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AMGOT/ BIGOT, AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES
MAY - JULY 1943

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FROM AND TO

1A.	141F/7823/CA	4 May 143	Fisheries off HORNFIELD TO Commander H.P. Curreys S.O. Local Defence HQ 141 Force
~~2A~~	~~141F/7823/CA~~	~~10 MAY 43~~	~~TO: COMD. C.P. CURREY, R.N.~~
2A.	A.T.M.	9 May	To Capt Graham & Capt Denton Jones
3A	Capt. 778 Jones	9 May	To Lt Col Spofford & Lt Col Maxwell
4A	—	—	Shipping available on Hornfeed.
5A	—	—	Minute.
6A	141F/7823/CA	12 May	To. Comdr C.P. Currey R.N.
7A	141F/7823/CA	14 May	To Col H.P. Russell. DDST.
8A	—	10 "	Memo.
9A	—	11 "	Memo Coasters & Schooners Hornfield
10A	141F/7823/CA	12 "	Fishing regulations
11	—	30 Apr	Appreciation by Capt. Clayton
12	—	4 June	Fishing Restrictions
13	141F/7823/CA	30 June	To:- Wing Commander Shilbeck.
14	F.P.TWM/81/218	10 July	From G.H. Middle East
15.	Minute from		Major Clayton

20 Jul 1943

(15)

Col. Seitz

The papers at 14 dealing with (a) heat treatment of seed potatoes and (b) use of rose ends of potatoes for seed are interesting but have no practical bearing on our problems.

J. Brampton
Major

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H C Wolin
July 21, 1943.

14

MIDDLE EAST SUPPLY CENTRE,
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, MIDDLE EAST
CAIRO.

FP/TW1/810.1218.

10th July, 1943.

A.M.G.O.T. Rear,
A.F.H.Q., D.N.A.F.,
In the Field.

13

Potato Publications.

I am directed to refer to your letter 141F/7823/CA of the 30th June requesting information on the treatment of seed potatoes.

Enclosed herewith are three papers on the subject which it is hoped will be of some value.

D. Shilbach w/cor

Asst. Director Food (Production).

encls.

Civil Supply H/Quarters 4003

19/7

PR RATION OF POTATOES HARVESTED I UTUMN FOR SOWIN IN SPRING BY MEANS OF HEATING.

by
Division of Plant Pathology and Extension, Jewish Agency Agricultural Research Station, Rehovoth.

During the last two years good results were obtained by heating potatoes harvested in autumn and sowing them in February-March. Here are detailed instructions based on two years experience:

1. Select the potatoes carefully, each variety apart, because each variety has a specific rest-period.

2. For sprouting by means of heat use potatoes which were harvested early in autumn, in November or in the beginning of December, in order to sow them in mid February or in the beginning of March.

3. The tubers destined for sprouting by heat are to be dry and before full maturation, when the skin is still peeling a little. These tubers tend to sprout early.

4. Use only healthy and whole tubers, showing no sign of rot or lesions. Changes of colour - as browning or blackening - appearing in immature tubers because of peeling, do not require their discarding, unless they are shrivelled.

5. Do not start heating the tubers soon after their harvest, but leave them in storage for 7-14 days so as to dry and select them. This is especially important with tubers harvested after rain.

6. No tubers destined for heating should be washed, since washed tubers are liable to rot. The wet soil which sticks to the tubers dries and crumbles off during storage prior to heating. Should there be need for washing, take care and dry the tubers immediately after.

7. The heating room has to be dark and well isolated. The tubers are arranged in sprouting-boxes, field-boxes or on shelves; do not use a cold-store which contained potatoes, because of the potato-moth and spoilage of isolation - material through high moisture.

8. Each ton potatoes requires 4 cubic metres room.

9. The temperature of the room has to be between 26^0 and 30° Cent. In a higher temperature the tubers are liable to rot, while a lower one would delay sprouting too long.

10. The room has to be ventilated throughout heating. Tubers in an unventilated room with a temperature of 25° C. will rot within 2-3 days. Ventilation should be arranged so as not to chill the room. The door should be opened for $\frac{1}{4}$ hour twice daily. It is advisable to furnish the room with a ventilator, so as to equalize temperature and moisture throughout the room.

11. Moisture in the room has to be high, near saturation-point. This is attained by evaporating water out of heated containers, or spraying water (but do not shed water instead of spraying). Spraying is started 3 days after

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11. Moisture in the room has to be high, near saturation-point. This is attained by evaporating water out of heated containers, or spraying water (but do not shed water instead of spraying). Spraying is started 3 days after the beginning of heating, and continued daily.

12. The heating-room should be filled at once with the whole quantity of tubers to be heated, and no tubers should be added during heating since the additional tubers are liable to rot because of their sudden entrance into high temperature and moisutre.

13. The process of the heating should be watched carefully, and all tubers showing pits of signs of rot are to be discarged immediately. When rot prevails heating is to be discontinued. Healthy tubers are fit for consumption.

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14. Heating is carried on until there appear sprouts 5-10 mm. long. When sprouting begins, it is desirable to select the tubers; then all tubers which have already sprouted as described, are transferred to sprout in light, and the others continue to be heated.

15. All tubers which sprout fully in mid-February should be sown immediately, without being exposed to sprout in light.

16. The number of heating-days is fixed by the condition of the tubers when harvested and by the quality of the heating, generally 30-45 days. Experience has shown that it is best to start heating on December 20th-25th and to sow in Mid-February (on light soils). On heavy soils sowing is carried out in the beginning of March.

17. For sowing useonly tubers which sprouted no later than in the beginning of March. The season for this is the slower sprouting and growth in the field of heated tubers as compared with super-harvested tubers kept in cold-storage for spring-sowing.

18. Potatoes that were sown and harvested late do not keep well.

19. Potatoes that sprouted by heating have to be irrigated frequently throughout their growth, and especially towards the end.

Heating by stoves. The room is heated by kerosene-stoves. During heating careful ventilation has to be arranged, since the burning stove uses all the oxygen of the room and changes it into carbon-dioxide; as a result of this the stove goes out and soots, and when the door is opened a fire can result. Furthermore, the wick should be cleansed every day. The stove is fuelled outside the room, and not while burning. Near the room there are to be held ready all safety appliances against fire, as pails full of water and sand. When entering the room while the stove is burning, do not close the door.

The stove has to evaporate one or one and a half tins of water during 24 hours.

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Progress Report by the Jewish Agency Agricultural Research Station, Rechoveth, on the Application of Ethylene-Chlorhydrin on Seed Potatoes.

Investigation conducted subsequent to January, 1941, showed that potato tubers harvested at the end of November and treated by Ethylene-chlorhydrin could be sown in December. The dosage used in that case is 2 kgs. per ton.

