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10000/143/1450
(1st)

ILLEGAL STOCK
IN ITALIAN C
AUG. 1945 - NOV

10000/143/1450
(1st)

ILLEGAL STOCKS OF ARMS & CIVIL DISTURBANCES
IN ITALIAN GOV'T TERRITORY
AUG. 1945 - NOV. 1946

10 A

Translation by H.B.

CC.RR. GENERAL COMMAND
Service and Situation Office

Nr. 506/94 R.P.

Rome, 12/11/46

20 NOV 1946
14602/18To : ALLIED COMMISSION
P.S. Sub CommissionR C M ESUBJECT : Prospect of the arms, ammunition etc. rescued in the
EMILIA Region.

Follows note Nr. 506/90 R.P. dated 4th inst.

We beg to communicate the results of the round up operations
carried out by the Arms in the Emilia Region from 29th October last
till 4th November inst. :

1. Number of the round ups : 50
2. Localities where the same have been performed :
SERRAVALLE - ROVERETO - FORMIGNANA (Ferrara)
FINALE EMILIA - CAMPOSANTO - MIRANDOLA (Modena)
NOVELLARA - PADERNA - MONTE DEL CESSO DI VE ZANA SUL
CROSTOLO (Reggio Emilia)
CATANETA - FIUMICELLO DI PREMILLORE - TORRE DEL MORO -
SALA - VILLA MARINA - S.VITTORE - CANE MUSSIROLI DI CERRA
CASALECCHIO - BELLARIVA DI RIMINI (Forlì)
Various localities of the PARMA CC.RR. Group.

3. Number of persons arrested for illicit detention of arms
and similar crimes : 3
4. Arms and ammunition rescued :

1	Machine gun	Breda	Efficient	3690
3	Mitra	Beretta	"	
1	"	Stein	"	
2	War rifles	German	Fairly efficient	
2	Hunting guns	"	Unefficient	
5	Pistols	Various	Efficient	
31	Hand grenades	"	"	
15	Boxes of gelatine	"	"	
4	" " tritol	"	"	
2011	Cartridges for light arms	"	"	
137	Cartridges for pistols	"	"	
72	Spar clips for automatic and semi-automatic weapons, efficient.			

The General Commander
sgd/ B. BRUNETTI

Transl. 20/11/46 mb.

Ceb.

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri

UFFICIO SERVIZIO E SITUAZIONE

N. 906/94 di prot. R.P.

Roma, li 12 novembre 1946

Risposta al

del

Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Prospetto delle armi, munizioni ecc. recuperate nella Regione Emilia.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
SOTTOCOMMISSIONE PER LA P.S.

R O M A

UNCLASSIFIED

Fa seguito al foglio n. 506/90 R.P. del 4 corrente.

Si comunicano i risultati conseguiti dall'Arma nella Regione Emilia,
nella settimana del 29 ottobre al 4 novembre 1946:

1.- Numero dei sopralluoghi improvvisi: 50

2.- Località ove sono stati eseguiti i sopralluoghi:

Serravalle - Rovereto - Fornighena (Ferrara)

Finale Emilia - Campese - Mirandola (Modena)

Novellara - Paderna e Monte del Casso di Vossano sul Crostale (Reg-
gio Emilia) 3659

Ontaneta e Fiumicello di Immonzer - Torre del Mare, Sala, Villa

Marina, S. Vittore e Case Sissirelli di Genova - Casalecchio e Bol-

lariva di Rimini (Forlì)

Varie località del Gruppo Carabinieri di Parma.

3.- Numero delle persone arrestate per possesso ingiustificato di armi
e reati simili: 3

4.- Armi e munizioni recuperate:

./...

Quantità	s p e c i e	Marca	Condizioni
1	Fucile mitragliatore	Breda	Buono
3	Mitra	Borella	Buono
1	Mitra	Stein	Buono
2	Fucili da guerra	Feducca	Mediocri
2	Fucili da caccia	-	Cattive
5	Pistole	Varie	Buono
31	Bombe a canna	Varie	Buono
15	Pacchetti di gelatina	-	Buono
4	Tubetti di Tritolo	-	Buono
2011	Cartucce per armi leggere da guerra	Varie	Buono
167	Cartucce per pistole	Varie	Buono
72	Caricatori per armi automatiche e semi-automatiche	Varie	Buono

IL COMANDANTE GENERALE
- Brunetto Brunetti -

Brunetti

Translation by M.B.

