

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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

785015

10000/100/646

SCAO'S REPORTS, CATANIA
JULY - OCT. 1943

53pp

[illegible]

5	9 Aug	C.B. 102.	8 Army	
6	10 "	09/630B.	To 7 Army Main	
7	8 "	Aug 59.	To 8 Army for Civil Affairs	
8	8 "	C.B. 33.	From 8TH Army	
9	30 July	PK 125	" Terminal of Request	
10-11	7 Aug	C.B. 101	" Army N STD Army	Transferred to 3/HQ
12-13	9 "	PK 111	" Adm Army N STD Army	
14-18	9 "	207/13/1	To ADU Army N H B	
19	11 "	AL 6	To: CCAO	Transferred to 207/HQ
20	16 "	-	To: D.C.S.L.R	
21	16 Aug	2/HQ	To: SCAO. Letter in letter.	
22-30	17 "	CCA 9/20	From Army	
31-32	27 "		Notes on Sicilian Campaign to table for review and	Report from Italian slopes of Sicily
33	19 "	CCA 9/21	To: Army N STD Army	Report To 58.
31	24	2 HQ	To Col Lord George Wellesley	Report
32	24	2 HQ	From Freedom for MCS	
33-34	27 Aug	2 HQ	From SCAO Calamita	Passes
35	30 "	2 HQ	From CBO	Passes 4723
36	29 "	-	From SCAO Catania	Report
37	6 Sep.	2 HQ	To " "	Supervision of Prison
38	"	"	" " "	Investigation
39-41	4 Sept	2 HQ	From SCAO Catania	Report
42-43	4 Sept	2 HQ	" " "	
44-45	3 Sept	7005 PR	" CCAO	
46	6 Sept	2 HQ	To SCAO Catania	
47	9 Sept	2 HQ	" " "	

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FOLIO	DATE	REF.	TO/FRM
48	14 Sept	2 HQ	To Auxiliary Gov. Section AFHQ
49	14 Sept	—	From C.C.A.O
50-53	2 Oct	Cat/120	" SCAO, Catania

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50-53 2 Oct Cat/120 " SCAD, Calania

4724

785015

No.

APPLICATION FOR PAROLE

Richiesta di liberazione sulla parola

PLACE

Luogo

DATE

Data

TO: Commanding General, Seventh Army, United States (Allied Forces).
 Al Generale Comandante la 7.^a Armata degli Stati Uniti FF. AA. Alleate

Thru:

Per tramite

an officer of the Italian Army.

Un Ufficiale delle FF. AA. Italiane

4722

DATA ON APPLICANT

Generalità del richiedente

NAME

Nome

SERIAL NUMBER

Numero di matricola

GRADE

Grado

ITALIAN ARMY

delle FF. AA. italiane

SICILY (Residence)

Residente in Sicilia

TOWN

Comune di

PROVINCE

Provincia di

OCCUPATION

Occupazione o mestiere

DATE OF BIRTH

Data di nascita

PLACE OF BIRTH

Luogo di nascita

MARRIED (if wife not living, so state)

Stato civile (coniugato, celibe, vedovo)

Number of minor children or dependents other than wife

Numero dei figli minori o dipendenti oltre la moglie

I, the aforementioned described individual

Io, suddetto

(Grade) (Grado)

Italian Army, whose permanent home and address is as entered above, now a
 delle FF. AA. italiane, domiciliato come sopra, ora

prisoner of war of the United States, request that I be released on parole for the
 prigioniero di guerra degli S. U., richiedo la liberazione su parola allo

purpose of going (strike out words not applicable) to (a) my home at the place
 scopo (cancellare le parole non applicabili) di: (a) tornare in famiglia

shown above, to (b)

(b) recarmi a

, and engaging in a
per assumere

immediatamente
tradotto in
penna di rovere.

tried before a military tribunal and will be liable to be shot,
tratto ad un Tribunale Militare delle F.F. AA., sarà passibile della
penna di rovere.

Prisoner of war,
Firma del prigioniero

Witness Testimonio

Signature and rank of officer Italian Army
Nome grado (ufficiale) delle FF. AA. Italiane

Headquarters, Seventh Army
Q. Q. della 7^a Armata

lations issued under authority of the Military Governor of occupied Sicily.
Avvisi e Regolamenti emessi dal Governo Militare Alleato della Sicilia Occupata

Date *Data*

The foregoing application is approved and the applicant will be released on parole.

By command of Lieutenant General George S. Patton Jr.:

Provost Marshal

The Parolee will carry on his person at all times his copy of this document. *Il liberato porterà seco ovunque la propria copia di questo documento,*

It will be exhibited to any member of the Allied Forces or any member of the *che deve essere esibito, su domanda, a qualsiasi facente parte delle F.F. A.A. Alleate*

Carabinieri or local police upon demand

o dei C.C. R.R. o a qualsiasi altro agente delle organizzazioni di Pubblica Sicurezza.

ROUTING SLIP.

C.C.A.O.
D.C.C.A.O.
C.S.O. *van*
A.C.S.O.
Lt. Col. Clough
Major Smith
Major McDougall
Major Pomeroy
Captain Talbot
Captain Porter *— AWT*
Captain Sherwood
Captain Graham
Lieut. Van Heukelom
Lieut. Kruga
P.R.O.
Advisor F.A. & M.
Education Officer.

REMARKS.

Folio 43-46

27/9
Date

69
Registry.

AWT 4721

(2/HQ)

Legal	<u>W.A.</u>	
Finance	<u>R.A.M.</u>	Exfo.
E+S II	<u>G.M.</u>	
I.C.U.	<u>L.O.</u>	
Labour	<u>P.M.</u>	
AGRIC.	<u>J.L.</u>	
PUBLIC HEALTH	<u>D.L.</u>	
PUBLIC SAFETY	<u>A.M.</u>	
PROPERTY CONTROLLER	<u>C.S.H.</u>	
EDUCATION ADV.	<u>G.M.</u>	
F.A.M.	<u>M.H.</u>	
PRO	<u>out of</u>	Town

Table 53 is
circulated for information
and comments.

Please pass quickly
Pro returning to "Registry"

[Signature]
HQ Reg.

8/10/43.

CCAD - 10
10/10

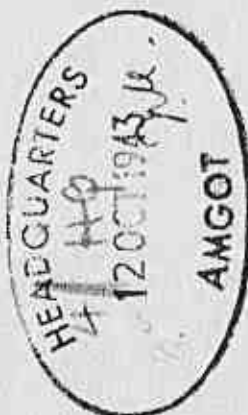
785015

Syracuse
STAFF:- S.C.A. Monthly Report.14
PO3/420.

C.S.O.,

AMGOT H.Q.,

Syracuse.

1. Morale.

Cannot be anything but good now that the war has definitely passed over them.

2. Political Tendencies.

The group which calls itself the Anti Fascists is trying hard to "raise its head". They send in frequent petitions; at one time for permission to have meetings, another time permission to start a newspaper. It would dearly like to be in control, so that it could "take it out" of its late oppressors. In this respect I would report that there was a demonstration some ten days ago in Florida, on account of a rumour that AMGOT were leaving Sicily, and branding back the government to the Italians!!

3. Renewal of officials.

It is most difficult to find able and efficient men to administer the various communes. I think one of our hardest jobs is to select the right men. I consider it of the highest importance to make the various appointments with the greatest care. A system of "trial and error" does not do, as to put a man into a position only to discharge him soon after, destroys confidence all round.

4. Crime

On the whole excellent, except of course "black market" offences. These are still very rife, and the people are frightened to "inform".

5. Discipline and reliability of Police Agencies.

Fairly good. I am strongly of the opinion however, that if we expect the support of the various agencies, they should be looked after better by us. They should certainly be given increased rations and a small allowance of cigarettes. At present, they are not good in working on their own, and it is imperative to build their morale so that when the day comes to hand over the administration, there will be a force sufficiently reliable and strong to carry out its duties in the very difficult times it will encounter.

Currency.

No difficulties.

Wages and Prices.

3. Removal of officials.

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Currency.

No difficulties.

Wages and Prices.

Wages of all Government employees are totally inadequate. A hospital charwoman received Lit 1 a day (the price of about 1/2 of one egg) plus her food for a 9 hour day. Trained nurses receive Lit 8 a day.

6. Raw materials and crops.

Lack of raw materials of all sorts is acute. Record Olive crop which must have electricity for extracting the oil.

9. Labour.

Ample, but cannot work well owing to small ration, or is so that they just don't like work.

10. Education.

In abeyance, except for a few welfare schools run by the Church.

Signor Agnello has been appointed Prof of Education and is being given assistance in obtaining the information necessary to get the schools into operation.

-2-

Food.

A little easier, but not much. I had a conference here last week of the Prefect and all the Sindaoi. It was made plain to them that they must take their part in feeding the people, and in ensuring that the grain was brought in. I had the impression that they were pleased to have the handling of this problem, and am interested to see what kind of a fist they will make of it.

12. Exports.

We have started a small export trade to Malta. At present we are sending wine and lemons.

13. Health.

No worry. Ambulance situation however, is still acute, and despite every effort by Major Brown and myself, we cannot obtain any.

14. General.

The people who had been living in the cat-combs and grottoes in the house are now all back in houses which have been given first aid repairs.

The large number which were living in caves and out in the fields near Augusta are now being allowed to return to their homes. A small building is being built under the energetic supervision of Major Haldron is proceeding well. The people of Augusta who can do so are assisting to repair their own houses. I am hopeful that this difficult problem will be satisfactorily solved, and that we shall not have to call on other Communes to take refugees.

Sirroun.
8 Oct 43.

Lt-Col.
S. C. A. O.
A. M. G. O. T.

Copy to:- C. A. O., Note

1. General.

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Stamps.
8 Oct 43.

Lt-Col.
S.C.A.O.
A.M.C.O.T.

Copy to:- C.A.O., Noto
C.A.O., Palermo.
C.A.C. Lenti.

1 copy for circulation Heads of Divisions.

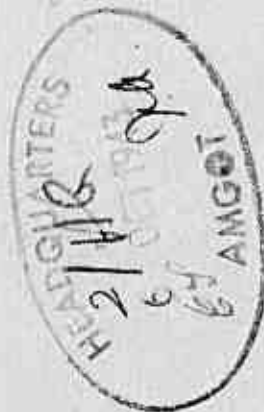
4719

SUBJECT:- Monthly Report.

Our Ref:- CAT/120.

To:- AMGOT H.Q.
PALERMO.

From:- Lt. Col. Wellesley,
S.O.A.O
Province of Catania.



With reference to your letter AMGOT/266/HQ dated 31st Aug 1943, the following is the General Report on the affairs of the Province of Catania for the month of September.

MORALE OF POPULATION.