Of course, the tubers could also be sown during the following months of January and February. In case of March sowing, the dosage could be reduced to 1 kg. per ton, instead of two.

Storage of the tubers in a warm room after being treated by Ethylene-chlorhydrin further accelerated sprouting.

The above shows that the treatment by Ethylene-chlorhydrin shortens the period of dormancy by more than three months.

2. The use of Ethylene-chlorhydrin could be designated as essential in the case of winter sowing for the districts of the Jordan Valley, Esdraelon Valley,

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2. The use of Ethylene-chlorhydrin could be designated as essential in the case of winter sowing for the districts of the Jordan Valley, Nahraelon Valley, and the light soils of the coastal plain.

3. The best process is the treatment of the tubers by Ethylene-Chlorhydrin in heaps or in seed boxes. The spraying of the solution in the storage room is the most practical. The process was applied last season on a comparatively large scale. About 200 tons were successfully treated in that way in various settlements. The yields were generally satisfactory, and in many cases reached three tons per dunum.

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4. Treatment by cold storage is expensive, and almost prohibitive in the case of the smallholders.

5. Treatment by high temperature (37°C.) and high relative humidity (85%) is effective in case of late sowing and for heavier soils, but less reliable than the treatment by Ethylene-chlorhydrin.

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MORE HOME GROWN SEEDS OF CONSUMERS' POTATOES MUST BE SET ASIDE FOR PLANTING.

BY

Academician T.D. Lysenko.

The Lenin "Union" Academy of Agricultural Science. Moscow 1942.

1. Extension of Potato Planting and Increase of Potato Crops.

During the Great War for the Fatherland against German usurpers, agricultural workers must take daily measures to increase our resources in food and raw materials to satisfy the greater needs of the country and the heroic Red Army.

The importance of potatoes in human consumption and the spirit and starch-syrup industries is well known. The greater the quantity of potatoes, the better will the food requirements of the Army and civil population be met and the better the potato requirements of industry be supplied.

The area planted with potatoes in the U.S.S.R. in 1942 was considerably extended/- in collective and co-operative farms and in kitchen gardens attached to factories, plants and establishments. General development was carried out collectively and individually by workers and employees. The result of this was a considerable increase in potato lifting.

It is essential in 1943 to extend even further the areas planted with potatoes in collective and co-operative farms and in kitchen gardens, and to develop further the private and collective allotments of workers and employees. At the same time measures should be taken to increase the potato crops of the varieties used.

The ground set aside for planting with potatoes must be well prepared and manured. Great attention should be paid to the quality of the seed. The size of the crop largely depends on the quality of the seed, and the varieties most suitable for the district should be selected as seed. The tubers for planting should be healthy, uninfected with disease and not hybrid.

It is well known that larger tubers of the variety suitable for/given district as a rule give heavier crops. But it is unprofitable to plant whole large tubers weighing for instance 150 - 200 grams and more. The weight of the seed potatoes

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It is well known that larger tubers of the variety suitable for/given district as a rule give heavier crops. But it is unprofitable to plant whole large tubers weighing for instance 150 - 200 grams and more. The weight of the seed would be excessive. That is why large tubers weighing 100 - 150 grams are generally cut into sections. Still larger tubers weighing over 200 grams are not as a rule used for planting. It is impracticable to cut up tubers of this size because even then the seed in weight per ~~area~~ area would be far greater than usual. For this reason the best and largest tubers (weighing 150 - 200 grams and over), capable of giving the heaviest crops are not used as a rule. These tubers are used as food. Tubers averaging 30 - 50 - 70 grams are generally selected for seed when the method of growing potatoes from whole tubers is used.

However /...

However, food large tubers destined for human consumption and industrial and technical purposes, can and must be used for seed as well by cutting off the rose ends for planting.

Wide experience under different climatic conditions throughout the country in 1942 has shown that rose ends cut off from good, large tubers used for consumption make good seed. These rose ends, if they are stored properly during the autumn and winter, are better seed than whole tubers of the same variety of 40 - 50 grams generally used, not to mention small tubers. It should be mentioned that rose ends are the cheapest type of seed.

Thousands of collective and co-operative farms, thousands of kitchen gardens attached to plants and establishments and hundreds of thousands of workers, employees and collective farm workers working on their privat allotments and land adjoining the farms, used rose ends for planting in 1942.

The use of rose ends of eating potatoes alone accounted for the additional area of not less than 100,000 hectares planted with potatoes in 1942.

It can now be definitely stated that rose ends weighing 10 - 15 grams taken from good, healthy potatoes of 100 - 200 grams and over, give a heavier crop than whole tubers of the same variety averaging not more than 40 - 50 grams, and planted under the same conditions.

The reason for the heavier crop does not lie in the fact that they are rose ends. A whole tuber has a rose end as well. Also tubers of 40 - 50 grams have more feeding qualities for shoots, than rose ends of 10 - 15 grams. Rose ends of 10 - 15 grams cut from large tubers crop more heavily than tubers of 40 - 50 grams of the same variety, because they have been cut from far larger potatoes. and large potatoes have better germinating qualities and greater fertility.

In 1942, research student L.V. Mosolova, of the Lenin Union Academy of Agricultural Science carried out an experiment in planting rose ends of different sizes in a field of the Siberian Scientific Experimental Institute of Grain Cultivation. Rose ends of 5, 10, 15 and 20 grams were used. On the same piece of land, under the same agronomical conditions, the Institute's potato laboratory carried out various experiments in planting whole tubers. It is obvious that the smaller rose ends were cut off from smaller potatoes and the larger rose ends from larger potatoes. But because the smallest tubers, used up in the canteen, were considerably larger than the whole tubers selected for planting (50 - 60 grams in weight) by the laboratory, the rose ends that only weighed 5 grams yielded a far heavier crop than the whole tubers of 50 - 60 grams of the same variety.

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Rose ends of 5 grams gave a minimum crop of 287 centners per hectare and a maximum crop of 307 in this experiment; rose ends of 10 grams gave a minimum and maximum crops of 305 and 333 centners; rose ends of 15 grams gave minimum and maximum crops of 355 and 372; rose ends of 20 grams minimum and maximum crops of 352 and 408. Whole tubers of 50 - 60 grams of the same variety - "Early Rose" - /which the most of the rose ends had been cut in the canteen, gave a crop of 212 centners per hectare planted whole by the laboratory of the institute.

The increased crop from rose ends can in this case be explained only by the fact that the rose ends were cut from potatoes considerably larger than those s usually used for planting /..4005

planting.

The fact that rose ends from large potatoes are also cheaper as seed is proved by the following. 4 - 5 centners of seed are needed per hectare in planting rose ends of 10 - 15 grams cut off from large eating potatoes. 16 - 20 centners per hectare are used in planting whole tubers weighing only 40 - 50 grams.

