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PSLO VENEZIE, MONTHLY REPORTS
APR. 1946 - JAN. 1947

Ex Comm.

20^a & 21^b are submitted for information.
 It will be observed that 20^a is made
 up of a long plaint regarding the
 shortcomings of the Italian Police Service.
 Doubtless it was a result of this
 report that the signal in the
 accompanying file 14191/41PS was
 dispatched. If you approve I will
 append to the topic in the question of
 being a little more constructive in
 the criticism when I am in that
 area during the coming week.

13. 11. 46.

E. J. Dye Colonel
 Queen by E.C.
 25/11

785016

SUBJECT :- Public Safety Report for
December, 1946.

Public Safety Liaison Office

[illegible]

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6 Jan 47

10/25/07

CONCLUSIONS

11. Following is report on public safety activities in the provinces of BELLUNO, FADOV., ROVERO, UFFRE, MONFIS, VESTIZ., VIZON., and VICENZ., during the month of December, 1946. Although not forming part of 86 Area, the provinces of TRENTO and VERON. have always been covered in the monthly report of this office as the two provinces formed part of late Region 12 of A.M.C. and they are immediately outside the boundary of 86 Area. The provinces of BOLZANO and VERON. are now in sphere of influence of 86 Area, but this report does not cover the former province for this month.

2. POLICE FORCES

There is no change to report so far as the general conditions and activities of the several police forces are concerned.

A large barracks at VIMON has been derequisitioned and placed at disposal of Italian authority for use of Public Security. The derequisitioning was made by HQ 217 Area and should help the civilian authorities of the province as the building presently occupied by the police is the property of and required by Consorzio Agrario.

The new Commander (Major LUCCIALI - see last month's report) of Carabinieri Group, VIICOL, organised an arms raid at C.V. 22511 (AR 1/200,000 - C 4918) and some arms (including automatic weapons) ammunition and hand grenades were seized. Ten persons were arrested and detained, but within a few days five had been released, they being described as 'partisans'. Left wing parties exercised strong political influence in the release of the five persons and Conte TOMATI, Socialist Member for VIICOL in the Italian Parliament appears to have expended much effort towards the same end.

PADOVA, Province.

The lack of cooperation between Carabinieri and Agents of Public Security will without doubt be more evident in near future as result of publication of Decree No 377 of 15 Nov 46 in Official Gazette No 279 of 7 Dec 46. Under this Decree a total of 63 Carabinieri Officers (Col, Lt Col and Majors) are to be retired from their Commands by 26 Feb (See Secret report of 2 and 26 Dec to HQ S6 Area only).

Not connected with above Decree but tending to increase bad feeling between the two forces is the information that Agents of Public Security are to be placed under 'direct' control of and not be at 'indirect' disposition of Questori as at present. This could be the first steps towards a unified national force on Deza's terms, but can only be

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I have heard that Questore may be given the same rank level as Prefetti. If that came to pass, Questore would be directly assisted to display (or not display, depending on the individual) the qualities of Chief Constables of their Provinces, and to be independent of politics. Another pointer in the same direction is that Col G.M.I., Commander of all Agents of Public Security in the VENETO Region, has gone to ROME to assume a high police appointment. He is a leading light in the VENETO Region. IPI movement and did have considerable power among 'partisans' and his transfer and promotion (removal and reward may better describe) has political significance when it is learned that his successor in IPI movement may be a communist from the 'red' Region of Emilia (BOLOGNA, MODENA, PARMA, REGGIO, etc.).

The new Questore at VERONA (NICOLARDI) does not seem to have his fingers on the pulse of his province. He may improve with time. The ex Regina Elena barracks at 15103 now accommodates 54 Carabinieri, 128 Agents of PS and 30 Finance Guards. The Carabinieri strength remains almost static while Agents show an increase of about 50 during past month. Accommodation is ready for 100 Agents who are expected to arrive from VIENNA on 9 Jan. Recent inclement weather has hampered cement work, but the barracks do show improvement although a long time is being taken.

3. PUBLIC ORDER

Numerous demonstrations (some reaching large proportions) were held during the month, mostly regarding unemployment, cost of living and other domestic matters.

From all points of view, the most serious was at R.DOV. on 10 and 11 Dec when serious anti British action was taken and resulted in such damage being done to British vehicles and requisitioned property. (See report of 11 Dec to HQ 86 Area and info GAO G Branch and HQ AIGM Public Safety Division, and under 2011010.1 this report). A street accident involving a British vehicle is alleged to have 'fired' the disturbance, but I am satisfied the accident was an excuse for display of mob violence which had been politically organised (all pointers indicate left wing work) and engendered and inflamed by Italian press.

The Questore (SOLIMUS) was on leave during the R.DOV. disturbances and the Vice Questore, although present among the mob, does not appear to have been extremely energetic in having the crowd dispersed and awaited until scores became hundreds and eventually about six thousand strong.

An official named RIZZO and having rank of Prefetto came from ROME to R.DOV. to make the usual inquiries and report to Italian Government. Contents of his report are unknown to me, but I understand the Prefetto of R.DOV. was found to be lacking in his duties.

On 15 Dec at VER. (AR 1/200,000 - G 5451) Province of VENETO British soldiers and Italian civilians resorted to blows, stone throwing and other forms of misconduct. All this resulted from the question of the moving of a table in a public bar and the originator of the whole matter was undoubtedly a civilian who had no authority while in the bar but is employed as an usher in the local Town Hall. He is a communist in a communist locality and the easy way in which he riled British soldiers to retaliation does not make good reading material for a Britisher.

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There were signs that anti-British disorder might spread to TRIESTE, especially as result of further road accidents involving British Vehicles, but there was no serious reaction.

In ROVIGO Province there was a strike of agricultural workers, the disagreement between employers and employees being the difference of the hire between rate deeded and that agreed to. The Camera del Lavoro called for a general strike and appears to have lost face on that point, also on the decision until Feb 17 of the question of the suggested alleviation of unemployment by owners employing one extra worker for each hectare of land owned.

Religious demonstration held in VENICE on 29 Dec against anti-religious press was well attended. There was much whistling by would be interrupters and the same continued when the people gathered to be addressed by the Cardinal of VENICE from a balcony of his palace. Order was maintained by Italian Police present.

An NEI demonstration of workers from all of VENICE Province re unemployment and other internal matters was held on 31 Dec in Piazzale Roma, VENICE. About 3000-4000 were expected to take part and Italian Police were formed. MG 66 Area (G Branch) took precautions to prevent illicit military traffic and personnel being involved. About 500 persons, many wearing red stars, scarves etc. and carrying banners and placards with inscriptions demanding work, reorganization of police, removal of 'fascists', decrease in cost of living and intimidating solidarity of partisan movement, walked to a local cinema and were addressed by speakers (left). They also showed themselves in S. Marco Square then walked back to Piazzale Roma. There was much singing of communist and Italian songs, but no incidents were reported.

4. CRI

The General figures remain stationary, but there is a tendency towards an increase in the number of armed robberies. This was most marked in the provinces of PADOVA and VERONA. Some arrests have been made, but any during robberies are carried out by masked bands and the culprits not identified.

Inquiries are being made regarding the identity of an alleged Polish soldier who was shot dead by carabinieri while forming part of an armed band engaged in robbery. It has already been stated, TRIESTE Province is not in 66 Area and the communications so far received on the matter have been passed to MG 6 Branch. The civil authorities of TRIESTE notified also the Polish Consulate in VENICE.

Several murders were reported during the month and in TRIESTE Province a youth has been arrested for the murder of five persons, including his own father and mother.

5. BLACK MARKET

This continues as before and any remarks would be but repetitions of previous reports.

Recommendations were recently made to MG 66 Area on the issuing and accounting of POL and it is expected that the application of such measures will give good results. If the same methods could be

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5. BLACK MARKET

This continues as before and any remarks would be but repetitions of previous reports.

Recommendations were recently made to HQ 86 Area on the issuing and accounting of POL and it is expected that the application of such measures will give good results. If the same methods could be applied to all any commodities, great saving would accrue.

The black market is very pronounced in all civilian commodities and the number of people depending on it for their livelihood seems to increase from day to day.

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its modifications are so wide that the police, even when willing, touch only its fringes and the 'big' operations are rarely if ever caught.

As is stated under "EXHIBITION" this report, the black market is engaged in also for political ends.

6. AS AND THE UNCLE

As is reported under "POLICE FORCES" arms and "AS" carried out in several provinces and some of all types were found.

Political significance can be attached to the arms found in provinces of PAVIA and VARESE. In the case of the latter the left wing parties want to erect length to secure the release of the majority of those arrested. The same can be said about PAVIA. While I am unable at present time to give full particulars of quantities seized, I know that police officials described the results as very good.

7. PRISONS

There is no change to report in the prison situation. Due to the slowness of the Italian legal system and the destruction of prisons in other parts of the country all of the prisons are full and some are overcrowded.

The fear of Italian prison officials that British military would requisition a large prison in this area have now been alleviated.

8. POLITICAL

The political situation remains in great part unstable and uncertain. As has been reported previously, the great mass of Italians are politically undecided and the inherent spirit of selfishness in the prime factor in the lack of cooperation between north and south Italy; between provinces and right down through the scale until the display of egoism between individual Italians can be described as a danger. A show of energy on the part of the Italian Government would appear to be one of the first means to awaken the national conscience and the only way of settling and halting the rising cost of living.

The weakness on the part of the Government is used to great advantage by the communists and socialists, especially the former being deeply involved in attempts to prevent the movement of grain from 'rich' provinces to 'poor' provinces and there is every indication that the same party is engaged in the illegal transport of grain from Italy to Yugoslavia. In that way they cause discontent where bread is scarce, then make political capital for their party by arranging to provide bread to those in need and further, they disrupt Italian supplies and assist communist efforts in Yugoslavia by sending supplies there.

It appears that those involved in this work do not do it for personal gain (although it is admitted they are in a position to ensure that they and their families do not go hungry) but that the money obtained from such deals is used for party propaganda.

It does, however, appear that even this propaganda is not sufficient to assure the firm and widespread establishment of communism in this part of Italy and among the common people is heard the complaint that even the communist leaders (including BRUNO the communist Minister of VARESE) have failed to keep promises and improve the conditions of the masses.

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While the Italian press is not so open in its criticism of the Allies, the references made to the conditions of the Italian Peace Treaty are inserted in a veiled form, a form very acceptable to the Italian national character and is undoubtedly fostering the 'old spirit' of Italy for the Italians and stirring in the Italian mentality non 'strength' is the Italian character and the 'sacrifices' made by Italians during the war.

The same wording attitude was noted in the press articles on the incidents at P.D.O.V.. While withholding the population's reaction to the alleged 'intolerable number of road accidents involving Allied vehicles', the press deplored the excesses 'sometimes employed by civilians, but blamed the action of British troops for rendering the disaster on evening of 14 Dec. It may be that events occurred in that order, but never is the sequence of events traced to its source and the 'poor, downtrodden, long suffering, ill-treated Italians' (their own press description) told that if it had not been for Italians lacking the wrong horse and entering the war when they did, that the British troops who are so 'ill equipped and lacking in road courtesy' would not have had to be now in Italy and that thousands of British lives would not have had to be given to free Italy of an internal enemy.

The same press, together with civil authorities, laid stress on the fact that the G.I. official statement on the P.D.O.V. incidents was not a true statement of facts.

... a ball bomb exploded outside premises of 'Uomo Qualunque' at VIMOLI, but no one injured and little damage done. ... appears more in light of threat.

9. GENERAL SECURITY & CONDUCT OF ALLIED TROOPS

General conduct has been good except during the incidents at P.D.O.V. on 10 and 11 Dec and at VIMOLI on 15 Dec. (See under PUBLIC ORDER). At the incidents referred to it seemed clear that the troops involved did not react as properly disciplined troops could have to the misbehaviour of the Italians.

At P.D.O.V., British vehicles and personnel were being attacked many hours after the original outbreak. This could not have happened if vehicles and troops had had to go immediately to the shelter of their own or nearest Unit lines, and only those of very high priority allowed out.

The situation in which we find ourselves here is not very acceptable to individual British temperaments and the British soldier who is armed with a baton and placed on guard outside British military installations may, during one to ent within the vigilance of his superior, cause more harm with a flourish of his baton than were he confined within doors and had to resort to weapon fire in the event of his charge being attacked.

The case with which troops have had access to P.O.L., cigarettes, soap, etc., greatly helped the black market and young soldiers who would not otherwise be dishonest have found ready buyers for small

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The case with which troops have had access to POL, cigarettes, soap, etc., greatly helped the black market and young soldiers who would not otherwise be dishonest have found ready buyers for small quantities of such commodities. (See under BLACK MARKET)

Number of accidents involving Allied road vehicles shows a slight decrease in recent weeks and every effort is being made to cause Italian authority to restrict to fact the intensions made to Italian press and not to give for publication the rumours and mis-statements so frequently published.

10. CIVILIAN MOVEMENT

There is heavy traffic between Italy proper and that part of VENETI. G.M. under Allied Military Government. Civilians are to be

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DISTRIBUTION :-

GPO GMP
 HQ 1. and Div
 HQ 56 Area
 HQ 213 Area
 GPO P. S. C. P.
 HQ JCO. P. S. Division
 HQ Northern Detachment c/o 427 PSS G.P.
 P.C. J.C. URENS
 HQ J.C. VENEZ. GUILL.
 47 PSS
 55 PSS
 426 PSS
 GPO Civil Liaison c/o 56 Area
 J.C. Liaison Officer, VENEZ
 O.C. 357 J.U. R.P. G.P.

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Subject :- Public Safety Report for
November, 1946.

CONFIDENTIAL

Liaison Office (P.S.)
HQ 86 Area,
C.N.T.

6 Dec 46
10/V/38/47

Following is report on public safety activities in the provinces of
BELLUNO, PADOVA, ROVERETO, TREVISO, VERONA and VICENZA
during the month of November 1946.

POLICE FORCES

There is no change to report so far as the several police forces are
concerned.

1 Conditions of service and pay require to be greatly improved.

It has been stated by several Questori that the Agents of Public Safety are
lacking in transport, epaulettes, patrol, clothing, arms and other
equipment, but on the whole it would appear that the Agents are in
general being more catered for by the Government than are the Carabinieri.

It is but repetition of reports of previous months to state that the
Italian Government has and is doing very little for the police by way
of material or moral support and encouragement. This is no doubt
the result of discord among the parties at Government level and is
reflected - especially among all ranks of Carabinieri - by the feeling
of insecurity.

Even in Italy police officers are forbidden to be engaged in politics
but all ranks of the Agents of Public Security (very noted here in
VENICE) are in politics and it is estimated about 50% are 'leftish'
and communist ridden.

The smallest excuse is sufficient for the communist and socialist
agitators in VENICE and elsewhere to protest to the Prefetto and Questore
and have liberated from custody, 'working class' jail-birds, or to
have arrested - occasionally only as suspects who are released after
a number of days detention - 'capitalists' or 'ex fascists'.

The Questore in VENICE was sent here to 'clean-up' the Questura, 735
there is little evidence of what he has done in that line. As
was reported some months ago (report of 2 July 46 to HQ 86 Area only)
it is said he was nominated for the post by STOCCHETTI (Communist)
and that could account for conditions continuing as they are.

To date in the ex-Rapina Elena barracks at MESTRE are accommodating
only 80 being presently there.

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 ALESSANDRIA, PAVIA, MONZA, BERGAMO, BRESCIA, VARESE, VENEZIA, VERONA and VICENZA
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Even in Italy police officers are forbidden to be engaged in politics but all ranks of the Agents of Public Security (very noted here in VENEZIA) are in politics and it is estimated about 30% are 'leftists' and communist minded.

The smallest excuse is sufficient for the communist and socialist agitators in VENEZIA and TRIESTE to protest to the Prefetto and Questore and have liberated from custody, 'working class' well-known, or to have arrested - occasionally only as suspects who are released after a number of days detention - 'capitalists' or 'ex fascists'.

The Questore in VENEZIA was sent here to 'clean up' the Questure, as there is little evidence of what he has done in that line. As was reported some months ago (report of 2 July 46 to HQ 26 Area only) it is said he was nominated for the post by SCOCIMARRO (Communist) and that could account for conditions continuing as they are.

To date in the ex-Regina Elena Barracks at MESTRE are accommodating only 2 Officers and 14 OR Carabinieri, only 80 being presently there, 4 Officer and 80 OR Agents of Public Safety and 1 Officer and 70 OR Finance Guards, yet the barracks were released by 84 Area and placed at disposal of Italian police two months ago.

PUBLIC ORDER

No grave breaches of public order occurred during the month and no disorder resulted from the numerous demonstrations held, mostly against high cost of living.

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strikes occurred among telephone company and distillery workers and threats of strikes loom large at every turn. Claims are for increased wages and leftist agitation is rampant.

