

ACC

10000/143/1443

INCIDENT,
MAR. - APR.

10000/143/1443

INCIDENT, ASCOLI-PICENO, POLITICAL SITUATION
MAR. - APR. 1945

CH Sec.

Reference V.P.'s comment at 3^A. Please see 3^A and 5^A. General Bennett was seen on 19 March and the facts of the disturbances brought to his notice. He promised an immediate enquiry. An officer will be sent to Asahi from H/O CEAR on 20/4/50. — General Banerjee.

Chapman
D.P.S.

19/3/50.
SAT 360.

2

VP.

When I visited Asahi early in Feb the position of Rini was mentioned to me. I advised against his retention and on 27 Feb you wrote ^{in the PC} suggesting that he must be replaced. If that instruction had been carried out, the disturbance is that this trouble could never have arisen.

W.H. Hargrave

Wrote by VP.
P.S.

So what?
W.H. Hargrave

3

CA.
20 MAR 1945

new Jones S/O (NMIA) Please see 13^A. Has the information

at 'X' been obtained please?

Thank you for info. for D.P.S.

15/3/50
SAT 365.

Public Safety S/C

3370

4

War Ministry has not yet received answers to clarification required in 13 A. Has been promised to do so. Upon receipt will forward

1945
Sgt 365.

2

VP.

When I visited Asotic early in Feb the position of Ring was mentioned to me. I advised against his retention and on 27 Feb you wrote instructing that he must be replaced. If that instruction has been carried out, the probability is that this matter would never have arisen.

Noted by VP.
H.W. King

CA.
20 MAR 1945

So what?
G.W.K.

3

new Jones S/O (NMIA) Please see 13^A. Has the information at 'X' been obtained please?

Thank you for
J.W.H. & D.P.S.

15-1
Sgt 365.

Collier Safety S/C

4

3370

War Ministry has not yet received answers to clarification required in 13 A. Have been pressed to do so. Upon receipt will forward copy to you. War Ministry believe however that CCRP will inform you directly.

Leahy
235/4

22 May

Leahy Waini, Capt
for G.O.C. NMIA.

TO : HQ. AC P.S. Sub-Commission
 FROM : HQ. AMG Umbria-Marche Region
 SUBJECT : Disturbance at Ascoli Piceno
 REF : RS/514/30
 DATE : 25 April 1945.



1. Reference your letter AC/14602/PS dated 23 April 45, para.3.
2. Eight persons were tried, none of which were the ring-leaders, four were sentenced to three months imprisonment and fines ranging from 1000 to 5000 lire., sentence of imprisonment suspended.
3. Two were sentenced to two months and each fined 4000 lire, sentence suspended. The other two were found not guilty.
4. Capt. Bellamy PPSO at the time of the disturbance, has left this Region, his opinion on the report by the Commanding General CC.RR. therefore, has not been obtained.

3339

FOR THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER,

S. Pickering
 S. PICKERING
 Lt. Colonel,
 R.P.S.O.

DIRECTOR	
DEPUTY	
EXECUTIVE	
LEGAL	
GEN. & REG.	
FINANCE	
ADM. SER.	
SECURITY	
OTHER	

Apr 30 1945

FROM : War Ministry

TO : M.M.I.A.

SUBJECT : Disorders in Ascoli Piceno

TO	
DIRECTOR	
TRANSLATION	
PERSONS	
ADJ. GEN. CL.	
SEC. CL.	
CHIEF CL.	

REF : 108647/1/1
129 = 3-47

DATE : 12 April 1945.

In respect of the disorders which occurred in Ascoli Piceno this Ministry gave instructions:-

- = to G.H.Q. of the CC.RR. Corps for enquires to be carried out and measures to be taken in respect of the behaviour of the troops of the Corps;
- = to the S.M.R.E. in respect of the responsibilities of the troops of the "Folgore" Combat Group.

The above mentioned G.H.Q. of the CC.RR. Corps has forwarded to us the report of which we enclose a copy.

Clarifications have, however, been requested regarding:

- = the punishments awarded to Captain PISTONE, 2/Lieut. DI GIUSEPPE, and Sgt. MASIA;
- = the reasons why Lieut. Col. PERRETTI, in charge of the CC.RR. E Group H.Q. of Ascoli Piceno, when informed of the known disorders, did not feel it his duty to return immediately to his post;
- = if, and from whom, Captain PISTONE had a pass to leave his post in order to go to the bedside of his father who was seriously ill.

This information together with the result of the enquiry being carried out by the S.M.R.E., will be forwarded later.

Sgd. LOMBARDI
Col.

O. Danin Cpl.

Copy for Lt Col Wilson
Public Safety Sub Comm.
from M.M.I.A.

~~PER~~ CONFIDENTIAL

TRANSLATION

REF: 274/5 R.P.

