

ACC

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51/12 ENG./PAT.

WEEKLY REPORTS - ACQUILA

AUG. - SEPT. 1944

PAT.

WEEKLY REPORTS - ACQUILA

AUG. - SEPT. 1944

Mr.

45B

8 - SEP 1944

TO : Patriots Sub-Commission, ACC. HQ.
 FROM : Region V HQ. A.M.C.
 SUBJECT : Patriots.
 REF : 507/24.
 DATE : 6 September 1944.

Herewith report received from Patriot Representative
 Aquila, also one from Pescara.

For the Regional Commissioner:

S. Pickering
 S. PICKERING,
 Lt. Colonel,
 R.F.S.O.

NAME	INITIALS	DATE
Col. MC CONNERY		
Maj. MAGUIRE		
Maj. DRAGE		
Capt. SALVADORI		
Col. FAVA		
C. C.		

1416

-66-

RECEIVED
 7 SEP 1944
 A. C. C.

22nd Road / Band 53

Patriots Br.
2434

TO : ACC. III. Patriots Branch

FROM : R.P.S.O. Abruzzi-Marche Region

SUBJECT : Patriots

REF : 507/24

DATE : 1 October 1944

1. In Aquila Province a Committee has been set up to assist in rehabilitation of Patriots. The prefect, Sindaco, Archbishop, Director of Labor, Director of Bank of Italy and two Patriots representatives form the Committee. The Committee is dealing with the problem of finding employment for Patriots through the Labor Office, and thus prepare to make immediate financial assistance to needy Patriots.

2. ~~Two~~ enclosed herewith
- a) Situation of Patriots of Guardiagrele
 - b) List of foreign group: Band Alcedeo - Panto Cenovic
 - c) Report of Band Duchessa No. 7
 - d) List of Members of Band "Duchessa"
 - e) List of Members of Band "Giovanni di Vincenzo"
 - f) Reports of the Patriots activity in Musica District.

FOR THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER :

[Signature]
S. P. S. O.
Lt. Colonel
R.P.S.O.

GEN.	INT.
Col. Ave.	
Am. M.	P. n.

HEADQUARTERS
2 OCT 1944
A.C.C.

1112

6442

REPORT OF THE MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PATRIOTS FOR
THE AQUILA PROVINCE

On 2 the 20th of the c.m. of August I arrived in Aquila as the Military Representative of the Patriots for said province. As such I contacted the political representative who had arrived before me: he showed me some ^{circulares} notices, which he had, concerning our activities and our duties. I then made contacts with the Allied Command of the province, putting myself at their disposal for any notice or information which in my position I may be able to supply.

In the provincial Allied Commissariat Major Highall, of the Police, a Scotoman, is appointed to deal with everything concerning the Patriots. He appears to be favourably disposed in all questions concerning the Patriots and seems to be deeply interested in all our activity in that camp. I believe that with his cooperation we shall succeed in solving all the problems ^{of} ~~about~~ the patriots of the province, and especially that of the reemployment of the unemployed who, according to the information I gathered, appear to be in great number.

I received encouragement in my interest for the identification of those Patriots who are really worthy of that name, so as to proceed to the conferment of ^{certificates} ~~awards~~ by the Alliss, as by notice of the A.C.C. dated 21/7/ of the c.v. I kindly ask this Command to give me precise directions, as I do not deem it advisable to request these ^{certificates} ~~awards~~ for every single man in possession of a temporary patriot card. This is owing to the fact that in the confusion of the first moments, many events and episodes were accepted as they were related to the Command; subsequent reports and records sifted with impartial objectivity showed that many individuals were not worth the qualification of patriots.

It is important to examine the position of each patriot

position I may be able to supply.

In the provincial Allied Committee Major Ischell, of the Police, a Scotchman, is appointed to deal with everything concerning the Patriots. He seems to be favourably disposed in all questions concerning the patriots and seems to be deeply interested in all our activity in that area. I believe that with his cooperation we shall succeed in solving all the problems ~~about~~ ^{of} the patriots of the province, and especially that of the reemployment of the unemployed who, according to the information I gathered, appear to be in great number.

