOLZANO province) was in 1919 approximately:

215.000 German-speaking Tyrolese
16.000 Ladins
10.000 Italians

c The Liberal Italian Governments of the immediate post-war years realised the non-compatibility of their new compact Austrian minorities with the rest of Italy. The demand of the Tyrolese for autonomy was supported by the Italian Socialist party, and was promised in a speech from the throne. Tyrolese symbols and traditions were allowed, the schools were German and students were allowed to go freely to the Austrian universities. The old officials still applied the old laws; in short the Tyrolese shared for a few years in the liberal régime.

1346

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

d The rising power of Fascism hurled abuse at what MUSSOLINI described as the "unassailable shrine of the Habsburgs", and, once in the saddle, the Fascist Government wasted no time in reversing previous policy. The Tyrolese were deprived not only of autonomy but of their ancient privileges; the word "SUED TIROL", national dress, Tyrolese flags and songs, the very use of the German language, all were forbidden.

e The Italians had not even the wisdom to see that they were well-represented in the land. Their impoverished officials and the thrifty schemers of all types who began to invade the province were in the great majority southern Italians, with rudimentary ideas alike of honesty and cleanliness, with their amenability to bribes, these carpet-baggers enriched themselves without delay, and a steady hatred and contempt grew in the minds of the honest, hard-working, religious and simple-minded Tyrolese peasants.

f The disastrous effect on markets of the world crises of 1930 and onwards were put down by many of the ignorant natives as a result of the machinations of the Italians, and bitterness grew.

g Immediately after Hitler's accession to power in 1934 a Nazi organisation started in South Tyrol, and in the years which ensued, particularly at the time of the Italian-German friction over Austria and the death of DOLFUSS, the strength of the Nazi underground party was a cause of considerable concern to the Italians.

h 1939 found South Tyrol the only German land which had not "gone home" to the Third Reich. More, it was the one possible territorial problem outstanding between the two Axis partners. An agreement was therefore reached whereby the territory should be recognised by Germany as irrevocably part of Italy, and its German population given the opportunity of staying where they were as Italian citizens, or opting for German nationality and emigrating to the Reich, with full compensation

1393

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

Tyrolese flags and songs, the very use of the German language, all were forbidden.

e The Italians had not even the wisdom to see that they were well-represented in the land. Their impoverished officials and the thrifty schemers of all types who began to invade the province were in the great majority southern Italians, with rudimentary ideas alike of honesty and cleanliness, with their amenability to bribes, these carpet-baggers enriched themselves without delay, and a steady hatred and contempt grew in the minds of the honest, hard-working, religious and simple-minded Tyrolese peasants.

f The disastrous effect on markets of the world crises of 1930 and onwards were put down by many of the ignorant natives as a result of the machinations of the Italians, and bitterness grew.

g Immediately after Hitler's accession to power in 1934 a Nazi organisation started in South Tyrol, and in the years which ensued, particularly at the time of the Italian-German friction over Austria and the death of DOLFUSS, the strength of the Nazi underground party was a cause of considerable concern to the Italians.

h 1939 found South Tyrol the only German land which had not "gone home" to the Third Reich. More, it was the one possible territorial problem outstanding between the two Axis partners. An agreement was therefore reached whereby the territory should be recognised by Germany as irrevocably part of Italy, and its German population given the opportunity of staying where they were as Italian citizens, or opting for German nationality and emigrating to the Reich, with full compensation by the Italian Government for all their possessions left behind. 1939

i The Tyrolese, for the greater part bitterly anti-Italian, fell easy prey to Nazi propaganda. There seems little doubt that, by pre-arrangement between the two dictators, the Italians made little or no attempt to stand against the Nazi propaganda cyclone which tore through the land; and that they in fact encouraged the unwelcome German minorities to sell their birthright by suggesting that those opting for Italy would not stay in South Tyrol, but be settled in an area undetermined "south of the Po".

1445
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

j The heavy majority vote for Germany was the natural result of a choice, the issue of which could never be in doubt. According to the published figures 86% opted for emigration to Germany and only 11% for Italy. The optees for Italy, known as "Dableibers" (or "stayers there") state that these figures were falsified and that the total votes for Germany did not exceed 78% (this estimate takes into account the 20,000 calculated to have re-opted in 1940, see paragraph 2e below)

7. Events 1940 - Sept 1943.

a The emigration of the optees for Germany began in early 1940. The local South Tyrol committees saw to it that the poorest section of the community was thus first to translate Nazism into action. It is calculated that the total of those who moved to Germany, including those German-optees who subsequently crossed the BRENNER for service with the German Armed Forces, was approximately 80,000 or nearly 30% of the pre-war Tyrolese population.

b Subsequent to 1940 emigration practically ceased, for several reasons:

(i) The dislocation caused by Italy's declaration of war.

(ii) Go-slow tactics by the optees who began to smell a rat.

(iii) Realisation by the Italian Government of the crippling financial burden they had undertaken in the compensation clauses of the agreement.

c During the year 1940 a number of South Tyrolese estimated at 20,000 took advantage of the possibility of cancelling their votes for Germany.

d As an immediate consequence of Italy's declaration of war, numbers of "Dableibers" were called up for service in the Italian Army. In 1942 and early 1943 the Italians however made fairly generous concessions whereby a large proportion of the "Dableiber" peasants were released and exempted from military service.

1394

e The optees for Germany initially escaped military service. As soon however as the Reich began to feel a man-power drain, German optees were, by agreement between the two Axis Governments

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

a The emigration of the optars for Germany began in early 1940. The local South Tyrol committees saw to it that the poorest section of the community was the first to translate idealism into action. It is calculated that the total of those who moved to Germany, including those German-optars who subsequently crossed the BRENNER for service with the German Armed Forces, was approximately 80,000 or nearly 30% of the pre-war Tyrolese population.

b Subsequent to 1940 emigration practically ceased, for several reasons:

(i) The dislocation caused by Italy's declaration of war.

(ii) Go-slow tactics by the optars who began to smell a rat.

(iii) Realisation by the Italian Government of the crippling financial burden they had undertaken in the compensation clauses of the agreement.

c During the year 1940 a number of South Tyrolese estimated at 20,000 took advantage of the possibility of cancelling their votes for Germany.

d As an immediate consequence of Italy's declaration of war, numbers of "Dableibers" were called up for service in the Italian Army. In 1942 and early 1943 the Italians however made fairly generous concessions whereby a large proportion of the "Dableiber" persons were released and exempted from military service.

e The optars for Germany initially escaped military service. As soon however as the Reich began to feel a man-power drain, German optars were, by agreement between the two Axis Governments, called regularly to the German Armed Forces.

1394

1447

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

3. Sep. 43 - Aug. 45.

a The day after the Italian armistice was published, the Germans, to prevent possible Italian use of the BADOGLIO line, prepared in the valleys of South Tyrol before 1939 for use against an enemy from the North, made an immediate and efficient move into BOZZANO province. They were received with the greatest enthusiasm by the Tyrolese, who treated them as liberators from the Italian oppression. The Italians were treated with contempt and open brutality. Italian soldiers and male civilians were removed for forced labour to Germany, such civilians as could made good their escape to the south, and those that remained had to suffer every indignity.

b The Germans in South Tyrol established a hybrid organisation obviously aimed at ensuring themselves complete control and preparing the annexation of the territory to the Reich without officially taking a step which would have unduly embarrassed the puppet Republication Fascist Government.

c The German call for volunteers made immediately after their entry in Sept. 43 met with insufficient response and two decrees issued by the Gauleiter HOFER in Dec. 43 and Jan. 44 ordered general mobilisation of the Italian citizen "Dableibers". At the same time the Germans called older classes, hitherto exempt, of the German-opters. These men were allotted in part to the SS and Wehrmacht, but the majority to four Police Regiments - "BOZEN", "ALPENVORLAND" "SCHLANDERS" and "BRIXEN" - which were formed and used partly for general security duties, partly for anti-partisan warfare.

d The police regiments were commanded by German officers and NCO's. A large number of the Italian-opters who were called up were members of or sympathisers with the Tyrolese Resistance Movement, the "ANDREAS HOFER BUND" (run by the Allies from Switzerland in connection with the Austrian movement "PATRIA"). From the start the Germans had little faith in these troops. The "BRIXEN" regiment was finally sent, as a punitive measure to the Russian front, 1397 and a few survivers are known; "ALPENVORLAND" was so thoroughly penetrated by the resistance movement that it had to be stiffened by a large interchange of personnel with "SCHLANDERS"; though the effect was to weaken the latter, without arresting the sabotage to the morale of "ALPENVORLAND". Only "BOZEN" remained largely Nazi and earned a bad

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

...naughty.

b The Germans in South Tyrol established a hybrid organisation obviously aimed at ensuring themselves complete control and preventing the evacuation of the territory to the Reich without carefully taking ... step which would have unduly embarrassed the puppet Republican Fascist Government.

c The German call for volunteers made immediately after their entry in Sept. 43 met with insufficient response and two decrees issued by the Gauleiter HOFER in Dec. 43 and Jan. 44 ordered general mobilisation of the Italian partisan "Banditeers". At the same time the Germans called ...der classes, hitherto exempt, of the German-opters. These men were allotted in part to the SS and Wehrmacht, but the majority to four Police Regiments - "BOZEN", "ALPENVORLAND" "SCHLANDERS" and "BRIXEN" - which were formed and used partly for general security duties, partly for anti-partisan warfare.

d The police regiments were commanded by German officers and NCO's. A large number of the Italian-opters who were called up were members or sympathisers with the Tyrolese Resistance Movement, the "ANDREAS HOFER BUND" (run by the Allies from Switzerland in connection with the Austrian movement "PATRIA"). From the start the Germans had little faith in these troops. The "BRIXEN" regiment was finally sent, as a/punitive measure to the Russian front, 1943 and a few survivers are known; "ALPENVORLAND" was so thoroughly penetrated by the resistance movement that it had to be stiffened by a large interchange of personnel with "SCHLANDERS", though the effect was to weaken the latter without arresting the sabotage to the morale of "ALPENVORLAND". Only "BOZEN" remained largely NAZI and earned a bad name with the Italian partisans in the N.E. Italy.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

4. MAY '45 - PRESENT DATE.

a Immediately after the German collapse the region of South Tyrol was of peculiar C.I. interest for reasons which can be briefly summarised.

(i) The zone contained the strongest section of the "Alpine redoubt", the intended defense of which had resulted in all units and individuals of particular importance having previously reconnoitred the area.

(ii) Consequently not only did the majority of Abwehr units, if not already installed in the zone, fall back on it at the last minute; but the reserve H.Q. of Bds VERONA had been sited at COLLE ISARCO (GESSENSASS) near the BRENNER and hundreds of Gestapo and SD personnel made for the area in panic at the last minute.

(iii) The area had been a dumping ground for a large part of the vast wealth robbed by the loot-maddened NAZIS from Italy and other parts of Europe.

(iv) Many hundreds of collaborationist French, most of them ex-members of the SS, SD and Abwehr, fleeing from the advancing French and Russian armies, crossed the BRENNER into the only zone where there was a certainty of falling into American or British hands, and where economic conditions still presented the chance of living in comfort to anyone well provided with cash, and where remote valleys and mountain pastures offered a chance of living quietly and unobserved.

(v) Gangsters, crooks and Gestapo personnel of all kinds from other parts of Europe to whom money was no object and who, even in the dark days of disorganisation and collapse in the Reich, could obtain transport and Gestapo passes (and frequently false documents), made the same calculation as their French counter-parts and arrived at the same conclusion. In particular in the open town of MERANO nestling under the mountains and the wing of an entirely phoney "Internation Red Cross", run as cover by international SS financial racketeers, there assembled a fraternity of spies, Axis diplomats, Gestapo agents and international swindlers and forgers which must rank high

1392

I 4 5 0

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

the "Alpine redoubt", the intended defense of which had resulted in all units and individuals of particular importance having previously reconnoitred the area.

(ii) Consequently not only did the majority of Abwehr units, if not already installed in the zone, fall back on it at the last minute, but the reserve H.Q. of Bde VERONA had been sited at COLLE ISARCO (GEROSENGASS) near the BRENNER and hundreds of Gestapo and SD personnel made for the area in panic at the last minute.

(iii) The area had been a dumping ground for a large part of the vast wealth robbed by the loot-maddened NAZIS from Italy and other parts of Europe.

(iv) Many hundreds of collaborationist French, most of them ex-members of the SS, SD and Abwehr, fleeing from the advancing French and Russian armies, crossed the BRENNER into the only zone where there was a certainty of falling into American or British hands, and where economic conditions still presented the chance of living in comfort to anyone well provided with cash, and where remote valleys and mountain pastures offered a chance of living quietly and unobserved.

(v) Gangsters, crooks and Gestapo personnel of all kinds from other parts of Europe to whom money was no object and who, even in the dark days of disorganisation and collapse in the Reich, could obtain transport and Gestapo passes (and frequently false documents), made the same calculation as their French counter-parts and arrived at the same conclusion. In particular in the open town of BRENNERO nestling under the mountains and the wing of an entirely phoney "Internation Red Cross", run as cover by international SS financial racketeers, there assembled a fraternity of spies, Axis diplomats, Gestapo agents and international swindlers and forgers which must rank high even in the annals of Nazi corruption and bestiality.

(vi) Apart from the scented murderers and high-grade crooks who crowded the hotels in the valleys, the mountains were infested with ex-members of the Wehrmacht and SS, who received co-operation from the natives who, in large part, had remained so anti-Italian as to be blind to anything else.

(vii) Italian-Tyrolese tension and dislike formed a sombre "black-ground" to the whole gay scene, influencing and being influenced by all that took place in the foreground.

(viii) The return of hundreds of thousands of Italians from imprisonment in Germany facilitated movement, which had of necessity to be largely controlled.

1392

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

b A large scale clean-up of Abwehr officers and NCO's in the first few weeks was followed by the slower and more difficult task of collecting SD, Gestapo, SS and other categories who for obvious reasons were unenthusiastic about becoming prisoners of war. This process is continuing and in view of the large foreign population still in the area can be expected to continue at least until such time as enemy nationals are removed in a body to Germany and Austria.

c Thanks to the efforts of a group of mountaineers, former members of the Resistance Movement (the "ANDREAS HOFER BUND" - see para 3 (d) - reformed by CI agencies for special actions in the mountains) several hundred members of the German Armed Forces, including Gestapo, SS, etc. have, not without fatal casualities on both sides, been hunted out of the mountains. Others have undoubtedly crossed the Alps northwards, finding South Tyrol less safe than they had hoped. A number, though with a reduced percentage of desperate characters, still enjoy the protection of the Tyrolese.

d C.I. agencies, troops and Italian police, have succeeded in rounding up most of the more spectacular material and treasure dumped and hidden in the area. It is however considered that many lesser dejots of all kinds are either better hidden and have escaped discovery, or by looting and organized dispersal have been so divided up that large-scale recovery is no longer necessary. The effect is that there are large supplies of real and potential wealth available to a wide proportion of the population, including the foreign element.

5. PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION.

The political situation in the provinces hinges on national differences between Italians and Tyrolese, rather that on the usual Italian party wrangles, though the latter are not lacking. The events leading up to the present can be very briefly summarised.

a At the

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

removed in a body to Germany and Austria.

c. Thanks to the efforts of a group of mountaineers, former members of the Resistance Movement (the "ANDREAS HOFER BUND" - see para 3 (2) - reformed by SI Agencies for special actions in the mountains) several hundred members of the German armed forces, including Gestapo, SS, etc. have, not without fatal casualities on both sides, been hunted out of the mountains. Others have undoubtedly crossed the Alps northwards, finding South Tyrol less safe than they had hoped. A number, though with a reduced percentage of desperate characters, still enjoy the protection of the Tyrolese.

d. C.I. Agencies, troops and Italian police, have succeeded in rounding most of the more spectacular material and treasure dumped and hidden in the area. It is however considered that many lesser depots of all kinds are either better hidden and have escaped discovery, or by looting and organized dispersal have been so divided up that large-scale recovery is no longer necessary. The effect is that there are large supplies of real and potential wealth available to a wide proportion of the population, including the foreign element.

5. PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION.

The political situation in the provinces hinges on national differences between Italians and Tyrolese, rather that on the usual Italian party wrangles, though the latter are not lacking. The events leading up to the present can be very briefly summarised.

a. At the time of the German collapse Italian "Committees of Liberation" emerged. They were not formed of partisans, who on the Italian side had been entirely lacking in BOLZANO province, but they played [illegible] during the transition period until [illegible] large and, as elsewhere, have still considerable importance in the absence of any elected body to represent the people.

b. On 9 May a group of Tyrolese commercial men, intelligentsia and priests in BOLZANO and BRENNERO (BRENNER) formed the "Suditiroler Volkspartei" with avowed aim of obtaining the exercise of the right to self-determination, and therefore of union with Austria.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

The leader of the party is ERICH AMON, who during the German Occupation supported the "ANDREAS HOFER BUND" with funds. The party is not strong in personalities, the South Tyrol intelligentsia being by no means large, and having been to a large extent N.S.D.A.P. Clerical influence is strong.

c The C.L.N. of BOLZANO, feigning to show co-operation towards the Tyrolese, offered the Volkspartei a place in their committee, an offer which was refused on the grounds that a party claiming to represent the German majority of the population of the province, could not accept an inferiority of five to one in an Italian CLN. Subsequently a written agreement between the two groups was signed, but renewed pressure by the Italians for the Volkspartei to work within the framework of the CLN resulted in a suspension of any practical attempts at co-operation.

d The Italian Government was shrewd enough to realise that its claim to keep the rich province of South Tyrol would be greatly strengthened if it showed in good time that it was anxious to protect the minority rights of the Tyrolese.

The Prefect of Bolzano, Dr. Bruno DE ANGELIS, enjoying the confidence and support of Allied political authorities, studied and submitted to the Rome Government a plan for the local autonomy of the province. The principle of a measure of freedom was accepted by the Government, who announced the fact in general terms which in no way enthused the local population. At the same time they appointed an old and esteemed Italian parliamentarian, On. BOERI, as "Delegato Speciale" for the BOLZANO-TRENTO region, with the task of examining and reporting on the situation.

It is believed that as a result of a tour made in BOLZANO and TRENTO provinces in August, BOERI is preparing a plan for submission to the Italian Government embodying the following proposals.

(i) Local autonomy for the former Austrian provinces of BOLZANO and TRENTO with a local parliament and elected town councils in the smaller places, based on proportional representation or half Italian half Tyrolese members, much stronger local representation in the civil

1390

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

...cept an inferiority of five to one in an Italian CLN. Subsequently a written agreement between the two groups was signed, but renewed pressure by the Italians for the Volkspartei to work within the framework of the CLN resulted in a suspension of any practical attempts at co-operation.

4 The Italian Government was shrewd enough to realise that its claim to keep the rich provinces of South Tyrol would be greatly strengthened if it showed in good time that it was anxious to protect the minority rights of the Tyrolese.

The Prefect of Bolzano, Dr. Bruno DE ANGELIS, enjoying the confidence and support of allied political authorities, studied and submitted to the Rome Government a plan for the local autonomy of the province. The principle of a measure of freedom was accepted by the Government, who announced the fact in general terms which in no way enthused the local population. At the same time they appointed an old and esteemed Italian parliamentarian, Dn. BOERI, as "Delegato Speciale" for the BOLZANO-TRENTO region, with the task of examining and reporting on the situation.

It is believed that as a result of a tour made in BOLZANO and TRENTO provinces in August, BOERI is preparing a plan for submission to the Italian Government embodying the following proposals.

(i) Local autonomy for the former Austrian provinces of BOLZANO and TRENTO with a local parliament and elected town councils in the smaller places, based on proportional representation or half Italian half Tyrolese members, much stronger local representation in the civil service of their own provinces, police, etc.

(ii) Complete freedom of cultural and religious rights, including guarantees for education.

1390

1458

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

c The Volkspartei, led by men of non- or anti-NAZI antecedents, is not the terrorist organisation which Italians try to represent, but a conservative, catholic brand of nationalism which, representing openly the cause for the Anschluss, saves us temporarily the need to follow underground movements working to that end. It is however possible that the party is making the mistake of trying to outsmart the Italians at politics by looking for assistance in every quarter in which a vestige of support may be forthcoming. Thus for example, the party has, by treating too much with the local NAZIS for fear of splitting the Tyrolese front and by disapproving the active support of the ex-ANDREAS HOFER BUND for the Allies because their actions could be interpreted as supporting Italians against Tyrolese, gone half way towards justifying the accusations made against it ab initio by the Italians of being a cover and refuge for the NAZIS of yesterday.

6 CONCLUSION

a The above account only gives a broad outline of the situation and problems involved. There are also a number of short term problems, some of general application like the rounding up of hidden arms, P/W and GIS personnel still at large, others peculiar to the area such as the purge of the hardened Nazi element, conservatively estimated to number between one and two thousand persons.

b From the longer-term political point of view, the situation hinges on the as yet unannounced decision as to whether SOUTH TYROL is to remain Italian or not. If a decision is made in favour of ITALY the way is open for the autonomy plan to be put into effect and the Sudtirolische Volkspartei will either have to modify its programme to support the plan or cease existence as an open political party. In the latter case there is a possibility that a new party representative of the South Tyro[illegible]

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

mistake of trying to outsmart the Italians at politics by looking for assistance in every quarter in which a vestige of support may be forthcoming. Thus for example, the party has, by pressing too much with the local NAZIS for fear of splitting the Tyrolese front and by disapproving the active support of the ex-ANDREAS HOFER BUND for the Allies because their actions could be interpreted as supporting Italians against Tyrolese, gone half way towards justifying the accusations made against it by the Italians of being a cover and refuge for the NAZIS of yesterday.

6 CONCLUSION

a The above account only gives a broad outline of the situation and problems involved. There are also a number of short term problems, some of general application like the rounding up of hidden arms, P/W and CIC personnel still at large, others peculiar to the area such as the purge of the Hartenau Nazi element, conservatively estimated to number between one and two thousand persons.

b From the longer-term political point of view, the situation hinges on the as yet unannounced decision as to whether SOUTH TYROL is to remain Italian or not. If a decision is made in favour of ITALY the way is open for the autonomy plan to be put into effect and the Südtiroler Volkspartei will either have to modify its programme to support the plan or cease existence as an open political party. In the latter case there is a possibility that a new party representative of the South Tyrolese and supporting the autonomy plan, may emerge.

c In the meantime, while isolated disputes and incidents are likely to occur, the presence of Allied troops in the area should go far to prevent large-scale riots or disturbances, and it is considered that adequate warning of any serious deterioration in the situation will be received through intelligence channels.

(Adapted from CIC Zone VII General Appreciation of 10 Sep 45 prepared by CIC and SCI)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

Appendix "B"

HAND IN ARMS AND AMMUNITION

We have, on a previous occasion, given orders that all partisans and patriots of the SAP and GAP depending on the "Zona ALESSIA" "Zona OSSOLA" and "Piazza di Novara" Nos, should hand in all arms and ammunition in their possession, in the way laid down by the Allied Government.

We are sorry to have to point out that for some time past in this area, arms and ammunition are being discovered in this province which up till recently was so purely partisan.

We who were your leaders and at the same time your brothers in arms, see with grief that our definite orders have been disobeyed by isolated elements or by small uncontrolled groups who have on their own initiative hidden those very arms which won us our glorious days of liberation, sustaining us in the long hard months of battle in the mountains, and which were so often washed in our blood. These very arms are now being changed from weapons of our national unity into symbols of illegality and force.

Furthermore, we fail entirely to understand the motive of this attitude, fortunately sporadic but still real. Today, there is no longer any question of rebelling against a regime, but of constructing a new order which yesterday's battles and victories allow us to elaborate loyally and with democratic discipline.

The use of the old system of partisan warfare for our new duties means going against the very objectives we have set ourselves; hiding arms for future violence signifies disavowing the glorious pages we have written with them, means working for the disruption of the very order we wish to build; in a word, it means undermining the authority of that democratic Government which we must reinforce with all our might.

We go further: only Fascist reactionaries are interested in disturbing democratic competition between the various popular forces and movements with acts of violence and with the organisation of secretly armed forces.

The claims and aspirations of the people can and must triumph through the action of the great mass of the people, and not through the coups d'etat of some fanatic.

Therefore, we do not hesitate to say that keeping arms hidden means favouring the rebirth of Fascism, hindering the organisation of a true democracy, impeding legal and orderly procedure for the punishment of Fascist criminals, for

1458

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

We are sorry to have to point out that few acts that exist in this area, arms and ammunition are being discovered in that province which up till recently was so purely partisan.

We who were your leaders and at the same time your brothers in arms, see with grief that our definite orders have been disobeyed by isolated elements or by small uncontrolled groups who have on their own instructive hidden those very arms which won us the glorious days of liberation, sustaining us in the long hard months of battle in the mountains, and which were so often washed in our blood. These very arms are now being changed from weapons of our national unity into symbols of illegality and force.

Furthermore, we fail utterly to understand the motive of this attitude, fortunately sporadic but still real. Today, there is no longer any question of rebelling against a regime, but of constructing a new order upon yesterday's battles and victories allow us to elaborate legally and with democratic discipline.

The use of the old system of partisan warfare for our new duties means going against the very objectives we have set ourselves; hiding arms for future violence signifies disavowing the glorious pages we have written with them, means working for the disruption of the very order we wish to build; in a word, it means undermining the authority of that democratic government which we must reinforce with all our might.

We go further: only Fascist reactionaries are interested in disturbing democratic competition between the various popular forces and movements with acts of violence and with the organization of secretly armed forces.

The claims and aspirations of the people can and must triumph through the action of the great mass of the people, and not through the coups d'etat of some fanatic.

1388

Therefore, we do not hesitate to say that keeping arms hidden means favouring the rebirth of Fascism, hindering the organization of a true democracy, impeding legal and orderly procedure for the punishment of Fascist criminals, for epuration, and for satisfying the urgent needs of the people.

We believe that you will easily be convinced of the profound truth of what we have said, and that in the spirit of true patriots, you will receive with understanding what may mean the sacrifice of a conquered weapon, for the betterment of this our Italy, now painfully rising again, and for whose honour we did not hesitate to leave our families and our work, our dear ones and our property.

AMG HAS GUARANTEED ABSOLUTE IMMUNITY TO ALL WHO HAND IN THEIR ILLEGALLY-HELD ARMS BY 22 SEPTEMBER.

1459
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

The handing in can be done at any CCPR Station or by informing the CCPR directly of the hiding place.

This is an appeal inspired in us by the affection we all feel towards you and by our concern, which we have openly expressed above. An appeal which we direct to you from the depth of our souls as ex-partisans, from our pure Garibaldian spirit, and our true Italian hearts.

NOVARA, 11 September 1945

SIGNED: MOSCATELLI, CIRO

DELLE TORRI, LIVIO, TIA

14 60

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

SECRET

CSM/4356

COPY NUMBER 44

SEEN BY	
G.S.O. I.	
P.M.A. & Q.M.G.	
D.A.D.O.S.	
G II (TRG)	
HAUK HILL	
RANGE (MED)	
G. III.	
CLERKS	

G DESTINY

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 1.

21 September 1945

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SUMMARY WILL OT NO ACCOUNT BE COMMUNICATED TO ANYONE NOT HOLDING AN OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE BRITISH OR AMERICAN FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT.

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
GENERAL STAFF INTELLIGENCE
C M F

1386

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

NUMBER 1.

21 September 1945

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS [illegible] WILL ON NO ACCOUNT BE COMMUNICATED TO ANYONE NOT HOLDING AN OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE BRITISH OR AMERICAN FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE MADE KNOWN BY SPOKEN OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS X DISTRICT.

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
GENERAL STAFF INTELLIGENCE
G H F

1386

SECRET

1462

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

1463

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

HEADQUARTERS 2 SIGS ZONE
General Staff Intelligence
C M F

G3I/2955

21 Sep 1945

2 DISTRICT WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 14

1 POLITICAL

(a) The LONDON Conference

The main headlines of the newspapers are still devoted to the LONDON Conference. The decision reached by the "FIVE" to internationalise TRIESTE, the prospect that the frontier delimitation between YUGOSLAVIA and ITALY and the colonial problem will be dealt with at a later date appears to have created a general feeling of disillusionment. To minimise the reaction produced on public opinion caused by Russia's claims on Italy's colonies, the Socialist and Communist papers make strong attacks against the Anglo-American news agencies, accusing them of "making a hellish noise about TITO's and STALIN's appetite" in order to cover their own imperialistic aims. Ample reference is made in the press of the Left, to "nations who against all justice and whilst already owning 50% of the world stock of all raw materials and dominating respectively 1/5th and 1/6th of the world, still try to increase the size of their colonies at the expense of a nation whose poverty was primarily responsible for its mistakes and misfortune".

(b) "L'Uomo Qualunque" (The Man in the Street)

Much is being heard throughout Italy of this weekly paper, and some account of its origins, progress, background and effect may be of interest.

The "Uomo Qualunque" was founded apparently late last year by a certain Guglielmo GIANNINI, a playwright and critic of some note. His political antecedents, while not anti-fascist, were not markedly fascist; he became a member of the Fascist party, he is said to have stated at the time, chiefly in order to enjoy certain reductions in railroad fares and other expenses. GIANNINI himself lost a son in particularly tragic circumstances, and this is said to have somewhat affected him emotionally and mentally.

1383

The "Uomo Qualunque" began as just another satirical weekly, but soon developed into a rabid opponent of the Italian Government and the CLNs from which it derived its strength.

It was consequently bitterly attacked by the CLN party press, particularly the left wing, and an effort was made to suspend the paper.

1464

intermediaries talked, and proposed [illegible]
between YUGOSLAVIA and ITALY and the colonial problem will be dealt with at a later date appears to have created a general feeling of disillusionment. To minimise the reaction produced on public opinion caused by Russia's claims on Italy's colonies, the Socialist and Communist papers made strong attacks against the Anglo-American news agencies, accusing them of "making a bullish noise about TITO's and STALIN's appetite" in order to cover their own unjust claims. No reference is made in the press of the fact, to "nations who against all justice and whilst already owning 50% of the world stock of all raw materials and hence ruling respectively 1/5th and 1/6th of the world, still try to increase the area of their colonies at the expense of a nation whose poverty was primarily responsible for its past loss and misfortune".

(b) "L'Uomo Qualunque" (The Man in the Street)

Much is being heard throughout Italy of this weekly paper, and some account of its origins, progress, background and effect may be of interest.

The "Uomo Qualunque" was founded approximately late last year by a certain Guglielmo GIANNINI, a playwright and critic of some note. His political antecedents, while not anti-fascist, were not markedly fascist; he became a member of the Fascist party, but is said to have stood at the time, chiefly in order to enjoy certain amenities in enlisted force and other expenses. GIANNINI himself lost a son in particularly tragic circumstances, and this is said to have somewhat affected him emotionally and mentally.

The "Uomo Qualunque" began as just another satirical weekly, but soon developed into a rabid opponent of the Italian Government and the CLNs from which it derived its strength.

It was consequently bitterly attacked by the CLN party press, particularly the left wing, and an effort was made to suspend the paper on the technicality that GIANNINI was not a registered newspaperman. This attempt failed, and since then the circulation of the paper has increased enormously, reaching a figure of approximately 900/600,000 throughout ITALY. This is particularly important, as the necessary paper is bought on the black market and consequently the running costs are extremely high. In certain sections of the country it is exceedingly difficult to buy a copy, and on several times out of issue the advertised price of 10 lire in ROME and 12 outside ROME has to be paid.

1382

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

A "Fronte dell' Uomo Qualunque" has been started and is based on the paper "Political Office". A membership drive is going on, an organisation based on Nuclei, Groups, Centres, Regional Unions and a National Front set up, and a certain enthusiasm is noticeable among readers, borne out by private conversations and mail and telephonic censorship reports.

It is not yet clear who, if anyone, is at present manipulating the emotions and reactions stirred up by the publication. It is probable that GIANNINI himself is working independently and in good faith but the success of the paper is mainly due to the fact that it has been able to feed the increasing discontent of that section of the population, once fascist or pro-fascist and now "reactionary" which criticises and fears the direction that official Italian policy is taking.

There is no doubt that the parties of the right and the right-centre would like to capitalise on this obviously large group of people at present hostile to the government and the CLN.

While the "Uomo Qualunque" is undoubtedly correct in pointing out the abuses committed in the name of the government and the CLNs, its general effect is negative. Constructive criticism is practically absent from its pages, and such sound suggestions as may be made from time to time are buried among complaints and, in view of the mentality of the average reader, not presented with sufficient force to wake him from his personal complacency.

There are possibilities that the spirit embodied in the "Uomo Qualunque" may lead to trouble. Its effect is to bring to the fore all the slogans which are popular among a politically lazy upper- and upper-middle class, and which led to the growth and success of Fascism in 1919-1922. For that reason it will bear watching, not so much for itself, as for the effect it may have on people seeking a short cut to normalcy and a stable government.

2. ECONOMIC

(a) Labour and the Threat of Unemployment

Workers meetings held during the week in several industrial centres in the North have shown that workers are as determined as ever to remain on the payrolls of their employers. Their determination has been as forceful and consistent as in the early days of July last, while employers are displaying a more sympathetic attitude. It now appears that the labour situation after 30 Sep may be very much less acute than seemed possible a fortnight ago. Talk of wholesale dismissals of surplus workers from most industries seems to have been superseded by much more

1384

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

section of the population, once fascist or pro-fascist and now "reactionary" which criticises and fears the direction that official Italian policy is taking.

There is no doubt that the parties of the right and the right-centre would like to capitalize on this obviously large group of people at present hostile to the government and the CLN.

While the "Uomo Qualunque" is undoubtedly correct in pointing out the abuses committed in the name of the government and the CLNs, its general effect is negative. Constructive criticism is practically absent from its pages, and such sound suggestions as may be made from time to time are buried among complaints and, in view of the mentality of the average reader, not presented with sufficient force to wake him from his personal complacency.

There are possibilities that the spirit embodied in the "Uomo Qualunque" may lead to trouble. Its effect is to bring to the fore all the slogans which are popular among a politically lazy upper- and upper-middle class, and which led to the growth and success of Fascism in 1919-1922. For that reason it will bear watching, not so much for itself, as for the effect it may have on people seeking a short cut to normalcy and a stable government.

2. ECONOMIC

(a) Labour and the Threat of Unemployment

Workers meetings held during the week in several industrial centres in the North have shown that workers are as determined as ever to remain on the payrolls of their employers. Their determination has been as forceful and consistent as in the early days of July last, while employers are displaying a more sympathetic attitude. It now appears that the labour situation after 30 Sep may be very much less acute than seemed possible a fortnight ago. Talk of wholesale dismissals of surplus workers from most industries seems to have been superseded by much more objective discussions and proposals.

There has been widespread apprehension at the situation that it was generally feared would arise after the expiry of the 8 July wage agreements which in theory gives employers freedom to dismiss surplus workers after 30 Sep. LIZZADRI, Secretary of the CGIL, on his return to ROME from his tour in the North, announced that there are at the present time about seven hundred thousand unemployed in Northern Italy. The wide publicity given to this figure and to the statement that this total would be swollen to over one million after 30 Sep if firms were allowed to dismiss their surplus idle workers was one of the reasons for the disquiet among the masses.

1384

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

The gravity of this situation has been fully realised by the employers and workers alike. Moreover many of the leading industrials to are now adopting a more optimistic view of the future prospects for industry:(increased arrivals of coal, cotton and other essential raw materials are largely responsible for this)and some have publicly stated that far from having to turn away labour after 30 Sept they anticipate that it may even be possible to take on new hands. It is reported that the workers on the other hand are also displaying a less intransigeant attitude and, realising the terrors of unemployment during the winter months, have declared that, in order to enable employers to remain in employment, they are prepared to accept a reduction in the hours of work. Meanwhile a meeting of all North Italian Chambers of Labour has been convened to meet shortly to discuss plans for the orderly transfer or dismissal of labour after 30 Sept.

This sudden and happy reversal of feeling appears to portend a new determination to promote rapid industrial recovery than it had hitherto seemed reasonable to expect. It remains to be seen to what extent this revival of optimism will be justified by events.

(b) More Freedom for Industry

Another piece of Fascist legislation which has borne particularly heavily on the industrial world, is about to be swept away. That is the Decree Law 1939 which regulated the creation, transformation and extension of industrial privileges, the application of which had become excessively restrictive during the war. At a press conference held in MILAN on 17 Sept, Professor Roberto [illegible] Commissioner for for Industry in North Italy drew attention to a new draft decree prepared in ROME which has now been submitted to the Northern Italian Industrial Council for their opinion. The new decree abrogates in its entirety the Decree Law 1939 and makes it legal for any person to set up or to transform industrial establishments by giving simple notification within one month from the start of the works, for statistical purposes, to the Industrial Inspector to which will be empowered to impose a ban only if the plants in question are of national importance and after hearing the opinion of a special commission to be set up within the Ministry of Industry. This new piece of legislation should be effective in helping the recovery of Italian industry and in facilitating the difficult tasks of reconversion.

(c) New Ration Scales and Typical Worker's Family Budget

The announcement of the new uniform ration scales for the whole of ITALY to come into operation on 1 October has evoked scant interest despite the increase in the daily bread ration from 150 to 200 grams. In view of the relatively small proportion of rationed foodstuffs in relation to the total foodstuffs consumed it is in fact not surprising that the increase should have caused so little enthusiasm.

1387

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

been convened to meet shortly to discuss plans for the orderly transfer or liquidation of labour after 30 S..

This sudden and highly successful stroke of fooling appears to reflect a new born confidence in a revival of industrial recovery than it had hitherto usually been possible to detect. Premature to be sure to what extent this reversal of opinion will be justified by events.

(b) More Freedom for Industry

A new piece of [illegible] legislation which has become particularly necessary in some industrial towns, is likely to be swept away. This is the Decree Law 1938 which provided the creation, transformation and extension of industrial premises, the application of which had become extremely restrictive during the war. [illegible] conference held in [illegible] on 17 Sept, Professor Rossoni announced Confederal Conferences for Industry in both Italy [illegible] attention to [illegible] decree [illegible] which [illegible] submitted to the Fascist Corporative Industrial Council for their opinion. The new decree abrogates in its entirety the Decree Law 1938 and makes it legal for any person to set up or to transform industrial undertakings by merely sending notification within one month from the date of the decree, for statistical purposes, to the Industrial Inspectors to which will be entrusted to impose a ban only if the plants in question are of national importance and after hearing the opinion of a special commission to be set up within the Ministry of Industry. This new piece of legislation should be effective in helping the recovery of Italian industry and in facilitating the difficult problem of reconversion.

(c) New Ration Scales and Typical Workman's Family Budget

1383

The announcement of the new uniform ration scales for the whole of Italy to come into effect on 1 October has evoked scant interest despite the increase in the daily per ration from 150 to 200 grms. In view of the relatively small proportion of rationed foodstuffs in relation to the total foodstuffs consumed it is in fact not surprising that the increase should have caused so little enthusiasm.

The new ration allows for increased [illegible], pulses, pasta and rice for the average citizen in the North and heavy workers in the South, and for the first time farm labourers will receive a special ration throughout the year. Hitherto farm labourers have been granted special rations for the [illegible] they are normally able to work on the land.

The public as a whole will benefit from the new scale; and it will be noted that special treatment in the form of supplementary rations, has been accorded to heavy workers engaged on essential reconstruction jobs.

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

Concurrently with the above announcement the MILAN Ufficio Provinciale del Lavoro, (Provincial Labour Office) published details of a typical worker's family budget. Data on feeding expenses for a family of a husband, wife and two children, show the following:

Month	Official Market	Free Market	Total Expenditure
July	Lire 599.70	Lire 8800.11	Lire 9399.80
August	Lire 1029.40	Lire 8041.24	Lire 9078.64
Percentage increase August/July	75%	0.45%	5%

When Northern Italy was liberated official market prices, fixed at an uneconomic level for political reasons by the Fascist Republican Government, had to be maintained for a time by AMG until prices came in line with realities could be ascertained. The current official prices which AMG put into effect in August account for the steep rise in expenditure on the official market shown by the above figures.

Of the total monthly cash outlay 10.43% is expended on rationed and 89.57% on unrationed commodities, representing respectively 99306 and 147366 calories or a total calory intake of 246672. This is equal to approximately 2055 calories per capita daily which is not inferior to generally accepted minimum medical standards.

(d) SEPRAL Achievements

During June and July, a period when frequent strikes and demonstrations were staged in several of the large cities and centres of the North for economic as well as political reasons, one of the most critised important civil government organisations was the para-statal agency, SEPRAL, a Provincial Food Office, charged with the responsibility of distributing rationed or controlled food articles. Technical questions concerning ration cards, rationing regulations and offences and the general handling of controlled food also fall within the province of this vitally important agency.

At the height of the attacks in MILAN last July by housewives publicly demonstrating their dissatisfaction with the way SEPRAL was handling the feeding problem of MILAN, and by the recurring articles of protest and abuse which appeared chiefly in the left wing papers, SEPRAL officials went on strike as a protest against the various unjust charges levelled at them.

In order to satisfy the public clamour certain reforms were introduced and a "de-fascistised" Milan Province SEPRAL began to function on 25 July.

This week Dott GIANI, the Extraordinary Commissioner,

1382

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

August	Lire 1029.80	Lire 8841.24	Lire 9878.84
Percentage increase:			
August/July	73%	0.45%	5%

When Northern Italy was liberated official market prices, fixed at an uneconomic level for political reasons by the Fascist Republican Government, had to be maintained for a time by AMG until prices more in line with realities could be ascertained. The current official prices which AMG put into effect in August account for the steep rise in expenditure on the official market shown by the above figures.

Of the total monthly cash outlay 10.43% is expended on rationed and 89.57% on unrationed commodities, representing respectively 39706 and 147760 calories or a total calory intake of 246672. This is equal to approximately 2055 calories per capita daily which is not inferior to generally accepted minimum medical standards.

(c) SEPES.I Achievements

During June and July, a period when frequent strikes and demonstrations were staged in several of the large cities and centres of the North for economic as well as political reasons, one of the most criticised important civil government organizations was the para-statal agency, SEPRAL, a Provincial Food Office, charged with the responsibility of distributing rationed or controlled food articles. Technical questions concerning ration cards, rationing regulations and offences and the general handling of controlled food also falls within the province of this vitally important agency.

At the height of the attacks in MILAN last July by housewives publicly demonstrating their dissatisfaction with the way SEPRAL was handling the feeding problem of MILAN, and by the recurring articles of protest and abuse which appeared chiefly in the left wing press, SEPRAL officials went on strike in a protest against the various unjust charges levelled at them.

In order to satisfy the public clamour certain reforms were introduced and a "de-fascistised" Milan Province SEPRAL began to function on 25 July.

This week Dott GIANI, the Extraordinary Commissioner, reported on its progress to date and it would appear that in spite of the difficult supply circumstances it has functioned fairly satisfactorily.

Perhaps the most important innovation in the SEPRAL set up was the constitution of a Commission of the Camera del Lavoro. The purpose behind the creation of the Commission was to control directly the workings of SEPRAL and generally supervise production. As an example of its efficiency Dott GIANI, quoted the penalty, consisting of the suspension of PCL supplies, imposed upon the Commune of Monza for failing to comply with existing regulations.

1470

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

The rice, pasta, wine, sugar, fish and potato situations have been reviewed and on the whole returns proved moderately satisfactory. It is worthy of note that future deliveries of bread and meat will be assured, and that butter, lard, cheese and sugar have been distributed according to plan up to the end of August, a position which refutes certain mischievous statements made by outsiders.

3 HIDDEN ARMS

A further 24 successful raids on arms caches have been reported - 2 in LIGURIA, 3 in VENEZIA, 9 in LOMBARDY, 10 in PIEDMONT. No large caches (i.e. over 200 weapons) have been found but the total number of arms recovered continues to be fairly satisfactory. From raids and from arms handed in voluntarily the following have been collected: Rifles 402; MG's 112; Sub-MG's 115; Mortars 11; A/tk weapons 17; Guns 7; Pistols 68; Grenades 5670 and quantities of ammunition, explosive and military equipment.

In the raids in LOMBARDY the arms had in all cases been hidden by professed Communists in a variety of carefully prepared caches. They were in good condition and in most cases well greased and stored.

As a result of determined raiding of suspect localities, an increased tendency has been noted for people to hand in arms voluntarily to local priests or C.C.R.R. In PIEDMONT posters appealing to the population to hand in any arms they may possess have been circulated and have met with some response.

7 AFPU report that there are 26 official ammunition dumps in PIEDMONT some of which are inadequately guarded. To have all such dumps guarded by British troops is not feasible. Efforts are being made to concentrate and destroy ammunition as quickly as possible. In LOMBARDY the question of adequate guards for dumps has also been taken up.

4 PUBLIC ORDER

(a) The SCHIO Murder Trial

The trial of seven ex-partisans implicated in the massacre of some 55 political prisoners at SCHIO gaol 1938 ended in three death sentences, two sentences of life imprisonment and two acquittals. The sentences are now being reviewed by the Chief Commissioner. In the meantime strong appeals for mercy are appearing in the press, particularly of the Left, and on 15 Sep CORRIERE LOMBARDO published an open letter to the Regional Commissioner of LOMBARDY from MOSCATELLI, Mayor of NOVARA, and himself an outstanding Communist partisan leader, asking for clemency on the grounds of the good previous partisan record of the condemned men.

1381

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

reported - 2 in MILANO, 3 in VERCELLI, 3 in NOVARA, 10 in PIEDMONT. No large caches (i.e. over 200 weapons) have been found but the total number of arms recovered continues to be fairly satisfactory. From raids and from arms handed in voluntarily the following have been collected: Rifles 402; MG's 112; SMG-MG's 113; Mortars 11; A/tk weapons 17; Guns 7; Pistols 60; Grenades 5670 and quantities of ammunition, explosive and military equipment.

In the raids in LOMBARDY the arms had in all cases been hidden by professed Communists in a variety of carefully prepared caches. They were in good condition and in most cases well greased and stored.

As a result of determined raiding of suspect localities, an increased tendency has been noted for people to hand in arms voluntarily to local priests or C.C.R.R. In PIEDMONT posters appealing to the population to hand in any arms they may possess have been circulated and have met with some response.

7 AFHQ report that there are 26 official ammunition dumps in PIEDMONT some of which are inadequately guarded. To have all such dumps guarded by British troops is not feasible. Efforts are being made to concentrate and destroy ammunition as quickly as possible. In LOMBARDY the question of adequate guards for dumps has also been taken up.

4 PUBLIC ORDER

(a) The SCHIO Murder Trial

The trial of seven ex-partisans implicated in the massacre of some 55 political prisoners at SCHIO gaol [illegible] ended in three death sentences, two sentences of life imprisonment and two acquittals. The sentences are now being reviewed by the Chief Commissioner. In the meantime strong appeals for mercy are appearing in the press, particularly of the Left, and on 15 Sep CORRIERE LOMBARDO published an open letter to the Regional Commissioner of LOMBARDY from MOSCATELLI, Mayor of NOVARA, and himself an outstanding Communist partisan leader, asking for clemency on the grounds of the good previous partisan record of the condemned men. Three of the accused were [illegible] in fact chiefly due to spurious American decorations for the part they played during the Resistance period.

While confirmation of the sentences is likely to cause even greater public disapproval than was roused by the execution of General BELLONI, commutation might be interpreted as implying that the Allies are prepared to accept a wide measure of lawlessness in territory under their control.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

(b) Lawlessness in FERRARA

On the evening of 17 Sep the MELESTONI (Chief of Police) of FERRARA was gravely wounded and his son killed when his car was fired on from another car. The motive of the crime is unknown and the identity of the assailants has not yet been ascertained, though it is possible that they may be members of an extremist group suspected of being responsible for the FERRARA goal break on 8 June and for other acts of brigandry and extortion in the area.

On the night of 13/14 Sep 36 ex-partisans held on minor criminal charges such as theft and extortion were released from BOLOGNA goal by the partisan guards on duty. Action against the guards is being taken by the Italian authorities.

Lt Col
GS

DISTRIBUTION:
As for Summary No 22 of 7 September 1945
plus SCI (3) Rome
British Embassy, Rome
ATT: Mr. Benton

1380

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

Appendix "A"

Notes on some Employers and Workers Organisations in Northern Italy.

Since the establishment of Allied Military Government in Italian territory North of the Gothic Line in the early days of May last, it has been extremely difficult to keep a clear understanding, of the various developments and new trends in all spheres of Italy's present economic life, and, notably of the complex problems affecting the industrial situation.

The strikes, demonstrations, agreements and plethora of committee meetings that have taken place amongst and between the various trade and workers' organisations, (latterly often with the intervention of various government organs), and during the last few weeks the formation of new committees to study economic problems, are symptomatic of the present deep-seated economic disorder which besets the country. The situation is not made clearer by the large number of bodies which since the liberation, have set themselves up in the economic field at all levels, (sometimes with a definite but shrouded political bias), displaying great eagerness and varying degrees of competence but passing resolutions which have had, and still can have, few practical constructive results.

The various organisations claiming to be representative of employers and workers have installed themselves wherever it has seemed most advantageous. They are naturally strongest in the large cities of MILAN, TURIN and GENOA, the last two appearing to take many of their leads from MILAN.

The Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro (Trades Union Congress) and the Confederazione Generale dell' Industria Italiana (General Association of Industrialists Unions) with head offices in ROME, sent delegations to the North some weeks after the territory was liberated, experience having shown that due to inadequate communications between the North and South and other physical difficulties, it had become almost impossible for either of them in ROME to keep track of the complicated issues and ever-changing situation, in that part of Italy that is generally regarded as the industrial hub of the whole national economic machine.

Already existing local organisations such as the Camere del Lavoro (Workers' Unions) and Unioni Industriali (Employers' Unions) depending indirectly from Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro and Confederazione Generale dell Industria Italiana respectively, continued to function in concert with the Delegations from Rome. They have, however, succeeded in retaining a very high degree of independence and the MILAN organisations have proved to be the most powerful.

1379

Industrial workers, state employees, and practically all the rest of the earning population are protected mainly by the Camere del Lavoro. The employers have their own separate associations organised according to industries, trades and professions, which act independently of each other. The most powerful group has always been and still is

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

of committee meetings that have taken place amongst and between the various trade and workers' organizations, (usually often with the intervention of various government organs), and during the last few weeks the formation of new committees to study economic problems, are symptomatic of the present deep-seated economic disorder which besets the country. The situation is not made clearer by the large number of bodies which since the liberation, have set themselves up in the economic field at all levels, (sometimes with a definite but shrouded political bias), displaying great eagerness and varying degrees of competence but passing resolutions which have had, and still can have, few practical constructive results.

The various organizations claiming to be representative of employers and workers have installed themselves wherever it has seemed most advantageous. They are naturally strongest in the large cities of MILAN, TURIN and GENOA, the last two appearing to take many of their leads from MILAN.

The Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro (Italian Union Congress) and the Confederazione Generale dell' Industria Italiana (General Association of Industrialists Unions) with head offices in ROME, sent delegations to the North some weeks after the territory was liberated, experience having shown that due to inadequate communications between the North and South and other physical difficulties, it had become almost impossible for either of them in ROME to keep track of the complicated issues and ever-changing situation, in that part of Italy that is generally regarded as the industrial hub of the whole national economic machine.

Already existing local organizations such as the Camera del Lavoro (Workers' Unions) and Unioni Industriali (Employers' Unions) corresponding indirectly from Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro and Confederazione Generale dell Industria Italiana respectively, continued to function in concert with the Delegations from Rome. They have, however, succeeded in retaining a very high degree of independence and the MILAN organizations have proved to be the most powerful.

1329

Industrial workers, state employees, and practically all the rest of the earning population are protected mainly by the Camera del Lavoro. The employers have their own corporate associations organized according to industries, trades and professions, which act independently of each other. The most powerful group has always been and still is the Unione Industriali. Some of Italy's most influential men still own and control the big business concerns of the North many of which are in fact of their own creation or of that of their forebears and their hold on Italy's finances remains powerful.

1475

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

The Unioni Industriali, however, have lost a good deal of their power and influence in political and economic matters and at the present time they are passing through a period of crisis. Their chief cause of weakness is said to be the decline in power and influence of the individual members, several of whom have been removed as collaborators from their firms and therefore from the Union, while Commissars often nominated by the CLN are temporarily appointed to act in their stead. Experience has shown that the latter are rarely able to carry the same weight and influence in the Unioni. Other industrialists, still living under the threat of epuration, are continually subject to blackmail and consequently find their influence much weakened. Lately, the few industrialists whose integrity has been found above suspicion have been encountering much opposition in their relations with the Camere del Lavoro, which have recently assumed a most intransigeant attitude backed, as they are, by the left-wing parties.

The Unione Industriali in TURIN has been aspiring to gain influence and control over the whole of PIEDMONT, (as has already been partly achieved in LOMBARDY by the MILAN Industrialists Union, now called the Associazione Industriali LOMBARDA), but in fact finds itself practically divided into three main groups namely:

a The Fiat Union - which accedes to all demands of the workers,

b The Old Union - which defends the interests of the Medium-sized industries,

c A New Union - which claims to represent the smaller private enterprises.

It is clear that the activities of the Union in TURIN are to all intents and purposes paralysed, and this is causing considerable embarrasment to its parent body the Confederazione Generale Italiana dell' Industria.

The GENOA Union is in a state of crisis as its President does not enjoy the confidence of the Industrialists who accuse him of having agreed to pay wages considerably more favourable to the workers than those fixed in the 8 July wage agreement for North ITALY.

As regards MILAN, the situation is certainly better and healthier as the Associazione Industriali Lombarda functions well largely because it is organised on the basis of representation by industries rather than of territoral representation.

Trade or professional representative associations, in general, seem to function more efficiently and with greater vigour than do unions of a territorial character, even though, to date, their activities have been less in evidence and they have not yet come up against any serious trade union problems. They usually deal with groups of trades or professions more or less similar in nature and already accustomed to working together as an association; and they appear to be tackling economic problems in an experienced, competent and realistic manner.

137

1476

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

have been encountering much opposition in their relations with the Camere del Lavoro, which have recently assumed a most intransigent attitude backed, as they are, by the left-wing parties.

The Unione Industriali in TURIN has been aspiring to gain influence and control over the whole of PIEDMONT, (as has already been partly achieved in LOMBARDY by the MILAN Industrialists Union, now called the Associazione Industriali LOMBARDA), but in fact finds itself practically divided into three main groups namely:

a The Fiat Union - which accedes to all demands of the workers,

b The Old Union - which defends the interests of the Medium-sized industries,

c A New Union - which claims to represent the smaller private enterprises.

It is clear that the activities of the Union in TURIN are to all intents and purposes paralysed, and this is causing considerable embarrassment to its parent body the Confederazione Generale Italiana dell' Industria.

The GENOA Union is in a state of crisis as its President does not enjoy the confidence of the Industrialists who accuse him of having agreed to pay wages considerably more favourable to the workers than those fixed in the 8 July wage Agreement for North ITALY.

As regards MILAN, the situation is certainly better and healthier as the Associazione Industriali Lombarda functions well largely because it is organised on the basis of representation by industries rather than of territoral representation.

Trade or professional representative associations, in general, seem to function more efficiently and with greater vigour than do unions of a territorial character even though, to date, their activities have been less in evidence and they have not yet come up against any serious trade union problems. They usually deal with groups of trades or professions more or less similar in nature and already accustomed to working together as an association; and they appear to be tackling economic problems in an experienced, competent and realistic manner.

There seems at the moment to be a very real danger that the North and South will split, each setting up its own Confederation of Industrialists Unions, as it is alleged that a single one for the whole of ITALY will not have sufficient power or influence to function efficiently.

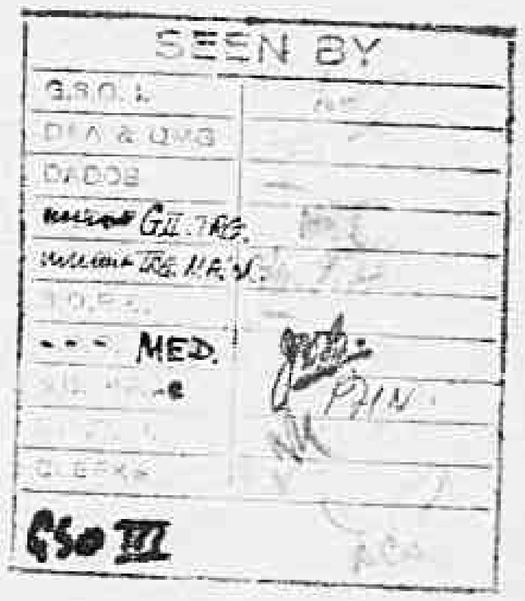
A split of this nature at the present time when the future economic structure of ITALY is being planned would seriously impair the industrial strength of the country by emphasising still more forcibly the often conflicting interests of North and South. These interests require to be reconciled rather than accentuated and any such move to set up distinct and possibly rival organisations in the North and South could hardly be too strongly deprecated.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785720

SECRET

GSI/2355

COPY NUMBER 41



2 DISTRICT

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 13

14 September 1945

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SUMMARY WILL ON NO ACCOUNT BE COMMUNICATED TO ANYONE NOT HOLDING AN OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE BRITISH OR AMERICAN FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT.

1377

1478

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

2 DISTRICT

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 13

14 September 1945

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SUMMARY WILL ON NO ACCOUNT BE COMMUNICATED TO ANYONE NOT HOLDING AN OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE BRITISH OR AMERICAN FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT.