FROM : G.E.Q. of the CC.RR. Corps.

DATE : 5 April 45

TO : War Ministry

SUBJECT : Disorders at Ascoli Piceno

Further to letter 274/2 R.P. dated 20 March 1945.

The G.O.C. of the 2nd CC.RR. Division, instructed by me to carry out a personal and rigorous enquiry in respect of the disorders which are known to have occurred at Ascoli Piceno, states that a widespread discontent which has arisen in recent times among the population of that province, especially in the capital, due to the increasing economic difficulties and greatly felt by the poor classes, had created a favourable field of opportunity for unruly elements to foment intolerance and give rise to manifestations of protest with varying degrees of vehemence against the provincial authorities.

In this unpropitious atmosphere arose incidents and episodes at the beginning of March, the work of hotheaded elements, which suddenly tensed the situation.

On the afternoon of the 7th March, after a properly authorised meeting summoned by the socialist party to protest against the escape of General Roatta, a so-called commission of Ascoli patriots and communists went to the offices and houses of public officials to demand the removal or dismissal of ex-Fascists, among which the Director of the Provincial Agricultural Board - Dr. RIGI Lamberti, Dr. BRUNI - director of SEPRAI, several Post Office employees, the cashier of the local branch of the Bank of Italy, and other minor personages.

The responsibility being verified of PERINI Pietro, PERINI Dino, LONETTI Libero, and others, - all local communists - warrants for arrest were issued against them by the A.M.G. which were only executed in the case of a few, Dr. RIGI and Dr. BRUNI having fled. Afterwards, because of the intervention of a commission of patriots, all those who had been arrested were released in accordance with the orders of Lieut. col. RUTTER, Allied Provincial Commissary.

Another public meeting, summoned by the Republican Party, was held at the "Olimpia" Cinema of Ascoli at 1030 hours on the 11th., at which were reiterated by the official orator, Amedeo FERRETTI,

accountant, among other things, criticisms on the most pressing problems of the moment; purging, black market, rationing.

Upon the leaving of the public, a group of about thirty persons, to which many curious persons attached themselves speedily, gathered in front of the Governmental Building, shouting and demanding loudly to see the Prefect in order to speed up the distribution to the public of soap, coal, and shoes, the increase of pensions, and the removal from public office of Fascists.

In the Prefecture were present the Chief of Police, and the acting Commandant of the CC.RR. Group PISTONE (the C.O., Lt. Col. PERRETTI, had been in Rome since the 7th, on a short leave of 5 days).

Captain PISTONE, in agreement with the Chief of Police, went down among the demonstrators on his own, to try persuasion. But, since the clamour did not die down, in agreement with the Civil Servant on duty in the square, Dr. RENDINA, agreed that a deputation of four women could see the Prefect. In the meantime the chief of the Allied Government Provincial P.S. Office, Captain BELLAMY, arrived; the latter, upon being acquainted with the situation, stated that the women would not have permission to go to the Prefect of the A.M.G. Commissary until the demonstration has first broken up in an orderly manner.

This was forthwith explained to the group of persons who remained outside the Prefecture by Captain PISTONE, who, in order to convey the message, also employed the four women forming the deputation.

A dense crowd of people then formed around these women asking questions; it was at that moment that Captain BELLAMY, in his "uncertain" Italian, as he himself stated to the General carrying out the enquiry, requested Captain PISTONE to speed up the moving on of the groups which remained in the square.

Captain PISTONE, not having understood, however, the exact implication of the request, took immediate action to carry out the clearance.

In view of the fact, however, that the crowd began to move away, gradually and peacefully, even though slowly, both the Officer and the Chief of Police considered it unnecessary to call upon the intervention of the military on duty, assembled in the Guard of the Prefecture. This was also considered to be advisable in order not to provoke animosity and further incidents. They then went together to acquaint the Prefect with the situation.

At this point, Captain BELLAMY, a highly skilled official, in view of the slowness with which the crowd was dispersing, took action on his own to speed up the dispersion.

It would be of assistance to point out here that the few carabinieri under the command of Sgt. MASIA Antonio, assembled in the Guard of the Prefecture, even though not having received orders from Captain BELLAMY to turn out for the speeding up of the clearing of the square, should have, in the absence of their own officer, used their own initiative and not left the Chief of the Allied Police of Ascoli on his own.

In the evening of the same day, the 1st Lt. Captain PISTONE was notified by the Chief of Police, Comm. DAGA, that another demonstration was being organised for the next day and that by orders of the Prefect he must immediately acquaint the A.M.G. Commissary of the fact. The officer, together with the Chief of Police, then proceeded to the provincial Commissary, Lt. Col. RUTTER, and, after a wide examination of the situation, it was agreed to convene a meeting of the National Liberation provincial committee for 2200 hours that same evening.

