

ACC 10000/125/282

63/1 - PAT

INF. ON BANDS IN ENEMY TERRITORY

AUG. 1944

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[LOMBARDY (REGION XI)]

AUG. 1944

63/1-PAT.

TOP SECRET

~~IVF on Bands, K. TERRITORY~~

~~LOMBARDY (Reg. XI)~~

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1991

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LOMBARDY (Region XI)

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FROM AUG 1944

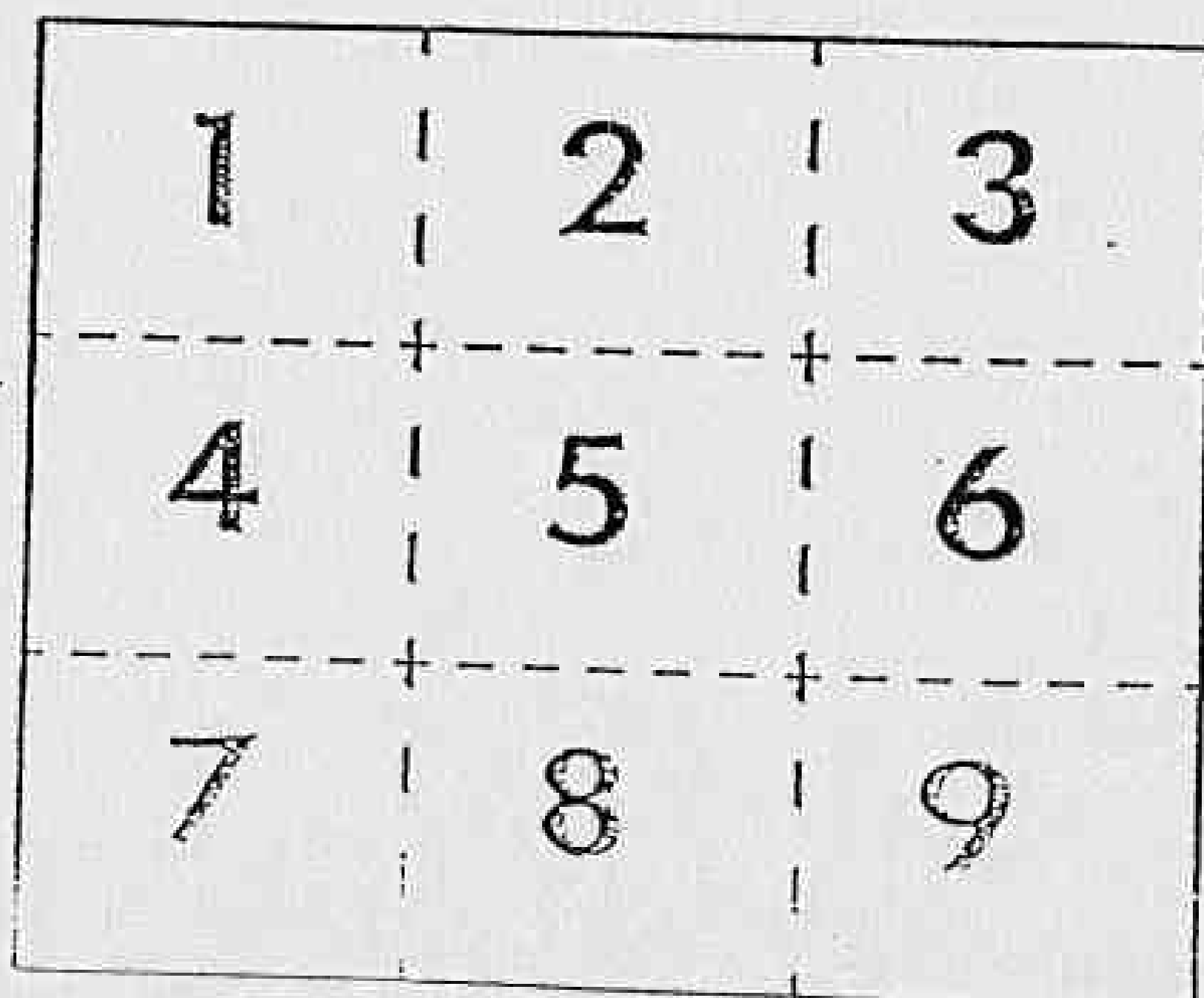
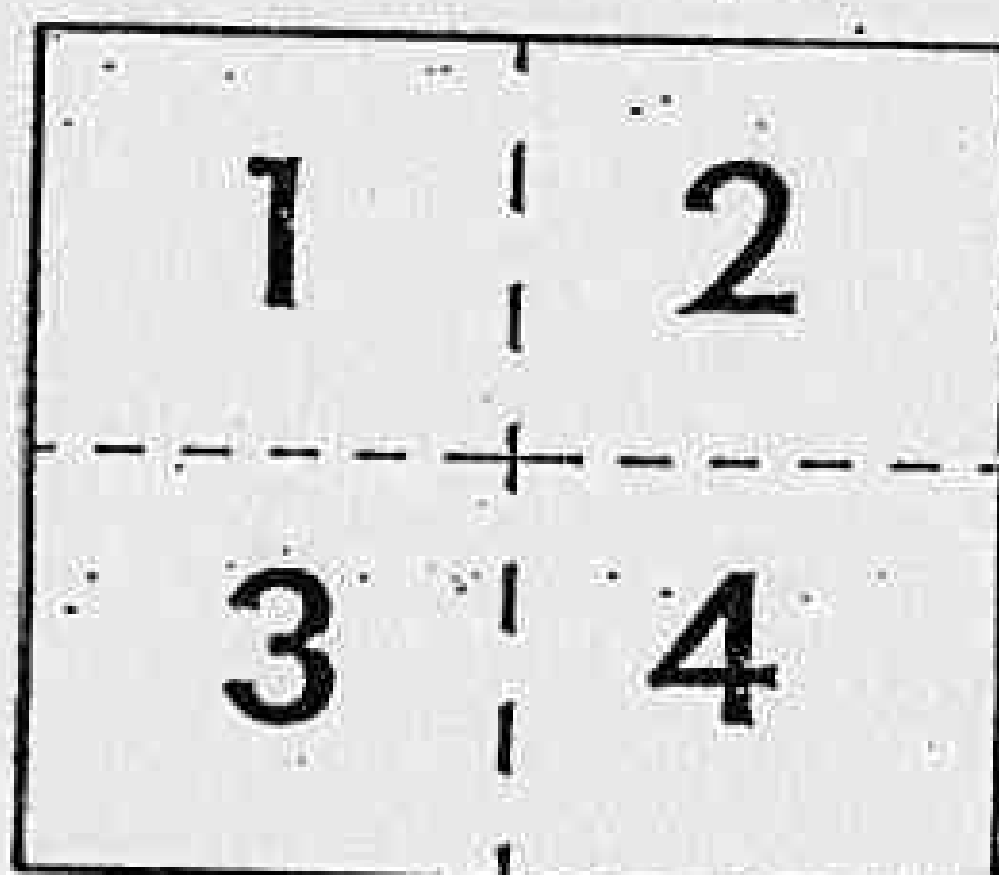
TO

