

ACC

10000/141/858

COMMISSION FOR NORTH
JULY 1945

10000/141/858

COMMISSION FOR NORTH APPENINES BATTLEFIELD AREA
JULY 1945

MINUTE SHEET NO. 1

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1947

HEADQUARTERS EMILIA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394

11 JUL 1945

11 JULY 1945

REFERENCE: RIX/HQ/I/1/1

SUBJECT : Proposal for appointment of "North Apennines Battle-Field Area" Commission

TO : Chief Commissioner, HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION.

1. The reasons for primary urgency in contacting the Italian Government and arranging for the appointment of a civilian commission to supervise temporary relief and permanent rehabilitation of the North Apennines Battle-Field Area are presented in the attached expository material.

2. Plans for early cessation of AC activities require that these problems be handled henceforth by a civil agency from a national level.

Floyd E. Thomas
FLOYD E. THOMAS,
Colonel, Inf.,
Regional Commissioner

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SECTION I

IDENTIFICATION OF THE AREA

The Battlefield Area includes 35 Communes in four Provinces of Emilia Region located along the 5th and 8th Army fronts, which suffered the worst damage during the Winter defensive and the Spring drive. For the most part these Communes were either wholly or partially occupied by the Germans.

They are Communes in which, because of the rapidity of the Spring drive, there was little opportunity for Army, AMG and American and British Red Cross to extend these forms of aid which each usually gave when the military situation permitted.

These Communes have borne the full brunt of the war and present the greatest needs for materials, supplies and services. Whereas the Communes just South of the Winter line received the maximum of help and assistance from the Allied Military Government and Red Cross organization it can be said of these Communes, more recently liberated, that they comprise a "forgotten" area in the relative amount of help they have received. With the exception of isolated instances of destruction in connection with bombings of transportation or other strategic objectives, the Communes in this area are those on which the final fury of the war in Italy was spent.

Certainly no other area in Northern Italy is faced in the same degree with the problems of rehabilitation which characterize the Battlefield Area. No other sector deserves more consideration in meeting the problems of people. It is the purpose of this statement to outline the nature and extent of these problems.

The Communes included in the Battlefield Area, giving their normal and present populations and estimated percentage of war destruction, are listed on the following page:

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The Communes included in the Battleground Area, giving their normal and present populations and estimated percentage of war destruction, are listed on the following page:

PROVINCE	COMUNE	NORMAL POPULATION	PRESENT POPULATION	% ESTIMATED WAR DESTRUCTION
Bologna	1. Pazzano	4,852	6,400	40
	2. Casalecchio	10,000	2,500	80 to 100
	3. Casalfiumanese	5,000	4,500	85
	4. Castelli d'Aiano	4,300	4,200	75 to 80
	5. Castello di Serravalle	4,900	5,600	10
	6. Castel S. Pietro	15,000	14,000	70
	7. Crespellano	6,366	8,238	35
	8. Dozza	3,800	3,800	25
	9. Fontanelice	3,200	3,500	70
	10. Imbiano	6,500	6,300	70
	11. Marzabotto	6,500	3,100	80
	12. Montezemolo	4,500	4,500	70
	13. Monte S. Pietro	6,800	6,800	40
	14. Montevoglio	5,000	5,700	10 to 20
	15. Pianoro	10,055	3,500	90
	16. Sasso Bolognese	11,350	9,000	80
	17. Savigno	4,620	4,297	33
	18. Tossignano	3,623	3,200	85
	19. Vergato	7,113	5,567	75
Modena	20. Guiglia	5,660	6,320	50
	21. Fannano	5,000	5,000	50
	22. Montese	7,284	7,284	50
	23. Vignola	10,500	12,000	11
	24. Zocca	6,763	5,678	30
Ravenna	25. Alfonsine	14,000	12,400	72
	26. Bagnara di Romagna	2,100	2,300	70
	27. Carpi Bolognese	6,500	6,500	90
	28. Cotignola	10,000	9,000	80
	29. Fusignano	6,014	5,400	74
	30. Massalombarda	8,000	8,500	70
	31. Roio del Bagno	6,000	4,800	85
	32. San Agata	2,450	2,250	90
	33. Solarolo	4,500	4,400	85
Ferrara	34. Argenta	29,900	27,360	42
	35. Portomaggiore	27,205	28,445	60
	TOTAL	275,360	252,939	AVERAGE 69