An observer recently returned from Palermo has remarked on the difference between the two cities of Palermo and Catania. In the former, life has almost returned to normal and the people look gay and happy while in Catania there appears to be an air of general depression as though the city had not yet recovered from the impact of War. During the last month, many shops have opened but the majority still remain closed. Possibly, the military control is more thorough in Catania than in Palermo and this may account for the slower return to normal. Every day large numbers of fresh troops come into the town requiring billets. This leads to evictions and requisitions on a large scale. Moreover, the Royal Engineers have frozen all building materials and this makes it actually impossible for individuals to repair their houses and shops though, subject to the demands of the Army, a certain proportion of these necessary materials are released for the repair of official structures. Large parts of the town are still without electricity and water but these conditions are for the time being irreparable.

POLITICAL TENDENCIES.

From conversations with Italians of various shades of political opinion it may be gathered that the desire for some sort of independence or semi-independence is as strong as ever. This varies from the wish for a Protectorate under Great Britain or America to mere autonomy under the Italian Crown. One Italian in conversation with the S.O.A.O. who was himself in a

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From conversations with Italians of various shades of political opinion it may be gathered that the desire for some sort of independence or semi-independence is as strong as ever. This varies from the wish for a Protectorate under Great Britain or America to mere autonomy under the Italian Crown. One Italian in conversation with the S.C.A.O. who was himself in favour of a British Protectorate stated that the Sicilians might be divided into the pro-British and the pro-American according to ~~which~~ ^{which} Protectorate they desire. He stated that the latter party was rather gaining ground as the American troops ⁴⁷¹⁸ have appeared in Catania are better behaved, more jovial and polite and more generous than the British troops. This may be merely a personal expression of opinion but it is worth recording.

P.W.B. are organising an anonymous popular vote to try and test public opinion on the future of the Island. It is to be feared that this may be given more importance than it really deserves.

REMOVAL OF OFFICIALS.

About 10 days ago two of the leading Italian Officials at the Supplies Division were removed. Their removal met with definite approval but it is too early to say whether the new Commissario is going to give universal satisfaction.

GENERAL STATE OF CRIME.

There has been no serious crime but many cases of looting of damaged buildings have occurred. Curfew prosecutions have been numerous but do not appear to have had the result of preventing the breaking of curfew which is almost impossible to stop in so large a town as Catania. ~~Coming to the closing by the Military of all brothels that prostitution has increased.~~ Valuable help has been given to the Civil Police by the Military Police in dealing with this problem.

DISCIPLINE AND RELIABILITY OF CARABINIERI AND OTHER POLICE AGENCIES.

In the course of the last month there has been a considerable improvement in the efficiency of the Carabinieri and as a consequence of energetic instructions there have been a large number of Black Market prosecutions and seizures of Black Market goods. The Metropolitan and the Guardia Finanza are hardly up to the standard of the Carabinieri but they have done useful work in the town in suppressing trading offences. The agents of the Pubblica Sicurezza now number 218. Owing to the fact that they are in plain clothes it is difficult to impose any very strict discipline on them but efforts are being made to tighten this up. The Licensing Division is kept fully employed. There are 1526 licensed Bars and Cafes in Catania and the total number of licences issued for all purposes amounts to 8408.

A.R.P.

This body has been inspected recently by expert officers from ANGOE H.Q. The disbandment of the whole organisation is under consideration and it is proposed that it should be replaced by a volunteer body. At present, the A.R.P. are clearing debris and when the work they are now engaged on is finished effect will be given to the ~~recruitment~~ ^{recruitment} of the H.Q. experts. The Fire Brigade has done useful service and has earned the praise of the British Military Authorities. Its original quarters had been destroyed and it was recently turned out of its provisional quarters at short notice by the Military Authorities. It is at present housed in a garage which is probably the best provisional arrangement that could be made.

CURRENCY.

There is the usual complaint of the shortage of small change but fresh funds received from the A.M.F.A. are mitigating this difficulty.

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BANKS.

There has been no sign of any panic withdrawals since the re-opening of the banks on Sep 15th. Most banks have received new deposits consisting to a very large extent of B.M.A. Notes. It is generally felt that the banks could be opened for unlimited withdrawals without any risk.

SOCIAL INSURANCE.

Meetings have been held with the various companies interested. Suggestions re Allegations have been submitted and forwarded to Palermo. The supply of Insurance Stamps held by the Providence Sociale is adequate for the time being.

TAXES.

The Finance Officer and the Revenue Officer when he was here

51
have visited the majority of the Communes in the Province of Catania in company with the Intendente. Meetings have been called of the Mayors and the Tax Collectors to whom has been explained that the system of Tax collecting remains as formerly except for the abrogation of the Contriputi ~~Sindacali~~. ^e Tolleranza have been granted in certain cases. In the case of a town like Randazzo which is practically destroyed a tolleranza of 70% has been granted. The tolleranza for the city of Catania is now under discussion.

POSTS AND TELEPHONES.

The Posts have started working from last Monday, 27th Sep. Deliveries in the Province of Catania and the neighbouring Provinces have been much facilitated by using the already existing service which delivers the "Corriere di Sicilia" newspaper. Deliveries to more distant parts of the Island are being effected in accordance with instructions received from Headquarters.

WAGES.

The present wages are in a chaotic condition. For instance, take the case of a firm working for the Army. The old employees of the firm are paid 30 Lire a day and those taken on by the Army are paid 50 Lire. Technical employees such as Chief Engineers are receiving less than the daily labourers taken on for extraordinary road work. The salaries of black coated workers also require reform, but owing to the pensions and dismissal indemnities attached, very careful consideration has to be given to the question before any change is made.

PRICES.

The prices of all food necessities and such services as Barbers are controlled but no attempt has been made to limit the price of luxury articles which are now on sale in a few shops in Catania. These are apt to be bought by the troops at exaggerated prices. The fact that a great deal of money is being put into circulation owing to the presence of troops inevitably causes a general rise of prices all round.

LABOUR.

The amount of labour required is growing and will for the

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LABOUR.

The amount of labour required is growing and will for the present continue to grow

citrus fruit

(a) because of seasonal occupations such as the ~~citrus~~

harvest, vintage and autumn sowing, and

(b) as factories gradually begin to work again though for the meantime there is little sign of this happening.

Many of the factories are used as stores by the Army and those which have been bombed find it difficult to repair their premises owing to the freezing of building materials.

4716

EDUCATION.

A beginning of the return to normal has been made with the authorisation of the opening of the Medical School. Unfortunately, both the University and all the schools are being used for other purposes. There is a strong desire that the autumn examinations

should be held and the Provveditore Agli Studi is convinced that he can find suitable premises for holding such examinations. This question is under consideration by the Educational Adviser. The educational problem is a very difficult one to solve in Catania itself on account of the non-availability of the schools, but in many parts of the Province where there are no military and the schools are undamaged there appears to be no reason why schools should not open except in badly damaged districts where schools which have not been destroyed are being used to house the homeless.

FIVE ARTS AND MONUMENTS.

The work in preparing reports and estimates for superficial repairs to National Monuments is going on. Many of these have been sent to Palermo but authorisations to begin work are still being awaited.

Catania.
2 Oct 43.

J. Wellsted

Lt. Col.
S.C.A.O.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

J. Wellen

Lt. Col.
S.S.A.O.

4715

Catania.
2 Oct 43.

The work in preparing reports and estimates for super-
repairs to National Monuments is going on. Many of these have
been sent to Palermo but authorizations to begin work are still
being awaited.

COPY OF HANDWRITTEN LETTER.

CONFIDENTIAL.

14th September 1943.

My dear Julius,

Please see my official letter to which this is attached. I take some exception to the tone of AFHQ cable 1197. It seems to me that ^{one} some is engaged in making a mischief where mischief does not exist. No one in AMGOT wants to take over P.W.B. God forbid. But someone seems to think that we are trying to "get at P.W.B." Will you please disillusion them.

Yours sincerely,

FRANCIS RUSSELL.

Notes
PRO
12 SKM

P/A 18 4714
67

SUBJECT:- Report from S.G.A.O., CATANIA Province.

FILE COPY

AMCOT/2/HQ.

AMCOT H.Q., SICILY.

14th September 1943.

TO:- Military Government Section,
A.F.H.Q.

I would refer to my cable 234 of 13th September 1943, in which I informed you that I did not anticipate any further difficulties arising in Catania Province on the subject of the Press, a question which was raised in your Cable 1825 cite MEMOS of 7th September 1943.

S.G.A.O., Catania Province had, in my opinion, taken a somewhat too rigid view on the latitude to be allowed to the local press. I had already dealt with the subject prior to the receipt of your telegram, and, indeed, prior to the receipt of AFHQ Cable 1197, also of 7th September 1943. I regret that the subject should apparently have been taken more seriously than was warranted by the facts of the case.

In fairness to Lieut Colonel Lord Gerald Wellesley, I think it well to reproduce for your information the following extracts from his report to me dated 4th September 1943.

".... on several occasions the paper has published articles which either criticise the Administration or lead the population to believe that there will be an early restoration of public utilities, cinemas, schools etc., which is impossible of realisation...."

".... Capt. Herz has been most cooperative and has agreed to submit to me any articles which might be open to criticism...."

I have informed Lieut Colonel Lord Gerald Wellesley that I agree with Capt. Herz's views and with the line that he was taking; I am sure that Capt. Herz also has much sympathy with a hard worked S.G.A.O. in a centre like Catania if the press hold out too many rosy views about what can be done in the immediate future. Indeed, one of the principal difficulties of the whole of the administration in Sicily is to deal with the disappointments caused by undue optimism as a result of official pronouncements regarding the advent of a reign of plenty.

AFHQ telegram No. 1197 suggests a degree of misunderstanding which I wish to reiterate does not exist. Our relations with P.W.B. in Sicily have been most cordial and most pleasant. I regard the cooperation of P.W.B. with my Administration as being outstandingly happy.

(Copy sent to AMCOT Liaison)
(COPY ON FILE AMCOT/7005/PR)

Noted PRO 16 Sept

4713
Major General,
Chief Civil Affairs Officer.

SUBJECT:- Reports.

File 42+43
AMGOT/2/HQ

AMGOT H.Q., SICILY.

TO:-

S.C.A.O. CATANIA Province.

9th September 1943.

Your report, reference CAT/118, of 4th September, has crossed with memo from the C.C.A.O. of 6th September, in which you were advised of a visit by Mr. Minifie, who will be able to clear up the various points you raised.

4712

The C.C.A.O. is in agreement with paragraph 4 of Capt. Hera's letter and concurs that there should be a free press, ~~and~~ since the "Corriere di Sicilia" is under the control of P.W.B., I think you can rest assured that they will see that no exaggerated use of a free press is made.

6/10 1943
19/10/43
Noted
JS
CHARLES M. SPOTFORD,
Lieut-Colonel, G.S.C.
Chief Staff Officer.

Capt Toome

If you approve of
letter to SCAO Catania,
I will pass to C. SO for
signature.

[Signature]
E.P.

Registy

✓ place on file.

A mastupices

PRO

4711

~~C.S.O.~~ For signature /
CC - For disposal *[Signature]*

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

DATE _____ PASS _____ TIME _____
NAME Balzano Bonafetto
ADDRESS La Comander 11
INTERVIEW WITH: Maj Pirie Rm 26
Public Safety
Public Health
Legal
Finance
Civilian Supply
Energy Property
Civil Defence
Administration
Chief Staff Officer
TIME OF LEAVING _____
SIGNATURE OF INTERVIEWING OFFICER _____

785015

SUBJECT:- Reports.

