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ALL

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Disturbances, Military and Civilian
Dec. 1943 - Jan 1944

~~SECRET~~
AUG/44

~~MILITARY TRAINING~~

DISTURBANCES

2
MILITARY

(27)

© W. A. Lian

785016

HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH ARMY
APO 464, U.S. ARMY

22 January 1944

SUBJECT: Riots and Disturbances.

TO : HQ. AMG., 15 Army Group.

1. In reply to your letter dated 19th January 1944 a copy of the report on the demonstration at Monteroduni is forwarded.
2. ✓ The CC.RR. at Monteroduni have been reinforced and the situation is now normal.

AFW/tp.

A.F. Wilcox
A.F. WILCOX
Major, G.L.,
Director of Public Safety.

1277

COPY

A.M.G. C.E.F.
8th January 1944

SUBJECT:- Demonstration at Monteroduni

TO: :- S.C.A.O.

As a result of information received, stating that a demonstration had taken place at the town of Monteroduni, I visited the town with members of the French Provost Corps.

On arrival I saw Carabinieri Capt. Russo of Isernia who informed me that he been sent from Isernia with extra Carabinieri to deal with the situation.

From enquiries I ascertained that at about 8.30 am on the 6th January 1944, about 300 people gathered in the Piazza facing the Municipio and demonstrated, it is alleged, against the "Fascist" members of the Comune staff, the price of flour and the requisitioning of potatoes in exchange for salt. The Podestà endeavoured to explain that he was dealing with the food situation as directed by A.M.G. but several male ringleaders encouraged the crowd to storm the Municipio by violent action.

There are only three Carabinieri stationed in Monteroduni and the these three men were on duty at the Municipio guarding the doors. As the crowd advanced they seized the Carabinieri standing on the left and right of the doors and pushed the centre into the building. This man tried to stop the mob by firing his pistol over the heads of the demonstrators. His first shots went high but three were lower and three men the front of the demonstrators were wounded. This appears to be due to the fact that the people were right on top on the man.

After the shooting one of the demonstrators, Antonio TUONO, who speaks English, went to Venafro and returned with American M.P's. The M.P's immediately disarmed the three Carabinieri but Prince Pignatelli who is a local personality, intervened. He complained that the town could not be controlled by a disarmed force of Carabinieri and the M.P's returned the arms minus the ammunition, one Carabinieri pistol being lost in the transaction. The Carabinieri were locked up in the Municipio by M.P's who took the key of the Caserma from the Brigadier, however the keys were later returned to Capt. Russo on his arrival, later during the day 6 January.

1.276

• CONTINUED:-

While in the town I interviewed a large number of the local inhabitants and I found that the present Podestà is very popular and not one person suggested that he should be replaced. He has been in office for about 15 years and he appears to me to be a most most trustworthy and capable man. A few people complained to me that the Secretary was a fascist and should be removed from office with some other members of the Comune Staff. Evidence shows that the demonstration was made for the purpose of complaining about the food situation and the Comune Staff are being blamed for any difficulties.

Some six or more men are reported to be the ringleaders of the violence at demonstration and were determined to make trouble. These men have previously tried to hold demonstrations but have had no support. One of these men has been selected as new Podestà by the others.

I interviewed Antonio TUONO, (the man who went to Venafro for M.P's.) and he gave me the names of the five men who led the crowd in the rush on the Municipio. Several witnesses supported this and four of the men were arrested, the other man had left the town but the Carabinieri are following enquiries. These men are being held until more detailed investigations show what, if any, charges can be preferred against the prisoners. Antonio TUONO was also seen by several witnesses who say he took an active part in the demonstration and did in fact assault one of the Carabinieri. TUONO appears to me to be an opportunist and when the crowd retreated from the front of the Municipio he went to Venafro, and with his knowledge of English, he told his story to the American M.P's.. In view of his active part in this affair I have held him custody in spite of the fact that he seems a good or rather willing informant.

Reliable members of the community assure me that, with the main ringleaders in custody the maintenance of law and order is assured. Capt. Russo is leaving three men in Monteroduni to reinforce the Caserma for a short while.