At this meeting Lt. Col. RUTTER warned all the leaders of the various parties to make attempts at pacification, holding them individually responsible for eventual incidents.

The situation thus appeared to be settled, hence, Captain PISTONE, upon receipt of a telegram which summoned him to the vicinity of Pescara, to the bedside of his seriously ill father, thought himself in a position to get away for a few hours. However, at about 1100 hours on the following Monday, 12th March, a dense crowd of people, for the most part workers-annoyed by the increase in the price of bread, improvised a demonstration in front of the Governors Palace. There was an adequate provision made there for the maintenance of public order, which had previously been ordered by Questura, with the employment of about twenty P.S. Agents who guarded the outside of the building, and 25 carabinieri under the command of 2/Lieut. DI GIUSEPPE Romualdo, of the Ascoli Lieutenantcy, who had to hold themselves ready to deal with any happenings inside the Prefecture. These orders for the maintenance of order had been decided upon in agreement with the Provincial Commisariat of the A.M.G. and the Chief of the Allied Police.

However, upon the crowd clamouring in front of the closed door, ten carabinieri were sent out upon the request of Captain BELLAMY, who, intervening on the spot, gave orders to 2/Lieut. DI GIUSEPPE to disperse the crowd and arrest some of the biggest nuisances among the demonstrators.

The officer, instead of executing the order immediately, decided, -in view of the increasing tension among the hostile crowd- to confer on the matter with the Chief of Police, who was in charge, and inadvisably resorted to half measures, endeavouring to make a few of the most hot-headed of the demonstrators, who were agitating in the front row of the crowd, enter the Prefecture on their own, in order to afterwards keep them locked inside the Prefecture and carry on with their arrest. This confirmed and justified Captain Bellamy's impression that the Lieutenant was not giving him useful collaboration in the sense that the required so he, personal, started pushing the crowd back. Referring to this; not only 2/Lieut. DI GIUSEPPE but also the Chief of Police and the N.C.O.s on duty, declared, to the enquiring General, having together with carabinieri and agents on duty, actively assisted in the pushing back of the crowd, succeeding, after several ups and downs, in breaking up the ring of demonstrators, finishing up with the final complete clearing of the square.

In the 1st phase of this action which, in pushing the crowd back to the entrances of the surrounding streets, inevitably caused the splitting up of the police forces into small isolated groups, Captain BELLAMY, aided by officers of the Allied Police, proceeded personally to arrest several persons, while the Corps and P.S. Agents remained engaged in controlling the mass of the demonstrators, with the assistance of two large groups of the reinforcement company of the "Folgore" Combat Group.

With the arrest of 7 men, among whom were 2 patriots, and a women, all handed over to the custody of the carabinieri remaining inside the Prefecture, the morning demonstration was concluded. But, at about 12.30, following a change of the men of the "Folgore" Combat Group on maintenance of order duties, the situation took an unexpected turn in that the new troops posted on the spot, all ex partisans, arrayed themselves openly on the side of the demonstrators.

It is significant that, shortly after the changing of the unit, a deputation of local patriots presented themselves to the Chief of Police, headed by Lieutenant, Reserve, PERINI Spartaco, provincial president of the A.N.P.I., who, declaring himself as voluntary spokesman not only for the demonstrators but also for the troops on duty, peremptorily demanded the release of the persons who had been arrested. The Chief of Police submitted that this was beyond his powers and advised PERINI to appeal to Captain BELLAMY of the A.M.G.

While PERINI was going to see the above mentioned Captain, 2/Lieut. DI GIUSEPPE and Dr. RENDINA, the Commissary, went to the provincial commissary, Lt. Col. RUTTER, and acquainted him to date with new unexpected developments of the situation.

A meeting was therefore summoned for 1430 hours at the Governors Palace during which the Provincial Commissary, Lt. Col. RUTTER received first 2/Lieut. PERINI and afterwards the Lieutenant of the "Folgore", PERNACCHI Michele, accompanied by the O.C. of the reserve company, Captain MONTI. To the latter Lt. Col. RUTTER stated that he would not take any decision in respect of the demanded release of persons under arrest if he and his men did not go away. 3304

Captain MONTI did not hesitate to declare, literally, that he was not in a position to guarantee the execution of this order and that he could not be responsible for the discipline of his troops insofar as they were recently enlisted elements which came from partisan bands and that consequently he had not yet got them under his control.

Meanwhile, 2/Lieut. DIGIUSEPPE, who had accompanied the deputation to the Provincial Commissariat Office and who continued in his efforts to persuade its members, was warned that the troops of the "Folgore" were showing obvious signs of impatience at the delayed release of the persons under arrest. Immediately afterwards Dr. LEPRONI, P.S. Agents on duty in Questura, arrived and notified that five P.S. Agents on duty in front of the Governors Palace had been disarmed.

