

ACC

10000/125/262

57/PAT

FLORENCE

July - Dec. 1944

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~~SECRET~~ / 57CONFIDENTIAL

To: Major Sir P. MAGNUS
Patriots Branch
HQ Allied Commission

276 FS Section
Phone 478445 Ext 17
Ref: SEC/12

5 Dec 44

Subject - Patriot Situation, FLORENCE

1. It is understood that Sig. MICHELE LUCIO CARBONI, Amministratore Delegato dell'Unione Patrioti Cooperatori in FLORENCE, wishes to speak with you on the a/n situation on 6 Dec 44.

2. As Sig. CARBONI is well known to this Sec, for which he has in the past done considerable valuable work, and as he has also collaborated with other Secs and branches of the Intelligence Corps, we should like to take the opportunity of offering our acquaintance with him as a reference and an assurance of his bona fides.

BBR/ls
Capt.,

Int Corps.

FIELD

Seen
P.O./6 Dec.

6973

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH
APO 394

Ref: 57/PAT.

4th October 1944.

Subject: Patriots in Florence.

Attached are extracts from the conclusion of a special team of three officers headed by Lt.Col. BIR, who were sent to help the provincial commissioner in Florence on patriot problems.

It will be noticed that the conclusions are very similar to the contents of the directive No.30/1/PAT issued on 18th July.

With reference to para.(i), the ABC's. of V and VIII Armies should endeavour to see that these screening agencies are allowed to operate as far forward as possible compatible with the requirements of the Armies.

G. R. Upjohn
G. R. UPJOHN,
Brigadier,
Civil Affairs Section.

Distribution:

S.C.A.C. V Army
" VIII Army
Region TOSCANA
" EMILIA
" LIGURIA
" PIEMONTE
" LOMBARDIA
" VENETIA

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In dealing with the Patriots we came to the following conclusions:

(a) It is vitally necessary to gain the full confidence of their leaders and convince them that the Patriots' return to civil life is far more necessary to them than continued fighting, and that all Proclamation and Orders by the Allied Military Government must be strictly observed.

Note: Quite a large number of Patriots ask to be allowed to accompany the Army north, into Austria, if necessary.

(b) It is necessary to deal very firmly with them and to disarm them as quickly as possible after fighting in the area concerned has ceased. It seemed evident in FLORINIA that many of the arms were retained, not for use against the Allies, but rather against their political opponents after we have left the country. The parade of the Patriots and the issue of the certificates before the expiry of the time limit for the surrender of arms was not a success in FLORINIA and, in future cases, where large numbers of Patriots are being dealt with, the time limit for the surrender of the arms should expire before any certificates are issued, and if it is obvious that large numbers of arms are being retained by the Patriots all certificates should be withheld. One cannot adopt the theory "No Arms, no Certificates" as it cannot be definitely ascertained whether every individual Patriot possesses arms.

(c) Where there are large numbers of Patriots it will be necessary to allocate an officer to this duty alone, for a few days. It is a full-time job.

(d) Labour Officers should be contacted to give priority to Patriots in obtaining work. It is very necessary that work be offered to them after disarmament, as they are otherwise without means of livelihood.

(e) It was found, with regard to repatriation of those Patriots whose homes are in Southern Italy or Sicily, that the best method was through Refugee channels, but, in these cases, it is necessary to stress the fact that they are not looked upon as Refugees.

(f) As previously mentioned, the control over the Patriots by their Commanders was practically negligible and, therefore, in towns where there are large numbers of Patriots it is advisable, if possible, to concentrate them in buildings or barracks by Brigades where some control can be exercised over them until they are disbanded.

(g) It will probably be found that the Patriots are in possession of a large number of vehicles, few of which, if any, are the property of the Patriots. They are loth to give them up, and it is suggested that they be given a time limit to take them to the Registration Officer for disposal.

(h) /

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- (c) Where there are large numbers of Patriots it will be necessary to allocate an officer to this duty alone, for a few days. It is a full-time job.
- (d) Labour Offices should be contacted to give priority to Patriots in obtaining work. It is very necessary that work be offered to them after disarmament, as they are otherwise without means of livelihood.
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- (f) As previously mentioned, the control over the Patriots by their Commanders was practically negligible and, therefore, in towns where there are large numbers of Patriots it is advisable, if possible, to concentrate them in buildings or barracks by Brigades where some control can be exercised over them until they are disbanded.
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(h) /

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(h) It is thought inadvisable to "lamine" the Patriots to any great extent as it only gives them an exaggerated idea of their own importance and makes them much more difficult to handle. In Florence they were given a good deal of publicity, apparently intended as encouragement to Patriots further north.

(i) Lastly, it is advisable that a representative of A.R.I.A. should be present in the area as soon as possible after occupation to deal with applications from Patriots desirous of joining the Italian Army.

Finally, there is no doubt that although there are a large number of good genuine Patriots who have the Allied cause at heart and who have fought well in the interests of their country, there are also very many who have found it convenient to become Patriots at the last moment and who have not fought or done anything in the interests of the Patriots. The officer dealing with the Patriots cannot possibly know all these people and must rely on the advice of the leaders to discriminate between genuine and bogus Patriots.

(Signed)

M. J. H. E.,
Lt. Col.

Regional Public Safety Officer.

Pat Br.

Colonel de Casto

We should consider circulating paras 15-
et seq. Please discuss with PA Sec, & myself

I agree: perhaps the whole
report would be worth circulating
with a cover drawing attention to paras 15-16 HAE 3019.

W/26/5

*Bring back for
information & return
please* *Patriots B.A.*
24/9

Seen by 6C29

HEADQUARTERS, REGION IX
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Public Safety Division
APO 394

FILE : R. IX/PS/3/6.

21 Sep 44.

SUBJECT: Patriots.

TO : Patriots Branch,
HQ.,
Allied Control Commission.

*One copy
forward to AdS
Det. Maj. Drage.*

1. Two copies of letter of even reference dated 21 Sep 44 are forwarded herewith for your information.

2. These notes have been compiled following my recent stay in FLORENCE during which time I was dealing with Patriots, and the views expressed are the experiences of myself and those of other officers with whom I collaborated.

For the Regional Commissioner.

EJB/ext.

E. J. Bye Lt. Col.
E.J. BYE, Lt-Col.,
Regional Public Safety Officer,
Region IX.

SEEN.	INITIALS	DATE
Col. Mc. BYE		
Maj. MAC		
Maj. DRAGE		
Capt. SALVADORI		
Col. FAVA		
C. C.		



HEADQUARTERS, REGION IX
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Public Safety Division
AFG 394

FILE : R.IX/IS/4/6.

21 Sep 44.

SUBJECT. Patriots.

TO : Provincial Commissioners and Provincial Public
Safety Officers, Region IX.

1. In dealing with Patriot problems in FLORENCE the following points emerged which may be found of interest and useful when similar problems arise in Region IX.
2. Patriots in the FLORENCE area, genuine and alleged, numbered about 4,000. They were presumed to be under the command of Lt-Col Niccolli, who was undoubtedly a true patriot and was whole heartedly on the side of the Allies.
3. The patriots were formed into two divisions, namely the Potente Division composed of five Brigades and the Giustizia Liberta Division with three Brigades. In addition, there were a number of "Action Groups" in the city. These were entirely separate from the two divisions mentioned above and were composed of residents of FLORENCE. These, apparently, only came into active operation on the entry of the Allies into the city.
4. Col Niccolli, with a small staff had his own headquarters in the Prefettura and the headquarters of the various Brigades and Groups were scattered throughout the city.

5. Of the five Brigades in the Potenti Division, four were Communist and one Socialist. The Giustizia Liberta Division was supposedly non-political, but without doubt, the majority of its members were strong supporters of one or other of the political creeds in Italy other than Communism, and the feeling between the two divisions was not good.

6. In the four Communist Brigades, in addition to the Brigade Commanders, there was a political Commissario attached to each Brigade and one in charge of the whole Division.

7. It was found that any orders emanating from Col Niccolli or any of his Brigade Commanders were countersigned by the Political Commissario, otherwise they were void and of no effect.

8. The whole organisation, if such it could be called, was so loosely knit that Col Niccolli could not tell me the name of any one of his Brigade Commanders. Each Brigade

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8. The whole organisation, if such it could be called, was so loosely knit that Col Niccolli could not tell me the name of anyone of his Brigade Commanders. Each Brigade and Division appeared to operate entirely independent of the others and the Action Groups seemed to be entirely outside the picture.

9. The Patriots were armed with various small arms, and a few light machine guns, hand grenades etc. All the leaders professed entire ignorance of the number and/or type of arms in their respective Brigades and lists of such could not be obtained although repeatedly asked for.

10. In an endeavour to bring some sort of order out of chaos, it was arranged for the patriots to leave their various headquarters and concentrate in a disused Military Barracks. Later, when fighting in FLORENCE ceased, the Patriots paraded and were inspected by the Corps Commander

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under whom they had fought during the operations in FLORENCE. He handed certificates for the Patriots to the Divisional Commander.

11. Prior to the Parade an order directing them to surrender their arms by midday on 7 Sep @ and a memorandum thanking them for their services to the Allied cause was posted throughout the city.

@ - Note - The Parade took place before this expiry time.

12. Although a fair number of rifles, parts of machine guns and a large quantity of bombs and ammunition was surrendered there was no doubt that a large number of weapons, especially pistols, were withheld by the Patriots. As no lists of arms were available it was impossible to check the numbers surrendered.

13. The Patriots were informed of the serious view taken by the Allied Government regarding the non-surrender of their arms and later 10 Patriots were arrested for being in unlawful possession of arms (i.e., pistols) and were charged under Proclamation No. 1.

14. Of the large number of Patriots in FLORENCE, at the most not more than 600 fought in the line, the remainder wandered round the town and guarded their own particular headquarters. Several cases were reported of Patriots entering houses and arresting the inmates alleged to be Fascist sympathisers and several cases of murder were reported, alleged to be the work of Patriots. They were inclined to ride rough shod over the civilian population and, in many cases, themselves resorted to Fascist methods.

15. In dealing with the Patriots we came to the following conclusions:

- (a). It is vitally necessary to gain the full confidence of their leaders and convince them that the Patriots' return to civil life is far more necessary to them than continued fighting and that all Proclamations and Orders by the Allied Military Government must be strictly observed.
NOTE. - Quite a large number of Patriots ask to be allowed to accompany the Army North, into Austria, if necessary.

- (b). It is necessary to deal very firmly with them and to disarm them as quickly as possible after fighting in the area concerned has ceased. It seemed evident in FLORENCE that many of the arms were retained, not for use against the Allies, but rather against their political opponents after

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The parade of the Patriots and the issue of the certificates before the expiry of the time limit for the surrender of arms was not a success in FLORENCE and, in future cases, where large numbers of Patriots are being dealt with, the time limit for the surrender of the arms should expire before any certificates are issued and if it is obvious that large numbers of arms are being retained by the Patriots all certificates should be withheld. One cannot adopt the theory "No Arms, no Certificates" as it cannot be definitely

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(c). Where there are large numbers of Patriots it will be necessary to allocate an officer to this duty alone, for a few days. It is a full time job.

(d). Labour Officers should be contacted to give priority to Patriots in obtaining work. It is very necessary that work be offered to them after disbandment, as they are otherwise without means of livelihood.

(e). Whilst fighting with Allied troops Patriots are fed by the Army, but as soon as fighting ceases the supply of food ceases. During the time which elapses between the cessation of fighting and disbandment it is necessary to continue to feed them. It has been recommended to HQ., Allied Control Commission that this should be done through AMG sources. If some effort to feed them is not made during the transition period serious disorders are likely to occur.

(f). It was found, with regard to repatriation of these Patriots whose homes are in Southern Italy or Sicily, that the best method was through Refugee channels, but, in these cases, it is necessary to stress the fact that they are not looked upon as Refugees.

(g). As previously mentioned, the control over the Patriots by their Commanders was practically negligible and, therefore, in towns where there are large numbers of Patriots it is advisable, if possible, to concentrate them in buildings or barracks by Brigades where some control can be exercised over them until they are disbanded.

(h). It will probably be found that the Patriots are in possession of a large number of vehicles, few of which, if any, are the property of the Patriots. They are loth to give them up and it is suggested that they be given a time limit to take them to the Registration Officer for disposal.

(i). It is thought inadvisable to "lionise" the Patriots to any great extent as it only gives them an exaggerated idea of their own importance and makes them much more difficult to handle. In FLORENCE they were given a good deal of publicity, apparently intended as encouragement to Patriots further North.

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16. Finally, there is no doubt that although there are a large number of good, genuine Patriots who have the Allied cause at heart and who have fought well in the interests of their country, there are also very many who have found it convenient to become Patriots at the last moment and who have not fought or done anything in the interests of the Patriots. The officer dealing with the Patriots cannot possibly know all these people and must rely on the advice of the leaders to discriminate between genuine and bogus Patriots.

Copy to:

Public Safety Sub-Commission.
Patriots Branch.

E.J. B.F. Lt.-Col.,

Regional Public Safety Officer.

REPORT ON PATRIOT ACTIVITIES IN FLORENCE
(from Major Mazzi's report)

The Patriot Movement in FLORENCE started in January 1944.

The first squads were of men chosen for their deep anti-fascist and anti-German sentiments.

Soon more members joined the Patriots and the C.T.L.N. (Tuscan Committee of National Liberation) organized them under a military command during the month of March.

The military command divided the town into zones with and officer in charge of each zone.

At the same time, in the countryside partisan bands were forming in localities suitable to guerilla war-fare. They also came under the Military Command of the C.T.L.N. and kept up a liaison service with it in spite of the continuous German mopping up operations and espionage. The bands were the following:-

GARIBALDI BRIGADE	---	MONTI SCALARI area
"	---	APUANA "
"	---	SIENA "
Three ROSELLI Brigades	---	PRATO MAGNO "
SIRO BORGHI groups	---	MONTESPERTOLI - MONTE GIOVI area
PERSEO Band	---	ALPI DI CATENAIA area
TESEO BAND	---	PRATO MAGNO area
	---	IMPERUNETA area

The total strength of the bands was about 6,000 armed men while the town squads were of about 3,000 insufficiently armed.

On the 4th August, the Patriots beyond the river ARNO began action against the Germans with the valid support of the Garibaldi Brigade at PRATO MAGNO and with the support of the Teseo group of IMPERUNETA.

On the 11th August 44 the squads of the North bank of the ARNO also began action supported by the abovementioned brigades and by the 2nd Rosselli brigade.

The fight against snipers in the town was hard especially in the centre of FLORENCE.

The line assigned to the Patriots was the locality of MU-GNONE and the railway line FLORENCE-ROME. This line was held with severe losses to the Patriots until 19th August.

From the 19th August until 1st September, the Patriots continued to fight in collaboration with the Allies.

During the period 4th August - 1st September the losses of the Patriots in Florence were:

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"	----	PRATO MAGNO "
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PERSEO Band	----	PRATO MAGNO area
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From the 16th August until 1st September, the Patriots continued to fight in collaboration with the Allies.

During the period 4th August - 1st September the losses of the Patriots in Florence were:- 300 killed or dispersed; and 500 wounded.

Food supplies given by the Allies during the fighting were inadequate and the Committee and associations under it helped. 4966

On the 7th September at a meeting in Fortezza del Basso the Patriot formations were disarmed and disbanded.

About 300 Patriots of southern and northern Italy, unable to reach their families are now in Florence without means of support. The Allies offer them employment but the salaries are not high enough of the present cost of living.

32B

INFORMATION FROM THE TUCAN MILITARY COMMAND

(Maj. Mazzi's report).

The first Patriot groups were formed in September 43 and as they became larger they formed Bands and Brigades in the mountains and Action Squads in the towns.

In May 1944 there were bands everywhere in TUSCANY. Four GARIBOLDI Brigades operated in the areas of SIENA, VOLTERRA, MONTE ANIATA and PRATO MACINO, and were the SENIGALLIA, LANCIGOTTO, CALIANI and FANCIULLAGGI brigades which formed the POTENTE GARIBOLDI Division.

Their activities consisted of attacks on Nazi-fascists, road sabotage and protection of the population against German robberies.

Upto the 3rd August this division had blown 100 bridges, destroyed or damaged 500 vehicles, killed about 600 Nazi-fascists in action, executed 100 fascists and Germans. Their losses were 250 Patriots killed in action.

There were also 4 ROSSINI Brigades operating in the LUCCA and PISTOIA APENNINES in the area of MUGELLO, LASTRA SIGNA, SCANDICCI, MONTESPERIOLE, IMPRUNETA and GRASSANO. They controlled the LUCCA and PISTOIA APENNINES and the valley of LIVA north of BAGNI DI LUCCA to CUTIGLIANO during May and June.

They had three severe mopping-up operations made against them which failed with severe losses to the enemy. They engaged in sabotage on roads, telephone lines and war-material. On the approach of Allied forces they attached the Germans in retreat and acted as guides for the Allies, giving information about mined fields. They have to their credit: 35 bridges closed to traffic and 45 road interruptions. 400 Nazi-fascists killed in action, 100 vehicles destroyed or damaged, 20 goods-trains burnt or de-railed and a goods-train set on fire in the tunnel of the PRATO-FLORENCE line which stopped

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Their activities consisted of attacks on Nazi-fascists, road sabotage and protection of the population against German robberies.

Up to the 3rd August this division had blown 100 bridges; destroyed or damaged 500 vehicles, killed about 600 Nazi-fascists in action, executed 100 fascists and Germans. Their losses were 250 Patriots killed in action.

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The 1st ROSSINI Brigade was of about 550 men. The leader was Ducceschi (Pippo). About the middle of July it was obliged to scatter and many Patriots joined the bands in the MODENA APENNINES. With a

- 2 -

100 men Pippo tried to join the Allied 5th Army and failing that to reach Florence but was unable to do so before the arrival of the Allies.

The 2nd ROSSELLI Brigade was of about 80 men. In an attempt of reach Florence only 21 patriots passed through the German lines and in another attack by Germans the leader (Marsiali) and another Patriot were executed by the Germans, near Compiobbi.

The 3rd ROSSELLI Brigade located between MONTESPERTO and FLORENCE was formed of 3 companies. The 1st Company remained behind the German lines to sabotage their retreat and remove mines for the Allies. The 2nd entered Florence on the 1st August and the 3rd continued operations at MONTESPERTOLI and CERNIAIA.

The 4th ROSSELLI Brigade from IMPRUNETA and GRASSINA fought against the German rearguard and entered FLORENCE on the 4th August with the Allied frontline troops.

PERSEO Patriot Formation (Breccioforte Band).

It began its activities on the 17th March against German Units in the area of PELAGO. In July it operated at PRATOMAGNO, REGGELLO, SARTINO. In August it went to CASTELFRANCO and contacted the first Allied patrols. In collaboration with the Allies it occupied PIANDISCO and REGGELLO. It is still operating as patrol service in the area north of REGGELLO. Principal actions of this band was the disarmament of Germans and Fascists and the blowing of the important bridge of VALLI on the REGGELLO - VALLOMBROSA road.

The Tuscan Military Command for lack of contact with the other various bands located on MONTE ALIATA, in the SIENA area, near AREZZO and LEGHORN, can not give any reports on their activities.

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The Tuscan Military Command for lack of contact with the other various bands located on MONTE ALIATA, in the SIENA area, near ARBIZIO and BICHONIA, can not give any reports on their activities.

At the end of May the Tuscan Committee of National Liberation formed the Tuscan Military Command which had the control of all the bands and all the action squads. Its aim was to organize and coordinate operations of all the Patriot Bands in Tuscany, study a plan for the defense of Florence, and organize the action squads in the town, and organize an information service on enemy military movements and plans.

Girls were used as couriers between the T.M.C. and the bands and many of them lost their lives.

Some of the bands were absorbed with the

allied advance and nothing of them is known for the moment.

The bands located close to Florence remained in their zone up to the last moment to engage in sabotage and gather information. Only part of these bands entered the town before the arrival of the allies forces. The others reached the town between the 5th and 15th August fighting through the German defense line.

The town of FLORENCE was divided into 4 zones with an officer in charge of each zone under the control of the Tuscan Military Command.

The strength of the patriot forces at the disposal of the Military Command of the 3rd August 1944 were the following :

2.846 Patriots
 951 guns and rifles
 54 automatic weapons
 940 revolvers
 1.445 hand grenades.

The actions squads of NISOLE, SETTEGIANO, PERE-TOLA, CAMETI DISSENZIO, SESIO FLORENZINO, and GALBUZZO are not included and were about 500 Patriots.

On the 6th August the Commander of the Tuscan Military Command contacted the Allied Command on the left side of the ARNO and had a talk with the Commander of the British Command located south of FLORENCE and with Major Macintosh, Head of the Allied Liaison with Partisans.

The Allied Command was informed of the situation in Florence and it issued directives for partisan actions.

Patriot losses from 14th June to 3rd August were of 5 dead, 4 wounded and 5 taken by the Fascist SS and nothing else is known of them.

Partisan activities in Tuscany from 3rd to 26th August 1944.

(a) - operations on the left side of the ARNO
 Patriot force located on the left side of the ARNO was of 750 men but they were not all armed.

With an officer in charge of each zone under the control of the Tuscan Military Command.

The strength of the patriot forces at the disposal of the Military Command of the 3rd August 1944 were the following:

- 2,846 Patriots
- 951 guns and rifles
- 54 automatic weapons
- 940 revolvers
- 1,145 hand grenades.

The actions squads of VIESOLE, SERRICIANO, PERE-TOLA, CAMPI BISMILIO, SESTO MICHELETTINO, and GALINOTTO are not included and were about 300 Patriots.

On the 6th August the Commander of the Tuscan Military Command contacted the Allied Command on the left side of the ARNO and had a talk with the Commander of the British Command located south of FLORENCE and with Major Macintosh, Head of the Allied Liaison with Partisans.

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Partisan activities in Tuscany from 3rd to 26th August 44.

(a) - operations on the left side of the ARNO

Patriot force located on the left side of the ARNO was of 780 men but they were not all armed. 4883

Operations began on the night of the 4th August when the patriot tried to save the bridges on the ARNO of "Ponte alla Vittoria" and "Ponte alla Carraia". German strength was superior and the bridges were destroyed 5 hours before the arrival of Allied Forces.

From the 4th August the Partisans saved the MANTIGNANO Bridge and aqueduct, the bridge on the EMA in the GRASSINA area, and the roads interruptions in the DIACCETO and MANDINO localities on the Via Orientigiana were repaired by them to facilitate the Allied advance. They also attacked the Germans in retreat and collaborated with the Allies acting as guides and removing mines.

The Patriot losses in that particular zone amounted to 8 dead, 16 wounded.

(b) - operation in the right side of the ARNO

In the early hours of the 11th August the signal for action to the patriots was given and all the patriots assembled on the LUCCONE railway line to contact the enemy in retreat and prevent the Germans from returning. Other patriots were given the task of routing out snipers and occupying given positions.

A fusion of partisan brigades and Action Squads was made and they worked in connection with the Potente Division and with the Giustizia & Libertà Division which was composed of Action Squads, the 3 Rosselli brigades and of the Brigata "v" (the Giustizia & Libertà Division was an Action Party partisan organization in the town). Three operative sectors were assigned: a) to the Senigallia Brigade; b) Giustizia & Libertà Division; c) Lanciotto Brigade.

On the 11th August some of the town Action Squads ready for action in the RIFREDI- CARRICI - LE CURA - S. GENEVIO and CAMPO DI MARTE areas were cut off from the other patriots by the German retreat by many of them were able to cross the lines and return to their formations, others were captured and shot in the attempt and others remained to fight were they were.

On the 25th August the Rifredi line held by the patriots was reached by the Allies.

In Florence there was bitter and continuous fighting.

4962

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On the 25th August the Rifredi line held by the patriots was reached by the Allies.

In Florence there was bitter and continuous fighting against German formations and snipers and it can be said that Florence was completely liberated only on the 2nd September with the conquest of Careggi by Allied Forces and Piesole by the Brigade Buonzi.

The most important information was given to the Allies through W/T sets but information on the Gothic line was handed over to the Allies on their arrival in Florence with the relative maps, reports, etc.

On 7th September at a meeting held at Fortezza de Basso the Patriot Formations were disarmed and dissolved.

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RELAZIONE SULLA ATTIVITA' PATRIOTTI DI FIRENZE

In Firenze il movimento dei Patriotti ebbe inizio nel mese di Gennaio 1944.

Le prime squadre costituite erano composte di uomini scelti e di puri sentimenti antifascisti e antitedeschi.

In mezzo a difficoltà d'ogni genere questi uomini riuscirono ad agganciare altri uomini, a procurare armi, a portare assistenza ai più bisognosi vittime, spesso, nell'adempimento del loro dovere, di deportazioni e persecuzioni nazi-fasciste.

Questi nuclei di Patriotti che andavano mano a mano ingrossandosi, presero forma di squadre - plotoni - compagnie ecc.-

Verso il mese di Marzo, allo scopo di organizzare e dare impronta militare a tali reparti, il C.T.L.N. decise la costituzione di un Comando Militare.