The wounded men are being treated by a local Doctor who ¹²⁴⁵ supplied with the necessary medical material. The nearest hospital is at Venafro but Monteroduni is accessible only on foot and the transport of the wounded would be very difficult.

In view of the above described demonstration I deem it desirable that at least three extra Carabinieri be allocated to Monteroduni.

A. MACK, Lt. C.A.P.O., C.E.F.

785016

SUBJECT: Riots and Disturbances

MR. AWE
15 Army Group
GMP

12

To: S.C.A.P.O.,
AMC 5th Army
(Through S.C.A.O.)

AME/443/12
19 Jan 44

Please forward report on demonstration at MONTARCONI
which was omitted from your minute of 12 Jan received on 18 Jan.

Richard M. Smith

Lt. Colonel,
Chief, Public Safety.

1274

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11 8 JAN 1944 RB

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HEADQUARTERS
AMG FIFTH ARMY
APO 464 U.S. ARMY

12 January 1944

SUBJECT: Riots and Disturbances.

TO : Public Safety Division, AMG, 15 Army Group.

1. In accordance with your instructions a report is attached giving details of a demonstration at MONTERODUNI, Campobasso Province (5 Army Area).

2. Arrangements are being made to reinforce the CC.RR at MONTERODUNI.

A.F. Wilcox

A.F. WILCOX.
Major, G.L.,
Director of Public Safety.

AFW/JB

1273

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HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394, U.S. ARMY

11 8 JAN 1944

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AG0005 PS

13 January 1944

SUBJECT: Riots and Demonstrations .

TO : AMG, HQ 15 Army Group, Paris

- HQ file 611
70110 5

1. In compliance with letter, your HQ, dated 16 November 1943 the following further report of riots is submitted.

2. The report on Benevento Province riots of 16 and 17 December is a clarification of preliminary report submitted from this office on 22 December 1943.

By order of Lieutenant Colonel KRAEGE.

KKK/jb
P.B.D.

Douglas N. Batson
DOUGLAS N. BATSON
1st Lt., CMP.,
Actg asst Adjutant General.

1272

AVELLINO PROVINCE.ARIANO IRPINO.

At 0900 hours on 21 December 1943, a crowd of 300 women gathered in front of the Municipio in protest against non-payment of the "Sussidi Militari" for September, October and November, and, armed with sticks attempted to invade the building. After an attempt by the Podesta to verbally persuade the people to disperse had failed, the CC.RR fired into the air and the group dispersed.

Ten women were arrested and released on bail.

Payment of $\frac{1}{2}$ month ending 15 December was made.

BENEVENTO PROVINCE.

See separate sheet.

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

Headquarters

BENVENUTO PROVINCE

Public Safety Department,
Benevento.

28th December, 1943.

SUBJECT :- Riot at S. Bartolomeo in Galdo.

TO :- Major P.J. Armstrong, S.C.A.O.

1. At 15.00 hours on Saturday, 18th December, 1943, in company with Major W.G. Elder, Legal Officer, I arrived at S. Bartolomeo in Galdo and commenced to make enquiries about the riots that had occurred there on the 16th and 17th instant.

2. The following facts were ascertained:-

A. At 8am on Thursday, 16th December, 1943, a crowd of people assembled before the gaol and demanded the release of seven men who had been arrested at Basilice for demonstrating against the priest. The Maresciallo of the CC.RA. at once went there and dispersed the crowd. Having armed the two guards at the gaol.

B. Knowing that the crowd were in an ugly mood and were protesting about the payment of taxes and the system of rationing he went to the Municipio and explained to them that the Italian laws were still in force and the Allied Military Government recognised them. The crowd argued that if this were so members of the A.M.G., would be there to enforce the law, and the crowd further stated that they no longer respected the authority of, the CC.RA. The Maresciallo then returned to the Caserma.

