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LIGURIA

July - Oct. 1945

SECURITY DIVISION
FILE
MINUTE SHEET

No. of sheet	Date	File No. of ans'd LTR	From to whom	Subject
1	29 July			MONTHLY REPORT SECURITY JULY 1945. —
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THIS FOLDER

CONTAINS PAPERS

FROM JULY 1945

TO OCT 1945

CATALOGUE

HEADQUARTERS LIGURIA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

LPG 394

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

REF : LIC/SAFE/502/4

SUBJECT : Monthly Security Report
- September 1945

TO : Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission
Security Division, E.A. Allied Commission.
S.M.F.
(Through E.E.S.O. Liguria Region)

4 October 1945



GENERAL

1. In general, in this Region there now appears to be greater public confidence in an early return to normality so far as public safety and security conditions are concerned. There are fewer wild rumours of imminent uprisings and less of the "alarmist" pessimistic speculation which prevailed in previous months among the population.
2. Police forces in this Region, in spite of inadequate equipment are beginning to get a grip of the situation; there has been much less general crime and the percentage of detected crime and arrests as against reported crimes now assumes much better proportions.
3. In connection with the above it is very encouraging to note that the Carabinieri Regali in each of the Provinces of the Region have made excellent progress and have done excellent work in detecting crime in general, whilst they have given whole-hearted collaboration in the prevention of crime, particularly in the La Spezia Province which has always been a crime centre.

4. Probably, from the security point of view, the most important event of the month was the sentencing of five young ex-partisans at an Allied General Court in Genova, for the murder of three members of a Carabinieri patrol near Genoa Voltri on the night of 1st August 1945.

5. Two of the ringleaders - BIANI FRANCESCO (alias "Il Mattio") and PIAZZA LIBORIO (alias "Nero") were sentenced to death. Their main accomplices - POZZANO GIOVANNI (alias "Bacini") and VINCENZO ANGELO (alias "Giulini") were sentenced to imprisonment for life and 21 years respectively. POZZANO ANGELO, a youth fifteen years of age, who assisted in

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4. Probably, from the Security point of view, the most important event of the month was the sentencing of five young ex-partisans at an Allied General Court in Genova, for the murder of three members of a Carabinieri patrol near Genoa Voltri on the night of 1st August 1945.
5. Two of the ringleaders - SIRI Francesco (alias "Il Matto") and PIAZZA Liborio (alias "Ucro") were sentenced to death. Their main accomplices - ROZZANO Giovanni (alias "Beghin") and PICCARDO Angelo (alias "Giulin") were sentenced to imprisonment for life and 21 years respectively. PICCARDO Angelo, a youth fifteen years of age, who assisted in the disarming of the CC.RR. but who appeared to have taken no actual part in the killings was sentenced to three years in a reformatory.
6. The arrests and convictions were largely due to able and energetic work by Captain LOCCORI Lito and Maresciallo PATOGHI Otero, of CC.RR. Sampierdarena, who acting under directions of the Regional Security Officer, combed energetically the area around Genoa Voltri and using their extensive local knowledge identified the leader SIRI and his band as the likely killers.
7. These convictions have been given wide publicity in the Region and will doubtless encourage respect of the CC.RR. both by the criminal elements and by law-abiding persons. If given further publicity in all Northern Regions after the executions have taken place (I visualize no likelihood of this).

hood of the sentences being charged either on legal grounds or on grounds of mercy) some considerable benefit may accrue to the forces of law and order from the deterrent effect on criminal and subversive elements.

RIDGES FIREARMS.

8. During the month of September about thirty raids were made on locations where arms were alleged to have been hidden. Twenty of the raids, action taken on information of regular police informants, were successful and apart from many thousands of rounds of rifle and machine gun ammunition and a large quantity of explosives and fuses, the following quantities of arms were discovered: -

424 rifles, 22 pistols, 15 machine guns, 12 sub-machine guns,
2 anti-tank guns, 1 mortar, 31 hand-grenades, 2 coastal guns,
2 coastal batteries.

9. In addition to the firearms recovered as above, the CC.BA. have tracked down an extremely large deposit of arms and ammunition in the ROVERGO (Prov. Genova) district and the arms are in course of being removed. Two complete truckloads have already been taken away by CC.BA. and full details will be reported when available.

PARTISANS.