Nelle sue prime riunioni questo Comando studiò i piani di difesa della città suddividendola in Zone ed assegnando a ciascuna di esse il rispettivo Comandante. Venne organizzata i servizi sanitari, alimentazione, trasporti ecc.-

Contemporaneamente, mentre in città sorvegliavano e si organizzavano queste formazioni, nelle campagne toscane e nei luoghi più adatti alla guerriglia prendevano forma le bande partigiane.

Anche esse facevano capo al Comando Militare del C.T.L.N. a mezzo di un servizio di collegamento quanto mai pericoloso per i continui rastrellamenti da parte dei germanici e l'in-

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Anche tali bande ebbero così uniche direttive, unico tesseramento.

Le bande costituite furono:

- BRIGATA GARIBALDI Zona MONTI SCALARI
- " " " APUANA
- " " " SENESE
- " " " PRATO MAGNO
- BRIGATE ROSSELLI 1 - 2 - 3 nella Zona di MONTESPERTOLI e M.GIOVE
- RAGGRUPPAMENTO SIRO BORGHI - ALPI DI CALENATA
- BANDA PERSEO - PRATO MAGNO
- " TESEO - IMPRUNETA

Forza complessiva di tali bande, circa 6.000 uomini armati mentre le squadre di città contavano circa 3.000 uomini insufficientemente armati.

Agosto
Il 4 ~~Settembre~~ i Patriotti di oltre Arno iniziarono la loro azione contro i tedeschi appoggiati validamente dalla Brigata GARIBALDI scesa in avanguardia degli Alleati dal Prato Magno e dal Raggruppamento TESEO dell'Impruneta.

Il giorno 11 le squadre della riva Nord entrarono anch'esse in azione appoggiate a loro volta dalle suddette Brigate e dalla Brigata ROSSELLI 2.

Dura fu l'opera contro i franchi tiratori annidati sino nei quartieri più centrali della città.

La linea assegnata ai Patriotti rimase delimitata dal Mugnone - fascio ferroviario Firenze - Roma.

Tale linea fu saldamente mantenuta, non senza gravi perdite, fino al giorno 19.

Dal 19 fino al 1° Settembre i Patriotti oltrepassata la linea del Mugnone hanno continuate le operazioni con gli Al-

- BRIGATA CARIBALDI Zona MONTE SCALARI
- " " " APUANA
- " " " SENESE
- " " " PRATO MAGNO
- BRIGATE ROSSELLI 1 - 2 - 3 nella Zona di MONTESPERTOLI e M.GIOVE
- RAGGRUPPAMENTO SIRO BORGHI - ALPI DI CATENAIA
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Da parte
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Durante il periodo 4 Agosto 1° Settembre le forze Patriottiche di Firenze ebbero le seguenti perdite:

- Morti e dispersi	circa 300
- Feriti	" 500

Le razioni viveri che gli Alleati elargarono durante il combattimento furono nettamente insufficienti tanto che il Comitato e le associazioni ad esso aderenti furono costretti a contribuire.

Il giorno 7 Settembre con una riunione in Fortezza da Basso i reparti di Patriotti furono disarmati e disciolti.

Circa 300 Patriotti dell'Italia del Sud e del Nord impossibilitati a raggiungere le proprie famiglie sono rimasti in Firenze privi di ogni assistenza.

Gli Alleati offrono ad essi lavoro ma a paghe giornaliere irrisorie di fronte all'attuale caro-vita.

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CORPO VOLONTARIO DELLA LIBERTA'
Comando Militare Toscano

BREVE RELAZIONE SULL'ATTIVITA' SVOLTA DAI PATRIOTI TOSCANI

DALL'8 SETTEMBRE 1943 FINO AD OGGI

1°) - COME SORSERO E SI ORGANIZZARONO I PATRIOTI TOSCANI DELLA

MONTAGNA E QUELLI DELLA CITTA' -

La data dell'8 Settembre 1943 segnò l'inizio della nefasta e brutale opera di distruzione, di persecuzione e tortura del popolo italiano ad opera dei nazi-fascisti.

In Toscana, come del resto in tutte le altre Regioni d'Italia, la reazione della massa fu immediata, diretta per lo più da giovani che da tanti anni soffrivano in silenzio.

Sorsero quindi i primi Gruppi di giovani di ogni condizione sociale, dal contadino all'artigiano nelle montagne e campagne, all'operaio, allo studente, al professionista, al militare che aveva abbandonato l'Esercito, nella città.

Abbandonarono le loro case per darsi alla montagna e per riunirsi clandestinamente in appositi locali nella città.

Dapprima furono pochi e disorganizzati, vagarono di monte in monte e di locale in locale per procacciarsi viveri e per sfuggire alle persecuzioni nazi-fasciste.

Si procurarono le prime armi con colpi di mano diretti contro i fascisti, i tedeschi e le caserme repubblicane.

Con le prime armi raccolte si diede vita ai primi Gruppi di Patrioti e si sentì la necessità di intraprendere senz'altro la lotta ai nazi-fascisti non appena in possesso di quel minimo di armi sufficienti a dare materiale valore al loro

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La necessità dei Gruppi di operare in stretta concomitanza fra loro e sotto un organo dirigente e coordinatore,

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portò spontaneamente alla unione dei Gruppi in Bande e successivamente in Brigate e Divisioni nelle montagne, mentre in città si organizzavano in squadre di azione e compagnie.

2°) - ATTIVITA' OPERATIVA SVOLTA DAI PATRIOTI TOSCANI DALL'8

SETTEMBRE 1943 AL 3 AGOSTO 1944

La particolare struttura orografica della Toscana male si prestava al libero campo di movimento delle Bande. Costituita da una serie di colline sparse un poco ovunque e da una dorsale appenninica non impervia e relativamente ricca di vie di comunicazione, la vita dei Patrioti fu in questo ambiente naturale molto ostacolata per la facilità che avevano i Reparti nazi-fascisti di operare rastrellamenti a stretto raggio e con poche possibilità di scampo da parte dei Patrioti che spesso sono riusciti a sfuggire alla cattura per l'ottima conoscenza del terreno, per le speciali misure di sicurezza adottate, per l'attiva collaborazione delle popolazioni mantenersi, per il coraggio e la risolutezza dimostrate in combattimento nel rompere l'accerchiamento nemico.

Ciò dal Maggio 1944 la Toscana, esclusi i centri cittadini, annoverava Bande disseminate un po' in tutta la Regione.

Vi erano le quattro Brigate Garibaldi distribuite nel Senese, nel Volterrano, sul Monte Amiata ed a Pratomagno; altre Bande in Garfagnana, nella zona di Arezzo, nel Pratese, nelle Alpi delle Tre Potenze, nel Pistoiese, nel Mugello, nella zona di Vallombrosa, nella zona di Signa, nelle Alpi di Catenaiola, nel Fiesolano, nel Livornese, nella

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Dette Bande ai primi di Giugno, costituivano già una massa di 6.000 Patrioti dei quali circa il 60% armata più o meno bene con qualche arma automatica, fucili, pistole e bombe a mano.

Scarse l'apporto in armamento dato dagli Alleati che si limitarono ad effettuare lanci massimamente nella zona della Maremma e dell'Appennino Lucchese.

Vasta e complessa è l'attività combattiva svolta da dette bande fino al 3 Agosto 1944.

La si riassume per sommi capi facendo riferimento ai gruppi di bande più importanti ed alle azioni più notevoli.

- Divisione Garibaldina "FORNTE" - costituita dalle Brigate: "SINIGALLIA" - "FANCIOTTO" - "CAIANI" - "FANCIULLACCI", - ha seriamente ostacolato con frequenti colpi di mano, il traffico tedesco lungo la vasta rete stradale comprendente la Via Aretina, la strada della Consuma, le strade del Chiantigiano e del Senese, distruggendo e danneggiando 400 automezzi e 2 carri armati;
- la località di Gastra venne difesa ad oltranza da due successivi attacchi tedeschi, nei quali il nemico aveva 50 morti e 2 camionette distrutte;
- nel paese di Cetica venivano ripetutamente stroncati e respinti più attacchi tedeschi in forza, appoggiati da fuoco di mortai e mitragliere da 20 m/m.

I tedeschi dal complesso di queste azioni su Cetica avevano un centinaio di morti ed un numero imprecisato di feriti;

- a Pian d'Albero altri attacchi tedeschi venivano stroncati causando al nemico la perdita di 40 uomini ed un

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- Divisione Garibaldina "POIENTE" - costituita dalle Brigate: "SINIGALLIA" - "LANCIOTTO" - "CAIANI" - "FANCIULLACCI",

- ha seriamente ostacolato con frequenti colpi di mano, il traffico tedesco lungo la vasta rete stradale comprendente la Via Aretina, la strada della Consuma, le strade del Chiantigiano e del Senese, distruggendo e danneggiando 400 automezzi e 2 carri armati;
- la località di Gastra venne difesa ad oltranza da due successivi attacchi tedeschi, nei quali il nemico aveva 50 morti e 2 camionette distrutte;
- nel paese di Cetica venivano ripetutamente stroncati e respinti più attacchi tedeschi in forza, appoggiati da fuoco di mortai e mitragliere da 20 m/m.

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- Caserme di militi repubblicani vennero prese d'assalto in varie località, tra cui quelle di Borgo S. Lorenzo e di Vicchio;

- frequenti gli attacchi alle colonne motorizzate tedesche. Si cita tra queste la distruzione quasi totale di una colonna di circa 20 automezzi sulla strada della Consuma;
- vari i colpi di mano isolati contro nazi-fascisti e contro automezzi isolati;
- molto attiva ed efficace l'opera d'assistenza e protezione alla popolazione spogliata dai tedeschi ed al patrimonio agricolo e zootecnico delle zone controllate dai Patrioti stessi.

L'attività di questa Divisione fino al 3 Agosto 1944 può in sintesi riassumersi nelle seguenti cifre:

- 100 ponti fatti saltare
- 500 automezzi tra distrutti e danneggiati
- 600 circa tra fascisti e tedeschi uccisi in combattimento
- 100 tra fascisti e tedeschi giustiziati sul posto
- 250 Patrioti morti in combattimento.

- Brigate "ROSCELLI N. 1 - 2 - 3 - 4" :

Dette Brigate hanno operato individualmente nelle zone dell'Appennino Lucchese, Pistoiese, del Mugello, Lastra a Signa, Scandicci, Montespertoli, Impruneta e Grassano.

Tra le azioni principali si segnalano:

- il controllo totale dell'Appennino Lucchese -- Pistoiese, dalla vallata della Lima a Nord di Pagni di Lucca, sino a Cutigliano nei mesi di Maggio e Giugno;
- completa sconfitta della legione della milizia fascista di Lucca che partita da detta città con propositi di

la Consuma;

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- completa sconfitta della legione della milizia fascista di Lucca che partita da detta città con propositi di rastrellamento, fu costretta, alla fine di Maggio a ritirarsi con fortissime perdite in uomini e materiali;
- un secondo rastrellamento tentato da una formazione germanica di SS, forte di oltre 300 uomini, veniva respin-

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- to nei primi di Giugno dopo violento combattimento nel quale rimanevano sul terreno circa 70 tedeschi;
- un terzo rastrellamento tentato in forza dai germanici alla fine di Giugno pure stroncato con perdite del nemico circa doppie del precedente;
 - numerose opere di sabotaggio (taglio fili - lancio chiodi di tricuspidali lungo le rotaie - interruzioni di ponti e strade - distruzione di due magazzini foraggi a S. Martino alla Palma e di 4 vagoni di materiale diretti in Germania);
 - il disarmo e l'obbligo alla diserzione di una intera compagnia di soldati dell'esercito repubblicano al Galuzzo;
 - assalto alla Villa "La Selva" (campo di concentramento) liberando 42 internati tra cui 17 Inglesi e 5 Americani;
 - assalto alla Caserma Baldissera in Firenze con recupero di molte armi e materiale di equipaggiamento;
 - rimozione di 103 mine anticarro e riattamento di 22 interruzioni stradali nella zona di Cerbaia, così da renderla transitabile alla 2^a Divisione Neo-Zelandese;
 - attacco ad un reparto tedesco nella zona di Pian dei Cerri che causava la morte di 11 tedeschi contro un Patriota morto e 5 feriti;
 - il 3 Agosto attacco alle retroguardie tedesche nella zona di Riboia (Impruneta): 3 tedeschi uccisi - un Patriota ucciso ed uno ferito;
 - il 3 Agosto servizio di guida, attraverso campi minati, ad un gruppo corazzato dell'8^a Armata Inglese;
 - attacchi vari a colonne ed a reparti tedeschi in sosta e in movimento.

L'attività di tali Brigate "ROSSELLI", sino al 3

alla fine di giugno pure stroncato con perdite del nemico circa doppie del precedente;

-- numerose opere di sabotaggio (taglio fili - lancio chiodi tricuspidali lungo le rotabili - interruzioni di ponti e strade - distruzione di due magazzini foraggi a S. Martino alla Palma e di 4 vagoni di materiale diretti in Germania);

-- il disarmo e l'obbligo alla diserzione di una intera compagnia di soldati dell'esercito repubblicano al Gallozzio;

-- assalto alla Villa "La Selva" (campo di concentramento) liberando 42 internati tra cui 17 Inglesi e 5 Americani;

-- assalto alla Caserma Baldissera in Firenze con recupero di molte armi e materiale di equipaggiamento;

-- rimozione di 103 mine anticarro e riattamento di 22 interruzioni stradali nella zona di Cerbaia, così da tenerla transitabile alla 2^a Divisione Neo-Zelandese;

-- attacco ad un reparto tedesco nella zona di Pian dei Cerri che causava la morte di 11 tedeschi contro un Patriota morto e 6 feriti;

-- il 3 Agosto attacco alle retroguardie tedesche nella zona di Ribola (Impruneta): 3 tedeschi uccisi - un Patriota ucciso ed uno ferito;

-- il 3 Agosto servizio di guida, attraverso campi minati, ad un gruppo corazzato dell'8^a Armata Inglese;

-- attacchi vari a colonne ed a reparti tedeschi in sosta e in movimento.

L'attività di tali Brigate "ROSSELLI", sino al 3 Agosto, può riassumersi come segue:

- interruzioni di ponti N. 35
- interruzioni stradali N. 45

- nazi-fascisti uccisi in combattimento oltre 400
- automezzi distrutti o danneggiati 100
- vago ni ferroviari incendiati o fatti deragliare 20
- (l'incendio di un treno merci nella galleria della direttissima Prato - Bologna, ha arrestato il traffico per circa una settimana)
- rimozione di campi minati e scarica di mine per interruzioni stradali nel periodo della ritirata tedesca.-

La Brigata "ROSSELLI N. 1", forte di circa 550 uomini, pressata da Sud da forze preponderanti tedesche ascendenti a circa una Divisione e minacciata di aggiramento era costretta, verso la metà di Luglio, ad abbandonare le posizioni eroicamente tenute per altri due mesi.

Il Comandante DUCCESSHI (Pippo) lasciata facoltà al grosso degli uomini di riparare in anni presso le bande Patriottiche sull'Appennino Modenese ed inviati i più stanchi e provati in licenza, raggruppava intorno a se un centinaio di uomini di tutta fiducia, col proposito di raggiungere d'estazia il litorale Tirrenico e ricongiungersi con gli elementi avanzati della 5^a Armata Alleata. Fallito tale tentativo cercava di raggiungere Firenze secondo le direttive di questo Comando, ma l'incalzare degli avvenimenti, data la lentezza dei movimenti effettuati per sentieri montani e senza mezzi di trasporto, coglieva il reparto nella fase di avvicinamento.

La Brigata "ROSSELLI N. 2" dalla zona di Monte Cicvi (Mugello), ai primi di Agosto si spostava verso Firenze. Superato un primo sbarramento tedesco ne affrontava un secondo ed in conseguenza del violento ed efficace fuoco tedesco, subiva rilevanti perdite in morti, feriti e dispersi. Di 80 uomini solo 27 Patriotti riuscì-

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direttissima Prato - Bologna, ha arrestato il traffico per circa una settimana)

- rimozione di campi minati e scarica di mine per interruzioni stradali nel periodo della ritirata tedesca.-

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La Brigata "ROSSELLI N. 3", già dislocata tra Montespertoli e Firenze, si attestava con la seconda Compagnia in città il 1° Agosto, mentre la 1° Compagnia restava a tergo delle retroguardie tedesche compiendo atti di sabotaggio e rimozione mine a vantaggio dei Reparti Alleati in arrivo; la 3° Compagnia operava nella zona Montespertoli - Cerbaia.

La Brigata "ROSSELLI N. 4", dalla zona Impruneta - Grassano, combattendo contro le retroguardie tedesche, il 4 Agosto entrava in Firenze insieme alle avanguardie Alleate.

- Formazione Patriota "PERINO" - (Banda Braccioforte):

- Iniziò la sua attività combattiva il 18 Marzo contro reparti tedeschi in rastrellamento nella zona di Pelago. In tali azioni i tedeschi ebbero tre morti e sette feriti.
- Il 16 Aprile un gruppo di detta formazione venne impegnato in violento combattimento contro i tedeschi a Secchietta. Da tale azione il Gruppo ne uscì con otto Patrioti morti, 10 prigionieri e qualche disperso. Il gruppo venne successivamente ricostituito.
- Durante i mesi di Maggio e Giugno con decisi colpi di mano su reparti nazi-fascisti e caserme si procurava abbondante armamento e viveri.
- Realizzava la diserzione di 20 soldati russi inquadrati in reparti tedeschi che disertavano portando al seguito armi e munizioni;
- ai primi di Luglio si trasferiva sul Pratomagno versante di Reggello, compiendo diversi colpi di mano contro pattuglie tedesche nella zona di Reggello - Saltino.
- Il 15 Luglio assaltava la caserma della milizia forestale di Vellombrosa disarmando 10 militi.

avanguardia tedesca compiendo azioni di sabotaggio e rimozione mine a vantaggio dei Reparti Alleati in arrivo; la 3^a Compagnia operava nella zona Montespertoli - Cerbaia.

La Brigata "ROSSELLI N. 4", dalla zona Impruneta - Grassano, combattendo contro le retroguardie tedesche, il 4 Agosto entrava in Firenze insieme alle avanguardie Alleate.

- Formazione Patriota "FRANCESCO" - (Banda Braccioforte):

- Iniziò la sua attività combattiva il 17 Marzo contro reparti tedeschi in rastrellamento nella zona di Pelago. In tali azioni i tedeschi ebbero tre morti e sette feriti.
- Il 16 Aprile un gruppo di detta formazione venne impegnato in violento combattimento contro i tedeschi a Secchieta. Da tale azione il Gruppo ne uscì con otto Patrioti morti, 10 prigionieri e qualche disperso. Il gruppo venne successivamente ricostituito.
- Durante i mesi di Maggio e Giugno con decisi colpi di mano su reparti nazi-fascisti e caserme si procurava abbondante armamento e viveri.
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- ai primi di Luglio si trasferiva sul Pratomagno versante di Reggello, compiendo diversi colpi di mano contro pattuglie tedesche nella zona di Reggello - Saltino.
- Il 15 Luglio assaliva la caserma della milizia forestale di Vallombrosa disarmando 10 militi;
- nella notte sul 19 Luglio faceva saltare l'importante ponte di Valle sulla strada Reggello - Vallombrosa;

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- ai primi di Agosto la formazione si portava a Castelfranco ove prendeva contatto con le prime pattuglie Alleate.

Proseguiva la sua marcia verso Nord a fianco dei reparti Alleati occupando i Paesi di Piandiscò e Reggello.

Si trova tuttora nella zona a Nord di Reggello in servizio di pattugliamento avanzato verso le linee tedesche.

Per l'impossibilità di collegamento, mancano a questo Comando le relazioni sull'attività operativa svolta dalle varie bande che erano dislocate sul Monte Amiata nel Senese, nella zona di Arezzo e nel Livornese.

Alla fine di Maggio, vista l'assoluta necessità di indirizzare e coordinare l'organizzazione e l'attività operativa delle numerose bande già operanti nella Toscana, il Comitato Toscano di Liberazione Nazionale, decideva la costituzione di un Comando unico che venne denominato Comando Militare Toscano.

Triplice era il compito spettante a questo Comando:

- 1°) -- organizzare e coordinare l'attività operativa delle bande di Patrioti dislocati nel territorio della Toscana ed operanti nelle montagne e campagne Toscane;
- 2°) - studio di un accurato piano per l'occupazione e difesa della città di Firenze e conseguente organizzazione delle squadre d'Azione cittadine, ripartizione dei compiti operativi e coordinamento delle varie azioni affidate alle Squadre d'Azione stesse;

parti Alleati occupando i Paesi di Piandiscò e Reggello.

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- 3°) - attività informativa intesa alla ricerca di tutte quelle notizie e dati su opere fortificatorie, spostamenti di unità e transiti, ricerca di campi minati ed individuazione di interruzioni predisposte dai tedeschi

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in tutta la zona di operazioni.--

Per quanto concerne il comma 1°) furono immediatamente stabiliti i necessari collegamenti con le bande, collegamenti che in pratica funzionarono bene se si considerano le gravi difficoltà ed i pericoli cui le staffette andarono incontro sia per la mancanza di mezzi rapidi di comunicazione, sia per la spietata caccia fatta dai nazi-fascisti. Ci servimmo spesso di staffette femminili, purtuttavia si contano a diverse decine le nostre eroiche staffette che caddero sotto il piombo nemico dopo inaudite torture.

At tutte le bande furono impartite più volte disposizioni di carattere operativo sulla base delle direttive che a mezzo radio impartiva il Comando Alleato. Furono seguite durante le prime azioni combattive impartendo loro ordini del caso.

Con l'avvicinarsi degli Alleati alla zona di Firenze, parte delle bande vennero successivamente assorbite nell'orbita delle operazioni che si svolgevano gli Alleati durante la loro avanzata attraverso la Toscana. Di dette bande sul momento non si hanno notizie nè si conoscono le azioni combattive cui hanno preso parte.

Un'altra aliquota di bande, più prossima alla zona di Firenze, restò in zona fino all'ultimo per compiere atti di sabotaggio, colpi di mano e per svolgere attività informativa. Di dette bande solo una minima parte riuscì a raggiungere Firenze prima dell'arrivo degli Alleati; le altre raggiunsero la città tra il 4 ed il 15 Agosto, aprendosi un varco attraverso le difese tedesche, combattendo aspramente ed affrontando difficoltà logistiche non indifferenti a causa dei lunghi

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Per quanto concerne il comma 2°), il Comando Militare Toscano elaborò accuratamente e fin nei particolari un piano per l'occupazione e la difesa della città di Firenze.

Detto piano doveva avere pratica attuazione prima dell'arrivo degli Alleati, con un movimento insurrezionale di tutti i Patrioti e con l'intervento delle Brigate "SINICALLA" - "IANCIOTTO" e "ROSSELLI".

Compiti stabiliti nel piano:

- attacco contro le retroguardie tedesche in ritirata alla periferia della città e durante il transito di detti reparti attraverso le strade della città;
- impedire la distruzione dei Ponti sull'Arno, qualora i tedeschi non decidessero di farli saltare molto tempo prima dell'arrivo degli Alleati;
- occupazione preventiva e difesa di determinati obiettivi di carattere militare - industriale - politico - sociale e culturale esistenti nella città di Firenze;
- mantenimento dell'ordine pubblico fino all'arrivo degli Alleati;
- lotta contro i franchi tiratori.

Per l'attuazione di detti compiti, la città di Firenze venne suddivisa in quattro zone operative con a capo di ciascuna un Ispettore di zona alle dirette dipendenze del Comando Militare Toscano.

Le forze patriottiche a disposizione del Comando Militare, alla data del 3 Agosto 1944 (1° giorno di emergenza) erano le seguenti:

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Le forze patriottiche a disposizione del Comando Militare, alla data del 3 Agosto 1944 (1° giorno di emergenza) erano le seguenti:

- 2846 Patrioti
 - 951 tra fucili e moschetti
 - 54 armi automatiche
 - 940 pistole
 - 1445 bombe a mano
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In queste cifre non sono comprese le varie squadre d'azione dislocate nelle località alla periferia di Firenze, come ad esempio: - Fiesole - Settignano - Peretola - Campi Bisenzio - Sesto Fiorentino - Galluzzo - che complessivamente ammontavano a circa altri 500 Patrioti.

Il 3 Agosto i tedeschi ordinavano lo stato di emergenza e lo attuarono in maniera brutale fino alla notte dell'11 Agosto.

Il 6 Agosto il Comando Militare Toscano nella persona del suo Comandante prendeva i primi contatti con il Comando Alleanza recandosi sulla sinistra Arno a conferire con il Capo di S.M. del Comando Inglese attestato a Sud di Firenze, e col Magg. MACKINTOSH, Capo dell'Allied Liaison Partisan.

Il Comando Inglese veniva messo al corrente della situazione militare e sanitaria della città di Firenze ed a sua volta impartiva direttive per l'azione dei Patrioti.

30) - ATTIVITA' OPERATIVA SVOLTA DAI PATRIOTI TOSCANI DAL 3

AL 26 AGOSTO 1944

a) - operazioni sulla sinistra Arno -

Le forze Patriottiche dislocate sulla sinistra "Arno" ammontavano a 780 uomini, non tutti armati.

