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88/PAT

INTELLIGENCE REPORTS

OCT. 1944

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10A

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 394  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/40/LG.

Tel : 478190

SUBJECT : Patriot activities in Abruzzi- Marche Region  
TO : Patriots Branch.

One of my officers has recently made a survey of the local government in this Region : the extracts given below from his reports may be of interest of you.

*Cap/M*  
RICHARD R. TEELE  
Captain  
Acting Director  
Local Government S/C

ANCONA AND PESARO

> The Patriots are causing some trouble. They have not surrendered all their arms and there have been one or two shooting cases. The problem still is to find them occupation.

MACERATA

The Prefect is working well and is approved of by the PC and his POs. He is a little unpopular in certain political quarters in the province, but I feel this is because he stands up to the CLN. This body is not causing more trouble than usual, it seems, but the Patriots are. They have not surrendered all their arms and there have been one or two shooting cases.

ASCOLI

> The CLN seem to be publicizing themselves as much as they can. They have established themselves - with some former Patriot "officers" - in the former Palazzo Littorio. The Prefect assembles them from time to time, addresses them and requests their opinion : he does not allow them to argue with him and accept or rejects their suggestions as he thinks best.

TERAMO

> Patriot trouble - The former members of IORRIZINI's own band, mostly Communists, are continually badgering him for favours. The other group, that of AMBAZZALORSO, seems to be more criminal and less genuine. The leader was jailed for theft some weeks ago and sent to Chieti for proceeding to be opened. The authorities then sent him back to Teramo jail for some reason. On arrival in Teramo he and few others managed to escape. It will be difficult to trace them. There have been one or two shootings in the province. The streets of the capital swarm with idle young men.

| SEEN.        | INITIALS. | DATE. |
|--------------|-----------|-------|
| Col. Mc. THY |           |       |
| Maj. MAI     | P. n.     |       |
|              |           |       |
|              |           |       |
|              |           |       |

CCRN/cg.

2545

| SEEN.           | INITIAL | E. |
|-----------------|---------|----|
| Col. Mc. THY    | P.N.    |    |
| Maj. MAG        |         |    |
| Maj. DRAGE      |         |    |
| Capt. SALVADORI |         |    |
| Col. FAVI       |         |    |
| C. C.           |         |    |
| Tel. 902        |         |    |

18 NOV

88 R.

ALLIED COMMISSION  
PATRIOT BRANCH  
(ADVANCE DETACHMENT)  
APO 394

SECRET  
Pat Com/13  
31 Oct 44

SUBJECT : Patriots, Intelligence on

TO : Intelligence Officer

Piemonte Region

The following intelligence is passed to you please for your information.

Copy to: Patriot Branch  
Adv. Det. A.C.

*[Signature]*  
F.E. GILBERT  
Major, 5 Innis D.C.  
Provincial Commissioner  
Lombardia Region

PIEMONTE PATRIOTS

(Intelligence available at HQ AAI 30 October 44.)  
Map Ref 1 : 200,000 Road - Italy

1. BATTISTA Commander 2 Cari Div has been publicly hanged in TORINO.
2. VAL DEL LANZO and CANEVESANO have been recaptured by patriots.
3. Bands SE of TORINO and SW of ASTI are now banded into 9 Cari Div whose commander is NANNI.
4. 10 Partisan Div (2400 - mostly unarmed) is located N of ALESSANDRIA and ASTI.
5. MARI's bands and 2 LIGURIAN Div have been confirmed by 2 officers (British) who have returned from that area. HQ 2 LIGURIAN Div is located N. 9918.
6. The Alpine passes still remain in the hands of the Germans.
7. 3 GARI Div is comprised of :

|    |          |            |     |             |         |
|----|----------|------------|-----|-------------|---------|
| 42 | Gari Bde | - strength | 920 | - Commander | NEXERO  |
| 17 | "        | "          | 850 | "           | MARIO   |
| 41 | "        | "          | 620 | "           | FASCINO |

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This div is located along the main road due W of TORINO from S. GIORGIO to RIVOLI in the order W to E - 42 Bde, 17 Bde, 41 Bde.

