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AMG 5th ARMY- MONTHLY REPORTS

MAR. 1944 - FEB. 1945

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FIFTH ARMY
APO 404 U.S. ARMY

SECRET

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10 February 1945.

REFERENCE: 222/1

SUBJECT : monthly report.

TO : H.Q. Allied Commission.

Enclosed herewith monthly report for the month of January.

For the commanding general:

FRANCIS M. RAY,
Lt. Colonel, C.M.P.,
Acting Chief of Staff,
A.M.G. Fifth Army.

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Report for month of January 1944.

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PART I

1. January has been a quiet and uneventful month. The area under control has remained unchanged throughout the period with no new conquests taken under military government. The routine administration of the three provinces of Firenze, Pistoia and Lucca has presented no new problems though the familiar economic problems have remained as acute as ever, particularly the shortage of cement and electric power and the difficulty of securing adequate food and fuel supplies in the larger towns.

2. VIII Corps passed to operational command of Fifth Army in mid-January, but continues to be administered and supplied by the British Troop of Fifth Army. Agreement was therefore made with A.C.G. Fifth Army that for A.C.G. purposes the Corps could continue as before to be under this Headquarters. This arrangement has worked very satisfactorily.

3. In the forward areas the severe weather conditions have made travelling very difficult and little activity of any sort has been possible. The population however have been fully employed on clearing snow from the military roads and a distribution of clothing by the American Red Cross has done much to alleviate the distress of the most needy.

4. In the rear areas political activity has not been on any great scale. Of the various parties the communists continue to be the best organized and most easily visible. Certain small anarchist groups also continue to operate under the surface.

The recruiting drive for the Italian Army organized by the C.I.P. has given opportunity for several parades and demonstrations, but none of these have been on a large scale or have caused any trouble.

5. Public morale has been increased by the recent Russian victories which are felt to be bringing the end of hostilities nearer, but in general the population continues to be apathetic and there is no great enthusiasm for the war. The political bankruptcy of the Italians, both individually and collectively, is as apparent as ever.

6. There has been less serious crime than in December, though cases of violence have occurred. Several large deposits of arms have been seized, noticeably in Pistoia. These are of mixed Allied, Italian and German origin and have unquestionably been hidden for future use by ex-partisans.

7. Very few partisans have come through the line; as a result they have been no problem.

8. Over 4000 refugees have been evacuated from forward areas; the evacuation has proceeded smoothly with no unusual difficulties except that of providing for the animals and grain stocks of farmers in the Battle Area.

9. Public health remains satisfactory with sporadic cases of dysentery and no typhoid or rabies. The typhoid epidemic at Prato continued serious for the early part of the month but was definitely on the decline as the month ended.

10. Agriculture is surprisingly normal except for the shortage of livestock. Olive oil pressing has been going very slowly but is expected to improve next month as a result of energetic action by provincial commissioners.

11. Twelve enemy agents were tried before General Courts. One was acquitted, one convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment and the remainder convicted and sentenced to death.

PART II.

a. Political reactions and popular opinion.

The chief political event of the month has been the C.I.N. recruiting drive for the Italian army. Although one of the chief motives behind this activity is undoubtedly self-advertisement for the C.I.N. the movement is regarded favorably as giving the people a chance to take a more direct interest in the war. Although no exact figures are available the total number of recruits has reached several thousand and the drive is thought to have been a success. The departure of volunteers was made the occasion for small demonstration parades in Florence; these passed off quietly and with no disturbance.

In Florence another leaflet appeared on the walls attacking the prefect for an anti-german speech made by him in 1941 when prefect of Grosseto. The prefect continued to meet some opposition throughout the province in the rest of the month of the administration.

In Lucca the Committee of Liberation have had to be taken to task for interfering with the administration; this however is not considered as serious as the situation that has arisen in the past in Florence.

The public attitude towards the war continues to be one of apathy and there is still a universal feeling of frustration caused by the continued occupation of the area by large numbers of troops. Individually however relations with Allied soldiers continue to be very satisfactory. Public morale has received a great fillip from the recent Russian victories which are felt to have brought the end of hostilities in Europe appreciably closer.

The conduct of troops in so far as concerns the civil population has been good in view of the large numbers in West Arno. The only exception to this are isolated crimes committed mainly by coloured troops, which are being very firmly dealt with by the military agencies concerned.

b. Local government.

There is no change to report from last month and provincial Administration have continued to work satisfactorily. There is difficulty in some instances in finding suitable personnel to fill posts in communal administrations; however and coal are not lacking in these cases but

experience and reliability are often hard to find.

e. necessities and food supplies.

