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WEEKLY REPORTS - FLORENCE
NOV. 1944 - JUNE 1945

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~~Gen~~ PAT
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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION
PATRIOTS BRANCH

Ref: 121/3/PAT 2 June 1945

SUBJECT: Patriot Centre - FLORENCE.

TO: Regional Commissioner, TUSCANA.

F92 of File 121/3/PAT

Reference your R-VII/11/C/82 dated 26 May 1945.

1. It is considered that the closing of the Florence Patriot Centre entirely on 10 June is premature as it is anticipated there may be a number of patriots still in transit at that time and the centre itself would be useful for accommodating them.

2. The question of feeding patriots after 10 June is at present under discussion with the Food Sub-Commission and every endeavour is being made to provide a suitable patriot ration. You will in due course be advised of the result of these discussions.

3. In the meantime, the High Commissioner for War Veterans, whose office is responsible for dealing with patriots after demobilisation and all those in Italian Government Territory, has been contacted. He has been requested to call on you during the tour which he is at present making of the Northern Provinces, with a view to taking over the organisation of the Florence Centre and making arrangements to deal with transient patriots. The High Commissioner, H.E. CHIRI, has been given a letter of introduction to you and it is anticipated that he will be in Florence in about a week's time.

4. The final date for closure of this camp, therefore, must remain to be decided when it has been seen for what numbers it is necessary to provide.

(Sgd) R.R. CRIPPS, Colonel,
Director,
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB-COMMISSION
(PATRIOTS BRANCH)

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24 JAN Recd 51/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT R

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

PATRIOT SECTION

RCL/mm

REF. : I09/6

DATE : 22.I.1945

SUBJECT : Weekly report of Patriots' Representative.

TO : Lt. Col. F. CRAIG, Director Patriots Branch, H.Q. Allied Commission, Civil Affairs Section.

Attached hereto is a copy of a report which I have received from Major Giacinto ARVIGO, who is at present stationed with Col. ROLPH, Provincial Commissioner, Florence, as Patriots Representative, together with its translation into English.

R.C.LIMBERT,
Captain,
Patriots Officer,
Fifth Army AMG.

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WEEKLY REPORT.

The object of this report is the analising of the various problems connected with Patriots, both in regard to Assistance and in regard to their employment after de-mobilisation. - Notably it is pointed out :

REHABILITATION OF PATRIOTS WHO HAVE OPERATED WITHIN V ARMY ZONE:

Prior to the undersigned taking charge of this office, the Patriots situation appeared under the following aspects:
I) A collecting centre, situated in the barracks in via Montebello in Florence, received and is still receiving all patriots who, having crossed the lines, report to the Officer appointed by the Partisan Command Fifth Army, Capt. Limbert. Owing to the continual afflux of men, the Collecting Centre was in difficulty to house them properly. Having established collaborational accords with Capt. Limbert and Capt. Hammond, Commander of the Barracks in Via Montebello, the undersigned pointed out the necessity of immediately assigning an Italian Officer who would take charge of the various problems annexed to the internal organisation, as this task was not included in the activities of the Military Representative attached to the Allied Provincial Commissioner. This necessity was also pointed out by me to the British Colonel from Rome who was inspecting the Centre. This matter is now favourably settled with the appointment of LtCol FEDELE attached to the Command, V Army. In the meartime the accomodation of patriots in the via Montebello barracks has considerably improved, because beds and mattresses have been distributed and some mattress covers which will be filled with straw, 50 quintals of which have been provided gratis by the Association of Industry. The task of organising the Centre will from hence forward be entrusted exclusively to the Military Representative with V Army, Lt. Col. Fedele.

VOLUNTARY ENLISTING.

The voluntary enlisting of Italians in the Royal Army is proceding favourably. It is foreseen that aprox. 8.000 men from the province of Florence will join the regular Italian Army. The recruiting is done mainly through the organization of the Partisan Division "POTENTE". Other forms of recruiting are made, on a smaller scale, through the Tuscan Military Command and the various Sections of Political Parties.

Following arrangements made with the Allied Provincial Commissioner, it has been advised to enlist Volunteers, sending them off to the military units concerned in groups of 500. This way of dividing men into groups has been decided upon so as to avoid political complications, relative to the number of the men enlisted, as the latter, upon joining the regular Italian Army, will be under the control of greater entities. The voluntary enlisting solves the situation of those

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Patriots who, after having fought in extremely hard conditions, are now in a state of poverty and idleness, unfortunately isolated from the comunity of regular service men, who have legal assistance. Thus immediate political preoccupations are eliminated. The problem of rehabilitated Patriots is essentially a psychological problem, which, if properly handled will no doubt represent the solution of all the serious moral and material difficulties by which the patriot is submerged, after having given the highest proofs of his faith and courage, in conditions created by the lack of comprehension and prejudice which demoralise his spirit to the point of turning him, luckily so far in a few cases, a disillusioned rebel.

FORMS OF ASSISTANCE.
The issuing of subsidies and assistance in hospitals proceed regularly and comunal offices are being organised.

POLITICAL TENDENCIES.
Are to be considered at present of no importance.

ARMS SURRENDERED.
The operating command of Fifth Army attends to the disarming.

CERIMONIES.
None.

PATRIOTS IN HOSPITALS.
Fifty approximately.

NOTES
The undersigned, notwithstanding repeated requests addressed to competent Allied Authorities, has not been yet supplied with transport necessary to enable him to visit the various communes of Florence province. This prevents the undersigned from performing all the activity that is requested from him. Of this matter the Provincial Commissioner is personally aware.

1003

PROPOSALS.
These are being consider d by the undersigned and will be submitted only after a personal examination of each question still to be solved, when, as said above, he will be put in conditions such as to study them thoroughly.

THE MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE
WITH THE ALLIED PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER
(Major G.Arvigo)

/s/ Arvigo

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M&C.

TRANSLATION

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COMMISSIONE NAZIONALE PATRIOTI
UFFICIO PROVINCIALE DI FIRENZE
H.Q. A.M.G. FLORENCE

P.N.