AMCOT/2/HR

AMCOT H.Q., SICILY.

TO:- S.C.A.O., Catania Province.

6th September 1943.

I have received your letter PF (Personal and Confidential) dated 29th August 1943, and have taken up with P.W.B. here the question of supervision of your Catania Province. You may expect in the near future a visit from Mr. Minefie, who will discuss the subject with you. Mr. Minefie, for your information, will remain in charge of Press and Propaganda activities in Sicily for some months.

Major-General,
S.C.A.O.

Copy for "Press" File.

7805

1
Mimite (File AMGOT/7005/FR)

45

Captain Poore. Please see the attached extract from a report by S.C.A.O. Catania, and also the two copies attached of the "Corriere di Sicilia." I think Lieut-Colonel Lord Wellesley must be mistaken in his statement that the two P.W.B. officers in Catania knew nothing about LNC. Moreover, I should have thought that one P.W.B. officer ^{for} keep a general eye on the paper for censorship ~~and that~~ should be sufficient, at any rate for the present. It may be that Lieut-Colonel Lord Wellesley has a fear about freedom of the press, as other AMGOT officers have had. I do not myself see much harm in the two copies, or in the anti-Fascist tone of the paper. Indeed, I rather welcome this, provided that it does not become identified with any one particular party.

I would like Mr. Minifie to look over these copies, and advise me on the reply that I should send to S.C.A.O. Catania.

3rd September 1943.


C.C.A.O.

4709

AMCOT/7005/PR

44

Extract from S.C.A.O. Catania report dated 29 August 1943;
document 36 in File 2 - H.Q.

".....but I would like to draw your attention to the activities of P.W.B. here. According to the AMGOT plan all present propaganda are to be placed under INC. There have been two P.W.B. officers here who have never heard of INC, and who started a paper called the "Corriere di Sicilia." They have now left and have bequeathed the editorship to Ardissini, who has always been the leading anti-Fascist in the place. He announced his assumption of the editorship in a short leading article, pointing out that Sicily had now again a free press and that Fascism would never again be allowed etc. There is a censor who belongs to INC, who censors the paper from a purely security point of view. I have told him of the AMGOT policy about encouragement of any political party, but I think it would be well that INC should send a representative here to supervise the paper."

4708

CONFIDENTIAL.

SUBJECT:- "Corriere di Sicilia".

To:-
ANGOT H.Q.
PALERMO.

From:- Lt. Col. Wellesley,
S.O.A.O.
Province of Catania.

Our Ref:- CAT/118.



Some slight friction has arisen between this office and the management of the local paper "Corriere di Sicilia" which is run by the P.W.B. The paper was at first under the editorship of Capt. De Grazia and Capt. Robertson. These officers have now left and the editor of the paper is a certain Signor Aridzoni, the leading Antri-Fascist Politician of the town. Signor Aridzoni is however considered to be more interested in his own career than in the ideas for which he stands. On several occasions the paper has published articles which either criticise the Administration or lead the population to believe that there will be an early restoration of public utilities, cinemas, schools etc., which is impossible of realisation. The paper is under the control of Capt. M.F. Herz at present and I enclose copy of a letter received from him relative to the scope and function of P.W.B.

I should be glad of an expression of your opinion as to the policy laid down in Para. 4 of Capt. Herz's letter. Capt. Herz has been most co-operative and has agreed to submit to me any articles which might be open to criticism. At the same time; I find the duties of political censor somewhat of a burden while there is so much other work to be got through and I should therefore be glad to know whether you agree with Capt. Herz in thinking that the moment has come for the complete restoration of a free press in this town which is still, perhaps more than any other place in Sicily, under military control and the seat of active military operations.

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Catania.
4 Sept 43.
Encl:

Lt. Col.
S.C.A.O.

G. McArthur

AC 100
47

COPY.

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH.
Catania Unit (INC)

See 42

1 September 1943.

SUBJECT:- Clarification of scope and function of PWB.

To: Commanding Officer, AMGOT, Catania.

1. Misunderstandings have arisen, frequently as the fault of this office, as to the exact relationship between our office and yours.
2. PWB is the agency designated by INC of AFHQ to conduct information and propaganda activities in occupied territories (In fact, PWB is the largest part of INC). This includes newspapers, radio, posters, displays, and motion pictures. It does not include entertainment of troops, although we usually furnish motion pictures for their entertainment as well.
3. PWB is to operate in the closest cooperation with the local Military Government, affording a mouthpiece for their local policies and announcements. PWB operates, however, under GENERAL propaganda directives which emanate from London and Washington and are received through AFHQ. Such matters of general psychological warfare policy enable us to coordinate our output with that of the policy-making bodies at home (OWI, PWE) and are not expected to conflict with local policies. In the remote event that local problems require handling which would run counter to our directives, we are ordered to refer such matters to AFHQ, through channels.
4. Being concerned with matters of public opinion, PWB will from time to time (as it has done in the past) bring to your attention local problems or grievances which it may be profitable to ventilate publicly in the newspapers which PWB controls, to provide a harmless outlet for pressure which might otherwise accumulate; or which may be dealt with differently. Such articles, however, shall only appear if they have your express approval.
5. This office is at your instant disposal for any local information, propaganda, morale and entertainment activities which it

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5. This office is at your instant disposal for any local information, propaganda, morale and entertainment activities which it is our function to provide, as an integral part of the concerted war effort.

SGD. Martin F. Herz,
Captain, Infantry,
Commanding.

SUBJECT:- General Report.

Our Ref:- CAT/9/4.

To:- AMGOT H.Q.
Palermo.

From:- Lt. Col. Wellesley,
S.C.A.O.
Province of Catania.



Reference your letter AMGOT/263/HQ of Aug 20th, S.C.A.O.s Meeting, Appendix "A".

The General Report which according to instructions must reach Palermo before the 7th of every month is appended.

(a) MORALE OF POPULATION.

The population is still cowed and there is no overt desire to flaunt the authority of the occupying power. The local paper, "Corriere di Sicilia", has adopted a policy of ventilating public grievances and this has naturally tended, among those who read it, to disturb the attitude of unquestioning obedience.

The first popularity enjoyed by the British Troops has rapidly waned and their behaviour is now compared ~~unfavourably~~ with that of the Germans. They frequently insult respectable women and go into shops and simply take away anything that pleases them. Rumours, probably exaggerated, reach country districts which have not seen any troops and do not realise that these deplorable cases are exceptional and one report indicates that there is really serious popular feeling against the British Army.

(b) POLITICAL TENDENCIES.

It is difficult to judge how far the more vocal members of the community, generally at present the extreme anti-fascist and Communist, represent the views of the majority, but in these circles there is undoubtedly a strong feeling in favour of autonomy if not of complete separation. The complaint which I have heard made in all circles with whom I have discussed the question, is, that Sicily was exploited by North Italy which

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4706

(c) REMOVAL OF OFFICIALS.

~~Two~~ Few prominent officials have been removed in this province. The reason for this is that during the month of June all the more violent fascists were removed from office owing to their extreme unpopularity and their places were taken by comparatively insignificant government officials. A good instance of this tendency is the case of the present Prefect who is an old fashioned Civil Servant and was promoted to his present post from that of Vice Prefect of Syracuse ~~after~~ in succession to the extreme and unpopular Grazioli.

P.T.O.

40
(d) There is little or no serious crime though the Italian Courts when they open next week will be dealing with a case of Murder for revenge which occurred recently at Misterbianco. Proclamation offences have not been serious.

(e) DISCIPLINE AND RELIABILITY OF CARABINIERI. C.C.C.R.R.

There is no reason to suppose that the Carabinieri are less loyal to this Administration than they were to the former. But it cannot be ~~assumed~~ ^{assumed} that they are an efficient police force. They are very slack in enforcing curfew, preventing the return of refugees to the town and taking action against the Black Market. Not one single serious Black Market case has been brought to light by their efforts.

(f) CURRENCY, SOCIAL INSURANCE AND TAXES.

The shortage of lire currency whether Italian or Allied is having a disturbing effect on prices. Shop keepers are quite sharp enough to know that the official rate before the war was about 90 lire to the Pound and they accordingly adjust their prices for all uncontrolled goods. Few shops are open at present but as the town returns to normal this problem will become aggravated unless more lire are in circulation. As regards Social Insurance and Taxes, with the Banks not yet open and normal life hardly restored as yet it is premature to report on these.

(g) WAGES AND PRICES.

There is no difficulty in obtaining labour at Catania. 50 lire a day for casual labour was given at the outset and was even criticised as being too low. In practice, it has worked out unnecessarily high and there is even the anomaly that the overseer of the works who may be a permanent official of the Civil Engineers or the Municipio receives less than casual labourers working under him. Prices of fruit and vegetables are stabilised and the sale of all other commodities is at present negligible.

(h) RAW MATERIALS AND CROPS.

As no factories are working, the question of raw materials hardly arises. The harvest is certainly considerably below the average due to a number of obvious reasons - labourers serving with the colours, progressive impoverishment of the land due to the lack

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(h) RAW MATERIALS AND CROPS.

As no factories are working, the question of raw materials hardly arises. The harvest is certainly considerably below the average due to a number of obvious reasons - labourers serving with the colours, progressive impoverishment of the land due to the lack of fertilizers, warlike operations during the harvest, etc.

(i) LABOUR.

See (g).

(j) EDUCATION.

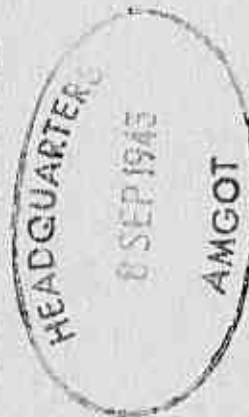
All the schools are closed and are requisitioned for various purposes. There can be no question of any immediate opening.

(k) AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

Neither the UNPA nor the Fire Brigade are quite up to British or American standard but they are now both under the control of the S.C.A.F.O. and on several occasions lately the Fire Brigade have appeared when summoned with commendable speed. The Fire Brigade has

P.T.O

4705



just been turned out of its premises by Portese at a few hours notice but alternative accommodation was found in a large garage which has the advantage of being considerably nearer to the Port than the old location. It was expected that the presence of shipping in the harbour which has only occurred during the last few days, would have resulted in heavy raids, but these have not so far ~~happened~~ ^{happened}. There have been a few tip and run raids by single aeroplanes ~~but~~ have done little damage.

(1) Fine Arts and Monuments.

The Director of Monuments has been instructed to make a report and prepare estimates for ~~extra~~ repairs to national monuments, many of which have naturally been damaged in this province. The absence of tiles or any other roofing material makes repair of buildings particularly difficult but the largest tile factory in the neighbourhood has been requisitioned by the Prefect with AMGOT approval and the entire output of tiles will be controlled.