CATALOGUE.

TOP SECRET

MAPS AND CHARTS TOO LARGE TO FILM
ON ONE EXPOSURE ARE FILMED CLOCKWISE
BEGINNING IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER,
LEFT TO RIGHT, AND TOP TO BOTTOM.

SEE DIAGRAMS BELOW.



LEGEND

Bands

Other bands



CLN Action Party bands



CLN Communist Party bands



Independant bands

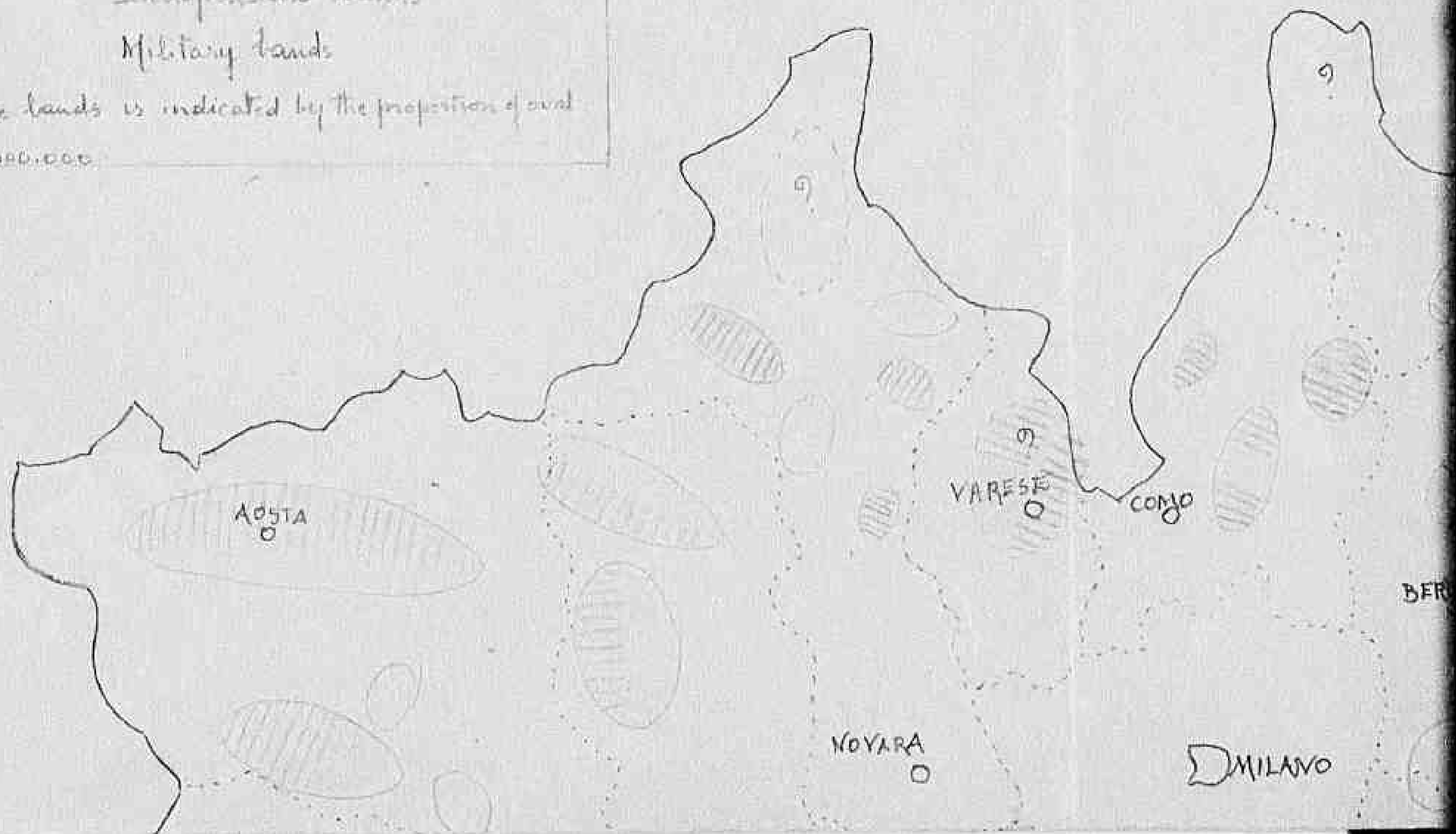


Military bands

The size of the bands is indicated by the proportion of oval
scale 1:1,000,000

N. W. Italy. (Regions x
31st August 1944 (X)

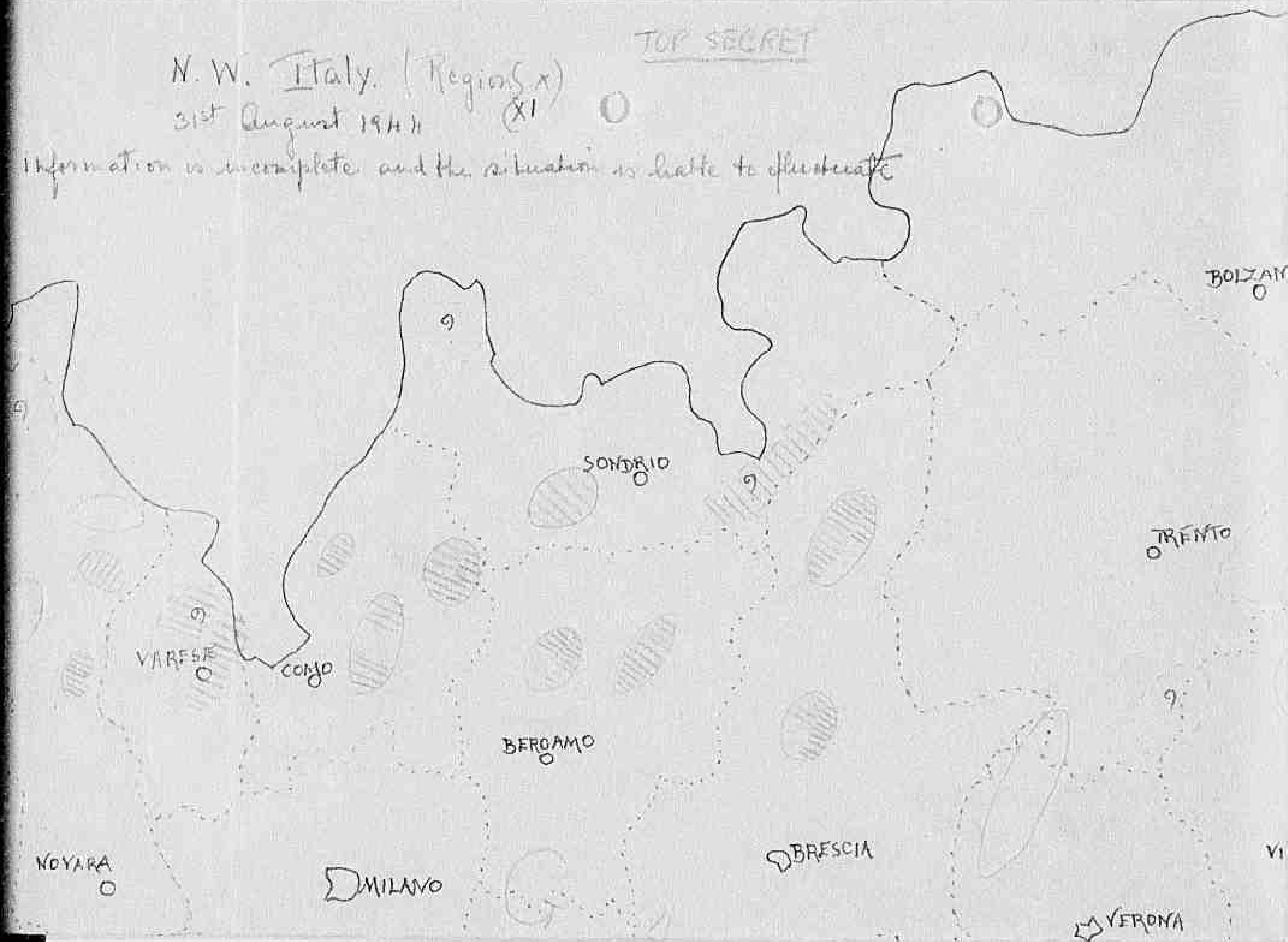
This information is incomplete and the actual



TOP SECRET

(XI)

Information is incomplete and the situation is liable to fluctuate



1995

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No. 785016



1996

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No. 785016



Top Secret

24-8-44

ITALIAN PATRIOT BANDS IN THE ALPS.

The position of Patriot Bands in the Alpine Districts of A.C.C. Regions X, XI and XII appears to be approximately the following :

1. Region X (Piedmont and Liguria)A) Province of Cuneo

It appears that the bands in and around VAL PESIO, upper TANARO Valley and in the LANGHE (Jilly district east of upper TANARO) have been brought under a unified command and have been divided into three Divisions:

- 1st Alpine Division in VAL PESIO
- 2nd Alpine Division in upper TANARO valley
- 3rd Alpine Division in LANGHE

The three Divisions are connected with the G.L.N. and may have a total of about 4,000 Patriots.