ALLIED COMMISSION  
PATRIOT BRANCH  
Advance Detachment  
CMF.

8 NOV Recd

8812

Ref. AC/534/PAT

3 November 1944

SUBJECT: Intelligence Reports

To: Major Sir P. Magnus  
Patriot Branch.

The attached report is forwarded for your information.

*E. L. Dragge*  
E. L. DRAGGE  
MAJOR  
Patriot Branch

| SEEN.           | INITIALS. | I | E. |
|-----------------|-----------|---|----|
| Col. Mc. CARHY  |           |   |    |
| Maj. MAGNUS     | P. D.     |   |    |
| Maj. DRAGGE     |           |   |    |
| Capt. SALVADORI |           |   |    |
| Col. FAY        |           |   |    |
| C. C.           |           |   |    |
|                 |           |   |    |
|                 |           |   |    |

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REPORT THE SITUATION OF THE PATRIOTS  
IN ANCONA

1. ) Presentation of certificates to Patriots.

The distribution of certificates has only been partly effectuated. So that certificates should only be given to those who deserve them; it has been deemed necessary to constitute a commission of people outside the local political influence for the purpose of this distribution.

2. ) Assistance to the Patriots.

The Provincial Commissioner of Ancona has not received the circular from the Patriot Branch HQ.A.C.C. under reference 36/PAT dated 18th of July, so that there has not been created a communal commission for the employment and assistance of Patriots as mentioned in the appendix A to the above circular. We have though constituted a communal commission in the most important centers.

3. ) Employment

The Labour Office has assured us that preference will be given to the Patriot demands for work. Workmen will be employed, as to the employment of those that on account of physical weakness have to be employed as ushers, clerks etc. His Excellency the Prefect has given us the assurance that the Patriots will be given the preference in all offices of his dependence,

4. ) Honours to the Fallen and assistance to their families.

The C.L.N. of the Marche has instituted special commission. Settlements of a moral and material kind are urgent for many families who find themselves in very hard circumstances.

5. ) Relations between the A.M.G. and Patriots.

Those have bettered since our arrival which at the beginning were very stiff.

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6. ) It is found necessary to have a permanent liaison between the Authorities and Patriots for the solution of questions that present themselves continuously.

7. ) The C.L.N. of the Marche has instituted a commission of inquiry- to ascertain deeds that happened during the clandestine

period a which reflects on the position of the local  
Artisans.

We have been asked to be members of this Commission and  
it would be necessary for us to go to Rome to question  
when of the responsible persons.

8. ) The undersigned representatives who have given service at  
Ancona for a month have not yet received an assignment  
nor being reimbursed for expenses they have undergone.

THE CIVIL REPRESENTATIVE  
Signed Sergio Barattini

THE MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE  
Signed Ubaldo MORESCHI

Florence, 2nd November 1944

0-2 (Intelligence Objectives Sub-Section) CMT  
C/o Rome Allied Area Command,  
A.P.O. 734, U.S. Army.

| SEEN        | INIT |
|-------------|------|
| Col. Mc HY  |      |
| Maj. Mac    |      |
| Maj. Drach  |      |
| Capt. Madon |      |

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No. 5-24.

YUGOSLAV partisans' attitude towards ITALIAN combatant units and the ITALIAN population of ISTRIA.

SOURCE: Two ITALIAN Officers, through State Maggiore Generale, E. I. . .

# 1. Slughter of ITALIANS in PISTINO.

For the peaceful ITALIANS of ISTRIA, the 6 SERT marked the beginning of unheard of sufferings.

