

ACC 10000/143/2356

610/05

SITUATION REPORTS - EMILIA REGION

JUNE - AUG. 1945

SECURITY DIVISION
FILE
MINUTE SHEET

No. of sheet	Date	File No. of case & LTR	From whom	Subject
1	3 JUNE			MONTHLY SECURITY REPORT
To Cas. 2	7 June 45		Report by Capt. Gale. Sec. O. Embler is forwarded for digest	N.I.P. Wally Doherty Col
			<u>P.S.</u>	
				I see Gale recommends in his excellent report disbandment of the partisan police. What are you doing?
	11 June			<u>John</u>
2	12 JUNE			FARTISAN POLICE
3	3 JULY			MONTHLY SECURITY REPORT
4	5 AUG.			N. 2 - JUNE N. 3 - JULY

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10000 / 143 / 2356

THIS FOLDER

CONTAINS PAPERS

FROM JUNE 1945

TO AUG. 1945

CATALOGUE.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS EMILIA REGION - A.M.G.
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION
REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE

61005-File
5 August 1945
CHERS

Monthly Security Report - No. 3 - JULY 1945

GENERAL

1. It can be said on extremely good grounds that the month of July, 1945 was, from the general security aspect, the most satisfactory month since the occupation, with continued improvement in public safety conditions.
2. As a result of the intense activity of PFSCOs during the preceding month and their firm treatment of the Partisan elements, there has been a marked improvement in the morale of the regular Italian police who have, at least, shown a remarkable return of confidence in dealing with the turbulent criminal elements who, in the guise of Partisans, had been such a disquietening feature in the early weeks of occupation.
3. The efficiency of the regular Italian police in Emilia Region still, however, leaves very much to be desired, but taking into account their general shortage of equipment, arms and transport and the scanty means of inter-communication between the police of the eight provinces, they have achieved much better results than had been expected. It has been extremely gratifying to observe numerous instances where they have acted entirely on their own initiative without the necessity of continual prompting by A.M.G. Public Safety officers. In Bologna, for example, during the second week of the month, as the result of quick thought on the part of a Carabinieri motor cyclist who was patrolling the area around the main prison, a projected attempt by Partisan or alleged Partisan elements, to raid the prison, was foiled. During his patrol, he had observed small groups converging from different directions upon the area of the prison. He drew the correct conclusions, made an immediate report and determined action by CC.RR dispersed the groups at the point of their assembly near the prison, with little or no trouble. Elsewhere in the Region, arrests have been made in almost every Province, of individuals, including ex-members of the Partisan Police, who were formerly feared to such an extent that it was difficult to secure their arrest by regular Police unless accompanied by an Allied officer.

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4. Undoubtedly, at this stage, the Italian Police are revealing the confidence and firmness necessary to maintain law and order and to safeguard Governmental security; they are better equipped mentally for the task than they were, but unless they receive further supplies of arms, transport and petrol they would not be in a position to deal with any major uprising of subversive elements, although quite competent in the larger towns to handle unlawful assemblies by local groups of the more turbulent political elements. U.S.

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5. There is, however, no evidence on which to draw the conclusion that any major uprising is likely to occur. Certainly, there will be provincial disturbances as political feeling grows more intense, but there are no indications that any political element is organized on a basis to incite simultaneously throughout the Region, disturbances or riots to overthrow properly constituted Local Government. The political activities of the month of July, 1945 have revealed a certain political balance and progress has been made by each of the principal parties. Good order has been maintained at their meetings and there has been rather an absence of "Party" bias, in fact the most well attended meetings in the Region have been those which were more or less independently organized to discuss particular questions, such as price control, division of agricultural products etc.

6. The events of the week immediately preceding the change of administration in Emilia Region on 4 July 1945 showed the same calm and balance and there were no repercussions to indicate any dangerous trend of thought or intention on the part either of the public in general or of any particular political element. At the ceremony held in the main square of Bologna to inaugurate the change of control, ten thousand or more persons were assembled for approximately two hours without untoward incident of any kind and without even the mildest demonstration of hostility to any of the various representatives - Allied and Italian - who took part.

