

ACC

10000/143/797

COM
PROV
SEP

0000/143/797

COMPLAINTS RE ADMINISTRATION OF GROSSETO
PROVINCE
SEPT. - DEC. 1944

Chief Commissioner.

1. At 11A, as a result of the memorandum from Lieut. Grottanelli, you directed me to instruct the Regional Commissioner to take action regarding allegations of banditry in Toscana Region.

2. I think you should read the report, 17(C) by Major Moody and covering notes at 17(A) and (B) by the Regional and Provincial Commissioners.

3. Lieut. Grottanelli, I understand, has a poor opinion of Major Moody but this is not shared by the Regional and Provincial Commissioners. I think there is no doubt that the original memorandum contained exaggerated reports.

4. If you agree I will let Lieut. Grottanelli read the report and speak to him about exaggerations.

26. Dec. 44.

M. J. C.
Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

*CofS -
By should say that the report speaks for
itself & that it will not be necessary to do more
than to have Grottanelli read it.*

J. W. C.

27/12

7-
Cot. should say that the report speaks for itself & that it will not be necessary to do more than to have Grottaelli read it.

W
LL

27/12

C.S.O.

8.

Action accordingly MS/27/12

3607

Spoke to Grottaelli. Two Super 1500

Col.

x 3000

28.12.44

10.

P.S. See minutes 6.7.28.9.

File returned.

R. Grottaelli

C.H.S.
38 Nov. 44
X. 608.

Minute

1

TO : V.P. C.A. Sec.

9-A for information

26/11/44
Room # 8 5th floor
Ext 666

John W. Chapman
Colonel
D.P.S.

2

CA Sec.

(c) 12 A is action taken on CAS file - action transferred to CAS (PS).

- (b) Folios 11a to 12a inserted
- (c) 11b + c are originals.
- (d) may see be advised of reply to para 2 folio 12A.

E. Horden Capt
Office of CAS.

2 Dec 44

3

CA Sec.

For signature please Folio 13A
J. P. Chapman Major AC
PS 5/c

14/12/44
Room # 4
Phone 478908

4

CA Sec. 17 A-F in answer to 11 A and 12 A are forwarded for information.

J. P. Chapman Major AC
for PS

CA Sec.

3

For signature please

7-13 A

J. P. Buchanan - Major AC
PS 5/c

14/12/44

Rum #4

Form 413708

CA Sec. 17 A-F in answer to 11 A and 12 A are forwarded for information.

4

J. P. Buchanan Major AC
for AC P.S.

5

3000

COS

17 A. B+C for your information.

Attention is called to para 5 of 17 B. and 20-21 of 17 C. It has been stated that H. Grottel has been alleged that nothing is being done. The Commission should be aware that the principal complaint relates to incidents in May 44. Two months prior to allied occupation.

CAS

22 DEC. 1944

[Signature]

14111/PS
HEADQUARTERS
TOSCANA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

P-Safety 17A
Date: 18 Dec 44.

File Ref: RVIII/11A/162.

SUBJECT: Bandits in GROSSETO Province.
TO : HQ, AC (Chief of Staff).

1. Reference your ACC/14111/PS dated 1 Dec 44.
2. The attached report GO/67/31 dated 14 Dec 44, by PC, GROSSETO and that of the PPSO reference GR/PS/78 dated 13 Dec 44, are forwarded.
3. Grounds for the very exaggerated reports were germinated no doubt by the inaction of the Maresciallo at ROCCASTRADA who is now the subject of disciplinary action.
4. As will be observed from para 11 of the PPSO's report, the alleged extortion of 50,000 Lire took place on 13 May 44, some two months before the Allies occupied ROCCASTRADA, and no official report was made either to the office of the PC, or the local Italian authorities. This matter is however being investigated by the Questore and a report is expected in the near future.
5. Crime in GROSSETO Province is not serious, and in fact the situation generally, compares very favourably with most Provinces.
6. Particular attention is invited to para 12 of the PPSO's report. It would seem that Lieut. GROTTANELLI appreciates that his "report" was rather unfounded.

Robert G. Kirkwood
for ROBT. G. KIRKWOOD,
Colonel, FA, US Army,
Regional Commissioner.

GM/ac.

Copies to : PC, GROSSETO - Your GO/67/31 dated 14 Dec 44, refers.
R.P.S.O.

300.

HEADQUARTERS
GROSSETO PROVINCE-TOSCANA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

176
14.Dec.44.

Ref. 80/67/31

SUBJECT : Bandits in Grosseto Province

TO : Regional Commissioner - TOSCANA

1. Ref. your RVIII/IIA/III of 6 Dec.44.
2. I forward herewith P.P.S.O.'s full report as requested.
3. To sum up, while I concur with Major Moody's 20th and 21st paragraphs, the Comune of Roccastrada continually attracts my attention and I consider that this very full investigation will have a good effect locally.
4. I am satisfied also that Major Moody's ultimate paragraph is correct. In regard to the extortion of L.500000 referred to I doubt very much if the complainant will bring a case to court.
5. ^{willfully} ~~viciously~~ Lieut. GROTTELLI should in my opinion be asked to compare his ~~viciously~~ inaccurate statement in his letter of 29.11.44 with the result of an experienced police inspector's investigation and be requested in future to give some thought to accuracy. He has certainly succeeded in giving a lot of Officers a lot of work.

R.K. Wathen Sub
for R.A.B. HAMILTON Exe of.
Lt. Col. P.O.
Grosseto Province
Toscana Region

Copies to:

A.P.S.O.

P.P.S.O.

/MG

3600

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE

GROSSETO

Your Ref. RVIII/11A/111

DATE 13th December 1944.

My Ref. GR/PS/78.

Subject. Bandits in Grosseto Province. -

TO : Provincial Commissioner - Grosseto.

1. Reference to above quoted Correspondence.
2. With Lieut. CLEGG, Assistant P.P.S.O. I have made searching enquiries into the complaints enumerated in the attached letter with the following result:- The allegation respecting ARMED BANDITS being active in the Lattaia District of Roccastrada Comune cannot be substantiated, but it is obvious that a certain amount of cork has been stolen by some persons, at present unknown.
3. The enquiry commenced at Sticciano but no useful information could be obtained at this Village. Enquiries were then made of the CC.RR. at Roccastrada where no record could be found of the denunciation of the alleged Offence.
4. As a point of interest the only written document giving any information regarding the theft of the cork was a personal letter sent to the P.C., by Countess Grottanelli Ferraguti, who on receipt of the letter passed same to this office for information and necessary action. (Copy letter attached).
5. On receipt of this letter the Captain of the CC.RR. was sent for and instructed to get the CC.RR. working on the theft in order to either apprehend the thieves or at least prevent a repetition.
6. The Captain of CC.RR. sent written instructions to Roccastrada to this effect. (Copy of letter attached). The newly formed Forestry Guard in the Province has also been instructed to enquire into possible sales of cork in an endeavour to trace the thieves through that channel.
7. Finding no denunciation of the theft in the CC.RR. Files of Roccastrada we proceeded to the CC.RR. Station of Torniella (fraction of Roccastrada in which is located the Home of the Grottanelli Family, Belagaio). The Maresciallo of the Station stated that no official denunciation had been made at the Station about the theft but it had been casually mentioned to him by either the Count or Countess sometime previously.
8. We then proceeded to Belagaio to interview the Rev. Pietro Rustici. On our arrival we were fortunated in being met by Lieut. V.L. Grottanelli, Italian Liaison Officer who was the author of the letter to the Chief of Staff.

- 2 -

We interviewed his Uncle respecting the incident and also the Factor of the Belagaio Estate. Lt. Grottanelli was present at this interview. The facts elicited were as follows :-

9. The two unbiased witnesses Rev. Pietro Rustici and Sign. Giovannelli were seen. The Rev. Rustici is the Chaplain of the Belagaio Estate (not the Lattaia Estate) and his information contained only what he had been told by other persons, in other words, gossip. Sign. Giovannelli only knew about the incident as a result of what had been told him by the Countess.