1377

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
GENERAL STAFF INTELLIGENCE
C M F

SECRET

1479

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

1480

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
General Staff Intelligence
C M F

GSI/2355

14 Sep 1945

2 DISTRICT WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 13

1 POLITICAL

(a) London Conference

General attention is focussed on the LONDON Conference where the future status of ITALY is at present under discussion, and for the moment this important event, overshadows all other political activities. Whilst official quarters in LONDON are very reserved and cautious in their statements, many speculations are being made here as to what will be the final peace terms offered to, or imposed upon, ITALY by the Allies. The fate of the colonies and the territorial claims put forward by FRANCE, YUGOSLAVIA and AUSTRIA are the problems to which most attention is given.

Generally speaking, in spite of the warnings against over-optimism, issued by PARRI and echoed by several other Italian political personalities, the man-in-the-street is quite prepared to overlook the fact that his country declared upon the Allies a war in which he claims to have taken no part, and the blame for which he considers can be placed entirely on the shoulders of the Fascist leaders. Remembering only the assistance given to the Allies after the armistice of 8 Sep 43 and especially the active role played by the Resistance movements in the North, the Italians hope and expect to be treated with generosity.

(b) Unione Federalista Ventimigliese

In the VENTIMIGLIA S88 area a movement known locally as the UNIONE FEDERALISTA VENTIMIGLIESE is publicising the advisability of creating a free zone. 1376

The proposal is understood to entail no alteration to the existing Franco-Italian political frontiers but the removal of the customs frontiers to BORDIGHERA S-9186 and MENTON S-7885 and the creation of a free zone covering the RO A Basin south from the COLLE DI TENDA N-8628 including 19 Italian communes, amongst which BORDIGHERA, and 11 French communes including MENTON.

1 POLITICAL

(a) London Conference

General attention is focussed on the LONDON Conference where the future status of ITALY is at present under discussion, and for the moment this important event, overshadows all other political activities. Whilst official quarters in LONDON are very reserved and cautious in their statements, many speculations are being made here as to what will be the final peace terms offered to, or imposed upon, ITALY by the Allies. The fate of the colonies and the territorial claims put forward by FRANCE, YUGOSLAVIA and AUSTRIA are the problems to which most attention is given.

Generally speaking, in spite of the warnings against over-optimism, issued by PARRI and echoed by several other Italian political personalities, the man-in-the-street is quite prepared to overlook the fact that his country declared upon the Allies a war in which he claims to have taken no part, and the blame for which he considers can be placed entirely on the shoulders of the Fascist leaders. Remembering only the assistance given to the Allies after the armistice of 8 Sep 43 and especially the active role played by the Resistance movements in the North, the Italians hope and expect to be treated with generosity.

(b) Unione Federalista Ventimigliese

In the VENTIMIGLIA S88 area a movement known locally as the UNIONE FEDERALISTA VENTIMIGLIESE is publicising the advisability of creating a free zone.

The proposal is understood to entail no alteration to the existing Franco-Italian political frontiers but the removal of the customs frontiers to BORDIGHERA S-9186 and MENTON S-7885 and the creation of a free zone covering the ROYA Basin south from the COLLE DI TENDA N-8628 including 19 Italian communes, amongst which VENTIMIGLIA and BORDIGHERA, and 11 French communes including MENTON. Seventeen communes, amongst them VENTIMIGLIA, are reported to have already endorsed the movement.

The movement appears to be an honest attempt on the part of both the Italian and French inhabitants to prevent further bickering over the area which they claim is an economic anomaly and cannot either from the racial or geographical point of view be justly considered either French or Italian. Whether the idea will be acceptable to the French and Italian Governments is a doubtful question to be answered if and when the movement presents them with concrete proposals.

1376

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

148

1 POLITICAL

(a) London Conference

General attention is focussed on the LONDON Conference where the future status of ITALY is at present under discussion, and for the moment this important event, overshadows all other political activities. Whilst official quarters in LONDON are very reserved and cautious in their statements, many speculations are being made here as to what will be the final peace terms offered to, or imposed upon, ITALY by the Allies. The fate of the colonies and the territorial claims put forward by FRANCE, YUGOSLAVIA and AUSTRIA are the problems to which most attention is given.

Generally speaking, in spite of the warnings against over-optimism, issued by PARRI and echoed by several other Italian political personalities, the man-in-the-street is quite prepared to overlook the fact that his country declared upon the Allies a war in which he claims to have taken no part, and the blame for which he considers can be placed entirely on the shoulders of the Fascist leaders. Remembering only the assistance given to the Allies after the armistice of 8 Sep 43 and especially the active role played by the Resistance movements in the North, the Italians hope and expect to be treated with generosity.

(b) Unione Federalista Ventimigliese

In the VENTIMIGLIA S68 area a movement known locally as the UNIONE FEDERALISTA VENTIMIGLIESE is publicising the advisability of creating a free zone. 1376

The proposal is understood to entail no alteration to the existing Franco-Italian political frontiers but the removal of the customs frontiers to BORDIGHERA S-9186 and MENTON S-7865 and the creation of a free zone covering the ROYA Basin south from the COLLE DI TENDA N-8628 including 19 Italian communes, amongst which VENTIMIGLIA and BORDIGHERA, and 11 French communes including MENTON. Seventeen communes, amongst them VENTIMIGLIA, are reported to have already endorsed the movement.

The movement appears to be an honest attempt on the part of both the Italian and French inhabitants to prevent further bickering over the area which they claim is an economic anomaly and cannot either from the racial or geographical point of view be justly considered either French or Italian. Whether the idea will be acceptable to the French and Italian Governments is a doubtful question to be answered if and when the movement presents them with concrete proposals.

1482

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

(c) Anti-Allied Propaganda

Certain veiled anti-Allied propaganda has appeared recently in the press. It generally takes the form of wide publicity given to all, even minor, incidents in which Allied troops are involved; at times also completely untrue stories are reported, such as the recent statement that in one week in MILAN 8 British soldiers had been killed in minor incidents with civilians. The regularity with which tendentious statements now appear in all the newspapers, and the undue prominence given to any news item calculated to throw an unfavourable light on the Allies, makes it seem at least possible that this is a question of an organised, if timid, campaign directed against the Allied troops of occupation.

In fact the number of incidents involving Allied troops is remarkably few, their behaviour is good and they are not unpopular with the civilian population.

Where statements made in the Italian press are definitely untrue the Allied Publications Board arrange for denials to appear. There is NO direct censorship of press articles but the A.P.B. has the right, which it is naturally unwilling to exercise, of suspending a paper for a period by cutting off its supply of newsprint. Newspapers in TURIN were suspended in this way for one day in July after a demonstration against the reintroduction by PWB of two former fascist controlled papers.

2 ECONOMIC

(a) Labour and Wages.

While discussions continue on wages, unemployment and reconstruction no very concrete progress has been made.

The Minister of Labour has approved in principle the suggested introduction of a new flat rate of wages to replace the present remuneration system involving basic wage, contingency indemnity and cost-of-living bonus, but the two most important questions concerning wages and labour, namely what will happen after 30 Sep when the present wage agreement expires and will employers be entitled to dismiss surplus workers after that date both remain unsettled.

Although both the State and the Employers have stated that they cannot financially afford to extend the present agreement, rumours are now current that this will none the less be done.

If on the other hand the wage agreement expires as 1375
scheduled on 30 Sep, employers are permitted to dismiss idle workers (the Communist and Socialist parties have already passed a resolution voting this), and NO measures are taken to absorb and adequately pay the resulting increased surplus of unemployed, there seems little doubt that serious labour troubles will occur throughout North ITALY.

1483
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

is remarkably low, their behaviour is good and they are not unpopular with the civilian population.

Where statements made in the Italian press are definitely untrue the Allied Publications Board arrange for denials to appear. There is NO direct censorship of press articles but the A.P.B. has the right, which it is naturally unwilling to exercise, of suspending a paper for a period by cutting off its supply of newsprint. Newspapers in TURIN were suspended in this way for one day in July after a demonstration against the reintroduction by PWB of two former fascist controlled papers.

2 ECONOMIC

(a) Labour and Wages.

While discussions continue on wages, unemployment and reconstruction no very concrete progress has been made.

The Minister of Labour has approved in principle the suggested introduction of a new flat rate of wages to replace the present remuneration system involving basic wage, contingency indemnity and cost-of-living bonus, but the two most important questions concerning wages and labour, namely what will happen after 30 Sep when the present wage agreement expires and will employers be entitled to dismiss surplus workers after that date both remain unsettled.

Although both the State and the Employers have stated that they cannot financially afford to extend the present agreement, rumours are now current that this will none the less be done.

If on the other hand the wage agreement expires as scheduled on 30 Sep, employers are permitted to dismiss idle workers (the Communist and Socialist parties have already passed a resolution 1373 voting this), and NO measures are taken to absorb and adequately pay the resulting increased surplus of unemployed, there seems little doubt that serious labour troubles will occur throughout North ITALY.

(b) SUSA Valley Textile Strike

The strike referred to in Summary No 12 finally ended on 10 Sep with the workers being granted their original demands except for the date from which the new rates would become operative, namely 13 August. NO payment will be made to workers for the time the strike lasted.

1484

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

1485

(c) The Rise in Food Prices

Data collected by the Economic office of the ORBIS Press Agency regarding the increase in percentage of prices for certain every-day food commodities in MILAN between 1938 and July 1945 is shown at Appendix 'A'.

3 HIDDEN ARMS AND ARMED BANDS

(a) Hidden Arms

The drive to recover hidden arms continues with satisfactory results. Up to the end of September 140 raids have been carried out in PIEDMONT and LOMBARDY Regions and the following arms have been recovered: Rifles 2707; MG's 93; Sub-MG's 399; Mortars 19; A/Tk guns 6 (2 bazookas); Pistols 233; Grenades 1949; W/T Sets 45. In addition large quantities of ammunition, explosive and military equipment have been confiscated. 389 arrests have been made for illegal possession of arms. NO details of arms found in LIGURIA, VENEZIA and EMILIA are available as yet.

Information on arms caches is more readily forthcoming as a result of the evidence that action is taken on it. Unfortunately it is often found to be too vague to bring the results hoped for.

Armed Bands

In addition to the armed bands previously reported operating in TURCHINO (O-8156) and BRASCO (P-42) information has been received that other bands are active around ORMEA (O-1425) CARESSIO (O-2330) and ZEVA (O-2651). All these bands are interested solely in robbery and have no political significance.

1374

JT COL

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

(c) The Rise in Food Prices

Data collected by the Economic office of the ORBIS Press Agency regarding the increase in percentage of prices for certain every-day food commodities in MILAN between 1938 and July 1945 is shown at Appendix A.

3 HIDDEN ARMS AND ARMED BANDS

(a) Hidden Arms

The drive to recover hidden arms continues with satisfactory results. Up to the end of September 140 raids have been carried out in PIEDMONT and LOMBARDY Regions and the following arms have been recovered: Rifles 2707; LMG's 93; Sub-MG's 599; Mortars 19; A/Tk guns 6 (2 bazookas); Pistols 253; Grenades 1949; W/T Sets 45. In addition large quantities of ammunition, explosive and military equipment have been confiscated. 389 arrests have been made for illegal possession of arms. NO details of arms found in LIGURIA, VENEZIA and EMILIA are available as yet.

Information on arms caches is more readily forthcoming as a result of the evidence that action is taken on it. Unfortunately it is often found to be too vague to bring the results hoped for.

Armed Bands

In addition to the armed bands previously reported operating in TURCHINO (0-6156) and BRESCIA (P-4.2) information has been received that other bands are active around OMEGA (0-1425) MARESSID (0-2330) and GENOA (0-2651). All these bands are interested solely in robbery and have no political significance.

1374

LT COL
GS

1486

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

1487

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

PERCENT INCREASE IN FOOD PRICES BETWEEN 1938 AND 31 JUL 45

(A) Commodity	(B) Official Price (%)	(C) Black Market Price (%)	(D) Current Price (%)	(E) Differentia (%)
1. RATIONED				
Bread	375	2100		560.
Butter	1846	4861		263.32
Milk	1075	2143		199.34
Salame	854	4854		568.38
Cheese, soft	837	2331		278.19
hard	743	4762		640.91
Sugar	779	13267		1703.08
Dried Vegetables	653	2749		420.98
Lard	614	7415		1207.35
Jam	583	2500		428.81
Salt	567	18333		3233.33
Meat	520	3122		600.38
Rice	420	1928		449.41
Flour, white	158	1947		1232.27
maize	328	2148		654.87
Maccaroni	162	4453		2748.76
Seed Oil	300	5166		1720.
Tomato Extract	2885	5764		200.
2. UNRATIONED				
Wine			4907	
Eggs			3336	
Horse Flesh			3409	
Potatoes			3389	
Rabbit Meat			3111	
Cabbage			1417	
Fresh Fruit			1307	
Onions			1304	
Salad			958	

1488

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

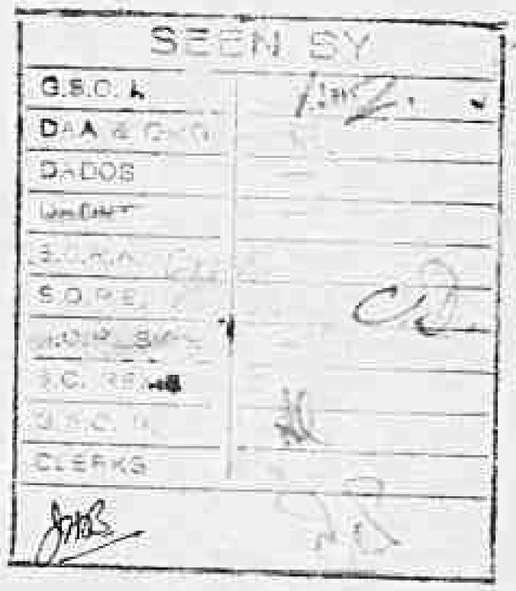
CENT INCREASE IN FOOD PRICES BETWEEN 1938 AND 31 JUL 42 (APPENDIX "A"

(B) Official Price (%)	(C) Black Market Price (%)	(D) Current Price (%)	(E) Differential(C/B) (%)
375	2100		560.
1846	4861		263.32
1075	2143		199.34
854	4854		568.38
837	2331		278.19
743	4762		640.91
779	13267		1703.08
653	2749		420.98
614	7415		1207.35
583	2500		428.81
567	18333		3233.33
520	3122		600.38
420	1928		449.41
158	1947		1232.27
328	2148		654.87
162	4453		2748.76
300	5166		1720.
2885	5764		200.
		4907	
		3336	
		3409	
		3389	
		3111	
		1417	
		1307	
		1304	
		958	

54/20

No ..37.....

GJI/2355



SECRET

2 DISTRICT

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 12

7 September 1945

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SUMMARY WILL ON NO ACCOUNT BE COMMUNICATED TO ANYBODY NOT HOLDING AN OFFICIAL POSITION IN THE BRITISH OR AMERICAN FORCES. THIS SUMMARY WILL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY SUBORDINATE FORMATIONS AND UNITS WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT

Headquarters 2 District
General Staff Intelligence
C M F

1372

SECRET

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

1490

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
General Staff Intelligence
C M F

GSI/2355

7 Sep 1945

2 DISTRICT WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 12

1 POLITICAL

(a) General

The first intoxication of liberation which swept Northern Italy during May and June gave way during the latter half of July and August to a slightly quieter period of reaction and relaxation. September sees the beginning of a new important and sterner chapter. With the cessation of Allied Military Government imminent, the Northern Italians are faced with the problems of themselves applying the not ungenerous Allied assistance in imports of coal and raw materials to reactivate industry and mitigate unemployment during the coming winter months and of running administrative and parliamentary elections in an orderly manner.

In a press conference on 28 Aug and in his speech to the CLNAI Congress held in Milan on 1 Sep, Signor PARRI stated that, in his view, the elections for the COSTITUENTE could only take place when the following conditions could be fulfilled:

(i) Formal undertaking by all political parties for a free and honest electoral campaign.

(ii) Guarantee of public order during the voting period.

(iii) Overcoming of technical difficulties deriving from the present situation of general crisis.

(iv) Clarification of Italy's international status.

This has led to a growing opinion that, in spite of Deputy Prime Minister NENNI's efforts, the elections will not be held before early next year. Political parties, however, are developing an increased activity; more party meetings and congresses are being held; delegates are being sent to the smaller towns to assist in local propaganda campaigns and the general political atmosphere is one of pre-election excitement. 1371

The Vatican also has shown an open interest in the coming elections, in as far as it has instructed all Bishops to invite Catholics to vote only for those candidates or lists of candidates whom they are convinced will respect and defend the rights of Religion and the Church in both private and public life.

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

The first intoxication of liberation which swept Northern Italy during May and June gave way during the latter half of July and August to a slightly quieter period of reaction and relaxation. September sees the beginning of a new important and sterner chapter. With the cessation of Allied Military Government imminent, the Northern Italians are faced with the problems of themselves applying the not ungenerous Allied assistance in imports of coal and raw materials to reactivate industry and mitigate unemployment during the coming winter months and of running administrative and parliamentary elections in an orderly manner.

In a press conference on 28 Aug and in his speech to the CLNAI Congress held in Milan on 1 Sep, Signor PARRI stated that, in his view, the elections for the COSTITUENTE could only take place when the following conditions could be fulfilled:

(i) Formal undertaking by all political parties for a free and honest electoral campaign.

(ii) Guarantee of public order during the voting period.

(iii) Overcoming of technical difficulties deriving from the present situation of general crisis.

(iv) Clarification of Italy's international status.

This has led to a growing opinion that, in spite of Deputy Prime Minister NENNI's efforts, the elections will not be held before early next year. Political parties, however, are developing an increased activity; more party meetings and congresses are being held; delegates are being sent to the smaller towns to assist in local propaganda campaigns and the general political atmosphere is one of pre-election excitement.

1371

The Vatican also has shown an open interest in the coming elections, in as far as it has instructed all Bishops to invite Catholics to vote only for those candidates or lists of candidates whom they are convinced will respect and defend the rights of Religion and the Church in both private and public life.

There is indeed good reason for extremely active party canvassing; there is so much virgin soil on which the seed of political doctrine can fall and bring forth fruit, so much ignorance which can be exploited, so much indifference which may be converted to enthusiasm.

..../2

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

During the last few days persistent rumours have predicted the early fall of the PARRI Government. The reason given has been PARRI's increasing difficulty in getting all the parties represented in the Government to agree to a common policy. However, in view of the impending discussions in London concerning the future of Italy, it seems most unlikely that any political party or group of parties will take on the responsibility of provoking a governmental crisis at this very delicate time.

(b) Monarchist Activity

There is evidence to show that the Monarchists are gradually endeavouring to strengthen their influence, especially in Piedmont. They have already created several movements such as the GRUPPO D'UNIONE CAMILLO CAVOUR, ASSOCIAZIONE VERDE-AZZURRA, MOVIMENTO TRICOLORE and the MOVIMENTO MONARCHICO NAZ. ITALIA, which are not openly connected with each other and most of which are not openly monarchist. Not being political parties, and accepting adherents from all existing parties, it appears that the monarchists are trying to create monarchist groups within those parties. In actual fact it seems probable that all these movements depend from the UNIONE MONARCHICA ITALIANA.

It is now reported that a new political group is to formed in Turin, called FRONTE DELLA INDIPENDENZA. Here again, the FRONTE will not be a party, but an inter-party union, nor will it be ostensibly monarchic, though it is reportedly intended to show increasingly monarchic tendencies and to become a party of the right as soon as it feels itself strong enough.

(c) The Trend towards Autonomy

With the overthrow of the Fascist regime which aimed at keeping all power centralised, there is a general revival of the centuries old Italian preference for independence founded in the tradition of the city states. Autonomy has already been granted to AOSTA, is likely shortly to be realised in the case of SICILY and SARDINIA, is under discussion for the provinces of BOLZANO and TRENTO and is reported to be increasingly favoured by the Italian elements in VENEZIA GIULIA. This general trend towards decentralisation finds expression in the as yet relatively unimportant MOVIMENTO FEDERALISTA NAZIONALE of which some account was given in Summary No 10. The restoration of complete administrative autonomy to the Communes was the subject discussed at a meeting of the Mayors of MILAN, TURIN, GENOA, BOLOGNA, VENEZIA and VERONA held in TURIN on 29 Aug, when it was unanimously decided to prepare a draft decree to be forwarded to the Government requesting the granting of such autonomy. Local autonomy implies of course the control of the finances of cities, and it is significant in this connection that at the same meeting a strong resolution was passed calling for the largest possible part of the profits arising from the impending capital levy to be allocated to the city treasuries. It was also claimed that monies derived from sequestrated fascist estates and from the confiscation of

1370

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

(b) Monarchist Activity

There is evidence to show that the Monarchists are gradually endeavouring to strengthen their influence, especially in Piedmont. They have already created several movements such as the UNIONE D'UNIONE DANIELO CAVOUR, ASSOCIAZIONE VERDE-AZZURRA, MOVIMENTO TRICOLORE and the MOVIMENTO MONARCHICO NAZ. ITALIA, which are not openly connected with each other and most of which are not openly monarchist. Not being political parties, and accepting adherents from all existing parties, it appears that the monarchists are trying to create monarchist groups within those parties. In actual fact it seems probable that all these movements depend from the UNIONE MONARCHICA ITALIANA.

It is now reported that a new political group is to formed in Turin, called FRONTE REALE REPUBBLICANO. Here again, the FRONTE will not be a party, but an inter-party union, nor will it be ostensibly monarchic, though it is reported to be intended to show increasingly monarchic tendencies and to become a party of the right as soon as it feels itself strong enough.

(c) The Valle d'Aosta Autonomy

With the overthrow of the Fascist regime which aimed at crushing all power centrifugal, there is a general revival of the centuries old Italian preference for independence founded in the tradition of the city states. In the Valle d'Aosta this sentiment is likely shortly to be exploited in the case of SICILY and SARDINIA. In addition there is a secession for the provinces of BOLZANO and TRENTO and a movement is increasingly favoured by the Italian elements in VENEZIA GIULIA. This general trend towards decentralisation finds expression in the as yet relatively unimportant MOVIMENTO FEDERALISTA AUTONOMISTA of which some account was given in Summary No 10. The restoration of complete administrative autonomy to the Communes was the subject discussed at a meeting of the Mayors of IVREA, TORINO, CUNEO, BOLOGNA, VENEZIA and VERONA held in TURIN on 29 Aug, when it was unanimously decided to prepare a draft decree to be forwarded to the Government requesting the granting of such autonomy. Local autonomy for the Valle d'Aosta of course the control of the finances of cities, and it is significant in this connection that at the same meeting autonomy resolution was passed calling for the largest possible part of the taxes arising from the impending capital levy to be allocated to the city treasuries. It was also claimed that monies derived from sequestrated fascist estates and from the confiscation of illegal profits should be granted largely to the cities.

On 26 Aug, a long meeting, lasting the whole day, was held at the Municipio of AOSTA to hear explanations by Prof F CHABOD and Avv. E. PASSERIN, respectively AOSTA and CLNAI delegates for the negotiation of the autonomy with the Italian Government. The meeting was attended by the Prefect of AOSTA, the Podesta of all the communes of the valley, the Prefect of AOSTA, representatives of the local clergy, leading AOSTA personalities and a representative of CLN. This was the first time that the people of AOSTA were told in detail what the extent of the autonomy was and what, in actual fact, it would mean to the valley.

...../3

1370

1493

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

It was generally well received, although certain points, mainly the retention by the Government of the property of all writers, created a certain disappointment.

2 ECONOMIC

(a) Unemployment and Reconstruction

An unfortunate but inevitable legacy from the resistance period was the very large number of surplus workers retained on payrolls by employers in order to prevent deportation to Germany and assist in sabotaging the German war effort.

The number of unemployed was naturally swelled by the cessation of war production and the non-availability of materials to recommence manufacture of peacetime commodities. The steep rise in the cost of living which immediately succeeded liberation, caused considerable hardship and some unrest among the workers who finally expressed the general feeling throughout Northern Italy by holding a very large-scale but orderly demonstration in Milan on 5 July, demanding work, food and above all, higher wages.

On 8 July an agreement was reached providing for 100% wage increases for full and part-time workers and 75% of the above for idle workers still on the payrolls of firms. The agreement, which covered the period 25 June to 30 Sep, made it binding on the employers to pay the full amount for the full and part-time workers and one-third for the idle workers, the remaining two-thirds being borne by the State through the Cassa Integrazioni Salari, which is a form of unemployment fund.

In view of the imminent transfer of Northern Provinces to Italian Government administration and the expiry on 30 Sep of the existing wage agreement, a series of meetings have taken place in Milan to study the unemployment problem which will result as a consequence of the dismissal of "idle" workers who are, at the moment, still held on the payrolls of the individual firms.

The Undersecretaries ARENDOLA (Presidency) BRUNO (Public Works) LOMBARDO(Industry), MORANDI, the President of the CLNAI, MERZAGHERA, President, and other members of the Central Economic Commission and Regional CLN Economic Commissions opened the series with a meeting on 3 Sep. It was agreed in principle that the 8th July agreement could not be extended as apart from the intolerability of the financial burden placed both on the State and on employers, unemployment had to be solved not by a policy based on financial assistance but by a works programme which would increase production and speed on the country's reconstruction. A motion was, therefore, adopted which calls on all the Regional CLN Economic Commissions to prepare with the minimum delay a study of actual and potential unemployed workers and those workers which could be absorbed in public works.

Other meetings on a Regional and Provincial basis followed and at the Lombardy Regional CLN session it was asserted that by 1 Oct

1369

1494

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

The number of unemployed was naturally swelled by the cessation of war production and the non-availability of materials to recommence manufacture of peacetime commodities. The steep rise in the cost of living which immediately succeeded liberation, caused considerable hardship and some unrest among the workers who finally expressed the general feeling throughout Northern Italy by holding a very large-scale but orderly demonstration in Milan on 5 July, demanding work, food and above all, higher wages.

On 8 July an agreement was reached providing for 100% wage increases for full and part-time workers and 75% of the above for idle workers still on the payrolls of firms. The agreement, which covered the period 25 June to 30 Sep, made it binding on the employers to pay the full amount for the full and part-time workers and one-third for the idle workers, the remaining two-thirds being borne by the State through the Cassa Integrazioni Salari, which is a form of unemployment fund.

In view of the imminent transfer of Northern Provinces to Italian Government administration and the expiry on 30 Sep of the existing wage agreement, a series of meetings have taken place in Milan to study the unemployment problem which will result as a consequence of the dismissal of "idle" workers who are, at the moment, still held on the payrolls of the individual firms.

The Undersecretaries AMENDOLA (Presidency) BRUNO (Public Works) LOMBARDO(Industry), MORANDI, the President of the CLNAI, MENZ[illegible]SHERA, President, and other members of the Central Economic Commission and Regional CLN Economic Commissions opened the series with a meeting on 3 Sep. It was agreed in principle that the 8th July agreement could not be extended as apart from the intolerability of the financial burden placed both on the State and on employers, unemployment had to be solved not by a policy based on financial assistance but by a works programme which would increase production and speed on the country's reconstruction. A motion was, therefore, adopted which calls on all the Regional CLN Economic Commissions to prepare with the minimum delay a study of actual and potential unemployed workers and those workers which could be absorbed in public works.

Other meetings on a Regional and Provincial basis followed and at the Lombardy Regional CLN session it was asserted that by 1 Oct 400,000 would find themselves out of work in Lombardy alone. While the recently announced expenditure on public works would absorb a proportion of the unemployed (e.g. 25,000 in the programme of the Ministry of Public Works, 35,000 in that of the Ministry of Agriculture, and an unspecified number in the programme of the Ministry of Transport) these new budget provisions were stated to be wholly inadequate to solve the problem, which can only be tackled gradually as raw materials become available, enabling production to be restarted. Incidentally, in this connection it remains a fact confirmed by the Agricultural Federation that there remains a real shortage of labour on the land.

1369

[illegible]/4

1495

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

Meanwhile at a meeting in Genoa last week of di Camera del Lavoro of Liguria a proposal was passed vetoing dismissal of workers after 30 Sep. A resolution was adopted whereby it is suggested that in lieu of dismissal personnel should be used in turn on reconstruction works.

In Milan, with the approval of the Ministry of Finance and under the auspices of the CLNAI a new economic office is to be constituted this week. The main idea behind the constitution of this new economic centre is to study and prepare reconstruction plans which will later be submitted to the Government in the form of concrete proposals. In order to enlist the interest of the masses, working-class in particular, it is intended to start shortly intensive propaganda defining the problems which have to be grappled with and the proposed solutions. Many professional people have already joined as honorary workers and it is the promoters' hope that all classes of people with constructive ideas will voluntarily contribute to the reconstruction of Italy and her economy.

(b) Wage Rates

As the result of continued agitation by women workers in Milan Province for equal wage rights with men, the Camera del Lavoro, which has been supporting the women's claims, has brought about a meeting between the CGIL and the industrialists as a result of which an agreement has been reached, with AMG approval, granting women workers fifty percent of their claim to be paid a living bonus equal to that enjoyed by men, with effect from 6 Aug.

This agreement is obviously only of temporary value and is likely soon to be superseded when the whole question of wage rates comes up for discussion this week between the CGIL and the industrialists. It is understood that it is hoped to be able to fix a new flat rate wage for all workers in the whole of North Italy, to replace the present cumbersome system involving a basic rate, contingency pay and indemnity pay. It is expected that the new flat rates of pay may be slightly higher than the aggregate of the present rates, reflecting the coming expected rise in the cost of living. If the new rates are approved by the competent authorities, it is hoped that it may be possible to bring them into operation by 1 Oct. Meanwhile BARBARESCHI, the Socialist Minister of Labour, is expected to arrive in Milan on 8 Sep to discuss the new proposals.

(c) Workers on the defence

A reliable source reports that on the eve of increased factory activity workers are seizing the occasion as a propitious moment to advance renewed demands. Industrialists view these new developments, which have not come to them as a surprise, with a degree of apprehension and fear as the workers attitude is often characterized by threats.

Undesirable and politically dangerous elements amongst the surplus workers which some industrialists have decided to sack at the end of Sep, have been listed amongst the first to be given notice. The threats mentioned above mostly come from these quarters and the same source reports that complaints have been voiced in industrial circles of little official support from the Italian authorities, who appear at present

1496

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

will voluntarily contribute to the reconstruction of Italy.

(b) Wage Rates

As the result of continued agitation by women workers in Milan Province for equal wage rights with men, the Camera del Lavoro, which has been supporting the women's claims, has brought about a meeting between the CGIL and the industrialists as a result of which an agreement has been reached, with AMG approval, granting women workers fifty percent of their claim to be paid a living bonus equal to that enjoyed by men, with effect from 6 Aug.

This agreement is obviously only of temporary value and is likely soon to be superseded when the whole question of wage rates comes up for discussion this week between the CGIL and the industrialists. It is understood that it is hoped to be able to fix a new flat rate wage for all workers in the whole of North Italy, to replace the present cumbersome system involving a basic rate, contingency pay and indemnity pay. It is expected that the new flat rate of pay may be slightly higher than the aggregate of the present rates, reflecting the coming expected rise in the cost of living. If the new rates are approved by the competent authorities, it is hoped that it may be possible to bring them into operation by 1 Oct. Meanwhile [redacted], the Socialist Minister of Labour, is expected to arrive in Milan on 8 Sep to discuss the new proposals.

(c) Workers on the defence

A reliable source reports that on the eve of increased factory activity workers are seizing the occasion as a propitious moment to advance renewed demands. Industrialists view these new developments, which have not come to them as a surprise, with a degree of apprehension and fear as the workers attitude is often characterized by threats.

Undesirable and politically dangerous elements amongst the surplus workers which some industrialists have decided to sack at the end of Sep, have been listed amongst the first to be given notice. The threats mentioned above mostly come from these quarters and the same source reports that complaints have been voiced in industrial circles of little official support from the Italian authorities, who appear at present to be more concerned in winning the support and sympathy of the masses in view of the forthcoming elections rather than in ensuring that those responsible for keeping the wheels of industry turning can do so in an atmosphere of tranquility and with the knowledge that measures to enforce discipline can be invoked if necessary.

...../5

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

(d) Blocked Goods

It is understood that agreement including quality, type and price, has at last been reached between the Northern Delegation of the CGIL (Workers Federation) and Industrial Organisations on the release of clothing and footwear which will be distributed to industrial and agricultural workers (see Summaries Nos 10 and 11).

(e) 5% Treasury Bond Issue

The official figure of subscription to the five-year 5% Treasury Bond Issue in North Italy up to 2 Sep is 70.22 milliards of lire, of which the Regional figures are:-

LOMBARDY	29.5
PIEDMONT	16,64
VENETO	9.74
EMILIA	8.79
LIGURIA	5.45

The final figure is expected to be several milliards higher when returns fromoutlying districts come in. Subscriptions for the whole of Italy have now passed the 100 Milliards mark and when the final figures are known it is believed that the total will be between 105 and 110 Milliards.

A list of the previous 5% Treasury Bond Issues during the war years is reproduced for comparison. It must be borne in mind that the circulation of notes has increased from the pre-war figure of 25 Milliard to the present-day estimated figure of about over 400 Milliards including Allied Military currency.

Date of Issue	Life of Bond (in years)	Amount Subscribed (Milliards of Lire)
Feb 1940	9	28
Feb 1941	9	19
Sep 1941	9	21
Apr 1942	9	25
Sep 1942 +	9	25
Jun 1943	5	15

\+ 4% subsequently partly converted to 5%.

1367

3 DISTURBANCES AND STRIKES

(a) Repatriates demonstration in Turin

In Turin on 22 Aug repatriates from German concentration and [illegible] packed 12 shops in the centre of the

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

The official figure of subscription to the five-year 5% Treasury Bond Issue in North Italy up to 2 Sep is 70.22 milliards of lire, of which the Regional figures are:-

LOMBARDY	29.5
PIEDMONT	16.64
VENETO	9.74
EMILIA	6.79
LIGURIA	5.45

The final figure is expected to be several milliards higher when returns fromoutlying districts come in. Subscriptions for the whole of Italy have now passed the 100 Milliards mark and when the final figures are known it is believed that the total will be between 105 and 110 Milliards.

A list of the previous 5% Treasury Bond Issues during the war years is reproduced for comparison. It must be borne in mind that the circulation of notes has increased from the pre-war figure of 25 Milliard to the present-day estimated figure of about over 400 Milliards including Allied Military currency.

Date of Issue	Life of Bond (in years)	Amount Subscribed (Milliards of Lire)
Feb 1940	9	26
Feb 1941	9	19
Sep 1941	9	21
Apr 1942	9	25
Sep 1942 +	9	25
Jun 1943	5	15

\+ 4% subsequently partly converted to 5%.

1367

3 DISTURBANCES AND STRIKES

(a) Repatriates Demonstration in Turin

In Turin on 22 Aug repatriates from German co..centration and forced labour camps demonstrated and sacked 12 shops in the centre of the town. In general the repatriates complain bitterly about the inadequate arrangements made by the Italian authorities for their repatriation and rehabilitation.

...../6

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

(b) Food demonstration in Aosta

On 27 Aug 3000, mainly women, held a food demonstration in Aosta. At the request of the Italian CAO British troops made their appearance and the demonstrators dispersed quietly after talks had been arranged between CAO authorities and leaders of the crowd. Later during the day, small groups reassembled and broke into several shops. The crowd was not hostile to the British troops, all their anger being directed against the black-market suspects.

(c) Susa Valley Textile Strike

Cotton textile factory workers in Susa Valley (Piedmont) have been demanding increases in basic wages of men and women since wool textile factory workers and operatives of the metallurgic industry in the same area had been granted higher wages a few weeks ago. There had been some delay in acceding to their request and as a result a sit-down strike by some 4,000 workers from seven factories was started on the morning of 30 Aug which after negotiations ended on 3 Sep, but was resumed on the 4 Sep owing to disagreement on the date on which the new rates become operative. As a result of the workers intransigent attitude the local authorities have deemed it necessary to make a few arrests.

4. HIDDEN ARMS AND ARMED BANDS

(a) Arms Raids in Lombardy

Up to 21 Aug, 66 raids on reported hidden arms dumps in Lombardy have produced the following arms:- 756 rifles, 37 MGs, 52 sub-MGs, 4 a/tk guns, 6 mortars, 200 pistols, 349 grenades and a large amount of ammunition and equipment. 266 persons have been arrested for being in possession of arms, most of them for carrying single weapons. Sentences of up to 5 years imprisonment have been awarded, but in cases where a person has been found in possession of only a single weapon a suspended sentence has been given.

(b) Arms Raids in Piedmont

A further 20 raids on arms caches have been reported from Piedmont. In all cases small quantities of arms and ammunition were found, but details are not yet to hand. The largest dump was found in a factory at CUORGNE (J 0464). 715 assorted small arms, and a large amount of small arms ammunition and equipment were recovered, as well as various dies and tools for making small arms.

(c) Armed Bands

Armed bands are reported active in LIGURIA in the areas around TURCHINO (O 8159) and BRACCO (P 42). These bands are considered to be straightforward criminals without political significance.

There are however increasing rumours and indications that both the left and the right are reorganising their Partisan formations.

1366

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

in the same area had been granted higher wages a few weeks ago. There had been some delay in according to their request and as a result a sit-down strike by some 4,000 workers from seven factories was started on the morning of 20 Aug, which after negotiations ended on 3 Sep, but was resumed on the 4 Sep owing to disagreement on the date on which the new rates become operative. As a result of the workers intransigent attitude the local authorities have deemed it necessary to make a few arrests.

4. HIDDEN ARMS AND ARMED BANDS

(a) Arms Raids in Lombardy

Up to 21 Aug, 66 raids on reported hidden arms dumps in Lombardy have produced the following arms:- 756 rifles, 37 MGs, 52 sub-MGs, 4 A/tk guns, 6 mortars, 200 pistols, 349 grenades and a large amount of ammunition and equipment. 268 persons have been arrested for having in possession of arms, most of them for carrying single weapons. Sentences of up to 5 years imprisonment have been awarded, but in cases where a person was found in possession of only a single weapon a suspended sentence has been given.

(b) Arms Raids in Piedmont

A further 20 raids on arms caches have been reported from Piedmont. In all cases small quantities of arms and ammunition were found, but details are not yet to hand. The largest dump was found in a factory at CUORGNE (T 0464). 715 assorted small arms, and a large amount of small arms ammunition and equipment were recovered, as well as various dies and tools for making small arms.

13366

(c) Armed Bands

Armed bands are reported active in LIGURIA in the areas around SUSCHINO (O 8158) and ARCCO (P 42). These bands are considered to be straightforward criminals without political significance.

There are however increasing rumours and indications that both the left and the right are reorganising their Partisan formations. Concrete evidence is hard to obtain and in the few instances when some connection has been established with a political party, the party has vigorously disclaimed any authority over the group involved.

Lt Col
GS

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

DISTRIBUTION

GOC 2 District
G Branch 2 District (5)
AC of S G-2 AFHQ (4)
AC of S G-2(PID) AFHQ
British Embassy c/o PAAC (4)
US Embassy c/o PAAC
British Consulate MILAN
US Consulate MILAN
AC of S G-2 5th Army
AC of S A-2 AAFSC/MTO
GSI 13 Corps (2)
6(Brit) Armd Div
6(SA) Armd Div
10 Ind Div
25 Armd Engr Bde
2 AGRA
7 AGRA (5)
59 Area
217 Area
218 Special Area
60 Sub Area
50 BLU
51 BLU
52 BLU
55 BLU
56 BLU
24/20 Hussars
2 Lothians
68 Fd Regt
75 (SY) Med Regt
14 L of C Signals
HQ Allied Commission ROME
Adv HQ Allied Commission MILAN
Allied Commission Liaison Officer 2 District
Regional Commissioner AMG Lombardia Region
RPSO AMG Lombardia Region
RSO AMG Lombardia Region
Regional Commissioner AMG Piedmont Region
RPSO AMG Piedmont Region
Regional Commissioner AMG Liguria Region
RPSO AMG Liguria Region
Regional Commissioner AMG Venezia Region
RPSO AMG Venezia Region
RSO AMG Venezia Region
CIC Zone II (5)
CIC Zone III (5)
CIC Zone VII (5)
CIC Frontier Control Detachment (2)
37 FSS
51 FSS
85 FSS
311 FSS
315 FSS

Lt Col Cameron-Curry FO & MEW
Mr Murray, FEA c/o JIC/MED Unit M
Capt Fairweather c/o 85 FSS
Capt Ker c/o CIC Zone VII
War Diary (2)
File (2)
British Consulate Genoa
US Consulate Genoa

1365

I 5 0 2

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

217 Area
218 Special Area
60 Sub Area
50 BLU
92 BLU
93 BLU
56 BLU
14/20 Hussars
2 Lothians
66 Fd Regt
75 (SY) Med Regt
1 L of C Signals
Hq Allied Commission ROME
Adv HQ Allied Commission MILAN
Allied Commission Liaison Officer 2 District
Regional Commissioner AMG Lombardia Region
RPSO AMG Lombardia Region
RSO AMG Lombardia Region
Regional Commissioner AMG Piedmont Region
RPSO AMG Piedmont Region
Regional Commissioner AMG Liguria Region
RPSO AMG Liguria Region
Regional Commissioner AMG Venezia Region
RPSO AMG Venezia Region
RSO AMG Venezia Region
CIC Zone II (5)
CIC Zone III (5)
CIC Zone VII (5)
CIC Frontier Control Detachment (2)
37 FSS
52 FSS
69 FSS
311 FSS
319 FSS
417 FSS
411 FSS
477 FSS
SCI (2) MILAN (2)
P SCI (2)
ICLD c/o ELO 59 Area
CWS R & A MILAN (3)
PWB/MFD 'M' Unit (4)
C G MILAN

1365

1503

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

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
General Staff Intelligence
C M F

GSI/2355

28 Aug 1945

2 DISTRICT WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 11

1 POLITICAL

(a) After four months of "Liberation"

After four months during which NORTHERN ITALY has enjoyed a degree of freedom quite unknown since the beginning of the Fascist regime it is worth while to examine some of the salient features appearing out of the North Italian political picture as a whole.

The parties of the left, profiting from the organisation and popular support acquired during the clandestine period, are still politically the best organised, possibly the more numerous and certainly the noisiest.

In spite of the agreements made between CLNAI and the ROME Government there is no doubt that many Socialists and Communists hoped and expected that some form of coup d'etat, peaceful or otherwise, might be carried out in the North, after the departure of the Germans. Such ideas, despite their impracticability, were in fact widely held, and, although denied or disclaimed by party leaders, may be partly responsible for the many rumours of a constantly postponed extremist uprising.

The "NORTH WIND", which was to sweep away the confusion and inefficiency of the BONOMI Government, lost a good deal of its force in crossing the Appennines, and the long delay in forming a new Ministry, while it may have brought a sense of reality to some, undoubtedly embittered many of the left wingers, who were all the more disappointed when the composition of the PARRI Government did not give them that predominance which they felt they deserved.

The Socialist and Communist Party have a comparatively large number of men experienced in clandestine activity in Italy and in other countries over a period of many years, and there is a definite effort to get their members into key positions (not necessarily the highest ones) in national and local administration. In this the Communists have been on the whole quite successful.

1364

Of the other parties, only the Christian Democrat has a comparably large number of members, and its adherents are probably increasing. Its close affiliation to the clergy, however, may hamper its development through manifestations of that Anti-Clericalism which is always latent in Latin Catholic countries.

All parties show similarity in such political programmes

I 504

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

(a) After four months of "liberation"

After four months during which NORTHERN ITALY has enjoyed a degree of freedom quite unknown since the beginning of the Fascist regime it is worth while to examine some of the salient features appearing out of the North Italian political picture as a whole.

The parties of the left, profiting from the organisation and popular support acquired during the clandestine period, are still politically the best organised, possibly the more numerous and certainly the noisiest.

In spite of the agreements made between CLNAI and the ROME Government there is no doubt that many Socialists and Communists hoped and expected that some form of coup d'etat, peaceful or otherwise, might be carried out in the North, after the departure of the Germans. Such ideas, despite their impracticability, were in fact widely held, and, although denied or disclaimed by party leaders, may be partly responsible for the many rumours of a constantly postponed extremist uprising.

The "NORTH WIND", which was to sweep away the confusion and inefficiency of the BONOMI Government, lost a good deal of its force in crossing the Appennines, and the long delay in forming a new Ministry, while it may have brought a sense of reality to some, undoubtedly embittered many of the left wingers, who were all the more disappointed when the composition of the PARRI Government did not give them that predominance which they felt they deserved.

The Socialist and Communist Party have a comparatively large number of men experienced in clandestine activity in Italy and in other countries over a period of many years, and there is a definite effort to get their members into key positions (not necessarily the highest ones) in national and local administration. In this the Communists have been on the whole quite successful.

1364

Of the other parties, only the Christian Democrat has a comparably large number of members, and its adherents are probably increasing. Its close affiliation to the clergy, however, may hamper its development through manifestations of that Anti-Clericalism which is always latent in Latin Catholic countries.

All parties show similarity in such political programmes as they have put forth from time to time, the right wing not daring to call itself conservative, and the left wing often enunciating plans and doctrines of quite bourgeois respectability. In most cases, this is due to the parties' recruiting fever, which has resulted in all shades of political opinion being contained in each party, with consequent internal splits and programmatic vagueness.

...../2

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765720

As has been stated before in these summaries, and is indeed obvious, the man in the street finds it difficult to take a great interest in political questions while the economic situation is so unsatisfactory. Points which appeared fairly clear to him upon liberation, such as epuration, a republic, socialisation of industry, elections, have become so confused as a result of speeches, manoeuvres, "deals" and government changes during the last four months, that he is inclined to take an extremist attitude, right or left, or just ignore the whole business.

(b) Increased Political Activity

Now that most of the "FERRAGOSTO" holiday-makers have returned, political life is showing increased activity. All parties are holding or calling meetings and, bearing in mind the forthcoming elections, are carrying out extensive propaganda and recruiting campaigns.

(c) Communist Policy

While reports continue to come in of the organisation of armed Communist cells and of cases of banditry and lawlessness attributed to Communists, official party circles continue their campaign - sincere or otherwise - of moderation and appeasement.

TOGLIATTI, in a speech delivered during the economic Congress of the Communist Party, made the following points:-

(i) there must be no revolutionary policy based on violence, on the contrary the Communist Party desires a constructive policy of work and production.

(ii) The present system of paying unemployed workers retained on firms' payrolls will inevitably if continued lead to the bankruptcy not only of the State, but of community life as a whole. Workers must therefore realise that wages will have to be based on productive work and that unemployment relief will have to be strictly controlled.

(iii) Large scale economic and social communisation must remain for today an Utopian dream and the Communist Party have no intention at least for the present of imposing such a policy in ITALY. Should national control of certain industries have to be instituted this should not be regarded as a weapon used by one class against another class, but as a token of national solidarity.

Whether this official moderate programme reflects the real aims of the Communists, or whether it is only intended for "external consumption" and for the benefit of the less extreme adherents who are more and more inclined to join moderate parties, is a matter which is open to discussion.

1367

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

elections, are carrying out extensive propaganda and recruiting campaigns.

(c) Communist Policy

While reports continue to come in of the organisation of armed Communist cells and of cases of banditry and lawlessness attributed to Communists, official party circles continue their campaign - sincere or otherwise - of moderation and appeasement.

TOGLIATTI, in a speech delivered during the economic Congress of the Communist Party, made the following points:-

(i) there must be no revolutionary policy based on violence, on the contrary the Communist Party desires a constructive policy of work and production.

(ii) The present system of paying unemployed workers retained on firms' payrolls will inevitably if continued lead to the bankruptcy not only of the State, but of community life as a whole. Workers must therefore realise that wages will have to be based on productive work and that unemployment relief will have to be strictly controlled.

(iii) Large scale economic and social communisation must remain for today an Utopian dream and the Communist Party have no intention at least for the present of imposing such a policy in ITALY. Should national control of certain industries have to be instituted this should not be regarded as a weapon used by one class against another class, but as a token of national solidarity.

Whether this official moderate programme reflects the real aims of the Communists, or whether it is only intended for "external consumption" and for the benefit of the less extreme adherents who are more and more inclined to join moderate parties, is a matter which is open to discussion.

(d) Christian Democrat Manoeuvres

The Demo-Christians though they are probably still gaining ground, are apparently aware of their shortage of good leaders. In consequence they have approached several prominent personalities, either apolitical or already belonging to other political parties; but although they came with tempting offers for the future, they do not so far appear to have met with much success.

...../3

1507

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

(e) Forthcoming CLNAI Congress

The CLNAI Congress to be held in Milan on the 31 Aug and 1 Sep is intended to clear the political atmosphere. Only Regional and Provincial CLNS will be officially represented. PARRI will be present and it is hoped and expected by the organisers of the Congress that dignity and political maturity will be manifested.

The agenda for the Congress includes a historical review of CLNAI activities, plans for its function as a consultative and initiating body, and a study of the work to be done in connection with the Costituente.

The CLNs are undoubtedly in an anomalous position at present. The Government is composed of their men, yet they have few clearly determined powers, even in the consultative field. One can only hope that the next four months will bring from the CLNs or from their component parties some order out of the political confusion which they have been largely responsible in creating.

(f) Great Britain's Foreign Policy

BEVIN's statement on the foreign policy of the Labour Government has been given wide publicity in the Italian Press. The hope expressed by Britain's Foreign Secretary that the elections for the Costituente may be held this autumn has been given special prominence, especially in the leftist newspapers. Amongst other points which were favourably commented upon were BEVIN's acknowledgment of Italy's help in the fight against the nazi-fascists, his statement that the country should not be confused with MUSSOLINI's Italy, but should be treated with equity and his declaration that Great Britain will not support any form of dictatorship in Europe.

(g) Newspaper Sales

At Appx A are details of newspaper sales in MILAN, TURIN and GENOA.

2 ECONOMIC

(c) Plans for Reconstruction

1362

Future coal deliveries for Italy will permit the reactivation of 50% of the steel industry involving work for half a million workers.

In announcing the above the Allied Commission also declared that it is probable that for the remaining months of this year Italy will receive a monthly quota of 350 thousand tons of coal and that as a consequence the yearly steel production will near the million ton mark.

1508

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

The CLNs are undoubtedly in an anomalous position at present. The Government is composed of their men, yet they have few clearly determined powers, even in the consultative field. One can only hope that the next four months will bring from the CLNs or from their component parties some order out of the political confusion which they have been largely responsible in creating.

(c) Great Britain's Foreign Policy

BEVIN's statement on the foreign policy of the Labour Government has been given wide publicity in the Italian Press. The hope expressed by Britain's Foreign Secretary that the elections for the Costituente may be held this autumn has been given special prominence, especially in the leftist newspapers. Amongst other points which were favourably commented upon were BEVIN's acknowledgment of Italy's help in the fight against the nazi-fascists, his statement that the country should not be confused with MUSSOLINI's Italy, but should be treated with equity and his declaration that Great Britain will not support any form of dictatorship in Europe.

(g) Newspaper Sales

At Appx A are details of newspaper sales in MILAN, TURIN and GENOA.

2 ECONOMIC

1362

(a) Plans for Reconstruction

Future coal deliveries for Italy will permit the reactivation of 50% of the steel industry involving work for half a million workers.

In announcing the above the Allied Commission also declared that it is probable that for the remaining months of this year Italy will receive a monthly quota of 350 thousand tons of coal and that as a consequence the yearly steel production will near the million ton mark.

During the next six months starting with September, steel production will reach 565,000 tons, of which 372,000 tons will be produced in Northern Italy.

Local coal production has improved. 50,000 tons of Sardinian coal were mined during the month of July which represents about 50% more than the average production for the last seventeen months.

Increased production in the textile industry will shortly be resumed as it is planned to import 15,000 tons of raw cotton and 25,000 tons of wool.

...../4

1509

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

(b) PARRI on the economic situation

Prime Minister PARRI in a statement to the press confirmed previous reports of farmers not turning in their crops to the Ammasi. He said that if measures already taken prove ineffective offenders would be regarded as enemies of the State and would be punished by excluding them from dry distribution of textile goods, footwear and fertilizers which the Government was planning to hand out to deserving land-workers.

He declared, however, that the economic situation generally continued to improve. He referred to the monthly coal quotas which Italy has been promised and to a new agreement whereby the Allies have undertaken to release materials, which will greatly assist in the reactivation of industry. Details are still being settled, but it is known that Italy's greatest need is the release of Allied Military vehicles to meet the heavy demands of every branch of her national life, but particularly of the police and food services.

PARRI stated that economic problems had a very important effect on public order, which he considered not too bad and certainly by no means cause for unjust pessimism such as he had noticed in certain quarters.

(c) Formation of the New Cooperative in Milan

On the initiative of the Camera del Lavoro, the Comitato di liberazione and other Milan City organisations, a cooperative which will deal with the demolition of buildings, recovery and distribution of building materials has been constituted in Milan.

The Cooperative will be known as RIMET. Enrolment will be on a voluntary basis and for the time being work will be started in Milan only.

This is a first important concrete step in large-scale public works reconstruction, and will give work to repatriates, ex-Partisans, present unemployed as well as those workers who will eventually become unemployed as a result of the changeover in industries from war to peace-time production.

(d) Proposed Army of Workers

1361

At the last meeting of Interministerial Commission of National Reconstruction the Undersecretary presented a plan for the constitution of a voluntary army of workers.

All who join the Army will do so under contract for a few months at a time. They will be subject to disciplinary laws and will have to be prepared to accept work in any part of the country. Each worker will be supplied with board and lodging and given a small remuneration. He will also receive a family allowance.

The Allies have calculated that 4 to 5 million people will be unemployed by this winter. Italians, however, take a less pessimistic

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

PARRI stated that economic [illegible] not too bad and [illegible] effect on public order, which he considered not too bad and [illegible] by no means cause for undue pessimism such as he had noticed in certain quarters.

(c) Formation of the New Cooperative in Milan

On the initiative of the Camera del Lavoro, the Comitato di Liberazione and other Milan City organisations, a cooperative which will deal with the demolition of buildings, recovery and distribution of building materials has been constituted in Milan.

The Cooperative will be known as RIMAN. Enrolment will be on a voluntary basis and for the time being work will be started in Milan only.

This is a first important concrete step in large-scale public works reconstruction, and will give work to repatriates, ex-Partisans, present unemployed as well as those workers who will eventually become unemployed as a result of the changeover in industries from war to peace-time production.

(d) Proposed Army of Workers

1361

At the last meeting of Interministerial Commission of National Reconstruction the Undersecretary presented a plan for the constitution of a Voluntary Army of workers.

All who join the Army will do so under contract for a few months at a time. They will be subject to disciplinary laws and will have to be prepared to accept work in any part of the country. Each worker will be supplied with board and lodging and given a small remuneration. He will also receive a family allowance.

The Allies have calculated that 4 to 5 million people will be unemployed by this winter. Italians, however, take a less pessimistic view and have put the figures around the 2 to 3 million limit. Public works, they say, will only be able to absorb about a tenth.

(e) Continued effect of delay in releasing blocked goods

In ROME the Council of Ministers is faced with having to decide on the method of releasing blocked consumer goods, especially textiles. One school of thought headed by the Industry and Trade Minister SCELBA(Christian Democrat) is still to be of the opinion to remove all controls since the Government lacks the machinery to enforce them and the other school of thought headed by the Finance Minister SCOCCIMARRO(Communist) advocates the necessity to maintain the strictest control. ...../5

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

While these talks in ROME and up North are still proceeding, the delay is causing increased disquiet among the workers and among farmers of all categories. The latter, unwilling to sell crops for paper money of doubtful value which in any case will not help them to buy blocked clothing, tyres and other necessities are holding on to what material assets they have and are turning over only limited quantities of crops, thus causing some alarm in responsible food circles. The five richest agricultural provinces namely PAVIA, ALESSANDRIA, PARMA, REGGIO EMILIA continue to amass well but are still showing reluctance to submit to any form of equitable distribution. It is regrettable that this state of affairs should not have improved since it was first reported in our summary No 9. The effects were felt in MILAN this week when the city was reduced to a half day's reserve of wheat and the situation was only rectified after AMG intervention.

(f) Treasury Bond Issue

During the week PARRI broadcasted to Italians in the North and appealed to the population for a last minute spurt in their subscription to the 5% Treasury Bond Issue which has been open since July 15th.

In order to enable late comers to subscribe, PERSICO, the Undersecretary of State for the Treasury, after a visit to MILAN, last week, reminded would-be subscribers that although the closing date was 25 Aug, Banks could receive subscriptions till 29 Aug inclusive. He expressed satisfaction at the response of the Northerners, but pointed out that agriculturists were comparatively amongst the weakest subscribers and deplored what he described as the farmers shortsightedness in present-day money matters.

Up to the official closing date 25 Aug the North subscribed a shade over 60 Milliards. MILAN's share alone amounted to 15 Milliards which contrasts very favourably with GENOA's 5 Milliards. However, it must be remembered that in GENOA, due to the war, capital has been immobilised, industries have been inactive and port traffic dead for several months past.

The late Finance Minister, SOLERI, some months ago estimated a total of 75 Milliards for the whole of Italy. His best hopes have already been exceeded by 15 Milliards, 30 Milliards having been subscribed in Southern and Central Italy before the North was liberated.

(g) Women's Cost of Living Bonus

The expected factory-workers strike in the whole of North Italy to support the claim for equal cost of living bonus for women and men did not materialise this week and is unlikely now for some time in view of a forthcoming meeting in MILAN of Ministers, employers and workers representatives to discuss the claim.

A reliable source reports that a division of opinion exists between representatives of all concerned on the advisability of granting the claim and adds that the same circles fear that the TURIN agreement drawn by AMG and the Italian Government because of irregularity of pro-

1360

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

was only rectified after AMG intervention.

(f) Treasury Bond Issue

During the week RADIO broadcasted to Italians in the North and appealed to the population for a last minute spurt in their subscription to the 5% Treasury Bond Issue which has been open since July 15th.