I received encouragement in my interest for the identification of those Patriots who are really worthy of that name, so as to proceed to the conferment of ~~citizenship~~ ^{citizenship} by the Allies, as by notice of the A.O.C. dated 21/7/45 of the C.V. I kindly beg this Command to give me precise directions, as I do not see it advisable to request these ~~citizenship~~ ^{certificates} for every single man in possession of a temporary patriot card. This is owing to the fact that in the confusion of the first moments, many events and episodes were recounted as they were related to the Command; subsequent reports and proofs sifted with impartial objectivity showed that many individuals were not worthy the identification of patriots.

It is important to examine the position of each patriot when they are now the subject of all village by conversation. Only an impartial estimate and the elimination of some unworthy element, ^{is} causing sorrow and misunderstanding, can foster from the Italians themselves the just acknowledgment of the efforts of the Patriots in the liberation of the country.

According to the orders given in the above-mentioned notice, together with the political representative, I promoted in the Commune of Aquila the creation of an Italian

Committee to solve the problem of the reemployment of unemployed patriots. The members of said Committee have already been named and they will soon start to work. I want to promote the creation of such Committees in every province of the provinces, which I shall be able to do when I shall have a vehicle at my disposal.

For that purpose I inform you that the Allied authorities already on the flat ordered the requisition of motor cars, charging with this requisition the local Questura; but Commissioner Dell'Oro, whom the Questore had appointed to deal with the matter, is showing the utmost ill-will, notwithstanding my continuous ^{insistence} ~~insistence~~. ^{Even} ~~Even~~, I make things easier, I supplied him with a list of motor cars, the owners of which in town and in other localities are notoriously compromised with the past government.

I have asked the allied authorities to provide us with ^{quarters} ~~quarters~~ to use as an office, and to give us food and billeting according to Notice of the A.O.C. No 394 of July 18 of the C.Y.; this question is being examined.

As to the activities with whom I am more closely concerned, I am to date able to notify ^{the} following:

The "Gran Sasso Group" of the Military Centre recognises up to now in the province of Aquila ~~no~~ 4 Patriot Bands, which were stati^{ed} ~~ed~~ and operating ~~in~~ in the locality as herewith indicated:

- BANDA MARSIANA : AVEZZANO (Commander Lt. Salvatori Adriano)
- BANDA DI VINCENZO: AREA NORTH AND WEST OF AQUILA (C/er 2nd Lt. G. Ricottilli)
- BANDA LA DUCHESSA : AREA WEST OF AQUILA (C/er Lt. Carrone Luigi)
- BANDA G. MATTIOTTI : SCOPETTO (C/er Torelli Pietro)

I intend to forward as soon as possible, a report of the activities of each band ^{during} ~~in~~ the underground period and on the general results either positive or negative. I shall

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- BANDE MARCIOLANA : AVEZZANO (Commander Lt. Salvatore Adriano)
- BANDE DI VINCENZO: AREA NORTE and WEST of AQUILA (C/er 2nd Lt. G. Ricottilli)
- BANDE LA DUCHESSE : AREA WEST OF AQUILA (C/er Lt. Perrone Luigi)
- BANDE S. MATTEOTTI : SCORBITO (C/er Torelli Pietro)

I intend to forward as soon as possible, a report on the activities of each band ^{during} ~~in~~ the underground period and on the general results either positive or negative. I ¹⁴¹⁰ ~~1410~~ appreciate if this Command would ^{let} ~~know~~ me know if it wishes to have a copy of the original reports which each band ^{has} ~~has~~ already forwarded to the Military Center.

I am informed that in some localities of this province groups of patriots were operating without ever contacting the authorized commands whose existence they ignored. I

would think it advisable to recognize them officially, as a just prize to people who have fulfilled their duty out of love for their country, rescinding from their personal interest and risking their life. I shall gather documents and reports and shall forward them together with my suggestions which I hope, will kindly be examined by this command.