Deliveries of imported food supplies have continued satisfactorily, and all commitments up to the approved ration scale have been met except for powdered milk, a shipment of which was expected from Leghorn early in February.

Olive oil is being distributed throughout the area except in a few communes in which kerosene is being issued instead. At the present rate of oil burning the prospects for future distributions is not encouraging.

200 tons of salt have been received for curing pigs and are being distributed at a rate of 10 Kilos per animal. However there are still difficulties in obtaining a satisfactory steady supply of salt from Volterra.

The P.O.L. situation has continued very satisfactory with some 11,000 gallons a day being drawn from Army C-1 stocks.

There is continued trouble with short deliveries to communes, there being no facilities for weighing all months at our warehouse. The proposal to turn all accounting over to the consular authorities is welcome as it would relieve A.M.S. of this responsibility.

Considerable help was derived from Fifth Army transportation in bringing food and fuel into Florence by means of Army trucks unemployed from day to day. Civilian transportation organizations are greatly handicapped by lack of tyres. The Allied Commission truck battalion gave excellent service during the month.

The local resources section issued 516 releases of controlled commodities, one third of which were for civilian purposes.

f. agriculture.

Wheat collection is now completed. The totals are considered very satisfactory especially in Florence where collections exceeded the goal by 31,000 quintals. Considerable stocks of grain have been found in the villages in the present combat zone, much of it is damp and in inaccessible storehouses but whenever possible it is being brought down to the valleys and made available for consumption.

Olive oil collections amount to some 5600 quintals. The farmers are undoubtedly suffering from many handicaps caused by the usual shortages of transport, power, etc. but it is still felt that the harvesting is not going as well as it should. The local press and radio are carrying out a very extensive propaganda campaign.

With the arrival and distribution of curing salt considerable home butchering of pigs is now going on and it is estimated that the total

number to be slaughtered will be between 10,000 and 20,000. There is a shortage of forage for other livestock and it is hoped to import some 250 tons from the Rhine area.

Three tons of vegetable seeds have been imported from the Rhine area for distribution through normal commercial channels. Some 200 tons of spring Montana wheat are required for areas not sown in the fall; it is hoped to procure this also in the Rhine valley area.

e. Labor.

Supply continues to exceed the demand except in forward areas and there are some 2500 registered unemployed.

One strike is reported from a textile mill at Pagnal di Lucce over the question of bonuses and indemnities; the parties were brought to agreement by the provincial Labor Office. Otherwise labor relations have been very good throughout the Army area.

The Indemnity of Disaggregation has been made applicable to the communes of Florence, Pistoia and Lucce.

50 delegates from Germany attending the Peoples Labor Convention were escorted by the Labor Officer to their departure from Florence. It is reported that they were the most conservative group at the convention.

Local security and provincial labor offices continue to operate satisfactorily.

f. Public Works and Utilities.

Power lines are almost at a standstill for lack of cement. Cement production is hampered by lack of electric power.

The five mobile power units recently received are unsuitable for driving motors but are being put to use for lighting purposes, thus making a small amount of power available to drive motors. It is hoped that any further units supplied will be of the three phase type.

The draining of ponds has been slowed up as a result of reductions in the power supplied by E.B.S.

Good progress has been made in reconstructing the lost aqueduct to Pistoia which is expected to be completed during February.

g. Public Safety.

The various Italian police agencies have continued to give excellent service. Public safety officials are satisfactory and a new Vice Questore has arrived in Pistoia where the Questore has hitherto been rather weak.

There was a further outbreak of crimes of violence at the beginning of the month. A number of arrests were made and the position improved in the

second half of the month. The improvement has been particularly noticeable in places where no arrests in all have now been made and seven persons interned as a danger to security. 131 fire arms, 10,000 rounds of ammunition and 63 grenades have been recovered. In view of the mixed Allied, Italian and German origin of all the weapons there is no doubt that they were hidden by ex-fascists. Other finds of arms have been made in Florence Province.

Sixty three forged 1000 lire notes have been reported and ten raised from 500 to 1000 lire. It is virtually certain that these notes were uttered outside the Army area. The market price of a forged 1000 lire note is 400 lire.

Control of civilian movement has continued to be strict. Many applications to enter the Army area are received which might not pass more careful screening in the past. Telephones and signals are constantly being used improperly where cases are not wanted. It still appears difficult to ensure that all officers are cognizant of current movement regulations.