In order to enable late comers to subscribe, PERSICO, the Undersecretary of State for the Treasury, after a visit to MILAN, last week, reminded would-be subscribers that although the closing date was 25 Aug, Banks could receive subscriptions till 29 Aug inclusive. He expressed satisfaction at the response of the Northerners, but pointed out that agriculturists were comparatively amongst the weakest subscribers and deplored what he described as the farmers shortsightedness in present-day money matters.

Up to the official closing date 25 Aug the North subscribed a shade over 60 Milliards. MILAN's share alone amounted to 25 Milliards which contrasts very favourably with GENOA's 5 Milliards. However, it must be remembered that in GENOA, due to the war, capital has been immobilised, industries have been inactive and port traffic dead for several months past.

The late Finance Minister, SOLERI, some months ago estimated a total of 75 Milliards for the whole of Italy. His best hopes have already been exceeded by 15 Milliards, 30 Milliards having been subscribed in Southern and Central Italy before the North was liberated.

(g) Women's Cost of Living Bonus

The expected factory-workers strike in the whole of North Italy to support the claim for equal cost of living bonus for women and men did not materialise this week and is unlikely now for some time in view of a forthcoming meeting in MILAN of Ministers, employers and workers representatives to discuss the claim.

A reliable source reports that a division of opinion exists between representatives of all concerned on the advisability of granting the claim and adds that the same circles fear that the TURIN agreement already reached between employers and workers a few weeks ago but turned down by AMG and the Italian Government because of irregularity of procedure (see our Summary No 6) is regarded likely to cause difficulties if the meeting rejects the claim.

3 COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

Two minor enemy agents have been arrested during the week.

...../6

1361

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

4 HIDDEN ARMS

Further successful raids have been made by 7 AGRA in the drive to recover hidden arms in PIEMONTE Region. On 11 Aug 45 at NOVALA J 8065 sixteen W/T sets, ammunition and spare parts for FIAT MGs, and a considerable quantity of military stores were recovered; on 22 Aug 45 at VAL BUSAGA near BORGO SESIA J 5596, fifteen MGs, eleven machine carbines a number of mortars and a large amount of ammunition were found, and at BOCA J 6492, on 25 Aug 45, six hundred German and Italian rifles were recovered from a disused water-tank forty feet below ground.

It is interesting to note that five successful raids have now been made in the BORGO SESIA J 5596 - BOCA J 6492 area, and that a total of 1300 rifles, 15 MGs, 11 machine carbines, and a large amount of ammunition and military equipment have been found in the district.

Lt Col
GS

DISTRIBUTION

As for HQ 2 District CSI Intelligence Summary No 9

plus 217 Area
25 Armd Engr Bde
50 BLU
53 BLU
311 FSS
417 FSS
Regional Security Offr VENEZIA Region

less 66 AA Bde

1359

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

Appendix "A" to
HQ 2 District CSI
Intelligence Summary
No 11 dated 28 Aug 45

Newspaper Sales in MILAN, TURIN and GENOA

Below are figures showing the average daily sales of the main newspapers in MILAN, TURIN and GENOA. The information was obtained during the course of the present month from several independent sources which in some cases reported a comparatively wide divergence in figures for one and the same paper. In these cases an average was taken; the figures should therefore not be regarded as mathematically accurate but simply as a rough indication of relative popularity. It should also be pointed out that newspaper sales appear at present to oscillate considerably. This can to some extent be ascribed to the time of year as a fair number of people have left the towns to spend holidays in the country.

MILAN

	L'UNITA	Communist	230,000
	AVANTI	Socialist	205,000
X	CORRIERE D'INFORMAZIONI	Independent	185,000
X	CORRIERE LOMBARDO	Independent	165,000
	ITALIA LIBERA	Action Party	140,000
X	CORRIERE INFORMAZIONI SERA	Independent	85,000
	POPOLO	Demo-Christian	80,000
X	LIBERTA	Liberal	75,000
X	POPOLO SOVRANO	Republican	45,000
X	MILANO SERA	Socialist/Communist	40,000
	LA PATRIA	Italian Army	15,000

X = Evening papers

TURIN

	LA NUOVA STAMPA	Independent	110,000
X	POPOLO NUOVO	Demo-Christian	70,000
	GAZETTA D'ITALIA	Independent	65 - 70,000 +
	AVANTI	Socialist	65 - 70,000 +
	L'UNITA	Communist	65,000
	L'OPINIONE	Liberal	62 - 75,000
	G.L. (Giustizia & Liberta)	Action Party	55 - 65,000

X - evening papers
\+ - higher figures refer to Sunday sales.

GENOA

*	IL CORRIERE DEL POPOLO	Independent	50,000
	L'UNITA	Communist	40,000
	IL LAVORO NUOVO	Socialist	40,000
	IL SECOLO LIBERALE	Liberal	35,000
X	IL CORRIERE	Demo-Christian	25,000
X	AZIONE	Action Party	25,000
	IL TRIBUNO DEL POPOLO	Republican	20,000
	IL NUOVO CITTADINO	Catholic	15,000

1334

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

MILAN

	L'UNITA	Communist	250,000
	AVANTI	Socialist	205,000
	CORRIERE D'INFORMAZIONI	Independent	105,000
X	CORRIERE LOMBARDO	Independent	165,000
	ITALIA LIBERA	Action Party	140,000
X	CORRIERE INFORMAZIONI SERA	Independent	85,000
	POPOLO	Demo-Christian	80,000
X	[illegible]IETA	Liberal	75,000
X	POPOLO SOVRANO	Republican	45,000
X	MILANO SERA	Socialist/Communist	40,000
	LA PATRIA	Italian Army	15,000

X = Evening papers

TURIN

	LA NUOVA STAMPA	Independent	110,000
X	POPOLO NUOVO	Demo-Christian	70,000
	GAZETTA D'ITALIA	Independent	65 - 70,000 +
	AVANTI	Socialist	65 - 70,000 +
	L'UNITA	Communist	65,000
	L'OPINIONE	Liberal	62 - 75,000
	G.L. (Giustizia & Liberta)	Action Party	55 - 65,000

X - evening papers
\+ - higher figures refer to Sunday sales.

GENOA

*	IL CORRIERE DEL POPOLO	Independent	50,000
	L'UNITA	Communist	40,000
	IL LAVORO NUOVO	Socialist	40,000
	IL SECOLO LIBERALE	Liberal	35,000
X	IL CORRIERE	Demo-Christian	25,000
X	AZIONE	Action Party	25,000
	IL TRIBUNO DEL POPOLO	Republican	20,000
	IL NUOVO CITTADINO	Catholic	15,000

X - evening paper
* - ex FWB paper; publishes CIANO's Diary

135x

1516

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

SECRET

SEEN BY

G.S.O.1	
[illegible]	
D.A.A.G.	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
General Staff Intelligence
C M F

GSI/2355

21 Aug 1945

2 DISTRICT WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 10

1 POLITICAL

(a) Ferragosto

The week under review, rumoured during July as the time for a major uprising, appears instead to mark the end of political activity. The reason for this is obvious to such Allied units as are resting or stationed in any place that can be classified as a resort. The traditional "Ferragosto" holiday, theoretically the 15th of August, or Feast of the Assumption, has this year coincided with the surrender of Japan and is being celebrated with more energy and enthusiasm amongst certain classes than has been devoted by them to any cause for some considerable time.

(b) Val D'AOST.. Autonomy

The autonomy of the Val d'Aosta, reported by the press on 11 Aug, was actually approved by the Council of Ministers on 17 Aug. The discussions were based on two draft decrees. The first, which deals with administrative, cultural and linguistic autonomy, was passed without much opposition. The second concerns the economic and financial problems of the Val d'Aosta. Here strong opposition was encountered, especially over the question of the free customs zone. It was finally passed after some slight alterations had been made to the original project. Even the question of the free zone was accepted, but only for 5 years, as an experiment. The main advocates of the free zone experiment were BROSIO (Liberal) Deputy Prime Minister and EINAUDI(Liberal). The strongest opposition came from the other Deputy Prime Minister, NENNI (Socialist).

It seems that in granting this very wide autonomy the Italian Government has been prompted not only by the necessity of counteracting French propaganda aimed at persuading the VALDOSTANI to become French but also by the desire to make this valley a test case.

1357

It has been announced that the decrees will be put into practical application as soon as the area is handed over to the Italian authorities, or even sooner if the Allies agree.

(c) Right-Wing Activity

Whereas, until recently, the Communists were the only ones to

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785220

The week under review, rumoured during July as the time for a major uprising, appears instead to mark the height of political activity. The reason for this is obvious to such Allied units as are resting or stationed in any place that can be classified as a resort. The traditional " Ferragosto" holiday, theoretically the 15th of August, or Feast of the Assumption, has this year coincided with the surrender of Japan and is being celebrated with more energy and enthusiasm amongst certain classes than has been devoted by them to any cause for some considerable time.

(b) Val D'AOSTA Autonomy

The autonomy of the Val D'Aosta, reported by the press on 11 Aug, was actually approved by the Council of Ministers on 17 Aug. The discussions were based on two draft decrees. The first, which deals with administrative, cultural and linguistic autonomy, was passed without much opposition. The second concerns the economic and financial problems of the Val D'Aosta. Here strong opposition was encountered, especially over the question of the free customs zone. It was finally passed after some slight alterations had been made to the original project. Even the question of the free zone was accepted, but only for 5 years, as an experiment. The main advocates of the free zone experiment were BONOMI (Liberal) Deputy Prime Minister and EINAUDI(Liberal). The strongest opposition came from the other Deputy Prime Minister, NENNI (Socialist).

It seems that in granting this very wide autonomy the Italian Government has been prompted not only by the necessity of counteracting French propaganda aimed at persuading the VALDOSTANI to become French but also by the desire to make this valley a test case.

1357

It has been announced that the decrees will be put into practical application as soon as the area is handed over to the Italian authorities or even sooner if the Allies agree.

(c) Right-Wing Activity

Whereas, until recently, the Communists were the only ones to be looked upon as potential trouble-makers, there now exists a genuine claim amongst some Socialist, Action Party and even Liberal circles concerning the possibility of a Right-Wing "Coup d'Etat". No clear views are expressed as to the possible form this coup d'etat might take, but allusions are made to the grouping of monarchists, industrialists, ex-fascists, carabinieri and army elements; and to the similarity between conditions now and those prevailing after 1918 - conditions which made it

...../2

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

possible for Fascism to be born on to take complete control of the country.

While information available certainly indicates increasing right-wing activity, some of it extremist, it is considered that the question of the Monarchy, which is strongly opposed by many right-wing elements would at present seriously hamper the formation of a right-wing reactionary bloc with a common policy.

(a) MOVIMENTO FEDERALISTA REPUBBLICANO

This movement, headed by TOMASO ZERBI, a professor at TURIN University, does not at present appear to wield very much influence but its activities are of some interest in view of the present trend towards regional autonomy in ITALY.

The movement's main aim is the political and economic decentralisation of ITALY into 6 cantons. Although it is particularly interested in NORTH ITALY, which would become the "Cantone Cisalpino," it definitely claims to be federalist and not separatist in outlook.

The proposed six cantons which would form the "CONFEDERAZIONE ITALICA" with the capital in ROME are:-

CISALPINE ITALY	capital	TURIN
CENTRAL ITALY	"	FLORENCE
The "UMBRIA"	"	ROME
SOUTH ITALY	"	NAPLES
SARDINIA	"	CAGLIARI
SICILY	"	PALERMO

The constitution would be inspired by those of the UNITED STATES and SWITZERLAND.

The movement publishes a newspaper "IL CISALPINO" advertised as weekly but actually appearing irregularly, whose articles are very moderate and by no means anti-Allied.

ZERBI himself is a Christian Democrat, but hopes to recruit support from other parties, though adherents do not at present seem to be very numerous.

(a) ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE PARTIGIANI D'ITALIA. (ANPI)

ANPI's objects are to group in one single non-political association all ex-Partisans and those who by their direct personal activities took part in the liberation; to protect their interests and provide welfare services for them. It may be considered as the Partisan equivalent of the army's ASSOCIAZIONE NEI CONGEDATI.

1356

The administration of ANPI is organised as follows:

NATIONAL COMMITTEE with

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

This movement, headed by [redacted] SERENI, a professor at TURIN University, does not at present appear to wield very much influence but its activities are of some interest in view of the present trend towards regional autonomy in ITALY.

The movement's main aim is the political and economic decentralisation of ITALY into 6 cantons. Although it is particularly interested in NORTH ITALY, which would become the "Cantone Cisalpino," it definitely claims to be federalist and not separatist in outlook.

The proposed six cantons which would form the "CONFEDERAZIONE ITALICA" with the capital in ROME are:-

CISALPINE ITALY	capital	MILAN
CENTRAL ITALY	"	FLORENCE
The "UMBRIE"	"	ROME
SOUTH ITALY	"	NAPLES
SARDINIA	"	CAGLIARI
SICILY	"	PALERMO

The constitution would be inspired by those of the UNITED STATES and SWITZERLAND.

The movement publishes a newspaper "IL CISALPINO" advertised as weekly but actually appearing irregularly, whose articles are very moderate and by no means anti-Allied.

SERENI himself is a Christian Democrat, but hopes to recruit support from other parties, though adherents do not at present seem to be very numerous.

(c) ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE PARTIGIANI D'ITALIA (ANPI)

1356

ANPI's objects are to group in one single non-political association all ex-Partisans and those who by their direct personal activities took part in the liberation; to protect their interests and provide welfare services for them. It may be considered as the Partisan equivalent of the Army's ASSOCIAZIONE NEI COMBATTENTI.

The organisation of ANPI is organised as follows:

NATIONAL COMMITTEE	with HQ at MILAN (3 via Ruffini) and Legal Bureau in ROME (via Savoia 13). All Divisional Commanders of ex-Partisan formations are members of the National Committee.
REGIONAL COMMITTEE	in main town of each region.
PROVINCIAL "	" " " " " province.
COMMAL "	for each "Comune".

The Association has the support of the CCLN (Central Committee of National Liberation in ROME) the CLNAI (Committee of Liberation for North Italy) the CVL (Volunteer Corps of Liberation - the military organisation of the CLNAI) and the Italian Government.

...../3

I 5 2 0

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

2 ECONOMIC

(a) Release of blocked goods

After prolonged negotiations between the Federation of Industrialists and the Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro (CGIL) in ILLY an accord in principle has been reached to release 22 million kilos of textile products suitable for wearing apparel and 10 million pairs of footwear, these articles to be at the disposal of the Camera del Lavoro and the Camera di Commercio. It is proposed to distribute these goods throughout Italy at controlled prices yet to be fixed. Precise method of distribution has not yet been settled although it will probably take the form of issue against coupons to be given out by the Camera del Lavoro and Camera di Commercio.

The Camera del Lavoro wish to receive the lion's share of these releases for distribution to industrial workers, the issue of coupons to be made through co-operatives. On the other hand the authorities responsible for getting in and assuring the harvest wish to reserve a large share of the available goods for distribution to farm-workers as premiums for crops turned in to the Ammasi on the basis of so many coupons of textiles (each worth one or more kilos) for so many quintals of crops turned in. The CGIL take strong exception to this on the grounds that it will put into the hands of the farm-workers a number of coupons far in excess of their actual requirements and lead inevitably to black-market dealings.

The total amount of textiles of all types in the hands of manufacturers and wholesalers is estimated by the CGIL to be upwards of 80 million kilos. The accord between the manufacturers' and the workers' organisations allows for the difference between the 22 million kilos to be reserved for distribution by the workers' organisations to be marketed freely.

Before practical effect can be given to this accord three important factors have yet to be resolved, namely:

(i) The basic price at which the 22 million kilos will be sold by the manufacturers to the CGIL. The latter have proposed a price 2½ times higher than the controlled prices obtaining in April 45 whereas the manufacturers are sticking out for a price 5 to 7 times higher.

(ii) The time limit within which the actual delivery of the 22 million kilos of textiles is to be made.

(iii) The quality of the goods which the CGIL insist must be up to certain standards.

As mentioned above the actual physical details of distribution of these goods once they are available have also yet to be worked out including the value of coupons and the form

1355

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

given out by the Comité Nat Ravit and Comité de Commerce.

The Comité Nat Ravit wish to reserve the lion's share of these volumes for distribution to industrial workers, the issue of coupons to be made through co-operatives. On the other hand the authorities responsible for getting in and assuring the harvest wish to reserve a large share of the available goods for distribution to farm-workers as premiums for crops turned in to the Ammasi on the basis of so many coupons of textiles (each worth one or more kilos) for so many quintals of crops turned in. The CGIL take strong exception to this on the grounds that it will put into the hands of the farm-workers a number of coupons far in excess of their actual requirements and lead inevitably to black-market dealings.

The total amount of textiles of all types in the hands of manufacturers and wholesalers is estimated by the CGIL to be upwards of 80 million kilos. The accord between the manufacturers' and the workers' organisations allows for the difference between the 22 million kilos to be reserved for distribution by the workers' organisations to be marketed freely.

Before practical effect can be given to this accord three important factors have yet to be resolved, namely:

(i) The basic price at which the 22 million kilos will be sold by the manufacturers to the CGIL. The latter have proposed a price 2½ times higher than the controlled prices obtaining in April 45 whereas the manufacturers are sticking out for a price 5 to 7 times higher.

1355

(ii) The time limit within which the actual delivery of the 22 million kilos of textiles is to be made.

(iii) The quality of the goods which the CGIL insist must be up to certain standards.

As mentioned above the actual physical details of distribution of these goods once they are available have also yet to be worked out including the printing of coupons and the form these are to take.

It would seem sanguine to anticipate a delay of less than several months before either textiles or footwear get into the actual physical possession of the population, although discussions on the outstanding points are now proceeding.

...../4

1.5222
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Apart from the 22 million kilos there is considerable difference of opinion as to what will happen in practice to the balance of the textiles and footwear estimated to exist in North Italy. On the one hand it is thought that with the continuing uncertainty as to the future value of the currency, manufacturers and merchants may still be unwilling to market what they regard as real wealth only to obtain in exchange paper of hypothetical or unpredictable value, particularly if there is no possibility of obtaining or of renewing stocks of raw materials. On the other hand if the importation of raw materials becomes less of a prospect than a reality goods will find their way on to the market and prices are likely to find their level.

The importance of the problem of avoiding a loss of blocked consumer goods, foremost amongst which are articles of clothing can hardly be over-emphasised. This thorny subject has been ventilated widely in the press in Northern Italy during recent weeks.

There is no doubt that the continued holding up of the distribution of such stocks of consumer goods as exist in the country is a factor that makes for unrest. It would be a pity if theoretical considerations of distributive justice were to continue to hold up the actual getting into the hands of the consumer of the goods he so badly needs. Not only are some industries being held up because workers are inadequately clad or shod (e.g. the lignite miners cannot work in flooded workings without proper boots), but farmers are becoming increasingly unwilling to exchange their crops for paper with which they can buy little or nothing and are increasingly demanding to barter against consumer goods of which they also stand in real need.

(b) Attitude of Associazione Industriale Lombarda

The attitude of the Lombardy Industrialists towards the workers and the near future was demonstrated early this month at an assembly of the Associazione Industriale Lombarda. A resolution was passed and it mainly complains that

(i) contrary to the July agreement between employers and labour, the workers are once again agitating with new demands.

(ii) the Government has failed to provide the promised financial assistance to the companies.

It states further that industry will not accept any agreement which provides for payment of wages to idle personnel after 30 September 1945, the date of expiration of the ANIAI wage agreement reported in our summary No 5.

(c) Strike of State Employees

13564

On 10 and 11 Aug there was an organised strike of state and para-statal employees in MILAN, TURIN and several other towns in NORTHERN and MIDDLE ITALY; a token strike also took place in ROME. The object of the strike was to obtain for state employees in NORTH ITALY the same advantages as those already granted in SOUTH and CENTRAL ITALY. Satisfaction was given to the strikers and work resumed.

(d) Women's Cost of Living Bonus

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

1524

tribution of such stocks of consumer goods as exist in the country is a factor that makes for unrest. It would be a pity if theoretical considerations of distributive justice were to continue to hold up the actual getting into the hands of the consumer of the goods he so badly needs. Not only are some industries (eg. Mold up because workers are inadequately clad or shod (e.g. the lignite miners cannot work in flooded workings without proper boots), but farmers are becoming increasingly unwilling to exchange their crops for pay with which they can buy little or nothing and are increasingly demanding to barter against consumer goods of which they also stand in real need.

(b) Attitude of Associazione Industriale Lombarda

The attitude of the Lombardy Industrialists towards the workers and the near future was demonstrated only this month at an assembly of the Associazione Industriale Lombarda. A resolution was passed and it mainly complains that

(i) contrary to the daily agreement between employers and labour, the workers are under undue pressure with new demands.

(ii) the Government has failed to provide the promised financial assistance to the companies.

It states further that industry will not accept any agreement which provides for payment of wages to idle personnel after 30 September 1945, the date of expiration of the Allied wage agreement reported in our summary No 5.

(c) Strike of State Employees

1354

On 10 and 11 Aug there was an organised strike of state and para-statal employees in MILAN, TURIN and several other towns in LIGURIA and PIEDMONT; a token strike also took place in FLORENCE. The object of the strike was to obtain for state employees in NORTH ITALY the same advantages as those already granted in SOUTH and CENTRAL ITALY. Satisfaction was given to the strikers and work resumed.

(d) Women's Cost of Living Bonus

A strike by factory workers in the whole of NORTH ITALY to support the claim of women workers to a cost of living bonus equal to that of men workers (see Summaries Nos 7 and 8) was called off owing to the holidays. Although the Italian government has agreed to the claim in principle, the strike is still impending as a protest at delay in implementing the undertaking and may materialise this week.

...../5

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

3 COUNTER INTELLIGENCE

(a) Extremist Action

Two cases of grenade throwing have been reported. On 11 Aug at 01.30 hrs two hand-grenades were thrown into the para-court of the Carabinieri Barracks at BORGO SESIA (J 5596). There were no casualties. The incident is attributed as an action of protest against the arrest by the CC.RR of two ex-chefs of the Partisans on charges of armed robbery. Three arrests have been made.

A hand-grenade was thrown at 23.30 hrs 11 Aug at the HQ of the CREMONA Groupe in .ARESSANELLA (J 7505), where a party was being held. There was no casualties. No arrests have been made and investigations are continuing. The reason for the incident is not known; one theory is that it was a reprisal against the confiscation by the Groupe of two lorry loads of stolen cars.

A curfew was imposed in .ARESSANELLA from 23.30 hrs to 03..00 hrs for one week. This has now been lifted and the situation is calm.

(b) Arrests

One German Intelligence Service official and five minor enemy agents have been arrested during the week.

(c) French Renegades

On 16 Aug 162 French Renegades were removed from SAN VITTORE Gaol MILAN, where they were held at the disposition of the French, and transported by road convoy to the French Frontier, en route for NICE. Several of these persons had received the death sentence from the French Authorities. The majority had been arrested by Allied Counter-Intelligence Agencies for their connections with German Intelligence Services.

4 HIDDEN ARMS

(a) Successful raids in PIEDMONT

During the fortnight ending 18 Aug twenty-one raids were carried out by troops and/or Carabinieri and Questura Agents in PIEDMONT. Twelve raids drew blank, but the remainder netted over 900 rifles, 5 automatic weapons, 20 radio sets and a quantity of assorted ammunition and equipment. The largest cache was found at STRAMBINELLO SESIA (J 5794) and GRIGNASCO (J 5994), an area where the famous Communist Partisan leader and present mayor of NOVARA, MOSCATELLI, has been reported active. No incriminating evidence against him was, however, discovered. 1353

The discovery of arms and several hundred steel helmets marked with the letter M at GRIGNASCO substantiates a previous report to the effect that on 27 April 45 Partisans intercepted an enemy column consisting mostly of the Fascist In "M" in this neighbourhood. The Fascists were disarmed and some were made to help hide the weapons and

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

A curfew was imposed in GENOA/GOVI from 23.30 hrs to 03.00 hrs for one week. This has now been lifted and the situation is calm.

(b) Arrests

One German Intelligence Service official and five minor enemy agents have been arrested during the week.

(c) French Renegades

On 16 Aug 162 French Renegades were removed from S.G. VITTORE Mezzi MILAN, where they were held at the disposition of the French, and transported by road convoy to the French Frontier, en route for NICE. Several of these persons had received the death sentence from the French Authorities. The majority had been arrested by Allied Counter-Intelligence Agencies for their connections with German Intelligence Services.

4 HIDDEN ARMS

(a) Successful raids in PIEDMONT

During the fortnight ending 18 Aug twenty-one raids were carried out by troops and/or C.S.S.-Inland and Questura Agents in PIEDMONT. Twelve raids drew blank, but the remainder netted over 900 rifles, 5 automatic weapons, 20 radio sets and a quantity of assorted ammunition and equipment. The largest caches were found at SPELLANZANO, DESIO (J 5794) and CARIGNANO (J 5994), an area where the famous Communist Partisan leader and present Mayor of NOVARA, MOSCATELLI, has been reported active. No incriminating evidence against him was, however, discovered.

1352

The discovery of guns and several hundred steel helmets marked with the letter M at CARIGNANO substantiates a previous report to the effect that on 27 April 45 Partisans intercepted an enemy column consisting mostly of the Fascist in "M" in this neighbourhood. The Fascists were disarmed and some were made to help hide the weapons and equipment in the surrounding woods after which they were reportedly shot.

Raids have also been carried out in LOMBARDY and LIGURIA but without any striking success.

...../6

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

(i) Consequences of successful raids

It is reported from PINEROLO that the success of the present intensified drive against hidden arms has resulted in much more information from informers, anonymous letters etc, though some of it is extremely vague. Another probable consequence is likely to take the form of attempts to move and concentrate the many larger caches which must still be in existence, and intelligence and internal security agencies should be on the look-out for such activity.

Lt Col
GS

DISTRIBUTION

... for 2 District Weekly Intelligence Summary No 9

Less 66 ... Bde
Plus 217 Armd ... - 10 copies

1352

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

SEEN BY
G.S.O. 1
DAA & QMG
DADOS
DADST
S.O.R.A.
S.O.R.E.
S.O.R. SGS
S.C. REMB
G.S.O. II
CLERKS
CAS/2355
HQ 2 DIST
22 Aug 45

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
General Staff Intelligence
C M F

2 DISTRICT WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 9

1 POLITICAL

(a) Statement by North Italian Communist Party

After a meeting of the representatives of the North Italian Communist Party held in MILAN on August 5th and 6th, an official statement was issued stating in effect that the Communist Party was alarmed at the tendency for reactionary, monarchist and fascist elements to carry out subversive propaganda amongst demobilized Partisans in order to provoke disturbances. It deplored the alleged efforts of other parties in the CLN to reactivate sectarian Partisan formations and branded as absurd the rumours of a Communist rising to take place in August. After stating that it was the duty of all Communists to explain to the population the absolute necessity for disarmament, the abandoning of Partisan methods and the liquidation of banditry or illegality under whatever form, it addressed a message to all CLN parties asking:

(i) that all parties formally bind themselves to disarmament, demobilisation and epuration.

(ii) that all parties, after carrying out the foregoing, bind themselves to prevent the rise of other party formations, under whatever form, political, athletic or paramilitary.

(iii) that the Government and all parties recognize the Associazione Nazionale Partigiani Italiani (ANPI) as the sole Partisan veterans' association, and that the CLN should dissolve all other pseudo-Partisan associations.

1351

That the Communists should be in such an alarmist mood, and come out with these unrevolutionary requests, has caused much surprise: for it is the general opinion amongst all other parties, and non-political circles, that such activities were mostly Communist inspired.

It is a fact however, that there has been considerable divergence between the official attitude of the party leadership, and the actions of the lower level party officials, members and adherents.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

1 POLITICAL

(a) Statement by North Italian Communist Party

After a meeting of the representatives of the North Italian Communist Party held in MILAN on August 5th and 6th, an official statement was issued stating in effect that the Communist Party was alarmed at the tendency for reactionary, monarchist and fascist elements to carry out subversive propaganda amongst demobilized Partisans in order to provoke disturbances. It deplored the alleged efforts of other parties in the CLN to reactivate sectarian Partisan formations and branded as absurd the rumours of a Communist rising to take place in August. After stating that it was the duty of all Communists to explain to the population the absolute necessity for disarmament, the abandoning of Partisan methods and the liquidation of banditry or illegality under whatever form, it addressed a message to all CLN parties asking:

(i) that all parties formally bind themselves to disarmament, demobilisation and epuration.

(ii) that all parties, after carrying out the foregoing, bind themselves to prevent the rise of other party formations, under whatever form, political, athletic or paramilitary.

(iii) that the Government and all parties recognize the Associazione Nazionale Partigiani Italiani (ANPI) as the sole Partisan veterans' association, and that the CLN should dissolve all other pseudo-Partisan associations.

That the Communists should be in such an alarmist mood, and come out with these unrevolutionary requests, has caused much surprise: for it is the general opinion amongst all other parties, and non-political circles, that such activities were mostly Communist inspired.

It is a fact however, that there has been considerable divergence between the official attitude of the party leadership, and the actions of the lower level party officials, members and adherents. Such violations of the law, and such minor disturbances as have been attributed to Communist elements have always been disclaimed as being the work of "Trotzkyists" and "reactionaries". Perhaps even the Communists are beginning to realize that such disclaimers, even if true, are not being believed.

There is good reason to believe that the Communist leaders are being increasingly embarrassed by the action of their subordinates, and their declaration may well be the forerunner of further attempts to convince the general public of the Communist intention to use legal and orderly methods for the achievement of their aims.

..../2

1351

1529

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

(b) Consulta and Costituente

The publication of the lists of nominees of the Consulta is the first tangible evidence that progress, however slow, is being made in the general direction of constitutional rehabilitation and reform.

Apart from the various physical and administrative difficulties yet to be overcome (see Intelligence Summary No 7, 1(e)) there is still some controversy, particularly about the holding of local elections. Strong argument for holding these before the elections for the Costituente is being put up by the Liberal and Christian Democrat parties; but it appears at present, at least in this part of the world, that enough strength will develop in the Consulta to postpone local elections (called "elezioni amministrative") at least until the Costituente.

The holding of a plebiscite to decide the Monarchy/Republic question is still being discussed, with fairly strong pressure by some right-wing elements in its favour. But one cannot say that party lines have been drawn on this question.

On the whole, interest is increasing in these matters, although the technical details involved preclude any vast enthusiasm amongst the bulk of the population.

2 ECONOMIC

(a) Food Prospects

Whilst the harvesting of the wheat crop is on and the gathering of other cereal crops is about to begin, the food prospects for this winter in Northern Italy are worth examining. A careful study of the problem from information supplied by Allied Commission Advanced HQ shows that though the situation cannot be classed as satisfactory, it is by no means alarming and Italians should be able to weather the winter months without too many deprivations.

Based on the present average cereal ration scale of 300 grams per capita per day (including bread 200 grams) it was estimated in June last that this year's cereal crop would provide Northern Italy with 95% of her needs and it was calculated that only 700,000 quintals (70,000 tons) would have to be imported by the Allies. However in normal times Northern Italy had a slight surplus which she used to export to Central and Southern Italy. This year the latters' requirements from Allied sources amount to 1,250,000 tons.

1350

The amassing of wheat according to returns so far received is proceeding satisfactorily except in Piedmont where it is reported that local pessimistic propaganda regarding winter food prospects and rumours of exports to France of foodstuffs, in particular wheat, have been responsible for the unfavourable returns at the Amassi centres. Up to the end of July-beginning of August only 8% of the forecasted crop was handed in by the Piedmontese farmers. In Northern Italy it is reckoned that it is normal to amass 25% in July rising to two-thirds by

1530
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

The holding of a plebiscite to decide the Monarchy/Republic question is still being discussed, with fairly strong pressure by some right-wing elements in its favour. But one cannot say that party lines have been drawn on this question.

On the whole, interest is increasing in these matters, although the technical details involved preclude any vast enthusiasm amongst the bulk of the population.

2 ECONOMIC

(a) Food Prospects

Whilst the harvesting of the wheat crop is on and the gathering of other cereal crops is about to begin, the food prospects for this winter in Northern Italy are worth examining. A careful study of the problem from information supplied by Allied Commission Advanced HQ shows that though the situation cannot be classed as satisfactory, it is by no means alarming and Italians should be able to weather the winter months without too many deprivations.

Based on the present average cereal ration scale of 300 grams per capita per day (including bread 200 grams) it was estimated in June last that this year's cereal crop would provide Northern Italy with 95% of her needs and it was calculated that only 700,000 quintals (70,000 tons) would have to be imported by the Allies. However in normal times Northern Italy had a slight surplus which she used to export to Central and Southern Italy. This year the latters' requirements from Allied sources amount to 1,250,000 tons.

1350

The amassing of wheat according to returns so far received is proceeding satisfactorily except in Piedmont where it is reported that local pessimistic propaganda regarding winter food prospects and rumours of exports to France of foodstuffs, in particular wheat, have been responsible for the unfavourable returns at the Amassi centres. Up to the end of July-beginning of August only 8% of the forecasted crop was handed in by the Piedmontese farmers. In Northern Italy it is reckoned that it is normal to amass 25% in July rising to two-thirds by the end of August, the remaining third being collected in September and October. Emilia has already amassed 40% representing one million quintals.

...../3

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

Piedmontese farmers generally are regarded as troublesome. They refuse to comply with published AMG and Government orders and the black-market price of wheat has now reached the fantastic figure of lire 4,000 per quintal. The Provinces of Pavia, Alessandria, Piacenza, Parma and Reggion Emilia which are the richest agricultural provinces in Northern Italy are also less disciplined than the rest.

At the suggestion of Allied Commission the Italian Minister of Agriculture is expected in the North this week-end. The purpose of the visit is to hold a meeting in Milan of all the Prefects of the five Northern Regions: Piedmont, Lombardy, Liguria, Veneto and Emilia. It is understood that he is going to impress on all Prefects the urgent need for discipline among all classes of agriculturists and the individual responsibility of the Prefects themselves in all matters dealing with agriculture and food in their provinces.

Rice growers appear to be much less troublesome, though this is probably because stricter control is possible since rice has to be processed in a factory before it is sold to the consumer, rather than because the rice farmers have a higher sense of social responsibility and honesty. In any case the gathering of the rice and other cereal crops is expected to proceed quite smoothly.

In the North dairy products such as cheeses, eggs, poultry will also be available in quantities far greater than has been known in the South for well over a year.

Supplies of meat will continue to be spasmodic. The Italian Ministry of Food is attempting to introduce a stricter control on slaughtering and the sale of carcases and with such measures it is hoped to level out distribution and reduce the present very high prices charged for meat on the black-market.

(b) 5% Treasury Bond

Approximately lire 35,000 million is the total subscribed to the 5% Treasury Bond in North Italy up to the original closing date 5 August. A reliable source quoted Prime Minister PARRI as having stated that he would be satisfied with 40,000 millions although it is now learned that when the subscription was first opened 60,000 millions was mentioned as a conservative target figure. On 6 August it was learned that the Italian Government had given last-minute instructions that the subscription was to continue up to 25 August. Since this date it is worth noting that daily subscription figures have been higher than for any day during the period 15 July - 5 August.

1349

3 COUNTER INTELLIGENCE

(a) Arrests

Three listed members of the CIS and eight minor enemy agents have been arrested during the week.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

agriculture and food in their provinces.

Rice growers appear to be much less troublesome, though this is probably because stricter control is possible since rice has to be processed in a factory before it is sold to the consumer, rather than because the rice farmers have a higher sense of social responsibility and honesty. In any case the gathering of the rice and other cereal crops is expected to proceed quite smoothly.

In the North dairy products such as cheeses, eggs, poultry will also be available in quantities far greater than has been known in the South for well over a year.

Supplies of meat will continue to be spasmodic. The Italian Ministry of Food is attempting to introduce a stricter control on slaughtering and the sale of carcases and with such measures it is hoped to level out distribution and reduce the present very high prices charged for meat on the black-market.

(b) 5% Treasury Bond

Approximately lire 35,000 million is the total subscribed to the 5% Treasury Bond in North Italy up to the original closing date 5 August. A reliable source quoted Prime Minister PARRI as having stated that he would be satisfied with 40,000 millions although it is now learned that when the subscription was first opened 60,000 millions was mentioned as a conservative target figure. On 6 August it was learned that the Italian Government had given last-minute instructions that the subscription was to continue up to 25 August. Since this date it is worth noting that daily subscription figures have been higher than for any day during the period 15 July - 5 August.

1349

3 COUNTER INTELLIGENCE

(a) Arrests

Three listed members of the GIS and eight minor enemy agents have been arrested during the week.

(b) Subversive Movement

The following is a summary of the results of the investigation in VERONA of the terrorist group reported in 2 District Weekly Intelligence Summary No 5:-

...../4

1533

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

" In the middle of June 1945 a group of men began to gather regularly at a bar in VERONA where they discussed the local political situation. They felt that Fascists were not being dealt with properly and placed the blame for this upon the local AMG, CIC and Public Safety officers. One of the group, Dino PAPINI, suggested to the others that certain of the allied officers, who they thought were responsible, be killed. The group failed in this plot and was captured. It is interesting to note that PAPINI is believed to be in a Fascist organization that was to create unrest among the civil population."

Source:- Fifth Army Weekly G-2 Report No 661.

4 HIDDEN ARMS

(a) Successful raid in PIACENZA

Acting on verbal information from an anonymous Italian a successful raid was carried out on a house in PIACENZA 4561. Packed in wooden boxes were found 19 rifles, 4 pistols, 1 heavy MG, over 2,000 rounds of ammunision, some hand-grenades, a quantity of British, Italian and German military clothing and equipment and lire 58,000 in notes. Investigations are proceeding.

(b) Other Reports

Two reports have been received of arms hidden in Liguria. These reports are being investigated.

Lt Col
GS

1347

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

DISTRIBUTION	No of copies
GOC HQ 2 District	1
G Branch HQ 2 District	5
6 SA Armd Div	1
59 Area	1
60 Sub Area	1
66 AA Bde	1
215 Sub Area	1
51 BLU	1
52 BLU	1
2 Lothians	1
14 L of C Signals	1
37 FSS, 1 Via Mazzini, Alessandria	1
51 FSS , Varese	1
66(SA) FSS	1
85 FSS, c/o 60 Sub Area	1
315 FSS	1
421 FSS, c/o Legnano Gp	1
427 FSS	1
AC of S, G-2, AFHQ	4
AC of S, G-2(PIB) AFHQ	1
AC of S, G-2, Fifth Army	1
SCI(Z) Milan	2
CSI 13 Corps	1
CSI 1 District	1
Adv HQ Allied Commission, Milan	1
Regional Commissioner, AMG Lombardy	1
Regional Commissioner, AMG Piedmont	1
Regional Commissioner, AMG Liguria	1
OIC Italian Frontier Control Det	2
MSLD c/o ELO 59 Area HQ	1
OSS R & A. Milan	3
5 SCI	1
JICAMED Unit M	4
CCG Milan	1
Mr Murray (FEA) c/o JICAMED Unit M	1
Lt Col Cameron Curry for MEW	1
British Embassy c/o PLAC	4
US Embassy c/o PLAC	1
Regional Public Safety Officer, AMG Venezia	1
1st BLU(Mantova Gruppo)	1
OIC Det, Zone No 3, Milan	2
AC Liaison Officer, HQ 2 District	1
7 AGRA	1
14/20 Hussars	1
HQ Allied Commission, Rome	1
RPSO, AMG Lombardy Region	1

1347

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

51 BLU	1
52 BLU	1
2 Lothians	1
14 L of C Signals	1
37 FSS, 1 Via Manzini, Alessandria	1
51 FSS , Varese	1
66(SA) FSS	1
85 FSS, c/o 60 Sub Area	1
315 FSS	1
421 FSS, c/o Legnano Gp	1
427 FSS	1
AC of S, G-2, AFHQ	1
AC of S, G-2(PIB) AFHQ	1
AC of S, G-2, Fifth Army	1
ASCI(Z) Milan	1
ASCI 13 Corps	1
ASCI 1 District	1
Adv HQ Allied Commission, Milan	1
Regional Commissioner, AMG Lombardy	1
Regional Commissioner, AMG Piedmont	1
Regional Commissioner, AMG Liguria	1
CIC Italian Frontier Control Det	1
CSLD c/o ELO 59 Area HQ	1
CSS R & A, Milan	1
D SCI	1
HICOMED Unit M	1
G2G Milan	1
Mr Murray (FFA) c/o HICOMED Unit M	1
Lt Col Cameron Curry for MEW	1
British Embassy c/o PLAC	1
US Embassy c/o PLAC	1
Regional Public Safety Officer, AMG Venezia	1
36 BLU(Mantova Gruppo)	1
ONC Det, Zone No 3, Milan	1
PW Liaison Officer, HQ 2 District	1
7 AGRA	1
19/20 Hussars	1
PW Allied Commission, Rome	1
RPSO, AMG Lombardy Region	1
RPSO, AMG Piedmont Region	1
RPSO, AMG Liguria Region	1
British Consulate, Milan	1
British Consulate, Genoa	1
US Consulate, Milan	1
US Consulate, Genoa	1
War Diary	1
File	2

1347

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

SEEN BY
G.S.O. I.
DAA & QMG
PAOWS
D/SHAEF
S.H.A.E.F.
[illegible] SEC
[illegible]
G.S.O. II
C. STAFF

I 5 3 7

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 5 DISTRICT
General Staff Intelligence
C M P

2 DISTRICT WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 2

1 POLITICAL

(a) Socialist Party and union with the Communists

During the clandestine period many efforts were made by provincial, regional and National representatives of the three "Parties of the masses", i.e. the Communist, Socialist and Christian Democrat, to have close working agreements not only in underground and partisan activities, but also for joint action in economic, political and trade-union matters. The push for this seemed to come mostly from the Communists, and, depending on local conditions and personal relations, all three, or two out of three of the parties, established some kind of closer relations within the framework of the C.L.Ns.

Upon the liberation of the North, it became fairly evident that the Christian Democrats were not very interested in this effort to establish a "Popular Front", and the matter became one of importance and concern chiefly to the Socialists.

This was nothing new, as it is a situation that has been developing within Socialist parties since the Blum Government in France and the Spanish Civil War. But in Italy, especially in the North, where Socialism was traditionally relatively stronger than in the South, the old line Socialists have been averse to a real fusion with the Communists. During the clandestine period, while NENNI in liberated Italy was causing much alarm by his advocacy of fusion, many people, and not only Socialist party members, consoled themselves with the idea that the Northern Socialists, when contact was re-established, would put a stop to this. It was also said that NENNI was paying mere lip-service to the idea of fusion, in order to placate the extremist elements in his party.

1345

It was therefore quite a shock to many to read the headlines in the Northern newspapers on August 1st "Socialists vote for a single party", "One party for the working classes" etc. It was announced that the National Council of the Socialist Party, meeting in ROME, had after considerable debate, passed an order of the day by a majority of over 2 to 1 apparently calling for fusion. A rival and more moderate motion in effect declaring the desirability of defend-

(a) Socialist Party and union with the Communists

During the clandestine period many efforts were made by provincial, regional and national representatives of the three "Parties of the masses", i.e. the Communist, Socialist and Christian Democrat, to have close working agreements not only in underground and partisan activities, but also for joint action in economic, political and trade-union matters. The push for this seemed to come mostly from the Communists, and, depending on local conditions and personal relations, all three, or two out of three of the parties, established some kind of closer relations within the framework of the C.L.Ns.

Upon the liberation of the North, it became fairly evident that the Christian Democrats were not very interested in this effort to establish a "Popular Front" and the matter became one of importance and concern chiefly to the Socialists.

This was nothing new, as it is a situation that has been developing within Socialist circles since the Blum Government in France and the Spanish Civil War. But in Italy, especially in the North, where Socialism was traditionally relatively stronger than in the South, the old line Socialists have been averse to a real fusion with the Communists. During the clandestine period, while NENNI in liberated Italy was causing grave alarm by his advocacy of fusion, many people, and not only Socialist party members, consoled themselves with the idea that the Northern Socialists, when contact was re-established, would put a stop to this. It was also said that NENNI was paying mere lip-service to the idea of fusion, in order to placate the extremist elements in his party.

It was therefore quite a shock to many to read the headlines in the Northern newspapers on August 1st "Socialists vote for a single party", "One party for the working classes" etc. It was announced that the National Council of the Socialist Party, meeting in ROME, had after considerable debate, passed an order of the day by a majority of over 2 to 1 apparently calling for fusion. A rival and more moderate motion in effect declaring the desirability of defending the independence of the Socialist party was thus defeated.

The reaction of rank and file Socialists has on the whole been unenthusiastic. It had been expected that the Labour victory in Great Britain would strengthen the autonomous elements in the Italian Socialist Party, and disappointment was expressed in particular that NENNI, who is also President of CGIL, should have favoured fusion.

...../2

1538

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

It is interesting, however, to study the text of the order of the day. After expressing a desire for the earliest possible meeting of the Constituent, and a hope that Italy's international situation would improve, it stated that the desire of the Party was for unity and fusion, together with a federation of European states based on a single proletarian International. But the meat of the motion is in the last paragraph:" The National Council hereby resolves to charge the new Party Directory with perfecting the organs of collaboration between the two working class parties, to reinforce the joint action pact with the creation of new liaison bodies, thus making the pact more efficient by study and by the fusion of common programmes and plans of work; and further to extend the policy of union to those democratic anti-fascist parties which may sincerely declare themselves to be for a republic and for the thorough social and economic reforms proposed by the Socialist Party. With regard to the formation of a single party of the working class, the National Council declares that this is a constant desire of the Socialists; it states therefore that a single party of the working classes must arise as soon as possible on the base of the two great (working) class parties, and charges the forthcoming party Congress with the solution of this fundamental problem, when objective and favourable conditions will allow."

When studied, especially in connection with the speeches made, the order of the day appears to include considerable hedging. This is understandable. The general programmes of the Socialist and Communist Parties in Italy, such as they have been hitherto stated, are similar, and so are their official methods of achieving their aims. But the greater political and propaganda activity of the Communists may well influence the newer, more volatile and less indoctrinated members of the Socialist Party to go over to the Communists if for no other reason than a belief that their aims may be earlier realised. Unable to state that the Communists may be acting in bad faith when announcing their "democratic"plans of action, Socialist leaders are finding it difficult to explain the difference between the two parties. This policy of hedging may therefore appear to them to be the best until political party lines can be more clearly drawn, either in the Costituente or even later.

2 (b) Milan for the Milanese

Signs and posters have appeared throughout Milan lately stating "MILANO AI MILANESI" (Milan for the Milanese). It is alleged that they have been posted by the " PATRIZIA MENEGHINA", an apolitical and long-established association devoted to fostering interest in local affairs and "boosting" Milan.

The " PATRIZIA" denies responsibility, and the local authorities are making further investigations.

1343

1539

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

collaboration between the two working class parties, to reinforce the joint action pact with the creation of new liaison bodies, thus making the pact more efficient by study and by the fusion of common programmes and plans of work; and further to extend the policy of union to those democratic anti-Fascist parties which may sincerely declare themselves to be for a republic and for the thorough social and economic reforms proposed by the Socialist Party. With regard to the formation of a single party of the working class, the National Council declares that this is a constant desire of the Socialists; it states therefore that a single party of the working classes must arise as soon as possible on the base of the two great (working) class parties, and charges the forthcoming party Congress with the solution of this fundamental problem, when objective and favourable conditions will allow."

When studied, especially in connection with the speeches made, the order of the day appears to include considerable hedging. This is understandable. The general programmes of the Socialist and Communist Parties in Italy, such as they have been hitherto stated, are similar, and so are their official methods of achieving their aims. But the greater political and propaganda activity of the Communists may well influence the newer, more volatile and less indoctrinated members of the Socialist Party to go over to the Communists if for no other reason than a belief that their aims may be earlier realised. Unable to state that the Communists may be acting in bad faith when announcing their "democratic" plans of action, Socialist leaders are finding it difficult to explain the difference between the two parties. This policy of helping may therefore appear to them to be the best until political party lines can be more clearly drawn, either in the Constituente or even later.

2 (b) Milan for the Milanese

Signs and posters have appeared throughout Milan lately stating "MILAN AI MILANESI" (Milan for the Milanese). It is alleged that they have been posted by the " FAMIGLIA MENEGHINA", an apolitical and long-established association devoted to fostering interest in local affairs and "boosting" Milan. 1343

The " FAMIGLIA" denies responsibility, and the local authorities are making further investigations.

It is assumed that the campaign is aimed at the large numbers of evacuees and others who are still in Milan and making more critical the already bad housing situation.

It is not considered that the posters are aimed at the Allies.

...../3

1540
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(c) Movimento Unitario

The MOVIMENTO UNITARIO DI SOLIDARIETA' ITALIANA has started an intensive propaganda campaign. In Milan City large numbers of posters have appeared in the streets outlining the movement's programme and calling on all Italians to give it their support.

Although the movement claims to be apolitical most of its present leaders are undoubtedly active politicians. It appears, however, that one of the movement's main pressing objects is to enlist the active participation of members with other political creeds in order to cover a wider front for the implementation of its declared programme of national solidarity, good order and reconstruction.

The headquarters is in Milan. Branches have already been established in other cities and the opening of further branches throughout Italy is contemplated.

Little is known about its activities to-date. It appears that its only immediate constructive usefulness is the offer of help to Italian officers, soldiers and other repatriates from Germany.

Authority has already been obtained for the publication of a newspaper which will be called "L'ORDINE". It is understood that technical difficulties have up to now delayed its publication.

2 ECONOMIC

(a) Situation in LIGURIA

A glance at the map will show that LIGURIA depends for her livelihood principally on the sea, and that the commercial life of the Region is centred on the once great port of GENOA.

With the exception of EMILIA, whose Southern territory was ravaged by last winter's battles, LIGURIA of all the Northern Regions has been hardest hit by the war. For over 15 months commercial and industrial life in the Region has been virtually at a standstill. The port of GENOA, once crammed with cargo and passenger shipping, which brought wealth and prosperity to the city, dealt, during the last year of the war, only with the meagre trickle of coastal supply shipping which the enemy was able to operate. The port is now still virtually closed because of the mines which, owing either to their complicated mechanism or to the haphazard method in which they were laid, have defeated even the German experts called in to help remove them. The other Ligurian ports, with the exception of SAVONA, which is being used for military and civilian supplies, are equally depressed owing to lack of traffic.

As regards the hinterland, bomb damage and lack of supplies has brought practically all industries to a standstill. LIGURIA is

1341

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

The headquarters is in Milan. Branches have already been established in other cities and the opening of further branches throughout Italy is contemplated.

Little is known about its activities to-date. It appears that its only immediate constructive usefulness is the offer of help to Italian officers, soldiers and other repatriates from Germany.

Authority has also been obtained for the publication of a newspaper which will be called "L'ORDINE". It is understood that technical difficulties have up to now delayed its publication.

2 ECONOMIC

(a) Situation in LIGURIA.

A glance at the map will show that LIGURIA depends for her livelihood principally on the sea, and that the commercial life of the Region is centred on the once great port of GENOA.

With the exception of PARMA, whose Southern territory was ravaged by last winter's battles, LIGURIA of all the Northern Regions has been hardest hit by the war. For over 18 months commercial and industrial life in the Region has been virtually at a standstill. The port of GENOA, once crowned with cargo and passenger shipping, which brought wealth and prosperity to the city, dealt, during the last year of the war, only with the meagre trickle of coastal supply shipping which the enemy was able to operate. The port is now still virtually closed because of the mines which, owing either to their complicated mechanism or to the haphazard method in which they were laid, have defeated even the German experts called in to help remove them. The other Ligurian ports, with the exception of SAVONA, which is being used for military and civilian supplies, are equally depressed owing to lack of traffic.

As regards the hinterland, bomb damage and lack of supplies has brought practically all industries to a standstill. LIGURIA is agriculturally poor and relies mainly on neighbouring regions for its food supplies. This involves the problem of transport, an acute and general difficulty in Northern Italy at the present time. However the Region is rich in oil and fish and it seems that the latter has now become a staple diet of all Ligurians.

The generally depressed economic situation is reflected in the weak subscription to the 5% Treasury Bond. The total to 31st July for the entire Region is a little over Lire 1,500 millions which compares unfavourably with the next lowest, namely EMILIA with Lire 2,300 millions, and LOMBARDIA which still holds the lead with Lire 14,000 millions.

...../4

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

(b) [illegible]

[illegible] Clerical Staff and Police Stations staged a "sit-down" strike on the morning of 30 July as a protest at the delayed implementation of the 20% scale of wages in force in Central and Southern Italy since March of this year. A deputation was sent to the Questore and the Prefetto and it was arranged by the Questore that the Lire 1,000 bonus paid for the month of June would be repeated for July pending the Italian Government's decision on the matter. It has now been learned that this will not be forthcoming and that the 20% scale of wages came into force in the whole of Northern Italy. This means that the minimum wage has been raised from Lire 2,000 per month to Lire 4,500.

A similar protest threatened to take place in Genoa on the same day but it was called off at the last minute.

" Doorkeepers " in Milan demonstrated for increased wages. On the morning of 30 July a large contingent of women marchers said to be 3,000 strong paraded through some of the main streets of Milan carrying placards. They also demonstrated outside the Prefettura building. There were no incidents.

(c) Cost of Living Bonus

The Third Women's Cost of Living Bonus agreement reported in last week's summary has for the time being been turned down by AMG and the Italian Government on the grounds that the procedure adopted in the drawing up of the agreement was irregular. At the same time, however, it is understood that the Italian Government's views favour the move to equalise cost of living bonuses for men and women and it is reported that throughout the provinces in the North Camera del Lavoro and employers have been instructed by the Italian Government to look into the issue and draw plans. Concurrently with this latest step for more financial help for workers, complaints have been received from workers that their bonuses are subject to income-tax. This matter is understood to be at present under review.

(d) Agricultural Situation in the North

1343

Appendix "A" shows the wheat, maize, rice and potato situation in the Northern Regions, Veneto and Emilia included.

3 COUNTER [illegible]

(a) 11 Enemy agents were arrested during the week.

(b) Denunciations

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

that the all-in wage has been raised from Lire 2,000 per month to Lire 4,500.

A similar protest threatened to take place in Genoa on the same day but it was called off at the last minute.

"Doorkeepers" in Milan demonstrated for increased wages. On the morning of 22 July a large cortege of women workers said to be 3,000 strong paraded through some of the main streets of Milan carrying placards. They also demonstrated outside the Prefettura building. There were no incidents.

(c) Cost of Living Bonus

The Turin Women's Cost of Living Bonus Agreement reported in last week's summary has for the time being been turned down by AMG and the Italian Government on the grounds that the procedure adopted in the drawing up of the agreement was irregular. At the same time, however, it is understood that the Italian Government's views favour the move to equalize cost of living bonuses for men and women and it is reported that throughout the country in the North Centre del Lavoro and employers have been instructed by the Italian Government to look into the issue of equal wages. Concurrently with this latest step for more financial help for workers, complaints have been received from workers that the earnings tax exemption are subject to income-tax. This matter is understood to be at present under review.

(d) Agricultural Situation in the North

Appendix "A" shows the wheat, maize, rice and potato situation in the Northern Regions, Veneto and Emilia included.

1343

3 COUNTER INTELLIGENCE

(a) 11 Field Agents were evacuated during the week.

(b) 5 Surrenderings

To combat public complaints, fostered by Partisan elements, as to the slowness of the political 'clearing' of the remnants of the Fascist regime, on 19 June AC PS called a meeting of local CLN and Partisan leaders of Bergamo. Epuration was discussed in all its aspects, PS emphasising the point that action taken by the Allied authorities depended upon the quantity and quality of the information offered by the anti-Fascist groups and organisations, which, to-date, had not been forthcoming, except in the form of general complaints. Approximately 30 persons attended the meeting, which broke up after a two and a half hour session, with promises of full co-operation from all participants.

...../5

1544
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

After an interval of a week, in which none of the promised information was forthcoming, PB decided to make it clear to the people that the blame for the alleged slowness of epuration did not rest with the Allies.

A notice was therefore printed and posted up throughout the area pointing out that anti-Fascist organisations had been asked to make denunciations but nothing had been produced, and calling on the people themselves to provide the information.

Its results are now awaited with some interest. A good response would demonstrate that local anti-Fascist organisations actually are withholding information which they have in their possession; while poor results would prove that epuration has in fact been effected, and that the complaints are put about by persons interested in discrediting the Allies in the public administration.

(Source - Eighth Army Security Intelligence Summary)

4. HIDDEN ARMS

There have recently been two successful raids on hidden arms dumps which are worthy of note.

In MILAN Carabinieri acting on AMG orders raided the Stabilimenti PRACCHI and discovered a large arms dump. Rifles, machine-guns, mortars, large quantities of hand-grenades and ammunition were removed. The total haul consisted of three lorry loads and all arms had been kept in perfect condition.

Signboards of two detachments of the 111"Sergio Rossi" Brigade of the MOSCATELLI Division were found stored with the arms.

Arrests were made and it is hoped that interrogations will lead to the discovery of further dumps.

In the country near VARESE a tower constructed for the purposes of bird-catching was visited with satisfactory results. Quantities of grenades and mortar bombs were found as well as a heavy machine gun and four heavy mortars with stands.

1342

In a wood in the same area well over a hundred rifles were found together with some 26,000 rounds of ammunition and three boxes of mortar bomb primaries in a brick-lined and cement-covered underground cache apparently of quite recent construction.

It has not yet been established if these arms and material which were all in good condition, were actually left by Partisans and stored against a future occasion

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

...spoken would demonstrate that local anti-fascist organisations actually are within these information which they have in their possession; while poor results would prove that opposition has in fact been effected, and that the complaints have put about by persons interested in discrediting the Allies in the public administration.