10. Much less public activity by partisans now takes place and since the conviction of the five partisans for murder of the Carabinieri, partisan activity has been practically nil and, surprisingly, up-to-date, there has been no demonstration by partisans in sympathy with the condemned men. Public feeling in the matter is clearly on the side of law and order. There have been many public comments on the thoroughness and fairness of the trial by Allied General Court and the death sentences seem to have met with complete approval by the population.

ECONOMIC FACTORS IN THEIR RELATION TO SECURITY.

11. There is little change in the economic life of the Region, unemployment figures, and prices of various commodities having remained more or less static. Each commodity passes through a tremendous number of agencies before it finally reaches the consumer and the resultant prices are, of course, fantastic. However, even at this high level, the system of distribution seems to have become stabilized and the many agencies concerned are firmly entrenched in the system of distribution.

12. If wages are increased gradually and provided supply remains as at present (demand is always present under conditions here) I see no reason why a doubtful security situation should arise from economic factors in Liguria Region, especially as the Port of Genova is beginning slowly to operate in spite of technical difficulties in clearance of mines.

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13. The Region has been clear of any strikes or lock-outs apart from a one-day strike of employees at Ospedale Mental Hospital (Prov. Genova) for better pay and living conditions. They returned to work on the same day.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

14. The activity in this Region by political parties has been much less intense than in previous months. Each party has held orderly meetings and meetings without incident or unusually large attendance or support.

15. As a result of the previous month's intense campaigning, which seems to have exhausted the energy of the Ligurian political exponents, the only comment which can reasonably be made is that the other parties

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have gained slight support at the expense of the Communist Party, which, according to my information had lost about ten per cent of its active support.

16. It is not possible in this Region to gauge political party progress from meetings, attendance and reception of speakers by the public. Public meetings are too few and too uninspired to give a reliable cross-section of public opinion and support of the various parties. Even Communist Party activities are in the main social activities and those attending are not necessarily all supporters.

17. The people of Liguria are more occupied in commercial affairs and not very prone to take part in public demonstrations generally. They are more inclined to "fireside" politics in the comfort of their homes.

18. A truer guide to political feeling in Liguria is the average sale of each party newspaper of which a comparison is made below, with sales for August 1945 : -

	Aug.	Sept.
"Il Corriere del Popolo	50,000	52,000
"L'Unità"	40,000	35,000
"Il Lavoro Nuovo"	45,000	50,000
"Il Corriere"	30,000	33,000
"Il Secolo Liberale	30,000	28,000
"Azione"	25,000	24,000
"Il Tribuno del Popolo"	28,000	25,000

19. An independent paper which has had striking success in this Region and in the neighbouring Emilia Region is "L'omo qualunque" (The man in the street) which is directed by GIANNI CUGLIARINO, an Italian whose mother is said to be English. He is apparently clear of any fascist connection although he was not known to be violently anti-fascist.

20. The newspaper is ironical and critical and definitely anti-Communist. Although it does not contain many constructive ideas it does serve the purpose of uncovering the hypocrisy of some "Left wing" elements and, in my opinion, partly because of the appeal of its irony to the Italian mind, helps to preserve a reasonably sane balance of political, democratic thought, especially in the rather calculating mind of the Ligurian.

21. I am inclined to attribute some of the "falling off" in Communist support in this Region to revelations in this newspaper, and, in particular, to general comments regarding Russia's claim for indemnities against Italy.

22. Another factor of like effect is the slow rate at which Italian prisoners are being returned from Russia. Recently there was a fairly large demonstration by women who went to the Prefettura, Genoa, demanding steps for the early return of such prisoners. There was a similar but very much smaller demonstration of women to the Regional Commissioner requesting arrangements for the early return of Italian prisoners held by Great Britain and Germany. The presence of the participants in the

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SECURITY ARRESTS AND EXPIRATION.

23. No security arrests have been made during the month at the instigation of A.M.C., but expiration of public officials is being carried out justly, thoroughly and systematically by Italian Expiration Authorities. No complaints whatsoever of unjust or unwarranted expiration have been received, nor has any omission in expiration been reported.

24. There are sixteen civilian internees in Maretti Prison, Genova, held at the disposition of C.I.C. and P.S.S. These are believed to constitute all outstanding security cases in Liguria Region, and are awaiting completion

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of investigation prior to final disposal.

RELATION BETWEEN MILITARY PERSONNEL AND CIVILIAN POPULATION.

25. In general the situation between military personnel and the civilian population has continued to be highly satisfactory.