7. The most likely sequel to events in the Emilia Region in the future will probably be limited to political intimidation towards election time by certain of the criminal elements who, for their own purposes, have attached themselves to the Communist Party. They will undoubtedly, at an appropriate time, cause local disorders and profit by crime during the ensuing confusion; they will nominate Party individuals upon whose help they can rely in their subsequent careers of crime and extortion; they will intimidate voters to secure that their own nominees are elected. In an opinion, however, that this kind of activity will be confined to small localities, particularly in the agricultural areas and should amount to no more than local "banditry" - and remain more in the nature of a Public Safety problem rather than a Governmental Security problem. If uncontrolled for any length of time such a situation could

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6. The activities which will have a Regional effect and which will have a security aspect will, most probably, be those of the Camera di Lavoro, an organisation in which all parties are represented but having a stronger Socialist influence in most provinces. This "Camera" has, in almost every province, been more active than the parties themselves and has been responsible for organising numerous protest meetings throughout the Region, mainly against high prices, low wages, unemployment and general labour and agricultural problems. I am reliably informed that the various Camere di Lavoro in the provinces are already in close contact and intend in the near future to organise "token" strikes of protest against unsatisfactory labour features; some of these strikes may be of a general character and on a Regional basis, but it is not intended that they should, at the outset, last more than two or three days and will be more in the nature of political gestures. At the moment, representation in the Camere di Lavoro is not of a very alarming character but a close watch should be kept upon its representation in case there should be infiltration by undesirable and turbulent political elements, because in such event, the Regional character of the organisation could be used to the detriment of security.

POLITICAL PARTIES and PERSONALITIES

9. As already indicated, political activity has been stronger in Labour organisations such as the Camera di Lavoro than among the parties themselves. Party activity, as in the month of June, was greater in Reggio Emilia than in the other provinces but was spread evenly over the parties and showed a balance and reason which one would like to see in other provinces. All meetings were well attended there and were orderly, calm and quiet. Throughout the Region there was no actual disorder during the month; but at Parma and Ferrara the meetings revealed a more intense feeling, and some disorder, although not necessarily of a serious character, may be expected in the last-mentioned two provinces, particularly as election spirit develops.

10. The Communist Party was less active than the other parties from the point of view of meetings organised directly under the Party's auspices. Its organisers seem to have been concentrating largely in being well represented in the activities of the Camera di Lavoro and general meet-

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10. The Communist Party was less active than the other parties from the point of view of meetings organised directly under the Party's auspices. Its organisers seem to have been concentrating largely in being well represented in the activities of the Camera di Lavoro and general meetings involving all parties, but even so they were ~~very~~ ^{very} outnumbered by Socialist supporters, especially during the latter days of the month, probably due to a re-action in favour of the Socialist Party as a result of the election in England. Only in Ferrara and Reggio Emilia did the Communist Party carry out special Party activity. In Ferrara they held four meetings with an average attendance of about 300 persons. A fifth meeting drew a crowd of 900 persons, among whom were about 200 Italian soldiers, the latter showing marked opposition to the Communist speaker - GALLETTI Romeo - subjecting him to continual interruption so ~~that after about~~ ^{that after about} forty minutes the meeting was abandoned and all except about

100 Communist Party adherents, dispersed. The Communists then spent about half-an-hour marching around the main square and they too dispersed without untoward incident. In Reggio Emilia, the Communist Party held five small meetings with an average attendance of about 200 persons, the principal speakers and organisers being - CASTAGNETTI Aldo, COMBIA Artilio. A former, leading "Partisan" Communist active in the Province and mentioned in June Monthly Report, namely, FERRARI Didimo (Battle - name "Eros") was arrested during the month for complicity in murders committed in the weeks following Allied Occupation. Investigations are still in progress by Italian Police and evidence against him seems to be strong.

10. The Socialist Party made a very strong drive during the month, which became intensified in the later days, after the results of the election in England became known. They held several congresses and numerous meetings throughout the Region, seldom having less than 500 persons present even at the smallest meeting. At one Socialist Party meeting in Parma 4000 supporters were present and at another in the same Province 2500 persons attended, most of whom appeared to be Party supporters. Even at Ferrara, which is largely Communist in sympathy, the Socialist Party drew crowds of more than two thousand at each of two meetings. The advance of the Socialist Party during July has done much to help balance the security situation in Emilia Region. The most active personalities of the Party during the month were - Dott. MERIGHI (Modena), Sig. GHIDINI Sig BOSI and Sig. PUTTINATI (all of Ferrara), COLLA Giovanni (Parma), Arturo BENSILI, Ing. CHIRUBINI and Avv. VIGHI (all of Reggio Emilia), Avv. Ferruccio PANSINI and Giuseppe ABATE (both of Piacenza).

11. The Christian Democrat Party pursued a very quiet programme and its activity was much less than during the preceding month. Its main activities were in Bologna, Reggio and Piacenza, about four meetings being held in each province, with an average attendance of about 250 persons. The principal personalities were - Dott. LANZONI (Bologna), Prof. Giuseppe DONELLI (Reggio).

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SECURITY ARRESTS and EPURATION

13. There have been no security arrests made during the month, at the instigation of A.M.G. and the Epuration question seems to be handled adequately by the Italian Epuration Committees in the Region, who are carrying out the work thoroughly and with reasonable speed having already dealt with the majority of the senior officials of

public concerns and have made considerable headway in dealing with junior officials and workmen.