(Source - Eighth Army Security Intelligence Summary)

4 HIDDEN ARMS

There have recently been two successful raids on hidden arms dumps which are worthy of note.

In MILAN Carabinieri acting on Allied orders raided the Stabilimenti PRACCHI and discovered a large arms dump. Rifles, machine-guns, mortars, large quantities of hand-grenades and ammunition were removed. The total haul consisted of three lorry loads and all arms had been kept in perfect condition.

Signboard of two detached units of the 111"Sergio Rossi" Brigade of the MOSCATELLI Division were found stored with the arms.

Arrests were made and it is hoped that interrogations will lead to the discovery of further dumps.

In the country near VARESE a tower constructed for the purposes of bird-catching was visited with satisfactory results. Quantities of grenades and mortar bombs were found as well as a heavy machine gun and four heavy mortars with stands.

1342

In a wood in the same area well over a hundred rifles were found together with some 26,000 rounds of ammunition and three boxes of mortar bomb primaries in a brick-lined and cement-covered underground cache apparently of quite recent construction.

It has not yet been established if these arms and material which were all in good condition, were actually left by Partisans and stored against a future occasion

...../6

I 5 4 6

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

5 THE FUTURE

While the economic situation remains temporarily quiescent, the announcement of the early cessation of AMG appears to have resulted in Italians being less willing to collaborate owing to increasing fear of reprisals by extremists after the Allies' departure. While no general anti-Allied hostility exists, there is certainly some disappointment and much indifference.

Rumours of a "Communist rising" continue to be fairly general (c.f. Summary No 7 para 1 (A)). Information received to-date tends to indicate that these rumours are probably being put about by extremists themselves with a view to raising the political temperature, rather than by alarmists wishing to impress the Allies with the dangers of an insurrection.

It is, however, considered that while orderly strikes and demonstrations may from now on increase in size and frequency, the lack of a definite opponent and suitable battle-cry make large-scale disturbances unlikely at least until the onset of the cold weather.

Lt Col
GS

DISTRIBUTION

As for Intelligence Summary No 7

1341

I 5 4 7

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

Appendix "A"

Agricultural Situation for Northern Italy
(Veneto and Emilia included)

	Wheat	Maize	Rice	Potatoes
	(Quintals)	(Quintals)	(Quintals)	(Quintals)
1944 Production	30,500,000	17,000,000	4,260,000	13,500,000
Quantity amassed in 1944	16,500,000	3,300,000	3,900,000	-
1945 Production	19,500,000	16,000,000	4,000,000	10,000,000
Forecast for 1945	8,500,000	2,500,000	3,700,000	-

Notes

1 The word 'production' is used to denote the estimated crop which the amount of seed sown would bring forth at harvest time, assuming that all variable factors were favourable.

2 A forecast for this year's potato crop cannot be made owing to the present prolonged drought.

3 The large discrepancy between the wheat and maize production and crop figures is not only due to hoarding but also to the fact that the percentage which farmers are allowed to retain for their own private use is not proportionate to the year's crop.

1340

1548

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

54/15

NOT TO BE PASSED TO LEGNANO

SECRET

SECRET	
G.S.O. 1	
DAA & Q	
DADOS	
DADST	
S.O.N.A.	
S.O.R.E.	
S.O.R. S.O.	
S.C. R[illegible]	
G.[illegible]	
[illegible]	

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
General Staff Intelligence
APO

GSI/2355

28 July 45

2 DISTRICT WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NUMBER 7

POLITICAL

(a) Reaction to British election results.

It is yet too early to give anything but a preliminary opinion on the effect here of election results in Great Britain. The first and natural reaction was exultation in the Socialist and Communist press; it is obvious that they were as surprised as anyone else. On 27 July in MILAN a number of small processions of workers paraded the streets carrying Soviet, British and American flags and placards bearing such inscriptions as "Long live Attlee Morrison and Bevin" - "The English workers have won their battle, when shall we win ours" and generally indicating friendliness, "solidarity" and the desire to greet every Britisher as "Comrade". Similar enthusiasm was displayed in TURIN. The moderates and right wing elements are taking a more sober, and possibly more realistic, line by emphasizing the well-known British moderation in political matters and pointing to the semi-official Labour statement that the foreign policy of the new government would follow that of the Coalition.

(b) Morale of Italian Officials.

There is no doubt that there is a widespread state of low morale in Italian administrative and especially police circles. The statement is often made that the attitude of the left parties, particularly the Communists, makes it impossible for fair and efficient public administration to be carried out, especially in the field of public safety. The Communists are accused of using their official positions gained as a result of their position in the CLN to carry out a policy of blackmail, intimidation, internal sabotage and general agitation to favour their own political ends.

I 549

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

POLITICAL

(a) Reaction to British election results.

It is yet too early to give anything but a preliminary opinion on the effect here of election results in Great Britain. The first and natural reaction was exultation in the Socialist and Communist press; as is obvious that they were as surprised as anyone else. On 27 July in MILAN a number of small processions of workers paraded the streets carrying Soviet, British and American flags and placards bearing such inscriptions as "Long live Attlee Morrison and Bevin" - "The English workers have won their battle, when shall we win ours" and generally indicating friendliness, "solidarity" and the desire to greet every Britisher as "Comrade". Similar enthusiasm was displayed in TURIN. The moderates and right wing elements are taking a more sober, and possibly more realistic, line by emphasising the well-known British moderation in political matters and pointing to the semi-official Labour statement that the foreign policy of the new government would follow that of the Coalition.

(b) Morale of Italian Officials.

There is no doubt that there is a widespread state of low morale in Italian administrative and especially police circles. The statement is often made that the attitude of the left parties, particularly the Communists, makes it impossible for fair and efficient public administration to be carried out, especially in the field of public safety. The Communists are accused of using their official positions gained as a result of their position in the CLN to carry out a policy of blackmail, intimidation, internal sabotage and general agitation to favour their own political ends, immediate and long range, and to hamper the other parties or sections of the community. Individual officials state that they are physicallyafraid of reprisals, either now or when the Allies leave.

On the other hand, the same people will generally state that the Communists, although well organised and with plenty of funds, presumably "foreign", are still a small percentage of the population.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

Furthermore, it may be assumed that the other parties have the same possibilities of organisation, although their individual components may be more inclined to violent action and veiled or open threats to grim events initiated ends. And among the more prominent members of other parties there is still a tendency to use such political ambitions as they have achieved to help their own personal situation or that of a limited social or economic group or sub-group.

It is certain, however, that demoralisation exists, and every endeavour should be made by Allied authorities to seek out and firmly supress any attempts by a single party to prevent others from organising politically, even though the pusillanimity of the others may make the extremists' job more easy.

Strikes demonstrations and disturbances.

(c) On 27 July all factories and stores were closed in DOMODOSSOLA D54 and a preliminary report states that four to five thousand workers demonstrated in orderly fashion for more effective epuration.

(d) Rumours are current that a Communist-instigated rising will take place sometime in August. While it appears from present evidence that there is unlikely to be any basis of fact in these rumours, they are of interest because "there is no smoke without flame".

Two possible sources of such rumours are the public officials who, as stated above, are uneasy and therefore prone to exaggeration, and the industrialists and right wing elements who are anxious to stir up anti-Communist feeling and to embarrass the Allies with the dangers of Communist-inspired disturbances.

Should the rumours in fact originate from extremist sources it is possible that plans are being laid for bigger and better demonstrations to serve as dress rehearsals for more serious operations at a later date with a more exasperated population and a better possibility of a successful coup d'etat.

At present however any incipient revolt would appear to lack a definite opponent. The Ivanoe Coalition Government is not unpopular and is representative of all parties, while the popularity of the Allies among the bulk of the people remains extraordinarily strong and it would be at present very difficult

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

from organising politically, even though the pusillanimity of the others may make the extremists' job more easy.

Strikes demonstrations and disturbances.

(c) On 27 July all factories and stores were closed in DOMODOSSOLA D54 and a preliminary report states that four to five thousand workers demonstrated in orderly fashion for more effective epuration.

(d) Rumours are current that a Communist-instigated rising will take place sometime in August. While it appears from present evidence that there is unlikely to be any basis of fact in these rumours, they are of interest because "there is no smoke without flame".

Two possible sources of such rumours are the public officials who, as stated above, are uneasy and therefore prone to exaggeration, and the industrial rate and right wing elements who are anxious to stir up anti-Communist feeling and to impress the Allies with the dangers of Communist-inspired disorder.

Should the rumours in fact originate from extremist sources it is possible that plans are being laid for bigger and better demonstrations to serve as dress rehearsals for more serious operations at a later date with a more unnerved population and a better possibility of a successful coup d'etat.

At present however any incipient revolt would appear to lack a definite opponent. The Italian Coalition Government is not unpopular and is representative of all parties, while the popularity of the Allies among the bulk of the people remains extraordinarily strong and it would be at present very difficult to stir up much enthusiasm against us.

(e) Consultative Assembly, Constituent Assembly and Elections.

The Parri Government, with the consent and encouragement of Allied authorities, is committed to the preparation of constitutional reform in Italy. The foundation for this was laid by the second Rome Conference which last March approved the formation of a Consultative Assembly (Consulta) to act as an interim and

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

and representative advisory body for the Government, while the electoral machinery was being prepared and a Constituente Assembly (Costituente) elected. It seems fairly certain that the Consulta will dissolve when the Costituente is ready to function.

From statements of members of the Government, it appears that a Consulta meeting with general agreement from most political groups can start work about September 1st. Allied Commission report that according to recent decisions, this body will now contain some 400 members, distributed as follows: 211 members of the six parties, 20 members of parties outside the CLN, 24 representatives of the CGIL and 22 from other workers' groups, 16 spokemen for the partisans, four representatives of the Associazione "Combattenti" and two "Mutilati". The rest of the membership will be made up of the surviving members (uncorrupted by Fascism) of Italy's last freely-elected Parliament and the ministers and undersecretaries of the governments formed since the liberation of ROME (i.e., of the two Bonomi cabinets).

Meanwhile preparations are going on for the elections to the Costituente. The physical work involved in preparing electoral lists, with the difficulties due to loss and damage of records, displacement of persons, new electoral classes, epuration and plain inertia, make it unlikely that such lists will be completed before the end of the year.

Several important problems are as yet unsolved. How large is the Costituente going to be? How is it going to be elected; by proportional representation or by majority in each constituency? And are the constituencies to be based on the pre-fascist areas? The answers to these and other important questions will have to be worked out in the near future by the Government and the Consulta.

There has also been talk of a plebiscite to decide on the Monarchy/Republic question. The press has stated that the Allies are averse to such a plebiscite. Apart from any real or presumed Allied attitude, it would appear useless to hold such a plebiscite until the Costituente has made some concrete proposals; as it is obvious that it is the form and not the nameof a Monarchy or Republic that really counts.

1337

The public, at least in this part of the world, appears on the whole apathetic about all these questions. Nenni, who is charged with preparing the Costituente, has not yet publicly presented any concrete plans. The question of local government

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

contain some 400 members, distributed as follows: 211 members of the six parties, 20 members of parties outside the CLN, 24 representatives of the CGIL and 22 from other workers' groups, 16 spokesmen for the partisans, four representatives of the Associazione "Combattenti" and two "Mutilati". The rest of the membership will be made up of the surviving members (uncorrupted by Fascism) of Italy's last freely-elected Parliament and the ministers and undersecretaries of the governments formed since the liberation of ROME (i.e., of the two Bonomi cabinets).

Meanwhile preparations are going on for the elections to the Costituente. The physical work involved in preparing electoral lists, with the difficulties due to loss and damage of records, displacement of persons, new electoral classes, epuration and plain inertia, make it unlikely that such lists will be completed before the end of the year.

Several important problems are as yet unsolved. How large is the Costituente going to be? How is it going to be elected; by proportional representation or by majority in each constituency? And are the constituencies to be based on the pre-Fascist areas? The answers to these and other important questions will have to be worked out in the near future by the Government and the Consulte.

There has also been talk of a plebiscite to decide on the Monarchy/Republic question. The press has stated that the Allies are averse to such a plebiscite. Apart from any real or presumed Allied attitude, it would appear useless to hold such a plebiscite until the Costituente has made some concrete proposals; as it is obvious that it is the form and not the name of a Monarchy or Republic that really counts.

1337

The public, at least in this part of the world, appears on the whole apathetic about all these questions. Nenni, who is charged with preparing the Costituente, has not yet publicly presented any concrete plans. The question of local government elections has been mooted, but a large section of opinion holds that they should await the formation of the Costituente. Against this is the thought that local elections are long overdue and should not be delayed any further. The parties of the CLN are presumably preparing their programmes; but apart from some very general statements of policy, nothing has as yet been presented to the average voter for him to prepare to make a choice.

1554

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

We can assume that interest will increase from its present low levels; but the mass of the people still feel that elections are far away, and in the near future it is unlikely that enthusiasm in matters of constitutional details will replace the present day to day absorption in more living.

2. ECONOMIC

(a) ... General.

There is ~~no doubt~~ that the economic situation is growing steadily worse. Prices of consumer goods continue ~~steadily~~ to rise so that despite the recent wage increases essential articles such as footwear or furniture are quite beyond the reach of the average wage-earner. Uneasiness as to the future course of events is spreading among ever-widening classes, particularly as the natur and magnitude of the Allies' supply problems are now just beginning to be realised.

The fact that the industrial potential of North ITALY as regard relatively unscathed gave rise to a facile optimism and belief i. a rapid industrial recovery aided by prompt and large-scale imports from AMERICA and the UK. This state of mind completely obscured the real problems of world shortages, the claims of other devast ted countries, transport difficulties and turning over from war to peace production.

The Allies have been regrettably reticent about making these problems known to the Italian people in the North, though it has been frequently stressed by Parri and other ministers that in or er to deserve and receive help the Italians must show themselves ~~capable~~ of helping themselves. In this connection Allied Commission reports that ~~the~~ attitude taken in LONDON during recent conversations on the subject of ~~coal~~ for ITALY was that until ITALY obtained 1,536 maximum production from her own coal resources, viz., the Sardinian Coal Mines (where production is about half what it was under the Fascists in 1941), Italy's demands would not be looked on too favourably in view of the desperate European shortage.

(b) Treasury Bond Issue.

The 5% Treasury Bond Issue which was opened in the South ... of the North has now been extended to

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

(a) General.

There is no doubt that the economic situation is growing steadily worse. Prices of consumer goods continue steadily to rise so that despite the recent wage increases essential articles such as footwear or furniture are quite beyond the reach of the average wage-earner. Uneasiness as to the future course of events is spreading among ever-widening classes, particularly as the natur and magnitude of the Allies' supply problems are now just beginning to be realised.

The fact that the industrial potential of North ITALY emerged relatively unscathed gave rise to a facile optimism and belief in a rapid industrial recovery aided by prompt and large-scale imports from AMERICA and the UK. This state of mind completely obscured the real problems of world shortages, the claims of other devastated countries, transport difficulties and turning over from war to peace production.

The Allies have been regrettably reticent about making these problems known to the Italian people in the North, though it has been frequently stressed by Parri and other ministers that in order to deserve and receive help the Italians must show themselves capable of helping themselves. In this connection Allied Commission reports that the attitude taken in LONDON during recent conversations on the subject of coal for ITALY was that until ITALY obtained the maximum production from her own coal resources, viz., the Sardinian Coal Mines (where production is about half what it was under the Fascists in 1941), Italy's demands would not be looked on too favourably in view of the desperate European shortage.

(b) Treasury Bond Issue.

The 5% Treasury Bond Issue which was opened in the South prior to the liberation of the North has now been extended to the whole of North ITALY. In LOMBARDY and PIEDMONT the subscriptions are stated to be proceeding very well. Since the opening date 15 July to 25 July, 10,459,256,000 Lire in LOMBARDY and 4,866,113,500 Lire in PIEDMONT have been subscribed, largely in bank-notes. As large amounts of hoarded notes are now being handed into Banks, it is understood that the contemplated printing of issue of new bank-notes is no longer regarded as necessary as current needs will probably be met by the old issue.

The Italian Government in announcing the issue of the TreasuryBond intimated that the rate of the forthcoming extra-

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

ordinary tax on capital will be proportional to the success or failure of the present bond issue. It is reasonable to assume that the heavy subscription is due to the above warning and to the realisation that the bond issue is an important deflationary measure, rather than to any general confidence in the stability of the LIRA

(c) Cost of Living Bonus.

Although the labour situation has outwardly been quiet, women workers, sponsored by the UNIONE DONNE ITALIANE have been agitating for the same cost of living bonus as men.

Of the total industrial workers on payrolls in North ITALY, women represent approximately 30%.

In TURIN representatives of the Industrialists and the Camera del Lavoro met during the week and agreement was reached affecting all women in the TURIN province, though it is understood that AMG PIEDMONT Region is proposing to challenge the agreement on the grounds that the Prefect of TURIN signed under pressure.

Meanwhile discussions have been taking place in MILAN with a view to reaching a similar agreement for the whole of MILAN province.

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE (Period 21 to 28 July 45).

Eleven persons connected with CIS were arrested in DISTWO during the period covered by this report. One of these committed suicide on being apprehended. Three of them were French subjects.

Four persons expelled from SWITZERLAND by the Swiss authorities were arrested by frontier CIC at CHIASSO. They included one SD agent.

1335

Lt Col.
G.S.

MFS/SG.

DISTRIBUTION: the same as for Intelligence Summary No. 6, plus:

British Embassy ROME

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

Of the total industrial workers on payrolls in North ITALY, women represent approximately 30%.

In TURIN representatives of the Industrialists and the Camera del Lavoro met during the week and agreement was reached affecting all women in the TURIN province, though it is understood that ANC PIEDMONT Region is proposing to challenge the agreement on the grounds that the Prefect of TURIN signed under pressure.

Meanwhile discussions have been taking place in MILAN with a view to reaching a similar agreement for the whole of MILAN province.

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE (Period 21 to 28 July 45).

Eleven persons connected with GIS were arrested in DISTWO during the period covered by this report. One of these committed suicide on being apprehended. Three of them were French subjects.

Four persons expelled from SWITZERLAND by the Swiss authorities were arrested by frontier CIC at CHIASSO. They included one SD agent.

1335

MFS/SG.

Lt Col.
G.S.

DISTRIBUTION: the same as for Intelligence Summary No. 6, plus:

British Embassy ROME
U.S. Embassy ROME
Regional Public Safety Officer, ANC VENEZIE.

I 5 5 8

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

NOT TO BE PASSED TO GRUPPO

G1 for 2
G2
G3

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
General Staff Intelligence
C M F

GSI/2355

21 July 1945

2 DISTRICT WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 6

1 POLITICAL

(a) ITALY's declaration of War on JAPAN and the Big Three Meeting in POTSDAM is giving the press an opportunity of reiterating the demand for recognition of ITALY as an Ally and for granting herself a government. Signor PARRI's speech in this connection on 13 July was widely acclaimed.

In MILAN citizens were exhorted by gay posters and placards in French, English and Italian to celebrate the 14th of July as a symbol of the fraternity of all nations and as the anniversary of the victory of democracy. The Milanese accepted the invitation with enthusiasm, and celebrated in true Parisian style. No similar festivities took place in the Val d'Aosta.

(b) The TURIN newspaper LA STAMPA appeared for the first time since the liberation on 18 July. Since it became known that LA STAMPA would reappear several protests had been lodged with AMG, AFHQ and the Italian Government by representatives of the political parties and by the CLN. The demonstration which occurred on the morning of the paper's rebirth was therefore not unexpected.

Demonstrators forced their way into the printing office, seized copies of the paper and other documents and burnt them in the street. Contrary to certain press reports no damage was done to the printing presses and there were no casualties.

The demonstrators stated that they could not tolerate the reappearance under its old name of this fascist newspaper even though it claims to be a non-party information paper. The probable real reasons for the demonstration are that it is feared that the publication of LA STAMPA will reduce the sales of party papers and that LA STAMPA is suspected of having "reactionary" backing.

Whatever the actual reasons were, the demonstrators have been taken at their word and after 48 hours of negotiation during which all newspapers in TURIN were suspended, publication was permitted again on 21 July and LA NUOVA STAMPA was among them.

(c) The release of DONEGANI from gaol through alleged improper procedure on the part of the Milan Questura has caused much adverse comment in the party newspapers and the CLNAI has demanded action against those responsible. DONEGANI was a prominent Fascist and

1334

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

(a) ITALY's declaration of War on JAPAN and the Big Three Meeting in POTSDAM is giving the press an opportunity of reiterating the demand for recognition of ITALY as an Ally and for granting herself a government. Signor PARRI's speech in this connection on 13 July was widely acclaimed.

In MILAN citizens were exhorted by gay posters and placards in French, English and Italian to celebrate the 14th of July as a symbol of the fraternity of all nations and as the anniversary of the victory of democracy. The Milanese accepted the invitation with enthusiasm, and celebrated in true Parisian style. No similar festivities took place in the Val d'Aosta.

(b) The TURIN newspaper LA STAMPA appeared for the first time since the liberation on 18 July. Since it became known that LA STAMPA would reappear several protests had been lodged with A.M.G., ANC and the Italian Government by representatives of the political parties and by the CLN. The demonstration which occurred on the morning of the paper's rebirth was therefore not unexpected.

Demonstrators forced their way into the printing office, seized copies of the paper and other documents and burnt them in the street. Contrary to certain press reports no damage was done to the printing presses and there were no casualties.

The demonstrators stated that they could not tolerate the reappearance under its old name of this fascist newspaper even though it claims to be a non-party information paper. The probable real reasons for the demonstration are that it is feared that the publication of LA STAMPA will reduce the sales of party papers and that LA STAMPA is suspected of having "reactionary" backing.

1334

Whatever the actual reasons were, the demonstrators have been taken at their word and after 48 hours of negotiation during which all newspapers in TURIN were suspended, publication was permitted again on 21 July and IL NUOVA STAMPA was among them.

(c) The release of DONEGANI from gaol through alleged improper procedure on the part of the Milan Questura has caused much adverse comment in the party newspapers and the CLNAI has demanded action against those responsible. DONEGANI was a prominent Fascist and president of the Montecatini Chemical Combine, which firm he was instrumental in building up to its present size and importance. Meanwhile DONEGANI has disappeared, and local rumour as to his present whereabouts range wildly from the Vatican or Switzerland to an Allied aeroplane!

...../2

1560
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(d) Appendix "A" attached shows roughly in diagrammatic form the grouping of the six main political parties.

2 ECONOMIC

(a) WAGES IN GENOA

The new Wage Agreement reported in Summary No 5, was agreed on in MILAN and intended to apply to the whole of North Italy. However, on 26 June, that is, previous to the MILAN meeting, a separate wage agreement for Genoa had been signed between representatives of the employers and workers. It provides for the minimum monthly basic wages ranging between 6000 and 7500 lire for all full-time as well as idle workers still on firm's payrolls and covers the period 16 June to 30 Sept. Employers in Genoa are endeavouring to bring Genoa in line with Milan since the new wages in the former city compare favourably with those in Milan. The Camera del Lavoro in Genoa however, has so far refused to recognise the Milan agreement on the grounds that the figures agreed on in Genoa represent a bare necessary minimum. A comparison, as under, of certain monthly wages for workers without dependants gives an idea of the differences:-

	MILAN	GENOA
	(Lire per month)	
Skilled worker	6032	7500
Semi-skilled worker	5762	7000
Skilled labourer	5345	6500
Unskilled labourer	4784	6000

It is to be noted that in addition all workers receive a messing allowance of L 208 per month.

(b) NORTH ITALY TEXTILE OPERATIVES TRADE UNION

At a meeting of the Federazione Impiegati Operai Tessili per l'Alta Italia held in MILAN on 17 July, resolutions were passed calling among other suggested measures, for:-

(i) taking over by the workers of factories whose managements are holding up production for speculative purposes.

(ii) setting up workers committees to uncover raw materials needed for production which have been hidden by speculators whom they will denounce.

1332

While the Trades Union has no executive powers to enforce the first resolution, preparations are already in hand to carry out the second.

I 5 6 1

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

agreed on in MILAN and intended to apply to the whole of North Italy. However, on 26 June, that is, previous to the MILAN meeting, a separate wage agreement for Genoa had been signed between representatives of the employers and workers. It provides for the minimum monthly basic wages ranging between 6000 and 7500 lire for all full-time as well as file workers still on firm's payrolls and covers the period 16 June to 30 Sept. Employers in Genoa are endeavouring to bring Genoa in line with Milan since the new wages in the former city compare favourably with those in Milan. The Camera del Lavoro in Genoa however, has so far refused to recognise the Milan agreement on the grounds that the figures agreed on in Genoa represent a bare necessary minimum. A comparison, as under, of certain monthly wages for workers without dependants gives an idea of the differences:-

	MILAN	GENOA
	(Lire per month)	
Skilled worker	6032	7500
Semi-skilled worker	5762	7000
Skilled labourer	5345	6500
Unskilled labourer	4784	6000

It is to be noted that in addition all workers receive a messing allowance of L 200 per month.

(b) NORTH ITALY TEXTILE OPERATIVES TRADE UNION

At a meeting of the Federazione Impiegati Operai Tessili per l'Alta Italia held in MILAN on 17 July, resolutions were passed calling among other suggested measures, for:-

(i) taking over by the workers of factories whose managements are holding up production for speculative purposes.

(ii) setting up workers committees to uncover raw materials needed for production which have been hidden by speculaters whom they will denounce.

While the Trades Union has no executive powers to enforce the first resolution, preparations are already in hand to carry out the second.

(c) Appendix "B" attached gives details of Controlled and Black Market Prices for certain staple commodities in MILAN Province.

(d) Appendix "C" gives short notes on four important civil government organisations

(i) The CGIL.
(ii) The Camera del Lavoro.
(iii) The Consorzio Agrario.
(iv) SE.PR.AL.

...../5

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

3 COUNTER INTELLIGENCE

A total of ten persons connected with the German Intelligence Service were arrested in 2 District area during the period 13 to 19 July. None was of particular interest.

Lt Col
GS

DISTRIBUTION: the same as for Intelligence Summary No 5 plus:

56 BIU (Mantova Gruppo)

1332

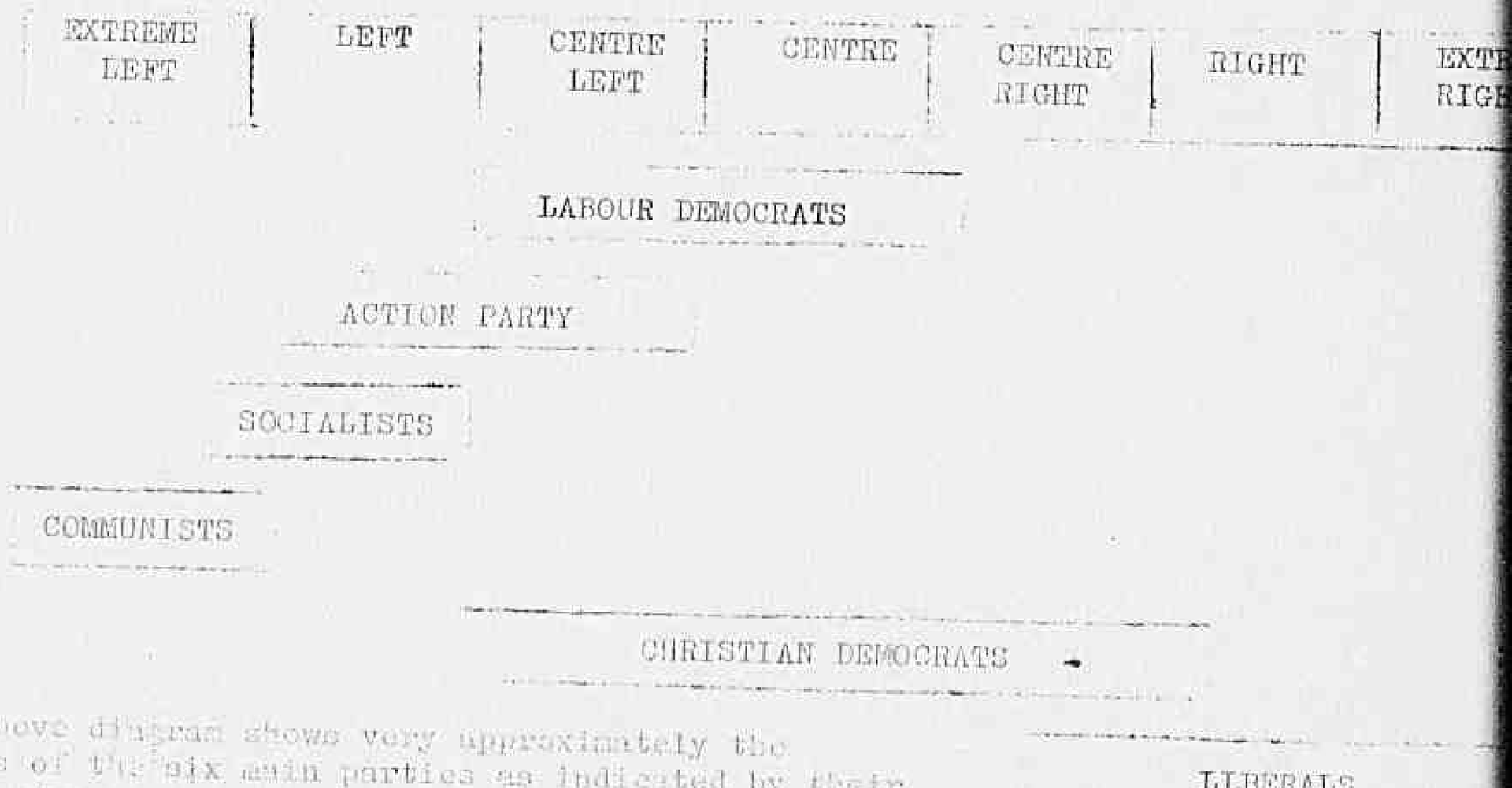
I 5 6 3

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

1564

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

APPENDIX



NOTES

1 The above diagram shows very approximately the tendencies of the six main parties as indicated by their published programmes.

2 It is emphasised that the size of each party block does NOT give any indication of of the party.

3 For the sake of simplicity no account has been taken of subtler trends emanating le opinion expressed by leading figures of the different parties (e.g. the present tender Action Party to split and to extend further left and further right).

1565

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

APPENDIX "A"

EME FT	LEFT	CENTRE LEFT	CENTRE	CENTRE RIGHT	RIGHT	EXTREME RIGHT

LABOUR DEMOCRATS

ACTION PARTY

SOCIALISTS

ESTS

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

LIBERALS

ca shows very approximately the
ix main parties as indicated by their
e.

d that the size of each party block does not give any indication of the strength

simplicity no account has been taken of subtle trends emanating largely from
leading figures of the different parties (e.g. the present tendency of the
t and to extend further left and further right).

APPENDIX "B"

Controlled & Black Market Prices in MILAN PROVINCE

The following table gives the controlled and black market prices in MILAN PROVINCE, of 16 principal commodities. It is to be observed that while most of the prices approximate those obtaining in the South, bread, and and rice, which is largely grown in the PO valley, are notably cheaper.

COMMODITIES (1)	CONTROLLED PRICES AT 20/7/45 (2)	BLACK MARKET PRICES AT 20/7/45 (a) (3)	BLACK MARKET PRICES AT 30/6/45 (b) (4)
Bread	per Kg L 5.-	per Kg 125/35.-	Per Kg L 50/80.-
Maccaroni	3.80	70/75.-	-
Flour, wheat	2.50	40/45.-	45/55.-
Flour, maize	4.20	30/35.-	-
Rice, cheap	6.60	35.-	-
Rice, fine	8.60	40.-	-
Oil, olive	-	700.-	1000/2000.-
Butter	80.-	600/700.-	-
Lard, bacon	56.-	700.-	650/800.-
Tomato extract	31.-	200.-	150/180.-
Milk (per litre)	15.-	30.-	26.-
Cheese, hard	65.50	400/500.-	-
Cheese, fresh	50.-	250/300.-	200/300.-
Sugar	27.-	650/700.-	200/300.-
Meat with bone	43.-	450/500.-	550/600.-
Meat without bone	62.-	650/700.-	
Salami, raw	92.-	550/600.-	-
Canned meat (each)	9.40	150.-	-
Wine (per litre)	-	100/120.-	100/150.-
Eggs (each)	-	-	40/46.-
Salt	2.50	200/250.-	100/400.-

(a) Data provided by SEPRAL.

(b) Data derived from censorship sources.

1330

I 5 6 6

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

APPENDIX "C"

CGIL (The Italian General Federation of Labour)

The Confederazione Generale Italiano del Lavoro (CGIL) has its head office in ROME and controls all the professional trades unions of Italian workers (manual workers, technicans, professional men, artistes, etc) in industry, agriculture, commerce, insurance, banking and all other public and private enterprises.

The main aims of the CGIL are to defend the interests - professional, economic and moral both collectively and individually, of all workers and to promote a progressive improvement in their conditions of living,

The CGIL has also the aim of raising the cultural level and the technical qualifications of the workers by means of an increased public educational system, by professional schools, by libraries and popular universities, as well as by the creation of appropriate cultural and recreational centres.

CAMERA DEL LAVORO(Provincial Labour Offices)

The Camera del Lavoro is a Trade Union organisation as the term is understood in Great Britain, i.e. it is neither a Government nor Political Organisation and it has no statutory powers. The Camera del Lavoro are the outlying units of the CGIL.

Each Camera del Lavoro is composed of representatives from all the provincial trades unions of its province. To it belong also any odd trades unions for which there is no provincial union. In all important areas of the province and in particular in those areas which are the principal centres of rural or urban districts there may be formed ancillary labour offices (rural or urban)which may be either Sections or Branches of the Camera del Lavoro. The individual local trades unions come under the Camera del Lavoro and via the provincial HQ of the particular branch or category, adhere to the CGIL. Where any type or category of work has no provincial union, it can adhere directly to the Camera del Lavoro.

Joint Secretaries from all parties are appointed to direct the activities of each Camera del Lavoro; the numbers in each vary according to the size and importance of its area of influence. Milan Province, which is regarded the most influential in the whole of Italy has three, one Communist, one Socialist and one Christian Democrat.

1329

The assignments of the Camere del Lavoro are the same as that of the CGIL but on a provincial level. They organise all wage earners in trades and professions. This freedom to organise has also been extended to AMG territory. They coordinate, direct and represent the trades unions of the province. They study all the social problems which affect the working masses in the province, collect and elaborate data on the situation of the various branches of work, unemployment,

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

The CGIL has also the aim of raising the cultural level and the technical qualifications of the workers by means of an increased public educational system, by professional schools, by libraries and popular universities, as well as by the creation of appropriate cultural and recreational centres.

CAMERA DEL LAVORO(Provincial Labour Offices)

The Camera del Lavoro is a Trade Union organisation as the term is understood in Great Britain, i.e. it is neither a Government nor Political Organisation and it has no statutory powers. The Camere del Lavoro are the executive units of the CGIL.

Each Camera del Lavoro is composed of representatives from all the provincial trades unions of its province. To it belong also any odd trades unions for which there is no provincial union. In all important areas of the province and in particular in those areas which are the principal centres of rural or urban districts there may be formed ancillary labour offices (rural or urban)which may be either Sections or Branches of the Camera del Lavoro. The individual local trades unions come under the Camera del Lavoro and via the provincial [illegible] of the particular branch or category, adhere to the CGIL. Where any type or category of work has no provincial union, it can adhere directly to the Camera del Lavoro.

Joint Secretaries from all parties are appointed to direct the activities of each Camera del Lavoro; the numbers in each vary according to the size and importance of its area of influence. Milan Province, which is regarded the most influential in the whole of Italy has three, one Communist, one Socialist and one Christian Democrat.

1329

The assignments of the Camere del Lavoro are the same as that of the CGIL but on a provincial level. They organise all wage earners in trades and professions. Their freedom to organise has also been extended to ALL territory. They coordinate, direct and represent the trades unions of the province. They study all the social problems which affect the working masses in the province, collect and elaborate data on the situation of the various branches of work, unemployment, trend of labour market etc. and furnish required information to Provincial Trades Unions or such other unions as come within their sphere.

The Camere del Lavoro assure the normal functioning of medical and legal aid and act as consultants for all the workers in the province for every branch of assurance and social insurance. They take care of propaganda and the education of "trade-union-consciousness" of the working men in the individual provinces; help local and provincial trades unions in negotiations and if it comes to that, in their "struggles".

...../2

1568

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

CONSORZIO AGRARIO (Agricultural Marketing Board)

This organisation is not truly a Government Department, although its activities are subject to Government Control where and when necessary. Its functions within the civil supply framework are the following:-

(a) to purchase, collect and warehouse crops of locally grown food which are subject to control or rationing

(b) to warehouse these locally grown foods and to sell them to the Communes at established fixed prices and in the quantities released by the Provincial Supply Officer to meet normal ration requirements;

(c) to warehouse imported food sold to Sepral by AMG and to release it in accordance with the same procedure as the one described for the release of locally-grown produce.

In carrying out these and other services involving the handling or processing of controlled foods, Consorzio Agrario will act as Agents for Sepral.

SE.PR.AL Sezione Provinciale Alimentazione (Provincial Food Office)

This Government Controlled (Semi-Sepral) agency whose powers and jurisdiction are limited to the Province in which it has its headquarters, is the nearest equivalent that exists (on the provincial level) to a Ministry of Food. Operating through this organisation, the Supply Officer AMG is able to effect distribution throughout the communes of his province of the rationed or controlled food allotted to him by the Regional Food Controller. Technical questions concerning ration cards, rationing regulations and offences and the general handling of controlled food falls within the province of this vitally important agency.

Locally-grown food which is subject to control or rationing, will normally be purchased from the growers by the Consorzio Agrario at the prices established by AMG Headquarters.

All controlled food, whether imported or locally grown will be released to Sepral from Consorzio Agrario warehouses (which, when used for this purpose, will have the status of bonded warehouses) solely on the basis of releases given by the Provincial Supply Officer within the allocations received from Regional Food Controller.

1328

I 5 6 9
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

(a) to purchase, collect and warehouse crops of locally grown food which are subject to control or rationing

(b) to warehouse these locally grown foods and to sell them to the firm under established fixed prices and in the quantities released by the Provincial Supply Officer to meet normal ration requirements;

(c) to warehouse imported food sold to Sogral by AIC and to release it in accordance with the same procedure as that one described for the release of locally-grown produce.

In carrying out these and other services involving the handling or processing of controlled foods, Consorzio Agrario will act as Agents for Sogral.

SG.Fl.41 Sezione Provinciale Alimentazione (Provincial Food Office)

This Government Controlled (Para-Statal) agency whose powers and jurisdiction are limited to the Province in which it has its headquarters, is the nearest equivalent that exists (on the provincial level) to a Ministry of Food. Operating through this organization, the Supply Officer AIC is able to effect distribution throughout the communes of his province of the rationed or controlled food allotted to him by the Regional Food Controller. Technical questions concerning ration cards, rationing regulations and offences and the general handling of controlled food falls within the province of this vitally important agency.

Locally-grown food which is subject to control or rationing, will normally be purchased from the growers by the Consorzio Agrario at the prices established by AIC Headquarters.

All controlled food, whether imported or locally grown will be released to Sogral from Consorzio Agrario warehouses (which, when used for this purpose, will have the status of bonded warehouses) solely on the basis of release given by the Provincial Supply Officer within the allocations received from Regional Food Controller.

1324

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

1571

1572

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

ACC 10000/120/6264 G/54 (52 BLU) INTELLIGENCE BULLETINS

(2072 folders)

Feb. 25, 1945 - Nov. 16, 1945

1573

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

52 BLU)

INTELLIGENCE BULLETINS

Feb. 25, 1945 - Nov. 16, 1945

(1290
1462)

2 1/2

NOT TO BE PASSED

TO GRUPPO

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
General Staff Intelligence
GHP

GSI/2355
14 July 45.

2 DISTRICT WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

NUMBER 5

INTRODUCTION

The object of this summary is primarily to give Allied formations and units within 2 District information affecting the internal security of the area. It also serves to amplify some subjects treated in a weekly signalled appreciation to AFHQ, which is issued on a strictly limited distribution.

Strikes, demonstrations and disturbances likely to affect the internal security of the area can be attributed to two main causes:- firstly the economic situation, which is the key to the problem, and colours and to a certain extent governs the second cause which is the political situation. Economics and Politics accordingly form the backbone of the summary.

In order to understand Italian economic and political activities it is necessary to have some background knowledge of the various existing organisations and institutions. An attempt is therefore made to explain their chief functions and characteristics as they are mentioned in the summary.

Any suggestions for improvement in format or subject matter will be gratefully received.

1327

A limited number of copies of the first four summaries are available on request.

1. POLITICAL

(a) In North Italy twenty three years of political

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

The object of this summary is primarily to give Allied formations and units within 2 District information affecting the internal security of the area. It also serves to amplify some subjects treated in a weekly signalled appreciation to AFHQ, which is issued on a strictly limited distribution.

Strikes, demonstrations and disturbances likely to affect the internal security of the area can be attributed to two main causes:- firstly the economic situation, which is the key to the problem, and colours and to a certain extent governs the second cause which is the political situation. Economics and Politics accordingly form the backbone of the summary.

In order to understand Italian economic and political activities it is necessary to have some background knowledge of the various existing organisations and institutions. An attempt is therefore made to explain their chief functions and characteristics as they are mentioned in the summary.

Any suggestions for improvement in format or subject matter will be gratefully received. 1327

A limited number of copies of the first four summaries are available on request.

1. POLITICAL

(a) In North Italy twenty three years of political repression has inevitably resulted both in a certain political exuberance encouraged by the intoxicating atmosphere of sudden liberation, and in a state of political immaturity affecting the mass of the population which had been unable to exercise its democratic rights under Fascist rule. Thus, while party activities and propaganda continue unabated the "man in the street" is inclined to be indifferent and to support any government - of whatever political colour - which will give him regular work and a full stomach. His interest is in fact almost entirely absorbed in ensuring for himself the necessities of life which high prices and real or threatened unemployment at present often make it hard for him to procure.

1575

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

(b) Much is still being said about a possible amalgamation of, or at least a closer co-operation between, the Communist and the Socialist parties. It seems, however, that each of these two parties is prepared to consider such an arrangement only if the other party is willing to adopt the main points of its political programme.

(c) Regarding the split in the ACTION PARTY reported last week (see Weekly Summary No 4 of 7 July 45), there now appears to be a definite break between the Socialists and Communists on the one side, and the Demo-Christians, Party of Action and Liberals on the other side. The final attitude of left and right wings of the PARTITO D'AZIONE is not yet clear.

(d) The PARTITO LIBERALE has become more active lately, and seems less inclined than before to take part in mixed organisations. The Liberals have withdrawn recently from the UNIONE DELLE DONNE ITALIANE and from the FRONTE DELLA GIOVENTÙ.

The FRONTE DELLA GIOVENTÙ, was formed in October 1943 as a mass resistance organisation. Its founder was a young Communist, EUGENIO CURIEL, who was assassinated in February 1945 in MILAN. Although Communist inspired, it recruits its members amongst all parties and even takes in non-party members. It was headed by a Central Committee consisting of representatives of the Socialist, Communist, Action, Liberal, Republican and Demo-Christian parties, as well as two non-party members. The Demo-Christians and Liberals have, however, withdrawn recently, thus leaving only leftist party representation in the organisation.

Cultural lectures, political education of the masses and sports activities are the immediate and open aims of the FRONTE DELLA GIOVENTÙ.

1326

During the clandestine period, the UNIONE DELLE DONNE ITALIANE and the GRUPPI DIFESA DELLA DONNA took a very active part in the general resistance movement and contributed in organising strikes, "go slow" activity and mass agitations. Many of their

I 5 7 6

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

right wings of the PARTITO D'AZIONE is not yet clear.

(d) The PARTITO LIBERALE has become more active lately, and seems less inclined than before to take part in mixed organisations. The Liberals have withdrawn recently from the UNIONE DELLE DONNE ITALIANE and from the FRONTE DELLA GIOVENTÙ.

The FRONTE DELLA GIOVENTÙ, was formed in October 1943 as a mass resistance organisation. Its founder was a young Communist, EUGENIO CURIEL, who was assassinated in February 1945 in MILAN. Although Communist inspired, it recruits its members amongst all parties and even takes in non-party members. It was headed by a Central Committee consisting of representatives of the Socialist, Communist, Action, Liberal, Republican and Democ-Christian parties, as well as two non-party members. The Democ-Christians and Liberals have, however, withdrawn recently, thus leaving only leftist party representation in the organisation.

Cultural lectures, political education of the masses and sports activities are the immediate and open aims of the FRONTE DELLA GIOVENTÙ.

1326

During the clandestine period, the UNIONE DELLE DONNE ITALIANE and the GRUPPI DIFESA DELLA DONNA took a very active part in the general resistance movement and contributed in organising strikes, "go slow" activity and mass agitations. Many of their members were also used as couriers, and helped the SAP, GAP and partisan bands in their sabotage work. The two movements have now united and are organising the political activities of the women members of the Action, Socialist and Communist Parties.

(e) A preliminary pact of federation has been signed in MILAN between the PARTITO DEMOCRATICO DEL LAVORO, ALTA ITALIA, and the PARTITO DEI CONTADINI. According to clause 1 of this pact, the PARTITO DEI CONTADINI, whilst retaining its autonomous status and

I 5 7 7

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

complete economic and syndical independence, recognises the PARTITO DEMOCRATICO DEL LAVORO as sole expression of its political organisation, and voluntarily affiliates itself with it.

Clause 4 further adds that the organisation of the PARTITO DEI CONTADINI falls within the general organisation of the PARTITO DEMOCRATICO DEL LAVORO ALTA ITALIA, and that both parties will have common HQ under the name of "PARTITO DEMOCRATICO DEL LAVORO ALTA-ITALIA". This agreement is to be ratified in ROME.

2. ECONOMIC

(a) The New Wage Agreement

The most important economic event of the week has been the new wage agreement. It provides for 100% wage increases for full and part time workers and 75% of the above for idle workers still on the payrolls of firms. The agreement also makes it binding on the employers to pay the full amount for the full and part time workers and one third for the idle workers, the remaining two thirds being borne by the State through the Cassa Integrazioni Salari, which is a form of unemployment fund.

The agreement provides for increases not only for factory workers but also for other office staffs and salaried employees, but idle workers who are not on any payroll, i.e., the unemployed in the normally accepted sense of the term, do not benefit and still only receive the basic State dole.

No detailed figures are available to show the number of workers falling within the various categories, but AMG estimate that in LOMBARDY roughly 20% are employed full time, and 40% are employed part time. Of the remaining 40% the majority are idle but retained on payrolls, while the minority are not on any payroll and receive only the State dole.

1325

The agreement covers the period 25 June to 30 September, and although a valuable temporary palliative to social unrest it is clearly only an interim measure.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

2. ECONOMIC

(a) The New Wage Agreement

The most important economic event of the week has been the new wage agreement. It provides for 100% wage increases for full and part time workers and 75% of the above for idle workers still on the payrolls of firms. The agreement also makes it binding on the employers to pay the full amount for the full and part time workers and one third for the idle workers, the remaining two thirds being borne by the State through the Cassa Integrazioni Salari, which is a form of unemployment fund.

The agreement provides for increases not only for factory workers but also for other office staffs and salaried employees, but idle workers who are not on any payroll, i.e., the unemployed in the normally accepted sense of the term, do not benefit and still only receive the basic State dole.

No detailed figures are available to show the number of workers falling within the various categories, but AMG estimate that in LOMBARDY roughly 20% are employed full time, and 40% are employed part time. Of the remaining 40% the majority are idle but retained on payrolls, while the minority are not on any payroll and receive only the State dole.

1325

The agreement covers the period 25 June to 30 September, and although a valuable temporary palliative to social unrest it is clearly only an interim measure. The chief factor in a final solution remains the importation of coal and raw materials, of which there is a world wide shortage.

(b) Prices

It is generally expected that prices will continue to rise, though there has been no significant upward trend in the last week. Large quantities of the new wheat crop are being hoarded or sold on

1579

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

the black market because the "controlled" price is only 750 to 830 lire per quintal whereas the cost of production in, for instance, the PAVIA district K 13, which is reckoned to be the most fertile area in North ITALY, is estimated by the Central Economic Commission of the CLNAI to average 1720 lire per quintal.

The Black Market, which flourished under Fascist rule and German Occupation, will certainly continue to do so unabated until a healthy flow of goods from industry and commerce is restored, and supply begins to approximate demand. The alternative of a strict and comprehensive rationing scheme, as instituted in Great Britain and the United States, is apparently impossible owing to the lack of the enormous Civil Service machinery necessary to run it.

3. PARTISANS

(a) On 9 July 1945 the Questure of MILAN arrested GIUSEPPE MARMOSIN, ex-commander of the "PASUBIO" Partisan division, together with various other leaders of the same division. They are accused of common crimes and of illegal appropriation of important sums of money.

This firm action by the Italian Police authorities has been favourably commented on in the press and is interpreted as a turning-point towards law and order which has too often, since the liberation, been ignored and transgressed by ex-Partisans.

Whether in fact a turning-point has been reached is doubtful. Summary executions still occur, though less frequently; on 8th July a deplorable incident occurred at SCHIO P 98 when the gaol was broken open and 43 prisoners were killed on the spot and 30 wounded of whom several died subsequently, and in our own area on the night of 11/12 July, 33 prisoners succeeded 1324 in escaping from the SAN VITTORE prison in MILAN. The escapees, who were all under arrest for common crimes, are described as ex-Partisans, or, according to other sources, as "false" Partisans. This undisturbed and spectacular escape can only have succeeded with help from both inside and outside. The prison guards included a certain number of ex-Partisans who are

1580

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

goods from industry and [illegible]. The alternative supply begins to approximate demand. The alternative of a strict and comprehensive rationing scheme, as instituted in Great Britain and the United States, is apparently impossible owing to the lack of the enormous Civil Servced machinery necessary to run it.

3. PARTISANS

(a) On 9 July 1945 the Questura of MILAN arrested GIUSEPPE MARCOSIN, ex-commander of the "PASUBIO" Partisan division, together with various other leaders of the same division. They are accused of common crimes and of illegal appropriation of important sums of money.

This firm action by the Italian Police authorities has been favourably commented on in the press and is interpreted as a turning-point towards law and order which has too often, since the liberation, been ignored and transgressed by ex-Partisans.

Whether in fact a turning-point has been reached is doubtful. Summary executions still occur, though less frequently; on 8th July a deplorable incident occurred at SCHIO [illegible] when the gaol was broken open and 43 prisoners were killed on the spot and 30 wounded of whom several died subsequently, and in our own area on the night of 11/12 July, 33 prisoners succeeded in escaping from the SAN VITTORE prison in MILAN. The escapees, who were all under arrest for common crimes, are described as ex-Partisans, or, according to other sources, as "false" Partisans. This undisturbed and spectacular escape can only have succeeded with help from both inside and outside. The prison guards included a certain number of ex-Partisans who are being replaced by Carabinieri.

(b) A clandestine news-sheet "IL PARTIGIANO" was published recently in the IVREA area [illegible] 27. So far only one number has been issued. Most of the articles, written in a very moderate tone, stress the necessity for more and better apuration not only in industrial and commercial firms but in public administration where, they claim, key positions are still held by Fascists and collaborators some of whom pose as "true" partisans whereas they really only joined

1324

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

the resistance movement at the eleventh hour. The news-sheet is interesting in that it gives written expression to discontent which is known to be widespread among "true" ex-partisans who claim that they are not being given due tribute for their work during the resistance period.

(c) Official figures to 11 July for handing in of arms and recruitment of ex-Partisans into the Army and Police are as follows:-

PIEDMONT : 39,000 registered Partisans have handed in 39,260 arms of all types. 300 Partisans have joined the Army and 2,500 have joined the Police.

LIGURIA : 14,000 registered Partisans have handed in 14,465 arms of all types. 68 have joined the Army and 1,020 have joined the Police.

LOMBARDIA: No recent figures yet available.

4. FRONTIER SITUATION

(a) Swiss Frontier

(i) Repatriation from SWITZERLAND of Italian partisans, interned soldiers, Finance Guards and Carabinieri, and civilian refugees, which began on 29 June via PONTE CHIASSO E 10 and through the SIMPLON tunnel to DOMODOSSOLA D 54 has progressed smoothly and about half of the total 39,000 persons involved have already been cleared. Screening has so far revealed no enemy agents among the repatriates. 1323

(ii) A successful raid was carried out on 5 July against a ring of contraband runners in the TIRANO area A 04. The raid resulted in the arrest of 29 persons including four Finance Guards, and the confiscation of over 10 million lire worth of soldering metal, tyres, foodstuffs, optical instruments and currency. The ring which appears to be run from MILAN consists of buyers, and squads of professional smugglers who carry the contraband across established

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

PIEDMONT : 35,000 registered Partisans have handed in 39,260 arms of all types. 300 Partisans have joined the Army and 2,500 have joined the Police.

LIGURIA : 14,000 registered Partisans have handed in 14,465 arms of all types. 66 have joined the Army and 1,020 have joined the Police.

LOMBARDIA: No recent figures yet available.

4. FRONTIER SITUATION

(a) Swiss Frontier

(i) Repatriation from SWITZERLAND of Italian partisans, interned soldiers, Finance Guards and Carabinieri, and civilian refugees, which began on 29 June via PONTE CHIASSO E 10 and through the SIMPLON tunnel to DOMODOSSOLA D 54 has progressed smoothly and about half of the total 39,000 persons involved have already been cleared. Screening has so far revealed no enemy agents among the repatriates.

1323

(ii) A successful raid was carried out on 5 July against a ring of contraband runners in the TIRANO area A 04. The raid resulted in the arrest of 29 persons including four Finance Guards, and the confiscation of over 10 million lire worth of soldering metal, tyres, foodstuffs, optical instruments and currency. The ring which appears to be run from MILAN consists of buyers, and squads of professional smugglers who carry the contraband across established routes. The complicity and participation of ex-partisans has been proved. Police investigations are still proceeding and will probably result in further arrests.

(b) French Frontier

French troops in Italian territory have now been completely relieved and have returned to FRANCE. There have been some rumours of intended

1583

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

reprisals against those Italians who showed pro-French sympathies during the period of French occupation, but so far no incidents have been reported.

5. COUNTER INTELLIGENCE

(a) Arrests

A total of eleven persons connected with the German Intelligence Service were arrested in IV Corps area during the period 6 - 12 July. None was of particular interest.

(b) Subversive Movement

The activities of an alleged underground terrorist group in VERONA were investigated by CIC, Fifth Army. This group, which is alleged to have branches in other cities and to be directed from MILAN, was reported desirous of provoking general unrest and anti-Allied feeling. Its method of procedure is essentially violent and terroristic. It had planned a wave of terrorism, including the assassination of Allied officers and others, in furtherance of these aims. The group is apparently well supplied with arms, money and means of transportation.

A raid on members of this subversive movement was conducted by CIC, Fifth Army, at dawn on 10 July. A total of twenty persons were arrested, including all six of the main figures of the group. Several deposits of arms and ammunition were uncovered and large quantities of money were found in possession of the arrested persons. One of the arrestees was in possession of gold and silver coins of various countries and two large silver ingots. 1322

Interrogation of the suspects confirmed the reports that the group was involved in a terroristic organisation. It is believed that many members of the group are former Fascists and collaborators with the Germans. Initial interrogation of some of the arrestees indicates that a few members of this captured band participated in the massacre at SCHIO (see paragraph 3 a). Interrogation of these individuals and further arrests are continuing, and it is expected that information will be secured on the total network of this subversive movement and on its leaders.

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

(b) Subversive Movement

The activities of an alleged underground terrorist group in VERONA were investigated by CIC, Fifth Army. This group, which is alleged to have branches in other cities and to be directed from MILAN, was reported desirous of provoking general unrest and anti-Allied feeling. Its method of procedure is essentially violent and terroristic. It had planned a wave of terrorism, including the assassination of Allied officers and others, in furtherance of these aims. The group is apparently well supplied with arms, money and means of transportation.

A raid on members of this subversive movement was conducted by CIC, Fifth Army, at dawn on 10 July. A total of twenty persons were arrested, including all six of the main figures of the group. Several deposits of arms and ammunition were uncovered and large quantities of money were found in possession of the arrested persons. One of the arrestees was in possession of gold and silver coins of various countries and two large silver ingots. 1322

Interrogation of the suspects confirmed the reports that the group was involved in a terroristic organisation. It is believed that many members of the group are former Fascists and collaborators with the Germans. Initial interrogation of some of the arrestees indicates that a few members of this captured band participated in the massacre at SCHIO (see paragraph 3 a). Interrogation of these individuals and further arrests are continuing, and it is expected that information will be secured on the total network of this subversive movement and on its leaders.

Source:- Fifth Army Weekly G-2 Report No 658.

W. S. Stark

Lieutenant-Colonel
General Staff

MFS/jhc

I 5 8 5

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

DISTRIBUTION

GSO 2 District	1
2 District "B"	1
6 (Sp.) Army Div	1
29 Army	1
60 Sub Area	1
66 Army Base	1
151 Sub Area	1
215 Sub Area	1
51 SIU	1
52 SIU	1
2 LOTHI.NS Army Party	1
14 Det of C Signals	1
37 FSS	1
51 FSS	1
65 (Sp.) FSS	1
85 FSS	1
315 FSS	1
421 FSS	1
427 FSS	1
AC of S, G-2, AFHQ	1
G-2 PIR, AFHQ	1
AC of S, G-2, Fifth Army	1
GSI, Eighth Army	1
GSI, 13 Corps	1
GSI, 1 District	1
Allied Commission Army HQ, MTL.N	1
Regional Commissioner AOC, LOMB.REGY	1
" " " PIEDMONT	1
" " " LIGURIA	1
CIC Frontier Control Detachment	2
ISLD (Local)	1
CSS (Local)	1
1 SCI	1
JICAMED Unit M	1
COG MTL.N	1
1 Special Force, MTL.N	1
MP Murray PEA	1
Lt Col Cameron Currie for MT	1
War Diary	2
File	2

1321

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

I 5 8 7

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

HQ 15 ARMY GROUP INTELLIGENCE
NOTES NO 52 OF 13 MARCH 1945.