10. Lieut. Grottanelli's Uncle stated that he had received the information respecting the theft by Messenger from his agent ZUFFI Giulio at Lattaia, and on receipt of the information he sent his own Factor to Zuffi to get the details. On his return the Factor was then sent to the Sindaco of Roccastrada to report the matter, who in turn sent for the Maresciallo of the CC.RR. to report the facts to him for action. By this time the thieves had left the Estate and the Maresciallo apparently took no action. The Maresciallo will be dealt with by the CC.RR. respecting this.

11. With regard to the allegation that the Sindaco of Roccastrada extorted the sum of 50,000 Lire from Lieut. Grottanelli's Uncle, on interrogation the Lieut.'s Uncle stated that this incident took place on 13th May, 1944, when the Sindaco was the leader of Patriots. (Incidentally this was nearly two months before the Allies occupied Roccastrada). No denunciation has been ever made to the Italian Legal Authority regarding the alleged extortion and I suggested that the denunciation be made forthwith if Grottanelli's Uncle so desired.

12. Referring to the allegation that the Bandits are known by name and emanate from the town of Roccastrada. This is completely unfounded as they are not known and no description can be given of them and there has never been any report of more than two persons stealing cork at one time. Lieut. Grottanelli informed us that he thought on hearing the result of my interrogation that he was a little misinformed of the true facts of the case and had he known the true facts he would possibly not have made such sweeping allegations.

13. We left Belagaio and proceeded to Lattaia to interrogate ZUFFI Giulio, the Factor of the Estate where the theft originally occurred. (As a point of interest it might be mentioned here that to get from Lattaia to Belagaio, one must pass the CC.RR. Station at Roccastrada which is located about midway between the two places. This means that the theft could have been reported at least 3 times before it was). On interrogating Zuffi Giulio it results that his life has never been threatened. He knows none of the Alleged Bandits. He has only seen one of them and on that occasion he allowed the thief to carry on and made no attempt to stop him or drive him away.

14. He was asked why he did not report the matter immediately to the CC.RR. and his explanation was that he thought it better to inform the Countess. He alleged that the Bandits also came from the Villages of Sassoformino and Roccatederighi but when pressed for details he was unable to support his theory with facts. He was instructed to inform the CC.RR. immediately of any further attempts to steal cork and this he promised to do. He stated that he had been informed of the theft by workmen of the Estate but that they were unable to give accurate descriptions or names of the thieves.

- 3 -

15. Here we finished the enquiry but on turn to Grosseto further instructed the Captain of the CC.RR., the Questore and the Captain of the Forestry Guards to continue their enquiries in an endeavour to locate the thieves. Should any person be arrested as a result of these enquiries a further report will be submitted.

16. The Questore has been instructed to pursue the matter respecting the extortion of 50.000 Lire by the Sindaco of Roccastrada, who on being interrogated by me agreed that he was given 50.000 Lire by Count Grottanelli, but that the money was given for the Patriots cause. I do not believe this story and the result of the enquiry is awaited. He mentioned in the course of his remarks that Count Grottanelli was a Marcia su Roma during the Fascist Regime and, as far as I know, this is true and thus the Count would not be too popular among the Patriots or Communists for that matter.

17. With regard to the allegation that several other thefts have taken place from neighbouring Estates this may be true in view of the vast Estates in the Province, but these offences are difficult to detect unless the thief is actually found committing the offence. As for the Para. "The Bandits are also reported to have declared that whenever they need cattle or sheep they would just walk in and help themselves" this is just gossip among the farm workers who cannot give any information as to the identity of the thieves.

18. To clarify the "Additional information to the attached Memo" I would point out the following facts :-
(a) There are 7 carabinieri and not 3 at Roccastrada and they are sufficient to deal with law and order problems in that Comune.
(b) The matter re extortion of the 50.000 Lire has been dealt with as above.
(c) Most of the population are Communist, which is nothing unusual in this part of Italy. With regard to the display of Communist Slogans, Hammer and Sickles etc. On my visit during the enquiry I had considerable difficulty in seeing any of these signs as only about 3 were apparent to the normal passerby and even these had been obliterated for the most part by the weather. These signs were exhibited shortly after the entry of the Allied troops, in common with a lot of other towns and villages in liberated Italy.
(d) The general accusation against all large land owners in the area of having been Fascist, upon enquiry appears to have a lot of truth in it.
(e) A CAO was in Roccastrada for a period of nearly 2 months waiting to go forward with the 5th Army. Like all CAOs in the field he did his work in a manner which automatically gave the people confidence. It can hardly be said that the Law and Order situation has deteriorated since this Officer left, as the Comune has been visited by the P.C., myself and other Officers since then and there is nothing to justify the suggestion.

19. Roccastrada has always been a "Nuisance Spot" in the Province and was so even in the Fascist Regime and thus complaints about this town are not surprising.

3000

- 4 -

20. In concluding this rather lengthy report I would point out the time and mileage that has been wasted on this enquiry and would ask that Lieut. Grottanelli be requested to make sure of his facts in future before making such complaints to the Chief of Staff who I am certain has problems of greater urgency to deal with.

21. Another small point I would like to mention and that is That Lt. Grottanelli has told the following persons amongst many others, of the alleged acts of lawlessness in the Province, Commodore Stone, Col. Young, Col. Spicer, Mr. Antolini, the Prefect of Grosseto, the Vice Prefetto Ispettore, the Captain i/c the Patriots etc. and I hardly think that this assists AIG Officials who are endeavouring by their wholehearted determination and enthusiasm to restore Lt. Grottanelli's Country to something like its former status.

22. Finally I would call attention to my Monthly Public Safety Reports concerning this Province which show that the LAW and ORDER situation in this Province is quite satisfactory and compares more favourably than most.

W.A. Moody Major

W.A. MOODY Major.
Provincial Public Safety Officer
Grosseto Province.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY *Ind. Sub.*

24th November 44.
Castelli di Belagio
Torniella (Grosseto)

17D

Dear Colonel,

I am sorry to bore you with our own affairs, but in my estate of "Lattaia" people from Roccastrada are continually coming to rob our cork from our corktrees and as this work is out of time the trees are completely spoilt.

This is going on since the end of October.

We have tried to get assistance from the Sindaco of Roccastrada, but it has been quite useless. Only got good words, so that I should be most grateful to you if you would not overlook the matter.

I hope to see you soon for some week end here.

With best regards,

(Signed) Nella Grottanelli Ferraguti.

P.P.S.O.

Could you consult Questore on this matter?

The writer is politically sound.

R.A.B. HAMILTON
Lt. Col. P.C.
Grosseto Province
Toscana Region.

P.C.

The CC.RR. have been instructed to get cracking around this part.

W.A. MOODY Major.
P.P.S.O. Grosseto Province.
28.11.44

25 Nov.44

Thanks.

FN

R.A.B. HAMILTON
Lt. Col. P.C.
Grosseto Province
Toscana Region.

3801

COPIA

17E

LEGIONE TERRITORIALE DEI CARABINIERI DI LIVORNO
COMPAGNIA DI GROSSETO

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

n. 9/56 di Prot. Div. III

Grosseto, 11 28 novembre 1944.

Oggetto : Furti di sughero. -

AL COMANDO DELLA SEZIONE DEI CC. RR. III

ROCCASTRADA

La Contessa Grottanelli Ferraguti si e' rivolta al Maggiore W.A. MOODY lamentando continui furti di sughero nella sua tenuta di Montelattao. La predetta Affirma di essersi rivolta parecchie volte al Sindaco di Roccastrada, sempre inutilmente.