RELATIONS BETWEEN MILITARY PERSONNEL & CIVIL POPULATION

14. In general, the relations between military personnel and the civil population have continued to be satisfactory and apart from occasional friction between individuals in bars, due to drunkenness, there have been no untoward incidents. An allegation of rape by four U.S. negro soldiers, reported at the end of the previous month is still being investigated by Military Police. Apart from this no allegation of bad conduct by Allied troops has been received. There are now fewer Poles in the Forli, Bologna and Ravenna areas and, in consequence, there have been no complaints, as during June, of their summary treatment of civilians and indiscriminate "requisitioning" of property. An effect of the removal of Polish troops from those areas has been a return of the "courage" of the Communist elements who have re-commenced activities in places where they were previously unable to operate out of fear of clashes with Polish soldiers who would not tolerate any exhibition of Communism, even the wearing of a Communist badge.

SECURITY PROBLEMS

15. The most difficult security problem of a very disturbing character is the fact that there is every indication that almost all the population, both lawbreakers and law-abiding persons, are in possession of arms. The PPSOs are in agreement with me that this is very much due to the fact that A.M.G. Courts did not inflict sufficiently heavy penalties against those persons who were brought before them for illegal possession. It is also due to the confusion which was caused by Partisans who retained arms after the scheduled time and whom Italian Police were reluctant to arrest in the early stages. There still remains throughout the Region, large quantities of ammunition and explosives which have not been cleared by military. Doubtless, during the long period in which this material has been abandoned, lawless and violent elements among the population have been removing quantities to store for future use. Having regard to these facts, the need for adequate and powerful modern weapons and transport to be supplied to Police of this Region cannot be too strongly emphasized.

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OTHER MATTERS OF SECURITY INTEREST

16. From information received, it is ~~apparent~~ that the authorities in this Region will have to keep a strict watch on all Police appointments which are made here in the future. There are indications that C.I.N. and Partisan groups will endeavour to infiltrate their own nominees into the Police Service to produce a political bias therein, of which criminal elements may take possible advantage.

Louis V. Gale
Louis V. Gale, Captain
Regional Security Officer.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS EMILIA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Public Safety Division
Regional Security Office.

610.05

3 July 1945.

Monthly Security Report - No. 1 - June, 1945.

GENERAL.

1. The main feature of the month of June, 1945 was the strenuous effort made by Provincial Public Safety Officers and the D.A.P.M., Bologna City Command to clear from the minds of the people of the Emilia Region their belief in the authority of the Partisans and to take steps to prevent an increase of the crime and disorder provoked by accredited Partisans and those posing as such.
2. Rigorous enquiries were made in each Province by R.S.O. and Public Safety Officers as to the character of members of the Partisan Police and as a result many of them, persons of bad character, ranging from actual criminals to local hooligans were dismissed from their posts. It may be said that about twenty per cent of the Partisan Police throughout the Region were thus comprised and were discharged. For the past two weeks the remaining members of the Partisan Police have been carrying on with reasonable discipline although they cannot be described as being efficient police officers. At least, however, the most harmful elements among them seem to have been removed.
3. In addition to this screening of Partisan Police, the worst element of which was giving an appearance of authority to illegal acts, the Public Safety Officers in conjunction with the R.P.S.O and R.S.O have been making every effort to impress upon the Public that authority does not rest with the Partisans but with A.M.G. and the Italian forces of Law and Order.
4. This has to some extent been accomplished by the Provincial Public Safety Officers going out personally with Italian ~~regular~~ Police to effect arrests of Partisans on every occasion where any

indication existed that Partisans or Partisan influences were involved in any transgression of the Law. Well-known local Partisans in the various Provinces have been arrested in this manner and although more often than not the arrests have only been made on "reasonable suspicion" and the prisoners released after several days of subsequent enquiries, the effect upon the public has been that they are somewhat more firm when given instructions by Partisans and are beginning to turn more to the properly constituted authorities and, where previously, members of the public were loath to give any testimony regarding so-called Partisans who had menaced them, they are now, in general, more ready to talk and even to give the identity of the partisans who molested them.

5. As a result of this, sufficient evidence has been obtained to arrest and, almost certainly - from my examination of the cases - to convict sixteen persons guilty of murder and looting in the Imola district of Bologna province. The same persons, among them a "bersaglio" of V.S., seem to have been concerned in the massacre of twelve prisoners (ex-members of the "Brisate Nere") at Imola, which it will be remembered was described in Security Report for May 1945. The effect of these arrests has been to render Imola considerably more tranquil for the past three weeks. The preparation of these cases has been lengthy because of the number of persons involved, but I am confident that convictions will be secured.