(Reproduced by HQ No 1 District).

B.J.C.R.S.
702/10/GSI
16 Mar 45

These notes have been introduced to show the reconstruction of certain units now normally in receipt of the ordinary intelligence but not treated by this HQ. Their purpose is to keep such units in the general battle picture.

1. ITALY SITUATION.

There has been very little change in the enemy's dispositions and attitude so far as can be definitely established but there have been various small incidents and pieces of information which suggest that something is going on. What it is exactly is hard to say; in the face of it the enemy's main preoccupation should be to create a larger reserve for use with front also to improve communications. The position will no doubt become clearer when this policy now apparently in progress has completed.

On 9 Army front, 162 Div continues to lose deserters and shows itself to be even more hostile as a fighting formation than in its previous turns in the line. It is not, however, on the very narrow front presented by the terrain between the lake and the sea but it seems to regard this not as the main front of interest to the commander of Militia Bn corps and, for the moment, eventual exploitation. On the 5 ARMY front the situation is more obscure. 90 Div appears to be extending its sector Southwards to relieve part of 26 Pz Div and is flying 4 divs in turn in the Bologna sector by 362 Div. This may well be complementary move South by 42 Jaeger Division, which is feasible, especially if 362 Div is returned from the line. More surprising is the identification of 922 G.R. in PORRETTA; if so believe the deserter both have are there, having arrived night 10/11 March. There has been a great deal of movement in this area of late though it would be surprising if 278 Div were to take over the whole of 334 Div's sector. Perhaps if the latter is to be withdrawn but 334 Div 1 Para Div might extend the front Southwards to assist in the relief. It remains to be seen what the result of these moves will be but it looks as though some div or other is going out in reserve possibly preparatory to leaving the country.

On the Western part of the front the work has been fairly quiet. Recent deserters confirm that the losses inflicted on 114 Jg Div were heavy; 721 Regt in particular, according to them, has not been reorganised as a single bn. Both it and 232 Div, however, which also suffered severe losses, are still in the line. The position of 29 P.G. Div, on the other hand, is more obscure; the Recce unit was identified on 7 March but since then we have had no contact with the div. It is reasonable to assume that, as soon as the immediate danger was felt to be over, the enemy would like to pull out the formation to its more natural and useful role of mobile reserve. 90 P.G. is, indeed, available in the old area East and N.E. of BOLOGNA but with the improvements in the weather and increasing likelihood of a resumption of the Allied offensive, a second reserve div must appear necessary.

1320

In N.W. ITALY both 188 Reserve and 237 Divs appear to have taken a greater interest in North D.LIGURIA and elements from both are reported on

Reserve. For the [illegible] preoccupation should be to create a larger will no doubt [illegible] positions are [illegible] are presently in progress and completed.

On 8 Army front, 152 Div continues to [illegible] and above Assisi to [illegible] Perugia. 2 NZ Div [illegible] Cortona and Arezzo provide [illegible] In the [illegible] on the very narrow front [illegible] and the [illegible] and the [illegible] regard [illegible] as [illegible] and, for the [illegible] Div [illegible] 5 Corps [illegible] situation is [illegible] 56 Div [illegible] 78 Div [illegible] 2 Pz Div [illegible] the Northernmost [illegible] South by 13 Corps Division, [illegible] 4 Div [illegible] 922 G.A. [illegible] 1 Parachute; it [illegible] 1 Para Div [illegible] night 10/11 March. [illegible] though it would be surprising if 278 Div were to open over the whole of 356 Div's sector. Perhaps [illegible] 1 Para Div might extend its front Southwards [illegible] 356 Div remains to be seen what the role of Army Gp will be but it looks as though some Div or other is going [illegible] leaving the country.

On the Western part of 5th. front the week has been fairly quiet. Recent observers confirm that the losses inflicted on 114 Jg Div were heavy; 741 Regt in particular, according to one, has now been reorganised as a single bn. Both it and 305 Div, however, which also suffered severe losses, are still in the line. The position of 2y F.G. Div, on the other hand, is more obscure; the Recce unit was identified on 7 March but since then we have had no contact with the Div. It is reasonable to assume that, as soon as the immediate danger was felt to be over, the enemy would like to pull out the formation to its more natural and useful role of mobile reserve. 90 P.G. is, indeed, available in the old area East and N.E. of BOLOGNA but with the improvements in the weather and increasing likelihood of a resumption of the Allied offensive, a second reserve div must appear necessary.

In N.W. ITALY both 148 Reserve and 237 Divs appear to have taken a greater interest in North PIEDMONT and elements from both are reported on the islands of [illegible]. Otherwise they have changed little; 148 still has its four regts and must be busy at its primary job of training the young intake. [illegible] is now [illegible], the most favoured site for training in what remains of German occupied EUROPE.

INFECTION KNOWN

The disaster which befell 1 Para and 15 Army a week ago has spread itself to 5 PG and 7 Armies this week.

Page 2/.....

1320

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

The Allied attack has indeed developed on a pleasing scale. In the south the attack of the Canadian Army in the RHINELAND area, the enemy has been forced to send reserves in support of 1 Para Army. When the Allies struck North of the COLOGNE Autobahn in the direction of KREVELD, a hasty roadblock had to be made in order to create some sort of a front covering the RHINE crossings at WESEL. Before this could be properly effected, the Canadians struck in the sector North of the ROER Valley, where 3 Pz Army and 7 Army were stretched tight and denuded of reserves. Of the four German armies which have been involved in the past fortnight's debacle, these in the centre have probably suffered most. In the extreme North, 1 Para Army fought with additional vigour and efficiency and held the WESEL bridgehead long enough to get a substantial proportion of men and equipment back across the RHINE. In the South, 7 Army, though heavily battered, has been able to retain some sort of coherence as it fell back to the RHINE pivoting on 2 Pz Div, which has been fighting good rear of WITTLICH. In the centre, however, 15 Army and 3 Pz Army have presented a sorry spectacle. The former, though it got some forces back across the RHINE, never offered much more than feeble resistance to our drive on KREVELD and WESEL. The latter has suffered a major disaster, the full extent of which it is still too early to assess. Few elements succeeded in crossing to the far bank of the RHINE, and the remainder of the Army has found itself split into large and small pockets which are being eliminated. The extent of the disorganisation prevailing is shown by our capture intact of the bridge at REMAGEN. 167 and 326 Inf Divs have probably been wiped out and the commander of 3 Para Div is in our hands. How many other divs have been submerged in the flood and will not again come to the surface it is still impossible to say, but the cost to the enemy has been heavy.

On the central sector of the front, two major problems confront the enemy and demand a speedy solution if worse disasters still are not to ensue. The first is the elimination of the REMAGEN bridgehead, and the other is the establishment of a firm front along the ROER so as to form a right flank for the S.A.R. The reaction to the latter task, where has naturally been fierce. On the ground 11 Pz Div has been launching heavy counter attacks and fighting extremely well; but it alone is not enough to deal with an increasingly fluid Allied position, and further reinforcements are to be expected. There are indeed signs that Panzer Lehr Div is also coming down from North of COLOGNE to join 11 Pz. However, by this stage it is doubtful in the extreme whether anything short of a carefully prepared counter offensive can have a decisive effect on the bridgehead. In addition to the intact rail bridge we now have two pontoon bridges across the RHINE and several ferries operating. The enemy artillery is shelling the crossings heavily and is causing a certain amount of interference. However, the chances of putting the crossings permanently out of action can now be regarded as non-existent. The G.A.F. has made a token effort. Almost as if a Spanish galleon had come sailing up the RHINE, and about as effective, was the appearance of 3 Stukas over the bridge on 10 Mar. It was a gesture reminiscent of the Blechhammer on the NEISSE crossings in 1940 and as costly. All three were shot down.

On the ROER, the enemy is now trying to build up a coherent front. If as seems possible, a proportion of 7 Army lives to fight another brief day; a temporary stand on the ROER may be feasible. The enemy is reinforcing the area to the best of his ability. 199 Inf Div has moved up from ARNHEM to

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

back to the RHINE pivoting on 2 Pz Div, which has been fighting part-time of distinction. In the centre, however, 15 Army and 1 Pz Army have presented a sorry spectacle. The former, though it got some forces back across the RHINE, never offered much more than Feeble resistance to our drive on MUNSTER and MUNSS. The latter has suffered a major disaster, the full extent of which is still too early to assess. Few elements succeeded in crossing to the far bank of the RHINE, and the remainder of the Army has itself split into large and small pockets which are being eliminated. The extent of the disorganisation prevailing is shown by our capture intact of the bridge at REMAGEN. 167 and 326 Inf Divs have probably been written off and the Commander of 3 Para Div is in our hands. How many other Divs have been submerged in the flood and will not again come to the surface it is still impossible to say, but the cost to the enemy has been heavy.

On the central sector of the front, two major problems confront the enemy and demand a solution if further disasters still are not to ensue. The first is the elimination of the BONN bridgehead, and the other is the establishment of a firm front along the ERFT, so as to form a right flank for the S...R. The reaction to the BONN bridgehead has naturally been fierce. On the ground 11 Pz Div has been launching heavy counter attacks and fighting extremely well; but it alone is not enough to deal with an increasingly fluid situation, and further reinforcements are to be expected. There are indeed signs that Panzer Lehr Div is also coming down from North of COLOGNE to join 11 Pz. However, by this stage it is doubtful in the extreme whether anything short of a carefully prepared counter offensive can have a decisive effect on the bridgehead. In addition to the intact rail bridge we now have two pontoon bridges across the RHINE and several ferries operating. The enemy artillery is shelling the crossings heavily and is causing a certain amount of interference. However, the chances of putting the crossings permanently out of action can now be regarded as non-existent. The G.A.F. has made a token effort. Almost as if a Spanish galleon had come sailing up the RHINE, and about as effective, was the appearance of 3 Stukas over the bridge on 10 Mar. It was a gesture reminiscent of the Blenheims on the MEUSE crossings in 1940 and as costly. All three were shot down.

On the RUHR, the enemy is now trying to build up a coherent front. It no seems possible, a proportion of 7 Army lives to fight another brief day; a temporary stand on the RUHR may be feasible. The enemy is reinforcing the area to the East of the Ruhr. 199 Inf Div has moved up from DUISBURG to the COCHEM area, and 9 S.S. Mtn Div seems to have shifted Northward to take up positions covering the river N.E. of TRIER. Even so it will be a tainly hold front and is in danger of being turned by rapid progress South of the RUHR beyond SIEGEN, where 2 Para and 79 Inf Divs are already moderate resistance to our pressure. Elsewhere, the picture on the front is little changed and shows clearly the growing shortage of enemy reserves. On the Upper RHINE 19 Army has now surrendered 2 Divs and an ...ensured Brigade since the start of the offensive and is left with 5 divs to hold the 90 mile front.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

On the S.E.R - S.L.U.M.B.E.R front the enemy's strength is unchanged, and there are still 10 Divs between S.E.LOUIS and the RHINE. It is unlikely, however, that we shall see much thinning out here, for it will be hard enough to defend the R.H.R on the MOSELLE line without running the risk of letting the Allies in by the front door. In HOLLAND, the Scheldt remains firmly held and there are at least one and a half divs holding from the Rhine mouth to ARNHEM without much hope of reinforcement.

Strategically the enemy situation has deteriorated still further by the failure to blow the bridge at REMAGEN, for he can now no longer count upon the respite he might otherwise have expected while the Allies prepared for a major crossing of the RHINE. Moreover any stabilisation he can achieve on the centre is at the expense of the North and South. The front in HOLLAND has long been thinly held but that in the South has never looked as bare as at present, and the potential danger of an Allied encircling movement down the RHINE valley from DEN HAAG is a risk which the enemy has got to accept. The dividend on the faulty strategy of the past four months has to be paid;- the strategy which in Nov and Dec sent to the West to be destroyed in the COLOGNE plain divisions which should have gone to the East; and which in Jan took away from the West to send to the East a Pz Army which has so far never effectively operated in the East. The dividend has to be paid and GERMANY is bearing the cost.

3. EASTERN FRONT.

BERLIN.

The BALTIC coast from STETTIN to the German frontier with the exception of the pockets at KOLBERG and HEL of BERLIN has now been virtually cleared by the 1st and 2nd White Russian Army Groups, and the Soviets despite strong enemy resistance are steadily closing in on DANZIG and GDYNIA. In the past week, POSEN, WARTBRUCH and POSEN, the latter a port of some importance in the Bay of DANZIG some 20 miles North of GDYNIA, have all fallen to the Russians. The German forces in this area are thus compressed in a narrow wedge of land between POSEN and a point West of MARIENBURG running as far South as the almost encircled town of MARIENBURG. DANZIG itself stands in great danger and fighting is reported to be in progress in the outskirts. To the West the present Soviet offensive operation has been carried one stage nearer completion, by Marshal ZHUKOV whose forces have been closed up to the East bank of the ODER from KUSTRIN northwards. The Russians are now on the shores of the STETTINER HAFF, north of STETTIN itself and the port has been rendered virtually useless to the enemy. In the fighting at the approaches to STETTIN prisoners were taken from 1 Marine Div, a new identification, probably either a U-boat or similar formation or an ad hoc Army division scraped together from the land locked sailors of STETTIN. Further South KUSTRIN is in Russian hands. This is on the last bank of the ODER on the direct route to BERLIN. Despite German reports of a renewed offensive by ZHUKOV in the direction of BERLIN, there is no indication that the Russians are yet ready for the kick-off, though the KUSTRIN would of course be a necessary preliminary.

capture of/

The rest of the front in GERMANY has been relatively quiet. Fighting of local importance has taken place to the West of the beleaguered city of

1319

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

has long been thinly held but that in the South has never looked as bare as at present, and the potential danger of an Allied encircling movement down the ODER valley from SWINEMUNDE is a risk which the enemy has got to accept. The dividend on the fruitful strategy of the past four months has to be paid;- the strategy which in Nov and Dec sent to the West to be destroyed in the COLOGNE plain divisions which should have gone to the East; and which in Jan took away from the West to send to the East a Pz Army which has so far never effectively operated in the Ardns. Now dividend has to be paid and GUDERIAN is bearing the cost.

3. EASTERN FRONT.

BERLIN.

The BALTIC coast from STETTIN to the German frontier with the exception of the pockets at KOLBERG and HELA has now been virtually cleared by the 1st and 2nd White Russian Army Groups, and the Soviets despite strong enemy resistance are steadily closing in on DANZIG and GDYNIA. In the past week, KOSLIN, SCHLAWE and PUCK, the latter a port of some importance in the Bay of DANZIG some 20 miles north of GDYNIA, have all fallen to the Russians. The German forces in this area are thus compressed in a narrow wedge of land between PUCK and a point West of DIRSCHAU running as far south as the almost encircled town of GRUDZIADZ. DANZIG itself stands in grave danger and fighting is reported to be in progress in the outskirts. In the West the present Soviet offensive operation has been carried one stage nearer completion, by Konev whose forces have been closed up to the east bank of the ODER from FRANKFURT northwards. The Russians are now on the shores of the STETTINER HAFF, north of STETTIN itself and the port has been rendered virtually useless to the enemy. In the fighting on the approaches to STETTIN prisoners were taken from 4 Marine Div, a new identification, probably either a U-boat or similar formation or an ad hoc Army division scraped together from the land locked sailors of STETTIN. Further South FRANKFURT is in Russian hands. This is on the East bank of the ODER on the direct route to BERLIN. Despite German reports of a renewed offensive by ZHUKOV in the direction of BERLIN, there is no indication that the Russians are yet ready for the kick-off, though the FRANKFURT would of course be a necessary preliminary.

1319

Capture of/

The rest of the front in GERMANY has been relatively quiet. Fighting of local importance has taken place to the West of the besieged city of BRESLAU. Here the Germans claim to have encircled the Soviet forces in STRIEGAU, a claim on which the Russians have remained silent. A report received in the past week refers to an Army Group KURLAND. This is a new identification and to judge by the title is responsible for operations in LATVIA. Whether its responsibilities extend to East PRUSSIA and DANZIG is not known, but the probabilities are against it. It is none the less conceivable that there might be another Army Group in the latter area since there are latest two Armies there. On the main front, HEINRICI and SCHORNER have again had recent mentions from the German radio as Commanders of German Groups and it is clear that "reliable hands are still at the head of operations in Eastern GERMANY".

Page 4/.....

1592

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

In CZECHOSLOVAKIA fierce air fighting has taken place between RUSSIAN STILWIDD and ZVOLEN but the Russians, apart from the capture of the former town, have made little progress. IV Fd Corps and FJ Corps Schwerpunkte have been identified in sector under ... group working the road.

It is now clear that the enemy is under[illegible] operation of major proportions in CZECHOSLOVAKIA. The Schwerpunkt appears to be just North of ZVOLEN where the only sizable gaps have been taken on both sides of the BANSKA Canal [illegible] South and North the DUKLA. The Russians report enemy [illegible] to the North of the area and [illegible], to be [illegible] reserve, evidence that these FJ Divs are [illegible] in this area. 1 Cav, 116 Pz and 13 A. Divs are probably [illegible] and there may also be present elements of 297, 11 G... and 10 Pz Divs. Simultaneously, the use of [illegible] crossed the DUKLA [illegible] and villages and established bridgeheads on the North bank in spite of Russian and [illegible] counterattacks. In the former locality the enemy has erected a pontoon bridge and it appears that his intention is to clear the [illegible] to the NORTH up to the DUKLA. The formations employed in these operations are believed to be 297 Inf and 14 Cav Divs [illegible] the area which may have to be [illegible].

HUNGARY.

[illegible] apart from the NAGY [illegible], fighting there has been [illegible]. The attack line is under [illegible] so [illegible] very much the same as it [illegible]. Since 24 Inf Div was [illegible] to open up an escape route, now 1 Cav Div ('Trans Tisza') has been allotted the same task. The [illegible] weight of XXX Corps is evidently [illegible] that 7 SS Div, probably the best division in [illegible], which otherwise could [illegible] probably would have been employed in the attack in Southern [illegible], was [illegible] to its aid. Fighting [illegible] between DEBRECEN and this veteran [illegible] Div cleared the whole of the [illegible] Valley down to [illegible]. Here it was engaged in heavy fighting [illegible] and has finally succeeded in [illegible] the [illegible]-DEBRECEN road. Certain [illegible] are reported to the East of [illegible]; these are probably not of such an [illegible] that the enemy intends to [illegible] in the area as an attempt on his part to gain [illegible] withdrawal. 1 Cav Div is in the [illegible] area but is no [illegible] attached to any XX Corps command.

Continued fighting continues in the [illegible] area but here the enemy situation seems to be easier than hitherto. [illegible] success was however reported near [illegible] where [illegible] 8 [illegible] had been [illegible] hands. This village forms the Southern [illegible] of [illegible] and straddles a road crossing of some importance.

[illegible]

The enemy continues to show a degree of nervousness in the [illegible] where defence work goes on apace. The latest developments in the [illegible] dispatch of some [illegible] 300 troops will therefore amount to 1,200 - the highest figure yet reported for the [illegible]. In this connection it is of interest that

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

1594

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

5 Z BCU

HQ 13 ARMY GROUP INTELLIGENCE
NO.43 (0.30 C) 6 MARCH 1945

(To be passed by HQ No.1 District).

SECRET
702/10/GSI
11 Mar 1945

These notes have been introduced to meet the requirements of certain units not normally in receipt of the ordinary Intelligence Summary issued by this HQ. Their purpose is to keep such units in the general battle picture.

1. ENEMY SITUATION.

Enemy regrouping this week has been stirred by our own action for the first time since January and the extent of his reaction to our attack in the CASTEL D'AIANO sector shows a certain nervousness about our intentions. The capture of the M.CHANDELIER feature and the ridge running SE from there to M. DELLA SPE represents a considerable territorial advantage to the Allies but the possession of this ground is still rather a long-term threat to the enemy's appointed positions and an enemy who was thinking of a withdrawal from that position within, say, a month would scarcely have defended it with such stubbornness or counter-attacked with such violence as brought in two fresh divisions from a dwindling reserve. It looks as though there has been no change in the policy of resisting on the present line.

On 3 and 4 March Italian troops on our extreme right flank put in a limited attack to clear up some enemy positions on the Southern part of the GARIBALDI Isthmus. The operation was very successful and brought in 200 odd prisoners not only from 142 Musilier Bn but also from 162 Div, confirming the information from prisoners of 114 Div that 162 Div had relieved them in this area. Both 305 and 314 G.R. were identified and prisoners say that 329 G.R. is also in the same area though it must have arrived there rather late since about 50 deserters came into our lines in the area L.2704 on 3 May front having deserted on 22 Feb. 162 Div does not seem to have improved much in quality and Turcomans still represent about 60% of its strength. This was the main event on 8 Army sector. We have, however, cleared up the enemy's order of battle in the area South of EROLI; 278 Div may, as suggested last week, have taken over the western part of 715 Div's former sector but it certainly also relieved 90 P.G. Div. Prisoners from 992 and 993 G.R. have been taken in the former area of 200 and 361 P.G.R. respectively. (Actually 4 Para Div has taken over a battalion's worth of 200 P.G.R.'s former sector and handed over a battalion sector on its left flank to 26 Pz Div). 90 P.G. Div has now presumably taken the place of 29 P.G. as General Mobile reserve.

The second phase of our attack on of BOLOGNA, opened on 3 March with an advance NE from M.TORRACCIA which once more seems to have caught the enemy in the middle of a relief. This time it was 721 Regt which was coming in and it lost over 500 prisoners, including the battalion CO of III Bn in fairly quick time. All three regts of 232 Div were also identified and it appears that II Bn 1043, which had been taken out of the line in a weakened state to absorb reinforcements was rushed back in again. Our advance on 4 March continued with the capture of M.GRANDE D'ALLIO, M.CUCCIO and M.della CROCE and the enemy clearly decided that a more powerful reinforcement was necessary. On 4 March [illegible] announced the arrival of a motorised formation and on 5 [illegible] represent 90 P.G. Div, representing both P.G.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

1. ENEMY SITUATION.

Enemy regrouping this week has been forced by our own action for the first time since January and the extent of his reaction to our attack in the C.CASTEL D'ALDO sector shows a certain nervousness about our intentions. The capture of the [illegible] feature and the ridge running N.E. from there to M. DELLA SPE represents a considerable territorial advantage to the Allies but the possession of this ground is still rather a long-term threat to the enemy's Apennine positions and an enemy who was thinking of a withdrawal from that position within, say, a month would scarcely have defended it with such stubbornness or counter-attacked with such violence as brought in two fresh divisions from a dwindling reserve. It looks as though there has been no change in the policy of resisting on the present line.

On 3 and 4 March Italian troops on our extreme right flank put in a limited attack to clear up some enemy positions on the Southern part of the GARIBALDI Isthmus. The operation was very successful and brought in 200 odd prisoners not only from 142 Brigade but also from 162 Div, confirming the information from prisoners of 114 Div that 162 Div had relieved them in this area. Both 305 and 314 G.R. were identified and prisoners say that 129 G.R. is also in the same area though it must have arrived there rather late since about 50 deserters came into our lines in the area L.2704 on 3 Army front having deserted on 22 Feb. 162 Div does not seem to have improved much in quality and Turcomans still represent about 50% of its strength. This was the main event on 8 Army sector. We have, however, cleared up the enemy's order of battle in the area South of CASOLA; 278 Div may, as suggested last week, have taken over the Western part of 715 Div's former sector but it certainly also relieved 90 P.G. Div. Prisoners from 992 and 993 G.R. have been taken in the former area of 200 and 361 P.G.R. respectively. (actually a Para Div has taken over a battalion's worth of 200 P.G.R.'s for or sector and handed over a battalion sector on its left flank to 26 Pz Div). 90 P.G. Div has now presumably taken the place of 29 P.G. as Central while reserve.

The second phase of our attack S. of BOLOGNA opened on 5 March with an advance NE from M.TORRICCHI which once more seems to have caught the enemy in the middle of a relief. This time it was 721 Regt which was coming in and it lost over 500 prisoners, including the battalion H.Q. of III Bn in fairly quick time. All three regts of 232 Div were also identified and it appears that II on 1045, which had been taken out of the line in a weakened state to absorb reinforcements was pushed back in again. Our advance on 4 March continued with the capture of M.GRANDE, D'ALDO, M.CROCE and M.della CROCE and the enemy clearly decided that a more powerful reinforcement was necessary. On 4 March heavier MT movement announced the arrival of a motorised formation and on 5 March prisoners were taken from 4 bns of 29 P.G. Div, representing both P.G. Regts. They appear to have started moving off late on the evening of 3 March from S.M. GIOVANNI (L.7765) and came straight into action. Both Regts were committed in the area of CASA D'ALDO (L.5925) with 15 P.G.R. East and 71 P.G.R. West. The tank battalion seems to have preceded them since two Mark IV tanks were claimed knocked out on 26 Feb and two more on 5 March; there is a possibility, however, that one or other of these reports may refer to the assault guns of 914 Assault Gun Brigade which is known to have been in support in this area. The result is that both 114 Dg and 232 Divs have suffered fairly heavily in prisoners and casualties and must be considered as weakened in efficiency and 29 P.G. Div may have to remain in the area for some time to come, even if the enemy were to appreciate that a large scale renewal of the attack there is unlikely.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

Although rail communications between [illegible] and the rapidly dwindling Great German Reich remain frantically difficult there is evidence that more troops are attempting the passage of the SEINE. On 2 March RR for the first time since 24 Feb showed a definite movement of military trains between VERDUN and the Pass; this was continued on 3 and 4 March. This can scarcely still be 16 SS and must be the beginning of another troop movement. There are fewer candidates for this than usual and practically speaking the only likely starter is 719 Div which has been out of the line since about 26 Feb. It is not the Div which one would have expected to be sent to a more vital front (nor was 256 Div) but all the other Divs in [illegible] are firmly located.

2. WESTERN FRONT.

The battle of the COLOGNE Plain is nearly over with 15 and 4 Para [illegible] defeated and withdrawing as best they can to the safety of the east bank of the RHINE. The early disorganisation apparent last week became even more pronounced as the battle developed, (a measure of it is the prisoner total of 9,200 in 24 hrs on 27 Feb). With inadequate forces and even those mostly of doubtful quality the enemy has not since the start been able to make any effective [illegible] ive stand, while in the area between [illegible] and the RHINE his front collapsed completely. The four Divs hastily brought down from the NORTHLAND sector to stem the tide were certainly too little and probably too late to be of much avail. Nor did the enemy fight east of Duren with the tenacity to be expected of the rather better quality troops facing us there. 9 Pz Div proved a broken reed, and made little effort to halt us on the fortified KRUFT line; 11 Pz and 3 PG Divs fighting on the COLOGNE Autobahn made a better showing but were unable to make any effective stand on the perimeter of COLOGNE, the Western part of which is now all in our hands.

The grave shortage of troops has become more and more apparent in every move RUNDSTEDT has made this week. In the South he has taken a chance and is making heavy inroads into the ranks of the 19 Army across the RHINE South of SINZIG. Two of its Divs have been sent to the COLOGNE sector, and a third has moved up to the RHINE to relieve 6 SS Mtn Div, which is probably being sent to plug the hole torn open at REMAGEN. This leaves four weary infantry divs to hold 19 Army's 90 mile front. These moves seem to represent very nearly the maximum contribution Army Group 'G' can make to the sore need of the other Army Groups, for much more thinning out would let us into the RHINE basin, a disaster very nearly as bad as that which has already taken place further North.

In the TRIER - [illegible] sector the situation is as bad. On paper there is a fair number of infantry divs in this area - adequate perhaps to hold us if they had been up to strength. But four have already been reduced to remnants, all are weary and none seem to have any early prospect of relief from the battle apart from that which extinction may bring. Certainly not one has been able to extricate its If this week to help the hard-pressed defenders of the COLOGNE [illegible] TRIER fell after a brief struggle and we took a bridge intact over the [illegible] there. Its loss opened a dangerous gap in the front covering the MOSELLE Valley, which has been exploited by the US 3rd Army in the direction of COBLENZ. Further North BITBURG and SCHLEIDEN are both in our hands and we are now fighting in BONN.

In the COLOGNE Plain a number of reinforcements have been making their [illegible] appearance. Elements of 189 and 338 Inf Divs and 106 Pz Bde from 19 Army [illegible] and the trend of rail movement [illegible]

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

The battle of the COLOGNE Plain is nearly over with 15 and 4 Para ..r Divs defeated and withdrawing as best they can to the safety of the east bank of the RHINE. The only disorganisation apparent last week became even more pronounced as the battle developed, (a measure of it is the prisoner total of 9,200 in 24 hrs on 27 June). All inadequate forces and even those mostly of doubtful quality the enemy has not since the start been able to make any effective stand, while in the area between ERKELENZ and the RHINE his front collapsed completely. The 2 Para Div hastily withdrawn from the NORTHWOLD sector to stem the tide were evidently too late to be of much avail. Nor did the enemy fight west of DUREN with the tenacity to be expected of the rather better quality troops facing us there. 9 Pz Div proved a broken reed, and made little effort to hold us on the identified 2000 line: 11 Pz and 3 Pz Div fighting on the BOLOGNA-AACHEN axis a better showing but were unable to make any effective stand on the perimeter of COLOGNE, the western part of which is now all in our hands.

The grave shortage of troops has become more and more apparent in every move MANSTEDT has made this week. In the South he has taken a chance and is making heavy inroads into the ranks of the 19 Army across the RHINE South of BONN, and a third STRASBOURG. Two of its Divs have been sent to the COLOGNE sector, and a third has moved up to the S.E.R to relieve 6 SS Pz Div, which is probably being sent to plug the hole torn open at TRIER. This leaves four weary infantry divs to hold 19 Army's 90 mile front. These moves seem to represent very nearly the maximum contribution Army Group 'B' can make to the sore need of the other army Groups, for much more thinning out would let us into the S.E.R basin, a disaster very nearly as bad as that which has already taken place further North.

In the TRIER - METZ sector the situation is as bad. On paper there is a fair number of infantry divs in this area - adequate perhaps to hold us if they had been up to strength. But four have already been reduced to remnants, all are weary and none seem to have any early prospect of relief from the battle apart from that which extinction may bring. Certainly not one has been able to extricate its If this week to help the hard-pressed defenders of the COLOGNE Gap. TRIER fell after a brief struggle and we took a bridge intact over the MOSELLE there. Its loss opened a dangerous gap in the front covering the MOSELLE Valley, which has been exploited by the 15 Pz Army in the direction of CONLIZ. Further North BITBURG and SCHLEIDEN are both in our hands and we are now fighting in BONN.

In the COLOGNE Plain a number of reinforcements have been making their early appearance. Elements of 159 and 338 Inf Divs and 106 Pz Bde from 19 Army have been contacted between DUREN and COLOGNE, and the trend of rail movement suggests that the remainder of these formations is coming up and taking position on the east bank of the RHINE over COLOGNE which we have now entered. The enemy has blown all the RHINE bridges as far North as BONN and we are closing up to the RHINE all the way between COLOGNE and BONN. Enemy resistance has been generally light all week, although German armour showed some fight on the high ground of the VORGEBIRGE earlier in the week. Further North however the enemy situation became almost a rout. JUNKERSDORF, HERFELD, UNKELBACH and NAUBS were abandoned after little more than camp site fights although mopping up of isolated enemy pockets has taken some time. So rapid was our advance that one bridge over the RHINE was found intact when we entered KONRADSWERTH South of DUSSELDORF.

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

However even with a disorganised enemy, an intact RUSSA bridge was too much to hope for, and it was not so. The bridge [illegible] where we were able to cross. It was not until reinforcements taken from the Canadian Army front appeared about 1 March that there was any prospect of a stand by the enemy North of KRUEMEL. Pz. Lehr Div was the first to be identified and was followed by 2 Para, 19 P.G. and 14 Inf Divs in [illegible]. [illegible] to a captured map, hoped to hold a line from the POMERANIAN through [illegible] to DEUTSCH. They failed in this, but their arrival did at least have the effect of [illegible] sort of a coherent front [illegible] Bridgehead covering the crossing at CONE. Elements of Pz Lehr Div were left on the Canadian front and were [illegible] subsequently; contact was established between 1 Canadian Army and the U.S. 9 Army [illegible] of GARDEN, and the forces of 1 Para with [illegible] of NIENBURG and our withdrawing across the RHINE via the ARNHEM crossing.

It has been a very bad week for RUNDSTEDT; almost a Kesselring week. For if he could not hold us with his inadequate but [illegible] before the attack what prospects has he now with his armies in confusion and having suffered probably 100,000 casualties in a fortnight of which about 30,000 are prisoners? From COBLENZ Northwards he may soon be able to disengage his divisions temporarily, but he cannot expect to do so for long and the next attack may be even heavier than those here. He must by now be reading the stage where the element of surprise is entering into his strategy. For the first time there are signs of a serious [illegible] of the rank and file of his troops - a tendency to surrender too easily or at least to offer only feeble resistance when surrounded. Only the Panzers and Parachutists seem relatively unaffected, and they will surely fight on to the last, as for [illegible] no other choice. But there is no chance of any such [illegible] defeat or at best the slender hope that some unexpected salvation may appear from the [illegible] of time.

3. [illegible]

[illegible]

The attack launched on 28 March from the Russian [illegible] Group in the direction of the Baltic coast has achieved considerable success. Pushing on from [illegible], ROKOSSOVSKY's troops on 4 April [illegible] the coast to the west of ZOPPOT thus cutting off the German forces in the [illegible] and DANZIG from those in the [illegible]. [illegible] is as yet, but to judge by Soviet communiqués [illegible] that so far only light forces have reached the coast. The city put up very fierce resistance all through the week making the most of the [illegible] and [illegible] terrain. 4 S.S. P.G. Div [illegible] 2316 March 3 under age was heavily engaged at [illegible] as was 6 Inf Div. 23 Inf Div [illegible] has not previously been identified. The attack has taken up by the First White Russian Army Group operating on ROKOSSOVSKY's left which has reached the two [illegible] towns of STARGARD and [illegible]. The former lies on the left bank of the ODER river 22 miles East of [illegible] and is the junction of 4 main railways.

This operation was a necessary prelude to any large scale advance on the First White Russian front towards BERLIN. ZHUKOV's Army Group is now

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

1600

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

Meanwhile along the rest of the front in GARMANY an uneasy lull has set in affecting even the battle for BRESLAU, which the Russians have not mentioned in their communique for the past four days. Amongst the identifications reported by the Russian General Staff this week are 2 and 9 S.S. Pz Divs of 4 S.S. Pz Army and 10 S.S. Pz Div. No location other than that of the Central sector are given. 2 and 9 S.S. Pz Divs belong to II SS Pz Corps which had not previously been contacted on the Western Front this year, although I SS Pz Corps has already been in actice in HUNGARY. 10 S.S. Pz Div was on the Western Front up to about three weeks ago and was believed to have left the West, but this is the first confirmation received of its transfer.

On the 2nd Ukrainian Front, MALINOVSKI's forces have been engaged in heavy fighting in the sector ZVOLEN - BANSKA STIAVNICA (usually referred to as the ALTSOHL - SCHEMNITZ area in the German communiques). Limited progress has been made but the enemy appears to be fighting hard, and both ZVOLEN and BANSKA STIAVNICA are still in his hands.

There has been no change in the situation in HUNGARY.

YUGOSLAVIA.

The heavy Westward movement from VIROVITICA to VARAZDIN, mentioned in last week's summary has been followed up by a reliable report that 41 GAF and 297 Inf Divs have crossed the DRAVA into HUNGARY South of NAGYKANIZSA. The only independent confirmation of this is an air report of heavy troop concentrations East of ZAGREB which by 4 March appeared to be moving North Eastwards towards VARAZDIN. Meanwhile the Partisans continue to gain successes North of the DRVAR Mountains and it is evident that this area is now comparatively [illegible] only held. One reason for this apart from the move of 297 and 41 G...D. Divs lies in the deterioration of the enemy situation further South. Two serious threats have now developed against the withdrawal route of 21 Mtn Corps up the SARAJEVO - BROD L of C. The Partisans who captured TRAVNIK have advanced Eastwards and cut the main road at BUGOJNO, while in the North a Partisan force from the TUZLA area is advancing towards DOBOJ from which it is only 3 kms distant. To meet this threat the ubiquitous rescuer of isolated units, 7 SS Mtn Div, has had to despatch post haste a force from the PLIVA Mountains, elements of which have or arrived to reinforce DOBOJ while further elements had reached South by 4 March and were in the TRAVNIK area. It is likely that the enemy will have no little difficulty in clearing the main road, for 21 Mtn Corps is in a depleted condition and the Partisans are in some strength in this area. Last week they captured one of their biggest prizes of the war in the person of Colonel MEHLHORN, one time Police Chief at MUNICH and the Commander in GREECE of a Battle Group bearing his name. He was taken near ZENICA.

NORTH DALMATIAN ISLANDS

In the North Dalmatian Islands there has been some activity in the 4315 past week. On 24 Feb Partisans supported by our aircraft and light coastal forces landed on PAG and penetrated to the outskirts of PAG town without opposition. The enemy soon reacted sharply however and landed a force from the mainland about a bn strong (probably of 392 Div) on the night of 25/26 Feb. As a result the Partisans were forced to withdraw from the island, and the enemy has now followed suit. He continues to show concern however about the whole of this island group. Civilian labour is being impressed for the construction of defence works on both LUSSIN and OSSERO and Naval reinforcements have recently arrived on LUSSIN. On PAG 700 enemy troops landed at the end of Feb and are engaged in mopping up operations, although their prolonged stay there looks unlikely.

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

There has been no change in the situation in [redacted].

YUGOSLAVIA.

The heavy Westward movement from VIROVITICA to V.RAZ II mentioned in last week's summary has been followed up by a reliable report that 11 SS and 297 Inf Divs have crossed the DRAVA into HUNGARY south of [redacted]. The only independent confirmation of this is an air report of heavy troop concentrations East of [redacted] which by 1 March appeared to be moving North-Eastwards towards VARAZDIN. Meanwhile the Partisans continue to gain successes North of the DRAVA Mountains and it is evident that this area is very unsettled. A fully detailed One reason for this apparent is the move of 297 and 11 SS Div [redacted] deterioration of the enemy situation further South. Two serious threats have now developed against the withdrawal route of 2 Mtn Corps up the [redacted] - BROD L of S. The Partisans who captured TRAVNIK have already established and cut the main road at DUBOVAC while in the North a Partisan force from the [redacted] area is advancing towards KOSU from which it is only 5 kms distant. To meet this threat the ubiquitous rescuer of isolated units, 7 SS Mtn Div, has been despatch post haste a force from the PRIJEDOR Mountains, elements of which have already arrived to reinforce DOBOJ while further elements had reached KOSU by 4 March and were in the [redacted] area. It is likely that the enemy will have no difficult difficulty in clearing the main road, for 2 Mtn Corps is in a depleted condition and the Partisans are in some strength in this area. Last week they captured one of their biggest prizes of the war in the person of Colonel [redacted], one time Police Chief at [redacted] and the Commander in CROATIA of a battle group bearing his name. He was taken near [redacted].

NORTH DALMATIAN ISLANDS

In the North Dalmatian Islands there has been some activity in the past week. On 24 Feb Partisans supported by our aircraft and light coastal forces landed on PAG but penetrated to the outskirts of PAG town without opposition. The enemy soon counter-attacked sharply however and landed a force from the mainland about a bn strong (probably of 392 Div) on the night of 25/26 Feb. As a result the Partisans were forced to withdraw from the island, and the enemy has now followed suit. He continues to show concern however about the whole of this island group. Civilian labour is being impressed for the construction of defence works on both LUSSIN and OSSERO and Naval reinforcements have recently arrived on LUSSIN. Ca 1,700 enemy troops landed at the end of Feb and are engaged in mopping up operations, although their prolonged stay here looks unlikely.

4345

C.M.F.
/TG

Maj.Gen.,
[redacted]
[redacted]

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

Appendix to Communique No. 5.

4 February - 7 March 1944

This bulletin is issued on two understanding that :-

(a) It is not posted up in any place to which civilians have access.
(b) All unfilled copies are destroyed before any diary sheet is written.
(c) The information it now discovered on the meaning of civilians.

The small scale attacks carried out by our forces on Eighth Army front and on the mountainous sector are of little importance except certain reconnaissance of the enemy's screen has taken place. The small local successes have enabled us to get a better view of the seriously threatened Cyc 148 Inf Div sector and the tenacity with which they hold it has confirmed its continued determination to stay on the present line until pushed out of it.

On Eighth Army front a few mortars came in on 4 Feb during the forenoon but our artillery engaged the [illegible] where an unusual amount of enemy vehicle movement was reported in the direction of the Garigliano. On the western right flank of the Army front a party of enemy sighted at [illegible] Pimplemeno was shown to strength of Army surrounded one of our positions on 6 Feb inflicting casualties. On 7 Feb the enemy was more active in of Castelforte and a fighting patrol forced one of our fighting patrols to withdraw. In the [illegible] which followed it was able to establish the ground gained. On 11 and 12 Feb a number of deserters crossed our lines, and on the following day an enemy attempt to dispossess our patrols of their positions in the North head of the [illegible] was broken up by artillery fire. An enemy patrol attacked on of our positions at M.7926 on 14 Feb but was repulsed. On 19 Feb the enemy was more aggressive particularly in the area M.1821 where he sent in a strong fighting patrol and at M.1720 where our troops were heavily shelled. 19 Feb was a very quiet day marked only by the usual trickle of deserters. A fighty patrol clash at CASA LABRONIA M.0139 in which eight enemy were killed was the only item of interest until 24 Feb, flared up again on 25 Feb. Our troops attacked to clear the East flood banks of the GARIGLIANO river in the CORTENOVA area, and despite counter attacks by 98 Inf Div a stretch of the bank was successfully cleared North and South of the village. Heavy shelling on 24 Feb was followed by enemy counter attacks in company strength in the M.1720 area, probably intended to distract our attention from further South. The enemy showed his sensitiveness to our attacks opposite CORTENOVA by further counter attacks last Sunday carried out by specially trained and heavily armed troops. All these attacks were driven off. On Friday Italian was under our command [illegible] supports put in a local attack on [illegible] M 6.95 and a diversionary thrust two miles to the west. 28 prisoners were collected in the initial push. The following day we continued to press the enemy back and collected a further 100 prisoners.

The prisoners taken on this [illegible] attack showed that 12 Jäger Div is now responsible for the Adriatic sector to route 16 with the threatened [illegible] the Terracina isthmus. Both regiments of 162 Turcoman Div were identified in the same batch of prisoners, and it appears that the division has gathered together its infantry regiments. Detached regiments on anti-partisan activities in Southern Italy, and its artillery, some of which had been in support 2/4 Inf Div S.W. of [illegible], and is concentrating North of Velletri in [illegible] with detachments in the line and support of 12 Jäger Div. The banks of the [illegible] river from route 15 to the 90 Northing are guarded by 362 Inf, 98 Inf and 26 Armd Divs from North to South. 1 Para Div is astride Route 9 and 90 Pz Div, formerly on its right flank, has now been put into reserve and been relieved in its former sector by 27 Inf Div. This latter division after a much needed rest has now put at least one regiment in the line while on its right 334 Inf Div holds the hilly sector from M. [illegible] to [illegible] the SACCO river.

1314

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

1604

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

1605

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

1606

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

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

ENEMY SITUATION

During the past week the re-grouping of 10 Army has proceeded still further. With the commitment of 26 Pz Div, the most pressing question was the provision of an adequate reserve. 29 PG Div still remains SOUTH of BOLOGNA to provide the armour, and so far as intelligence is concerned, 114 Jaeger Div has now produced IR from both its regiments in the M.BELVEDERE (L.5217) sector, relieving 232 Div of some of its responsibilities. 278 Div has, after its short rest, relieved 90 PG Div which is presumably to replace 26 Pz Div as the armoured element in 10 Army reserve. It is fairly clear that 715 Div has been completely relieved, and the Div boundaries are now

4 Para Div to CAMPIANO M 2215
278 Div to M Pastino
334 Div to 9426
1 Para Div running in the M.GRANDE sector.

This leaves in reserve 90 PG Div and 719 Div, both due for a refit, and the latter reported to be reorganising on a new WE. Elements of 162 Turcoman Div are now taking over a part of 42 Jaeger Div's front. The dispositions are by no means clear but what is known is summarised below.

1 Bn 314 GR or at least a part of it has apparently been on the Spit in the area NORTH of the RENO for the last ten days. III Bn 303 GR has just arrived in the area of PORTO GARIBALDI (M.5966). The divisional responsibility may include the guarding of the shores of L.COMACCHIO. Both the bns mentioned above provided counter attack forces South of the RENO on 2-3 March and 7 Coy 303 GR lost 89 PW, including the coy comd and 85 Russians. Other PW were identified as from I Bty 236 Arty Regt (162 Div) and it appears that 1 Gp and possibly 3 Gp, are deployed on the isthmus.

162 Div, however, provides only the counter-attack force. The line south of the river was held by 142 Fusilier Bn, with 2 Coy identified in the O.S. FILIETONE area (M.5355) and 1 Coy at CASAVICA TEDONE (M.5855) and 2 Coy has lost 40 PW in the last two days. PW have stated that 162 Div was to take over the defence of the Spit, which would release 142 Fusilier Bn for use further inland. Of these the only recent news is of III Bn 25 PG Regt stated by PW of 142 Fus Bn to be in area 4952.

This would give 42 Jaeger Div seven bns to hold from the western shore of the lake to ALFONSINE or farther. Informed

reserve. It is feasible that 715 Div has been completely relieved, and the Div boundaries are now

1 Para Div to CAMPIANO H 2225
278 Div to 1½ Zentim
334 Div to 0426
1 Para Div remains in the N.GRADO sector.

This leaves in reserve 90 ID Div and 715 Div, both due for relief, and the latter reported to be reorganising on a new TO. Elements of 162 Turcoman Div are now taking over a part of 42 Jaeger Div's front. Its dispositions are by no means clear but what is known is summarised below.

I Bn 314 GR or at least a part of it has apparently been on the Spit in the area NORTH of the RENO for the last two days. II Bn 303 GR has just arrived in the area of BONCO S.NICHOLI (M.5966). The divisional responsibility may include the Garding of the shores of L.COMACCHIO. Both the bns mentioned above provided counter attack forces South of the RENO on 2-3 March and 7 Coy 303 GR lost 69 PW, including the coy comd and 95 Russians. Other PW were identified as from I Bty 236 Arty Regt (162 Div) and it appears that 1 Bn and possibly 3 Bn, are deployed on the isthmus.

162 Div, however, provides only the counter-attack force. The line south of the river was held by 142 Fusilier Bn, with 2 Coy identified in the CASA FILIPPONI area (M.6355) and 1 Coy at CHIAVICA TEDONE (M.6855) and 2 Coy has lost 40 PW in the last two days. PW have stated that 162 Div was to take over the defence of the Spit, which would release 142 Fusilier Bn for use further inland. Of these the only recent news is of III Bn 25 Jg Regt stated by PW of 142 Fus Bn to be in area 4952.

This would give 42 Jaeger Div seven bns to hold from the western shore of the lake to ALFONSINE or further. Information from PW shows that II Bn 117 GR is in process of relieving 98 Fus Bn in the area SOUTH from 363376. As a result, 98 Div will have t the Fusiliers in reserve, and both bns of 289 GR unlocated. It is unlikely that a divisional reserve of three bns would be maintained and 98 Div might easily take over a battalion sectors, and possibly a regimental sector from 362 Div. There is, however, no evidence of any kind to support this thesis.

.....2

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

border ...

It appears therefore that 42 Div and 90 Divs could take over part of the front from 362 Div, enabling the latter to form a local reserve.

2. ENEMY METHODS.

(a) Radio Interception.

A deserter from 290 Gren Regt (94 Inf Div) reported that a radio message had been picked up stating that outposts of coy 290 Inf Regt were to be attacked by fighter bombers the morning of 18 Feb. This message proved to be correct. The commander of 1 Coy told the PW that regimental headquarters intercept service had picked up the message and that the necessary precautions, such as additional shooting of camouflage, had been taken.

(Source CSDIC)

(b) Deception.

An FCO from 10 Coy 1 Para Regt reports that well-trained Hungarian patrols are being sent by the paratroopers to inf regts. The inf regts, in turn, are sending well-trained men to the parachutists for patrol assignments. The purpose is to confuse the enemy as to which troops are opposing him. An additional consideration is that it boosts the morale of the inf regts to have paratroopers with them.

(85 Div G2 Report No.161)

5 Corps Comment: Corpses have identified tps of 1 Para Div far from their sector in the last month, one south of the COMMACCHIO spit, and one on M TONDO 1420.

3. DESERTION.

To discourage desertion PW say that men were told officially that an offr cadet who deserted recently from 1 Coy lost a leg on a mine. An article in the 98 Div newspaper stated that all PW, incl deserters, taken by Allies were seriously mal-treated to make them talk.

(Source 56 Div.)

4. As others see us.

An officer of the Battle School HERNEKE told the students on about 15 Feb that 3 top-notch Allied Divs were [illegible] Para Div, 85 US Div, a British Div and 8 Ind Div

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

(Source CADIC)

(b) Desertion.

An NCO from 10 Coy 1 Para Regt reports that well-trained language patrols are being sent by the paratroopers to inf rgts. The inf rgts, in turn, are sending well-trained men to the parachutists for patrol assignments. The purpose is to confuse the enemy as to which troops are opposing him. An additional consideration is that it boosts the morale of the inf rgts to have paratroopers with them.

(85 Div G2 Report No.181)

5 Corps Comment: Corpses have identified ths of 1 Para Div far from their sector in the last month, one south of the COMEACCHIO spit, and one on M TONDO 1420.

3. DESERTION.

To discourage desertion PW say that men were told officially that an offr cadet who deserted recently from 1 Coy lost a leg on a mine. An article in the 98 Div newspaper stated that all PW, incl deserters, taken by Allies were seriously mal-treated to make them talk.

(Source 56 Div.)

4. As others see us.

An officer of the Battle School HENNEKE told the students on about 15 Feb that 3 top-notch Allied Divs were facing 1 Para Div: 85 US Div, a British Div and 8 Ind Div which he described as "unfair fighters".

(source: 2 US Corps)

Lt.Col.
G.S.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

SECRET

702/10/GSI

4 Mar 1945

HQ 15 ARMY GROUP INTELLIGENCE
NOTES NO.49 OF 27 FEBRUARY 45

These notes have been introduced to meet the requirements of certain units not normally in receipt of the ordinary intelligence Summary issued by this HQ. Their purpose is to keep such units in the general battle picture.

1. GENERAL SITUATION.

The rumours of an imminent German withdrawal from ITALY have continued all last week with a great show of detail but with rather less conviction and there is rather more evidence to show that some at least are German inspired. The remainder, based on intelligent anticipation of what OKW might be expected to do with the Russians so close to BERLIN and the Western Armies of Liberation so close to COLOGNE, are dying down and the intelligent anticipators are now veering to a conception of ITALY as the granary and, in part, workshop of the Nazi Alpine Redoubt. The fact remains that no further formation has followed 46 SS Div out of the country yet and, so far as is known, none has even started. There are at the moment only two German divisions uncommitted one recently withdrawn from the line, which is not excessive in view of the improvement in the weather, and the Westerly move of 114 Jg Div can scarcely be reconciled with any intention to withdraw. The Italian front is still, however, held in greater strength than either its intrinsic importance or Allied capabilities here could warrant and we must be prepared for it to be called on for further contributions to other fronts.

On 8 Army front 42 Jg Div is now known to command the whole sector from the GARIBALDI Isthmus to about ALGONETA. 162 Turcoman Div has apparently taken over from 114 Jg the responsibility of coastwatching in the area North of Lake COMACCHIO. The reshuffle last week gives 362 Div the sector from excl ALFONSINE to excl LUGO, then 98 Div as far as two kilometres upstream from COTIGNOLA and then 26 Pz Div which has taken over the small sector previously held by 278 Div together with part of 98 Div's previous sector. Both regiments of 26 Pz Div are in the line. The sectors of 4 Para and 90 PG Divs remain apparently unchanged but it looks as though 715 Div has been completely relieved, partly by the extension eastwards of 334 Div's sector. It is less likely now than it seemed last week when 278 Div was being relieved for an apparent reason, by 26 Pz Div, that the former is to move out of ITALY, while in view of past disappointments it is dangerous to predict the same of 715 Div. There must be some reason for the latter's relief, however, and it must take 278 Div's place as favourite for withdrawal.

In our BELVEDERE attack, after the initial surprise, we had a certain surprise ourselves to identify prisoners from 114 Jg Div, although Tac R reports of the previous day prepared us for some new arrival. Prisoners taken on 26 Feb were from 741 Jg Regt, all three bns of which have since been identified. It does not appear that their arrival was due to early warning of our impending attack as the first elements started to move on 12 Feb and, according to prisoners, the Div was intended for further West - LIGURIA according to some - and was diverted down the ZOCCA road on arrival at MODENA when news of our attack was received. The Recce Bn has been identified but not 721 Regt which is presumably West of the BELVEDERE area as the divisional artillery regt has been reported by ground sources in the ALFONSINE area. The arrival of 114 Jg Div will

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

1612

[illegible] rumours of an [illegible] from [illegible] all last week with a great show of detail but with rather less conviction and there is rather more evidence to show that some at least are German inspired. The remainder, based on intelligent anticipation of what OKW might be expected to do with the Russians so close to BERLIN and the Western Armies of Liberation so close to COLOGNE, are dying down and the intelligent anticipators are now veering to a conception of ITALY as the granary and, in part, workshop of the Nazi Alpine Redoubt. The fact remains that no further formation has followed 16 SS Div out of the country yet and, so far as is known, none has even started. There are at the moment only two German divisions uncommitted one recently withdrawn from the line, which is not excessive in view of the improvement in the weather, and the Westerly move of 114 Jg Div can scarcely be reconciled with any intention to withdraw. The Italian front is still, however, held in greater strength than either its intrinsic importance or Allied capabilities here could warrant and we must be prepared for it to be called on for further contribution to other fronts.

On 8 Army front 42 Jg Div is now known to command the whole sector from the GARIBALDI Isthmus to about ALBONGINA. 162 Turcoman Div has apparently taken over from 114 Jg the responsibility of coastwatching in the area North of Lake COMACCHIO. The reshuffle last week gives 362 Div the sector from excl ALBONGINA to excl LUGO, then 98 Div as far as the 4th kilometres upstream from COTIGNOLA and then 26 Pz Div which has taken over the small sector previously held by 278 Div together with part of 98 Div's previous sector. Both regiments of 26 Pz Div are in the line. The sectors of 4 Para and 90 PG Divs remain apparently unchanged but it looks as though 715 Div has been completely relieved, partly by the extension eastwards of 334 Div's sector. It is less likely now than it seemed last week when 278 Div was being relieved for no apparent reason, by 26 Pz Div, that the former is to move out of ITALY, while in view of past disappointments it is dangerous to predict the same of 715 Div. There must be some reason for the latter's relief, however, and it must take 278 Div's place as favourite for withdrawal.

In our BELVEDERE attack, after the initial surprise, we had a certain surprise ourselves to identify prisoners from 114 Jg Div, although Tac R reports of the previous day prepared us for some new arrival. Prisoners taken on 26 Feb were from 741 Jg Regt, all three bns of which have since been identified. It does not appear that their arrival was due to early warning of our impending attack as the first elements started to move on 12 Feb and, according to prisoners, the Div was intended for further West - LIGURIA according to some - and was diverted down the ZOCC.. road on arrival at MODENA when news of our attack was received. The Recce Bn has been identified but not 721 Regt which is presumably West of the BELVEDERE area as the divisional artillery regt has been reported by ground sources in the ARMONI area. The arrival of 114 Jg Div will allow 232 Div to side-step eastwards and take over some of 94 Div's sector, up to incl VERGATO according to one report. Also involved in unsuccessful counter-attacks were 4 Alpine Bn and the HITTERWALD Alpine LEHR Bn.

On the French frontier 5 Pz Div and 34 Divs are still apparently in position. The Russians claim to have taken prisoners in East PRUSSIA from "a battle group of 34 Div" but we have also had prisoners from 107 G.R. of the Div in the area N.7206 on 24 Feb.

Page 2/.....

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

There is no confirmation, therefore, of reports of a withdrawal of German troops from this sector and reports of the thinning out of 5 Mtn Div in small detachments so as not to arouse suspicion can be explained by the fact that units of the division have been withdrawn to fight Partisans, e.g., in the area between ISTI and ALEXANDRIA as paybooks captured by the partisans indicate. It is important, however, to keep a close watch on the movements of these divisions as, if the Germans are going to evacuate North-West ITALY they will be the first to depart.

2. WESTERN FRONT.

HITLER, some months ago in a moment of unusual clarity, pointed out that the great danger of a two front war lay in the fact that substantial forces are likely at any given time to be engaged not in fighting the enemy but in travelling from one front to the other. 6 SS Pz Army is a case in point. It was transferred to the East nearly a month ago, but played no part in halting the Russian advance, and now it is missing in the West at a critical moment when armour is in shorter supply than it has ever been.

