

ACC 10000/143/2726 625/01 8th ARMY - SITUATION REPORT - A.M.G.

Feb. - June 1944

1566

SECURITY INFORMATION
FILE

MINUTE SHEET

No. of sheet	Date	File no. of and'd Ltr.	From whom	Subject
1-	5 June			Situation report - AMG - 8th Army

Security Council

5.3. A.M.S. EIGHTH ARMY

SITUATION REPORT UP TO MIDNIGHT MONDAY 5TH JUNE 1944

1. Various towns have been occupied but it is only intended to deal the more important. They are as follows:

PEREGRINO, VEROLI ANAGNI, PEREGRINO, ANAGNI, CARRANO, SOLA LINA, ROM

2. PEREGRINO.

This town as was reported in my last report is certainly 50% damaged. Every single article in every house was looted and removed by the Germans. It was evacuated as a Provincial capital last year and has not been inhabited since. Only a handful of inhabitants found on entering but a considerable number are now trying to get back. There is accommodation for quite a large number but the real trouble in PEREGRINO is the water supply which is said to be damaged beyond repair. The city must, therefore, depend upon an old and doubtful well or two. At the foot of the hill on which PEREGRINO stands there is extremely good and undamaged warehousing facilities in the Comercio Agrario. These are temporarily taken over by the military. No attempt has been made to get them evacuated, as it is considered that at the present rate of advance their retention is justified and they will be no doubt freed as soon as possible.

The Provincial Headquarters of PEREGRINO province has nevertheless been moved into the town and accommodation has been found for them, pending the decision by the Provincial Command and Region IV as to whether they wish to run the province from this centre or not.

VEROLI.

The normal population of this city is 12,000 but there are at least 27,000 in it and probably more. It seems to be the centre to which a considerable quantity of the refugees from the Carrano area were evacuated. The town is in a very good state only about 50 houses being destroyed, and a maximum of 100 damaged. There are 3 doctors present in the town and there are also reported to be about 100 Carabinieri. They will be rounded up. There is one bank a Banco Santo Spirito. There is one hospital with a capacity of up to 120 beds, of which 74 are now occupied. Water supply good and part of the town has already got water. There is one electric mill and 6 water mills, but the first reports say they are not very reliable. In this town the Italian Liberation Committee has been very active, headed by a man called Morelli Pio. The P.S. appointed him as a temporary Mayor. They have since been asked not to make these appointments.

ANAGNI. Normal population 11,000 - present 16,000. To all intents and purposes the town is completely undamaged. There are one surgeon and four doctors in the town and probably a large number of Carabinieri in plain clothes. There is one bank, Banco Santo Spirito with 30,000 lire cash and deposits of 15 million. There are said to be four German

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The Provincial Headquarters of PARANOME province has nevertheless been moved into the town and accommodation has been found for them, pending the decision by the Provincial Commander and Region IV as to whether they wish to run the province from this centre or not.

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VERDELLI.

The normal population of this city is 13,000 but there are at least 27,000 in it and probably more. It seems to be the centre to which a considerable quantity of the refugees from the CASALINO area were evacuated. The town is in a very good state only about 50 houses being destroyed, and a maximum of 300 damaged. There are 3 doctors present in the town and there are also reputed to be about 100 Carabinieri. They will be rounded up. There is one bank & Banco Santa Spirito. There is one hospital with a capacity of up to 150 beds, of which 74 are now occupied. Water supply good and part of the town has already got water. There is one electric mill and 3 water mills, but the first reports say they are not very reliable. In this town the Italian Liberation Committee has been very active, headed by a man called Macrelli also. The F.S.I. has appointed him as a temporary Mayor. They have since been asked not to make these appointments.

