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10000/141/687

REPORT
JUNE 19

10000/141/687

REPORT BY DIRECTOR L.G. ON VISIT TO NORTH 7-9 JUNE 1945
JUNE 1945

27/24

REPORT OF TOUR BY DIRECTOR LOCAL
GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION JUNE 7, 8, 9 45.

1. Itinerary

- June 7 Milan and Como. I spent the whole morning with Regional Patriots Officer and in the afternoon visited together with Maj. BARNIERI (IMPR) the Patriot Office at COMO.
- June 8 Visited Turin, called on R.C., D.R.C. and Lt. Col. VINI, Regional Patriot Officer. Returned to Milan.
- June 9 Interviewed D.R.C. LOMBARDIA and moved to HQ AMG 5 Army. Interviewed Col. Sutherland, Lt. Col. Holmgren and Capt. Linbert.

2. General Comment

- (a) The situation with regard to the demobilization of the patriots is proceeding steadily and satisfactorily, by comparison PIREMONTE is rather more advanced than LOMBARDIA, especially with regard to MILAN city itself which appears somewhat behind. In this city, however, with the addition of Capt. Hammond and Lt. McLaughlin who have arrived from 5 Army, matters should progress more rapidly.
- (b) In each of the HQ that I have visited I have dealt in the main very largely with Patriot matters, finding that it is the more pressing of the activities concerning the Local Government Sub Commission. Local Government itself in both Piemonte and Lombardia will require a more detailed survey by an officer of the Sub Commission in the near future.
- (c) By order of CG IV Corps all arms in the area were to be handed in by 7 June and the Zone HQ of the patriot bands closed by that date, the latter has been carried out in both Regions visited without incident and arms have been handed in in large quantities. I do not consider that any large scale open opposition to the order is to be anticipated, but there is evidence that in one or two instances parties have withheld their arms. In one case it is reported that a party have taken to the hills in northern Lombardia, and in another there appears to be some gangsterism with murder in BRESCIA by a party under the leadership of one TITO, who now I learn has been arrested by order of AMG 5 Army (9 June 45).
- There is of course the general feeling that when a patriot has two weapons he does still retain one particularly so if he has a pistol. (Note 814 pistols handed in in Lombardia looks a large number, but I do not imagine there is anything near the number "dropped" in

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- (d) The main items of discussion in each Hq have been:
- (a) the feeding of Patriots in centres after 10 June;
 - (b) Recruitment into the Italian Army;
 - (c) Clothing of Patriots and the details concerning the transport of the items recently released by Comares S/C.
 - (d) The increased payments to Patriots which is the prominent item and raises several questions which require clarification with MGI.

The more detailed report of interview are set out below together with matters which require action.

3. LOMBARDIA (June 2).

Regional Patriots Officer explained the situation in the Region; he has ordered the closure of all patriot Zone Hqs and

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is establishing one patriots centre for MILAN city. He held a meeting of all band leaders to execute this which was highly satisfactory. A copy of the minutes is attached (appendix "A") (~~please have this translated for my return to Rome~~). ^(translation) As will be seen from these minutes the leader in VARESE wishes to retain an epuration battalion for what he describes as "per Giustiziare". Lt.Col. De Garston has vetoed this idea.

ACTION

4.

With regard to the feeding of patriots as from today all Regions and in particular this one requests instructions as to the matter of payment to SUPRAL for these. This matter must be cleared with Finance Sub Commission and Food Sub Commission. Take the necessary staff action pending my return.

ACTION

5.

At appendix "B" is the situation in the Region as at June 1, with regard to the turn in of arms. Additional quantities have since been turned in particularly in BRESCIA and CREMONA, which it is reported will bring the total of rifles as at June 8 to 70,000. If this is compared with the total of registered patriots in the Region (appendix "C") it appears that more than one weapon per patriot has been collected. Some difficulty is encountered in guarding dumps of arms once collected.

6.

The issue of the needed ribbon is pressed by this Region. I learn that it would not be difficult to have it made in the North either in Milan or Turin. This must be taken up with MOOI again and pressed, furthermore the suggested poster for display in Patriot offices should be issued as soon as possible.

ACTION

7.

Reviewed gratuities to patriots raises several important questions the main point raised by this region is that if the qualifying period of 3 months service for 5000 Lire is to extend to June 1 it will include a large number of members of G.P. and S.P. who have done very little, seen no action and continued to work in functions drawing their pay; while their C.V.L. brethren were "sweating it out" in the mountains. This the latter will resent.

The Regional Patriot Officer had intended that the 5000 Lire should be paid to those who receive an Alexander certificate with General Cadorna's idea of conditions set out in Appendix * "D" attached, this requires in the main a six months qualifying period.

