

ACC

10000/141/568

VISIT TO NORTH ITALY BY
JUNE 1945

10000/141/568

VISIT TO NORTH ITALY BY DIRECTOR, 11-15 JUNE 1945
JUNE 1945

0133

2

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AG/D4/6/LG

Tel: 620

SUBJECT: Report of tour.

18 June 1945.

TO : Civil Affairs Section.

RET
94

Herewith copy (in duplicate) of report by Director, Local
Government Sub Commission, on tour - 10 to 14 June, 1945.

R.R. Gripps

R. R. GRIPPS
Colonel
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

1400

4383

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

Report by Director, Local Government Sub Commission,
on tour - 10 to 14 June 1945

1.

ITINERARY

- June 11 - Left HQ AMG 5 Army for Padua - Visited RC Venice Prov.
- June 12 - Remained in Padua for Regional Commissioners conference with PCs
- June 13 - Visited AMG 8 Army - Returned to Padua - called on PCs Udine and Treviso
- June 14 - Proceeded to Treviso for air transport and returned (flight cancelled)

2.

GENERAL

Local Government is taking shape in Venezia Region, Prefects have been appointed in all those provinces under Regional control; in those provinces under AMG 5 Army, the appointments await the approval of SCAG 5 Army.

Giunte Consultive are being appointed, the RC has instructed PCs not to accept the CLN in bloc, but to take steps to see that the committees are as representative as possible, not only of the cities where the CLN existed but of the whole province; and that representatives of country districts be included in Giunte Provinciali.

3. My first impression of the patriot situation was that it required handling a great deal more firmly, but on further investigation feel that the RC's policy of taking the matter steadily is a good one and that there is more firmness than at first appeared.

The remaining bands to be disarmed are situated in Udine and Treviso. AMG 8 Army has taken this in hand, disarming started 14 June and is to be completed by 20 June. There is some gangsterism taking place which is attributed to Patriots. A form of demanding money as contributions to CLN is being aimed at also. A copy of the letter making the demands is attached as Appendix "A". On the whole, the population is settling down. The more detailed points and action to be taken are set out below.

4.

PADUA. June 11 and 12.

On arrival here I found that Regional Patriot Officer was in Rome endeavoring to make arrangements for the recruitment into the Italian Army of the Nino NINETTE band. I understand that his visit was not very successful, but that LEMIA are prepared to consider the matter when they receive details of the number of men prepared to join the Italian Army from this Region as individuals. My view is that a very much more substantial number should be recruited, if they are prepared to join. 4,000 is too small a number for the whole of Northern Italy.

5. Italian Patriot Screening Commissions are functioning satisfactorily, and are taking the matter conscientiously. In one instance, a list of 480 names was recommended by the band leader and CLN and the screening committee reduced this to 38 as being recognized genuine patriots.

- June 11 - Left HQ AMG 5 Army for Padua - Visited RC Venice Prov.
- June 12 - Remained in Padua for Regional Commissioners conference with PCs
- June 13 - Visited AMG 8 Army - Returned to Padua - called on PCs Udine and Treviso
- June 14 - Proceeded to Treviso for air transport and returned (flight cancelled)

2. GENERAL

Local Government is taking shape in Venetia Region, Prefects have been appointed in all those provinces under Regional control; in those provinces under AMG 5 Army, the appointments await the approval of SCAG 5 Army.

Giunte Consultive are being appointed, the RC has instructed PCs not to accept the CLN in bloc, but to take steps to see that the committees are as representative as possible, not only of the cities where the CLN existed but of the whole province; and that representatives of country districts be included in Giunte Provinciali.

3. My first impression of the patriot situation was that it required handling a great deal more firmly, but on further investigation feel that the RC's policy of taking the matter steadily is a good one and that there is more firmness than at first appeared.

The remaining bands to be disarmed are situated in Udine and Treviso. AMG 6 Army has taken this in hand, disarming started 14 June and is to be completed by 20 June. There is some gangsterism taking place which is attributed to Patriots. A form of demanding money as contributions to CLN is being aimed at also. A copy of the letter making the demands is attached as Appendix "A". On the whole, the population is settling down. The more detailed points and action to be taken are set out below.

