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6312 . PAT.

INF. ON BANDS IN ENEMY TERRITORY

VENETIA

AUG. - SEPT. 1944

010 BANDS IN ENEMY TERRITORY

· VENETIA (REGION XII)

AUG. - SEPT. 1944

2017

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No. 785016

63/2 - PAT.

TOP SECRET

INF. on BRYDS IN EN. TERRITORY

VENETIA (Region XI)

10000 / 125 / 283

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CONTAINS PAPERS

FROM AUG 1944

TOP SECRET

INF. ON BIRDS IN EN. TERRITORY

VENETIA (Region XII)

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125/283

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FROM AUG 1944

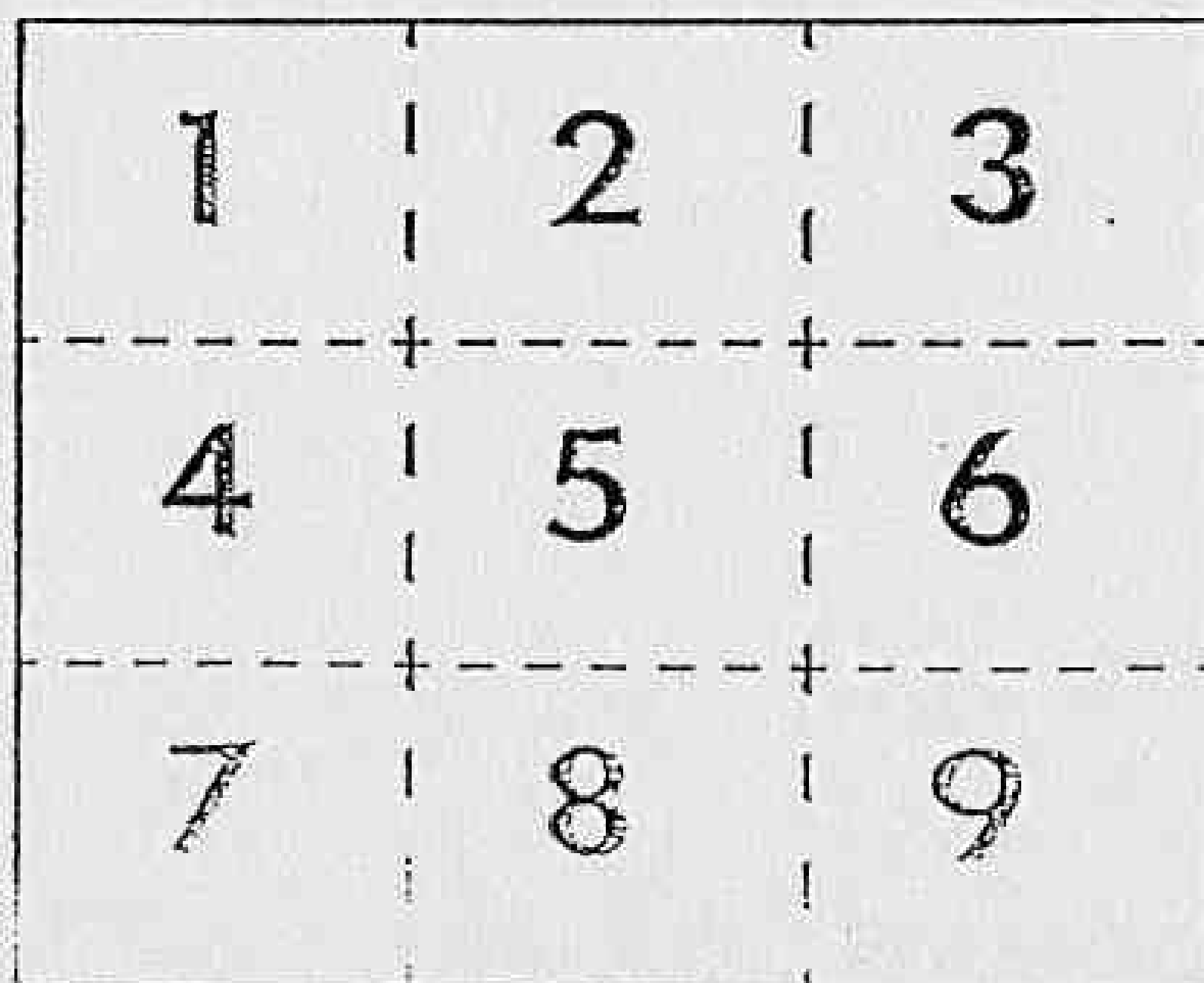
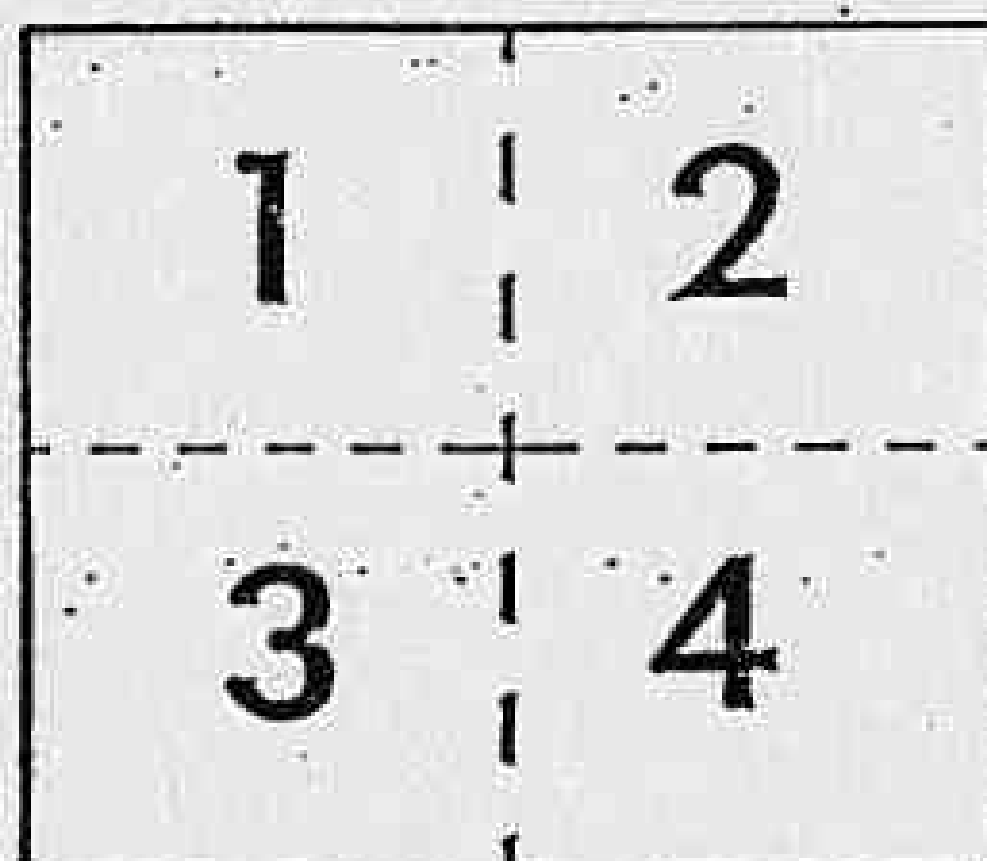
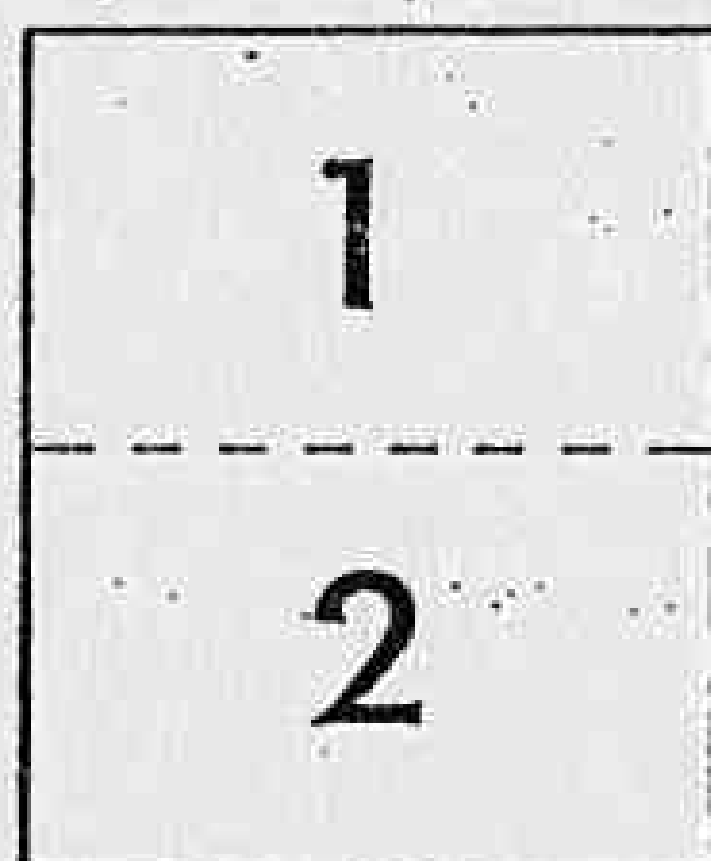
TO SEPT 1944