26. There was, however, one unfortunate incident recently when a disturbance occurred in Genova between Indian and Italian troops, as a result of which an Indian soldier was killed. S.I.B. are investigating the facts and two Italian soldiers are in custody. It is not believed that the incident has any political significance.

OTHER MATTERS OF SECURITY INTEREST.

27. As from Monday, 8 October 1945, the Regional Security Officer - Capt. I.V. GALE - on instructions of Regional Commissioner, will be transferred to Savona Province where he will take up duties as Provincial Public Safety Officer in lieu of Captain Bradberry who has returned to U.K. on compassionate leave.

Louis V. Gale

LOUIS V. GALE, Captain
Regional Security Officer.

Forwarded.

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SECRET

HEADQUARTERS LIGURIA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
ALO 394

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

Ref: LIG/SAP/602/3

Subject: Monthly Security Report - August 1945

To: Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission,
Security Division, U.S. Allied Commission, GMP.
(Through R.F.S.O. Liguria Region)

4 September 1945

General

1. The security situation in this Region, from the aspect of public morals during times of political and economic confusion, may be described as "good", in the circumstances. During August, there were no outstanding public demonstrations of a political or economic character, apart from a two day "token" strike of State and para-State employees in sympathy with other employees in Northern Regions demanding pay and conditions similar to such employees in Southern and Central Italy. So far as this Region was concerned, the strike was of a formal character and the demands, as was generally expected, were conceded.

2. There has, however, been much criminal activity - murder, robbery and extortion - in the Region which has more often than not been attributed to political motives by the population and even by many officials, to the extent that the words "crime" and "partisan" have become synonymous. It is true that many cases of crime may rightly be attributed to criminal and hoodigan elements among the partisans, but I am of the opinion that such crime is of a local character, arises spontaneously with opportunity and does not have a political significance affecting the security of the Region. I do not believe that this kind and hoodiganism is organized on a Region-wide basis with inter-communication between the various groups of Partisan elements in the different areas.

3. During August there were constant rumors of an imminent, armed, Communist uprising and careful watch was maintained for the slightest indication of intended disorder. No signs of any kind were revealed, however, to give any credence to the rumors, which seem to have no special source but seem to arise in circles where private enter-

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1. The security situation in this Region, from the aspect of public morale during times of political and economic confusion, may be described as "good", in the circumstances.

During August, there were no outstanding public demonstrations of a political or economic character, apart from a day "taken" strike of State and para-State employees in sympathy with other employees in Northern Regions demanding pay and conditions similar to such employees in Southern and Central Italy. So far as this Region was concerned, the strike was of a formal character and the demands, as was generally expected, were conceded.

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3. During August there were constant rumors of an imminent, armed, Communist uprising and careful watch was maintained for the slightest indication of intended disorder. No signs of any kind were revealed, however, to give any credence to the rumors, which seem to have no special source but seem to arise in circles where private enterprise has interests, coming from business men of varying types who fear even the remotest possibility of armed uprising and unconstitutional Government. By constant and exaggerated reference to the danger of such an uprising they endeavour to keep the attention of the authorities focussed upon the facts when they fear. This attitude is perhaps understandable but is not justified by events to-date.

4. There is little doubt that in various parts of the Region, especially in the mountains, there are hidden deposits of arms, explosives and ammunition, but so far, the people who have come forward with information on the subject have been prompted by hearsay and numerous tales which have

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been made on the information of these "alarmists". Many of them generally reliable people, have proved fruitless, although some success has been achieved in other raids, acting on information of regular Police informants.

5. In my opinion, based on reliable information, such deposits of arms as may be hidden in this Region, have been accumulated by mercenaries who, anticipating a turbulent Europe in the near future, for trafficking at heavy profit in the same manner as during the Spanish Civil War, when some individuals in this Region are said to have made considerable profits supplying arms to both sides. Smaller deposits of arms are believed to be controlled by Partisan criminal elements.

6. Few and more reliable informants have been sought and on information which is now seeping through it is hoped, during September, to locate a large number of these deposits of hidden arms.

Partisans

7. It is certain from incidents which arise leading to the arrest of Partisans in this Region, that most of them have retained quantities of arms. Recently, for example, seven young Partisans of known violent and criminal character, conspired and subsequently carried out a plan to ambush and disarm three Carabinieri who were patrolling in the vicinity of Fabbriola, Genova Voltri and whom they later conveyed to a lonely spot and then murdered them in cold blood with a "Sten" gun and an automatic pistol.