TO : Commissione Nazionale Patrioti ROMA

Subject : Report.

1st November 1944

1. ENLISTMENT INTO THE ITALIAN ARMY OF PATRIOTS.

Enlistments in Florence and Province, number up to date, 285.

Contact rumours have been circulating, for some time now that Italian Units are to be assigned to the Far East theatres of war. Such rumours add, moreover, that the Italian Navy will be employed in the same theatre.

The assumption of such employment of Italian Units, in the near future in a sphere entirely remote from any direct national interest, and in relation to the present situation of Italy with the Allied Nations, produces among the Patriots a general state which, together with the reasons previously reported, contributes largely a voluntary reduction of enlistments in the Italian Army.

2. COLLECTION OF ARMS.

Nothing to report.

3. PATRIOTS WHO WISH TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES.

All Patriots coming south from the Rive Arno have returned to their homes.

4. ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES.

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In order to make the "Gen. Alexander" certificates lose all value, it is indispensable that the certificates should be issued through the Provincial Patriots Offices, or at least, not before such Offices have checked the position of the individual members of the units.

5. POLITICAL TENDENCIES OF THE PATRIOTS.

Nothing to add to previous reports.

6. ACTS OF GALLANTRY OF THE PATRIOTS.

Nothing to report.

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7. AWARDS TO PATRIOTS

Nothing to report.

8. REEMPLOYMENT OF PATRIOTS

Nothing to add to previous reports.

9. PARADES AND CEREMONIES

Nothing to report.

10. ASSISTANCE

a) Demobilisation bonuses and subsidies. It is necessary that sufficient funds to pay off demobilisation bonuses, special bonus to wounded and immediate subsidies to the families of the deceased, should be supplied in due time and in the necessary amounts to Provincial Commissioners.

The Rome Patriots Office has established the following figures:

- Demobilisation bonus to all Patriots	=	L.500
Special bonus to wounded depending on the gravity of the wounds and on the family's situation	=	L.5000
To the families of deceased patriots, depending on the financial situation of the family up to a maximum of	=	L.10000

In Florence and the Province the census of patriots to date totals 4900, which, at 500 per head brings demobilisation bonuses to 2.450.000 lire.

Wounded who were in hospital for over one month or who have been cured during the period of under ground activity and still require assistance total 500. To these must be paid a bonus of up to 5000 lire according to the gravity of injuries received . In all 2.5000.000 lire.

Definite casualties to date in Florence total 175 and 133 in the Province, to whom 10000 lire per family is to be paid having a total to 3.090.000lire. 1001

The Florence Province therefore needs for the above three subventions:

Demobilisation bonuses	Lire 2.450.000
Bonuses to wounded	" 2.500.000
Assistance to families of deceased	" 3.090.000
Total	Lire 8.040.000

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For the Florence Province, this office has so far received from the Rome Patriots Office the total sum of 2.000.000 lire. We still need 6.040.000 lire to complete payments.

Vittorio Sorani has received directly 750.000 lire, about the administration of which I will report as soon as possible

b) HOSPITAL ASSISTANCE

The ration distributed at present (Allied ration M) is sufficient, and generally satisfactory. The distribution of cigarettes to the patients is irregular, and the amount of the daily ration is not stated in the ration scale.

If possible it would be advisable to establish a daily ration, which might be a low one (3-4 cigarettes per day) but have the ration constantly issued.

Many wounded have hospital in very poor condition and, as far as the rationing goes, are considered as civilians upon having hospital.

To suggest that, if possible, for the duration which the doctors consider necessary for convalescence, the M ration should be drawn in kind and granted to the Patriots. The distribution could be done to the convalescents at one of the hospitals expecially detailed to do so.

c) ASSISTANCE TO THE PATRIOTS PENDING RETURN TO THEIR HOMES

There is a "Centro Reccolta Patioti"(center for the reunion of Patriots) in the school Rossini - via Galliano in Florence.

The task of the Center of Reunion is to give the Patriots, who have been passed by the front line, assistance during the time spent on demobilisation reemployment, and return to their homes.

1. At present all the Reunion Center there are 400 patriots all belonging to areas which have not yet been liberated, and who await the possibility of returning to their homes.

2. The Reunion Center under the control of an Allied Officer, is commanded by a Patriot Chief who comes out the duties of Barracks Commander.

3. There is a small infirmary with a doctor who 1020 merly belonged to a Patriot's Unit.

4. The Allied Officer in charge of the Reunion Center pays montaly wags to the Barracks Commander, to the second in command, and to the doctor.

Food is considered at present to be sufficiently satisfactory and further improvenients have been promised.

About one hundred Allied uniforms have been issued, and it is probably that more will follow.

A barber's shop has been established and it is fructioning with tools and personnel belonging to the

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center.

General .....who has recently visited the center, has congratulated the Commander, promising to give his attention to further improving the organisation.

Some of the Patriots are employed on various jobs, and if the figures are still low it must be attributed to the food distributed at the works which is unsatisfactory and scarce.

Should it be possible to obtain an improvement in this section, the number of Patriots who will accept work will increase considerably.

The organisation of the Reunion Centers, which has already proved to be satisfactory, will be indispensable, in due time, in all the Provinces which have not yet been liberated, where the Patriots Units are numerous and strong.

It will facilitate among other things demobilisation, reemployment of Patriots,and, will avoid disorder and profiteering, and will find a means of helping Patriots at a moment of crisis when after many mounths of partisan fighting they are about to return to civil life.

IL COMMISSARIO PROVINCIALE
RAPPRESENTANTE DEL CENTRO
MILITARE
MAGG. GIULIO TERROSI

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH
APO 394.

Ref : 51/Pat. 15 Nov. 1944.

Oggetto : Relazione del Rappresentante Militare per la Prov.di Firenze.

Alla : Presidenza del Consiglio, Ufficio Patrioti.

Si trasmette per competenza una relazione del mese di ottobre, relativa all'attività svolta dal Rappresentante militare per la Provincia di Firenze, Magg. Giulio Terrosi.

Col. G. FAVA,
Ufficiale di Collegamento,
Ufficio Patrioti.