At an early stage in the occupation, troops were billeted in the Museum at Catania. Considering that many of the objects had not been removed it is remarkable that so little has been stolen. Except for one or two small Medieval Weapons the Director has not been able to find any loss. At my protesting about the billeting of troops in the Museum they were removed and I sealed the building. These seals remained unbroken for about 3 weeks and now I have handed over the building to the Director and his Assistants with a request that they should immediately let me know if any further attempt is made to billet troops there.

Catania.
4 Sept 43.

G. Weller

Lt. Col.
S.C.A.O.

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Catania.
4 Sept 43.

G. Helleker

Lt. Col.
S.O.A.O.

4701



38.

SUBJECT:- Reports.ANGOT/2/HQANGOT H.Q., SICILY.6th September 1943.TO:- S.C.A.O.,
CATANIA Province.

36

In your Personal and Confidential letter of the 29th August you raised the general subject of fraternisation. As you will appreciate, this subject is one of considerable difficulty, on which I find it difficult to give you a precise ruling. The Directive of the Combined Chiefs of Staff laid down that the administration of this Island was to be beneficent, and that the Allied troops had come as liberators. From this it would be difficult, even if it were practicable, to suggest that no social contacts should exist between ANGOT Officers and the local population. Indeed, I do not think that such a measure would be either reasonable or desirable, inasmuch as the administration is to be, as far as possible, indirect, and Italians who are capable and competent are to be used in conducting the administration, under the general guidance of my Officers. It is therefore necessary that they shall have contacts which will enable them to judge the quality of Italians whom they meet and their possible utility in the administration.

I am, however, of the opinion that contacts of a purely social nature are neither becoming nor desirable. I should be particularly apprehensive of difficulties arising from the entertainment of ANGOT Officers by Italians and, as you know, I have warned all Officers of the dangers of this in the courses which were held at Chrea. In any event, social activities such as appear to be suggested exist and are inappropriate in time of war in occupied territory.

My general conclusion is that social contacts with Italians should be left to those persons and occasions from which a useful result may be expected from the point of view of the administration, and that they should not be encouraged or indulged in merely as a form of amusement.

4702

Major-General,
G.C.A.O.

1/12/43, 8/9.

SUBJECT:- Reports.

AMCOT/2/HQ

37

4702
AMCOT H.Q., SICILY.

TO:- S.C.A.O., Catania Province.

36
6th September 1943.

I have received your letter PF (Personal and Confidential) dated 29th August 1943, and have taken up with P.W.B. here the question of supervision of your Catania Province. You may expect in the near future a visit from Mr. Mineflo, who will discuss the subject with you. Mr. Mineflo, for your information, will remain in charge of Press and Propaganda activities in Sicily for some months.


Major-General,
S.C.A.O.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

INFORMATION

7/1/78

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL.

SUBJECT:- Reports.

PF.

To:- Maj.Gen. The Lord Rennell of Rodd,
Chief Civil Affairs Officer,
AMGOT,
PALERMO.

From:- Lt. Col. G. Wellesley,
S.C.A.O.
Province of Catania.



31

Your letter AMGOT/2/HQ of August 24th received yesterday.

I appreciate your reminder that I should not neglect Catania Province for Catania City and I do not think that I am doing so. Within a week of our entry into Catania I appointed Capt. Thornitt-Smith C.A.O. Catania City and from that moment I have ceased to see the Podesta and to occupy myself with municipal affairs. I consider Capt. Thornitt-Smith the best choice for the appointment among my officers as he has a very intimate knowledge of the town, having lived here for 5 years, and I am able, to some extent, to mollify the people whom he may have offended by his rather brusque way of dealing with visitors. I consider that Major Rolph has a much more important appointment at ACIREALE which is the second town of the Northern half of the province and with its neighbouring communes has an enormous population. I may say, that since my return last Monday afternoon, I have visited 5 communes in the Province and have only spent the last 2 days in Catania because I was waiting for a message from you.

I still consider that an officer who speaks Italian is worth a great deal more than one who does not. All my C.A.Os are taking on interpreters who many years ago lived for a short time in Nebraska or some such place and I have,

ACTION

37x38

P.T.O.

- 2 -

by experience, discovered that many things which should have been found out have not been found out owing to difficulties of verbal communication.

Most of my time is at present taken up in relations with the Military Authorities whose numbers here increase every day and I have asked 13 Corps to lend me a Liaison Officer who is on their Town Major panel and whom they have previously offered to transfer to ANGOT. If I could get such an officer to take on the purely Military it would be a great help.

There were several points which I had been keeping to talk to you about, most of them can wait but I would like to draw your attention to the activities of P.W.B. (Psychological Warfare Branch) here. According to the ANGOT Plan, all press and propaganda are to be placed under INC. There have been 2 P.W.B. Officers here who had never heard of INC and who started a paper called the Corriere di Sicilia. They have now left and have bequeathed the editorship to ARDIZZONI who has always been the leading Anti-Fascist in the place. He announced his assumption of the editorship in a short leading article pointing out that Sicily had now again a free press and that the flag of Anti-Fascism would not again be lowered etc. There is a censor who belongs to INC who censors the paper from the purely security point of view and I have told him the ANGOT Policy about over encouragement of any Political Party, but I think it would be well that INC should send a representative here to supervise the paper. I enclose two recent copies.

I should also be glad of an expression of your views on the general subject of fraternization with Italians. I constantly hear of British Officers in other divisions who entertain and are entertained by prominent Italians at each others houses. This is completely contrary to the policy adopted in Eritrea and I have hitherto carefully abstained from anything of the sort here, but I should be glad if you would let me know what line you would like us to adopt.

Catania.

29 Aug 43

J. M. M. M.

Lt. Col.

S.C.A.O.

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

785015

SUBJECT:- Passes.

35

S.C.A.O.
Gatania Province.ANGOT/2/HQ.ANGOT H.Q. SICILY.30. Aug. 43.

Your Ref. CAT/13/1 dated 9.Aug.43.

1. An enquiry was made consequent to receipt of report of S.C.A.O. for Gatania.
2. An explanation from the officer who was at that time C.A.O. for Marianopoli has been received.
3. He stated that when the event referred to occurred he was C.A.O. for seven communes covering a 70 mile area. He was lacking in transportation, and owing to the physical impossibility of personally signing all passes had given the Sindaco authority to sign passes. The pass in question had been signed by the Sindaco of Marianopoli, but the Sindaco had shown bad judgement in this instance and had further not followed the C.A.Os. orders as to the issuance of passes.
4. As regards the marauding party which was a result of the Sindaco's having issued a pass so ill-advisedly, H.Q. agree that such activities shall cease and that appropriate steps are taken to prevent their recurrence.
5. This H.Q. has also received a letter from the S.C.A.O. for Galtanissetta stating that in his opinion the Officer could not have acted otherwise than he did.
6. In view of the foregoing this H.Q. considers that the matter should now be closed.

Charles H. Spofford
 CHARLES H. SPOFFORD.
 Lt. Col. G.S.C.
 Chief Staff Officer.

4700

Copy to:- S.C.A.O. Galtanissetta (2)
 Files (2)

785015

Passes

RS AMGOT



19

1. Reference 2/HQ dated 16 Aug 43.
Herewith explanation by 2nd Lt. R.L.
CRILEY, U.S. Army, the officer concerned.

2. Under the circumstances it is difficult to see how the officer could have done otherwise than he did. He has shown himself a most efficient officer in all other respects.

Caltanissetta
27 Aug 43

W. R. Smith
Lt. Col.,
SCAO Caltanissetta
Province

*Action taken
29 Aug 43
H.C.*



4699

785015

18-19-33-2405
August 25, 1943

19
SUBJECT: Reference attached memorandum - No. CAT/13/1 of 9 August 43 and memorandum 2/HQ of 16 August 43, regarding pass issued from Marianopoli to Catania.

TO : S.C.A.O. Caltanissetta Province.

1. The pass in question was issued by the office of the Sindaco of Marianopoli. At the time in which the pass was issued, I was C.A.O. for seven communes including Marianopoli, spread over a 70 mile area. I was lacking in adequate means of transportation. I found it therefore necessary to authorize the Sindacos of the communes to sign and issue passes on the basis of general verbal instructions given by me. Individual signature of all passes by me was a physical impossibility.

2. The judgement of the Sindaco of Marianopoli was in error in this case and was not in line with the instructions given by me.

Richard L. Criley
RICHARD L. CRILEY,
2nd Lt. C. M. P.

h.c.
4698

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015*File* 1459
— 32

AUGUST 1950

August 21, 1950

RECEIVED FOR INFO

AUGUST 1950

RECEIVED ARRIVING TOURS 26 AUGUST (.) WELLES VISIT VISIT.
0120U 27 AUGUST (.) GRATEFUL ARRANGE AIR PASSAGE UK
29 AUGUST OR EARLIER

4697

RB

Subject:- Reports.

Lieut-Colonel Lord Gerald Wellesley,
Catania Province.

1456
31
AMCOE/2/HQ.

AMCOE H.Q. SICILY

24 August 43.

I want to confirm in writing what was agreed upon in the course of your visit here, that you will assume full and direct responsibility for the whole of Catania Province forthwith. The interim arrangements whereby Southern Catania Province was decentralised at Caltagirone should now cease. Such decentralisation as is necessary will be achieved by dividing the province into Districts.

I take this opportunity of raising one or two other points from your conversation with me and others here. With regard to Catania City, I do not want you to forget that you are S.C.A.O. of the Province as a whole. I appreciate, of course, that Catania City must for sometime to come be your major difficulty, but this can and should be overcome by the appointment of a C.A.O. Catania City as, of course, has been done in all other provinces where there is a large urban centre. I should have thought that you would have found Rolph a suitable candidate to be C.A.O. Catania City. I think you over emphasise the difficulties about language, some of the most efficient C.A.Os in the island, and indeed in other parts of Occupied Territories are by no means necessarily those who are good linguists. Combination of the two is ideal, but rarely achieved in practice.

I am afraid I cannot give you a date for my visit, because I am expecting certain other visitors whose arrival is still wrapped in mystery. Notably, I expect to have Sir Eric Speed (P.U.S.) War Office in a day or two.

Major-General,
Chief Civil Affairs Officer.

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Major-General,
Chief Civil Affairs Officer.

4698

Subject :- Report

HEADQUARTERS
2 HQ

10 AUG 1943

AMGOT,
15 Army Group.

ECAG/20

AMGOT 8 Army.

17th August 1943.

.....

Attached is a report by Major Hillard on the position in the towns on the Western slopes of Etna together with a copy of a report from the C.A.O. ADEANG.

2. The position in Catania is improving as regards cleaning the city. Inhabitants are drifting back and it is estimated that there are some 100,000 in the city. The chief cause of trouble is still provision of grain. This is dealt with in Major Spencer's report, a copy of which was handed to General MacSherry. My signal XCA/4 of 16/8 also refers. I am of the opinion that grain must be brought in from outside or even from North Africa now if the situation is to be brought back to any like normal and an allowance of even 200 grammes per day made. Further the question of Messina will have to be faced any day now. This matter was discussed with General MacSherry on his recent visit and he suggested that wheat be now brought into Sicily and stored ready for use in Messina if necessary and for distribution in Catania. I consider this a matter of some urgency and would welcome the visit of some Senior Supply Officer to discuss matters on the spot.