Besides the four above-mentioned bands which were legally recognized by the Military Center as belonging to the "Gran Sasso Group", there existed during the German occupation near Aquila (district of S. Marco di Preteuto) a band under orders of Lt. Colonel D'Alfonso, chiefly composed of foreigners, such as interned Yugoslavs, Russians etc. and of prisoners of war. In effect said band does not exist any longer, as nearly all members have been sent southward. Lt. Colonel D'Alfonso is at present Commander of the Aquila Garrison. Said "Foreigners' Band" was recognized by the Allies as that Lt. Colonel D'Alfonso, before my arrival, had already been appointed Liaison officer between the Aquila Partisans and the Allied Command. I have only a superficial knowledge of the activity of the band as I have not yet received the report I asked for a few days ago. I shall forward the documents for the identification to this Command and to the Military Center of Via Napoli.

Up to now I can give no further information. In the first days I could not do much as most of my time was spent in finding my way and in making occasional and planned contacts, such as those with people who are to help me to perform my task.

(Caritino Ettore Corbi)

L'Aquila Aug. 23, 1944

could find it advisable to recognize them officially, as a just prize to people who have fulfilled their duty out of love for their country, precluding their personal interest and risking their life. I shall attach documents and reports and shall forward them together with my suggestions which I hope, will kindly be examined by this command.

Besides the four above-mentioned bands which were legally recognized by the Military Center as belonging to the "Gran Gaseo Group", there existed during the German occupation near Aquila (District of S. Marco di Preceneto) a band under orders of Lt. Colonel D'Alfonso, chiefly composed of foreigners, such as interned Ukrainians, Russians etc. and of prisoners of war. In effect said band does not exist any longer, as nearly all members have been sent southwards. Lt. Colonel D'Alfonso is at present Commander of the Aquila Garrison. Said "Foreigners' Band" was recognized by the Allies so that Lt. Colonel D'Alfonso, before my arrival, had already been appointed liaison officer between the Aquila Post and the Allied Command. I have only a superficial knowledge of the activity of the band as I have not yet received the report I asked for a few days ago. I shall forward the documents for the identification to this Command and to the Military Center of Via Manelli.

Up to now I can give no further information. In the first days I could not do much as most of my time was spent in finding my way and in making occasional and planned contacts, such as those with people who are to help me to perform my task.

L'Aquila Aug. 28, 1944

(Carlo Attore Garbi)

under orders of Lt. Colonel D'Alfonso, chiefly composed of
 Italian, French, Italian, Yugoslavs, Italians etc. and of
 longer, as nearly all numbers have been sent southwards. Lt.
 Colonel D'Alfonso is at present Commander of the Aquila
 Garrison. Said "Fornichans' Band" was recognized by the Allies
 so that Lt. Colonel D'Alfonso, before my arrival, had already
 been appointed liaison of it between the Aquila and the
 and the Allied command. I have only a superficial knowledge
 of the activity of the band as I have not yet received the
 report I asked for a few days ago. I shall forward the documents
 for the identification to this Command and to the Military
 Center of Via Napoli.

Up to now I can give no further information. In the
 first days I could not do much as most of my time was spent
 in finding my way and in making occasional and planned for
 contacts, such as those with people who are to help me to
 perform my task.

L'Aquila Aug. 28, 1944

(Coritano Attore Corbi)

1408

The Aquila 26/3/44

"PATRIOT" "GRAN SASSO" Group

Subject: REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES IN THE AQUILA AREA

On the 14th of the c.m. I reached the zone to which I had been appointed: during the week I contacted the local commands of the local bands, i.e. 2nd Lt. Ricotilli Giovanni, Commander of the "G. Di Vincenzo" Band, ~~2nd~~ Lt. Colonel D'Alfonso, Commander the "Stranieri" Band and 2nd Lt. Colafilli Orlando, Commander of the "Duchessa" Band. During the week I called the Commands on several occasions to discuss the recognition of the real patriots. The result I was aiming at has not been reached yet, as new and more urgent problems have arisen; I shall inform this Command as soon as I have precise information.