CATALOGUE.

TOP SECRET

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ON ONE EXPOSURE ARE FILMED CLOCKWISE
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LEFT TO RIGHT, AND TOP TO BOTTOM.

SEE DIAGRAMS BELOW.



2020

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No. 785016

REGION XII

TOP SECRET

1-1X 44

SLAV BANDS
EAST OF THIS
LINE

BOLZANO

TRENTO

BELLUNO

UDINE

2021-

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No. 785016

REGION XII

TOP SECRET

1-IX 44

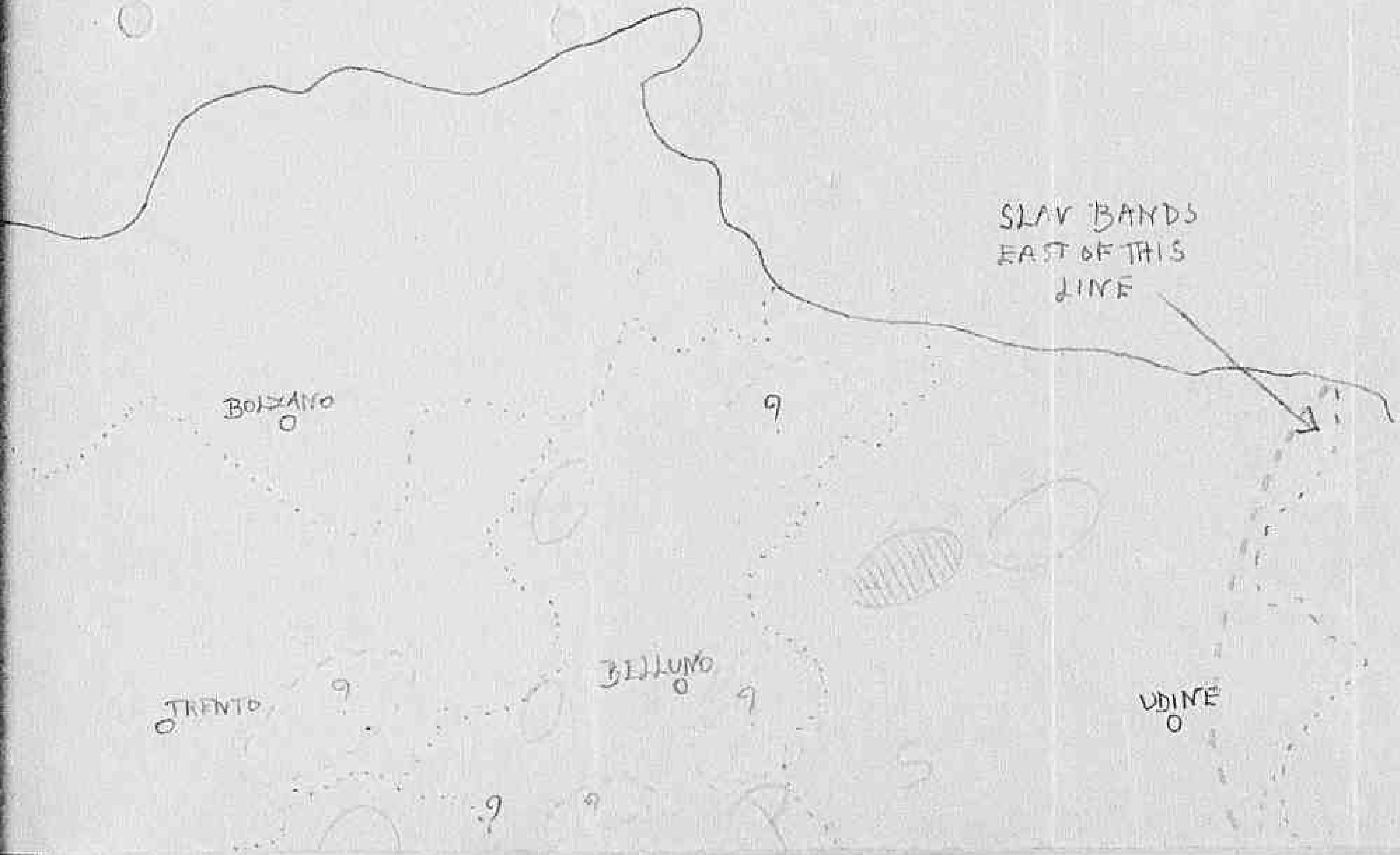
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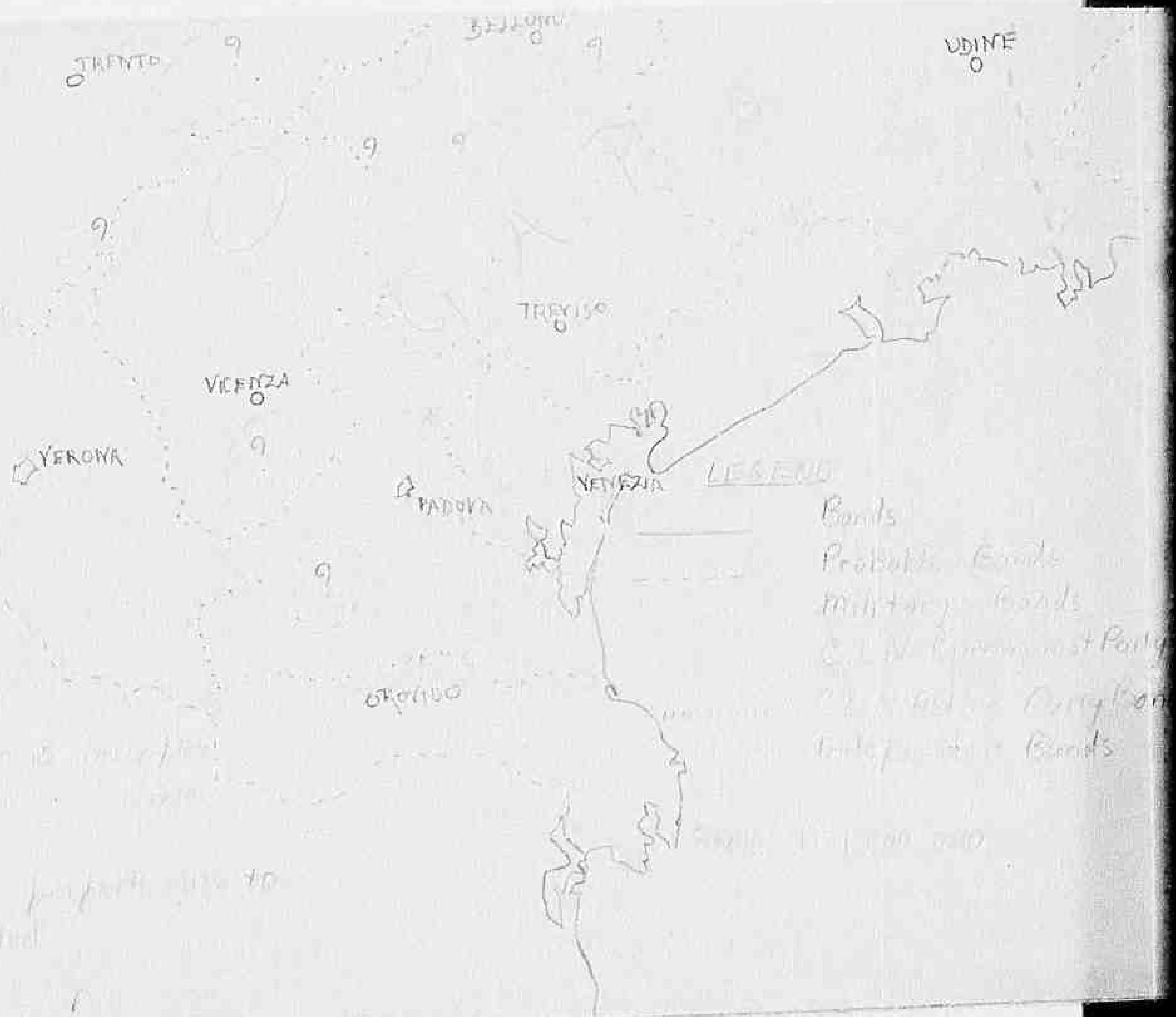
BOLZANO