Prego intervenire in modo da stroncare tale delittuosa attivita' denunciando se possibile i responsabili.

Si gradiranno notizie al riguardo, se positive.

IL CAPITANO DELLA COMPAGNIA
F.to Remo Aurigo. -

The Countess Grottanelli Ferraguti addressed herself to Major MOODY claiming continuous thefts of cork in her estate of Montelattao.

The above mentioned affirms to have addressed herself several times to the Sindaco of Roccastrada, always uselessly.

I beg to intervene so as to stop this criminal activity, denouncing if possible the responsables.

We shall be grateful to have any further news on the matter, if positive.

300.

17F

LEGIONE TERRITORIALE DEI CARABINIERI REALI DI LAVORO
COMPAGNIA DI GROSSETO

PROMEMORIA

Grosseto, li 9 Dicembre 1944.

AL SIGNOR MAGGIORE W. A. MOODY

GROSSETO

Comunico il numero degli iscritti ai vari partiti politici nel comune di Roccastrada :-

- Partito comunista	n. 350
- Partito repubblicano	n. 20
- Partito democristiano	n. 30
- Partito d'azione	---
- Partito liberale	---

IL CAPITANO COMANDANTE LA COMPAGNIA
F.to. - RESSO ABRIGO -

3590

1544

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Chief of Staff

18 DEC 1944

16A

16.

Tel. 269

15 December 1944

Ref. 3604/46/CCS

SUBJECT: Thefts in Grosseto Province.

TO : Civil Affairs Section (Attention P S Sub Commission).

Reference your ACC/14111/PS of 1 Dec a further report received from Lt. Grottanelli is forwarded to you for necessary action.

TO	INIT	DATE
COL. CHAPMAN		
COL. YOUNG		
LT. COL. WILCOX	<i>C. W.</i>	21 XII
MAJ. LUCKMAN		
MAJ. WILSON		
MAJ. HAMBURY		
MAJ. BALLANCE		
CAPT. POWER		
CH. OF STAFF		

Shurden
for Chief of Staff *Capt*
the Chief of Staff.

3590

A report has already been
sent for. Await further action.

6216

21 XII

1545

16B

MEMORANDUM

Rome, 12 December 1944

Subj : THEFTS IN GROSSETO PROVINCE

1. Ref my previous memo dated 29 October, and AC file 14111/PS dated 1st December.

2. Since writing the above said report, I have personally visited the spot. The thefts had eventually ceased some time before my arrival there on the 9th inst. The cork has been taken away by the bandits to some unknown destination. Damage can be estimated at 7 or 800,000 lire worth of cork, but this figure does not include permanent damage caused to the wood itself : as a result of the trees having been stripped during the wrong season, many of them are likely to die altogether during the winter.

3. Some of the facts as stated in my previous memo had been reported to me incorrectly, viz :

a) It was confirmed that the bandits were armed, but our agent was not directly threatened by them because not being armed himself he did not venture to face them.

b) The thefts had not begun a week before November 29th, but some four weeks before that time.

c) I was unable to have the bandits' names disclosed to me by the people in Lattaia. This regrettable reticence is due, in my opinion, to fear of personal vengeance and reprisals by the bandits. There is also very little confidence in the efficiency of the police forces, as a result of their not having appeared on the spot during all the time the bandits carried on their activities there, in spite of the appeals made for their intervention.

4. On the 10th inst., I met Maj Moody, Chief Police Officer, Grosseto Province, who came to our estate of Belagalo for an investigation. He said he was preparing a report on the facts.

5. Although the thefts have stopped for the time being, I gathered the impression that security in the area will remain precarious as long as none of the culprits are arrested, and as long as many undesirable elements (false ex-partisans, especially in Roccastrada commune) retain their arms, along with the feeling that they can safely get away with their robberies. 359

V.D. Grottanelli
V.D. Grottanelli
Lt, It Arty
Liaison Officer

6210

1546

TO	
COL. CHAPMAN	
COL. YOUNG	
LT. COL. WILSON	
MAJ. LUCKIN	
MAJ. WILSON	
MAJ. HAWKINS	
MAJ. BALCH	
CHIEF OF STAFF	

APR 14 1944

Ref 3604/35/363.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Chief of Staff

*PS ~~14A~~
15A
cc.*

TeL : 735

13 December 1944

SUBJECT : Bandits in Grosseto Province.

TO : Civil Affairs Section.

12A

1. Reference your letter AGO/14411/PS of 1 December 1944, the RS ought by this time to have made a report.
2. Will you kindly submit reply to Chief of Staff on your file when it is received.

TO	INIT	DATE
COL. CHAPMAN		
COL. YOUNG		
LT. COL. WILSON		
MAJ. LUCKIN		
MAJ. WILSON		
MAJ. HAWKINS		
MAJ. BALCH		
CHIEF OF STAFF		

E. Gordon
for the Chief of Staff
3580

Await
[Signature]

5790

Copy
on 302/CA/PS

14/11

14A
10A
RCE/ttg.

HEADQUARTERS
TOSCANA REGION
ARMED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

BVIII/11/185

5 Dec. 44.

SUBJECT: CC.RR situation in GROSSETO.

TO : Vice President, Civil Affairs Section, RC. AC.

1. Ref. Civil Affairs Section letter AC/302/CA/PS dated 2 Dec. 44; BVIII/11/187, R. Toscana Region letter dated 6 Oct. 44 to Executive Commissioner, R. ACC; and letter 302/CA from RC & EG Section, R. AC dated 16 Sep. 44.

2. It was considered that the RC & EG Section letter dated 16 Sep. 44 had been answered by extracts from comments of the Provincial Commissioner GROSSETO PROVINCE to the CC.RR report in question, set forth in my letter of 6 Oct. 44. To answer the allegations specifically from investigations I have made, the following is submitted:

a. With my approval the Provincial Commissioner GROSSETO PROVINCE authorized the Sindaco of the Comune in the vicinity of M. AMIATA to augment his municipal police by a certain number of partisans, hired as police, in order to stop depredations and crimes by alleged Fascists who were said to be in hiding in the M. AMIATA district. The small number of CC.RR present had done nothing up to that time to cope with the situation. The partisans in question had, themselves, during Fascist days, gone in hiding in the M. AMIATA region. It was believed that they would be more effective in coping with the alleged Fascists than the available CC.RR at that time. This temporary augmentation of the municipal police has long since been discontinued and the partisans composing it discharged.

b. Lt. Col. Hamilton, Provincial Commissioner GROSSETO PROVINCE, maintains that under Italian law, the Sindaco is responsible for public safety in his comune and, therefore, that the CC.RR, in carrying out public safety duties, should follow the instructions of the Sindaco in such matters. It is true that the CC.RR in GROSSETO are not held in high esteem by the inhabitants. I am convinced that this is due partly to political reasons; partly because the CC.RR, who were not popular, superseded the partisans who were popular; and partly to the conduct of the CC.RR themselves. The endeavour to blame the unpopularity of the CC.RR on the Provincial Commissioner and the Sindaco of GROSSETO Comune is far fetched.

c. The statement in par. 3 g of file number 302/CA of 10 Sep. 44 is only in part correct. The Provincial Commissioner did propose to issue an order releasing firearms to civilians for hunting purposes but he submitted the proposal to the Regional Commissioner who re-wrote the order. The order was never issued because the Commanding General No. 1 District, C.M.F. objected to any firearms being issued to Italian civilians. My Colonel Hamilton should be criticized for any proposals he cares to make, so long as

continued.....

File 13A

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Civil Affairs Section
APO 394

AC/14111/PS

13 Dec. 1944

SUBJECT : Bandits in Grosseto Province
TO : Regional Commissioner Toscana Region
(Attention R.P.S.O.)

1. With reference to letter AC/14111/PS dated 1 Dec. 1944, from office of Chief of Staff, with reports alleging banditry in Grosseto Province.
2. May a report be now forwarded showing result of investigation and any corrective measures taken.

