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for the Month of March

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Eighth Army, Rear

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S U M M A R YGENERAL

On 29 March 1945, Capt. Dexter Tilroe was assigned to this division and attached to the provinces of Ravenna and Ferrara as Provincial Education Officer. A directive for C.A.O.'s was prepared and distributed. A tour of inspection was made of the schools by Brig. Gen. Upjohn on 5 March 1945. To date 69,632 textbooks have been prepared and distributed. Other instructional materials, (pens, pencils, etc.), have been imported from Rome. Requests for school lunches have been filed by 10 communes.

FORLÌ PROVINCE

The majority of schools have been opened in all except five of communes of the province. At present are open 42 of 87 usili, 438 of 470 elementary schools, 44 of 47 secondary schools and 10 private schools. 120 school officials have been vetted of whom 28 have been dismissed. Approximately 80% of buildings have been damaged or destroyed. 62950 textbooks for elementary schools and 557 for secondary schools have been brought to the province for distribution. Other instructional materials have been distributed. Requests for school lunches do not conform to actual number of pupils enrolled.

RAVENNA PROVINCE

Schools have been reopened in communes of Ravenna, Cervia, Castiglione and S. Pietro in Campiano. 11 of 54 usili, 37 of 219 elementary schools and 3 of 43 secondary schools are now in operation. 83 school officials have been screened, 6 of whom have been suspended. 24 of 74 elementary schools and 3 of 26 secondary schools are badly damaged or destroyed. To date 6175 elementary school books have been brought to the province for distribution. Other instructional materials have been distributed. A survey of G.I.L. properties is under way.

REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

All schools have been reopened. 16 elementary and 3 secondary schools are in operation. Textbooks have been made available.

PRESENT NEEDS AND FUTURE PLANS

Visitation to all communes will soon be completed. A calendar will provide for operation of schools throughout the summer. Additional supplies are being prepared. Vetting of school officials is nearing completion.

MONTHLY REPORT OF THE EDUCATION OFFICER FOR THE MONTH OF

MARCH 1945

1. GENERAL

Office Personnel

On 29 March Capt. Dexter G. Tilroe was assigned as education officer in this region and attached as Provincial Education Officer in the provinces of Ferrara and Ravenna. As of 1 April 1945, the staff of the Education Division consisted of the following personnel:

Capt. Willis E. Pratt,	Education Officer, 8th Army
Capt. Dexter G. Tilroe,	Provincial Education Officer, Ferrara and Ravenna
Lt. R. H. Crichton,	Provincial Education Officer, Forlì
Corp. John V. Apicella,	Clerk.

Since both Capt. Tilroe and Lt. Crichton are assigned to northern regions, their services in this region are probably of short duration. At present the education officer is seeking the services of a qualified Italian civilian to assist in the reorganization of the schools as army personnel is decreased.

Directives to C.A.O.'s

A directive concerning the organization and functioning of schools was prepared, approved by the S.C.A.O., and included in the 8th Army Bible. During the month letters giving a summary of the school situation in both provinces were forwarded to all C.A.O.'s and Provincial Officers. Letters gave information about Italian educational personnel in the provinces, procedures to be followed, etc.

Visit of Vice-President, Civil Affairs Section

On 5 March 1945 the Education Officer accompanied Brigadier C. R. Upjohn, Vice-President Civil Affairs Section, on a tour of some of the schools in this area. Schools visited were the Scuola Media at Riccione, the school located in the Refugee Center at Riccione, four schools located in teachers' homes at Fogliano, Riccione Marina and Misano Adriatico. At Cattolica the elementary school, Scuola Avviamento and Scuola Media were also visited. Brig. Upjohn indicated his satisfaction with the progress of the work being done.

Instructional Materials

During the month 38,000 more textbooks were brought from Rome and Florence and distributed to booksellers in Forlì and Ravenna Provinces. A total of 69,632 books for elementary and secondary schools have now been brought to this area. An additional 30,000 will be transported for storage at headquarters pending the liberation of the provinces of Bologna and Ferrara.

Other instructional materials which were brought from Rome for distribution through the Provveditori agli Studi included 7,200 pencils, 1,152 pens and 36,000 penpoints. These are being sold at cost to students by Provveditori agli Studi.