It should be noted that 80 - 100 kilograms of rose ends are obtained from every ton of eating potatoes. Peelings and matter unfit for eating make up about half the weight of rose ends. Therefore the pulp of eating potatoes is diminished by cutting off the rose ends by 40 - 50 kilograms per ton. At the same time 80 - 100 kilograms of rose ends of potatoes used as seed are equivalent to 5 centners of the best tuters used for planting.

Extensive experiments in obtaining storing and planting rose ends have only been carried out for one year. One year is often insufficient in questions of agronomy. In other years and in different districts phenomena unforeseen, unnoticed or which simply had not occurred during the first year may take place.

Collective and co-operative farms, kitchen gardens attached to plants and establishments, workers and employees must set about the early storing of seed of good whole tubers of the necessary varieties for the whole area to be planted with potatoes.

To extend the areas for planting with potatoes according to the above plan, and also, to create a maximum reserve fund of good seed, care should be taken to collect as great a quantity of additional seed as possible, consisting of rose ends of eating potatoes, during the winter and spring in urban and rural districts.

This additional reserve fund of seed will allow potatoes to be planted in spring well in excess of plan, and in many cases will allow the replacement in spring of small tubers (or tubers in other ways inadequate) by good rose ends, cut in the course of the autumn, winter or spring from healthy and big eating potatoes. In this way the area planted with potatoes will be increased as well as the potato crops themselves. Seed of little value, - i.e. tubers which are too small or infected with disease, (as for instance "annular" decay) but which appear healthy, can be used in spring for food or industry.

Last experiments have shown where the disease was observed that potatoes grown from rose ends were very much less liable to "annular" decay than potatoes grown from whole or sections of tubers.

The cutting off of rose ends from a fraction of a potato

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The cutting off of rose ends from a fraction of a potato more or less infected with "annular" decay is a curative measure against the disease. This is due to the fact that in the field a tuber becomes infected with "annular" decay through the stem by which the tuber is attached to the plant. "annular" decay spreads along the potato's ring of vascular ducts from the end attached to the stem to the centre, and further to the rose end.

In a number of cases tubers that appear healthy have in the middle of the lower (stem) end the beginnings of the disease. These tubers are often planted, and the crop is often poor owing to this disease. Rose ends cut off from tubers which are thus infected in the centre, but which appear healthy, will give a smaller percentage of diseased plants. For this reason cutting off rose ends in such a case is a curative measure /....

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measure.

Every healthy large tuber used for food or industry should also be used for seed by means of cutting off and storing the rose ends for planting.

Most districts of the U.S.S.R. have experience of storing large and small quantities of rose ends. Collection rose ends should begin in autumn.

2. When and how to cut off the rose ends of tubers.

It is best to cut off the rose ends of tubers where the potatoes are stored immediately before dispatching them to the canteens. It should be noted that rose ends must not be cut off 7 - 10 days before the potatoes are going to be used for food or in industry. The reason for this is that the wounded tubers as a result of decapitation will not keep over a long period and will require greater attention and care in storing.

It is quite simple and easy to cut off the rose ends. But experience shows that the decapitation was often done incorrectly through lack of practice and knowledge. The lower stem part has in some cases been cut off instead of the rose end. Often very small rose ends have been cut off from large tubers and on the other hand very large rose ends have been cut off from small tubers.

It is easy to distinguish the rose end from the lower stem end. The rose end contains the maximum number of eyes (buds). The lower end of the tuber can be easily recognised by the remnant of the stem by which the tuber was attached to the plant. If there is no stem on the tuber, the place where it was attached will usually be found - it is generally a small, round hollow.

Rose ends of about 15 grams should be cut off from large tubers of 150 grams. Rose ends of 10 grams should be cut off from tubers of about 100 grams. Rose ends of 7 to 8 grams should be cut off from tubers of 70 - 100 grams. Rose ends should not be cut off from small tubers weighing under 50 grams.

Rose ends of over 15 grams should not be cut off. The cutting of excessively large rose ends decreases the amount of potato used for eating. Rose ends of 20 grams should only be cut off from the very largest tubers of 200 - 300 grams and over.

One should also remember, however, that very small rose ends of 7 - 10 grams should not be cut off from large tubers weighing over 150 grams. Rose ends of 7 - 10 grams cut off from large tubers would be too thin and would dry in storage. Also they would have little feeding matter for the buds, as a great part of their weight would consist of peelings. Should [illegible] have large tuber off-shoots each one of these should

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Generally speaking it is best to cut off 8% - 10% of the weight of the tuber. The larger the tubers, the heavier the rose ends cut off from them.

The correct weight of the rose ends should be checked by weighing where the potatoes are stored and where they are decapitated. The number of rose ends in one kilogram should be counted. There should be about 70 rose ends to a kilogram cut off from large tubers of 150 grams and over, and 100 - 125 rose ends from tubers of 70 - 100 grams.

No rose ends should be cut off from diseased and

rotten /..

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rotten tubers, or from tubers with frozen rose ends. Such rose ends will be sources of infection to others. Every rose end should be examined when it is cut off, and, if there are spots on the pulp it should be discarded.

All measures should be taken to prevent the infection of rose ends by contact with diseased parts of tubers, and the spreading and developing of beginnings of infection in rose ends cut off from diseased tubers and not discarded by mistake. Rose ends should not be kept in a warm building where the beginnings of potato disease would develope easily.

One must have practice in order to cut off the potato rose ends correctly and quickly and to distinguish the diseased from the healthy tubers. That is why it is advisable to have one, two or three permanent workers for cutting off rose ends in store houses where daily cutting from large quantities of potatoes takes place.

One should bear in mind that decapitated potatoes must not be peeled by means of a peeling machine, as it would result in wastage if the potato scraps are not used for making starch.

3. Storage of cut potato rose ends.

Rose ends cut in store houses should be spread out in layers of 5 - 10 centimetres in depth for 5 - 10 days for drying off when they should be turned over once a day. After this they can be kept in layers of 30 - 40 centimetres.

It is best to store the rose ends (after they have dried off) in dry sand or dry soil, when they will keep far better, and where the risk of rotting or drying up will be reduced. When the rose ends are cut off in one place and stored in another they should be transported in a heated conveyance.

Rose ends should be stored at a temperature at which seed tubers are generally stored - 1 - 3 degrees centigrade. The place of storage must not be damp. The rose ends should be frequently and thoroughly examined. In case of the slightest rotting, they should be sorted out and the rotten rose ends should be discarded.

Rose ends which during storage show the smallest signs of rot (1% - 2%) must be sorted out. If they were stored without a sprinkling of dry sand or dry soil, one or other should be immediately added. They keep considerably better in dry sand or soil. Ashes must not be used.