8. Dozza	3,600	25
9. Fontanelice	3,200	70
10. Loiano	6,500	70
11. Marzabotto	6,500	80
12. Montebenzio	4,500	70
13. Monte S. Pietro	6,800	40
14. Montevoglio	5,700	10 to 20
15. Pianoro	10,055	90
16. Sasso Bolognese	11,350	80
17. Savigno	4,620	33
18. Tossignano	3,623	85
19. Vergato	7,113	75
Modena		
20. Guiglia	5,660	50
21. Pannano	5,000	50
22. Montese	7,284	50
23. Vignola	10,500	11
24. Zocca	6,763	30
Ravenna		
25. Alfonsine	14,000	72
26. Bagnara di Romagna	2,100	70
27. Classe Bologna	6,500	90
28. Cotignola	10,000	80
29. Fusignano	6,014	74
30. Massalombarda	8,000	70
31. Poio dei Bagni	6,000	85
32. San Agata	2,450	90
33. Solarolo	4,500	85
Ferrara		
34. Argenta	29,900	42
35. Portomaggiore	27,205	60
TOTAL	275,360	69
	252,939	AVERAGE

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SECTION II

NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE FOR THE COMING WINTER

1. FOOD:

The problem of feeding the people living in the battlefield area is a complex of many factors. Only partial crops were planted during the past season. Much of the area was later mined. A serious drought has further diminished potential crops. Food reserves were destroyed or consumed by the Germans. About 80% of all live-stock in the areas was destroyed. Little local transport remains for bringing food in from surplus areas. The normal means of distribution of food were disrupted. A survey of the Communes South of the Winter-Line during the Winter in II Corps Area proved the presence of serious undernourishment among children. The findings of the survey would be equally applicable to the other Communes in the battlefield area.

Basic food must be brought into the area from outside, particularly fats, oils, sugar and salt. Flour for bread and pasta must be supplied. Transport must be made available for movement of necessary food supplies between Communes, in the area, as well as between Communes and the Provincial seat. Consideration must be given to essential needs for seed for Summer and Fall planting, for breeding stock for the restoration of herds, for fertilizer and for insecticide sprays.

During the coming Winter distribution of foods may have to be accomplished through collective feeding from Communal Kitchens, particularly in the larger towns and villages.

2. CLOTHING:

Although the Communes in the battlefield area were given a much heavier allocation of American Red Cross clothing than other Communes in the Region, a grave need for additional clothing remains. Many families lost all personal effects when they were forcibly evacuated from the area during the Winter. Clothing has not yet been available for purchase. Much of the area is mountainous and subject to severe Winters, making warm clothing essential.

Any remaining stores of ARC clothing are needed in the area. Consideration should be given to salvage materials from Army sources, particularly for shoes, and leather and rubber from which shoes and soles might be made, and material for clothing, including salvage military apparel.

If only one item is provided per person, on the average, a total of 300,000 garments will be needed. This would require the integrated and cooperating efforts of all sources of supply.

3. SHELTER:

The wide spread destruction of private dwellings constitutes one of the major problems. Many persons have been prevented from returning to the area because their homes have been destroyed.

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If only one item is provided per person, on the average, a total of 300,000 garments will be needed. This would require the integrated and cooperating efforts of all sources of supply.

3. SHELTER:

The wide spread destruction of private dwellings constitutes one of the major problems. Many persons have been prevented from returning to the area because their homes have been entirely destroyed and they now contribute to the over-crowding in Bologna, Imola and other peripheral communities. Because of the shortage of housing an insufficient number of people have been able to return to provide essential labor on roads, bridges and other public and private work. The provision of means of temporary shelter becomes the number one priority in the area. Long time planning for the provision of essential building must be started now.

All Nissen, Alpine or other type shelters no longer needed by the military are needed to meet the problem of temporary housing. Tents and canvas for partitioning would serve important needs. Since wood is scarce in this area all salvage lumber, particularly beams, frames and doors would find immediate use. Salvage nails and hardware are badly needed and are almost entirely lacking. In addition, there is again the problem of transport for moving such materials when they are made available. The rehabilitation of local brick and lime plants must be facilitated and necessary fuel for their operation provided.