Having been informed of this, Lt. Col. RUTTER, at about 1600 hours on the same day, the 12th., agreed that the persons held in arrest could be released. Following this decision the "Polgore" unit went away in two trucks with their officers.

It was at that time that these reinforcements of the "Polgore" Combat Group, on leaving the Governors Palace, took away the L.M.G. on issue to the carabinieri which at the time was standing in a corner of the Guard Room.

In front of about 40 men, armed with automatic weapons and emboldened by success, the few carabinieri present in the Guard Room, in view of the impossibility of offering opposition by violence, in which they would have inevitably been defeated and in any event would have meant a bloody encounter between carabinieri and Italian soldiers, went immediately to the officer commanding the platoon; the latter, however, replied to W.O. GIANNE-CHINI Giovanni, who energetically demanded the return of the weapon, advising him not to insist in his request since he himself did not feel in a position to give immediate execution to it, and assuring that the weapon would be returned the next day without fail. In fact, because of direct intervention with Captain MONTI by Captain PISTONE, the day afterwards the L.M.G. was brought back by the same soldiers and put back in its place.

In conclusion it must be submitted that in the episodes of the 11th. and 12th., language difficulties, the swiftness of events, misunderstanding between heads of departments not sufficiently in harmony (Captain BELLAMY had only been in charge of the Allied Police in Ascoli for two days), could have accentuated the impression of inefficiency and slackness of the services of public order and certainly gave rise to real lack of coordination between the actions of the Allied P.S. Authorities and the Italian departmental chiefs.

On the basis of the above outlined facts and results:

=I have taken disciplinary action against Captain PISTONE, 2/Lieut. DI GIUSEPPE, and Sgt. MASIA Antonio, 1/c the carabinieri who, on the 11th., did not intervene to support the actions of Captain BELLAMY;

=I have transferred to another post 2/Lieut. DI GIUSEPPE and the carabinieri who, on the same day, the 11th., were under the orders of Sgt. MASIA;

=I have placed on reserve this last mentioned N.C.O., he having been recalled.

Sgd. BRUNETTO BRUNETTI

O. Danin Cpl.

G. O. C.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

Tel : 469081 - 365

22 April, 1945

AG/14602/PS

SUBJECT : Disturbances at Ascoli Piceno.

TO : Regional Public Safety Officer Umbria-Marche Region.

1. Reference is made to your letter 15/514/36 dated 16th March 45.
2. Attached is a translation of the results of a disciplinary enquiry held by the Commanding General of the Royal Carabinieri.
3. This Sub-Commission intends to ask the Commanding General the exact nature of the punishments inflicted, but before doing so may it please be ascertained if the Provincial Public Safety Officer (Capt. Bellamy) is in general agreement with the conclusions contained in the above report.
4. As far as the Italian Military involved in this incident are concerned, a disciplinary enquiry has been held by the Ministry of War but the results have not yet been received.
5. May this Sub-Commission please be informed of the result of the trials of the civilians implicated in the disturbances.

W. L. Or
htol
JOHN W. GRAPPA
Colonel, J.A.C.D.
Director Public Safety
Sub-Commission.

AFW/G.

338

TRANSLATION

CCRR Gen. HQ

Subject : Ascoli Piceno - Disturbances
 TO : AG Public Safety Sub-Commission - Rome
 Reply to letter dated 19th March 1945

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The Commanding General of the 2nd Division, CCRR, whom I entrusted with the investigation of the disturbances which occurred at Ascoli Piceno, reports that the spreading malcontent brought about during the last period among the population of the Province, especially in the Town, as a result of the increasing economic difficulties had produced a favourable background for the disturbances, also in view of:-

- the excessively slow epuration procedure (which, however mainly depends from the central authorities, as the epuration of the local bodies has been effected to the greater part);
- the not sufficiently energetic action against the increase of prices and subsequent safeguarding of the consumers, against the black market and the turning over of food to other provinces, and above all, against the buying up on a large scale of food in Ascoli for the markets of the Capital.

On the afternoon of the 7 March, following an authorized meeting, announced by the socialist party as a protest against the escape of Gen. Rautta, a self-styled commission of patriots and local communists went to the offices and homes of Public Officials to insist on the dismissal of ex-fascists, among whom were Dr. RIGI Lomberti, the Director of the Provincial Consorzio Agrario, Dr. BRUNI director of SE PR AL, a number of Postal employees, the Cashier of the local Banca d'Italia and other less important people.

The responsibility was placed on Perini Pietro

(2)

down Capt. Pistone and Dr. Rendina (Official of P.S. on duty) agreed to have a committee of 4 women see the Prefect. In the meantime Capt. Bellamy, Provincial Public Safety Officer, reached the scene. He gave orders that the women would not see the Prefect nor the Provincial Commissioner until the mob had dispersed.