CC.RR. GENERAL COMMAND
Service and Situation Office

14602/18

ac

Date, 23/10/46

Nr. 934/2

To : ALLIED COMMISSION
P.S. Sub CommissionR O R E

SUBJECT : CASTELFRANCO EMILIA (Modena district). 4 persons arrested because responsible for robbery and illicit detention of war weapons.

At CASTELFRANCO EMILIA (Modena), on the 23rd inst., the CC.RR.'s arrested RIGHI Antonio, aged 18, Farmer - GUZZADA Ilario, aged 22, Railway man - TEBESCHINI Aldo, aged 21, worker - and TEBESCHINI Antonio, aged 20, farmer, all from CASTELFRANCO EMILIA, responsible for illicit detention of war weapons and of a robbery in damage of SELMI Amilcare.

The following arms were sequestered :

a pistol Stayer and 4 cartridges;
an American gun and 14 cartridges;
a German gun and 50 cartridges;
an automatic pistol and 4 cartridges;
a machine-pistol and 52 cartridges;
a Pistol P.38 cal 9 and 17 cartridges.

The General ³⁶³⁸Commander

sgt/ B. BRUNETTI

Receiv. and Transl. 31/10/46

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri

UFFICIO SERVIZIO E SITUAZIONE

N. 934/2 di prot. Roma, li 23 ottobre 1946

Risposta al Allegati n. 1

OGGETTO: Castellfranco Emilia (Modena) - Arresto di quattro persone responsabili di rapina e di detenzione abusiva di armi da fuoco.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Sottocommissione per la P.S.

R O L L A

In Castellfranco Emilia (Modena), il 23 corrente, i carabinieri arrestarono Nino Antonio, di anni 18, colono, Giuseppe Ilario, di anni 22, ferroviere, Tedeschiini Aldo, di anni 27, operaio e Tedeschiini Antonio, di anni 20, colono, tutti da Castellfranco Emilia (Modena), responsabili di furto e di detenzione abusiva di armi da fuoco, nonché di una rapina commessa il 16 scorso scorso, in danno di un
si alligatore.

Sequestrati le seguenti armi:

- una pistola S&W e 14 cartucce;
- una carabina americana e 50 cartucce;
- un fucile tedesco e 450 cartucce;
- una pistola automatica e 4 cartucce;
- una macchina pistola e 32 cartucce;
- una pistola L. 38 cal. e 17 cartucce.

267



Rec. 26/10

ae

N. 534/8

di prot.

Roma, li

25 ottobre 1946

Risposta al

di:

"

Allegati *

OGGETTO: Castellfranco Emilia (Modena) -- Arresto di quattro persone responsabili di rapina e di detenzione abusiva di armi da guerra. --

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Sotto commissione per la P.S.

R O M A

In Castellfranco Emilia (Modena), il 23 corrente, i carabinieri arrestarono Richi Antonio, di anni 18, colono, una casa ilario, di anni 22, ferroviere, Fedecchini Aldo, di anni 21, operaio e Tedeschi Antonio, di anni 20, colono, tutti da Castellfranco Emilia (Modena), responsabili di furto e di detenzione abusiva di armi da guerra, nonché di una rapina commessa il 15 scorso scorso, in danno di Salvi Milcare. --

Sequestrate le seguenti armi:

- una pistola Steyer e 14 cartucce;
- una carabina americana e 20 cartucce;
- un fucile tedesco e 450 cartucce;
- una pistola automatica e 4 cartucce;
- una macchina pistola e 25 cartucce;
- una pistola P.38 col. 9 e 17 cartucce. --

36.7

IL COMANDANTE GENERALE

- Renato Brunetti -

R. Brunetti

CC.FR. GENERAL COM/AD

IL 150/16-1

2 November 46.

SUBJECT : Urbe (Savona) - Confiscation of arms.

TO : Public Safety S/C A.C.

In Urbe (Savona), in the mountainous area, following enquiries made by the CC.FR., eight cases containing "panzer-faust" completed and ten Italian muskets, besides various ammunition have been found.

The commanding general

/s/ Brunetti.

Translation no/

363

3ab.



Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri

UFFICIO SERVIZIO E SITUAZIONE

N. 150/16-1 di prot.

Roma, li 2 novembre 1946

Risposta al

del

n.

Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Urbe (Savona) - Sequestro di armi.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
SOTTOCOMMISSIONE PER LA P.S.