C. At 12.15pm the same date the Maresciallo of the Finance Guard was attacked by another crowd in the Piazza Garibaldi. The crowd protested about the livestock slaughtering tax, the rationing system and stated that they disliked the representative of the Ammassi. The Maresciallo of the Finance Guard was struck on the head by a man with a stick. This man has so far evaded arrest. The carabinieri at the Municipio hearing of this demonstration went at once to the Piazza Garibaldi.

D. Shortly before 1pm whilst the Municipio was unguarded a crowd went inside and wrecked and burnt the furniture, fittings, glass windows, they also destroyed all the records of births, marriages and deaths and the military record statistics. The command secretary estimates the cost of the damage to be 2,000,000 liras.

E. At about 6pm the same night when the Maresciallo was returning to the caserma with two of his carabinieri when some unknown person threw an Italian hand grenade at them. The two carabinieri received slight wounds. Some of

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 - B. Knowing that the crowd were in an ugly mood and were protesting about the payment of taxes and the system of rationing he went to the Municipio and explained to them that the Italian Laws were still in force and the Allied Military Government recognised them. The crowd argued that if this were so members of the A.M.G., would be there to enforce the law, and the crowd further stated that they no longer respected the authority of, the C.R.R. The Maresciallo then returned to the Caserma.
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 - D. Shortly before 1pm whilst the Municipio was unguarded a crowd went inside and wrecked and burnt the furniture, fittings, glass windows. They also destroyed all the records of births, marriages and deaths and the military record statistics. The communal secretary estimates the cost of the damage to be 2,000,000 Lires.
 - E. At about 6pm the same night when the Maresciallo was returning to the caserma with two of his carabinieri when some unknown person threw an Italian hand grenade at them. The two carabinieri received slight wounds. Some of the crowd were also slightly wounded.
 - F. At 12 noon on the following day Friday, 17th December, 1943, the Maresciallo of the Finance Guards and his three men went to the Caserma of the C.R.R. for protection. The carabinieri commenced to organise the defence of their barracks because a crowd had assembled outside and were asking the Finance Guards should be handed to them. Then this was refused the crowd tried to force a way into the convent which adjoins the caserma and they stoned the windows of the carabinieri barracks. The crowd refused to disperse the Maresciallo gave orders for his men to fire on them. Two women were gravely wounded, and it is expected that one will die. Several others in the crowd were also wounded but have failed to disclose this for fear of being arrested.
3. Upon my arrival I instructed the Carabinieri to arrest all persons known to have taken part in this series of riots. As a result 47 people, all residents of S. Bartolomeo in Galdo, were arrested. Two other

cont/.

2. Men were also arrested for attempting to wound a member of the carabinieri at 8pm on the night of Thursday, 16th December, 1943.

4. On Tuesday, 21st December, 1943, a Superior Military Court was held in the Pretura at S. Bartolomeo in Galdo. Major W.G. Elder was the Presiding Officer and the prosecutor was Lieut. T.W. Glasspool. The hearing lasted from 10.00 hours to 22.30 hours that day. Of the 47 people charged with taking part in an unlawful assembly contrary to Section 32, Article 2, of Proclamation 2. Of these 21 were found not guilty and discharged owing to lack of evidence. Four men and two women were sent to prison for periods varying from three years to one month. The remainder were found guilty and given a suspended sentence varying from 1 year to 6 months.

5. On Wednesday, 22nd December, 1943, A Superior Military Court was again held and dealt with the two men charged with attempting to wound a member of the Carabinieri on the 16th instant. One was sentenced to 5 years and the other six months imprisonment.

6. Major W.G. Elder later addressed the crowd assembled outside the C.C. Caserma and told them that taxes would have to be paid, that grain must be surrendered to the Ammasso and that the Carabinieri were obeying instructions of the Allied Military Government.

7. Although this Comune has a population of more than 10,000 people it is very isolated owing to the broken bridges and the place can only be reached via Foglia, Lucera and Volturara. The people are now calmed and in my opinion the quick investigation and court enquiry has had a salutary effect on the residents. The majority of the demonstrators were of the small farmer type and they resent having to surrender grain to the Ammasso.

8. The Carabinieri have been reinforced and it is not anticipated that any more trouble will arise.

Benevento.
28 Dec 43.