Le operazioni ebbero inizio la notte sul 4 Agosto con il tentativo fatto dai Patrioti di evitare la distruzione del Ponte alla Vittoria e del Ponte alla Carraia sull'Arno.

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I tentativi fallirono data la forte sproporzione di uomini e mezzi di fuoco tra Patrioti e tedeschi

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4848

I tentativi fallirono data la forte sproporzione di uomini e mezzi di fuoco tra Patrioti e tedeschi e dato che le azioni furono iniziate dai Patrioti senza speranza di poter fare assegnamento sull'aiuto dei reparti Alleati perchè le prime pattuglie Alleate giunsero nella parte a Sud della città cinque ore dopo il brill-

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lamento dei Ponti.

Nei violenti scontri con i tedeschi alla testata dei Ponti i Patrioti ebbero due morti e cinque feriti.

Durante i giorni dal 4 al 10 Agosto i Patrioti di sinistra Arno effettuarono le seguenti principali azioni:

- evitavano la distruzione del Ponte di Mantignano togliendovi le mine collocate dai tedeschi;
- riuscivano ad evitare la distruzione dell'acquedotto di Mantignano togliendovi le mine; in tale azione rimasero uccisi 5 Patrioti;
- nella zona di Grassano salvavano il Ponte sull'Enna asportando la stazione di brillamento;
- il Ponte sull'Enna in località Ponte a Enna, veniva ripristinato dai Patrioti prima che vi giungessero gli Alleati;
- altre interruzioni stradali nelle vie Chientigiana in località Disceeto e Bardino furono rapidamente ripristinate prima dell'arrivo degli Alleati;
- una squadra di Patrioti in collaborazione di Reparti Alleati contribuiva all'accerchiamento di 150 tedeschi asserragliati fra Villamagna e l'Incontro;
- scontri coi tedeschi al guado a monte dell'Isolotto sull'Arno;
- cooperazione con gli Alleati nel servizio di guida attraverso campi minati e nel fornire informazioni militari.

Nei primi due giorni di lotta i Patrioti di detta zona su-

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- riuscivano ad evitare la distruzione dell'acquedotto di Martignano togliendovi le mine; in tale azione rimasero uccisi 5 Patrioti;
- nella zona di Grassano salvavano il Ponte sull'Ema asportando la stazione di brillamento;
- il Ponte sull'Ema in località Ponte a Ema, veniva riattivato dai Patrioti prima che vi giungessero gli Alleati;
- altre interruzioni stradali nella via Chianigiana in località Diacceto e Bandino furono rapidamente ripristinate prima dell'arrivo degli Alleati;
- una squadra di Patrioti in collaborazione di Reparti Alleati contribuiva all'accerchiamento di 150 tedeschi asserragliati fra Villamagna e l'Incontro;
- scontri coi tedeschi al guado a Monte dell'Isolotto sull'Arno;
- cooperazione con gli Alleati nel servizio di guida attraverso campi minati e nel fornire informazioni militari.

Nei primi due giorni di lotta i Patrioti di detta zona subivano le seguenti perdite: 8 morti - 16 feriti, mentre nel periodo precedente dal 14 Giugno al 3 Agosto avevano: 5 morti - 4 feriti - 5 arrestati dalla SS fascista dei quali non si conosce la sorte.

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AZIONI DI COMBATTIMENTO SVOLTE SULLA DESTRA ARNO DALL'11 AGOSTO

AL 26 AGOSTO 1944 -

Durante la notte sull'11 Agosto i tedeschi si sganciavano ed abbandonavano il centro della città.

Alle prime ore dell'11 Agosto, dietro ordine di questo Comando, veniva dato il segnale dell'inizio dell'insurrezione a tutti i Patrioti, mediante suono "a martello" della campana di Palazzo Vecchio.

Tutti i reparti di Patrioti già ammassati clandestinamente in attesa dell'azione, si portavano in gran parte sulla linea del Mugnone - ferrovia per riprendere il contatto col nemico ed impedire ritorni offensivi.

Un'altra aliquota di Patrioti provvedeva alla occupazione di determinati obiettivi, alla lotta contro i franchi tiratori ed al mantenimento dell'ordine pubblico.

Si riassume qui appresso in sintesi l'attività operativa raggruppata per reparti organici.

a) - DIVISIONE GARIBOLDINA "POTENTE" -

- Il mattino dell'11 Agosto due squadre della Divisione "POTENTE", per incarico del Comando Alleato, avevano ordine di attraversare l'Arno per raccogliere informazioni circa l'occupazione nemica in città. Mentre una squadra riusciva a guadare il fiume a Rovezzano ed entrare in città, l'altra veniva respinta in combattimento dai tedeschi nella zona delle Caseine. Il Capo squadra lasciava la vita sul campo.

- Il Comando Divisione con la Brigata "SINIGALLIA" ed ali-

durante la notte dell'11 agosto i tedeschi si sganciarono ed abbandonarono il centro della città.

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a) - DIVISIONE GARIBOLDINA "POTENTE" -

- Il mattino dell'11 agosto due squadre della Divisione "POTENTE", per incarico del Comando Alleato, avevano ordine di attraversare l'Arno per raccogliere informazioni circa l'occupazione nemica in città. Mentre una squadra riusciva a guardare il fiume a Rovezzano ed entrare in città, l'altra veniva respinta in combattimento dai tedeschi nella zona delle Cascine. Il Capo squadra lasciava la vita sul campo.
- Il Comando Divisione con la Brigata "SINIGALLIA" ed aliquota della Brigata "LANCIOTTO" passava l'Arno l'11 agosto. Due Compagnie della Brigata "LANCIOTTO" si trovavano già di qua d'Arno e fin dall'11 agosto partecipavano ai combattimenti nella zona del Ponte alla Mosse, e

della Fortezza da Basso.

- La Brigata "SINIGALLIA" il 12 Agosto veniva impiegata in servizio d'ordine pubblico nella zona tra Viale Principe Umberto - Via della Scala - Via dei Nossi.
- La Brigata "LANCIOTTO" il 12 Agosto con una compagnia interveniva nella zona di S. Iacopino per sbloccare un altro reparto della stessa Brigata impegnato contro i tedeschi nella zona Macelli - Romito. Dopo ben cinque ore di combattimento il nemico veniva respinto oltre il Mugnone. I Patrioti subivano un morto ed un ferito.
- Un'altra compagnia della Brigata "LANCIOTTO", lo stesso giorno impegnava combattimento coi reparti tedeschi annidati nella Manifattura Tabacchi; nell'azione aveva 5 Patrioti feriti.
- Cinque franchi tiratori catturati in azione dalla stessa Brigata venivano giustiziati sul posto.
- Una compagnia della Brigata "LANCIOTTO" il 12 Agosto, mentre si portava ai Molini Diendi per sbloccarvi un nucleo di Patrioti circondati dai tedeschi, veniva a combattimento in Piazza Cavour obbligando i tedeschi a retrocedere fino alla ferrovia. In seguito a rinforzi di autoblindate giunte ai tedeschi ed al violento fuoco dei mortai, la compagnia era costretta a ritirarsi.
- Il 13 Agosto reparti della Brigata "SINIGALLIA" dopo strenuo combattimento coi tedeschi annidati nella Manifattura Tabacchi, erano costretti a desistere dall'azione. I Patrioti subivano due morti e cinque feriti.
- Lo stesso giorno 13, reparti della Brigata "LANCIOTTO"

Umberto - Via della Scala - Via dei Fossi.

- La Brigata "LANCIOTTO" il 12 Agosto con una compagnia interveniva nella casa di S. Iacopino per sbloccare un altro reparto della stessa Brigata impegnato contro i tedeschi nella zona Macelli - Ronito. Dopo ben cinque ore di combattimento il nemico veniva respinto oltre il Mugnone. I Patrioti subivano un morto ed un ferito.
- Un'altra compagnia della Brigata "LANCIOTTO", lo stesso giorno impegnava combattimento coi reparti tedeschi auxiliati nella Manifattura Tabacchi; nell'azione aveva 5 Patrioti feriti.
- Cinque franchi tiratori catturati in azione dalla stessa Brigata venivano giustiziati sul posto.
- Una compagnia della Brigata "LANCIOTTO" il 12 Agosto, mentre si portava ai Molini Biondi per sbloccarvi un nucleo di Patrioti circondati dai tedeschi, veniva a combattimento in Piazza Cavour obbligando i tedeschi a retrocedere fino alla ferrovia. In seguito a rinforzi di autoblinda giunte ai tedeschi ed al violento fuoco dei mortai, la compagnia era costretta a ritirarsi.
- Il 13 Agosto reparti della Brigata "SINIGALLIA" dopo strenuo combattimento coi tedeschi auxiliati nella Manifattura Tabacchi, erano costretti a desistere dall'azione. I Patrioti subivano due morti e cinque feriti.
- Lo stesso giorno 13, reparti della Brigata "LANCIOTTO" sostenevano valorosamente nella Fortezza da Basso ripetuti attacchi di reparti tedeschi muniti di mitragliatrici e mortai. Cinque tedeschi uccisi, un Patriota ucciso ed un ferito.

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- Il 14 Agosto reparti della Divisione "POTENTE" effettuarono, d'ordine del Comando Alleato, un rastrellamento nella zona della stazione centrale.

Negli scontri che ne seguirono, cinque tedeschi vennero uccisi, un Patriota ucciso e due feriti.

- Il 16 Agosto in azioni di rastrellamento venivano catturati e giustiziati 2 franchi tiratori.

- Lo stesso giorno reparti della Brigata "LANCIOTTO" impegnavano combattimenti con pattuglie tedesche al Ponte del Pino. I tedeschi avevano tre morti e un ferito.

- Il 17 Agosto i tedeschi attaccavano nuovamente in forza i reparti della Brigata "LANCIOTTO" asserragliati alla Fortezza da Basso. L'energia e tempestività la reazione dei Patrioti prolungatasi per diverse ore - 4 tedeschi morti - 2 Patrioti feriti.

- Il 18 Agosto reparti della Brigata "CITTADINA" in due successivi scontri in Piazza Dalmazia coinvolgevano i tedeschi ad abbandonare la zona portandosi dietro i loro caduti.

- Nello stesso giorno arrivavano a Firenze le Brigate "CAIANI" e "LANCIOTTI", ambasce della Divisione "POTENTE" che avevano sostenuto combattimenti nella zona Sud-Ovest di Firenze.

- Il 19 Agosto una compagnia della Brigata "CAIANI" superata la linea tedesca recuperava due mitragliatrici pesanti e 50 moschetti.

- Durante un'altra azione di pattugliamento, reparti della stessa Brigata recuperavano due mortai da 84 m/m.

- La notte del 22 Agosto in tre successivi scontri con pattuglie tedesche nella zona del Ponte di mezzo, il nemico

nivano uccisi, un Patriota ucciso e due feriti.

- Il 10 Agosto in alcuni di rastrellamento venivano catturati e giustiziati 2 iracheni tiratori.
- Lo stesso giorno reparti della Brigata "LANCIOTTO" impegnavano combattimenti con pattuglie tedesche al Ponte del Pino. I tedeschi avevano tre morti e un ferito.
- Il 17 Agosto i tedeschi attaccavano nuovamente in forza i reparti della Brigata "LANCIOTTO" asserragliati alla Fortezza da Basso. Energica e tempestiva la reazione dei Patrioti prolungatasi per diverse ore - 4 tedeschi morti - 2 Patrioti feriti.
- Il 18 Agosto reparti della Brigata "SINTOMILLA" in due successivi scontri in Piazza Dalmazia costringevano i tedeschi ad abbandonare la zona portandosi dietro i loro caduti.
- Nello stesso giorno arrivavano a Firenze le Brigate "CAIANI" e "FANCIULLIACCI", ambedue della Divisione "POTENTE" che avevano sostenuto combattimenti nella zona Sud-Ovest di Firenze.
- Il 19 Agosto una compagnia della Brigata "CAIANI" superata la linea tedesca recuperava due mitragliatrici pesanti e 50 moschetti.
- Durante un'altra azione di pattugliamento, reparti della stessa Brigata recuperavano due mortai da 81 mm.
- La notte del 22 Agosto in tre successivi scontri con pattuglie tedesche nella zona del Ponte di Mezzo, il nemico veniva ovunque respinto. Un Patriota morto.

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- Lo stesso giorno pattuglie della Brigata "LANCIOTTO" in violento scontro con pattuglie tedesche armate di mitragliatrici ed appoggiate da una mitragliera nella zona di S. Ger-vasio - Via Boccaccio, subivano un morto e tre feriti. Due tedeschi uccisi.

- Il 23 Agosto scontri di pattuglie nella zona di Rifredi e in Via Carlo Stelle;; in quest'ultimo scontro i tedeschi lasciano sul terreno un morto ed un ferito. I Patrioti avevano un ferito.

- Il 24 - 25 - 26 Agosto vari scontri di pattuglie nella zona tra le Cascine e Ponte di S. Donato nella zona di Rifredi.

b) - BRIGATA "ROSSINI N. 3" -

La Brigata "ROSSINI 3" fin dai primi giorni della sua azione in Firenze era stata riordinata e completata con l'annessione dei resti delle Brigate "ROSSINI N. 2 e 4".

- L'11 Agosto un distaccamento di detta Brigata occupava la Caserma DIR AL SOLE e la Caserma Carlo Corsi mentre un altro plotone attaccava e riusciva oltre la ferrovia un gruppo di paracadutisti tedeschi intenti al lavoro lungo la ferrovia stessa all'altezza del cavalcavia Belfiore.

Da Via Talastina una compagna comandata dal Cap. DEL MONACO si portava in rinforzo verso il cavalcavia Belfiore; di sorpresa occupava una casa vincendo la resistenza di alcuni centri di fuoco e teneva impegnato il nemico per oltre due ore. Dopo due ore di lotta il nemico ripiegava oltre il Mugnone. In seguito al sopraggiungere di altre forze tedesche e dato il pericolo di essere circonda-

vasio - Via Rocaccio, subivano un morto e tre feriti.

Due tedeschi uccisi.

- Il 23 Agosto scontri di pattuglie nella zona di Rifredi e in Via Cento Stelle; in quest'ultimo scontro i tedeschi lasciano sul terreno un morto ed un ferito. I Patrioti avevano un ferito.

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- Il 11 Agosto un distaccamento di detta Brigata occupava la Caserma BIRALBOE e la Caserma Carlo Corsi mentre un altro plotone attaccava e rievocava oltre la ferrovia un gruppo di paracadutisti tedeschi intenti al lavoro lungo la ferrovia stessa all'altezza del cavalcavia Belfiore.

La Via Palestina una compagnia comandata dal Cap. DEL MONACO si portava in rinforzo verso il cavalcavia Belfiore; di sorpresa occupava una casa vincendo la resistenza di alcuni centri di fuoco e teneva impegnato il nemico per oltre due ore. Dopo due ore di lotta il nemico ripiegava oltre il Mugnone. In seguito al sopraggiungere di altre forze tedesche e dato il pericolo di essere circondata, la compagnia ripiegava. Vari feriti, nessun morto.

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Riordinata la Brigata ridotta a due Compagnie comandate dal Cap. DEL MONACO e dal Cap. NANNONI, questa usciva nuovamente per effettuare un rastrellamento nella zona Via Toselli, Via Galliano, Mugnone dove venivano individuati centri di fuoco.

Il Cap. DEL MONACO, Comandante della Brigata, rimaneva ferito durante l'azione; il Cap. NANNONI assumeva il comando della Brigata e la riportava all'attacco. Veniva successivamente raggiunto da una raffica di mitragliatrice e cadeva eroicamente sul campo.

Il Comando della Brigata passava al Ten. MARZIALI che alla testa dei suoi uomini ricececiava oltre il Mugnone alcune pattuglie tedesche infiltratesi nelle nostre posizioni.

Durante quest'azione anche il Ten. MARZIALI lasciava eroicamente la vita sul campo.

- Il 12 Agosto i Patriotti della Brigata "ROSSELLI 3" attaccavano due grosse pattuglie tedesche, forti di una trentina di uomini e munite di lanciagranate che, superato il Mugnone, si erano spinte fino a Piazza S. Iacopino.

I tedeschi dopo accanita e violenta lotta vennero ricacciati oltre il Mugnone lasciando sul terreno sei morti.

I Patriotti avevano un morto e due feriti.

- Lo stesso giorno reparti della stessa Brigata, attaccati da forze numericamente superiori e meglio armate al Casermone Rosso detto "La Nave", dopo strenua resistenza erano costretti a ripiegare nella zona di Porta a Prato.

- Il 13 vivace reazione di fuoco e strenua resistenza in posto della Brigata contro gli attacchi ed i tiri di mitragliatrici e mortai tedeschi.

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- Il 14 Agosto i reparti della Brigata schierati sulla linea hanno valorosamente tenuto testa al martellante fuoco delle mitragliere tedesche.

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- Il 15 Agosto reparti della Brigata arrestavano e ricacciavano oltre il Mugnone alcune infiltrazioni di pattuglie tedesche. Catturati 4 prigionieri tedeschi.

- Il 16 Agosto reparti della Brigata prendevano parte ad azioni di rastrellamento effettuate su larga scala contro franchi tiratori nella zona dei Viali di Circonvallazione fino a Via S. Gallo.

- Il 18 Agosto, in seguito ad arretramento dei tedeschi, la Brigata "ROSSELLI" si portava immediatamente avanti e riprendeva il contatto col nemico.

Nel pomeriggio dello stesso giorno, puntate offensive tedesche, accompagnate da violento fuoco di mitragliatrici e mortai, giungevano fino alla Via Vittorio Emanuele.

In duri scontri protrattisi fino a tarda ora, reparti della "ROSSELLI" in collaborazione con quelli della Brigata "V" e delle squadre d'azione cittadine, riuscivano a contenere l'urto nemico fino a notte, dopo di che si ritiravano lungo la linea del Mugnone.

- Il 19 Agosto pattuglie della Brigata in ricognizione nel viale Morgagni attaccavano pattuglie tedesche uccidendo un paracadutista e catturando una pistola mitragliatrice.

- Nei giorni 20 + 21 + 22 + 23 + 24 Agosto, intensa l'attività di pattuglia della Brigata "ROSSELLI" e l'azione contro i franchi tiratori. Specie durante le notti i reparti di detta Brigata riuscivano a tenere saldamente le loro posizioni benchè sottoposti a violente azioni di fuoco di artiglierie e mortai tedeschi nella zona tra

Piazza Delmoro e Montughi

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- Il 19 Agosto pattuglie della Brigata in ricognizione nel viale Morgagni attaccavano pattuglie tedesche uccidendo un paracadutista e catturando una pistola mitragliatrice.

- Nei giorni 20 * 21 * 22 * 23 * 24 Agosto, intensa l'attività di pattuglia della Brigata "ROSSELLI" e l'azione contro i franchi tiratori. Specie durante le notti i reparti di detta Brigata riuscivano a tenere saldamente le loro posizioni benchè sottoposti a violente azioni di fuoco di artiglierie e mortai tedeschi nella zona tra Piazza Dalmazia e Montughi.

- Il 24 Agosto una pattuglia tedesca, spintasi a Sud di Piazza Dalmazia, veniva respinta con perdite da Patrioti della Brigata "ROSSELLI".

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- Nei giorni 25 e 26 è proseguita l'attività operativa della Brigata impegnata sulla linea del fuoco.

c) - SQUADRE D'AZIONE CITTADINE -

Dette squadre costituite da Patrioti della città di Firenze e dintorni, hanno operato inizialmente nelle tre zone di destra Arno, agli ordini di un proprio Comandante militare di zona.

Successivamente, vista questo Comando la necessità di dare nuova e più robusta struttura organica e militare alle forze Patriottiche in linea, indebolite dalle forti perdite subite i primi giorni di lotta, tutte le squadre d'azione vennero poste alle dipendenze tattiche della Divisione "POTENTE" e "GIUSTIZIA E LIBERTA'", quest'ultima costituita oltre che dalle squadre d'azione cittadine, anche dalla Brigata "ROSSELLI 3" e dalla Brigata "V".

In conseguenza di questa fusione, in luogo delle tre zone, vennero costituiti tre settori operativi, tenuti rispettivamente: 1° Settore della Brigata "SINIGALLIA" - 2° Settore della Divisione "GIUSTIZIA E LIBERTA'" - 3° Settore della Brigata "LANCIOTTO".-

Si premette che l'11 Agosto in conseguenza dell'attestamento delle forze tedesche sulla linea Mugnone - ferrovia, una buona parte delle squadre d'azione cittadine, già pronte all'azione sulle zone di Rifredi - Careggi - Le Cure - S. Gervasio e Campo di Marte, rimasero a tergo della linea tedesca, tagliate fuori dagli altri Patrioti.

Molti di detti Patrioti con azioni veramente di valore e

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Molti di detti Patrioti con azioni veramente di valore e rischiose riuscivano successivamente ad attraversare la linea di fuoco ed a ricongiungersi al grosso dei Patrioti; altri furono catturati e fucilati dai tedeschi, altri ancora si difendevano tenacemente asserragliati nelle case oltre la linea ./.

di combattimento.

- L'11 Agosto, il tentativo dei Patrioti di impedire la distruzione dei Ponti sul Mugnone da parte dei tedeschi veniva realizzata solo parzialmente, malgrado le varie azioni di fuoco svolte dai Patrioti stessi che riuscivano ad impedire la totale distruzione del Ponte Rosso. Il Ponte rimase trasantabile a truppe a piedi.

- Lo stesso giorno Patrioti assaltavano ripetutamente la Manifattura Tabacchi senza però riuscire a vincere la forte resistenza tedesca. Nella zona del Romito e nei pressi di Piazza Cavour, violenti scontri con reparti tedeschi. Accanita e dura lotta contro franchi tiratori che venivano in gran parte snidati dalle abitazioni nella zona di Piazza Indipendenza - Via Nazionale - Via Celfa - Borgo Pinti.

- Nella zona di Via Masaccio - Via Fra Bartolomeo - Piazza Savonarola, reparti di Patrioti hanno accanitamente combattuto tutta la giornata contro franchi tiratori. In queste azioni i Patrioti avevano 7 morti e 6 feriti.

- Il 12 Agosto riprendeva sempre più violento il combattimento presso la Manifattura Tabacchi dove i tedeschi, a malgrado i ripetuti attacchi dei Patrioti, mantenevano la posizione.

- Altre azioni di fuoco si svolgevano nella zona del Viale Belfiore e di S. Iacopino.

- Verso la sera i tedeschi attaccavano la sede di un Comando di Compagnia Patriota situato nella Villa Favard.

Si lamentano un morto e diversi feriti tra i Patrioti.

- Una pattuglia di Patrioti veniva attaccata da franchi tiratori

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Si lamentano un morto e diversi feriti tra i Patrioti.

- Una pattuglia di Patrioti veniva attaccata da franchi tiratori in Via Camporeggi. Circondato e preso d'assalto il palazzo ove aveva sede il nemico, 4 franchi tiratori venivano catturati e giustiziati.

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- Nella zona del Ponte del Pino i Patrioti del Fronte della Gioventù davano prova di valore e di alto sprezzo del pericolo, combattendo fino a sera una impari lotta contro nemico superiore per forza ed armamento. In questi combattimenti della giornata cadevano sul campo 5 Patrioti mentre altri 8 rimanevano feriti.
- E' continuata per tutta la giornata con sempre maggiore accanimento, la lotta contro i franchi tiratori nella zona di Via Masaccio - Via Fra Bartolomeo.
- Il 13 Agosto al Ponte alle Mosse e nella zona di S. Iacopino diverse puntate offensive tedesche venivano fermate dal fuoco dei Patrioti e ricacciate di contrassalto.
- Il 14 Agosto in una violenta e prolungata azione di fuoco contro franchi tiratori in Piazza Cavour, 3 Patrioti rimanevano feriti.
- La sera del 14 Agosto squadre di Patrioti attaccavano d'impeto il noto covo di franchi tiratori in Via Masaccio - Angolo Via Fra Bartolomeo, che da tre giorni resisteva ai nostri attacchi facendo un rilevante numero di vittime specie tra la popolazione civile. Dopo due ore di accanito combattimento il nucleo nemico veniva decimato lasciando sul terreno diversi morti.
- Il 15 Agosto i Patrioti respingevano puntate di pattuglie tedesche nella zona di S. Iacopino e reagivano con precise ed intense azioni di fuoco contro pattuglie nemiche scortate da carri armati in perlustrazione nella zona del Ponte alle Mosse e del Ponte all'Asse.
- Sempre lo stesso giorno squadre di Patrioti reagivano

contro nemico superiore per forza ed armamento.

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- Sempre lo stesso giorno squadre di Patrioti reagivano energicamente con azioni di fuoco contro reparti di SS. italiane in azioni nella zona del Ponte del Pino.

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- Il 16 Agosto un reparto tedesco (una ventina di uomini con una autoblinda) riusciva ad infiltrarsi attraverso la linea tenuta dai Patrioti e da truppe indiane.