R O M A

ES 20 20 20 20

In Urbe (Savona), in zona montuosa, in seguito ad indagini dei carabinieri, sono state testè recuperate otto cassette contenenti "panzer-faust" completi e 10 moschetti italiani, nonché munizioni varie.

IL COMANDANTE GENERALE
- Brunetto Brunetti -

Brunetti

36-5

TOP SECRET

7A

ALCON LIAISON OFFICER BOLOGNA

4961

7 Sep 45

PRIORITY

TOP SECRET PD

PARA ONE PD DO YOU REMEMBER FOLLOWING FROM FIVE AMY CABLE TO AMB AS DESCRIPTION
 SECURITY CONDITIONS REBILIA COLON QUOTE REACT OF EIGHT EIGHT DIVISION SUBSTANTIALLY
 CORRECT PD LAURENCE ELEMENTS NOT NECESSARILY ORGANIZED IN THE
 AREA DASH BOLOGNA DASH REGGIO AREA WITH POSSIBLE OBJECT OF TAKING OVER LOCAL
 GOVERNMENT PD OPPORTUNE MENT PD SCATTERED ATTACK HAVE OCCURRED ALONG
 BORDERS LANDSHERE PD THERE ARE CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF ARMED INDIVIDUALS
 IN BOLOGNA AREA ALTHOUGH ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT PATROLS FORMED
 IN AREA BOLOGNA AND REGGIO ARE WORKING IN AREA SATISFACTORILY PD RUMORS OF
 ARM AND AMMUNITION CACHES BUT NO DEFINITE LOCATIONS PD
 PARA TWO PD SMALL LOCAL RIOTS AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE HAVE BEEN REPORTED BUT NO
 EVIDENCE OF LARGE SCALE UPRISING IN SEPTEMBER PD GARASINIERI CONSIDERED
 INSUFFICIENT AND POORLY EQUIPPED PD RECOMMEND THEY BE REINFORCED ORA GIVEN
 BETTER WEAPONS AND MATERIALLY IMPROVED PD

TOP SECRET

7th

1963

7 Sep 45

IRICHITY

- 2 -

PARA THREE IS REPORTED READER IN DOLOREA AREA ARE CLANDI ALBERT TO A
CERTAIN QUOTE STARK UNQUOTE IS LATER IN AREA AREA IS DIDIMO VERGARI HERE
GEO IS BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE FOR NUMEROUS ROBBERIES AND KILLINGS AND BLASTING
AND DESTRUCTIONS IN AREA
PART TO AREA LATER OFFICE BELIEVE FROM AREA GIVE MOORE PART
PART FOUR IS HAVE YOU ANY RECOMMENDATIONS ON COMING THEREIN

Internal Distribution: Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner.

3653

Civil Affairs Section

525

RECEIVED

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

P. SAFETY S/L 6P
Copy No 1Originator's Reference: 3835
Date/Time of Origin: AUGUST 31/1711BMessage Centre No: F/6109
Date Time Rec'd: SEPT 1/1100B
Precedence: ROUTINEFROM: FIFTH ARMY
TO: ACTION: AHHQ INFO: DISTWO ALCOM

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET.

1. All intelligence agencies have been instructed to increase activity to determine location of arms, arms dumps and ammunition in army area with particular attention directed to VERONA-MODENA Area. Ref AHHQ EX 38435 of 25 August cite FHCT. Separate report follows on result of investigation in this area as directed by AHHQ EX 38436 of 25 August cite FHCT.

2. DISTWO has issued instructions to 217 Area reference search for arms in army area. In view of turn-over of FIFTH ARMY Area to DISTWO at 310001B this action considered desirable to insure continuity of policy.

3. Since provinces of BOLOGNA, MODENA and REGGIO have been released to control of Italian govern as of 4 August 1945 assume by para 3 of AHHQ radio EX 38435 that Italian government will take necessary action other than investigation directed in EX 38436 in these areas

HIST

Copy Number 1 INFO-ACTION : PUBLIC SAFETY SC

"	"	2	INFO : CHIEF COMMISSIONER
"	"	3 & 4	EX COMMISSIONER (2)
"	"	5	POLAD (A)
"	"	6	POLAD (B)
"	"	7	CAS
"	"	8	FILE

TOP SECRET

Ref: 3626/30.

SECRET

23th August 1945.

Chief Commissioner.

MEMORANDUM ON THE ILLEGAL RETENTION OF ARMS.