4. FUEL:

Fuel for heating is a critical item. Large numbers of troops exhausted fuel reserves during the past winter. Due to mines and lack of labor, wood-cutting has almost stopped during the last six months. Charcoal for cooking is scarce and will become more so in the Fall and Winter months. Other kinds of fuel have in the past been imported.

Transport would provide the most immediate solution to the problem of fuel, since there appears to be sufficient wood and charcoal nearby for import. In addition, as labor becomes available in the area, wood-cutting projects should be started immediately, whenever it is safe to do so.

5. MEDICAL CARE:

Of the 11 hospitals in the area not one has escaped major damage. The hospital situation would be critical except for the availability of facilities at Imola, Ravenna and Bologna. Ambulance service in the area is almost entirely lacking. All Communes now have doctors, but many are working under serious handicap because of the lack of transport, equipment and medical supplies. No contagious diseases of epidemic proportions have been reported for the area, but the conditions under which epidemic diseases spread are present. Sufficient serum have not been available for the immunization of the populace against the common epidemic diseases. In addition there are many casualties from mines which require immediate hospitalization and emergency treatment. The lack of local hospital facilities, adequate facilities in the ambulatory, the insufficiency of medicines, surgical equipment and ambulance service have made it impossible to give proper care to mine casualties.

Hospitals have been advised to file projects for their essential reconstruction. The Regional Public Works Division is giving such projects high priority. The solution to the ambulance problem might be found in the allocation of German or other ambulances available through Allied military authorities. Personal transportation must be made available to the Commune doctors if adequate coverage of the medical problems in the area is assured. Ambulatori must be supplied

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6. HOUSING NEEDS:

The loss of household effects is in considerable excess of the destruction of private dwellings. What was not destroyed was frequently taken out of the area by the Germans. Particularly, there is an acute need for beds, bedding and stoves for both cooking and heating.

Salvage blankets, comforters, canvas and mattresses, cots and stoves are needed from Allied Military Salvage sources. Hemp salvage is needed for mattresses and projects for their manufacture must be started on Provincial and Communal levels. If possible, priorities in purchase from Italian producers of furniture should be given consumers in this area. In addition, some form of financial assistance for the reestablishment of households should be provided. This assistance would need to be in addition to that given for reconstruction of war-damaged dwellings.

SECTION III

EXTENT OF REQUIREMENTS FOR MEETING HUMAN NEEDS

1. HOUSING:

127,195 persons, or more than half of the normal population, have been made homeless through the destruction of private dwellings in the Battlefield area. (See tables "A" and "B" prepared by the Housing Section of the Regional Public Works and Utilities Division.)

Obviously there is neither the time nor the materials necessary for the permanent rehousing of homeless persons in the area prior to the Winter months. Neither are the materials for providing temporary housing locally available. The solution to temporary housing must be found from military sources.

One thousand (1,000) Neissen, Alpine or other huts of similar construction are needed to house an estimated 10,000 persons whose homes have been completely destroyed.

10,000 pyramidal tents are required to accommodate an additional 50,000 persons.

Salvage canvas equivalent to 15,000 pyramidal tents is necessary for the partitioning and temporary repair of damaged dwellings providing temporary shelter for another 50,000 persons.

The remaining homeless persons should be able to repair their dwellings with materials available in the Communes and Provinces. Allocations for such purposes must be given high priority by responsible officials.

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TABLE "A"