The bands between COL DI NAVA and COL DI CADIBONA are probably connected with the three Alpine Divisions.

There is no news if the fairly large Patriot Band at COL DI BENDA has been re-formed. It had dispersed during a combined German-Fascists mopping-up operation.

In VAL DI DEMONE was reported at end of July the presence of a Giustizia & Libertà Brigade of about 500 Patriots. The Brigade included numerous military elements.

A small band around 100 Patriots is reported in VAL GRANA.

In VAL MAIRA and VAL VARAITA was reported at end of July the presence of another G.L. Brigade of about 400 Patriots. An Italian Army band located in lower MAIRA valley is probably connected with the G.L. Brigade.

In upper VAL DI PO was reported presence of a band of about 250 Patriots around CRISOLO.

B) Province of Turin

In Val PELLICE, centre of the Italian Protestant Sect of the "VALESSI", was reported at end of July the presence of a well-organized G.L. Brigade of 500 to 700 Patriots, possibly under

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JALLA'.

An Italian Army band of about 200 men was reported to be under Capt. RIVOIR.

In VAL CHISONE is reported the presence of several large bands, some of them Army bands, other Action Party bands organized in G.L. Brigades. In May there were no more than ten autonomous bands. Now they have probably consolidated into a larger unit which is reported to control entirely the valley.

In VAL SUSA was reported at end of July the presence of not less than 1,500 Patriots.

It appears that 900 of them, mostly Communists, were organized into two Garibaldi Brigades located around GIAVENO and the Lakes of AVIGLIANA.

In VAL DI LANZO (including also VAL DI VIN, VAL DI ALA and VAL GRANDE), is reported the presence of one Garibaldi Division including three Garibaldi Brigades. The Division appears to be in control of the entire valley and to be formed mostly of communist and Italian army elements.

It is not known if Italian army Patriots who are reported to be under Gen. VERCELLINI in the lower LANZO valley, are included or not in the Garibaldi Division.

C) Province of AOSTA

In VAL D'AOSTA, one of the largest Alpine valleys, was reported at end of July the presence of G.L. and Garibaldi Brigades, with a total strength of about 2,800 men, fairly well armed. These bands appear to be located chiefly in the following districts: VAL TOUNANCHE and VAL D'AVRAS, VAL DI FENIS, BERTHIER D'ARTANAVA and VAL CHISANCHE.

It is reported that Italian Army Patriot Bands in the VAL D'AOSTA are under the leadership of the former Fascist leader DE VECCHI.

In VAL SOANA (south of VAL D'AOSTA) was reported the presence at the end of July of a band about 300 strong, with centre at RIBARDONE.

The presence of several Italian army bands of undetermined strength is reported in the upper VAL LOCANA.

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In the hilly section of CANAVESE is reported the presence of a band of about 400 Patriots under Capt. BUEBIO, at and around COURONE. Another band appears to be at ROCCA CANAVESE.

D) Province of VERCELLI

It appears that there is a concentration of bands in the district around BIELLA. Some of the bands are reported to be organized in two Garibaldi Brigades with a total, in July, of 600 to 700 men.

Also in the BIELLESE is reported the presence of large groups of disbanded officers and men of the Italian Army. Until recently they appeared to have only a rather loose organization.

In VALSESIA is reported the presence of about 1,000 armed Patriots who may well control most of the valley between LAKE ORTA and Mount ROSSA. Their H.Q. was recently transferred from RIMELLA on the MASTALBONE river to BIRASCA on the SERMENZA river.

At one time was in the VALSESIA, and was later on reported near Lake ORTA, a well organized Communist band under Col. MOSCATELLI. The band appeared to include about 600 Patriots. The MOSCATELLI band appears to have operated also in the VAL D'OSOLA (prov. of Novara).

E) Province of NOVARA

In VAL STRONA was reported the presence in July of about 400 Patriots, under Major BELTRAMI (?). One hundred of them were in the Distaccamento GRAMSCI. The band is connected with the Garibaldi organizations (military organization of the C.L.N.).