By Command of Commodore STONE:

G.C. PARKINSON, Brig.
A/VP, CA Sec.
A/DCOS, AC.

BP/lb

3590

1550

785016

12A

Tel: 473201

1 December 1944.

Ref: ACC/14111/PS

SUBJECT: Bandits in GROSSETO Province.

TO : Regional Commissioner, TOSCANA Region.

1. Attached is a Report made by Lt. Grottanelli, Italian Liaison Officer at this HQ, regarding alleged acts of lawlessness in GROSSETO Province.

2. Will you please have this matter fully investigated and if the report is well founded I should like to know what measures are being taken to restore law and order.

3. Please give this subject your urgent attention.

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

Incl:
as above.

c.c. Civil Affairs Section. (on file 14111/PS)
DCCAD.
PA to Chief Commissioner.
CHIEF OF STAFF.

TO		
COL. CHAPMAN		
COL. YOUNG		
LT. COL. WILCOX		
MAJ. DUCKMAN		
MAJ. WILSON		
MAJ. HANBU Y.		
MAJ. BALDWIN		
CAPT. POWELL		
CHIEF CLERK		

ALLIED COMMISSION

Inter Office Memo

FROM: Office of the Chief Commissioner

SUBJECT: Bandits in Grosseto Province

30 Nov 44

TO : Chief of Staff

I attach copy of a memorandum from Lt. Grottanelli, Italian Liaison Officer, Will you please pass this matter urgently to the Regional Commissioner, Toscana Region, requesting him to take prompt action through his public safety officer. We must put a prompt stop to occurrences of this sort in AMG territory.

/s/ ELLERY W. STONE
Commodore
Chief Commissioner

COS DISTRIBUTION

C.A. Sec (~~FOR INFO~~) (FOR ACTION)

11A
3591

MEMORANDUM

Roma, 29 November 1944

Two different people have come from Grosseto province to-day in order to report to me the following facts:

Armed bandits have entered a large cork-tree wood (600 - 700 acres) on my family's estate of Lettaia (province of Grosseto, commune of Roccastrada, near the village of Sticciano) and have started stripping the trees of their bark (cork) and stealing it. Our land-agent & other people of the estate have been unable to chase them out of the wood, and have been threatened for their lives.

This started about a week ago. The following authorities have been informed as soon as possible:

- a) Prefect of Grosseto
- b) Provincial Allied authorities of Grosseto
- c) Sindaco of Roccastrada
- d) Carabinieri in Roccastrada.

So far, nothing has been done to stop the theft. Damage is likely to be very serious by the time the bandits have finished with their work.

Several other thefts - probably by the same gang - have occurred also in the neighbouring estates. Cork & pigs appear to be the main items. Bandits are also reported to have declared that whenever they should need cattle or sheep, they would just walk in & help themselves.

The bandits have been recognized by our agent & by other people, and their names are known. They come mainly from the small town of Roccastrada, some 10 miles from our estate.

The people I got this report from are unbiased witnesses. One is the Chaplain of our estate of Belagale (Grosseto), the Revd. Pietro Rustici; the other is a well-off merchant of Grosseto, Sig. Giovanni

bandits have finished with their work.

Several other thefts - probably by the same gang - have occurred also in the neighbouring estates. Cork & pigs appear to be the main items. Bandits are also reported to have declared that whenever they should need cattle or sheep, they would just walk in & help themselves.

The bandits have been recognized by our agent & by other people, and their names are known. They come mainly from the small town of Roccastrada, some 10 miles from our estate.

The people I got this report from are unbiased witnesses. One is the Chaplain of our estate of Belagalo (Grosseto), the Revd. Pietro Rustici; the other is a well-off merchant of Grosseto, Sig. Giovanelli.

Lt. V. M. Grottanelli

for the bandits

3590

C o n f i d e n t i a l

11C

I add a few additional informations to the attached memo.

1. I understand there are at present 3 carabinieri in Roccastrada. They obviously would not stand a chance against the outlaws, unless supported by forces from Grosseto.

2. Little help may be expected from the Sindaco of Roccastrada. He is the very man who on a previous occasion - when a similar theft had taken place last spring - went up to my people, demanding they should withdraw accusations against the bandits (who that time had been arrested) and extorted 50,000 lire from my family.

3. All the population in Roccastrada appears to be communist. Attempts had been made to establish a section of the Demo-Christian party in the town, but soon afterwards the few people who had joined it were forced, it is reported, to disband. When I last went there, at the beginning of October, I saw walls covered with hammer-and-sickles, communist slogans, etc.

4. The general accusation against all large land-owners in the area is of having been fascist. The only members of my family who reside on the estates are my uncle & aunt, both aged 70, & in poor health.

5. For the first two or three months after the liberation of this area, an AMG officer (an American captain) resided in the town of Roccastrada, where his presence helped greatly towards the maintenance of public order. He was then posted elsewhere. Tendencies towards lawlessness & the general situation have deteriorated as a result of his departure.

V. L. J. J. J.

1 3 3 3
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V. L. G. G. G.

3582

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
Civil Affairs Section
APO 394.

AG/302/GA/PS.

30th November, 1944.

SUBJECT : G.R. Situation in Grosseto.

TO : Regional Commissioner, AMG, Toscana Region.

1. We refer to our letters of the 16th September and the 28th September, 1944, reference 302/214/GA, on the above subject.

2. May we please renew our request for a report on the situation.

G.R. UNION Brigadier
V.C. Civil Affairs Section.

1. Also on 302/PA/PS 214
2. Reply received from A.C. on 302/PA/PS 226 dated 6/12/44.
3. Re 2. Copy now at 1512 44 Jw. 114A

1512/44.

3588

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
TUSCANA REGION

9A

24th November, 1944

Subject: Grosseto Province

To : Public Safety Sub Commission H.Q., A.C.,
(Attention Col. Young).

no copy.

Reference SD/128 dated 6 NOV 44.

The Provincial Commissioner of Grosseto Province is Lt. Col. R.A.E. Hamilton who has been in charge of the Province since the first days of its occupation.

Col. Hamilton has mellowed considerably since the early days and there is no longer any interference with Public Safety matters.

The matters referred to are now almost history as the complaint concerns a period 2 and 3 months ago.

I cannot secure confirmation of the allegation he "publicly professes socialist ideas with a strong communist tendency". His association with Festa who is a communist is probably responsible for much of what underlies the allegation.

Festa is not his secretary but has a table in the P.C.'s office and does a considerable amount of work there. He is a Vice Prefect, appointed by the P.C., and also appointed by Rome as a member of the Committee of Epuration for Grosseto province.

He seems to be a sort of Liaison Officer between the P.C., and the Prefect who is a weak man. Certain conclusions may be drawn from that.

Meocci, was the president of the local C.N.I., but has now been thrown out by the C.L.N.,

With regard to the firearms. The P.C., organised some local posses of Municipal police in 7 small towns and villages, with a view to tracing some alleged fascist-nazi bandits in the

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With regard to the firearms. The P.C., organised some local posses of Municipal police in 7 small towns and villages, with a view to tracing some alleged fascist-nazi bandits in the hills.

He then directed that surrendered firearms should be held by Sindici, who he appointed sheriff, and not by C.C.R.R and be issued as required.

The situation has now however been cleared satisfactorily, no bandits were ever located; the posses were disbanded because they were too much of a financial burden on Communes and did no real good; the firearms handed in and a central magazine is now established in Grosseto City under the supervision of the P.P.S.O.

I have been unable to satisfy myself that there is any truth in the suggestion that delinquents were released by Festa under the signature of the P.C.

There may have been some confusion in the early days when the competition between C.I.C and C.L.N., was probably keen, there is no evidence available to support the allegation.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

The Prison situation there now is clear and the CC.RR., working satisfactorily; in fact the situation generally may be described as satisfactory and some credit is due to the influence of Major Moody, P.P.S.O.

