

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

785015

ACC

10000/100/676

16p

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

0000/100/676

CCAO'S D/O LETTERS
JULY-SEPT. 1943

FOLIO	DATE	REF	TO/FROM	SUBJECT
1	9 Aug		Do Letter	
2	9 "		From: Lord Rennell	
3	9 "		From: Lord Rennell	
4.	9 "	32/HA	From: Capt. Benson.	
5.	5 Aug.	-	From: In. Giamone. Nto.	
6.	9 "	32/HA	To: C. 99. Noto.	
7.	16 "	32/HA	To: H. C. Gibson 15 Army Camp.	
8	18 "	-	To: Maj Gen. C. Miller.	
9	21 "	-	From: Maj Gen. G. Hayes	
10	19 "	15/AG/800/MGA	From: big Gen Miller.	
11-12	19 "	-	do	
13	28 "	-	To: Maj. Gen. Clarke.	

0387

70 15/ACG/800/MGA
11-12 19 " From big pen killer
13 28 " do
" " To: Mrs. Ann Clarke.

To all the same heads
in a late 706

ROUTING SLIP

To: C.C.A.O. _____
D.C.C.A.O. _____
D.C.S.O. _____
MAJ. McDOUGALL _____
LT. KRUPA _____
MAJ. PELLEY _____
LEGAL DIV. W.D. _____
FINANCE DIV. W.D. _____
CIV. SUPPLY DIV. W.D. _____
PUB. HEALTH DIV. W.D. _____
PUB. SAFETY DIV. W.D. _____
Contr. PROPERTY W.D. _____
FINE ARTS & MON. W.D. _____
P. R. O. W.D. _____
REGISTRY W.D. _____

W.D.
C. S. O.

Date: 8/3

REMARKS

PA
2/5

COPIES OF HANDWRITTEN LETTER.

SECRET

REGGIO,
CALABRIA.

28th September 1943.

My dear Clarke,

I am sorry to have missed you in Catania. I had a look round Catania and Messina provinces which are working pretty well, except for certain things. In both bases I find the area staff are far too prone to ask my local staff to do odd jobs. Caldwell at Messina realises this very well and is trying to protect my officers who are not numerous enough to do their own work and every sort of odd job, from finding a car for Gracie Field to getting office furniture for a graves registration unit. I have told my officers that they must never refuse help to any formation, but I think their compliance with these orders is being abused. In Catania Province Headquarters two officers spend all their time on such work. Caldwell asked me if I could increase Messina staff. I told him I was going to cut down. He said they were all grossly overworked and added that throughout Sicily he had never met a more overworked lot of people - flattering, but a confession.

There seem to be good local relations in Catania and Messina except between individual officers, yours and mine. The last straw came to an overworked S.C.A.O. in Messina when Caldwell's M.O. told him to order the Civil population to boil all their water!!

The housing problem in Messina and Catania with the advent of rains is critical. There seems to me to be only one solution. If 50 and 51 Divisions remain on for more than a fortnight, I think they must be moved out of the two most congested and damaged areas in the island. It does not seem sensible to billet troops in these two areas when others are available. The two alternative areas which are, one entirely, and one substantially undamaged areas, Noto - Ragusa, and Vizzini - Caltagirone - Bnna. They are both healthy and have water and some produce. The roads are good and there are no blown bridges. Both areas are in Eighth Army area and accessible from Syracuse.

If I can get you to move 51 Division away from Messina, I can rebuse all my population. And if you can thin out Catania, there is some chance of cleaning up. I would like you to take this up very seriously.

I cannot stop civilian refugees drifting back to Messina and Catania. The Carabinieri are useless when it comes to this. Even our troops get kind-hearted and let refugees pass. Moreover, the more troops there are in these congested areas the less water is available for cleaning and the more of my officers' time is spent in dealing with units instead of getting on with their own work.

Catania is a disaster as far as cleanliness is concerned, but without

0 8 8 2

and named that throughout Sicily he had never met a more overworked lot of people - flattering, but a confession.

There seem to be good local relations in Catania and Messina except between individual officers, yours and mine. The last straw came to an overworked S.C.A.O. in Messina when Caldwell's M.O. told him to order the Civil population to boil all their water!!

