

ACC

10000/143/305
(2ND)

PUBLIC SAFETY,
JULY - SEPT. 194

10000/143/305
(2ND)

PUBLIC SAFETY, MONTHLY REPORT, ISLAND OF ELBA
JULY-SEPT. 1944

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
ISLAND OF ELBA1401/11/10 6A
13th September 1944.

SUBJECT: Prisoners.

TO: Director Public Safety Subcommittee,
Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, A.P.O. 394, U.S. Army.

1. Reference your letter ACC/14011/41/PS of the 30th August 1944. The query as to the meaning of paragraph in my report is as follows:-

In the original directive given to Major Archie before the occupation of Elba there was an instruction that all Civilians arrested for Political or Security reasons should be transferred to Sardinia. This is not now possible without special chartering of boats. May these be sent through a P.O.W. detention camp on the mainland near Piombino?

2. There is prison accommodation at Porto Longone but I understand that detainees of the above classes should not be kept in criminal institutions any longer than is necessary for arrangements to be made as to their disposal.

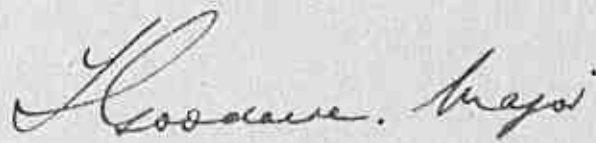
3. With reference to the query as to the capacity of the prisons at Porto Longone and Pianosa.

It will have been noted from reports submitted that there is a considerable amount of damage to locks etc., at Porto Longone and that part of the prison is being used as a mandamentale prison, but 400 to 500 prisoners could be taken in at once.

Pianosa is a special type of prison in as much as all prisoners are suffering from tuberculosis in varying degrees. These number approx. 350 at present but the capacity of the prison is twice that number.

Public Safety Sub Commission
for action information
Folio

	INITIALS	DATE
D.P.S.		
D.P.S.		
EX-Officer		
W. E.		
PRISON		
PR & C.D.		
Regn. & Licensing		
Adm Officer		
REMARKS		


T. Goodacre,
Major,
P.S.C. Elba.

6689

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

Tel : 478709

30 August, 1944.

ACC/11011/11/PS

SUBJECT : Prisons.

TO : Public Safety Officer,
Elba.

1. Reference your manuscript note dated 26 August 1944 brought to this Headquarters by Major Murchie.
2. The last paragraph of the note is not understood. It is as follows :

"Any further arrests that may be made may they be taken to the POW camp at Piombino as it is impossible to send them to Sardinia".
3. What type of arrests are referred to please ? It is understood that prison accommodation is available for ordinary prisoners at Porto Longone and that a Director and 12 guards have reported for duty.
4. If further information as to 2 is supplied, directions will be given.
5. Can information be supplied please as to the capacity of Porto Longone and Pianosa prisons.


PAUL G. KIRK
Colonel Infantry
Director Public Safety
Sub-Commission.

6688

FJT/C.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.

ISLAND OF ELBA.

PUBLIC SAFETY SECTION.

Rio Marina.

1st. August 1944.

Subject. Monthly Report.

To. Public Safety Division,
H.Q. Allied Control Commission.

POLICE AGENTS. The strength of the various Police Forces on the island has been maintained, and there has been a considerable improvement in the way that they are carrying out their duties. Many are unarmed and there is a shortage of uniforms due to them being stolen by French troops when they occupied the Police Stations. All troops have now been removed from these Police buildings. As stated in monthly report of 1st. July the Commander of the C.C.R.R. is absent from the island. The appointment of Marsciallo Maggiore Pellegrini to act as head of the island has been a success. He is a very efficient officer and is of great service.

Great use is being made of the Guardia di Finanza, and they are doing good work in checking "Black Market" operations and also in the control of the fishing.

The Commissariato of Pubblico Sicurezza has been moved back to Porto Ferraio and are carrying out their duties much better. They have carried out a considerable amount of work in conjunction with the French Security Police.

There are four members of the Guardia Forestale on the island. In view of the fact that charcoal burning is being carried out, and also the need for strict supervision in the cutting of timber which is very scarce, I have retained the services of the four men. All four were written into the Republican Fascist Party but from strict enquiries that

6687

not read
at 10/10/44
This will be sent
[Signature]

POLICE AGENTS. The strength of the various Police Forces on the island has been maintained, and there has been a considerable improvement in the way that they are carrying out their duties. Many are unarmed and there is a shortage of uniforms due to them being stolen by French troops when they occupied the Police Stations. All troops have now been removed from these Police buildings. As stated in monthly report of 1st July the Commander of the C.C.R.R. is absent from the island. The appointment of Maresciallo Maggiore Pellegrini to act as head of the island has been a success. He is a very efficient officer and is of great service.