1. The state of a country which has been beset by war and civil war in which all parties have deliberately or through defeat allowed enormous quantities of arms and munitions to pass into the hands of individuals presents a difficult problem of public security.
2. Italy has suffered war and civil war. Every party has poured arms and munitions into the countryside or has left enormous depots ripe for spoliation by the civilian population. The people have been ruled by force for a generation and have seen that only victory by force of arms has defeated the tyrannical form of government to which they have been subjected. Moreover, they have no confidence as yet in the government which has taken its place nor the machinery which that government uses to enforce law and order. The protection of the individual has become a matter for the individual, for they distrust the competency and honesty of purpose of their rulers. Individuals therefore become their own armed policemen.
3. Until confidence in the government and its organs of law and order is restored, this will continue. Laws and decrees forbidding retention of arms will be ignored. For a civil population will respect not law which does not itself give the individual protection. Purges and witch hunts for arms will have little effect for where a population remains armed and lacks confidence, no information will be given leading to the seizure of arms from any particular individual or group.
4. Of course there are those who take advantage of this state of affairs and with anarchical ideas maintain hidden arsenals and depots which in due time they use or hope to use either for political or criminal purposes. Even against these little or no information will be laid unless and until confidence in the forces of law and order, in the government, and in the future, has returned to the population. Such being the case, purges and raids for arms are not likely to achieve success - rather may they add to general dislocation and lack of confidence which is natural after battle.

-2-

5. For the success of any action taken by the forces of law and order against illegal retention of arms - whether these forces be indigenous or occupational - depends on the information supplied as to where arms and munitions are to be found. Even if a specific area, e.g., Route 9, west of MODENA, be suspected to contain arms, a successful raid for arms depends on local information as to their whereabouts. A house to house, and field to field search is unthinkable, however large the force employed. Unless information is forthcoming, raids will be generally unsuccessful. Lack of success will increase the boldness of the anarchists and reduce the confidence of the general public and of the local forces of law and order.

6. What then is the solution? I submit that the harvesting of illegally retained arms is a long term process which, unless success is achieved in the first few days and weeks of occupation, must be treated, notwithstanding the distaste for lawbreaking and the risk of disorder, as a long term policy. Where information is forthcoming a short sharp raid should follow and, if successful, immediate and vigorous justice should be applied. But generally the policy should be not to institute general arms-hunts which are wasteful of men and barren of result, but to use the same allied military organizations to assist, train and supplement the local indigenous forces of law and order and by giving them confidence in themselves, provoke mutual confidence from the public who will not be slow to realize real assistance given to the Italian police forces and to add their individual assistance.

7. A great example of such assistance is shown in the efforts being made by Brigadier Graham, OC, ACRA, TURIN, to assist, re-equip, train and rehabilitate the CC.RR in the area under his command. He is already achieving success and is content to limit his efforts to the first objective of creating an efficient police force before enforcing the law which it must protect, realising that this must be a prerequisite to the recovery of illegally possessed arms and munitions.

8. There are sufficient Allied troops in Northern Italy to make it possible to repeat throughout the territory this attempt of Brigadier Graham to make the CC.RR a confident, dependable and efficient force. Without it, no orders to recover arms can be expected to succeed.

9. It is therefore suggested that AFHQ signal FX 58435 of 25 Aug 45 be followed by an instruction to the addressees that as a preliminary step they do everything in their power, in consultation with AFHQ, to assist the CC.RR and local police agencies and help them materially and by advice and training to become a force respected by themselves and the public, and effective. Without them, Allied troops will be useless; so trained and encouraged the CC.RR and police forces could so establish confidence that they could do more than Allied troops themselves to restore stability and order in the matter of illegal retention of arms.

10. I have written the above in the light of experiences of precisely the same sort in three other countries liberated by Allied troops in which arms have been previously freely distributed by Allies and enemy alike.

Copy to

POLAD (A)

POLAD (B)

MAJ. GEN. WARD, AFHQ

LAND FORCES 3/L

VP, CA SEC.

MSL/JG.

M. S. Lusk
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LIGURIA REGION

SECRET

LIG/HQ/114

28th August 1945

SUBJECT : Public Safety

TO : Commander, 60 Sub Area.