6. Similarly, during the last week of the month, six arrests have been made in Bologna and Modena of persons involved in killings in both Provinces. It seems probable that these arrests, for which convictions seem likely to be obtained, will have led to the breaking-up of an organized gang of killers, led by a certain BOLOGNINI (who has been arrested). This gang in "Partisan" guise seems to have been responsible for a large percentage of the crimes of killing and robbing in both Provinces of Modena and Bologna.

7. These important arrests have been made possible by information from members of the public and in some cases by confessions of accomplices obtained by Italian Police, following energetic action by the Public Safety Officers in making arrests personally. This can be regarded as a further sign that, given a reasonable number of well earned Italian policemen, led by a determined Officer, results can be achieved and both public and delinquents made to respect the forces of Law and Order. But Provincial Public Safety Officers, with their large amount of administrative work, cannot indefinitely continue to lead Italian policemen and make arrests personally in their Provinces.

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8. It is felt that, if at this stage, the Police, both CC.RR. and P.S., can be strengthened both, in man-power and weapon power and in transport facilities, complete order can be restored, especially if determined Italian officers and N.C.O.s can be allocated even for a brief space of time to Emilia Region, which is undoubtedly one of the most turbulent and difficult regions.

9. Under the direct leadership of Public Safety Officers, the Italian Police are beginning to show a return of confidence in themselves, but they still need to feel that they are strong enough to hold their ground after the departure of the Allied Military Government. Therefore, it is urgently suggested that the present is the time for bolstering them up with more men and equipment. It is also important that, as soon as possible, all Auxiliary Police be put into the standard uniform and subjected absolutely to the normal police discipline.

10. With important developments which are contemplated in the near future in Italy, the interests of the security of Constitutional Government now demand a considerable show of force and authority. From my tours of the Region and information from numerous contacts in the various Provinces, it is apparent that the lively efforts of the Public Safety Officers in personally leading Italian Police has had a profound effect upon the public, but that effect will be lasting only if the Italian Police is strengthened immediately and thus able to act independently. At the present time circumstances have made it more favourable for them to achieve that end than at any time since the Occupation, if they are given more men, more powerful weapons and more transport.

11. It is true that, in comparison with May 1945, the amount of serious crime in June 1945 has diminished to a relatively small figure. My own investigations show that, although there was a political bias to the wave of crime during May 1945, there is no immediate danger of the persons concerned in crimes of violence, using their arms for unconstitutional political objects.

12. The political aspect merely formed an expedient alibi in the event of detection and arrest, viz. that the culprits were merely carrying out "just epuration". As that alibi is now "wearing very thin" and since energetic action by A.M.G. P.S. officers has given the criminal elements a show of authority, crime is not likely to reach anything like the proportions of May, 1945. But it has ~~to be~~ remembered that the Public has associated these crimes with Communist elements and, whilst most of them have expressed disgust and horror

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at the crimes, they are, in general, susceptible to intimidation and there is little doubt that the criminal elements who profited from the confusion of wild "epuration" will be only too ready to use the new field of political intimidation for personal gain, now that the "epuration" phase is more or less over.

13. POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

From time to time information has been received to the effect that "mysterious foreigners" usually described as Jugo-Slavians" or "Germans" are active in various political organisations such as the "Unions delle donne" and in Communist organisations. Investigations to date on these various allegations have, however, not substantiated particular cases, and the "mysterious foreigner" is often found to be an Italian from Tuscany or from places in the far north, whose accent is strange to ears in Emilia region. At other times, the persons indicated have proved to be re-patriates of various nationalities, awaiting disposal at transit camps, and who are allowed freedom in such towns as Reggio Emilia, and who, although expressing their political views, have not actively been concerned with any political organisation.

14. However, in spite of negative results of preliminary investigations, enquiries as to the status and business of various aliens in the Region is being pursued with a view to ensuring that there are no undue influences at work in the political affairs in this Region.

15. POLITICAL PARTIES AND PERSONALITIES.

Political activity during the month has, in general, been at surprisingly low ebb throughout the Region. The most politically conscious population of the Region, is on the showing for June, 1945, that of Reggio Emilia where seven major public political meetings were held, four of them being Communist Party meetings attended by an average audience of 500 persons, the organizer and prominent member being a certain Gino CASTAGNETTI who is a fervent active communist propagandist. His background, status and characteristics are being further investigated. A joint Socialist - Communist meeting attracted a crowd of 3,500 persons. All meetings were orderly and devoid of untoward incidents.

16. The balance of popular favour in Reggio Emilia now seems to balance between the Socialist Party and the Communist Party, but the Christian Democrats seem to be making rapid progress and at one

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of their gatherings over a thousand persons took part as against the average 500 - 700 persons at the meetings of the other two parties

17. The Communist Party held eight public meetings in the Region during the month, at which the most prominent personalities were ARRIGNONI Enrico (Parma), FERRARI Didimo (Parma), the aforementioned CASTAGNETTI Gino (Reggio Emilia) and CASALI Leonida (Bologna). The average audience throughout the provinces mentioned was about 500 persons. All meetings were orderly.