The "Stranieri" Band, composed of Slavs, Russians and Greeks under orders of Colonel D'Alfonso, operated in the area of S. Marco di Preturo. It appears that Colonel D'Alfonso helped these foreigners, supplied them with arms, etc.; but for the moment I am not able to specify their activities and I have averted to verify them.

The "G. Di Vincenzo" Band under orders of 2nd Lt. Ricotilli Giovanni, operated in the area comprised between the Aquila - Teramo road, the slopes of Gran Sasso on the Aquila side, and the Perisciano and Varrociano districts. On May 10, 1944 and subsequently on May 19, 1944 it incorporated respectively the "Arischia" and the "Caporciano" Groups.

The "Di Vincenzo" Band was composed of 120 men totally, ¹⁴⁸ had 12 losses, and worked in the most arduous way. At present its members are in the Aquila and they are trying to employ them: ~~no~~ 4 have enlisted in the "Maggiella Brigade", ~~no~~ 6 have gone back to the R.R.C.C. corps, ~~no~~ 1 has enlisted

I called the Commandant in several occasions to discuss the recognition of the real situation. The result I was aiming at has not been reached yet, as new and more urgent problems have arisen; I shall inform this Commandant as soon as I have precise information.

The "Stranieri" Band, composed of Slavs, Russians and Greeks under orders of Colonel D'Alfonso, operated in the area of S. Marco di Trestura. It emerges that Colonel D'Alfonso helped these foreigners, supplied them with arms, etc.; but for the moment I am not able to specify their activities and I have expected to verify them.

The "G. Di Vincenzo" Band under orders of 2nd Lt. Rinaldi Giovanni, operated in the area comprised between the Aquila - Teramo road, the slopes of Gran Sasso on the Aquila side, and the Perisodiano and Garofoliano districts. On May 10, 1944 and subsequently on May 19, 1944 it incorporated respectively the "Lariscia" and the "Garofoliano" Groups. 1408

The "Di Vincenzo" Band was composed of 120 men totally. It had 12 losses, and worked in the most disadvantageous way. At present its members are in the Aquila and they are trying to employ them: 4 have enlisted in the "Maggiore Brigade", 2 have gone back to the R. CC. corps, 1 has enlisted in the British Army, 2 have enlisted in the Russian Volunteers in Bari. The band has not a definite political tendency, although communism is prevalent.

The "Duchessa" Band under orders of 2nd Lt. Orlandi Orlando was stationed on the Duchessa Mountains; it was composed of 48 men, suffered losses, and has no political tendency.

I shall inform this Command of the activities of these bands. Their Patriots have been dispersed and we are seeing to their reemployment.

I contacted the local C.I.N. They are examining the question of an allotment to the Patriots and other questions concerning them. Lists and reports have been presented to Major Sigel of the Police, who will, with our cooperation, see to recognize the Patriots and to their reemployment. Representatives have been named out of the Communal Council who will start to work as soon as possible.

As soon as possible I shall contact these other bands who operated independently from any Command.

An "Patriot Association" has been created, which is examining other plans. We have been kindly welcomed by the Allied Command: Major Sigel takes to heart the Patriots.

I beg this Command to inform me whether I shall send the reports on each band separately, and to forward me the new orders as soon as they are issued.

The representative of the C.I.N.

2nd Lt. Rinaldi Michele

As soon as possible I shall contact those other bands who operated independently from any Command.

My "Pat-iot Association" has been created, which is examining other plans. We have been kindly welcomed by the Alliance Command: Major Rinal takes to heart the Patriots.

I beg this Command to inform me whether I shall send the reports on each band separately, and to forward me the new orders as soon as they are issued.

The representative of the C.I.N.