ACTION

Pending my return to Rome to study and clarify the situation I have arranged that in the R.C.'s order which he is issuing on 9 June the words "active service" will be used in referring to the 5000 Lire payments. I have in addition confirmed in writing

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Pending my return to Rome to study and clarify the situation I have arranged that in the R.C.'s order which he is issuing on 9 June the words "active service" will be used in referring to the 5000 lire payments. I have in addition confirmed in writing that the qualifying period is up to and including 31 May 45 (a copy of letter is attached at Appendix "E") This I did to satisfy Region HQ who wished to be able to include as an "active service" those now carrying specified duties laid down by the Region i.e. police duty, ammunition collecting etc.

8.

The position regarding the return and enlistment of patriot officers and band leaders to the Italian army must be decided early, it is giving rise to some difficulty in disbandment. An intelligible instruction has been issued by Ministry of War, which refers to a decree of the 5 April published in Gazzetta Ufficiale No. 53 of 27 May. I was unable to probe into this at the time as I was just leaving (June 9) for Salo. It must be investigated.

ACTION

* in process of translation

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9. Other miscellaneous action taken or matters investigated are:

- (a) Lists of partisans are well in hand.
- (b) Lt. Col. De Garston reported that all his IAPRs were doing a first class job of work. (Frigeri has been returned to Rome)
- (c) Position of High Commissioner for War Veterans explained together with his proposed visit to the Region.

NOTE: With regard to 9 (b) above I confirm this. I lived with them on and off for 3 days and was well impressed. The fact that the Regional Patriot Officer speaks fluent Italian is of enormous benefit.

10. PIEMONTE, June 8.

In this Region matters are much further advanced. The Regional Patriot Officer goes as far as to say that there are now NO "Partigiani" as such in the Region. He reports the following points:

- (a) Payments have up to now been paid on 1000 lire basis
- (b) IAPRs working very satisfactory
- (c) He has no stock of the new Alexander certificate
- (d) He anticipates no difficulty over feeding after June 10 the numbers will be small, but he does require clarification over the payment to SERIAL
- (e) General Trabucchi has given way to General Pralomo as the official Military District Commander. The former has been placed on leave for six months.
- (f) He estimates that a large proportion of the arms have been handed in.

With regard to 10 (c) above, Regional Patriot Officer estimates that he will require at least 15,000 certificates. I have arranged with AMG 5 Army to supply 5,000 but they may be slow in getting to Piemonte. 10,000 must therefore be dispatched immediately to the Region direct from AG HQ

ACTION

The OLN organisation did a considerable amount to assist in the dispersal of patriots; with funds at their disposal a considerable distribution of suit lengths of good material was made and boots have been issued. I do not therefore consider that there will be or is a clothing problem in this Region, furthermore an issue of patched up salvaged clothing would by comparison appear to be a feeble effort. I have therefore instructed Capt. Lambert not to

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Regional Patriot Officer goes as such in the Region. He reports are now NO "Partigiani" as such in the Region. He reports the following points:

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- (b) IMPRs working very satisfactory
- (c) He has no stock of the new Alexander certificate
- (d) He anticipates no difficulty over feeding after June 10 the numbers will be small, but he does require clarification over the payment to SERPAI
- (e) General Trabucchi has given way to General Prolomo as the official Military District Commander. The former has been placed on leave for six months.
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With regard to 10 (c) above, Regional Patriot Officer estimates that he will require at least 15,000 certificates. I have arranged with AMG 5 Army to supply 5,000 but they may be slow in getting to Piemonte. 10,000 must therefore be dispatched immediately to the Region direct from AG HQ

ACTION

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The CLN organisation did a considerable amount to assist in the dispersal of patriots; with funds at their disposal a considerable distribution of suit lengths of good material was made and boots have been issued. I do not therefore consider that there will be or is a clothing problem in this Region, furthermore an issue of patched up salvaged clothing would by comparison appear to be a feeble effort. I have therefore instructed Capt. Lambert not to issue to this Region.

12.

A payment of 5000 Lire to patriots in this Region has also been made by CLN with funds mainly borrowed from the banks at 4% interest. This raises the questions

- (a) are the payments to be officially recognised as the new rates?
- (b) If so are the MOOI prepared to re-imburse the banks and pay the interest?
- (c) Are the payments made from CLN funds exclusive of the bank loans to be recognised and if so does MOOI intend to re-imburse the CLN.

Lt. Col. Vining is of the view that the answer to (a) is ~~Yes~~ if it is borrowed money, and to (c) NO. I am of the opinion that if all payments should be officially recognised otherwise some duplication of payment will occur, that the loans and interest must be re-imbursed but not the CLN funds as this will tend to perpetuate the CLN at least financially.

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13.