The housing problem in Messina and Catania with the advent of rains is critical. There seems to me to be only one solution. If 50 and 51 Divisions remain on for more than a fortnight, I think they must be moved out of the two most congested and damaged areas in the island. It does not seem sensible to billet troops in these two areas when others are available. The two alternative areas which are, one entirely, and one substantially undamaged areas, Noto - Ragusa, and Vizzini - Caltagirone - Enna. They are both healthy and have water and some produce. The roads are good and there are no blown bridges. Both areas are in Eighth Army area and accessible from Syracuse.

If I can get you to move 51 Division away from Messina, I can rehouse all my population. And if you can thin out Catania, there is some chance of cleaning up. I would like you to take this up very seriously.

I cannot stop civilian refugees drifting back to Messina and Catania. The Carabinieri are useless when it comes to this. Even our troops get kind-hearted and let refugees pass. Moreover, the more troops there are in these congested areas the less water is available for cleaning and the more of my officers' time is spent in dealing with units instead of getting on with their own work.

Catania is a disaster as far as cleanliness is concerned, but without an initial drive with Army lorries I see no hope of cleaning up. Would you consider with Wellesley having a fortnight's clean up campaign and use Army troops and lorries?

I agree we may have an epidemic in Catania or Messina. The presence of troops adds to the danger by the fact that they use so much water (in Messina) and cause overcrowding by taking all the large billets where I can put bombed out families who otherwise overcrowded the remaining hovel. The best way to guard against an epidemic affecting the troops is not to cut the water supply and ask the population to boil the water they have to queue up to get, but to remove the troops.

Yours sincerely,

FRANCIS HANMILL.

3/10/53

785015

From : Major-General C.H. Miller,
H.Q. 15 Army Group,
C.M.A.

19th August 1945.

My Dear Remell.

In reply to your letter of 18 August, I fully appreciate the difficulties which are confronting some of your officers, and will draft a suitable letter to Seventh and Eighth Armies, and to A.F.H.Q. on this subject, a copy of which will be sent to you.

As I see it, the trouble on the British side is almost certainly due to the fact that your people do not understand the regulated British system whereby rations etc., are acquired.

You will remember that I did make some attempt to explain this to your people at CMHA.

There is a big difference between the American and British systems in this respect. The British, quite rightly, is or should be rigidly controlled in the field, and no one should be able to draw rations or anything else without authority. A.H.G.O.T. therefore, cannot walk into a L.I.O. to ask for instant rations they like. The authority is vested in the Commander responsible for local administration, and he or his staff are to be found at the H.Qs. of the Sub Area or Areas concerned. In the forward areas this authority will be the Corps, Divisional or Brigade Commander; at JFMAGSE it is ~~FORBES~~ who virtually administer the British Area on behalf of Eighth Army.

All your A.H.G.O.T. officials or personnel have to do in the British Area is to write, telephone or personally visit the nearest H.Qs. of the Area, Sub Area or Fighting Formation and state their needs; they will then be given the authority and be told where to draw their rations and needs most conveniently from.

On the American side on the other hand rations are generally distributed to any one that asks for them and in any quantities. It is a matter of opinion perhaps whether this system is a good one or not. There is no doubt that the Americans are more generous and even handed than the British are.

I know it is difficult, but you can help by ensuring that all your officers know the British system sufficiently to get their needs by going the right way about it. If they then fail and will state particulars I can take necessary action against those responsible for such inefficiency.

I will get your representative at this H.Qs. to approach ~~FORBES~~ direct with a view to...

You will remember that I did make some attempt to explain this to your people at CDEA.

There is a big difference between the American and British systems in this respect. The British, quite rightly, is or should be rigidly controlled in the field, and no one should be able to draw rations or anything else without authority. A.M.G.O.T. therefore, cannot walk into a L.I.D. to ask for what rations they like. The authority is vested in the Commander responsible for local administration, and he or his staff are to be found at the H.Qs. of the Sub Area or Areas concerned. In the forward areas this authority will be the Corps, Divisional or Brigade Commander; at SYRAGUE it is MORTIMER who virtually administers the British Area on behalf of Eighth Army.

All your A.M.G.O.T. officials or personnel have to do in the British Area is to write, telephone or personally visit the nearest H.Qs. of the Area, Sub Area or Fighting Formation and state their needs; they will then be given the authority and be told where to draw their rations and needs most conveniently from.

On the American side on the other hand rations are generally distributed to any one that asks for them and in any quantities. It is a matter of opinion perhaps whether this system is a good one or not. There is no doubt that the Americans are more generous and open handed than the British are.