T.W. Glasspool, Lieut.
C.A.P.O.

1269

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Memorandum,

441

January 8th, 1944

6

To: Col. Hayes.

7 RMPLES

1. On January 7th, 1944, at 2000 hours (approx) a group of 5 men, members of the Armed Forces, at gun's point, forced entry into several homes, to wit: Vice Lazzarini 25, Vice Lazzarini 71, Via Santa' 151. A near riot ensued which I succeeded in quelling.

2. The general sentiment is very unfavorable and unflattering to anyone wearing American or British Uniforms, due to the repeated happenings of the same sort.

3. For the general well-being, some sort of precautionary measure would not be amiss.

T/6 Giuseppe Adami
I & C Sub Commission
ANG HQ

1st ID

Public Safety

For your consideration please

C. HAYES,
LT. COL.,
Industry & Commerce.

8 January, 1944

2nd ID

FROM: HQ, ANG, Public Safety Division

TO : HQ, ANG, Region III.

10 January, 1944.

1. Forwarded, being a matter pertaining to your command.

Paul S. Kinn
PAUL S. KINN,
Colonel, Infantry,
Chief Public Safety Division.

Copy to: Public Safety, ANG, 15 Army Group.

Paul S. Kinn
1/1

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785016

MDT/hjp

In reply refer to:
09L.1

4 January 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR: Colonel Spofford, Deputy Chief Civil Officer
Headquarters AMG, Naples

SUBJECT : Conditions in Campania

The attached document received from the Italian War Ministry is
transmitted for your information.

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR
Brigadier General, USA

1 Incl:
Ltr, War Ministry,
No. 12/c P.M. 107, 3 Jan 44

1st IND

FROM : HQ, AMG, Public Safety Division

TO : HQ, AMG, REGION III.

10 January, 1944.

1. Forwarded as being a matter pertaining to your command.

Paul G. Kirk
PAUL G. KIRK,
Colonel, Infantry,
Chief Public Safety Division

Copy to : Public Safety, AMG, 15 Army Group.

785016

COPY

MINISTRY OF WAR

CABINET

N. 12/C

P.M. 107

3 January, 1944

SUBJECT : Public Order in Campania

TO : The Allied Control Commission, BRINDISI

The Command FP.AA. Campania has advised that the situation of the public order in the communities of S. Bartolomeo in Gilda, Castelvotere, Valfortore, Colle Sannita, Circello, Reino, S. Marco dei Cavati, Molinara, Poiano Valfortore, Montefalcone e Baselice (localities of the provinces of Benevento) is growing worse from day to day and that the population threatens to go to violent acts against public offices and the respective officials in consequence of:

failure to make payment of daily military support,
increased cost of living,
lack of employment account of present winter season,
lack of vital food stuffs such as: oil, fats of all
kinds, pasta, rice, etc.
non-functioning of the postal service.

The above is mentioned for your information.

BRIGADIER GENERAL
(A. ALIBERTI).

1st HQ

FROM : HQ, AMB, Public Safety Division

TO : HQ, AMB, REGION III.

10 January, 1944.

1. Forwarded as being a matter pertaining to your command.

Howell Capt

PAUL C. KIRK,
Colonel, Infantry,
Chief Public Safety Division

1266

Copy to : Public Safety, AMB, 15 Army Group.

785016

Subj. C: Incidents between members of Allied Forces
and Italians.

H.Q., A.M.C.,
15 Army Group,
C. I. P.

AG/441/3.

24 Dec. 45.

H.Q.A.O.,
A.M.C.,
Region III.

I refer to your un-numbered letter dated 18th December addressed to Commanding General, Peninsular Base Section, referring to incidents between members of the Allied Forces and Italians and forwarding a letter from General Basso on the subject.

2. For your guidance, I have found from experience that the mere forwarding of complaints such as this to Military H.Q.s does little good. The Staff of the Commanding General, quite rightly, are apt to discount the complaints made by Italians and resent a formal complaint submitted by an Italian General and forwarded uncorroborated by you.