4. Private collecting and storing of rose ends.

At home, workers [illegible]

ginnings of potato disease would develope easily.

One must have practice in order to cut off the potato rose ends correctly and quickly and to distinguish the diseased from the healthy tubers. That is why it is advisable to have one, two or three permanent workers for cutting off rose ends in store houses where daily cutting from large quantities of potatoes takes place.

One should bear in mind that decapitated potatoes must not be pealed by means of a peeling machine, as it would result in wastage if the potato scraps are not used for making starch.

3. Storage of cut potato rose ends.

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4. Private collecting and storing of rose ends.

At home, workers, employees, collective farm workers must decapitate tubers only immediately before the potatoes are pealed for cooking. If the potatoes are washed before peeling, they should be decapitated before washing. After allowing them to dry off for one or two days at an indoor temperature, the rose ends should be stored in dry sand or soil in a box or basket. The layer of sand or soil need not be thick but sufficient to cover the rose ends so that only their general outlines show. It is best to keep the boxes or baskets in a building where the temperature is not too high - the best temperature is 1 - 3 degrees centigrade. Care should be taken that the temperature does not fall ~~below~~ below freezing point.

We /....

We advise that the small quantities of potato rose ends collected at home be kept in the boxes, baskets or on the floor of the building where they are stored, covered in dry sand or dry soil. In sand or soil the rose ends will keep better till spring even when a suitable building with an even temperature of 1 - 3 degrees centigrade is not available for storage.

5. More rose ends must be collected -
More potatoes must be planted in 1943.

If mass collection of rose ends of tubers is properly organised, large quantities of additional seed can be saved up during the winter. This will permit considerable extension in excess of plan of potato planting and in a number of cases the replacement of poor seed in spring.

Agricultural organisations, agronomists and workers of scientific and experimental establishments must help collective and co-operative farms, kitchen gardens attached to industry, workers and employees in every way to collect and store correctly the maximum quantity of rose ends.

Komsomol and trade union organisations and workers in schools and school children greatly helped in collecting rose ends in 1942. They will help this year and must enter into this work even more than last year.

Agronomists and scientific workers must have rose ends under different conditions of experimental storage from every district. This will enable them to give the best advice related to the agricultural practices and climatic conditions of the district.

Mass instruction should be given to ensure the collection of potato rose ends. The usefulness and the importance in national economy of this method of planting must be explained.

The campaign for collecting the maximum quantity of good rose ends of potatoes used for consumption, and for their good and correct storage, is a campaign for the maximum extension in excess of plan of potato production. It is a form of assistance to the heriec Red army in its struggle against the most evil enemy of freedom-loving mankind - against German Fascism.

oOo

4001

(13)

SUBJECT: **Seed Potatoes.**

141F/7823/CA

Wing Commander Skilbeck
Middle East Supply Centre
10 Sharia Tolumbat
Cairo, Egypt

At a meeting of our people with Mr. Tench of your organization, he suggested that we write you for copies of papers on the treatment of seed potatoes by cold storage, heat storage, use of rose ends, etc.

If you have that information available we would be most happy to have copies for our information.

Lt. Col.,
Chief Staff Officer.

AMGOT Rear
AFHQ, B.N.A.F.
In the Field.
30 June 43

WLB/JM

4000

Issued by S.O.I(P).

BIGOT - HUSKY 12
MOST SECRET
4th June 1943.

7823

FISHING RESTRICTIONS IN SICILY

Statements made by a number of Prisoners of War give evidence of rigid fishing restrictions in force in SICILY.

Fishing is permitted only between dawn and dusk, the boats not being allowed to go to sea at night. (Before the war night fishing was extensive, small vessels, fishing by the light of acetylene flares, being encountered as far as 10 miles offshore.).

Before putting to sea now the fisherman has to obtain a permit from the local Custom Guards or Port Authorities, allowing him to be out with his small boat on a stated day between certain hours.

In large ports fishing is sometimes permitted within the harbour area.

The following are statements made by Prisoners of War, natives of the areas referred to:-

1. CATANIA Many restrictions and a strict licensing system is in force. Fishing boats with special permits may ply in certain specified areas only during hours of daylight. (Interrogation Report S3/III of 31st May, 1943. Date of Prisoner of War's last visit, August 1942.)

2. SIRACUSA Fishing is only allowed by permit between dawn and dusk (Same report as No. 1. Date of Prisoner of War's last visit, November, 1942.)

3. MARINA DI PATTI. Here a great many fishermen exercise their trade in small sailing or rowing boats. Maximum length about 10 metres. Large nets are used by fishing vessels and dragged ashore complete with catch; with the smaller type of net the catch is gathered in at sea. Fishing has now been restricted and is only permitted between 0600 hrs and 1300 hrs. (Same Report as Nos. 1 and 2. Date of Prisoner of War's last visit, August 1942.)

4. MAZARA DEL VALLO Fishing is very restricted and permits issued by Port Authorities are required, these only being obtained with difficulty. No fishing vessels are allowed out after dusk. (Interrogation Report No. S3/II of 29th May, 1943. Prisoner of War's last visit was in 1939.)

TO SEE.
CIVILIAN SUPPLY

4th June 1943

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TO SEE.
CIVILIAN SUPPLY

P/A L. 46 3991

AMGOT.
NO COPY L.
M.F.

The CIVIL AFFAIRS ORGANISATION and ITALIAN AGRICULTURE.

Appreciation

by

Capt. J. CHAYTON.

at C.A.S.C. on 30th April, 1943.

O B J E C T.

1. To obtain effective control at the earliest possible moment of all stocks for use in agriculture and of agricultural products which have not yet passed out of the production side into the consuming side of the economy. These stocks consist of foodstuffs, livestock, animal feeding-stuffs, seeds, manures, agricultural products for use in industry, and machinery. The order in which they are given is related to the importance to the C.A. Organisation generally and to the order and speed in which they may respectively be expected to disappear during the temporary period of absence of control.

2. To obtain effective control at the earliest possible moment of all indigenous organisations connected with the collection or storing of all agricultural surpluses, and the distribution to farmers of the requirements for cultivation. In the absence of the existence of such organisations, to arrange for the formation of an organisation which will stand in its place.

3. To organise agriculture so as to produce the greatest volume of surpluses of food-stuffs in the shortest possible time.

4. To organise agriculture to produce such industrial crops as are required for manufacture or shipment. These will include wool, cotton, hemp, flax, [redacted], sumac, silk, industrial timber, cork and charcoal-wood.

5. To link up the agricultural organisation of the C.A. staff with other branches of this staff for the purposes of obtaining as and when available, manures, machinery and fuel, and for the transfer to them of food surpluses and agricultural products for use in industry.

6. The relative priority of the various objects to be attained are approximately indicated in the order in which they are set out above.