1. Public Safety in this Region is not entirely satisfactory and is very largely due to the presence in all the Provinces of a number of armed bandits and also to the low morale of the Carabinieri. I have spoken to Brigadier GRAHAM, Commander 7 AGRA, who is responsible for the western part of the Province of IMPERIA and he has agreed to help all he can with the training of the Carabinieri there. Brigadier GRAHAM and the provincial Commissioner, IMPERIA, are of the opinion, and I agree, that the presence of some troops in or near the town of IMPERIA is very necessary.

2. This applies equally to the Province of LA SPEZIA. This city has never had any Allied troops or Military Police in it in spite of strong representations having been made to 5 Army. There is a great deal of lawlessness there and it is becoming the centre of a number of deserters, chiefly American. The PARACCA Pass on Route 1 between SESTRI and LA SPEZIA is the scene of frequent nightly hold-ups of civilian transport by armed bandits all of whom are ex-Partisans. All possible steps are being taken to stop this, a Carabinieri post is being placed at the top of the Pass and a block system has been arranged on both sides of the Pass to convoy transport through at night with Carabinieri.

3. I request that the following steps be taken to assist the civil power in LA SPEZIA Province in the same way as Brigadier GRAHAM has done in PIEMONTE and IMPERIA Provinces:

- (1) That some Allied troops be stationed in the town of LA SPEZIA.
- (11) Failing this, that some Italian troops, strength not less than one Coy, be stationed there.

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36.9

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- (i) That some Allied troops be stationed in the town of LA SPEZIA.
- (ii) Failing this, that some Italian troops, strength not less than one Coy, be stationed there.
- (iii) Whether or not these requests can be fulfilled I consider it necessary that some Allied Military Police be stationed in the town. A recent shooting affray between American deserters and agents of the Questore bears this out.
- (iv) O.C. 14/20 Hussars be asked to assist in training the Carabinieri in LA SPEZIA in the same way as the Medium Regt RA are helping in SAN REMO and VENTIMIGLIA. 14/20 Hussars have already rendered

/valuable.....

-2-

valuable assistance in training Carabinieri crews for armoured cars. I would further request that O.C. 14/20 Hussars be informed of the situation obtaining on the BARACCA Pass so that some armoured car patrols could be carried out at night with a view to backing up the morale of the Carabinieri both in the posts and in the convoys.

JGS/son

J. G. Stuby
J. G. STUBY,
Colonel,
Regional Commissioner.

Copy to: H.Q., A.C. (Att Executive Commissioner)

3678

14607/18
INCOMING MESSAGE 3A

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: FK 38435

Message Centre No: F 5403

Date/Time of Origin: AUG 252007B

Date Time Rec'd: AUG 251700B

Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: FREEDOM SIGNED SIGNED

TO: 5 ARMY 13 CORPS DISTWO INFO DISTONE DISTTHREE PENTASE RAAC

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

1. Numerous reports have been received of considerable quantities of arms and ammunition in illegal possession of civilians all over ITALY. Attempts may be made by extremist elements to take advantage of withdrawal of Allied Forces and grave economic position of ITALY to seize power by force.

2. 5 ARMY 13 CORPS DISTWO will immediately institute methodical searching operations with the objects of seizing all illegally held arms and bringing their owners to justice using such troops as are available for this purpose.

3. ALCOM have already been instructed by this Hq to press Italian Govt to take energetic measures to collect illegally held arms in territory under their control.

(Message routed to ALCOM although ALCOM not in addressee in view of contents considered advisable to deliver for info. British Military Ciphers ALCOM.)

Dist

No 1	Copy Info-Action - P Safety SC
2	Info - Chief Commissioner
3	Exco Commr
4	CA Section
5	File

TOP SECRET

14002/18
INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: EX 38436

Message Centre No: F/5372

Date/Time of Origin: AUGUST 25/2008B

Date Time Rec'd: AUGUST 26/1420B

Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED SAGMED CITE FHGCT

TO : ACTION : FIFTH ARMY INFO: DISTWO ALCOM

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET.

1. HQ 88 division report that large quantities of arms and ammunition are concealed in the MODENA-VERONA Area. further that civilians in considerable numbers are armed in the area west of MODENA on highway 9. commanding general 88 division appreciates that communists are likely to start armed rioting on the withdrawal of Allied troops and rumors are current that trouble will start about 15 September.