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ALLIED COMMISSION
PATRIOT BRANCH
(ADVANCE DETACHMENT)
C. M. F.

Ref: AC/534/PAT.

Date 24th.November 1944.

SUBJECT: Reports.

To : Patriots Branch
HQ.AC.

The attached reports dated 18 and 21 November 44 from Dr.CIOMPI, Patriot Representative attached this Office are forwarded for your information.

B.L. DRAGE
MAJOR
Patriot Branch

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R E P O R T .

The Brigade Garibaldi - 64 Gramsi - The Modenese Division "Ciro Menotti" operated in the zone which included and is between Toano (Reggiano) Sasso Guidano (Prov. of Verica Pavullo) Geredola Sassuolo, Pieve Pelago attacking on the National road to Giardini.

Many villages are distroyed, the ferocious reprisals of the Germans and Italian S.S. continue.

Episodes of incredible and unheard of ferocity that can only be compared with the torturing of the middle ages took place. Not only indiscreminate requisitions, but also mass execution of the civil population took place in many villages, and the crops were burned close to the farm houses.

The civil population helped the Partisans all they could, because they themselves felt sympathy for the Partisans, but they are now weary and tired of the atrocities committed of which they are the victims.

The political tendency is of the left, communism is regognised and practically applied even without a perfect knowledge of its principals - The Christian Democrates also with tendency to the left, has many followers. The Partito d'Azione has members that occupy posts of Command, but who on principle do not talk about politics amongst their men. Well quoted is the Brigade under command of "Angelo" belonging to the Partito d'Azione .

The Standard of the Brigade is the red flag to whichm much attachment is shown, which is understandeble, as the national flag is bound too much to the Monarchy , which the civil population as well as the Partisans hold responsible for the ruin of the country.

Ciompi

Dr. M. CIOMPI.
Civil Representative
Patriot Branch.

Florence 18/II/1944.

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REPORT.

Th Partisan Dions was in Mario Modenese's brigade up to August, he then went down to the valley. In the zone Pain Dellagotti, a unit of the Action Party operated under command of Mario Alegretti and of a certain Ugo, and a unit to the Christian Democrates, commanded by a certain Claudio, a highly quoted element.

The Patriot Dions left Modena on the 2nd. of the month.

In the Mario Modenese Brigade the general tendency is of the left; 80% of the men declare themselves communists, without nevertheless any deep knowledge of communist dotrine , this prevalence is all of the young people, always susceptible to education.

Monarchy is absolutely ignored ,or feelings are contrary to it. The future Republican Constitution is considered a certainty, a thing not even to be discussed.

The population of Modena who lean generally to the left, and who are favourable to the Partisans, are now weary on account of al the attrocities and reprisals committed. In the country the population is partisan with tendency to communism.

The population and the Partisan hope for the arrival of the Allies, convinced as they are that, that would mean the end of their sufferings and of the continious terror under which the people of Modena is obliged to live, the expectation is apadomic and the nervous tension very great.

News of the way the Patriots are treated i the liberated zones have already reached, Patriots hearing it at first thought, it was anti - fascist propagands, but to-day they are aware that it is true.

All this helps a certain propagands and contributes to the prosperity of an extremist tendency.

To this purpose it is said by many ,that the only way to arginate or prevent the defusion of extremist idias and the prestige of other countries, wouldbe, not to consider the Patriots and the Communists exclusively ad a police problem, but to watch this phenomena without preventing or ostacolating "a priori" its initiatives, and providing above all things a certain economic well being and xxxxx the building up of life.

Ciompi

Dr. Ciompi.
Civil Representative
Patriot Branch.

21.11.1944

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File

TOP SECRET

TRANSLATION

25-XI-1944 Ottawa

(Restricted)

Report concerning the political and civil situation in the Modenese area.

Three partisans Marcello, Muratore and Rolando, who left Montespino, in the Modenese area, on 4th Oct. arrived in Florence on 15th Oct.

They have reported that the prevailing political tendency of the bands is communist, there are some units with no political tendencies, the members of one unit are "demo - Christiani". "Partito d'Azione" has very few followers, practically no socialists or liberals. The majority of Patriots are republicans with the exception of a few monarchists.

In the Modena area, German reprisals against anti fascism are very bitter.

C.L.N. has all the population on its side who regards it as the future Government.

The Prefect has very little prestige, being considered as an institution of the Monarchy.

The C.L.N. leaders are communists, followed in importance by demo - curistiana.

The populations anxiously await liberation. The partisan Bands know already of the disarmament and of the lack of assistance, and mistrust and scepticism are spreading. Consequently the extreme propaganda finds a fertile ground and the Russian prestige augments daily especially because of the system adopted by the Russians towards those countries that have recently detached themselves from Germany.

R.M.

The Civil Representative of
the Patriots Branch A.C.
FLORENCE

Dr. M. CIOMPI.

(Oct. 1944)

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-5 DEC Recd

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
FLORENCE PROVINCE
PATRIOT BRANCH

29th September 44

Ref.No; :- FG/73
Subject :- Weekly Report of Officer attached to Patriot Branch
To :- P.C. , Florence Province.

1. PATRIOT RECRUITS FOR THE ITALIAN ARMY.

If in a report we want to be adherent to the real situation, we cannot, first of all, put aside the fact that during this war an atmosphere of revolution has grown up, where the clash of the opposed armies is not representing today anything else than an episode through which the various ideas try to conquer the position enabling them to realize their programme.

It is indispensable that anyone appointed or anyhow interested to the problem of immitting the Patriots in the new-formed divisions of the Italian Army should begin from this premise.

As far as I can judge, the problem of recruiting the Patriots for the Italian Army has not yet been put as it should.

The Italian Govermnet and the A.M.G. are making concessions and compromises that do not conclude anything and create, on the contrary, an equivocal situation that will not begin, as it should, the bringing up again of Italy through the Army, i.e. the most jealous and sacred organism of each nation.

The Patriots are really 'Partisans', that is soldiers who, notwithstanding their own political faith, have fought with a nationalistic aim, and wish to go on fighting to affirm before the public opinion of Italy and the whole world the right of being the reconstructors of a new Italy.