On the MOTTARONE (between Lake MAGGIORE and Lake d'ORTA) was reported the presence of a band of 350 Patriots, most of them members of the Action Party (Democrats) and of the Socialist Party. During mopping-up operations they had about 100 casualties.

On the slopes of Monte ZEDA is reported the presence of a band of 300 Patriots, under Major SUPERTI. The band has absorbed smaller groups existing in the zone.

In VAL D'ANTRONA and VAL DI BOGNANCO (in western Val d'Ossola) was reported in July the presence of a band of about 500 Patriots. It is not known if they belonged to Garibaldi, Giustizia & Libertà or Italian army formations.

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In CENTOVALLI (eastern Val d'Ossola) appears to be a band of about 400 Patriots.

Including other sections of VAL d'OSSOLA, there may be in the valleys of the province of NOVARA as many as 2,500 or 3,000 Patriots. It is not known if the various bands have agreed to come under a unified command. It is likely that the distinction between Garibaldi, Giustizia & Libertà and Italian army formations still remains.

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In the Alpine valleys of Piedmont, there may have been before the recent influx of fresh enthusiastic recruits, as many as 15,000 to 18,000 organized Patriots. It should be remembered however, that not all the Patriots came under the definition of a Patriot given by A.C.C. It is known that important groups of Patriots in VAL d'OSSOLA, VALSESIA, upper CUNEO PROVINCE, etc., have actively engaged the enemy. The same can be said of other Patriots, as those in VAL d'AOSTA, or in the upper VAL LOCANA. One reliable source gave the number of true Patriots at about 4,000.

G.A.P. formations are one important feature in the Patriot movement of Piedmont. They were established chiefly in Turin and in the other towns and appear to be fairly numerous and well organized.

Among the bands, in spite of several attempts to abate a unified control, distinctions between Garibaldi, Giustizia & Libertà and Italian Army formations has been maintained.

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2. Region XI (LOMBARDY)

The position of the main Patriot bands in the Alpine areas of Region XI appears to be approximately the following :

A) VARESE - COMO areas.

It appears that N.W. of VARESE are several bands of armed Patriots. Some of them may be under the leadership of Col. RETTONI. A source reports that there may be as many as 2000 Patriots

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In the triangle between COMO, LEGGO and the Lake of COMO was reported some time ago the presence of about 700 Patriots. It appears that most of them belong to Italian Army Patriot Bands.

In Val D'INTELVI, between Lake COMO and the Swiss border was reported at end of July the presence of a C.L.N. band of about 150 Patriots.

B) VALBASSINA

In the VALBASSINA and in the Monte GRIGNA are several bands, most of them connected with the C.L.N. Three hundred armed Patriots were reported near DERVIO, N.W. of Mount GRIGNA.

C) VALTELLINA

Two large concentrations of bands are reported in this area. One south of the SPLEGA Pass, close to the Swiss border and another one around the COL S'APRICA.

Most of the bands appear to be of the Italian Army type and to have been rather inactive. The Italian Army Patriot Bands may number anything up to 2,000 Patriots.

A C.L.N. band of about 400 Patriots existed near S. PIETRO BERNINO, west of SONDRIO and a smaller one near MORBASSO.

D) VAL BREMBANA

It was reported at end of July that there were no less than 500 well organized and well armed Patriots (possible under BIANCHI ?) besides a much larger number of disbanded personnel of the Italian Army and other refugees.

E) VAL SERIANA

It is reported that organized Patriots in VAL SERIANA are about 500.

F) Val CAMONICA

Bands have been in existence in Val Camonica since the early days of the armistice. Mopping-up operations have been undertaken by the enemy several times. Before the latest influx of fresh recruits, there may have been about 800 organized Patriots under Col. FERRENTINI. Four smaller bands were reported in the area.

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g) Val ^{HO}TRIMPIA

At the end of July was reported the presence of about 600 organized Patriots.