The same agitation is being used in a very vicious form judging by the almost day to day increase in prices of foodstuffs and clothing which notably follow the spreading of alarmist news on the internal political situation.

4. CRIME

Several murders, robbery being apparent motive, were committed during month under review.

Five members of an armed band who committed armed robbery were arrested and property recovered. They are not Allied personnel despite the fact they were wearing khaki clothing. Three other civilians (1 posing as a carabinieri and 1 posing as an Auxiliary Agent of Public Security) were arrested when attempting highway robbery.

Large sums of money and goods of considerable value have been stolen in VIGUZA Province by persons who were armed and masked. Inquiries are being made in those cases as in other crimes such as theft of a motor car after armed hold up of driver and the murder of the driver and wounding of two passengers by unknown assailants who attempted to commit highway robbery.

In VAGONA Province (immediately outside boundary of 26 Area) four persons travelling in a motor car fired pistol shots at carabinieri travelling in a lorry. The carabinieri returned fire and killed two of the individuals and arrested two others.

While there is reported a slight increase in the higher ranges of crime, crimes of a less serious nature compare favourably with previous months. An increase is reported in number of bicycles stolen while left unattended.

5. BLACK MARKET

There is no change to report under this head and deals are made in all forms of goods and merchandise. Trafficking in Allied property continues as before and the fluctuation in prices are good indicators of when Allied property is being stolen in large quantities or when it becomes scarce.

Judging by the cases of which I am aware, there is bound to be a tremendous moral effect on Allied personnel who are undoubtedly involved in petrol, cigarettes and other commodities of Allied origin reaching civilians. It is an effect which in most cases will leave a lasting impression and remain when the persons have been released from military service and return to their homes.

During the month there have been two British motor vehicles - 10 tons type -

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During the past three days two British motor vehicles - 10 ton MAC type - have been reported stolen by their German drivers. According to statement made, force of arms was used. The only parts of such vehicles which appear to be of service to civilians would be the chassis and wheels. The engines are not suitable for use in Italy where consumption of petrol or oil must be kept to a minimum and where motor vehicle engines are developed on that basis.

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The large number of 'free issue' cigarettes referred to under BLACK MARKET in last month's report were returned, (after several requests had been made) to Allied custody. The British Military Police Sergeant to whom the cigarettes were delivered was asked to sign a receipt for 35,000 cigarettes and when he suggested checking the consignment before signing, the Agents of Public Security stated the cigarettes were intact. The cigarettes were, however, checked on the spot in presence of the Agents and only 53,142 were found in the tins many of which were empty and from others had been taken one or two cigarettes. All of the tins had the appearance of being intact as the adhesive tape seals were carefully resealed.

The Italian police did, of course, state the tins were handed over to British Military Police in same condition as when taken from civilians.

It can but be repeated that it is difficult to expect the Italian police to confiscate and hand over intact such commodities as cigarettes while they themselves are in short supply. It is against all normal principles of British police to receive rewards in money or kind for good work done, but owing to the normal conditions existing here at present it is worth considering if the Italian Police could be granted a small percentage, say five or ten per cent of all Allied cigarettes recovered by them. Those would not be given to the individuals directly concerned in the case, but to their particular Force.

At present the individual Italian police who confiscated the goods gets a percentage of the fine paid by civilians who have with Italian goods contravened the Customs Laws, but is not entitled to receive a percentage of the goods.

It may be rather late in the day for this and many factors enter into the question such as :-

- (a) Views of Italian Government;
- (b) Views of Italian police (they are not against 'helping' themselves' but have been 'offended' when such a system was discussed;
- (c) Method of dealing with large quantities of cigarettes confiscated as compared with cases where one or two packets are seized;
- (d) Could a watertight system be evolved to prevent abuse by Allied or Italian personnel;
- (e) Effect on Allied personnel of knowledge that Italian police were given such percentage. (British Military Police do not even expect such encouragement. Their conditions of service, training and discipline make them different from Italian police, but they are human.)
- (f) Whether or not it would be construed as an admission by Allied Authority that it could not control its own personnel by its own means.

Almost all the factors given above appear to be against the suggested system and it is recommended that the proper method is to prevent the loss of goods.

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Assignment before signing, the agents or officers observe the cigarettes were intact. The cigarettes were, however, checked on the spot in presence of the agents and only 33, 42 were found in the tin many of which were empty and from others had been taken one or two cigarettes. All of the tins had the appearance of being intact as the adhesive tape seals were carefully resealed.

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- (e) Effect on Allied personnel of knowledge that Italian police were given such percentages. (British Military Police do not even expect such encouragement. Their conditions of service, training and discipline make them different from Italian police, but they are human.)
- (f) Whether or not it would be construed as an admission by Allied Authority that it could not control its own personnel by its own means.

Almost all the factors given above appear to be against the suggested system and it is recognised that the proper method is to prevent the leakages at their sources (dumps, Unit stores, hotels, clubs and from ships calling at VENICE) but despite the excellent work done by GMP such leakages obviously continue.

An interesting comparison - however approximate - would be the weekly (or monthly) issues of cigarettes, petrol and/or other commodities as compared with number of Allied personnel in Theatre (for cigarettes, etc.) and estimated consumption (for petrol, etc.).

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6. ARMY, AIR FORCE, ETC.

A small number of firearms have been traced during normal police duties and small raids carried, but nothing on a large scale has come to light.

No change from previous months and situation is always being carefully watched, especially by Allied police and security services.

7. PRISONS

There is nothing fresh to report under this heading, the Italian prison system continuing as before.

8. POLITICAL

Communists and Socialists, in that order, are more forceful in their propaganda than the other parties, as for example in BRESCIA Province when the Hon. PRATOLONGO and VIGNI (Left) spoke, the former on friendship with Soviet Union and how the Russian Revolution of 1917 overthrew the capitalist class. He expressed the hope that Italy would stay on the Soviet 'side' to be really free.

VIGNI spoke on the French and Russian Revolutions as being great historical steps in civilization; that the Russian regime is undoubtedly the best in the world and of the heavy sacrifices made by the Russian people during the war. He said the Peace Treaty conditions were too hard on Italy and that Russia was working for a politics of peace and friendship for all people.

The same can be said for other provinces where great stress has been laid by communist propaganda on TOLSTOI's journey to BERLIN and of the future Italy will soon have as a result.

The week commencing with the Italian anniversary of Armistice Day (4 Nov) was proclaimed as the "Week of Friendship of Italian-Russo Peoples".

Administrative elections have been held in various parts. Heavy propaganda by the left did not have effect which might have been expected for example, in BRESCIA Province the Christian Democrats gained a majority in 13 communes with the left following closely behind. In two of the communes, however, (Colle S. Luca and Cortina d'Ampezzo) in same province, victory went to the autonomists and those desiring union with Austria. At Cortina it was noted that those desiring annexation by and autonomy with BOLZANO or TRIESTE provinces are evidently of Italian origin as few German surnames are to be found.

In PADOVA University has been started a "Cultural Political Society". The first meeting was attended by a fair number of people who listened

No change from previous months and situation is always being carefully watched, especially by Allied police and security services.

7. PRISONS

There is nothing fresh to report under this heading, the Italian prison system continuing as before.

8. POLITICAL

Communists and Socialists, in that order, are now foremost in their propaganda then the other parties, as for example in UMBRIA Province when the Hon. FRATELLO and VIKI (left) spoke, the former on friendship with Soviet Union and how the Russian Revolution of 1917 overthrew the capitalist class. He expressed the hope that Italy would stay on the Soviet 'side' to be really free.

VICI, spoke on the French and Russian Revolutions as being great historical steps in civilization; that the Russian regime is undoubtedly the best in the world and of the heavy sacrifices made by the Russian people during the war. He said the Franco Treaty conditions were too hard on Italy and that Russia was working for a politics of peace and friendship for all people.

The same can be said for other provinces where great stress has been laid by communist propaganda on Togliatti's journey to BERLIN and of the things Italy will soon have as a result.

The week commencing with the Italian anniversary of Armistice Day (4 Nov) was proclaimed as the "Week of Friendship of Italo-German Peoples".

Administrative elections have been held in various parts. Heavy propaganda by the left did not have effect which might have been expected for example, in SULLO Province the Christian Democrats gained a majority in 13 communes with the left following closely behind. In two of the communes, however, (Velle S. Luce and Cortina d'Inferno) in same province, victory went to the Autonomists and those desiring union with Austria. At Cortina it was noted that those desiring annexation by and autonomy with 1941, 1940 or 1940 provinces are evidently of Italian origin as few German surnames are to be found.

In FIDONE University has been started a "Cultural Political Society". The first meeting was attended by a fair number of people who listened attentively to the discourse on "To what purpose serve the political parties".

The civilian authorities are holding many meetings with representatives of employers and employees of industry, commerce, electricity plants and others, but the rising price, difficult living conditions, rationing of electricity as result of shortage of water power, and alarmist political news seem too much for them to cope with.

- 3 -

Many people are tired of the internal political situation but watch attentively the developments from the rivalries of the several parties in the Italian Government and the almost excessive criticisms of the press. There are those who daily expect a governmental crisis and deplore the actions of those who obviously try to make some chaotic political situation.

Allied civilian employees in the area were on strike for a half day and demonstrated in an orderly manner against the non payment of Republican bonus and alleged lack of consideration of other claims. They stated they were not on strike, but "absent from work".

At that time they were informed that the Republican Bonus was to be paid, the only actions to be settled being the time and manner of payment. It has been suggested that the employees representatives of the agitating type would tell their people that demonstrations were the only way in which to gain their points, but no repetition of the "absence from work" has resulted.

The workers in the electric lamp factory at VIGNA, decided not to obey the strike order issued by the local Camera del Lavoro in Northern Italy. Solidarity with workers in similar factories in Northern Italy. The workers requested and received Italian police protection and they did not strike despite personnel intervention and requests made by members of the Camera del Lavoro. No incidents resulted.

9. PUBLIC SECURITY AND CONDUCT OF ALLIED TROOPS

Outwardly, the feelings between Allied troops and Italians are on the whole cordial, but the public are angered by the numbers of road accidents involving Allied motor vehicles, and are displeased with the requisitioning of the numerous buildings for use as quarters by Allied military. The question of requisitioning is especially felt in BRUNO.

There have been reported several cases of assaults made on Italian civilians, military and navy personnel by Allied soldiers who were stated to be under the influence of drink.

Some reports made of individual Allied soldiers being assaulted by Italians.

In VARESE province a British military vehicle driven by person wearing British battledress collided with a farm cart. The horse was killed and the civilian seriously injured. The motor driver placed the injured man on the Allied vehicle and drove off. Some time later the injured man was found abandoned by the roadside several miles away from scene of accident and taken to hospital by civilians.

aggravate the notions of those who obviously try to make more serious the political situation.

Allied civilian employees in MESTRE were on strike for a half day and demonstrated in an orderly manner against the non-payment of Republican Payus and alleged lack of consideration of other claims. They stated they were not on strike, but "absent from work".

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The workers in the electric lamp factory at VICENZA decided not to obey the strike order issued by the local Camera del Lavoro as a sign of solidarity with workers in similar factories in Northern Italy. The workers requested and received Italian police protection and they did not strike despite personal intervention and requests made by members of the Camera del Lavoro. No incidents resulted.

2. GENERAL SITUATION AND COMPOSITION OF ALLIED TROOPS

Outwardly, the relations between Allied troops and Italians are on the whole cordial, but the public are angered by the numbers of road accidents involving Allied motor vehicles, and are displeased with the requisitioning of the numerous buildings for use as quarters by Allied military. The question of requisitioning is especially felt in SALONA.

There have been reported several cases of assaults made on Italian civilian, military and navy personnel by Allied soldiers who were stated to be under the influence of drink.

Some reports made of individual Allied soldiers being assaulted by Italians.

In TRAVISO province a British military vehicle driven by person wearing British battledress collided with a farm cart. The horse was killed and the civilian seriously injured. The motor driver placed the injured man on the Allied vehicle and drove off. Some time later the injured man was found abandoned by the roadside several miles away from scene of accident and taken to hospital by civilians.

The behavior of the injured man is a sad reminder and the impression caused was not good. Every inquiry is being made to trace the driver concerned.

On 24 Nov a running gun fight took place at VITTORIO VENETO (TRAVISO Prov) between a civilian, who had threatened to shoot a British soldier, and a Sergeant of local FMS whose timely arrival and prompt action undoubtedly saved the soldier. The trouble arose in a bar and drink was the cause.

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The civilian is known and is now being sought by Carabinieri.

No British personnel injured (it is not known whether or not the civilian was wounded) but such incidents undo any work done to attempt establish better relations between Allied Military and Italians.

There is to date no indication that allied security is threatened.

10. CIVILIAN MOVEMENT

The same system continues for civilians wishing to enter VERONA GILDA and large numbers travel to and from that zone on permits issued by V.G. Police Security Section.

It appears that many people do enter and leave that zone without being in possession of permits, at least that is gathered from comments of those who have applied for a permit, waited some considerable time for it yet not have the permit examined when they were crossing the security line.

The delay is not caused by V.G. Police, but by inadequate effectiveness on part of Italian Questore and delays in post.

11. Italian

The judgment and sentences in the ARDAMINE CASE case has been favourably received by Italians, but not greatly commented on.

12. CHANGES IN ITALIAN POLICE PERSONNEL

Major MACCHETTI has assumed Command of the VERONE Group of Carabinieri as successor to Lt. Col. BARONIS. (See report for last month). The new Group Commander was in command of Mobile Battalion of Carabinieri stationed at PADOVA and I know him very well.

The Acting Questore at VERONA - Doctor MASIMO has been transferred to PADOVA, his place being taken by Doctor RUCCIANI who was previously at FORLI.

13. P.S. PERSONNEL

Major T.G. JACKMAN, P.S.A.O., HQ 86 Area.

Jackman

(T.G. JACKMAN Major)
PSIO Att. HQ 86 Area.

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DISTRIBUTION :

GHQ, C&P	2
HQ 1 Arm'd Div	1
HQ 86 Area	2
HQ 217 Area	1
GHQ, P.H. C&P	1
HQ ALCON P.S. Division	2
CSI (B) HQ 5 Dist (Northern Detachment)	1
P.O. A.M.G. UDINE	2
HQ A.M.G., VENEZIA GIULIA	2
47 Port Security Section	1
55 BSS	1
426 TSC	1
GHQ Civ Liaison c/o 86 Area	2
A.O. Liaison Officer, VENEICE	1
OC., 357 M.G., R.A.F., C&P	1

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Subject :- Monthly Report for October, 1946.

Provinces of Belluno, Padova,
Rovigo, Trento, Treviso, Venezia,
Verona and Vicenza.

CONFIDENTIAL

Allied Commission
Maison Office (S.A.)

HQ 86 Area,

C.A.S.

ACLO 15.1

7 Nov 46.

POLITICAL and GENERAL

The political situation continues as before. It is understood that the Centre and Left parties have recently lost considerable numbers of supporters who have transferred their affections to the right but opinions are very divided on this and no definite figures have been obtained. The ordinary man in the street is less interested in politics as politics than in his food supply and home comforts and the Italians being very human so far as his comforts are concerned, many are prepared to throw in their lot with the political party appearing to have the better chance of maintaining its promises.

Press comments on the forthcoming taxation scheme and currency conversion are followed with eager interest and there appears to prevail a general confidence in the Government's action directed to meet budget requirements and avert inflation. The issue of the loan of Reconstruction to this end seems to be considered with sympathy.

Administrative elections held in the Region during October took place in an orderly manner and no serious untoward incident was reported.

By the agreement recently reached between the Confederations del Lavoro and Industry it is hoped that peaceful cooperation will ensue for mutual benefit and increased production.

There were no political strikes to report. Some minor labour unrest occurred in the building industry and with the yeast makers in Padova Province.

The Camera del Lavoro of VENICE and MESTRE having obtained adjustment of the Cost of Living Bonus as applicable in Zone "D", continued to exert pressure for the payment of the Republican Bonus to civilian employees of Allied Forces in this Area. This bonus has already been paid by civilian employers and it was threatened that Allied employees would strike on the morning of 6 Nov if a favourable reply was not given to the demand. The matter is being dealt with a High Level and ultimate decision is awaited, the strike having meantime been temporarily called off.

The political situation is calm except in so far as the agitators cause unrest among employees. It has been noted that this agitation is more strong when the Russian Government or its Representatives make an announcement on Russian Foreign Policy.

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- 2 -

2. PUBLIC SAFETY

Public order has been fairly good during the month and general prices do not fluctuate much. The 'black market' especially in Allied property - cigarettes, sugar, petrol, soap, etc., - continues and in organized operations conducted by Italian police in conjunction with or - at the request of Italian Police Authority - with Allied Military Police in vicinity, the Italian Police have continued to show themselves inefficient in every way. It is appreciated that their conditions - pay, food, uniform, equipment, billets, etc., - are not proper, but Italian Authority is slow to operate and in many cases evidently unwilling to cooperate with Allied Authority in the bettering of their police forces.