By the end of last week RUNDSTEDT had three Pz Divs out of the line. They were 10 SS Pz, Pz LEHR and 11 Pz. No more of 10 SS Pz Div has been heard, and it seems likely that it has now left the West altogether. Pz LEHR Div has appeared in the REICHSWALD battle area, and 11 Pz Div moved from the Southern EIFEL up to the DUREN area. The Germans have been making determined efforts to extricate further forces from the line and during the few days preceding the Allied attack enjoyed rather greater success. 9 Pz Div was pulled out from the PRUEM area and moved up to DUREN while elements of three battered infantry divs were withdrawn from the area South of DUREN. This gave RUNDSTEDT by 25 Feb a mobile reserve of two Pz and 8 Inf Divisions of which both the Pz Divs have now been committed.

In the South, the Allied pressure in the SAARBRUCKEN Area was beginning to tell however and two of the divs in Army Group 'G' reserve appeared on the 1st German Army front. These were 245 Inf and 2 Mtn Divs. The latter had been in Southern Alsace and with 338 Inf Div, was reported to be moving northwards. Across the RHINE in Southern Alsace there are still out of contact, apart from occasional patrol clashes, five other infantry divs.

Meanwhile further North, the departure of 11Pz Div from the MOSELLE - SAAR triangle had to be paid for. Confronted with our attack, the enemy withdrew rapidly behind the SAAR River. SAARBURG fell without difficulty but the enemy was unable to prevent us establishing a bridgehead over the SAAR which is now 2 miles deep and 4 miles wide. Enemy resistance still remains moderate in this area.

In the Southern EIFEL, too, the enemy's resistance has been light. The enemy divisions in this area are now all in an extremely weary state. Most of them have had no rest since the ARDENNES offensive and they have nearly all been engaged in heavy fighting over the past fortnight. Even the arrival of

I 6 I 3

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

HITLER, some months ago in a moment of unusual clarity, pointed out that the great danger of a two front war lay in the fact that substantial forces are likely at any given time to be engaged not in fighting the enemy but in travelling from one front to the other. 6 SS Pz Army is a case in point. It was transferred to the East nearly a month ago, but played no part in halting the Russian advance, and now it is missing in the West at a critical moment when armour is in shorter supply than it has ever been.

By the end of last week RUNDSTEDT had three Pz Divs out of the line. They were 10 SS Pz, Pz LEHR and 11 Pz. No more of 10 SS Pz Div has been heard, and it seems likely that it has now left the West altogether. Pz LEHR Div has appeared in the REMAGEN bridge area, and 11 Pz Div moved from the Southern EIFEL up to the DUREN area. The Germans have been making determined efforts to extricate further forces from the line and during the few days preceding the Allied attack enjoyed rather greater success. 9 Pz Div was pulled out from the PRUEM area and moved up to DUREN while elements of three battered infantry divs were withdrawn from the area South of DUREN. This gave RUNDSTEDT by 25 Feb a mobile reserve of two Pz and 8 Inf Divisions of which both the Pz Divs have now been committed.

In the South, the Allied pressure in the SAARBRUCKEN Area was beginning to tell however and two of the divs in Army Group 'G' reserve appeared on the 1st German Army front. These were 245 Inf and 2 Mtn Divs. The latter had been in Southern Alsace and with 338 Inf Div, was reported to be moving northwards. Across the RHINE in Southern Alsace there are still out of contact, apart from occasional patrol clashes, five other infantry divs.

Meanwhile further North, the departure of 11Pz Div from the MOSELLE - SAAR triangle had to be paid for. Confronted with our attack, the enemy withdrew rapidly behind the SAAR River. SAARBURG fell without difficulty but the enemy was unable to prevent us establishing a bridgehead over the SAAR which is now 2 miles deep and 4 miles wide. Enemy resistance still remains moderate in this area.

In the Southern EIFEL, too, the enemy's resistance has been light. The enemy divisions in this area are now all in an extremely weary state. Most of them have had no rest since the ARDENNES offensive and they have nearly all been engaged in heavy fighting over the past fortnight. Even the arrival of 2 Pz Div from the PRUEM sector did not help and there has been evidence of considerable disorganisation in the enemy ranks as we pressed home our attack. Two bridges were captured intact over the PRUEM river and the fall of the road junction of BITBURG now seems to be imminent. One of the Infantry Divs pulled out five days before has been hastily recommitted in this area.

The main battle of the week has been in the DUREN sector where we attacked across the ROER river on a broad front from North and South of DUREN. Considerable progress has been made in this attack and for the first time since last summer there are signs of serious enemy disorganisation. The initial attack was taken by six infantry divisions all of them in their usual place, but as the attack developed, RUNDSTEDT was forced to draw more and more on his scanty reserve.

Page 3/.....

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

9 Pz Div which had scarcely extricated itself from the ERMEN sector was thrown in on the second day of the attack and was heavily engaged. 1/10 P.G.R. provided a spectacle not seen in the West for long, when the whole bn surrendered on 24 Feb. Since then 11 Pz Div which had only just arrived from the NEERZIG area has been committed, and now 338 Inf Div from Southern Alsace has been identified. These reinforcements have not been able to prevent an Allied breakthrough. In the direction of COLOGNE Allied armour operating in five columns on both sides of the AACHEN - COLOGNE autobahn has reached BLATZHEIM, 15 miles from the HOHENZOLLERN Bridge and 3 miles West of the ERFT river. The enemy may well hope to stand on this river on which defences have long been developed. Further North, on the front North of RHEINICH Allied armour has reached a point 4 miles from MUNCHEN-GLADBACH.

On the Canadian Army front the commitment of Pz LEHR Div raised to 10 the number of enemy divs engaged in the REICHSWALD battle. They present a formidable array for four are Parachute and 3 are good quality mobile divs. However, with the ground to some extent drying, we have been able to make good progress, notably North of GOCH where CALCAR has been taken after heavy fighting. German resistance in the area remains heavy and so far the enemy armour is still fully committed.

RUNDSTEDT's situation is deteriorating rapidly. His lack of infantry in the REICHSWALD sector, which forced him to commit his scanty mobile reserves in that area may cost him dear; for he can at present reckon only four somewhat doubtful infantry divs and no armour at all amongst his reserves. And this, when in the really crucial sector of the front the Allies are advancing faster than they have ever done; when strong forces of his own are still fully engaged in the REICHSWALD battle; and when he is losing in prisoners alone about 3,000 men per day. It took us nearly a month of bitter costly fighting to cover the 15 miles from AACHEN to the ROER river; in three days now we have crossed one major river obstacle and gained 7 miles. The road to COLOGNE was never likely to be an easy one, and there are still the defences of the ERFT to overcome, but it is becoming every day a shorter one, and RUNDSTEDT may soon be hard put to it to retain his position West of the RHINE.

3. EASTERN FRONT.

Apart from the short battles in the area of the NEISSE river North of GORLITZ there were signs last week that the great battles of the winter were over. The Soviet offensive was six weeks old on 26 Feb and as in the 5th week of last winter's offensive seemed to have passed its peak. By 23 Jul last year, five weeks after the offensive started, the deepest Russian pentrations into POLAND had been made, and thereafter Soviet operations were primarily concerned with cleaning up the flanks, securing bridgeheads and preparing for the next major move. (Incidentally, this took place exactly four weeks later, but on a wholly different sector when the Russians attacked towards GILITZ). In East PRUSSIA last week, ROKOSSOVSKI captured PREIL, 18 miles South of KOENIGSBURG, and further [illegible] the German East Prussian [illegible] by advancing across the main INSTERBURG - KOENIGSBURG road. In SAMLAND was also successful and German counter attacks in an Easterly direction seem to have re-established land contact between KOENIGSBURG and PILLAU.

In NW POLAND, despite an initially bitter resistance put up by the enemy along the front between encircled GRUDZIADZ and [illegible] considerable Russian progress has been made. ROKOSSOVSKI has been able to achieve a deep breakthrough in the direction of the Baltic coast and has captured the road and rail junction of RUBLITZ, about 25 miles from the coast, thereby threatening to split in two the enemy forces in the area between STETTIN and DANZIG. This [illegible] the danger to the long flank of

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 760020

fully committed.

RUNDSTEDT's situation is deteriorating rapidly. His lack of infantry in the REICHSWALD sector, which forced him to commit his scanty mobile reserves in that area may cost him dear; for he can at present reckon only four somewhat doubtful infantry divs and no armour at all amongst his reserves. And this, when in the really crucial sector of the front the Allies are advancing faster than they have ever done; when strong forces of his own are still fully engaged in the REICHSWALD battle; and when he is losing in prisoners alone about 3,000 men per day. It took us nearly a month of bitter costly fighting to cover the 15 miles from AACHEN to the ROER river; in three days now we have crossed one major river obstacle and gained 7 miles. The road to COLOGNE was never likely to be an easy one, and there are still the defences of the ERFT to overcome, but it is becoming every day a shorter one, and RUNDSTEDT may soon be hard put to it to retain his position West of the RHINE.

3. EASTERN FRONT.

Apart from the sharp battles in the area of the NEISSE river North of GOERLITZ there were signs last week that the great battles of the winter were over. The Soviet offensive was six weeks old on 26 Feb and as in the 5th week of last summer's offensive seemed to have passed its peak. By 23 Jul last year, five weeks after the offensive started, the deepest Russian pentrations into POLAND had been made, and thereafter Soviet operations were primarily concerned with cleaning up the flanks, securing bridgeheads and preparing for the next major move. (Tactically, this took place exactly four weeks later, but on a wholly different sector when the Russians attacked towards GOERLITZ). In East PRUSSIA last week, KONIGSBERG captured BENKE, 18 miles South of KOENIGSBURG, and further [illegible] the German East Prussian [illegible] by advancing across the main KOENIGSBERG - KOENIGSBURG road. In [illegible] was successful and German counter attacks in an Easterly direction seem to have re-established land contact between KONIGSBURG and PILLAU.

In NW POLAND, despite an initially bitter resistance put up by the enemy along the front between encircled GRUDZIADZ and STARGARD considerable Russian progress has been made. ROKOSSOVSKI has been able to achieve a deep breakthrough in the direction of the Baltic coast and has captured the road and rail junction of RUBLITZ, about 25 miles from the coast, thereby threatening to split in two the enemy forces in the area between STETTIN and DANZIG. This move has incidentally done much to eliminate the danger to the long flank of the Russian Central Group of Armies.

Opposite BERLIN, ZHUKOV seems prepared to wait and build up for the bitter 38 miles which he must traverse to the REICH capital. Neither side leaves much doubt of Soviet preparations in this sector.

Page 4.....

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

6117

It [illegible] talks of the words of guns and floats of [illegible] to be less loth to concede "two large tank [illegible] assault [illegible]". But this battle has not yet started, and a fall has fallen with the issue of the Soviet bridgeheads over the ODER will [illegible] for the Germans to [illegible] very existence. Behind the front, however, POSEN will [illegible] during the week.

On the First Ukrainian front, the battle for [illegible] has been bitter. Here again the Germans [illegible]. MOSCOW maintains its sphinx-like silence. [illegible] KONEV's forces have maintained the impetus [illegible] present offensive than any other in the [illegible]. [illegible] ODER rivers check[illegible]. For long, and once across the [illegible] only the lesser barrier of the URSIG river would stand [illegible] and BRESLAU on the ELBE. Hence the desperate battles which have been in progress in the approaches to GUBEN and POSEN, and the comparative slowness of KONEV's progress. Behind the front the battle for SILESIA is on, and not other thing, costly, block by block reduction which characterised the STALINGRAD battle is apparently to be repeated. GLOGAU too, has been [illegible] may prove to additional drag on KONEV's progress.

Further South there is little to report. The [illegible] German bridgehead on the East bank of the ODER near GUSTROW has been [illegible] eliminated, although German reports of Russian attacks in the [illegible] area of KÜSTRIN suggest that MODEL is continuing his efforts to widen [illegible] bridgehead.

There has been little interesting news of enemy [illegible] week. The bulk of 7 Pz Division seems to have been destroyed [illegible] for ULEIMS, while the Russians report the presence of a [illegible] Div in front PRUSSIA. There is no confirmation, however, of this identification, and no prisoners have been taken this week from 24 Div on the Eastern front. The report looks doubtful; possibly a new Divisional [illegible]. Further evidence confirms that HIMMLER is commanding the Army Northernly of the two Army Groups on the Central sector, as his Headquarters was at [illegible] on Jan 27.

HUNGARY

North of the DANUBE, the German operations to eliminate the Russian bridgehead over the IPOLY river have achieved their object, and the Soviet [illegible] are back on the East bank of the river from NOZADVOR, North of ESZTERGOM, down to the DANUBE. A startling identification was reported here last week. On 22 February the Rumanian General Staff, a normally reliable source, reported the identification of advanced units of 1 and 12 SS Pz Divs in the [illegible] region. These belong to 1 SS Pz Corps of 6 SS Pz Army. Whether the whole of 6 SS Pz Army is in HUNGARY or not, and if so, what its role is, we cannot say. Prior to the Rumanian report, there had been some very slight indications that the Army was bound for the Southern and not, as had been expected, the Central sector. A prisoner on the Western front said that he had been in HUNGARY. [illegible] identification, while another report has [illegible]. The

1309

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

RONEY's forces have continued to [illegible] present offensive than any other of the Army Group. [illegible] some rivers checked the forward [illegible] only the lesser barrier of the OPEK river would [illegible] DRESDEN in the MIDDLE. Hence the desperate battles that have been in progress in the approaches to OPPLN and POSEN, and the comparative absence of the Army's progress. Behind the front the battle for DRESDEN is on, [illegible] ously, block by block reduction which characterized [illegible] apparently are to be repeated. BRESLAU too, has been [illegible] additional drag on RONEY's progress.

Further south there is little to report. [illegible] bridgehead on the East bank of the ODER near GUBEN [illegible] still cracked, although German reports of fighting [illegible] RUSSIA suggest that RONEY is maintaining his [illegible] hold.

There have been all the interesting news of enemy [illegible] week. The bulk of 7 Pz Division seems to have been [illegible] the ODER, while the Russians report the presence of a [illegible] Div in East PRUSSIA. There is no confirmation, however, of [illegible] and as prisoners have been taken this week from 24 Pz [illegible] report looks doubtful; possibly - for diversion [illegible]. Further evidence confirms that HEINRICI is [illegible] two Army Groups on the Central sector, as his Headquarters [illegible] on Jan 27.

HUNGARY

North of the DANUBE, the German operations to eliminate the Russian bridgehead over the HRON river have achieved their object, and the 2 which were now back on the West bank of the river from ESZTERGOM, North of BUDAPEST, on the DANUBE. A startling identification was reported here [illegible] February the Rumanian General Staff, a hitherto [illegible] identification of advanced units of 1 and 12 SS Pz Divs in the [illegible]. These belong to 1 SS Pz Corps of 6 SS Pz Army. Whether [illegible] Army is in HUNGARY or not, and if so, what its role is, [illegible] to the Rumanian report, there has been little very slight [illegible] Army was bound for the Southern end not, as had been [illegible] sector. A prisoner on the Western front said that he had [illegible] moved out of the Army's destination, while another report [illegible] HITLER Division as being in SILESIA,- probably a [illegible] Div or to the Führer Escort Brigade of 6 SS Pz Army. [illegible] no satisfactory explanation for the heavy loadings [illegible] yards such a fortnight ago. There seem to be three [illegible] placing 6 SS Pz Army in the [illegible] Western HUNGARY [illegible] as a replacement for armour with regard to the General [illegible] whether it is to have an offensive role as at present [illegible] tion. The identifications on the HRON river suggest [illegible] German operation was beyond the resources of the [illegible] 6 SS Pz Army had to be drawn upon for reinforcement.

1309

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

..t this stage the holding of Western HUNGARY may well take a high priority in the German strategic plan. Considerations reflecting this are no doubt the oil fields of S.W.HUNGARY, and the industrial areas of Eastern AUSTRIA including the a/c factories at WIENER NEUSTADT.

YUGOSLAVIA.

The main news in YUGOSLAVIA comes from the SARAJEVO - DRAVA front, where there seems to have been a considerable thinning out in the enemy garrison. Important and surprising partisan successes have been reported in the general area of the old SARAJEVO bridgehead. The towns of VOCIN, HUM, PRNJIC., DARUVAR and SUHO POLJE have all been recaptured, thus largely neutralising the recent enemy gains. Immediately after the DRVAR operation the enemy had a strong force of some five divisions in this area and it is quite inconceivable that the Partisans could have achieved the success they have unless a considerable thinning out had taken place. Heavy westerly movement from VINKOVICI towards VARAZDIN has been reported, which suggests that some of the enemy forces between the DRAVA and SAVA may be about to leave the area of Army Group E. The effect this will have on the operations further South may be considerable. An early withdrawal from SARAJEVO itself seems inevitable, and HQ 21 Mtn Corps has already left for the North. How far the withdrawal will then go is not clear. If the SAVA is to be abandoned, a hold short of the VALJEVO - SARAJ line seems improbable. But this will probably mean the abandonment of the Hungarian oil, and is unlikely to appeal to the Nazis. In present circumstances he will certainly preserve links to the SAVA which in turn implies retention of the ZAGREB - BROD - VINKOVCI railway. The line of the S.V. South of this railway will bring the Partisans too close to it for comfort, so it is conceivable that the enemy may be planning to hold a line somewhere South of the river in sufficient depth to break up any Partisan attempt to cross it and threaten his main L of C.

C.M.F.
/TG

Lieut.Col.,
GSO 1,
No. 1 District.

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

1620

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

C O N F I D E N T I A L

5 IND INT DIV INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO.177 DATED 26th FEB 45.

1500 hrs.

1. ENEMY SITUATION.

The enemy regrouping has involved the switch of 741 Regt of 114 Jaeger Div and probably also 721 Regt, from the L.COMACCHIO area to the M.BELVEDERE (L5217) sector and the relief of 278 Div by 26 Pz Div. This leaves him with 29 P.G. Div as his only mobile reserve.

From the Adriatic coast the layout is now 42 Jaeger Div to ALFONSINE (4447), 362 Div to approx to 40 Northing, 98 Div to COTIGNOLA (3634) incl, then 26 Pz Div,with 4 PARA Div still astride Route 9. 90 P.G. Div is still on the right of 4 PARA Div.

On our own front boundaries and detailed dispositions of 42 Jg, 362 and 98 Divs are still to be confirmed. The following summarises the available evidence. The latest identification of 42 Jg Div was from a deserter of 6 Coy 25 Jg Regt who on 23 Feb put his Coy from 463497 - 465502 with 5 Coy North and 7 Coy South. But 6 Coy and 2 Coy of 25 Regt were identified by corpses of two men killed on 21 Feb at 379544. The deserter of 6/25 Regt thought 40 Jg Regt was to his South, but there has been no identification since a deserter of 2 Coy area 4647 on 8 Feb and a corpse of 16 Coy area 4445 on 10 Feb.

There is more evidence of 362 Div's dispositions, but it is far from conclusive.

A knowledgeable stretcher-bearer from 3 Coy 1060 Regt came in to our lines on 26 Feb. He said his Coy's right boundary was at 394445 with Italians, presumably of the LUPO Bn to his South, and 2 Coy, 1 Coy and more Italians to the north. He thought that II Bn 1060 Regt was to his South and this is [illegible] by a PW of 5 Coy taken 25 Feb at 370432 and an identified corpse of 7 Coy in the same area. The PW of 5 Coy was one of a party of 15 men drawn from 5, 6 and 7 Coys for a raid on night 24/25 and he thought that only his Coy of the Regt was out of the line.

The PW of 3/1060 saw recce parties of II/1060 in his area yesterday morning and he thought II Bn was due to relieve I Bn during night 26/27. Such a relief would conform to the general Northward trend of enemy reliefs, but enemy activity last night in the old II Bn sector did not suggest a relief.

From attacks on the night 24/25 a PW was taken at 372424 from 2 Coy 362 Fus Bn. He placed the Fusiliers in reserve in the area 3141, and said that 2 Coy trained for two days on the SANTERNO for the attack which was also carried out by 5 Coy 1059 Regt and some Engineers.

The sector from FUSIGNANO to 41 Northing was previously held by 956 Regt with II Bn North and I Bn South, but it seems clear from the above that II/1060 has occupied the Northern sector and the present

Note 5: 90 T.G. Div is still on the right of 4 PARA Div.

On our own front boundaries and detailed dispositions of 42 Jg, 362 and 90 Divs are still to be confirmed. The following summarises the available evidence. The latest identification of 42 Jg Div was from a deserter of 8 Coy 25 Ge Regt who on 23 Feb put his Coy from 403497 to 405502 with 6 Coy North and 7 Coy South. But 6 Coy and 2 Coy of 25 Regt were identified by corpses of two men killed on 21 Feb at 379544. The deserter of 8/25 Regt thought 40 Jg Regt was to his South, but there has been no identification since a deserter of 2 Coy area 4647 on 8 Feb and a corpse of 16 Coy area 4445 on 10 Feb.

There is more evidence of 362 Div's dispositions, but it is far from conclusive.

A knowledgeable stretcher-bearer from 3 Coy 1060 Regt came in to our lines on 26 Feb. He said his Coy's right boundary was at 394405 with Italians, presumably of the LVIII Bn to his South, and 2 Coy, 1 Coy and more Italians to the north. He thought that II Bn 1060 Regt was to his South and this he had learnt by a PW of 5 Coy taken Feb at 378432 and an identified corpse of 7 Coy in the same area. The PW of 5 Coy was one of a party of 15 men drawn from 5, 6 and 7 Coys for a raid on night 24/25 and he thought that only his Coy of the Regt was out of the line.

The PW of 3/1060 saw recce parties of II/1060 in his area yesterday morning and he thought II Bn was due to relieve I Bn during night 26/27. Such a relief would conform to the general Northward trend of enemy reliefs, but enemy activity last night in the old II Bn area did not suggest a relief.

From attacks on the night 24/25 a PW was taken at 372423 from 2 Coy 362 Fus Bn. He placed the Fusiliers in reserve in the area 3141, and said that 2 Coy trained for two days on the SANTERNO for the attack which was also carried out by 5 Coy 1059 Regt and some Engineers.

The sector from FUSIGNANO to 41 Northing was previously held by 956 Regt with II Bn North and I Bn South, but it seems clear from the above that II/1060 has occupied the Northern sector and the present occupants of the Southern sector remain a mystery with unconfirmed evidence suggesting II/1059.

In the 90 Div sector, 90 Fus Bn have been identified in area 3536 and a PW has stated that I Bn 117 Regt is to the North, while they themselves were to be relieved by another Bn of 117 on night 23/24. The C.O. is said, however to have refused to carry out the relief till the Fusiliers had re-established their posns. An attack carried out last night suggests he may have lost confidence, as I Bn 117 Regt remains in the ODIICHOLI area, and there is no evidence of 200 Regt since a PW on 20 Feb placed II Bn in area 3536.

Sheet 2

1307

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

2. ENEMY METHODS.

From PW interrogation, it appears that the enemy keeps up to date in more his tactics of fast mobile low profile warfare. Defensive methods so far reported include T mines with 5 second fuses fastened to outside grenades, or laid with wires to be pulled by the defenders, Stens attached to trip wires (at 35C.16), and minima of unscoupled grenades in the enemy MLRs (area 3944). Owing to heavy casualties from artillery and mortar FF the enemy has modified his method in some - 5 Coy 956 GR was sending out no patrols to avoid casualties from mortar fire on 21 Feb, and 2?? GR was carrying out local outpost relief during daylight in order to avoid our last-light FF.

Mines appear to be well planned. For the attack by 2 Coy 3/2 Pun on 24/25 Feb the troops involved had been specially trained on the GAMBRINUS, and the force included sappers with T mines, Bangalore torpedoes, and flamethrowers. 1 Bn 40 Jaeger Regt was reported to have an assault platoon of ten specially picked for such raids. Security measures have also been improved - prisoners taken have not been carrying pay books, though a corpse from 7 Coy 1060 GR was identified by a pay book - he was a senior NCO. In addition, 5 Div has forbidden commanders to send non-Germans on outpost duty.

Artillery methods have provided some points of interest. Guns appear to be firing concentrations which compare very favourably with our own divisional or group concentrations. This is a new departure. German artillery methods are based on the single gun and the supremacy of the observed shoot. The heavier concentrations in this area have normally preceded an offensive operation and in one instance in particular, the attack on 18 Feb, the ammunition seemed to have been spent, as CRC 5 Corps points out, on targets of a purely diversionary nature since in the area of the attack itself there was no shelling.

Neither is the weather such a guide to hostile artillery activity as it used to be. There was a time when a clear day and good visibility meant a busy day for the CRC. It is rather the rev nowadays. This even when there the enemy is relying more on prediction than was his habit before. Observed shoots are still carried out, but always on very forward positions. The dull day, no doubt, gives him a sense of security, on the principle that what the eye does not see, the CRC will not grieve over!

The practice of last light, or rather early darkness, shelling seems a universal habit across the front. Activity charts show a peak period, not always heavy it is true, about this time each day on all sectors.

A sound-ranging detachment was identified on 8 Feb with 25 Jaeger

White phosphorus

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

- 5 Coy 956 GR was sending out 20 patrols to avoid casualties from mortar fire on 21 Feb, and 200 GR was carrying out local outpost duties during daylight in order to avoid our last-night MF.

Raids appear to be well planned. For the attack by 2 Coy 902 Inf Bn on 24/25 Feb the troops involved had been specially trained on the ground, and the force included engineers with 2 mines, Bangalore torpedoes, and flamethrowers. 1 Bn 40 Fusilier Regt was reported to have an assault platoon of men specially picked for each raid. Security measures have also been improved - prisoners taken have not been carrying pay books, though a Gestapo from 7 Coy 1010 GR was identified by a pay book - he was a senior NCO. In addition, 96 Div has forbidden commanders to send non-Germans on outpost duty.

Artillery methods have provided some points of interest. Guns appear to be firing concentrations which compare very favourably with our own divisional or group concentrations. This is a new departure. German artillery methods are based on the single gun and the supremacy of the observed shoot. The heavier concentrations in this area have normally preceded an offensive operation and in one instance in particular, the attack on 18 Feb, the ammunition seemed to have been wasted, as CRA 3 Corps points out, in targets of a purely diversionary nature since in the area of the attack itself there was no shelling.

Neither is the weather such a guide to hostile artillery activity as it used to be. There was a time when a clear day and good visibility meant a busy day for the OBO. It is rather the rule nowadays. This must mean that the enemy is relying more on prediction than was his habit before. Observed shoots are still carried out, but always on very forward positions. The dull day, no doubt, gives him a sense of security, on the principle that what the eye does not see, the OBO will not believe exist!

The practice of last light, or rather early darkness, shooting seems a universal habit across the front. Activity charts show a peak period, not always heavy it is true, about this time each day on all sectors.

A sound-ranging detachment was identified on a Sch with 25 Pioneer Regt, working in a CB role with two 15 cm guns. White phosphorus shells were reported as falling in the area 497514 recently.

(Extracts from 10 Corps CB Provisional Int Summary No.1 included)

3. PERSONALITIES.

352 Inf Div has had a recent infiltration of Gestapo, or Party Members into its HQs. Gen GREINER is said to have gone to Germany to a higher command. The present GSO, Col HEINGARDT is reported to be the ex-Syndicator of THURINGEN. Gestapo have come from [illegible] as reinforcement in order to keep an official eye on morale, and report their observations to a higher authority.

/Sheet 3

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

3. (Contd)

Lt. HEILMANN in 1 Coy 105th GR was one of this type, and in speaking to his own recruit squad and description said "Even if the Company were whistled whirled down to one man and that man wanted to desert, I would shoot him!" Lt HEILMANN arrived " he's not the only one that can shoot" - and was placed under arrest) pending court-martial. He escaped and came over to us.

4. INDISCIPLINE.

(i) A Tobelwerfer mutinies.

A well informed P/W from a Tobelwerfer Unit reported an unusual incident that took place during practice firing in severe winter weather. When fired, the entire equipment is to be off into the air, the projectiles having fallen to the bearers of the Tobelwerfer.

(Source:VII US Corps)

(ii) "LE DUCE"

On 24 January "LE DUCE" paid a visit to III Battalion 1 PANZERGRENADIER Regiment in HOCHWALD 5.7932. Prior to his arrival, the entire Battalion was cleared.

(Source: IV Corps G-2 Report No.243 of 6 Feb 45)

(iii) Reichsmarshall GOERING.

Reichsmarshall GOERING and Inspekteur der Luftwaffe, General G.L.D. have temporarily discarded all their medals. GOERING now only exhibits the Iron Cross First Class he earned in World War I, and his pilot's insignia (FLUGZEUGFUEHRER-ABZEICHEN). According to a rumour current in 1st Fight Div, GOERING has decided not to wear his numerous medals "Until the day when the GAF has reached again the number of planes it had in 1939".

(Source: SHAEF IPW Report No.306)

(iv) Lousiness.

The following is a free translation of a document taken from a PW:

14th (A Tk) Coy.
104/th Inf Bn

1306

7th February 45.

Subject:- Lousiness.
To : Strong Point Commanders.

In my last inspection of the wash at Strongpoints B and C, I found as many as 25/30 lice in a single shirt. This proves that the order requiring a daily delousing has not been accomplished with sufficient diligence. It was my own experience in Russia that with

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

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

1625

[illegible]
air, the projectiles having [illegible] to the barrels of the Nb.Werfer.

(Source: VIII US Corps)

(ii) "IL DUCE"

On 2 January 'IL DUCE' paid a visit to III Battalion 1 BERSAGLIERI Regiment in MOCRONE L.7832. Prior to his arrival, the entire Battalion was disarmed.

(Source: IV Corps G-2 Report No.243 of 6 Feb 45)

(iii) Reichmarshall GOERING.

Reichmarshall GOERING and Inspektor der Jagdwaffe, General GALLAND, have temporarily discarded all their medals. GOERING now only exhibits the Iron Cross First Class he earned in World War I, and his pilot's insignia (FLUGZEUGFUEHRER-ABZEICHEN). According to a rumour current in 1st Fscht Div, GOERING has decided not to wear his numerous medals "until the day when the GAF has reached again the number of planes it had in 1939".

(Source: CSDIC IPW Report No.326)

(iv) Lousiness.

The following is a free translation of a document taken from a PW:

1306

14th (A Tk) Coy.
1044th Inf Regt   7th February 45.

Subject:- Lousiness.
To : Strong Point Commanders.

In my last inspection of the wash at Strongpoints B and C, I found as many as 25/30 lice in a single shirt. This proves that the order requiring a daily delousing has not been accomplished with sufficient diligence. It was my own experience in Russia that, with careful delousing, lice could be kept down to 2 - 3 a day; otherwise, shirts and underclothes literally took to their heels and ran away. In visiting the strong points in the future, I will make a spot check of underclothes and shall severely punish any one in whose garments I find more than three lice.

APPEL
Lieut and Company CO.

[illegible]
Lt.Col.
G.S.

HQ 15 ARMY GROUP INTELLIGENCE
NOTE NO. 43 OF 20 FEBRUARY 45

(Reproduced by HQ NO.1 District)

52 BCU

SECRET

702/10/GSI

25 Feb 45

These notes have been introduced to meet the requirements of certain units not normally in receipt of the ordinary Intelligence Summary issued by this HQ. Their purpose is to keep such units in the general battle picture.

1. NEW SITUATION

16 U.S. Div is well on its way out of ITALY and may by now be clear over the border but there is as yet no sign of any other formation following it. There is, however, some reshuffling taking place on 5 Army front, the significance of which is not clear at the moment. Elsewhere dispositions are normal and evidence of a change in strategic intentions, despite a flood of rumours, is still to seek.

On the Eastern flank there is no further evidence that 114 Jaeger Div is taking over part of the front near LAKE COMACCHIO: the dead men who provided the main weight for the theory could tell no tales and have not been corroborated by prisoners or deserters. The gap left by 16 U.S. Div has been filled mainly by an extension Northwards of the sector of 362 Div which has involved a move North by 98 Div also. In what was the extreme right-hand sector of the latter's front, held by 117 G.R., three deserters on 20 Feb identify both bns of 67 P.G.R. of 26 Pz Div. This Div has not been in action since before Christmas and there is no obvious reason why it should have come in again now. 278 Div has only been holding a regiment's worth of front and could easily have taken over another two bn's worth from 98 Div and the fact that it has not may give support to the idea that it is wanted elsewhere. If 9 P.G.R. comes in on the South of 67 P.G.R. we shall be fairly certain that the Frostbitten deserters story was right and General HOPPE is going off to seek new glory on the Eastern front. It is perhaps worth pointing out that, although the chances are against such a move in the present strategic situation, the enemy could launch an offensive down route 9 and on to FORLI from the North with 4 Para, 90 P.G. and 26 Pz Divs. An offensive in this area might perhaps have more point if it were intended as a cover to a withdrawal movement. In the meantime another candidate for release, 715 Div, now seems firmly in place and it appears that the sidestepping of 90 P.G. Div had as its purpose only the relief of 1028 G.R. for reasons not known to us but apparently urgent.

On 5 Army front our attack in the Monte BELVEDERE area seems to have hit the right flank of 232 Div, as expected, and prisoners have been taken from 232 Fusilier Bn and both bns of 1044 G.R. We appear to have achieved a fairly complete measure of surprise and enemy reaction so far has been slow. Prisoners provide evidence that both 4 Alpine Bn and the MITTENWALD Lehr Bn are still on our front; The former appears to be between 232 and MONTEROSA Divs and the latter may have moved forward to the same area from PONTREMOLI. 1 BERSAGLIERI Regt of ITALIA has provided a large number of deserters and has now been bolstered up by a bn from 2 BERSAGLIERI Regt which does not seem of any higher quality.

Behind the line 162 Turcoman Division continues to concentrate. A battalion of its artillery regiment which was under command of 232 Div left about 14 Feb, presumably to rejoin. None of its units seems to have come into the line on 5 Army front.

130

I 6 2 6

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

On the Eastern flank there is no further evidence that 114Jaeger Div is taking over part of the front near Lake COMACCHIO: the dead men who provided the main weight for the theory could tell no tales and have not been corroborated by prisoners or deserters. The gap left by 16 S.S. Div has been filled mainly by an extension Northwards of the sector of 362 Div which has involved a move North by 98 Div also. In what was the extreme right-hand sector of the latter's front, held by 117 G.R., three deserters on 20 Feb identify both bns of 67 P.G.R. of 26 Pz Div. This Div has not been in action since before Christmas and there is no obvious reason why it should have come in again now. 278 Div has only been holding a regiment's worth of front and could easily have taken over another two bn's worth from 98 Div and the fact that it has not may give support to the idea that it is wanted elsewhere. If 9 P.G.R. comes in on the South of 67 P.G.R. we shall be fairly certain that the Prostitution deserters story was right and General HOPPE is going off to seek new glory on the Eastern front. It is perhaps worth pointing out that, although the chances are against such a move in the present strategic situation, the enemy could launch an offensive down route 9 and on to PARMA from the North with 4 Para, 90 P.G. and 26 Pz Divs. An offensive in this area might perhaps have more point if it were intended as a cover to a withdrawal movement. In the meantime another candidate for release, 715 Div, now seems firmly in place and it appears that the sidestepping of 90 P.G. Div had as its purpose only the relief of 1028 G.R. for reasons not known to us but apparently urgent.

On 5 Army front our attack in the Monte BELVEDERE area seems to have hit the right flank of 232 Div, as expected, and prisoners have been taken from 232 Fusilier Bn and both bns of 1044 G.R. We appear to have achieved a fairly complete measure of surprise and enemy reaction so far has been slow. Prisoners provide evidence that both 4 Alpine Bn and the MITTENWALD Lehr Bn are still on our front; the former appears to be between 232 and MONTEROSA Divs and the latter may have moved forward to the same area from MONTEMOLI, 1 BERSAGLIERI Regt of ITALIA has provided a large number of deserters and has now been bolstered up by [illegible] from 2 BERSAGLIERI Regt which does not seem of any higher quality. 1305

Behind the line 162 Turcoman Division continues to concentrate. A battalion of its artillery regiment which was under command of 232 Div left about 14 Feb, presumably to rejoin. None of its units seems to have come into the line on 5 Army front; possibly it is intended for coast-watching North of Lake COMACCHIO. Further North still the S.S. ALPEN Division appears to have acquired the more official designation of 24 S.S. Mountain Div, but there is no evidence that the change involves either an increase in numbers or improvement in quality.

...../2

627

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

2. WESTERN FRONT

It is said of one of our great naval commanders when presented with a high award at a critical stage of the present war that he remarked "I would rather they had given me a squadron of Spitfires". A similar thought may have passed through Field Marshal RUNDSTEDT's mind this week when he was awarded the oak leaves with Swords to his Ritterkreuz. It was a recognition of great services rendered and a reminder perhaps that greater tasks have still to be carried out. It was a portent too; for in these days medals are easier to come by than troops. Last week, RUNDSTEDT's attempts to extricate sufficient divisions from the line for a refit and to form a strategic reserve were no mean solution. Against the two Volksgrenadier Divisions, the one Para Div and one Pz Div which had been withdrawn from the ARNHEM front, had to be weighed the increased demands of the ROERMOND battle into which have been drawn elements of four more divisions, and the certainty that further armour has left the Western Front.

In the South, the week has been quiet. 2 Mtn and 353 Inf Divs of 19 Army are still unaccounted for although train movement suggests that further forces are leaving BELGIUM probably for the S.H.R, and these two divisions seem to be the only ones to fit the pre-set bill. 2 Pz Div has not been identified to the West, while 10 S.S. Pz Div is still missing but prisoners have said that it is leaving for Germany. It may be following the other S.S. Pz Divisions which have left the West. Only two S.S. Divisions - 17 P.G. and 6 Mtn are thus left on the Western Front. Apart from these absentees, all Army Group 'B's divisions are still in the line, although heavy reaction to our local attack West of BRACHT between the MAAS and SCHWALM rivers was initially slow. Further North, however, a number of limited counter-attacks, never more than a battalion strong, have characterised the week. In one of these near ROERMOND, 11 Pz Div was engaged and lost five tanks. 11 Pz Div has now been out of contact for several days and is probably in reserve.

In contrast, the ARNHEM-DURAY sector was the quietest of the whole front last week. The enemy continued to offer only moderate resistance to Allied attacks near OOSTERHOUT, and seemed content to let us expand our bridgehead over the S.W.H. river without undue interference. The bridgehead is now about four miles deep and twice as long wide. Nor did we have very great difficulty in capturing VENLO which fell after a short street battle. However, the enemy has been holding very firm in the ROER region and to the North, and we have made little further headway. It is clear however, that here he is trying hard to hold his ends and exit, for efforts are being made to get troops out of the line without thereby allowing us to exploit our penetration of the Siegfried defences. Armour is the crying need, but the one P.G. and two Pz Divisions in the area North of ROER are still engaged. Two Volksgrenadier Divisions and one Parachute Division have however been extricated, and are probably resting somewhere West of the RHINE.

The bitterest fighting of the week has been in the area of the ROERMOND. When last week's Summary was written five enemy divisions had already been engaged in the battle, and in the past week a further four have appeared. The most interesting identification has been 15 P.G. Division which was brought back after a very brief period in reserve. It was the last uncommitted P.G. Div in the West. This has been followed by elements of one parachute division and one infantry division transferred from Western HOLLAND,

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

armour has left the Western Front.

In the south, the week has been quiet. 2 Mtn and 356 Inf Divs of 19 Army are still unaccounted for although fresh movement suggests that further forces are leaving HOLLAND probably for the S.E., and these two divisions seem to be the only ones to fit the present bill. 21 Pz Div has now been identified in the west, while 10 S.S. Pz Div is still missing but prisoners have said that it is leaving the Country. It may be following the other S.S. Pz Divisions which have left the West. Only two S.S. Divisions - 17 P.G. and 6 Mtn are thus left on the Western Front. Apart from these absentees, all Army Group 'B's divisions are still in the line, although enemy reaction to our local attack West of STRIJEN between the MAAS and WAAL rivers was initially slow. Further North, however, a number of limited counter-attacks, never more than a battalion strong, have characterised the week. In one of these near RAMUM, 11 Pz Div was engaged and took five tanks. 11 Pz Div has now been out of contact for several days and is probably in reserve.

In contrast, the ARNHEM-BETUWE sector was the quietest of the whole front last week. The enemy continued to offer only moderate resistance to Allied attacks near ELST and ARNHEM, and succeeded in fighting us expand our bridgehead over the WAAL river without undue interference. The bridgehead is now about four miles deep and twice as long wide. Nor will we have very great difficulty in capturing ARNHEM which fell after a short street battle. However, the enemy has been holding very firm in the EDE region and to the North, and we have made little further headway. It is clear however, that here he is trying hard to hold his gaps and not let it, for efforts are being made to get troops out of the line without thereby allowing us to exploit our penetration of the Siegfried defences. Armour is the crying need, but the one P.G. and two Pz Divisions in the area North of EDE are still engaged. Two Volksgrenadier Divisions and one Parachute Division have however been encircled, and are probably resting somewhere West of the RHINE.

The bitterest fighting of the week has been in the area of the ROERMOND. When last week's Summary was written five enemy divisions had already been engaged in the battle, and in the past week a further four have appeared. The most interesting identification has been 15 P.G. Division which was brought back after a very brief period in reserve. It was the last uncommitted P.G. Div in the West. This has been followed by elements of one parachute division and one infantry division transferred from Western HOLLAND, and one parachute division from the ROERMOND area. Of the nine divisions engaged, four are thus parachute. As a result of these developments there has been a considerable stiffening of the enemy resistance in the GELEN-GOCH area, achieved partly at the expense of the now very thinly held front in Western HOLLAND. Another dam has been blown by the enemy during the week, this time North of GELEN, and we are confronted with the worst floods of the whole campaign. Nevertheless appreciable progress has been made and we are now fighting in GOCH itself against embittered resistance.

RUNDSTEDT's account this week thus shows a slight increase in the amount of Infantry which he has in reserve, but an appreciable deterioration in his armoured reserves. There are now five infantry or parachute divisions

..../3

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

and mounted for in the West, but at best only three Panz Divisions and no S.S. Divisions at all. The demands of the Eastern front have indeed taken their toll. Excluding the four Panzer Divisions of 6 S.S. Army which are all unidentified, at least seven divisions two of them mobile, have been transferred to the Eastern front since the beginning of this year. HEINRICI may thus legitimately feel that he has done his part and may hope that no further withdrawals will be made upon him. For his own situation is not happy. The unforgiving minutes are passing and the enemy time to which they are played is once more called by his enemies.

3. EASTERN FRONT.

(a) East PRUSSIA and Eastern GERMANY

There has been little change in East PRUSSIA where KONEV is making only slow progress in the approaches to KONIGSBERG. The death of General CHERNYAKHOVSKI, Commander of the Third White Russian Army Group, is a serious loss to the Soviet forces in East PRUSSIA. CHERNYAKHOVSKI was the youngest Army Group Commander in the Soviet Union and in the present campaign was responsible for the capture of TILSIT and the breakthrough the INSTERBURG Gap towards KONIGSBERG. He was, incidentally, the first Russian commander to penetrate into German territory last November.

On the main front in POLAND and GERMANY the enemy is offering fierce resistance to the Soviet forces in POMERANIA. No further Russian progress has been made in the direction either of DANZIG or of STETTIN, but the capture of CHOJNICE just west of the German border about 70 miles S.W. of DANZIG gives the Russians control of a useful road centre. Now that SCHNEIDEMUHL has fallen, the Russians hold a 130 mile stretch of the BERLIN-DANZIG trunk line between KUSTRIN and CHOJNICE. Further west there seems to be little doubt that Marshal ZHUKOV has crossed the ODER on the direct approaches to BERLIN in the KUSTRIN-KUNERSDORF area. For over a fortnight the Germans have reported several Soviet bridgeheads in this area, and they now speak of KUSTRIN as being practically surrounded. The Soviets have made no official claims of crossings, but have spoken for the first time of the battle for the fortified approaches to BERLIN. 20 P.G. Div from the Western Front seems to have been engaged in the battle for KUSTRIN and is reported to have suffered severe losses.

Further South Marshal KONEV's drive into Southern GERMANY has made slower progress during the week. The BOBER and QUEISS rivers have been crossed and the Soviets stand 8 miles from GORLITZ. However, the advance seems to have slowed down in the past two days with KONEV's left flank still just short of the RIVER NEISSE. This may be in part due to the recent thaw, in part to the development of the battle round BRESLAU. BRESLAU, as forecast last week, was encircled by a link-up of the two ODER bridgeheads North and South of the town, and the Soviet ring is closing in on the town. To the S.W. however, the Germans still cling to their bridgehead on the East bank of the ODER South of OPPELN. As this lies very close to the vital GLEIWITZ industrial region, the enemy's continued retention of the bridgehead is a little disturbing and the area needs very careful watching.

Several interesting identifications are reported by the Russians from the Central sector. 21 Panzer Division from the West and 20 Pz Div from HUNGARY have been identified under Army Group Centre, together with a curious miscellany of new infantry divisions which appear to bear titles rather than numbers. Some of these may, of course, be S.S. Divs with an S.S. number, although none has been revealed. Some of the titles suggest that they may be

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 763020

making only slow progress in the approaches to KÖNIGSBERG. The death of General CHERNYAKHOVSKY, Commander of the Third White Russian Army Group, is a serious loss to the Soviet forces in East Prussia. CHERNYAKHOVSKY was the youngest Army Group Commander in the Soviet Union and in the present campaign was responsible for the capture of MEMEL and the breakthrough the HEILSBERG Gap towards KÖNIGSBERG. He was, incidentally, the first Russian commander to penetrate into German territory last November.

On the main front in POLAND and SILESIA the enemy is offering fierce resistance to the Soviet forces in POMERANIA. No further Russian progress has been made in the direction either of DANZIG or of STETTIN, but the capture of CHOJNICE just east of the German border about 70 miles S.W. of DANZIG gives the Russians control of a useful road centre. Now that SCHNEIDEMÜHL has fallen, the Russians hold a 150 mile stretch of the BERLIN-DANZIG trunk line between KREUZ and CHOJNICE. Further west there seems to be little doubt that Marshal ZHUKOV has crossed the ODER on the direct approaches to BERLIN in the FRANKFURT-STETTIN area. For over a fortnight the Germans have reported several Soviet bridgeheads in this area, and they now speak of FRANKFURT as being practically surrounded. The Soviets have made no official claims of crossings, but have spoken for the first time of the battle for the fortified approaches to BERLIN. 25 P.G. Div from the Western Front seems to have been engaged in the battle for KÜSTRIN and is reported to have suffered severe losses.

Further South Marshal KONIEV's drive into Southern SILESIA has made slower progress during the week. The BOBER and QUEISS rivers have been crossed and the Soviets stand 8 miles from GÖRLITZ. However, the advance seems to have slowed down in the past two days with KONIEV's left flank still just short of the RIVER NEISSE. This may be in part due to the recent thaw, in part to the development of the battle round BRESLAU. BRESLAU, as forecast last week, was enveloped by a link-up of the two ODER bridgeheads North and South of the town, and the Soviet ring is closing in on the town. To the S.W. however, the Germans still cling to their bridgehead on the West bank of the ODER South of OPPELN. As this lies very close to the vital GLEIWITZ industrial region, the enemy's continued retention of the bridgehead is a little disturbing and the area needs very careful watching.

Several interesting identifications are reported by the Russians from the Central sector. 21 Panzer Division from the West and 20 Pz Div from HUNGARY have been identified under Army Group Centre, together with a curious miscellany of new infantry divisions which appear to bear titles rather than numbers. Some of these may, of course, be G.S. Divs with no G.S. number, although none has been reported. Some of the titles suggest that they may be hastily formed Volkssturm divs. They are as follows: Infantry Divs SCHNEIDT, BERLIN, BIRNBAUM, [illegible], GROSS-[illegible] and (a new venture in German divisional terminology/of Italian Blackshirt practice) P.G. Div '30-th January'. We know nothing of the quality of these formations, but there is certainly need of further forces in Eastern GERMANY. 4 Pz Army seems to have taken a particularly bad knock in the Silesian fighting, while Soviet claims for the whole front suggest that enemy casualties are averaging 5,000 men a day. Casualties in the West are

...../4

1631

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

at present about 2,000 men per day; so that the enemy is now losing roughly the equivalent of one div every two days.

(a) CZECHOSLOVAKIA and HUNGARY

A U.S. P.W. DAY, formerly in the KOMÁRNO area, is reported to have left for the North. Otherwise there has been no major change in the situation in CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

In HUNGARY the week has seen renewed German counter attacks in the area North of the DANUBE. The enemy has been able to gain some ground between the HUTAS and the HRON rivers, and according to one report has been able to establish a small bridgehead from the South point of the DANUBE West of ESZTERGOM to the North bank of the river East of the HRON. There is so far no satisfactory evidence as to the scale or objective of these operations, but it may be of significance that 356 Inf Div from FRANCE has already been identified in action N.W. of BUDAPEST.

The cost to the enemy of the defence of BUDAPEST is now clear. Total German and HUNGARIAN casualties amounted to some 175,000 men, and the Germans lost the bulk of, if not the whole of, the following five divs under command of 9 G.A. Hqs Corps; 271 Inf 13 Pz 60 P.G. 3 S.S. Cav and 22 S.S. Cav Divs. After the final reduction of BUDA was completed, a number of German forces attempted to break out to the West. A few of these seemed to have succeeded in getting through to the German lines West of BUDAPEST, but the majority were destroyed N.W. of BUDAPEST. What remnants remained of 3 S.S. Cav Div after the BUDA battles seem to have been eliminated in this last desperate attempt.

(a) YUGOSLAVIA

There is evidence that the withdrawal of Army Group E which halted about a month ago South of BELGRADE, has now more been resumed. Last week, two of the advanced outposts covering BELGRADE, - MOSTAR and VIŠEGRAD - fell. The former was abandoned by the enemy after a sharp skytle, the latter without any interference from Partisans. Rearguards of 21 Mtn Corps, consisting probably of elements of 369 Div are now about 5 miles N.E. of MOSTAR, while West of VIŠEGRAD considerable westward road movement is reported. The DRINA too is again in Partisan hands. The suddenness of the German withdrawal from the DRINA line as VIŠEGRAD has not been without its embarrassments, particularly to the unfortunate 22 Inf Div at ZVORNIK which, as reports would have it, is now reduced to eating fodder. Prior to the German withdrawal from VIŠEGRAD it was already cut off from BELGRADE by the Partisan occupation of VLASENICA. Since then it has been engaged in very heavy fighting in the ZVORNIK area and is now reported to be isolated in three main packets in the DRINA Valley - ZVORNIK, KOMLUK (C.19) and BRANJEVO (X.20). 7 S.S. Mtn Div, only recently arrived in the SERAI from the DRINA Valley, have had to send down a relief force from SRNJALIJA to extricate the isolated forces and will no doubt succeed in so doing with the ruthlessness which has characterised its past two years of ANTI-PARTISAN warfare.

Fighting has also been taking place South of the DRAVA in the PAPUK Mountains to which some of the former Partisan garrisons in the BANJA bridgehead withdrew after the elimination of the bridgehead. DARUVAR, P 57 has been cleared by the enemy but the Partisans seem to be retreating in

1 6 3 2

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

[redacted] Slavs, and according to one report has been able to establish a small bridgehead from the South point of the DRINA West of SARAJEVO to the North bank of the mouth [redacted] of the UZICA. There is so far no satisfactory evidence as to the scale or objective of these operations, but it may be of significance that 369 Inf Div from FRANCE has already been identified in action N.W. of SARAJEVO.

The exact [redacted] of the enemy defence of SARAJEVO is now unclear. Total German and Collaborationist strength is estimated to exceed 175,000 men, of the best have been the 7 SS, 1st and 2nd Mtn Divs, the following five divs under command of 9 G.A. Van Corps; 27th Inf 13 SS 369 R.C. 8 S.S. Cav and 22 S.S. Cav Divs. After the final evacuation of SARAJEVO was completed, a number of German forces attempted to break out to the West. A few of these seemed to have succeeded in getting through to the German lines West of BOSANSKI PETROVAC, but the majority were destroyed N.W. of SARAJEVO. What remains remained of the S.S. Cav Div after the SARAJEVO battle seem to have been eliminated in this last desperate attempt.

(c) YUGOSLAVIA.

There is evidence that the withdrawal of Army Group E which halted about a month ago South of SARAJEVO, has once more been resumed. Last week, two of the advanced outposts covering SARAJEVO, - MOSTAR and VISEGRAD - fell. The former was abandoned by the enemy after a sharp fight, the latter without any interference from Partisans. Rearguards of 21 Mtn Corps, consisting probably of elements of 369 Div are now about 5 miles N.E. of MOSTAR, while West of VISEGRAD considerable Westward road movement is reported. TRAVNIK too is again in Partisan hands. The suddenness of the German withdrawal from the DRINA line at VISEGRAD has not been without its embarrassments, particularly to the 2nd Mountain 22 Inf Div at ZVORNIK which, as reports would have it, is now reduced to eating fodder. Prior to the German withdrawal from VISEGRAD it was already cut off from SARAJEVO by the Partisan occupation of VLASENICA. Since then it has been engaged in very heavy fighting in the ZVORNIK area and is now reported to be isolated in three main pockets in the DRINA Valley - ZVORNIK, ROGLUK (C.19) and BRANJEVO (X.20). 7 S.S. Mtn Div, only recently arrived in the area from the DRINA Valley, have had to send down a relief force from SARAJEVO to extricate the isolated forces and will no doubt succeed in so doing with the ruthlessness which has characterised its past two years of Balkan warfare.

Fighting has also been taking place South of the DRAVA in the PAPUK Mountains to which some of the former Partisan garrisons in the SLAVONSKI BROD bridgehead withdrew after the elimination of the bridgehead. DARUVAR, F 57 has been cleared by the enemy but the Partisans seem to be withdrawing in good order into the hills.

Apart from those mentioned above, there have been few changes in enemy dispositions this week. A number of reports indicate that 565 or 375 GERMANO- CROAT Div or both may be leaving N.W. YUGOSLAVIA. These reports are so far unconfirmed. There is however, good evidence that a Cossack Corps is setting up from 1 Cossack Div. Lieut.General HELMUTH von PANNWITZ, ex 3.C.C. 1 Cossack Div, is stated to be the new Corps Commander with HQ at MUNICH, F 15. 2 Cossack Div is setting up in the SISAK-KARLOVAC area where 6 Cossack Regt formed from recent arrivals from GERMANY, is located. The presence of 8 Cossack Regt in 2 Cossack Div presupposes the inclusion of 7 Cossack Regt also.

/BCG

Lieut Col
GSO 1,

1633

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765720

I

CZ 1304

SECRET

702/10/GSI

19 Feb 45

G.I.

15 ARMY GROUP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY NO. 47 of 19 FEBRUARY 45

(Recordings by HQ No.1 District)

These notes have been introduced to meet the requirements of certain units now normally in receipt of the ordinary Intelligence Summary issued by this HQ. Their purpose is to keep such units in the general battle picture.

- - - - - - -

1. ENEMY SITUATION

There have been patrol actions and raids at many points along the front and a more ambitious reconnaissance in force on our part of the Western end, but no change in the dispositions of the opposing forces has been effected. Our picture of enemy order of battle is also unchanged and the general tendencies noted last week continue.

On the enemy's left it appears likely that 114 Jaeger Division is taking over part of the line SW of Lake COMACCHIO. The intention no doubt is to allow 42 Jaeger Div to shorten its front since 16 S.S. must by now be all out of the line and its sector appears to be split between 42 and 362 Divs. Troops of 16 S.S. Div were probably passing through CASTELFRANCO (G 37) for TREVISO on 7 Feb and it may have been some of their equipment which was spotted by PR on the 12th at GEMONA, North of UDINE where there were 37 flat cars loaded with AFVs. Evidence of any other Division [illegible] 16 S.S. from 10 Army is still very scanty: a prisoner has a credible story about 278 being due to leave, which might be supported by the fact that it has certainly been most inconspicuous of late but by no other evidence. There is nothing to show that 90 P.G. has taken over more of 715 Div's sector and a corpse from [illegible] in 735 in the area M.1420, though it may have been lying there since 4 Feb, is a slight indication that the latter Division is not after all intended for the East just yet. Going further West everything is usual; 148 Div, as expected, had to bring much more of the strength into the line to meet our thrusts in its sector. All three German regiments were identified among an assortment of Italian [illegible] mainly from ITALIA Division. We took a fair number of prisoners in this area, though we failed to retain any ground gained, and the enemy must still be convinced of the necessity of keeping German troops at least available if his whole Western flank is to be prevented from dissolving.

The situation in Liguria remains much the same. There is further slight evidence that 29 P.G. Division was still in its old rest area NW of BOLOGNA on 8 Feb though a prisoner stated that he saw troops from it crossing the PO on 21 Jan, alleging that they were bound for the Eastern Front. This part of his story is not considered very likely. 26 Pz Div has been reported spasmodically up to 11 Feb as being in the area East and West of FERRARA; the places mentioned are fairly far apart and suggest a wide, but not improbable, dispersion. If 114 Jg Div has been definitely recommitted, as seems likely, it would leave these two mobile Divisions as the only reserve for the front; however it appears that another formation is on the way, no less than 162 Turcoman Division. According to a good source this Division left the TARO Valley, South of PIACENZA, for BOLOGNA on 6 Feb "hurriedly" and it has since been reported on 11 Feb on route 9, SE of BOLOGNA. Clearly the intention is to find some more active employment for the lame duck of Army Group C. It may be that the quality has been improved; according to one report recent drafts of Germans have considerably reduced the percentage of Turcomans in the Division.

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

...no change in the dispositions of the opposing forces has been effected. Our picture of enemy order of battle is also unchanged and the general tendencies noted last week continue.