8. Subsequent investigations were made by the CC.aa under the direct supervision of the Regional Security Officer, as a result of which five of the band have been arrested. The outcome of interrogation and search of the premises of the arrested men and of places frequented by them has shown that they were in control of considerable quantities of arms, ammunition and explosives.

A report has already been submitted to Regional Legal Office and approval obtained for the prosecution of these men on charges of murder (Aggravated) under the Italian Penal Code, and unlawful possession of arms, contrary to Allied Proclamations. They will appear before an Allied General Court on about 10-11 September, 1945, and it seems on the evidence that convictions will be obtained and the death sentence on either or both of the charges is likely in each case. In that event, it should be ensured that the greatest possible publicity be given to the case to deter other criminal elements

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6. New and more reliable informants have been sought and on information which is now sweeping through it is hoped, during September, to locate a large number of these deposits of hidden arms.

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9. A report has already been submitted to the Regional Legal Office and approval obtained for the prosecution of these men on charges of Murder (Aggravated) under the Italian Penal Code, and unlawful possession of arms, contrary to Allied Proclamations. They will appear before an Allied General Court on about 12-14 September, 1945, and it seems on the evidence that convictions will be obtained and the death sentence on either or both of the charges is likely in each case. In that event, it should be ensured that the greatest possible publicity be given to the case to deter other criminal elements among the Partisans from acts of terrorism.

Economic Factors in their Relation to Security

10. It has to be realized that the economic life of Liguria Region has always been largely dependent upon the activity of the Port of Genova, and that this Port has been at a standstill for about 18 months. Owing to technical difficulties in de-mining the Port, these conditions are likely to prevail for some months. This has meant and must continue to mean - unemployment,

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poverty and discontent among all classes who, in the absence of legitimate enterprise, have been obliged to seek accustomed living standards by resorting to all kinds of "street-fighting", mainly in the various shades of Black Market. About 45 per cent of the population is officially unemployed, but of this percentage, only about 10 per cent are totally unemployed, the other 35 per cent being concerned in Black Market activities.

11. It is perhaps fortunate that these people are not inclined towards political activity and that they are more concerned with making profit by all available means. If they were not so occupied in the ramifications of the Black Market, they might constitute a dangerous minority. Somewhere they contrive to make a living and, although Liguria is badly hit by the inactivity of the port of Genoa, I do not think that the Region is quite so poverty stricken as is sometimes estimated. This alleged poverty is sometimes illustrated by pointing out the very low contribution of the Region to the Italian Treasury Bond Issue, which only reached 5 milliards by the closing date in August, as compared with 15 milliards in Milan. It has to be remembered that in Liguria, particularly in Genoa, as commodities pass through various Black Markets, the prices ascend to fantastic levels and all transactions in this Region are made in cash. Credit is scarcely known. It may be this factor which has affected the response to Treasury Bond Issues, so much ready cash being necessary for carrying on business activity. On review, I do not think that the economic situation is yet of such a character as to give rise to fears for security and good order.

Political Activity

12. Political activity, in general, has been lively in character and there have been innumerable small meetings of all parties throughout the Region. But there has always been good order maintained and this activity has been confined to a very small percentage of the population. It would be no exaggeration to say that 90 per cent of the people of Liguria Region are apathetic so far as politics are concerned, in spite of the intense activity of the politically minded minority who are carrying out drives for increased party membership, with elections in view.

13. The results of this campaigning by the Parties is, as yet, very hazy and it is not possible to say which Party is likely to gain most support. Activity and support seem to be evenly spread over the Parties and the only comment which seems justified on evidence available, is that the Christian Democrat Party has made more

per cent being concerned in minor market activities.

11. It is perhaps fortunate that these people are not inclined towards political activity and that they are more concerned with making profit by all available means. If they were not so occupied in the ramifications of the black market, they might constitute a dangerous minority. However, they continue to make a living and, although Liguria is badly hit by the inactivity of the Port of Genoa, I do not think that the Region is quite so poverty stricken as is sometimes estimated. This alleged poverty is sometimes illustrated by pointing out the very low contribution of the Region to the Italian 5% Treasury Bond issue, which only reached 5 milliards by the closing date in August, as compared with 14 milliards in Milan. It has to be remembered that in Liguria, particularly in Genoa, as commodities pass through the various black markets, the prices ascend to fantastic levels and all transactions in this Region are made in cash. Credit is scarcely known. It may be this factor which has affected the response to Treasury Bond issue, so much ready cash being necessary for carrying on business activity. On review, I do not think that the economic situation is yet of such a character as to give rise to fears for security and good order.