ANAGNI. Normal population 13,500 - present 16,000. To all intents and purposes the town is completely undamaged. There are one surgeon and four doctors in the town and probably a large number of Carabinieri in plain clothes. There is one bank, Banco Santa Spirito with 30,000 lire cash and deposits of 15 millions. There are said to be four German hospitals in the town holding 700 beds. Medical officer has visited ANAGNI and is of the opinion that these were really Italian equipped hospitals used by the Germans. He is contacting S.D.M.S. Eighth Army with a view to taking over at least a certain amount of the hospitals and equipment, though the Canadian Corps seem to have other views. There are three electric and three water mills. There is one prison and one prisoner. There are said to be some 3,500 refugees in the town, partly from ROMA and CASALINO. There is also an explosive position. In the town were found to be 400 partisans fully armed with artillery and machine guns.

1569

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ANAGNI (Contd)

There was also another body of partisans who apparently own allegiance to the Prince of Piedmont.

The town was full of flags of three descriptions (1) the Italian flag with the Royal Crown (2) the Italian flag without the Royal Crown (3) the Hammer and Sickle. The two factions of partisans were not friendly and unfortunately the Canadians had allowed the partisans to make a formal parade in the streets. The C.A.O. got hold of the Commanding Officers of the two factions of partisans and apparently persuaded them to kiss each other on both cheeks and they more eternal friendship. The result is doubtful and the situation is still explosive.

PERRENTINO.

Normal population 15,000 present? When I visited PERRENTINO there were only about 1,000 people in it but they were coming back in large numbers. The town is probably 50% destroyed, but the centre of the town which is on the hill is in pretty good repair. Six doctors are present and a considerable number of Carabinieri will probably come back. There are two banks - one the Banca Santo Spirito and Cassa di Risparmio. Water supply which was running from public fountains on arrival of the C.A.O., has ceased. Investigations are being made. There are four electric mills, three of which are in good condition and there are four water mills in working order.

ARPINO.

Normal population 11,000 - At present between 15/16,000. The town is in very good repair. There are 8 civilian and two military doctors and there are about 40 Carabinieri in civilian clothes. There is one bank, Banca Santo Spirito. There is one hospital with a capacity of 120 beds. Water supply is poor and apparently is derived from rain water collected in a tank. The only two mills in the town were destroyed by the Germans, as also was the Electric Powerhouse.

CERRANO.

This town was occupied some time ago. There is a normal population of 8,500 but only 300 were present on occupation. The town is about 25% destroyed and 95% of the buildings damaged.

There is an electric mill and also a large paper works, machinery of which appear to be new and in tact with large stocks of paper. This was previously reported by signal, and Region IV has been asked to take it over. Water supply has been damaged and water is now available from a spring and a well of good water.

ISOLA LIREI.

Normal population 11,400 - present about 12,000! There are five doctors and six Carabinieri. 200 buildings have been destroyed and the remainder are damaged but easily repairable. There is one bank, Banco di Napoli with 20,000 lire cash. There is one hospital with a capacity of 20 beds and three electric mills, of which one is in good condition, a water mill was destroyed. The paper mills of which is the chief industry of this town are also destroyed but a separate report will be made upon this.

SORA

Normal population 23,500 - present population 30,000. The town

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SORA. Normal population 22,500 - present population 30,000. The town is in very good condition. There are five doctors and from 15/20 Carabinieri. There are two banks, Banco di Napoli and the Banco Santo Spirito, the latter has 6,600 lire and the Post Office which was open contained 88,957 lire. Unfortunately, the hospital which, had a capacity of about 300 was completely looted and greatly damaged. Water supply is damaged but can be repaired. 100 metres of 30 cm. piping being required. There are two water mills of which one has been blown up, capacity 15 quintals per day.

3. There are other places which are now in our hands but the reports are not yet in as regards them. But generally speaking it would appear that we are passing into an area beyond which we can not expect the refugee problem not to be serious at the moment.

4. As regards refugees, the total number which have been evacuated through Route 6 and VAIRANO (the figure includes CAMPOBASSO which is minute is 4,817. All endeavours are being made to hold refugees where possible, a certain number of local ones are being dispersed into farm-houses and only those who are definitely refugees from the destroyed areas round CASSINO or from SOUTHERN ITALY, are being sent back. The local point appears to be the VEROLI area where there are some 6/7,000 and endeavours are being made to hold these until they can be conveniently evacuated. Holding Centres have been and are still being created in places such as ROCCASECCA, CERRANO, PROSINONE, ATINA.