FACTORS WHICH AFFECT THE ATTAINMENT OF THE OBJECT.

7. ITALY can be divided agriculturally into three parts.
(a) the area NORTH of the APPENINES, in which the climate is of the continental type, and where agriculture is intensive, and resembles in many respects that of

consist of foodstuffs, livestock, animal feeding-stuffs, seeds, manures, agricultural products for use in industry, and machinery. The order in which they are given is related to the importance to the C.A. Organisation generally and to the order and speed in which they may respectively be expected to disappear during the temporary period of absence of control.

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(a) the area NORTH of the APPENINES, in which the climate is of the continental type, and where agriculture is intensive, and resembles in many respects that of N.W.EUROPE. This area includes PIEMONT, LOMBARDIA, VENETO, EMILIA.
(b) the centre of the Peninsula, in which the climate is Mediterranean. This includes LIGURIA, TOSCANIA, MARCHE, UMBRIA, LAZIO. Here the farming is more extensive.
(c) the SOUTH, which includes the remaining regions of the Peninsula, and the ISLANDS (SICILIA and SARDEGNA.) This is an area of very low rainfall and, generally speaking, small farmers. It is on the whole an area in which is found out-of-date methods of cultivation and impoverished tenant farming with low yields, particularly of grain.

Pt 26

399

8. It is reasonable to assume that the occupation of ITALY will not be effected in one operation within a very short space of time. The problems connected with the SOUTH and the ISLANDS, as the area most likely to be occupied first, will be considered only. The extension of the area of occupation towards the NORTH will not materially affect the contemplated plans, although important changes of agriculture will be found.

9. The speed and effectiveness with which CONTROL of all supplies of interest to agriculture can be obtained, will depend, to a degree, on what will remain of the original personnel, buildings and machinery.

10. It is considered that unless this control can be gained at a very early moment, surpluses may disappear into hoards, and may not be recoverable. This would considerably affect, not only the feeding of the population, but probably also subsequent seed supplies.

11. After this has been done it will be necessary to consider the question of the REHABILITATION of agriculture. In this connection, the following considerations will affect the position:-

(a) The known factors. viz:- the climate, the nature of the soil and the type of cultivation normally practised.

(b) The unknown factors. viz:- the season in which the C.A.Organisation will commence to operate, and the extent to which labour, soil fertility, buildings, crops, implements, live-stock, seeds, fuel, still remain after effective occupation.

General plans for the rehabilitation of agriculture can be worked out in advance, but the steps to be taken will be considerably affected,as to nature and urgency, by the factors in (b) above, and the detailed application of the plan cannot be effected until all the factors are ascertainable.

12. We must anticipate that the enemy or the progress of the battle will have imposed in some degree the following obstacles to our efforts:-

(a) Removal of key personnel.

(b) Destruction of natural resources and means of production (e.g. irrigation systems.)

(c) Destruction or removal of means of transportation and communication.

(d) Destruction of crops and destruction or removal of stocks of food and feeding-stuffs, etc.

13. It will be necessary to assume that the territory involved has not been denuded of LABOUR. The supply of labour is an absolute limiting factor. The availability of other requirements for the rehabilitation of agriculture are relative limiting factors. It can be assumed that a mass evacuation by the enemy will be impossible, certainly in the ISLANDS, and that a supply of labour will be available for cultivation. The management of the large

Note: now modified by availability of Italian prisoners of

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Note: now modified by availability of Fijian prisoners as a source of labour.

14. The areas nearest the points of expected attack will almost certainly have been kept very low in supplies of food, and with no surpluses beyond those sufficient to feed the population, probably on a week to week basis. In these areas, surpluses will have been removed by the enemy as soon as possible after production. This assumption may however be considerably affected by the fact that the small farmer who is found so very much in the SOUTH and in the ISLANDS, is very much attached to his land, and will obviously try to retain his crops and safeguard his means of production.

15. One may expect that such stocks which have been left with the producers or in collecting warehouses and processing organisations, will, to some extent, or entirely, disappear through looting and hoarding by the remaining civil population during the period when authority has temporarily disappeared.

16. The supply of SEED should not present any serious problem, unless at the time of occupation the whole of the harvest has been gathered, thrashed and removed. This contingency is very unlikely, and can well be ignored. Seed breeding and selection has progressed, and it has been extended throughout ITALY during the last few years, and it is not anticipated that imported seed will be required. Selected seeds may not be available, but selections from local harvests should provide satisfactory samples. The only serious exception is in the case of potatoes. Seed potatoes originally imported from CENTRAL EUROPE are now grown in the later districts of the ALPINE FOOTHILLS, and will not be available. "Once-grown" potatoes should however, if available, be sufficiently satisfactory.

17. FERTILISER supplies are expected to be deficient, but it can be presumed that the soil will have essential residual phosphate. Potash has always been a source of difficulty in ITALY, and there will be a serious deficiency, and with no available source of supply from which it can be made good. Among the nitrogenous manures, cyanamide (15%-19% N.) is believed to be available, and as soon as the plants making nitrates for war production are released, there will probably be some in working order available for conversion for the manufacture of ammonium sulphate. The limiting factor in soil fertility will be potash. Given a reasonable amount of nitrate, it is anticipated that fair crops of the most important products, such as grain, will be obtainable.

18. MACHINERY in the SOUTH should, generally, be sufficient to carry on during the early period of occupation. There are comparatively few tractors in the SOUTH, and it is reasonable to assume that the liquid fuel shortage will long ago have necessitated their adaptation to the use of producer gas where tractor cultivation is essential. It is also anticipated that charcoal supplies will be sufficient for this purpose. It is expected that there will be a deficiency of spares for tractors owing to "cannibalism". Reapers and binders may also be in a bad state of repair. Generally speaking, however, the type of farming practised indicates that no serious difficulties will be experienced in this connection, and cultivation should be satisfactorily maintained during the emergency period.

19. Sacks and bags may be in short supply, but ITALY, as a producer of [redacted] Hemp fibres should not have felt the shortage as acutely as the N.W. countries of EUROPE. No great difficulty is anticipated on this score.

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C O U R S E S O P E N .

20. The establishment of COMPLETE ORGANISATIONS on a regional basis similar to that of the War Agricultural Executive Committees found in this country, would appear to be the ideal arrangement. This would entail importation of men, machinery and supplies on a large scale. The shipping position for the period with which we are concerned will limit imports to materials of the highest priority. The impossibility of supplying man power on the scale required rules out this scheme on the grounds of impracticability, and indeed of impossibility.