Great use is being made of the Guardia di Finanza, and they are doing good work in checking "Black Market" operations and also in the control of the fishing.

The Commissariato of Pubbico Sicurezza has been moved back to Porto Ferrario and are carrying out their duties much better. They have carried out a considerable amount of work in conjunction with the French Security Police.

There are four members of the Guardia Forestale on the island. In view of the fact that charcoal burning is being carried out, and also the need for strict supervision in the cutting of timber which is very scarce, I have retained the services of the four men. All four were written into the Republican Fascist Party but from strict enquiries that I have made it appears that they were forced to sign in or else lose their position. None have actively participated in the movement.

In view of the large amount of Port installations and Marine equipment at Porto Ferrario I have authorised the return to duty of four members of the Regia Capitaneria di Porto di Portoferraio. These are under the control of a Maresciallo and are doing very good work clearing up the port and recuperating Marine material. They are also supervising the issue of licenses for fishing and the lifting of boats sunk in the harbour.

6687

not ready
ok 10/10/44
This
will be
sent
John

(2).

PRISONS.

1. State Penitentiary at Porto Longone. This is still occupied by French Military who have also a considerable amount of ammunition stored in it. The Director of the prison and the twelve guards left behind have been instructed to gather together the records etc., and clear up the building as far as they are able. One portion of the prison, the "Reclusione" has, under my instructions, been made available to the Pretura as a Mandermentale Prison. As in previous report there are no prisoners to report in the State prison.

2. State Penitentiary on the island of Pianosa. All the prisoners here are transfers from all over Italy who are ill and suffering from tuberculosis. Many of them are in a very serious state and quite incurable. The buildings, which are widely dispersed over the island, are in good condition with the exception of one which has been on fire since the last report was submitted. There are some suspicious circumstances in connection with this fire and an investigation is being made. The Infirmary portion of the prison is very well administered and has excellent X-Ray equipment and other apparatus for giving electrical treatment. The Doctors from the island of Elba take turns in staying at Pianosa. These sick prisoners are very difficult to handle and although they are being given an extra ration they are not satisfied.

3. Mandermentale Prison. In view of the very poor state of the building 6686 which was in use as a prison at Capoliveri I have given authority for the Pretura to take over a portion of the State prison at Porto Longone. This is very satisfactory and there are at the present eight (8) persons detained. These are for violations of Italian law, and are awaiting trial.

building as far as they are able. One portion of the prison, the Reclusi, has, under my instructions, been made available to the Pretura as a Mandermentale Prison. As in previous report there are no prisoners to report in the State prison.

2. State Penitentiary on the island of Pianosa. All the prisoners here are transfers from all over Italy who are ill and suffering from tuberculosis. Many of them are in a very serious state and quite incurable. The buildings, which are widely dispersed over the island, are in good condition with the exception of one which has been on fire since the last report was submitted. There are some suspicious circumstances in connection with this fire and an investigation is being made. The Infirmary portion of the prison is very well administered and has excellent X-Ray equipment and other apparatus for giving electrical treatment. The Doctors from the island of Elba take turns in staying at Pianosa. These sick prisoners are very difficult to handle and although they are being given an extra ration they are not satisfied.

3. Mandermentale Prison. In view of the very poor state of the building which was in use as a prison at Capoliveri I have given authority for the Pretura to take over a portion of the State prison at Porto Longone. This is very satisfactory and there are at the present eight (8) persons detained. These are for violations of Italian law, and are awaiting trial. COURTS. Instructions have been issued to the Pretura to re-open the Italian Court. The list of cases pending has been carefully examined and approval given for all cases to be dealt with. The first Court will be held on the 12th.

August 1944.

No Allied Military Court has yet been convened as the number of reports of violations of the Proclamations is very small indeed.

~~X~~ FIRE BRIGADE. The Fire Brigade have had no calls made upon their services to attend fires but use is being made of them in the clearance of debris in Porto Ferrajo. They are being used for the demolition of dangerous walls and

(3).

buildings. One of the largest undertakings was the demolition of a chimney at the ILVA works. This was badly cracked and in a dangerous state. X

MILITARY.

There has been a great improvement in the behaviour of the troops on the island. All the combat troops have been withdrawn and the present garrison of Algerian troops behave well. A great factor in this is the result of an order issued forbidding the sale or giving of wine to the troops. There has also been a decrease in the number of cases reported of troops taking civilian property. A special order had been issued to all troop commanders and it is hoped that there will be no more cases. The system of requisitioning has been regularised and a form prepared for use in all requisitioning.