In Piazza Donatello veniva coraggiosamente affrontato da un plotone di Patrioti al comando del Guardiamarina Venturini, mentre un altro plotone di Patrioti puntava sul tango del nemico.

Il nemico colto di sorpresa si asserragliava nella scuola e nel rifugio di Piazza Donatello. Attaccata con vigore e d'impeto dal Reparto del Venturini, dopo violento scontro il nemico era costretto a ripiegare in fretta. Lasciava sul terreno: 2 morti - 4 feriti - 1 mitragliatrice pesante - 1 fucile.

- Il 17 Agosto, Patrioti in servizio di pattugliamento notturno con reparti indiani, avevano due feriti in seguito al tiro di mortai nemici.

- Lo stesso giorno sono state effettuate azioni di rastrellamento contro franchi tiratori nella zona di Piazza Cavour. L'azione era appoggiata da una autoblinda alleata.

- Altre azioni contro franchi tiratori venivano effettuate nei pressi di Via Masaccio - Angelo Via La Farina. Negli scontri che ne seguirono due Patrioti rimanevano feriti.

- Il 13 Agosto in successive azioni di contrattacco in Piazza Dalmazia i Patrioti dopo più ore di combattimento costringevano i tedeschi ad abbandonare la Piazza portandosi dietro a braccia i propri feriti.

- Duri combattimenti protrattisi fino a sera venivano sostenuti dai Patrioti delle squadre d'azione cittadine

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- Il 18 Agosto in successive azioni di contrattacco in Piazza Dalmazia i Patriotti dopo più ore di combattimento costringevano i tedeschi ad abbandonare la Piazza portandosi dietro a braccia i propri feriti.

- Duri combattimenti protrattisi fino a sera venivano sostenuti dai Patriotti delle squadre d'azione cittadine in collaborazione con la Brigata "ROSSELLI 3", nella zona di Via Vittorio Emanuele. In tale zona i tedeschi effettuavano puntate offensive appoggiate da intenso fuoco di mortai.

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- Lo stesso giorno pattuglie di Patrioti si spingevano in ricognizione verso S. Domenico. In località Camerata ed a Villa Palmieri in un breve ma violento scontro venivano uccisi due tedeschi e 5 Patrioti feriti.
- Il 19 Agosto un osservatorio tedesco veniva individuato ed attaccato da una Pattuglia di Patrioti sul serbatoio delle Officine Pignone. Tre tedeschi rimanevano colpiti dal tiro di fucili mitragliatori dei Patrioti.
- Lo stesso giorno reparti di Patrioti con l'appoggio di tre autoblinde alleate rastrellavano la zona a Nord di Via Vittorio Emanuele, tra Villa Carmela e il Convento dei Cappuccini di Montughi.
- Il 20 Agosto in una azione dei Patrioti contro franchi tiratori nella zona del Ponte alle Mosse, tre franchi tiratori venivano uccisi.
- Lo stesso giorno pattuglia di Patrioti si sono spinte in ricognizione fino a S. Domenico; debole reazione nemica.
- Il 21 Agosto scontri di pattuglie durante la notte nella zona del Ponte alle Mosse al Ponte di Mezzo.
- Posizioni nemiche a Torre degli Agli venivano attaccate con successo da reparti di Patrioti.
- Altre pattuglie di tedeschi venivano attaccate dai Patrioti nei pressi del Cimitero degli Ebrei, oltre il Ponte di Mezzo. Due tedeschi uccisi ed alcuni feriti.
- Lo stesso giorno in Via Francesco Ferruccio un sanguinoso scontro avveniva tra Patrioti e pattuglie tedesche. In tale azione diversi tedeschi venivano colpiti, un Patriota morto.

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In tale azione diversi tedeschi venivano colpiti, un Patriota morto.

- Altri scontri avvenivano nella giornata in Via Pisacane, in Piazza Delmazzia, al Ponte sul Torsolle; alle Officine Galileo.

- Il 22 Agosto, durante la notte, in tre successivi scontri al passaggio al livello del Viale Corsica, ed al Ponte di Mezzo, dopo violenti azioni di fuoco i tedeschi venivano posti in fuga. Un Patriota morto.
- Lo stesso giorno alle Officine Galileo, occupate il giorno precedente dai tedeschi, reparti di Patrioti attaccavano di sorpresa gli Stabilimenti impegnandosi in violento combattimento. L'azione non riusciva; i tedeschi avevano tre morti - due franchi tiratori pure uccisi. Due Patrioti feriti.
- Puntate offensive tedesche sulla Via Folignese e sulla Via Faentina venivano strepitate e ricacciate dal fuoco di armi automatiche dei Patrioti.
- Il 23 Agosto scontri con pattuglie tedesche sulla Via Bologna nei pressi del Pellegrino, in Via Montughi, alla Villa Fabbricotti.
- Pattuglie di Patrioti raggiungevano la casa del Salvatino, fatte segno a violenta reazione di fuoco da S. Domenico, erano costrette a ripiegare dopo avere eliminato una pattuglia avanzata tedesca.
- Il 24 Agosto un forte attacco tedesco appoggiato da una autobomba investiva le posizioni tenute dai Patrioti al Ponte di Mezzo. I nostri Patrioti dietro ordine di un Ufficiale Alleato ripiegavano sulla linea del Mugone.
- La sera dello stesso giorno i tedeschi sferravano un forte attacco contro le posizioni tenute dai Patrioti in Via Trieste - angolo Via Bologna. I Patrioti ripiegavano di un centinaio di metri. Alle prime luci dell'alba del giorno 25 i Patrioti, appoggiati da truppe alleate con

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- Contemporaneamente altre pattuglie di Patrioti, protetti da truppe corazzate alleate, si spingevano lungo la via Bolognese fino ad un chilometro a Nord della località "La Pietra".
- Durante la notte del 25 Agosto scontri di pattuglie tra le Cascine e Ronco S. Donato.
- Pattuglie di Patrioti appoggiate da mezzi corazzati alleati, si spingevano lungo la via Faentina attestandosi nella località "Lupo".
- Nelle prime ore del mattino del 25 Agosto mezzi corazzati e reparti alleati superavano la linea tenuta dai Patrioti nella zona di Rifredi. Squadre di Patrioti collaboravano con gli Alleati in servizio di guida e scorta spingendosi fin sotto l'ospedale di Careggi.
- Il 26 Agosto due puntate delle pattuglie di Patrioti giungevano fino al Convento di S. Marta senza incontrare resistenza.
- Nel pomeriggio dello stesso giorno, due Patrioti su richiesta alleata, scontravano un soldato americano in ricognizione lungo la Via dei Cappuccini. Nei pressi della Chiesa dei Cappuccini venivano presi sotto il tiro di armi automatiche. I due Patrioti venivano uccisi; il soldato americano rientrava nelle linee. Un tedesco ferito.

Sono questi i fatti più salienti cui sono stati protagonisti i nostri patrioti di tutta la Toscana.

A queste azioni vanno aggiunte tutte le altre e sono molte, che hanno avuto carattere episodico e continuo in tutti i

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4935

A queste azioni vanno aggiunte tutte le altre e sono molte, che hanno avuto carattere epico e continuo in tutti i giorni di lotta dall'8 Settembre in poi.

Trattasi di colpi di mano a mezzi isolati ed a pattuglie, in montagna e nelle campagne, di azioni combattive continue sulla linea del fuoco e contro i franchi tiratori, che pur se resta-

no nell'ombra, rispecchiano sempre l'aggressività ed il valore combattivo dei nostri Patrioti.

8
Per quante concerne il comma 3°) di pag. 24, l'attività informativa è stata intensa dall'8 Settembre in poi ed assunse aspetto più organico e completo dai primi di Giugno in poi con la costituzione del Comando Militare Toscano.

La ricerca delle informazioni e delle notizie venne fatta su larga scala servendoci dei Partiti delle bande, d'informati-ri del Comando Militare e di persone in transito che si facevano un dovere di venire al Comando a depositare le notizie di cui erano in possesso.

Le principali informazioni riguardavano:

- notizie e dati sulla linea Gotica;
 - movimenti e scote di reparti tedeschi;
 - traffico automobilistico e ferroviario nemico;
 - esistenza di campi minati;
 - interruzioni stradali predisposte e realizzate dai tedeschi.
- Di dette notizie, le più urgenti vennero trasmesse di volta in volta al Comando Alleato via radio, le altre specie quelle sulla linea Gotica, vennero consegnate agli Alleati al loro arrivo a Firenze con tutti i relativi documenti (relazioni - carte topografiche - schizzi).

Le perdite subite dai Patrioti dall'11 Agosto 1944 ad oggi sono tuttora in via di accertamento.

Dai primi dati in possesso di questo Comando risulta quanto

appresso;

Patrioti caduti N. 155

" feriti " 350.

4934

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4954

Firenze 27 Agosto 1944

IL COMMISSARIO POLITICO
F.to Aldo Comaschi

IL COMANDANTE
F.to Ten. Col. Nello Niccoli



IL CAPOQUARTIERE
(Maggio - Marzi)

AGGIUNTA ALLA RELAZIONE

Dal 27 Agosto al 1° Settembre la lotta sulla linea di fuoco continuò con immutata asprezza, sostenuta con valore e perizia dai Patrioti che negli ultimi giorni furono in parte alleviati del loro gravoso compito mercè l'entrata in linea dei primi reparti alleati.

La liberazione di Firenze poté dirsi completa il giorno 2 Settembre con la conquista di Careggi da parte degli alleati e di Fiesole da parte di Patrioti della Brigata "BUOZZI".

A parziale modifica di quanto è detto nella relazione, le perdite subite dai Patrioti fino al 7 Settembre, dai dati finora accertati assommano a:

- 300 tra morti e dispersi
- 500 feriti

Circa l'alimentazione, le razioni viveri che gli Alleati elargirono durante il combattimento furono nettamente insufficienti tanto che il Comitato e le associazioni ad esso aderenti furono costretti a contribuire.

Il giorno 7 Settembre con una riunione in Fortezza da Basso i reparti di Patrioti furono disarmati e disciolti.

Circa 300 Patrioti dell'Italia del Sud e del Nord impossibilitati a raggiungere le proprie famiglie sono rimasti in Firenze privi di ogni assistenza.

Gli Alleati offrono ad essi lavoro ma a poche giornaliere irrisorie di fronte all'attuale caro-vita.

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D'ORDINE
IL CAPO DI S.M.
(Magg. A. Mazzi)

4923

Alfieri

318
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

City of Florence P-1 OCT Recd

59
Patriots' Section,
AMG Fifth Army.

11th September, 1944.

Subject :- Patriots in Florence;

To :- Lt. Colonel T.J. Michie,
SCAO AMG City of Florence.

1. Referring to previous report submitted on the 3rd September, 1944, for information of AMG Fifth Army and Colonel C.D. McCarthy, Patriots' Branch, RC and MG Section, HQ A.C.C.
2. The Patriots and Partisans of Florence have now been disbanded and so far as possible disarmed. Our actions in bringing this about were as follows.
3. By arrangement with Lt. Colonel N. Niccoli, military commander of all Patriots in Florence, and his Brigade Commanders, all men of the "Potente" and "Giustizia e Libertà" Divisions - with the exception of the "V" Brigade - were moved from their various headquarters scattered throughout the City into the Fortezza da Basso. The "V" Brigade, attached to the "Giustizia e Libertà" Division, remained in the Scuola Centrale for reasons which I will explain later in this report.
4. As mentioned in my previous report the Germans retired from the northern outskirts of the City into the hills north of Florence on the 31st August and 1st September; therefore apart from a few scattered groups the Patriots active operations ceased.
5. In conjunction with Lt. Colonel T.J. Michie, SCAO., Colonel L.A. Alston, DSO., MC., 71 Garrison Commander, and Lt. Colonel N. Niccoli, Patriots' Commander, arrangements were made for an inspection of the

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5. In conjunction with Lt. Colonel T.J. Michie, SCAO., Colonel L.A. Alston, DSO., MC., 71 Garrison Commander, and Lt. Colonel N. Niccoli Patriots' Commander, arrangements were made for an inspection of the Patriots by Lt. General S.C. Kirkman, CB., CBE., MC., General Officer Commanding 13 Corps, accompanied by Brigadier General E.E. Hume, General Officer Commanding AMG Fifth Army, at 11 a.m., Thursday, 7th September, 1944, at the Fortezza da Basso.

5.(cont) It was also arranged for the Corps Commander to address the Patriots and afterwards present the Certificates to the Patriots' Divisional Commanders for their respective Divisions.

6. To enable Patriots, who were under arms in the outlying districts, to be contacted and return to the City an Order was published directing all Patriots and Partisans to surrender their arms at the Fortezza Da Basso by 12 noon on the 7th September, 1944. Copies of this Order together with a poster thanking the Patriots for their assistance to the Allied cause were posted throughout Florence on the 4th September, 1944 (copies were attached to my previous report).

7. During this time and up to the 7th September the Patriots were fed by 13 Corps through arrangements made by 71 Garrison.

8. The parade of the Patriots took place as arranged and about 3,000 attended. They were inspected and addressed by the Corps Commander (copy of the address is attached) and the certificates were presented to the Patriots' Divisional Commanders. a/

A recording was made of the ceremony, a broadcasting van of P.W.B., was present as well as representatives of the Press.

9. After the Parade the Patriots disbanded but before, doing so they made a short march through the centre of the City. This was done of their own volition and without prior knowledge or authority on our part. The Patriots then went to their homes with the exception of about 300 who were natives of other parts of Italy and were without homes. These remained in the Fortezza da Basso overnight.

10. Immediately the fighting ceased in Florence and prior to the inspection ceremony the Patriots were told through their leaders that every effort would be made to assist those desiring to work or to return to their homes outside Florence. Very few took advantage of this offer.

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11. As an example of their lack of enthusiasm to work - on the 4th September, 1944, one hundred men were required urgently to clean out a school earmarked to accommodate refugees. I saw all the Brigade leaders and asked for the men, informing them at the same time that they would be paid and given a midday meal.

11. (cont) They consulted together and then they told me that their men had fought and suffered hardships for the past ten months; they had continuously fought in Florence during the past month and that they now needed a month's rest to recuperate. Not one man presented himself for the work.

12. As mentioned above the issue of rations to the Patriots ceased on the 7th September. On the 8th September approximately 350 Patriots, whose homes were in other parts of Italy, were still in the Fortezza da Basso. After consulting with them I arranged for them to go to the local Refugee Centre, where they would be housed apart from the refugees. They would be treated as Patriots, fed, and sent to their homes as soon as the ban on travel had been lifted. Only 13 took advantage of these facilities, the remainder preferred to make their own arrangements.

13. Owing to the fact that the leaders were unable to give us complete lists of all Patriots entitled to certificates it was not possible for the whole to be presented en bloc at the time of the Parade. Lists from outlying districts are still coming in and to date 3156 certificates have been prepared.

It will be appreciated that it was not possible to present certificates individually, and it had to be left to the leaders to distribute them to their own men.

14. With regard to the surrender of their arms-- a small number of Patriots were armed on the parade. On enquiring the reason for this Lt. Colonel N. Niccoli, their commander, informed me that as a result of the Order posted on the 4th September directing them to surrender their arms by midday 7th September, many had already handed them in at the Brigade Headquarters.

The total number so far surrendered is :

Rifles

541

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The total number so far surrendered is :

Rifles	541	
Bayonets	18	
Daggers	11	
hand grenades	368	
machine-guns (Breda)	1	4839
Ammunition boxes	12	
Machine-gun barrels	9	

34913

Cartridges	34913
Complete machine gun magazines	30
" " " for rifles	380
Machine guns incomplete	9
Tripod for heavy machine gun	2
Mines	4
T.N.T. (explosives) Boxes	5
Reserve boxes	5
Boxes of magazines	2
3 Kg. explosives box	1
Light mortars	2
Rifle barrels	1

The above numbers include 78 rifles and 30 revolvers taken into service by the Carabinieri recently recruited, and for use by the Prison Guards.

14a. It was obvious that not all of any type of weapon had been surrendered, particularly so with regard to machine guns and revolvers; As is well known in pre-war days nearly every man possessed a pistol of some kind and we have no doubt at all that nearly every Patriot had a pistol. Further it was well known that the Patriots had far more serviceable machine guns than have been surrendered.

I had previously asked the leaders for lists of arms in possession of Patriots to be supplied to me but was informed by Lt. Col. N. Niccoli that no records of arms had been kept, therefore it was impossible to supply lists. We saw all the leaders of the Patriots on the 8th September and pointed out to them the extremely grave view the Allied Military Government took of the failure on the part of the Patriots to surrender all their arms, and further that any person found in unlawful possession of arms would be prosecuted.

They agreed that it was obvious many pistols were being with-

5
2
1
2
1

reserve boxes

Boxes of magazines

3 Kg. explosives box

Light mortars

Rifle barrels

The above numbers include 78 rifles and 30 revolvers taken into service by the Carabiniers recently recruited, and for use by the Prison Guards.

14a. It was obvious that not all of any type of weapon had been surrendered, particularly so with regard to machine guns and revolvers; as is well known in pre-war days nearly every man possessed a pistol of some kind and we have no doubt at all that nearly every Patriot had a pistol. Further it was well known that the Patriots had far more serviceable machine guns than have been surrendered.

I had previously asked the leaders for lists of arms in possession of Patriots to be supplied to me but was informed by Lt. Col. M. Niccoli that no records of arms had been kept, therefore it was impossible to supply lists. We saw all the leaders of the Patriots on the 8th September and pointed out to them the extremely grave view the Allied Military Government took of the failure on the part of the Patriots to surrender all their arms, and further that any person found in unlawful possession of arms would be prosecuted.

They agreed that it was obvious many pistols were being withheld but professed complete ignorance of the Patriots doing so. They suggested that many were kept by the Patriots in the hope of selling them to Allied soldiers at high prices. There is probably a good deal of truth in this assertion.

Every effort is being made to trace and collect ^{arms} ~~arms~~ which may be stored in houses, etc., and a small number are still coming in.

28
Ten patriots have been arrested already and are awaiting trial for being in unlawful possession of arms.

15. Prior to being disbanded isolated cases of murder and aggravated assault were alleged to have been committed by Patriots in the City. Some no doubt were the work of Patriots, wiping off old scores; but in other cases it was probably convenient to blame the Patriots.

ⁿSince they have been disbanded no further cases have been reported and no serious troubles have been encountered.

16. Applications for work or for passes to return home have been few. To date 104 Patriots have been given passes to return home either through refugee channels or by making their own way; and 54 have been placed in employment. In connection with this I saw the leaders. They stated that many Patriots were in comfortable circumstances, many were in good positions before the war and were now content to wait until things became more normal; they would then take up their former positions. Some others preferred to remain at home and put their own houses in order. Of the remainder a large proportion were not content to work for the scale of wages offered by the Allied Government. -They could do private work for wages up to 200 lire a day. The Trade Unions intended to negotiate as soon as possible with employers to have the wage scale raised generally, when no doubt sufficient labour would be forthcoming.

17. Regarding the non-attendance of the "V" Brigade at the Parade on the 7th September, 1944, the circumstances were as follows :-

The "V" Brigade was non-political and formed part of the "Giustizia e Libertà" Division. It was composed to a large extent of Carabinieri, who had deserted and joined the Patriots. I am infor-

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zia e Libertà" Division. It was composed to a large extent of Carabinieri, who had deserted and joined the Patriots. I am informed that the number of carabinieri amounted to about 17 Officers and 204 other ranks.

4928
116 of these Carabinieri have already been taken back into service with the CC RR in Florence and I suggested that they should attend the Parade in carabinieri uniform. Lt. Col. N. Niccoli,

3
military Commander, and Aldo, Commissario Politico, of the Patriots protested vigorously against the "V" Brigade being allowed to attend the parade at all and they stated that the greater part were Republican Fascists. They further stated that if the members of the "V" Brigade attended the parade fighting between them and the "Potente" Division would probably break out and it would be better to cancel the whole of the arrangements.

As it appeared advisable to hold the parade and to avoid incidents I saw the commander of the "V" Brigade, Vittorio Sorrenti, and told him that as the Carabinieri would be required for duty in the City it would not be possible for them to attend the parade and that as the numbers of the remainder were very small I suggested that he attend alone representing his Brigade. He at first consented but later asked to be excused.

All the Carabinieri returned to service from the Patriots have been "screened" and there is no reason to believe that they were fascists. Some of the others may have been fascists turned into Patriots but we do not believe that they are any worse than the men of the "Potente" Division, in fact they seem to be a good deal better. They have certainly surrendered far more arms than any other Brigade and are definitely non-political.

It seemed very evident that the communists in the "Potente" Division are antagonistic towards any Patriots who are not of their political faith; and that was the chief reason for their grievance against the "V" Brigade, especially as it contained a large number of their old enemies - the Carabinieri.

18.

We would again stress the fact that so far as Florence is concerned the Patriot movement is far more political than patriotic.

It is more or less governed by the communists who before being disbanded were overbearing towards the civilian population.

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18. We would again stress the fact that so far as Florence is concerned the Patriot movement is far more political than patriotic.

It is more or less governed by the communists who before being disbanded were overbearing towards the civilian population, in short they were inclined to act as Fascists in a different coloured shirt.

They, we believe, are the worst offenders in failing to surrender their arms. We do not think that they have any intention of using them against Allied personnel but will wait until the country is again entirely under Italian rule when they will, if necessary, use them against their political opponents.

315
This opinion is based not only upon our own observations but as the result of conversations with intelligent Italians who apparently have no "axe to grind".

19. As a result of our work and experience with Patriots in this area we make the following recommendations :-

- (a) That Patriots should be disarmed immediately fighting ceases in the area concerned.
- (b) To do so we suggest that the Officer dealing with Patriots should arrange with their leaders for a parade of Patriots with their arms. No mention should be made beforehand that it is intended to disarm them. After thanking them for their services, at the conclusion of the parade they should be ordered to hand in their arms before leaving the parade ground. Some military police should be present to, if necessary, stop anyone leaving with their arms.

In this way they will be merely complying with Proclamation No 1, which orders the surrender of arms and ammunition. The Proclamation will already have been posted on the first day of liberation.

- (c) As the Patriots will probably not be aware that the part of Proclamation No 1 ordering the surrender of arms applies to them, they should be informed of this at the time of the parade. Afterwards an Order should be posted as soon as possible informing all Patriots and Partisans that Proclamation No 1 applies to them and that anyone found in unauthorised possession of arms will be prosecuted.

Of course exceptions to this should be made in the case of Patriots, with arms, who filter into communes from the hills and who are unaware that Patriots have been disarmed in that particular area.

(d) Many of the Patriots are ex-Italians Army officers and men.

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(d) Many of the Patriots are ex-Italian Army officers and men. They invariably are in possession of Italian Army pistols which they consider they are perfectly entitled to. In other cases it is doubtful if many of the arms are the property of the person possessing them. To avoid the aftermath of complaints we suggest that pistols should be labelled with the depositor's name so that it can be returned to him if he is authorised to receive it.

19.d. (cont). We would point out as the line was static for a considerable time and fighting continued in Florence for approximately one month it was not possible to put this recommendation into effect here.

(e) At 10.30 a.m., on Tuesday, 12th September, 1944, Lt. Colonel Sansone of M.M.I.A., reported in Florence to deal with application of Patriots wishing to join the Italian Army.

So far no Patriot liaison representatives from ACC have reported here in Florence.

(f) We recommend that the Officer appointed to deal with Patriots should be of field rank. To the Italians rank is impressive and we have found that they will comply with directions and suggestion made by senior officers far more readily than if made by an officer of junior rank.

(g) We also recommend that in areas where large bodies of Patriots are found they should be segregated in buildings by Brigades instead of having small headquarters scattered all over the area. We think that keeping Brigades separate is better than putting them all together as they are easier to control and it prevents friction between Brigades due to petty jealousies which inevitably exist. This may also give the Allied Officer an opportunity for personal contact which does not exist where large numbers are gathered in one place.

(h) We found that the Patriots had taken possession of numerous motor vehicles in connection with their operations. Now, if any, were their own property. They have been ordered to report with them to the Provincial Transport Officer for future disposal. We recommend that this course be followed in future cases.

(i) Lastly we suggest that care should be taken to avoid "lionising" the Patriots to any great extent. Whilst everyone realises and appreciates the fact that they have done good work,

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(i) Lastly we suggest that care should be taken to avoid "lionising" the Patriots to any great extent. Whilst everyone realises and appreciates the fact that they have done good work, too much publicity gives them an exaggerated idea of their own importance and this makes them much more difficult to handle.

We fully realise that the conditions in Florence were exceptional and that the publicity given to the Patriots here was necessary for the purpose of encouraging Patriots further North.

2925

20. The volume of work in connection with Patriots is now diminishing and the principal tasks now are the issue of certificates to Patriots from outlying districts, placing them in employment and returning them to their homes.

21. All the surrendered arms and ammunition are now stored at the 33/60000000 RR Caserma, Via Borgognisanti, Florence, awaiting disposal.