B. Public Health.

Public health has remained generally good except for the typhoid epidemic at Prato. The latter was showing some signs of improvement at the end of the month. Phagetic measures have been taken to deal with this epidemic but as previously reported it cannot be satisfactorily dealt with until the modern water supply of the town can be repaired.

Dysentery has occurred sporadically but not to an alarming extent. Scabies is prevalent especially in the mountain communes on account of the lack of soap. There have been no cases of typhus or rabies.

The foot and mouth outbreak at Borgo San Lorenzo caused by sheep imported for feeding police troops has not spread and is well under control.

The distribution of medical supplies has proceeded satisfactorily in Corps Areas where it is an A.M.C. responsibility. In Army Area, where I.M.S., I.R.S.A. is responsible, the usual delays, difficulty and incompetence have been experienced. There is some black market activity in the drug trade and persons arrested in this connection have included one of the principals of the well known firm of Panetti, Roberts & Company.

The American Red Cross have given the same excellent service as heretofore. This month their energies have been mainly taken up with the distribution of relief clothing in Forward Areas. They have also continued the rehabilitation and supervision of civilian hospitals in Corps Areas; this is of direct support to operations as it relieves the Army Medical Services of the need to look after civilian casualties.

C. Refugees.

With the arrival of rail-head at Piacenza all refugees proceeding to Rome or south of Rome are shipped by rail from there, thus by-passing the Camp at Passignano. Some 4200 persons were shipped out from the Army Refugee Centers, of whom 1700 were dispersed locally. All of these had houses or places of refuge in the South. Some 1700 are at present in the Florence

center, and these mainly come from the North.

A belt 3000 yards deep has been completely cleared of civilians across much of the front. This operation proceeded smoothly and produced only a small proportion of the refugees forecast by the civilians concerned.

It is feared that considerable numbers will have to be evacuated in the near future from the west coast. Not only is that a densely populated area, but large numbers of refugees are expected to cross the lines from Albania and Liguria as the Germans have stopped the distribution of food supplies there.

J. Finance.

Being in the prevailing static conditions expenditure control by means of local government budgets has continued to be a major activity. The A.C.A. of Florence and Pesce have been used as financing agencies for the disbursement of funds necessary for running partisan centers although this is an expense more properly to be borne by the Central Government than local authority.

In Florence province the financing of commands has had to be done by direct advances as no Italian provincial organization is yet in existence.

Public manufacture is very satisfactory and a distribution of 20 grams per head has been made to the general public.

The banks have continued to operate normally and the cash position is satisfactory.

K. Anti-Germans.

Good work continues to be done in Florence province by U.S.F.A. and civilians trained by U.S.F.A. personnel. On the west coast the work is under the auspices of the Italian Army Zone V and progress there is very disappointing, although in a few areas the trained squads are still operating. In Sicily for instance the trained squads quit work after lifting a grand total of six mines at a cost of two casualties. Unless more satisfactory results are forthcoming next month this organization will have to be regarded as a failure.

L. Partisans.

Some 1500 partisans were received in the Florence and Pesce centers. Of these 147 joined the Italian Army. Some 600 joined organized labor groups, 30 were evacuated to the South and 360 were dispersed to their homes, leaving some 330 in the centers at the close of the month.

Good supplies of clothing have been forthcoming and this has been of great assistance.

A convalescent home is being organized at Pesce in conjunction with U.S.F.A.

In general there has been no great difficulty in handling partisans during the month. But it must be pointed out that this is entirely due to two causes. First, only very small numbers have come through the line. Secondly, as a result of the static conditions prevailing at the front all those that have come through the line have been evacuated through the P.R. cages; this has achieved a rigid control of all groups and has ensured that they are disarmed properly and evacuated to A.M.G. Camps. Similar conditions will not be found when the advance is resumed and at that time the same results cannot be expected. It will also be necessary at that time to modify the present organization and methods.

HEADQUARTERS
AMG FIFTH ARMY
APO 464 U.S. ARMY

PRB
DHEM:RVDJ:HFP

SECRET

11th December 1944.

222/7

SUBJECT: Monthly Report.

TO : H.Q. Allied Commission.

Enclosed herewith Monthly Report for month of November.

For the Commanding General:

/s/ R.V.D. Janzan
R.V.D. JANZAN,
Lt. Col., Cav.,
Acting Chief of Staff,
A.M.G. Fifth Army.

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MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

PART I.

During the month static conditions again prevailed. Slight advances on the right flank brought a few additional communes in Forli, Ravenna and Bologna provinces under Military Government, but with the Inter Army Boundary moving continually westwards the Fifth Army now has very unimportant commitments in the first two of these Provinces.

