

ACC

10000/125/19 ACC/512/PAT

10000/125/19 ACC/512/PAT - BOLOGNA
SEPT. 44

1708

SECRET

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Patriots Branch Adv. Det.

22 Sept 44

Ref. ACC/512/PAT.

Subject. Industries in EMILIA (Region IX)
To. Distribution Below

Colossal Luigi, MARUCCI
Via Garibaldi 12 Bologna

1. The above named Italian officer has for the past eight years been an official of the "FABRIGUERRA" in EMILIA and has a thorough knowledge of all the industries useful for war purposes.
2. Because of his position he was inscribed in the Fascist party and has been compelled to work for the Fascist Republic but he has never been an ardent Fascist.

B.L. DRAGE Major

Distribution:

- BGS 073 (3)
- AG 5th Army (3)
- AG 8th Army (3)
- Region Commissioners (2) Provincial Commissioners (8)
- ACC
- Political Section (2)
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Title. INFORMATION ABOUT BOLOGNA AND ITS PROVINCE. Page I.

Prof Bernardini of the Bologna University, has been questioned. Prof. Bernardini is a young man of science, well known in Italy for his studies on the cosmic rays and the composition of the atom. Politically he declares a leaning towards Communism and the Party of Action (Partita d'Azione), although specifically he has nothing to do with either party. He has always been against Fascism and has had to undergo disciplinary punishments even before 25th July 1943. He left Bologna about a month ago.

GENERAL SITUATION Bologna has had to undergo about 20 air-raids. Only about 7 or 8 of these have reached military objectives. All the others have destroyed civil places. Great stretches are destroyed at Porta Mazzini, Porta Dami, Via Irnsio etc. Much less justifiable were the air-raids that touched such important parts as those between the Città Giardino and the Via Mazzini. The population is very irritated about this. What caused more surprise was the fact that, after 8th September air-raids continued over Bologna and over other cities of the North, such as Ferrara, Treviso etc, causing the death of many civilians without getting any war utility. For example on the 24th September an air-raid over Bologna caused the death of 4200 people (Prof. Bernardini was given this information by Prof. Forni of the University Clinic) and the railway traffic remained just about the same as ever., and if the Central Railway Station was useless the trains went through the secondary railway stations of S. Ruffilo and Borgo Panigalletti. The population that had evacuated in great part, after 8th September, came back into the city, hoping that the Allies would no longer raid without discrimination, avoiding terrorist attacks on the population. Seeing that was not the case, many returned to the country, from where they came back again into the city, the German troops having invaded the country-side, perpetrating the usual damages. The return to the city was also favoured by the fact that good refugees had been finally built, and the sirens were functioning well, and what is more, Bologna had been declared a hospital city. There are about 200,000 inhabitants in the city at present. It is full of hospitals. Fosters have invited the population to help in the work of caring for the wounded in the interest and safety of the city.

ECONOMICAL SITUATION

Bologna is characterized by the presence of many industries of medium and small importance (the employees are composed of a few hundred workmen). These industries, in spite of the continual interruption of the electric current, are still working. The big Ducati factory is also active.

Alimentation is in a good state, because of the proverbial richness of the country production. On the black market, it is to be had easily and at a reasonable price, all that one needs: for example a Kg of meat costs 50 lire, a Kg. of butter 150 lire, a Kg. of bread without a

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Alimentation is in a good state, because of the proverbial richness of the country production. On the black market, it is to be had easily and at a reasonable price, all that one needs: for example a Kg of meat costs 80 liras, a Kg. of butter 150 liras; a Kg. of bread without a ration card 30 liras eggs (free sale) from 7 to 9 liras each. Clothing and shoes are wanting. A man's suit costs about 8000 liras; a pair of men's shoes 3000 liras.

Appendix.

D. Section .W.B.

Secret.

Title. INFORMATION ABOUT BOLOGNA AND ITS PROVINCE. Page 2.