22. In connection with the work here I would bring to notice the invaluable aid that I have received from Captain R.W. Glasspool and W.I. Cunningham, who were sent here from Region III to assist in this work. To a great extent it is due to their untiring efforts that the disbandment of such a large number of Patriots has been carried out without disorder. Captain W.I. Cunningham has now been posted to the Patriots' Section of AMG Fifth Army.

23. Lists of Patriots to whom certificates have been issued and extracts from the local newspapers are attached for information.

E. J. Dye, Lt. Colonel.
E. J. Dye, Lt. Colonel,
R.P.S.O., Region III,
attached Patriots' Section,
AMG Fifth Army.

Copies to : 33/60000000, AMG., Fifth Army. (2).
Colonel C.D. McCarthy, AGO. (2).
Lt. Col. F.J. Nichols, 33/60000000,
City of Florence. (1).

File. (1).

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E.J. Dye, Lt. Colonel,
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AMG Fifth Army.

Copies to : SGAO., AMG., Fifth Army. (2).
Colonel C.D. McCarthy, AGO. (2).
Lt. Col. T.J. Michie, SGAO.,
City of Florence. (1).
File. (1).

6924

31
ADDRESS BY G.O.C. 13 BRITISH CORPS TO PATRIOTS AT THE FORTUZZA DA BASO
ON 7 SEPTEMBER, 1944.

I am glad to have the opportunity of seeing some of the patriotic and partisans who have been taking part in co-operation with my Corps in the fighting around FLORENCE. During the last year, patriots and partisans have greatly assisted the Allied advance by working behind the German lines, cutting communications, committing acts of sabotage providing information and generally harassing the enemy.

During the fighting around FLORENCE, you have fought in the most determined manner against the Germans. You have assisted in driving them out of your ancient city. In doing this, you have undoubtedly killed many Germans.

What you have done both here and elsewhere during the last year is appreciated by the Allies.

The end of the war appears to be in sight, and we can all look forward to the re-establishment of peace in Europe.

In this area the fighting is already finished; the next task is to rebuild the social structure of Italy.

You have done well as soldiers, and we know that during the difficult times that lie ahead you will prove yourselves to be equally good as citizens.

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1943

HEADQUARTERS, REGION IX
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Public Safety Division
APO 394

21 Sept. 44

FILE : R.IX/PS/8/6

SUBJECT : Patriots.

TO : Provincial Commissioners and Provincial Public
Safety Officers, Region IX.

1. In dealing with Patriot problems in FLORENCE the following points emerged which may be found of interest and useful when similar problems arise in Region IX.

2. Patriots in the FLORENCE area, genuine and alleged, numbered about 4,000. They were presumed to be under the command of Lt. Col. Niccolli, who was undoubtedly a true patriot and was whole heartedly on the side of the Allies.

3. The patriots were formed into two divisions, namely the Potente Division composed of five Brigades and the Giustizia Libertà Division with three Brigades. In addition, there were a number of "Action Groups" in the city. These were entirely separate from the two divisions mentioned above and were composed of residents of FLORENCE. These, apparently, only came into active operation on the entry of the Allies into the city.

4. Col. Niccolli, with a small staff had his own headquarters in the Prefettura and the headquarters of the various Brigades and Groups were scattered throughout the city.

5. Of the five Brigades in the Potente Division, four were Communist and one Socialist. The Giustizia Libertà Division was supposedly non-political, but without doubt, the majority of its members were strong supporters of one or other of the political creeds in Italy other than Communism, and the feeling between the two divisions was not good.

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5. Of the five Brigades in the Potente Division, four were Communist and one Socialist. The Giustizia Libertà Division was supposedly non-political, but without doubt, the majority of its members were strong supporters of one or other of the political creeds in Italy other than Communism, and the feeling between the two divisions was not good.
6. In the four Communist Brigades, in addition ^{48,000} to the Brigade Commanders, there was a political Commissario attached to each Brigade and one in charge of the whole Division.
7. It was found that any orders emanating from Col. Niccoli or any of his Brigade Commanders were counter-signed by the Political Commissario, otherwise they were void and of no effect.

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- 2 -

8. The whole organisation, if such it could be called, was so loosely knit that Col. Niccoli could not tell me the name of anyone of his Brigade Commanders. Each Brigade and Division appeared to operate entirely independent of the others and the Action Groups seemed to be entirely outside the picture.

9. The Patriots were armed with various small arms, and a few light machine guns, hand grenades, etc. All the leaders professed entire ignorance of the number and/or type of arms in their respective Brigades and lists of such could not be obtained although repeatedly asked for.

10. In an endeavour to bring some sort of order out of chaos, it was arranged for the patriots to leave their various headquarters and concentrate in a disused Military Barracks. Later, when fighting in FLORENCE ceased, the Patriots paraded and were inspected by the Corps Commander under whom they had fought during the operations in FLORENCE. He handed certificates for the Patriots to the Divisional Commander.

11. Prior to the Parade an order directing them to surrender their arms by midday on 7 Sep (°) and a memorandum thanking them for their services to the Allied cause was posted throughout the city.

(°) - Note - The Parade took place before this expiry time.

12. Although a fair number of rifles, parts of machine guns and a large quantity of bombs and ammunition was surrendered there was no doubt that a large number of weapons, especially pistols, were withheld by the Patriots. As no lists of arms were available it was impossible to check the numbers surrendered.

13. The Patriots were informed of the serious view taken by the Allied Government regarding the non-surrender of their arms and later 10 Patriots were arrested for being in unlawful possession of arms (i.e., pistols) and were charged under Proclamation No. 1.

4921

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4921

14. Of the large number of Patriots in FLORENCE, at the most not more than 500 fought in the line, the remainder wandered round the town and guarded their own particular headquarters. Several cases were reported of Patriots entering houses and arresting the inmates alleged to be Fascist sympathisers and several cases of murder were reported, alleged to be the work of Patriots. They were inclined to ride rough shod over the civilian population and, in many cases, themselves resorted to Fascist methods.

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- 3 -

15. In dealing with the Patriots we came to the following conclusions :

- (a) It is vitally necessary to gain the full confidence of their leaders and convince them that the Patriot's return to civil life is far more necessary to them than continued fighting and that all Proclamations and Orders by the Allied Military Government must be strictly observed.
- NOTE - Quite a large number of Patriots ask to be allowed to accompany the Army North, into Austria, if necessary.

- (b) It is necessary to deal very firmly with them and to disarm them as quickly as possible after fighting in the area concerned has ceased. It seemed evident in FLORENCE that many of the arms were retained, not for use against the Allies, but rather against their political opponents after we have left the country. The parade of the Patriots and the issue of the certificates before the expiry of the time limit for the surrender of arms was not a success in FLORENCE and, in future cases, where large numbers of Patriots are being dealt with, the time limit for the surrender of the arms should expire before any certificates are issued and if it is obvious that large numbers of arms are being retained by the Patriots all certificates should be withheld. One cannot adopt the theory "No Arms, no Certificates" as it cannot be definitely ascertained whether every individual Patriot possesses arms.

- (c) Where there are large numbers of Patriots it will be necessary to allocate an officer to this duty alone, for a few days. It is a full time job.

- (d) Labour Officers should be contacted to give

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- (c) Where there are large numbers of Patriots it will be necessary to allocate an officer to this duty alone, for a few days. It is a full time job.
- (d) Labour Officers should be contacted to give priority to Patriots in obtaining work. It is very necessary that work be offered to them after disarmament, as they are otherwise without means of livelihood.
- (e) Whilst fighting with Allied troops Patriots are fed by the Army, but as soon as fighting ceases the supply of food ceases. During the time which elapses between the cessation of fighting and disarmament it is necessary to continue to feed them. It has been recommended to HQ., Allied Control Commission that this

should be done through ABC sources. If some effort to feed them is not made during the transition period serious disorders are likely to occur.

(g) It was found, with regard to repatriation of these Patriots whose homes are in Southern Italy or Sicily, that the best method was through Refugee channels, but, in these cases, it is necessary to stress the fact that they are not looked upon as Refugees.

(h) As previously mentioned, the control over the Patriots by their Commanders was practically negligible and, therefore, in towns where there are large numbers of Patriots it is advisable, if possible, to concentrate them in buildings or barracks by Brigades where some control can be exercised over them until they are distended.

(i) It will probably be found that the Patriots are in possession of a large number of vehicles, few of which, if any, are the property of the Patriots. They are loth to give them up and it is suggested that they be given a time limit to take them to the Registration Officer for disposal.

(j) It is thought inadvisable to "license" the Patriots to any great extent as it only gives them an exaggerated idea of their own importance and makes them much more difficult to handle. In PIONEROI they were given a good deal of publicity, apparently intended as encouragement to Patriots further North.

(k) Lastly, it is advisable that a representative of M.I.A. should be present in the area as soon as possible after occupation to deal with applications from Patriots desirous of joining the Italian Army.

16. Finally, there is no doubt that although there are a large number of good, genuine Patriots who have the Allied cause at heart and who have fought well in the interests of their country, there are also very many who have found it convenient to become Patriots at the last moment and who have not fought on any-thing in the interests of the Patriots. The officer dealing with the Patriots cannot possibly know all these people and must

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Copy to :

Public Safety Sub-Commission.
Patriots Branch.

(S.M.) R.J. ED 14-00493A
Regional Public Safety Officer.

AMG FIVE ARMY

HQ ACC

3743

23

PRIORITY

PATRIOTS BRANCH

RESTRICTED PD REF OUR CABLE THREE SIX SIX SEVEN OF TWO ONE
SEPT PD PAREN TO AMG FIVE ARMY FROM HQ ACC PAREN PERMISSION
REQUESTED FOR FOLLOWING PATRIOT REFS IN ADDITION TO THOSE
ALREADY GRANTED PD MAJ ALDO MACRI DR CAMILLO TREVES

4919

Copy of OUTGOING MESSAGE.

TO : AMG FIVE ARMY
FROM : HQ ACC

3667

21 Sept

RESTRICTED
PRIORITY
PATRIOTS BRANCH

PERMISSION REQUESTED FOR FOLLOWING TO PROCEED TO FLORENCE ON TWENTY FIFTH
SEPT. PD MAJOR SIR P M MAGNUS PAREN BRITISH OFFICER PAREN MISS LUTTMAN-
JOHNSON PAREN BRITISH SECRETARY PAREN SGT STOCKDALE PAREN ATS PAREN MRS
LAWRENSON PAREN BRITISH SECRETARY CADET ENSIGN ATKINSON PAREN BRITISH
SECRETARY PAREN LT COL FIDELE AND AVV BACHI PAREN ITALIAN PATRIOT REPS PD
PAREN TO AMG FIVE ARMY FROM HQ ACC PAREN DUTY IN CONNECTION WITH PATRIOT
ACTIVITIES

4(2).

Pakker

4918

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PATRIOT BRANCH
Adv. Detachment
APO. 394

TOP
SECRET

27

15 Sept. 1944

Ref. ACC/509/PAT

SUBJECT: HANDING IN OF ARMS^{by}/PATRIOTS

TO : COL. C.D. McCARTHY
Patriot Branch
Head Quarters A.C.C.

B. For my
trip to Florence
Thun
C. B. M.

Sir,

Since I left you on Wednesday, you will have had ample time in which to digest the report covering the Patriots situation in Florence rendered by Col. Bye.-

On returning to Florence I decided that it would be as well to study the position more closely and find out the real reason why the Patriots have not handed in their arms.

I had a conference with the following individuals, Sig. Caravaglia, Vice Commandant of the Potente Division, and Count Meoni, Chief of General Staff of the Arno Division and I have come to the following conclusion:

That the main reason why arms were not handed in is because quite 80% of the Patriots in this area are inclined to communism and I am of the opinion that the demand by the Allied Authorities to hand in arms was anticipated.

In this connection I would refer you to a discourse given on this very subject by Free Radio Milan which, as you know, is sponsored by ~~P.~~ the other reason which is quite minor is that there has been to my mind a certain lack of discretion in the way these people have been handled.

Patriot leaders of the Potente Arno Divisions who I talked to, told me quite definitely that, they resented that orders to disarm were given generally to the Patriots instead of being given through the leaders and I do feel that greater cooperation would have been experienced had we dealt summarily through the leaders.

68.17

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27^B

I am convinced now that it is almost an impossible task to collect the arms in this area at this late date. Signor Caravaglia in fact told me that as his division had been disbanded his members had all gone to their homes and that it would be quite impossible for him to do anything about it.

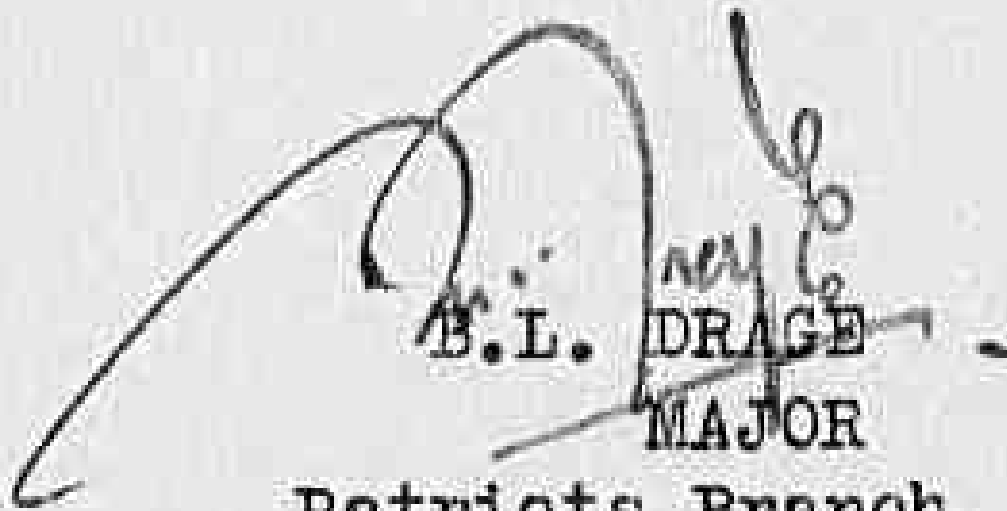
This may or may not be true, but in any case that is the position to-day.

I feel that this problem is extremely serious for the following reasons.

It will be well known to bands North of the line that the local divisions here have not handed in their arms, and, what is more, seem to be getting away with it. If a vacuum owing to the trend military operations is created in the North and the patriots show the same reluctance to disarm, a most serious situation may arise which would be quite beyond the powers of C.A.O.'s etc., to handle.

In conclusion, as difficult as it may be, or shall we say dangerous, I do feel that these people should be told something about the Allied intention with regard to the future government of Italy, because I am convinced that it is mainly the political issue which represents the seat of the trouble.

I am quite certain that although to all intents and purposes the patriot bands have been disbanded, that there is in existence a secret order and plan whereby these bands would be remustered on reception of a pre-arranged signal.


B.L. DRAGE
MAJOR

Patriots Branch
Adv. Detachment

RESTRICTED^{MSC}
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INCOMING MESSAGE

25 SEP Recd

6078

TO: HQ ACC FOR PATRIOTS BRANCH

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: 48/24

FROM: ANG 5 ARMY

CLASSIFICATION:

REFERENCE No: 8630

PRECEDENCE: PRIORITY

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: SEP

OFFICE OF ORIGIN:

RESTRICTED. CITE OUR 386.

YOUR CABLE 3743 REFERS OMW PERMISSION GRANTED FOR REPRESENTATIVES
NAMED TO PROCEED TO FLORENCE.

DIST

ACTION - Patriots Br (2)
INFO - A/CC
FILE (2)
FLOAT



4915

DATE and Time of RECEIPT SEP 24 1450A

Distribution:

RESTRICTED

AMG FIVE ARMY

HQ ACC

3743

23

PRIORITY

PATRIOTS BRANCH

RESTRICTED PD REF OUR CABLE THREE SIX SIX SEVEN OF TWO ONE
SEPT PD PAREN TO AMG FIVE ARMY FROM HQ ACC PAREN PERMISSION
REQUESTED FOR FOLLOWING PATRIOT REPS IN ADDITION TO THOSE
ALREADY GRANTED PD MAJ ALDO MACRI DE CAMILLO TREVES

4914

67 748
Chh file
Rome, 10th September 1944.

FLORENCE REPORT BY RENATO

We arrived in FLORENCE on the 4th August 1944 at about 16.00 hours and we tried contacting immediately the representatives of the Liberation Movement, but it was not possible as all the personalities of note and the archives were in the northern sector of Florence and the bridges across the ARNO were destroyed.

The first thing we did was to requisition the Air Force school for the use of the I.C.U. and the villa of the known fascist AMERIGO DUMINI for Special Force.

At 20.00 hours I put Major MACINTOSH in contact with Prof. TURNO senior of the Socialist Party and his son Prof. TURNO junior representative of the Tuscan Committee of National Liberation and with Dr. BARILE of the Action Party. They gave us the first precious information and we established the first contacts.

At 09.00 hours of the 5th August, all the members of the C.L. of the left side of the Arno were introduced to Maj. Macintosh. The members were the following: - TRIZZI of the Communist Party, Prof. TURNO of the Action Party, ORLANDO of the Socialist Party, Avv. BERTI of the Christian Democracy Party and DAMI of the Liberal Party. After the meeting I introduced Signor DAMI, military inspector of the partisans of the area, to Major Macintosh and we discussed various problems and also made an attempt to contact through W/T the partisans on the other side of the town. This W/T service had been organized by the partisan organization and they gave us the sets. Messages were sent for two days from the pre-arranged spot which was a room of the Pitti palace to the Dome, but for reasons not depending from us it was impossible to establish contact.

On the night of the 6th August, I was informed that FISHER of the Action Party had crossed the lines. Major Macintosh was notified immediately of this and in the early

representatives of the Liberation Movement, but it was not possible as all the personalities of note and the archives were in the northern sector of Florence and the bridges across the ARNO were destroyed.

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On the night of the 6th August, I was informed that FISHER of the Action Party had crossed the lines. Major Macintosh was notified immediately of this and in the early hours of the 7th August a first conversation took place. FISHER brought some very important information and he wanted one of us to cross the lines again with him in order to have direct contact with the principal representatives of the Liberation Committee. Instead of this, a telephonenumber was established by Fisher and from the 8th August the Allied Command was informed hour by hour of the situation on the other side and partisans were able to receive the necessary instructions. Only once I was allowed to pass the lines to carry some messages. This telephone system was controlled by 6 Action Party Members (4 on the German side and four on our side) and they fulfilled

their task very well indeed.

On the 8th August, Prof. RAGGHIANI President of the C.L.N., Col. NICCOLI commander of the partisan military Command and another member of the Action Party crossed the lines and were immediately introduced to Major Macintosh.

Special Force was able to control the situation from the start and Major Macintosh, Lt. Morris and myself were the first to enter the northern sector of the town as soon as the signal to act had been given to the partisans.

Major Macintosh was introduced to the political and intellectual personalities of Florence in order to be able to have a clear judgement of the situation from every kind of source of information.

From this moment a closer collaboration followed between Special Force and the Partisan Military Committee and the C.L.N.

Before and during my journey Major Macintosh gave me all the necessary instructions on the work I was to do in Florence. My task was to remain in the town as liaison with the various parties, the Committee and Special Force and develop activities in connection with northern Italy. I was to requisition Dumini's house, have a car and funds to develop my work and have contacts not only in Florence and Tuscany but also with Northern Italy.

Just before he left, Maj. Macintosh introduced me to Major Henderson and Prof. Ragghianti President of the C.L. as liaison officer and with them I discussed the situation and the work to do. Major Macintosh left some jobs unfinished and told me to settle them with Maj. Henderson such as permits for families of those killed to return to Rome, permits for crossing of bridges for Patriots collaborating with us, car permits for the Liberation Committee and to see about the requisition of three cars found by me and of the villa etc.etc.

I was unable to get authority for anything from Major Henderson and this put me in a critical position with the committee and other people to whom I had made promises which I was unable to keep. I stated the case to Maj. Henderson and the only thing he allowed me to do was to cable to Rome as follows:

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4912

"Major Macintosh

"Do you require my services? Is there any necessity for me to remain in Florence? If so please ask Major Henderson to grant authority with regard to previous agreements regarding houses, cars, drivers permits, contacts with the Liberation Committee etc.etc.

Renato"

This telegram was never sent. After two days Major Henderson informed me that he had a talk with the Commander of Special Force and that the question had been

- 3 -

been settled. I was to wait a few days for the return of the Commander who would give me instructions of my work.

Later it was decided that I should return to Rome on the 5th September and the car and the Villa Du-mini were given back.

Here are a few general remarks about the situation : -

1. - One must remember that in Florence the Committee of Liberation and the Military Centre were really a government before and during the state of emergency and especially during the days immediately preceeding the arrival of allied troops from the southern to the northern part of Florence and with the help of the Municipal board and commissioners, civil and military administration was done well in spite of the difficulties of the moment.

Right up to the day of my departure, the board and the municipal commissioners were not recognized as such by the allies. This made an impression on the Florentine population because they knew that these men at the head of public administration were honest, capable democratic and reliable. Most of them had been in prison during the Nazi occupation to uphold their ideals.

2. - The various partisan brigades fought very well and held the front for several days. The Communist bands were well armed as they had received droppings from the allies, while others like the Giustizia & Libertà Division (ex Rosselli) had only weapons captured from Germans and Fascists. This Division for various days held the most dangerous sector of Florence in spite of insufficient armament. Their losses was in that period of 48 dead and 100 wounded.

These brigades were hoping to be incorporated in the regular army but instead they have been dissolved by the Allied Command.

3. - While the partisans have no authority now to arrest fascists the Allied authorities do nothing with

4911

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These brigades were hoping to be incorporated in the regular army but instead they have been dissolved by the Allied Command.

3. - While the partisans have no authority now to arrest fascists the Allied authorities do nothing with regard to this question and have liberated fascists previously arrested by the partisans and by the carabinieri. In the important administrative positions squadristas are still doing what they please. I have given the Allied authorities lists and information on fascists but up to now no steps have been taken.

If this state of things continue, unpleasant incidents might happen, and it must be remembered that as we go further north the population is better educated and has a higher political sense and would not stand for this kind of treatment.

./.

- 4 -

This is only a brief summary of what I learnt, saw and heard in Florence, but it could be completed with another inspection in this area as it would be easier now to contact personalities and give exact data of what happen during those days.

f.to RENATO.

0127

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No. 785016

PIO RENATO.

4910

23 SEP Recd

RESTRICTED
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INCOMING MESSAGE

5907

TO: HEX HQ ACC FOR PATRIOTS BRANCHSIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: 80/22FROM: AMG 5 ARMY

CLASSIFICATION: _____

REFERENCE No: 5987PRECEDENCE: PRIORITYDATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: SEP 22 1844A OFFICE OF ORIGIN: _____

RESTRICTED. REF YOUR CABLES 3690, 3667 PERMISSION GRANTED
FOR BOTH VISITS. CITE OUR 373.

DIST

ACTION - Patriots Br (2)
INFO - A/CC
FILE (2)
FLOAT

SEEN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mc. CARHY	<i>Mc</i>	
Maj. MAGNUS	<i>P.D.</i>	
Maj. DRAGE		
Capt. SHVADZIN		
Col. FAVA		
C. C.		

4909

DATE and Time of RECEIPT SEP 22 2042A

Distribution:

RESTRICTED

57

22^A

ANG FIVE ARMY

HQ ACC 3667

21

RESTRICTED
PRIORITY
PATRIOT BRANCH

PERMISSION REQUESTED FOR FOLLOWING TO PROCEED TO
 FLORENCE ON TWENTY FIFTH SEPT PD MAJOR SIR P M
 MAGNUS PAREN BRITISH OFFICER PAREN MISS DUTTMAN
 HYPEN JOHNSON PAREN BRITISH SECRETARY PAREN SGT
 STOCKDALE PAREN ATE PAREN *MS* LAURENSEN PAREN
 BRITISH SECRETARY CADET ENSIGN ATKINSON PAREN
 BRITISH SECRETARY PAREN LT COL FIDELIS AND AVV BACHI
 PAREN ITALIAN PATRIOT RAPS PD PAREN TO ANG FIVE
 ARMY FROM HQ ACC PAREN DUTY IN CONNECTION WITH
 PATRIOT ACTIVITIES

4908

Two of the three proposed studios are ready for the third we await equipment already shipped from the U.S. I.I.A.R. has bought a generator on our instructions. Turntables are being constructed which will take 12" 78 rpm discs. Within a day or two 33 1/3 rpm tables should have arrived. We will need for them a Discarius library or its equivalent.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

This is the first overall report on the Florence operation. The city power plant is not yet working so we have been restricted to the most essential work and shall be able to have all sections fully operating only when electricity is available from the city plant. This should be within a few more days and in the meantime we are making shift with small generators.

Leaflets

These are the first priority: using two and sometimes three flatbed presses since Aug. 24 we have printed 400,000 "Last Advice" leaflets; 755,000 "Latest News" and 700,000 "Allies in Germany" leaflets.

Radio

We are not yet on the air. The 1 km mobile station arrived yesterday from Rome and should be ready by tomorrow. We await permission of C.S.O., A.A.I. to begin broadcasts. The Military felt before that a steady signal would result in immediate shelling, but I do not think there would be any danger of that now.