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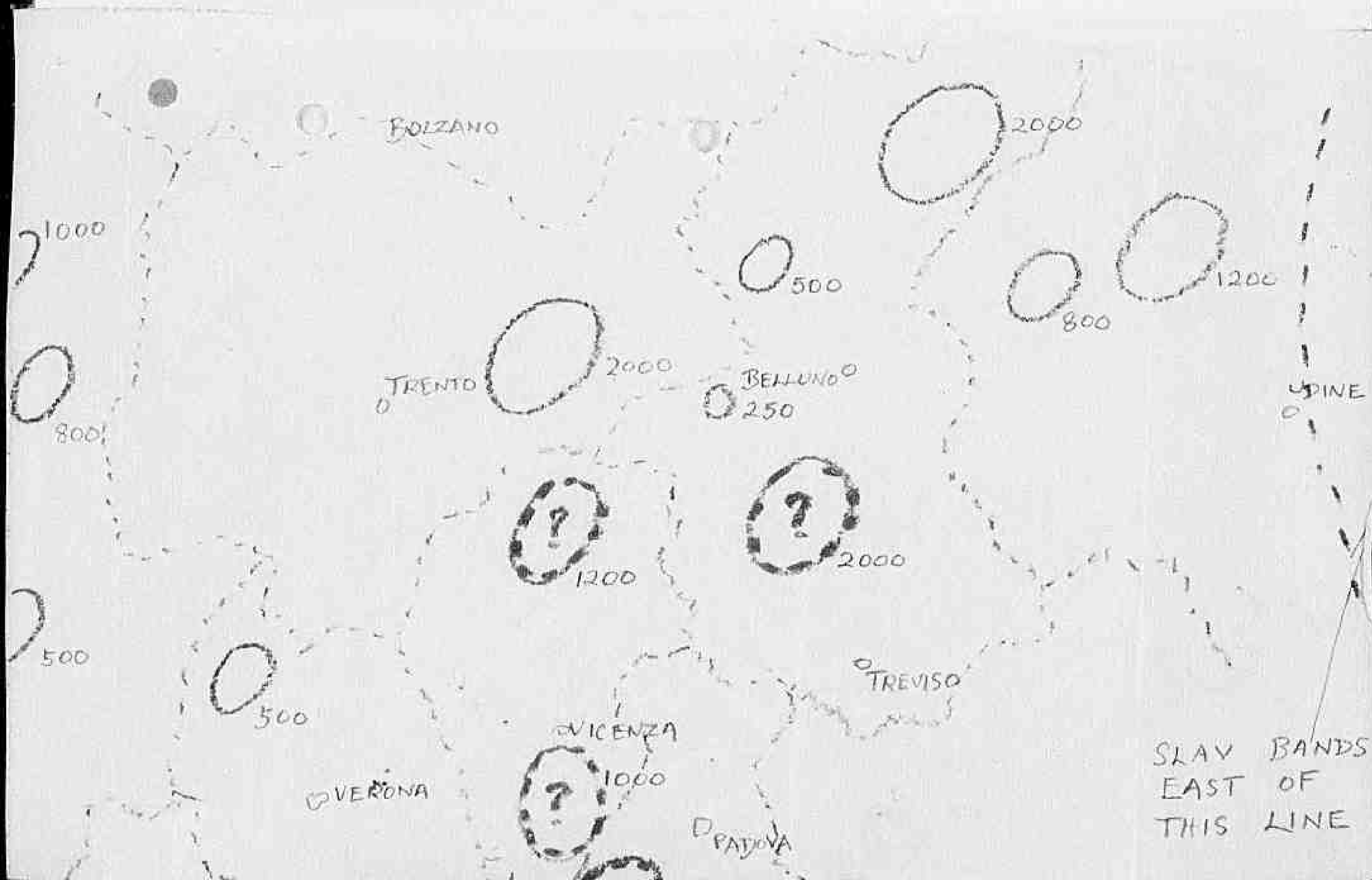
A black and white photograph of a dark, rectangular object, possibly a book cover or a folder. The number '2023' is printed in white at the top center. The object has a textured surface and appears to be standing upright.