2. Request you investigate this report and keep this HQ informed. further instructions follow separately on action to be taken to deal with problem of illegally held arms

DIST

Copy Number 1 INFO-ACTION : PUB SAFETY

"	"	2
"	"	3
"	"	4
"	"	5

INFO : CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EX COMMISSIONER
CA SEC
FILE

TOP SECRET

SECRET

READING

27 Aug 45

Ref:

SUBJECT: Illegal Stocks of Arms and Civil Disturbances
in Italian Government Territory.

TO: AMM, Chief of Staff.

- 1 With reference to your unnumbered Secret Letter of 21 Aug 45 on the subject of illegal stocks of arms and civil disturbances in Italian Government territory I am approaching the Italian Government as directed in your letter under reference and will report on its reactions as early as possible.

There are, however, certain aspects affecting this urgent and important matter to which I feel I should draw your attention at this stage.

- 2 Your letter refers to the use of the Italian Army in the collection of arms illegally held by civilians.

Civilians who are illegally in possession of arms in Italian Government territory are committing an offense against the civil law. The Italian civil population pay no regard whatever, as in the case of many other laws, to the laws relating to the possession of firearms, etc. Normally, no offense is disclosed because the arms remain hidden or appear only in times of riot or disturbance.

3675

The use of Italian troops in the enforcement of the law in circumstances

SUBJECT: Illegal Stocks of Arms and Civil Disturbances
in Italian Government Territory.

TO: ASH, Chief of Staff.

- 1 With reference to your unnumbered Secret letter of 21 Aug 45 on the subject of illegal stocks of arms and civil disturbances in Italian Government territory I am approaching the Italian Government as directed in your letter under reference and will report on its reactions as early as possible.

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3675

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The use of Italian troops in the enforcement of the law in circumstances where no disturbances are taking place, or no state of martial law exists, would be ~~an~~ exceptional.

Moreover, the Italian Army is under the control of your Headquarters and the instructions contained in your AF/370.6/005 GTO of 6 Jan 45 envisage the use of Italian troops in aid of the civil power only in the event of riot or disorder.

- 2 -

I presume it will be agreed that the collection of large quantities of hidden arms in the possession of individuals is a most difficult task. It can only be effected if areas are sealed off and thoroughly combed, involving house to house search in many instances. Such operations entail the use of considerable numbers of police and/or troops which also require to have the necessary degree of mobility. From past experience, co-ordinated action between Prefects, the Carabinieri and other police forces and the Italian Army has hitherto proved very difficult to achieve, especially as Italian military districts do not agree with Provincial boundaries.

An instance of the difficulties of achieving results is to be found in Sardinia where, despite the fact that the Island was occupied over two years ago and underwent a long period of Allied Military Government and notwithstanding all efforts made since to improve the situation, little or no progress has been made in reducing the large number of arms illegally held by individuals and communities throughout the Island.

Your letter refers in general to territory under the jurisdiction of the Italian Government and in particular to the area covered by No. 3 District.

I feel, however, that I should point out that according to my information the situation in the areas of the North, (excluding, possibly, UMBRE and VERCELLA GIULIA which still contain considerable numbers of Allied troops) which are under AMI and covered by ~~North~~ 2 District is similar, if not considerably worse.

I have already recommended to your Headquarters that North Italy (with the exception of VERCELLA GIULIA and the Province of UMBRE) should be handled

the use of considerable numbers of police and/or troops which also require to have the necessary degree of mobility. From past experience, co-ordinated action between Prefects, the Carabinieri and other police forces and the Italian Army has hitherto proved very difficult to achieve, especially as Italian military districts do not agree with Provincial boundaries.

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354

I feel, however, that I should point out that according to my information the situation in the areas of the North, (excluding, possibly, UMBRIA and VENETIA GIULIA which still contain considerable numbers of Allied troops) which are under AMG and covered by ~~North~~ 2 Districts is similar, if not considerably worse.

I have already recommended to your Headquarters that North Italy (with the exception of VENETIA GIULIA and the Province of UMBRIA) should be handed over to the jurisdiction of the Italian Government with effect from September 15th or some near date. In making this recommendation the unsatisfactory situation prevailing as regards law and order and arms illegally in possession of the civilian population was put as clearly as possible. Whatever date is eventually decided upon, it would appear that Northern Italian territory as given above may pass under Italian jurisdiction in the near future.

- 3 -

Allied Forces have been or are being withdrawn from the Regions of the North, leaving large quantities of arms in the hands of the civilian population and mainly in those of the worse elements. During the operational phase partisans are estimated to have handed in one weapon per capita which was not, probably, their best weapon but at the same time to have retained one or more good weapons.