399

(for using & maintaining machinery)

21. Italian agriculture has been very well organised, and is based on a policy of SELF SUFFICIENCY. This arrangement should, generally speaking, suit us very well and it should be our aim to use what is available of this organisation. The most serious drawback will be found that the self-sufficiency is NATIONALLY based. Certain commodities, particularly sugar, rice and maize, are grown almost entirely in the NORTH, and there will be serious deficiencies in these commodities in the SOUTH, Soft wheat for bread, and potatoes, will also be insufficient for local requirements. There is likely however to be a surplus of hard wheat for pasta. This lack of balance will disappear as we take in other parts of the country.

and which can be used is used for bread making

22. The type of agriculture can be altered to overcome lack of balance, but on the whole it will be found that the ground is growing what is best suited to it, and no instructions for changes in cropping of essential food products should be given without the most serious consideration.

23. DEFICIENCY OF LABOUR, should it exist, can be overcome to an extent by the transfer of men from non-essential types of agriculture, e.g. from orange groves and other more or less luxury products, or from industrial crops, where the industry is not essential, or cannot under the circumstances absorb the output. (e.g. Bergamot for essential oil for perfumes.)

24. IMPROVISATION will be the keyword. It will be essential from the military point of view. It should enable the agricultural organisation to carry on through the emergency period, especially having regard to the ability of the small farmers, and in particular of the Italians, to improvise effectively.

25. No special consideration is given to the question of LIVESTOCK. Cattle, where they exist, are almost entirely of the triple purpose type, and are as much beasts of burden as meat and milk producers. Large numbers of sheep are found in the SOUTH, and young unwanted lambs and sheep will probably be the only source of supply of meat in any quantity. Precautions against slaughter before the period of occupation will have been taken, and any regulations already existing for control of the livestock industry should be extended provisionally.

26. FISHERIES have not been considered. Although fish food supplies and fish by-products (glue, manures, etc.) may be important, they are relatively unimportant to the rest of the agricultural problem. It is not proposed to enact any special machinery for control, although it will probably be found desirable to continue to exercise any regulations already in existence.

27. SUBSEQUENT ACTION if and when the shipping and supply position is sufficiently improved to admit importation of agricultural requirements can be decided in the light of

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27. SUBSEQUENT ACTION if and when the shipping and supply position is sufficiently improved to admit importation of agricultural requirements can be decided in the light of conditions then obtaining.

T H E P L A N .

28. For the purpose of obtaining the control referred to in paras. 1. & 2., contact should be made as soon as possible with the most senior local representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture available. Provincial and communal officials should be sought out, and even if senior men have been removed, it will be necessary immediately to resurrect as nearly as possible the organisation existing before the invasion for controlling all aspects of agriculture.

29. The provisions in which are defined the quantities of crops grown by the producer, which he has been allowed to retain under Fascist rule for home consumption and seed, should continue in force. Similarly the regulations for the surrender of surpluses and for the continued block on commodities on the farm should be continued. Any arrangements for rationing manures and for assisting in production generally will also be preserved.

30. The methods of control and supervision must be continued, and provisions made in ordinances for the definition and penalisation of offences along the lines existing, but with a greater degree of severity. Increased relative penalties should be imposed in respect of infringements, in connection with breaches of regulations affecting those commodities which have become in shorter relative supply owing to the division of the Italian territory. (see para. 21.)

31. Really serious efforts must be made to stamp out the growing BLACK MARKET in ITALY, which will have received a very strong fillip from the temporary absence of authority.

32. It is essential that the grower should be induced to produce and surrender surpluses, mostly by advertising as soon as possible the prices which will be paid for crops. It will undoubtedly be desirable to offer a higher lire price for commodities, and our exchange regulations should make this possible. It will however be essential for the producer to have confidence in the value of MONEY, and in fact he should never lose this. The manner in which this is done is a matter for the Finance Branch of the C.A.Organisation.

33. A nucleus of TRANSPORT should be provided for the movement of agricultural products and requirements, but it should be possible to meet our needs in the main by the employment of any military transport temporarily not in use.

of the remaining civilian mechanical and horse transport and

34. A position may arise where it may be necessary to effect changes in the agricultural organisation soon after the invasion. Considered alteration however should await the collection of records.

35. The collection of data in connection with the agriculture of the area should commence as soon as possible. It is expected that the necessary information regarding the position prior to invasion will be available. If not, it will be necessary to erect an active organisation for the collection of this information. When such data is available, consideration can be given in the light of the general position at the time for such changes in the control of agriculture as may be considered necessary or desirable.

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Telegram 399
Cape.

COPY

BIGOT

SUBJECT:- HORRIFIED - Fishing regulations.

Incoming Reference and Date AMGOT's 141F/7823/CA - 12 May 43.

Propose following reply to AMGOT's letter attached:-

With reference to your 141F/7823/CA of 12 May 43.

The restrictions to be applied to local fishing in Horrified waters will depend upon a number of factors which cannot at present be assessed - e.g. local patrol areas, minefields, convoy routes and local conditions generally.

2. It is not therefore considered desirable to lay down hard and fast rules on the matters raised in your letter until the FO i/c and NO i/c's are established ashore and the occupation of the island completed.

3. The restrictions to be applied will be on the following general lines:-

(a) No fishing of any sort to be permitted until official regulations have been issued.

(b) No fishing to be allowed in the vicinity of the ports, in patrol areas or on convoy routes.

(c) By day - fishing vessels will not be allowed to land except at authorised landing places.

Fishing by use of lights will be the subject of special regulations

(d) By night - fishing vessels will not be allowed within 500 yards of the coast except at authorised landing places.

(e) All fishing vessels to be registered and clearly marked for identification purposes. Each boat is to carry an official permit.

(f) Tunny fishing from shore will only be allowed in certain areas.

Concur as Sold

To be completed
On (Date 21/5)

Horrified waters will depend upon a number of factors which cannot at present be assessed - e.g. local patrol areas, minefields, convoy routes and local conditions generally.

2. It is not therefore considered desirable to lay down hard and fast rules on the matters raised in your letter until the FO i/c and NO i/c's are established ashore and the occupation of the island completed.

3. The restrictions to be applied will be on the following general lines:-

(a) No fishing of any sort to be permitted until official regulations have been issued.

(b) No fishing to be allowed in the vicinity of the ports, in patrol areas or on convoy routes.

(c) By day - fishing vessels will not be allowed to land except at authorised landing places.

Fishing by use of lights will be the subject of special regulations

(d) By night - fishing vessels will not be allowed within 500 yards of the coast except at authorised landing places.

(e) All fishing vessels to be registered and clearly marked for identification purposes. Each boat is to carry an official permit.

(f) Tunny fishing from shore will only be allowed in certain areas.

Concur as Sold

Approved by AN 16/3995

To be incorporated in Plan (Draft 21/5)

Spoke Col. Maxwell

Action has been taken

T.B.

RA

T.B. 21/5

RETURN. to 501 (P)

9A

Lt. Col Maxwell.

RN have sent this round for you to see.