18. The Socialist Party organized six public meetings during the month, the main organizers being Prof. PERTINI Sandro (Forli), SINONINI Alberto (Reggio Emilia), TEGA Renato (Bologna). Each meeting was orderly throughout and average attendance was about 400 persons.

19. The Christian Democrat Party held four public meetings in the Region, the principal personalities concerned, being Dr. COMUZZI Piero (Parma and Reggio Emilia), LANZINI Saimondo (Bologna) and Signora ROVEDA (Bologna). Good order prevailed and the average attendance was about 700 persons.

20. The general tone of the speech made at these meetings of all three parties was extremely mild and devoted almost entirely to economic problems. There were numerous other meetings by these parties in commemoration of Matteotti, which followed conventional lines and which do not give much indication of political feeling.

21. There were a number of large professions and non-party meetings in various Provinces to discuss economic conditions and to voice protests at high costs of living, inadequate wages and lack of price control. The majority of these meetings were held under the auspices of the Camera di Lavoro which is usually composed of persons of various political denominations. One such meeting in Modena attracted an audience of about 6000 persons and, surprisingly enough in that rather turbulent area, was conducted quietly and orderly, the speeches being reasonable, sound and moderate and meeting with general approval. These "non-party" or "all-parties" meetings seem to have a quieting effect on the population and the fact that trades union and general workers organizations are thus active is a good influence which creates a balance of political thought among the population.

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SECURITY ARRESTS & EPURATION.

22. During the month there have been no security arrests made at the instigation of A.M.G. Information was, however, obtained by Regional Security Officer that a man, infamous in the Bologna and Modena Provinces as a Fascist Republican- betrayer of Patriots and German collaborator - Professor Franz FAGLIANI - wanted on "collaborationist" charges by the Questura, Bologna, had succeeded in evading the Italian authorities adopting the false identity "Franco GALLIANO" posing as a medical captain forced into fascist republican service. Thus he had been placed in temporary confinement in Cremona prison to keep out of the way when the hunt was strongest, and had circulated the rumour that he had been killed by Partisans. Enquiries showed that these facts were correct and identity having been established he is being held at the disposal of the Italian authorities for trial.

23. The Italian Epuration Committees in this Region, with whom I have made contact, seem to be carrying out their task with thoroughness and impartiality. In Bologna, they have dismissed from public institutions 136 persons who have been too closely connected with the P.M.F., whilst in other Provinces, about 50 - 60 persons on average were dismissed from such posts, many more doubtful cases being suspended pending further investigation. In general, it can be said that all senior grade Officials have been dealt with and the work of epuration of junior grade Officials and employees in public institutions is also well in hand.

24. RELATIONS BETWEEN MILITARY PERSONNEL & CIVIL POPULATION.

Relations generally between Allied Military Personnel and the civil population continues to be extremely satisfactory apart from occasional minor incidents arising in bars and cafes. Four cases of rape by coloured troops have been reported and are under investigation.

25. Numerous complaints have, however, been received regarding the conduct of Polish troops of whom there are many thousands in this Region - particularly in Forli and Bologna. They treat both the Italian public and Italian Police with the greatest of contempt, enter premises and "requisition" property indiscriminately; on one occasion at Parma they occupied the Questura and seized a car which has been requisitioned by the Questore. Their presence in the Forli, Bologna and Ravenna areas is, however, perhaps responsible for the falling off of communist activity in these areas. The Poles offer immediate violence to anybody who demonstrates in any way that he is a communist, and this seems to have had considerable effect.

(7)

26. SECURITY PROBLEMS.

Apart from the necessity of further strengthening of the Police services in the Region, as already dealt with in this report, there are other problems which render future security rather delicate.

27. All over Emilia region there are abandoned dumps of explosives and ammunition, both German and Allied, sometimes in places only accessible to horses or donkeys. These dumps are small and widespread and it is more than regional transport can manage to shift the explosives etc. to central depots, quite apart from the fact that it would not be judicious for a Civil Affairs officer to instruct civilians to remove them, owing to danger of explosion through inexperienced clearance by persons not acquainted with the possibilities of combustion of explosives of various types due to exposure. In the meantime, the ammunition and explosives are open to removal by individuals and organizations who could put them to use endangering security, when an appropriate moment arrives.

28. It is felt that H.Q. Allied Commission might take this matter up through appropriate channels to secure proper clearance of this dangerous material.

29. OTHER MATTERS OF SECURITY INTEREST.

The results of the first Special Courts of Assize or People's Courts to try Fascist offenders, have been commenced in the Region. There have been several death sentences and heavy terms of imprisonment meted out. So far the sentences have met with public approval, although there had previously been strong protests against the failure of the Milan Court of Assize to inflict the death penalty on BASILE infamous ex - Chief of Genova Province. These protests took the form of posters affixed to walls - signed, "I Giacobini di Garat" but no further demonstrations have taken place.