7850 Mi

2024

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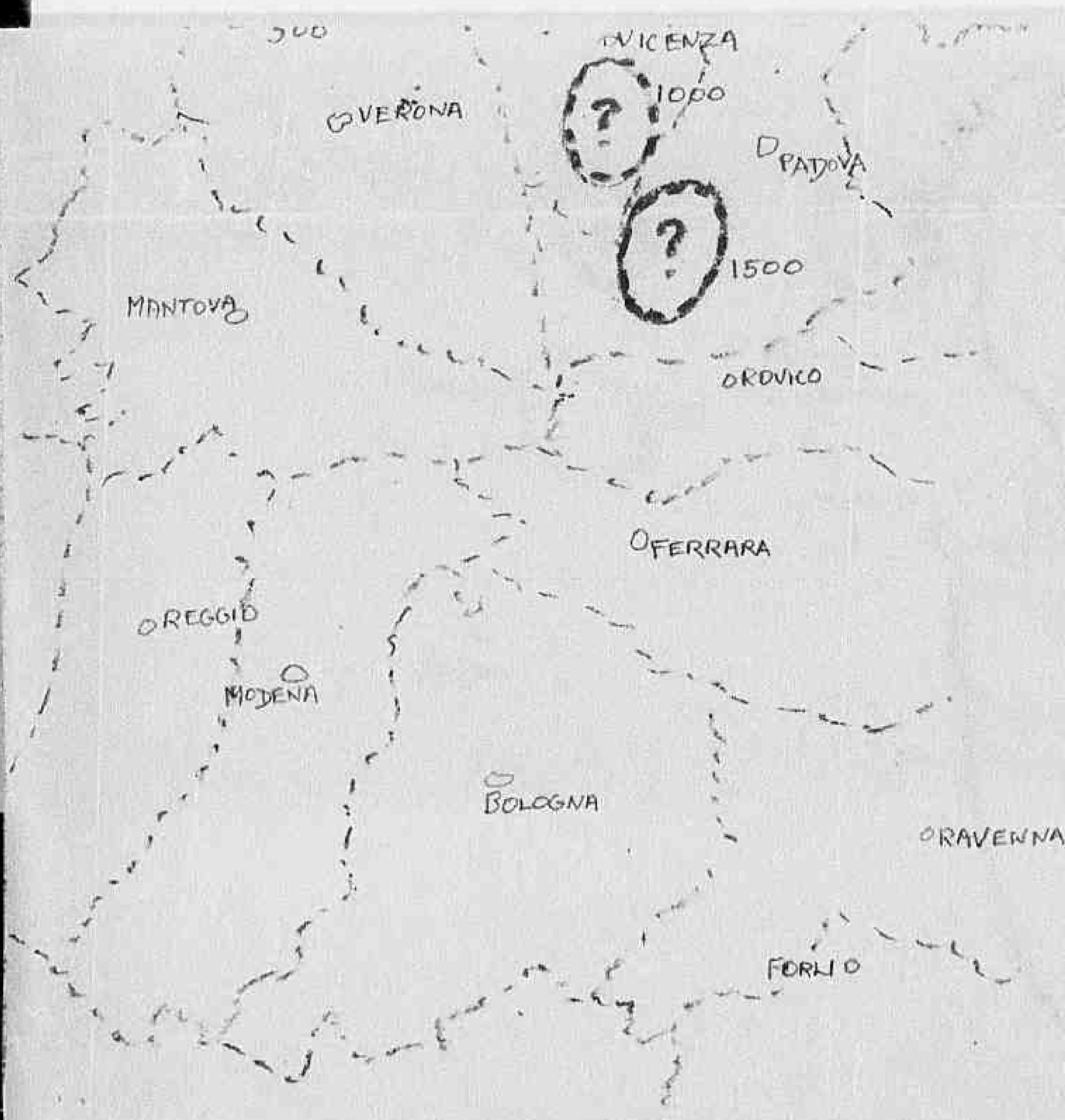
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2025

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No. 785016



SLAV BANDS
EAST OF
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2083

Top Secret

24-8-44

XIIITALIAN 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 (hilly 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 C.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 TENDA 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 CRISSOLO.

5967

B) Province of Turin

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

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- 2 -

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 GRISANCHE.

5866

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. RUERIO, at and around COURGNE. 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 organisation.

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 MASTALLONE river to RINASCA 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'OSOLA, 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.

-----oOo-----

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'OSOLA, VALSESIA, upper CUNEO PROVINCE, etcw 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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5364

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. BETTONI. A source reports that there may be as many as 2000 Patriots

- 5 -

In the triangle between COMO, LECCO 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) VALSASSINA

In the VALSASSINA 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 SPLUGA Pass, close to the Swiss border and another one around the COL d'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 BERBINNO, west of SONDRIO and a smaller one near MORBAGNO.