I know it is difficult, but you can help by ensuring that all your officers know the British system sufficiently to get their needs by going the right way about it. If they then fail and will state particulars I can take necessary action against those responsible for such inefficiency.

I will get your representative at this H.Qs. to approach MORTIMER direct with a view to their taking over the CDEA POLICY.

I can assure you that Eighth Army and MORTIMER will always do everything possible to assist A.M.G.O.T. in carrying out its difficult and arduous duties and that your officers will get the most complete co-operation if they will go to the right responsible Commanders concerned or their staffs.

Yours *Wm*

Charles Miller

Major General Lord Rennell,
H.Q. A.M.G.O.T.
PALESTINE.

P.S. : I am sending a copy of this letter to you, to Brigadier Graham D.A.M.G.O.T. Eighth Army and Major General Robertson, D.O.C. MORTIMER.

1540/0501/113A.
12 Aug 43.

A.F.H.Q.
H.Q. Main Eighth Army.
H.Q. Main Seventh Army.

Complaints are being received that officers, both from H.A. and from within SICILY are touring the area and visiting local AMOT H.Qs. for accommodation, without bringing with them bedding, mosquito nets, rations and drink.

AMOT Civil Affairs Officers welcome visitors, but they are in certain instances being eaten and drunk out of hearth and home by them.

One Senior Civil Affairs Officer had in one week, three Generals, two full Colonels, and five other field officers to entertain.

It is requested that A.F.H.Q. and Seventh and Eighth Armies will issue such orders as they may consider necessary to ensure that officers requiring accommodation by AMOT provide themselves with rations and other essential needs. Further A.F.H.Q. are requested to ensure that visitors to AMOT from H.A. come under the same orders as all other visitors to SICILY, namely that they apply to AMOT Main H.Qs. 15 Army Group for permission before leaving H.A.

C. H. Miller
Major General,
Major General i/c Administration,
H.Q. 15 Army Group.

Copies to :-

AMOT PALERMO
AMOT 15 Army Group.
DGS,
DCG.
SAC(US)
Q(Maint)

Public Safety Div.
~~1944~~ F-105 5/para 1(c)
in 500th information.
Then please pass
to Capt HARMON
to see para 1 (D)

Secure copy
in C.S.O.

24.8.43.

Seen 6983
M H C. M.
FARM
24 Aug 43
P.A. 27/5

785015

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
A.P.O. # 758, U.S. Army



21 August 1943.

Memorandum for: General ^{Rennell} Reynolds.

1. Reference the matters discussed Thursday:

L.H. 10/1/43
W.C. 6/8/43
SS-1 (6)
to action
PSD for
dis
Capt. Hannon
you inf

a. General Patton approves of the release of the three women to compulsory domicile as suggested by you. In fact, he approves of their complete release. *See paper on his 223/146 also see file 32/118*

b. There is no objection to the billeting of U.S. officers with families under the conditions proposed.

c. Instructions have been issued for closer liaison between our CIC and your officials.

d. The removal of the units concerned from the Botanical Gardens is being investigated. In this connection, however, it has been our policy to utilize public or state grounds, buildings, etc., in preference to using private property.

2. General Patton has returned with his headquarters to Palermo.

1/c noted in Dublin
Safety
25/1/43
PSD

ft. Col

25 Aug '43

End 2
25 Aug '43

Point noted by FAS. Should question be proposed it might be suggested that the troops be put in the Villa Cusina, which is empty & where damage & easier repair

Geoffrey Keyes
GEOFFREY KEYES,
Major General, U.S.A.

785015

AMGOT Headquarters
PALERMO.

18th. August, 1943.

Major General C. Miller, C.B.,
Headquarters,
15th Army Group.

I would be very grateful if you would send an order and an advice, as may be appropriate, to 7th and 8th Armies and related services, and to A.F.H.Q. and War Office, about touring officers and local accommodation in Sicily in terms with which you will have been familiar in the W. Desert.