The general position on the refugees is a little confusing in that it was expected that by now the bulk of the refugees from the destroyed areas round CASSINO, PONTECORVO and PIEDIMONTE would have been located, but if one takes altogether the number of refugees so far come across, including those who are settled in towns, one is very far short of the expected total. They are still however appearing at most unexpected places - for instance 17000 have come over the River Liri into CERRANO today from the area which was taken by the French. At the movement the situation is in hand, though I am by no means prepared to say that the back of it is broken and I think that the reverse is still correct and our troubles are still ahead. The flow of refugees to the rear is proceeding smoothly and Eighth Army are giving the utmost assistance. It is interesting to know that a considerable quantity of Sicilian and Calabrian refugees have been come across. Movement of Refugee Camps are shown in an Appx attached to this report. (sent only to A.C.C.)

5. All towns mentioned in this report and others even further on have already been visited by Financial Officers who have looked after their needs; It is not intended to open banks or Post Offices until a concerted policy is agreed upon with Prosinone Province. Good has been supplied to all the towns mentioned and a great many others and we are now reaching the point where the necessity for us to draw on stockpiles brought up by Region IV is becoming imperative. This matter is in hand and we are in close touch with Region IV on the matter.

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6. 92 Italian Mobile Hospital is being moved up on 7th June from VAIRANO to ARCE and arrangements are being made by which the CAPUA Refugee Camp or at any rate a portion of it, will also move forward, probably in the area of ROCCASECCA which will be the next immediate railroad.

7. I think it wise to point out that the refugee problem which may have to be made in the CASSINO- PONTECORVO - PIEDIMONTE- PIGNATARO area is one which may last a considerable time. It is impossible to prevent Italian civilians creeping in over the hills into these towns which are uninhabited, whatever method one may devise and it will probably be necessary to make frequent inspections of the area and evacuate those civilians who have crept in.

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8. The Internment Camp reputed to be at PERRENTINO was actually at ALATRI. It has been seriously damaged and there were no internees found.

Group Captain,
Officer Commanding,
H.Q. A.M.G. Eighth Army Main.

1573
APPX TO SI JATION REPORT A.M.G. EIGHTH
ARMY TO MIDNIGHT 5TH JUNE 1944.

OA/207.

1. In view of the quick advance it is felt that immediate steps must be taken to reduce the length of haul for transportation of refugees.
2. No 1 AMG Evacuation Camp has now been placed at CDN Corps PMC near GERANO, and No 2 AMG Evacuation Camp is leaving ROCCASECCA STATION and is setting up at 13 Corps RMC, ARCE today.
3. No 374 PW Camp is also going forward to ARCE, so that RIP attached to it can be served by No 2 AMG Evacuation Camp temporarily.
4. I am proposing to move No 1 AMG Evacuation Camp from VAIRANO to ARCE in place of No 2 AMG Evacuation Camp which will go forward again within a few days.
5. Railhead is moving to ROCCASECCA STA in about a fortnight. As there are still refugees coming in from the mountains in that area half of No 1 AMG Evacuation Camp has been moved into the site lately occupied by No 2 AMG Evacuation Camp, as the former camp has had much less to do on the CDN Corps axis.
6. Will it therefore be possible for you to arrange (a) for a section of CAPUA REFUGEE CAMP to take over the site of No 11 AMG Evacuation Camp at VAIRANO RAILHEAD, or a site at MIGNANO (I will signal which sometime today) and (b) for the camp for 1000 refugees offered by CAPUA to be moved to ROCCASECCA as soon as Railhead moves there.
7. This arrangements would result in your administration taking over refugees at Railhead and will allow No 11 AMG Evacuation Camp to control the staging ahead of it.
8. As the foregoing is a bit complicated may I clarify if by saying that we would like to place the camps thus:

00015

 - (a) No 1 AMG EC on CDN Axis
 - (b) No 2 AMG EC on 13 Corps axis
 - (c) No 11 AMG EC at ARCE next to 374 PW CAMP.
 - (d) The 1000 Refugee Camp (sec. of Capua) at ROCCASECCA STA.
 - (e) An ACC Collecting Camp administer by you at VAIRANO for as long as necessary.
 - (f) For ACC to take over and administer No 15 AMG EC at CAMPOBASSO, which is now too far away for me to look after.
 - (g) For ACC to take over and administer No 14 AMG EC at VINAFRO. Both these (f) and (g) are of course Holding Camps (though the latter has had to be used as a transit camp during the last week.
9. I am today homing to arrange to open a large Holding Camp at CERANO for about 1000 refugees, and am proposing to start up one or two more as we are now arriving in country where suitable accommodation can be found. By doing this it will not be necessary to evacuate so many

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00315

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10. I shall probably require some more staff for these Holding Camps--
details will follow.

11. I am very disappointed that only three of the twenty Italian Red X
Sorelle promised long ago have materialised.

1575

STAFF
UNITED STATES COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
Date: March 4

FROM: _____ TO: _____

- Col. Stifford
- Col. Jones
- Col. Deane
- Col. Miller
- Col. Smith
- Col. Scott
- Col. Ware
- Col. C. S.
- Col. Cole
- Col. Ford
- Col. Valdez
- Col. Larche

EA

00014

Col. Hall
Col. Sanborn

FOR

- Signature - Return
- Recommendation - Return
- Information - Guidance
- Approval - Disapproval
- Necessary Action
- Investigation Report
- to Note & Return
- File
- Dispatch

Remarks:

[Signature]

Subject:- Town Reports.

Headquarters
Allied Central Mediterranean
Force

Br. SECRET = U.S. SECRET.

ACMF/1402/3/G(Ib).

28 Feb 44.

A.C.C. Security Intelligence.

Herewith for information copy of a report on above
subject received from Eighth Army.

SF



Brigadier,
B.G.S.(I).

00013

1577
COPY

Subject:- Town Reports - ROME.

Br SECRET = US SECRET

Main HQ
Eighth Army CMF

M 350/78 I(b).

GSI (b)
HQ ACMP

25 Feb 44

The following report is from a fairly reliable Italian source who spent the period 27 Oct 43 to 1 Dec 43 in ROME.

"POLICE FORCES IN ROME

I reached ROME on 27 Oct 43. Some days previously nearly all the CC.RR had been arrested although some managed to escape and were still in hiding some weeks later. The CC.RR no longer exists in ROME as an officially recognized force, although in other towns it co-operates with the Germans for the maintenance of good order. Policing of ROME was carried out by the Questura, the PS and the PAI. The latter was more reliable from the German point of view as the attitude of the Questura and the PS was generally speaking Anti-German.

ATTITUDE OF POPULATION AND POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS.

The people's attitude was almost universally Anti-German and the majority looked forward to the arrival of the Allies believing all problems (economic food etc) would be immediately solved.

Many organisations both military and political were formed to attack the German forces should they be forced to retreat.

The two most active political parties were the Communist party and the Partito d'Azione. Each published a clandestine newspaper, the "UNITA" and the "ITALIA LIBERA" respectively. Both papers appeared regularly and each edition of "ITALIA LIBERA" consisted of about 25,000 copies. Other clandestine papers such as the "AZIONE" and the "BANDIERA ROSSA" had only a small following. The lack of co-operation for a common effort was very evident but on one point all agreed: that the King and BADOGLIO had abandoned ROME and Northern ITALY to the Germans at a time when organised resistance to German troops would have been possible.

The most important military organisation was headed by General CADORNA and consisted almost exclusively of the officers of the "ARISTE" Arm'd Div of which CADORNA up to 8 Sep 43, had been GOC.

ARMS

There seemed to be plenty of arms including some German 88 mm guns, but there was a shortage of ammunition. Automatic weapons were in great demand and a species of Black Market in arms of all kinds was started. Even German Soldiers were selling hand grenades (Price 15 lire). Large numbers of rifles had been hidden by the populace after the armistice especially in the TRASTEVERE district.

GENERAL SITUATION.

The situation between 27 Oct and 1 Dec was, on the whole, quite calm. The

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GENERAL SITUATION.