Pisa province was transferred to Regional Control with effect from midnight November 25th.

At the beginning of the month the South African 6 Armoured division ceased to operate independently and passed under IV Corps. At the same time 92nd division (Negro) was constituted an independent command under Army and in view of the large area covered by it, a separate A.M.C. organisation was formed, similar to our normal Corps organisation.

Aside from the departure of the Chief of Staff, Colonel Wayne, for South Africa at the end of the month personnel remained virtually unchanged. It was however found necessary to appoint a Partisan Officer at Headquarters to supervise the Reception Centres necessary for handling homeless partisans passing through the line and to investigate the possibilities of finding work for these men until such time as they are able to return to their homes.

In the static conditions now prevailing very strict control of movement and political activity have been necessary and life for the Italians is very restricted. While the majority accept this as necessary it is difficult for the Florentines especially to realise that their city is still considered to be in an operational zone.

The principal preoccupation of the people is the shortage of food and fuel. Universal discontent and disappointment followed the non-implementation of the promised 300 gramme bread ration. This discontent has lowered public morale appreciably.

PART II.

a. Political Reactions and Popular Opinion.

Apart from the repercussions in the press from a visit of the Committee of National Liberation to Rome this has been a much quieter month politically. The tighter control over the movement of Cabinet Ministers and others into the Army area has doubtless contributed. At the end of the month the parties are presumably waiting to see the outcome of the impasse in Rome and it is expected that activity will increase when the composition of the new government is known. There is a general hope that a new government can be found which is more efficient and energetic, especially a out defascistisation, than the last one. There is also a widespread demand for action on the institutional and electoral question in spite of the impossibility of such action at this time.

Of party politics it can be said that the Christian Democrats and the Communists are the most popular, though the Liberal Party has a large following in Florence. However as a result of the total lack of political education it is impossible to define the policies of the parties, and the views of the same party appear to differ from place to place. In Pistoia, for instance, the communist leader, who is President of the local Committee of National Liberation, is regarded as a conservative man and a steadying influence on the committee. This sort of thing makes it almost impossible to evaluate local politics correctly and any reports on this subject have to be treated with great reserve.

Except in the areas where gunfire is audible the people are getting less enthusiastic in their friendship with the Allies. (the contrast in the attitude between the Arno Valley and a village within a few miles of the Germans is very striking.) This is attributable to the restrictions and inconveniences caused by the presence of large numbers of troops and to the inevitable reaction to the insufficient food supplies in the towns. It was felt that after the American Presidential elections the implementation of the promised 300 gramme bread ration would be immediate and the apathy born of disillusionment is now creeping in. Public morality is also deteriorating, though of course it has a long way to go before it reaches the level of, say, Naples.

Relations with Allied troops are excellent in the forward areas and good in the back areas in spite of isolated cases of misconduct of American troops in rest areas in Pistoia province. These cases of misconduct are not on the scale experienced in the Naples area last winter.

The refunctioning of nearly all the hotels, restaurants, and clubs of Florence for Allied use, chiefly British, continues to be a sore subject with the Italians, who sometimes say that it is far too difficult for an Italian civilian to obtain a meal or room for the night by honest means.

An Anarchist group is at work in the area distributing publications and is thought to be responsible for the writing on the walls in Florence. The slogans are mainly directed against the Prefect or calling attention to the food shortage. The editors of the publications have been traced and arrested by the provincial Public Safety Officer.

b. Local Government.

An officer from the Local Government Sub-Commission visited this area during the month. No report on the visit has been received at the time of writing but it is understood that what he found was satisfactory.

In Pisa administration was still short of several important officials at the time of the handover, due to the slackness of the Government in filling posts which have long been vacant.

In Lucca things are running well under Avv. Carignani as Prefetto Regente, though it is felt that his outstandingly strong personality is the chief cause of this, and if he at any time falls foul of the local Committee of National Liberation it may be necessary to import an outside man.

However it is difficult for any visitor to Lucca to imagine that things could go wrong in such a peaceful and sleepy spot.

From Pistoia the Provincial Commissioner still reports a lack of drive and energy on the part of the Provincial Administration.

In Florence the morale of the President is undoubtedly kept low by local politics but he continues to work efficiently. H.E. the British Ambassador paid him the honour of a visit while he was in Florence. In general the administration continues satisfactory. The Deputazione Provinciale was appointed during the month.

c. Economics and Food Supplies.