When it is realized that Italian policemen are poorly paid; have a very small ration of cigarettes; are aware of the Paris Conference, the Trieste question, the French boundary question; are in many cases anti Allied with emphasis on anti British; and have an apparent superiority complex which is really an inferiority complex towards Allied Command and personnel, it is not difficult to see why they fail or are unwilling to seize Allied cigarettes from Italian civilians when they know the cigarettes will be handed over to Allied Authority. The same line can be drawn through all commodities of Allied property.

At the beginning of October a large barracks - capacity at least 600 men - in the MESTRE area was placed at disposal of Italian police for the installation of 500 policemen. This led to open disension between Italian military and police authority, but that part now appears to be settled. Today - one month later - only 200 police (including 50 Finanze Guards) are installed and Italian authority states this is because the barracks are not yet fit for occupation owing to broken windows, etc. The barracks in question were occupied by Allied troops for about 17 months, being improved during that period, but apparently they are not good enough for Italian police.

On the other hand, some good arrests have been made, but the proper result cannot be obtained until the Italian police forces are moulded into a unified, non-political, properly established and efficient body.

Numerous minor incidents between Allied personnel and civilians have been reported and this does not help to establish good relations. The press have not been so outspoken when reporting such affairs. Allied Military Police have arrested or reported Allied personnel for their part in many of these incidents, but the same cannot always be said for Italian police. Persons in state of drunkenness are usually the originators.

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3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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The arrival of Dott DI CASTRI as Prefetto of ROVIGO seems to indicate good choice.

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ECONOMICS(a) Food

Cost of living remains a crucial problem. The "calmiers" (ban) remained without practical effect and even led to the disappearance from the open market of certain articles. The Prefect of BADOUL cancelled the "calmiers" which he found of no avail in solving the problem.

Severe provisions have been implemented against black marketing, speculation and failure to comply with the obligatory amassing, but there are still those who grow fat at the expense of others.

(b) Agriculture

Amassing of wheat has finished and that of maize is now in progress. There is some reluctance on the part of farmers to amass full stocks, they claiming that the price of lire 1,600 per quintal is too low for their outlay. The Growers' associations have approached the authorities concerned with a view to obtaining a higher price for this cereal which is the main food commodity in the region.

The wine crop was good and plentiful. The market is calm and prices almost unvaried. Wholesale quotations on 28 Oct were as follows :-

Red wine 10 - 11°	from Lire 4500 to 5000 per 100 liters
Red wine 11 - 12°	5000 to 5500 "
Red wine 12 - 13° super. qual.	6000 to 6300 "
White wine 10 - 11° (plains)	5500 to 5800 "
White wine 10 - 11° (hills)	6000 to 6500 "

Above prices are paid to the producer and wine is no doubt the most remunerative crop for the farmer.

There is little marketing in cattle and prices for calves and pigs tend to rise. Poultry well represented with a lively market though prices go up. The same applies to rabbits. There are good stocks of fodder available but prices maintain their high level.

Foot and mouth disease was widespread in the region particularly in the eastern provinces, but appears to be now well under control.

(c) Industry

The International Sample Fair of TRIESTE lasted from 2 to 28 Oct and was a success. In addition to several Ministers of the Government, the President also paid an official visit and was enthusiastically welcomed.

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The wine crop was good and plentiful. The market is calm and prices almost unvaried. Wholesale quotations on 23 Oct were as follows :-

Red wine 10 - 11 st	from Lire 4500 to 5000 per 100 liters
Red wine 11 - 12 st	5000 to 5500 "
Red wine 11 - 12 st , super. qual.	6000 to 6300 "
White wine 10 - 11 st (plains)	5500 to 5800 "
White wine 10 - 11 st (hills)	6000 to 6500 "

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Foot and mouth disease was widespread in the region particularly in the eastern provinces, but appears to be now well under control.

(c) Industry

The International Sample Fair of TRIENISO lasted from 2 to 28 Oct and was a success. In addition to several Ministers of the Government, the President also paid an official visit and was enthusiastically welcomed.

Italian and foreign made machinery and tools for agriculture (many American machines were exhibited by UNIFA) attracted masses of the rural population and important sales are reported in all sectors of the wide range of commodities.

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A prominent place was reserved for the silk industry. Noteworthy was the performance of a miniature spinning mill which transformed, in little time, the cocoons into silken ribbons.

Large numbers of visitors from all parts of Italy lead to conspicuous business transactions and appeared to demonstrate sound efforts towards reconstruction.

Generally lamented is the acute shortage of raw materials and coal. Owing to the American shipping strikes, supplies of coal, wheat and raw materials are suffering delay and is causing concern to the authorities. Coal will not be made available this winter for private heating. Sanitary institutions, schools, etc., will be allotted some after industrial requirements have been met, the latter having absolute priority.

The outlook is darkened by scarcity of electric power throughout the region and severe economy is being imposed now. Further restrictions in consumption will have to be effected unless water levels rise.

While not coming under industry as such, mention should be made here of the VERONA Horse Fair which closed on 16 Oct. Results were stated to be excellent, almost all of the 2800 horses exhibited being sold and the value of transactions reached almost 250 million lire. Among the buyers coming from all parts of the country, many were from the south, especially Sicilians.

(d) Derequisitioning

So far as possible and in conjunction with military requirements, Allied Authority derequisition what property can be spared. The most important recently was the release of a large school building in USTERE. This should help the situation greatly and has been well received. Sight must not be lost of the fact that many of the Italians do not wish us here unless for defence of their country in case of need and are not prepared to offer proper alternative accommodation which would assist in the further derequisitioning of school buildings and such like now occupied by Allied personnel.

5. LABOUR

During the month under review there were, throughout the Region, local strikes among several classes of workers, but conciliation settled most problems, the strikers or would be strikers usually gaining their points.

So far as Allied Authority is concerned, the most important was the threat of Allied civilian employees to strike if they did not receive payment of the Republican Bonus by 5 Nov. The payment has not yet been made but the strike has been called off on assurance being given to workers

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6. UNEMPLOYMENT

There has been a further seasonal rise in numbers of unemployed, but the various Prefetti are doing their utmost to counteract this by public works schemes.

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T. S. JACKSON, Major,
Box 59, Chico,
Calif. 95

[illegible]

For Elliot Conn, Liaison Officer

DISCUSSION :-

Mr. Julius Rosenberg

noting 98

275 VINNETT CHILL

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5-4-4

2007

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CONFIDENTIAL

Annex 4 CC 15/17
 Subject :- Public Safety Report for
 October, 1946.

Allied Commission
 Liaison Office (P.S.)
 HQ 86 Area,
 C.I.F.
 8 Nov 46.
 IO/V/PS/47.

NEW 1946
 14011/12
 14011/12

1. Following is report on public safety activities in the Provinces of VENICE, PADOVA, ROVICO, VICENZA, VERONA, TREVISO, and BELLUNO during the month of October, 1946.

2. POLICE FORCES

The various police forces continue as before and are as low in standard as ever. Excuse is made that they are not properly equipped or housed and that is part of the cause for their low standards. To have them on a fairly reasonable footing much time and work would have to be expended and the whole of their system rooted out.

Rates of pay and conditions of service are more important factors and little or no improvement can be expected until these points are accomplished. It is not suggested that the police should be a pampered or privileged class, but their conditions should be better than the average person, especially here in Italy at the present time.

Very little is being done by the Italian Government by way of providing uniform and equipment for the several forces and political ends could be served by this if dissatisfaction is desired among the police, this leading to a disgruntled and inefficient body in event of public disorder.

Although not included in the forces of Law and Order, the Fire Brigade form part of the Public Safety scheme. They have always been found to be patriotic and well serving, even under difficult circumstances, yet at beginning of month under review they went on strike because of poor conditions. The strike affected only internal workers and Fire Brigade services were not withheld, but it is a pointer on the mental attitude of a disciplined force.

There is now anything new to add to previous reports on the police in general.

DO/V/PS/47.

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There is now anything new to add to previous reports on the police in general.

The large barracks at MESTRE released by Allied Command at beginning of October and into which were to be immediately placed at least 500 policemen is to date occupied by merely 100 Carabinieri, about 50 Agents of Public Security and about 60 Finance Guards. The last mentioned are merely a tax enforcing agency and were not included in the original figure of 500, but no objection would be made to their inclusion now, provided the proper number of Carabinieri and Agents had by this time been

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installed. This, as forecast, is merely another example of the Italians searching for barracks accommodation and when they have it under one pretext or another failing to use it in proper manner and flaunting Allied Authority. In addition to the barracks in question they have at least one other building which is being sought by civil authority as school premises.

So far the police have failed or refused to vacate it stating that Allied Command here (and quoting name of writer of this report) requested that police forces in MESTRE be strengthened.

I understand the building in question is retained by the Police (Agents of P.S.) in order to accommodate one of their officers and his family. In recent times, two Inspectors General of Police from ROME have been here and have made recommendations to the Italian Government. Recommendations are futile if they are not carried out.

The question of police barracks in MESTRE is closely tied up with requests by local authority for derequisitioning of school premises now occupied by Allied personnel.

One large school was derequisitioned on 1 Nov and is now free for educational purposes. It seems senseless, yet full of polished reguery, for local authority here to insistently request the derequisitioning of premises while their own people are not cooperating to alleviate matters.

Cost of living and large number of unemployed are the greatest factors.

3. PUBLIC ORDER

There were strikes of gas work employees and yeast producers in PADOVA, the latter necessitating the intervention of the police. The Camera del Lavoro objected to the intervention and passed the usual "order of the day". Prior to the termination of the strike, bakers baked bread without yeast.

Also in PADOVA province a large number of the population resented the legal operations of the Finance Guards and police had to be sent to restore order. In the same province demonstrators (alleged to be unemployed) held up railway trains and interrupted telephone and telegraph services. Arrests were made in connection with last mentioned.

Agitation of public with resultant disorders - nothing

So far the police have failed or refused to vacate it stating that Allied Command here (and quoting name of writer of this report) requested that police forces in MESTRE be strengthened. I understand the building in question is retained by the Police (Agents of P.S.) in order to accommodate one of their officers and his family. In recent times, two Inspectors General of Police from ROME have been here and have made recommendations to the Italian Government. Recommendations are futile if they are not carried out. The question of police barracks in MESTRE is closely tied up with requests by local authority for derequisitioning of school premises now occupied by Allied personnel. One large school was derequisitioned on 1 Nov and is now free for educational purposes. It seems senseless, yet full of polished regnery, for local authority here to insistently request the derequisitioning of premises while their own people are not cooperating to alleviate matters.

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Agitation of public with resultant disorders - nothing of a really grave nature has been reported - was result of causes ranging from where should be located a new communal building, to endeavour by agriculture workers to take possession of land. Anything is an excuse here for agitation, much talk and demonstrations, but until the present day the demonstrators do not seem to be properly primed to cause serious trouble.

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Apprehension was caused in PADOVA province by rumour that grain from that province was destined for other parts of Italy thus leaving PADOVA with supplies for only two months.

Allied security and interests have not as yet been affected.

4. CRIME

There is no greatly marked increase. Armed robberies, some very bold, continue. From the point of view of value, the largest was at VERONA (outside this Area, but forming part of the Veneto Region) when a bank messenger was robbed of Lire 500,000 in cash and Lire 11,000,000 in bank bills and Treasury Bonds. A suspect was arrested, but inquiries are proceeding. Some arrests have been made in connection with other robberies and various crimes, but the police are not giving the results commensurate with their total strength of numbers.

In PADOVA province arrests were made of members of two organised bands - one trafficking in cocaine and the other in arms.

Considering the added opportunity occasioned by longer hours of darkness, the crime situation does not give cause for alarm and it is surprising that the criminal element do not take more advantage of the inefficiency of the police.

5. BLACK MARKET

This continues on a wide scale and appears to be the means of livelihood for countless thousands. Commodities including grain, flour, car and cycle tyres and tubes, also all classes of Allied property especially petrol, cigarettes, soap, tyres and spare parts for motor vehicles. The demand for spare parts is no doubt to maintain the seemingly large number of Allied military vehicles sold to Italians through their Government. One case was reported of civilians legally buying a British military vehicle in very poor condition at a very low price, then arranging to substitute it with a similar vehicle in good condition which they "purchased" from a member of Allied forces. The crime was uncovered and stolen vehicle

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Some civilians were arrested but prime mover is at large

Inquiry continues for the person or persons who "sold" the vehicle.

During past week it was arranged that Finance Guards (they are primarily responsible for taking action against street vendors and others selling Allied cigarettes and other goods for

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which no Italian customs duty has been paid) Carabinieri and Agents of P.S. would conduct operations in the streets of VENICE. The Italian police requested that patrols of British GMP would be in the vicinity of zone of operations and available to assist in event of Italian police being attacked or threatened by the vendors or the public. British GMP patrols were on their various points at the appointed hour but it was observed that the Italians arrived late - in one case about forty minutes late - and when they did commence duty their efforts were lamentable. Some of them were in plain clothes but they could not act or failed to act unless the uniform patrols were very near. The catch was very poor, (although I did not expect more) and the operation was not a success.

Allied property, particularly cigarettes, are openly sold in the streets of VENICE and other parts. Leakages from stores and dumps here are kept to the minimum and do not account for the traffic. It would appear, therefore, that the goods are brought in from other areas - TRIESTE, CORIZIA, UDINE - and from ships which dock in VENICE. Some time ago a joint operation between British, American and Italian Forces was carried out and had the Allied personnel not kept a sharp eye on the Italian police no property would have been confiscated. It has been explained to Italian authorities here that they are responsible for controlling all persons landing from ships in VENICE, but they have not so far taken any strong action.

At a recent conference Italian police informed me that they had confiscated a lot of 35,000 cigarettes from civilians and as they were unable to ascertain that the cigarettes were of Allied origin they had handed them to the State Tobacco Monopoly. From the description of the containers - greyish tins of 50 - the cigarettes are "free issue" type and their return to Allied custody has been asked and is awaited.

It is of course appreciable that poorly paid, ill conditioned police are not the fit or proper persons who could be expected to confiscate cigarettes and other commodities of which they themselves are in short supply knowing that the goods should be handed over complete to Allied Authority.

Honest police would, however, make an effort at least.

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6. ARMS, AMMUNITION, etc.

In searches carried out during normal police duties, a small number of firearms have been traced. Pistols have been recovered also from persons arrested for armed robbery and other like crimes.

Nothing of note to report.

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7. PRISONS

The situation remains as before and nothing fresh to report.

Consequent on move of CHQ consternation was caused among Italian prison officials on learning that it was suggested to requisition a prison in this Area for use as a Military Prison.

The matter was taken up by Italian Authority in ROME with HQ ALCOM and I have no further information on the question.

8. POLITICAL

The various parties appear cordial but the press continues to ferment the population. The population does seem to regard with disfavour the differences of opinion expressed by the parties at Governmental level and generally regard the policy and action of the Government to be weak. There are many who feel this is not the time for party politics as reconstruction of Italy for the Italians is of first importance.

Meetings continue to be held at which some of the big guns of the parties have spoken.

There is general feeling of antagonism towards decision taken at PARIS and the harsh treatment of the "poor Italians". (The adjective is their own). The press is open in declaring its disillusionment on results of PARIS Conference affecting Italy, but holds a moderate hope that the "grave decisions" will be reviewed before being declared final.

In TRENTO province much work is done and propaganda made in connection with the autonomy of that part of the VINETO Region. The Action, Republican and Liberal parties are the only ones to pronounce favourable verdicts on the project of the Prefetto (INNOCENTI) of BOLZANO on autonomy. At the present time it seems that "ASAR" have proposed to the "VOLKSPARTII" (Peoples' Party) that both should collaborate on equal footing, but the whole is in the melting pot. No disorder is likely to result from the question, but many of the people of BELLUNO and TRENTO provinces are not in favour of their continuing under Italian rule. The whole requires careful watching as it indirectly affects Allied cause and interests.

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A Communist has been elected Secretary General of the Camere del Lavoro for Province of TRENTO, the Vice Secretaryships going respectively to a socialist and a Demochristian.

At the 50th anniversary of the erection of the monument to memory of DANTE Alighieri at TRENTO a large crowd assembled. They were addressed by several speakers including Professor MANZONI of PADOVA University who stressed the "Italianity of the people of TRENTO".

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9. GENERAL SECURITY AND CONDUCT OF ALLIED TROOPS

There has been an increase in the number of reports of incidents involving fistfights between Allied troops and civilians and it is noted that the least wisdom among on part of Allied personnel is now sufficient opportunity for Italian police to report the matter through official channels. States of drunkenness were the first of most troubles such moments being selected by Allied personnel to express what appears to be inherent contempt for the Italian male and, occasionally, directed for the Italian woman.