Touring officers must come to Sicily in the areas at any rate where my officers reside and preside over local affairs, with bedding, mosquito nets, rations and drink, if they need it. My Civil Affairs Officers are, I hope, as hospitable as any others but they are being eaten and drunk out of hearth and home. One of my Senior Civil Affairs Officers had, in one week, three Generals (assorted), two full Colonels and five other field officers to entertain. His is not a wine-growing area but they all seemed to like wine. Two officers who could not be accommodated and fed in the Civil Affairs mess were accommodated in the local hotel (very dim and not under AMGOT management - as yet), and left without paying. This group of Civil Affairs Officers in a place which obviously must be nameless, had recently been refused rations by a British (8th Army) D.I.D. with the observation "Who the Hell is AMGOT anyway" and has been living precariously on an American unit some way away which said, "Sure, we'll let you have what we have anyway".

I am trying to supply all my outposts with rations myself with a fortnightly ration lorry but 8th Army area won't, up to date, give me more than three to seven days rations at a time from Syracuse. Up here in Palermo we all live on American rations anyway, though my British C.O.'s are in a state of suppressed mutiny about the lack of tea. I am, however, not complaining about this because we can manage somehow though a little more charity on the part of 8th Army would be welcome. What I am complaining about is the thoughtlessness of senior officers arriving unequipped and living on my, frequently junior, officers. I think a notice should go out especially to War Office and A.F.H.Q. about visitors. But you know the story only too well to need details.

AMGOT run only two hotels at the moment, Syracuse and Agrigento. Neither are good but I haven't yet got them going; I need a good hotel manager. In both these hotels officers can stay and we can draw rations for them. But the additional expenses must be paid.

monquito nets, rations and drink, if they need it. My Civil Affairs Officers are, I hope, as hospitable as any others but they are being eaten and drunk out of hearth and home. One of my Senior Civil Affairs Officers had, in one week, three Generals (assorted), two full Colonels and five other field officers to entertain. His is not a wine-growing area but they all seemed to like wine. Two officers who could not be accommodated and fed in the Civil Affairs mess were accommodated in the local hotel (very dim and not under AMGOT management - as yet), and left without paying. This group of Civil Affairs Officers in a place which obviously must be nameless, had recently been refused rations by a British (8th Army) D.I.D. with the observation "Who the Hell is AMGOT anyway" and has been living precariously on an American unit some way away which said, "Sure, we'll let you have what we have anyway".

I am trying to supply all my outposts with rations myself with a fortnightly ration lorry but 8th Army area won't, up to date, give me more than three to seven days rations at a time from Syracuse. Up here in Palermo we all live on American rations anyway, though my British O.R.'s are in a state of suppressed mutiny about the lack of tea. I am, however, not complaining about this because we can manage somehow though a little more charity on the part of 8th Army would be welcome. What I am complaining about is the thoughtlessness of senior officers arriving unequipped and living on my, frequently junior, officers. I think a notice should go out especially to War Office and A.F.H.Q. about visitors. But you know the story only too well to need details.

AMGOT run only two hotels at the moment, Syracuse and Agrigento. Neither are good but I haven't yet got them going; I need a good hotel manager. In both these hotels officers can stay and we can draw rations for them. But the additional expenses must be paid in cash. With a mixed AMGOT and a very mixed accountancy, we cannot accept at this stage, debits collectable against allowances through British paymasters. It is far too complex. We hope to improve the hotel position and deal with the matter as in Eritrea in due course, but not yet. If Syracuse Area would take over the Casa Politi, I would welcome it. We are now running it for four of my officers and the rest strangers to us.

One place is an exception to my foregoing remarks. That is my house in Palermo which, when G.O.C. in C. is not in residence, is always open to all senior officers of 15th Army Group, and some others. It is my principal pleasure and relaxation to have people staying with me personally and here, none of you need bring rations or bedding. There is always plenty of wine, but whiskey is short in the 7th Army area, and my O.Rs. like beer. I hope you will all use this house and what it can offer and send your friends here. I shall be very upset if anyone from 15th Army Group attempts to go to the local hotel and I am doing my best to ensure that they don't get any accommodation there whilst there is a bed vacant here. And I would have you tell everyone so.

[Signature]
Major.
M.A. for Major General.

785015

CONFIDENTIAL.

AMCOT H.Q.
15 ARMY GROUP.

16 Aug. 43.

In the course of my return to Palermo from Syracuse, I dropped in at the office of the C.A.O. at Noto (Province of Syracuse) - Major G. Elves.