Security Police. Although very close contact has been kept with this section we have not been able to obtain from them the names and addresses of any of the civilians who they have arrested and shipped to Corsica. They have never informed A.M.G. of any action that they proposed taking or have taken, and it is only when a relative comes to the office for information about a detainee that we know he has been arrested. Renewed promises have been made that a list will be supplied giving the names and addresses of all persons arrested. When this becomes available copies will be submitted at once.

Military Police. A fresh section of the French Military Police have been sent to the island. They commenced, after a few days, to carry out an intense search of all houses in the Porto Ferrario district. This, they stated was for the purpose of recovering military property, looking for transmitters and for Germans who are still thought to be on the island. The results were almost entirely negative and nothing of a serious nature was found.

PUBLIC MORALE.

With the withdrawal of the native troops, who caused some fear

6685

order issued forbidding the sale or giving of wine to the troops. There has also been a decrease in the number of cases reported of troops taking civilian property. A special order had been issued to all troop commanders and it is hoped that there will be no more cases. The system of requisitioning has been regularised and a form prepared for use in all requisitioning.

Security Police. Although very close contact has been kept with this section we have not been able to obtain from them the names and addresses of any of the civilians who they have arrested and shipped to Corsica. They have never informed A.M.G. of any action that they proposed taking or have taken, and it is only when a relative comes to the office for information about a detainee that we know he has been arrested. Renewed promises have been made that a list will be supplied giving the names and addresses of all persons arrested. When this becomes available copies will be submitted at once.

Military Police. A fresh section of the French Military Police have been sent to the island. They commenced after a few days, to carry out an intense search of all houses in the Porto Ferrario district. This, they stated was for the purpose of recovering military property, looking for transmitters and for Germans who are still thought to be on the island. The results were almost entirely negative and nothing of a serious nature was found.

6685

PUBLIC MORALE. With the withdrawal of the native troops, who caused some fear amongst the women, the population soon settled down. Some political activity began to be evident, especially in Porto Ferrario, and certain elements began to join together and stop former Fascists and beat them up. Police patrols were put out and a number of cafes, thought to be the meeting places of these people, were shut. The trouble soon stopped and there has been no repetition. There were many signs of discontent at the searching of their houses and reprisals were made by the cutting of the telephone lines to the H.Q. of the Military Police. This did not continue and should not be considered as the commencement of sabotage.

Most of the men on the island are still out of work but the commencement

(4)

of fishing on a very restricted scale, during the hours of daylight, has relieved the position a little, as well as helping in the feeding of the public.

Serious Crimes. There have been no serious crimes committed violating our Proclamations. There have been a number of reports of violations of Italian Law but only one is of a serious nature. This occurred at Capoliveri when a hand grenade was thrown in the street. This exploded and killed a civilian. It is not known whether this was thrown at the civilian, who happened to be a member of the Fascist Republican Party or at some Carabinieri who were close by. At present three persons are detained for interrogation.

Circulation permits and Motor passes. The system of the control of permits and circulation passes for motor transport is proceeding in a satisfactory manner. One of the great difficulties in respect of transport is the fact that there are not really sufficient cars for all the essential requirements. Most of the cars on the island are very old and the condition of the tyres is terrible. Each fresh Military unit that arrives try to requisition more vehicles and there is nothing left that is any good. Permits for fishing were issued but owing to Security reasons this had to be stopped. Permission has now been given for it to be resumed on the 6th. August.

General Observations. A much improved state of affairs exists than at the time of my report of the 1st. July. The rationing system seems to be operating well and the island is calm and well behaved. If it becomes possible to recommence fishing at night, and the restarting of the Mineral mines the island would soon be completely normal.

6684



T. Goodacre, Major,

Public Safety Officer. Elba.

the position a little, as well as helping in the feeding of the public.

Serious Crimes. There have been no serious crimes committed violating our Proclamations. There have been a number of reports of violations of Italian Law but only one is of a serious nature. This occurred at Capoliveri when a hand grenade was thrown in the street. This exploded and killed a civilian. It is not known whether this was thrown at the civilian, who happened to be a member of the Fascist Republican Party or at some Carabinieri who were close by. At present three persons are detained for interrogation.