A. H. Rowler

A. H. ROWLERSON
Lt. Col. G.I.
Regional Public
Safety Officer

TO	INIT	DATE
101 CHAPMAN		10/19/11
101 YOUNG		See
101 WILCOX		
101 LUCKMAN		
101 WISE		
101 HENRY		
101 BALLANCE		
101 POWELL		See
101 BARK		

1560

785016

3580

INIT	DATE
10	Feb 1977
CHAPMAN	See
YOUNG	
WILCOX	
UCKMAN	
WIS	
HUNTER	
BALLANCE	
PWEL	
CHICK	

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
TOSCANA REGION

FILE : R-VIII/PS/12.2

1 November 1944.

SUBJECT : Disturbance at Grosseto in which CC.RR. were involved.

TO : Public Safety Sub-Commission, Hq. A.C. - C.M.F.

1. Submitted herewith are reports on the enquiry held into the disturbance at Grosseto in which CC.RR. were involved.
2. The reports indicate the trend of public opinion in Grosseto town towards the CC.RR. who find themselves in a position they are not entirely responsible for.
3. I concur with Major Moody.
4. There are no more incidents reported, but I understand the Procuratore del Re is now seeking authority to charge the five CC.RR. concerned.

ANR/ar

A. W. Rowler
A. W. ROWLERSON
Lieut. Colonel, G. D.,
Regional Public Safety Officer.

Col Chapman

Major Verde has been transferred
from Grosseto to Rome by the CCRR H/Q
without a request from us.

This should clear up the matter.

*al**Transmitted M.F.S.**Noted J.M.S.*

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE

GROSSETO

YOUR REF.

MY REF. GR/PS/34

DATE 21st October 1944.

SUBJECT: Disturbances

To : R.P.S.O. Region Toscana

Provincial Commissioner Grosseto

1. Attached are copies of report made by the Major of CC. GR. Grosseto, the Prefect, Secretary's of Political Parties and the Committee of Liberation. These reports are forwarded for your information.

2. I have held further inquiry into this incident and I am quite certain that Major Verde is no way to blame.
The CC. GR. concerned have been dealt with (See report attached).

3. The enquiry revealed that on the evening prior to the incident Major Verde strongly advised this particular Squad that they were to keep law and order in the town and that they should do nothing about the offending caricatures. This was in response to a question from a carabinieri who complained bitterly of the caricature.

4. Sotto Tenente Mariani has been transferred to Livorno Province on account of his Private Moral Life, at least that is what Col. Carrai, Legion Commander Livorno says, and that should please the very offended Comitato ??

5. The investigation into the cause of the disturbance was done by Lt. Clegg (Asst. P.P.S.O.) Lt. Tough (Attached for instruction) and myself and all are unanimous in agreement with the above decision.

1563
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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W.A. Moody Major

W.A. MOODY Major
Provincial Public Safety Officer
Grosseto Province.

3584

CO. RR. GROSSETO.

This report follows the signalation n. 266/1 of the 14th inst.

On the 14th inst. at 11,30 a.m. the carabinieri Vitale Remo, Bertucci Antonio and Saccotelli Cataldo, coming from a scouting service around Ponte sull'Ombrosa and the Carabinieri Granvhi Ottorino and Allegretti Alessandro on patrol in the Corso Carlo Alberto of this town, met casually before the frame of the Republican Party, where caricature and of H.M. the King and outrageous mottoes were exposed.

The carabinieri Saccotelli Albo and Allegretti Alessandro impulsively broke the glass of the frame and tore the containing illustrations.

A group of young men, tried to approach insulting them with harsh epithets and oaths addressed to them and to the Monarchy. The 5 carabinieri had to level their arms ready to keep them at bay.

The undersigned who happened to be near, having intervened at once, ordered to the carabinieri to re-enter in the barracks, stopping on the square before. A numerous group of young men surrounded the 2nd Lt. Mariani Anton Andrea, attached to this group, trivially offended him, and one of them gave him a fist. The 2nd Lt. Mariani reacted beating many times the aggressors, but pressed on every side, he extracted his pistol, not to be overpowered. The undersigned using some rough manners succeeded in liberating him letting him re-enter the barrack.

Soon after Major Moody, Chief of the Allied Police came. He spoke few words to the demonstrators which finally left the square.

Having interrogated the carabinieri Vitale, Bertucci and Saccotelli, they declared that coming from their service they were going along the main road where they saluted a medical Captain, but heard some people shouting "Dastards, you don't need to salute officers, take your uniforms off". Being the main road very crowded it was not possible to identify the persons.

Arriving before the above mentioned frame they met the carabinieri Granvhi and Allegretti and with them they examined it. A voice behind them exclaimed "Solden Flesh". Being irritated by those insults, which were not the first for a long time, they reacted destroying the frame of the republican Party.

This incident happened notwithstanding the strong Group's discipline and the frequent moral action against the men. This proves how serious the provocation was.

In the crowd which stopped before the barracks (150 curious people) numerous persons have been noted who once were convinced fascists and now they are shouting in the same way as when they cried "Duce".

The undersigned points out that only in the town of Grosseto similar accidents are happening. In the other centres the carabinieri have the sympathy of the population: there is a local situation which must be studied to individualise the causes.

Also the re-organisation of this group meets with material difficulties owing to local obstructionism.

The carabinieri have been until yesterday very patient and furnish many proves of comprehension, generosity and bearing. But everything has a limit.

You cannot respect people who doesn't respect you.

The carabiniere Saccotelli Cataldo has said to Major Moody: If they do not want us, send us home, but if we must remain in service we want to be respected. There is nothing to say to that.

Certainly the five carabinieri have acted in a most deplorable way without thinking that being set to maintain public order, they had not the right to trouble it. They deserve to be punished.

Without doubt the exhibition of the outrageous caricatures of H.M. the King and their injurious mottoes incur in the crimes of art. 273 C.P. This penal regulation is still in vigour and H.M. Vittorio Emanuele is in function, represented by his Lieutenant.

If we should examine the behaviour of the carabinieri, the only fact of simple damaging can be charged to them (art. 635 at the beginning) as for menacing persons with their muskets it has been done only to avoid attacks of groups of citizens which approached menacing them. But the moral element of the above said crime of damaging is lacking as their aim was not that of damaging but that of eliminating these designs from public view which being outrageous to the King's person, constituted a crime.

It is not the first time that outrageous caricatures of the King were shown to the public in the Republican Party's frame and the same incident has happened on Sept. 21st by some transient soldiers of this town. On that occasion the undersigned, with a letter n. 2/17 of Sept. 23rd pointed out to the Prefect that it would have been necessary that this propaganda pamphlets should be examined by the Questore before putting it in public view.

Public order is quiet, and the undersigned has interested the Allied Headquarters that another caricature of the King be taken away, soon after the incident of the communist frame.

While the responsible carabinieri will be punished, the writer denounces to the Procuratore del Regno Mr. Serpieri Ottorino, secretary of the Republican Party as responsible of outrage of H.M. Victor Emanuel on ground of the above mentioned article of the Penal Code.

THE MAJOR COMMANDING THE GROUP.
(GUIDO VERDE)

1st) Carabiniere effettivo SACCOTELLI
Cataldo

di Giuseppe and deceased Bevilacqua Teresa born at Corato (Bari) on 20/7/1924. Coming From Bari's Legion. Promoted carabiniere on 30/7/44 and destined to the station of Massafra (Taranto). From Sept. 8th been always in the Carabinieri Reali, never been in the Republican Social Fascist Government's service.

2nd) Carabiniere effettivo GRANCHI
Ottorino

di Amato and deceased Faggiolini Luisa born at Capannole (Pisa) on 24/1/1924. Promoted carabiniere on 3/7/43. Already in service at Barga (Lucca) since September 8th. "Discriminato" for very good proceedings in the service.