Elves told me that he had again suffered a further change of the F.S.P. personnel of Noto, and asked if something could not be done to ensure continuity. He told me that during the five weeks in which he has held office as C.A.O. in that District, he has had no less than seven changes of F.S.P. personnel there. The result is a lack of continuity in F.S.P. work and great difficulty in securing the information which he had asked the F.S.P. Officer in his District to obtain, since these officers seem to leave before they had finished their enquiries without handing on the enquiries to their successors.

I wonder if you could do something to help him in the matter.

Reply at para. 3
g 37/32/HQ.
(m)

Lt-Col. Gibson,
C.S.I. (b)
15 ARMY GROUP.

5939

785015

AMCOT. H.Q.
15 Army Group.

9th August, 1943.

32/HQ
(6)

Thank you for your interesting letter of the 5th August. I am glad to hear of the new arrangements you have made about your new office and private accommodation.

I fancy that the interning of Montaneri will not do any harm. I have felt for sometime that you ought to take a rather firmer line with people of Noto and effect suitable punishment under summary jurisdiction and inflict suitable fines and imprisonment where the individuals concerned have misbehaved. You speak of having discovered 400 quintals of grain. The culprit must be fined or imprisoned or both.

I am glad you have now got a Town Major and a Military set up, but I fear you will have to carry on in the rank you at present occupy. A honorary rank of Lieut Colonel would not be proper for a District Officer, even though your District is substantial. You have got to make your position by yourself and not by your rank.

Next time I am your way I shall certainly come and stay the night.

[Handwritten signature]

Major G. Elwes,
Civil Affairs Officer,
Noto.

Dec 70

5974

9/8

P/A 16/6

[Handwritten mark]

Palazzo San Giacomo

Noto. Aug 5th 43.

My dear Francis I am terribly sorry to have missed you yesterday & to have deserved an official reprimand. Mea culpa.

I was having a field day at Avola where finances & food problems were a major preoccupation. Jones suddenly developed what turned out to be acute bleeding piles & had gone to see a doctor. My secret and important papers were with me in my bag - but I know my table was deep in every sort of written headache. I am sorry.

Today Pacchiano comes here - I have delayed annexation as Pappalardo had some important reorganizations to finish off - & Montoneri, my Amie Minister, is being put in clinic by F.S.S. which frees one office which we plan to use as a suboffice to mine - & henceforward no Brit or Allied officer will go through the common herd rooms. Since you were here ^{last time} we have gone into the question of moving A.M.I. over the road but finally decided to stay at the Town Hall as every one concerned is concentrated there. I hope everything will be as you want it in another 24 hours - as Pappalardo will be here which will make all the difference I hope.

Later 10 pm. I began this letter in the early hours, but didn't have time to finish it - & as usual the day has passed as hecticly as ever. I despair of ever getting my plate empty at night! We've done well however & have just finished dinner. Today's excitement in the food world was the discovery of 400 quintals of hidden grain with recommendations to follow. What liars these Sicilians are. I wish that Noto were on the mainland where the people might be as attractive as the architecture. I have sacked Montoneri & he is being collected into the bag tomorrow morning - but I feel a cad - he has really worked like a black & done well, even though he is desperately unpopular with the people. I've had two demonstrations - rather than riots - one on Sunday was rather alarming. Food was scarce the trouble - but our grain had been pinched by our neighbours & plans went awry. I am told Sunday's crowd numbered 1500 - anyhow I walked out into the middle & talked to them like a grandfather through an interpreter & all ended up very well. Yesterday I heard that a demonstration of loyalty etc was being planned for Sunday after High Mass - so I scotched that today firmly.

I have left Palazzo Castelluccio where you came & dined with me

I have now taken no my official residence in grand style at this new address where Jones & I have installed ourselves & Pappalardo is joining us - with our own servants etc. - much more satisfactory. I have got a spare room & two bath rooms - tho' only one is working - so do please come & stay if ever you are in this part of the island again. I'm sure Palermo is much nicer than Noto - but I'm sorry you aren't coming here. I had found a magnificent flat for you had you decided to come here.

We are filling up fast with various military - & we have now got a Town Mayor outfit - complete with a mayor plus a captain in reserve, a staff of 7 clerks with typewriter & car!! We have also got a posse of military Police - & look like a garrison town! It is relief to hand over some of the responsibility.

Needless to say I intend to remain King of the castle - but would it be possible for me to be a temporary, local & unpaid Lt Col while I am in charge of these three areas? I seem to be dealing with so many senior officers. An extra pip would give me more real authority - & God knows it's hard work.