Circulation permits and Motor passes. The system of the control of permits and circulation passes for motor transport is proceeding in a satisfactory manner. One of the great difficulties in respect of transport is the fact that there are not really sufficient cars for all the essential requirements. Most of the cars on the island are very old and the conditions of the tyres is terrible. Each fresh Military unit that arrives try to requisition more vehicles and there is nothing left that is any good. Permits for fishing were issued but owing to Security reasons this had to be stopped. Permission has now been given for it to be resumed on the 6th. August.

General Observations. A much improved state of affairs exists than at the time of my report of the 1st. July. The rationing system seems to be operating well and the island is calm and well behaved. If it becomes possible to recommence fishing at night, and the restarting of the Mineral mines the island would soon be completely normal.

6684



T. Goodacre, Major,

Public Safety Officer. Elba.

Public Safety Section. Feb on Elba 1A

1. Captain of C.C.R.R. being transferred from Livorno.
(to take over control of the island (has not yet arrived.)
2. Lists of persons detained have now been produced
there were taken by the French to Corsica and
not to Sardinia as requested.
3. Any further arrests that may be made - may
they be taken to the P.O.W. camp at Pombino as
it is impossible to send them to Sardinia?

26/8/44

6683

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY SECTION
RIBA.

Porto Ferrario.

1st. July 1944.

Subject: Monthly Report.

To: Public Safety Section,

Headquarters, Allied Control Commission.

Upon arrival at the island on 25.3 it was found that the Civilian Police Forces were not functioning. They were completely disorganized by the fact that all the Police Stations had been looted and were occupied by troops, and permission to enter was refused them. Uniform was not being worn because troops were arresting anyone found in uniform.

At this time no Military Police were to be seen on the island and the troops had looted everywhere. Public buildings had not been spared this wanton destruction and Public, School and Police records had been seriously damaged or completely destroyed.

POLICE FORCES.

(1) Carabinieri. There are 46 members of the C.C.R.R. on the island divided between 8 stations. A Lieutenant was in charge of the island but he had left for the mainland 2 days before the occupation. As a temporary measure the Maresciallo Maggiore in charge of the largest station, Porto Ferrario, has been placed in command. Great difficulty was encountered in getting the troops out of the stations but this has now been carried out, but they have taken away most of the small arms of the C.C.R.R. and all the cooking utensils, beds, blankets, sheets and personal clothing. Duties have now been resumed and uniform is being worn.

Guardia di Finanza. There are 41 members of the Guardia di Finanza under the charge of a 2nd. Lieutenant. There are operating from a temporary H.Q. in the

/ccm ry

6682

(2)

country as the main Caserma at Porto Ferrajo was damaged by bombing some time ago and was evacuated. Since the occupation it has been looted but instructions have been issued for the place to be repaired and reoccupied as soon as is practical. Agents are stationed at the coastal towns and are carrying on their duties as best they can. They have their uniforms and the greater part of their arms.

3. Commissione di Pubblica Sicurezza. There are 3 Agents under the control of a Carabinieri. The office was moved from Porto Ferrajo to Capaliveri. The records are intact and the service is functioning.

4. Guardia Forestale. Information has been obtained that there are three members of this force on the island but they have not yet been contacted.

PRISONS. There are three prisons within the boundaries of this authority.

(1). State Penitentiary at Porto L. Leone. This is a large modern well appointed building on the style of an American prison. There are no prisoners, they were all removed to the mainland some time ago. The prison guard was also taken away by the Germans but it is said that 12 members ran away into the hills rather than go. These have not returned and at present are acting under the instructions of the local C.C.R.R. The prison is occupied by native troops. There is no serious damage to the building but a large number of locks have been destroyed and most of the tools have been stolen from the workshops.

(2). State Penitentiary on the Island of Pianosa. This is a very old type of prison. There are a considerable number of buildings which are in a good state of repair. Sanitary arrangements are normal. There are 386 prisoners serving sentence and 10 who have completed their sentences. There is a complete freedom of movement by the prisoners whose morale is very good. There has been no sign of trouble although the guards were disbanded by the French military occupying the island.

(3)

inland. The food situation was very bad but an initial supply of foodstuff has been dispatched which has relieved the position.

(3) Sanfedele Prison at Capoliveri. This is under the control of the Pretura who was evacuated from Porto Ferrajo. There were 7 prisoners in the prison who were released by the French. Orders have been given for the re-arrest of these. The building is old but not damaged. It is at present occupied by French troops.