Reference is made elsewhere to the question of the much discussed 300 gramme bread ration. Sugar is non-existent and soap in short supply. Salt is sufficient for an increased ration of 210 grammes per month but there is none available for curing the hogs which are now due for slaughtering in some areas. Apart from these items it has been possible to distribute supplies satisfactorily to implement the existing ration scales. It is not considered however, that the towns, especially Florence, are receiving sufficient to maintain full health and efficiency. The POW situation is satisfactory. Some 11,000 gallons a day are being drawn from the Fifth Army.

The transport companies have given good service under difficult conditions. The Italian General Transport Company Commander reports a continued lack of essential war clothing and reinforcements to bring his company up to strength.

The Local Resources Section continued to operate in C-4, Fifth Army Rear. During the month 663 release orders were countersigned, over half of these for civilian needs. The inventories required under the blocking of Local Resources Order are very slow in coming in.

The rehabilitation of industry proceeds very slowly owing to the absence of electric power, the necessary materials for repairing plants and raw materials for manufacture. No early solution to these problems can be foreseen.

The question of inter-provincial and inter-regional free trade is continually coming to the front. There is great tendency for the country to be divided up into water tight economic compartments in the interests of conserving local stocks which are required in other Provinces. This undoubtedly handicaps unduly such large cities as Florence which is normally the economic centre of gravity of a large area. It is hoped that some coordination in this matter can be arranged during next month.

d. Agriculture.

Such progress has been made in planting winter wheat and large quantities of seed wheat have been brought in from Grosseto. At the end of the month the olive harvest was just starting. The crop promises to be a good one and in spite of the destruction of the largest presses

sufficient small mills have been put into operation to deal with it. It remains to be seen how much of the oil escapes the Amassi and flows into the Black Market.

The slaughtering of hogs in the mountain areas is handicapped by shortage of salt.

Large numbers of sheep have come through the lines on their way to winter pastures. Many thousands of these are from flocks which in normal times wintered in the Po Valley.

The policy which was so successful at Anzio of leaving authorized farmers in charge of the livestock belonging to communities forcibly evacuated from the front line areas has again been put into effect.

e. Labour.

Labour relations have been satisfactory. The Social Security organizations are hampered by the usual difficulties of transport, restriction on movement, damage to buildings, etc.

A great amount of work has been done helping the Army in labour procurement. In Florence the demand exceeds the supply except for white-collar workers. In the rest of the area there is widespread unemployment and supply exceeds the demand. At the same time there are insatiable military demands for labour in Livorno and in the mountainous areas near the front, but there are no facilities in either case for housing and feeding the workers required.

Fifty one Labour supply offices are in operation in the area. Provincial Labour offices continue to operate satisfactorily.

f. Public works and Utilities.

The Regional Engineer has, as before, been operating well forward in Army Area so that he may have continuity of supervision of long term projects. With static conditions continuing our own Engineer has had more paper work than usual and much time is spent in blocking, unblocking and obtaining materials.

Progress has been made in repairing the Bonifica near Viareggio which is ready to operate as soon as power is available for the pumps.

The various provincial Genio Civile are faced with far more work than ever before at a time when their difficulties and handicaps are also greater than ever before; it is therefore not surprising that they show poor results. However everything possible is done to bolster up their organizations and spur them into action and it is hoped that their results will show progressive improvement.

Electric power continues to be in extremely short supply and this creates a vicious circle in the general rehabilitation of public works.

4. Public Safety.

The security problem continues to be of paramount importance and large numbers of enemy agents have been caught; about 60 now await trial as soon as the cases have been prepared. Heavy demands for Carabinieri Reale to assist in the control of movement have had to be met and it has only been possible to comply as a result of the presence in the area of men waiting to go North. The Liguria Region Detachment of the latter are in dire need of clothing.

There are more serious crimes than usual to report this month, including forgery of Allied currency, several thefts of gasoline from the Army pipe line, armed entry by masked men followed by murder, bribery of an Allied soldier, several armed robberies and various serious cases of theft and black market operations. It should not be deduced from this however that there is a general outbreak of lawlessness, since apart from black market operations the people continue to keep good law and order. The Civil Police Agencies are energetically pursuing these crimes and in most cases the guilty parties have already been tried and sentenced.

On November 10th a demonstration was staged by about 150 women outside the Florence Prefettura demanding more milk, less fascism and more epuration. The purpose was undoubtedly political but it is not certain who organised it. Both this and a smaller demonstration at Regello (Florence Province) on November 22nd were dispersed without difficulty.