We have finished construction of a 5 km driver stage at our transmitter station. Two of the transmitters built there lacked sufficient insulation and both burned out. The trouble will be rectified this week.

With material found here and ordered from Naples and Rome we should have a 5 km station ready within about six weeks.

We have found competent operators for transmitters and are bringing in an engineer from Lucce to take over E.I.A.A. engineering in Florence. He is a first-rate man who incidentally built large stations in Milan, Turin and Genoa.

Two of the three proposed studios are ready. For the third we await equipment already shipped from the U.S. E.I.A.A. has bought a generator on our instructions. Turntables are being constructed which will take 12" 78 rpm discs. Within a day or two 33/3 rpm tables should have arrived. We will need for them a Phaeus library or its equivalent.

187

- 2 -

3,000 10 inch 78 rpm classic and ballad discs have been collected and also 300 jazz recordings. We shall need as many discs as Rome or Naples can send up to us.

The complete M3 library stolen from Radio Rome has been recovered here.

The R.I.A.R. employees are being sifted, some must go but a number are trustworthy.

The studios are not good. They were poorly constructed in a converted house.

I do not think that it would be worthwhile bothering about local programmes for some weeks because although it is hoped to have electricity for essential services within a very short time, it will take much longer to give electricity to private houses.

MONITORING

Until the generator which needs overhauling can be replaced or we have power from the town, we are only doing day monitoring as follows:

Allied Morse	Rome (JFKS in Italian)	0800 to 1800 hrs - 7 - 10,000 words
Reuter:	0800 to 1800 hrs - 3 - 7,000 words	
London RAR:	0800 to 1800 hrs - 5,000 words	
Allied Voice:	BBC in English - 0800 to 1800 hrs	
	240 in Italian - 0830 to 1630 hrs	
Aris Voice:	German - Overland and Rome	
	Italian - National Fascist	

Night monitoring will start in a day or two, but with a press dead line of 1700 hrs and no radio, the present lack of night news is not serious.

NEWS

Two Italian dailies and bulletins - wall and mimeograph bulletins are serviced from JMW, Reuters and London. Rome gets full coverage on all Florence news.

PRESS

The two dailies now printing are "Corriere di Firenze" (RAB controlled) - 50,000 and the Liberation Committee "Evening" "Nazione del Popolo" - 20,000. Corriere di Firenze is printing on four flatbed presses in the same plant as the leaflets necessitating a news deadline at 1700 hrs. At the moment it is a makeshift affair but an editor has been selected and a news editor should arrive from

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Reuter:	0800 to 1800 hrs - 3 - 7,000 words
London RAD,	0800 to 1800 hrs - 5,000 words
Allied Voice:	BBC in English - 0800 to 1900 hrs
	BBC in Italian - 0830 to 1930 hrs
Axis Voice:	German - Overcast and Rome
	Italian - National Fascist

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- 3 -

Elision, the Press Officer and I had a meeting with the five parties, the upshot of which was that they agreed to be content to adopt "Nazione del Popolo" as a four page all-party organ as soon as A.M.C. starts functioning. Unless they change their minds this will mean an unheard of state of peace - no party quarrels for increases in circulation and less polemic than in five weeklies were busy abouting at each other.

1,000 wall bulletins are distributed twice weekly. This probably will have to be increased as the Armies advance.

We will have to find a solution for servicing Leghorn, Lucca etc. which as yet have no newspapers. The Press Officer is touring these districts to-day.

PRINTING

There are three fast man rotaries here at the Nations (Fab offices) which will cover all needs when there is power. We have found the only known ink factory in liberated Italy, with a large stock of lithographic and all letter inks. Preparations are being made to control production. Detailed printing report attached.

PATRIOTS

Patriots Branch A.M.C. have opened up in this office alongside "B" Section, and it is hoped that both will be able to derive and give assistance. It is good that they are here since there is much to do. The A.M.C. effort to disarm Florence Patriots here work is finished had little result. As an example, only seven pistols were handed in and it is believed that a fair number of weapons including machine guns etc. have been hidden. We will help Patriots Branch to the full.

GENERAL

"B" Section is sending in the usual periodical reports. Publications have opened a propaganda shop and a number of display windows with a good service in pictures etc. from home.

The transport situation is magnificent. A fortnight ago there were hardly any cars to be seen in Florence, the Germans were reported to have taken all away. We now have 42 really good cars on hire and are deciding which we wish to keep before releasing 20 to A.M.C. and other commands.

I should like to make personal mention of Mr. Wheeler Admin. Officer.

five parties. the upshot of which was that they agreed to be content to adopt "Luzione del popolo" as a four page all-party organ as soon as A.D.B. starts functioning. Unless they change their minds this will mean an unheard of state of peace - no party quarrels for increases in circulation and less polemics than if five weeklies were busy shouting at each other.

1,000 wall bulletins are distributed twice weekly. This probably will have to be increased as the armed advance.

We will have to find a solution for servicing Leghorn, Pisa, Lucca etc. which as yet have no newspapers. The Press officer is touring these districts to-day.

PAINTING

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PATRIOTS

Patriots Branch A.D.C. have opened up in this office alongside "P" Section, and it is hoped that both will be able to derive and give assistance. It is good that they are here since there is much to do. The A.D.C. effort to disarm Florence Patriots does work is finished had little result. as an example, only seven pistols were handed in and it is believed that a fair number of weapons including machine guns etc. have been hidden. We will help Patriots Branch to the full.

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I should like to make personal mention of Mr. Wheeler admin. officer. He came here with me after the unit had been running without administrative

organisation at a difficult stage for about three weeks and he has put affairs into first-rate order, acting as administrative, fiscal procurements, personnel, real estate and messing officer, besides helping out in every other way possible.

G.I. SINCLAIR MOBLE

Major, The Buffs

O.C. F.R.B. FLORENCE

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put affairs into first rate order, acting as administrative, financial
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G. M. SINCLAIR HOMES
Major, The Buffs
O.C. F.W.B. FLORENCE

4904

Col. Fava's Report

57

September 18, 1944.

20^ATo the attention of Col. Mc CARTHY.

I deem it necessary to report the real situation of the Patriots in the town of Florence.

On the 7th September inst., three days before my arrival there, the dissolution of the bands and the delivery of the arms by the Patriots took place during a meeting held in "Fortezza di Basso" in Florence, in the presence of the Military Allied Authorities. But it seems that only a small part of these arms has been really handed over and that most arms are still in patriots' possession: they are not willing to surrender them.

Col. Bye, chief of the A.M.G. Patriots Section in Florence, is perfectly aware of the situation and determined to obtain the delivery of the arms, at any cost.

The few arms collected, have been handed over by members of civic bands.

Almost all civic bands have complied with the proclamation of the Allied Authorities, but the "Arno" Division, composed exclusively of communists, did not do so. This strongly armed division is very well organized and is at present in possession of weapons of every kind including heavy arms and hand-grenades.

I have had repeated contacts with the leaders of this Division. I have pointed out to them the dangers they will confront by maintaining their intransigent attitude, but all in vain.

The Vice-Commander of the "Arno" Division Mr. Gino CARAVAGLIA has complained about the system adopted in disarming and dissolving his unit.

He has stated that the main reason no arms were surrendered was owing to the fact that instead of undertaking the collection of arms before the dissolution of the bands, it has been done just the contrary. He has pointed out that therefore the failure to collect the arms cannot be thrown on the leaders but on the wrong system adopted by the Allied Authorities.

Although the remarks of the leaders of the Patriots units are partly right, I am convinced that even adopting another system the "Arno" Division would not have consented to be disarmed.

The danger of such a situation is evident and could threaten the interior public order perhaps already in the near future.

It is, moreover, obvious how dangerous could be a precedent of this kind on account of the more numerous, better armed and organized units, existing in Northern Italy.

To tolerate such a situation would be equal to ratify the fact that the good citizens, obedient to the law, will be disarmed and remain in the mercy of still armed elements whose future intentions are quite easy to surmise.

4903

Seen by Col. McCarthy
10/1/44

13 SEP Recd

87 USC

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

INCOMING MESSAGE

5124

TO: HQ ACC

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: 50/13

FROM: AME EIGHTH ARMY REAR CLASSIFICATION: NONE

REFERENCE No: R/1505 PRECEDENCE: NONE

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: SEPT 11/1000 OFFICE OF ORIGIN: COTE: NONE

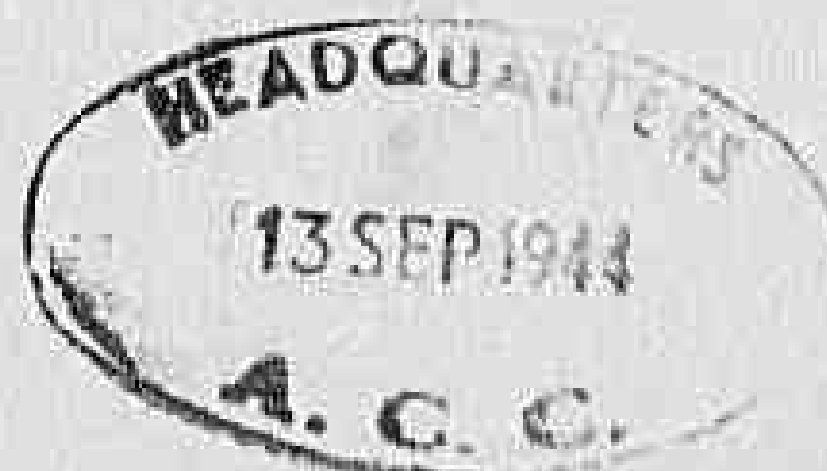
REFERENCE YOUR NR 3075 DATED 10 FLORENCE NOT REPEAT NOT IN AREA ADMINISTERED
BY THIS HQ

ACC DIST

ACTION : PATRIOTS BR (2)

INFO : A/CC
FILE (2)
FLOAT

RECN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mc. CORMY		
Maj. MAG. H.		
Maj. DRAGE		
Capt. SMY. DUFF		
Col. FAYE		
C. C.		



DATE and Time of RECEIPT SEPTEMBER 13/1130

Distribution:

4902

*File.**18 A*

AMG EIGHT ARMY

HQ AGO

3075

10

RESTRICTED

PRIORITY

PATRIOTS BRANCH

AUTHORITY REQUESTED FOR MAJOR
DRAGE THIS HQ TO VISIT FLORENCE
PD PAREN TO AMG EIGHT ARMY FROM
HQ AGO PAREN VISIT IN CONNECTION
WITH PATRIOT ACTIVITIES

6991

17A
REPORT ON VISIT TO FLORENCE BY COL. MC CARTHY.

Arrived 27th August 1300 hrs. Departed 28th August 1000 hrs.

1. While in FLORENCE I met Brig. Gen. HUME and Col. Mayne. Also I had a two hour discussion with the Military Comdr. Brig. FIRTH. I saw also Mr. RAYNER of FWE and Comdr. HOLDSWORTH.

2. HANDLING OF PATRIOTS IN FLORENCE

I was able to start a special team for which Col. Mayne had asked. The team consists of Lt. Col. BYE from 9th Region and two Captains from No. 12 Region.

At a meeting held in the afternoon of 27, we asked Lt. Col. BYE to report especially on two points :-

(a) To give a history of what actually happened in FLORENCE so far as Patriots are concerned.

(b) To make recommendations of how both genuine and bogus Patriots ~~and~~ controlled during various stages of street fighting in a large city.

Brig. PRITH told me quite definitely that the Patriot situation was working smoothly now in Florence. The procedure is as follows:- From time to time the Brigadier marks the limits of the AMG control and within these limits AMG control all Patriots; outside these limits the Military Comdr. controls all Patriots in every way. If an AMG officer is faced with a serious disturbance inside his area, he asks the Military Comdr. to take it off his hands and the way this is done is interesting because I think it is a new procedure; the Military Comdr. tells the Garrison Comdr. to quell the disturbance with troops which have been specially allotted to him for this purpose which means that the Military Comdr. need not put back any operational troops and so dislocate his other arrangements.

It is interesting to note that quite a number of people, including Patriots, have used the opportunity of attacking personal and political enemies and I do not think it will ever be possible to stop this kind of thing during the troublesome period of street fighting in a large city.

It is interesting to note that Special Forces play a very important role in FLORENCE and I think that the number of their teams should be increased, as they are in France, because a Special Force team, or whatever it is called, seems to be the best link between the Military Comdr. and Patriots while fighting is going on. When fighting has stopped in an area and the area has been handed over to AMG, the same teams should continue to impart useful information, this time to AMG officers, for a short period so that AMG officers can be fully in the picture about the Patriots and about important Italian personalities BEFORE the Special Force teams move forward.

At a meeting held in the afternoon of 27, we asked Lt. Col. Pitt to report especially on two points :-

- (a) To give a history of what actually happened in FLORENCE so far as Patriots are concerned.
- (b) To make recommendations of how both genuine and bogus Patriots ~~and~~ controlled during various stages of street fighting in a large city.

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3. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION ABOUT PATRIOTS.

At a meeting held by BGS Ops. at which Mr. Raynor, Comdr. Holdsworth, Col. Riepe and myself were present, it was agreed that, in order to tackle the Patriot question properly in the field, it was essential that the forward elements of Special Forces, FWD and the Patriots Branch should be working closely together somewhere near advance AAI HQ, and probably, therefore, in close touch with 5th and 8th Army.

I was able to pass to BGS Ops. some information which happened to be badly needed which had been passed to me from the Economic Branch of ACC and from the Italian Government, concealing power stations and pump stations in areas which might be flooded in Northern Italy.

It was laid down by Ops. that all kind of information, which is badly needed and can be drawn from Italian Government and ACC channels, should be passed to Ops. who will decide to what extent it is possible for Patriots on the Northern side of the line to protect them. BGS Ops. AAI will alone decide what measures are taken including what broadcasts are sent out.

So far as the Patriot Branch is concerned, Regional Comdrs. of forward Regions are each allocating one of their staff officers at their HQ to look after Patriot problems and to pass instructions to their provinces. Regional Commissioners are each sending an Intelligent Officer to collect information from us on Patriot Bands' activities etc.

4. PAMPHLET ON PATRIOTS

It occurred to me in Florence that there are a large number of military organisations in any town who should know how to handle Patriots and how imperative it is to give them priority for purposes of reemployment and I am producing a brief pamphlet which can be distributed, not only to COs, but also Sub Area Comdrs., Military Comdrs. Special Force officers, PWB, ICU and Labour officers. This should be ready in about 10 days time.

5. A VISIT TO BRIGADIER DUNLOP AT CHIANGIANO

On my way back from AAI HQ, I discussed the above Patriot question with Brig. Dunlop who is completely in agreement with the recommendations I have made. Also we are seriously concerned about the time factor in producing officers in forward regions and in training them in how to handle Patriots before they are sent out on their own into the field.

Ops. AAI will alone decide what measures are taken including what broadcasts are sent out.

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1899

27 AUG Rec

SECRET

2 CORPS 13 CORPS 4 CORPS INFO AAI NAAP NATOUHA 8th NATOUHA

8th ARMY Hqs HQS 71 GARRISON AGC

71/25

5 ARMY

SECRET

5491

ROUTINE

AUG232232B

UNTIL FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS ARE PUBLISHED BY THIS HEADQUARTERS, THE CITY OF FLORENCE WILL BE OFF-LIMITS TO ALL ARMED MILITARY PERSONNEL EXCEPT THOSE CONCERNED WITH OPERATIONS IN THE FLORENCE AREA AND THOSE WHO ARE REQUIRED TO VISIT FLORENCE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS. THE CORPS COMMANDERS CONCERNED WITH OPERATION IN THE FLORENCE AREA ARE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE PASSES TO PERSONNEL OF THEIR CORPS WHO ARE REQUIRED TO VISIT FLORENCE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS. PASSES FOR OTHER MILITARY PERSONNEL WHOSE BUSINESS REQUIRES VISITING FLORENCE WILL BE ISSUED BY G4 THIS HEADQUARTERS. ORDERS FROM THE HEADQUARTERS OF SUCH PERSONNEL WILL STATE THAT IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE BEARER TO VISIT FLORENCE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS. NATURE OF BUSINESS MUST BE STATED IN ORDERS AND PRESENTED AT TIME PASS IS REQUESTED. DESIRE THAT VISITORS FROM HIGHER HEADQUARTERS BE KEPT TO MINIMUM UNTIL OPERATIONAL SITUATION IN FLORENCE CLARIFIES. ALL VISITORS WILL BE WARNED BY AUTHORITY ISSUING PASSES REGARDING EXERCISE OF SECURITY MEASURES.

Civil Affairs Branch Dist

Army Sub-Comm.

Navy Sub-Comm.

Air Sub-Comm.

Displaced Persons Sub-Comm.

Patriot Branch

P.R.O.

Italian Refugee Branch

Information Div

Communication Sub-Comm.

ACC DIST

INFO-ACTION- CA BR

INFO- SECT GEN

ADM SEC

PUBLIC SAFETY

ECON SEC

ESTAB O

ADJUTANT

A/CO

FILE

SEEN.	INITIALS.	DATE.
Col. Mc. CARTHY		
Maj. MAGNUS	P.D.	13 Aug
Maj. DRAGE	P.D.	13/1/46
Capt. SALVADORI	H.S.	13/1/46
Col. FAVA		
C. C.		

4898

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 394.

Regional Control and Military Government Section.

Ref:

25th August 1944.

SUBJECT: Patriots in FLORENCE.

TO : SCAD, AMF Fifth Army.

1. In reply to your letter of 20th August I would assure you that this problem has been very carefully watched from here and also discussed with HQ. AAL.
2. In view of your strong recommendation a team of officers from Regions that are about to form are being sent to reach FLORENCE tomorrow. Colonel McCarthy is going up at the same time to investigate and report.
3. This team is for your ^{benefit} use in FLORENCE on Patriot work and it has been explained to Regional Commissioners that they can withdraw their officers when they wish to do so - probably within a fortnight. I am sure that their experience in FLORENCE should be useful for them afterwards.
4. It is not the function of the Patriot Branch of AOC HQ to go to FLORENCE or any other town except in an advisory capacity, and then only for a very brief visit. The Patriot Branch have many other duties to perform in ROMS, such as liaison with the Italian Government, and these duties must be carried out by the existing staff which is not numerous. The handling of patriots on the spot must be done by AMF staff.
5. Some special measures may have to be taken, e.g., in France teams of the Special Forces officers are introduced during the interregnum period to cope with unusual circumstances, but from the point of view of AMF I consider that you should have sufficient staff at your disposal to carry out AMF functions. Please discuss this with Colonel McCarthy.

MSH/JC.

Brigadier,
Executive Commission R.

25 AUG 44

13c.

Patriots Br 14

7316

HEADQUARTERS
AMG FIFTH ARMY
APO 464 U.S. ARMY

NAME	INITIALS	
✓ COL. MAG. TRIHY		
MAJ. MAG. US		
MAJ. DRAGE		
CAPT. SALVADORI		
1st LVT		

SECRET

20th August 1944.

109/2

SUBJECT: Patriots in Florence.

TO : H.Q., A.C.C. Patriots Branch.

Slew to Brig Lark

Cln
25/8.

1. At a meeting with A.M.G. Eighth Army on 18th August Group Captain Benson expressed his opinion that a considerable patriot problem will shortly arise in the city of Florence. Hitherto the patriots have been used in an operational role by the tactical Commanders and have been supplied with transport, rations and ammunition.

With the German withdrawal to the hills North of the city their usefulness has ceased and they now become an A.M.G. problem.

2. The demobilisation and absorption of these large numbers of patriots who have been of great service to the Allies presents a difficult situation, particularly when it has to be done within range of enemy guns.

Group Captain Benson gave it as his strong personal recommendation that a Senior Patriot Officer should be sent up from Headquarters A.C.C. to take charge of the situation for an estimated period of two to three weeks.

3. This recommendation is strongly endorsed by this Headquarters for the following reasons:

a. The problem is important enough to call for the presence of a senior officer, preferably of the rank of full Colonel, who can deal authoritatively with both the Patriot leaders and the Military Commanders. Such officers cannot be spared by Army A.M.G. as there are so few available.

b. The present problem can be regarded as a pattern of what will be found in the large cities further north and it is important both that it should be well handled now and that the experience gained here may be made available to all A.M.G. officers who will have to handle the large cities in the future.

c. It is felt strongly that this is an ideal opportunity for the authority responsible for planning A.M.G. patriot policy to tackle the problem on the ground and gain first hand experience.

4897

14³

4. It is therefore requested that Colonel McCarthy or some other suitable qualified officer not below the rank of Lt. Colonel be sent up to the city.

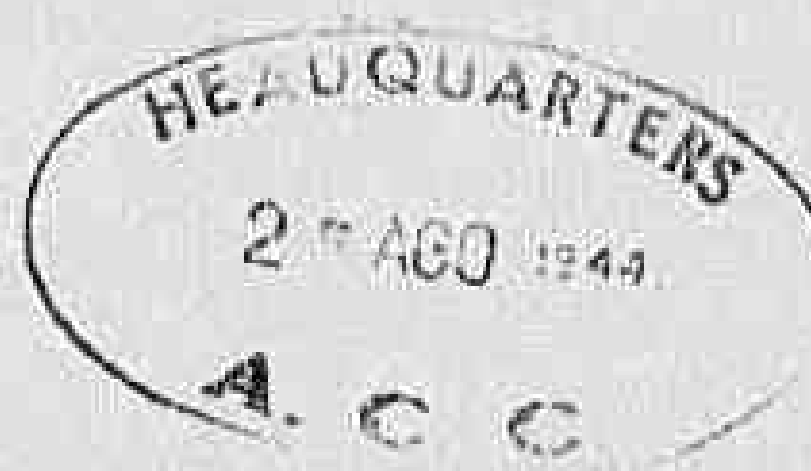
5. As it is thought that this question has been discussed with the Executive Commissioner it is requested that he be informed of the contents of this letter.

For the Commanding General:

E B Mayne

E.B. MAYNE,
Colonel, U.D.F.,
Chief of Staff,
A.N.G. Fifth Army.

/hdp



4896

SECRET

0149

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
H.C. & E.G. SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH

TO	~~FOR~~ Attachment	INFO.	ACTION
	Col. Mc CARTHY	<i>Info</i>	
	Major. MAGNUS		
	Major. DRAKE		
	Capt. SALVADORI	<i>M.S.</i>	
	Chief CLERK		
	<u>LIASON SECTION.</u>		
	Col. WAVA		
	Dr. THEVES		
	Mr. VELLE		
REMARKS		15/8/44	
~~Hand type page (2) from~~ ~~"The state of the..."~~ ~~being"~~ <i>M.S.</i>			

Extract of Signal
No. ML31 dated 14 Aug.
Sitrep - Florence - as at
1900 hours 14 Aug.

15 AUG Recd

CONFIDENTIAL3043 134
PARTISAN BR

ROME AREA COMMAND FOR HQ FOR RG AND MG SECTION

PG FLORENCE

M431

HEADQUARTERS

15 AUG 1944

3/15
CONFIDENTIAL
OF PRIORITY

AUG 141905B

A. C. C.

POSITION FLORENCE AT 1900 HRS 14 AUG 44. PROVINCIAL ADMIN ESTABLISHED PALAZZO MEDICI NOON TODAY. PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER MET COMITATO AND HEARD VIEWS REPRESENTING ALL PARTIES, PROFESSIONS AND CLASSES. EXAMINED CREDENTIALS OF MEMBERS AND NOMINATIONS FOR ADMIN OFFICES. NO NAME YET PROPOSED FOR PREFECT. NAMES FOR DEPUTAZIONE COMUNALE SUGGESTED AND DISCUSSED. GIUNTA PROVINCIALE AMMINISTRATIVE ALSO DISCUSSED AND PG INDICATED ALL MUST WORK TOWARD GOVERNMENT BY THOSE BODIES WHICH WILL BE PARTLY APPOINTED THEN FILLED UP AS MORE OF PROVINCE LIBERATED. NO NAMES YET APPROVED ANY OFFICES BUT LISTS BEING DRAWN UP SHOWING PARTY AFFILIATION, TRADE OR PROFESSION AND DOMICILE FOR EACH PERSON. EACH MAN MUST FILL SCHEDA PERSONALE AS WELL. COMMITTEE PROPOSED TOO MANY FLORENTINES PG SAID WHOLE PROVINCE MUST BE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED. PIETRO CINI HAS BEEN INSTALLED AS SINDACO IS GRAND OLD MAN OF SOCIALISM IN FLORENCE AND VERY POPULAR. COMMISSIONER CONSIDERS HIM TOO OLD AND IS GETTING OTHER NAMES THOUGH IF NOBODY BETTER FORTHCOMING WILL LET HIM CARRY ON. GIUNTA MUNICIPALE MEMBERS ARE ALREADY INSTALLED SEVERAL WERE SEEN AND LOOK GOOD BUT WILL WAIT A BIT BEFORE CONFIRMING ANY ONE. COMMITTEE HAS ALSO APPOINTED VARIOUS PEOPLE TO HEAD VARIOUS ADMIN DEPARTMENTS, THOSE EXAMINED HAVE BEEN FOUND DESPASCISTIZATION. COMMITTEE SEEMS WELL CONSTITUTED AND HAVE DONE VERY GOOD WORK. MADE QUITE CLEAR TO THEM THAT PROVINCE IS TO BE GOVERNED ON CONSTITUTIONAL LINES AND THIS WAS WELL RECEIVED. NAMES WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS CHECKED AND CONFIRMED.