The local partisans having got hold of arms, occupied militarily all the country. At first, they confined themselves to looting shops and arresting fascist elements and sending them to the PISTINO prison. However, later, with the arrival of new partisans who crossed the frontier, the situation changed completely. Mass arrests were made of individuals whose only fault was that of being pure ITALIANS.

Those arrested had their hands tied with wire, were loaded on to trucks and sent to PISTINO, the centre of the partisans' activities. There, they were subjected to inhuman treatment. So cramped were they, that they could not even sit down. They received one meal a day only, which consisted of some sort of stew. The only sanitary arrangement consisted of a receptacle kept in one corner of the room. The smell and the lack of air were unbearable; they dreaded the fall of night.

Every night partisans would appear with nominal rolls, and those prisoners whose names were called out, were loaded on trucks, their hands tied with wire, and taken to unknown destinations. Those left behind were told that their comrades were being transferred to concentration camps in YUGOSLAVIA.

After the occupation by the GERMANS, a search had begun for those who had been taken away from prisons by the YUGOSLAV partisans. Witnesses were questioned who stated that the trucks had been seen going towards a specified area; further investigations led to the area of 'Poliba', a type of cave in the CARSO Region and in the neighbourhood of which spent cartridges were found. A search of these caves was carried out by the Warrent Officers of the POLI Fire Brigade and, as anticipated, a heap of corpses was discovered. An examination of these corpses was made and it was revealed that the victims had been strangled naked and tied with chains. Many of the corpses showed bullet wounds, others had been thrown in alive and must have died of injuries sustained when reaching the bottom of the cave. Many of the corpses could be identified.

26 OCTOBER 44.

1. Slaughter of Italians in PISINO.

For the peaceful ITALIANS of ISERIA, the 6 SEPT marked the beginning of unheard of sufferings.

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A summary census revealed that hundreds of victims had been barbarously slaughtered in this fashion.

2. Attitude towards ITALIAN Officers and other ranks.

The source, who escaped from SLIV on 9 SEP 44, at the time of its occupation by the GERMANS, reached a partisans' headquarters where he was warmly welcomed. Following an exchange of views it was decided to

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*Patrol Branch*

# CONFIDENTIAL

regroup into units the disbanded ITALIANS throughout the country.

To help achieve this, the source asked of the partisan chiefs, moral and material support in order to prevent undesirable from finding their way into the new formations; avoid ITALIAN units fighting against other ITALIAN units who may not momentarily have decided to join the partisans; to appoint a liaison officer in each of these new units (however, the officer thus appointed functioned as political commissary rather than liaison) and, to establish direct contact with ITALY.

A first unit named "MARTINELLI" 400 strong was thus formed of which 100 had shirts and trousers but were without shoes and jackets; the rest were very poorly clothed. Armed with 1 machine gun, 112 rifles and few pistols this unit was ordered to join TITO's 1st PROLETARIAN CORPS.

Individuals joining the partisans on their own, were disarmed and robbed of their belongings (watches, fountain pens, wallets). In spite of repeated protests, promises were given but no action was ever taken.

Meanwhile, the arrival of the first snow brought the first cases of frost-bite and unfortunately the first encounters with the enemy. It was not possible to obtain any clothing nor arms, this in spite of repeated requests.

It was then proposed to have the new units transferred to DALMATIA, to save the men from the terrible pains arising from frost-bite. This meant the beginning of unending ordeals, forced marches, 20-25 degrees below zero and fighting the enemy through snow storms at altitudes of 2,000 metres whilst wearing wet skin shoes. In addition to combat casualties (dead and wounded), cases of frost-bite and tick typhus occurred frequently. No material help could be had and only words of encouragement had to be delivered to the troops.

Meanwhile, amidst the totalitarian communist propaganda was started by 15 individuals sent purposely by the partisans' command. These individuals for the majority were BOSNIAN farmers who had no cultural or political education. They told the troops that YUGOSLAVIA had no Imperialistic or territorial aims but hastened to add that RIJKA, POLA, TRIESTE, GORIZIA would, at the end of the war, become YUGOSLAV.