The conduct of drivers of Allied vehicles is still below standard and for that conduct or misconduct I do not hold it good reason that the Italian motorcycle driver is homicidal or suicidal in his tendencies. As ambassadors of our Nations (American and British) we should be and can be examples of good road manners. Much of the bad driving seen on the part of Allied Military may be result of inexperienced or fresh troops but sight must not be lost of the fact that the platoon, exasperating and often apparently suicidal tactics of Italians road users - especially cyclists and pedestrians - do not tend to create respect of Allied drivers.

Civilians in PADOVA have commented favourably on the excellent work done by Corps of Military Police (British) in controlling military traffic. Joint road patrols of CMP and Italian police have been organized in PADOVA with good effect and endeavour is now being made to inaugurate the same system in VERONA and TREVISO areas now that CMP personnel are not so scarce on the ground.

During night of 18/19 Oct the flag was removed from the window of office of Town Major at CORTINA. It is suspected to be the work of original inhabitants of that area (of German or Austrian origin) who are dissatisfied with the Anglo American attitude on their claim to have that part of BELLUNO province placed outside Italian boundary.

At end of Oct a British soldier was shot dead in PADOVA. Inquiries so far reveal that the soldier is alleged to have tried to gain admittance to a house and an inmate shot him at point blank range, then made good his escape. He has not

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At end of Oct a British soldier was shot dead in PADOVA. Inquiries so far reveal that the soldier is alleged to have tried to gain admittance to a house and an inmate shot him at point blank range, then made good his escape. He has not yet returned but is being searched for. Another example of firearms, especially pistols, being in the possession of the wrong person. Countless civilians have firearms and permits to have them, yet the Italian police complain they are short of weapons. A queer and vicious system.

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10. CIVILIAN MOVEMENT

The same system continues for travel by civilians to and from VENEZIA GIULIA and there is nothing to report in this connection. Complaints are made by civilians of time lags in receiving permits, but this is due to delay in postal services and in final communications between Quastori. No delay is occasioned in the issuing of the permits by V.S. Police.

11. GENERAL

The change of location of GHQ is not well regarded in PADOVA, except by those who have benefitted as result of obtaining employment or increased business transactions - shops, etc.

The final episode of NURMBERG; the trial and sentence of the Bishop STEINWAC; the appointment of NENNI as Minister of Foreign Affairs; the small majority resulting in the new FRENCH CONSTITUTION; have not brought forth much comment, except from the press.

The participation of Italy in International Banking and the announcement by American Secretary of State of the cancelling of the debit created by the issue of Allied Military currency are points favourably received by Italians who regard such as a proof of faith in their capabilities to restore their country.

12. CHANGES IN ITALIAN POLICE PERSONNEL

Some minor changes made but not listed here. I understand that Lt. Col. BARONIS, Group Commander of GO. AR. in VINICE Province will shortly be "sent home". It is stated he was indiscreet in his Monarchist expressions more than one year ago and his political enemies have made good use of a letter he wrote.

His successor is not known, and working with a "freshman" in this province will not be so easy.

13. P.S. PERSONNEL

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13. P.S. PERSONNEL

Major T.G. Mackenzie, P.S.I.O. located at and now on W.I. of HQ 86 Area.

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T.G. Mackenzie, Major
P.S.I.O. HQ 86 Area.

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DISTRIBUTION :-

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Subject: Public Safety Report for September, 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

Allied Commission
Liaison Office (PS)
HQ 66 Area
C.M.F.

4 Oct 45
10/7/PS/47

1. Following is report on public safety activities in the provinces of VENETIA, PADOVA, ROVIGO, VICENZA, VERONA, TREVISO, TRIESTE and BELUNGO during the month of September, 1945.

2. POLICE FORCES

There is no change to report in this connection and my remarks of a detailed nature would be repetition of previous reports. The various Forces reiterated they are handicapped through lack of uniform, equipment and barracks accommodation and the fact that the proper type of individual is not applying to join the services. The last mentioned is without doubt the strongest reason why the standard of the Italian police can be considered as low and is not to be wondered at when rates of pay, conditions of service etc., are considered. On numerous occasions in these reports the excessive number of police forces in ITALY has been referred to and recently it has been noted that Italian officials are discussing the possibilities of unifying the various services on national or provincial basis. Could that be accomplished and conditions of service improved a proper type of young man could be attracted to join and given time would result in ITALY having a law enforcing agency not subject to political whim or dishonest activity.

So far as undesirable elements are concerned it is reported from several parts of VENETIA Region that in recent months several hundred Auxiliary Agents of Public Security have been sent home because of their political viewpoints and activities, but proper replacements are hard to come by and I understand that the authorized strength of the Carabinieri has not yet been reached because of dearth of recruits. The absence of recruits is not to be wondered at when it is remembered that the street sweeper earns more than the average police officer and the usher at the Questura is paid in excess of the Chief of Police of the province.

The question of uniforms and equipment is one for the Italian Government, but the question of the dishonest individual cannot be left aside. One case (not in this Region) has been brought to my notice where an official in a responsible position refused to sign a contract for certain equipment to be supplied to a certain police force unless he was paid one million lire. The contract was for about eighty million lire and the contractor refused to pay the "gift money" despite the fact that he was assured that if he paid the money, criminal action would be taken against the dishonest official. Needless to say the force is

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So far as barracks accommodation is concerned the 86 Area has with approval of 13 Corps set aside a building in VENICE which is enabling the Italian Military District to move from the LANTH Barracks and thus provide for the Agents of P.S. in VENICE, but Italian Territorial Commander, UDINE, is hindering matters.

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In VENEZIA also a building has been set aside and should within a few days be available for 500 American G.I.s not stationed at VICENZA. In these connections it is obvious that Allied authority is treating the question of public safety in this area much more seriously than Italian Authority. In addition it is obvious that the jockeying carried out by Italian Military authority and the various police authorities is a question of double crossing each other and a joint and determined effort to double cross Allied Command. The setting aside of the buildings in VENEZIA and MESSINA to assist in accommodation, the police was accomplished by reorganizing Allied Units but this fact does not appear to be appreciated by local Italian authorities. Italy for the Italian is a cry which becomes stronger each day, yet often Italian police will not act unless unofficially promised Allied support in event of unpleasant aftermath.

Physical effects of the survey made by Det. PERRETTA Inspector General from ROME are still awaited despite the fact that he completed his survey and reported back to his Government almost two months ago.

Carabinieri can still be considered the better of the two main police forces. I understand they were recently ordered to be more firm in their attitude towards law breakers and disturbers of the peace.

PUBLIC ORDER

This continues to worsen although the people causing the trouble are the small minority. The main causes appear to be unemployment and high cost of living but the real situation is more obvious the work of agitators who incite the mob. On several occasions during the month unruly mobs of several hundred demonstrated in various parts of the Region and in VENEZIA and PADOVA sacked food stores and food stores. On each occasion the participants in the looting and sacking are described as unemployed and reduced but the extreme left elements by whom they are addressed and lead confirms beyond all reasonable doubt my opinion that the whole is a highly organized disorganizing effort so aptly described by Chief of American F.B.I. as "boxing men within".

In VENEZIA the demonstrators sacked food stores and eventually 13 persons had been arrested for various crimes and offenses including a woman who assaulted the local Commissioner of P.S. As result of a "people's commission" to the Prefetto all the prisoners were liberated and proudly displayed in police vehicles to the mob. It can be said that shortly after the display of the liberated the mob dispersed obviously because no further inciter or speaker addressed the throng. The liberation of the 13 persons did not help police morale but considerably strengthened the morale of the mob.

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In PADOVA similar incidents occurred, in addition the mob assailing the premises of the newspaper "Gazzetta Veneta" (Right) causing general damage and burning in the street outside much paper and many copies of the newspaper. This because the paper of the previous day had deplored the disorder of the mob.

In TREVISO Province (left) this area) minor disorders have occurred owing to the separatist movement there.

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Throughout the Region strikes have been commonplace among all categories of workers and no sooner than one section is satisfied another section is agitated.

In addition to strikes, numerous efforts have been made by farm labourers, unemployed and reduced to take possession of work and administer as small farms some of the large tracts of farm lands which are prominent in this area.

There are undoubtedly large numbers of unemployed and conditions will worsen during the winter months if definite steps, however stopgap, are not immediately taken. As an example there are approximately 30,000 unemployed in Province of NOVIKO the actual number of persons affected being of course much greater. Provincial authority has approached the landowners and farmers with a scheme to employ one additional labourer for each ten ettare (land measure approximating to 10,000 square yards) of the 160,000 ettare of farm land in the Province and give employment for three days per week to each of the additional workers. Until now the employers refuse. Various schemes have been put forward in each province, but all are of more or less temporary nature and intended merely to tide over the winter months.

On the other hand it has been announced in connection with the industrial exhibition held at MILAN that Italy as a whole has reached 60% of her pre-war industrial production.

Allied interests and security have not been interfered with.

CRIME

Armed holds up continue and in some cases are on the increase. Increased number of unemployed, the more or less closing of the harvest season and the longer hours of darkness are prime factors. Several murders also have been committed. Arrests have been made in many cases but if the police would or could apply their energy to eliminating the larger operators - and smaller - on the black market a great part of the vicious circle of increased cost of living and strikes and demonstrations for increased pay and improved conditions of life would be broken.

There has been an increase in pilferage of Allied property no doubt as result of increase in quantities unloaded at VENEZIA Port. CIP are stressed to their limit through lack of personnel and there is an obvious deterioration in discipline and resulting dishonesty among Allied troops employed on guard duties. It is a maxim that fewer thefts would result if there were no receivers of stolen property. Here it can be stated that if British troops would be made to realise they are ambassadors and guardians of British interests in this part of the world they might refrain from selling or permitting to be stolen cigarettes

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Allied interests and security have not been interfered with.

CRIME

Armed holdups continue and in some cases are on the increase. Increased number of unemployed, the more or less closing of the harvest season and the longer hours of darkness are prime factors. Several murders also have been committed. Arrests have been made in many cases but if the police would or could apply their energy to eliminating the larger operators - and smaller - on the black market a great part of the vicious circle of increased cost of living and strikes and demonstrations for increased pay and improved conditions of life would be broken.

There has been an increase in pilferage of Allied property no doubt as result of increase in quantities unloaded at VINIOZ Port. Our are stressed to their limit through lack of personnel and there is an obvious deterioration in discipline and resulting dishonesty among Allied troops employed on guard duties. It is a maxim that fewer ~~troops~~ would result if there were no receivers of stolen property. Here it can be stated that if British troops would be made to realise they are ambassadors and guardians of British interests in this part of the world they might refrain from selling or permitting to be stolen cigarettes, sugar and other commodities.

BLACK MARKET

This continues as before and is not confined merely to Allied property. Pronounced example was the recent introduction of the 'calmiers' (lowering of official prices in effort to prevent increase in cost of living) decided upon at MILAN. When the lowered prices were published, meat and other commodities became unobtainable overnight. Highly organised speculation is obvious and in keeping with the International Communists' avowed to financially ruin Italy prior to the influx of mob control and subsequent communism.

- 4 -

6. ARMS, AMMUNITION etc.

Arms, ammunition and explosives continue to be seized, but not in very large numbers. In the north eastern part of TREVISO Province arms and ammunition have been seized in the past and strong rumour has it that caches still exist in the mountains there. Communist propaganda and activity has been very strong in the district among alleged ex partisans and the situation is being carefully watched.

7. PRISONS

Nothing to add to previous reports.

8. POLITICAL

See also under PUBLIC ORDER.

Communist propaganda continues to lay stress on the Paris Conference, Venezia Giulia, Italian Colonies and other alleged injustices wrought by America and Great Britain on the Italian people. Propaganda of other Italian political parties is naturally pro-Italian but not anti Anglo American as is the extreme left.

In BELLUNO Province is a "Movement for Rebirth of BELLUNO". It is of Republican Party and has been very strong in its approach and demands to the Prefetto. Demands included :-

- (i) Expatriation of public officials
- (ii) Dismissing of fascists and women from public office and substitution by unemployed.
- (iii) Substitution of Prefetto.

In the same province it cannot be excluded that Russian propaganda is spread by Yugoslav agents. It cannot be disproved that the same cannot be applied to other provinces in the area and the whole seems to link up with the Russian Consular Office in VENICE.

A Polish Republican Consular set up also is operating from VENICE supposedly for the repatriation of Poles in the district but without doubt tying up with Russian and Italian Communists in spreading extreme left propaganda. This latter has already been reported by 'G' this Area to 43 Corps.

The resignation of the Minister of the Italian Treasury CORDINO had a bad effect on many people and accelerated the fear of inflation and other evils.

There is a strong feeling that the present Italian Government is not constructive in its policy and there are many who admit they erred in voting away the Monarchy.

Until now I cannot prove that it is more than rumour that the extreme left have planned to overthrow the government and take over

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There is an apparent policy of trying to weaken local government and police authority by the transfer and efforts to transfer or send home certain officials. On the surface it would appear to be for the best but the weakness lies in the fact that the system does not lend itself to continuity and replacements do not seem to be improvements.

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9. GENERAL SECURITY & CONDUCT OF ALLIED TROOPS

- 5 -

Allied security as a whole appears safe in all respects although there have been incidents involving rough treatment of Allied personnel. This has arisen in all cases because of (1) Drunkenness of Allied soldiers (2) Drunkenness of Italians (3) Association of Allied soldiers with Italian women (4) Number of accidents - many fatal - involving Allied military vehicles.

The last mentioned is most serious of all and personal observation cannot disprove the Italian allegations. Many of the drivers are of the 'hit and run' type and only rarely do witnesses obtain number or vehicle markings. The number of cases of excessive speeding and downright bad driving are almost incredible and many of the drivers are obviously indisciplined. As so few of the 'hit and run' type are ever traced, it cannot be said whether or not they are fresh from United Kingdom or are awaiting their release and have no further interest.

In TREVISIO Province a British woman driver was shouted at and spat upon by members of an angry crowd. She succeeded in closing the windows of the vehicle and drove on without any harm. The crowd was agitated as result of a fatal accident a short time previously the driver of the Allied vehicle having failed to stop.

Unless steps are taken immediately to improve matters in this field, further anti British feeling must result. As has been stated above, G.I.P. personnel are in short supply and while those on the ground - especially in TREVISO - are doing a very commendable job of work too much cannot be expected from them.

Towards end of month a bottle of ink was thrown at and struck the launch bearing Area Commander on the Grand Canal. The Questore, VENICE, has produced certain results and reports that the woman responsible has been traced and admits her guilt. It is stated there is no political significance in the bottle throwing incident and the Italian authorities do not propose to take Court action against the woman except for the offence of throwing an article from her house window. I am not yet satisfied and am causing further inquiry to be made. A small dent was made on the launch but no one injured. The intention and not the result is more important in this type of affair.

At the D.A.F. Hotel in VITTORIO VENETO in early hours of morning seven civilians - men and women - entered and demanded drinks. They were refused, but declined to leave the premises. A British OR produced a Sten gun from under the counter and fired a shot into the floor. The civilians made off and later shots were fired at the hotel from a passing car and several hand grenades were thrown. Windows and plaster work damaged. No person injured.

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Outwith month of September but worthy of mention is that on evening of 1 Oct an Italian woman was arrested while in company of a British soldier. The soldier reported that the Italian Agents of P.S. forced his hands behind his back and thrust a pistol in his back, later allowing him to go. He stated he had known the woman was married and had associated with her for about one year. He alleged he and the woman were walking together when stopped. I immediately contacted the Questore and today he reports that the woman is a 'prostitute' that she was stopped on grounds of immorality and that his Agents have 'witnesses'

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who saw the soldier and the woman behaving in an indecent manner in public. Italian police saw the pistol episode.

It is accepted by Allied and Italian police authorities that Italian women in company of Allied soldiers will be stopped only when a member of AP is present and this is not the first time the agreement has been broken.

It, however, is true that the soldier and woman were indecent in their behaviour the time lag of obtaining a CP patrol would arise and the Italian police would be duty bound to take immediate action without use of pistol.

I am satisfied the Italian police invented the major portion of their version and the witnesses and in conjunction with AP this Area are continuing inquiries.

It is still noted that Italian police do not arrest Italian military, naval or civilians involved in conflict with Allied troops unless members of CP are present or in similar such circumstances which force the hand of Italian authority.

As a final gesture Polish troops in TREVISO Province indulged in firing off every conceivable type of weapon and it is alleged damage was done to dwellings. By the time Italian reports reached this HQ and contact made with Polish H.Q., Polish Provost reported the Unit had "moved out and gone to UK".

It is understood Polish Officers had and still have trouble with Polish personnel disposing of all kinds of military stores.

In certain parts of this Area the civilians are not lamenting the departure of Polish troops.

CIVILIAN MOVEMENT

The same system of issuing permits for travel to and from VENEZIA CIV - LIA continues. Numerous inquiries are being made regarding travel to AUSTRIA and applicants referred to Italian authority.