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13. The results of this campaigning by the Parties is, as yet, very hazy and it is not possible to say which Party is likely to gain most support. Activity and support seem to be evenly spread over the Parties and the only comment which seems justified on evidence available, is that the Christian Democrat Party has made more actual progress than the others during the past two months. The following figures of average sales of Party Daily Newspapers in the Region, may give an indication of the support forthcoming for each Party:-

Il Corriere del Popolo	Independent	50,000
L'Unità	Communist	42,000
Il Lavoro Nuovo	Socialist	48,000
Il Corriere	Dem-Christian	30,000
Il Secolo Libero	Liberal	30,000
Azione	Action Party	25,000
Il Tribune del Popolo	Republican	20,000

Page 4Security Arrests and Detention

14. There have been no security arrests made in this Region at the instigation of A.M.C. during the month of August. The six ex-partisans arrested at the end of June, 1945 and mentioned in July Monthly Report, as being suspected leaders of a gang engaged in criminal terrorist activities are recommended for release. Their charges were submitted to Regional Security Officer for consideration and it was found that, although men who are known to be of violent disposition, there was no evidence whatsoever of their connection with crimes which have been committed in Imperia Province and there was no circumstance to show that they come within the category of persons whose arrest would be justified on security grounds alone. Cases of this type can only be disposed of by trial before a competent Court. Separation of Public Offices is proceeding steadily under Italian authorities. Relations between military personnel and civil population

15. The situation between the personnel of Allied Forces and the civil population is very satisfactory and no untoward incidents of special consequence have been reported. In general the public fear the rumored possibility of our troops being withdrawn from the area as they feel that their presence alone has prevented considerable crime and disorder. It is perhaps significant that most of the crime and terrorism in this Region, occurs in rural areas where Allied troops are few.

Other matters of Security Interest

16. A new organization of a political character commenced activities about six weeks ago, known as the Federalist Democratic Union of Liguria, whose objects are the political and economic decentralization of the Regions of Northern Italy. It is said to be an innocuous organization originating in other Regions, founded by intellectuals in Turin and Milan. Activities have so far been confined to small distribution of handbills in Genoa but little result has been obtained to date and very few people know of its existence. The organization will be further investigated as a precautionary measure.

Louis V. Gale

Louis V. Gale, Captain
Regional Security Officer.

Forwarded as requested.

BB Sheppard

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SECRET

HEADQUARTERS LIGURIA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394

PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

29 July 1945.

Ref : LIG/SAF/680

Subject : Monthly Security Report - July, 1945.

To : Director, Public Safety Sub Commission, Security Division.
(Thru' R.P.S.O., Liguria Region)

GENERAL SURVEY.

1. The general security situation in Liguria Region is slowly improving, fewer cases of shooting have taken place but reports of extortion and armed hold-ups are still received. The political parties are still very active, especially the Communists, as in other parts of Italy this Party is well organized and appears to have unlimited financial resources at its disposal in this Region.

2. Italy's declaration of War on Japan provided the press with a news item, that is about all, however the results of the General Election in the U.K. aroused great enthusiasm.

3. Unemployment in this Region is a problem which in the near future may become serious from a security and public safety point of view. At the moment 63% of the working population of GENOVA are unemployed and in October or November it is expected to reach 75%. The ports of GENOVA and LA SPEZIA are still closed and industrial installations are unable to function to capacity owing to the lack of raw materials, chiefly coal.

4. The food situation is no more acute in LIGURIA than in other Regions, at present the supply of fresh fruit is good and a reasonable amount of fish is being landed at various places along the coast.

SECURITY PRISONERS ARRESTED AT THE INSTIGATION OF A.M.G.

5. On 29th June, 1945, six ex-partisans were arrested at IMPERIA by A.M.G. on the orders of the Provincial Commissioner and detained under the Proclamation. They are suspected of being the leaders of a terrorist gang responsible for many cases of shooting and extortion within the Province of IMPERIA. The local population prefer to remain silent for fear of reprisals being taken against them. It is significant to note that since the arrest of these men only case ~~case~~ of shooting has come to notice and no reports of extortion have been received. Final instructions regarding their disposal are awaited from the Regional Commissioner.

SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENTS AND PERSONALITIES.

GENERAL SURVEY.