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.

5983

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. FERENTINI. Four smaller bands were reported in the area.

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- 6 -

G) Val ~~TR~~IMPIA

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 Aemilia. 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 (VENETIA)

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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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- 7 -

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 "Nino 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 Nino 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 ADDOBBIADENE. 5981

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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- 8 -

F) TRENTINO

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

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

-----oOo-----

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'ASIAGO, 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. 5000

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

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- 9 -

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.

5909

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= EASTERN V E N E T I A =

AGORDINO (n. of Belluno) - o.r.i. reports presence of 500 Patriots (July).

_____ FIMBRINO - o.r.i. reports presence of about 250 Patriots (July).

_____ Upper TAGLIAMENGO valleys - o.r.i. reports presence of 500 Pat. a.a.i. reports presence of Osoppo Brigade about 1,000 strong (military), and ~~as~~ a Garibaldi Brigade about 300 strong (communist).

_____ Upper ISONZO - c.s. reports presence of about 1,000 Patriots.

_____ Upper PIAVE - o.r.i. reports presence of about 300 Patriots. a.a.i. reports presence of 2,000 Patriots at Monte Cavallo and of 600 at Addobbiate

5958

Courier reports that Brigata OSOPPO is composed mainly of officers and men of the Alpine troops.

The C.O. is Verdi. The I.Q. is near Fielungo not far from Casazza della Vittoria.

FALTRINO - o.r.i. reports presence of about 250 Patriots
(July).

Upper TAGLIAMENTO valleys - o.r.i. reports presence of 500 Pat.
a.s.i. reports presence of Osoppo Brigade about
1,000 strong (military), and a Garibaldi
Brigade about 800 strong (communist).

Upper ISONZO - c.s. reports presence of about 1,000 Patriots.

Upper PIAVE - o.r.i. reports presence of about 300 Patriots.
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The C.O. is Verdi. The H.Q. is near Pielunzo not
far from Casazza della Vittoria.

In the same district operates also a Garibaldi
Brigade.

1. Partisan Brigade in the TRIULI.

1. Brigade known as the "Trieste" operating in ISTRIA, but
composed of officers and men of different provinces.

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63/2

WESTERN VENETIA (report Bebelio 16-2-44)

PASUBIO - There appear to be the largest group of bands of the region. There may be as many as 10,000 people, including probably a number of refugees, disbanded soldiers and entire families from VERONA. Not known how many are Patriots.

The Patriots occupy the area as far as GALLA and VESTENA NUOVA.

It is reported that the Pasubio bands are in relation with Tito.

VAL FLOREANA between Val dei Mochini and Altipiano di Pini (N.E. of PERGINE, prov. of Trento); it is reported the presence of 2,000 Patriots (?), most of them disbanded soldiers of the Italian Army.

VAL SUGANA. In the upper valley, around Grigno, Telve, Selva di Val Sugana it is reported the presence of fairly large numbers of more or less organized disbanded soldiers of the Italian Army. It appears that they are not controlled by able leader and, because of their lack of discipline, are disliked by the local population.

RIVA. (Trento) The Power Plant had been destroyed by the Patriots.

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Top Secret.

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= WESTERN VENETIA = (w. of Piave)

In area TREVISO-VITTORIO - c.s. 4,000 Patriots (c.o. Olivi, Cugini, Prizzinato), mostly disbanded soldiers of Italian Army.

COLLI EUGANEI - c.s. several thousand Patriots
a.a.i. 3,000 Patriots.

MONTI BERICI (S. of Vicenza) - c.s. about 1000 Patriots
(c.o. Fabris). Mostly military.

MONTE GRAPPA - c.s. 6,000 Patriots (military) c.o. Zanganaro.
o.r.i. reports that on Monte Grappa, after mopping-up operations, there are only Germans.

MONTE BALDO - c.s. 500 Patriots (military) under Franchini.
5956

7 Communes - c.s. 2,000 Patriots (military) under Carli.
o.r.i. reports in Altipiano d'Isiago the presence of 1,200 Patriots.

COLLI EUGANEI - c.s. several thousand Patriots
a.a.i. 3,000 Patriots.

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of 1,200 Patriots.

A.A.I. reports N. of VERONA band of 250 Patriots?

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6 3/2

N. VENETIA

N.E. TREVISO - An informant had heard that there were partisans active in the hills W of AVIANO, who had raided several German columns. Despite German attempts to round them up, they were still operating successfully in May.

VENETO - The following brigades have been organized in VENETO.

1. Brigade known as the "Fratelli Bandiera" at SCIO and VALDAGNO.
1. Brigade known as the "Fino Nanetti" at VITTORIO VENETO.

Up to now there appears to have been little penetration of Communism in the ALTO ADIGE. Groups are found as far as ROVERETO no further. There is some contact between Italian and Austrian Catholics in the BOLZANO for common work of anti-Nazi propaganda.

There are large bands about 25-30 Km. from TRENTO.
(26-8-44)

5955

3-9-44

Top Secret.

SUMMARY INFORMATION ON SOME ASPECTS OF THE PATRIOT
SITUATION IN REGION XII.