GENERAL

Because of movement of GIC it was announced by a sergeant of GIC PADOVA that two or three thousand civilian employees would be recruited in the town and vicinity. Italians then had a rumour that all necessary civilian employees were being transferred by GIC from CASERIA to PADOVA and trouble was brewing.

I informed the Questore that such a mass transfer of employees would not take place but that certain specialists might be necessary to be brought by GIC to new locations.

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The presence of GIU in PADOVA will be a benefit to the town in many ways, but owing to rumours to VENICE and MESTRE and the presence of families of Officers and ORs will be used by certain quarters as good material for propaganda on questions such as non deraguiting of schools, houses and factory shops.

CHANGES OF ITALIAN POLICE PERSONNEL

Changes continue to be made (see under Political) and detailed changes are not listed this month.

From Allied point of view the most important took place at

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- 7 -

MESTRE where a young Commissario of PS has been substituted by an older and more experienced and certainly better police officer.

This should be an improvement and indicates the Italians realize MESTRE cannot be treated as being of minor importance.

PS PERSONNEL

Major T.G. MACKENZIE attached to and located at HQ 86 Area (IG Branch).

T. G. Mackenzie
(T.G. MACKENZIE, Major)
PSIO att, HQ 86 Area.

DISTRIBUTION :-

HQ Allied Commission, P.S. Sub Commission	2
GSI (B) HQ 3 District (Northern Detachment)	2
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P.O. AMO UDINE	2
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HQ 247 Area	1
HQ 1 Armad Div	1
A.O. Liaison Officer, VENICE	1
L.O. Post & Warehouse, VENICE	1
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55 PSS	1
426 PSS	1
CC. 357 K.U., RAP, C.M.E.	1

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GSI Civ Liaison, VENICE	1
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426 FSS	1
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716

Blackburn
 (T.S. BLACKBURN, Major)
 PSIO att. HQ 86 Area.

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CONFIDENTIAL

Allied Commission
Liaison Office (A.S.)

HQ 16 Area
C.H.F.

7 Sep 46

Reed 149.

30/V/PS/47

WON/12
RWS

[Handwritten signature]

Subject: Public Safety Report for August, 1946.

1. Following is report on public safety conditions in the provinces of VERAGUA, DOVA, EGUIG, VERAGUA, VERAGUA, VERAGUA, VERAGUA and VERAGUA during the month of August, 1946.

2. POLICE FORCES

There is no change to report in this sphere and any statements would be but repetition of reports of previous months. Day by day the members of the several forces prove that they are deeply involved in the political strife which is rampant. A dishonest police officer is something to be eliminated immediately but a dishonest police officer who is imbued with political ideas and who cannot perform his duties without casting a thought on his tomorrow is a chance and an evil growth.

That is the condition in which the police forces in this area are found and progress cannot be made under such circumstances. The remarks apply to all ranks. The lower ranks fail or strain from performing their duties obviously because their superiors act in a similar manner and at from the fear that repercussions will follow in the event of legal action being taken against certain individuals, bodies or parties. The Central Government is not blameless in this matter as I have been informed on more than one occasion that inquiries have emanated to the why and wherefore of certain arrests

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30/11/47

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It is true that at the present time Italy finds herself in a most unbalanced if not precarious position but it is also true that in the event of internal strife the police forces, especially the Agents of Public Security and more especially the Auxiliary Agents of Public Security would be torn asunder and as law enforcing bodies would be almost if not utterly helpless and hopeless.

- 2 -

Distrust persists between Carabinieri and Agents of Public Security, between the various ranks and between individuals. **politi** are said to be forbidden to Italian police but that rule is not enforced as the numbers with clean records in that respect are apparently so few. It is a mute point whether the discipline and congregation of forces as practised in Italian police barracks is not more than outweighed by the opportunities given for discussion of politics and the communal way of living. Politics are the current topic of Italians and the police in this area appear no less Italian than the average civilian.

Nothing seems to have occurred from the survey made in the Veneto Region by Doctor **MONTEPANI**, Inspector General of Public Security, despite the fact that he returned to Rome one month ago. It is appreciated that Italy as a whole is in a state of unsettlement, but more effort could be made by the Italian Government (if it so wishes) to re-establish the law forces in this area. It is true that the Chief of Police in Rome ordered the transfer of police from one part of this area to another, but this only after strong representations were made by Allied command. The resulting picture portrayed by Italian authority seemed wonderful until examined in light of day. Further representations brought fruit and the Italian mistakes, incompetence or unwillingness to cooperate were classed by them as "misunderstandings".

3. PUBLIC ORDER

On the whole public order has deteriorated despite the fact that many of the processions and demonstrations did pass without incident. Those processions and demonstrations were publicised as being to obtain work, houses, increases in wages and reduction in cost of living. August was a month of "Festas" and many of the processionists and demonstrators appeared to be in holiday spirit when marching along. It was observed that many did not appear to be suffering from hunger and privation they proclaimed. The organizers of

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- 3 -

Strikes were commonplace throughout the area and ranged through all groups of employees. It was "threatened" that civilian employees of Allied Forces in VENICE and MESTRE area would strike if increases of wages and other requests were not met. A combined Commission has discussed in ROMD, certain points have been acceded and the strike of threat of strike has been delayed. Talks with civilian employees indicates that all would not answer the strike call, but much would depend on whether or not the time chosen to call a strike was opportune. If the employees were of the opinion their employment by Allied forces would continue for an indefinite or longish period, at least about 40% would not strike. If however, it was even hinted that Allied employment might end soon, very few would attempt to disobey the call. Meantime the whole matter is being very carefully watched.

Public order affecting British personnel was ruptured in MESTRE and TRUVISO during last third of August. From point of view of magnitude and possible adverse effect on Allied effort, those at MESTRE were greater.

Results were that British personnel were injured by stones thrown by hostile crowds, British property could have been endangered; two civilians were killed by an unidentified vehicle - alleged by Italians to be British and descriptions in Italian press (British and American papers also "reported") ranging from a tank to a Military Police jeep. Feelings ran high for several days and nights and the Italian police were useless. Agents of Public Security in uniform were seen to mix with the throng (no doubt for protection) and the Carabinieri were conspicuous by their absence. As result of attacks on British personnel, two civilians were arrested by members of British GMP. Carabinieri wished to release one of the accused actually found in the act of throwing stones against British personnel and eventually the prisoner, and the Carabinieri "escort" had to be escorted to the caserma by British Military Police.

British troops do not appear to have been blameless but had the civil population not intolerantly acted in stripping huge in public an Italian girl seen walking in company of a British soldier no incident would have ensued. The Italian left wing press and the Italian police also are morally responsible for initiating such affairs. The former by its propaganda and the latter by having halted and

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- 4 -

A mere handful of hoodlums can exhort the mob, but the manner in which the whole is conducted leaves me no room to doubt but that it is anti-British, anti-American and pro-Communist propaganda.

TREVISO can be viewed in a better light than MESTRE. There the trouble arose through British troops being drunk. Further in TREVISO there is not the same need to indulge in Anti-Allied propaganda. This can be readily understood.

4. CRIME

Armed holds up and other forms of thefts continue and some arrests have been made. Arrests also have been for murders.

In general there is little to note so far as crime is concerned.

Pilfering of Allied Military property has been reduced to a fair figure, but pilfering from civilian cargoes on ship and train (including UNRA goods) goes on on a fairly large scale. Everything is done by Allied officers to assist the Italian authorities to assert themselves.

5. BLACK MARKET

This continues as before and the departure and arrival of Allied warships and merchant ships can be estimated by the rise and fall in price of cigarettes and other goods.

Troop concentrations - VENICE as compared to TREVISO for example - can be judged by the difference in price of such items as sugar, etc.

Loads of grain, rice, etc., have been sequestered by Italian police, but judging by estimated yield and the quantities amassed, many loads have passed unobserved or remain hidden.

6. ARMS, AMMUNITION, etc.

Small quantities are still being seized. From numbers taken it appears work of individuals and in many cases the weapons are unfit for use not having been cared for.

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There is not anything of note to add to previous reports. The age old and very slow judicial system continues.

8. POLITICAL

See also PUBLIC ORDER.

The Paris Conference, VENEZIA GIULIA, FRANCE, uncertainty of Italian politics, possibility of inflation, wages and cost of living are excellent boards for communist propaganda and no opportunity is lost in taking advantage.

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- 5 -

The right and centre have been very quiet during month, but the communists work day and night. With the "real" cost of living increasing by several per cent as compared with increases in wages and the seeming instability of the near future many of the people are apathetic, but incessant propaganda by the left with little or nothing to counteract it makes the future difficult to forecast.

The more or less ignorant - politically and otherwise - contadini who in several provinces have flocked for the purpose of "taking possession" of the landowners' lands are but mere tools and could not state the ideals of any politicalism.

The promise or thought of having something for nothing is strong in many people, but is more than strong in the Italians.

9. GENERAL SECURITY & CONDUCT OF ALLIED TROOPS

Except as outlined under PUBLIC ORDER, the incidents involving Allied Personnel do not endanger security.

There's comment continues on reckless driving of Allied vehicles and British CMP patrols are extended as result of lack of personnel.

Conduct of Allied troops is not always what is desired and in some cases is caused by arrival of fresh troops from home.

There is indication that Allied interests are endangered quite apart from the ridiculous comparison of members of Allied troops as against civilians and numbers of Allied Military Police as against Italian Police it is a proven fact that Italian police have failed to arrest any civilian involved in conflict with Allied troops whereas soldiers and civilians have been arrested by Military Police.

10. CIVILIAN MOVEMENT

No change to report although I have been informed unofficially that Italians wishing to travel to Austria no longer require Military Permits. Italian passport and Austrian visa only are essential.

Questori have informed me that about one month is necessary to have travel permits to go to VENETIA GIULIA. On checking with V.G. Police, Security Section, I learned that is not so. The delay appears to be in the Questori letter service.

11. GENERAL

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11. GENERAL

VERONA is a province outside 36 Area, but a recent incident, involving Polish troops should be listed. Two civilian males took exception to two Italian girls walking with two Polish soldiers. The soldiers retaliated one firing a pistol in the air. The two Italians made off but returned with reinforcements. Polish reinforcements arrived on the scene and eventually order was restored. No serious injuries.

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12. CHARGE 3. ITALIAN POLICE REPORT.

Dott. L. Aloisio arrived and examined driver t
 Mastore Novigo on 1 Sep.

Comm. Dott. Gianfranco Maffiolo has arrived
 Novigo from Milan.

Comm. Dott. Giuseppe Salvatore has arrived
 Trento from Udine.

Dott. di Camillo from Venezia is Capo di
 Gabinetto, Mestre. 2 days. He has I understand specially
 requested by Mastore Solinas and superintendent Dott. Ferrera
 who is new Secretary National.

13. PS PERSONNEL.

Major F.C. Macenzie attached and located

at 111 Ave.

(A.O. Maffiolo is for)
 6910 attached in 15 Ave.

Distribution

Hq Allied Commission, P.S. Sub Commission	2.
Hq 86 Area	2.
P.C. Udine	2.
AMC Venezia Giulia	1.
Hq 13 Corps	1.
Hq 217 Area	1.
Hq 1 Land Div	1.
A.C. Liaison Officer, Venice	1.
I.O. Port & Warehouse, Venice	1.
47 Port Security Section	1.
(SI Civ Liaison	1.
15 ISS.	1.
426 TSS	1.

16011/12

D.K.

Restricted.

602

Subject :- Italian Police Agencies - VENICEAllied Commission
Liaison Officer PSHQ 86 Area
C.M.F.

LO/V/IS/47

9 Aug 46

HQ AGPS SMO Comm ROME

Herewith copy of report required by Area
Commander here, a copy of which he sent
to HQ 13 Corps.

As stated in monthly report for July Dott.
PINNETTA, Inspector General of PS has
completed his survey and returned today to
ROME to report to Ministry of Interior.

MacKenzie
(T.G. MACKENZIE Major)
PSLO

TO	INT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
SEC. OFFICER		
ADJ. GEN.		
C. & REG.		
REGIONS		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

709

Report on Italian Police Agencies-
Venice Province by P.S.L.O. AC Liaison Gp.

Restricted

G 134

12 July 1946

Following are the effective strengths and conditions of the several Italian Police Agencies in Venice Province.

1. CC.RR. 7 Officers and 413 O/R located as follows:-

VENICE CITY (including islands
of Murano MR G. 728530 and Bu-
rano MR G. 769562)

5 Officers 149 O/R

MESTRE (including Favaro Veneto
MR G. 661584)

2 Officers 61 O/R

Remainder of Province (small
detachments varying from 2 to
about 10)

----- 203 O/R

The Provincial Commander (Group Command) is Lieut-Col. BARONIS who is a reasonably capable officer and can be depended upon as an Allied supporter. He has strong Monarchist tendencies and connections, but it is believed he will loyally support the Republican Government. He is respected by his superiors and his subordinates.

His Force is gradually being reequipped, but is still lacking in certain items including automatic weapons, general barracks equipment, and reliable water and land transport. In case of emergency and with concurrence of Prefetto of Venice he could requisition sufficient land transport before calling on 86 Area or other Allied Command for Help. For mechanised water transport he must depend on this Area.

The CC.RR. has a record of 135 years, but during Fascist rule submerged to the low levels of graft and other dishonesties. This continues in certain measure. They are the Military Police of the Italian Army, in time of peace doing everyday civil police duties. The standard of intelligence is not even fair although there are certain exceptions.

So far as has been seen, it appears to be established that

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So far as has been seen, it appears to be established that of all Italian Police bodies the Carabinieri are the most disciplined and most likely to support the reigning government or, in case of need, the Allied Cause. Almost all, if not in fact all, are monarchist and their official title is Carabinieri Reali (Royal Carabinieri)

Since the Republican Government was elected there has been talk of changing their title and rumours of disbandment, but nothing official has yet been announced.

Much of the ineffectiveness is caused by the poor rates of pay, for example:

- 2 -

Lieut Colonel BARTONIS with wife and one child and having 30 years' service - Lire 12,074 plus food on Italian Military Ration Scale (poor) and house. If house not provided he would receive in lieu Lire 416 per month.

Maresciallo Maggiore (equivalent to WO 1) with wife and two children and having 29 years' service - Lire 10,216, billet and food as above.

Carabinieri (equivalent to Private) unmarried - Lire 4,753, billet and food as above. Messing fee amount to not less than 15 Lire per day.

However, it could be argued that even with above rates of pay the various grades are overpaid for what they do or are capable of doing, but if pay and conditions of service were improved there is every likelihood that a better type of individual be attracted to the Police Service.

2. QUESTURA - Agents of Public Security.

Effective strength in Province of Venice.

	<u>Regalare</u>	<u>Auxiliarie</u>
Functionaries	30	1
Officers	4	9
O/A	576	617

Located as follows - other ranks

Venice City	
CHIOGGIA (G. 6527)	523
SPINZA (G. 5757)	32
MARCONI (G. 6555)	23
	5
	16
	534
	14
	11
	40
	3

The Questore is Oreste MAZZA, who is the Chief Constable of the Province, is responsible for public safety and directly responsible to the Prefetto.

He assumed above duties at beginning of May 1948, taking over from a political appointee made by the Committee of National Liberation in the early days of liberation. MAZZA is said to be a monarchist and it is known that he did duty at the Royal Palace, NAPLES, for many years, but it is learned that he was nominated for his present position by SCOCIMINGO of the Communist Party and Minister of Finance.

On his arrival in Venice he was charged generally to clean up the Questura, but little or no change is evident.

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The Questura has 7 motor vehicles (including 2 Jeeps recently arrived) 1 motor lorry, 1 small motor lorry and 15 motorcycles. There is also a motor launch and in an emergency in conjunction with 86 Area sufficient launches or ferries could be provided at short notice.

By middle of July (1946) the Force should be provided with uniforms and recently they received (through Italian officials channels in Rome) 114 automatic weapons and a further 30 are being supplied by the Italian Direction of Artillery at Verona. The still require about 200 pistols, the pistol being

...../3

the normal weapon carried and without which no Italian police officer feels safe.

With the generally unsettled state of the country and the world as a whole, rates of pay (see examples below) and leftist propaganda and intrigue does not leave the Questura in a healthy state.

Following are examples of pay:

Questore	13,000 Lire per month
Functionary	9,000 Lire per month
Agent (married)	9,000 Lire per month
Agent (single)	7,000 Lire per month

In addition 250 Lire per month is paid in respect of each child.

3. GUARDIE DI FINANZA - FINANCE GUARDS

Total Provincial strength is 18 officers and 1116 other ranks and apart from small detachments, the three main groups are located as follows:-

VENICE	15 Officers	625 O/R
MESTRE	2 Officers	158 O/R
CHIOGGIA	1 Officer	31 O/R

It is from these three groups that the small detachments are drawn, but they can be concentrated at these three points in case of need.

They can be termed a 'tax enforcing agency', they control landing of fish and are involved in Customs and Excise dues. As a fighting or peace preserving or enforcing arm would not be of much account. They are not involved in ordinary crime investigation being merely financial. Part of their duties consists of guarding bank buildings.