4. PADUA. June 11 and 12.

On arrival here I found that Regional Patriot Officer was in Rome endeavoring to make arrangements for the recruitment into the Italian Army of the Nino NANNETTE band. I understand that his visit was not very successful, but that NANNETTE are prepared to consider the matter when they receive details of the number of men prepared to join the Italian Army from this Region as individuals. My view is that a very much more substantial number should be recruited, if they are prepared to join. 4,000 is too small a number for the whole of Northern Italy.

5. Italian Patriot Screening Commissions are functioning satisfactorily, and are taking the matter conscientiously. In one instance, a list of 480 names was recommended by the band leader and CLN and the screening committee reduced this to 38 as being recognized genuine patriots.

6. Clothing is required by this region (dyed or prominently marked). It is essential, for No. 1 District Security are very concerned over the number of Italians wearing khaki clothing. In fact No. 1 District wish to withdraw all khaki clothing in possession of Italians. This is not possible and should be resisted.

7. After the conference of PCs, I discussed a number of details with Reg. Pat. Officer. All the matters concerning personnel changes he has taken up direct with Patriots Branch. I agreed that I will order AMG 5 Army to provide from the clothing stocks now in transit to Milan the following stock to be made available to Venezia Region, who will be responsible for transport:

- 5,000 Trousers
- 10,000 Jackets
- 5,000 Pairs Boots
- 2,500 Blankets

ACTION

8. Payment of new bonus will now be proceeded with. The RC is publishing a notice in the local paper giving news of the new amounts. I have stressed both with the RC and the Regional Patriot Officer the importance of getting on with the payment.

9. The movement of F.O.W. with an apparently considerable amount of freedom is giving rise in the civil population to some apprehension. This fact is being used by Patriots as a reason for not giving up their arms.

10. The Regional Patriot Officer has had added in para 2(b) of the supplementary notes to IPRs the words, "All instructions will pass through the Provincial Commissioner". This has been done as it was found that instructions had gone out direct. I consider that this addendum should be made universal.

ACTION

11. With regard to feeding of Patriots in this Region since the 10th of June, Regional Patriot Officer stated that he was having no difficulty in this matter when it was necessary to feed. They are supplied from civilian sources by SEPRA. The financial responsibility is that of the Prefect and is carried on the budget for the province in the same manner as the financial arrangements for the feeding of refugees.

12. I saw in this HQ a telegram addressed to the Region from 8 Army ordering the retention of their arms by 13,000 patriots, but for what purpose it did not state. I therefore decided it was essential to proceed to AMG 8 Army and discover the reasons for this on the following day.

13. Notes taken at the Regional Conference are attached as Appendix "B".

14. RC requested me to take up immediately on my return the question of the posting to the Region of Major Saunders (B), a Public Safety officer.

15. Accompanied by Major Hare, I visited AMG 8 Army for the main purpose of discovering the reason for the retention of arms by 13,000 patriots, which is mentioned in para 12 above. SCAO 8 Army was on duty elsewhere, and I therefore discussed the matter with his G-3. He stated that retention of arms by patriots was not continuing, and that the OSSPO and GARIBOLDI Divisions are to be disarmed starting on the 14th of June, to be completed by the 24th of June. It was impossible to say exactly how this would go, but he did not anticipate any great difficulties. He considered it would probably be necessary to set up a patriot centre at Udine, for which assistance was required, as there at present exists no Patriot Officer for this particular province. The question of patriots in Venezia Giulia was discussed and the position of those patriots, who in fact derive their authority from Yugoslav sources, will obviously present some difficulty. A decision as to how they should be handled was impossible to make, in view of the discussions which at that time were taking place. The problem will need further

5,000 Pairs Boots
2,500 Blankets

8. Payment of new bonus will now be proceeded with. The RC is publishing a notice in the local paper giving news of the new amounts. I have stressed both with the RC and the Regional Patriot Officer the importance of getting on with the payment.

9. The movement of P.O.W. with an apparently considerable amount of freedom is giving rise in the civil population to some apprehension. This fact is being used by Patriots as a reason for not giving up their arms.

10. The Regional Patriot Officer has had added in para 2(b) of the supplementary notes to IMPRS the words, "All instructions will pass through the Provincial Commissioner". This has been done as it was found that instructions had gone out direct. I consider that this addendum should be made universal.