The recruiting of Patriots, as it is fixed now, wants to transform these partisans into soldiers, and this is a definition and a situation accepted with diffidence and rejected by almost all the Patriots for the reasons hereafter shewn.

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The recruiting of Patriots, as it is fixed now, wants to transform these partisans into soldiers, and this is a definition and a situation accepted with diffidence and rejected by almost all the Patriots for the reasons hereafter shewn.

First thing the Patriots fear, as soon as they will be enlisted in the Italian Army, to be obliged to an oath contrasting with their political faith.

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The military stars and the uniform itself are considered emblems that have lost any value owing to the passed vicissitudes, and represent for many people a renewal and continuation of the past.

Another cause of diffidence are the Officers.

Too many Officers and N.C.Os created in the last years an atmosphere of mistrust owing to their lack of capacity and dishonesty.

The officers of the new units of the Army, as they are constituted by elements coming from the R.A., are generally considered to be bearing in them the marks of the past and to be trying to bring military life back to the old conditions, and, above all, to make of the Army the support of the Monarchy for its constitutional claims.

In the above is the principal if not the only cause of the condition the Patriots fix to their recruiting in the Army: that is to continue having their present commanders, who have come out of the ranks through a natural selection during the preceding fighting period.

These commanders do not pretend to have a technical preparation enabling them to command successfully a division or even a battalion, as complicated as these units are in a modern army for number of men and arms; but they feel that their men have in them a faith near to fanaticism and making them capable of any sacrifice.

An officer coming from the R.A. even if "creened" will always be looked at with mistrust, unless after September 8th '43 he operated directly as a Patriot and lived the Partisans' life.

Many officers remained passively expecting how the events developed, though they did not serve or take an oath with the Fascist Republic.

Italy's situation after 8 September '43 caused these not to be considered "Italians with a sense of duty, dignity and fatherland's love", I do not say "good officers" a category of citizens that particularly has to possess these sentiments. However, owing to the passive attitude, [illegible] and therefore can possibly

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Italy's situation after 8 September '43 caused these not to be considered "Italians with a sense of duty, dignity and fatherland's love", I do not say "good officers" a category of citizens that particularly has to possess these sentiments. However, owing to the passive attitude, they will generally be screened and therefore can possibly be put to the command of Patriot formations, who have fought for their idea.

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Thei only Army representing the will of the people to fight against the outside enemy, identified for the Italians with the Germans, and resulting the element of order at the end of the war, must be at once transformed on the following terms:

1.- Abolition of the S.M. (Staff)

2.- Complete revision of the Officers

3. - Changing of the present oath

4.- Revision of the economical treatment.

These problems need an immediate solution to give the Italian Government and the Allies the possibility of arriving to northern Italy with premises secuting them of the trust and collaboration of the Italians north of the line and clearing the situation with those of the occupied areas.

2. PATRIOTS DESIRING TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES.

Actually most of the Patriots coming from Central and Southern Italy have already returned to their homes.

The few left have settled down somehow waiting for the definite conditions for recruiting in the Italian Army.

The Patriots coming from northern Italy are still waiting to be recruited ot to return to their homes as soon as possible.

3. COLLECTING OF ARMS.

I am verifying all the arms delivered in the various communes by the partisan formation and will submit the results to you as soon as possible. But I can presently affirm that the arms delivered are only a percentage, and in some cases a very small one, of those really possessed.

The causes of this non-delivery have to be attributed essentially to the procedure followed by

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The causes of this non-delivery have to be attributed essentially to the procedure followed by the Allies in the arm-delivery; secondly to the future programme of some parties.

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4. CERTIFICATES ISSUED.
Nothing to report.

5. POLITICAL TENDENCIES AMONG THE PATRIOTS.
The Patriots' mind is revolutionary: Italy has to be radically trasnformed in its constitutional organism and in the relations among the various social classes.

All aim to a Republican Government organized according to the ideas of each party.

The predominating parties are Communism, Socialism and Christian Democracy.

6. COURAGEOUS ACTS OF PATRIOTS.
Nothing to report.

7. COMPENSATIONS AND REAWRDS TO PATRIOTS.
Nothing to report.

8. RECORDS OF SERVICE OF GROUPS AND BANDS.
Nothing to report.

9. RE-EMPLOYMENT OF PATRIOTS.
There are some Patriots who possess the qualities for employments in the various public and private administrations and, notwithstanding all the promises of the Italian Government and the Allies they are still waiting for the present employees to be 'epurated' to obtain an eventual situation.

Nothing really resolutive has been done, and the Patriots waiting are completely loosing any faith in the capacity and loyalty of the Italian Government and in the good will of the Allies to resolve the situation, while they are forming the idea to rake the law into their hands and organize themselves, waiting for the right moment to 'clera the dishes'. This state of things offers the turbulent the ideal field for their propaganda.

10. PARADES AND CERIMONIES IN WHICH THE PATRIOTS ARE CONCERNED.
Nothing to report.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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10. PARADES AND CERIMONIES IN WHICH THE PATRIOTS ARE CONCERNED.

Nothing to report.

FURTHER REMARKS.

There are some Patriots who cross the lines to bring news about the fortifications the movements of the enemy. After many examinations

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and after they have imparted all the informations they posses, they are thanked, refreshed for the moment and dismissed.

Afterwards these Patriots wander from one Allied office to another, from a Patriot Command to the other searching food and lodgings will they can go back to their formations. The formation Commanders can do nothing for them as they are deprived of any possibility and the Allied Offices send them at last to some Refugees' camp.

This treatment offends the Patriots who, for the services rendered, expect to be treated like soldiers in a special mission pro the Allied and to whom the Command they reported to must provided till the moment in which it will be possible for them to return to their formation.

As an example I relate the case of four partisans of the 3rd Garibaldine Brigade operating between Spezia and Apuania. These Patriots, together with two men sent down by parachute by the Allies, have crossed the lines on sea. After many examinations they were sent to the O.S.S. at Castello where they gave various informations.

