

ACC 10000/1143/2361

610/09

SECURITY REPORT TRENTD PROV.

SEPT. 1945

SECURITY DIVISION
FILE
MINUTE SHEET

No. of
sheet

Date

Subject

1

15 SEP. Security Report. -

0378
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FROM <u>SEPT. 1945</u>
TO _____
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Trento Province
Allied Military Government
Venezie Region
APD 394

15th September, 1945.

To : The Regional Public Safety Officer,
(Thru: the Provincial Commissioner).

Subject : Security Report.

Ref : RLL/Tren/PS-Sec.

25p
1/44
6/10/09

1. Although AMG has been in Trento Province since the 7th May, 1945, and life has appeared to be rapidly returning to normal it must be remembered that the "Trentini" has always been a special frontier problem. At the present time there is a good deal of political activity demanding that public officials (and many of them are police officials) who come from Sicily and the South of Italy should return to their homes. By virtue of their better standards of living and education under the old Austrian regime, the Trentini regard themselves as being far superior to the Italians of other Regions. Whereas they are of a calmer temperament it is nevertheless true that they are very determined in their opinions and actions.

2. The points raised by the Regional Public Safety Officer are answered as follows:

3. a. At the time of the Surrender of the German Armies there were 53,000 crack enemy troops in this Province consisting of Panzer Grenadiers, Paratroopers, Luftwaffe, Marines and Service troops, as well as a large number of SS Police and Feldgendarmarie. They were armed to the teeth with all types of automatic rifles and pistols and as a protection against the partisans were allowed to retain their weapons until they had all been taken to POW cages some five weeks later. There is no doubt that many of them sold their weapons to Italian civilians who have in turn hidden them until the day when AMG ceases to control their civil administration.

So far as can be ascertained there are no dumps of concealed weapons, but I am sure that many individuals have weapons of their own hidden away.

The police agencies are handicapped by insufficient means of transport and supplies of petrol. This mountainous area is also difficult to supervise off the main roads and the difficult terrain lends itself to the clandestine activities of the subversive

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When I came into the Province I brought 80 Carabinieri with me and I also utilised the 640 CC RR that were in service here. Now that the Legion is being reorganised at Bolzano many transfers are being made out of the Province and my Carabinieri strength has been reduced to 530 - five hundred and thirty - a number which is quite inadequate apart from the fact that a valuable fund of local knowledge is being drained.

3. b. At the moment all the activities of the political parties are legal and appear to be directed from the headquarters of their respective parties at Milan and also at Regional level.

c. A new party called "Il Partito Separatista Trentino" has been operating during the last three weeks and its propaganda and policy are directed from Innsbruck. One of their posters is attached. A separate report on this party will be submitted. Their main policy is that Trento should be an autonomous Alpine Republic under the protection of Austria.

4. a. The Political Parties that were most active against Nazifascismo were the Communists, Socialists, Action Party and in a smaller way the Christian Democrats.

The LIBERAL PARTY ceased all activity in 1922 and when the German authorities took over the administration of Trento they placed the former liberal leaders in public offices. It is only during the last few months that it has been reorganized and its leader is Avv. Renzo Zadra, who has few followers.

The COMMUNIST Party was most active against the Germans and is very strong particularly at Trento and Rovereto. Its leaders are Dott. Ottolini, the Prefect, Visentin Bruno, Andrea Mascagni, Dott. Scotoni Carlo, Dott. Lubich Gino, who have a large following amongst the working classes.

The SOCIALIST Party was also active against the Germans and most of its followers are of the working and farming classes. Its leaders are Avv. Mantovani, Vice-Prefect, Dott. Battisti Gino, Sindaco of Trento, Avv. Ferrandi, Avv. Groff, Dott. Bacchi and Fani.

The ACTION Party was formed in this Province in August, 1944, mostly embodies young men who fought as patriots against the Germans. Its leaders are Dott. Perini Ivo, Dott. Monsuni Ivo, Dott. Russolo Eugenio, Dott. Pappini Disertori, Avv. Mantovani Vincenzo, Dott. Aichner Martino.

The Christian Democrat Party is very strong and is backed by the Roman Catholic Church. It has many priests going about the Province preaching the points of its political propaganda. Its leaders are Avv. Bonomi, Ing. Unterrichter, Dott. Benedetti Luigi, President of the CNL, Avv. Ferruccio Zucchelli.

b. There is no agitator who is likely to incite the people to use violence.

c. The numbers of aliens in the Province are as follows:

1.	American.....	12
2.	Stateless persons.....	20
3.	Bohemians.....	4
4.	Brazilians.....	10

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5.	Czecho-Slovacs.....	39
6.	French.....	21
7.	German.....	267
8.	Jugo-Slavs.....	26
9.	Poles.....	30
10.	Roumanians.....	4
11.	Spaniards.....	3

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3.