The ten kilometre rule was abolished in Florence Province South of the Arno with effect from November 25th. It is hoped that this will allow a greater resumption of normal trade and economic activity within the Province than has been possible hitherto. The strict control of movement continues to bring to light many expired, altered or bogus passes, and the control is still far from satisfactory. There are still cases of persons travelling with A.M.G. passes irregularly issued without previous clearance with this office. H.Q. Allied Commission still gives occasional cause for amusement by the apparent lack of knowledge of geography of some of the Sub-Commission; the places for which passes for civilian have applied for include Ancona on the Adriatic and Apuania, still in enemy hands. However in general there has been a slight improvement on last month.

In order to assist the rehabilitation of normal local enterprises, authority has been granted for the extension of local postal services in Florence and Pisa Provinces. It was with great satisfaction that we read a new directive from H.Q., A.A.I. which laid down that in future the restarting of postal services in each province would be considered on the merits of each particular case instead of continuing to follow a hard and fast rule; this is the procedure which this office has wanted to see introduced for nearly a year.

Carabinieri Reale continue to give good service in forward areas; their morale is good and cooperation with corps and divisional military police is excellent. Without their assistance in controlling movement it is improbable that such a large number of enemy agents would have been caught during the month.

h. Public Health & Welfare.

There are many signs of undernourishment in the large towns, especially Florence. The shortage of soap is responsible for many local outbreaks of scabies. Typhoid has been on the increase, especially in Prato where there are at present 250 cases. Diphtheria occurs sporadically throughout the area and there have been several cases in the Florence Refugee Centre, necessitating the creation of an isolation block. There has been no case of typhus.

Apart from the above general health continues to be satisfactory.

The formation of the E.M.D.I.M.E.A. has simplified the distribution of medical supplies: this is now done entirely by Italians except in Corps areas where distribution is handled direct by A.M.G. The medical supply situation has continued satisfactory.

The A.M.G. Field Representatives continue to perform outstandingly good work on the reorganisation of civil hospitals in the forward areas. No praise can be too high for them.

At the request of A.M.G. the Prefect of Florence has purchased 20,000 blankets from the stocks at Prato. Half of these are for distribution through E.C.A. and the other half are earmarked for homeless Partisans.

i. Refugees.

Two centres, at Florence and Lucca, were kept open during the month. An officer from the Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission is on duty at the former, while the Sub-Commission are taking over the latter at the beginning of December. In addition one of the tented camps from Eighth Army continued to operate under 13 Corps. 4200 persons were evacuated during the month of whom some 450 were returned to their homes locally. Half of the total have homes North of the battle line, the remainder wished to return South in any case. The bulk of the total were from a group of small communes right in the battle line who were evacuated for security reasons.

It is thought that the peak of the evacuation of the present battle area has now been passed: however it is always possible that a further area may have to be cleared or that large numbers of people may be driven through from the German lines.

The housing shortage in the Army area grows daily more serious as more troops move in and those that are already here seek shelter against the elements. As a result the Army area is now saturated and in future there will be no alternative but to send South those whose homes lie North of the line. However, as indicated above, it is not expected that this will amount to a large number during next month.

j. Finance.

In the forward areas advances have been made direct to communes. In Bologna Province a new system of Amassi financing has had to be devised in

the absence of any banks. Elsewhere the work has a more typically Regional character. A number of Local Government budgets have been passed, in most cases after drastic reduction in the estimates submitted. A Specialist Revenue Officer has been appointed temporarily to work in the provinces.

Arrangements have been made for restarting the Florence Tobacco Factory on a limited scale. The factory at Lucca is also working. The Salt Factory at Volterra is not working satisfactorily - in part this can be attributed to the usual causes of lack of fuel, etc., but to a large extent it is due to the character of the manager.

The Intendentes are unsatisfactory at both Lucca and Pistoia. It is hoped that replacements can soon be found.

The unblocking of blocked accounts appears to be a thorny problem; no easy solution can be seen as it is tied up with the even thornier matter of repatriation.

k. Education.

The educational activities during the month continue to be satisfactory. Notably is the situation excellent in Florence City and Province where the Provveditore agli Studi reports that for the City nine-tenths of the pupils are receiving daily instruction with a minimum schedule of two hours and with many pupils following a normal schedule. In the Province South of the Arno most of the schools are now functioning and North of the Arno the schools have been opened where possible and others are being reopened as rapidly as buildings can be found or be released by Army units.

The text-books situation in this area is better than it is in any other section of Italy. The Education Officer is supervising the printing of the State Elementary series which is now just about ready for distribution, the reprinting of other series which have been examined and found to be satisfactory, and the approval of other series which are now available in the printing establishments.