11. With regard to feeding of Patriots in this Region since the 10th of June, Regional Patriot Officer stated that he was having no difficulty in this matter when it was necessary to feed. They are supplied from civilian sources by SEPRA. The financial responsibility is that of the Prefect and is carried on the budget for the province in the same manner as the financial arrangements for the feeding of refugees.

12. I saw in this HQ a telegram addressed to the Region from 8 Army ordering the retention of their arms by 13,000 patriots, but for what purpose it did not state. I therefore decided it was essential to proceed to AMG 8 Army and discover the reasons for this on the following day.

13. Notes taken at the Regional Conference are attached as Appendix "B".

14. RC requested me to take up immediately on my return the question of the posting to the Region of Major Saunders (B), a Public Safety officer.

15. Accompanied by Major Hare, I visited AMG 8 Army for the main purpose of discovering the reason for the retention of arms by 13,000 patriots, which is mentioned in para 12 above. SCAO 8 Army was on duty elsewhere, and I therefore discussed the matter with his G-3. He stated that retention of arms by patriots was not continuing, and that the OSSPO and GARIBOLDI Divisions are to be disarmed starting on the 14th of June, to be completed by the 24th of June. It was impossible to say exactly how this would go, but he did anticipate any great difficulties. He considered it would probably be necessary to set up a patriot centre at Udine, for which assistance was required, as there at present exists no Patriot Officer for this particular province. The question of patriots in Venezia Giulia was discussed and the position of those patriots, who in fact derive their authority from Yugoslav sources, will obviously present some difficulty. A decision as to how they should be handled was impossible to make, in view of the discussions which at that time were taking place on the whole matter of Venezia Giulia. The problem will need further study on the return of the Vice President, Civil Affairs Section, to Rome, when the background for AMG in Venezia Giulia is more clear. I consider that no doubt Brigadier Upjohn has discussed these matters with the SCAO 8 Army and, therefore, propose that no action be taken until an opportunity has been taken of discussing the matter with the Vice President, Civil Affairs Section. The problems involved are, of course, to whom payments will be made, the use of Italian IMPRS and the movement of fairly large numbers of Slovene and Italian personnel to and from Venezia Giulia, and in particular that part which remains under Yugoslav control.

ACTION

- 3 -

16. On the return journey, I called in at Udine province and had a short discussion with Major Marshall and afterwards the Provincial Commissioner. There is an urgent necessity for an Allied officer as a Patriot Officer to report to this province, and I therefore propose, and Brigadier Dunlop agrees, to send Capt. Hammond, at present with 5 Army, to Venezia Region for duty at Udine province. The province has a large scale work project for the rebuilding of bridges and the repairing of river banks in hand which has been agreed with 8 Army, and it involves the use of considerable numbers of patriots, if they are willing to work. The proportion of experienced labor for these projects would be 1 other civilian to 5 patriots. I consider the arrangements excellent and that it is most important that sanction for the financial expenditure in connection with the project should be given immediately, particularly as the OSSPO and CARIBALDI Divisions have been well disciplined and well organized, and unless they are given work to do are a potential danger to law and order, if their leaders decide they are not satisfied with the manner of demobilization. I called also at Treviso Province HQ and it was again pressed by the Provincial Commissioner that the Mino MANETTE Division should be recruited as a band. I pointed out the policy of the Ministry of War and MMIA in this matter, but am of the opinion that some of these men must be recruited into the Italian Army under the terms laid down by MMIA, and again stressed the point that if the 4,000 allotted to the whole of the North is not sufficient to cover the requirements for patriots, some arrangement must be made whereby this number can be increased.

ACTION

17. June 14.

I proceeded to the airdrome in order to return to Rome, and after a considerable wait discovered that the plane was not flying that day, and therefore returned to Padua where I had some further discussion with the Security Officer on the subject of demanding money referred to in para 3 above. The Security Officer proposes, in order to stop this practice, to order those persons responsible for circulating the demands to cease forthwith. Then, should demands continue, he proposes to prosecute the perpetrators under AMG proclamation for disobeying orders of AMG.