Col. Iamada has been removed from Patriot activities; as a replacement the excellent adjutant of Col. Vining requests if possible

ACTION

Tenente Bruno TOCCO (native of Aosta)
 Artillery officer of Alpini Class 1020
 now at Centro Addestramento di BRACCIANO
 III Reggimento Artiglieria Pieno Gruppo
 Complementi

NO III to endeavour to get him.

14.

There is in this Region a persistent rumour that volunteers for the Army are to go the the PAR EAST. I denied this but IMPRs here feel that a public announcement denying this if it is NOT the case should be made. It is a matter that should be discussed with IMIA.

15.

In an interview with Col. Selby a varied number of matters were brought to my attention which cover other fields than Local Government Sub Commission and should be brought to the GAS'notice for such action as deemed fit as they also effect Economic Section.

- (a) Col Selby reported the arrival in the Region without prior warning or instructions of various bodies, which lead to difficulties over maintenance and billeting; he asked that in future he receive notice and warning.
 The bodies concerned were
- (i) Road Traffic Control Personnel (Econ. Sec?) (MED & POW S.C.)
 - (ii) POW Hospital Unit
 - (iii) 300 Italian soldiers from (Displaced Pers?)
 Refugee Camps
- (b) He required further instruction as to the procedure authority and rates for car hire of which he said he had spoken to Mr. Antolini when he visited the Region.
- (c) He considered that the recent AFHQ orders for Curfew to be imposed in Turin is quite unworkable. Curfew had not been imposed or maintained and to do so now would give the appearance of a form of punishment on the population, which was uncalled for and he considered quite unnecessary, there was no compelling reason for it. Can the AFHQ instructions be rescinded.
- (d) The name of Prefect of Turin is PARSONI (soc).

16.

AMG 5 Army June 9.

Local Government Sub Commission and should be brought to the attention of the CAS'notice for such action as deemed fit as they also effect

Economic Section.

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The bodies concerned were

- (i) Road Traffic Control Personnel (Econ. Sec?)
- (ii) POW Hospital Unit (MED & POW S.O.)
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- (b) He required further instruction as to the procedure authority and rates for car hire of which he said he had spoken to Mr. Antolini when he visited the Region.
- (c) He considered that the recent AFHQ orders for Curfew to be imposed in Turin is quite unworkable. Curfew had not been imposed or maintained and to do so now would give the appearance of a form of punishment on the population, which was uncalled for and he considered quite unnecessary, there was no compelling reason for it. Can the AFHQ instructions be rescinded.
- (d) The name of Prefect of Turin is FABBIONI (soc).

16.

AMG 5 Army June 9.

On arrival here I cleared a number of detail points with Capt. Limbert and later had a long interview with Col. Sutherland, to whom I gave my impression of the Patriot situation in Lombardia and Piemonte. In general there is not a great deal of business being carried on in the HQ. However I intend to stay over the day June 10 to write this report and get it forwarded to Rome.

The situation over the appointments of prefects is that Gen. Rume keep an overall approval to the nominees of RGS and confirms the appointment in writing subject to CIC approval in the form of a standard letter. In the more important Provinces he personally attends the installation meetings.

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17.

With regard to Patriot matters I have cleared the following points.

- (a) All the clothing will be warehoused in Milan. Accommodation is available.
- (b) Transport for blankets from LIVORNO is in hand as is also the collection of the balance of the consignment from BOLOGNA.

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- (c) 2000 bivouac tents now lying at Florence are to be taken over by DISPER REP 5 Army for his use.

Lt. Col. Holmgren raised with me a number of points regarding Axis Diplomatic personnel now in the custody of 5 Army, which require clarification and instructions from AIGOM. They are not immediately urgent I will therefore deal with them on my return as they appear too complicated for explanation in this report.

I will proceed to PADUA tomorrow morning in transport provided by this HQ.

R.A. CHILDS, Colonel

Director

Local Government Sub Commission

HQ ANG 5 Army
10 June 45.

Distribution: OA Section 2

Local Government Sub Commission 1 (with appendices)
Patriots Branch 2

HQ AEG 5 Army
10 June 45.

Director
Local Government Sub Commission

Distribution: GA Section 2
Local Government Sub Commission 1 (with appendices)
Patriots Branch 2

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1E

Appendix "E"

ALLIED COMMISSION H.Q.
Local Government Sub Commission
(Patriots Branch)

7 June 45.

SUBJECT: Payment of Patriots
TO : R.C. Lombardia Region

Reference this Commission cable 9153 dated 5 June 45.

1 It is confirmed that, with regard para 2 (a) of above quoted signal Patriots who have completed three months service up to and including 31 May 1945 are entitled to the payment set out in this Sub para, i.e. the payment of a 5000 lire bonus

R.R. CRIPPS Col
Dir. Local Gov. Sub-Commission.

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