Capt. Pistone explained this to the committee and the people gathered there. A large group assembled around the women asking what had been told to them. Capt. Bellamy at this moment told Capt. Pistone in his uncertain Italian to hurry and disperse the crowd; which he did.

Seeing that the crowd was dispersing slowly ^{but} and pacifically, both the Officer and the Questore did not think it necessary to have the soldiers of the Prefettura Guards intervene. This was also done so not to irritate and provoke further incidents. Together they went to the Prefect to explain the situation.

At this point, Capt. Bellamy expert official, faced with the slowness with which the small groups were breaking up, took immediate action, alone, in clearing the crowd.

Worthy of note is that the few CCRR's at the command of Brig. MASIA Antonio, gathered in the Prefettura, though not having received any order from Capt. Bellamy to help in hastening to clear the square, should have, in the absence of their own officer, done so by instinct.

On the night of the 11th Capt. Pistone was warned by the Questore Daga that another demonstration was being organized for the following day and that, by disposition of the Prefect, it was necessary to inform the A.M.G. Commissioner. With the Questore, the officer then went to the Provincial Commissioner Lt. Col. Rutter, and after full examination of the situation a meeting with the Prov. Committee of National Liberation was decided on for the same evening at 22:00 hours.

At this meeting, Lt. Col. Rutter warned all the members of the various parties to make peace, calling them individually responsible for any further incidents.

The situation appeared normal, so that when Capt. Pistone received a telegram calling him to Pescara where his father was gravely ill, he thought he could leave for a few hours. However, towards 11 hours on Monday, 12 March a large group gathered before the Palazzo del Governo to protest against the increased price of bread. The Questore had previously ordered an adequate police service to be on duty there. It consisted of about 20 Agents of P.S. stationed outside of the building and 25 CCRR under 2nd Lt. DI Giuseppe Romualdo, who were ready to take care of anything that would happen inside the Prefettura. These orders had been given in agreement with Prov. A.M.G. Commissioner and with the head of the Allied Police.

However, since the crowd was becoming unruly before the closed door, Capt. Bellamy gave orders to Lt. DI GIUSEPPE to disperse the crowd and arrest some of the more troublesome.

The

(3)

In the last part of this action, the crowd had been pushed back into the various streets letting out of the Piazza which brought about a division of the police forces. Capt. Bellamy with other Allied Police Officers proceeded to make various arrest while the CCRR, Agents and two strong patrols of the "Folgore" took care of the bulk of the mob.

The demonstration of that morning closed with the arrest of 7 men, of which two were patriots and a woman, all held by the CCRR. However towards 12:00 hours following the change of the "Folgore" guard, the situation was reversed for the new soldiers were all patriots and sympathizers of the demonstrators.

Shortly afterwards a committee of patriots headed by 2nd Lt. PERINI Spartaco, Prov. President of the A.N.P.I. went to the Questore, declaring themselves as representatives of the demonstrators and requesting release of the arrested. The Questore replied that it was not a matter that he could decide on and suggested that Lt. Perini go to Capt. Bellamy who at the moment was having lunch.

While Lt. Perini was going to the Capt., Lt. Di Giuseppe and Commissario Rendina went to Lt. Col. Rutter to inform him of the new situation.

A meeting was then announced for 14:30 hrs. in the Palazzo del Governo, during which Lt. Col. Rutter received Lt. Perini and then Lt. Pernacchi Michele with Capt. Monte both of the "Folgore" Company. Col. Rutter told Capt. Monte, who was commander of the group that he would not give any decision until he and all his men left the vicinity.

Capt. Monte said that he could not guarantee the execution of the order and would not be responsible for the discipline of his soldiers since they had just been assigned to him coming from patriot bands and over which he had not as

(4)

From the Above the following can be inferred:-

- that the action of Capt. Pistone on the 11th was adherent to the necessity of the moment;
- That the 10 CCR on duty inside the Prefettura did not promptly following the action of Capt. Bellamy who wanted to disperse the small groups still loitering in the square;
- that Lt. Di Giuseppe was not only not energetic on the 12th but did not use to full effect his company and the two strong patrols of the "Folgore" in clearing the piazza and arresting some of the more troublesome. It is true that in ordinary time he would have had to take orders from an authority of P.S. (Questore) but it is also true that due to the peremptory orders of the head of the Allied Police he should have lost no time in obeying them;
- that since an energetic and decisive action was lacking from the beginning, which could have avoided both the imposition of the local patriots and the undisciplined intervention of the soldiers of the Folgore with the civilians, Lt. Di Giuseppe opportunely desisted in using his CCR any further so as to avoid a bloody conflict between CCR and soldiers of the Folgore;
- that the CCR on duty at the Prefettura were at fault in leaving the machine-gun unguarded;
- that Capt. Pistone should have foreseen a possible public disorder and should have put duty above family sentiments;

Concluding, the following must be put in evidence:-

- that in the events of the 11th and 12th, the difficulty of the language, the incomprehension of the directors not very familiar with each other (Capt. Bellamy had been at Ascoli only two days) accentuated the impression of inefficiency and caused the undoing of any practical action of the P.S. authorities both Allied and Italian;</



RISERVATO PERSONALE

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 174/3

di prot. P.P.