3rd) carabiniere effettivo VITALE
Remp

fu Eugenio and deceased Cataldi Chiara born at Petritoli (Ascoli Piceno) on 1/8/21. Coming from Bari's Legion. Promoted carabiniere 15/7/1941 and destined to Squadron Group CC.RR. of Rome from Sept. 8 in service at 376 Section Celere Bari, never been in the social Fascist republic service.

4th) carab. effettivo ALLEGRETTI
Alessandro

di Giovanni and Arlea Carmela born at Castrolibero (Potenza) on 10/10/24. Coming from Bari's Legion. Promoted carabiniere on 17/6/43 and destined to the island of Tremiti (Bari) until Sept. 8. Never been in the fascist social republic's service.

5th) Carabiniere effettivo BERTUCCI
Antonio

di Nicola and Gentili Nicola born at Ionadi (Catanzaro) on 18/4/1922. Coming from Bari's Legion. Transferred from the Granatieri to the Corp on 22/7/43 and destined to the above said Legion. Never in the fascist social republic's service.

CC.MR. GROSSETO.

With reference to your oral request made the 18th inst., I copy the letter n. 272/2 dated 17th inst. by me sent to the CC.MR. Company of Grosseto.

"Referring to the signalling n. 31/31 of the 15th inst. of this Commando, I punish the Carabinieri SACCOBRIILI Cataldo and ALLEGRETTI Alessandro with 5 days of consignment to barracks for the fault under mentioned and I beg to report it on the next R.S. :

"PROVOKED WITH INJURIOUS WORDS BY A GROUP OF YOUNG MEN WHILE WAS LOOKING TOGETHER WITH OTHER FELLOWS CARICATURES OUTRAGING H.M. THE KING EXHIBITED BY THE REPUBLICAN PARTY REACTED INOPPORTUNELY DESTROYING THEM AFTER HAVING SMASHED THE SHOW CASE WHICH CONTAINED THEM AND KEPT AWAY THREATENING WITH HIS MUSKET THE CROWD WHICH WANTED TO OVERPOWER HIM"

To the carabinieri Vitali Remo, Grandi Ottorino and Bertucci Antonio I inflict a reproof.

THE MAJOR COMMANDING THE GROUP
(GILDO VERDE)

R. PREFETTURA DI GROSSETO.

Yesterday at about 11,30 a.m., 5 carabinieri passing in the main road of Grosseto, going to the barrack, having seen in the advertising frame of the Republican Party some hand design caricaturing the king with outrageous mottoes, broke the glass tearing the designs.

This act provoked the resentment of a group of young men who, protesting, shouted outrageous phrases against the carabinieri and the Monarchy.

Many young workers at that feast day and hour belonging to the republican and socialist party clainoured and wistled against the carabinieri who, finding themselves in a dangerous position, pointed their muskets towards the demonstrating people.

The Commanding Major of the Group of CC.RR. and one of his officers, trying to calm the people and to avoid consequences ordered to the men to re-enter in the barrack. But the crowd followed the soldiers, making strong protests and assuming a menacing behaviour, tried to enter the barrack, asking that the carabinieri be punished.

Major MOODY, Chief of the Allied Police force, having promptly come with one of his officers, and the local Questore and some of the Allied and Italian forces, ordered to the demonstrating people to retire assuring that the faulty will be severely punished.

The crowd of about three hundred persons, dispersed without further consequences.

The public order remained normal.

The act accomplished by CC.RR. has been most unfavourably commented by the population and stigmatized by a member of the Provincial Junct, on occasion of their installation.

THE PREFECT
(A. DE DOMINICIS)

Grosseto the 16th October 1944.

Yesterday October 15th at about 11 o'clock in the principal street of the town, just in the moment when it was most crowded, 5 carabinieri 4 of whom armed with quick firing rifles went to the advertising frames of the young Republican Party, and while three of them with their arms stayed in a menacing attitude, the two others broke the glass, took off and tore the anti-monarchic propaganda material contained therein. At a short distance there were the Major CC.NN. Verde Guido and Commander of Grosseto's division and 2nd Lt. Mariani. To face the violent act against the democratic liberty some citizens promptly reacted protesting energetically. Then the carabinieri seemed to fire on the people. Many others joined them and the demonstration became an open protest against the anti-democratic abuse of power. The carabinieri pointed their machine guns towards some demonstrators which opposed their breasts to their guns shouting "Destardis you have ruined Italy and now will make fascism again". Also the 2nd Lt. Mariani extracted his pistol menacing to fire on the crowd which in the meantime assembled in the street. Afterwards protecting themselves with levelled arms the carabinieri and the officers recoiled till the barrack followed by the population who shouted in protesting tones.

Before the barrack the crowd augmented always more, making a spontaneous and vigorous demonstration against the liberty and against the accomplished act made by those who should protect it. Major Verde, as public opinion says, is responsible to have instigated and ordered this operation. The carabinieri tried to resist to the popular pression which was encreasing, and while from the windows of the barrack they provoked the crowd pointing menacingly their machine guns, the bosses of the different parties tried to mitigate the ardour of the crowd, persuading it not to transcend into heavy complications.

Especially to the work of the different parties it has to be recognised if the manifestation has not degenerated in bloody consequences.

The people of Grosseto which is disciplined and organised in its parties, have found their force and unity in the Comitato di Liberazione Nazionale which has given a proof in this incident of unity and a sense of political responsibility. The control which he has shown has not been a proof of weakness but a demonstration of firmness and political maturity just the opposite of what has been in the secret aims of the provocative tactics.

While he has shown his spontaneous indignation for the attempt to democracy he has not let himself be carried to unadvised acts of collective violence. All the population has proved its seriousness, but also its force, not to be disposed to let anybody violate its most holy right to freedom.

After the incident the parties have assembled themselves approving a motion of protest asking to send away the two Officers CC.NN. responsible of what has happened.

It is to be noted that this incident raises a presumption that also other proceeding violent acts, made during the night, against the propaganda frames, released on the carabinieri. The representative of the undersigned parties have provided to inform their respective Directions, of their protest.

*Letter forwarded to Rome
by Secretaries of Various Political Parties to their H.Q.*

W. 59.

COMITATO DI LIBERAZIONE NAZIONALE

The C.P.L.N. considering that the normal development of political life has as presupposition the maintenance of public order,

Considering that in the Province of Grosseto this has until now been done by the work of the Comitati di Liberazione Nazionale and by the discipline of the mass who has so proven its maturity :

Considering that yesterday's action of the carabinieri in the chief town has an evident provocative character because :

- a) It was preceded by an inspection of the Commander of the Group and the 2nd Lieut. to the propaganda frame of the Republican Party.
- b) It was made by 5 carabinieri, coming out of the barrack armed with quick firing rifles soon after the inspection, a most unusual fact which could have not happened without precise superior orders as from the barracks, where the Headquarter Group Offices are, carabinieri cannot go out exceptionally armed or in groups without orders of the Headquarter :
- c) It was carried according an exact determined scheme, as the 5 carabinieri went immediately to the above mentioned frame, two broke the glass with the rifle stocks and the three others put themselves around the others against the crowd with levelled rifles.
- d) It was made on Sunday at 11 o'clock in the main road, choicing the day, the hour and the place to make a demonstration in the presence of the greatest number of citizens, while nothing had been observed in other days, where in the same other caricatures and designs were exposed.
- e) It was surveyed by the Commander of the Group and by his 2nd Lieut.
- f) It was not preceded by any invitation to the party which exposed the indicted caricatures which could have been rightly exposed being every dissenting or critical manifestation towards any state organ free.