The University of Florence is carrying out its program of make-up courses and examinations preparatory to the beginning of a new school year in January quite satisfactorily. It is also offering short survey courses in Italian Language, Literature, History, and Art for Canadian soldiers in this area and has outlined a much more comprehensive program for all Allied personnel. This proposal is now being studied by the Education Officers of the American and British forces.

Assistance and supervision are also being given to other higher institutes of learning, to libraries, and cultural organizations.

The formal reopening of the University of Pisa was held on 25 November with the Senior Civil Affairs Officer, 5th Army Allied Military Government as the official representative of the Allied Governments. Before a very large audience and in a very colorful ceremony the Senior Civil Affairs Officer spoke in an effective manner concerning the position and the interest of the Allied Military Government had in education and its desire to restore all educational institutions to normal functioning as rapidly as possible. He also presented to the audience the Pro-Rector of the University.

The formal reopening of the University of Siena for which practically all the preliminary work was done under 5th Army Allied Military Government supervision was held in an impressive ceremony on 26 November.

The reopening of schools in Pisa City has been greatly retarded by the destruction and requisitioning of all available buildings. In the Province the schools have begun to function.

In Lucca and Pistoia Provinces the school situation is very good.

The work of Education has been completed in all three Universities and is far advanced in all the Provincial schools.

1. Miscellaneous.

(i) Mine Clearance.

For the first time since the landing at Paestum it is possible this month to record real progress in mine clearance. In Florence Province this is due to local initiative in making use of the trained U.N.P.A. personnel available. The latter have done excellent work.

After many false starts the Italian Army School on the west coast has at last started to produce results. At the end of the month work was also starting in Lucca Province and a school opened in Pistoia. The difficulties confronting the officer in charge are considerable but the results achieved so far are encouraging.

(ii) Floods.

On 2nd November the Arno overflowed its banks and inundated the city of Pisa. After considerable argument it was accepted as being the highest level the river had reached for 100 years. In Pisa no serious damage was done except the covering of the streets with several inches of mud. Energetic emergency measures were necessary and the Prefect performed magnificently. It was fortunate that the consequences were not more serious. This Headquarters escaped immersion by the narrow margin of two feet.

War damage to drainage systems prevents the land from draining and large areas are still under water; they are likely to remain so until the Spring.

(iii) Partisans.

Reception centres for homeless Partisans who have come through the line have been established at Florence and Lucca. Several hundred have had to be handled in this way. So far there has been no source of supply from which clothing can be drawn for them and their treatment has per force not been all that might be desired. More complex is the problem of absorbing them into the Community and finding work for them, although the Army wants labour it cannot provide shelter, clothing, food and organisation on a large scale. One group was formed into a labour gang designated No. 1 Apennine Civil Labour Force, equipped with salvaged material and put to work on the roads under their own leaders and directed by British Engineers. This

experiment has been successful so far and the men are very happy, but it must be emphasised that the supplies necessary for equipping other groups in the same way simply do not exist at the present time.

CM3/day

P.R.B.

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HEADQUARTERS VENEZIA REGION
Allied Commission
APO 334

6 December 1944

REPORT ON VENEZIA REGION FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

1. November was a month of comparative quiet for Venezia Region.
2. The Regional Commissioner, Brigadier John K. Dunlop, pursuant to orders, left on 4 November for Southern Region to assume command. Colonel Carl M. Sayers was appointed Acting Regional Commissioner and assumed command on 4 November.
3. The Verona Province team, under Major Blackwell, which had been under command 1st 5th Army, was released from command on 14 November. The team was ordered by the Region to proceed directly to Aquila, to report upon arrival to Lt. Col. Craig for work in the devastated area of Abruzzi-Marche Region.
4. The Acting Regional Commissioner conferred with Brigadier Forrester-Walker at Bari on 22 November discussing the subject of Italian Frontier Provinces, and on 18 November attended the conference at Siena.
5. At the present time only a small number of officers and En/GRs remain at headquarters for the necessary "housekeeping" tasks of the Region. All others have been attached for duty to various Regions and sub-commissions, subject to immediate recall if operational necessity demands.

c of S Destitute

1 - File Copy CSO, Cops, etc

1 - CA Sect

1 - Economic Sect

1 - P.R.B. to be sent to

→ Pol & Estab Sects

1 - Capt Kordon

Carl M. Sayers
Col. M.
Acting Regional Commissioner

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HEADQUARTERS EMILIA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394