On the enemy's left it appears likely that 114 Jaeger Division is taking over part of the line W of Lake COMACCHIO. The intention no doubt is to allow 42 Jaeger Div to shorten its front since 16 S.S. must by now be all out of the line and its sector appears to be split between 42 and 362 Divs. Troops of 16 S.S. Div were probably passing through CASTELFRANCO (C 37) for TREVISO on 7 Feb and it may have been some of those equipment which was spotted by PR on the 12th at GEMONA, North of UDINE, where were 37 flat cars loaded with AFVs. Evidence of any other Division [illegible] 16 S.S. from 10 Army is still very scanty: a prisoner has a credible story about 278 being due to leave, which might be supported by the fact that it has certainly been most inconspicuous of late but by no other evidence. There is nothing to show that 90 P.G. has taken over more of 715 Div's sector and a corpse from [illegible] 735 in the area L.142F, though it may have been lying there since 4 Feb, is a slim indication that the latter Division is not after all intended for the East just yet. Going further West everything is usual; 148 Div, as expected, had to bring [illegible] of its strength into the line to meet our thrusts in its sector. All [illegible] German regiments were identified among an assortment of Italian [illegible] mainly from ITALIA Division. We took a fair number of prisoners in this area, although we failed to retain any ground gained, and the enemy must still be convinced of the necessity of keeping German troops at least available if his whole Western flank is to be prevented from dissolving.

The situation in [illegible] remains much the same. There is further slight evidence that 29 P.G. Division was still in its old rest area NW of BOLOGNA on 8 Feb though a prisoner stated that he saw troops from it crossing the PO on 24 Jan, alleging that they were bound for the Eastern Front. This part of his story is not considered very likely. 26 Pz Div has been reported sporadically up to 11 Feb as being in the area East and West of FERRARA; the places mentioned are fairly far apart and suggest a wide, but not improbable, dispersion. If 114 Jg Div has been definitely recommitted, as seems likely, it would leave these two mobile Divisions as the only reserve for the front; however it appears that another formation is on the way, no less than 42 Turcoman Division. According to a good source this Division left the TARO Valley, South of PIACENZA, for BOLOGNA on 5 Feb "hurriedly" and it has since been reported on 11 Feb on route 9, SE of BOLOGNA. Clearly the intention is to find some more active employment for the lame duck of Army Group C. It may be that the quality has been improved; according to one report recent drafts of Germans have considerably reduced the percentage of Turcomans in the Division.

North of the PO there have been no important changes in the Alpine sector. In NE ITALY a good source puts 710 Div between UDINE and CHIOGGIA, a vague statement which suggests the Division may be engaged in the coastwatching duties to which it became so accustomed in NORWAY.

There is no change in enemy capabilities. If KESSELRING has been called on for more divisions than the two already surrendered he will no doubt comply as expeditiously as possible, but under present condition, unless its onward journey is to be entirely by road, with consequent expenditure of precious fuel, it is calculated that not [illegible] less than fifteen days must elapse between the time a division is withdrawn from the line and the time it clears from ITALY. At this rate it will be the end of March before KESSELRING really begins to feel the pinch in ITALY and must begin to consider a withdrawal to a shorter line.

..../2.

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

2. WESTERN FRONT

Last week saw the end of the German bridgehead in Southern ALSACE. Apart from a thinly held pocket North of COLMAR, which was quickly wiped out by French troops, the enemy succeeded in getting his forces back to the East bank of the RHINE without suffering many additional losses. However, most of the divisions which were in the pocket will have need of considerable rest before they are in any state to resume active operations. A probable exception is 2 Mtn Division which despite a notably bad performance appears to be leaving ALSACE, possibly for employment further North. The general trend of movement appears to be Northwards from Northern ALSACE as well as from the South and there are several notable absentees on First German Army's front. 25 P.G. Div is now probably in the East, while 21 Pz and 10 S.S. Pz Divs are both out of the line. This leaves twelve infantry divisions and one P.G. Div holding the First Army front between TRIER and the RHINE North of STRASBOURG. There is little evidence for the location or destination of the missing divisions. Rail movement continues NW from FRANKFURT as well as Eastward, suggesting that some forces at any rate are on the way to the RUHR sector.

There has been little fresh to report from the EIFEL. 11 Pz Division not conforming to the prevailing fashion in the West is still in the line and has been firmly reidentified in this past week in its old sector South of TRIER. It has in fact been indulging in limited and inconclusive aggressiveness. Further North, the infantry of the German Seventh Army continues to give ground albeit stubbornly. A notable success was gained last week when we cleared the enemy from the high ridge of the SCHNEE EIFEL overlooking the town of PRUM. We have breached the Siegfried defences in this area and are fighting in PRUM itself against fierce enemy opposition. The enemy seems to have been a little surprised at the comparative ease with which the Siegfried line was pierced, and has hastily brought up 2 Pz Div from reserve and 256 Infantry Division from ALSACE, both of which are now fighting in the PRUM sector.

North of the EIFEL bulge, the stiffened enemy resistance in the SCHMIDT area following the arrival of 3 P.G. Div did not stop the American First Army reaching the ROER river along its whole front. As a result of the operations of the past three weeks we now hold all of GERMANY West of this river. A battle has now developed for the dams over the river. Although we were able to seize intact part of one dam, the enemy by blowing the outlet pipes on all three dams in the region has succeeded in raising the level of the ROER river by four feet, and a considerable stream is now running. Some flooding has been caused, and operations are proving extremely difficult.

Enemy reaction to the British attack in the REICHSWALD was at first slow, although extensive minefields were encountered. In the first five days of the attack elements of only three divisions were contacted amounting to some seven regiments in all. However with the fall of CLEVE, a considerable stiffening of German resistance has become apparent. 7 Para Div, missing from Northern ALSACE for over a fortnight, has put in an appearance; so has 116 Pz Division which had been in reserve in the DUSSELDORF area. Ground conditions in this sector, too, are difficult in the extreme, and one Allied Division at any rate is conducting its operations in assault boats.

The Western Front is now going through a transitional period. The great battles of the winter are over, and although many bitter actions are in

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

destination of the missing divisions. Enemy movements continue [illegible] as well as Eastward, suggesting that some forces at any rate are on the way to the RUHR sector.

There has been little fresh to report from the EIFEL. 11 Pz Division not conforming to the prevailing fashion in the West is still in the line and has been firmly reidentified in this past week in its old sector South of TRIER. It has in fact been indulging in limited and inconclusive aggressiveness. Further North, the infantry of the German Seventh Army continues to give ground albeit stubbornly. A notable success was gained last week when we cleared the enemy from the high ridge of the SCHNEE EIFEL overlooking the town of PRUM. We have breached the Siegfried defences in this area and are fighting in PRUM itself against fierce enemy opposition. The enemy seems to have been a little surprised at the comparative ease with which the Siegfried line was pierced, and has hastily brought up 2 Pz Div from reserve and 25th Infantry Division from ALSACE, both of which are now fighting in the PRUM sector.

North of the EIFEL bulge, the stiffened enemy resistance in the SCHMIDT area following the arrival of 9 F.S. Div did not stop the American First Army reaching the ROER river along its whole front. As a result of the operations of the past three weeks we now hold all of DEPLANT West of this river. A battle has now developed for the dams over the river. Although we were able to seize intact part of one dam, the enemy by blowing the outlet pipes on all three dams in the region has succeeded in raising the level of the ROER river by four feet, and a considerable stream is now running. Some flooding has been caused, and operations are growing extremely difficult.

Enemy reaction to the British attack in the REICHSWALD was at first slow, although extensive minefields were encountered. In the first five days of the attack elements of only three divisions were contacted amounting to some seven regiments in all. However with the fall of CLEVE, a considerable stiffening of German resistance has become apparent. 7 Para Div, missing from Northern ALSACE for over a fortnight, has put in an appearance; so has 116 Pz Division which had been in reserve in the DUSSELDORF area. Ground conditions in this sector, too, are difficult in the extreme, and one Allied Division at any rate is conducting its operations in assault boats.

The Western Front is now going through a transitional period. The great battles of the winter are over, and although many bitter actions are in progress at this present time they do not constitute the major battles which RUNDSTEDT must expect in the Spring and Summer. In fine weather with the ground hard the present operations on the Dutch frontier would be a serious threat to the RUHR and to the whole German line in the West. Even now when the prevailing conditions make progress of necessity slow, RUNDSTEDT has shown clearly that he is not disposed to take the threat lightly. He would probably at present like to play a waiting game, using the time still left to him to prepare for the battles of the Spring. There are at the moment out of the line one P.G. and three Pz Divisions but little infantry. Nor can RUNDSTEDT expect to enjoy now the priority in infantry replacements which he did at the end of last year. True two divisions (233 Pz Trg and 166 Res) are at this time leaving DENMARK, destination unknown. In December there would have been a reasonable certainty that they were Westward bound, but there can be no guarantee of that to-day, nor that no further claims will soon be made on the West. Hence, uncertain of the future, RUNDSTEDT's policy must be to keep intact as much of his armour as he can, and to try to rest the infantry. His tardy reaction to the British

...../3.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

attack is a measure of his reluctance to commit reserves. Nevertheless he is being forced to commit them, and he is succeeding neither in keeping his armour intact nor in resting the infantry. In these circumstances the success of our present attacks is to be measured as much by the extent to which they compel RUNDSTEDT to keep or commit in the line divisions which would otherwise be resting as by the territorial gains made.

3. EASTERN FRONT

(a) EAST PRUSSIA AND EASTERN GERMANY

Notable gains in East PRUSSIA and GERMANY have marked the opening of the second month of the Soviet winter offensive. In East PRUSSIA, the capture of ELBING has reduced the German hold to a small area South of KÖNIGSBERG and to the city itself which is still being stubbornly defended, although ROKOSSOVSKI continues to make slow progress from the South. ELBING was the second largest town in East PRUSSIA, its importance lying mainly in the SCHICHAU yards which were at one time producing six submarines a month as well as M.T.Bs. 170 Inf Div appears to have taken a heavy battering at the hands of the Soviets in the course of this battle.

No further progress has been made by the Russians in their drive on DANZIG but in POMERANIA the left wing of the 2nd White Russian Army Group has been extended in the direction of STETTIN. DEUTSCH KRONE, a junction of five railways and six highroads, has been captured while troops of the First Polish Army took MARKISCH FRIEDLAND to the NW. The Russians are now within 10 miles of SCHNEIDEMÜHL having by-passed and encircled ARNSWALDE. The capture of SCHNEIDEMÜHL would cut the main trunk line from STETTIN to DANZIG and would confine land communication between BERLIN and the German forces in DANZIG and NW POLAND to the road and subsidiary rail network passing through the bottleneck at STETTIN.

While the First White Russian Group has been able to broaden the Northern flank of the Soviet salient pointing at BERLIN Marshal KONIEV has been securing the left flank of his First Ukrainian Army Group by a break out from the STEINAU bridgehead in the direction of GÖRLITZ. This drive has made very considerable headway. After cutting the BRESLAU-BERLIN highway, the Russians took LIEGNITZ and are now within 25 miles of GÖRLITZ. BRESLAU itself is in grave danger of encirclement from a link-up of the two large Soviet bridgeheads over the ODER on both sides of it. This drive is undoubtedly the most important development of the past week. KONIEV is now in a fair way to putting his left wing resting safely on the RIESENGEBIRGE, a natural defence considerably more reassuring than that of the ODER. The prospects of a German counter-attack against the Central Soviet Army Groups have appreciably diminished. Not only has the latest Soviet advance reduced the vulnerability of the Soviet Southern flank, but equally important any preparations for a counter-attack which the enemy may have been making South of FRANKFURT must have been seriously disrupted by the continued Soviet progress in the direction of Central GERMANY.

Some changes in the chain of command in the East have been reported during the past week. A document captured by the Russians is signed by Col-Gen SCHÖRNER as Commander of Army Group Centre. SCHÖRNER was last known as commander of Army Group North. There is no news of his successor in Army Group North, but on 6 Feb the VÖLKISCHER BEOBACHTER came out with the statement that HEINRICI had an Army Group on the Central sector. Another report associates

1302

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

KONIGSBERG and to the city itself which is still being stubbornly defended, although ROKOSSOVSKI continues to make slow progress from the South. ELBING was the second largest town in East PRUSSIA, its importance lying mainly in the SCHICHAU yards which were at one time producing six submarines a month as well as M.T.Bs. 170 Inf Div appears to have taken a heavy battering at the hands of the Soviets in the course of this battle.

No further progress has been made by the Russians in their drive on DANZIG but in PMERANIA the left wing of the 2nd White Russian Army Group has been extended in the direction of STETTIN. DEUTSCH KRONE, a junction of five railways and six highroads, has been captured while troops of the First Polish Army took MARIENBURG and ELBING to the SW. The Russians are now within 10 miles of SCHNEIDEMUHL having by-passed and encircled PRESWALDE. The capture of SCHNEIDEMUHL would cut the main trunk line from STETTIN to DANZIG and would confine land communication between BERLIN and the German forces in DANZIG and EAST PRUSSIA to the road and subsidiary rail network passing through the bottleneck at STETTIN.

While the First White Russian Group has been able to broaden the Northern flank of the Soviet salient pointing at BERLIN Marshal KONIEV has been securing the left flank of his First Ukrainian Army Group by a break out from the STEINAU bridgehead in the direction of GÖRLITZ. This drive has made very considerable headway. After cutting the BRESLAU-BERLIN highway, the Russians took LIEGNITZ and are now within 25 miles of GÖRLITZ. BRESLAU itself is in grave danger of encirclement from a link-up of the two large Soviet bridgeheads over the ODER on both sides of it. This drive is undoubtedly the most important development of the past week. KONIEV is now in a fair way to getting his left wing resting safely on the RIESENGEBIRGE, a natural defence considerably more reassuring than that of the ODER. The prospects of a German counter-attack against the Central Soviet Army Groups have appreciably diminished. Not only has the latest Soviet advance reduced the vulnerability of the Soviet Southern flank, but equally important any preparations for a counter-attack which the enemy may have been making South of FRANKFURT must have been seriously disrupted by the continued Soviet progress in the direction of Central GERMANY.

Some changes in the chain of command in the East have been reported during the past week. A document captured by the Russians is signed by Col-Gen SCHOERNER as Commander of Army Group Centre. SCHOERNER was last known as commander of Army Group North. There is no news of his successor in Army Group North, but on 6 Feb the VOLKISCHER BEOBACHTER came out with the statement that HIMMLER had an Army Group on the Central sector. Another report associates him with POMERANIA. The situation is thus a little obscure. It is of course conceivable that the disasters in the East have led to a rapid change of commanders similar to that in the West last summer. However SCHOERNER is a violent Nazi and would probably be regarded as a reliable General at the present time. It seems more likely in view of this that a further Army Group has appeared in the East to relieve Army Group North of part of its present three front commitment in LATVIA, East PRUSSIA and NE POLAND. North could then be left to deal with the Latvian and possibly East Prussian battles while HIMMLER and SCHOERNER cope with the war on German soil. Excluding YUGOSLAVIA there would then be five Army Groups on the Eastern Front.

1302

.../4.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

(b) HUNGARY

The main ne[illegible] from HUNGARY is of the fall of [illegible]DA. An indication that the end was near came on Feb 12 when the Soviet night communique reported the capture in two days of 30,000 prisoners. By the following morning came the admission from BERLIN that resistance in the capital had come to an end. Thus ends the long protracted battle which has probably cost the Germans the better part of some six divisions, not to speak of the wasted efforts expended in two fruitless counter-attacks. For the Russians the capture of the city will vastly simplify the supply problem in any further advance into Western HUNGARY since all the main roads and railways of Central HUNGARY converged on the capital. Elsewhere in HUNGARY there has been little to report. Russian counter-attacks have continued S.E. of SZEKESFEHERVAR but without making any great headway.

A number of order of battle changes are reported this week. 44 Inf Div appears to have moved from the BALATON sector to the area North of the DANUBE near KOMAROM. In the same area 211 Inf Div has been identified. This is a new arrival in Army Group South; it was last identified in October 1944 on the Central sector. It now seems clear too that 2 Pz Army has passed from command of Army Group F to Army Group South. This would be a logical development since it extends Army Group South's sphere of command down to the Hungarian Southern frontier, thus confining Army Group F's command to the Yugoslav area. 2 Pz Army is believed to control 1 Mtn, 71 Inf and 118 Jg Divisions. As a result of these changes the strength of Army Group South is now estimated to be thirty divisions.

(c) YUGOSLAVIA

Events in the BARCS bridgehead have dominated the Yugoslav scene in this past week. An attack against the two-months old Partisan-Soviet bridgehead over the DRAVA was launched from the East and South on the morning of 5 Feb, and it soon became apparent that this operation was on a very much larger scale than either of the two previous attempts to eliminate the bridgehead. Elements of at least four German Divisions took part in the attack, from right to left, 11 S.A.F., 297 Inf, a battlegroup of 7 S.S. Mtn (from the BIJELJINA area) and the STEFAN Division. The latter is an ad hoc formation believed to be equated with 264 Reserve Division which has been consistently reported in YUGOSLAVIA over the past six months. The attack made considerable headway and was taken up by 1 Cossack Division from the West capturing VIROVITICA. Since then enemy progress has been rapid and it now appears that the whole of the bridgehead has been eliminated. As a threat to the BROD-ZAGREB railway it proved of considerable value in tying up German forces, but it was in fact never reinforced or exploited by the Russians on a scale sufficient to threaten the German position in YUGOSLAVIA.

In DALMATIA, the Partisans have made a rapid come-back after the German drive in the MOSTAR area. A counter-attack launched from the S.W. led to the fall of SIROKI BRIJEG, the important strongpoint covering MOSTAR from the West.

N.E. of SARAJEVO enemy operations in the DRINA Valley are continuing to make progress. Having captured ZVORNIK 22 Inf Div has been pushing Northwards to the BIJELJINA area where it has been engaged in heavy fighting. Something of a set-back has been suffered however by the Partisan recapture of VLASENICA on the main SARAJEVO-ZVORNIK road. 22 Inf Div storming Northwards may have swept the Partisans off the road itself, but that was about all it did; now that the storm has passed the Partisans have had little difficulty in re-assuming occupation of VLASENICA. Presumably 181 Inf Div will now be called upon to retake the town again.

A Partisan source states that II/1047 of 237 Inf Div is at LUPOGLAV. Of the fifteen Yugoslav villages which bear this name, that at J 6618 North of SISAK is the nearest to [illegible]

1640

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

Army Group South. This would be a logical [illegible] Southern Frontier, while Army Group South's sphere of command down to the Hungarian Southern Frontier, while Army Group F's command to the Yugoslav area. 2 Pz Army is believed to control 1 Mtn, 71 Inf and 118 Jg divisions. As a result of these changes the strength of Army Group South is now estimated to be thirty divisions.

(c) YUGOSLAVIA

Events in the BARIS bridgehead have dominated the Yugoslav scene in this past week. An attack against the two-months old Partisan-Soviet bridgehead over the DRAVA was launched from the West and South on the morning of 8 Feb, and it soon became apparent that this operation was on a very much larger scale than either of the two previous attempts to eliminate the bridgehead. Elements of at least four German Divisions took part in the attack, from right to left, 11 C.A.F., 297 Inf, a battlegroup of 7 S.S. Mtn (from the SIVALUDIA area) and the STEIRA Division. The latter is an SS new formation believed to be equated with 28d Reserve Division which has been consistently reported in YUGOSLAVIA over the past six months. The attack made considerable headway and was taken up by 1 Cossack Division from the West capturing VIROVITICA. Since then enemy progress has been rapid and is now appears that the whole of the bridgehead has been eliminated. As a threat to the BROD-ZAGREB railway it proved of considerable value in tying up German forces, but it was in fact never reinforced or exploited by the Russians on a scale sufficient to threaten the German position in YUGOSLAVIA.

In DALMATIA, the Partisans have made a rapid come-back after the German drive in the MOSTAR area. A counter-attack launched from the S.W. led to the fall of SIBENIK BRIJEG, the important stronghold covering MOSTAR from the West.

N.E. of SARAJEVO enemy operations in the DRINA Valley are continuing to make progress. Having captured ZVORNIK 22 Inf Div has been pushing Northwards to the PIVSEVINU area where it has been engaged in heavy fighting. Something of a set-back has been suffered however by the Partisan recapture of VLASENICE on the main SARAJEVO-ZVORNIK road. 22 Inf Div storming Northwards may have swept the Partisans off the road itself, but that was about all it did; now that the storm has passed the Partisans have had little difficulty in re-assuming occupation of VLASENICE. Presumably 181 Inf Div will now be called upon to retake the town again.

A Partisan source states that II/1047 of 237 Inf Div is at LUPOGLAV. Of the fifteen Yugoslav villages which bear this name, that at J 6618 North of BUZET is the nearest to ISTRIA and the most likely location. Elements of 237 Division may well have been sent to DALMATIA possibly to reinforce the Island of KRK or to act as a counter-attack force in the event of an Allied landing. There is some evidence that the enemy is concerned about the security of this Island, and the garrison has recently been raised to 1,200 men by the arrival of 500 Ustashi troops.

From the SISAK area further reports have been received of a concentration of Cossack troops. An earlier report has stated that 2 Cossack Division was forming in this area, and while this lacks confirmation, it appears quite reasonable.

[signature]
Lt-Col,
GSO I,
No 1 District.

/ED
C.M.F.

1641

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

52 Bde

HQ 15 ARMY GROUP INTELLIGENCE
NOTES NO. 46 dt 6 FEBRUARY 45

(Reproduced by HQ Base District)

SECRET

702/19/GSI

12 Feb 1945

These notes have been introduced to meet the requirements of certain units not normally in receipt of the ordinary Intelligence Summary issued by this HQ. Their purpose is to keep such units in the general battle picture.

---

1. ENEMY SITUATION

The patrol activity which has monopolised the communiques of the last week has been most valuable in widening our picture of the enemy's dispositions and intentions. The prisoners taken have confirmed in general terms the conclusions reached in our last Summary that no great changes in policy were yet being affected, though regroupings and reliefs continue.

On 8 Army front the main point of interest is the relief of part of 16 SS by 42 Jaeger Div. The SS men themselves confirm that there is a strong rumour in the div that it is going to GERMANY, but three Alsatian deserters add corroborative detail. According to them I Bn 36 SS has already left for FERRARA and II Bn was expecting to go on the night 4/5 Feb (which was they deserted). They had already seen the advance party of the relieving troops. At any rate we can accept the fact that 16 SS is in the process of being relieved.

Further South and West another reshuffle is taking place. 4 Para Div has taken over part of the former sector of 90 PG which in turn has relieved some of 715 Div and a deserter states that it intends to take over the whole of 715 Div's sector.

Otherwise dispositions are normal. Prisoners have confirmed that it was 157 Mtn Div, as we expected, which relieved 4 Para Div West of route 65. 232 Div is still in its old position with four bns forward and three in reserve. The 148 Div sector has been the scene of considerable vicissitudes during the past few weeks, due to political and psychological reasons rather than military. The main factor is the arrival of a regiment of PADUA Div plus the divisional Engineer Bn; the other Regt is allegedly in the area South of PADUA and is not expected in the line till March. In the early part of the period the trend was to relieve forward German battalions by Italians to allow the former to rest and the latter to gain experience. The most important sectors, e.g. the coastal plain, were still, however, held by German troops. The experiment has not been very successful as large numbers of the Italians began to come over to the Allies at once and the trend has had to be reversed; in the last few days the Germans have been taking over from the Italians again. The general picture remains the same, with Germans and Italians intermingled under German operational command.

There has been no change visible in the aspect of the German reserves. 114 Jaeger Div is still reported from time to time in the area North of Lake COMACCHIO. 26 Pz Div has not been reported since about 15 Jan, when its div sign was seen in the area East of FERRARA, but there is no evidence that it has left or is intending to leave. 29 PG Div too is still believed to be somewhere North of BOLOGNA. So far, therefore, KESSELRING is almost as strong as ever; his

1642
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

The patrol activity which has monopolised the [illegible] week has been most valuable in widening our picture of the enemy's dispositions and intentions. The prisoners taken have confirmed in general terms the conclusions reached in our last Summary that no great changes in policy were yet being affected, though regroupings and reliefs continue.

On 8 Army front the main point of interest is the relief of part of 16 SS by 42 Jaeger Div. The SS men themselves confirm that there is a strong rumour in the div that it is going to GERMANY, but three Alsatian deserters add corroborative detail. According to them I Bn 36 SS has already left for FERRARA and II Bn was expecting to go on the night 4/5 Feb (which was they deserted). They had already seen the advance party of the relieving troops. At any rate we can accept the fact that 16 SS is in the process of being relieved.

Further South and West another [illegible] is taking place. 4 Para Div has taken over part of the former sector of 90 PG which in turn has relieved some of 715 Div and a deserter states that it intends to take over the whole of 715 Div's sector.

Otherwise dispositions are [illegible] prisoners have confirmed that it was 157 Mtn Div, as we expected, which [illegible] 4 Para Div West of route 65. 232 Div is still in its old position with [illegible] forward and three in reserve. The 148 Div sector has been the scene of considerable vicissitudes during the past few weeks, due to political and psychological reasons rather than military. The main factor is the arrival of a regiment of [illegible] Div plus the divisional Engineer Bn; the other Regt is allegedly in the area south of FAENZA and is not expected in the line till March. In the early part of the period the trend was to relieve forward German battalions by Italians to allow the former to rest and the latter to gain experience. The most important sectors, e.g. the coastal plain, were still, however, held by German troops. The experiment has not been very successful as large numbers of the Italians began to come over to the Allies at once and the trend has had to be reversed; in the last few days the Germans have been taking over from the Italians again. The general picture remains the same, with Germans and Italians intermingled under German operational command.

There has been no change visible in the aspect of the German reserves. 114 Jaeger Div is still reported from time to time in the area North of Lake COMACCHIO. 26 Pz Div has not been reported since about 15 Jan, when its div sign was seen in the area East of FERRARA, but there is no evidence that it has left or is intending to leave. 29 PG Div too is still believed to be somewhere North of BOLOGNA. So far, therefore, KESSELRING is almost as strong as ever; his front line is still solidly held and he has one mobile division in reserve behind both the 5th and 8th Army fronts. Like [illegible] on the MALAKOFF Redoubt, KESSELRING can still say "J'y suis, j'y reste".

2. WESTERN FRONT.

Von RUNDSTEDT's problem this [illegible] been to form a strategic reserve which will at least in part compensate for the departure of 6 SS Pz Army. The four Armoured Divs of the latter are now definitely away, although the six or seven Inf Divs which had been operating with them appear for the present to be staying. The destination of the armour is certainly Eastwards. Although the farewell to the West has been a slow business, with the weather and the air forces alternating in their efforts to prolong it, it has none the less been final.

RUNDSTEDT's problem now, if he is allowed to keep the remaining seven Pz Divs, is to make them do the work of eleven or at any rate so to dispose them that he will have some form of reserve on which to fall back when the next Allied attack starts.

[illegible]

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

3. EASTERN FRONT.

EAST PRUSSIA AND POLAND.

There has been an appreciable slowing down of the Russian advance in this past week. The encircled L of G, with ROMINTEN still in German hands, a stiffening enemy opposition, particularly in East Prussia, and a premature thaw in the Central sector have all contributed to the Soviet difficulties. In East Prussia, the Russians have now occupied about five-sixths of the province, and the defence of what is still left resolves itself for the enemy into the defence of KÖNIGSBERG and ELBING. He is clearly determined to hold on to these two ports as much to deny them to the Russians as for their own worth to him. The Soviets have already this week acquired one important naval base in the shape of MEMEL; they have also developed the threat to DANZIG and GDYNIA, while GDYNIA itself is only 57 miles from the front. The whole German position in Eastern Baltic waters is thus endangered with the gravest consequences for the enemy-cut dive at present isolated in LATVIA. Fierce enemy counter-attacks are to be expected as the Soviets draw nearer to these naval bases. So are the German efforts to break through the Russian wedges which isolates that Prussian area to their detail. The measure of success achieved by these attacks is not clear. There are no claims or admissions that the Soviet wedge has been broken, but this proves little, for the Russians might not admit a setback nor the Germans know they were even really firmly isolated. It is clear however that in the past week the Russians have been able to broaden their salient to the West and are within seven miles of DANZIG. Further to the SW ROKOSSOVSKY has made satisfactory progress in extending the left flank of his 2 White Russian Army Group across the German frontier on a broad front SE of SCHNEIDEMÜHL. SCHNEIDEMÜHL at the junction of seven railway lines remains however an isolated garrison in enemy hands behind the front. This obstacle combined with the marshy lake country in POMERANIA is likely to make the advance on BERLIN a formidable business.

Marshal ZHUKOV's First White Russian Army Group continues its advance to the ODER though at a much reduced pace. KÜSTRIN at any rate is reported to be strongly defended and the reduction of both KÜSTRIN and FRANKFURT is likely to be a difficult task. FRANKFURT itself lies on both banks of the ODER, though KÜSTRIN is largely on the West bank. In this region the ODER reaches its widest point - about 200-250 yds - and running at this width to the South. The Soviet line has now developed into a vast salient which narrows down through Western POLAND to its tip near FRANKFURT. As such it offers the many possibilities of counter-attack from North and South, and ZHUKOV must be anxious to get his flanks resting firmly and without delay on the natural protection of the ODER.

From the remainder of the Central sector, the only development this week has been the German report of a new Soviet thrust from the bridgehead over the ODER NW and SW of SCHLEI. This has now been confirmed by the Russians, showing that the relative calm of the preceding week was probably due to good effect by KONIEV in bringing up fresh forces.

HUNGARY.

There has been little change in the situation in HUNGARY. The long battle for BUDAPEST seems to be drawing near its end and the garrison is reduced to a small force holding the area of the castle in BUDA.

South of the capital the Soviet counter-attacks against the German salient [illegible] progress and are within 8 miles of SZÉKESFEHÉRVÁR.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 763020

those naval bases. [illegible] which isolates the Russian assault [illegible]. The measure of success achieved by these attacks is not clear. There are no signs of withdrawal that the enemy's wedge has been broken, but this proves little, for the Russians might not admit a setback nor the Germans that they were over readily firmly isolated. It is clear however that in the past week, the Russians have been able to broaden their salient to the west and are within seven miles of Brody. Further to the SW RUMOHOVSH has made satisfactory progress in [illegible] the lower bank of his 2 White Russian Army group across the German frontier on a broad front as far as [illegible]. [illegible] the junction of seven railway lines leading [illegible] isolated garrison in every [illegible] behind the lines. This [illegible] which is merely like a county in [illegible] is likely to make the advance on [illegible] a formidable business.

Marshal ZHUKOV's First White Russian Army Group continues its advance to the ODER though not at such perfect pace. The bend of any note is reported to be strongly defended and the reduction of [illegible] and KUSTRIN is likely to be a difficult task. FRANKFURT should also be a point of the ODER, though [illegible] is largely on the East bank. In this region the River is [illegible] about 200-250 yds - and reaches its widest point - [illegible] not developed into a vast [illegible] which narrows down through Western POMERANIA to the [illegible] near PRITZWALK. [illegible] to assess the many possibilities of counter-attack from North and South, and it [illegible] to gain his flanks resting firmly and without delay on the natural perfection of the ODER.

From the remainder of the Central Sector the only development this week has been the German report of a new Soviet attack from the bridgehead over the ODER NW and SW of [illegible]. This has now been confirmed by the Russians, showing that the relative calm of the preceding week was merely due to good effort by [illegible] in bringing up fresh forces.

HUNGARY.

There has been little change in the situation in HUNGARY. The long battle for BUDAPEST seems to be drawing near its end and the garrison is reduced to a [illegible] force holding the north of the capital in BUDA.

South of the capital the Red counter-attacks against the German salient are making good progress, and are within [illegible] of SZEKES FEHERVAR.

No change in the enemy order of battle is reported from HUNGARY is reported this week.

YUGOSLAVIA.

The main news of the week has been from DALMATIA, where the enemy has carried out a strong sortie from the KNIN area, in the direction of the Dalmatian coast. This was [illegible] probably carried out by elements of 369 (Croatian) Croat Div supported by 9 Croat Div and seems to have taken the Partisans completely by surprise. KNIN (M.09) was quickly overrun and the enemy continued the attack as far as SINJ in the KNIN sector, seven miles from the coast. A wedge was thus driven which prevented Partisan movement between Northern and Southern DALMATIA. A hint that the enemy occupation was not to be permanent however was given when the Germans blew the bridges over the KRKA in the SIBENIK area.

Page 4/.....

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

His first action has been to start reducing his unnecessary commitments in the West of which the COLMAR pocket was apparently judged to be the least essential. The effort has not been wholly successful. True the pocket is now virtually eliminated but the cost was apparently higher than RUNDSTEDT expected. At least two Inf Divs (708 and 16) have been reduced to remnants while 338 Inf Div which had been defending the western face of the pocket collapsed quickly when the French attack on the VOSGES ridge started. French forces attacking from the South nevertheless have had a hard fight of it all week against 2 Mtn Div reinforced by elements of 5 Mtn Div from ITALY; harder by far than the French-American forces in the North of the pocket who took COLMAR, cut the COLMAR-BREISACH railway and reached the RHINE on a 35 mile front South of STRASBOURG against light to moderate resistance. The pocket is now half its size of a week ago and in view of the absence of any good roads, the German position West of the RHINE looks untenable.

While these operations were in progress in the South, the armour remaining in the West after the departure of 6 SS Pz Army was being quietly taken out of the line. In Northern [illegible] 25 Pz and 7 Pz Divs are missing, although 10 SS Pz Div (NOT of 6 SS Pz Army) and 17 SS Pz Div are still there. The former has helped the infantry of First German Army to offer surprisingly firm resistance to our attacks particularly around [illegible] where we have made little headway. Extensive floodings, natural rather than Teutonic in origin, are adding to the difficulties in this sector. An increase in rail movement has been observed this week down the RHINE valley from KARLSRUHE through [illegible]. It does not necessarily imply further transfers from the West for the indications are that the RHINE is being reinforced at the expense of other areas.

The same thing has been going on all along the front. 11 Pz Div has been out of contact from the [illegible] area for several days, while at the end of last week none of 5 Pz Army's armoured divs was left in the line. The infantry remaining in the ARDENNES has fought an undistinguished but orderly rearguard in the area South of ST. VITH. Our bridgehead over the OUR river was quickly expanded and we have pushed across the German frontier to within 5 miles of PRUM. Now that we are in contact with the Siegfried defences there is some stiffening of enemy resistance.

However, RUNDSTEDT was not to solve his difficulty so easily as that. No sooner had he got a force of six armoured and three Pz Divs out of the line than a new crisis arose. The American 1st Army attack in the HONSCAU forest seems to have caused some confusion in the enemy ranks. Resistance on the first day was light, and offered largely by a mixed colleny of dubious units ranging from a Home Guard Bn to elements of 5 Army's Engineer School. Considerable progress was made. We cleared the HONSCAU forest and the high ground to the South before RUNDSTEDT's counter-measures started. First of all he put 9 Pz Div back into the line and quickly after it came 9 Pz Div accompanied by 12 Volksgrenadier Division not yet properly recovered from its ARDENNES battles. So far there has not been any great stiffening in enemy resistance, and as we are astride both banks of the ROER river it would seem that the enemy must go back to the line of the ERFT river covering the GRUND Forest. In this attack we have penetrated to points 12 miles inside GERMANY and are well into the Siegfried defences, having gained most valuable ground for any resumption of large scale attacks towards the RHINE.

There are now five armoured and two Pz Divs unlocated in the West - almost exactly the same number as in the week preceding RUNDSTEDT's ARDENNES attack. The situation is far from as alarming however. One has learnt by now the dangers of thinking the Germans to be wholly on the defensive at any time; but if only limited [illegible] can be achieved in December with the full employment of the

1646
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

In North [illegible] LUCE 25 PG [illegible] Pz Divs are missing, although 10 SS Pz Div (NOT of 6 SS Pz Army) and 17 [illegible] are still there. The fortress has helped the Infantry of First German [illegible] to offer surprisingly fierce resistance to our attacks particularly around [illegible]. Here we have made little headway. Extensive floodings, natural rather than Teutonic in origin, are adding to the difficulties in this sector. An increase in rail movement has been observed this week down the RHINE valley from KARLSRUHE through [illegible]. It does not necessarily imply further transfers from the West for the indications are that the RUHR is being reinforced at the expense of other areas.

The same thing has been going on all along the front. 11 Pz Div has been out of contact from the [illegible] each for several days, while at the end of last week none of 5 Pz Army's armoured Divs was left in the line. The infantry remaining in the [illegible] has fought an unextinguished but orderly rearguard in the area South of ST. VITH. Our bridgehead over the OUR river was quickly expanded and we have pushed across the German frontier to within 5 miles of PRUM. Now that we are in contact with the Siegfried defences there is some stiffening of enemy resistance.

However, RUNDSTEDT has not to solve his difficulty quickly as that. No sooner had he got a brace of SS armoured and three Pz Divs out of the line than a new crisis arose. The [illegible] Army attack in the [illegible] forest seems to have caused some confusion in the enemy ranks. Resistance on the first day was light, and offered largely by a motley of dubious units ranging from a Home Guard Bn to elements of 15 Army's Training School. Considerable progress was made. We cleared the [illegible] forest and the high ground to the south before RUNDSTEDT's counter-measures started. First we all he put 9 Pz Div back into the line and quickly after it came 9 Pz Div accompanied by 12 Volksgrenadier Division not yet properly recovered from its [illegible] battles. So far there has not been any great stiffening in enemy resistance, and as we are astride both banks of the ROER river it would seem that the enemy must go back to the line of the OLEF river covering the [illegible] Forest. In this attack we have penetrated to points 12 miles inside GERMANY and are well into the Siegfried defences, having gained most valuable ground for any resumption of large scale attacks towards the RHINE.

There are now [illegible] and two Pz Divs unlocated in the West - almost exactly the same number as in the week preceding RUNDSTEDT's ARDENNES attack. The situation is far from [illegible] however. One has learnt by now the dangers of thinking the Germans to be wholly on the defensive at any time; but if only a limited and costly success could be achieved in Defence with the full employment of the fresh 6 Pz Army, the prospects of even a spoiling attack are at present slight. Moreover the depleted Pz Army has the better of the two and in better shape when it left than is 5 Pz Army today. Of the rest of RUNDSTEDT's armour, 116 Pz Div is tentatively placed in the DUREN area, and the general trend of traffic suggests that a proportion of the remainder is moving into the area West of the RUHR. Confirmation is given to this supposition by the identification of 8 Para Div from GERMANY in the VENLO area, an indication that RUNDSTEDT is once again worried about the security of the RUHR valley, and is taking steps to thicken up the thinly held approaches to it from HOLLAND. The brief breathing space which he may hope to have before the spring will surely be spent in resting and strengthening the defenders of the RUHR. For what was said in this Summary long before the December battles have more force today than it ever had. Loss of the RUHR will finally decide the issue.

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

[illegible] FRONT.

[illegible] AND [illegible].

There has been an appreciable slowing down in the Russian advance in this past week. The extended n of O, with ROVNO still in [illegible] hands, a stiffening enemy opposition, particularly in their centre, and [illegible] have all contributed to the Soviet [illegible]. In the Pripet Marshes, the Russians have not occupied above five-eighths of the province, and the defence of what is still left available itself for the enemy into the defence of [illegible] and PINSK. He is clearly determined to hold on to these two ports as much to deny them to the Russians as for their own worth to him. The Soviets have already this week acquired one important naval base in the Gulf of RIGA; they have also developed the thrust to MINSK and BOBRUISK, this [illegible] itself is only 97 miles from the front. The whole German position in Eastern Baltic waters is thus endangered with the present serious threat for the early fall of PSKOV. Further enemy resistance is to be expected as the Soviets draw nearer to these naval bases. However the German efforts to [illegible] the Russian wedges which isolates East Prussia [illegible] have failed. The measure of success achieved by these attacks is not [illegible]. There are no claims or admissions that the Soviet wedge has been broken, but this proves little, for the Russians might not admit a setback nor the Germans that they were even partly firmly isolated. It is clear however that in the past week, the Russians have been able to broaden their salient to the west and are within seven miles of [illegible]. Further to the SW [illegible] has made satisfactory progress in [illegible] the left flank of the Z White Russian Army Group near to the German frontier [illegible] a bridgehead [illegible] of SIEDLCE. SIEDLCE, at the junction of seven railway li... remains [illegible] a well developed garrison in enemy hands behind the front. This [illegible] combined with the marshy lake country in POMERANIA, is likely to make the advance in this [illegible] a formidable business.

Instead [illegible]'s 1 Byel White Russian Army Group continues its advance in the ODER through at a much reduced pace. PRENZLAU at any rate is reported to be strongly defended and the reduction of both PRENZLAU and ANGERMUNDE is likely to be a difficult task. [illegible] 2 Army lies on both banks of the ODER, though ANGERMUNDE is already on the West bank. In this region the ODER reaches its widest point - about 200-250 yds - and crossing at this time of the month. The Soviet line has now levelled out into a west bulge at which narrows down [illegible] Western POMERANIA to its tip near STETTIN. An attack [illegible] the enemy possibilities of counter-attack from North and South, and STETTIN must be needed to get his flanks and finally an [illegible] delay of the natural protection of the ODER.

From the remainder of the Central sector, the only development this week has been the German [illegible] of a new Soviet [illegible] from the bridgehead over the ODER NW and SW of [illegible]. This has now been confirmed by the Russians, showing that the relative calm of the preceding week was probably put to good effect by ZHUKOV in bringing up fresh forces.

1289

HUNGARY.

There has been little change in the situation in HUNGARY. The long battle for BUDAPEST seems to be drawing near its end and the garrison is reduced to a small force holding the [illegible] of the castle in BUDAPEST.

South of the capital the Soviet counter-attacks against the German salient are making good progress, and are within 8 miles of SZEKES FEHERVAR.

No change in the enemy Order of Battle is reported from HUNGARY is reported this week.

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

those naval bases. However the German efforts to break through the Russian wedges which isolates East Prussia have failed. The nature of ground afforded by these marshes is now given. There are no signs of withdrawal that the Soviet wedge has been broken, but this proves little, for the Russians may not wish a setback nor the Germans that they were over readily firmly isolated. It is clear however that in the past week, the Russians have been able to broaden their salient to the West and are within seven miles of [illegible]. Further to the S. [illegible] has made satisfactory progress in straightening the line North of his 2 White Russian Army Group across the German frontier [illegible] broad sector N of [illegible]. [illegible] at the junction of seven railway lines remains [illegible] a isolated garrison in enemy hands behind the front. This is still [illegible] with the nearby [illegible] country in [illegible] is likely to make the advance [illegible] a formidable business.

[illegible] Army Group continues its advance to the ODER through [illegible]. [illegible] by any route is reported to be strongly defended and the reduction of both [illegible] is likely to be a difficult task. [illegible] Army lies on the flanks of the [illegible], through [illegible] is largely on the [illegible]. In this region [illegible] reaches its widest point - about 200-250 miles - [illegible] of this width [illegible]. The Soviet line has now developed into a wide salient in which narrows from the Western [illegible] to its tip near [illegible]. [illegible] offers the many possibilities of counter-attack from North and South, and [illegible] must be watched [illegible] this flank resting firmly and without delay on the natural protection [illegible].

From the remainder of the Central sector, the only development this week has been the German report of a new Soviet [illegible] from the bridgehead over the ODER NW and SW of [illegible]. This has not been confirmed by the Russians, showing that the relative calm of the preceding week has probably put to good effect by [illegible] in bringing up fresh forces.

1289

HUNGARY.

There has been little change in the situation in HUNGARY. The long battle for BUDAPEST seems to be nearing [illegible] and now the garrison is reduced to a small force holding the [illegible] of the castle in BUDA.

South of the capital the Soviet counter-attacks against the German salient are making good progress, and are within 9 miles of SZEKES FEHERVAR.

No change in the enemy Order of Battle as reported from HUNGARY is reported this week.

YUGOSLAVIA.

The main news of the week has been from [illegible], where the enemy has carried out a strong sortie from the KORCA region, in the direction of the Dalmatian coast. This was [illegible] probably carried out by elements of 369 Croat-Div supported by 9 Cossack Div and seems to have taken the Partisans completely by surprise. KARLOVAC (7.09) was quickly overrun and the enemy continued the attack as far as SISAK in the KUPA estuary seven miles from the coast. A wedge was thus driven which prevented Partisan movement between Northern and Southern DALMATIA. A hint that the enemy occupation was not to be permanent however was given when the Germans blew the bridges over the KUPA in the SISAK area.

1649

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

- [illegible] -

This was followed by a withdrawal from [illegible] to [illegible], which was abandoned by the enemy [illegible] after heavy fighting. The [illegible] were thus [illegible] back to their start line [illegible]. What exactly was the object of this operation is still not clear. If it was to interrupt the Partisan communications in [illegible] a certain limited and temporary inconvenience has been achieved. The Partisans however [illegible] that it may have been designed to cover the withdrawal of supplies and troops from [illegible], but stronger evidence will be needed before [illegible] that the withdrawal from the [illegible] has been started. [illegible] possible explanation is that the enemy wishes to [illegible] his hold on the [illegible] in the [illegible] area, and to [illegible] Partisan concentrations which might threaten them.

There has [illegible] been [illegible] reports of heavy [illegible] movement from VISEGRAD to [illegible]. The only certain facts about all these reports are that [illegible] is being used by the enemy as a base for a new drive [illegible] the capture of [illegible] in the DRINA Valley [illegible], and the enemy is now advancing [illegible] the DRINA Valley in the direction of [illegible]. His objective here appears to be two-fold: firstly to open up the [illegible] through the DRINA Valley to [illegible]; and secondly to [illegible] capture of the [illegible] by securing a [illegible] line for [illegible] in the Balkans along the line of the DRINA river.

The enemy [illegible] in [illegible] has [illegible] changes during the past week. [illegible] XXI [illegible] Corps [illegible] with four divs under command [illegible] as follows:

364 [illegible] Div	-	[illegible]
104 Jg Div	-	[illegible]
22 Inf Div	-	[illegible] (probably [illegible] the present DRINA Valley operations).
[illegible] Inf Div	-	VISEGRAD - [illegible] road. ([illegible] southern flank of [illegible] Corps).

[illegible] appears to have left [illegible] for the North. [illegible] and the [illegible] C of S [illegible] staff is also said to have gone, [illegible] for the [illegible] the fatherland [illegible].

1298

[illegible signature]

Lieut-Col.,
GSO 1.,
[illegible] District.

G.M.A.
/[illegible]

1651

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

[illegible] INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN No. [illegible]

21 January - 4 February 1945

This bulletin is issued on the understanding that :-

(a) It is not [illegible] up in any place to which civilians have access,
(b) All unfiled copies are destroyed before any camp site is vacated,
(c) The information is not discussed in the hearing of civilians.

Adverse weather conditions during the last fortnight precluded anything in the way of offensive operations by either side, and artillery [illegible] patrolling have been the order of the day. The enemy's [illegible] considerable [illegible] has been the reshuffling of his own forces, [illegible] which has been at the same time leisurely and far reaching.

On Eighth Army front the enemy showed signs on 24 Jan of [illegible] over to more passive defence. The [illegible] aggressive raids were [illegible] but in general he appeared to be abandoning some of his strongpoints East of the [illegible] and [illegible] up houses to clear his field of fire from the [illegible] bank. [illegible] able to [illegible] without opposition the points at M.3553 and M.3153 which had hitherto been [illegible]. [illegible] enemy activity was noted on the following day which took the form of a series of explosions in the enemy rear areas [illegible] of his [illegible] up houses and haystacks in [illegible] land. Italian troops [illegible] under our command were able to patrol all day without interference up to the [illegible] VECCHIO from M.4896 to [illegible].4352. Continued explosions and an increase of road movement behind the enemy lines were the only features of note on 25 Feb. There was a sharp increase in [illegible] activity that night and the following morning and a sharp fire-fight took place at the base of the COMACCHIO spit. Further evidence of the [illegible] character of the Germans in this area was provided on 25 Jan when they sent out another party to raid [illegible] held by us in square M.5454. The raid was unsuccessful. The belief that the increased movement behind the enemy's lines pointed to [illegible] was confirmed [illegible] when we took prisoners North of Route 9 from 4 Para Div which had previously held [illegible] West of BOLOGNA. They said they had relieved 29 PG Div and that the latter was to go to Germany. The next three days produced no event of interest, and even patrols were fewer. Last Tuesday was marked by a small and inconclusive enemy attack at M.4952. Wednesday was a better day for our [illegible] North of Route 9 brought in a varied and interesting selection of PW who helped to clarify the enemy's order of battle. Obviously still in doubt about grouping [illegible] the enemy [illegible] and South of Route 9 which was driven off. Another small raiding party attacked at the Southern end of the COMACCHIO spit on Thursday morning but this was everywhere repulsed.

Behind the screen of operational inactivity the enemy has been engaged in a large scale but leisurely re-shuffle of his forces. At the Southern end of the COMACCHIO spit there has been no identification of fresh [illegible] and it must be supposed that the sector is still held by a couple of bns of 71 Inf Div, though the recent aggressiveness in this area is not in keeping with the earlier efforts of this Division. From the SW corner of the COMACCHIO lake to the railway and perhaps beyond we have 42 Jaeger Div with 16 SS Reichsfuhrer on its right as far South as M.5642, although our most recent prisoners from this latter [illegible] talk of being relieved. South again 362 Inf Div has [illegible] all three regiments in the line [illegible] the bank of the SENIO as far as COTIGNOLA. [illegible] the SENIO runs due East - West 98 Inf Div has returned from its brief rest and has at least one of its regiments in the line. 278 Inf Div, probably the [illegible] division now fighting on the front, still has at least one regiment in the line at M.3052. 4 Para Div switched from the central sector has relieved 29 PG Div and part of 90 PG Div and is on a [illegible] front North and South of Route 9. 90 PG Div after its relief [illegible] stepped and has [illegible]

1297

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

[illegible] 1652

[illegible] large scale [illegible] operations. [illegible] 90 Inf Div [illegible] 362 Inf Div [illegible] SE [illegible] returned from its brief rest and has at least one of its regiments in the line. 273 Inf Div, probably the third [illegible] still has at least

very brief .....

1653

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

1654

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

HQ 15 ARMY GROUP INTELLIGENCE
NOTES NO 45 OF 30 JANUARY 1945

(Reproduced by HQ No.1 District.)

SECRET

702/10/GSI

4 Feb 1945

These notes have been introduced to meet the requirements of certain units not normally in receipt of the ordinary Intelligence Summary issued by this HQ. Their purpose is to keep such units in the general battle picture.

---

1. ENEMY SITUATION.

There has been little activity along the front but considerable activity behind it and it appears that the crisis on the Eastern Front has at last begun to have an effect on the situation of Army Group C. One division is already on its way out of ITALY and the reshuffling which has gone on suggests that it is intended to release other formations as well. As might have been expected the stress of great events has led to a plentiful crop of rumours that the Germans are evacuating the whole of Northern ITALY and although this is a cry which has become tedious from repetition during the past 17 months the justified scepticism with which it has been received in the past should not prevent us from conceding that there may now be some truth in it.

At the beginning of the week Army Group C, as far as was known, had five divisions in reserve; it was well placed, therefore, to answer a sudden call for help. However, not all of these divisions were suitable for despatch to the Eastern Front: not 157 Mtn Div for instance, which was relatively inexperienced and in any case would find no mountains between the VISTULA and BERLIN, though many in ITALY; 26 Pz Div was the only mobile div available and perhaps KESSELRING still retains enough pull to make sure of keeping his only armoured div. It had been appreciated, therefore, that the first sign that reinforcements were on their way to GUDERIAN would be a quick reshuffle between the reserves and the front line divs, and this expectation was not disappointed. On 24 Jan 2 prisoners were taken from 2 bn 290 G.R. of 98 Div at M.3534; there was a little doubt whether they had relieved a unit of 356 Div or 1060 G.R. of 362 Div which had earlier been identified in that area. The next day revealed a more thorough change when 2 prisoners were taken from 3 Coy 11 Para Regt of 4 Para Div, at L.296288. From their story it appeared that they had been relieved in their former position, South-west of BOLOGNA, by 157 Mtn Div and that they themselves had relieved 29 P.G. Div. A recent deserter from 305 Div who lay concealed near CASTEL BOLOGNESE for some time and watched the coming and going gives more information. According to him troops of 29 P.G. Div on their way back to the front told him they were going to GERMANY. Unfortunately this is what troops just relieved from the line always say, and especially at a moment of crisis like this; however it may still be true. He also said that 4 Para Div was going to relieve 90 P.G. Div as well as 29 P.G. - not impossible in view of the great strength in infantry of 4 Para Div, but it does not seem to have happened yet. 90 P.G. might, however, be in process of moving over slightly to the West and allow the relief of either 715 or possibly 334 Div.

Our appreciation of the destination of 356 Div was soon confirmed by reports from ground sources in the North-east. On 25 Jan a great deal of loading activity was reported at various stations in the PADUA area - CITTADELLA, CASTELFRANCO VENETO and CAMPOSAMPIERO - and troops, MT and equipment were being shipped off in a North-easterly direction. A later report stated both that this movement had been going on since 23 Jan, and that it was paralleled by heavy road movement, and also that the troops involved were from 356 Div. The divisional sign was observed on both the

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

ITALY and the reshuffling which has gone on suggests that it is intended to release other formations as well. As might have been expected the stress of great events has led to a plentiful crop of rumours that the Germans are evacuating the whole of Northern ITALY and although this is a cry which has become tedious from repetition during the past 17 months the justified scepticism with which it has been received in the past should not prevent us from conceding that there may now be some truth in it.

At the beginning of the week Army Group C, as far as was known, had five divisions in reserve; it was well placed, therefore, to answer a sudden call for help. However, not all of these divisions were suitable for despatch to the Eastern Front: not 157 Mtn Div for instance, which was relatively inexperienced and in any case would find no mountains between the VISTULA and BERLIN, though many in ITALY; 26 Pz Div was the only mobile div available and perhaps KESSELRING still retains enough pull to make sure of keeping his only armoured div. It had been appreciated, therefore, that the first sign that reinforcements were on their way to GUDERIAN would be a quick reshuffle between the reserves and the front line divs, and this expectation was not disappointed. On 24 Jan 2 prisoners were taken from 2 bn 290 G.R. of 98 Div at M.3534; there was a little doubt whether they had relieved a unit of 356 Div or 1060 G.R. of 362 Div which has earlier been identified in that area. The next day revealed a more thorough change when 2 prisoners were taken from 3 Coy 11 Para Regt of 4 Para Div, at L.296283. From their story it appeared that they had been relieved in their former position, South-west of BOLOGNA, by 157 Mtn Div and that they themselves had relieved 29 P.G. Div. A recent deserter from 305 Div who lay concealed near CASTEL BOLOGNESE for some time and watched the coming and going gives more information. According to him troops of 29 P.G. Div on their way back to the front told him they were going to GERMANY. Unfortunately this is what troops just relieved from the line always say, and especially at a moment of crisis like this; however it may still be true. He also said that 4 Para Div was going to relieve 90 P.G. Div as well as 29 P.G. - not impossible in view of the great strength in infantry of 4 Para Div, but it does not seem to have happened yet. 90 P.G. might, however, be in process of moving over slightly to the West and allow the relief of either 715 or possibly 334 Div.

Our appreciation of the destination of 356 Div was soon confirmed by reports from ground sources in the North-east. On 25 Jan a great deal of loading activity was reported at various stations in the PADUA area - CITTADELLA, CASTELFRANCO VENETO and CAMPOSAMPIERO - and troops, MT and equipment were being shipped off in a North-easterly direction. A later report stated both that this movement had been going on since 23 Jan, and that it was paralleled by heavy road movement, and also that the troops involved were from 356 Div. The divisional sign was observed on both the road and rail moves. Unusual concentrations of rolling stock have continued to be observed at various points in North ITALY on the routes leading out of the country and one cannot be certain that 356 Div will be ITALY's only contribution; 29 P.G. Div is at least a candidate for the Eastern Front and it is the type of div which would be most needed there. The enemy is in a strong position in ITALY; his reserves out of the line have never been so plentiful and it is suggested that he could spare up to 5 divs without thereby abandoning a line South of the PO, holding more or less the same positions as now though perhaps with a slight withdrawal on his left flank. Any large contribution would probably involve a withdrawal to the line of the TICINO and the PO and subsequently to his strongest prepared line in North-east ITALY, the ADIGE.

Page 2/.....

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

Such a move would mean abandoning North-West ITALY and it must be said at once that there have been several reports that such is in fact the German intention. These reports should not be given too much credence for the simple reason that many armchair strategists work out the reasons why such a move should be made, and most are not above representing speculations as facts. We must wait for harder evidence. There is one piece of evidence which might point that way; the heavier movement observed recently at night in the MILAN area, mainly in an easterly and northerly direction. But we cannot know what is being carried in these vehicles; if troops, the evacuation theory is strongly supported; if Fascist civilians fleeing the wrath to come, evacuation may be about to begin; but it may just as well be merely a rather larger consignment than usual of the loot in the form of industrial equipment and war material which the Germans have been removing from ITALY for many months past.

To recapitulate; one division has left ITALY and although a second may be on the way there is no firm evidence that any more are booked to go. The enemy can spare up to five divisions before he need think of withdrawing to the line of the PO and there is no firm evidence that he has any such intentions. On the basis of past precedence and in view of the travelling conditions between ITALY and GERMANY today, any help REINFORCING is likely to send to the Eastern Front will probably be too little and too late.