Afterwards while the two sent by parachute - serving in an American formation - were retained, the four Patriots were directed to the barracks in Via della Scala, where a Rufugees' post is. The four Patriots, who have their clothing in an awful condition and are without money, after having done what is said above, receive the same treatment as the Refugees waiting to return to their homes.

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GT/vc

GIULIO TERROS, Major,
Provincial Officer attached to the Patriot Branch.

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expression, towards the Italian Government, that is judged incapable of taking the necessary decisions or of not considering to the proper degree the problem of assistance to partisans, while the Allies are charged to exploit the partisans till they serve to disturbe the arrear-lines of the enemy and to treat them as a nuisance as soon as they are overreached by the lines.

2) Assistance to wounded patriots in the hospitals.-

The wounded patriots, some of whom are gravely maimed and have undergone several surgical operations, need a special assistance as to food.

It is absolutely necessary to provide immediately in this line. If the assigning and distributing a special ration is not possible through the competent communal and provincial institutions help from the competent allied authorities must be asked.

3) 'Immediate' assistance to the families of fallen Patriots.

Waiting that the arrangements about approving, assigning and giving the pensions follow their course, it is necessary to give an immediate help to the families of fallen Patriots. The Italian Government might establish a sum of some 10/15.000 lire to be corresponded immediately to the nearest relative of the fallen patriots, in base of documents delivered by the commanders of bands and controlled by the local C.L.N.

This immediate assistance must not exclude the following ones, like exentions and reductions of school taxes for the children, priority in the rehabilitation of the homes when they have been damaged or ruined etc.

These three forms of assistance have an importance and a political influence which it is not necessary to underline. The little that has been done is owed to local initiatives while directions and help by the government are absolutely missing. The several "Partisans Association", "National Association of the Patriots", "Partisan Movement", arrive with programmes and statutes but none with an address that is an emanation of the central Government and ~~with~~ what is the most important with the funds and necessary means.

Florence, 11 October 1944.

The Provincial Commissioner
for the "Centre Militare"
Major Giulio Terrosi

Terrosi

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P.O.

HAEDQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
FLORENCE PROVINCE
UFFICIO PATRIOTI

In compiling this report, I have represented, as best I could, the ideas and the feelings of the Patriots in the various relations with the Italian and Allied Authorities.
I have tried report sinthetically the real situations that must not be undervalued as the Patriots' will constitute the basis of the public opinion in Italy.

Summary

I) Political tendencies of the Patriots.-
2) Patriots' enlisting for the Italian Army.-
3) Assistance to Patriots.

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POLITICAL TENDENCIES OF THE PATRIOTS.

The Patriots' mind is revolutionary. Nothing can cause them to recede from this position.

The Patriots' commanders and political commissaries of the bands, also if they are not professionists or people with an education superior to the average, are mostly elements with a mental understanding and a political preparation much superior to that of simple labourers. They have arrived to convictions for which they have often suffered imprisonment and which constitute for them a life mission and not a passing enthusiasm. They are "pure" and in that lies the secret of their ascendency and of the blind faith they awake in their companions. This is a fact of a great importance to be considered constantly in the study of all patriots' problems.

Generally, they have not an attitude of a tribune or demagogue; they say what they have to say with few words and almost coldly; but who is hearing feels that what is said is true. The noisy and turbolent manifestations are extraneous to them and I have seen them blame and repress them; they are the visible and passing effect of their words; but the lasting effect, which the leaders themselves name 'political education' fixes slowly but deeply in the minds of their men and appears in the "faith" they have towards their leaders.

Politically the Patriots have, almost all, the same aspirations which may be sinthetized as follows: (transforming of the actual social constitutional organism of the country) and they change, owing to the various parties, more as to the proceeding of transforming than as to the final organisation.

The commanders and commissaries, and their men with them, consider this transforming unavoidable, an end already attained with right and with only the problem of effectuating it left.

For this they are disposed to fight, at the side of the Allies against the Germans on certain conditions, or to wait passively also with a great sacrifice, the right moment to fight against anyone for the triumph of their idea.

As I have said before, the Patriots' mind is revolutionary and nothing can change this attitude; but a "political reatment" tending to realise forthwith what they want through a radical transforming of the country in its social and constitutional organism, will perhaps avoid the revolutionary crisis to

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wich we shall otherwise unavoidably arrive.

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PATRIOTS' ENLISTING FOR THE ITALIAN ARMY.-

The problem is directly collected to the political tendencies of the Patriots.

Any solution not justly considering that, will not obtain, as it does not, any good result.

The uniform and the military stars themselves are symbols that have lost all their value, at least for the mass, and represent a renewal of the past, which is looked to with diffidence.

To all the officers are attributed errors owing to inability, dishonesty and the abuse of authority, in fact to be charged only to some individuals.

The 'Stato Maggiore' (Staff) is accused to have been the accomplice of Fascism in the imperial programme and to be one of the greatest responsibles of the unprepared state of Italy and its entering the war.

The commanders of the Patriots' formations do not pretend to have a technical preparing that shall render them able to command at once some units or divisions of a modern army, that is complex for number of men and arms. Their authority is based on example and on the sense of responsibility by which each of their decisions and actions is inspired. Therefore their men have in them a blind faith.

The enlisting based on the present dispositions, that consent to the Patriots to enlist in mass, but having as commanders officers of the army, must of needs fail.

This will provoke some very grave effects that will appear when the Italian Government is obliged to call to the arms one or several classes, granting this is feasible in the present situation, with the usual proclamations or summons. The percentage of the men who will answer them will be a minimum. If the shirking will be asked the reason of the not-presenting they will simply reply that they are ready to enlist in mass only if they are to continue to have the old formation commanders.

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This is a state of things tending to become more rigid in Northern Italy.

The solution is only one: radical and immediate transforming of the army.

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The Patriots' leaders are convinced that this transforming is unavoidable and, as in the social and political field, thus also in the organisation of a new army they are disposed to endure passively the present restrictions, waiting for the convenient moment to fight again for the triumph of their idea.