Obviously such propaganda could not be successful and of course propagandists were at a loss to answer questions put forward by the ITALIAN officer and so the partisan chiefs decided to do away with these officers who in their opinion, were hampering their political activities in the battalion.

ITALIAN soldiers then became the subject of ill treatment, thus arousing their officers' anger and naturally arguments became the order of the day. In their reports the propagandist attributed this state of affairs to political divergencies and so with this excuse the officers were separated from the men and posted to various YUGOSLAV partisan units, the men being told that it was their own officers' wish

Individuals joining the partisans on their own, were dispersed and robbed of their belongings (watches, fountain pens, wallets). In spite of repeated protests, promises were given but no action was ever taken.

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It was then proposed to have the new units transferred to DAL ALPIA, to save the men from the terrible pains arising from frost-bite. This meant the beginning of unending ordeals, forced marches, 20-25 degrees below zero and fighting the enemy through snow storms at altitudes of 4,000 metres whilst wearing poor skin shoes. In addition to combat casualties (dead and wounded), cases of frost-bite and tick typhus occurred frequently. No material help could be had and only words of encouragement had to be delivered to the troops.

Meanwhile, amidst the battalion a communist propaganda was started by 12 individuals sent purposely by the partisans' command. These individuals for the majority were BOSNIAN farmers who had no cultural or political education. They told the troops that YUGOSLAVIA had no Imperialistic or territorial aims but hastened to add that FIUME, POLA, TRIESTE, CARIZIA would, at the end of the war, become YUGOSLAV.

Obviously such propaganda could not be successful and of course propagandists were at a loss to answer questions put forward by the ITALIAN officers and so the partisan chiefs decided to do away with these officers who in their opinion, were hampering their political activities in the battalion.

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From then on, the officers were watched at all times of the day and night, they could not when meeting casually, talk to each other without someone being always within hearing distance.

The BOSNIAN partisans who were very simple minded soon became affectionate to ITALIAN officers and preferred their company to that of their own political commanders; for the same reason again, it was deemed necessary to get rid of the ITALIAN officers.

As disappearances "en masse" were not possible (individual disappearances having already occurred) it was decided to have these officers sent to ITALY living them to understand that they had been requested by their own government, officers could not be discussed and so without being allowed to give a farewell to their own men they left for ITALY.

### 3. Strength and Fate of ITALIANS.

The source states that in his belief there are still in YUGOSLAV territory, CROATIA and ALBANIA no less than 40,000 ITALIANS. Of these some 5,000 fight in entirely ITALIAN or mixed units, the rest are employed in heavy and/or humiliating work. A daily average of two ITALIANS disappear, who, it is alleged, most certainly are slaughtered to death.

### 4. Source's Conclusions.

The source adds that from the experience he has had throughout his stay of 10 months with the YUGOSLAV liberation movement, he has come to the following conclusions; viz :-

a) The masses among the YUGOSLAV partisans are "bone fide" warriors who fight NAZI/FASCISM no longer as the army of occupation but as a political obsession. They are most anxious to be back with their families and to settle down to work.

b) The Chiefs rely on the masses to impose with force a YUGOSLAV federation. Propaganda in this direction was started some eight months ago. The fighting men are not very enthusiastic, they are very tired, and they have suffered too much. To achieve their aim, the chiefs have ordered the elimination of all TOMICHIS and CERNIKS as well as of individuals who had lived in towns and in the country at the time of the fascist domination, and were friendly with the oppressors.

c) There is a great competition among the chiefs (both small and big) to attain high rank; often the rank does not correspond to the individual's capabilities.

d) According to propagandists only one person is to be obeyed blindly, - "TITO" - who is said to have control of operations in ALBANIA, CROATIA, ISERIA, and Northern BOSNIA. Their best friends are the RUSSIA'S and that their friendship with the ALIENS is only superficial. Apart from the RUSSIANS, no foreigners will be allowed to meddle in their internal affairs.