2. WESTERN FRONT.

Ever since it was reported in the West last November, the movements of 6 SS Pz Army have been a major consideration in assessing the enemy's long term intentions. As a strategic reserve it remained uncommitted West of the RHINE during the November battles. As an armoured spearhead it played a leading part in the successes achieved by RUNDSTEDT's December offensive. Today its movements are still of predominant interest in the enemy situation on the Western Front. Since RUNDSTEDT decided (or had the decision made for him) some 10 days ago to pull back from the general line DIEKIRCH - MOUFFALISE - ST. VITH to the shelter of the Siegfried defences, there has been little contact with 6 SS Pz Army. At least three if not all four of its armoured divs are out of the line, and the ARDENNES rearguard action has been conducted by 5 Pz Army. Moreover, considerable and in the main incautious road movement has been in progress for several days from the ARDENNES, the trend of the traffic being for the most part North-eastwards. The suggestion that 6 SS Pz Army is to be the first of RUNDSTEDT's contributions to the Eastern Front seemed to be confirmed by the heavy loadings at COLOGNE and other major marshalling yards, West of the RUHR on 23 Jan and subsequent days. This was followed by air reports of definite eastward rail movement from MUNSTER, OSNABRUCK and HAMM. A prima facie case does therefore seem to exist for the move of 6 SS Pz Army to the East. However a startling development ensued on 26 Jan with the capture on the body of a dead officer of an operation order signed by von DIETRICH the Commander of 6 SS Pz Army. This gave the routes for the move of the night of 22/23 Jan of 1 SS Pz Corps (1 and 12 SS Pz Divs) to the ROTTERDAM - UTRECHT area. The question arises whether this was a genuine document or a plant. While clearly there are important strategic objectives to be gained by an attack with an armoured force North of ANTWERP, it seems incredible that the enemy should split his still powerful armoured army, at a time when its employment as a whole on the Eastern Front might be of decisive significance in halting the Russian advance. It is of course just possible that II SS Pz Corps with 2 and 9 SS Pz Divs is in fact to go East alone, but until there is confirmatory evidence that 1 SS Pz Corps has appeared in HOLLAND, the evidence of the captured document is at least open to considerable suspicion.

With the withdrawal of 6 SS Pz Army the front in the ARDENNES has had few features of interest. Identifications have shown no surprises although 2 Pz and 9 Pz Divs of 5 Pz Army continue to lose prisoners and show no immediate disposition to yield place to infantry elements. Enemy resistance has been generally light

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

2. WESTERN FRONT.

Ever since it was reported in the West last November, the movements of 6 SS Pz Army have been a major consideration in assessing the enemy's long term intentions. As a strategic reserve it remained uncommitted West of the RHINE during the November battles. As an armoured spearhead it played a leading part in the successes achieved by RUNDSTEDT's December offensive. Today its movements are still of predominant interest in the enemy situation on the Western Front. Since RUNDSTEDT decided (or had the decision made for him) some 10 days ago to pull back from the general line DIEKIRCH - HOUFFALIZE - ST. VITH to the shelter of the Siegfried defences, there has been little contact with 6 SS Pz Army. At least three if not all four of its armoured Divs are out of the line, and the ARDENNES rearguard action has been conducted by 5 Pz Army. Moreover, considerable and in the main incautious road movement has been in progress for several days from the ARDENNES, the trend of the traffic being for the most part North-eastwards. The suggestion that 6 SS Pz Army is to be the first of RUNDSTEDT's contributions to the Eastern Front seemed to be confirmed by the heavy bombings at COLOGNE and other major marshalling yards, West of the RUHR on 23 Jan and subsequent days. This was followed by air reports of definite eastward rail movement from MUNSTER, OSNABRUCK and HAMM. A prima facie case does therefore seem to exist for the move of 6 SS Pz Army to the East. However a startling development ensued on 26 Jan with the capture on the body of a dead officer of an operation order signed by von DIETRICH the Commander of 6 SS Pz Army. This gave the routes for the move of the night of 22/23 Jan of 1 SS Pz Corps (1 and 12 SS Pz Divs) to the ROTTERDAM - UTRECHT area. The question arises whether this was a genuine document or a plant. While clearly there are important strategic objectives to be gained by an attack with an armoured force North of ANTWERP, it seems incredible that the enemy should split his still powerful armoured army, at a time when its employment as a whole on the Eastern Front might be of decisive significance in halting the Russian advance. It is of course just possible that II SS Pz Corps with 2 and 9 SS Pz Divs is in fact to go East alone, but until there is confirmatory evidence that 1 SS Pz Corps has appeared in HOLLAND, the evidence of the captured document is at least open to considerable suspicion.

With the withdrawal of 6 SS Pz Army the front in the ARDENNES has had few features of interest. Identifications have shown no surprises although 2 Pz and 9 Pz Divs of 5 Pz Army continue to lose prisoners and show no immediate disposition to yield place to infantry elements. Enemy resistance has been generally light throughout the week but the spelling weather conditions have considerably impeded Allied progress. Nevertheless by now the enemy is virtually back on the December start line and gives no sign of further aggressiveness in this area.

The whole front has indeed been quieter than for some time past. In the COLMAR pocket, the enemy has resisted vigourously the French attack near MULHOUSE and we have made little further progress. Elements of 106 Pz Bde which has been North of STRASBOURG have been identified in the pocket.

Page 3/.....

1658

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

North of COLMAR, however, the enemy seems to have been surprised by the American attack of 27 Jan and has given ground rather unexpectedly. We have reached the outskirts of COLMAR while to the East the [illegible] Canal has been reached without resistance. It seems evident that the enemy has no further intentions of developing the immediate thrust to STRASBOURG from the South.

North of STRASBOURG there is little further to report. According to the German radio, HIMMLER is now on the Eastern Front, and has thus presumably left the Army Group Upper RHINE in the hands of the proved von MAUR. The last firm date on which HIMMLER was still known to be in the West was 30 Jan when he addressed a congratulatory message to the troops in the then newly formed ADLER bridgehead North of STRASBOURG. Since HIMMLER's departure, von MAUR seems to have felt the weight of his 61 years and has shown little further aggressiveness. The bridgeheads which were established over the MODER river West of KARLSRUHE were short lived and the attack has not yet been resumed. His failure to press home the attack on STRASBOURG suggests that the enemy may no longer feel it worth his while to maintain the initiative in the West as a matter of basic strategy. On 5 Jan von MAUR had hoped to be able to tell the Fuehrer "in a few days" that the swastika again flew from STRASBOURG Cathedral. Being so far unable to say this, he may now be satisfied at having forced the Allies to pay attention to the Southern sector long after MODEL had lost the initiative in the centre.

The only other area of interest in the West has been HOLLAND. In the region of the Dutch-German frontier, the British attack encountered rather stiffer enemy opposition after the capture of HEINSBERG, although no new divs have been identified. However under pressure, the enemy has fallen back to the line of the MAAS river, and we are now established along the west bank of this river all the way from its confluence with the MEUSE to a point approximately 10 miles South of DUREN. The enemy's front in HOLLAND remains thinly held and along its 200 miles there are now only 13 divs in contact. A new Army HQ - 25 Army - is now reliably reported in HOLLAND, and is believed to be commanding on the extreme right of the German line under Army Group H. We thus have eight Army HQs in the West controlling rather more than 80 Divs, a more [illegible] of armies than is enjoyed by either the Eastern or Italian fronts.

3. EASTERN FRONT.

EAST PRUSSIA, POLAND and CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

The Soviet winter offensive sweeps on to the ODER without any apparent slowing down after 18 days of battle. While in the North the third and second White Russian Army groups are competing for conquest of East PRUSSIA, in the [illegible] the first White Russian Army group has reached across the German frontier to within 75 miles of BERLIN and cut the BERLIN - DANZIG railway. On the left Marshal KONIEV's 1st Ukrainian Army Group has completed the capture of the Upper Silesian industrial region. In CZECHOSLOVAKIA the German withdrawal has brought the Russians up to the HIGH TATRA Mountains.

After the capture of INSTERBURG General CHERNIAKOVSKY continued his advance due West in the direction of KOENIGSBERG, at the same time pushing his left wing South and Southwestward to make contact with ROKOSSOVSKY's Army Group somewhere in the region of ALLENSTEIN. A two pronged thrust on KOENIGSBERG has now developed from the North and from the South; both drives have reached the outskirts of the East Prussian capital. The Germans estimate that CHERNIAKOVSKY is using some 45 [illegible] attack. On the enemy side the Russians have reported the [illegible] 61 Inf and 31 Inf

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

STRASBOURG suggests that the enemy may no longer feel it worth his while to maintain the initiative in the West as a matter of basic strategy. On 5 Jan von MLUR had hoped to be able to tell the Fuehrer "in a few days" that the swastika again flew from STRASBOURG Cathedral. Being so far unable to say this, he may now be satisfied at having forced the Allies to pay attention to the Southern sector long after MODEL had lost the initiative in the Centre.

The only other area of interest in the West has been HOLLAND. In the region of the Dutch-German frontier, the British attack encountered rather stiffer enemy opposition after the capture of HEINSBERG, although no new divs have been identified. However under pressure, the enemy has fallen back to the line of the ROER river, and we are now established along the west bank of this river all the way from its confluence with the MAAS to a point approximately 10 miles South of DUREN. The enemy's front in HOLLAND remains thinly held and along its 200 miles there are now only 13 divs in contact. A new Army HQ - 25 Army - is now reliably reported in HOLLAND, and is believed to be commanding on the extreme right of the German line under Army Group H. We thus have eight Army HQs in the West controlling rather more than 80 Divs, a more favourable ratio of Armies than is enjoyed by either the Eastern or Italian fronts.

3. EASTERN FRONT.

EAST PRUSSIA, POLAND and CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

The Soviet winter offensive swept on to the ODER without any apparent slowing down after 18 days of battle. While in the North the third and second White Russian Army groups are completing the conquest of East PRUSSIA, in the centre the first White Russian Army group has reached across the German frontier to within 75 miles of BERLIN and cut the BERLIN - [illegible] railway. On the left Marshal KONIEV's 1st Ukrainian Army Group has completed the capture of the Upper Silesian industrial region. In CZECHOSLOVAKIA the German withdrawal has brought the Russians up to the HIGH TATRA Mountains.

After the capture of INSTERBURG General CHERNIAKHOVSKY continued his advance due West in the direction of KOENIGSBERG, at the same time pushing his left wing South and Southwestward to make contact with ROKOSSOVSKY's Army Group somewhere in the region of ALLENSTEIN. A two pronged thrust on KOENIGSBERG has now developed from the North and from the South; both drives have reached the outskirts of the East Prussian capital. The Germans estimate that CHERNIAKHOVSKY is using some 43 Divisions in his present attack. On the enemy side the Russians have reported the destruction of 69 Inf Div in the Masurian Lake fighting, while 61 Inf and 31 Inf Divs have both received mentions from the German radio for their "defensive successes".

Meanwhile ROKOSSOVSKY, striking up the WARSAW-DANZIG railway with a force estimated by the Germans at 55 Divs, has made spectacular gains. After making contact with the Third White Russian Group near ALLENSTEIN he has cut off East Prussia from land communication with the outside world by a drive which has reached the Baltic at TOLKEMIT. What proportion of the German 3 Pz Army and 4 Army is now cut off cannot known. Between them these Armies were thought to contain about [illegible] 24 divs. The enemy now appears to be launching counter-attacks against the Russian wedge from the area NW of ALLENSTEIN and claims to have reached PREUSSEN-HOLLAND.

1660

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

In the Central sector of the front Marshal ZHUKOV has continued his attack South of the VISTULA along the WARSAW-POSEN railway. The Germans estimate that at least 37 Soviet Divs are engaged in this attack. (The German forces involved are the 2nd and 9th Armies probably north about 30 Divs). ZHUKOV has by-passed POZNAN and crossed the German frontier on both sides of SONNENBERG. His Army Group has cut the BERLIN-BRESLAU trunk line at CROSSEN and is now about 75 miles from BERLIN itself. On the 1st White Russian Group's left Marshal KONIEV, whose force (1st Ukrainian Army Group) the enemy has estimated at 40 Divs, has now reached the ODER Northwest and Southeast of BRESLAU. It seems evident from German admissions, although the Soviets themselves say nothing, that KONIEV has succeeded in establishing at least one bridgehead over the ODER at STEINAU, 33 miles Northwest of BRESLAU and probably others to the southeast. Meanwhile SE of BRESLAU the Russians have completed the conquest of the Upper Silesian industrial region with the capture of GLEIWITZ, KATOWICE and HINDENBURG. Opposing the advance of KONIEV's forces are the German 4 Pz Army and the 17 Army. Identifications reported on the 1st Ukrainian front in the past week by the Russians include 25 Pz Div, routed in the RADOM battle, and 45, 68, 72, 75, 304 Inf Divs all of which are believed to have been badly knocked about. Between them the two German armies involved are believed to control about 25 Divs. Further South the German withdrawal from CZECHOSLOVAKIA has continued without serious Russian interference. The enemy is now nowhere nearer to KOSICE than 30 miles and is generally back on the HIGH TATRA Mountains. 1st Pz Army is reported to be conducting this withdrawal.

. The situation developing on the great battlefield of the central sector is strangely analogous to that in Eastern POLAND in the summer of 1944. Once again the Russians are approaching a major river obstacle. Once again they are faced with the reduction of a large city on both banks of the river, and once again, as with every river they have ever reached, they are making determined efforts immediately to establish bridgeheads on the West bank. On the First Ukrainian Front KONIEV's efforts are already being directed to establishing firm bridgeheads and to reaching BRESLAU. Further North, however, the river has yet to be reached and the Russian drive has not yet lost its momentum. It seems possible that the Soviets have kept more forces in reserve in the Northern half of the central sector than in the South, so that the impetus of the advance could be maintained over the larger distances to be covered before reaching the ODER. The present Russian object is probably to close up to the ODER all along its length before a German counter-attack can be mounted, and to establish at least one firm bridgehead over it: but old German defences, which may have been modernised, exist between the ODER near ZULLICHAU, North of STEINAU, and the WARTHE at SCHWERIN, and may continue Northwards to the Baltic. Although these may not be strong, they may be sufficient temporarily to stem the Russian tide whose strength must be affected in some degree by the German hold rocks of POSEN and THORN. But wherever the Germans may stabilise the reduction of East PRUSSIA can meanwhile be completed. The stage will then be set for the battle of the Spring.

HUNGARY

The impact of events in the Central sector has not yet made itself felt on the Hungarian front and there is so far no evidence of any large scale enemy thinning out. Nevertheless with disaster at hand on the Central Front, it is to be expected that a major transfer of armour from HUNGARY to the North will soon take place, if it has not already started. The shortening of the line in CZECHOSLOVAKIA makes it possible however for the enemy to release a certain number of Infantry Divs from there for use elsewhere, and it is conceivable that some of these may be used to cover the approaches to the BRATISLAVA Gap, as replacement for any armour withdrawn.

1661
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

reported on the 1st Ukrainian front in the past week by the Russians include 25 Pz Div, routed in the RADOM battle, and 45, 68, 72, 75, 304 Inf Divs all of which are believed to have been badly knocked about. Between them the two German armies involved are believed to control about 25 Divs. Further South the German withdrawal from CZECHOSLOVAKIA has continued without serious Russian interference. The enemy is now nowhere nearer to MUSICE than 30 miles and is generally back on the HIGH TATRA Mountains. 1st Pz Army is reported to be conducting this withdrawal.

. The situation developing on the great battlefield of the central sector is strangely analogous to that in Eastern POLAND in the summer of 1944. Once again the Russians are approaching a major river obstacle. Once again they are faced with the reduction of a large city on both banks of the river, and once again, as with every river they have ever reached, they are making determined efforts immediately to establish bridgeheads on the West bank. On the First Ukrainian Front KONIEV's efforts are already being directed to establishing firm bridgeheads and to reaching BRESLAU. Further North, however, the river has yet to be reached and the Russian drive has not yet lost its momentum. It seems possible that the Soviets have kept more forces in reserve in the Northern half of the central sector than in the South, so that the impetus of the advance could be maintained over the larger distances to be covered before reaching the ODER. The present Russian object is probably to close up to the ODER all along its length before a German counter-attack can be mounted, and to establish at least one firm bridgehead over it: but old German defences, which may have been modernised, exist between the ODER near ZULLICHAU, North of STEINAU, and the WARTHE at SCHWERIN, and may continue Northwards to the Baltic. Although these may not be strong, they may be sufficient temporarily to stem the Russian tide whose strength must be effected in some degree by the German hold rocks of POSEN and THORN. But wherever the Germans may stabilise the reduction of East PRUSSIA can meanwhile be completed. The stage will then be set for the battle of the Spring.

HUNGARY

The impact of events in the Central sector has not yet made itself felt on the Hungarian front and there is so far no evidence of any large scale enemy thinning out. Nevertheless with disaster at hand on the Central Front, it is to be expected that a major transfer of armour from HUNGARY to the North will soon take place, if it has not already started. The shortening of the line in CZECHOSLOVAKIA makes it possible however for the enemy to release a certain number of Infantry Divs from there for use elsewhere, and it is conceivable that some of these may be used to cover the approaches to the BRATISLAVA Gap, as replacement for any armour withdrawn.

North of the DANUBE it appears that recent enemy efforts to clear the Russians from the East bank of the NITRA river and the area of KOMAROM have met with some success. The Russian line is now reported to run through BATORKESZ and North of SUTTO - in other words, the Soviet held area West of the HERON river has been reduced to a comparatively small bridgehead.

In BUDA mopping up continues. South of BUDA the German drive reached the area of VAL, 17 miles S.W. of BUDAPEST during the past week and appears to have halted there in the face of Russian counter-attacks. The Russians are attacking the long and awkward flanks of the German salient from both North and South and seems to have frustrated this second large scale German attack to relieve the Hungarian capital. On the other hand the enemy may feel that, although his main object has not been achieved, he has given the Soviets a sharp blow which may preclude an immediate resumption of the attack on BRATISLAVA.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

Heavy road movement in the past week from ZAGREB Northwards to VARAZDIN suggests that 118 Jg Division may now be arriving on 2 Pz Army's front South of Lake BALATON.

YUGOSLAVIA.

There has been little operational news from YUGOSLAVIA. After the sharp activity of the previous week the enemy attack on the DRAVA bridgehead has once more subsided. This may in part be accounted for by the arrival of Bulgarian artillery reinforcements on the North bank of the Drava. Nonetheless it is strange that the enemy has not pressed home the successes which he so easily gained at the start of his attack on the bridgehead. Further East, however, the attack in the SREM has continued and appears to have achieved its objective in regaining for the enemy the old VUKOVAR -SID - SAVA mouth Defence line, which now seems to be firmly back in his hands. 297 Inf Div may well have been involved in the Southern flank of these operations as its presence in the SAVA Valley was reliably reported on 24 Jan.

The main feature of interest in YUGOSLAVIA in the past week has however been the temporary halt in the withdrawal of Army Group E. On 19 Jan the supplement to the German communique was devoted to a summing up of Army Group E's retirement from the SE and since that date no further towns have been evacuated by the enemy. On the contrary there is every evidence that he intends to hold on to the SARAJEVO area with advanced outposts at VLASENICA, VISEGRAD and MOSTAR. To the NE the enemy has in the past week cleared the SARAJEVO-VLASENICA highway and is now continuing offensive operations Northeastwards from VLASENICA; to the West he still holds on to the strong natural defensive positions at VISEGRAD and to the SW the enemy is not only conducting offensive operations in the MOSTAR region but he is actually reported to be reinforcing the area: 1,000 Germans and 600 Ustaschi troops have arrived there since about 15 Jan. It seems very probable, in view of this evidence that a change in enemy policy has now taken place, and that, until higher policy dictates a further withdrawal, General LOHR has decided for the time being to stay where he is. The present enemy held territory in YUGOSLAVIA corresponds very roughly with the borders of CROATIA. It is thus at least conceivable that Hitler has ordered LOHR to halt his withdrawal on the present line in fulfilment of obligations he may feel towards the Croat State for its contribution to the German war effort.

The only other area of interest in YUGOSLAVIA is TRAVNIK where the enemy after several unsuccessful efforts over the past two months has at last succeeded in capturing the town. This is of some importance in that it strengthens his hold on the L of C from SARAJEVO to BROD and may well be followed by further efforts to open up an additional L of C Northwestwards towards BANJALUKA or SISAK.

1234

Lieut-Col.,
GSO 1.,
No.1.District.

C.M.F.
/GT.

1663

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

24 Jan.

The main feature of interest in YUGOSLAVIA in the past week has however been the temporary halt in the withdrawal of Army Group E. On 19 Jan the supplement to the German communique was devoted to a summing up of Army Group E's retirement from the SE and since that date no further towns have been evacuated by the enemy. On the contrary there is every evidence that he intends to hold on to the SARAJEVO area with advanced outposts at VLASENICA, VISEGRAD and MOSTAR. To the NE the enemy has in the past week cleared the SARAJEVO-VLASENICA highway and is now continuing offensive operations Northeastwards from VLASENICA; to the west he still holds on to the strong natural defensive positions at VISEGRAD and to the SW the enemy is not only conducting offensive operations in the MOSTAR region but he is actually reported to be reinforcing the area: 1,000 Germans and 800 Ustaschi troops have arrived there since about 15 Jan. It seems very probable, in view of this evidence that a change in enemy policy has now taken place, and that, until higher policy dictates a further withdrawal, General LOHR has decided for the time being to stay where he is. The present enemy held territory in YUGOSLAVIA corresponds very roughly with the border of CROATIA. It is thus at least conceivable that Hitler has ordered LOHR to halt his withdrawal on the present line in fulfilment of obligations he may feel towards the Croat State for its contribution to the German war effort.

The only other area of interest in YUGOSLAVIA is TRAVNIK where the enemy after several unsuccessful efforts over the past two months has at last succeeded in capturing the town. This is of some importance in that it strengthens his hold on the L of C from SARAJEVO to DRVAR and may well be followed by further efforts to open up an additional L of C Northwestwards towards BANJALUKA or BIHAC.

1234

Lieut-Col.,
GSO 1.,
No.1.District.

C.M.F.
/GT.

1664

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

52 BC4

(1)

1...

HQ 15 ARMY GROUP INTELLIGENCE
NOTES NO. 44 OF 23 JANUARY 1945

SECRET

702/10/GSI

(Reproduced by HQ No. 1, District).

28 Jan 45

These notes have been introduced to meet the requirements of certain units not normally in receipt of the ordinary Intelligence Summary, issued by this HQ. Their purpose is to keep such units in the general battle picture.

---

1. ITALY SITUATION

The whole front has been more than usually quiet, particularly in the latter part of the week. The enemy continues to make raids on 5 Army front, mainly for the purpose of obtaining identifications and keeping track on our reliefs, which he must suspect to be frequent. 1 Para Div has been, as might be expected, especially active in this line; it has been stiffened by the addition of two G.A.F. penal battalions, 3 and 4 G.A.F. Jaeger x b V, which are apparently combined into a Regiment NEUHOFF, no doubt called after the commander. This raises 1 Para Div to the unprecedented total of 12 bns and a Recce Coy. On 8 Army front the enemy reacted with strong patrolling to the discovery that an Italian Div had come into the line, and on 17 Jan he put in quite a strong raid further South in the area East of FUSIGNANO which cost III Bn 56 G.R. heavy casualties for no gain. Since 21 Jan, however, the enemy appears to have gone over to a more passive defence on the SENIO, evacuating and demolishing houses on our side of the river which he previously held and generally pulling back to the West bank almost all along the line. He still, however, remains forward on the ROUND VOLONIO in the Northern end of his position.

The relief of 356 Div, of which there are certain indications, will, if confirmed, be the only change in enemy forward dispositions. In rear areas there have been a few changes and a few new identifications. 135 Fortress Bde is stated by prisoners to have moved from SPEZIA to GENOA. Elements of 162 Div have been reported N.E. of TURIN and in the MODENA area while the bulk remains South of PARMA; since it is not, in its present state, likely to fight as a div it is not surprising to find it making detachments in bn strength to widely separated areas. On the French frontier 5 Mtn Div has been firmly identified in its old place by prisoners taken from both of its [illegible] Regts; there have been reports of a move by 34 Div from the coast at the Southern end of the Franco-Italian frontier but these are not confirmed and are probably due to the employment of elements of the div in an Anti-Partisan drive North of SAVONA. Various reports, none of them explicit, appear to locate the hitherto elusive 155 Field Training Div at TREVISO, having collected thither elements from VERONA and BELLUNO. The S.S. POLIZEI Div, which is apparently only in bde strength, appears to have moved from LODI(?) or VARESE (?) to FRIULI; more information is needed on this formation which is probably only of value as an anti-Partisan force at present.

2. WESTERN FRONT

Despite the winter-bound conditions of the Western front, there have been developments of considerable significance in this past week. The threat

1293

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

The whole front has been more than usually quiet, particularly in the latter part of the week. The enemy continues to make raids on 5 Army front, mainly for the purpose of obtaining identifications and keeping track on our radio, which he must suspect to be frequent. 1 Para Div has been, as might be expected, especially active in this line; it has been stiffened by the addition of the 2.N.F. Penal battalions, 3 and 4 G.A.F. Jaeger R & V, which are apparently combined into a Regiment MAURER, no doubt called after the commander. This raises 1 Para Div to the unprecedented total of 12 bns and a Recce Coy. On 8 Army front the enemy reacted with strong patrolling to his discovery that an Italian Div had come into the line, and on 17 Jan he put in quite a strong raid further South in the area East of PUGLIANELLO which cost him an 86 C.S. heavy casualties for no gain. Since 21 Jan, however, the enemy appears to have gone over to a more passive defence on the SANGRO, evacuating and demolishing houses on our side of the river which he previously held and generally pulling back to the west bank almost all along the line. He still, however, remains forward on the PUNTA VENDICE at the Northern end of his position.

The relief of 305 Div, of which there are certain indications, will, if confirmed, be the only change in enemy forward dispositions. In rear areas there have been a few changes and/or new identifications. 155 Fortress Bde is stated by prisoners to have moved from ANCONA to PESARO. Elements of 162 Div have been reported N.E. of TURIN and in the GENOA area while the bulk remains South of PARMA; since it is not, in its present state, likely to fight as a div it is not surprising to find it making detachments in an strength to widely separated areas. On the French frontier 5 Mtn Div has been firmly identified in its old place by prisoners taken in the South of the Upper Maira; there have been reports of a move by 34 Div from its sector at the Southern end of the Franco-Italian frontier but these are not confirmed and are probably due to the employment of elements of the div in anti-Partisan drive North of SAVONA. Various reports, none of them reliable, appear to locate the hitherto elusive 155 Field Training Div at TAVIANO, having collected thither elements from VARON and BELLUNO. The U.S. 92nd INFANTRY Div, which is apparently only in bde strength, appears to have moved from LUCCA or VIAREGGIO AREA to PISTOIA; more information is needed on this formation which is probably only of value as an anti-Partisan force at present.

2. WESTERN FRONT

Despite the winter-bound conditions of the Western front, there have been developments of considerable significance in this past week. The threat to STRASBOURG from the North has increased as the enemy has linked up all his RHINE bridgeheads, while in the ARDENNES there are signs that a change of enemy policy has taken place. Two new Allied attacks have also started, one of which has led to yet another penetration of REICH territory.

The French attack in ALSACE between COLMAR and MULHOUSE gained initial surprise, and the enemy was forced back some 3 miles without great difficulty. He recovered rapidly, however, and, although we continue to gain ground, it is against a stiffening defence characterised by frequent local counter-attacks. The enemy has clearly no intention of yielding without a struggle the COLMAR bridgehead to which he has clung so doggedly over the past two months. He has in all, elements of 5 Divs in the bridgehead area, but is reported to be transferring some forces from the bridgehead up to the area North of STRASBOURG.

...../2

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

The troops actually holding the bridgehead are probably only in part exhaustion. They have had little rest since the heavy battles of the Vosges in Nov and Dec, and have not had much priority in the matter of replacements. The position in ALSACE seems to be in fact that the enemy is content to conduct a stubborn defensive in the bridgehead area while he exploits and reinforces his successes achieved North of STRASBOURG. A recently captured document leaves little doubt of the enemy's intentions here. It is signed by S.S. OBERGRUPPENFUHRER von MAUR as CG of O Army Group Upper Rhine - a new identification, but probably the new title for Army Group G. An Obergruppenfuhrer in the Waffen S.S. equivalent of a full general, but whether von MAUR is in fact the Army Group Commander, is not clear. The document is of interest, however, in that after the usual preamble about the hour of Destiny being at hand, STRASBOURG is indicated as the objective of the present offensive.

The enemy has indeed made considerable headway North of STRASBOURG. On 17 Jan a third bridgehead was established over the RHINE North of STRASBOURG in the area due East of HAGENAU: the identification of 10 SS Pz Div, previously reported in the SAAR area, was an indication that this constituted a more serious threat than the previous bridgeheads. It was rapidly reinforced and the enemy succeeded in penetrating about three miles inland from the RHINE, cutting across the STRASBOURG-KARLSRUHE railway. At the same time renewed enemy pressure developed on the left wing of the First German Army in the area of HUNTZ and a junction was effected between the new bridgehead and the First Army troops. This was followed by a link up of all 3 RHINE bridgeheads North of STRASBOURG, thus giving the enemy a continuous front West of the RHINE. First Army has continued the attack on its left wing and elements of 17 SS Pz Div have been transferred from the SAARGEBIET area to reinforce the drive. The enemy has penetrated as far as the outskirts of BISCHWILLER and HAGENAU and strong pressure continues.

The COLMAR front has been generally quiet, although the limited offensive operation on German soil near RIMBACH we advanced about 2 miles and have clung to our gains despite counter-attacks conducted by 11 Pz Div, at last located after its disappearance in the latter half of Dec. It is worthy of record that the Russians claim to have identified 11 Pz Div on the Central sector during the past week, and as SHAEF re-identified it at RIMBACH on the following day, the Div seems to be as mercurial in its appearance as in its disappearances.

The COLMAR salient had shrunk to a bulge by last week, and it seemed as if the enemy had decided to call a halt to his withdrawal. Resistance stiffened appreciably after the fall of HOUSSEN, although we continued to gain ground, notably North of ST. VITH. The COLMAR line was held in the main by infantry, and, although fleeting glimpses were observed of all the armour which took part in the Dec attack, these were in the main only rearguards, and not more than four mobile divs have recently been firmly in contact. By 21 Jan it became apparent that a change in enemy policy was taking place. Resistance slackened, and close contact with the enemy was lost all along the front from DIEMERICH to NW of ST. VITH. Conditions once more resembled those of the previous disengaging movement. Road blocks and heavy minefields constituted the main obstacle to the advance, and only in the area North of ST. VITH was there anything resembling the earlier heavy resistance. Considerable Eastward movement is reported as the enemy pulls back in the direction of his Dec start line, and heavy losses have been inflicted on him by the Allied air forces.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

The enemy has indeed made no considerable headway North of STRASBOURG. On 17 Jan a third bridgehead was established over the RHINE North of STRASBOURG in the area due East of HOERDT: the identification of 10 SS Pz Div, previously reported in the SAAR area, was an indication that this constituted a more serious threat than the previous bridgeheads. It was rapidly reinforced and the enemy succeeded in penetrating about three miles inland from the RHINE, cutting across the STRASBOURG-KARLSRUHE railway. At the same time renewed enemy pressure developed on the left wing of the First German Army in the area of HATTEN and a junction was effected between the new bridgehead and the First Army troops. This was followed by a link up of all 3 RHINE bridgeheads North of STRASBOURG, thus giving the enemy a continuous front West of the RHINE. First Army has continued the attack on its left wing and elements of 17 SS PG Div have been transferred from the SAARGEBIET area to reinforce the drive. The enemy has penetrated as far as the outskirts of BISCHWILLER and HAGENAU and strong pressure continues.

The COLMAR front has been generally quiet, although one limited offensive operation on German soil near MUNDOLSHEIM we advanced about 1 miles and have clung to our gains despite counter-attacks conducted by 11 Pz Div, at last identified after its disappearance in the latter half of Dec. It is worthy of record that the Russians claim to have identified 11 Pz Div on the Central sector during the past week, and as SHAEF identified it at MEMMINGEN on the following day, the Div seems to be as nomadic in its appearance as in its disappearances.

The ROERMOND salient had shrunk to a bulge by last week, and it seemed as if the enemy had decided to call a halt to his withdrawal. Resistance stiffened appreciably after the fall of ROERMOND, although we continued to gain ground, notably North of ST. VITH. The ROERMOND line was held in the main by infantry, and, although fleeting glimpses were observed of all the armour which took part in the Dec attack, these were in the main only rearguards, and not more than four mobile divs have recently been firmly in contact. By 21 Jan it became apparent that a change in enemy policy was taking place. Resistance slackened, and close contact with the enemy was lost all along the front from DIEKIRCH to NW of ST. VITH. Conditions once more resembled those of the previous disengaging movement. Road blocks and heavy minefields constituted the main obstacle to the advance, and only in the area North of ST. VITH was there anything resembling the earlier heavy resistance. Considerable Westward movement is reported on the enemy public road in the direction of his Dec start line, and heavy losses have been inflicted on him by the Allied air forces.

In HOLLAND, the week has been characterised by the opening of an Allied offensive North of SITTARD in the direction of RUREMOND. This attack initially provoked comparatively little reaction from the enemy who seemed content to leave the sector in the hands of two low grade infantry divs. The attack continued to make headway, penetrating across the German frontier due West of HEINSBERG, and is now about 2 miles from HEINSBERG itself, where enemy resistance is stiffening appreciably. This nation is not yet in contact with the main defences of the SIEGFRIED line. Further North in HOLLAND, the enemy has been in aggressive mood and effected a local penetration in fn strength into our positions N.W. of NIJMEGEN. This has now been eliminated. 346 and 712 Divs, which have been missing from HOLLAND for some time, are now reported by the Russians to be in action on the Eastern front.

...../3

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

It is too early yet to say that the events on the Eastern front are affecting enemy policy in the West. The first results, however, that in the Northern half of the front RUNDSTEDT has not only lost the initiative, but is pulling back again to the shelter of his fixed defences. Only in ALSACE is the enemy now showing any real aggressiveness and the attack here is in the main political, designed to offer the German public something of a palliative in the form of STRASBOURG to compensate for the disappointments which the New Year has brought in the West. It does not at present constitute a serious threat to the Allied strategical position in Western Europe. The identifications reported by the Russians of five transferred from West to East are so far tentative and await confirmation, but it seems clear that on the main sectors of the Western front RUNDSTEDT is pulling in his horns, perhaps as a consequence of the claims which have been made on his Army Groups.

3. EASTERN FRONT

East PRUSSIA and POLAND

The Soviet Winter offensive is developing on the grand scale all along the vast front in East PRUSSIA, POLAND and CZECHOSLOVAKIA, at a speed greater even than that of the 1944 summer offensive. In the fluid and fast changing situation, 4 main drives are now apparent. Coming into East PRUSSIA from the North and East, General CHERNIAKOVSKI's Third White Russian Armies have been advancing along the axes of the TILSIT-INSTERBURG and the KOVNO-INSTERBURG railways. They have penetrated deeply into East PRUSSIA and have captured INSTERBURG itself, 45 miles from KOENIGSBERG. Meanwhile further penetrations into East PRUSSIA have been made from the South by the Second White Russian Group under the Command of Marshal ROKOSSOVSKI who, following the capture of WARSAW, has been attacking North-Westwards along the WARSAW - DANZIG railway. This was the thrust which led to the fall of ALLENSTEIN and the less important but historically gratifying capture of TANNENBERG.

Meanwhile South of the VISTULA 2 major offensives are in progress. On the right, the First White Russian Army Group under Marshal ZHUKOV attacking along the WARSAW - BERLIN highway, captured LODZ on 19 Jan and has since driven on to within 30 miles of POZNAN. This drive has cut the main trunk railway from BERLIN via POZNAN to East PRUSSIA at INOWROCLAW, 25 miles S.W. of TORUN, and has led to the capture of BYDGOSZCZ. Further South Marshal KONEV's First Ukrainian Armies have achieved the most spectacular, and for the enemy the most alarming, successes of the past week. In addition to capturing CRACOW, they threaten to outflank from the North the whole industrial region of SILESIA by a penetration to date 30 miles deep on a 45 mile front into German territory. This has been effected in the area S.E. of BRESLAU and has cut across the BRESLAU-KATOWICE railway at GROSS STREHLITZ. According to the latest reports KONEV's forces are now within 10 miles of the ODER.

There has been little news so far of enemy counter measures to meet the grave situation. When the attack started the enemy had at least half of the total armour on the Eastern Front concentrated in HUNGARY. As a result there were few mobile reserves in the centre to meet the Russian blow when it fell. It is possible that the long lull on the VISTULA front had tempted the enemy to appreciate that Soviet offensive efforts this winter were to be confined to HUNGARY, so that he took the chance of thinning out in the centre in order to counter the threat to AUSTRIA. It is just conceivable that in view of the

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

Western front RUNDSTEDT is pulling in his horns, perhaps as a consequence of the claims which have been made on his Army Groups.

3. EASTERN FRONT

East PRUSSIA and POLAND

The Soviet Winter offensive is developing on the grand scale all along the vast front in East PRUSSIA, POLAND and CZECHOSLOVAKIA, at a speed greater even than that of the 1944 summer offensive. In the fluid and fast changing situation, 4 main drives are now apparent. Coming into East PRUSSIA from the North and East, General CHERNIAKOVSKY's Third White Russian Armies have been advancing along the axes of the INSTERBURG and the KOVNO-INSTERBURG railways. They have penetrated deeply into East PRUSSIA and have captured INSTERBURG itself, 45 miles from KOENIGSBERG. Meanwhile further penetrations into East PRUSSIA have been made from the South by the Second White Russian Group under the Command of Marshal ROKOSSOVSKY who, following the capture of MAKOW, has been attacking North-Westwards along the WARSAW - DANZIG railway. This was the thrust which led to the fall of ALLENSTEIN and the less important but historically gratifying capture of TANNENBERG.

Meanwhile South of the VISTULA 2 major offensives are in progress. On the right, the First White Russian Army Group under Marshal ZHUKOV attacking along the WARSAW - BERLIN highway, captured LODZ on 19 Jan and has since driven on to within 30 miles of POSEN. This drive has cut the main trunk railway from BERLIN via POSEN to East PRUSSIA at INOWROCLAW, 25 miles S.W. of TORUN, and has led to the capture of BROMBERG. Further South Marshal KONIEV's First Ukrainian Armies have achieved the most spectacular, and for the enemy the most alarming, successes of the past week. In addition to capturing CRACOW, they threaten to outflank from the North the whole industrial region of SILESIA by a penetration to date 30 miles deep on a 45 mile front into German territory. This has been effected in the area S.W. of BRESLAU and has cut across the BRESLAU-KATOWICE railway at GROSS STRELITZ. According to the latest reports KONIEV's forces are now within 40 miles of the ODER.

There has been little news so far of enemy counter measures to meet the grave situation. When the attack started the enemy had at least half of the total armour on the Eastern Front concentrated in HUNGARY. As a result there were few mobile reserves in the centre to meet the Russian blow when it fell. It is possible that the long lull on the VISTULA front had tempted the enemy to appreciate that Soviet offensive efforts this winter were to be confined to HUNGARY, so that he took the chance of thinning out in the centre in order to counter the threat to AUSTRIA. It is just conceivable that in view of this a quick decision was made to pull back voluntarily from the VISTULA line, although the gloomy tone of the German communiques this week and the absence of any reference to a voluntary withdrawal, lends no support to this theory. However, voluntary or not, it seems apparent that the withdrawal has got out of hand. Very incomplete Soviet claims covering only part of the front put the prisoner total in 9 days at 60,000, while German broadcasts suggests that there are still large numbers of enemy forces operating isolated behind the forward Soviet troops.

...../4

1670

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

In any case it is difficult to see what the enemy could gain by voluntarily allowing the Russians to penetrate deeply into the REICH and threaten a vital industrial area. Among the IRs which the Germans claim to have identified on the Central sector in the past week are 2 and five last reported in HOLLAND and 11 Pz Div from the ARDENNES. The latter seems a very dubious identification. Other identifications reported from the Central sector are normal and do not show as yet any thickening up of this sector at the expense of other areas.

HUNGARY

Except in the Slovak border region the front in HUNGARY appears to have been so far unaffected by the impact of events further North. The enemy has been pulling back from the mountainous salient in CZECHOSLOVAKIA which had developed as a result of the Russian drive across Southern POLAND. RESISTANCE has been overcome and the withdrawal continues through the snow-bound TATRA mountains, probably without great interference from the Russians. In Central HUNGARY however, Army Group South is in an aggressive mood. Despite the loss of PEST and the greater part of BUDA Pfeffer's efforts are being made by the enemy to relieve the remnants of the garrison he left behind in the Hungarian Capital. The Germans have attacked in the sector between Lake BALATON and SZEKES FEHERVAR, and according to their own claims have reached the DANUBE, captured SZEKES FEHERVAR and are driving Northwards between Lake VELENCZE and the DANUBE. They now appear to be about 25 miles due South of BUDA. The relief of the Budapest garrison coupled with the recapture of STRASBOURG in the West, would paint one bright spot across the sombre picture of the present German situation, but the BUDAPEST effort is at any rate likely to be rather a sally in order to evacuate shattered troops than a determined effort to recapture and hold the ruined Hungarian Capitals. In the past week the Rumanian General Staff has reported the presence of 3 and 6 Pz Divs in HUNGARY. Both were previously in the Central sector and their arrival brings the total of Panzer Divs in HUNGARY to ten.

YUGOSLAVIA

The enemy has been in aggressive mood in the SERB. The long awaited operation to eliminate the Partisan-Soviet SERVIA bridgehead has started with attacks launched from both West and West. On the West the enemy has made little headway and the Partisans claim to be counter attacking West of VIROVITICA. In contrast to operations earlier this month, which were handled by Croat forces the present attack is being conducted by German troops. On the East side of the bridgehead the enemy has, however, succeeded in making a penetration of about 7 miles, capturing the town of GRADISTE, which is about 35 miles East of VIROVITICA. An offensive has also been launched Northwards from the SERB conducted, according to Partisan reports, by elements of four German divs, possibly 11 S.S. Pz., 117 Jg, 41 Fortress and 7 S.S. Mtn., all of which are in the area. The object of the attack is probably to regain the old German defence line which ran from VUKOVAR through SID to the confluence of the DRINA and the DANUBE. As the enemy is already reported to have recaptured SID, it seems that he is in a fair way to achieving this object.

Elsewhere in YUGOSLAVIA there has been little to report. Contact was lost with 21 Mtn Corps a week ago in the area South of PRIBOJ, owing to heavy snowstorms and nothing further has been heard of it. It is probable that there are now no German forces left South of the DRINA river. A withdrawal from the MONTENEGRO area would not seem necessary and the Germans

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

bound TATRA mountains, probably without great interference from the Russians. In Central HUNGARY however, Army Group South is in an offensive mood. Despite the loss of ESZT and the greater part of GRAN, Hitler's efforts are being made by the enemy to relieve the remnants of the garrison he left behind in the Hungarian Capital. The Germans have wrested in the sector between Lake BALATON and SZARKESZFEHERVAR, and according to radio some claims have reached the DANUBE, captured SZEKESFEHERVAR and are driving Northwards between Lake VELENCE and the DANUBE. They now appear to be about 25 miles due South of BUDA. The relief of the beleaguered garrison coupled with the recapture of ESZTERGOM in the North, would right one bright area in the sombre picture of the present German situation, but the SZEKESFEHERVAR effort is at any rate likely to be rather a sally in order to evacuate material to the west, a determined effort to recapture and hold the ruined Hungarian Capital. In the past week the Russian General Staff has reported the arrivals of 3 and 6 Pz Divs in HUNGARY. Both were previously in the Central sector and their arrival brings the total of Panzer Divs in HUNGARY to ten.

YUGOSLAVIA.

The enemy has been in offensive mood in the SAVA. The long awaited operation to eliminate the Partisan-Soviet SAVA bridgehead has started with attacks launched from both East and West. In the West the enemy has made little headway and the Partisans claim to be holding [illegible] West of VINKOVITSA. In contrast to operations earlier this month, which were handled by Croat forces the present attack is being conducted by German troops. On the East side of the bridgehead the enemy has, however, succeeded in making a penetration of about 7 miles, capturing the town of [illegible] which is about 25 miles East of VINKOVITSA. An offensive has also been launched Eastwards from the area conducted, according to Partisan reports, by elements of four German Divs, possibly 11 S.S.D., 117 Jg, 41 Fortress and 7 S.S. Bde, all of which are in the area. The object of the attack is probably to regain a line and Russian defence line which runs from VUKOVAR through SID to the confluence of the SAVA and the DRAVA. As the enemy is already reported to have recaptured SID, it may be that he is in a fair way to achieving this object.

Elsewhere in YUGOSLAVIA there has been little to report. Contact was lost with 21 Mtn Corps a week ago in the area South of MRKONJ, owing to heavy snowstorms and nothing further has been heard of it. It is probable that there are not no German forces left South of the DRINA river. A withdrawal from the MOSTAR area would now seem reasonable, and reports received during the past week of Northward road movement from MOSTAR probably presage the beginning of this withdrawal.

In BOSNIA the enemy has renewed his attempts to capture TRAVNIK. An effort is now being made to capture the town from the North by means of an advance Westwards from ZENICA across a mountainous area. Last reports put German forces three miles from TRAVNIK.

...../5

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

1673

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

From N.W. YUGOSLAVIA, several reports have been received of considerable Northward rail and road movement from ZAGREB. On 21 Jan ZAGREB marshalling yards which had been almost empty on the previous day, contained over 900 trucks. This movement represents the departure of 118 Jg Divs which is said to be leaving for GERMANY. In view of what has happened in POLAND this week, the destination may after all be correct. There is need of more divisions in GERMANY.

Lieut.Col.,
GSO 1,
No. 1. District.

C.I.F.
/BCG

1291

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN No. 51

1 January - 21 January, 945

This Bulletin is issued on the understanding that :-

(a) It is not posted up in any place to which civilians have access;
(b) All unfiled copies are destroyed before any camp site is vacated;
(c) The information is not discussed in the hearing of civilians.

The enemy's policy of leaving troops forward in dangerous salients rather than effect a willing withdrawal to maintain a shorter line has cost him dearly during the last fortnight. Our double attack which cleared the last bridgeheads over the SENIO river in the South and took us up to the RENO in the North brought in about 1,000 prisoners, completely demoralised 114 Jäger Div and necessitated the rushing up to the front of reserves which the enemy would have preferred to keep back.

On 2 Jan the Canadians attacked Northeast from Route 16 in an attempt to clean out the area North of RAVENNA and to force the enemy to withdraw his forces behind the SENIO. The attack had considerable initial success for we broke through 721 Jäger Regt's troops defending CONVENTELLO, took over a hundred prisoners, and advanced a further fifteen hundred yards before running into Panthers and assault guns about the 49 Northing. Some 12 AFVs which had been concentrated in S. ALBERTO M.5252 came forward the next day in a vain attempt to hold us off. This force, including Tigers, Panthers and Hornets fought all morning round the bridge at M.512512, was forced back over it during the afternoon but succeeded in blowing it before our leading troops could cross. This rapid progress together with the obvious disorganisation of 114 Jäger Div forced the enemy to take counter-measures. These were duly put into effect early on the morning of 4 Jan when a strong counter-attack was launched between Route 16 and the CANALE MOLINAZZA against the left flank of the Canadian bulge. We captured the operation order for this counter-attack which showed that it was launched by the recce bns of 16 SS and 26 Armd Divs and a third bn from the Reichsführer, and that it had high hopes, for the ultimate objective was to throw us back over the LAMONE. The attack was late in starting and although it made about a thousand yards initially it was finally seen off for the loss of many dead and about 150 prisoners. After this unsuccessful spoiling attack our advance North continued and a rapid wheel by tanks and infantry towards the bridge of the BONIFICA Canal at M. 5450 captured it intact knocking out the two anti-tank guns defending it. Opposition from 114 Jäger Div in this area was ineffective and a further hundred PW were taken. An infantry crossing was then forced over the blown bridge at M.512512 and by late afternoon the enemy was seen pulling out of the S. ALBERTO area. The next morning our tanks and infantry entered S. ALBERTO without opposition, and wheeled right along the Southern shores of the VAL DI COMACCHIO gathering in numerous stragglers on their way. During Saturday our armoured forces reached the coast at CASAL BORSETTI M.6553 and proceeded to mop up scattered enemy South to PORTO CORSINI and North to the isthmus at the Eastern end of the VAL DI COMACCHIO. In this push Northward we took the first prisoners from 740 Gren Regt of 710 Inf Div. They said their division came down from Norway early last month to Northern Italy, and that 740 Gren Regt was in the area of COMACCHIO town.

1290

During the last fortnight the weather has severely restricted operations. On our front the enemy went over to local aggressions to test our strength and to find out what we are up to. 16 SS Div launched a strong company attack on 11 Jan to take CASA TERRELLI M.390441 and to take prisoners in the doing of it. The attack was

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

front of reserves which the enemy would have preferred to keep back.

On 2 Jan the Canadians attacked Northeast from Route 16 in an attempt to clean out the area North of RAVENNA and to force the enemy to withdraw his forces behind the SENIO. The attack had considerable initial success for we broke through 721 Jäger Regt's troops defending CONVENTELLO, took over a hundred prisoners, and advanced a further fifteen hundred yards before running into Panthers and assault guns about the 49 Northing. Some 12 AFVs which had been concentrated in S. ALBERTO M.5252 came forward the next day in a vain attempt to hold us off. This force, including Tigers, Panthers and Hornets fought all morning round the bridge at M.512512, was forced back over it during the afternoon but succeeded in blowing it before our leading troops could cross. This rapid progress together with the obvious disorganisation of 114 Jäger Div forced the enemy to take counter-measures. These were duly put into effect early on the morning of 4 Jan when a strong counter-attack was launched between Route 16 and the CANALE MOLINAZZA against the left flank of the Canadian bulge. We captured the operation order for this counter-attack which showed that it was launched by the recce bns of 16 SS and 26 Armd Divs and a third bn from the Reichsführer, and that it had high hopes, for the ultimate objective was to throw us back over the LAMONE. The attack was late in starting and although it made about a thousand yards initially it was finally seen off for the loss of many dead and about 150 prisoners. After this unsuccessful spoiling attack our advance North continued and a rapid wheel by tanks and infantry towards the bridge of the BONIFICA Canal at M. 5490 captured it intact knocking out the two anti-tank guns defending it. Opposition from 114 Jäger Div in this area was ineffective and a further hundred PW were taken. An infantry crossing was then forced over the bloom bridge at M.512512 and by late afternoon the enemy was seen pulling out of the S. ALBERTO area. The road running our tanks and infantry entered S. ALBERTO without opposition, and wheeled right along the Southern shores of the VAL DI COMACCHIO gathering in numerous stragglers on their way. During Saturday our armoured forces reached the coast at CASAL BORSETTI M.6353 and proceeded to mop up scattered enemy South to PORTO CORSINI and North to the isthmus at the Eastern end of the VAL di COMACCHIO. In this push Northward we took the first prisoners from 740 Gren Regt of 710 Inf Div. They said their division came down from Norway early last month to Northern Italy, and that 740 Gren Regt was in the crew of COMACCHIO town.

1290

During the last fortnight the weather has severely restricted operations. On our front the enemy went over to local aggressions to test our strength and to find out what we are up to. 16 SS Div launched a strong company attack on 11 Jan to take CASA. TERRELLI M.390441 and to take prisoners in the doing of it. The attack was beaten off and two SS men were left behind as well as a score of corpses. The attack was renewed at intervals throughout Friday and the enemy now holds the building. The following day we returned in kind. Canadian troops with partisan guides surprised a company of the recently arrived 710 Inf Div which was in position in the coastal sector on the 55 Northing. 46 prisoners were brought in and 20 corpses left behind, and this according to prisoner's estimates accounted for two thirds of the company.

On Wednesday we had further examples of this aggressive spirit. The battle group of 16 SS Reichsführer Div which had earlier tried to spoil the Canadian drive to the COMACCHIO made a methodical attack near S. ANTONIO M.405445 which did gain a grip on some houses formerly held by us but casualties from our DF were heavy. By Friday evening they had been driven back, and we gathered in a dozen SS men during the operation. Our troops counted a score of bodies and watched German stretcher bearers

/carry off .....

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

enemy off some thirty wounded. Further North another though smaller attempt was made to gain a local success. A company attacked a group of houses at M.1849 after firing propaganda leaflets and giving the enemy a thorough shelling. Little success was achieved, and an initial advance of a few hundred yards was eliminated.

Further South vigorous operations were begun on 5 Jan to clear the enemy's SENIO bridgehead. A thrust over the RAVIGLIO at M.3431 completely surprised 278 Inf Div and one of its regiments lost 50 PW. Two SP guns which were in support were knocked out and CASTAROLO M.3512 was cleared. Meanwhile the enemy was thrown into even greater confusion by an armoured attack from the South which made rapid progress to the SENIO by-passing temporary points of resistance at CASERMINO and SAN SEVERO which were later mopped up. Enemy tanks began to arrive in the area in the afternoon but to no effect. By the next morning it was clear that the remaining enemy elements had crossed the SENIO. The last fortnight has been quiet SE of S. ALBERTO, for the weather has precluded anything more ambitious than patrolling by either side. A small attack on the night of 31 Dec which, like the one put in by the NZ troops further North, was clearly meant to do no more than secure an identification, was repulsed.

On the Via Emilia patrols of 29 PG Div have been busy with raids and ambushes but with little success. A force lay in wait for an Indian patrol at M.2626 on Sunday night but it was thrown aside inflicting no very damaging casualties. Our patrol was able to complete its mission and returned with 10 prisoners. Their patrol on the following day found 20 German corpses for which they had accounted in the engagement. On the upper reaches of the SENIO we improved our positions at the expense of a regiment of 715 Inf Div on Friday by clearing a house at PEDERIERA M.1925.

There have been several sharp raids on our positions on Fifth Army front, and the enemy's patrolling has been more vigorous and resourceful than usual. A particularly well co-ordinated attack West of Route 65 on 8 Jan achieved some initial success but was later repelled and our original positions restored.

Both our attacks took the enemy very much by surprise. 150 prisoners were taken in our armoured sweep to the SENIO, and our breakthrough to S. ALBERTO in the North was characterised by such episodes as the capture of an infantry gun platoon complete with guns and the rounding up in large numbers of stragglers who were either acting on out-of-date orders or completely out of the picture. The German communique of 4 Jan shows that he had the impression that we had started another major offensive and he took drastic steps to prevent any breakthrough. 710 Inf Div in process of shuffling from Norway, has sent at least one of its regiments to block the road up the isthmus at the Eastern end of the VAL DI CONIOCHIO, and the rest of 114 Jäger Div's front was taken over by 42 Jäger Div from the BOLOGNA front. Further reinforcements for our front, which the enemy clearly appreciates is a more serious threat than that to BOLOGNA, arrived this week when 362 Div started to take over the sector of 356 Div, probably the most tired of all the divisions in the line. 362 had been withdrawn from the mountains south of BOLOGNA at about the same time as was 42 Jäger Div, their places being taken by one division only; 305, formerly resting South of MODENA.

1676

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

carry off about thirty wounded. Further North another thrust of the attempt was made to gain a local success. .. company attacked a group of houses at M.1869 after firing propaganda leaflets and giving the area a thorough shelling. Little success was achieved, and an initial advance of a few hundred yards was eliminated.

Further South vigorous operations were begun on 3 Jan to clear the Army's SENIO bridgehead. A thrust over the N.VIGNO at M.9451 completely surprised 278 Inf Div and one of its regiments lost 50 PW. Two SP 8.8s which were in support were knocked out and CASALECCIO M.9552 was cleared. Meanwhile the enemy was thrown into even greater confusion by an armoured attack from the South which made rapid progress to the SENIO by-passing temporary points of resistance at CASSANIGO and SAN SEVERO which were later mopped up. Enemy tanks began to arrive in the area in the afternoon but to no effect. By the next morning it was clear that the remaining enemy elements had crossed the SENIO. The last fortnight has been quiet on V. CORLOMBO, for the weather has precluded anything more ambitious than patrolling by either side. A small attack on the night of 11 Dec which, like the one put in by the 88 troops further North, was clearly meant to do no more than secure an identification, was repulsed.

On the Via Emilia patrols of 29 PG Div have been busy with raids and ambushes but with little success. A force lay in wait for an Indian patrol at M.2626 on Sunday night but it was thrown aside inflicting no very damaging casualties. Our patrol was able to complete its mission and returned with 10 prisoners. Their patrol on the following day found 20 German corpses for which they had accounted in the engagement. On the upper reaches of the SENIO we improved our positions at the expense of a regiment of 715 Inf Div on Friday by clearing a house at PEDONIERA M.1922.

There have been several sharp raids on our positions on Fifth Army front, and the enemy's patrolling has been more vigorous and resourceful than usual. A particular well co-ordinated attack West of Route 65 on 8 Jan achieved some initial success but was later repelled and our original positions restored.

Both our attacks took the enemy very much by surprise. 150 prisoners were taken in our armoured sweep to the SENIO, and our breakthrough to S. ALBERTO in the North was characterised by such episodes as the capture of an infantry gun platoon complete with guns and the rounding up in large numbers of stragglers who were either acting on out-of-date orders or completely out of the picture. The German communique of 4 Jan shows that he had the impression that we had started another major offensive and he took drastic steps to prevent any breakthrough. 710 Inf Div in process of arriving from Norway, has sent at least one of its regiments to block the road up the isthmus at the Eastern end of the V.L di COMACCHIO, and the rest of 114 Jäger Div's front was taken over by 42 Jäger Div from the BOLOGNA front. Further reinforcements for our front, which the enemy clearly appreciates is a more serious threat than that to BOLOGNA, arrived this week when 362 Div started to take over the sector of 356 Div, probably the most tired of all the divisions in the line. 362 had been withdrawn from the mountains south of BOLOGNA at about the same time as was 42 Jäger Div, their places being taken by one division only, 305, formerly resting south of MODENA.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 765020

1678