HOUSING NEEDED

	PRE-WAR POPULATION	PERCENTAGE DAMAGED BUILDINGS	ROOFLESS PERSONS
<u>BOLIGNA PROVINCE</u>			
1. Bozzano	4,900	45%	2,330
2. Casalecchio	8,400	70%	5,830
3. Casaffiurano	4,500	45%	2,020
4. Castel d'Aiano	4,400	90%	3,950
5. Castel di Serravalle	4,800	25%	1,200
6. Castel San Pietro	15,300	35%	5,400
7. Crespellano	6,400	20%	1,280
8. Dozza	3,150	35%	1,100
9. Fontanelico	3,170	65%	2,050
10. Lolan	4,900	75%	3,700
11. Marsabotto	6,200	75%	4,650
12. Monterezzo	4,800	90%	4,300
13. Monte San Pietro	6,650	30%	2,000
14. Montevoglio	4,600	30%	1,380
15. Pianoro	10,100	95%	9,800
16. Sasso Bolognese	11,350	70%	7,920
17. Savigno	4,700	35%	1,640
18. Tossignano	3,700	90%	3,320
19. Vergato	7,150	85%	6,100
	<u>119,170</u>		<u>69,890</u>
<u>MODENA PROVINCE</u>			
20. Guiglia	3,963	20%	793
21. Pannò	3,947	40%	1,580
22. Montese	5,951	80%	5,164
23. Vignola	5,201	40%	2,076
24. Zocca	5,653	80%	4,542
	<u>24,715</u>		<u>13,955</u>
<u>RAVENNA PROVINCE</u>			
25. Alfonsine	11,889	80%	9,500
26. Bagnara di Romagna	2,051	60%	1,220
27. Castel Bolognese	5,995	50%	3,000
28. Cotignola	6,974	95%	6,600
29. Fusignano	6,034	75%	4,500
30. Massalombarda	7,541	55%	4,150
31. Riolo Bagni	5,377	70%	3,760
32. S. Agata sul Santerno	2,179	70%	1,520
33. Solarolo	4,639	80%	3,700
	<u>52,109</u>		<u>37,550</u>
<u>FERRARA PROVINCE</u>			

4.	Castel d'Aiano	4,400	90%	3,950
5.	Castel di Serravalle	4,800	25%	1,200
6.	Castel San Pietro	15,300	35%	5,400
7.	Crespellano	6,400	20%	1,280
8.	Dozza	3,150	30%	1,100
9.	Fontanelice	3,170	65%	2,050
10.	Loiano	4,900	75%	3,700
11.	Marsabotto	6,200	75%	4,650
12.	Monterenzio	4,800	90%	4,300
13.	Monte San Pietro	6,650	30%	2,000
14.	Montevoglio	4,600	30%	1,380
15.	Pianoro	10,100	98%	9,800
16.	Sasso Bolognese	11,350	70%	7,920
17.	Savigno	4,700	35%	1,640
18.	Tossignano	3,700	90%	3,320
19.	Vergato	7,150	85%	6,100
		<u>119,170</u>		<u>69,890</u>

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21.	Pannano	3,947	40%	1,580
22.	Montese	5,951	80%	5,164
23.	Vignola	5,201	40%	2,076
24.	Zocca	5,663	80%	4,532
		<u>24,725</u>		<u>13,955</u>

RAVENNA PROVINCE

25.	Alfonsine	11,889	80%	9,500
26.	Bagnara di Romagna	2,031	60%	1,220
27.	Castel Bolognese	5,995	50%	3,000
28.	Cotignola	6,974	95%	6,600
29.	Fusignano	6,034	75%	4,500
30.	Massalombarda	7,541	55%	4,150
31.	Riolo Pagni	5,377	70%	3,760
32.	S. Agata sul Santerno	2,179	70%	1,520
33.	Solarolo	4,039	80%	3,200
		<u>52,169</u>		<u>37,550</u>

FERRARA PROVINCE

34.	Argenta	4,000	85%	3,400
35.	Portomaggiore	4,200	60%	2,400
		<u>8,200</u>		<u>5,800</u>
	GRAND TOTAL	204,204		127,195

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TABLE "B"

TOTAL MATERIALS, NEW AND SALVAGED, ESTIMATED TO BE NEEDED

PROVINCES	LUMBER (cu. ft.)	TILES (No.)	BRICKS (No.)	LIME (cl.)
Bologna	3,180	20,763,600	143,000,000	381,000
Modena	559	3,628,300	25,000,000	67,000
Ravenna	1,500	9,763,000	68,000,000	181,000
Ferrara	1,720	11,271,000	78,000,000	206,000
TOTALS	6,959	45,425,900	314,000,000	835,000

2. MINE CLEARANCE:

Surveys by Regional Mine Clearance Officers, aided by information received from Allied, German and Italian sources, leads to the inevitable conclusion that the Battlefield Area of Emilia Region is the most heavily mined section of Italy. When the Allied Armies made their rapid advance this Spring, only the areas on the axis of advance were cleared. Huge areas were left still heavily mined.