18. June 15. Proceeded to Rome.

RRC/pec



R. R. CRIFFS
Colonel
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

1397

ppr. A IC

COMITATO DI LIBERAZIONE NAZIONALE
PER LA PROVINCIA DI UDINE

San Vito, li 7 GIU. 1945SIG. Gringolo Tolando e Verilde

Secondo la lista depositata presso la Segreteria di questo Comitato, approvata e resa esecutiva con i decreti n. 1 e n. 2 del C. L. N. Provinciale di Udine in data 23/10/44, siete stato tassato per una contribuzione di
Lire 200'000 (duecentomila)

Siete invitato a versare la prima rata (pari ad un quinto) di tale contribuzione presso la sede di questo Comitato nel termine di dieci giorni da oggi, con l'avvertenza che l'importo resta raddoppiato in caso di constatato, precedente od attuale, rifiuto al pagamento.



IL PRESIDENTE C. L. N.

1396

HEADQUARTERS
VENEZIE REGION
Allied Military Government
APO 394

AGENDA FOR REGIONAL COMMISSIONER'S CONFERENCE

To be held at SCUOLA SCALCERLE Padova at 1000 hours on Tuesday 12 June.

1. APPRECIATION OF SITUATION.

2. CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

- (a) Legal - Progress of Special Courts - Brigata Nera
- (b) Public Health
- (c) Public Safety - Distribution of Carabinieri
Special Police
- (d) Local Government - Appointment of Prefects-
Suggested Prefects' Meeting
- (e) Displaced Persons
- (f) Patriotti
- (g) Education
- (h) Fine Arts Monuments, and Archives

3. ECONOMIC SECTION

- (a) Price Structure - Conference on 6th June
- (b) Finance
- (c) Foods
- (d) Agriculture Amassing Prices
- (e) Commerce - P.O.L. Coal
- (f) Industry
- (g) Labour
- (h) Transportation - Rail, Dock, MT Truck Pools
- (i) P.W.U.

4. INTER-COMMUNICATION - TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH, POSTS

5. PUBLIC RELATIONS and P.W.B.

6. INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION

- (a) Officers
- (b) EM/OR
- (c) Demobilisation and Leave
- (d) Visiting Officers
- (e) Vehicles
- (f) Intercommunications.

1E

APPENDIX "B"

To Report of Director, Local Government Sub
Commission, dated 16 June 1945

NOTES ON CONFERENCE VENEZIA REGION, JUNE 12, 1945

BY COL. R. R. CRIPPS

1. RC gave an appreciation of the situation from an operations point of view. He anticipated the early reversion of the Provinces under 5 Army to full Regional control, also that of the province of Udine from 8 Army. (NOTE: I doubt this latter being very immediate, as I learnt later on a visit to that HQ that its move out of Italy in the immediate future was unlikely.)
2. R.L.O. gave a short discourse on the functioning of the Extraordinary Courts of Assise. He stressed the importance of immediate action in the case of appeals and described the procedure.
3. R.P.H.O. referred to the question of Military installations taking over civil hospitals and instructed RCs to report all instances of this immediately to his office.
4. (a) R.P.S.O. stated that he was not aware of the effect and procedure to be adopted in the Region with regard to the raising of ceiling of the CC.RR by 10,000 men. The matter was referred to me, but I was unable to give an answer.
(b) Some discussion took place over the use of patriots as temporary police. The RC announced that in view of the fact that the CC.RR allotted to this Region were now deployed, he considered that the temporary patriot police should be reduced.
(c) The RC gave notice that he was considering the use of such disbanded patriot police as investigators in connection with epuration cases to be heard in the Extraordinary Courts of Assise.

NOTE: Both (a) and (c) above in this para give rise to some misgiving in my mind. I believe an early visit of a representative of P.S. Sub. Com. would be beneficial in this region.

5. Local Government was dealt with by RC personally. He announced that all Prefects had been agreed upon (none were Government nominees) but those in AMG 5 Army had not yet been confirmed. (My opinion of this is that C.I.C. take a long time to screen them. This is a requirement of SCAO 5 Army.)