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In the Alpine valleys of Lombardy there has been since the days of the Armistice a large number of people who were trying to avoid being conscripted for fighting or for work by the enemy. The work of organizing these refugees into Patriot Bands appear to have been carried out with less speed and possibly with less success than either in Piedmont or in Emilia. The number of potential Patriots in the Alpine valleys of Lombardy is probably relatively small. It is possible that the areas in which Patriots have been most active are VALSASSINA and VAL CAMONICA.

An attempt was made in Lombardy to organize bands including Italian Army Patriots, Action Party Democrats and Communists. It appears that the mixing-up of these various elements in the Patriot bands has not given satisfactory results.

Outside the Alpine valley, the Patriot organisations of Lombardy is chiefly based on G.A.P. groups.

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3. Region XII (VENEZIA)

Provisionally, the presence of the following groups of Patriot bands are reported in the Alpine valley of Region XII (Venezia Euganea only).

A) on Monte BALDO, east of Lake GARDA, was reported the presence of about 500 Patriots, under FRANCHINI (?). They appear to be mostly Italian Army Patriots.

B) COLLI EUGANEI and MONTI BERICI

A large number of refugees found shelter in these two groups of hills. The figure given of about 4,000 Patriots in these two areas is likely to be rather exaggerated. It is reported that in the MONTI BERICI the Patriots are under FABRIS (?).

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C) PASUBIO - ASIAGO - GRAPPA

Crowds of refugees of disbanded officers and men of the Italian Army, of members of anti-fascist and anti-German organizations went for shelter to these areas. It is difficult to assess how many of the 20,000 people reported in these areas have been organized in Patriot Bands. One report stated that the enemy had completely cleared Monte GRAPPA of Patriot Bands.

The Garibaldi Brigade "Fratelli Bandiera" which is reported located around SCHIO, is probably one of the Patriot bands in this area.

D) TREVISO - BELLUNO

North of VITTORIO VENETO is reported the presence of a Garibaldi Brigade "Wino Nanetti".

It appears that in the mountains North of the Line TREVISO - VITTORIO VENETO there may be as many as 4,000 Patriots. Only a minority of them have arms. The Brigade Wino Nanetti is probably one of these bands.

In the AGORDINO (north of Belluno) was reported in July the presence of about 500 Patriots.

A band of 250 Patriots was reported immediately north of FELTRE.

Several large bands are reported in the CADORE. They may be mostly Italian Army Patriot Bands.

Two thousand (?) Patriots are reported around MONTE CAVALLO and 600 (?) around ADOBBIADENE.

E) FRIULI

It is reported that an Italian Army Patriot Brigade is located in the upper FRIULI, under the leadership of VERDI. The H.Q. of this Brigade (Brigata OSOPPO) is reported to be at PIELUNGO. The number of Patriots is approximately 500.

A Garibaldi Brigade, mostly Communist is reported in upper FRIULI, not far from the OSOPPO Brigade.

In the upper ISONZO valley there may be more than a thousand Patriots. The region however is already part of the area under the control of Marshal TITO.

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F) TRENTINO

In the upper VAL SUGANA, around GRIGNO, TELVE, SELVA, is reported the presence of fairly large numbers of more or less organized Italian Army Patriots.

In VAL FLORIANA, between VAL dei MOCHEN and Altipiani del PINI is reported the presence of possibly 2,000 Italian Army Patriots.

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As it has been the cases in Piedmont (Region X) and in Lombardy (Region XI), in the Alpine valley of Venetia (Region XII) there has been since the days of the armistice a fairly large number of people who were trying to avoid being conscripted for fighting or for work.

In the case of Venetia it appears that the largest concentrations of people in hiding from the Fascists and the Germans were along the PREALPI, the first ranges of mountains north of the Venetian plains: Monte BALDO, MONTI LESSINI, ALTIPIANO d'ABIAGO, MONTE GRAPPA, PREALPI BELLUNESI, etc. Other groups could be found in the two hilly districts of the MONTI BERICI and COLLI ALBANI.

The work of organizing part of the refugees in Patriots has been carried out chiefly by political elements belonging to the Italian anti-fascist parties and by officers of the disbanded Italian Army. Among the political elements, the most active have been the Communists, the Action Party Democrats and also some Christian Democrats. Italian Army Patriot bands have probably had a better organization than Patriot bands led by political elements connected with the C.L.N.