2nd Lt. Rinaldi Michele

REPORT BY THE PATRIOT LEADERSHIP TO THE
THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN

On the 20th August I arrived in Lima in the capacity of military representative of the patriots of the s/m provinces. I contacted the political representative there who had arrived before me. He showed me circulars concerning patriot representative duties and activities. Subsequently I contacted the Allied Command of the Province and put myself at its disposal for all information and news which in my quality of Patriot Representative I can collect.

Major Highland (Scott) of the Security Section of the Provincial Allied Command deals with all the problems concerning patriots. This officer shows a real interest in the patriots and their activities. In close collaboration with him I think we will find a suitable solution to all patriot problems in the province and in particular the solution to the employment of patriots at present without employment and who seem to be very numerous.

I have been asked to verify Patriote worthy of the name in order to give them certificates from the Allied Command as stated in the A.C.O. circular dated 21st July 44. I would be very grateful if the Patriot Branch could give me a clear idea of what I should do as I do not think it advisable to ask for certificates for every person who has received a temporary Patriot membership card. I am asking this as it seems that there are very qualified patriots who do not deserve this title and this happened because of the confusion of the first moments and due to the acceptance of facts and statements by the leaders which afterwards proved different.

The verifying of the status of every person is of a great importance as the patriots are the topic of discussion of the local people. Only by means of an objective valuation and by the elimination of unworthy persons, (which should be done as it causes talk and misunderstanding) the rightful recognition due to patriots for their efforts to liberate the

and activities. Subsequently I contacted the Allied Command of the Province and put myself at its disposal for all information and news which in my quality of Patriot Representative I can collect.

Major Mitchell (Scott) of the Security Section of the Provincial Allied Command deals with all the problems concerning patriots. This officer shows a real interest in the problem and their activities. In close collaboration with him I think we will find a suitable solution to all patriot problems in the province and in particular the solution to the employment of patriots at present without employment and who seem to be very numerous.

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The verifying of the status of every person is of a great importance as the patriots are the topic of discussion of the local people. Only by means of an objective valuation and by the elimination of some unworthy persons, (which should be done as it causes talk and misunderstanding) the rightful recognition due to patriots for their efforts to liberate the Country will also be understood by the Italians.

In accordance with the directives of the a/c circular together with the political representative I requested the Command of the Province to form a part of it an Italian Committee to solve the problem of finding work for patriots without employment. It is my intention to induce every German of the province to form such a Committee as soon as I can have the report for the various transfers. With regard to this the Allied Authorities have arranged since the 1st August the requisition of a vehicle giving the local police the

back of reinforcements is. The commander Tallone is in charge of this is showing the utmost diligence and in spite of my efforts to help him by giving him the particulars of several cars of the place and of the surroundings owned by people known for their collaboration with the past regime, he has seen nothing.

I have also put in a request to the Allied Command for a place to be used as an office and to provide for us as stated in the A.C.C. circular APC 354 of the 10th July, this has not yet been satisfied.

With regard to my activities I can inform the Patriot Branch of the following :-

The Raggruppamento Gran Sasso of the Military Centre acknowledged 4 Patriot bands in the Province of Aquila which have operated in the localities mentioned for each of them :

- Mervia Band - Avezzano (Commander Lt. SALVATORE ARZUFFI)
- Vincenzo Band - Area North and West of Aquila (Commander Stan. G. ARZUFFI)
- La Duchessa Band - Area West of Aquila (Commander Lt. MARINO TURI)
- C. Matteotti Band - 500 pite (Commander ROBERTO DIAMMO)

For each one of these bands I will send a report as soon as possible of their activities during the clandestine period and of the results they obtained. I would be grateful if the Patriot Branch would let me know if it needs also a copy of the original reports already sent by each band to the Military Centre.

It is reported that in some localities of the Province Patriot groups have operated actively without being in contact with authorized Commands because the ignored the existence of them. In my opinion, if it is the case, they should be given recognition, and be rewarded for what they have accomplished doing their duty without considering personal interests but with risks and danger to their lives for a pure love for their Country. I will collect reports and statements send them in with proposals which I hope will have the approval of the Patriot Branch.