3. acireale is comparatively little damaged and excepting for the supply question again, the town is returning to normal.

4. Taormina is being looked after by 2 U.S. Corps, it being up to last night impossible to get through on the Coast road.

146
Spv

Refused 4695
Group Captain

cern slopes of the town together with a copy of a report from the G.A.O. ADRANO.

2. The position in Catania is improving as regards cleaning the city. Inhabitants are drifting back and it is estimated that there are some 100,000 in the city. The chief cause of trouble is still provision of grain. This is dealt with in Major Spencer's report, a copy of which was handed to General MacSherry. My signal WCA/4 of 16/8 also refers. I am of the opinion that grain must be brought in from outside or even from North Africa now if the situation is to be brought back to any like normal and an allowance of even 200 grammes per day made. Further the question of Messina will have to be faced any day now. This matter was discussed with General MacSherry on his recent visit and he suggested that wheat be now brought into Sicily and stored ready for use in Messina if necessary and for distribution in Catania. I consider this a matter of some urgency and would welcome the visit of some Senior Supply Officer to discuss matters on the spot.
3. Acireale is comparatively little damaged and excepting for the supply question again, the town is returning to normal.
4. Taormina is being locked after by 2 U.S. Corps, it being up to last night impossible to get through on the Coast road.

Sp
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Spencer
4695
Group Captain,
AMCOT 8 Army.

General Situation report on areas covered by Civil Affairs Officers in the Mount Etna region as on 15th August 1945.

GENERAL.

The important towns are situated along the main road which encircles the mountain. This road was the axis of our advance both in the East and in the West, and, as fighting was confined mainly to the road-way some of the cities along it have suffered considerably from air and artillery bombardment.

It is still too early to form an accurate opinion of the problem in ADRANO and RANDAZZO (the two most seriously damaged cities) but speaking generally the civilian population appear to be recovering from the shock of recent events with amazing rapidity and life in the less badly damaged towns such as MISERBELANCO and RIANCAVILLA in the West and the East Coast towns and villages between CATANIA and RIPOSTO is reverting to normal.

2. FOOD.

Not unnaturally there is a bread shortage, as for some time the normal machinery for rationing has not functioned, this due mainly to the fact that the collection of grain has been held up by the fighting and that there has been a complete redistribution of the population in certain districts falling within the area of operations. Added to this, in some cities the officials responsible for the rationing have deserted, mills have ceased to function owing to a shortage of fuel or lack of power, reserve stocks have been removed by the enemy fighting forces or looted by the civilians themselves, and finally, the growers themselves have been slow in bringing in their grain as in very few cases has the Commune been in a position to pay cash, and even where they have the existing price is not a popular one. In spite of this, the situation is not desperate, and even in the hardest hit areas there is no danger of famine, as at this time of the year the people can live on the country to a certain extent. None the less the problem round Etna is a serious one, at the moment it is mainly one of transport and distribution. Reserves must be built up in each Commune and mills must operate. Civil Affairs Officers are making this their paramount task.

3. WATER.

Shortage of water has been a genuine hardship in certain townships especially those damaged by bombardment, but in most cases it is only a temporary problem as local supplies in the Etna area are mostly gravity fed and it is merely a matter of time before they are repaired, in this the R.E.'s have assisted. The main BOUTTE -CATANIA System is badly damaged at various places but a CATANIA engineering firm is working on this under the supervision of Civil Affairs Officers.

4. POWER.

The exact extent of the damage to the CATANIA plant is not yet known but until this system is on-ratins, industry, including

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4. POWER.

The exact extent of the damage to the CATANIA plant is not yet known but until this system is operating, industry, including the important one of milling will be seriously retarded. Every effort is being made to adapt mills to diesel or water, and small mills with independent power are being worked to their capacity.

5. BANKS.

Speaking generally banks have been without funds and we have been slow in providing the Commune with sufficient money for their immediate needs. This has held up the collection of grain and the employment of labour for street cleaning, burial of the dead, and other essential reconstruction work.

6. POPULATION

In all the Etna towns there has been a large redistribution of population due to the migration from the damaged cities to the country, or to less hardhit townships. The main bulk of the refugees come

from Catania but these are rapidly drifting back in spite of efforts to prevent this with a view to keeping the roads clear during the operation. Actually, it is desirable that all refugees should be returned to their respective towns as soon as it is conveniently possible, as until this is complete the normal administration of the rationing and other services is complicated, also it is possible that billets will have to be found for the homeless ~~refugees~~ when the rains commence.

7. CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

On the whole the civilian ~~casualties~~ deaths as a result of the fighting have not been as heavy as one might imagine, this due to the fact that the enemy have usually warned the civilians to evacuate, as in ADRANO or (as in RANDAZZO) have deliberately cleared the town of non essential civilian personnel some time previously and there have been no such instances as PALAZZOLO where the population was caught without warning within the town.

8. HOSPITALS.

The area under reference has been fortunate in that two Italian medical units were released for work in the townships along the western road. Also local medical ~~services~~ resources were more plentiful than elsewhere on the island. Consequently civilian wounded have been well cared for.

9. DAMAGE TO TOWNS.

In certain towns, especially along the western road damage has been considerable. In ADRANO it is estimated that 85% of the houses are damaged and that a probable 20% are completely demolished. In RANDAZZO damage has been even grater. BRONTE also has suffered severely. The tasks of street clearing and tidying up generally is a vast one, but this is progressing as rapidly as is possible, mainly with civilian labour under the supervision of the C.A.O.'s.

10. MORALE.

Civilian morale on the whole is good. The towns people are friendly and cooperative. There have been no demonstrations and little excitement, but they are slow to help themselves and require driving.

16.8.43.

W. J. 4693
MAJ. 8 ARMY.
16/8/43

*The officers from LINGUAGLOSSA and CASTIGLIONE on 15/8/43
Their reports are not yet available*

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16/8/43
ANGOT 8 Army.

*The officer's wounded & LINGUAGLOSSA and CASTIGLIONE on 15/8/43
Their reports are not yet available*

*Dr. Lind
M.*

Antini, 11th August 1943.

REPORT ON DRIVE THROUGH CATANIA TO ADRANO.

Object:- To take through CATANIA 3 Officers, Major Holmstrom, Capt. Bailey and Lt. Clarke who are on loan to the S.C.A.O., Catania, and to assist them to establish themselves in their new positions.

2. On arrival in CATANIA it was decided that Major Holmstrom and Lt. Clarke should be allocated to ADRANO, and that Lt. Clarke should visit the villages NW of CATANIA. I myself undertook to deliver the Major and Lt. Clarke at ADRANO.

In the view of the fact that the visit by Doettiger and Malatesta had been viewed with resentment and suspicion by the S.C.A.O. and certain of his Officers I did not talk shop with any of the officers I saw, but allowed them to volunteer informations and formed my own impressions which were as follows:-

3. ADRANO.
Damage. About 90% of the houses in this town have been damaged and probably 25% are uninhabitable. It was thought that it might be necessary to establish a refugee camp but in my opinion there is as yet no necessity though if the process of rebuilding and repairing houses does not progress rapidly and if it is found that it is not possible to billet civilians in other undamaged towns it may be necessary to establish a refugee camp before the rains.

WATER.

Running in adequate quantities at standpipes, fountains and water points, but should be looked into soon.

FOOD.

Probably no danger of starvation except for young children as vegetables are plentiful. Grain however is short but two mills are working and the collection of grain under an intelligent lawyer is progressing (The Mayor is with the fighting forces.)

BANKS.

L 40000 in bank. Visit of the F.O., at Catania expected to-day
More money is required.

TRANSPORT.

No civilian transport, and Capt. Schauffler is hard put for his requirements. Fortunately A & Q. 30 Corps have assisted him to the extent of 6 / 3ton trucks for collection of grain, etc.

HOSPITALS.

115 civilian wounded are being cared for by an Italian Medical Unit. Fortunately civilians were evacuated by the Germans previous to the shelling.

STREET CLEARING.

This presents a problem as there is much to be done and labour in the form of active men is difficult to come by. The Army has cleared two through roads.

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4. BIANCAVILLA.

Capt. Brett is installed in this town which is little damaged and is rapidly returning to normal. NO outward and visible signs of distress but also no sign of any effort being made to clean up. I did not stop in BIANCAVILLA.

5. PATTERNO.

I called for a few minutes on Capt. Grizzard and Capt. EAST. They seemed fairly happy except financially. There was nothing in the bank and they begged me to hurry on the promised visit of the F.O. and to endeavour to speed up the opening of the bank. I understand that the Medical situation is well on hand and that street clearing, burial of the dead etc. is progressing. The town though moderately badly damaged showed obvious signs of improvement and the food situation in my opinion is not serious; mills and bakeries are functioning.

6. LABOUR.

In Catania I looked up Capt. Fraser the AMGOT Labour Officer. I had seen him on the day previous and he had promised to investigate the claim by army that

the Germans had paid twice our wage rate and the implication that there was a shortage of labour. There is no proof that the Germans rate exceeded our wage rate nor is there any shortage of labour for Military requirements.

FOOD.

Major Spencer states that so long as the Military assist him in transport the supply situation is in hand but should this transport be removed he would be hard put to make ends meet.

POLICE.

Major Battersby has worked hard on the reorganization of the Catania Police force to thoroughly satisfied with the cooperation he is receiving from the local existing police.

W. H. H.
Major,
AUGOT. 8th Army.

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COPY.

SECRET.

To :- S.C.A.O. CATANIA

14th August 1943

From :- C.A.O. ADRANO

AMCOT Situation Report as at noon, 14 Aug 43
ADRANO and BLANCAVILLA

1. AMCOT Staff and Accommodation.

Capt. Schaffler and Capt. Brett arrived on 7 Aug. a few hours after the occupation and took up quarters with FSS in the only house then habitable.

On 9 Aug AMCOT Offices were established in the Casa del Fascio, ADRANO and in the Municipio, BLANCAVILLA, the latter by Capt. Brett, who on 15 Aug. transferred his living quarters to those of the FSS in that town.

Major Holmstrom and Lieut. Clarke arrived in ADRANO on Aug. 11 and are living in the office until another house is ready.

Six trucks with their R.A.S.C. drivers, borrowed from 78 Div. are proving indispensable for collecting supplies and other vital purposes in the absence of civilian transport.

2. Damage to towns.

ADRANO. 90% of houses wholly or partly in ruins. Most streets blocked with debris except the through routes since cleared by R.E. Water mains from near FRONTIER broken at several places. Gas-pools blocked. Electric wires hanging untidily about. 30 or more unexploded bombs.

BLANCAVILLA Little damage.

3. Population and Casualties.

ADRANO Normal 27,000 swollen to 31,000 by refugees. During the actual bombardment few civilians or enemy troops were in the town, but some hundreds of dead have been buried and 150 civilians wounded admitted to hospital (see below). By 7 Aug a few hundred civilians had returned, next day about 3,000, by now almost all, sheltering in the ruins.