Paper has been unblocked by the Education Subcommission for the printing of 300,000 quaderni at Florence in cooperation with Region Toscana.

School Lunch Program

Request forms have been distributed in both provinces although to date only those from 10 communes have been returned. In most cases the number of children for whom rations have been requested have far exceeded the number enrolled. Hence there has been considerable delay in implementing this program.

2. FORLÌ PROVINCE

Administration

School authorities are making strenuous efforts to find school locations, especially in urban areas where all buildings are occupied by troops. The appointment of temporary school heads has continued. The Provveditore agli Studi now has a car at his disposal and has been able to visit the various communes of the province with the Provincial Education Officer.

Some difficulty is being experienced with the National Committee of Liberation. This group has on several occasions assumed authority over local school officers and at other times has tried to influence provincial school officers.

Opening of Schools

All schools, with the exception of those located in the communes of Portico, Castrosaro, Modigliana, Dovadola and Tredozio were ordered to open during this month of March. In most places this has been accomplished although visitation to communes has revealed, in some cases, that the actual situation existing did not verify the reports made.

Following is a report of visits made to 13 communes in the northern part of the province, where schools have only recently been ordered to reopen, by Lt. R.W. Crichton, Provincial Education Officer:

- a) Forlimpopoli - Elementary schools had begun inscriptions only, no place being available for classes. The secondary schools were using 4 rooms. It was decided that the elementary schools should also use these 4 rooms. Thus three "shifts" were arranged for Scuola Media, Istituto Magistrale and Elementary Schools.
- b) Cesena - It was found that these schools were not open. Lt. Jennett had ordered that no schools were to open before the elementary schools were ready to open. As a result all schools were held up, but the local authorities got busy and with the aid of the C.A. the schools opened 26 March.

- c) Savignano - In the fractions the schools are operating. In the capoluogo it is claimed that no places have been found as yet in which to hold classes.
- d) Roncofreddo - In the fractions the schools are operating. In the capoluogo it is claimed that no places have been found as yet in which to hold classes.
- e) Sogliano - In the fractions the schools are operating. In the capoluogo it is claimed that no places have been found as yet in which to hold classes.
- f) Galenta - Took Provveditore and Segretario to settle question of Preside.
- g) Meldola - Schools had opened 12 March and were apparently progressing well.
- h) Bertinoro - Schools have not as yet been able to open. The town is full to overflowing with troops and there is no room available. The seminary has been badly damaged. What is not damaged is occupied to a large extent by troops. Nevertheless it is functioning.
- i) Rocca San Cassiano - Schools have not opened. The Preside of the schools is also the Sindaco and is apparently really trying to get things going in spite of the fact that he compares the treatment of schools by Germans and Allied troops to the disparagement of the latter. Sufficient space has now been obtained in the Old Municipio and they are busy cleaning it up making ready for classes to be held there. Arrangements were made with the Commander of troops occupying the Elementary Schools to release what school material the troops were not using in their own training school.
- j) Fretiluore - Schools were not open. A few days earlier, the school, a fine large building in excellent condition, had been released by troops. As a few cases of typhoid had appeared in the town they had asked the C.A.O. to postpone opening until 10 April, to which the C.A.O. had agreed. As no new cases of typhoid have appeared lately C.A.O. is agreeable to having examinations before Easter.
- k) Fredeggio - Schools in Fredeggio and 2 fractions were not open; in the 11 other fractions they were functioning.
- l) Cesenatico - Schools were functioning well here. Only problems were: a. More space (which is being obtained); b. Blackboards (which can be obtained); c. Notebooks.
- m) Forlì - In the city itself elementary schools are functioning. Recently locales were found where the Scuola Media A and B and the Istituto Magistrale are operating. The Istituto Tecnico Industriale, building almost destroyed, has now been released by the Town Major and this school is now operating.

At the present time 42 of the 87 asili have been reopened with a reported enrolment of 1806 pupils. 72 of the 152 teachers normally employed are in service.

43 of the 470 elementary schools have been reopened. Of the normal enrolment of 49396, 16181 students were last reported enrolled. This does not include many for whom reports are not yet available. 508 of 1314 teachers are in service.