3. When this sort of complaint is received you should do your utmost to corroborate the story. If you are unable to do so you should, if possible, take the matter up verbally with the military authorities concerned and, at the most, send it on "for what it is worth".

4. I have little doubt that incidents such as this do occur, and will always occur as a result of the occupation of enemy territory or even co-belligerent's territory. Our duty is to reconcile the two points of view and to find a compromise. We shall never do this simply by sending uncorroborated reports to the authorities concerned.

Brigadier,
Deputy Chief Civil Affairs Officer.

1265

785016

15 DEC 1943

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 464, U. S. Army

18 December 1943

SUBJECT: Incidents Between Members of Allied Forces
and Italians.

TO: Commanding General, Peninsular Base Section.

1. General BASSO, in command of the Italian Armed Forces of the Campania, has forwarded to this headquarters, a list of highly regrettable incidents which have occurred between members of the Allied Forces and Italians.

2. The difficulties involved in preventing such incidents are fully recognized by this headquarters. At the same time, their unfortunate consequences and the use to which they can be put by the enemy's propaganda are stressed.

3. Information would be appreciated as to the steps being taken to prevent recurrences of such incidents and as to punishment of such offenders, as it is desired to show General BASSO that everything possible is being done in this connection by the Allied Military Authorities.

For the Commanding Officer:

Paul Revere
PAUL REVERE,
Major, A. G. D.,
Adjutant General.

1204

Incl.
Letter from Gen. BASSO,
dated 4 Dec. 1943

Cy - AMG, 15 Army Group.

CLO

DecAs will probably wish to
see this
R.H.
12/12

D.C.C.A.O.

2024/1

R.H.
22/11

TRANSLATION

December 4th 1943

Subject: INCIDENTS

To : Col. E.E. Hure, R.C.A.O. AMG REGION 3
 Lt. Col. O.W. Wilson, Chief Public Safety Officer.

It is with deep regret that I have learned of the shameful incidents which have been occurring in increasing proportions.

1/ On November 29, 1943 at 1630 two colored soldiers attacked an Italian civilian stealing his silver watch and wounding him when he refused to give them his pocket book.

Some British soldiers who intervened were satisfied to question one of the negroes and then let him go.

2/ On November 25 at 13 hours, ten Moroccan soldiers looted the home of a certain Luigi Mellardi near Pozzuoli, taking foodstuffs and breaking household furnishings.

3/ On November 21, 1943 at 10 hours, in Casserta an American Major from the local American Headquarters ordered the local Carabinieri to release certain individuals who had been arrested for having disobeyed our laws because "Italian laws are no longer in existence".

4/ November 26, 1943 at 1930 hours three American soldiers of whom two were non-commissioned officers forced the Carabinieri in Faenza to leave their barracks and they spend the entire night there with three women of dubious morals.

5/ November 24, 1943 at 2000 hours 8 Moroccan soldiers forced open the home of a certain Fiorillo Antonio in Pozzuoli wounding Fiorillo in the head because he had hesitated to open the door.

6/ November 25, 1943 at 0900 hours two Moroccan soldiers asked a certain DeWalo and his daughter to follow them under the pretext that they were taking them to the American Headquarters. They led them out of their house then overpowering the father they raped the daughter, first one then the other.

7/ An American M.P. officer stationed in Aversa ordered the Commissioner of ARIENZO S. Felice to restore to its owners several quintals of grain which had been confiscated by the CC.RR. of Cancellio.

I am bringing to your illustrious attention these incidents which are repeating themselves with increasing

1263

frequency as they are of enormous importance because they hamper the good-will of the population towards the Allies thus rendering that cooperation which the Italian citizens are so anxious to give rather difficult. Furthermore it minimizes the authority of our police forces.

The frequency and seriousness of these incidents render it important that preventive and punitive measures be taken.

I beg you to take an interest in this most urgent and delicate problem.

In my opinion the problem could be best solved by assigning two American or British M.P.s to every Carabinieri Station. This fact I have brought to Col. Wilson's attention.

Signed : The Lt. General in Command
(Antonio Basso)

Trans. Dep't/ AJG

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2042