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ASSISTANCE TO PATRIOTS.-

Until now the Patriots, as soon as they are overreached by the lines, did not receive any assistance by the Italian Government, while the Allied authorities only have led them settled in refuge camps.

All this causes delusion and resentment.

There are three different assistance forms:

1) Assistance to Patriots as soon as they are overreached by the lines -
2) Assistance to wounded Patriots in the hospitals -
3) "Immediate" assistance to the families of fallen Patriots -

The first opportunity happens when after some months of a particulary difficul life and sometimes after days of fighting in bad weather, the Patriots fisically proved and with the feeling of who has won his battle, find themselves in the allied lines and need a particular assistance.

Thei expect to be conveniently disposed of as to lodging, supplied with the most necessary clothes and to receive the food adequate to their fisical conditions.

The little that has been done by Italians is owing to the initiative of the local C.L.N.s or the parties, with the modest means they dispose of.

The Allied authorities take their arms, thank and compliment the Patriots and then send them towards the areearlines ensuring them that they will find an ideal treatment as to food, lodging and clothing.

At the Refugee camp in Florence, where the Patriots are centralised, they receive the camp ration (200 grammes of bread and two vegetables soups) and they do not receive any clothing or other help.

At present the situation of the Patriots of Florence or who are here casually, is the following: who could, returned home or enlisted in the army (about one hundred) or has otherwise settled down to work with the Allied or Public Boards.

Some, who for some reason did not come to the above said solutions, go on as they can. But they certainly do not form an element assuring order, but can afterwards be a danger for the order itself not to be underestimated.

In all of them, without a distinction, is a feeling of delusion, that has passed to resentment, to use a moderate

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HEADQUARTERS
FLORENCE PROVINCE
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
PATRIOT BRANCH

25th November 1944

Weekly Report by Officer attached to Patriot Branch.

To : P.C., Florence Province.

1. PATRIOTS ENLISTED IN THE ITALIAN ARMY.

To resolve the problem of enlisting Patriots in the Italian Army some disposals, based on the following points, are needed :-

a)- Enlistment in mass, keeping the men all together in the units without scattering them, thus maintaining the spirit of good fellowship and abnegation they have formed during the period of partisan life.

b)- Grant - after an accurate choice - a temporary rank pending the war period (Company Commander as a maximum) to the formation Commanders appearing to possess the necessary qualities.

c)- Take up without exceptions and at once all Officers formerly belonging to the R. Army and the R. Air Force and who belonged to partisan formations even as ordinary soldiers, restoring them to their ranks and duties.

d)- Consider the Partisans as soldiers, emanating a decree to that purpose, and correspond to them the military food ration, some clothing, which they all urgently need, and pay from the day they find themselves within the Allied lines until the day they decide either to enlist in the army, or are otherwise employed, or are able to return to their homes.

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For all these operations, with reagrd also to the phisical and moral conditions of the patriots, a month time should be granted.

The foregoing would correspond with a precise wish of all Patriots. From the local papers we have heard that a decision to the above purpose apparently has been taken in Rome. The news refer to Partisan formations having been entered into C.I.L. with their leaders, but "as far as is possible" is added. It is clear that to attract the Patriots into C.I.L. they must be formally assured that their formations will remain complete, even if enlisted into the various units. Only then the Partisans will enlist.

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2. PATRIOTS WISHING TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES.

Nothing to report.

3. DISARMING OF PATRIOTS.

Nothing to report.

4. CERTIFICATES ISSUED.

Nothing to report.

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5. POLITICAL TENDENCIES OF PATRIOTS.

Nothing of importance to report except insisting on the fact that some help decided and actuated at once will avoid pernicious moral dispersions.

6. COURAGEOUS ACTS BY PATRIOTS.

Nothing to report.

7. REWARDS TO PATRIOTS.

Nothing to report.

8. REEMPLOYMENT OF PATRIOTS.

Nothing to report.

9. PARADES AND CEREMONIES.

Nothing to report.

10. ASSISTANCE.

The Patriots Collecting Centre has been started again in the 'Sassetti' School in via Montebello, where the Patriots from the Refugees Camp and those coming from the front lines are being lodged. They total to about 300.

Unfortunately, this is the treatment they receive: two or three blankets; they sleep on the groun without straw; clothes generally in rags and dirty; torn shoes; lousy and affected by scab; they get the insufficient refugees ration (250 grams bread); they have not any tobacco; they are without a penny.

The necessities which it is urgent to provide to have been many times repeated by this Office and it is useless to tell them over again.

It is enough to give a full execution to the principle that the Patriots are soldiers and have a right to military treatment.

11. FURTHER REMARKS.

Nothing to report.

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The C.L.N. Representative
Avv. E. TROMBETTI

The Military Centre Representat
Magg. C. TERROSI

Terrosi

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Nothing to report.

9. PARADES AND CEREMONIES.

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Terrosi

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Mag.

TRANSLATION

Otaua 4-XII-1944

Florence 20 November 1944.

FROM : A.C. HQ. Patriots Branch FLORENCE

TO : Patriots Office of the Presidency of the Council ROME

DTAE : 20 November 1944

SUBJECT : Weekly report.

Copies to:

Attached we transmit the weekly report.

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF C.L.N.
signed Avv. THOMBETTA

THE MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE
signed Magg. TERROSI

WEEKLY REPORT.

1. Recruitment of Patriots for the Italian Army.

It appears that young men who volunteered to enlist have not been recruited because they were not Patriots. It is obviously necessary to make it quite clear if the recruitment is restricted only to Patriots, or if all citizens can enlist. Necessary instructions should be issued to the recruiting offices.

2. Patriots who wish to return to their homes.

Nothing to report.

3. Disarmament of Patriots.

Nothing to report.

4. Issue of certificates.

Nothing to report.

5. Political tendencies of Patriots.

Gen. Alexander's proclamation has caused a deplorable impression on Patriots. The proclamation was understood to mean a complete change in the Allies' policy towards the Patriots; through the slackining of military operations, forcing the disbandement of the Patriots Bands, and eliminating the "Patriots Problem" in Italy.