Roma, li 3 aprile 1945

Risposta al

del

n.

Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Disordini ad Ascoli Piceno.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA

- Sottocommissione per la Pubblica Sicurezza -

R O M A

Risponde al foglio del 12 marzo 1945.

- 2 -

parto di individui ed enti che attingono ad Ascoli i generi di prima necessità destinati al consumo della Capitale.

Su questo sfondo ambientale si manifestarono, nei primi giorni di marzo, ad opera di elementi accesi, iniziative ed episodi che sensibilizzarono d'improvviso la situazione locale.

Nel pomeriggio del 7 marzo, a seguito di un comizio regolarmente autorizzato, indetto dal partito socialista per protestare contro la fuga del Generale ROATTA, una sedicente commissione di patrioti e comunisti ascolani si recò negli uffici e nelle case di pubblici funzionari, per imporre l'allontanamento o le dimissioni di ex fascisti, fra i quali il direttore del Consorzio Agrario Provinciale dott. RIGI Lambertini, il dott. BRUNI direttore della SE PR AL, alcuni impiegati delle RR. Poste, il cassiere della locale sede della Banca d'Italia ed altri minori.

Accertata la responsabilità dei nominati PERINI Pietro, PERINI Dino, LORETTI Libero ed altri - tutti comunisti del luogo - venne contro di essi spiccato dall'A.M.G. ordine di cattura, solo per alcuni eseguito, essendosi il dott. RIGI e il dott. BRUNI resi irreperibili. Successivamente, per intervento di una commissione di patrioti, tutti gli arrestati furono rimessi in libertà, in seguito a disposizione del commissario provinciale alleato tenente colonnello RUTTER.

Il giorno 11, alle ore 10,30, indetto dal partito repubblicano, ebbe luogo nel cinema "Olimpia" di Ascoli altro pubblico comizio, nel quale, dall'oratore ufficiale, rag. Amed

- 3 -

carbone e scarpe alla popolazione, l'aumento dei sussidi, l'allontanamento dei fascisti dai pubblici uffici.

Erano presenti, in Prefettura, il Questore e il Comandante interinale del gruppo CC.RR. PISTONE (il titolare, ten. col. PERRETTI, si trovava dal giorno 7 a Roma, in breve licenza di 5 giorni).

Il Capitano PISTONE, d'intesa col Questore, scese da solo fra i dimostranti, per fare opera persuasiva. Ma, poiché il clamore non accennava a placarsi, d'accordo col funzionario di servizio in piazza, dott. RENDINA, consentì che una commissione di quattro donne si presentasse al Prefetto. Sopraggiunse, nel frattempo, il capo dell'ufficio provinciale di P.S. del Governo Alleato, capitano BELLAMY, che, ragguagliato della situazione, dichiarò che non avrebbe permesso alle donne di andare dal Prefetto o dal commissario dell'A.M.G., se prima la dimostrazione non si fosse ordinatamente sciolta.

Ciò fu subito spiegato al gruppo di persone ancora ferme davanti alla Prefettura, dallo stesso Capitano PISTONE, il quale, per raggiungere lo scopo, si valse anche delle quattro donne, costituenti la commissione,

Intorno a queste donne, si formò allora un folto capannello di gente che chiedeva notizie; e fu in quel momento che il Capitano BELLAMY, nel suo "incerto" italiano - com'egli stesso ha dichiarato al Generale inquirente - invitò il Capitano PISTONE ad affrettare l'allontanamento dei gruppetti che costavano nella piazza. Il Capitano PISTONE, pur non essendosi reso conto della esatta portata della richiesta, interven

- 4 -

situazione.

A questo punto, il capitano BELLAMY, funzionario molto esperto, di fronte alla lentezza con cui i capannelli si andavano sciogliendo, provvide, da solo, allo sgombero più sollecito.

Qui giova rilevare che i pochi carabinieri al comando del brigadiere MASTA Antonio, riuniti nel corpo di guardia della Prefettura, pur non avendo ricevuto ordine dal Capitano BELLAMY di concorrere per affrettare lo sgombero della piazza, avrebbero dovuto, in assenza del proprio ufficiale, cioè fare di iniziativa e non lasciare solo il capo della polizia alleata di Ascoli.