BLANCAVILLA Normal about 20,000, with refugees (mainly from Catania) about 23,000; little change since before occupation. Few casualties.

4. Morale.

The people are unexcited, very friendly to us and cooperative once their natural inertia is overcome. One received the impression that but for AMCOT nothing whatever would have been done.

5. Communal Officials and Affairs.

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4. Merale.

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5. Communal Officials and AMGOT helpers.

ADRANO Sig. Russo, Commissario Prefetizio (substitute for Podesta) at first seemed weak, scared and completely without initiative, but has since responded well and appears to be without driving power.

Sig. Vaccaro, Pretore, was given charge of relief work and appeared a useful man, but has been arrested by FSS.

Sig. Pallazotto, Communal Engineer, shows admirable energy and professional keenness.

Sig. Migneco, a local veterinary practitioner, and also a friend of his, are giving useful assistance to AMGOT.

All the above are friendly and anxious to prove they have not been Fascists, or at least natives that if they were they could not help it. It is

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not know whether they are honest and how far they may be jockeying for position amongst themselves.

BLANCAVILLA. The Podesta seems completely devoid of initiative, knowledge, leadership or drive. His Segretario is more knowledgeable but little more impressive.

6. Police and Order.

ADRANO. There have been no disorders amongst civilians. A mixed force of 23 Carabinieri, municipal and other guards, commanded by a Maresciallo has to-day been reinforced by 12 further Carabinieri called in from outlying stations in order to make it sufficient to find the necessary guards for AMOT to control food queues, etc. Their barracks is intact. Six prisoners are awaiting trial for civil offences.

BLANCAVILLA.

Situation similar. 16 police. One prisoner awaiting trial.

MILITARY. ADRANO contains a CMP Sec. of 78 Div and BLANCAVILLA one of 51 Div. In both towns on 10-11 Aug many complaints were made by civilians of assaults, looting and thefts on the part of soldiers, usually described as Canadians. CMP made several arrest but there is no doubt that many regrettable incidents were left unpunished and caused a bad impression. Since the Canadians left these have ceased.

7. EMPLOYMENT.

The policy it is proposed to follow is to set as many men to work as possible clearing up the town so as to put money into circulation, restart commercial life and obviate relief in kind.

The Commune is employing 30 to 40 men clearing debris which number it is hoped to increase to several hundred. At present these each receive ~~three~~ 3 kg. of grain in payment for a days work, the cost of this falling on the Commune. From 21 Aug the price of the 3 kgs of grain will be handed to each man in cash in addition to ~~his~~ a ration ticket enabling him to buy meat therewith, the cost being the same as now, but with the advantage of putting the money into circulation. An advance of funds from AMOT to the Commune may be necessary.

Cooperation of the Electricity and Water supply undertakings is being enlisted in the same direction.

Prices of building materials has been fixed.

8. FOOD.

ADRANO. No grain or meat in town. Until 9 Aug. people were dependent on vegetables and anything they had previously saved. Since that date about twenty-five quintals of grain a day have been collected daily from outlying farms by the S.A.S.C. lorries and distributed either directly to the public or since 12 Aug. part of it to the retailers who sell it against ration coupons. This quantity suffices to give 250 grammes per head, rather more than half the population. Milling is ~~in~~ ^{work} on electricity, but four

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Another mill exists with diesel (naphtha) engine driven as an alternative to electrical, rated at 2½ quintals per hour. This is out of order but being repaired, and naphtha has been ordered.

Two injured animals were slaughtered under veterinary control and the meat sold.

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Prices of all foods have been fixed at the same rate in both towns. The problem of lost ration cards is being tackled.

BUANCAYILLA The situation was never as disorganized as ADRALIO but about the same difference exists between the daily quantities collected and consumed, which unless remedied will have to be met from the ADRALIO reserve at ADRALIO. One mill, running on Mayha, is just able to keep up with the bread requirements.

9. WATER.

ADRALIO Normal supply piped from near BRUMTE, is interrupted. Restricted supplies from local springs are available at public fountains. Three possibilities are being urgently examined.

- (a) Replacement of broken lengths of the water main, perhaps using some lengths which are the property of a local landowner who bought them for culverts when the pipeline was laid.
- (b) Installation of a portable diesel with a small alternator if obtainable, to generate current for driving a pump at the bottom of a well 40 m. deep from which supply was obtained before the pipeline was laid.
- (c) Installation of a small alternator to be driven by the existing diesel in the mill and the repair of three-phase electric line between this and the abovementioned pump. (The diesel might run say, 12 hours a day, driving the mill and 12 hours generating electricity for the pump).

The population has been advised to boil water but it is inconceivable that they do.

BUANCAYILLA Limited local supplies.

10. FINANCE.

4688

ADRALIO branch of Banco di Sicilia was closed on 7 Aug and reopened on 13 Aug in respect of two accounts only.

(a) ADRALIO Account credited with Lire 200,000 received from the S.C.A.O. and Lire 11,000 odd paid in by bakers through the Commune for 35 quintals of ADRALIO flour.

(b) Commune Account containing the liquid assets known to Major MacFardean, now reduced by payment (with the S.C.A.O.'s sanction) of those of the July salaries which were outstanding. It has been ordered that no payments out of this account may be made without the C.A.O.'s countersignature on the "Communal Mandate".

The Commune's source of revenue having ceased, and the resumption of more than a small fraction of them being problematical, it will be impossible for them to keep their account in credit without ADRALIO assistance - especially

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BIANCAVILLA Limited local supplies.

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4682

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(a) AMOT account credited with Lire 200,000 received from the S.C.A.O. and Lire 11,000 odd paid in by bakers through the Comune for 35 quintals of AMOT flour.

(b) Comune account containing the liquid assets known to Major MacFadzean, now reduced by payment (with the S.C.A.O.'s sanction) of those of the July salaries which were outstanding. It has been ordered that no payments out of this account may be made without the C.A.O.'s countersignature on the "Comunal Mandato".

The Comune's source of revenue having ceased, and the resumption of more than a small fraction of them being problematical, it will be impossible for them to keep their account in credit without AMOT assistance - especially if they have to pay for relief for non-workers or for the support of ex-Italian government employees and dependents of Italian soldiers. This raises a very big problem at a high level.

BIANCAVILLA. An Italian army Medical unit including several oficers, captured by 78 Div. took charge of some 150 civilian wounded all over the Comune. This unit, assisted by nurse, is now installed in the Civil Hospital which though bombed is serviceable, and contains about 80 beds. In future these will be used only for surgical cases. A separate hospital for infectious diseases with 20 beds, was opened today in a school building. This also has a room where outpatients will be seen daily by two of the town doctors. Another of these who specialises in V.D. will receive patients at his own house, which is intact. Midwives have been placed on a rota. Pharma ceutical stocks from chemists shops and other sources are being centralized and co-ordinated.

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22
All these arrangements are under the supervision of Capt. Luigi Rondolino, commanding the captured unit, a most energetic and devoted man who is doing splendid work under appalling conditions. They were initiated by Major Whittier, 30 Corps Hygiene Section, who has formed what amounts to a ~~Public~~ Public Health Department and has detailed one of his M.C.O.'s for liaison therewith.

ELINCAVILLA The Civil Hospital accomodates about 200 continues to be run by local doctors and nuns, supervised in very determined way on behalf of AMSCOT by Cpl. Mavroucs who speaks Italian (and might be worth considering as a C.M.O.). 30 children housed in the hospital but not under treatment are now being transferred to a school building.

(sd) J. E. HOLSTROM
Major E. E.
C.M.O. A.GOT, ADMARCO.

4687

ANGOT/5005/03
18 August 45

Copy for Angot/2/1140
file

Subject: Replacement of 50 tons of grain at Lentini

To : S.C.A.C. Catania

Reference your CB 33, 8 August

1. The Acting S.C.A.C. at Syracuse advises this Headquarters that there is no grain in his province by which to replace the 50 tons which was taken into Catania from Lentini.
2. It is understood that substantial supplies over and above requirements are available in South Catania Province. You are requested to replace the 50 tons from South Catania sources.
3. In view of supply problems which you undoubtedly will have in Messina Province, you may wish to stock this flour further north than Lentini.

ANGOT HC
15 Army Group

ds
CHARLES H. OFFICER
Lt. Col., U. S. C.
Chief Staff Officer

ds
4686

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

20

D.C.S. & R.

Please see 6 & 8 in this file.

TR 16/8.

4685

785015

Subject:- Passos

2/HQ

19

ANGOL HQ, SICILY

16 Aug 43

To: SCAD Caltanissetta Province

Reference attached memorandum
No. CAT/15/1 of 9 Aug 43 (in duplicate),
please investigate and report on the
action taken by you.

2. The remarks made by SCAD Catania are
thoroughly endorsed by this HQ.
3. The "passos" are forwarded to you
in original.

1.3

for

CHIEF STAFF OFFICER.

Copy to:- SCAD Catania.

For information with reference to your
above quoted memo.

1.3

4684

SUBJECT:- Passes.

Our Ref: CAT/13/1 18

To:- Adv; AMGOT H.Q.,
FORTBASE.

From:- Lt. Col. Wellesley,
S.C.A.O.,
Province of Catania.



Two trucks came into this town today containing Italians with the enclosed passes. They had come from MARIONAPOLI, a journey of some 70 - 80 miles. The object of this long journey was to collect cars and spare parts in Catania. The passes were taken from the men and they were turned out of the town immediately.

I would call your attention

- (i) to the undesirability of one Province sending marauding parties into another to endeavour to find cars and spare parts when there is such an obvious lack of these things everywhere, and
- (ii) the irregular nature of the passes themselves which do not appear to be signed by any AMGOT officer.

You will no doubt take such action as seems appropriate in the case.

Catania.
9th Aug 43.
Encls:

G. Wellesley
Action at 19³⁵ Lt. Col.
S.C.A.O.
4683



PARTITO NAZIONALE FASCISTA
FEDERAZIONE DEI FASCI DI COMBATTIMENTO
CATANIA

Mod. P. 74

" Vivere non è necessario. È necessario navigare "

Nella risposta indicare il numero di protocollo della presente.

N. di protocollo _____

Risposta al foglio N. _____

del _____

dell' Ufficio _____

Catania,

Casa del Littorio - Tel. 10005

OGGETTO: _____

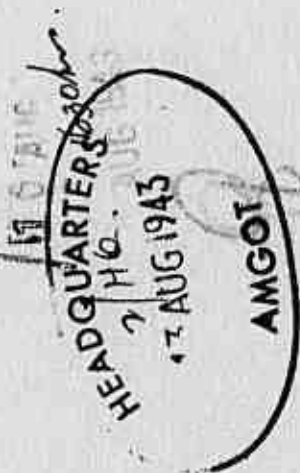
VINCERE

Subject :- Report.

Ref. R1/1

Adv. AMGOT H.Q.
8th Army.

9th August 1943.