1. The general security situation in Liguria Region is slowly improving, fewer cases of shooting have taken place but reports of extortion and armed hold-ups are still received. The political parties are still very active, especially the Communists, as in other parts of Italy this Party is well organized and appears to have unlimited financial resources at its disposal in this Region.
2. Italy's declaration of War on Japan provided the press with a news item, that is about all, however the results of the General Election in the U.K. aroused great enthusiasm.
3. Unemployment in this Region is a problem which in the near future may become serious from a security and public safety point of view. At the moment 63% of the working population of GENOVA are unemployed and in October or November it is expected to reach 75%. The ports of GENOVA and LA SPEZIA are still closed and industrial installations are unable to function to capacity owing to the lack of raw materials, chiefly coal.
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SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENTS AND PERSONALITIES.

6. No information has been received of any subversive organisations within this Region, movements which at one time might have been considered subversive have now more or less received official blessing.

PARTISANS.

7. The partisans have now surrendered their arms and have been disbanded - on paper. The better elements have returned to their homes or have obtained work elsewhere, the undesirables remain idle preferring to live by banditry rather than by honest employment. In one provincial town work was found for 40 men and out of a total of 200 unemployed ex-partisans not one would accept employment.

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8. It is probably true to say that to-day the partisans, through the medium of the many ex-partisan associations which have been formed, better organized than before the liberation, also they are better armed. Few automatic weapons or pistols were surrendered. Searches have been carried out from time to time with little or no result, doubtless many arms are secreted in out lying districts and in the mountains. These ex-partisan associations are, in general, closely allied to the Communists.

CIVILIAN MORALE.

9. Civilian morale is as good as can be expected in an area where unemployment is high and food difficult to obtain. Many of the people are uninterested in the political situation, others follow the Leftist parties, the bulk of which, as in other parts of Northern Italy, have simply changed their black shirt for a red scarf.

RELATIONS BETWEEN CIVILIANS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL.

10. Relations between the civil population and the few military in the Region are good.

CIVILIAN DISTURBANCES AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

11. Demonstrations have taken place in the Region during the month, chiefly at GENOVA and LA SPEZIA, all have been orderly and passed off without incident. In general the demonstrators have demanded an increase in wages, stricter control of prices, strong action against the 'black market', and much speedier epuration.

12. On Friday, 27th July, 1945, several thousand people marched through the streets of GENOVA to the offices of the British Consul General to convey the congratulations of the workers of Italy to the workers of Great Britain on their victory. The demonstrators were very orderly and the day almost became another "festa". A similar demonstration took place in LA SPEZIA.

13. On 15th July, about 60 people of French nationality from MENTONE crossed over the frontier and went to the Italian military cemetery at PONTE DI SLUICI. A short speech was made during which time one individual smashed a commemorative plaque with a hammer. Nothing else untoward occurred. Information is being sought as to how such a large number of people crossed the frontier.

14. At FINALE LIGURE (Prov. of Savona) on 5th instant, two members of the CC.RR were fired on by two unknown men, one Carabinieri was wounded and robbed of his pistol and wallet. An ex-partisan has since been arrested.

OTHER MATTERS OF A SECURITY INTEREST.

15. The French withdrew from that part of the Province of IMPERIA which they occupied at the time of the liberation, on the 10th July. The former military governor and his staff still remain to date.

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16. During the time the French occupied part of this Region they carried out plebiscites in certain of the Italian communes. It is reported that a number of French subjects, formerly of Italian nationality, were brought from France and permitted to record not only their own votes but for all 480 members of their families. Any result of such a plebiscite naturally has no truthful value. In one commune the French, during their occupation, distributed quite a stock of tinned food and sugar, all of Allied origin, to the population.

17. Much publicity has been given to the statement that this territory will be handed over to the Italian Authorities on the 1st September and A.M.G. will cease to function, this has occasioned much comment from both sides of the population.

18. The comments made in the Italian press on the election of the new Government in the U.K. illustrates the lack of knowledge which the average Italian has of the aims and policy of the British Labour Party, he generally regards it being similar to his own Leftist organisations, chiefly Communist.

19. The lifting of the ban on public meetings has not resulted in speeches being made on every street corner, all meetings held so far have passed off without incident.

20. The general security situation in this Region appears on the surface to be reasonably good, it is not thought that any major problems will arise during the remaining days of A.M.G.

A.H. Ellis Capt.

A.H. ELLIS, Capt.
Regional Security Officer.

Forwarded as requested.

B.J. Hefford
B.J. HEFFORD, Major.
Regional Public Safety Officer.

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