The Provincial Commander is Colonel ACCAMPORA Giovanni.

They have a miscellaneous collection of land and water transport.

The force could serve the Allies by providing guards at docks, etc, but as with all other Italian police agencies may not meantime be used by Allies in that capacity.

Their uniform and personal equipment are in a generally fair condition, but it is not suggested that any help be given, even if that were possible.

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4. POLIZIA FERROVIARIA - RAILWAY POLICE

700

The present location of the Force is:

VENICE	3 Officers	106 O/R
MESTRE	1 Officer	84 O/R

These are an officially recognised police Force and responsible only for railway property and traffic passing or halting thereon.

Their rates of pay are on the same low basis as others quoted above and their living conditions are not worse than others.

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- 4 -

HQ 86 Area has taken up the question of uniforms for Railway Police with UNRA who are trying to help.

5. GUARDIE MUNICIPALI - MUNICIPAL GUARDS OF CITY POLICE

They have a total strength of 608 of which two are officers, and the Commandant is Doctor Tommaso PETI.

The force is engaged chiefly with minor offences in connection with market dues, swimming in the canals, traffic control (control is hardly the proper word, although there are several in VENICE and MESTRE very capable at this type of police duty).

Only 150 of the total force are still in plain clothes and they wear armlets when on duty. It is hoped to have all uniforms complete in about three months. They should be compared to the 'Metropolitani' (City Police) in ROME and are reasonably well trained.

From the following pay scales it will be seen that the Chief has a larger salary than the Questore and Questura officials are using this as an argument for their increases.

Commander	Lire 15,000 per month
Vice Commander	Lire 13,000 per month
Agent (unmarried)	Lire 11,000 per month
Agent (married)	Lire 12,000 per month plus Lire
300 per month for each child.	

SUMMARY:-

From the figures given above it will be seen there is a police strength of about 3600 and including the Municipal Guards, who are to be found in each of the communes, the total Provincial strength is approximately 5,800.

The population of VENICE comune is about 300,000 and the Provincial total is under 800,000 and accepting those population figures and estimating one police officer for each 1,000 of population (this is the figure striven for in Britain but seldom obtained) 300 police would be sufficient for VENICE comune and 800 as the Provincial total strength.

Deducting the strength of Finance Guards the police strength in the Province is almost 2,700 in excess which is cancelled by lack of quality and the need for a large police force in a country such as Italy, disorganised as it is at the moment.

Should trouble arise and should the territory not be returned to Allied Military Government, orders could not be

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Should trouble arise and should the territory not be returned to Allied Military Government, orders could not be issued to the Italian police, but it is almost assured that the Carabinieri, Finance Guards and Railway Police would cooperate 100%. The same faith could not be placed in the Agents of Public Security. However, the last mentioned Force would while not cooperating so wholeheartedly at least not be entirely against the Allies.

The recent showings of ineffectiveness on part of the police cannot be changed merely by supplying uniforms, arms and food and the provision of barracks accommodation and it is felt that this HQ should endeavour to assist therein.

- 5 -

If, however, it could be taken up at a high level and the Italian Government requested to concentrate on VANCE and area, even at the expense of certain other parts of Italy, much would have been done. Even that would not, however eliminate the disagreement existing between the various police agencies especially between Carabinieri and Agents of Public Security.

Lackey

T.G. Mackenzie, Major

P.S.I.O.

Propaganda 208
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TO	INT	DATE
DIRECTOR	SECRET	
DEPT. DIRECTOR		
EXP. W. IER		
PO. IER		
SEC. IER		
PERSONS		
ARMY OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

Allied Commission
Liaison Office (P.S.)
HQ 86 AREA

LO/V/PS/47

9 Aug 46

SUBJECT : Public Safety Report for
July, 1946.

1. Following is report on public safety activities in the Provinces of VENEZIA, PADOVA, ROVIGO, VICENZA, VERONA, TREVISO, TRENTO and BELLUNO during the month of July, 1946.

2. POLICE FORCES.

There is little or no change to report from previous months and the various police forces carry on as before. The age old question of caserme (barracks) uniform, equipment, arms, ammunition and pay are of daily comment and any progress towards reestablishing on a proper basis the forces of law and order is very slow and barely evident.

Letters and telegrams are forwarded by the several Prefetti, Questori and Commanders of Carabinieri to the Ministries in Rome, but definite action is lacking and in many instances replies are not received or the material questions are evaded. This is, no doubt, the result of political interference and bureaucracy in the Capital and outlined combined policy appears not to exist. The effect is that the various Provincial Authorities implement their own policies sometimes with ineffectual or negative result.

A coordinating force for Questori, e.g., an Inspector General or some such functionary or a Commission for the VENETO Region or any other particular part of this area as may be thought necessary could have a good effect, but this might not be acceptable to certain schools of thought in view of the present agitation for Regional Autonomy.

Certain it is that the Italian police as Police are not efficient and much time and work will have to be expended to right matters.

Doctor PENNETTA Tommaso, Inspector General of Public Security has been in VENICE and VENETO Region for about a fortnight and has made a survey. Today he returned to ROME to report to the Minister of the Interior and it is hoped that

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3. PUBLIC ORDER.

This deteriorated as compared with previous months and resulted in many demonstrations and occasionally complete disorder. From Allied point of view the most serious was at PADOVA on 6 July when an attack was made on the Officer's Club.

m2m

At the request of the University students, that day was set aside as a day of public mourning because of certain decisions taken at the Paris Conference. No intimation was made to Allied Authority and dancing continued in the club mentioned whereas civilian places of entertainment were closed.

During the playing of Italian national airs an Allied soldier (believed to be British) remained seated despite requests from his soldier friends who stood to attention and civilians. The crowd took exception and the soldier placed his feet on a nearby chair no doubt heightening the tension. He then arose and entered the nearby Officers' Club, the crowd following. The mob on seeing Italian women dancing in the club demanded that the girls be handed out to them but a British officer succeeded in having them leave by a rear door. The Agents of Public Security were present, but did not prevent the crowd from entering the premises and considerable damage was done to glass and woodwork. In addition the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack were torn down and damaged. They were later retrieved by a civilian and returned. Allied personnel were slightly injured as were two Agents of Public Security.

Inquiry was made by British CMP and FSS and every help given the Italian authority, but no person will be tried before a court for the outrage.

University students are alleged to be responsible and they continued their operations by burning Allied Military road signs and held ceremony when it is alleged they burned their "Alexander" Certificates. It is hardly credible that an Italian would burn such a certificate when it is known that on occasions such have been sold as protection to fascists for as high as twenty five thousand lire.

Several days later while a 'reception procession' was on its way to welcome returning "reduci" from Russia, it passed premises occupied by British troops. A girl employee was at a window and the crowd reviled her. She retaliated by spitting and a large crowd left the procession, entered the club, did considerable damage to furniture and fittings, stripped the girl of her clothing and generally beat her. A British soldier standing inside the premises was untouched. In this case also no person will be tried.

The Prefetto apologised to Area Commander and offered to pay for all material damage done.

Another instance proving the ineffectiveness of Italian police and resulting public disorder took place also at PADOVA. A number of persons were arrested and taken to the Questura. On the demands of a threatening crowd the prisoners were liberated.

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From the Italian point of view the most serious disorder was at ROVIGO on 22 August when a crowd (alleged unemployed) several hundred strong sacked the UNRRA magazine, assaulted the Prefetto and were riotous. Some of the stolen property was recovered and over 40 persons arrested.

The Questore (he arrived 10 days before) has been 'sent home' pending inquiries and Colonel GILLI alias PICCIONE, VENETO Regional Commander of Auxiliary Agents of P.S. is acting as Questore. He immediately called in reinforcements of Agents of Public Safety and has made headway in his programme of eliminating all Auxiliary Agents of Public Safety in the Province.

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They amount to several hundred, have a strong leftist core and are ineffective as police. Colonel Galli, Inspector, did good work with Eighth Army and is known to 13 Corps Commander. His strong action seems to have settled matters in the ROVIGO area.

In VENICE and VERONA there have been strikes and demonstrations daily and in VENICE no action was taken by Italian police when strikers held up civilian road traffic - in some cases for two hours - also including a Questura vehicle with a Vice Commissario as passenger.

Allied services have not been affected by these strikes but decision is awaited from Allied Authority on a five point programme submitted by the Camera del Lavoro, VENICE and MESTRE, for the betterment of conditions of Allied civilian employees in the area. In certain quarters it is stated that unless at least three of the points are conceded and the two others promised careful consideration, all of the ten thousand Allied employees in VENICE and vicinity will be called to strike on August 12th.

Major DRYSDALE of 13 Corps has been in this area and the matter is being considered now. An early decision is expected.

On the whole, it is obvious that public disorder has resulted from political agitation and the manner in which it has gone from one point to another and from one set of employees to another shows that the whole is a well organized and carefully thought out plan governed from a central point. It is understood that in some cases strikers were given daily 'rates of pay' when they stated they did not wish to strike and proved their families to be suffering hardship. This appears to have been mere propaganda money and was paid only to those known to be but halfheartedly leftist.

4. CRIME

The crime situation shows but little change and there is little of note in the general situation. Armed holdups and other forms of robberies and thefts continue, some arrests having been made.

It is noted that some of the persons assailed are those who were released under the recent amnesty on political charges.

In Province of TRENTO two murders were reported and in one the accused have been arrested.

Also in Province of TRENTO was reported the shooting of a Czechoslovakian Captain by his German war crime prisoner, the latter escaping in the car in which both had been travelling. The matter was circulated to all Questori and search continues. The Captain proceeded to MILAN and his return is awaited.

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5. BLACK MARKET

This continues as before in many cases being conducted openly, especially the sale of Allied cigarettes in the streets of VENICE. During the last few days it has been noted that Allied cigarettes are not openly displayed. The reason for this is said to be the fact that Allied soldiers have offered to purchase the cigarettes at black market prices, taken them, refused to pay them and kicked the bottoms of the offending civilians. This merely drives

underground the operators, but in some ways is more effective than the ineffectiveness of the Italian police.

Polish military transport is stated to be involved in the transporting of black market grain and, especially in the PADOVA area, the Italian police are anxious to have powers of stop and search. They have been told to operate their road blocks legally and immediately report suspects to Allied Military Police, if need be detaining the vehicle or at least noting the military number or other particulars of the vehicles. Their limited powers have been fully explained to them and they have been given to understand in no uncertain manner that incidents such as shooting, manhandling of Allied personnel or wrongful or mistaken detention of military vehicles, personnel or property will not be tolerated.

5. ARMS, AMMUNITION, Etc.

Some small raids have been made and small quantities of arms, etc., continue to be seized. In some such cases political reasons could be adjudged, but not on any grand scale.

Off shore patrols also have been carried out, but so far negative result obtained.

Information supplied by Allied Authority to Italian Police is not acted upon in most cases. This could be due to failure to credit source of information, but is more likely to result from the Italian police officials' thoughts of his political tomorrow.

7. PRISONS

There is nothing new to add to previous reports and progress is slow. Some slight relief was given by release of prisoners under Amnesty.

As has so often been reported, the general situation arises from the slowness of the Italian judicial system.

8. POLITICAL

Despite the fact that the right wing are in the majority, the left wing continues to make most noise and causes more trouble.

The Camere del Lavoro are Communist ridden and are obviously guided by a central controlling hand.

The general instability of the Italian mentality makes it rather difficult at times to properly judge the likely outcome, but the Communist are not so strongly supported

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As has so often been reported, the general situation arises from the slowness of the Italian judicial system.

8. POLITICAL

Despite the fact that the right wing are in the majority, the left wing continues to make most noise and causes more trouble.

The Camere del Lavoro are Communist ridden and are obviously guided by a central controlling hand.

The general instability of the Italian mentality makes it rather difficult at times to properly judge the likely outcome, but the Communist are not so strongly supported as their party numbers suggest.

Political use was and is being made of the fact that the house in VENICE where lodes the Socialist Conti TONETTI was searched by Carabinieri, accompanied by British Military Police, for Allied property. Only empty cigarettes tins were found. TONETTI is a member of the Costituente and raised the matter in ROME. The matter was thought to be finished, TONETTI having declared that he did not wish to cause further trouble at present time. It was again raised through Carabinieri channels when local CC.RR. were asked for a report. They were supplied with a document from 86 Area to the effect that the information came from Allied sources and that the CC.RR. were not responsible.

- 5 -

TONETTI has had a "moving" political career. Lieut. Colonel BARONIS, Venice Group Commander of CC.RR. is under the impression that certain political circles are striving to have him removed because of the TONETTI case.

9. GENERAL SECURITY & CONDUCT OF ALLIED TROOPS

Conduct of Allied troops continues as before, but strong press comments are made as to reckless driving of Allied vehicles, and odd incidents of drunk Allied personnel.

Police patrols were instituted on complaints being received regarding indecent behaviour of Polish troops while bathing at the Lido.

Press comments on Allied activities and behaviour are now more boldly printed and it is noted that general public reaction to Allied troops has recently strengthened. They openly display their wish to have "Italy for the Italians".

There is no evidence at the present time that Allied interests are endangered, but the situation is carefully watched more especially in view of shortage of FSS CMP and other personnel.

10. CIVILIAN MOVEMENT

No change to report and conditions as to issue of travel permits continue as before.

Travel between this Area and VENEZIA GIULIA is still dealt with by Questori and FSS in conjunction with V.G. Police.

11. GENERAL

In addition to wishing "Italy for the Italians" the VENICE Camera del Lavoro wishes "Venice for the Venetians" having asked that all 'outsiders' now working in Venice and district be sent home by means of "Reglii di via Obbligatoria". This is a document served by Agents of Public Security obliging immediate departure for home or place of birth and the Camera del Lavoro is frantically requesting this action despite the fact that such foglii are issued only on grounds of public security, e.g., to prostitutes and other undesirables. This is a part of the concerted effort to cause strife.

For several days recently the Ente Comunale of VENICE were on strike and even the Sindaco did not receive callers. He is a Sicilian, a communist and has lived in Venice for about

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11. GENERAL

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For several days recently the Ente Comunale di VENICE were on strike and even the Sindaco did not receive callers. He is a Sicilian, a communist and has lived in Venice for about 25 years. The request for issue of "Fogli di via" would, it is supposed, not effect him.

12. CHANGE OF ITALIAN POLICE PERSONNEL

In addition to the substitution of the Questore at ROVIGO (reported above) is has to be stated that PADOVA now has a career Questore. He is SOLINAS from VARESE and he replaced SANTINI the political Questore. It might be here noted that SANTINI is one of about four applicants for the position of Port Commandant at VENICE. He is a mercantile marine captain.

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- 5 -

13. P.S. PERSONNEL

Major T.G. Mackenzie is only P.S. Officer new in Region. He is attached to and is located at HQ 86 Area.

Captain A.E. Baker has returned from U.K. leave and transferred to Venezia Giulia.

T.G. Mackenzie
T.G. MACKENZIE, Major
P.S.L.O.

DISTRIBUTION :

HQ Allied Commission, P.S. Sub Commission	2
HQ 86 Area	2
P.C. Udine	2
AMG VENEZIA GIULIA	1
HQ 13 Corps	1
HQ 217 Area	1
HQ 1 Armd Div	1
A.C. Liaison Officer, Venice	1
L.O. Port & Warehouse, Venice	1
47 Port Security Section	1
File	1

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Quackenbush
T.G. MACIENZIE, Major
P.S.I.O.

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47 Port Security Section	1
File	1

ALLIED COMMISSION
OFFICE OF CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER
VENEZIA

Villa Taverna,
PREGANZIOL,
near Treviso.

30 April, 46.

Subject - Public Safety Report for April, 1946.

To - Chief Liaison Officer, VENEZIA Region.

1. Following is a report on Public Safety activities during the month of April, 1946.

2. POLICE FORCES.

The several Italian Police Forces continue to improve in efficiency, but they would function ever so much better if the necessary supplies of uniforms, arms, and other equipment could be supplied. It can but be reiterated that considering the conditions under which the police are serving, the results shown by them are reasonably good.

Automatic arms and pistols, together with necessary ammunition, also are required in large numbers. The Chiefs of the various Forces have taken up this matter with the appropriate Authorities in ROME, but results are slow to materialise.

The food situation also could be improved and it is found that certain Forces have advantages over others in this respect. This, of course, depends on local conditions or, as seems to be case, on the interest displayed by superior officers.

At the present time the Questura Agents at VENICE have been of a caserma and if they can locate a suitable building the matter will be taken up with 86 Area.