ACB/vfs

MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

PART I

1. During the month further progress has been made by the Armies and the whole of the Province of FORLI is now in Allied hands together with a large part of the Provinces of RAVENNA and BOLOGNA. Some penetration has also been made into MODENA.
2. These areas are being administered by ARMY FIFTH and EIGHTH Armies. In the EIGHTH Army sector the Provincial Commissioners of FORLI and RAVENNA are controlling their Provinces under command of SCAC EIGHTH ARMY.
3. Following the capture of the city of FORLI, Provincial HQ was established in the Prefettura on 2 Nov. '44. This is the first provincial capital of EMILIA to be liberated. The city is still being subjected to sporadic shellfire and occasional air attack, and the setting up of the HQ was hampered by the shattering of the windows of the Prefettura.
4. The RAVENNA team has also been moved forward and on 25 Nov. '44, Provincial HQ was established at CATTOLICA. Since the end of November the city of RAVENNA has been captured and it is hoped that this Province also will be installed in its provincial capital before the next monthly report is rendered.
5. As forecast in the last report an additional part of RAVENNA Province has been flooded by the enemy. This has been done by breaking the banks of the FIUFI UNITI SOUTH of the town.
6. In both FIFTH and EIGHTH Army areas officers of EMILIA Region have been employed either as CACs or in a specialist capacity under the command of the respective SCAC.
7. In the case of EIGHTH ARMY a special plan has been made for the administration of the area. Under this plan the executive administration of the area will be placed under a HQ staffed by EMILIA Region. This administrative HQ will be directly responsible to the SCAC.
8. The purpose of the plan is to provide the specialist staff not normally present with Army and to make an earlier start on measures of rehabilitation than would otherwise be possible. The scheme has been approved by HQ Allied Commission and will come into operation when the SCAC considers the position has become sufficiently static.
9. To facilitate the operation of this scheme Region HQ was moved to RICCIONE 1 Dec. '44.
10. In FIFTH Army area the position remains unchanged and the SCAC continues to make full use of the Region EMILIA officers under his command to reinforce Provincial in FIFTH Army territory and to thicken up the CACs in forward areas. Under the plan outlined in para 7 above, Specialist Officers will remain free to devote part of their time to FIFTH Army area as and when required.

3. Following the capture of the city of Ravenna, Province of Emilia in the Prefettura on 27 Nov. '44. This is the first provincial capital of Emilia to be liberated. The city is still being subjected to sporadic shellfire and occasional air attack, and the setting up of the HQ was hindered by the shattering of the windows of the Prefettura.

4. The RAVENNA team has also been moved forward and on 25 Nov. '44, Provincial HQ was established at CATTOLICA. Since the end of November the city of RAVENNA has been captured and it is hoped that this Province also will be installed in its provincial capital before the next monthly report is rendered.

5. As forecast in the last report an additional part of RAVENNA Province has been flooded by the enemy. This has been done by breaking the banks of the RUDICI UNITI SOUTH of the town.

6. In both FIFTH and EIGHTH Army areas officers of EMILIA Region have been employed either as CIOs or in a specialist capacity under the command of the respective SCIO.

7. In the case of FIFTH Army a special plan has been made for the administration of the area. Under this plan the executive administration of the area will be placed under a HQ staffed by EMILIA Region. This administrative HQ will be directly responsible to the SCIO.

8. The purpose of the plan is to provide the specialist staff not normally present with Army and to make an earlier start on measures of rehabilitation than would otherwise be possible. The scheme has been approved by HQ Allied Commission and will come into operation when the SCIO considers the position has become sufficiently static.

9. To facilitate the operation of this scheme Region HQ was moved to RICCIONE 1 Dec. '44.

10. In FIFTH Army area the position remains unchanged and the SCIO continues to make full use of the Region EMILIA officers under his command to reinforce Provincas in FIFTH Army territory and to thicken up the CIOs in forward areas. Under the plan outlined in para 7 above, Specialist Officers will remain free to devote part of their time to FIFTH Army area as and when required.

11. In order to maintain close liaison with FIFTH Army a portion of the Regional HQ staff was left at SASSUO under the title of TESA HQ. PLACENZA TEAM moved 741

APPENDIX II

1. Although Specialist Officers are taking an active part in the administration of the Region no part of the area is under Regional control, and the work of the specialist divisions is included in reports rendered by JRG Armies. There is therefore nothing to report under the standard headings.

C of S. D. Detachment

1-7th Engr Cso Cops, C.E.

1- C.A. Section

1- Economic Section

1- P.O. to C.E. to

1- P.O. to C.E. to

1- CAPT HODSON

14. 4-8. 71 Nov 1944
ALFRED C. BOWMAN
Lt. Col., JRG
Regional Commissioner

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