My Regional Commissioners in AMG territory of LIGURIA, EMILIA, LUCANIA and VENEZIA all report that virtually no progress is being made in the collection of large quantities of arms held illegally by the civil population. This is due to the strength of the Italian police agencies being totally inadequate for the task and to the non-availability of Allied troops for the purpose. Raids are made from time to time on suspected arms dumps but so far results have been insignificant.

The Italian Government might well draw attention to a state of affairs in which, with the very limited resources at their disposal, they are called upon to rectify in Italian Government territory, a situation which the Allied authorities in conjunction with the Italian administration with much greater means at their disposal have failed to control in the North.

5 In my view the Italian Government and its forces of law and order, despite any assurances which may be given, have neither the capacity nor the means to carry out the task of collecting at once the illegal arms held by civilians in Italian Government territory thereby effecting what the Allied authorities and AMG, together with the Italian administration, failed to achieve in the past in areas of the North such as SICILY and

population and mainly in those of the worse elements. During the operational phase partisans are estimated to have landed in one weapon per capita which was not, probably, their best weapon but at the same time to have retained one or more good weapons.

My Regional Commissioners in ASD territory of LONGARINI, LIGURIA, LIGURIA and VENEZIA all report that virtually no progress is being made in the collection of large quantities of arms held illegally by the civil population. This is due to the strength of the Italian police agencies being totally inadequate for the task and to the non-availability of Allied troops for the purpose. Raids are made from time to time on suspected arms dumps but so far results have been insignificant.

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5 In my view the Italian Government and its forces of law and order, despite any assurances which may be given, have neither the capacity nor the means to carry out the task of collecting at once the illegal arms held by civilians in Italian Government territory thereby effecting what the Allied authorities and ASD, together with the Italian administration, failed to achieve in the past in areas of the South such as SICILY and so far in existing circumstances have failed to achieve in Northern Italy.

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Chief of Staff

21 Aug 45

SUBJECT: Illegal Stocks of Arms and Civil Disturbances in
Italian Government Territory.

TO: Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, APO 324.

- 1 The large quantities of illegal arms held by civilians in Italian Government territory and the failure of the Italian authorities to take adequate steps for their collection has been brought to the notice of this Headquarters by Commander, 3 District. The latter, moreover, has been officially informed by the Commander of the Naples Division of the Carabinieri that in present circumstances he is of the opinion that the forces under his command are insufficient and inadequately equipped to maintain order should any emergency arise.
- 2 The suggestion that the Carabinieri are inadequately armed emphasizes the necessity for their receiving proper support from the Italian Army and the local Italian authorities, notably the Prefects, and also points to the vital importance of collecting at once all illegal arms held by civilians.
- 3 You are directed to approach the Italian Government and place the following before them:
 - (a) It is and has been the policy of the Supreme Allied Commander to recommend that the Italian Government take the strongest possible steps to deal with civil disturbances within their own territory. It appears, however, that the Carabinieri cannot take effective action in dealing with disturbances of any magnitude unless they receive proper guidance and support from the local Prefects, who must be prepared to call for military assistance, if they consider such a course necessary. To this end, the Prefects themselves should receive from the Italian Government clear and definite directions as to their duties and responsibilities.
 - (b) The collection of illegal stores of arms held by civilians is considered as one of prime importance and as a matter which can only be brought about by properly planned and co-ordinated action between the Prefects, the Carabinieri and the Italian Army.
 - (c) The present situation is viewed with gravity as it is considered

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that any further deterioration in it is likely to have the most serious consequences. In this connection the Italian Government must realize that their ability to maintain law and order must inevitably be an important factor affecting any decision of the Allied Government in regard to the return of further territory to Italian control.

At the same time you should point out that, despite repeated requests, specific information as to the action taken by the Italian Government, following on the disturbances in the ANCONA and RIMINI areas in June last, is still awaited. In this connection, it should also be stated to the Italian Government that, whatever these measures were, it is apparent that they were inadequate as they did not prevent renewed incidents occurring in the BARI area on 2 August. You should reiterate the serious view which the Supreme Allied Commander takes of these disturbances.

4. A report is required on the reactions of the Italian Government to your approach in accordance with the foregoing instructions.

By command of Field Marshal ALEXANDER:

36.1
(Sgd) W.D. MORGAN
(t) W.D. MORGAN
Lieutenant General,
Chief of Staff.