e) ALBANIA, ROMANIA and BULGARIA and, of course, also ITALY will have to cede part of their territories.

f) The ALBANIAN and its islands is the "Has Jadransko More". (ADRIATIC MARINE MOUNTAIN)

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The source adds that from the experience he has had throughout his stay of 10 months with the RUSSIAN liberation movement, he has come to the following conclusions; viz :-

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b) The Chiefs rely on the masses to impose with force a RUSSIAN revolution. Propaganda in this direction was started some eight months ago. The fighting men are not very enthusiastic, they are very tired, and they have suffered too much. To achieve their aim, the chiefs have ordered the elimination of all ISLAMS and GERMANS as well as of individuals who had lived in Germany and in the country at the time of the fascist domination, and were friendly with the oppressors.

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f) The ATLANTIC and its islands is the "Nas Jadranske More".  
(ADMIRAL Miron Mestrum.)

HP/chs.

A. J. COVENTRY  
Major. G.S.  
C-2(I.O.S-S)AFHQ

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27 OCT 44.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT No 1-22

Position of ITALIAN citizens  
in FRANCE

SOURCE: - S.I.M.'s informers.

After 8 SEP 43 few members of the ITALIAN colony in FRANCE adhered to republican fascism. This group is negligible as compared to the remaining 800,000 ITALIANS who have shown themselves decidedly anti-GERMAN and have refused any form of collaboration. In addition, there were many members of the 4th Army (Officers and other ranks) who, having evaded capture by the GERMANS, joined the FRENCH forces of resistance.

At that period, the ITALIA Committee for the liberation in FRANCE was organized by DOMENICO RUSSO. To this movement adhered the various anti-fascist parties who had never ceased to be active. This movement became operative in OCTOBER last and acted in close contact with the FRENCH partisans, giving the latter considerable assistance. It is sufficient to say, that during the PARIS insurrection the ITALIANS suffered 75 casualties (7 dead, 69 wounded).

Today, notwithstanding this, the treatment which ITALIANS in FRANCE are receiving is most inadequate.

The new FRENCH government's attitude towards ITALIANS is intransigent and the following provisions have already been adopted :-

- Obligatory denunciation of all ITALIAN property with the obvious aim at confiscation.
- Freezing of all ITALIAN accounts with banks.
- Confiscation of the larger enterprises and ITALIAN shops in PARIS and other important centres.
- Arrest of numerous ITALIAN citizens.

Thanks to the intervention of the ITALIAN committee of liberation the FRENCH government have relaxed this latter measure and arrests are confined to elements who have co-operated with the GERMANS or fought with the Fascist Militia.

After 8 Sep 43 few members of the ITALIAN colony in FRANCE adhered to republican fascism. This group is negligible as compared to the remaining 800,000 ITALIANS who have shown themselves decisively anti-GERMAN and have refused any form of collaboration. In addition, there were many members of the 4th Army (Africa and other units) who, having evaded capture by the GERMANS, joined the FRENCH forces of resistance.

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Thanks to the intervention of the ITALIAN committee of liberation the FRENCH government have relaxed this latter measure and arrests are confined to elements who have co-operated with the GERMANS or fought with the Fascist Militia.

The position of ITALIANS in FRANCE remains however very precarious and serious. They have the feeling that they are at the mercy of events with no qualified authority to protect their interests.

Moreover, ITALIAN patriots who, on the FRANCE/ITALIAN frontier have fought side by side with the MAGNIS are even worse off. It has in fact, been learnt that the MAGNIS have decided not to consider any longer the ITALIAN patriots in the light of co-belligerents and are denying them any help whatsoever. A case in

*Patriots Branch*

# GOULDING

4. J. COVINGTON  
Major.  
O-2(I, O, S) 1949

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## Time/entry

[illegible]

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