The Regroupamento was sent to the Tyne
Centre acknowledges a private band in the Tyne
of Aquila which have operated in the localisation cen-
tred for each of them.

- Hernan Band - Avenida (Commander Lt. Salvador Adriano)
- Vincenzo Band - Area North and West of Aquila (Commander
Sgt. C. Vignaroli)
- La Duchessa Band - Area East of Aquila (Commander Lt.
Marelli Luigi)
- G. Matteotti Band - 300 pits (Commander Comelli Pietro)

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as soon as possible of their activities during the
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know if it needs also a copy of the original reports
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rewarded for what they have accomplished doing their
duty without considering personal interests but with
risk and danger to their lives for a pure love for
their Country. I will collect reports and statements
send them in with proposals which I hope will have the
approval of the Patriot Branch.

Besides the a/m report 1432 acknowledged by
the Military Centre as depending on the Regroupamento
Cran Sasso during the period of an occupation there
was another band near Aquila (area S. Marco di Prosecco)
under the leadership of Lt. Col. B. Allonso and formed
mostly of foreigners such as interned Yugoslavs, Russians
etc. and P.O/Ws. This band does not exist any more, as
all the members have been sent south. Lt. Col. B. Allonso
commands at the present moment the military garrison of
Aquila. The band called "Foreigner's Band" has been
acknowledged by the allies and Lt. Col. B. Allonso, even

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before my arrival had been appointed Liaison Officer between the Aquila patriots and the Allied Command. I have only a superficial knowledge of their activities as I have not yet received the report I asked for some days ago. I will send documents of identification to the Patriot Branch and to the Military Centre at Via Napoli.

This is all the information I have for the present. During the first days I was unable to do much as I was new to the place and also I had to make my contacts and arrange other contacts such as people useful to my work.

(Capt. Ettore Corbi)

Aquila 28th August, 1944.

(Capt. Ettore Corbi)

Aquila 28th August, 1944.

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Report of the Military Representatives of the Patriots for the Province of Aquila.

I went to Aquila on the 20th of August 44, as military representative of the Patriots for that Province. In this capacity I contacted the political representative who went there before me, and I read some circulars in his possession concerning our activity and our duties. Later on I contacted the Allied Provincial Commander, putting myself at his disposal for all information and news that, as Patriot Representative, I was able to supply.

Major Mitchell S.F. of the said Allied Province Command is responsible for everything concerning the Patriots. This Officer is well-minded towards the Patriots and has an interest in our activity. I think that in close collaboration we shall succeed in solving favourably every problem concerning the Patriots of this Province, especially the rehabilitation of the unemployed Patriots who, according to information, are very numerous.

I have been requested to collaborate in the identification of the genuine Patriots, in order to issue the Allied Certificates according to the circular of A.C.C., July 21 1944. I should like to have clear orders on my actions, as I do not think it advisable to issue a certificate to anyone who bears a temporary Patriot card. In the confusion of the first moment the Commanders have believed reports which later on, after careful consideration, have proved to be far from the truth, so that there are some would-be Patriots who do not deserve such qualifications.

The examination of the position of each individual is a very important matter, because everyone in the villages concerns himself with the Patriot question: the right acknowledgement also, of the Italians for the efforts of the Patriots for the liberation of our country, can be secured through the elimination of some unworthy individuals who cause gossip and misunderstanding. According to the instructions of the above mentioned circular, I have studied with the political representative, the setting up of the Italian Committee with the Comune of Aquila, in order to solve the problem of finding jobs for the unemployed Patriots. The Committee has already been formed and will start working at an early date: I shall take care to set up a Committee with every Comune of the Province and I shall be able to do it quickly when I shall be able to use a car for my journeys.