It is difficult to assess the number of true Italian Patriots in Venetia. A Fascist source gave the figure of about 5,000 in the early July. The figure is probably a little higher. Figures given in this report include people who have joined the bands occasionally.

The G.A.P. organization in the towns of Venetia is reported to be fairly strong.

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East of UDINE is VENEZIA GIULIA where most of the Patriot bands are formed by either Slovenes (in the North) or by Croats (in the South). Slav bands have penetrated sometimes the territory north and west of UDINE. The relationship between Italian Patriots and Slav Patriots represents one of the difficult problems of the region.

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VALLEYS in PROV. BRESCIA

VAL CAMONICA - c.r.i. (July) reports that bands have been dispersed by the Germans;
a.a.i. reports that there are 800 men with Col. Ferentini and four other small bands with about one hundred men.

Val TROMPIA - c.s. reports presence of several thousand Patriots of whom 500 are ex-soldiers from 30th Regiment.

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VAL CAMONICA - There are a few small bands north of EDOLO (26-8-44)

VAL TROMPIA - There are a few Patriots near GUGLIELMO. (Val Trompia) (26-8-44)

Top Secret.

BRESCIA

RY. OF BRESCIA - The Fascist Republican authorities have put a price on the head of a BRESCIA industrialist BERETTA, owner of the steel works here, alleged to have supplied weapons to the partisans of the area. GARDONE - VAL TROMPIA.

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Top Secret

- L o m b a r d y -

The Communist Partisan movement in LOMBARDY found serious difficulties on account of the great diffusion of the Partito d'Azione which appeared to want to control the movement itself. A month and a half ago there only existed detachments and discussions were proceeding to constitute a common Military Command in order to be able to form proper Garibaldi Brigades.

16-8-44

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Top Secret.

19-6-44

According to Capt. Loris:

Bands in VALCASSINA and CRICINA, more than 1.000
Patriots under Milan C.L.N.

Other small bands near CHIASSO.

In BIELLESE also other bands well organized.

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(Beville report)

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16-8-44

It is reported that as a result of increasing Communist influence in the GARIBOLDI organization (military organization of the C.L.M.), the ACTION PARTY in northern Italy has started the organization of its own bands. These bands of the A.P. are called "GIUSTIZIA E LIBERTA' " bands.

Their presence is reported in Piedmont and in Lombardy. For instance bands in Val PELLICE and in VAL CHISONE are G.L. bands.

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PROVINCES OF COMO AND VARESE

h) VALSABBINA - o.r.i. reports presence of bands in
c.s. reports presence of several thousand Patriots.

1) VARESE - c.s. reports presence H.W. of Varese of 2,000 to
3,000 armed Patriots under Col. Bettoni.

2) COMO-LECCO - c.s. reports presence of 700 Patriots (former
Alpine troops, military) in the area.

4a) DERVIO - a.s.i. reports presence of about 300 Patriots.

3) VAL D'INTELVI - o.r.i. (July) reports presence of about 150
Patriots.

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V A L T E L L I N A

(report Benello 16-8-44)

A band of about 400 people, connected with the Youth Front and lead by Nicola, existed at S.PIETRO ERBENNO, ^{west} of Sondrio. Attacked by the Germans, in May, they were dispersed. Now they are being re-organized and at end of July they were about 70.

Another band (small) is in existence near MORDAGNO (West of Sondrio).

There are numerous Germans at Sondrio and BORMIO.

SPLUGA - o.r.i. reports presence of band south of Spluga pass.

TIRANA and APRICA - o.r.i. reports presence of about 300 Patriots at Tirana (July).

c.s. reports presence of about 1.000 Patriots (military) at Col d'Aprica and at Breno under Gennari.

a.a.i. reports presence of thousands of Patriots around Col d'Aprica.

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VALLEYS in PROVINCE BERGAMO

VAL BREMBANA - o.r.i. reports presence of 500 Patriots
c.s. reports 200 Patriots at Vilminore and 100
more with Bianchi.

VAL SERTANA - o.r.i. reports presence of 500 Patriots.

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