POLITICAL SITUATION

As everywhere else Fascism has few followers. Prof. Bernardini on a visit to Milan was able to notice that the anti-fascist movement in the latter city is much stronger than in the former, and virtually Milan is already in anti-fascist hands. The same thing cannot be said of Bologna, although here as well, hatred against the Germans is very great, and the fascist republic is held in no consideration. In the University "milieu" which he knows best, Prof. Bernardini indicates as men of anti-fascist leanings Giuseppe PAITTA, student of philosophy, an independent and bitter anti-fascist, even if he did pronounce a speech on the death of his Master Gentile. Businco pathology, Party of Action. FORTUNATI, economics, a Communist. OLIVO, anatomy, independent. RATTAGLIA economics, Communist, CANELLA, assistant in anatomy, a very active man of the Party of Action. There must be socialist and Demo-Christian groups, but Prof. Bernardini has never been in touch with them. He thinks that the clergy have great influence, especially in the country; the workmen of the city are clearly Communist; their passion is pure, strong and active, with a marked socialist leaning. The country-man is on the whole, a quite well-off, if small proprietor, very catholic and conservative, therefore a bitter enemy to Communism. In the Province near Romagna (Lugo, Moimellon Rudrio and also Faenza, there are large stretches of country-side quite extremist and intensely communist. Here the struggle takes on a bloody aspect; many murders between fascists and anti-fascists are continually committed. The Communist Party is trying to moderate the violent character that the Communism of Romagna is taking on. In such places the Party of Action is very strong, and the Chief of Bologna often come from this violent part of the Province. There also exists the Labour Party a kind of Socialism of which Prof. Bernardini is not able to indicate the characteristics; it seems to be pretty much diffused in Romagna.

THE FASCIST ARMY

In the beginning of July the Republican army was still in existence at Bologna, but was in perfect disorder. Some of Prof. Bernardini's students, who had to present themselves to the army corps, were sent home again, because the Republican army had neither foot nor clothes nor arms. Others were taken by the Germans and incorporated in German uniform in the under German officers in the coastal detachments. As usual the G.M.R. is made up of old "squadrists", full of responsibility and of boys enlisted God knows how, from 16 to 18 years old. These groups go around the city shedding blood in the ways as will soon be indicated. There are also in Bologna special groups, such as the Parachutists, very few in number with the Conscription Centre in the city and barracks in Via Gamboni the 10 Fleet M.A.S. I. bat. M. All these men behave like real bandits.

Prof Bernardini remembers that blood was shed in the following ways:

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- a). In the month of July, 10 bodies were found in the Via Malpighi, and rumour had it that they had been killed by the fascists.
- b). In the month of June, 3 bodies were found in the same way in Piazza del Duomo.

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- c). Ten hostages were shot to revenge the death of the Federele Macchini.

THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE GERMAN TROOPS

Prof, Bernardini has lived for some time on the Apennines, at Lizzano at Belvedere. A German Command lived there for some time and then moved elsewhere. The German troops cover all the area.

On the flank of the Apennines, facing Tuscany, the Germans are going to excesses and committing all kinds of devastations. Sometimes they order the evacuation of whole villages: this happened at Gireglia, (Pistoia), and Prof, Bernardini saw the fugitives from that hamlet, arriving at Lizzano. On the flank facing Emilia, they are behaving better so showing their intention of not evacuating the territory of the line of the Goths. A German Colonel at Lizzano, told Prof, Bernardini, that the German troops will stop on the line of the Goths until the end of the war; textually he added: "We shall see the end of the war on the line of the Goths."

THE PARTISANS.

Prof, Bernardini never came into contact with the partisans. There was a group of partisans with communist leanings, near Lizzano, (they wore a red star). Two partisans were arrested by the Germans in the month of July. One was shot immediately, the other was tied to his dead companion, and left so in the Square for the rest of the day. On the following day he was hanged. The people paid honour to his death with flowers, although they had been forbidden to do so by the Germans.

2.9.1944.

S.Sp.

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