The training program for civilian mine lifters has to this time produced 150 qualified men. The training of 30 more will be completed about 25 July. Two hundred men of the 1st Italian Engineer Battalion are at work in the Region. Another company of Italian Engineers are in training at Pescara and will shortly be moved into the Region. At the end of July there will be in the neighborhood of 500 men engaged in mine clearance in all of Emilia Region.

Those engaged in this work have done a great deal, more than forty thousand mines having been destroyed or deactivated and two thousand aerial bombs neutralized.

However, a careful study of available data reveals that there are approximately two million mines in the Region. This figure is a conservative estimate and is subject to increase as fields are explored and found to be more thickly sown than anticipated. Appendix "A" contains a list of Communes known to be mined, with square metres of mined area where that figure is known.

The Regional Mine Clearance Officers estimate that it will require ten thousand men to clear the Region of mines in the next six months. The task is much too great for the numbers of men presently available. The Local Government Sub-Commission, Allied Commission, has submitted a plan and proposal to Allied Force Headquarters, the general nature of which is contained in Appendix "B" of this section.

The effects of mining sometimes extend far beyond the immediate area of the mine field. Many of the mines already removed came from areas given priority to permit repair work on the Bologna City water system. In comparison with the Battlefield Communes, the Northern part of Bologna Province suffered little damage, but the Bologna Bonifica which serves those Northern Communes is seriously impeded because necessary repairs

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unemployment and relief problems of Bologna, Imola, Forlì, Ravenna, Modena and Ferrara are in part due to the hundreds of people who dare not return to their mined homes and farms.

APPENDIX "A"

COMMUNES REPORTED MINED UP TO 7 JULY 1945

BOLOGNA PROVINCE

COMUNE SURFACE (Sq. Metres)

Anzola dell'Emilia	1,000
Bazzano	3,000
Bentivoglio	20,000
Bologna (Borgo Panigale)	3,500,000
Budrio	60,000
Camugano	270,000
Sasalecchio di Reno	130,000
Casalfiumanese	3,000,000
Castel d'Aiano	1,000
Castel di Serravalle	1,000,000
Castel S. Pietro	1,000,000
Castenaso	1,000,000
Castiglione Pepoli	2,000
Dozza	600,000
Fontanelice	60,000
Gaggio Montano	50,000
Grizzana	4,000
Imola	100,000
Marzabotto	3,000,000
Loiano	50,000
Malalbergo	2,000
Medicina	30,000
Minerbio	6,000
Molinella	3,000
Monghidoro	4,000
Monterenzio	50,000
Monte S. Pietro	10,000
Monzuno	10,000
Ozzano Emilia	300,000
Pianoro	3,000,000
Praduro and Sasso	550,000
Sala Bolognese	3,000
San Benedetto Val di Sambro	5,000
San Giovanni in Persiceto	10,000
San Lazzaro di Savena	885,000
San Pietro in Caprio	2,000
Savigno	313,000
Tossignano	900,000
Vergato	20,000

MODENA PROVINCE

Bazzano	1,000
Bentivoglio	3,000
Bologna (Borgo Panigale)	20,000
Budrio	3,500,000
Camugano	60,000
Sasalecchio di Reno	270,000
Casalfiuranese	130,000
Castel d'Aiano	3,000,000
Castel di Serravalle	1,000
Castel S. Pietro	1,000,000
Castenaso	1,000,000
Castiglione Pepoli	2,000
Dozza	600,000
Fontanelice	60,000
Gaggio Montano	50,000
Grizzana	4,000
Imola	200,000
Marzabotto	3,000,000
Loiano	50,000
Malalbergo	2,000
Medicina	30,000
Minerbio	6,000
Molinella	3,000
Monghidoro	4,000
Monterenzio	50,000
Monte S. Pietro	10,000
Monzuno	10,000
Ozzeno Emilia	300,000
Pianoro	3,000,000
Praduro and Sasso	550,000
Sala Bolognese	3,000
San Benedetto Val di Sambro	5,000
San Giovanni in Persiceto	10,000
San Lazzaro di Savena	835,000
San Pietro in Casale	2,000
Savigno	313,000
Tossignano	900,000
Vergato	20,000