With regard to this matter I would say that the Allied Authority on 21st August ordered a car to be requisitioned, but the Commissioner Dell'Orso, who is entrusted with the requisition by the local "Questore" (Chief of the Civil Police), is showing the most apathetic carelessness, in spite of the fact that I am continually urging him and making his task easier by pointing out several cars in the city and elsewhere, whose owners are known to be involved with the Fascist Government.

I have asked the Allied Authority to give us a room for our office, housing accommodation and food in accordance with the A.C.C. Circular of July 18th. The matter is under consideration. Regarding the bands I beg to report the following: The "Raggruppamento Gran Sasso" of the

solving favourably every problem concerning the Patriots of this Province, especially the rehabilitation of the unemployed Patriots etc., according to information, are very numerous.

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I have asked the Allied Authority to give us a room for our office, housing accommodation and food in accordance with the A.C.F. Circular of July 18th. The matter is under consideration. Regarding the bands I beg to report the following: The "Raggruppamento Gran Sasso" of the Military Center, has, so far, in Aquila Province four bands operating in the following areas:-

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| "Banda Marsicana" | Avarano (Leader Lt Adriano Salvadori) |
| "Banda la Duchessa" | Area West from Aquila (Leader Lt Luigi Marone) |
| "Banda di Vincenzo" | Area North and West from Aquila (Leader Lt G. Riccossilli) |
| "Banda G. Battocelli" | Scoppio (Leader Pietro Torelli) |

As soon as possible I shall send a report on each band, stating their activities during the clandestine period and the results obtained. I should be glad to know if you want also to have a copy of the reports already sent by each band to the Military Centre. I am informed that in some parts of the Province groups of Patriots have operated without getting in touch

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with the authorized Commands, as they ignored their existence. I believe that it is right to acknowledge them officially, for they deserve a reward, having done their duty and having fought bravely for their own country. I shall collect reports and documents and forward them together with my proposals which, I hope, will be kindly considered by the Command.

During the German occupation a band operated near Aquila (area of S. Marco di Pretuto), headed by Lt Col D'Alefonso, formed mostly by Yugoslavs and Russian ex-internees and ex-prisoners of war. This band does not exist any more; almost all its members have been sent south. Lt Col d'Alefonso is now Military Commander of Aquila. The "Strangers Band" has been acknowledged by the Allies and Lt Col D'Alefonso, before my arrival, had been appointed liaison officer between the Patriots of Aquila and the Allied Command. I know of their activities only superficially, as I have not yet received the report which I requested some days ago. I shall forward the identification documents to the Patriots Branch and to the Military Centre (via Napoli).

That is what I am able to communicate up to date. During the first days I could not do much, as I had to spend my time on the necessary orientation and contacts, especially with persons who could be helpful for the accomplishment of my duties.

L'Aquila August 28 1944

Signed Captain Ettore Corbi

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L'Aquila August 28 1944

Signed Captain Ettore Corbi

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P.O. Major [unclear] - let Tava
This should be passed on
to the Italian Committee
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REPORT BY THE PATRIOT MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE FOR

THE PROVINCE OF AQUILA.

N. G. [unclear]

On the 10th August I arrived in Aquila in the capacity of military representative of the patriots of the a/m province. I contacted the political representative there who had arrived before me. He showed me circulars concerning patriot representative duties and activities. Subsequently I contacted the Allied Command of the Province and put myself at its disposal for all information and news which in my quality of Patriot Representative I can collect.

Major Mighall (Scotch) of the Security Section of the Provincial Allied Commission deals with all the problems concerning patriots. This officer shows a real interest in the patriots and their activities. In close collaboration with him I think we will find a suitable solution to all patriot problems in the province and in particular the solution to the employment of patriots at present without employment and who seem to be very numerous.

I have been asked to verify patriots worthy of the name in order to give them certificates from the Allied Command as stated in the A.C.C. circular dated 1st July 44. I would be very grateful if the Patriot Branch could give me a clear idea of what I should do as I do not think it advisable to ask for certificates for every person who has received a temporary Patriot membership card. I am asking this as it seems that there are many qualified patriots who do not deserve this title and this happened because of the confusion of the first moments and due to the acceptance of facts and statements by the leaders which afterwards proved different.