The situation between 27 Oct and 1 Dec was, on the whole, quite calm. The Germans behaved very carefully and appeared to be trying not to anger the populace. The troops were quartered for the most part outside the town at TORRE GAIA, TORRE NUOVA, CENTOCELLE and GROTTA CELONI, while the HQs were in the main hotels such as HOTEL de la VILLE, the EXCELSIOR, the FLORA, AMBASCIATORI, the BOSTON and the QUIRINALE. The Germans were, however, carrying on a methodical looting of the town. Nearly everything was being sent to Germany. When the Allied Air Force bombed the BRIDA Factory near CENTOCELLE all the machinery had already been removed and of the 5,000 employees only 20 caretakers remained.

Fascists were few in number and generally hated and despised. The MVSN was made up, for the most part, of 16 and 17 year old boys.

Refugees, including Allied P.W.s, Jews, Political leaders and many Italian officers, had arrived in ROME from German occupied Italy and were awaiting the arrival of the Allies. Nearly all were in hiding and had false identity cards and nearly all were in touch with the political parties mentioned above. The VATICAN was doing a great deal for the refugees and many of them were living in convents and in the VATICAN CITY itself.

FOOD SITUATION.

It was extremely difficult to find food with ration cards but nearly everything was obtainable on the black market but at continually rising prices. At the end of November flour cost 45-60 lire per Kilo, meat 100-150 lire per Kilo, sugar 50-70 lire per Kilo, eggs 10-15 lire each, potatoes 12-15 lire per Kilo, and oil 180 lire per litre.

At the end of November the Fascists tried to combat the Black Market by confiscating food from the trains before they reached ROME. Since, however sufficient food was not supplied to the regular market such confiscation only served to increase Black Market prices."

Field
DL/NEO

Cc: G-2 Fifth Army.
PWB Eighth Army.

(Sgd)EW LONG, Capt, G.S.,
for Lt. Col.,
G.S.I.

00011

1580

INFORMATION DIVISION

ACTION SLIP

Date

FROM: Information Division

TO: Chief Commissioner
Deputy Chief Commissioner
V.P. Administrative Section
V.P. Economic Section
Executive Com. R.C. & M.C. Sec.
Deputy Executive Com. R.C. & M.C. Sec.
Political Section
Civil Affairs Branch
Security Branch
Establishment Branch
Executive Officer
Hq. Commandant
ACC Liaison, Hq. ACMF
Sub-Commission on:

00019

FOR: Information
Appropriate Action
Signature
Approval or Disapproval
Investigation & Report
File
Return to Central Files
Transmission
Information & Return

REMARKS:

SUBJECT: Food Situation in Northern ABRUZZI.

70th RE + m/y
Rear S/G Eighth Army

CA/161/4A

12 Feb 44

R.O. & H.C. Section
ACC - APO 394

1. The attached copy of a special report on food situation in Northern Abruzzi, received from G.S.I(b), Main Hq, Eighth Army, is forwarded for your information.

000,9

Quindup
21 Feb 44
For Group Captain,
Officer Commanding,
A.E. Eighth Army.

COPY.

SPECIAL REPORT ON FOOD SITUATION IN NORTHERN ABRUZZI.

C.I.I.(b) 8 Army

Ref: your 1341/1 I (b) of 13 Jan., the food situation in Northern ABRUZZI which is inclusive of the Town of CHIETI as well as Prov. TERAMO & Prov. ASCOLI has been carefully studied and after interrogation of a number of reliable Refugees may be summed up as follows:

At the moment the food situation is not acute but indications are that it will become so in the near future. It may be considered in the light of living on capital.

In the country districts the peasants, by nature thrifty, have accumulated fair reserves of grain and flour. Live stock, although probably scarce where German troops happen to be, still exist. By the aid of vegetables which are in varying supply the peasant appears to be all right if a little on the tight side. Such commodities as sugar and olive oil are of course in very short supply and what little there is of either is finding its way into the Black Market and into the Towns where high prices can be obtained.

In the Towns the coupon system operates, at least in theory if not always in practice. Bread 150 gms per day, flour (pasta) and meat come on this. Sugar is more theoretical than practical as far as rationing goes.