MODENA PROVINCE

Concordia	60
Fanano	6,000
Frassinoro	5,000
Montefino in Serra Mazzoni	5,000
Montese	2,750,000
Pavullo nel Frignano	15,000
San Possidonio	450
Sestola	1,000
Zocca	10,000
Vignola (suspected mined)	

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APPENDIX "A" (Continued)

COMMUNES REPORTED MINED UP TO 7 JULY 1945 (Continued)

RAVENNA PROVINCE

COMUNE	COMUNE
Alghero	Fusignano
Dagmaravalle	Lugo
Ensisigella	Massalombarda
Casola Valerio	Ravenna
Castelbolognese	Ricolo Bagni
Cervia	Ruschi
Cotignola	Solarolo
Faenza	

FORLI' PROVINCE

Bertinoro	Modigliana
Borghi	Montescudo
Cattolica	Montiano
Cesena	Riccione
Cesenatico	Rimini
Civitella di Romagna	Rocca San Casciano
Coriano	Saludecio
Forlimpopoli	S. Mauro di Romagna
Galeata	S. Arcangelo di Romagna
Gambettola	Santa Sofia
Gatteo	Savignano di Romagna
Germano	Sogliano al Rubicone
Longiano	Torriana gia' Scorticata
Meldola	Tredozio
Mercato Saraceno	

FERRARA PROVINCE

Argenta	Migliarino
Cento	Ostellato
Comacchio	Portomaggiore
Ferrara	Ro
Fornighana	Mosola

In the Province the entire South bank of the Po is mined and also the Salt Lake banks in Comacchio.

APPENDIX "B"

OUTLINE OF MINE CLEARANCE PROPOSAL BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB-COM. TO AFHQ

1. A plan has been submitted to AFHQ for the employment of 10,000 German POW to clear the mined areas throughout Italy. It has not yet been approved.

2. Stores, equipment and transport required for 600 men i.e. on approx-
imate Italian level are estimated to be:

Ravenna
Riolo Bagni
Rusci
Solarelo

FORLI' PROVINCE

Bertinoro
Borghi
Cattolica
Cesena
Cesenatico
Civitella di Romagna
Coriano
Forlimpopoli
Galeata
Gambottola
Gatteo
Gemmano
Longiano
Meldola
Mercato Saraceno

Modigliana
Montescudo
Montiano
Riccione
Rimini
Rocca San Casciano
Saludecio
S. Mauro di Romagna
S. Arcangelo di Romagna
Santa Sofia
Savignano di Romagna
Segliano al Rubicone
Torriana Via Scorticata
Tredozio

FERRARA PROVINCE

Argenta
Cento
Comacchio
Ferrara
Formignana

Magliarino
Ostellato
Portomaggiore
Ro
Mosola

In the Province the entire South bank of the Po is mined and also the Salt Lake banks in Comacchio.

A P P E N D I X "B"

OUTLINE OF MINE CLEARANCE PROPOSAL BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB-COM. TO AFHQ

1. A plan has been submitted to AFHQ for the employment of 10,000 German POW to clear the mined areas throughout Italy. It has not yet been approved.
2. Stores, equipment and transport required for 600 men i.e. on approximately Battalion level are estimated to be:

Transport:

15 cwt. Trucks.....10
2 ton trucks.....4
F.U.'s or Jeeps.....4
Motorcycles.....4
Bicycles.....8

Mine Clearance Stores:

Mine Detectors..... 60
 (with spare batteries)
 Prodders.....200
 Marking Tape.....1000 yds

Bill of Materials:

Tentage or Neissen Huts in accordance with normal POW requirements.

Other Items:

On approximately G. 1098 scale as supplied to British Engineer Units.

3. Detachments of this size would be administered by Allied Officers with Italian Officer Staff. Guards supplied by Italian Army.

3. BRIDGE, ROAD AND UTILITY REPAIR:

Modena Province, in the area covered by this report, 14 bridges were destroyed; 4 of which are now under construction. The water and sewage installations suffered considerable damage but repair work is in progress using primarily local material. The roads are in poor condition, needing primarily bitumen for essential repair. Total estimated cost for public work repair of the Modena area is 65,000,000 L.