Adv. AMGOT H.Q.,
15 Army Group.

During a recent visit made by General Alexander to Scordia, the A.C.A.O. Lieut. Shannon spoke of the difficulty he was having due to the behaviour of Catania troops.

2. He was given instructions to endeavour to obtain the necessary proof of any action on behalf of the troops which might be hindering him in his work.

3. Attached is a copy of a report received from Lieut. Shannon. This report speaks for itself and it will be noted that the Unit concerned has been informed. At the same time a copy of the report was handed to the D.A.G. 8 Army who is taking the matter up with 50 Corps, under whom the Unit concerned comes.

4. The report is forwarded to you for your information and for any further action that the C.C.A.O. may wish to take.

Captain
Group Captain,
Commanding Officer

4682

785015

COPY

OFFICE OF C.A.C.
SCORDIA.

Aug. 8, 1943.

Subject :- Report of Military Disorder in Militello.

To :- Lord G. Wellesley, Lt.Col., S.C.A.O. Catania.

1. Capt. Percy COXHEAD, C.A.P.O., SCORDIA / MILITELLO / PALACONIA, has continually reported to me incidents of military disorder in the town of MILITELLO, which if they are allowed to continue will result in chaos and disruption of civil affairs activities. The most recent report is as follows :-

On the afternoon of Aug. 7, 1943, at 1500 hrs reports of disorder in the town of MILITELLO were received by Capt. COXHEAD. Upon investigating, he found Act/Sgt. S.G. VIDAMOUR, A44100, of the 1st Tank Delivery Squadron, Canadian Army, SCORDIA, shooting a revolver in the middle of the city square. The man was drunk and when questioned answered ; " I am a Canadian, you can't do anything to me". (The gun was pointed in the Captain's stomach) At this the Captain knocked the Sgt. down with a fist blow and other Canadian Personnel ran to the Captain's assistance to restrain the man. Word at this moment came to Captain COXHEAD that the home of the ex-Podesta (casa Baldsana) was being broken into. He went to that place immediately and found Trooper C.F. Julian, A44632, same organisation. The soldier was drunk, cut about the face, and in an incapable condition. It was apparent that he had fallen through a glass cabinet in the room. Quite some damage had been done. A Canadian Sgt. took the men in a truck, after they had been placed in arrest by Captain COXHEAD and returned them to their unit. At 900 hrs Aug 8, Capt. COXHEAD contacted Major KING, the C.O., and made charges against the soldiers. The Major is attending to disciplinary action and arranging for reimbursement for damage to property.

2. Captain COXHEAD, with incidents of this kind occurring frequently, is unable to attend to his normal duties as C.A.P.O.

3. The following has been done to eliminate the problem but to no avail:-
 - (a) Contact local M.P. (Scordia). The P.M. has not sufficient men or equipment to control the towns.
 - b) Towns are out of bounds to military personnel.
 - c) Arrangements are being made to...

To :- Lord G. Wellesley, Lt.Col., S.C.A.O. Catania.

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3. The following has been done to eliminate the problem but to no avail:-

(a) Contact local M.P. (Scordia). The P.M. has not sufficient men or equipment to control the towns.

b) Towns are out of bounds to Military personnel.

c) Arrangements are being made to sell wine to soldiers if officers will come to city for such purchases and take wine out of city for distribution to troops.

4. Since the above has not proven successful, it is urgently requested that police units be sent to the town immediately. One man cannot control an undisciplined mob of drunken soldiers, neither can he continue to investigate names and places of offences unaided. The position of C.A.P.O. is difficult enough without interruption from the military.

5. I have great anxiety for the personal safety of Capt. COXHEAD under these conditions and strongly request immediate action.

Signed. THEODORE J. SHANNON, 2nd Lt.
CAO, ANGCT.
SCORDIA.

COPY

2/HQ

SCADs Report
Cate 9

Subject:- Administration - Province of Ragusa

PR/125

To :- Adv. AMGOT H.Q.
Fortbase, Syracuse.

30 July 43

From:- AMGOT, Province of Ragusa.

When Col. Gorry was at Ragusa for a conference about a week ago, he agreed that ROSOLINI and PALAZZOLO which are both in Syracuse Province should come under the administration of SYRACUSE.

I told him that I had no C.A.O. at ROSOLINI but that at PALAZZOLO there was Lt. Malatesta, and I agreed that he should remain at PALAZZOLO.

CATTIGARINI was placed under me until CATANIA was captured but it is a long way away from this H.Q. and off any army line of communication. Although CATANIA is not yet captured, cannot any towns in CATANIA Province be now administered by Lt-Col Lord G Wellesley?

(Sgd)

?

RAGUSA.

Lt-Col,
S.C.A.O. AMGOT,
Province of RAGUSA.

Original on file 5/HQ.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

HEADQUARTERS
2/4 P
10 AUG 43
SECRET
AMGOT

IMMEDIATE
TELEPRINTER MESSAGE IN

FOLIO NO 1267
8 AUG 43

FROM: AMGOT 8TH ARMY
TO: FILPOT FOR AMGOT
ORIG NO: CB33

TOO ---
THI 1145/8
TOR 1222B/8

SITUATION CATANIA DISTRIBUTION FOOD AND COLLECTION GRAIN PROGRESSING MILLS
FUNCTIONING NO REPORT IMMEDIATE SERIOUS SHORTAGE WATER PRESSURE LOW DEFECT
BEING INVESTIGATED TEMPORARY POINTS OPERATING SUPERFICIAL INVESTIGATION
INDICATES POWER PLANT ONLY SLIGHTLY DAMAGED REPAIRS GOING FORWARD LOCALLY
RECRUITED LABOUR ASSISTING MILITARY IN STREET CLEARING NOW POW LABOUR
YET AVAILABLE AIR RAID SHELTERS BEING CLEARED APART FROM WATER SUPPLY
GENERALLY SATISFACTORY AND IN HAND REQUEST IMMEDIATE REPLACEMENT FIFTY TONS
GRAIN SENT FROM LENTINI TO CATANIA IN VIEW POSSIBLE FUTURE REQUIREMENTS
IN CITIES NORTH CATANIA.

SAC DISTRIBUTION

AMGOT 3 ACTION

I have found him
ls A/S. Mr. Syman & deal
with 8/8 by hand
P/A 1245B/8
1255B/8 IU
To SEE
DE 30
11/8

E.L.S.

MESSAGE



091630B

PILOT FROM AMGOT

7 ARMY MAIN FOR AMGOT

F 14

FOR CCAO . REFERENCE MY NOTE AT FOOT OF TELEGRAM CB 33 OF
8 AUG FROM AMGOT 8 ARMY TO PILOT FOR AMGOT FORWARDED TO YOU BY
AIR ON 9 AUG . A/SCAO ^{SYRACUSE} SAYS HE CANNOT DEAL WITH THE REPLACEMENT
OF FIFTY TONS GRAIN SENT FROM LENTINI AND ASKS IF COL SETTZ WILL
DIRECT .

SECRET


Colonel.

*P/a wing
13 Aug*

2/40

8 Aug. 45.

ANGOT FILBOT

ANGOT 59

EIGHTH ARMY Forward for Civil Affairs.

Start local electric company officials ^{on} immediate rehabilitation of seventy thousand volt line rerouted No. CE/32 dated Aug 5 from Remell to Benson for Wellesley between Catania and Vizzini also forty thousand volt line between Catania and Sortino. Lieut Peoples utilities officer will arrive shortly

Advise stocks of coal available for power plant operation.

Sent

To AMGOT 15 Army Group

8 August 1943

Ref CB/102

CATANIA

9 AUG 1943

1500 hrs.

1. The following telegram was sent you on 5 August:-

CATANIA population left in city 60,000 estimated remainder hills. Expected rise 100,000. Twenty thousand out of one hundred thousand houses uninhabitable. Thermal power station intact. Water intact. Food nil. Sent 50 tons LENTINI tonight for milling. Bringing two trucks from Caltagirone Grain collection. Hope see you soon discussion after eight army conference on future. Am stopping LENTINI with Petter.

2. The following report has been received from S.C.A.U. CATANIA, dated 7 August:-

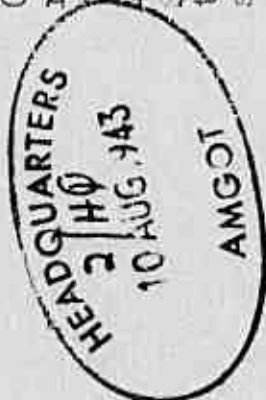
SUBSISTENCE Distribution of bread to the population will begin today. There have been various small difficulties to get over such as transport from the mill to the bakeries. The mill is still under occasional shellfire.

Major Monk has gone out today with the lorries from Caltagirone and the competent Italian officials to buy grain. I shall be able to report more precisely on the food resources of the Catania Plain on the return of the party this evening but no further stocks are required in the immediate future.

WATER There was an alarming fall in the water pressure yesterday afternoon. Major Wolf has gone out to investigate. Public fountains and water points are being arranged.

(I have been told by 8 Army that water is now being put right and is not due to enemy action. C.L.B.)

POWER STATION. The first reports were a little optimistic and on examination of the power station has revealed that one bomb fell on it. There are three large engines and one of them has been severely damaged. The other two are alright or easily repairable, but they may have been rather shaken up. Repairs are going forward.



2. The following report has been received from S.C.A.A.O.
CATANIA, dated 7 August:-

BURIALS Distribution of bread to the population will begin today. There have been various small difficulties to get over such as transport from the mill to the bakeries. The mill is still under occasional shellfire.

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(I have been told by 8 Army that water is now being put right and is not due to enemy action.

C.E.B.)

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CLEANING OF STREETS I saw the Army Commander here yesterday who asked for the streets to be cleared as soon as possible to allow passage of M.I. The Mayor was asked to furnish 150 labourers and these as well as bulldozers are working. No P.O.s. are available.

CLEANING OF AIR RAID SHELTERS The S.A.D.K. has asked for labour to clean the air raid shelters which are enormous here. One of them holds 6000 people. Work is proceeding.

Generally speaking the situation is in hand but the water problem is causing me considerable anxiety.

P/d Wm. D. 18 Aug

2

4

2. The S.C.A.O. further reports that he has sent two officers to Paterno but that it is uncertain if they will get through. I have accordingly today sent an officer from here by a different route to Paterno to ascertain the position. This officer will also go to to Adriano and Biancoville to report on the position there.
3. It is requested that the 50 tons of grain sent in from Lentini be replaced in that town so that an emergency stock can be sent in from there in the event of it being needed for places like Acireale etc.
4. Reference the last para. of my signal a separate letter will be written on this subject as soon as further details have been discussed with 8 Army today.

C. J. M. W.

Group Captain
Anglo 8 Army.

4681

HEADQUARTERS
U.S. Army

7 AUGUST 1943

AUG 1430
2/HQ
AMGOTCONFIDENTIAL

Dear Francis:

My letter 0/L/7 of August 2 to Gerald Wellesley, a copy of which went to ALV. HQ in Syracuse for you, has caused Gerald to take great umbrage. He appears to think that the temporary removal of Southern Catania from his immediate control reflects on him and that he has lost my confidence. No one else seems to think so, especially Holf. I have explained this position to Gerald, who is now prepared to accept but is not appeased.