La sera dello stesso giorno 11, il Capitano PISTONE fu avvisato dal Questore comm. DAGA che altra dimostrazione si organizzava per l'indomani e che, per disposizione del Prefetto, bisognava ragguagliarne subito il Commissario dell'A.M.G. - Insieme col Questore, l'ufficiale si recò quindi dal commissario provinciale ten. col. RUTTER o, dopo ampio esame della situazione, si stabilì di convocare, la sera stessa, per le ore 22, il comitato provinciale di Liberazione Nazionale.

In questa riunione, il ten. col. RUTTER diffidò tutti gli esponenti dei vari partiti a fare opera di pacificazione, chiamandoli singolarmente responsabili di eventuali incidenti.

La situazione sembrava così normalizzata, onde il Capitano PISTONE, ricevuto un telegramma che lo chiamava alla vicina Pescara

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di Ascoli, che dovevano tenersi pronti per qualunque evenienza nell'interno della Prefettura. Tali disposizioni di servizio erano state concordate col commissario provinciale dell'A.M.G. e col capo della polizia alleata.

Senonchè, tumultuando la folla davanti al portone chiuso, una diecina di carabinieri furono fatti uscire, per richiesta del capitano BELLAMY, che - intervenuto sul posto - diede ordine al sottotenente DI GIUSEPPE di disperdere la folla e di arrestare alcuni dei più scalmanati tra i dimostranti.

L'ufficiale, anzichè dare immediata esecuzione all'ordine, opinò - in vista della crescente tensione degli animi - di conferire al riguardo col Questore, che dirigeva il servizio, e ricorse poco opportunamente a mezze misure, cercando di fare entrare in Prefettura, isolatamente, alcuni dei dimostranti che, fra i più accesi, si agitavano in prima fila, per poi rinchiuderli nell'interno del palazzo e procedere al loro arresto. Ciò spiega e giustifica, nel Capitano BELLAMY, l'impressione che il tenente non gli offrisse efficace collaborazione, nel senso da lui voluto, tanto che - di persona - si diede a rimandare indietro la folla. In proposito, non solo il sottotenente DI GIUSEPPE, ma anche il Questore ed i sottufficiali di servizio, hanno dichiarato al Generale inquirente di aver, ³³⁵³insieme con carabinieri e con gli agenti di servizio, concorso attivamente per respingere la folla, riuscendo, dopo alterne vicende, durate circa un'ora, ad allargare il cerchio dei dimostranti, fino a sgombrare completamente la piazza.

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concorso di due robuste ronde della compagnia complemento del gruppo di combattimento "Folgore".

Con l'arresto di sette uomini, fra cui due patrioti, ed una donna, affidati in custodia ai carabinieri rimasti nell'interno della Prefettura, si concluse la dimostrazione antimeridiana. Ma, verso le ore 12,30, in seguito al cambio degli uomini del gruppo "Folgore" in servizio d'ordine, si delineò un improvviso rovesciamento della situazione, in quanto i nuovi militari giunti sul posto, tutti ex partigiani, si schierarono apertamente dalla parte dei dimostranti.

E' sintomatico che, al cambio del reparto, seguì, dopo poco, la presentazione al Questore di una commissione di patrioti locali, capeggiata dal sottotenente di complemento PERINI Spartaco, presidente provinciale dell'A.M.F.I., la quale, dichiarandosi interprete della volontà non solo dei dimostranti, ma degli stessi militari, chiese perentoriamente il rilascio degli arrestati. Il Questore fece presente che ciò esulava dalla sua competenza, e consigliò il PERINI di rivolgersi al capitano dell'A.E.G. BELLAMY che a quell'ora si trovava a mensa.

Mentre il PERINI si recava presso il predetto Capitano, il sottotenente DI GIUSEPPE e il commissario dott. RENDINA si portarono dal commissario provinciale ten. col. RUTTER, mettendolo al corrente dei nuovi, impreveduti sviluppi della situazione.

Fu quindi indetta, per le ore 14,30, una riunione al Palazzo del Governo, durante la quale il

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essere in grado di garantire la esecuzione dell'ordine, e di non poter rispondere della disciplina dei suoi militari, trattandosi di elementi da poco inquadrati, provenienti da bande partigiane e che, in conseguenza, egli non aveva ancora alla mano.

Nel frattempo, il sottotenente DI GIUSEPPE - che aveva accompagnato la commissione presso l'ufficio del commissario provinciale e che continuava a svolgere opera di persuasione sui componenti - fu avvertito che i militari del "Folgore" davano manifesti segni d'impazienza per il ritardato rilascio degli arrestati. Subito dopo, sopraggiunse il commissario di P.S. dott. LEPRONI, della locale Questura, ad avvicare che cinque agenti di P.S. di servizio davanti al Palazzo del Governo erano stati disarmati.