GENERAL -

The area of Region XII is a little less than 10,000 sq.m. or about one seventh of the Italian Kingdom in its 1939 boundaries. The population was, in 1942, over six million inhabitants or less than one eighth of the population of Italy. The density of population is over 300 inh. per sq.m.

Region XII includes several distinct districts: VENETO, VENETIA TRIDENTINA, ALTO ADIGE (South Tyrol), TRIULI and ISTRIA. Of the total area, nearly one fourth is inhabited by less than one million non-Italian people. Austrians can be found in ALTO ADIGE, Slovenes in eastern TRIULI and Croats in ISTRIA.

The presence of large non-Italian groups and the proximity to Austria and Yugoslavia create for Region XII a set of problems different from those of the other Regions in northern Italy.

The highest density of population is to be found in south-western VENETO where there are as many 800 inh. p.sq.m. Most of the important towns, including VENICE are in that area. Outside that area there is the important commercial and industrial centre of TRIESTE.

From an economic standpoint, Region XII is an important area, both agriculturally and industrially. Region XII produces about one eighth of the total output of grains in Italy. One fifth of the cattle to be found in Italy used to be in Region XII. Moderate quantities of lead, zinc, quicksilver and coal and large quantities of bauxite are produced in the eastern half of the region. There are two main industrial areas: one including VERONA and VICENZA with prevalence of the textile industry (mainly artificial silk and wool);

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5954

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- 2 -

A considerable difference in historical background exists between the various parts of Region XII. The bulk of the territory formed for centuries the Republic of VENICE which at a time played in the Mediterranean the role which England later on played in the world. ALTO ADIGE, also ^{Italy} geographically Italian, has always been a part of TYROL until the end of the First World War. TRIESTE and its district have been more a part of Central Europe than of Italy. VENEZIA and most of FRIULI were incorporated in the Kingdom of Italy as late as in 1866. The rest of Region XII was annexed by Italy as the result of the First World War.

From a political standpoint, the inhabitants of Region XII have usually shown in the past to prefer the middle way to extreme tendencies. Before Fascism came into power the Partito Popolare (Catholic) controlled most of the rural masses and the Liberals were ^{in the towns} ~~dominant~~. Communists are reported to be fairly strong in the two industrial areas of VERONA-VIGEVANA and of TRIESTE. Problems arising from conflicts between different nationalities play in parts of Region XII a bigger role than conflicts between political tendencies.

5953

ORIGIN OF THE PATRIOT MOVEMENT. -

The Patriot Movement of Region XII can be considered a new and wider development of the struggle carried out during the last twenty years by several underground organisations against the Fascist regime. The activities of these underground organisations had a direct influence in creating the conditions which made possible the coup-d'etat of July 25, 1943.

After the coup-d'etat, leaders and members of the underground organisations came out into the open. With the re-establishment of the Fascist regime (25 Sept. 1943), it became imperative for anti-fascists in Region XII to go into hiding. The same was done by many other people who had not taken part in anti-fascist activities before July 25th; and who after that date had shown sympathy for the new regime and for the Allied cause.

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ORIGIN OF THE PATRIOT MOVEMENT. -

The Patriot Movement of Region XII can be considered a new and wider development of the struggle carried out during the last twenty years by several underground organisations against the Fascist regime. The activities of these underground organisations had a direct influence in creating the conditions which made possible the coup-d'etat of July 25, 1943.

After the coup-d'etat, leaders and members of the underground organisations came out into the open. With the re-establishment of the Fascist regime (25 Sept. 1943), it became imperative for anti-fascists in Region XII to go into hiding. The same was done by many other people who had not taken part in anti-fascist activities before July 25th; and who after that date had shown sympathy for the new regime and for the Allied cause.

As a result of the armistice, most of the Italian Army disbanded. When the new Fascist Government was re-established and it became evident that the enemy was going to occupy the country for a certain while, officers and soldiers who did not want to join the new Fascist Army or were afraid of being sent to Germany to work, went into hiding.

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Among the many who went into hiding during the months of September and October 1943, there was a minority willing to engage in anti-fascist and anti-German activities. In the towns the old anti-fascist organizations absorbed many of the people willing to act against the enemy. New groups were formed mainly by former officers in the Italian Armed Forces. In the mountain districts a separation was soon established between members of bands and those who were simply waiting for the arrival of the Allies. Also in the mountain districts, members of the former anti-fascist organizations usually succeeded in establishing some kind of authority over the bands, except for those bands which were formed by officers and men of the disbanded Italian Army.⁽¹⁾

The Italian Patriot Movement in Region XII does not include eastern TRIULI, ISTRIA and ALTO ADIGE. In eastern TRIULI and in ISTRIA Italian Patriots are not numerous and they have usually joined either the Slovenes or the Great Patriot bands which recognize to-day the leadership of Marshal Tito. There is no news of any Italian Patriot organization in ALTO ADIGE where the majority of the population was Austrian.

DEVELOPMENT OF PATRIOT BANDS. -

The presence of the following groups of Patriot bands is reported in Region XII. 5952

It appears that on MONTE BALDO (between Lake Garda and the VAL LAGARINA) are several Patriot bands. One, including possibly 250 Patriots is called BANDA DEL GARDA ORIENTALE. Nearby is another band of also about 250 Patriots. One of the two bands was reported to be under FRANCHINI. The bands on MONTE BALDO may be under the control of Italian Army Patriots or of Action Party Democrats.