It seemed impossible to make him realize that the move was done with a view to giving him full time to look after N. Catania District and not to have to be bothered with the more settled region behind him. The fact that once the whole province has fallen, S. Catania comes back to him he has failed, even now, to grasp.

However, all is well. I am having difficulty with Gerald, whose eyes are fixed entirely on the City of Catania and its immediate surroundings and who doesn't seem to realize that such places as BIANCAVILLA, ADIRANO, BRONIE, RANDALLO, etc., are his command and must be looked after by him. Again Holf is fully alive to the position.

I am writing you this as you may have seen a letter from Gerald to me dated 4 Aug. Ref. 4680

2

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I am writing you this as you may have seen a letter from Gerald to me dated 4 Aug. Ref. CAT 4, a copy of which went to you.

All is under control.

Yours,

AO. (Admin.)

Page 2

TP

4680

2

N. A. V. 10/10/50
 P. A. V. 9/18

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

~~233~~/HCP

File 3

AMGOT FLIPOT

Aug 081200B

8 Army for BENSON

4679

AMGOT 64

From C. G. A. O. Your CB/32 noted. ^① Much relieved.

[Handwritten signature]

Capt. Davis

16 sec 2

[Handwritten initials] 9/2

SUBJECT: Allocation of Personnel.

Our Ref: C-7/A.

your Ref: 0/17.

110. Group Capt. Bennett,
TCM, 30 Corps.

From. Lt. Col. Mellaesley,
S.C.A.O.
Province of Ontario.

HEADQUARTERS

8 AUG 1943

ACCA

4th/August, 1943.

1. Ref. your letter dated 2nd August, 1943.
2. PARA. 3. The last sentence of para. 3 is not strictly accurate and I intend that the re-organization described in the next para. should be a ^{SA} necessity unless circumstances render absolutely necessary to call in some of the officers allocated to the Southern half of the Province. If and when Major Denton-Jones is removed I will try and send an officer to help Capt. Gorthin.
3. PARA. 4. On 2nd August, with Major Denton-Jones I brought into practice the following distribution of personnel for the Southern half of the Province:

+ CATT STATION..... Major Tenton-Tons.

[illegible]

1000

amomo, TAVILLA. Cast. comin.

+

24

RECEIVED

70000

THE

GETTING

ト

100

+ 1777-7-20-1

— 10 —

Capt. Little & Co., Crickeiton ... necessary to return to
LONDON.

1. Para. 5. I am much surprised to learn that the Government of the Province is to resort first to Armed V.C. and not

785015

2. para. 3. The last sentence of para. 3 is not strictly accurate and I intend that the re-organization described in the next para. should be a permanent one unless circumstances render absolutely necessary to call in some of the officers allocated to the Southern half of the Province. If and when Major Venton-Jones is removed I will try and send an officer to help Capt. Corbin.

3. para. 4. On 2nd August, with Major Venton-Jones I brought into practice the following distribution of personnel for the Southern half of the Province:

+ CANTONMENT..... } Major Venton-Jones.

+ SAN JOSE.....

+ SAN CARLOS, VIRENA.....

+ Capt. Corbin.

+ PARADORA.....

+ RADDUNA.....

+ LOSTER DE JURE.....

+ Lt. Vos.

+ Lt. Seckel.

+ SOROT.....

+ WILLIAMS.....

+ PALAGUIN.....

+ Capt. Coxhead.

+ Lt. Shannon.

+ RAMON ICHALL.....

+ WINDO.....

+ Capt. Munday.

+ Capt. Chaney.

+ VIZIM.....

+ LICODIA.....

+ Lt. Verilame.

+ Lt. Wleetwood.

Capt. Little & Lt. Orlinton ... Supernumerary to return to LANTIER.

4. para. 5. I am much surprised to learn that the Southern half of the Province is to recruit direct to the U.S. and not to myself. I have been in constant touch with the officers since they have been in their new posts and I do not understand why I am now deprived of a command which I have been actively exercising for the last eleven days.

5. para. 6. I am not very short of officers but in reference to your instructions I will endeavour to send Capt. Duncan as Liaison Officer with 300000 with instructions in accordance with your para. 7.

6. para. 7. An allocation of the officers on my establishment other than those mentioned in my para. 3 is appended:

Sent to RAMOGA for attachment to 70 and Canadian Divisions:
Capt. Reynolds;
Capt. Shouffler.

R.T.O.

4678

To 3000

LT Col. Foxley / 3000

TS

12/9/4

+ N.C.

Sent as Liaison Officer to 30 Corps:

Capt. Duncan.

Surrendered to Group Capt. Benson for Messina:

Capt. Crivon.
Lt. Crifley.
Lt. Cocks.

Capt. Griffith.
Lt. Bartlett.

Employed at AUGUSTA but liable to be sent for to CATANIA:

Capt. East. Capt. Patrick. Capt. Grizzari.

Waiting in CATANIA to proceed to CATANIA on its fall:
Major
Capt. Macfalcon.

The following officers are left in JERUSALEM to take over CATANIA immediately:

Lt. Col. Wellesley.
Major. Batterby.
Major. Gould.
Capt. Carr.
Lt. Hunter.

Major. Rolph.
Major. Monk.
Capt. Thorne-Smith.
Capt. Tidwell.

DESTINY.

J. Wellesley

Lt. Col.
S.C.A.C.
Province of Catania.

✓
COPY TO:- AIRPORT ADV. P.C.

785015

SECRET
*****IMMEDIATE
TELEPRINTER MESSAGE
INFOLIO 842
5 AUG 43.FROM: AMGOT 8 ARMY
TO: FILPOT FOR AMGOT
ORIG NO: CB/32HEADQUARTERS
233/HQ
7 AUG 1943TOO: *****
THI: *****
TOR: 2045

AMGOT

C A T A N I A POPULATION LEFT IN CITY 60000 ESTIMATED REMAINDER
HILLS EXPECTED RISE 100000. TWENTY THOUSAND OUT OF 100000 HOUSES
UNINHABITABLE. THERMAL POWER STATION INTACT. WATER ALRIGHT.
FOOD NIL SENT 50 TONS L E N T I N I TONIGHT FOR MILLING BRINGING
TWO TRUCKS FROM C A L T A G I R O N E GRAIN COLLECTION.
HOPE SEE YOU SOON DISCUSSION AFTER 8 ARMY CONFERENCE TODAY 4677
FUTURE. AM STOPPING L E N T I N E WITH PIETTER.

SMC DISTRIBUTION:

AMGOT

3 ACTION

SMC.0100B/06
T.T.0115B/06 JJIMMEDIATE

CIVIL Supply

785015

Subject: Report CALTAGIONE

H.Q. AMGOT,
86 Area,
Syracuse.

HEADQUARTERS
289/H
13 AUG 1943

AMGOT

1. AMGOT arrived in this town at 0900 hrs 18 Jul 43 and set up its office in the Town Hall.

2. AMGOT personnel here now are:-

C.A.O. Major F.S. Benton Jones.
C.A.O. Capt Corbin
L.O. Major Gilshenan.
4 clerks destined for ENNA.

3. The only troops in the town are 30 Corps C.M.F. and R.Es; occupied in clearing the roads of fallen buildings.

4. The Podesta and all the municipal staff are continuing their duties and have been informed that:-

- (a) Banks, schools, consulta and courts are closed.
- (b) Heads of services are responsible that no sabotage occurs and that they will continue their duties.

5. The Casa del Fascio has been bombed and nearly all records destroyed either by bombing or burning. I have put a municipal guard on the building or what remains of it.

6. The Carabinieri and Municipal Police remain and are working well under their Captain. Their arms were all taken and removed from the town by combat units. They are being armed with weapons handed in by civilians.

7. There are three banks. The reputed amount in the safes is as follows:-

Banca di Sicilia	7,000,000 Lire
Banca del Sud	680,000 "
Banca Casa Rurale	3,500,000 "

4676

785015

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Banca di Sicilia	7,000,000 Lire
Banca del Sud	680,000 "
Banca Casa Rurale	3,500,000 "
	<u>11,180,000 "</u>

I have removed all the keys of the strong rooms and mounted Carabinieri guards on all three. The managers and necessary clerks have permission to enter the premises for the sole purpose of carrying out the orders contained in the letters given them.

One of the keys of the strong room of Banca del Sud is missing; it is in the possession of the late cashier who was buried under a building and killed, but anyway is useless without the others.

8. The Post Office was bombed and broken up by the Germans. It is now under guard and officials are clearing up the mess. The safe cannot be opened as the Bosche destroyed the hinges by shooting at them.

C 80

2/....

14/8

785015

- 2 -

9. The prison is in good order. There remain fifteen prisoners twelve of whom are serving long sentences or awaiting removal to criminal lunatic asylums; one soldier (Italian) charged with theft awaiting ~~trial~~ military trial and two men awaiting trial (one charged with double murder, the other with attempted murder).

Approximately 150 prisoners serving short sentences were released during the bombardment prior to our arrival. They were only released provisionally and a list is being prepared.

10. Supplies

(a) We have already enough supplies for 48 hrs from today. The existing organisation is being used to collect and distribute food from now on and it is thought that the community will be self supporting. Transport from country to town is the difficulty but we are forming mule convoys which should suffice for the moment. The existing method of paying for and selling grain is being kept on (see my report on GRAMMICHELE).

(b) The community can mill enough grain for present needs with DERV driven mills. We have ample stocks of DERV which was found in ITALIAN military stores (later we may find we have DERV to spare). No surplus of milling or baking accommodation.

(c) Ammassi warehouses were all looted by Germans but are now under guard of Carabinieri.

(d) Electricity comes from CERNIA and so is non-existent. I am having the bombed mains repaired so that we shall be ready when the power is available.

(e) The aqueduct supplying three quarters of the town is repaired and water available. Certain spares are required before the remaining quarter will have water; they are not available at the moment.

11. The health situation appears satisfactory. I have borrowed 5 Italian military doctors (P.P.). The civilian hospital was destroyed by bombs but part of the present patients are sharing a hospital taken over by the Canadian Division and part accommodated in schools.

785015

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11.

The health situation appears satisfactory. I have borrowed 5 Italian military doctors (F.P.). The civilian hospital was destroyed by bombs but part of the present patients are sharing a hospital taken over by the Canadian Division and part accommodated in schools.

There are still some hundreds of bodies under the bombed building but we are using 500 Italian P.W. to dig them out.

12.

The financial affairs of the commune are conducted entirely by the Treasury of the Banca di Sicilia on a 6% basis. Gp Capt Benson has authorised me to re-open the Treasury so that we can pay the farmers and employees and receive taxes.

13.

We need flags for the H.Q.

In the Field
20 Jul 43.

Copy to:- Civil Supplies;
Legal Office.
Finance Office.

Major R.A.
C.A.O. Caltagirone.

P. Caltagirone

2052