The Black Market seems to be flourishing and is in fact a great blessing to the fortunate ones who can afford to patronise it. Meat, to a very small extent, can be had against coupons varying from once to twice per week. The reason why the Black Market holds good supplies is due largely to the fact that the peasants and other owners of livestock and grain fearing that the Germans will take these are only too anxious to turn them into cash at the earliest moment. Some of this does go into the proper channels and is sold against coupons but a great deal goes through the Black Market and is sold at the Black Market. Sugar and Olive oil are in irregular supply but can be had through the Black Market. Sugar costs 80 to 90 Lire per Kilo whilst Olive Oil is proportionately expensive.

The whole position, as will be noticed, is really artificial as the true state is that capital is being eaten and when this is consumed it would appear that there will be a very real shortage. The Germans quite other than bringing in food are carrying out a process of taking away all livestock as well as requisitioning for their immediate use Poultry, Pigs, etc. It is also worthy of note that many flocks of sheep, instead of being brought down before the Winter have remained up the mountains where many will no doubt perish from cold and lack of food.

00013

(Signed) ???
O.C. 8 Army R.I.P.

Foggia 5 Feb 44.

SUBJECT: Economic Conditions

70
SECRET

Rear AMG Eighth Army
OA/152/4 A

To: RC & MG Section
H.Q., A.C.C.

9 Feb 44

1. Enclosed for your information are several reports on the food situation in German occupied territory.
2. We are asking G.S.I (b) to keep us informed and will transmit further reports to you.

*Outstanding
2/15/44*
for Group Captain,
Officer Commanding,
A.M.G. Eighth Army.

00007

copy

SECRET

Subject:- Food conditions -- ATRI and
TERAMO district.

Main H.Q.,
Eighth Army. CMF.

M 320 I(b).

29 Jan 44

A.M.G.O.T., H.Q., Eighth Army.

The following extract of a report from R.I.P. Eighth Army is forwarded to you for information.

"Refugees coming from the ATRI & TERAMO district state that in the country there is no general shortage of food. There is an ample supply of grain for flour as the crops last year were good. Bread, eggs and vegetables are fairly plentiful. In the towns however food is scarce largely due to distribution troubles and the fact that the peasants prefer to hold what they have got. Animals are being taken away by the Germans so that meat is becoming scarcer."

????????????

Capt.

for Lt.Col.

G.S.I.

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Field.
CNO/WG.

COPY.Subject:- CSDIC Interrogation Report - extract.Main Hq
Eighth Army, C.M.F.M 320 I(L)

8 Feb 44

AMG

Hq Eighth Army

1. The following extract of a CSDIC interrogation report is forwarded for information. The source is believed reliable.

"Para. 3 (a) Food The food situation in northern ITALY was satisfactory particularly in the Province of ASCOLI PICENO where 300,000 quintals of grain were still in stock. There were also plenty of oil and vegetables. The rationing laws were NO longer observed and everything could be obtained easily; a kilo of flour on the black market cost lit. 10.

(b) Sugar, salt, tobacco and matches were in short supply and delivered by motor lorries from the NORTH.

(c) Chemical and medicinal goods were very short"

(signed) D.W. Long,
Capt.for Lt. Col.
G.S.I.Field
DL/NEO.

00005

copy

SECRET

Subject:- Food Situation - Sulmona District.

Main H.Q.
Eighth Army, C.M.F.
M 320 I(b).

4 Feb 44.

AMG HQ,
Eighth Army.

The following extract from a CSDIC report dated 23 Jan 44 is forwarded for information.

"Bread and other commodities are non-existent in the SULMONA district; the last ration of bread was issued before Xmas 43 at the rate of 100 gms. per head and then only occasionally. The population live mainly on hidden stores and potatoes."

??????????
Capt.
for Lt.col.
G.S.I.

Field.
DI/DB.

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COPY.

SECRET.

3

Subject: Economic Conditions - Northern ABRUZZI.

Main H. .
Eighth Army, C.M.F.
M 330 I (b)

20 Jan 44.

A.M.G.
H.Q. Eighth Army.