† PARA. PRESENT PARTISAN POSITION ALL DISBANDED SOUTH OF RIVER, AREA

CONFIDENTIAL3043

ROME AREA COMMAND FOR ACC FOR RG & MG SECTION

PC FLORENCE

M431

AUG 141905B

3/15

CONFIDENTIAL
OF PRIORITY

(CONTINUED)

BEING PRESCRIBED NORTH OF RIVER IN WHICH WET 0600 HRS 15 AUG 44 NO PARTISAN WILL CARRY ARMS EXCEPT THREE PLATOONS OF ONE OFFICER AND TEN MEN EACH UNDER ORDERS OF PC TO DEAL WITH ANY VESTIGES OF ENEMY ACTION AND WITHIN THIS AREA LANES WILL BE ESTABLISHED THROUGH WHICH ARMED PARTISANS MAY PASS TO THEIR MAGAZINES AND ARMOURIES. PARTISANS HAVE BEHAVED WELL AND HAVE FOUGHT VERY BRAVELY. MANY CASUALTIES. MAJOR GLENK REPRESENTING PC AT THEIR FUNERAL TONIGHT. ALLIED MILITARY COMMAND TO THANK PARTISANS PUBLICLY FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE AND ARE STILL DOING.

+
3 Repairs

ACC DIST
Act - 2 A Br (2)
Inv - SEC GEN
Acc
PARTISAN BR
POL SEC (3)
Adm Sec
Econ Sec
P.R.O
INFO DIV
FILE

CONFIDENTIAL

4891

AUG 150700B

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
R.O. & L.C. Section,
Patriots Branch,

Ref. 57/v/RA2.

SUBJECT: Notes on Visit to Florence.

TO : Distribution under.

15 AUG 1947

Reference the fourth point referred to on page 2 of my letter of 8th August, I wish to make it clear that the company under reference would be used by the Army or Public Safety in an emergency, the whole object of the present Patriot organization south of the line being to settle the Patriots into civilians by usual civil procedure.

Wm. C. Kelly

G. D. McABNEY,
Colonel,
Patriots Branch,
R.O. & L.C. Section.

ED

DISTRIBUTION.

1 Copy for Brigadier Lush.
1 " " Brigadier Manselving.
2 Copies for Sp. Capt. Benson. (AM. 8th Army)
1 Copy File.
1 " War Mary.

Wm. C. Kirk

G. D. McARDY.
Colonel,
Patrols Branch,
R.C. & M.C. Section.

10

MEMORANDUM.

- 1 Copy for Brigadier Lamb.
- 1 " " Brigadier Macmillan.
- 2 Copies for Sp. Capt. Benson. (AMC. 8th Army)
- 1 Copy File.
- 1 " War Diary.

4893

14 AUG Roud

Patriot Br.57
14/8/55

This signal is paraphrase
of sitrap received here this
morning.

For your information.

E. Horder
Gut

14 Aug 44

C.A. Br.

4892

0158

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH

TO	FOLIO 11 113 Attachment	INFO. - ACTION	
✓	Col. Mc CARTHY		
✓	Major. MAGNUS		
✓	Major. DRAGE		
	Capt. SALVADORI	MS	
	Chief CLERK		
	LIAISON SECTION.		
	Col. FAVA		
	Dr. T. TES		
	Mr. VI A		

- REMARK -

4891

SECRET

1768

AMHQ

(BY KLS)

ACC HQ

1768

14 Aug 44

SECRET

PRIORITY

CIVIL AFFAIRS BRANCH

SITREP FLORENCE POSITION AT ONE SIX ZERO ZERO HOURS THIRTEEN AUGUST PD PARAN TO ADVISE FOR
GEORGE FIVE FROM ACC HQ PARAN ONE PD CONDITIONS NORTH FLORENCE LESS SERIOUS THAN ANTICI-
 PATED GERMAN'S DISTRIBUTED TWO HUNDRED GRAMS DAILY UNTIL FIVE DAYS AGO THEN ONE HUNDRED
 GRAMS AND LEFT TWENTY TWO DAYS SUPPLIES PD ONLY DESTITUTE WERE PERSONS AFRAID TO VENTURE
 OUTDOORS PD TWO PD FIFTY TONS SUPPLIES INCLUDING FOUR TONS MILK ACROSS ARNO AT ZERO ZERO
 ZERO ONE HOURS TODAY FLOW CONTINUING OVER PONTE VECCHIO AT RATE NEARLY FORTY TONS DAILY PD
 THREE PD JERBS AND TRAILERS WITH SUPPLIES WILL BEGIN CROSSING PONTE VECCHIO AT TWO ZERO
 THREE ZERO HOURS TODAY PD FOUR PD WE DESIRE TWO HUNDRED GRAMS ALL FLORENCE BEGINNING TO-
 MORROW PD FIVE PD ALIMENTATION ORGANISATION ESTIMATE FOUR HUNDRED AND TEN THOUSAND PERSONS
 IN FLORENCE NORTH OF ARNO PD SIX PD DRINK WATER SITUATION ALRIGHT PD SEVEN PD POTENTI
 DECEASED PATRIOT COMMANDER GIVEN PUBLIC FUNERAL YESTERDAY FULL BRITISH AND PATRIOT
 MILITARY HONOURS PD EIGHT PD AS OF TWO ZERO THREE ZERO HOURS TODAY ALL PATRIOTS SOUTH OF
 ARNO AND ALL PATRIOTS ENTERING THIS AREA WILL BE DISARMED PD NINE PD PATRIOTS ARRESTED
 ATTEMPTING MURDER CMP LOST PD TEN PD TOTAL CIVILIAN CASUALTIES SOUTH OF ARNO SINCE OUR
 ARRIVAL TWO HUNDRED INCLUDING FIFTY KILLED PATRIOTS PATRIOTS UNDER CONSTANT BRILLIANT
 PROBLEMS BURIALS MET BY CONSECRATING PORTION OF HOBOLI GARDENS PD TWELVE PD POLITICAL
 NOTE DURING POTENTI FUNERAL ORATION ONE SPEAKER MENTIONED PROLETARIAT CMA CROWD HOWLED
 PARAN NOT PROLETARIAT BUT POPOLI PARAN PD THIRTEEN PD RACIOMTE HEAD OF COMMITTEE ALL
 FLORENCE SINGS ELAQUEUR PLEA FOR INCLUSION TUSCANY COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN GOVERNMENT OF
 FLORENCE PD FOURTEEN PD FOUR NEWSPAPERS HAVE APPEARED NORTH FLORENCE SITUATION BROUGHT

4899

CONT'D.....

SECRET

1768

PAGE TWO

UNDER CONTROL BY AGREEMENT PENDING OUR CROSSING TO POST ORDERS PD FIFTEEN PD HAVE
FOUND STOCKS OF UPDATED GERMAN PROCLAMATIONS TO OUR TROOPS DECLARING FLORENCE OPEN
CITY NO EVIDENCE OF POSTING OR DISTRIBUTION PD SIXTEEN PD HEAVY GERMAN SHELLING
LAST NIGHT HIT WITHIN FIFTY YARDS PIPPI PALACE AND STRUCK MANY BUILDINGS AREA VIALE
MACHIAVELLI PD SEVENTEEN PD SCAD FLORENCE HAS TURNED OVER TO FC FLORENCE

4889

L.T. MONTAGNI, JR.
1st Lt AGO
ADJUTANT

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH

TO	FOLIO 1045. } Attachment	INFO.-	ACTION
✓	Col. Mc CARTHY	OK	
✓	Major. MAGNUS		
✓	Major. DRAGE	B	
✓	Capt. SALVADORI		
	Chief CLERK		
	LIAISON SECTION.		
	Col. FAVA		
	Dr. T. TES		
	Mr. VI A		

REMARKS

BEST COPY POSSIBLE

14 AUG Recd 57
SECRET

3012 10A
 Patriots Br

NOTE AREA COVERED FOR ABC DE FOR PG AND 12 SECTION

Chen

MAIN AIR STATION

1431

AUG 13/1443

SECRET

INSEPARATE

CITE: NONE

HEADQUARTERS
 14 AUG 1944
 A. C. C.

REPORT FLORENCE. POSITION AT 1400 HOURS 13 AND 14.

ONE. 3000 FLORENCE HAS TURNED OVER TO PG FLORENCE.

TWO. 50 TONS SUPPLIES INCLUDING 4 TONS MILK ARRIVED AND AT 0001 HOURS TODAY FLOW CONTINUED OVER PONTE VECCHIO AT RATE NEARLY 40 TONS DAILY.

THREE. CONDITIONS NORTH FLORENCE LESS SEVERE THAN ANTICIPATED GERMS DISTRIBUTED 200 CDS DAILY UNTIL 5 DAYS AGO THEN 100 CDS AND LEFT 2 DAYS SUPPLIES. ONLY DESTITUTE WERE PERSONS AFRAID TO VENTURE OUTDOORS.

FOUR. ORDER SAME SITUATION ALL RIGHT.

FIVE. TOTAL CIVILIAN CASUALTIES SOUTH OF ARNO SINCE OUR ARRIVAL 200 INCLUDING 50 KILLED.

SIX. 5 WOUNDED HERE LAST (367) HOURS.

SEVEN. 5 PARTISANS ARRESTED ATTEMPTING BREACH OUR LINE.

EIGHT. ALL-GERMAN ORGANISATION ESTIMATE 420,000 PERSONS IN FLORENCE NORTH OF ARNO.

NINE. WE ISSUE 200 CDS ALL FLORENCE BEGINNING TOMORROW.

TEN. GERMS UNDER CONSTANT SHELLFIRE PROBLEMS SUPPLIES NOT BY CONSERVATIVE POSITION OF ROSSOLI GARNER.

ELEVEN. O(OL) ITALIAN KILLED YESTERDAY NO O(OL) NOW LEFT.

TWELVE. POTENTI RESEMBLED PARTISAN COMMANDER GIVEN PUBLIC FUNERAL YESTERDAY FULL BRITISH AND PARTISAN MILITARY HONOURS.

SECRET

4888

SECRET

CONTINUED PAGE 2

N 431

THIRTEEN. 4 NEWSPAPERS HAVE APPEARED WITH FAVORABLE SITUATION BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL BY AGREEMENT PENDING OUR CROSSING TO NEXT OFFICE.

FOURTEEN. FACTORIES READ OF GOVTATO ALL FAVORABLE NEWS ELABORATE PLEA FOR INCLUSION TUGANT COMPTON MEMBERS I GOVERNMENT OF FAVORABLE.

FIFTEEN. HAVE FOUND STOCKS OF WEAPONS GERMAN PROCLAMATIONS TO OUR TROOPS DECLARING FAVORABLE OPEN CITY NO EVIDENCE OF FORGING OR DESTRUCTION.

SIXTEEN. HEAVY GERMAN SHELLING LAST NIGHT HIT WITHIN 50 YARDS PITT PALACE AND OTHER MANY BUILDINGS AREA VIALA MACHIAVELLI.

SEVENTEEN. POLITICAL NOTE DURING POTENT FAVORABLE CREATION ONE SPARKER MENTIONED PROLETARIAT, CROWD MOVED "NOT PROLETARIAT BUT PEOPLE".

EIGHTEEN. AS OF 2030 HOURS TODAY ALL PARTISANS SOUTH OF AREA AND ALL PARTISANS ENTERED THIS AREA WILL BE DISARMED. 19 JERKS AND TRAILING WITH SUPPLIES WILL BEGIN CROSSING PONTE VECCHIO AT 2030 HOURS TODAY.

ACC. DISK

ACTION CA BR (2)

INFO REC GMR
A/CC
REC'D SEC
ADM REC
FOOD
POL SEC (3)
INFO DIV
ENG
FILE

PATRIOTS
BR

SECRET

DATE AND TIME RECEIVED 11/0930

4887

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH

TO	FOLIO	INFO. - ACTION.
	Attachment	
	Col. Mc CARTHY	Seen
① ✓	Major. MAGNUS	P. N. H. H.
② ✓	Major. DRAGE	
③ ✓	Capt. SALVADORI	M. J.
	Chief CLERK	
	LIAISON SECTION	
	Col. FAVA	file
	Dr. TREVIS	
	Mr. VILLA	

REMARKS.

4886

19-40

TO: HOME AREA COMMAND FOR AGC HQ FOR R2 & M3
FROM: MAIN AMF 3TH ARMY

REF NR: M431

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: AUG 11 12 53

SECRET

CLASS: SECRET

PREC: IMMEDIATE

PATRIOTS

FLORENCE SITREP. POSITION AT 2000 HRS 11TH AUG 44.

1. CARDINAL DELLA COSTA SENT OVER WORD AT NOON FOOD SITUATION DETERIORATE NORTH OF ARNO FIRST NEED MILK FOR BABIES, FLOUR AND WATER.
2. 8 TONS FLOUR 1 TON MIL BEING MANHAULED ACROSS PONTE VECCHIO TONIGHT.
3. BORE CAN PUT WATER ACROSS TOMORROW MORNING IF PEOPLE OTHER SIDE CAN ORGANIZE WATER POINT AND DISTRIBUTION.
4. NO AMF PERSONNEL YET ALLOWED TO CROSS ARNO.
5. AMF SAY BRIDGING QUESTION MAY BE DECIDED TOMORROW MEANWHILE ONLY FOOD FOUND IS UNDER OBSERVATION AND FIRE.
6. REPORTED ALL MOTOR VEHICLES INCLUDING AMBULANCES AND HEARSEES AND ALL LIVE STOCK IN TOWN AND OUTFKIRTS DRIVEN OFF BY GERMANS.
7. PALAZZO VECCHIO UNDAAGED BEING HELD BY 200 MUNICIPAL GUARDS.
8. DESTRUCTION ACCORDING TO LUNBY OF TIMES WHO CROSSED THIS MORNING EXTENDS 300 METRES BACK FROM PONTE VECCHIO AND INCLUDE PART OF PALACE OF GUINELPHS.
9. REPORTED GERMANS REMOVED ALL MEDICAL SUPPLIES THEY FOUND NOT SOME HIDDEN.
10. OUR ONLY FIRE ENGINE DESTROYED BY SMALL FIRE.
11. PARTISANS LAST NIGHT TRIED HOLD PUBLIC EXECUTION OF 2 SUSPECTED LOOTERS BUT CME INTERVENED AND TOOK THEM INTO CUSTODY.

HEADQUARTERS

A. G. A. G. A. G.

ACC DIST

ACTION: CA 2R

INFO: SHY GEN

NOON SEC

POOD SC

PUBLIC W. & U

TW SC

4885

2889

MSG CNTR NR: M21/12

0163

1. DONT GAG FOR THE HONOR OF THE ARMY.
2. ORGANIZE WATER POINT AND DISTRIBUTION.
3. NO AME PERSONNEL YET ALLOWED TO CROSS ARMO.
4. ARMY SAY BRIDGING QUESTION MAY BE DECIDED TOMORROW MEANTHILE ONLY FORD FORD IS UNDER OBSERVATION AND FIRE.
5. REPORTED ALL MOTOR VEHICLES INCLUDING AMBULANCES AND HEAVIES AND ALL LIVE STOCK IN TOWN AND OUTSKIRTS DRIVEN OFF BY GERMANS.
6. PALAZZO VECCHIO UNDAUNED BEING HELD BY 200 MUNICIPAL GUARDS.
7. DESTRUCTION ACCORDING TO LUMBY OF TIMES WHO GROUNDED THIS MORNING EXTENDS 300 METERS BACK FROM PONTE VECCHIO AND INCLUDE PART OF PALACE OF GUIDELPHS.
8. REPORTED GERMANS REMOVED ALL MEDICAL SUPPLIES THEY FOUND BUT SOME HIDDEN.
9. OUR ONLY FIRE ENGINE DESTROYED BY SHELL FIRE.
10. PARTISANS LAST NIGHT TRIED HOLD PUBLIC EXECUTION OF 2 SUSPECTED LOOTERS BUT CAP INTERVENED AND TOOK THEM INTO CUSTODY.

HE. COPIERS
17 AUG 1944
A. G. C.

AAC DIST
ACTION: CA BR
INFO: SECY GUM
ECOH SEC
FOOD SC
PUBLIC S. & U
TN SC
ADMIN SEC
PUBLIC HEALTH SC
M & F A SC
PUBLIC SAFETY
PATRIOTS BR
INTO DIV
P.A. BR
POL SEC 3
A/CC
FILE

4885

SECRET
AUG 12 1944

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. BRANCH
PATRIOTS IN

TO	FOBIO	INFO.	ACTION.
	Attachment		
	Col. Mc CARTHY		
	Major RAY		
✓	Major DEAN		
✓	Col. G. L. BOWEN		
	Chief Clerk		
	LIASON SECTION		
	Col. BRYAN		
	Dr. DRYES		
	Mr. VILGA		

The report in question
was apparently made
to AMB. Right wing who have
forwarded us the particulars.
Information div. has no trace.
Homer.

Capt. Salvadore

Re attached.

No trace of the report
quoted in this office
SAD.

11/8/44

To: Major Drage

Can the a/m report be
traced? Do you think they has it?

M.S.

0169

19 AUG Recd 57

ARMY FORM C 2136 (Large)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Serial No. Priority Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

Office Date Stamp

Date-Time of Origin

Originator

FROM

(A) MAIN A.M.C. NIGHTH APT.

For Action

ROUTE AREA COMMAND FOR A.C.G. H.Q. FOR R.C. & M.G. SECTION.

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

COPY TO: BRIG 'A/Q' MAIN BRIGHT APT.

Message Instructions

GR

Originator's No. 11,429

Required

SECRET (.) REPORT UPON EVIDENCE THROUGH COMBINE OF INFORMATION SOURCES DATED JULY 29TH REPORTS ORIGINATOR IN FORM AS FOLLOWS (.) FIRST (.) JORDAN SUBSIDIES TAKEN BY GERMANS (.) SECOND (.) JORDAN SECURES NON-EXISTENT (.) THIRD (.) MILLS NEARLY ALL DESTROYED (.) FOURTH (.) POPULATION ESTIMATED 500000 (.) FIFTH (.) COMMUNICATIONS IN POSSESSION A.A.I. WHICH YOU SHOULD SEE (.) TRANSLATED COPIES BEING SENT YOU (.) WILL TAKE UP MEDICAL QUESTION WITH REGION NIGHT AS NEAREST SUPPLY SOURCE (.) YOU SHOULD ARRANGE STEP UP MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES INCLUDING FLOUR INTO STOMA IF POSSIBLE (.) ALL BRIDGES EXCEPTING FORTS VIOCCIO BLOWN

4883

FROM		MAIN A.M.C. NICHOL ARMY.		02/08/53	
(A)		For Action.			
TO		PCAN AREA COMBAT FOR A.C.C. H.Q. FOR R.C. & H.G. SECTION.		GR	
(W) For Information (INFO)		Message Instructions.		GR	
COPY TO: BRIG 'A/A' MAIN BISHOP ARMY.					
Originator's No. 11,429		Required			
SECRET (.) REPORT FROM FLORENCE THROUGH CHARLOTTE OF LITERATURE SOURCES DATED JULY 29TH REPORTS CONDITIONS IN TOWN AS FOLLOWS (.) FIRST (.) MEDICAL SUBUNIT TAKEN BY GURRANS (.) SECOND (.) FOOD STORES NON-EXISTENT (.) THIRD (.) WILMS HEARIN ALL DESTROYED (.) FOURTH (.) POPULATION ESTIMATED 500000 (.) FUEL, WATER COMMUNICATIONS IN POSSESSION A.A.I. WHICH YOU SHOULD SEE (.) TRANSLATED COPIES BEING SENT YOU (.) WILL TAKE UP MEDICAL QUESTION WITH REGION EIGHT AS NEAREST SUPPLY SOURCE (.) YOU SHOULD ARRANGE STEP UP IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS INCLUDING FLOUR INTO STEAK IF POSSIBLE (.) ALL BRIDGES EXCEPTING POWER VEDICIO BROWN					
4883					
This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means except		If liable to be intercepted or to fill in any form this message must be sent in CIPHER.		Originator's Instructions, Degree of Priority.	
WIRELESS.		Signed, (Sgd) C.E. Benson		IMMEDIATE	
Signed,		Signed, (Sgd) C.E. Benson		Time System Op.	
				Time of TOR	
				Time Cleared	

ARMY FORM C 2136 (Large)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

2150

Srl. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.

FORM

(3)

Originator

Date-Time of Origin:

Office Date Stamp

MATT A. M.C. FICHER ARIZ.

04238573

For Action:

ROOM AREA COLLARD FOR A.C.C. H.Q. FOR H.C. & H.C. SECTION

10

(W) For Information, (INFO)

Message Instructions. GR

CR

COPY TO: ERIC 'A/Q' HEATH EIGHTH ARMY (Dy Head)

Originator's No. 157451

SECRET (.) A.M.C. RECON PARTY ENTERED FLOODING 15-0 HOURS TODAY 10TH AUGUST (.) PARTY NOW ISOLATED AS FLOODER HOWARD AND CITY FORTIFIED (.) MAY REPORT (.) FIRST (.) WATER SUPPLY SOUTH OF RIVER INADEQUATE BUT SUFFICIENT FOR DRINKING PURPOSES (.) NORTH OF RIVER NOW AS IT WAS PLACED ACROSS RIVER HISTORICALLY FROM SOUTH SIDE (.) TWO (.) ELECTRICITY WILL SINCE JULY 29 (.) THREE (.) PROJECTIONS POSTED 1450 HOURS (.) FOUR (.) FLOOD SITUATION POOR CERTAINS DISTRIBUTED 200 GRADES DAILY BUT REMOVED ALL SUPPLIES OF LEAVY (.) OIL 35 CRAMDS PER HOUR DISTRIBUTED FOR AUGUST (.) FIVE (.) 145000 PEOPLE IN COMPARISON WITH 1000000 SEPARATE (.) OF TOTAL 80000 SOUTH OF RIVER (.) SIX (.) COMPARISON OF DISTRIBUTION SOUTH OF RIVER COOPERATIVE (.) SEVEN (.) HOSPITALS SOUTH RIVER WITH NO MEDICAL SERVICES (.) EIGHT (.) NO POLICE SOUTH OF RIVER (.) NINE (.) ANOTHER INCIDENTS NO DAMAGE APPARENT (.) TEN (.) RAPID SURVEY SOUTH RIVER SHOWS 5% DESTROYED 5% DAMAGED (.) ALL ABOVE INITIAL REPORT AND IS REPEATED ACCORDING

2887

This message may be sent

If liable to be intercepted or to fall **Originator's Instructions.**

11. Originator's Instructions.

Time

100-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-

Op.

TO: AREA COMMAND FOR A.C.C. H.Q. FOR H.C. & M.C. SECTION

For Action.

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)		Message Instructions.	GR
COPY TO: BRIG 'A/Q' 1st IN EIGHTH ARMY (By hand)			

Originator's No. 1451

SECRET (.) A.M.G. RECOE PARTY NUMBERED MORENO 15-0 HOURS TODAY 14TH AUGUST (.) PARTY NOW ISOLATED AS FURTHER MOVEMENT INTO CUM FORTIFIED (.) VERY REPORT (.) FIRST (.) WATER SUPPLY SOUTH OF RIVER INADEQUATE BUT SUFFICIENT FOR DRINKING FUMOSAS (.) HORN OF RIVER NOW AS IT WAS PUNCHED ACROSS RIVER INDETERMINATELY FROM SOUTH SIDE (.) TWO (.) HILTONSLEY DEL SINON JUN 29 (.) THREE (.) PRODUCTIONS POSTED 1430 HOURS (.) FOUR (.) FLOOD SITUATION FOR CORDONS DISTURBED 200 GRADERS DAILY BUT REMOVED ALL STRENGTHS ON LEAVING (.) OIL 35 GRADERS PER HOUR DISTRIBUTED FOR AUGUST (.) FIVE (.) 145000 PEOPLE IN COMBINATION OF WITH 1000000 SQUADRY (.) OF TOTAL 80000 SOUTH OF RIVER (.) SIX (.) COLLATERAL OF LITERATURE SOUTH OF RIVER COOPERATIVE (.) SEVEN (.) LONSHAW'S SOUTH RIVER INTO OF NO MEDICAL STORIES (.) EIGHT (.) NO POLICE SOUTH OF RIVER (.) NINE (.) ACQUISITION NO DAMAGE APPARENT (.) TEN (.) RATED SURVEY SOUTH RIVER SHOWS 5% DESTROYED 5% DAMAGED (.) ALL ABOVE INITIAL REPORT AND IS TREATED ACCORDINGLY

4882

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means except	If liable to be intercepted or to fall into enemy hands this message must be sent in CIPHER.	Originator's Instructions.		Time	System	Op.
		Degree of Urgency.				
WIRELESS.		IMMEDIATE		THU or TOR		
Signed.		Signed. C.E. Hanson, Cpt/Capt.		Time Cleared		

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH

TO	~~INFO~~ Attachment	INFO.	~~ACTION.~~
	Col. Mc CARTHY		
✓	Major. MAGNUS	P.N.	
✓	Major. DRAGE	W	
✓	Capt. SALVADORI	MS	
	Chief CLERK		
	LIAISON SECTION		
	Col. FAVA		
	Dr. TREVES		
	Mr. VILLA		
	REMARKS.		