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The reason for such a change of the Allies is thought to be connected with the political attitude (comunist) of the great majority of the Patriots, which would be in sharp contrast with the political views that the Allies and especially Great Britain, have regarding ~~on~~ Italy.

As a matter of fact, the bands that were still operating as advanced guards, are disbanding and the Patriots are repatriated.

The proclamation which Gen. Alexander issued on 15 November has been found in sharp contrast with all preceeding operational orders, the last of which was dated 11 November.

Actually, Gen. Alexander's proclamation has been understood as an order of demobilisation and the end of all interest. In other words it was understood to mean : At present lay down the arms, keep the ammunitions intact and fare for yourself as best you can during seasonal difficulties and the difficulties connected with our own situation.

6. Acts of gallantry of Patriots.

Nothing to report.

7. Awards to Patriots.

Nothing to report.

8. Reemployment of Patriots.

Nothing to report.

9. Ceremonies.

On 19 November this office has been represented at a Patriots ceremony at Reggello. The ceremony was presided by the local Allied Governor. This Office has made arrangements with the Mayor, the Vice Mayor and the Representatives of the Patriots for the institution of the Comunal Patriots Office.

10. Assistance to the Patriots.

This office is still devoid of the necessary funds. One of our representatives will shortly go to Rome to try and remove all difficulties. The problem of Patriots either wounded or in need of convalescence upon discharge from hospitals, is a very serious one which requests an immediate solution that can only be reached if the Allies will show the greatest understanding

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and will supply material assistance.

There are no military convalescence homes in the area, and to start one would request such means which would be very difficult to gather if the Allies do not approve and collaborate with the Italian organisation, controlling it if necessary.

N O T E S-

The Allies either undervalue or miscomprehend the Patriots problem. On many occasions the Office has had to fight against hostility and mistrust of Allied Officers.

Capt. Limbert, C.C. of the refugee Camp having invited Magg. Terrosi and Mr. Trombetti to report stated that he was the only responsible Officer appointed to the Patriots in Florence, that he would accept our cohoperation, but that we should sign the following statement :

"1. We fully accept to receive orders from Capt. Limbert on all matters concerning partisans within theboundaries of the Town of Florence.

"2. We declare that as far as we are concerned we act only for humanitarian purposes, and that our work will have no political meaning.

"3. We agree that if one of us felt that he had to pass from humanitarian to political activities we will notify Capt.Limbert, and we will accept any decision which Capt. Limbert might adopt.

"4. We furthermore agree that any matter concerning discipline, finance and general program to be adopted in any scheme concerning the Patriots within the town of Florence will be submitted for the approval of Capt. Limbert".

By the above statment, Capt. Limbert declared that he only wanted to clear his responsabilities, actually the statement changes entirely the standing of this Office. 978

Before signing the statement the Representatives have protested, pointing out that the document was taking all value away from their task, and was stressing relations with the Allies, especially concerning the new cohoperation that was created between the office and Capt. Limbert, for the institution of a gathering center.

Signign it, the representatives wanted to show that they are always willing to overlook any personal feeling if, by doing so, they can be helpful in resolving the very important needs of

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the Patriots.

It is important that the Allies should realize that the Patriots problem is not only a matter for the Police to take care of, it is essentially a human and moral problem, of very important political consequence.

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misc.

TRANSLATION/

Frame 2-XII-1944

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FROM : Commissione Nazionale Patrioti
Ufficio Provinciale FIRENZE

TO : Presidency of the Council
Patriots office ROME

DATE : 25 November 1944.

SUBJECT: Weekly report.

We hereby transmit the weekly report.

REPRESENTATIVE OF C.L.N. | REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MILITARY CENTER

Avv. TROMBETTA | Magg. TERROSI

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Florence, 24 November 194

WEEKLY REPORT

1. Patriots recruited for the Italian Army.

The solution of the problem concerning recruitment of Patriots for the Italian Army depends on the following points:

a) - Wholesale recruitment of Patriots Unit to be maintained in the army, not to destroy the bonds which were created during the underground period.

b) - Award of a temporary rank (maximum Company Commander), to be maintained for the duration of the war, to the chiefs of the Patriot Units who have the necessary qualifications.

c) - reenlistment with their former rank of all officers belonging to the Army and Air Force, who belonged even with no rank to the partisan formations.

d) - A Governmental decree should grant to the Patriots the qualification of soldiers. From the day they find themselves in Allied lines they should therefore be entitled to military rations, clothing which is badly needed by all, and soldiers pay to be drawn until the day the Patriots decide whether they want to join the Italian Army, or to find employment, or if belonging to liberated regions, they can be repatriated to their homes.

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Considering moral and material conditions of the patriots, one month is considered necessary for the above operations.

The above would fulfill a precise desire of the patriots. The newspapers have published that such a decision seems to have been reached in Rome, stating that the patriot units would be allowed to enter the C.I.L. "if possible".

It must be made quite clear that it will be possible to attract the patriots into the C.I.L. only if they receive a definite assurance that the their units will not be broken up when absorbed into the major units of the Italian Army.

2. Patriots who wish to return to their homes.

Nothing to report.

3. Collection of arms.

Nothing to report.

4. Issue of certificates.

Nothing to report.

5. Political tendencies of the Patriots

Nothing to report. It is felt though, that only if immediate provvisions, will be reached and actually put into practice it will be possible to avoid the present and very harmful unrest.

6. Acts of gallantry of Patriots.

Nothing to report.

7. Rewards to Patriots.

Nothing to report.

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8. Reemployment of Patriots.

Nothing to report.

9. Ceremonies.

Nothing to report.

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10. Assistance and welfare.

The gathering center in the Sassetti School has been created for the patriots who were at the refugee camp and for those who returned from the front lines. They total about 300; unfortunately they only received the following treatment.

Two or three blankets and no bedding or straw. Their clothing is falling to pieces, broken down shoes. Lousy with vermin and scabis. They receive the refugee ration which is not sufficient (250 gr. of bread). They receive no tobacco and no pay. This Office has already signalled the necessities which must be immediately taken care of .

It will be sufficient to recognise that the patriots are soldiers and treat them accordingly.