Resolves

to deplore in the most thilling way the provocative action made by the carabinieri of Grosseto on the morning of the 15th inst. pointing out that it results from it the clear will of the Headquarter of the Group and the officers to provoke Grosseto's pacific population to bring it, in the legitime reaction, to acts which could be exploited to reactionary purposes :

to ask to the representative of the executive power in the Province and to the Government the dismissal of the responsible officers, attending adequate measures for the exemplary punition of the culprits as for sure prevention against similar provocative acts.

Taking into consideration that only on these conditions and in the calm which only with the respect of the liberty, especially from those who are appointed to the maintenance of public order, the regular development of public life can be maintained.

THE PRESIDENT

-A. MECCI -

HEADQUARTERS REGION VIII

LIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

Public Safety

File Ref: RVIII/11/112

Date: 9 Oct 44. ac

14111

7A

SUBJECT: Assignment of C.C.R.R. Officer.

TO : Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission.

Sec 11

10A
14A

1. Recommend that Maj. Guido VERDE, CCRR, now on duty in GROSSETO Province be transferred elsewhere.

2. Maj. VERDE has an excellent record, and I believe him to be a capable Carabinieri officer. However he has taken it upon himself to criticise the Provincial Commissioner, GROSSETO Province, through Carabinieri channels. The criticism is largely without foundation of fact and goes beyond matters which are of official concern to Maj. VERDE.

2B

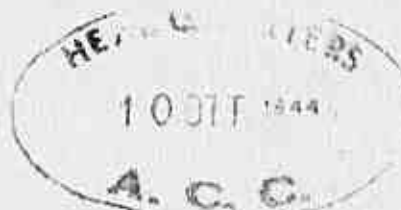
3. Under the circumstances the public safety situation in GROSSETO will be improved by the transfer of Maj. VERDE to another station.

Robert G. Kirkwood
ROBT. G. KIRKWOOD,
Colonel, FA, US Army,
Regional Commissioner.

Copies to:-

PC, GROSSETO.
R.P.S.O.

TO		
DPS		
D.O.S.		
EX OFFICER		
POLICE	41.	



HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

Regional Control and Military Government Section
*****X

6A
see 7A
10A
14A

16 September 1944.

Ref: 302/CA.

SUBJECT: CC.RR Situation in GROSETTO.

TO : R.C., Region VIII.

1. The attached letter from the Officer Commanding the CC.RR in GROSETTO Province with a covering letter from AAI, is forwarded for your information.
2. It is stated that the Provincial Commissioner, Lt.Col. Hamilton, has created armed bands of patriots to perform police duties. It is further alleged that he has placed the CC.RR under the orders of local sindaci and his actions have tended to undermine public confidence.
3. Two instances have recently come to notice regarding Public Safety matters in GROSETTO:-
 - (a) It is alleged that the Provincial Commissioner has proposed to issue an order releasing firearms to civilians for hunting purposes. Regional Public Safety Officer does not appear to have been consulted in the matter, particularly as it was proposed to ignore the normal Italian police procedure of registering firearms.
 - (b) It is alleged that the Provincial Commissioner has given instructions that weapons surrendered by civilians should be handed to sindaci. Notice No.1 signed by the Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission, required such weapons to remain in the custody of Questore or CC.RR. Separate letters have been addressed to you on these two matters.
4. Will you therefore please investigate and submit a report.

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

3584

Copys to:- Admin Sec for P.S. Sub.Comm.

214

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission.
APO 394.

Ref. ACC/14111/PS.

Tel. 489081

Ex. 257

12th September, 1944.

SUBJECT : CC.RR. situation in Grosseto.

TO : V.P. Administrative Section.

1. Attached is a draft reply for the signature of the Executive Commissioner, dealing with the communication 1469/12/GSI (b), dated 2nd September, 1944, from AAI and the letter enclosed from O.C., CC.RR., Grosseto.

A.E. Young
A.E. YOUNG, Col.
Acting Director
Public Safety
Sub-Commission.

To Ex. Com.

Forwarded for your signature please.
The matter plainly deserves investigation

SPH

5A

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission.
APO 394.

Ref. ACC/14111/P3.

Tel. 489081

Ex. 257

12th September, 1944.

SUBJECT : CC.RR. situation in Grosseto.

TO : V.P. Administrative Section.

1. Attached is a draft reply for the signature of the Executive Commissioner, dealing with the communication 1469/1/GSI (b), dated 2nd September, 1944, from AAI and the letter enclosed from C.C., CC.RR., Grosseto.

2A 4A
2B/E:
[Signature]
A.E. YOUNG, Col.
Acting Director
Public Safety
Sub-Commission.

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED CONTROL COMMISSION
I.C.I.A.C. Section
APO 394.

4A
Went by
Re. m. h.
vise

Ref. AGC/14111/PS.

14th September, 1944.

6A

SUBJECT : CC.RR. situation in Grosseto.

TO : Regional Commissioner, Region VIII.

28/E

1. The attached letter from the Officer Commanding the CC.RR. in Grosseto Province, with a covering letter from A.A.I. is forwarded for your information.

2A

2. It is stated that the Provincial Commissioner, Lt. Col. Hamilton, has created armed bands of patriots to perform police duties. It is further alleged that he has placed the CC.RR. under the orders of local sindaco and his actions have tended to undermine public confidence in the CC.RR.

3. The writer of the letter is Major Verdi who is regarded by the CC.RR. authorities and the local Public Safety Officer as competent and reliable.

4. Two instances have recently come to notice regarding Public Safety matters in Grosseto:-

1A

(a) The Provincial Commissioner has proposed to issue an order releasing firearms to civilians for hunting purposes. Regional Public Safety Officer does not appear to have been consulted in the matter, particularly as it was proposed to ignore the normal Italian police procedure of registering firearms.

1A

(b) The Provincial Commissioner has given instructions that weapons surrendered by civilians should be handed to sindaco. Notice No. 1 signed by the Chief Commissioner A.C.C. requires such weapons to remain in the custody of Questore or CC.RR. Separate letters have been addressed

to you on these two matters.

5. If the allegations contained in the report from the Officer Commanding CC.RR in Grosseto are true, the Public Safety situation is rather disturbing inasmuch as experienced police officials are being overridden by amateurs.

6. Will you therefore please have the matter investigated in conjunction with the Regional Public Safety Officer and report the result.

By order of Captain Stone (U.S.N.R.)

Brigadier
Executive Commissioner.

Enclosed: Relative correspondence.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission.
APO 394.

Tel. 478708

12th September, 1944.

Acc/14111/PS

SUBJECT : CC.RR of Grosseto.

TO : HQ., A.A.I.

1. Reference is made to your letter 1469/12/GSI (b), dated 2nd September, 1944, enclosing a letter from the Officer Commanding CC.RR in Grosseto.
2. The matter will be investigated.

A.E. Young
A.E. YOUNG, Col.
Acting Director
Public Safety
Sub-Commission.

Rough idea of content of Public Safety SC

SUBJECT:- Attached Document

RE ALLIED ARMIES ITALY

Tel:- TELENOT ADV 75

14/69/12/GEI(b)

2 Sep 44

Public Safety Sub-Commission
HQ, ACC
(Attn: Lt. Col. WILCOX)

Attached is a document written by the CC, CC.RR of
GROSSETO which was handed to an officer of this branch by a
staff officer of IBS, who was at LIGNON at the time.

No observation has been made concerning the reliability
of the statements made in this document, which is herewith passed
to you for such action as you deem necessary.

Resistantopudgier
Brigadier,
BGS(I).

JMF



2B

PROVINCE OF GROSSETO

In the Grosseto province a very dangerous political situation is arising, encouraged by the Military Governor Lt.Col. Hamilton.

Contrary to his father, Lord Hamilton (conservative), it is affirmed that Lt.Col. Hamilton is a socialist reformist.