Secret. (1) Position unchanged
no further information available. (1)
obtained authority? in 10 trucks
supplies tonight Aug 5 and 10 Trucks
highly thereafter (1) Colonel? Sinclair?
taking in trucks tonight and will
bring out information

4881

BEST COPY POSSIBLE

0176

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No. 785016

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

ARMY FORM C 2136 (Large)

Transmission Instructions

Priority

Srl. No.

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.

Office Date

Date-Time of Origin

Originator

FROM

(A)

HQT A.S.G. HONOLULU

For Action

TO

HQT A.S.G. HONOLULU, H.Q. FOR S.G. & H.Q.

(W) For Information (INFO)

Message Instructions

GR

Originator's No.

1453

RECEIVED (1) FORWARDED UNCHANGED TO THE JCS SECRETARY (1) FOR THE

ADJUTANT GENERAL (1) FOR THE JCS SECRETARY (1) FOR THE

CHIEF OF STAFF (1) FOR THE JCS SECRETARY (1) FOR THE

SECRETARY

4889

This message may be sent

If liable to be intercepted or to fall

Originator's Instructions

Time

System

Op.

0177

For Action.

FROM AREA COMINT FOR A.C.O. U.S. FOR A.C.O. & H.C.
(W) For Information (INFO)

TO

RECEIVED (By KLS)

Message Instructions. GR

Originator's No. 245

SECRET (S) INFORMATION IS TO BE KEPT SECRETED AND NOT TO BE
DISCLOSED TO ANY OTHER PERSON OR ORGANIZATION WITHOUT THE
APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY (S) (R, U, C)

4889

This message may be sent
AS WRITTEN by any means
except

WIRELESS.

Signed.

If liable to be intercepted or to fall
into enemy hands this message must
be sent in CIPHER.

Signed.

P. 18. 1A. A.F.C. 113-144

Originator's Instructions.
Degree of Security.

SECRET.

Time	System	Op.
TIME OF FOR		
1600		
Time Cleared		

RKJS

13 AUG Recd
57

13/8/44

PATRIOTS
BR

29671

ROME AREA COMMAND FOR A.C.C. H.Q. FOR HQ & HQ SECTION

MAIN AND EIGHTH ARMY

M431

AUG 12

HEADQUARTERS

13 AUG 1944

A. C. C.

42/13

SECRET

IMMEDIATE

SIEREP FLORENCE. POSITION AT 1045 HRS. ONE. ENTIRE FLORENCE PROVINCE PARTY HAS ARRIVED LOUGED IN VILLA TORNIGIANI. TWO. REPORTS FROM MANY SOURCES PRINCE OF BIRMONT VISITED FLORENCE YESTERDAY AND NEVER ADVISED. THREE. FLORENCE AND NOW UNDER COMMAND 13 CORPS WHO HAVE PUT IN GARRISON COMMANDER. FOUR. TWELVE TONS FOOD AND SOME TYPHOID SERUM HANDMAILED ACROSS GALLERY PONTE VECCHIO LAST NIGHT. FIVE. PLATOON OF JEEPS ARRIVING TODAY TO REDUCE HANDLING ON SOUTH SHORE FROM 600 TO 1000 YARDS. SIX. SUPPLIES NOW IN SOUTHERN FLORENCE SUFFICIENT FEED WHOLE CITY THREE DAYS WITH THIRTY DAYS SUPPLY IN REAR. SEVEN. SHIPER ON NORTH BANK NEAR PONTE ALLE GRASSE KILLED FIREMAN CROSSING IN BOAT YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. EIGHT. BULLET MISSED LT COL SPENCER BY A FOOT IN SAME AREA YESTERDAY. NINE. NO SHELLING OR SHIPING SOUTH PART OF TOWN LAST NIGHT.

ACC DIST

ACTION/ CA BR 1

INFO: SEC GEN

ADMIN SEC

REGON SEC

FOOD SC 2

P.HEALTH SC

INFO DIV

P.R. BR

A/CC

PATRIOTS BR

POL SEC 3

FILE (M)

4879

AUG 131150B

0179

11 AUG Recd

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.C. SECTION
PATRIOTS FRANCE

TO	FOLIO	INFO.	ACTION.
	Attachment		
✓	Col. Mc CARTHY	ML	
✓	Major. MAGNUS	P.O.	
✓	Major. DRAGE	B.	
✓	Capt. SALVADORI	M.S.	
	Chief CLERK		
	LIAISON SECTION		
	Col. FAVA		
	Dr. TREVIS		
	Mr. VILGA		

REMARKS.

4878

11 AUG 1944

SECRET

5.

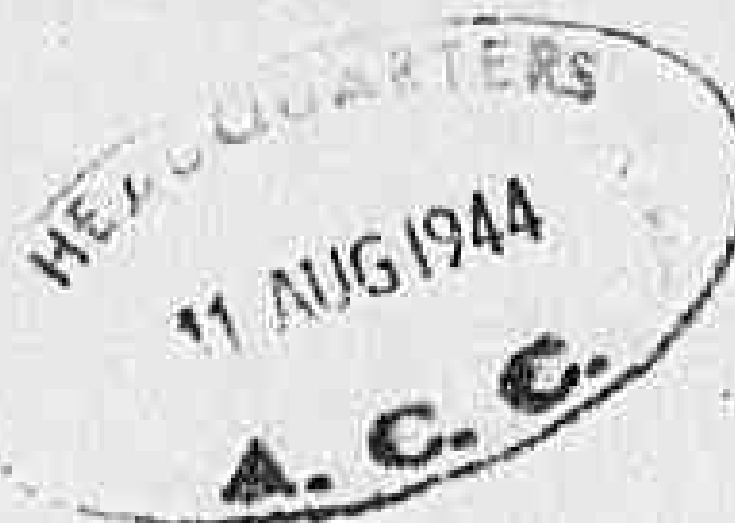
12/8/44

ROME AREA COMMAND FOR ACC HQ FOR RC & MG SECTION

MAIN AMG EIGHTH ARMY

M 433

AUG 081330B

**SECRET****IMMEDIATE**

SITREP FLORENCE. POSITION AT 1500 HRS 8 AUG 44.

1. G (CL) SLIGHTLY WOUNDED AND "POTENTI" PARTISAN LEADER SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN LAST NIGHTS RAID ON SNIPERS BOTH EVACUATED TO MIL HOSP.
2. SHELLING SINCE 1130 HRS TODAY IN PORTA ROMANA AREA CIVILIAN CASUALTIES CONSIDERABLE ONE HIT ON ISTITUTO AREA ONE SHELL 75 YARDS FROM THIS HQ.
3. PARTISAN ACTION AGAINST SNIPERS IN PONTE VECCHIO AREA CONTINUING ALL TODAY.

ACC DIST

ACTION: CA BR
 INFO: Secy Gen
 Econ Sec
 Admin Sec
 Public Safety
 Patriots Br
 Ital Ref Br
 Public Health
 Info Div
 PR Br
 A/CC
 File

4877

SECRET

AUG 110930B

11 AUG Recd

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
PATRIOTE FRANCE

TO	Attachment	INFO. - ACTION.	
✓	Col. Mc CARTHY	W/h	
✓	Major. MAGNUS	P.O.	
✓	Major. DRAGE	P.	
✓	Capt. SALVADORI	M.	
	Chief CLERK		
	LIAISON SECTION		
	Col. FAVA		
	Dr. TREVES		
	Dr. VILLA		
REMARKS. File with Maj. Magnus			
4870			

11 AUG Recd
 ROME AREA COMMAND
 MAIN ANG 8TH ARMY
 M 431
 AUG101045

SECRET

SECRET
IMMEDIATE

SITREP FLORENCE. SITUATION AT 1100 HRS 10 AUG 44. 1. FLAMES AND SOUNDS OF EXPLOSIONS NORTH OF ARNO LAST NIGHT LOCAL CAPO COMMISARIO OF AGENTI HAS UNCONFIRMED REPORT FIRES IN STREETS BETWEEN PALAZZO VECCHIO AND CATHEDRAL. SPRIGGE OF REUTERS SAYS 1 BATTALION COMMANDER TOLD HIM PARTISANS BLOWING SEWERS THROUGH WHICH GERMANS SUPPLYING SNIPERS ON THIS SIDE. 2. COL FARINACCI SURVEYED HOSPITAL SITUATION HERE 9 AUG 44 AND CORPS WILL LEND AMBULANCES TO EVACUATE WOUNDED CIVILIANS. 3. HEAVY RAINS 0800 TO 1000 HRS TODAY. 4. PARTISANS WILL RECCO ARNO FORFORDS TO PUT ACROSS AM SUPPLIES WHEN NORTH OF CITY FALLS 1 R E WATER POINT ASSEMBLED NOW READY TO CROSS. 5. 200 REFUGEES FROM SOUTH DUE OUT LAST NIGHT DID NOT LEAVE BECAUSE CORPS ADVANCED TIME FOR CONVOY DEPARTURE BUT LEAVING TONIGHT. 6. SUGAR DISTRIBUTION 100 GRAMS THROUGHOUT OUR AREA COMPLETED 100 GRAMS SALT TO BE DISTRIBUTED. 7. DISTRIBUTION MILK FOR BOTTLE FED BABIES BEGUN. 8. PERSISTENT RUMOURS OF LOOTING BY PARTISANS BEING CAREFULLY CHECKED. 9. CIVILIAN MORALE GOOD NO CASES OF CRIME SO FAR. 10. 53 MORE CARABINIERI IN YESTERDAY MAKING TOTAL OF 130. 18 MORE AGENTI ENROLLED TOTAL NOW 53. 11. DR FOGGI SUPERINTENDENT OF MONUMENTS LOCATED IN PALAZZO PITTI AND REPORTING AT ANG MAIN ARMY TODAY OR TOMORROW. 12. FOLLOWERS OF "POTENTI" AUTHORISED TO ISSUE MEMORIAL LEAFLET IN LIEU OF PUBLIC FUNERAL BECAUSE POTENTI ALREADY BURIED AT MIL HOSP WHERE HE DIED. 13. BOTH CORRIERE ALEATO AND 8TH ARMY NEWS NOW PUBLISHED LOCALLY. 14. GERMAN SHELLING MUCH LESS LAST NIGHT ONLY 2 CIVILIANS WOUNDED.



ACTION-
 INFO-

ACC DIST
 CA BR (2)
 SEC GEN
 A/CC
 ADM SEC
 ECON SEC
 PRO

INFO DIV
 FOOD
 P SAFETY
 IR BR
 PATRIOTS BR
 FILE

4875

SECRET

AUG110850

11 AUG Recd

SECRET

2800

ROME AREA COMMAND FOR ACC HQ FOR R.C. AND M.G. SECTION

N 27/11

MAIN AMG 8 ARMY

M 432

AUG 081025

HEADQUARTERS

11 AUG 1944

A C C

SECRET

IMMEDIATE

SITREP FLORENCE. POSITION AT 1000 HRS 8 AUG 44. ONE. SUBCOMMITTEES FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES SET UP AT CONFERENCE BETWEEN SCAO AND COMITATO 7 AUG 44. TWO. PRICE OF BREAD INCREASED TO FIVE LIRA WEF 9 AUG 44. THREE. DISPLACED PERSONS NO PROBLEM IN OCCUPIED PART OF FLORENCE. FOUR. SHORTAGE SMALL CHANGE FOR RETAIL FOOD PURCHASES BEING MET BRINGING IN TWO MILLION LIRA IN SMALL DENOMINATIONS. FIVE. COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER "AZIONE COMUNISTA" APPEARED SUNDAY 6 AUG 44 BUT DISCONTINUED AS RESULT CONFERENCE WITH COMITATO AND POSTING OF AMG ORDER PADLOCKING PUBLICATIONS AND FREEZING PAPER STOCKS. SIX. FIRST ISSUE LOCALLY PRINTED PWB NEWSPAPER WILL APPEAR 9 AUG 44. SEVEN LOUD SPEAKER VANS NOT YET ARRIVED. EIGHT. PAPER STOCKS FOUND IN ISTITUTO DARTE RESERVED FOR PWB. NINE. PARTISANS ASSISTING IN CLEARING SNIPERS PONTE VECCHIO AREA. TEN. GERMAN SHELLS FELL LAST NIGHT WELL INSIDE OUR AREA BUT OUTSIDE CITY WALL.

	ACC DIST.	
ACTION	C.A.BR	2
INFO	SEC GEN	
	ACC	
	ECON SECT	4874
	ADM SECT	
	FOOD SC	
	FINANCE SC	
	INFO DIV	
	PARTISANS BR	
	FILE	

SECRET

AUG 111300

file

AMG EIGHT ARMY MAIN FOR G P CAPT BENSON

ACC MAIN

1635 Signed Mc CARTHY

10

RESTRICTED

ROUTINE

PATRIOTS BRANCH

REFERENCE MOTHER FOUR THREE ONE OF NINE AUG PD WE DEEPLY REGRET LOSS OF POTENTI
REPEAT POTENTI PD PAREN TO AMG EIGHT ARMY MAIN FOR G P CAPT BENSON FROM ABLE
CHARLIE CHARLIE MAIN PAREN ^{Signed McCarthy} PLEASE EXPRESS OUR DEEP REGRET TO HIS FOLLOWERS

/ ~~Signed McCarthy~~
/

4873

J AUG Recd

57
R.PATRIOTS
BR

27/14 2

RORR AREA TOWARD FOR AND HC FOR RE ARE NO DETENTION

H90/9

MAIN AND 3TH ARRE

M431

RORR

IMMEDIATE

AUG091115

SITING FLORENCE. POSITION AT 1100 HRS 9 AUG 44. 1. MORE THAN 100
TONE SUPPLIES HAVE REACHED FLORENCE AND STOCKPILING FOR BOTH OF CITY
RECTOR. 2. 1 LOAN RETURNING EMPTY THIS MORNING BLW UP ON A HIGH
DRIVEN INJURED. 3. 10 AGENTI DI PUBBLICA SICUREZZA AND 22 VIGILI
URBANI REQUIRED DUTY TODAY. 4. 2 FIRE BRIGADE SUBSTATIONS READY FOR
DUTY. LITTLE MOBILE EQUIPMENT. DEPENDING ON WHEELS FOR RATED. 5.
RATES CANT ARRIVED LAST NIGHT FOR PITTI PALACE REFUGEE CAMP. 6.
200 REFUGEES FROM SOUTHERN ITALY EVACUATED 8 AUG 44 300 MORE OUT
TONIGHT LEAVING ONLY 8. 7 LOCAL PARTISANS SOUTH OF ARNO FULLY DIS-
ARMED. BAND STILL OPERATING AGAINST SWISS IS HIGHLY ORGANISED UNIT
FROM THE HILLS. 8. "POTENTI" PARTISAN LEADER WOUNDED NIGHT 7 AUG
44 DIED YESTERDAY. 9. QUANTITIES FRESH VEGETABLES ENTERING CITY
PRICES VERY REASONABLE. 10. PVE BROUGHT IN 10000 COPIES CORRIERE
ALLIATO EACH DAY 7 AND 8 AUG AND RORR LOCAL PUBLICATION 10000
DAILY TODAY. 300 COPIES DAILY GETTING ACROSS THE ARNO. 11. SCAG
HOLD FIRST DAILY PRESS CONFERENCE 0910 HRS TODAY ADDRESSING REPRESENTED
PRESS WRITERS, ~~RE~~ RSC, UNRS, TIMES. 12. LESS SHEDDING LAST NIGHT

HEART QUARTERS
10 AUG 1944
A. C. C.

ACC DIST
ACTION - CARR(2)
INFO - SEC GEN

4872

ECON SEC
FOOD SE
ADMIN SEC
PUB SAFETY
INTL REF BR

PATRIOTS BR
INFO DIV
P. R. BR
FILE (2)
FLOAT

AUG092359B

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. Section
APO 394

Ref/57/4/PAT.

8 August 1944.

SUBJECT: Notes written after a visit to Florence.

I arrived in the South of Florence at 1300 hrs on 6 August accompanied by two Patriot Representatives from Rome, one of the Bernabo Group and one of the Bauer Group. I left at 2000 hrs on the same date having seen in Florence Lt-Col. Benton-Jones (AMG 8 Army) and his staff also the British Garrison Commander, the F.S.S., the I.C.U. and Special Forces and the chiefs of the Patriot Bands.

GENERAL.

The situation briefly was that the enemy was holding the North bank of the river Arno and was sniping across the river from there and was shelling the approaches to Florence, chiefly about dawn and dusk. All bridges were down except the Ponte Vecchio. Communications between N. Florence and S. Florence existed in various peculiar ways. The Germans had removed all food and live-stock. AMG was sending in ten 3-ton vehicles every evening starting on 5 Aug (this is now to be increased to twenty) so that essential food requirements were being met. There was no light nor water in the town except drinking water. Most of the original Carabinieri had crossed the river and were reported to be on the side of the enemy, but more carabinieri had been brought up from the South. I was told by an officer who had valuable information that both Germans and civilians were sniping across the river and that the Germans had imposed a 24 hour curfew and that two Patriot Companies were in the centre of Florence; also there were he thought a few Germans left South of the river in a very small pocket.

PATRIOTS.

The situation which had been a bit tricky to handle because Patriots do not like the idea of handing in their arms had been settled very satisfactorily and seemed to be as follows. There were no Military Patriots. The G.I.M. Patriots were divided into a party of approx 600 South of the river and the Garibaldi companies whose chief said he definitely owed allegiance to GHI but he acted independently and said he had altogether 10 companies (110 each) North of the river & South and there were also two others many miles South near POGGIOREALE.

Lt-Col. Benton-Jones (AMG 8 Army) who had arrived in Florence on 4 August arranged after a little difficulty for all these Patriots to hand in their arms (which they guarded themselves) by noon on 6 August and the arrangement was that they should only draw them out when they went out with the British Army for guide or other duties. All this seemed to be working satisfactorily.

A certain amount of trouble had been experienced with local bandits who had to be cleaned up. The genuine Patriots disliked them intensely and were willing to help to put them down.

Patriot Bands.

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VISIT TO A.A.I.

On my return I discussed the Florence picture with Brig. Manning at AAI. H.Q. Five points at our discussion can be recorded here.

First Brig. Manning wants it to be clearly understood that Patriots should be expected to help the Army as guides, Patriots etc in their own area, but must not be recruited for moving farther forward outside their own recognised beat.

Second I explained it would be difficult to organise, in the 8th Army area, the returning transport and camps and supervision for Patriots who wish to enlist. At present the numbers are few.

/that

SECRET

- 2 -

that they can enlist if they bide their time and wait for collection at the Army's convenience. This position was agreed as being satisfactory meantime Brig. Manning said he would arrange with 8 Army that in due course the M.M.I.A. Screening agents should be allowed into Corps Areas.

In future
Third. It will be advisable to have a plan laid on beforehand and subsequent close operational contact between Ops., Special Forces, F.W.B. and the Patriot Branch.

Fourth. At a much later date it may be necessary to have (say) a company of the Italian Army up in certain forward areas to help deal with turbulent Patriots and other Patriot problems: in general it was agreed that the Italian Army would probably have to provide the manpower for looking after Patriot problems in the Army areas and in the L. of C.

Fifth. We discussed briefly if the time was ripe for a political utterance or broadcast to outline the Patriot situation generally. Brig. Manning agreed with me that the time had now arrived when such a statement could be made, with advantage.

Wm. Carthy

C.D. MC GAVIN.
Colonel,
Patriots Branch,
R.C. & M.G. Section.

DISTRIBUTION

- 1 Copy for Brigadier Lush.
- 1 " " Brigadier Manning.
- 2 Copies for Group Capt. Benson (AMG 8 Army).
- 1 File.
- 1 War Diary.

0189

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- 1 War Diary.

6870

13
30 / 7 / 1944

To Col. MC CARTHY

From Capt. BALWADORE

- 1) It will be advisable to contact in Florence as soon as possible Major C. McIntosh of No 1 Special Force. Major C. McIntosh has gone to Florence with Special Force. He has a W/S set which may be useful also for communications for Patriot Division, A.C.G.
- 2) It will be a good thing to contact on arrival the CHIEF MILITARY of the COMANDO di LIBERAZIONE NAZIONALE. Mr Treves should have no difficulty in locating them, probably either at the Town Hall (PALAZZO VECCHIO) or at the Prefecture.
- 3) I do not know if there is in Florence something corresponding to the RUC COMANDO BANDI of the Italian Army. Lt. ALMEIDA could be instructed to find out on arrival if such military center exists and in case it exists to contact it. A likely source of information would be the RN, CC. (Carabinieri).
- 4) In Florence one is likely to find most of the bands which operated in the areas of the provinces of Florence, Pistoia and northern Arezzo. The bands of which I know the existence are the following:
 - a) Divisione (or Brigata) ALBO, possibly a former Garibaldi Brigade and the Magellano and may have an approximate strength of 400 (?) men.
 - b) Brigata GARIBOLDI, C.O. LINO, on the hills north and west of Florence. Possibly 400 men.
 - c) What remains of the bands of PRATINARO and of CASERTINO, which not long ago had a strength of about 300 - 600 men. (These bands may have crossed into Romagna instead of coming to Florence).
 - d) C.A.P. Cells.

5) Before the final advance towards Florence the total strength of the bands (including Brigata Garibaldi of the C.L.N., C.A.P. groups and independent bands) in the Florence area was probably anything up to 1500. Their number may be now much larger.

6) If the bands in the liberated Florence area are still fairly well organized and it is possible to contact the responsible leaders, it may be advisable to distribute at once the Patriot Certificates. Not everyone who deserves a Certificate will get it but their case can be taken up later.

7) If a distribution of Patriot Certificates is made and arrangements are made for enlistment in the Italian Army, getting jobs from A.M.G., etc., would it be possible to have a P.M.B. team to do the necessary recording, writing up, etc.?

- 2) It will be a good thing to contact on arrival the GUERRA MILITARE of the COMANDO di LIBERAZIONE ITALIANA. Dr. Treves should have no difficulty in locating them, probably either at the Town Hall (PALAZZO VECCHIO) or at the Prefecture.
- 3) I do not know if there is in Florence something corresponding to the RINNOVAMENTO BRANCO of the Italian Army. If, ARANCIA, could be instructed to find out on arrival if such military center exists and in case it exists to contact it. A likely source of information would be the R.E. CO. (Carabinieri).
- 4) In Florence one is likely to find most of the bands which operated in the areas of the provinces of Florence, Pistoia and northern Arezzo. The bands of which I know the existence are the following:
 - a) Divisione (or Brigata) ARNO, possibly a former Garibaldi Brigade and the Mugello and may have an approximate strength of 400 (?) men.
 - b) Brigata GARIBOLDI, C.O. ARNO, on the hills north and west of Florence. Possibly 400 men.
 - c) What remains of the bands of PRATO and of CASERTINO, which not long ago had a strength of about 500 - 600 men. (These bands may have crossed into Romagna instead of coming to Florence).
 - d) G.A.P. Cells.
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6809

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
H.C. & M.G. SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH

TO	FOLIO 14 ~~Attachment~~	INFO. - ACTION.	
	Col. Mc CARTHY		
✓	Major WAGNER	RM	
	Major DRAGO		
	Capt. S. M. LONG		
	Chief CLERK	B	
	LIISON SECTION		
	Col. FAVA		
	Dr. TREVES		
	Dr. VILLA		
	REMARKS.	See	

COPY

-7 AUG Recd

9

Patriots Br

14
1C

CIPHER

6 August Recd

To Action: RMAC for ACC HQ for RC & MC Section

Info : Brig A/Q Main 8 Army (by hand)

From : Main AMG 8 Army

H 439

064930B
(deciphered 070635)

SECRET. For the time being only operational or maintenance personnel
 allowed in FLORENCE and then only with passes from Cops.

ATTN.

ACC Dist

Action: C A Br
 Info : Secy Gen
 Econ Sec
 Adm Sec
 Info Div
 P R Br
 It Ref Br
 A/CC file

IMMEDIATE

07 0630

4888

9 2172
ADVANCED HQ
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
H.C. & M.G. Section
APO 394

7 July 1944.

Ref/Adv/309/CA.

SUBJECT: Entry into Florence.

TO : Colonel Fiske
Colonel Grafftey Smith
Colonel Mc Carthy
Mr. Heber
Mr. Cassia.

1. On the fall of Florence a pass will be required to enter the City. I have some in my office, Room 16, 3rd Floor.
2. Without a pass no one will be allowed to enter the City.

E. Talbot
E. TALBOT,
Major.
for NORMAN E. FISKE,
Colonel,
Deputy Executive
Commissioner.

4867