44 of the 47 secondary schools have been reopened including 2848 of the 8576 students normally enrolled, and 173 of the 672 teachers. Reports from some communes are not yet available.

10 private schools, enrolling 468 pupils are also in operation.

Statistical Data

Incomplete data show the following situation which exists in the province at the present time:

Table I - Statistical Data of Schools of Forlì Province

	Asili	Elementary schools	Secondary schools	Private & Church schools
Total No. Schools	87	470	47	10
Number Open	42	438	44	10
Normal Enrolment	5503	49396	8576	468
Presently enrolled	1806*	16181*	2448*	-
Number Teachers	152	1314	672	9
Now Teaching	72	508	173	15

* Does not include those enrolled during month of March.

Defascistization

To date, 120 school administrators have been screened, 28 of whom have been suspended and 92 confirmed. To date the following actions have been taken in the screening of personnel:

Table II - Vetting of School Personnel in Forlì Province

	Total No.	Schedule Received	Number Suspended	Number Confirmed
Provveditorato	14	12	1	11
Inspectors	2	5	2	3
Presidi	44	16	4	12
Directors	18	30	6	24
El. Teachers	1298	41	12	29
Avv. Teachers	203	3	1	2
Media Teachers	177	9	1	8
Higher Teachers	276	4	1	3
Total	2032	120	28	92

Building conditions

A survey of building conditions in the province has been carried on by the Provincial Education Officer. Returns are incomplete and may contain some inaccuracies.

Of the 24 asili reporting, 79% are either damaged or destroyed and 95% either damaged or occupied by troops.

Of the 188 elementary schools reported to date, 81% are either damaged or destroyed and 94% damaged or occupied by troops. "sfollati" or hospital units.

Of the 19 secondary schools reported, 79% are damaged or destroyed and 95% damaged or occupied. Some of the buildings listed as damaged are occupied by troops or sfollati. This is only a partial report of the survey being conducted.

In Table III will be found a summary of the condition of buildings to date.

Table III - Building Situation - Forli Province

Type	Total Number	Number Reported	Number Destroyed	Number Damaged	% Damaged Dest.	Occ. by troops	Occ. by others	% Occ. & Dam.
Asili	91	24	2	17	79%	4	2	95%
Element.	469	188	27	125	81%	33	22	94%
Second.	47	19	0	15	79%	21	0	95%

¹ - of reported schools.

2 - Some listed as damaged are occupied

Some not reported as to condition are reported occupied.

Instructional Materials

To date, 62950 text-books for elementary schools and 557 text-books for secondary schools have been distributed to booksellers in Rimini, Cesena and Forli and to the Provveditorato for distribution.

During the current month 4320 pencils, 1152 pens and 18,000 pen-points have been purchased from a supply at Rome and these are being distributed through the Provveditore agli Studi.

The supply of 10,000 quaderni has been exhausted but arrangements are being made for the printing of 150,000 for this province in Florence.

Table IV shows the number of each type of textbooks delivered in the province to date:

Table IV - Delivery of textbooks in Forli Province

Class and Type	Number delivered to date
Sillabario	1,000
Classe I	7,700
Classe II	9,275
Classe III lettura	8,685
Classe III sussidiario	4,650
Total to be carried forward	31,310

<u>Class and Type</u>	<u>Number delivered to date</u>
Total brought forward	31,310
Classe IV lettere	5,030
Classe IV aritmetica	7,440
Classe IV religione	7,550
Classe V lettere	3,200
Classe V aritmetica	4,140
Classe V religione	4,200
Secondary schools	557
Total	63,507

School Lunch Program

Requests for rations for school lunches have been received from the following ten communes: S.Giovanni in Marignano, Borghi, Civitella di Romagna, Cattolica, Coriano, Gatteo, Montescudo, Roncofreddo, Rimini and Meldola.

In most cases it was found that requests were made for many more children than actually were enrolled and hence approval of this program has been delayed.

G.I.L.

No report has been received to date from the Commissario concerning the property and equipment formerly held by the G.I.L.

Miscellaneous

Examinations for practically all schools were completed in March. Due to restrictions on travel many students were unable to come to centers where examinations were being given. To provide for these students two courses of action are planned: a) to hold a second session in April or when travel is permitted or b) to send commissions out to centers when the number of students warrants an examination session.