1. The attached extract from a Report dated 5 Jan 44 received from the Italian Comando Supremo (Ufficio informazioni) refers to economic conditions in the Province of ASCOLI PICENO at the end of DECEMBER 43.

2. The degree of reliability of the information is not stated but the particulars given may assist you in arriving at an estimate of economic conditions in Northern ABRUZZI.

(Signed) G.H. DeFreitas
Maj.

00003

for Lt. Col.
G.S.I.

Field.
Ry/P.

COPY.

Situazione Economica.

Ufficiale proveniente dal territorio occupato così rappresenta la situazione economica nella provincia di Ascoli Piceno fino alla data del 20 dicembre s.s.

Dato il carattere eminentemente agricolo della provincia la situazione alimentare è tuttora buona. Nei silos esistono ancora trecentomila quintali di frumento, malgrado siano state distribuite alla popolazione varie centinaia di quintali di grano in sostituzione delle tessere fino a tutto il mese di febbraio 1944.

La semina del grano è avvenuta regolarmente e l'andamento stagionale è stato favorevole.

La mancata esportazione di ortaggi, per indisponibilità di mezzi di trasporto ha provocato l'afflusso sul mercato di forti quantitativi di tali prodotti che vengono venduti a prezzo bassissimo.

Si risente forte deficienza di sale, zucchero, tabacchi e fiammiferi.

La circolazione cartacea è fortemente aumentata e i contadini ricorrono di frequente al baratto.

Gli Istituti di credito svolgono attività molto ridotta; i prelevamenti dai depositi in banca sono consentiti in misura assai limitata.

Recentemente una commissione, inviata dal Direttore della Polizia, ha provveduto allo sblocco ed al sequestro dell'oro (in ragione di lire 240 al grammo) giacente presso gli orifici ed i gioiellieri della provincia. Nella sola città di Ascoli Piceno furono ritirati kg. 10 di oro.

Analoghi operazioni era stata fatta in precedenza nelle provincie dell'Aquila, di Chieti, di Pescara e di Teramo. Il commercio è paralizzato dalla mancanza di mezzi di trasporto: la ferrovia Ascoli Piceno - Porto d'Ascoli - San Benedetto del Tronto è inutilizzabile perché i tedeschi hanno asportato il materiale rotabile; il capo provinciale ha a disposizione solo pochi automezzi pesanti a gasogeno per lo approvvigionamento viveri della popolazione.

L'industria ittica è completamente ferma per la mancanza di moto pescherecci, in gran parte rifugiatisi nei porti pugliesi.

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ECONOMIC SITUATION

An Officer arrived from the occupied territory explains that the economic situation in the Province of Ascoli Piceno up to 20 December was as follows:

As the province has a paramountly agricultural production, the food-stuff situation is still good. There are still 300.000 quintals of grain in the silos, although several hundred quintals of grain have been distributed to the population in substitution of the Ration Cards up to 29 Feb. 44.

The seed of grain has been effectuated regularly and the course of the season has been favorable.

The impossibility to export vegetables, no vehicles being available, provoked the arrival on the market of large quantities of those products which are sold to very low prices.

People complain very much of the deficiency of sale, sugar, tobacco and matches.

The circulation of paper money has much augmented, and the peasants barter frequently.

The affairs of the institutions of credit have much decreased; Bank deposits can be taken off only in small rates.

Recently, a commission acting by order of the Director of Police, sequestered the gold in possess of the goldsmiths and jewellers of the Province (buying it for 240 Lire a gramm). Only in the town of Ascoli Piceno they had 10 kg. of gold.

Previously, a similar operation had been made in the Provinces of Aquila, Chieti, Pescara, and Teramo.

Commerce is paralyzed by the deficiency of transport possibilities. The Ascoli Piceno - Porto d'Ascoli - San Benedetto del Tronto railway cannot be used because the Germans took away the rolling material; the Head of the Province disposes only of a few trucks moved by means of gasogene for the supply of food-stuff for the population.

The industry depending on fishing does not work at all, because there are no motor barks, most of which sheltered in ports of the Puglie.

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