The allocation of petrol continues to be on a very meagre scale, the Province of ROVIGO again being quoted as an example. In that Province, 230 litres were allocated for month of April, but this supply was expended by 15 April. To continue vehicles in service, recourse was had to buying petrol from 'contadini' who had received supplies from civilian sources and had not used same for the purpose intended, namely - agriculture. The Ministry in ROME must be aware of this, but no doubt do not take any action, knowing that the Italian Police make searches and take possession of Allied property, including petrol, and do not account for it to Allied Authority. It is difficult to prove what property they seize from civilians, but little or nothing is even accounted for, and certainly not

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I understand that the C.L.N. of ROVIGO provided the funds for the Questura there to purchase petrol, as they ~~have~~ have provided funds also for the feeding of P.S. Agents.

The age old question of pay may also be mentioned here. If pay and living conditions could be suitably improved, a better type of individual (there must be some of these) would be attracted. 697

It is understood that a "career" Questore will arrive in VENICE at beginning of May and similar moves would be appreciated in other places, particularly at ROVIGO. The political Questore at PADOVA continues to serve well, but it must be realised that he also is not of "career".

- 2 -

2. POLICE FORCES (continued)

At the recent Administrative Elections, the Italian Police were not extended because of the fact that the elections were spread over a period, but they will require to be on their mettle - their system, especially transport, may be overtaxed - during the forthcoming political elections, but it is not foreseen that there will be any trouble or undue disturbance.

3. PUBLIC ORDER.

Parades, ceremonies and demonstrations have been held in connection with political parties propaganda, unemployment, food questions, poor relief, and against the Prefettural ban on gaming houses, but no untoward incident reported.

On 25 April the anniversary of "Liberation Day" was celebrated and included in this was the unveiling of a tablet at PADOVA. At this ceremony, Professor MENEGETTI of PADOVA University spoke against the Monarchy, etc., and strongly suggested that the Allies had not kept their "radio promises" made to those who had fought underground against Fascism and Nazism. He did receive some applause but his audience - about 2500 - was rather apathetic.

When about 2000 demonstrated against the Prefetto, PADOVA, for his banning gaming houses, some glass was broken in the Prefettura, but no serious disorder took place.

On 7 April were held the last of the Administrative Elections. All appear to be conducted in a proper manner.

In Province of PADOVA an incident of attempting to steal (or remove) a ballot box was frustrated by ONE Carabinieri. It was not a serious effort.

4. CRIME.

Seven murders and two attempted murders have been reported during the month and arrests made in six cases.

Some good arrests have been made in connection with serious thefts and robberies including one committed in December, 1945. In all, the general picture shows a slight improvement and there is no cause for alarm.

Armed robberies continue, but on a smaller scale. I have just been informed by telephone from 6 (Br) Armed Division that about 0200 hours today the BOLOGNE + UDINE mail truck (military) was held up on the main road (Route 16)

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5. BLACK MARKET.

The term could now be changed to "white market" as certain commodities are now openly displayed at high prices. The same cannot, however, be said of foodstuffs, particularly those of grain base, and they are scarce.

Inquiries are being by this Group HQ in conjunction with CMP regarding transportation of grain under 'permits' purporting to be issued under Allied Authority.

- 3 -

5. BLACK MARKET (continued)

With the institution of road blocks operated on a standard basis, it is hoped to further the activities of the police.

6. ARMS, AMMUNITION, etc.

Raids continue to be made by the several police agencies as result of which small numbers of firearms, ammunition, hand grenades, etc., are found and the necessary report made to Legal Authority.

In this connection there is nothing outstanding to report.

7. PRISONS.

The prison situation is as reported last month the prisons in the Region being overcrowded. The

matter has been taken up with Dott. MOLLAME, Inspector of Prisons, PADOVA, but it is realised that prisons in other parts of Italy also are overcrowded.

During a 'visiting' day to ROVIGO Prison, 68 prisoners made good their escape by mixing with the visitors and causing general confusion. During the escape,

police agents opened fire and one prisoner was killed and one gravely wounded. Within several days of the

escape, 63 prisoners had been rearrested and detained. Inquiries still being continued.

8. POLITICAL.

Another item of anti-Polish propaganda in the VENICE press was corrected by way of the Prefettura.

It appears that the various political parties are calmly preparing for the forthcoming political elections and there is no sign of likely disorder.

The recent elections have shown the 'leftist' parties to be reasonably strong and they are, without doubt, very well organised, and well supplied with funds.

The return of Venezia Giulia, the question of the Peace Treaty, colonies previously held by Italy, food and the defence of Italy seem, from the Italian point of view, the only reason for sufferance of Allied troops on Italian soil.

There is a school of thought that if Communism is victorious in political elections, great changes will follow and that if it suffers defeat, illegal means might be tried

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There is a school of thought that if Communism is victorious in political elections, great changes will follow and that if it suffers defeat, illegal means might be tried to overthrow the elected Government. There is no evidence of preparations for the latter, but matters are being watched.

9. GENERAL SECURITY & CONDUCT OF ALLIED TROOPS.

General security is good and no actual acts of sabotage reported, although telephone lines are occasionally interfered with.

Recent movement of troops in this area and display of strength evidently has reminded the Italians that the Allies remain in force. 693

The Polish vehicle and personnel referred to in report for March were traced and necessary information passed to Italian authority concerned.

- 4 -

9. GENERAL SECURITY & CONDUCT OF ALLIED TROOPS(continued)

Still tendency on part of Italians - officials and civilians - to endeavour to have Allied personnel removed from billets and to have the premises derequisitioned. High formation HQ are not excluded from this endeavour.

At ABANO (Padova Province) the hotel and mud bath keepers state it is five years since they were able to conduct business and that after one year Allied troops are still in occupancy.

The same feeling exists at PADOVA where additional billets were recently requisitioned for families of Allied personnel.

It has been found that military authority has been most cooperative in this question and that no hardship is needlessly imposed.

Passage of large through going vehicles in the narrow main street of PADOVA instead of using the outer highway also is a matter for discontent and is being taken up with the proper quarter.

The question of road traffic control has, however, been passed to Italian police but C.M.P. are always willing to cooperate.

10. CIVILIAN MOVEMENT.

Continues as before and there is no change to report in the system of issuing travel permits. About three weeks are necessary to obtain a permit. This is a considered hardship on those who apply for permits when it is known that cases do exist where civilians have travelled to and returned from Venezia Giulia without permit and have not been halted or questioned in any way.

11. GENERAL.

Two executions have been reported (one in TREVISO and one in PADOVA) and reactions were normal.

Recently about 300 Italian ex POW arrived in ROVIGO Province (as well as elsewhere) and it was rumoured they were part of 10,000 who had escaped from Allied custody at TARANTO.

The population were apprehensive, but all is calm now

In the same connection it should be mentioned that Italian officers ex POW recently arrived at NAPLES from India and are now home.

They speak of the good treatment they received, particularly at the transit camp at NAPLES and this has been well received by the population.

12. CHANGE OF ITALIAN POLICE PERSONNEL.

CC.FR. changes are - LtCol Persanetti, Padova

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CC.RR. changes are - LtCol Bersanetti, Padova to Bologna; LtCol Cannada, Bologna to Padova; Capt Ricci, Vicenza to Alessandria.

Questura changes reported are - Comm. TIBIS, Chioggia (Venice) to Rovigo; Comm Cristallo, Rome to Trento; V. Comm Rovelli, Pistoia to Belluno and V. Comm Pozzi, Rome to Belluno; Lt (Aux) Straffellini Nereo, Trento, dismissed. 694

13. P.S. PERSONNEL.

Major T.G. Mackenzie at Group HQ and Captain A.E. Baker at VICENZA. Special Agent Frank Kohn at Group HQ.

Copies to P.S. Sub Comm. File

Mackenzie
T.G. Mackenzie, Major.
P.S.I.C.

ALLIED COMMISSION
OFFICE OF CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER
VENETIAN

Villa Taverna,
PREGANZIOLE,
near Treviso.

2 June, 46.

Subject - Public Safety Report for May, 1946.

To - Chief Liaison Officer, VENETIAN Region.

1. Following is report on Public Safety activities during the month of May, 1946.

POLICE FORCES.

As has been reported in previous months, the results shown by the several police forces are reasonably good when it is considered the conditions under they are required to work.

The question of uniforms, arms (especially automatic weapons in which they place implicit faith) other equipment and barracks still require much attention.

The food situation of the Carabinieri has been greatly helped by the recent allocation of fresh meat instead of canned meat.

The transport in their possession is not of the best, but some tyre have been supplied and this has helped. Petrol and oil supply also is on a rather low basis, but additional quantities have been allowed for the election period.

Yesterday (election day) transport and man power resources were extended, but all passed without incident.

Results are now awaited and the police forces (including Fire Service and Forest Guards) are being kept on the alert for any eventuality.

As result of action by 86 Area Commander (through 13 Corps) 1000 bush shirts were supplied for use by Auxiliaries of P.S. These have been dyed green and issued in VENICE and PADOVA Provinces to help distinguish the Agents at the election time.

The old age question of pay should also be reiterated here.

Agents of P.S. at VENICE (no doubt following example set at MILAN) agitated for increase in pay. Inquiries were made and with the permission of the Ministry at ROME an anticipation of Lire 7000 was paid to each man.

Agitation ceased and no interference with police service took place.

The career Questore arrived in VENICE and appears to be shaping well.

The Mobile Battalion of Carabinieri stationed at PADOVA with detachment of 200 stationed at TREVISO are

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The career Questore arrived in VENICE and appears to be shaping well.

The Mobile Battalion of Carabinieri stationed at PADOVA with detachment of 200 stationed at TREVISO are apparently well trained and armed. Only recently, after many inquiries, they received ammunition for use in the weapons of the armoured cars with which they are equipped. They are under control of Legion Commander at PADOVA, but may not be utilised without order from ROME.

It was ~~reported~~ that in the event of trouble outwith this Region (MILAN, etc) the Mobile Battalion would be ordered there.

To me this appears more than rumour (a definite certainty if PADOVA was trouble free and other parts in disorder) but the CC.RR. Command at PADOVA did not relish the likelihood.

3. PUBLIC ORDER.

Numerous parades, ceremonies and demonstration have been held during the month.

The most disturbing of all were held in VENICE. At the beginning of May it was

-2-

was observed that small groups of Italian naval ratings were displaying Monarchist sentiments. This culminated

on the evening of 9 May when a British Royal Marine Band was playing Retreat in St Mark's Square, VENICE City. Present

were high ranking British and other Allied Officers, also officers of the Italian Services and Civil Authority. The

square was cordoned and during the playing there were many cat calls from the Italian naval personnel. During the

playing of "The King" the same persons, including officers came through the cordon, but the music continued to a proper

conclusion. The Italian police were either unable

or unwilling to resist.

Italian authorities state the trouble arose because only the Union Jack was displayed (the Italian tricolour was eventually hoisted by the demonstrators)

but it is felt that the news regarding the disposal of the Italian "fleet" was more responsible. Some twenty

Italian naval personnel are being disciplined for their action.

As was to be expected, many meetings and

demonstrations were held throughout the Region in connection with the Political Elections. All passed without serious

incident, but the policy of the extreme 'leftists' was

persistently carried out when meetings of the 'right' (Christian Democrats, Uomo Qualunque or Liberals) were held. Blows

were struck in some cases, but no serious disorder.

Strong rumours (possibly strong propaganda)

have been circulating that in the event of a Monarchist or 'right' victory, blood will flow. This is said to

emanate from Communist circles.

On the occasion of the visit of King Umberto

to VENICE on Saturday 1 June, he was received with cheers for the Monarchy but many counter cheers for the Republic. He

left unmolested. After he had gone, there were slight

skirmishes between the various supporters of Monarchy and

Republic, blows were struck but no serious disorder. Italian

police were in attendance and did not lose control of the

situation.

On 12 May three small German type bombs were

placed outside the CC.RR. Caserma at MARVENE della BATTAGLIA

(Province of TREVISO). Only one exploded. No consequences.

It is thought to ~~may~~ be the work of common criminals and not from

political reasons. No arrests made as yet.

4. CRIME.

Three murders have been reported and one person surrendered for one of them. He is an Italian soldier

who had stabbed another Italian soldier. Inquiries being

made in others. Quite a number of good arrests have been

made in connection with other types of crime, but there is a

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Quite a number of good arrests have been made in connection with other types of crime, but there is a slight increase in armed hold-ups, especially in Provinces of VERONA and ROVIGO and this is giving cause for some concern. The position is not, however, grave.

In Province of TRENTO an Allied military ⁰⁹² Polish vehicle was held up, being allowed to proceed after the Polish occupants and their friends had been robbed. Escaped German POWs are suspected and inquiries are being made by British GMP and Italian civil police.

In connection with the armed hold-up on the ROVIGO-PADOVA road (reported last month) the Italian police made diligent inquiries and on receipt of information caused a house to be surrounded. Automatic arms fire was engaged in and hand grenades used with result that three of the bandits were killed and arrests made.

As a result of the holding of a truck load of grain in this Region, the relative permits (purporting to be issued

5. ~~Black Market~~ ⁰⁹²

issued/ by Allied Authority) were received by C.L.O., LIVORNO and I understand (by telephone from AC HQ Public Safety) that a civilian was arrested at LIVORNO. A report together with relative documents is awaited here so that the necessary action can be taken.

Road blocks are being operated on a standard basis by Italian police and some good cases are resulting therefrom.

Apart from this, there is little to add to previous reports.

6. ARMS, AMMUNITION, etc.

Raids continue to be made by Italian police and in Province of TREVISO scattered quantities of arms and ammunition have been found and resulted in arrest of four persons.

There does not appear to be any political significance in these arms, although a considerable number of the weapons were in a fair state of efficiency. The manner of hiding arms and condition in which many of them are now found indicates that those responsible were not trained in maintaining weapons.

Reasons so found add to the armament of the police taking possession.

In the area of CHIUGGIA (Province of VENEZIA) all Italian police agencies are concentrating on the suspected trading of grain with JUGOSLAVIA in exchange for arms. No arms have so far been found, but one load of grain has been stopped.

7. PRISONS.

There is nothing new to add to previous reports and conditions are as before. Specially is this so in VERONA Prison where 771 political prisoners are still awaiting disposal.

The question of political prisoners in other Provinces are improving, but the Courts of Appeal are making slow progress. The disposal of such cases would greatly help prison situation.

8. POLITICAL.

Political parties forged ahead with their propaganda in preparation for the elections yesterday and the results are now awaited.

The distribution of "Voting Certificates" to the electors seems to have been well done and there is no evidence of any dishonesty or force being exercised.

The local C.L.N. of VITTORIO VENETO (Province of TREVISO) were 'put out' and stated they had lost face when a British Unit had occasion to requisition the premises (a villa). The C.L.N. had occupied since liberation. They stated that being in their last days they could have been allowed to remain. The question was investigated by this Group and it was ascertained that the requisitioning authorities had exercised its right and

Raid continue to be made by Italian police and in Province of TREVISO scattered quantities of arms and ammunition have been found and resulted in arrest of four persons.

There does not appear to be any political significance in these arms, although a considerable number of the weapons were in a fair state of efficiency. The manner of hiding arms and condition in which many of them are now found indicates that those responsible were not trained in maintaining weapons.

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9. GENERAL SECURITY & CONDUCT OF ALLIED TROOPS.

There is a considerable decrease in number

of cases of military telephone lines being interfered with.

This no doubt results from fact that the grape vines have been sprayed or are being sprayed with copper sulphate and the 'supply' of copper is no longer necessary.

Several minor incidents have occurred between Allied troops and civilians, but nothing of a serious nature.

In Province of VERONA some Polish and Italian soldiers stationed at RIVA del GARDA came to blows as result of two Italian soldiers passing in a carriage being struck with orange peel thrown from the window of premises occupied by German

-4-

Polish/ troos, despite the fact that a Polish soldier responsible excused himself and stated it was an accident. Polish and Italian police were able to keep the matter in hand and no more resulted.

The press, especially the 'leftist' press of VENICE are fully occupied with election matter, but find time and space to discuss the Italian view on Armistice terms, Italian fleet, colonies, etc.

The Communists continue to display they are well organized and well supplied with funds. The elaborate displays of posters, handbills, etc., could lead one to think there is no shortage of paper, printing ink or money. The money and labour so spent, at a modest estimate, must be sufficient to reconstruct at least two badly destroyed towns.

10. CIVILIAN MOVEMENT.

Conditions remain as before in this respect.

It would appear that Italian Provincial

Authorities are not clear on the question of civilians travelling to other countries for business reasons and it is stated that the people of the north are at a disadvantage as compared to those in ROMB.

It is suggested that this be made clear through Italian channels.

11. GENERAL.

The Italian nature has been reasserting itself and has had great scope during the last month of preparation for the election.

From General observation numerous cases have been seen of Italian 'authority', for example, Italian 'police' going duty at Bailey bridges, street intersections, etc., giving preference to Italian traffic as against Allied vehicles.

I have taken up this matter in several instances and no recurrences have resulted at the points raised.

It is true that Italian police in joint operation with Allied Military Police give good service and fair quantities of Allied property are recovered. It is, however, still noticed that little or no property is ever returned to Military from Italian police forces.