Informato di ciò, il ten. col. RUTTER, verso le ore 16, sempre del giorno 12, consentì che gli arrestati fossero messi in libertà. In seguito a siffatta decisione, il reparto del "Folgore" si allontanò su due autocarri, coi propri ufficiali.

Fu allora che questi complementi del gruppo di combattimento "Folgore", uscendo dal palazzo del Governo, asportarono il fucile mitragliatore in dotazione ai carabinieri e che in quel momento trovavasi poggiato in un angolo del corpo di guardia.

Di fronte a circa quaranta uomini, armati di mitra e imbanditi dal successo, i pochi carabinieri presenti nel corpo di guardia, nella impossibilità di una opposizione violenta, condannata prevedibilmente all'insuccesso, e che avrebbe

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per il diretto intervento del capitano PISTONE presso il capitano MONTI, il giorno successivo, il fucile mitragliatore fu dagli stessi soldati riportato e rimesso al suo posto.

Da quanto sopra esposto rilevo:

- che l'azione del capitano PISTONE nella giornata dell'11, domenica, fu aderente alle necessità del momento;
- che mai si comportarono, allorché il capitano si recò a conferire col Prefetto, i militari di servizio nell'interno della Prefettura -10 in tutto- a non spalleggiare prontamente l'azione del capo provinciale della polizia alleata capitano BELLAMY, che mirava a disperdere rapidamente gli altri gruppetti che ancora sostavano nella piazza;
- che il sottotenente DI GIUSEPPE non solo non agì nella giornata del 12 con la dovuta energia, ma difettò soprattutto nell'azione di comando, in quanto non seppe organicamente, prontamente e decisamente impiegare il reparto, né tenerlo compatto ai suoi ordini in modo da imporsi col peso della massa e con la possibilità di una ordinata manovra, fiancheggiata da due robuste ronde di militari del "Folgore" nell'azione diretta a sgomberare rapidamente la piazza, arrestando taluno dei più facinorosi. E' bensì vero che egli, secondo le norme dei tempi ordinari, si sarebbe dovuto **3350** nere alle direttive dell'autorità di P.S. (Questore) dirigente il servizio; ma è anche vero che, di fronte alle disposizioni perentorie del capo della polizia alleata - ai cui ordini agivano e funzionari di P.S. e comandanti delle forze di polizia - egli avrebbe dovuto, senza por tempo in mezzo, lanciarsi sui dimostranti ed operare energ

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cui posizione, nell'occorrenza risulta nettamente fuori causa, in quanto egli trovavasi in regolare licenza di giorni 5 ottenuta in epoca non sospetta, allorché nulla assolutamente era dato prevedere circa gli avvenimenti successivi - e sia del comportamento del capitano PISTONE, che riconoscono ufficiale attivo e pieno di energia, escludendo che egli possa essere stato indotto a lasciare la sede per sfuggire alle responsabilità del momento prendendo a pretesto il telegramma, che gli annunciava le gravissime condizioni di suo padre, e che pertanto non ne desiderano l'allontanamento;

- che alla stessa conclusione è addivenuto pure il capitano BELLAMY col quale il Generale inquirente ha avuto lungo colloquio, e che si ripromette di avvalersi dell'opera di questo ufficiale, sul conto del quale non ha personalmente nulla da eccepire.

In base ai fatti e alle risultanze suesposte:

- ho punito disciplinarmente il capitano PISTONE, il sottotenente DI GIUSEPPE e il brigadiere MASIA Antonio, comandante dei carabinieri che, il giorno 11, non intervennero per appoggiare l'azione del Capitano BELLAMY;
- ho trasferito ad altra sede il sottotenente DI GIUSEPPE e i carabinieri che, sempre il giorno 11, si trovavano agli ordini del brigadiere MASIA;
- ho ricollocato in congedo quest'ultimo sottufficiale, essendo egli richiamato.

Con l'occasione, non posso non confermare le espressioni

translation MC.

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR.

Rome 6th April '45

n: 442/3948

Subject: Ascoli Piceno .Political situation.
 To.....: A.C. Public Safety subCommission.

For information.

From report received, has appeared to this Ministry, that, the provincial Liberation Committee of Ascoli Piceno, has applied to the Prefect for its collaboration with the Police Bodies for the investigation and repression of the Nazifascist criminality, and would have named for this charge the following:

- 1°- De Santis Prof. Bruno
- 2°- Fiorentino Pier Lorenzo
- 3°- Fioravanti Guido

This request has been made in order to institute, through the a/m persons, a control of the police bodies proceeding, which is incompatible with the laws in force as well as with the duty entrusted to the Police.

Among the a/m two are indicated as extremist, these are : Prof. Bruno De Santis, patriot and representative of the Action Party, and Mr. Fioravanti representative of the Communist Party.