In the MONTE BERICI (south of VERONA) and in the COLLE LUCAINI (west of PAVIA) could be found a large number of anti-fascists and of people trying to avoid the Germans. A few hundred of them may be Patriots.

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In the MONTI BELLINI (south of VERONA) and in the COLLI EUGANEI (west of PADUA) could be found a large number of anti-fascists and of people trying to avoid the Germans. A few hundred of them may be Patriots.

G.A.P. squads appear to be numerous and well organized in the plains of the provinces of VERONA, VICENZA, TREVISO, VENEZIA and ROVERETO and in the VAL LAGARINA. It is reported that these squads have been fairly active against the enemy. Most of the squads are probably controlled by the Communist Party. Others

(1) Patriot squads in the towns and the plains, ~~connected~~ organized by the anti-fascist parties, have been given the name of GRUPPI D'AZIONE PATRIOTICA (G.A.P.). They are distinct from the Patriot bands existing in the mountainous districts.

have been formed either by Action Party Democrats or by the Christian-Democrats (Catholics).

Crowds of refugees, of disbanded officers and men of the Italian Army, of members of anti-fascist and of anti-German organizations went for shelter in the region between the central ADIGE valley and the province of BELLUNO, particularly in the MONTI LESSINI, in the PASUBIO, ALPIRANO D'AMIAO, VAL SUZANA and VAL FLONIANA. It is reported that several bands have been formed out of these crowds and that the bands have usually remained independent from each other. An effort is being made at present (by CUCINI ?) to bring them under unified control and to establish some form of cooperation among them. In the MONTI LESSINI may be as many as 400 organized Patriots. A band of about 300 Patriots is reported in the area of the 7 COMUNI. A GARIBOLDI Brigade "FRATELLI BANDIERA" was reported as being located north of SCHIO. Altogether there may be in the area from 2,000 to 3,000 organized Patriots. Some of the bands belong to the Italian Army Patriot bands. The others are connected with the regional Committees of National Liberation or with the provincial Committees of National Liberation in VERONA, VICENZA and TRENTO and are under the control either of the Communist Party or of the Action Party.

In the Province of BELLUNO and in the mountains between TREVISO and BELLUNO, is reported the presence of several bands. A band of about 250 Patriots was reported immediately north of FELTRIS. A GARIBOLDI Brigade "NINO NARDETTI" was reported north of VITTORIO VENETO. This may include part of the 600 Patriots who were reported in the area of VALDOBBIADENE. In the AGORDINO (north of BELLUNO) was reported in July the presence of about 500 Patriots. Several large bands are reported in the CAIONE (upper PIAVE valley) and they may be

formed mostly of Italian Army Patriots. The most important concentration of Patriots in the area appears to be around MONTE CAVILLO where was reported the presence of as many as 2,000 Patriots. Some of the bands in the area are formed by Italian Army Patriots, others by members of the six anti-fascist parties, chiefly by the Communists, the Action Party Democrats and the Christian Democrats. An effort is being made at present (by CUCINI ?) to bring the bands in

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A considerable advance towards cooperation among Patriot bands appears to have been made in the upper FRIULI. West of the upper TACCLIA ENTO Valley operated the GIUSEPPE Brigade (now Division) formed mostly of Italian Army Patriots and connected with the Action Party. The strength of the Division is reported

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ed, according to the various sources, as from 800 to 3,000 Patriots. East of the upper TAGLIAMENTO valley operated the ISONZO-GARIBOLDI Brigade (now Division), in touch with Yugoslav bands. The strength of this Division is reported, according to the sources, as from 1,200 to 3,000 Patriots. It appears that cooperation exists between the two Divisions.

It is difficult to assess the number of true Italian Patriots in ~~Venezia~~ region XII. A fascist source gave the figure of about 5,000 in the early July. The figure is probably ~~a little~~ higher now. Taking the definition of true Patriots given by A.C.C. there may be now in Region XII from 8,000 to 12,000 Italian Patriots.

The work of organizing Italian Patriots in Region XII 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.

The political leadership of the Italian Patriot movement in Region XII is almost exclusively in the hands of the Committees of National Liberation. They may recognise the authority of the central Committee for northern Italy (C.L.N.A.I.) and of its military command which includes representatives of the three main elements in the Patriot movement: Italian Army Patriots (mostly Monarchists), Action Party Democrats (Republicans) and Communists. Difficulties of communication probably make difficult any real control. It appears that agreements have been made between the C.L.N. for VENEZIA and representatives of Marshal Tito.

5950

ALLIED SUPPORT TO ITALIAN PATRIOT BANDS.

One of the main problems for the Patriot bands and GAPs of Region XII (as elsewhere in Italy) has been the supplying of arms and munitions. Allied organizations have tried to establish contact with the bands (Patriot organizations in the mountainous districts) and with the GAPs (Patriot organizations in the towns

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The C.L.N. regional organization and some of the provincial organizations in Region XII have been contacted by either British or American agents. GAPs in south-western Veneto, bands in upper FRIULI, PAVESE, ALESSANDRIA, etc. have enjoyed, at one time or other, direct W/T communications with Allied H.Q. A certain amount of stores was dropped.

By supplying stores and through their propaganda, the Allies have given considerable support to the Patriot Movement in Region XII.

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