12. CHANGE OF ITALIAN POLICE PERSONNEL.

Dottore MASSA Oreste arrived from Ventimiglia and assumed duty as Questore of VENICE at beginning of May.

Comm. CARTA Luigi to TREVISO from BUSTO

ARSIZIO.

V. Comm. Agginto Dottore MILIZIA Vittorio to TREVISO from Ministry of Interior.

13. P.S. PERSONNEL.

Major T.G. Mackenzie at Group HQ and Captain A.S. Baker at VICENZA. Latter office is being closed down

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Mackenzie

T.G. Mackenzie, Major.

P.S.L.O.

Copies to

AC HQ P.S. Sub Comm.

File.

ALLIED COMMISSION
OFFICE OF CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER
VENEZIE

Villa Taverna,
PREGANZIOL,
near Treviso.

July 4th. 1946.

SUBJ: Public Safety Report for the month of June, 1946.
TO: Chief Liaison Officer, Venezia Region.

1. POLICE FORCES.

The primary need is to augment the strengths of the various police agencies - this applies particularly to the Carabinieri. Legion Commanders have sent requests to Rome asking for further men and equipment, but without result.

Discontent continues regarding the rates of pay accorded to agents of public security, and in Trento a general meeting was called urging that salaries should be increased. A letter was sent from the Questura to the Ministry of the Interior stating the case - after the meeting the men resumed duty.

All Questuras in the Region have been supplied each with two jeeps and more transport has been promised in the near future. The supply of P.O.L. to CC.RR is now adequate, but Questori complain that their ration is insufficient which means that the branch of the Economic Police are unable to function as they would wish. The Padova detachment of the Economic Police are doing a good job; the lieutenant (Ereber) who was formerly in charge has been transferred, and his position has been filled by a non-commissioned officer.

During the election period the Region was very quiet - no disturbances were reported in spite of the large number of public manifestations held. The Republic has been accepted without disorder - it seems that the Monarchists are willing to co-operate in the re-building of the State. The inauguration of the Republic on June 11th. was conducted without incident.

The new career Questore for Rovigo (Dott. SAVONA Eugenio) took over his duties during the last week of June.

2. PUBLIC ORDER.

Outstanding towards the end of this month have been the number of strikes, almost daily, which have occurred mainly in Venice province. Other lesser demonstrations have been reported from the other provinces - these have, for the most

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2. PUBLIC ORDER.

Outstanding towards the end of this month have been the number of strikes, almost daily, which have occurred mainly in Venice province. Other lesser demonstrations have been reported from the other provinces - these have, for the most part, been sponsored by the REDUCI (returned prisoners of war). In each province deputations of returned P.O.W.s have been received by the Prefect, and efforts are being made for these men to be found employment. This is a very big problem and will not easily be overcome. In Verona the demonstrators entered the telephone exchange and the local electricity power station. Telephone communication was not interfered with, but electricity was cut off on the 18th. which affected the whole of the city and electric transport services. No damage to installations reported. I visited the telephone exchange to satisfy myself

2.

that our military lines had not been tampered with. In this particular instance the 'Reduci' complained to the director of the exchange that they required work and that the women operators at present employed there should be removed and their places taken by men.

On the 27th. June the Soviet Delegation (Giovannile) consisting of four members, visited the University at Padova. They were given a mixed reception, and students mostly from Venezia Giulia indulged in "barracking" and shouting down the speakers. The delegation left and went to the Prefettura where a deputation of students was later received. The latter expressed their discontent over the Soviet policy in Venezia Giulia. The following day the delegation went to Venice where they held a meeting in the Piazza S. Marco. The meeting was somewhat interrupted by hecklers and some blows were struck, but the outcome was not serious.

3. CRIME.

There has been a decrease in the number of serious crimes reported. One murder occurred in Bovolenta (Padova province) when a cyclist was robbed and killed. There is a continuance of armed hold-ups and some good arrests have been made. One case has been reported from Trento province where an elderly farmer ran amok with a knife and stabbed to death two women and a man before being shot dead himself by another farmer who came on the scene.

In the outlying areas, where police vigilance is lacking, reports show that there is no decrease in the number of petty crimes, larcenies, etc.

4. BLACK MARKET.

Throughout the region the police agencies are closely watching the amassing of grain, and in several places a number of marketeers have been found in possession of grain. The delinquents are awaiting trial and SUPRAL have taken over the stolen wheat. Particular attention is being paid in the coastal areas to prevent illegal transport of grain out of the country.

Prefects have decreed that only limited quantities of food-stuffs may be sold in restaurants, but little or no notice of this is being taken by the proprietors.

Road blocks continue to operate and some apprehensions have been reported. It is not clear what happens to sequestered goods, allied or otherwise, if or when the offenders have been proceeded against.

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5. ARMS, AMMUNITION, ETC.

The agencies have not reported any fresh cases of hidden arms, ammunition, etc. The CC.RR in Venezia are working on information recently received, and developments are expected shortly.

6. GENERAL SECURITY AND CONDUCT OF ALLIED TROOPS.

The conduct of allied troops within the region has been very good. A large number of British troops are at

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present away from their usual stations, and rear parties only remain.

A number of minor incidents between Polish soldiers and civilians have been notified, but the consequences have not been serious.

There has been an increase in the number of traffic accidents involving military vehicles, and the Italian press gives prominence to such incidents.

The re-housing problem continues to crop up, and many tentative enquiries have been made with a view to the de-requisition of properties at present occupied by the allies. Many of these cases have been investigated and in certain cases Town Majors have been able to release buildings which are of no further use to them.

7. CIVILIAN MOVEMENT.

Movement restrictions remain as before. There still appears to be quite a lot of doubt in the minds of Italian officials as to channels of communication, etc. Regarding applications for movement out of Italy with the result that many applicants come direct to this H.Q. instead of contacting local officials. It would be well if the Italian Foreign Office circularised all Prefects with precise instructions on these points.

8. PRISONS.

Under the terms of the amnesty many political and communal prisoners are at present in the process of being released. The precise number is not yet available, but prison conditions will certainly improve for a while, and such difficulties as overcrowding will not arise for some time to come.

9. POLITICAL.

Main interest is centred on Venezia Giulia. De Gasperi's declaration has received wide comment in the press. Party propaganda has slowed down considerably, and all are watching the Paris conference, and there appears to be little activity on the part of the Communists.

10. GENERAL.

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10. GENERAL.

The series of strikes which are becoming quite a feature in the region are a disturbing feature. Two and four-hourly strikes are common in the Porto Marghera area where the main industries are situated. The latest practice is for workers to 'down tools' and rush into the roadway where they hold up all civilian traffic, causing the occupants to get out and stand by their vehicles for periods of an hour upwards. The result is that travellers are made to waste valuable time, transport services are disrupted and all is chaos. Civil police have not intervened as yet, but if there is a continuance of strikes the Prefect should take some action or call for advice from higher authority. The strikers have made no attempt to interfere with the movement of allied transport. During the past week the police have strengthened their night patrols

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and an armed concentration of CC.RR stand-by at traffic termini. So far there have been no clashes between the strikers and police.

11. CHANGE OF ITALIAN POLICE PERSONNEL.

Dott. SAVONA Eugenio, formerly of Brescia, has been appointed Questore of Rovigo, replacing the political questore there. He has already made a number of changes on his staff. A vice-commissario of Treviso (Dott. PULLIA Andrea) who was employed in the Questura, has been transferred to the Prefettura at Venice.

12. P.S. PERSONNEL.

Major T.G. Mackenzie now at 86 Area Headquarters, Venice, as liaison officer; Captain A.E. Baker at Group H.Q. Special Agent P. Kohn also at Group H.Q.

A.E. Baker

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✓ AC HQ P.S. Sub Comm.
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ALLIED COMMISSION
OFFICE OF CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER
VENETIA

30 April, 46.

Subject - Public Safety Report for April, 1946.

To - Chief Liaison Officer, VENETIA Region.

1. Following is a report on Public Safety activities during the month of April, 1946.

2. POLICE FORCES.

The several Italian Police Forces continue to improve in efficiency, but they would function ever so much better if the necessary supplies of uniforms, arms, and other equipment could be supplied.

It can but be reiterated that considering the conditions under which the police are serving, the results shown by them are reasonably good.

Automatic arms and pistols, together with necessary ammunition, also are required in large numbers. The Chiefs of the various Forces have taken up this matter with the appropriate Authorities in ROME, but results are slow to materialize.

The food situation also could be improved and it is found that certain Forces have advantages over others in this respect.

This, of course, depends on local conditions or, as seems to be case, on the interest displayed by superior officers.

At the present time the Questura Agents at VSWICE have need of a caserma and if they can locate a suitable building the matter will be taken up with 85 Area.

The allocation of petrol continues to be on a very meagre scale, the Province of ROVERETO again being quoted as an example. In that Province, 230 litres were allocated for month of April, but this supply was expended by 15 April.

To continue vehicles in service, recourse was had to buying petrol from 'contadini' who had received supplies from civilian sources and had not used same for the purpose intended, namely - agriculture.

The Ministry in ROME must be aware of this, but no doubt do not take any action, knowing that the Italian Police make searches and take possession of Allied property, including petrol, and do not account for it to Allied Authority. It is difficult to prove what property they seize from civilians, and certainly not

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20788 10

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The allocation of petrol continues to be on a very meagre scale, the Province of ROVIGO again being quoted as an example.

In that Province, 330 litres were allocated for month of April, but this supply was expended by 15 April. To continue vehicles in service, recourse was had to buying petrol from 'contadini' who had received supplies from civilian sources and had not used same for the purpose intended, namely - agriculture.

The Ministry in ROM must be aware of this, but no doubt do not take any action, knowing that the Italian Police make searches and take possession of Allied property, including petrol, and do not account for it to Allied Authority. It is difficult to prove what property they seize from civilians; but little or nothing is ever accounted for, and certainly not petrol.

I understand that the C.L.S. of ROVIGO provided the funds or the Questura there to purchase petrol, as they ~~xxx~~ have provided funds also for the feeding of P.S. Agents.

The age old question of pay may also be mentioned here. If pay and living conditions could be suitably improved, a better type of individual (there must be some of these) would be attracted.

It is understood that a "career" Questore will arrive in VENICE at beginning of May and similar moves would be appreciated in other places, particularly at ROVIGO. The political Questore at PADOVA continues to serve well, but it must be realised that he also is not of "career".

2. POLICE FORCES (continued)

At the recent Administrative Elections, the Italian Police were not extended because of the fact that the elections were spread over a period, but they will require to be on their mettle - their system, especially transport, may be overtaxed - during the forthcoming political elections, but it is not foreseen that there will be any trouble or undue disturbance.

3. PUBLIC ORDER.

Parades, ceremonies and demonstrations have been held in connection with political parties propaganda, unemployment, food questions, poor relief, and against the Prefectural ban on gaming houses, but no untoward incident reported.

On 25 April the anniversary of "Liberation Day" was celebrated and included in this was the unveiling of a tablet at PADOVA. At this ceremony, Professor MONTICELLI of PADOVA University spoke against the Monarchy, etc., and strongly suggested that the Allies had not kept their "radio promises" made to those who had fought underground against Fascism and Nazism. He did receive some applause but his audience - about 2500 - was rather apathetic.

When about 2000 demonstrated against the Prefetto, PADOVA, for his banning gaming houses, some glass was broken in the Prefettura, but no serious disorder took place.

On 7 April were held the last of the Administrative

Elections.

All appear to be conducted in a proper

manner. In Province of PADOVA an incident of attempting

to steal (or remove) a ballot box was frustrated by OMS

Carabinieri. It was not a serious effort.

4. CRIME.

Seven murders and two attempted murders have been reported during the month and arrests made in six cases.

Some good arrests have been made in connection with serious thefts and robberies including one committed in December, 1945. In all, the general picture shows a slight improvement and there is no cause for alarm.

Armed robberies continue, but on a smaller scale.

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Armed Division that about 0200 hours today the BOLOGNA - UDINE mail truck (mail itary) was held up on the main road (Route 16)

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The information so far to hand is somewhat thin, but the matter is being taken up now with Italian Police authorities.

5. BLACK MARKET.

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The term could now be changed to "white market" as certain commodities are now openly displayed at high prices. The same cannot, however, be said of foodstuffs, particularly those of grain base, and they are scarce.

Inquiries are being by this Group HQ in conjunction with CMP regarding transportation of grain under 'permits' purporting to be issued under Allied Authority.

5. BLACK MARKET (continued)

With the institution of road blocks operated on a standard basis, it is hoped to further the activities of the police.

6. ARMS, AMMUNITION, etc.

Raid continues to be made by the several police agencies as result of which small numbers of firearms, ammunition, hand grenades, etc., are found and the necessary report made to Legal Authority.

In this connection there is nothing outstanding to report.

7. PRISONS.

The prison situation is as reported last month the prisons in the Region being overcrowded. The matter has been taken up with Dott. MOLLAME, Inspector of Prisons, Padova, but it is realised that prisons in other parts of Italy also are overcrowded.

During a 'visiting' day to ROVIGO Prison, 68 prisoners made good their escape by mixing with the visitors and causing general confusion.

During the escape, police agents opened fire and one prisoner was killed and one gravely wounded.

Within several days of the escape, 63 prisoners had been rearrested and detained. Inquiries still being continued.

8. POLITICAL.

Another item of anti-Polish propaganda in the VENICE press was corrected by way of the Prefettura.

It appears that the various political parties are calmly preparing for the forthcoming political elections and there is no sign of likely disorder.

The recent elections have shown the 'leftist' parties to be reasonably strong and they are, without doubt, very well organised, and well supplied with funds.

The return of Venezia Giulia, the question of the Peace Treaty, colonies previously held by Italy, food and the defence of Italy seem, from the Italian point of view, the only reason for sufferance of Allied troops on Italian soil.

There is a school of thought that if Communism is victorious in political elections, great changes will follow and that if it suffers defeat, illegal means might be tried to overthrow the elected Government. There is no evidence

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9. GENERAL SECURITY & CONDUCT OF ALLIED TROOPS. 683

General security is good and no actual acts of sabotage reported, although telephone lines are occasionally interfered with.

Recent movement of troops in this area and display of strength evidently has reminded the Italians that the Allies remain in force.

The Polish vehicle and personnel referred to in report for March were traced and necessary information passed to Italian authority concerned.

9. GENERAL SECURITY & CONDUCT OF ALLIED TROOPS (continued)

Still tendency on part of Italians - officials and civilians - to endeavour to have Allied personnel removed from billets and to have the premises derequisitioned. High formation HQ are not excluded from this endeavour.

At ABANO (Padova Province) the hotel and mud bath keepers state it is five years since they were able to conduct business and that after one year Allied troops are still in occupancy.

The same feeling exists at PADOVA where additional billets were recently requisitioned for families of Allied personnel.

It has been found that military authority has been most cooperative in this question and that no hardship is needlessly imposed.

Passage of large through going vehicles in the narrow main street of PADOVA instead of using the outer highway also is a matter for discontent and is being taken up with the proper quarter.

The question of road traffic control has, however, been passed to Italian police but C.M.P. are always willing to cooperate.

10. CIVILIAN MOVEMENT.

Continues as before and there is no change to report in the system of issuing travel permits. About three weeks are necessary to obtain a permit. This is a considered hardship on those who apply for permits when it is known that cases do exist where civilians have travelled to and returned from Venezia Giulia without permit and have not been halted or questioned in any way.

11. GENERAL.

Two executions have been reported (one in TREVISO and one in PADOVA) and reactions were normal.

Recently about 300 Italian ex POW arrived in ROVIGO Province (as well as elsewhere) and it was rumoured they were part of 10,000 who had escaped from Allied custody at TARANTO. The population were apprehensive, but all is calm now.

In the same connection it should be mentioned that Italian officers ex POW recently arrived at NAPLES from India and are now home. They speak of the good treatment they received, particularly at the transit camp at NAPLES and this has been well received by the population.

12. CHANGE OF ITALIAN POLICE PERSONNEL.

CC.M. changes are - LtCol Bersanetti, Padova

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12. CHANGE OF ITALIAN POLICE PERSONNEL.

CC.MR. changes are - LtCol Bersanetti, Padova to Bologna; LtCol Cannada, Bologna to Padova; Capt Ricci, Vicenza to Alessandria.

Questura changes reported are - Comm. TIBIS, Chioggia (Venice) to Rovigo; Comm Cristallo, Rome to Trento; V. Comm Rovelli, Pistoia to Belluno and V. Comm Pozzi, Rome to Belluno; Lt (Aux) Staffellini Mareo, Trento, dismissed.

13. P.S. PERSONNEL.

A.M. Baker at VICENZA. Special Agent Frank Kohn at Group HQ.

Major T.G. Mackenzie at Group HQ and Captain

Offices to - Sub Comm. -
P.S. File

T.G. Mackenzie. Major.
P.S.S.O.

Mackenzie

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