"Classi distaccate" were approved during the month in the communes of Marciano, Vernochio and Cesena. These provide temporary classes for secondary school pupils.

Some schools in Forlì and Premilcuore have been released recently by the army.

A school was established in the refugee center at Riccione, equipment, teachers and books provided.

Assistance has been given one of the operational units in setting up a classroom for instruction here and equipment has been provided.

3. RAVENNA PROVINCE

Administration

Recently appointed Provincial Education Officer, Captain Dexter Tilroe, has established an education office at the Provveditorato in Ravenna. A

car has been requisitioned for the use of the Provveditore agli Studi in visiting the schools of the province.

Since many school heads still remain in that part of the province occupied by the enemy, temporary appointments have been made to fill these vacancies.

Opening of schools

During the month of March schools were reopened in the communes of Cervia and in the southern part of Ravenna communes west of the Ravenna-Ferrara road, including Castiglione and S. Pietro in Campiano.

During the month, 11 of the 54 asili, 37 of the 219 elementary schools, 3 of the 43 secondary schools and 1 of the 60 private schools were reopened. Data on the number of pupils in attendance and the number of teachers employed are not yet available.

During the month, the Provincial Commissioner gave approval for the reopening of schools in the city of Ravenna. Examinations will be held and schools will open here on 9 April 1945.

Statistical Data

Table I - Statistical Data of Schools of Ravenna Province

	Asili	Elementary schools	Secondary schools	Private & Church schools
Total No. Schools	54	219	43	60
Number Open	11	37	3	1
Normal Enrollment	3542	21287	5250	3248
Presently Enrolled	**	**	**	**
Number Teachers	132	842	509	278
Now teaching	**	**	**	**

** Data for month of March not yet available.

Defascistization

To date 83 school officials in the province have been screened, 6 of whom have been suspended and 77 of whom have been confirmed. Schade have not yet been received from 37 other school officials. Some of these are still located in areas held by the enemy, some have fled north with the Germans, and the present location of others is unknown. To date the following actions have been taken in the screening of personnel:

Table VI - Vetting of School Personnel in Province of Ravenna

	Total No.	Schads Received	Number Suspended	Number Confirmed
Provveditorato	24	13	1	12
Inspectors	2	2	-	2
Presidi	46	7	2	5
Directors	14	16	-	16
El. Teachers	901	16	2	14
Avv. Teachers	238	2	-	2
Media Teachers	192	13	1	12
Higher Teachers	276	14	-	14
Total	1693	83	6	77

Building conditions

A survey of the condition of buildings in the liberated part of the province reveals that most buildings are damaged or occupied by troops. From information received of 74 elementary school buildings, 18 are occupied by troops, 1 is occupied by Italian troops and 8 are occupied by "sfollati". 20 of the buildings are slightly damaged and 24 are severely damaged or destroyed. Of the 26 secondary schools for which reports were submitted, 15 are occupied by troops, 2 are occupied by "sfollati" and 1 is occupied by a political party. 3 of the buildings have been severely damaged while 3 others are partially damaged.

Instructional Materials

To date a total of 5175 books have been delivered to booksellers in Ravenna for the elementary schools. Others will be brought soon from the sources of supply in Florence.

Other instructional materials including 18000 pen-points and 2880 pencils have been delivered to the provincial school office in Ravenna for distribution. Arrangements are now being made for the printing of 100,000 quaderni for distribution in the province.

A commission of seven members for the approval of the use and sale of textbooks has been appointed.

Table VII gives number of textbooks distributed:

Table VII - Textbooks distributed in Province of Ravenna

Class and Type	Number Delivered
I - Syllabario	2,500
II - Lettura	1,025
III - Lettura	725
IV - Religione	640
IV - Lettura	585
V - Religione	650
Total	6,125

School Lunch Program

Request forms for school lunch rations have been forwarded to sindaco but to date none has been returned.

G.I.L.

The Commissario of the G.I.L. has begun a survey of buildings and equipment formerly held by G.I.L. in the city of Ravenna. The large G.I.L. building located there is virtually destroyed.

Miscellaneous

"Classi distaccate" at S. Pietro in Caspiense and S. Pietro in Vincelli were established for students of secondary schools.