Lt.Col. Hamilton has surrounded himself with socialist elements of the province, amongst which the ex-employee Mr. Festa outstands.

Festa has been appointed vice prefect by Lt.Col. Hamilton, really acting as secretary. As the English Colonel likes trips in the country, Festa organises parties with plenty of wine to the various farms of the Maremma.

Festa prospected alarming situations in the province to Lt.Col. Hamilton, determined by the presence of presumed fascist and nazist armed bands and has convinced him that the cc.rr. are not in a position to affront the situation.

At all the meetings, Lt.Col. Hamilton sustains that the cc.rr. are now badly armed and not practical of the places, while the patriots are numerous and know exactly the 'spots' and persons hidden there.

Consequently he has created, in a few communes, some armed corps of communal police. He has issued to a few sindaci decrees similar to that attached (N.1).

The sindaco of Arcidosso is an electrician and there is a cc.rr. It. there who has thirty three years service. Lt.Col. Hamilton who has pointed this out to the cc.rr. major, has said "All the cc.rr.s, including officers, are at the dependence of the of the sindaco who is the local P.S. authority, if you don't like this, go away".

At another meeting, Lt.Col. Hamilton has said to this cc.rr. major that the Italian automatic arms (as the 'Mitra Beretta') are to be taken away as well, if given in by the partisans, and are to be given back to the partisans. He has added that if he finds a cc.rr. armed with such automatic arms, he will have them arrested.

All these statements are well known to the public because at these meetings, besides the local authorities, the head partisans also take place.

The public has the impression that the cc.rr. Arma is coming to an end and therefore has arright to offend. Infact, on behalf of the communist federation of Grosseto, newspapers which have articles hostile to the cc.rr. are published and on the walls offensive writings against the cc.rr. can be read. It is not true that the cc.rr.s are not well armed and they do not know the province. In all the cc.rr. stations, Paresmani cc.rr.s function, who have not served the fascist republic nor the Germans.

Also all the other cc.rr.s who actually are on territorial service have already been discriminated, not having served the Fascist republic. On the 18th inst. the sindaco of Arcidosso went to the cc.rr. barracks and, with the letter (N.2), has withdrawn arms in order to form his police corps.

On the 19th inst. the communal police armed corps of Massa Marittima, commenced its activities. It is sufficient to read (N.3) to understand the feelings of those who are in it and how necessary it was that it should be formed.

On the 16th inst. in Boccheggiano the patriot Ferrini Alberto assassinated the poor baker Lorenzoni Lisimaco, with the pretext that he had been a fascist (not a republican). Who was 'nt a Fascist in Italy?

In the commune of Manciano, for agricultural reasons, serious disorders are feared, because now, the people (all partisans) expect to have their rights by using their arms; before they used to turn pacifically to the authorities on such matters.

Numerous patriot diplomas signed Alexander have been distributed. This has been verified in the various centres of the province in the presence of Lt.Col. Hamilton, of the prefect, sig. Festa (the latter always the heart of every organisation dinners included) and of the other authorities.

The giving of these diplomas has caused ill humour among the people who has never been partisan.

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-2-

The same patriots all state that they have not done anything. In effect very little has been done (7 days in all the province) but now everyone is trying to do a great deal by inventing the existence of German and Fascist armed bands and serious risks and danger represented by ex-squadristi and fascists actually hidden.

The gang which surrounds Lt. Col. Hamilton continually denounces the deficiency of the cc.rr. and this same officer is convinced that the province can only save itself with the armed partisans.

The prefect, a man with no back bone, experience or common sense has thrown himself into the gang headed by Festa and he also puts on an authoritative manner towards the cc.rr. interfering with the work done.

The weakness and foolishness of this prefect called De Dominicis is so great that the very Mr. Festa and company define him a deficient man.

The official of the prefettura in charge of the ejectments, has advised someone who was complaining of his car being requisitioned by the cc.rr. captain of Orbetello, to go to the Procuratore del Regno to denounce said captain, asking moreover for an indemnity of 1.00 lire per day.

The car had been requisitioned and authorised by the A.M.G. for absolute service necessities. In spite of the efforts of the cc.rr. sustained by Major W.A. Moody, P.S. officer of A.M.G. the province of Grosseto is rapidly and tragically going towards the worst.

Its population sometimes reminds one of the Albanians, vile if disarmed, full of hatred against one another. And while there is fighting in order to create situations of favouratism (as during fascism) for this or that member of the committee of Liberation or head of the party and while the nation's most sane institutions are denigrated, the province is in need of everything.

Food is missing, things of absolute necessity, medicines and food for the sick, disinfectants in spite of the numerous cases of typhus and malaria. The roads, as soon as it rains will not be practicable because almost all the bridges are down.

What is taking place gives a vague idea of the reality of the province of Grosseto where liberation and progress cannot be mentioned but of a more or less confused return to social forms.

Translation 6/9/44
AC/

ATTACHED N.I (One)

26

Order

The sindaco of Arcidosso, by this order, appointed Chief of police temporarily, in the Monte Amiata zone, Grosseto province.
He has the power to organize meetings with the other sindaci and P.S. officials of all the communes of the Grosseto province adjacent to Monte Amiata, same distance between Monte Calvo and Castellazzarolo. He has the powers to join the efforts, to suppress brigandage and to give executive orders for the safety, in this state of emergency.
He is supported by the A.M.C. and must be assisted by the upright citizens, in order to bring his task to an end.

f.to HAMILTON
P.C. - Grosseto 8/8/44

It is declared that the above copy is in conformity with the original in my possession.

The sindaco of Arcidosso
illegible signature.

3570

Translation 9/9/44
AC/

ATTACHED 3. 3

2D

To the Sindaci and CC.RR. stations of Paganico
Campagnatico
Manciano
Saturnia
Sinigaglia;

Please give to the Sindaco of Arcidosso the arms which the
partisans have handed in to the above communes and CC.RR. stations.

The Sindaco of Arcidosso will give a regular receipt for quantity
received, regularisations.

t. to Hamilton
P.C. Grosseto Province.

by order of the Governor of Grosseto
Lt. Col. Hamilton.

Translation 9/3/44
AC/

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ATTACHED N. 3

2E

We communicate that in this commune, the new 'Armed Corps of Communal Police' formed mostly by communist elements; has commenced its service of institution.

Last night, a patrol of three men in civilian clothes, armed with rifles, after curfew, patrolled the town to the song of 'Bandiera Rossa' (Red Flag).

The majority of the population has unfavourably commented this behaviour and is surprised of the acquiescence of our Army.

Elements of the same police praise their authority, publicly affirming that the co.rr. Army is to be considered deprived of authority.

This state of affairs causes a deep state of general uneasiness.

Translation 9/3/44
AG/

3570

COPY ONLY

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 994

Tel : 478708

10 September, 1944.

ACC/14094/PS

SUBJECT : Possession of firearms.

TO : R. C. & M. G. Section.

1. Reference your 369/17/CA dated 4 September 1944.
2. From the Public Safety aspect the possession of firearms by civilians may endanger military security and Public order and lead to an increase in serious crime.
3. This Sub-Commission is not conversant with local conditions in Grosseto and must leave discretion with the Regional Public Safety Officer acting on the advice of the Provincial Public Safety Officer. Nevertheless, since no weapons may be possessed by civilians in Army areas it would appear that it is too soon to release weapons to civilians in districts just south of the Army boundary, unless there are exceptional reasons for doing so.
4. It is, therefore, recommended that this matter be referred to the Regional Public Safety Officer who should contact the military security services in the area before advising the Regional Commissioner.
5. With regard to para.1(b) and (c) of the Provincial Order it is pointed out that all applications for licenses are normally dealt with by the Questore and not by the CC.FR. The existing machinery should be used.

A.E. Young

A.E. YOUNG, Col.,
Acting Director,
Public Safety
Sub-Commission.

AFH/G.

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1585