X FIRE BRIGADE. The Headquarters of the Fire Brigade is situated at Porto Ferrajo. The building was destroyed by bombing and the squad now operates from a small building in the country. They are responsible for the whole island, and there are 24 members all of whom are paid full-time members. They are equipped with a fire-tender, which whilst being old, is in good working order. They have also a trailer pump which requires some spare parts to put it in working order. They have a fair quantity of hose and standpipes which in my opinion are adequate for the needs of the island. The Brigade also carry out First Aid work and are responsible for the conveyance of patients to hospital but the French have taken the only ambulance which was in working order. Other than the Fire Brigade, there is no Civil Defence organisation on the island. X

COURTS. There is one Pretura Court on the island at Capoliveri. This has been closed. There are 15 cases pending.

MILITARY.

Co-operation with:-

(i) Security Police. The co-operation has been far from satisfactory. Firstly this was due to the fact that this A.M.C. unit was given a very low embarkation priority and did not arrive on the island until D+3 morning. The operations had been completed and the troops were completely out of hand and looting everywhere. Secondly the French Military Police Officer Captain Massey was travelling very quickly about the island and it was impossible to contact

/him.

6680

(4).

him. Large numbers of civilians have been arrested and many of them conveyed to Corsica, but no information has been supplied to this section of the names etc., of any persons detained. Repeated requests have been made for this but the information is not yet available to me.

Military Police. In the first three or four days of the occupation no Military Police were to be seen on the island. After that time a few came, but they appeared to take no action to stop troops looting etc., but busied themselves interfering with the movement of civilians, most of whom were refugees returning home from the hills. Cases were reported of them stopping uniformed members of the C.O.R.R. on duty and taking away their arms, although each Police agent has been supplied with an arm-band and a warrant card written in French.

PUBLIC MORALE. On the whole morale is good, but the civilians have great fear of the occupying troops especially of the negroes. The greater part of the people left their homes during the operations but they are returning very quickly. The largest town Porto Ferrajo, was very badly damaged by bombing and had been completely evacuated by the Germans. That property was not damaged by the bombing has been looted since the occupation. The population was divided between the other communes. There are many people unemployed on the island at the present time. This has been occasioned by the destruction of the blast furnaces called "ILVA" also the Cement Works, and the closing down of the Iron Ore Mines, and the stopping of all fishing. Unless work can be restarted very soon there will soon be a very large relief problem and a possibility of disorders in the area of the mines where Communism is prevalent.

Passes and Circulation Permits. A system of passes for the movement of civilians from one commune to another has been installed, also a system of circulation permits for essential civilian vehicles. This is a very small problem due to the

/fact

6679

(5).

fact that almost all vehicles have been taken by the French Military.

REQUISITIONING.

No official type of form or regular procedure has been adopted by the Military for the requisitioning of any goods or materials. In a few cases a slip of paper in the form of a receipt has been given, but in most instances nothing has been given. In the order issued by General Maguen instructions were laid down which forbade any unauthorized taking of goods but it appears to have had little effect.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The swift fall of the island seems to have found the French Military authorities without any plans for the control of their troops. No Military Police were brought in for some time with the result that troops were out of control. They looted and pillaged throughout the island. It has been impossible to stop this and complaints still come in of troops taking foodstuff, livestock, clothing and other goods often with force of arms. Almost every mattress on the island was taken and now that the combat troops have been removed mattresses are to be seen lying all over the hillsides. Business and administrative offices were entered and doors, windows and furniture smashed without the least reason. Valuable records have either been destroyed or are strewn about the floors of offices, schools and police stations. There were several reports of interference with women, but where the culprits were discovered very strict action was taken by Commanding Officers.

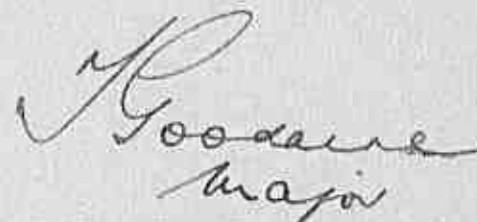
I venture to express an opinion and say that the relative responsibilities of the Military and of Allied Military Government in the control of the civilian population in occupied territory, should be taken up with the French at a high level. Here, in Elba, it appeared that either the Military had no knowledge of the functions of A.M.G., or else they deliberately

6678

(6).

since to ignore it. French officers were installed in each commune, and they were issuing orders direct to the public, which in some cases were in contradiction to the Proclamations. Copies of these, in French had been supplied. This caused some confusion in the minds of communal authorities as to whom they were responsible. These French officers appeared to have been appointed specially to deal with Civil Affairs, but they worked and issued orders without the slightest reference to this Allied Military Government unit. This has now been rectified and the men withdrawn.

Signed.



T. Goodacre, Major,
Public Safety Officer.
Hiba.

6677

1167