Louis V. Gale

Louis V. Gale, Captain
Regional Security Officer

4737

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

REF : SD/28002 61005 *Q* 12 June 1945 *BT*

SUBJECT : Partisan Police

TO : Director, Public Safety Sub Commission

1. In certain districts of Northern Italy Military Commanders have authorized the functioning of "Partisan Police" as an aid to maintaining public order and safety. This as a temporary measure may have been justified, but the retention of these bodies being superimposed on the regular Police services must be very carefully watched for fear that, in the long run, it does not have the reverse effect from which was intended.

2. The problem is surrounded with difficulties, and its solution affects the whole structure of public safety in Italy. There can be no doubt from an impartial point of view that the introduction of partisan Police is bad, except for military necessity. The qualifications for Police services should be of an exceptionally high standard, and a degree of honesty, impartiality and courage for things which are right must be insisted upon. The assumption of authority in the hands of persons not used to it, especially authority involving arrest and detention, is apt to be dangerous, especially when the persons concerned have themselves been subjected to repressive measures.

3. The greatest evil of Partisan Police is that they may become "political". Already I have evidence of the formation of a "counter political police", and it is not difficult to foresee such political party with its own police force, weapons secreted instead of being surrendered, clashes occurring on political matters, and fighting and bloodshed occurring. It all leads, in the absence of a competent and disciplined regular Police Force, to violence and anarchy.

4. The essence of political police is anti democratic, and the effect upon a country reared in the Fascist theory is to form a second CUSA. If this is so then justice, as we know it, will not be known in Italy. There will be vengeance upon former Fascists, revenge by the former Fascists who have lost relatives and friends in the purge upon so called partisans, and a general state of anarchy.

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4. The essence of political police is anti democratic, and the effect upon a country reared in the Fascist theory is to form a second OVA. If this is so then justice, as we know it, will not be known in Italy. There will be vengeance upon former Fascists, revenge by the former Fascists who have lost relatives and friends in the purge upon so called partisans, and a complete disregard for law and order.

5. The answer to the disbandment of the Partisan Police is not easy. It involves all the problems which face this wretched country at the moment. How can the good be sorted from the bad? How will they be employed? Can they be merged into regular Police services? Should they accept merger into the G.P.M., which, by its title, supports the House of Savoy. Can their title be changed, to make it acceptable, before the fall of the House of Savoy? Would the influx of partisans into the "agenti" be a practical proposition?

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6. I think the letter is the only solution - that the best and most reliable of the partisans police should be offered positions with the Agente di Publica Sicurezza, after very careful screening. This in itself would eliminate many of the undesirables, who would not be willing to accept a disciplined life. The CC-RR are slowly winning their way forward against great criticism, but the whole Police structure is too unskillfully over to function satisfactorily. Unfortunately the time is probably premature to envisage radical changes, but the old maxim that a community gets the Police force it deserves, is, and will be something painful for Italians for some time to come.

7. Although the spate of violence in the North is now abating, I foresee a return either of violence or severe repressive measures and, this may come in spite of what we can do prevent it. Before the departure of the very experienced (both in civil life and in Military Government) R.P.S.O.'s I would suggest that a meeting be called in the North to get their views on the partisan police, and the future of public safety generally.

S. J. Harvey
S. J. HARVEY,
Major,
Security Division.

SJH/nb

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CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS EMILIA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION
REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE

Security Division
6/6
1878
61005
Region

3 June 1945

MONTHLY SECURITY REPORT - No. 1 - MAY 1945

General

1. The Regional Security Officer took up his duties on 20 May, 1945 and since that date has made contact and established liaison with the various military and civil security agencies within the Region.
2. It has been found that the only remaining British security agency in the Region is a small R.A.F. Security Detachment consisting of a Sergeant and Corporal, posted from 45 Flight R.A.F. Florence, to Bologna. They have been co-operating with the Regional Security Officer in a preliminary survey of political and economic conditions in the Provinces of Bologna and Modena, with special attention to the illegal activities of alleged groups of Partisans. Their enquiries are not yet completed and as they may not remain long in the area, conclusive results are not expected, although useful general information is being obtained through them.
3. Considerable assistance has also been forthcoming from the D.A.F.M.; C.M.P.; Bologna City Allied Command, who has undertaken the investigation of numerous cases of blackmailing, kidnapping and killing in Bologna Province by groups of armed men, purporting to be, or alleged to be Partisans, who have been carrying out these activities against the more wealthy residents in the Region, more often than not on flimsy and often false allegations that the victims were fascist ~~collaborators~~

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4. In the course of their investigations C.M.P. have made eleven arrests during the month of persons illegally carrying firearms. Some of these are suspected of complicity in recent outrages of the character described above but, so far, there is no definite evidence upon which to charge them with the crimes. It must be realised that this type of investigation would not normally be undertaken by C.M.P. and that the decision for them to intervene was taken little more than a

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week ago, after consultation between the D.A.P.M., the Regional Security Officer and the Provincial Public Safety Officer, it being considered that the situation is rapidly becoming one which may endanger security of Military Government in the Region.