Further notes.
None.

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TRANSLATION.

FROM : Commissione Nazionale Patrioti
Ufficio Invalidi — FIORENZE

TO : Commissione Nazionale Patrioti — ROME

NUM : 180

DATE : 13th November 1944.

SUBJECT : Weekly report.

1. Enlistment of Patriots into the Italian Army.

The enlistment of Patriots into the Italian Army from the Florence Province can be considered as ended, as there are no more volunteers.

2. Patriots who wish to return to their homes.

Nothing in particular.

3. Disarmament of Patriots.

Nothing in particular.

4. Issue of certificates.

The memorandum of 8 Sept. about the organization of the central and external offices gives the definition of "Patriot", it does not give the definition of "Collaborator". To enable all Offices to act in similar fashion while drawing up the lists, it is necessary that they should be given an exact definition of "Collaborationist".

5. Political tendencies of the Patriots.

As time goes by one sees a stiffening in the Patriot's attitude and consequently a leaning towards extreme political tendencies, which is due to disappointment as a result of the lack of effective help given by the Italian Government and by the Allies, rather than to precise political opinions.

As has often been reported, the Patriots feel that they are treated with consideration as long as they take active part in the partisan warfare against Germany, but become a burden as soon as they return to civil life.

The Patriots, in addition to the above, and apart

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Why I suggest that this report should interest Col Spicer..?
20-XI-1944. Frank

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from consideration of their prevailing political tendencies, usually show a decided will to renew and uproot the whole structure of the country, being willing if necessary, to begin the fight all over again and at the cost of any sacrifice.

6. Gallantry of the Patriots.

Nothing to report.

7. Awards to the Patriots.

Nothing to report.

8. Reemployment of the Patriots.

Nothing to report.

9. Welfare of the Patriots.

It is necessary that the Rome Patriot's Office should send 6.050.000 lire to enable this office to complete the payment of immediate subsistence to the families of those Patriots who have died, together with subsistence to wounded and demobilization bonuses.

On the subject [illegible] we sent the following telegram :

"Please send requested funds amounting to 6.050.000 lire X or authorize Florence Branch of Bank d'Italia to advance above amount which is necessary to pay subventions to Patriots stop. Any delay will be prejudicial and will create discontent" which we hereby confirm.

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The payment of the immediate subsistence and of demobilization bonus cannot be done due to lack of funds which could be supplied by the Rome Patriots Office. The majority of cases concern whole families who were dependent on the earnings of the Patriot relative and it is therefore indispensable in considering the present difficulties, that the above subventions should be paid as soon as possible.

With the first two millions received by this Office we have paid only part of the immediate subsistence to the families of the deceased. Not being able to carry out further payments creates tribulation and difficulties.

One must furthermore remember that the requested amount will only be employed to pay subsistence to Patriots of the

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Florence Province. This office will then still be without any funds whatsoever to meet necessities of all kinds for the Patriots of the Province and for the Patriots of other Provinces in transit through Florence.

We also await instructions to take the necessary steps for the recruitment and payment of direct and indirect personnel.

11. Hospitalization.

Some wounded Patriots, for lack of available beds in the wards reserved for enlisted men, have spent one or more nights on stretchers while there were free beds in the officers' wards. To maintain such difference when comparison is made with the systems of the Allied Armies operating in Italy is the cause of just complaint and tends to increase resentment against Officers.

The majority of Patriots, upon leaving hospital need a period of convalescence, and either because they come from areas which have not yet been liberated or because their families have no means they cannot complete their treatment. This is especially important, because in hospital they draw "GG" rations, while from the moment they are dismissed, the Patriots so far as ration cards are concerned, are regarded as civilians, which means that they will be entitled to 200 grams of bread daily, and to whatever vegetables are available.

This office believes that Patriots should be regarded as military, and be treated accordingly, on active service, on leave, in hospital, while in convalescence, or when dismissed. Nonetheless, convalescence, it seems urgent that the competent Home Offices should immediately instruct the Directorates of the Military Health Service that Patriots, dismissed from hospitals for convalescence, should be admitted to military convalescence homes.

12. Assistance to Patriots in transit.

About a month after its constitution the "Centro accoglienza Patrioti" which also assisted Patriots on transit was disbanded. Meanwhile, however, Patriots who pass through Florence, because they are resident in other provinces, or dismissed from hospitals and are still convalescent, do not find any organization which will give them assistance. It is therefore necessary and urgent to constitute immediately a transit camp

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where patients on transit and those discharged from hospitals (many of whom belong to areas not yet liberated) can stay while awaiting repatriation to their homes.

The organisation of the transit camp will only be possible if the Allies will grant the necessary rations and bedding.

Two months' activity of the Provincial Patriots Office have made us come to the conclusion that its existence has proved useful only when this Office has begun to give effective assistance, and to take the necessary steps for the ascertainment of rights of the Patriots to future direct as well as indirect benefits.

A general lack of confidence concerning the ability of this office to solve the above problems, is spreading. This naturally greatly influences the attitude of the Patriots towards the Italian Government and the Allies.

The situation of the Patriots on transit from of those discharged from hospital, is clearly demonstrated by the fact that some of them remain in the refugee camp, while others not having any place, stay in brothels.

13. Further observations.

There are Patriot bands and formations which when reached by the Allied troops, are considered worthy of being allowed to continue to fight and therefore become a part of advanced forms of the troops of liberation.

Such bands, as is told by Patriots to this Office, are equipped with Allied Arms to complete their own. Concerning rations and clothing, it seems that the Allies follow the system of assigning quantities equal to one fourth of the effective strength of the units.

Such limitations have created criticism and discontent, because, while being insufficient in themselves have brought forth difficulties in the distribution.

On the other hand patriots can no longer depend for supplies on the local population, because of the season, the drainage of local resources, and because of the suggested fear of the population of the consequences arising from helping the Patriots.

The above complaints and criticisms were made by members of the "Patrioti Antifascisti Italiani" operating in the area of Cuneo.

(signed) Avv. G. TRABUCCHI Magg. TIRECCHI.

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