[signature] 14/5.

399

Capt. Baker [illegible] - Have copy made & return to R.N. [signature] 14/5

Returned 16.5.43 [signature] S/Sgt. 7823

Lt Col Stroud
Lt Col Medawell.

This has been brought round from Naval HQ for your information

PCB 14/5. 13/5

file

SECRET

NAVAL C-IN-C EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

STAFF MINUTE SHEET Date: 11-5-43

9A

Subject:

Coasters and schooners in HORRIFIED waters.

Incoming Reference and Date: S.O.I (P) B S.O.I

I would like any particulars whatsoever on coasters and schooners engaged in coastwise traffic and plying between HUSKY and adjacent islands.

(1) Schooners:

The Italians possess a large number of these craft which vary from about 100 to 500 tons grt. They have auxiliary engines and can usually do about 6 knots. They were used considerably in Tunisian campaign - and suffered. PRV at any particular time would show numbers.

(2) Coasters:

There were not many in evidence in Tunisian campaign. Our S/4's frequently meet them on Coastal Routes and they seem to run up to about 800 tons grt.

(3) Fishing Craft:

As you know fishing is an Italian industry - there should therefore be a large number of fishing craft varying from open boats (some quite large) to aux ketches and smacks of about 60 ft. length.

KT's

A number of "munition carriers" are being built. Some are in service and about five were sunk in Tunisian campaign. About 1000 tons, 13 kts., capable of carrying deck cargo of M/T and probably tanks on fore port. Engines aft.

Landing Craft:

Siebels, F boats, I boats (small).
Casualties have been considerable but many remain in HORRIFIED ports.

Sorry I cannot be more specific.

R. C. Allen
SOI
13/5

Copied 14-5-43

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R. C. Allen
SOI
13/5

Copied 14-5-43

3997

8A.

BIGOT

MOST SECRET
10th May, 1943.

FISHERIES IN HORRIFIED WATERS.

SUPPLEMENTARY

An abridged description of the tunny-fish nets and the methods of taking the tunny at FAVIGNANA, this procedure probably being more or less identical at other fishing stations.

Two long arms of net are moored on shore and extended, the western in a northerly direction for a distance of about 1¼ miles, where it joins an island at which the actual capture of the fish takes place; this net, known as the "Coda" or tail, is prolonged from the island, for a further distance of rather more than a mile in nearly the same direction but inclining somewhat to the east, and is known as the "Coda alta" or upper tail, and its end terminates in three sides of a square named the "Campile" (? campanile or bell-tower).

The eastern net has a north-east direction from the shore for nearly 1½ miles, is named the "Costa" (coast or rib), and ends in a similar "Campile", its object is to prolong the natural coast line, and these two arms circumscribe the expanse of water in which the tunny are moving and serve to indicate the direction they are to follow to the tunnery.

The nets, from 100 to 130 ft. in depth, are held in position by a special system of mooring lines, the upper part of the net being attached, by vertical lines, to a hawser, known as the "Sommo", which is secured by anchors at suitable intervals and kept afloat by bundles of corks, another hawser, named the "piombo" (sinker) is attached at the lower side of the net, and weighted by large pieces of stones. These nets act as guides to direct the passage of the fish, which seldom attempt to pierce it.

The tunnery proper is divided into several chambers, closed or opened by raising or lowering net coverings, and as boats are constantly on the lookout for the fish, watchmen, by means of the net coverings, allow the fish to pass through the various chambers, until they reach the last, or chamber of death, which being made of close and heavy hemp netting, and with a bottom, is hauled over a pontoon, thus obliging the fish to come to the surface, when they are despatched by gaffs, fastened to the ends of short poles. A single fish weighs sometimes nearly 1,000 lbs, and it usually takes six men to haul them on board; they are cut up, boiled in copper vats, the cooked pieces being afterwards tinned and covered with olive oil.

Caution Apart from the damage that may be done to the nets, should a vessel pass through them they are usually of such a strength that, should the propeller become fouled, the vessel might become unmanageable.

Tunny nets are laid out, almost every year. Some nets remain in position throughout the year, but in such cases their positions are subject to

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Usual tunny-fish net locations in ordinary times: 3990

ISOLOTTO VENDICARI. 9800 Sited about ¾ miles S.S.E. of tower of same name. Near the tower is a tunny fishery establishment with a tall chimney.

/LA BALLATA.....

LA BALLATA. 0209	A small village, near a cove close northward of PUNTA BERNARDO. The nets are laid out annually about ½ mile northward of LA BALLATA.
PUNTA DEL CANE. 1020	Sited 2¾ miles west-south-westward of CAPE OGNINA.
BAIA DI OGNINA 1322	Sited between CAPO OGNINA and CAPO MURRO DEL PORCO
CAPO MURRO DI PORCO 1924	Nets are laid out annually about one mile northward of this point.
CAPO SANTA PANAGIA 1535	Sited about 4 miles N. of SIRACUSA. Tunny nets are laid out annually off the northern side of this promontory.

General fishing is also practised extensively at LICATA and CATANIA.

BIGOT

MOST SECRET

141F/7823/CA

7A

MEMORANDUM: To Colonel W. P. Pessell, DDST

SUBJECT: Petroleum requirements

1. Inclosed is an estimate of the amount of fuel which will be required for the operation of fishing fleets in HORRIFIED.

2. May an additional bid be made for the following monthly requirements:

(a) Petrol - 192 each long tons

(b) Paraffin - 192 each long tons

C. M. SPOFFORD
Lt. Col., G.S.C.
Acting D.C. - AMGOT

Hq 141 Force
Field
13 May 1943

3940

BIGOT

MOST SECRET

141F/7823/CA

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C. M. AUTFORD
Lt. Col., GSC
Acting DC, AMGOT

HQ 141 Force
FIELD
13 May 1943

BIGOT MOST SECRET 96

PETROL AND DERV REQUIREMENTS UP TO D + 6 MONTHS
HORRIFIED FISHING FLEETS

1. Estimate of number of vessels.

I.S.I.S. gives the number of vessels involved as 9607 with a total tonnage of 22,820 tons (average 2.4 tons). This total only represents vessels based on the 6 chief fishing ports; there must be many others up and down the coast but no addition has been made in view of the probable heavy losses from air attack and the likelihood of many vessels escaping to the mainland.

Number of vessels taken as 10,000.

2. Only 2600 vessels are based in area LICATA/TRAPANI which it is hoped to open up first, leaving 7400 which are not expected to operate before D + 3 months; assuming 6 day week we get

1,057,713 boat/fishing days.

But assuming 50% of the vessels are sailing boats only this is reduced to

528,851 boat/fishing days.