5. There are four C.I.C Sections in the Region - at Bologna, Modena, Parma and Reggio, respectively. These Sections are also concentrating particular attention upon the activities of alleged Partisans in these areas, who are practising widespread extortion and kidnapping and killing those of their victims who do not pay the sums demanded of them or do not grant the "Partisans" any privileges for which they may ask in relation to use of premises etc. Many of the demands for payment are made in the names of the Local Committees of National Liberation, but there is as yet no actual proof that the demands do, in fact, emanate from the C.I.N. Neither, at the moment, is there any evidence that the perpetrators of crimes are accredited Partisans, but certainly it seems likely that a great many criminals, released from prison immediately before the Allied Occupation of the Region have joined up with the less desirable type of Partisan for the purpose of looting etc; They may present a danger to security in the sense that men of this type are only too ready to resort to violence and terrorism for any political element which would be willing to use them.

6. The above, para 5, will form the subject of future investigations to be instituted by the Regional Security Officer who, on acquiring evidence, will take such action as is possible with the forces at his disposal. It is already clear that little reliance can be placed on Italian

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6. The above, para 5, will form the subject of future investigations to be instituted by the Regional Security Officer who, on acquiring evidence, will take such action as is possible with the forces at his disposal. It is already clear that little reliance can be placed on Italian Police in the Region - either P.S. or CC.RR - who seem to bend entirely to the will of the C.I.N. and local Partisan Groups, with disastrous results so far as law and order is concerned.

7. During the last week of the month, for example, at Imola, Bologna Province, the Commissario of P.S, under pressure of local Partisans, gave authority for the transfer of 16 fascist prisoners from Verona Prison to Imola, where

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the prisoners had allegedly been active as members of the "Brigata Mera"; the Partisan representative informed the Commissario of P.S. that the C.L.M had decided to have the prisoners in Imola for trial there by a People's Court. The Commissario authorised the removal of the prisoners (leaving the question of transport at the discretion of the Partisans) without consulting the A.M.G officer having jurisdiction, and took no steps to prevent disorder when the prisoners arrived in Imola, although a large crowd had gathered over an hour previously, whose disorderly intentions should have been clear to him. The result was that on the arrival at Imola of the lorry containing the prisoners, inadequately protected by a mixed guard of CC.RR, Agents of P.S. and Partisans (the latter illegally bearing firearms) a crowd numbering several thousands gathered around the lorry, many clambered on to it and twelve of the prisoners were beaten to death with sticks and stones and four being gravely injured. The Commissario was at once suspended after a preliminary investigation by Regional and Provincial A.M.G officers. As a result of subsequent investigations, he has been placed under arrest, also the Maresciallo Maggiore serving under him, and several "Partisans" all of whom are likely to be charged shortly with complicity in this and other serious crimes.

6. The ineffectiveness of the Italian forces of law and order in the Region, when it is realised that depredations by armed groups of terrorists are happening daily all over the Region, is more than disquieting. The situation might well develop to the point where these armed bands are organised for some purpose to the detriment of security.

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9.

Liaison has been established also with P.W.B. Unit No.15 - "D" Section and Film Section, members of which, in the course of travels over the Region are often in a position to observe general conditions and political activity. Their

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reports confirm the information obtained by the Regional Security Officer from other sources and agencies, as outlined briefly in paragraphs 1-8.

Political Activity

10. With regard to the political parties in Emilia Region, it is clear that the Communist Party has the greatest numerical strength, particularly in Bologna. The party is well organized and has a very strong internal discipline. During the Victory Celebrations of May 12th, the Communist element was predominant, and in addition to numerous red flags, were displayed a variety of posters inscribed with typical Communist slogans - "We want Nenni and Togliatti in Bologna" - "Down with the Monarchy" - "Down with the Padroni" - "Long live Italy and the Red Armies". Rhythmic shouting of "STA-LIN - STA-LIN" and "TO-GLI-AT-TI" was continuous. There was a moderate sprinkling of members of the Democratic Christian Party and the Liberal Party, but they were greatly outnumbered by the Communists.

11. The Socialist Party in Emilia Region has many capable, efficient and acceptable men who did genuine work prior to the Allied Occupation, to prevent destruction and violence in the Region, at the critical time immediately before Occupation. The Party has reasonable numerical strength throughout the Region but is stronger in the centre provinces - Reggio Emilia and Parma - where it has support of the middle-class and agricultural class. There seems a possibility, however, that even in those provinces it may eventually be absorbed by the Communist Party, with which it is at present united.