Bologna Province:

The battlefield area suffered very heavy destruction. Together with the housing damage, 150 bridges have been destroyed at an estimated cost of L. 390,000,000 to replace, of which 20 major bridges are being rebuilt at a cost of L. 75,000,000. The estimated damage to roads and retaining walls is L. 300,000,000 of which L. 16,000,000 has been initiated to date. Debris clearing at an estimated cost of 76,000,000 remains to be done. There are 4 hospitals and 34 schools to be rebuilt at an estimated cost of L. 76,000,000 and 13 water supply and sewerage systems that need reconstructing at a cost of L. 28,000,000.

In the Ravenna-Ferrara battlefield area a total of 620 bridges were destroyed. Most of these now have Bailey bridges in place, but which will have to be replaced at an estimated cost of L. 350,000,000.

Repair work on some major bridges has been initiated, but considerable work in preparing estimates remains to be done. The State Highways in this area are in fairly good condition, but severe damage was done to the 400 Km. Communal and Provincial roads, which will cost L. 275,000,000 to repair.

Requirements:

While the Regional Public Works Division has given high priority to the reconstruction needs of this particular area and the Italian Public Works agency, the Genio Civile, has prepared a considerable number of projects for approval by the Ministry of the Interior.

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3. Detachments of this size would be administered by Allied Officers with Italian Officer Staff. Guards supplied by Italian Army.

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Requirements:

While the Regional Public Works Division has given high priority to the reconstruction needs of this particular area and the Italian Public Works agency, the Genio Civile, has prepared a considerable number of projects for approval by AMI in the short time the Region has been active, a large amount of Public Works projects need yet to be prepared to cover the entire battlefield area. The total estimated cost to rehabilitate the Public Works and Utility installations in the area, not including housing, is L. 1,670,000,000. Material requirements are estimated as follows: Cement 15,000 tons; Lime 30,000 tons; Bricks 15,000,000; Nails 60 tons; Reinf. Steel 2500 tons; Channels and I-Beams 550 tons; Oxygen

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and Acetylene 1500 tanks and Bitumen 2500 tons. To execute this rather large reconstruction program, besides the construction materials needed, it is absolutely necessary that adequate transportation and POL be provided for the Italian Public Works agency. The transport made available at present by Autotrasporti for reconstruction purposes is practically nil. At least 200 trucks are required and these should be assigned to the Genio Civile for full time.

4. ALLOCATION OF SALVAGE MATERIALS:

Great quantities of many kinds of former military equipment now discarded in salvage dumps would prove invaluable to the people of the area. Some have been indicated in other sections of this report. Tents and canvas sheeting would provide or help repair housing. Canvas, together with hemp salvage, would provide mattresses. Unusable and discarded items of military clothing could be remade into warm and serviceable garments. Shoes and leather for shoe repair, with scraps of tire casings to make soles, are needed against the snows of the mountain winter. Oil drums can be made into stoves. Tools of all kinds, shovels, picks, wheel-barrrows, are in demand. Cots are needed badly.

In most instances salvage material must be processed and reworked into articles needed by the civilians. This would require the organization of work projects in those towns where industries formerly existed. If the materials can be made available and the work organized, two ends would thus be served -- the provision of employment, chiefly to women whose families are in part dependent on such income, as well as the creation of articles urgently needed for personal or family living.

The quantities of the various materials needed can be properly estimated only in relation to a plan for their processing and repair. If such a project were attacked with vigor, insight and enthusiasm the amounts required would be limited only by the supply available.

Certain agencies, Allied and Italian, already have access to salvage materials on the basis of priorities established under conditions prevailing in earlier months. It might now be appropriate to review previous priority commitments in view of the needs of the battlefield area, looking to the inclusion of its needs in the scale of priorities at a high enough level to insure that its requirements will be met.

5. Labors

The people whose homes were in the battlefield area are accustomed to hard work. Given access to materials and a reasonable degree of security from mines and they will comprise a labor force of considerable size. Naturally, their first concern must be the repair of their own dwellings and the cultivation of their land.

The amount of labor required for the work outlined in the first four headings of this section cannot be found in the normal population of the area. Least of all can it be found in those Communes in which extensive mining and destruction have combined to prevent the return of the people from the city to which they were evacuated.