4. PROVINCIA OF SAN MARINO

Schools in San Marino are now in full operation. Sixteen elementary schools and 3 secondary schools have been reopened. In the elementary schools 1243 students are taught by 31 teachers and in the scuola media there are enrolled 390 students under the supervision of 20 teachers.

No provisions have as yet been made for students in upper secondary schools who formerly attended schools in Rimini. Permits for travel of these students have not been granted.

Textbooks have been made available to the Republic through a bookseller in Rimini but school officials object to paying the same retail price as paid by children in other Italian communes.

5. PARENT NEED AND FUTURE PLANS

Visits are now being made by the Provincial Education Officer to all communes to assist school officials where schools are not yet functioning properly. A calendar is being prepared for all provinces which will provide for the operation of schools throughout the summer. The school lunch program will be implemented. Additional books for secondary schools will be brought to the provinces. Vetting of school officials will be completed.

6. VIGNETTES OF THE EDUCATION DIVISION

A School in a Teacher's Home

Along the Via Adriatica, now one of the main arteries for military traffic of the 8th Army, are tucked away, unseen, many children busy with their studies in private homes. In the commune of Misano one may discover such a home upon inquiry. To reach it, one found it necessary to go through what looked like a barnyard to a little door leading to a basement. Once inside one found what was once a living room now converted to school purposes. Benches, badly used and in poor condition, held about 20 children ranging in ages from 6 to 11 years. The embarrassed teacher, a young chap of scarcely more than 20 years, was illustrating an arithmetic example as we entered. For a blackboard he was utilizing a little slate, perhaps a foot square suspended by a string from the ceiling.

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Most of the children, the poorly-dressed off-spring of contadini, were clean of face and hands but clothes and shoes were old and worn. Only a bright ribbon on the heads of one or two of the black-haired girls gave color to the dark room. The "new" textbooks were in evidence on the desk, the teacher having purchased them for the children in a neighboring town. Parts of copy books, some with old Fascist covers obviously removed, were being fast filled with the "lesson" of the pupils. Here, and in scores of similar homes, the future of the new Italy was being formed - and along the road outside rumbled the tanks and trucks to drive the enemy from their country.

Five in One

That any school building should escape damage in the city of Rimini seems miraculous. But the Liceo Classico, shielded by other buildings on two sides had only a couple of holes in the roof. These were soon repaired and the school made ready to house five of the secondary schools of Rimini, each having use of the building 8 hours each week. Children are given much home study by their teachers to occupy their time. Amid the ruins of a once-beautiful town on the sea, preparation of Italian Youth goes on to help them rebuild a future of peace and world-cooperation.

From Club to School

Before the war the only secondary school at Cattolica, a city of about 8000 people, was a Scuola Avviamento for sons and daughters of contadini. Other children traveled to Rimini and Pesaro when they finished their elementary school course. Travel prohibited, a scuola media was established in this city to care for the needs of secondary school children. What was formerly a Fascist Club was soon converted into a school by an energetic sindaco. Windows were replaced by requisitioning the glass from pictures in the homes of citizens. Low pictures which we saw had been placed on the walls by some German soldier "artist" were covered. Benches were found in the old Scuola Avviamento, now a hospital for troops. And thus within a few weeks after war had passed, a new school to care for high school children in this city was organized and in operation.

Refugees go to School

The thousand men, women and children brought from the dangers of the fighting front were housed in one of 8th Army's refugee centers not far from the front. Food and housing these unfortunates was speedily accomplished, but finding useful tasks for children was a problem unsolved. Most found something to do on their own account, a favorite past-time being to hang about army vehicles and kitchens.

A call for help was directed to the Education Division by the officials of the Refugee Center to provide educational facilities for 150 children between the ages of 3 and 10. Class rooms were placed in what was the lobby of the large hotel which was housing the refugees. Benches and

black-boards were found in a destroyed building in the village. Only two "di ruolo" teachers were found among the refugees themselves, one an old man of 80 and another the mother of 5 small children. Hence four young substitute teachers were found in the village for the kindergarten and the five elementary classes. Books and supplies were made available and purchased by the Center. Four days after the call was made, a new school was operating in the Refugee Center.

Willis E. Pratt

Willis E. Pratt
Captain A.U.S.
Education Officer
Eighth Army

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