The verifying of the status of every person is of a great importance as the patriots are the topic of discussion of the local people. Only by means of an objective valuation and by the elimination of some unworthy persons, (which should be done as it causes talk and misunderstanding) the rightful recognition due to patriots for their efforts to liberate the country will also be understood by the Italians.

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In accordance with the directives of the a/m
circular together with the political representative
I requested the Comune of Aquile to form as part of it
an Italian Committee to solve the problem of finding
work for patriots without employment. It is my inten-
tion to induce every Comune of the province to form
such a Committee as soon as I can have transport for
the various transfers. With regard to this the Allied
Authorities have arranged since the 21st August the
requisition of a vehicle giving the local police the

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task of requisitioning it. The commissioner Tall'Orso in charge of this is showing the utmost negligence and in spite of my efforts to help him by giving him the particulars of several cars of the place and of the surroundings owned by people know for their collaboration with the past regime, he has done nothing.

I have also put in a request to the Allied Command for a place to be used as an Office and to provide for us as stated in the A.C.C. circular APO 394 of the 18th July, this has not yet been settled.

With regard to my activities I can inform the Patriot Branch of the following : -

The Raggruppamento Gran Sasso of the Military Centre acknowledges 4 Patriot bands in the Province of Aquila which have operated in the localities mentioned for each of them :

- Marsica Band - Avezzano (Commander Lt. SALVADORI Adriano)
- Vincenzo Band - Area North and West of Aquila (Commander Stan. G. RICOTTILLI)
- La Duchessa Band - Area West of Aquila (Commander Lt. MARONE Luigi)
- G. Matteotti Band - 300 pito (Commander TORRELLI Pietro)

For each one of these bands I will send a report as soon as possible of their activities during the clandestine period and of the results they obtained. I would be grateful if the Patriot Branch would let me know if it needs also a copy of the original reports already sent by each band to the Military Centre.

It is reported that in some localities of the province Patriot groups have operated actively without being in contact with authorized Commands because they ignored the existence of them. In my opinion, if it is the case, they should be given recognition, and be rewarded for what they have accomplished doing their duty without considering personal interests but with risks and danger to their lives for a pure love for their Country. I will collect reports and statements send them in with proposals which I hope will have the approval of the Patriot Branch. 1400

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- Marsica Band - Avenzano (Commander Lt. SALVADORI Adriano)
- Vincenzo Band - Area North and West of Aquila (Commander Sgarbi G. NICOMINI)
- La Duchessa Band - Area West of Aquila (Commander Lt. MARCONI Luigi)
- G. Matteotti Band - 3cc Pito (Commander TOMELLI Pietro)

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Besides the a/m patriot bands acknowledged by the Military Centre as dependant from the Raggruppamento Gran Sasso during the period of enemy occupation there was another band near Aquila (area S. Marco di Prete) under the leadership of Lt. Col. D'Alfonso and formed mostly of foreigners such as interned Jugoslavs, Russians etc. and P.O./Ws. This band does not exist any more, as all the members have been sent south, Lt. Col. D'Alfonso commands at the present moment the military garrison of Aquila. The band called "Foreigner's Band" has been acknowledged by the allies and Lt. Col. D'Alfonso, even

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before my arrival had been appointed Liaison Officer between the Aquila patriots and the Allied Command. I have only a superficial knowledge of their activities as I have not yet received the report I asked for some days ago. I will send documents of identification to the Patriot Branch and to the Military Centre at Via Napoli.

This is all the information I have for the present. During the first days I was unable to do much as I was new to the place and also I had to make my contacts and arrange other contacts such as people useful to my work.

(Capt. Ettore Corbi)

Aquila 28th August, 1944.

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useful to my work.

(Capt. Attore Corbi)

Aquila 22th August, 1944.

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