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With respect to Mine Clearance a need for a labor force of ten thousand men for six months has been estimated. The use of German POW has been suggested, together with sufficient units of the Italian Army to provide guards, administration, etc.

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The labor requirements for housing; road, bridge and utility repair, and for the processing of salvage materials are rather more difficult to estimate since they would be governed by the amounts and delivery schedules for required materials, tools and transport. It is possible at this time only to suggest possible sources of labor and methods of organization.

In addition to their use in mine clearance, an additional ten thousand German POW could be used in clearing rubble, salvaging brick and other such projects.

Thousands of Italian youth are idle in the cities of the North. They constitute both an immediate and pressing problem and Italy's greatest hope for the future. Allowed to drift and to come under the spell of another political adventurer, as their fathers did, means ruin for Italy's present hopes of a democratic future. Bold, imaginative and convincing leadership could enlist them in a citizen army of re-builders and their youthful vigor directed through their present dilemmas and difficulties to a future of greater promise. When the unemployment of youth was a problem in the United States such leadership conceived and developed the Civilian Conservation Corps. Italy could profit from that example, now.

6. TRANSPORTATION:

The lack of transportation presents perhaps the most pervasive problem in meeting the needs of the battlefield area. Every proposal includes a demand for it. It has been pointed out that 200 trucks are required at this time for the necessary transport of materials and labor on road and bridge construction. The need for trucks and other forms of transport for mine clearance have been indicated in that section of the report. Additional transport is needed for food and traffic in other essentials of life. Transportation must be provided at the Provincial levels for conveying materials originating from the Provincial Centers. Equally essential, however, is the need for transportation within and between Communes. At this time, there is no transport in many Communes in this area and in no Commune is there sufficient transport to meet the immediate needs for public works and essential public conveyance.

A minimum of 10 tons of heavy transport is needed by each Commune in the area. Some work animals have been allocated to the area, but many more are needed when and as available.

There is immediate need for a minimum of at least one civilian car in each Commune for use by the Communal doctor and Communal officials. In the entire area there is only one ambulance. An additional 34 are needed to provide essential service among the Communes. As with other requirements, the needs for transportation can only be met through allocations from sources outside the area. Particularly should the needs of these Communes be considered when captured transport is released for use by civilians.

This discussion on transport necessarily implies the reciprocal need for POL to fuel the trucks. Some methane would be available locally, but a great part of the battlefield area is in mountainous country where methane-operated vehicles cannot be used.

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SECTION IV

ORGANIZATION

The battlefield Area of Emilia Region is a national problem. It is futile to regard it simply in its Communal or even its Provincial aspects. The area of destruction is so vast and the work of Communal administration so beset by difficulty that the officials of local government are powerless to deal adequately with the problems which confront them. Provincial officials, likewise, cannot give the Communes of the area lying within their respective Provinces anywhere near the attention required. Only action on the highest levels of the Italian National Government will prevent mass suffering and as tragic a winter as even Italy has ever known.

It is therefore suggested that the Italian National Government appoint, within the framework of its governmental structure, a separate Commission for what might appropriately be called "The North Apennines Battlefield Area". Precedent for such action will be found in the procedures adopted with respect to the Cassino-Minturno area, previously considered the most seriously devastated area in Italy.

The Commission would need to be empowered to act with vigor, firmness and speed. Having its own budget and staff of employees, it should nevertheless have access to the resources of such other agencies of the Italian National Government as the requirements of its work demands.

It is hoped also that such a Commission would not lack assistance from Allied sources. Within the natural limits imposed by military requirements, Allied Force Headquarters might give very material aid. The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration is empowered to extend certain forms of assistance in Italy which are most urgently needed in this area. The American Red Cross has demonstrated its desire and ability to help, as has American Relief for Italy, Inc., through its Italian counterpart, L'Ente Nazionale per Distribuzione dei Soccorsi in Italia. With all these organizations the Commission should maintain constant liaison and work in closest cooperation.

When Allied Military Government comes to an end in Emilia Region the people of this area, who of all Italians have suffered the most severely, ought to find in their new democratically conceived Government the sympathetic and vigorous action their plight requires.

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