3. Owing to the restrictions of security, danger from hostile aircraft and submarines, and nature of fishing, a fair estimate of miles run per day seems to be 10,

∴ number of miles run is 5,288,510 miles

4. The boats are very small (average NOT much more than a dinghy) ∴ they are powered by small motors which will run say 10 miles to a gallon. ~~Diesel engines are fitted in small boats and are ignored~~ PARAFFIN engines are fitted in same boats

∴ gallons of fuel required for 6 months 528,851
or long tons (packed) 2,309

50% Petrol
50% Paraffin

P.F.BENTON-JONES,
Captain,
AMGOT

H.Q. 141 Force
FIELD
10 May 43
PFBJ/ET

Say 150 tons Petrol } Pa Distn
150 " Paraffin }

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50% Petrol
50% Paraffin

H.Q. 141 Force
FIELD
10 May 43
PFBJ/ET

P.F.BENTON-JONES,
Captain,
AMGOT

for D + 30

398

This [illegible] to stock for oil & pet. requests

BIGOT HUSKY

MOST SECRET

141F/7823/CA

12 May 43

SUBJECT: Opening of Fishing Facilities in HORRIFIED

Comdr. C.P.Currey, R.N.,
S.O. Local Defence

1. Subject to Naval control and safeguards, AMGOT request that consideration may be given for the fishing fleets based on the South West coast, i.e. from LICATA to TRAPANI (incl), to operate as soon as the occupation of HORRIFIED is complete. The food situation will be materially relieved if permission can be granted. The security problems involved are fully realised but it is thought that as the distance between the nearest point of this strip of coast and the mainland is 130 miles, early resumption of the fishing industry there might be justified.

2. As regards the rest of the coast of HORRIFIED, may consideration be given to the question of a resumption of fishing generally at a later date, and an outline given of the restrictions likely to be imposed. Can any indication be given as to how long after the occupation of HORRIFIED a resumption of fishing might be allowed.

3. Apart from fishing generally, may special consideration be given to the case of shore based net fishing for tunny. It is assumed that some boats will be required close inshore in connection with this type of fishing in order to collect the catch. Can consideration be given to allowing an early resumption of this type of fishing with a possible restriction that the boats' sails or motors be removed or rendered useless.

C.M.SPOFFORD,
Lt.Col. G.S.C.,
Acting D.C. AMGOT

H.Q. 1A1 Force
FIELD
PFBJ/ET

3987

File

Most Secret

4H

Shipping available in Horrified

1. The shipping usually based on the island falls into two classes:-
   (a) Aged steam ferries which ply between HORRIFIED, the mainland and certain islands.
   (b) Sailing schooners (not numerous) with auxiliary Diesel engines. About 180/200 tons capacity.
2. R.N say that they consider no ships in (a) and very few in (b) will be available to us as they will have gone over to the mainland.
3. The navy will be prepared to supply fuel for such schooners as remain. Requirements will be small as the engines are normally used for entering and leaving harbours only.

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BIGOT MOST SECRET

9 May 43 3A

Lt Col B.M. SPOFFARD
Memo to: Lt.Col. A.T.Maxwell

FISHING INDUSTRY IN HORRIFIED

1. Two main facts emerge from the Naval file on this subject:

(a) The Navy were reluctant to allow fishing to take place along the Algerian coast except with considerable restrictions, and even now forbid all fishing East of BONE or in the approaches of harbours.

(b) Pet Section AFHQ provisionally agreed to supply fuel for fishing vessels.

2. It is NOT considered advisable to submit any proposition on the subject to the Navy before occupation of HORRIFIED for the following reasons:

(a) Apart from vague areas given in ISIS we have no knowledge of the fishing grounds nor of the distance from shore at which vessels operate.

(b) While operations are in progress and for a considerable time afterwards, the use of fishing vessels must clearly be banned since they offer ideal opportunities to the enemy for evacuating both personnel and information.

(c) The populace will not suffer unduly from shortage of fish since the main catch is said to be Tunny, which are canned for export. Therefore the immediate food situation would NOT be affected by banning fish.

(d) Some fish will be available from shore nets mentioned in ISIS.

(e) The banning of fishing will release a considerable amount of labour for use in the ports on which fishing vessels are based. Since the fisherman's boat is usually his only asset he is likely to remain at the port to safeguard it.

3. Since it seems impractical to consider the opening of fishing from boats for some considerable period after HORRIFIED is occupied, no pet will be needed until a much later date. But note:

(a) AFHQ have already established a precedant of allowing pet for civilian fishing vessels.

(b) In the main ports alone there are said to be 9607 fishing vessels. We have no knowledge as to how many are driven by petrol engines; undoubtedly some will rely on sail alone.

(c) A good many vessels will already have been destroyed in air raids and more certainly will be. If any attempt at an evacuation is made from the CAP BON area, these "little ships" [illegible] will certainly suffer heavy

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CONCLUSIONS

3985

4. (a) The date at which fishing is likely to be permitted is so distant and the conditions of fishing are so little known that no good purpose can be served by making any proposition to the Navy now.

(b) The restriction on fishing from boats will NOT greatly affect the food situation whereas it may ease our labour problems.

(c) Although the provision of petrol has a precedent the facts at our disposal are subject to such unknown influences that no estimate of requirements can be made. Furthermore, if (a) above is agreed to, no pet will be needed for some time.

P.F. BETTON JONES
Captain,
AMGOT

NOTE. The most likely strip of HORRIFIED to be granted permission to fish is the SW corner say from LICATA to TRAPANI, which is at an average distance of say 160 miles from the mainland

BIGOT

SECRET

9 May 45.

2A

Memo: to Captain Benton Jones

1. Attached is file dealing with regulations for the fishing industry in North Africa. It would seem that within limitations as regards distance from shore, points and times of exit and return, lighting and similar security measures, the Navy are prepared to allow fishing craft to operate.

2. This file has been carefully scrutinised with the object:

(a) of deciding whether in principle we should submit a suggestion to the Navy for similar regulations as from some approved date in HORRIFIED

and (b) machinery for inclusion of the necessary provision of petrol.

3. Probably fishing will have to be completely restricted in the early stages and until regulations, which must be settled by the Navy, are made known.

4. Please prepare a note to include these points and any others which seem relevant.

A.T.MAXWELL,
Lt.Col.

3981

(1A)

SUBJECT: Fisheries off
HORRIFIED

BIGOT HUSKY

MOST SECRET

141F/7823/CA

Note to Commander H.P.Currey,
S.O. Local Defence,
H.Q. 141 Force

AMGOT is interested in the Naval policy towards the fisheries industry and we should like an opportunity of discussing the subject with you.

Unfortunately; we have no information other than that available in I.S.I.S. Report. If you have such information, could you please let us have a note of it.

A.T.MAXWELL,
Lt.Col;
AMGOT

FIELD
4 May 43

P.A.
5/5.

3983

Despatched

0203