RC intends to hold a meeting of all Prefects in his Region together with PCs in about one month's time. Due notice would be given to all. The function will be rather more social than one for business. RC pointed out the value of PCs visiting their communes in company of the Prefect and of making the visits a little ceremonious. A point was raised by PC Treviso in which he enquired if there was any objection to the Giunta Comunale being in excess of the numbers laid down. RC replied that he saw no objection but pointed out the disadvantages of large committees. He left the matter to RC's discretion.

See note at foot

6. Displaced Persons. RC congratulated Major Hudson (A) on the excellent work he had accomplished in the movement of 150,000 refugees. He anticipated the early start of movement by sea from Venice.

of view. He anticipated the early reversion of the provinces under Army to full Regional control, also that of the province of Udine from 8 Army. (NOTE: I doubt this latter being very immediate, as I learnt later on a visit to that HQ that its move out of Italy in the immediate future was unlikely.)

2. R.L.O. gave a short discourse on the functioning of the Extraordinary Courts of Assise. He stressed the importance of immediate action in the case of appeals and described the procedure.

3. R.P.H.O. referred to the question of Military installations taking over civil hospitals and instructed PCs to report all instances of this immediately to his office.

4. (a) R.P.S.O. stated that he was not aware of the effect and procedure to be adopted in the Region with regard to the raising of ceiling of the CC.RR by 10,000 men. The matter was referred to me, but I was unable to give an answer.

(b) Some discussion took place over the use of patriots as temporary police. The R. announced that in view of the fact that the CC.RR allotted to this Region were now deployed, he considered that the temporary patriot police should be reduced.

(c) The RC gave notice that he was considering the use of such disbanded patriot police as investigators in connection with epuration cases to be heard in the Extraordinary Courts of Assise.

NOTE: Both (a) and (c) above in this para give rise to some misgiving in my mind. I believe an early visit of a representative of P.S. Sub. Com. would be beneficial in this region.

5. Local Government was dealt with by RC personally. He announced that all Prefects had been agreed upon (none were Government nominees) but those in AMG 5 Army had not yet been confirmed. (My opinion of this is that C.I.C. take a long time to screen them. This is a requirement of SCAO 5 Army.)

RC intends to hold a meeting of all Prefects in his Region together with PCs in about one month's time. Due notice would be given to all. The function will be rather more social than one for business. RC pointed out the value of PCs visiting their communes in company of the Prefect and of making the visits a little ceremonious. A point was raised by PC Treviso in which he enquired if there was any objection to the Giunta Comunale being in excess of the numbers laid down. RC replied that he saw no objection but pointed out the disadvantages of large committees. He left the matter to RC's discretion.

See note at foot

6. Displaced Persons. RC congratulated Major Hudson (A) on the excellent work he had accomplished in the movement of 150,000 refugees. He anticipated the early start of movement by sea from Venice.

Some discussion regarding personnel took place with a view to getting more bodies to work in the Bolzano area and Brenner Route. One problem required action. It concerned a number of Southern Italians who had moved with much of their household belongings north in front of the Armies. They were requiring transport for their large and heavy articles. RC directed that a 2 months standstill order for such persons be issued. Sindaci were to be instructed not to turn these people out of their present houses, until arrangements could be made for their proper removal.

- 2 -

7. Patriots. RC announced the new rates of pay for patriots and stressed the importance of arrangements for payment being immediately put in hand and carried out as soon as possible. He gave the details of the qualifying period of payment of 5,000 lire and announced the closing date for this to be the 31st of May, 1945. Col. Price raised the question of the Nino NINETTE Division, which consisted of 2,000 Patriots, and their future employment. He pointed out that they were pressing very hard to be recruited into the Italian Army as a band, and stressed the importance of their being found some form of immediate employment, as he felt otherwise they would become obstreperous. It was pointed out by the Director, Local Government Sub Commission, that he did not consider it at all likely that any band would be recruited in bloc. Arrangements have been made for recruitment of a certain number of Patriots into the Italian Army as individuals. The details and procedure in connection with this were given.

NOTE: It is my considered opinion that if the numbers of patriots presenting themselves for recruitment into the Army exceeds the 4,000 for which provision has been made, it is essential that further provision be made to take any number up to 10,000 that may present themselves. In this Region, the Patriot Officer is calling for figures by provinces of the men offering themselves for service and when this has been compiled, it may be necessary to expand the number as is necessary.