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12.

The Democratic Christian Party and the Liberal Party have not been very active and are weak in comparison with the Communist and Socialist Parties. The Communist Party was quite evidently well organized before the advent of the Allies as was also the Socialist Party to a smaller degree. The other two parties, however, are only now beginning the process of formation; they have recently been campaigning for increased membership, mainly by means of posters and I am reliably informed that they have met with some success. A close watch will be kept upon these political developments

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during the month of June and more details will be submitted in the next monthly report. To-date there have been no inter-party clashes or disorder directly due to political activity, but with tension at its present stage some disorder may be expected as the smaller parties gain in numerical strength. The only noteworthy incidents arising from political activity have been in three small agricultural communes where it has been alleged that certain Communist elements have threatened peasants who have refused to join the Communist Party on being canvassed to do so. It is not believed, however, that this type of activity has yet reached alarming proportions.

Security Arrests, Epuraton and Screening

13. During the month there has only been one security arrest made at the instigation of A.M.G., namely that of Alberico TESTA, a former associate of the notorious RCATTA. This arrest was carried out at the request of H.Q. Allied Commission.
14. In general, so far as the arrest of fascists, dangerous to security, is concerned, the rather wild and over-enthusiastic activities of Partisans prior to and since Allied Occupation, has been such that any person tainted to the slightest degree with fascism has been extremely fortunate if he has remained alive. Indeed great numbers have been killed or abducted by the Partisans; the number of missing persons in the Region numbers about two thousand, many of whom are fascists but a considerable number of whom were not. These partisan activities have not left A.M.G. a great deal to do in respect of epuration of fascists in the Emilia

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These partisan activities have not left A.M.G. a great deal to do in respect of epuration of fascists in the Emilia Region. The partisan epuration system has been of a crude, summary but thorough character, but in dealing "rough justice" to fascists, many of the "partisans" have taken the opportunity to vindicate their own private vendettas against persons not remotely connected with fascism.

15.

Relations between Military Personnel and Civil Population

The situation between Allied Military personnel and the civilian population has been extremely satisfactory to-date and no untoward incidents have occurred during the month. In general, throughout the Region, the population have

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expressed the wish to see more British and American soldiers in their towns, stating that it would help to combat the present swing of the pendulum towards lawlessness and violence which has reached proportions where security and ordered living are jeopardised. It is widely stated that there are a great many criminals at large in the Region, who were released shortly before Allied Occupation who have taken advantage of the situation to loot and extort and who in many places are practically running the life of the community. If the power of this type spreads, they may well become a direct menace to political and governmental security.

Security Problems

16.

Probably the worst factor in the Region is the apparent contempt with which the official Italian Police are regarded both by law-abiding persons and by criminal elements. This applied particularly to the CC.RR. who are, in any case, traditionally unpopular in this Region, and who are in such small numbers and so poorly "officered" that they are in no position to show the force and determination necessary to command respect. There have been several instances of CC.RR. caserme being stormed by "Partisans" and CC.RR. personnel evicted. Allied troops have been obliged to re-take the caserme by force and to re-install the CC.RR. The Agents of P.S. are in little better situation but most of them lack arms and are more or less subservient to Partisan wishes and seem to take second place to the "Partisan Police" among whom, from observation, I feel convinced (although there is no definite evidence) there are many undesirable individuals and probably some criminals. This organisation will be investigated as far as possible.

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17. From my brief survey of the situation in this Region, I am convinced that the weakness of Italian Police here represents a serious threat to security and constitutional Government. Its weaknesses arise from lack of personnel and loss of prestige due to the confusion caused by the introduction of the Partisan Police, most of the members of which are totally unfitted to carry out Police duties and are more likely to contribute to further disorder than to produce security and good order. My opinion is that

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the situation can only be remedied by the complete disbandment of the Partisan Police, giving the suitable elements among them the opportunity to become members of the regular Police Service, and to back this regular Police service with groups of Allied Military personnel, to take vigorous and determined action against any person who infringes the law in the slightest degree. If this were carried out only for a period of about two months, during which time the Italian Police Service might be implemented by recruitment of suitable personnel, the confidence of the members of CC.RR and P.S. might be restored and they would regain the respect of the population of the Region.

17;

Since the situation of Police in this Region may have a direct effect on the security of Constitutional Government in the Region, after the phase of Military Government, the Regional Security Officer will endeavour to use such Allied Force as is necessary and available, co-operating with C.M.P., C.I.C (who are specially concerned about the situation and have promised aid) and S.I.M., to deal with the more serious aspects of disorder in the Region.

Louis V. Gale

Louis V. Gale

Regional Security Officer

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