Para. 4.

12. Russians.....22
 13. Hungarians.....23
 14. Albanian.....1
 15. Turks.....3
 16. Argentinians.....3
 17. Belgians.....4
 18. Chinese.....3
 19. Croats.....2
 20. Greeks.....2
 21. English.....4

In the ten northern communes of the Province (Ora, Salorna, Egna, Valdagna, Cortaccia, Magré, Termeno, Fondo, Bronzolo, Montagna) seventy per cent of the population are of German-Austrian parentage and wish that Trento should again be placed under Austrian control.

d. The province is entirely dependent upon other provinces for flour, grain, pasta, olive oil, fats and meat. The main agricultural products are fruits, wood, and wine. If the necessary supplies of flour, oil, and pasta fail to arrive during the winter months there are sure to be some food riots.

e. The main industries are as follows:

Lumber.....416 firms with 4624 employees.
 Building.....236 firms with 4240 workers.
 Metallurgical.....59 firms with 4335 employees.
 Textile.....29 firms with 1456 employees.
 Paper and cellulose.....25 firms with 810 employees.
 Boot and leather industry.....11 firms with 375 employees.
 Cement, lime and brick.....28 firms with 745 workers.
 Quarrying.....64 firms with 1342 employees.
 Flour milling.....217 firms with 465 workers.
 Transport.....102 firms with 484 workers.
 Chemical.....32 firms with 400 workers.
 Other industries (tobacco).....79 firms with 663 workers.

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(Brush and spectacle, etc).

The majority of these industries are working to capacity at this moment and there is a great deal of reconstruction to do along the main Brenner route where so much bomb damage was done.

5. The number of houses destroyed by the Germans in Trento Province is small in number but a great deal of damage was done by allied bombing to houses along the main Verona-Bolzano railway line, especially in the communes of Trento and Rovereto.

All the houses in the Comune of Molina were burnt out by German

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All the houses in the Comune of Molina were burnt out by German SS Troops as a reprisal for the death of a German soldier. The people have received special assistance in the way of clothing, etc., and they are rebuilding from the ruins of their homes.

6. So far as can be ascertained there are no hidden dumps of arms in the province.

7. The Partisan movement in this Province has been mostly

4.

Para. 7 cont.

dishanded and employment has been found for one hundred and fifty of them as auxiliary agents of the Questore. They have their own caserma and are properly equipped with battle dress, etc. There are detachments of them at Riva, Rovereto, Tione and Cles. Their main duties are in the supervision of road blacks and economic control.

At Lavarone there is also a convalescent home for sick patriots, who fought during the period of the German occupation.

In all about six hundred patriots have been rewarded for their services and received the "Alexander" certificate. They are now following their peace time profession.

T.W. Glasspool

T.W. Glasspool,
Captain, G.L.,
P.P.S.O., Trento.

4004

Il Partito Separatista Trentino

Vuole:

Una **REPUBLICA ALPINA INDIPENDENTE**
comprendete la provincia di **TRENTO**

o un **PROTETTORATO AUSTRIACO TRENTO**
avente la più ampia Autonomia amministrativa.

Per ottenere questo e però necessario che i **Trentini** lascino da parte quel certo senso nell'esprimere i propri sentimenti, paura che in un regime di libertà non ha ragione e che giustamente può venir chiamata viltà.

Tra poco si passerà di paese in paese alla raccolta autorizzata delle firme la cui per cento e darà agli Alleati la possibilità di raggiungere la meta. **Pergine** che sta ora all'avanguardia con l'85% ci sia di esempio.

Questo, o **Trentini**, è il momento di agire, di essere uniti e concordi per raggiungere mezzo l'ideale prefissoci, onde non essere per sempre **oppressi**.

1083

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l'ideale prefissoci, onde non essere per sempre **oppressi**.

IL POPOLO TRENTINO

Dear Major Harvey, 1

18. 9. 45.

Regret I was not here when
you called last month and hope that you are well.
I am enclosing a copy of my monthly report for
your information.

Best wishes,
Yours faithfully,
4882

Capt Ellis.

Capt Ellis

Tom Glespey
Ollie

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