8. Both Education and Monuments & Fine Arts representatives gave short details of their work in hand, upon which there is nothing outstanding to report.

9. Economics matters. In this field considerable discussion took place covering a large range of matters--price control, effect of higher wages, price of wheat, etc.

10. Methane Gas. A representative of AFHQ was present at the meeting. He stated that he had recently completed a survey of the methane gas installations and would be issuing instructions from AFHQ regarding use. He stated that the pipe line which had been broken would be repaired by July 1, and that from that time onwards the allotment of gasoline in this Region would be cut by the equivalent of 9,000 barrels, and an allotment of methane would be made to an equivalent amount. He pointed out that as a result of his survey he considered it most immediate and important that arrangements be made for the declaration of all portable containers in the Region. If this was not done and the work completed by July 1, the operation of the use of methane gas would break down. In any case, AFHQ would cut the gasoline allotment by the amount he mentioned above on that date.

11. G-1 matters. The Regional Commissioner had some discussion on numerous personnel matters, both American and British. The general conclusion from all the discussion that took place in the conference was that Regions are desperately short of personnel. Then, the continual change and exchange necessitated as a result of withdrawal of British officers makes the working of any Region difficult.

NOTE: Since my return to Rome, I have discussed the question of additional members to the Giunta with the staff officers of this Sub Commission. On consideration, I think it most unwise that the numbers of these Giunta should be larger than that laid down in HDL 111. A letter has been drafted to the Regional Commissioner expressing this view officially, but in the meantime I have written in a demo-official letter to the RC suggesting that he might withdraw his permission for the Giunta to be larger than the Decree allows. The reasons are that if the Giunta is

1393

immediate employment, as he felt otherwise they would become obstreperous. It was pointed out by the Director, Local Government Sub Commission, that he did not consider it at all likely that any band would be recruited in bloc. Arrangements have been made for recruitment of a certain number of Patriots into the Italian Army as individuals. The details and procedure in connection with this were given.

NOTE: It is my considered opinion that if the numbers of patriots presenting themselves for recruitment into the Army exceeds the 4,000 for which provision has been made, it is essential that further provision be made to take any number up to 10,000 that may present themselves. In this Region, the Patriot Officer is calling for figures by provinces of the men offering themselves for service and when this has been compiled, it may be necessary to expand the number as is necessary.

8. Both Education and Monuments & Fine Arts representatives gave short details of their work in hand, upon which there is nothing outstanding to report.

9. Economics matters. In this field considerable discussion took place covering a large range of matters--price control, effect of higher wages, price of wheat, etc.

10. Methane Gas. A representative of AFHQ was present at the meeting. He stated that he had recently completed a survey of the methane gas installations and would be issuing instructions from AFHQ regarding use. He stated that the pipe line which had been broken would be repaired by July 1, and that from that time onwards the allotment of gasoline in this Region would be cut by the equivalent of 9,000 barrels, and an allotment of methane would be made to an equivalent amount. He pointed out that as a result of his survey he considered it most immediate and important that arrangements be made for the declaration of all portable and important containers in the Region. If this was not done and the work completed by July 1, the operation of the use of methane gas would break down. In any case, AFHQ would cut the gasoline allotment by the amount he mentioned above on that date.

11. G-1 matters. The Regional Commissioner had some discussion on numerous personnel matters, both American and British. The general conclusion from all the discussion that took place in the conference was that Regions are desperately short of personnel. Then, the continual change and exchange necessitated as a result of withdrawal of British officers makes the working of any Region difficult.

NOTE: Since my return to Rome, I have discussed the question of additional members to the Giunta with the staff officers of this Sub Commission. On consideration, I think it most unwise that the numbers of these Giunta should be larger than that laid down in RDL 111. A letter has been drafted to the Regional Commissioner expressing this view officially, but in the meantime I have written in a demo-official letter to the RC suggesting that he might withdraw his permission for the Giunta to be larger than the Decree allows. The reasons are that if the Giunta is larger than laid down, when we hand over to Italian Government territory there is a great deal of difficulty and hard feeling when members are dropped. Furthermore, the size of the Giunta seem to be adequate for the work required. Then, larger committees are inclined to become ineffective.