Again my apologies for the raspberry which was desecrated - I have passed it on of course - but I hope next time to deserve a different fruit!

J. E. S.

STRICTLY PERSONAL.

32/49

4
AUGOT H.Q.
1 ARMY GROUP.

2 August, 43.

Thank you for your letter of the 3rd which I received just as I was leaving for this place. I want by way of Trapani Province which is administratively in hand, but only just. There is no central provincial administration largely owing to destruction of Marsala and Trapani. I hope Borg will be up to it. I want to get the H.Q. here running and to see that a certain amount of mechanical detail is settled before I go on tour again. I have, therefore, asked McCherry to go to Catania and see you to hear of the present situation there, as well as about future plans.

The administration appears to be taking shape and I am more pleased with what has been done than such of you who have not experience of the past, which I possess. I hope that next time "it will be much better" but I have my doubts in the time to go.

I reproduced as accurately as possible to General Alexander the gist of my conversation to G.O.C. 8th Army, especially the bit of C.A.Os "getting cracking on bicycles".

General Alexander has been up here for two nights and is extremely keen on the whole show.

Gp/Capt. C.E. Benson,
AUGOT.
8 Army Advance H.Q.

Through S.C.A.O. Syracuse.

6977

q/p 10/8/43



Secret
 Federazione Fasci di Combattimento
 Siracusa

Il Segretario Federale

31 3 8 43

Hq 30 Corps

Dear Francis,

Things didn't go quite according to plan!
 I met Alon & went with him to 8th Army
 but the car was full so conversation was
 difficult. He wanted proof of Gorking, which we
 had not. At 8th Army he shook like
 lunch time, so Venturi went in alone.
 But after lunch we went to Lentini, Scordia
 Pachynone & Callagione. At Scordia he
 got first hand news of Gorking from the C.A.O.
 a good little American. He brought it home
 with a vengeance & started taking up the matter
 with 8 Army & I am going down with 30 Corps.

I had a long talk with him on the way
 back from Callagione. Everything went off
 very well chiefly because most of the C.A.O.s

leave out & about their job, what's
what he wanted & liked

I intended to go further south later
but there is too much you why you can
can't get back tonight, but should at
Cocke's business today. I didn't get in
here until 7 p.m. tonight. Capt. A
like Alex & A.D.C., the A.D.C. having to
be in your feet. There being no room
for him in the C-130.

Am sending Arthur to organize
Mason & with McShay at Euna &
I have to go to a meeting at 8 Army
in 5th at which all staff of 10 Corps
have been brought over to Duncan
Bathurst.

My
Caw

785015



3
DOT H.Q.
15 ARMY GROUP.

9 August, 43.

With reference to your letter D.D.C.A./16 dated 2nd July.

I have asked the Chief Secretary to let you have a note on the Zone Handbooks but with the amount of work on hand and in prospect, I do not know when you will get it. All I need perhaps say at this stage is that the Zone Handbook has been quite admirable and most valuable, we shall not I think have any criticism except that we would have liked to have had more copies earlier.

Colonel F. French,
Civil Affairs Branch,
The War Office,
Hotel Victoria,
Northumberland Avenue,
LONDON. W.C.2.

PLA 6975
10/8
2

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

EXTRACT "C" of letter from Col. F. French, Civil Affairs Branch,
War Office - Ref. D.C.A./16 dated 2nd July, 1945, C.C.A.O.

You have been using an example of our "Zone" handbooks in your planning. This is the first time at which any of the handbooks which we have produced has been actually used by a planning unit for a zoned operation and it is therefore the first practical try-out to which they have been submitted. We should be most grateful if you could ask one of your officers to write a little note on the Zone Handbook which you have used, showing in what ways, if any, it has completely failed to meet your requirements. We would utilise this in compiling future Zone Handbooks.

5972

785015

✓
AMCOT HEADQUARTERS,

15 ARMY GROUP,

D.F.A.P.

2 August, 1943.

Filed

Thank you for your letter D.D.C.A./16 of 2nd July. I will deal with the points you raise in separate communications.

In the first instance, I propose to deal with the matter of Metropolitan Police Officers. The Officers have proved first class and have displayed more initiative and resource than I had thought possible from their training and background. I am entirely satisfied with them. I am, however, very disturbed by what you say and what has been done with Home Office. The Metropolitan Police personnel have been commissioned into the Army at Officers appropriate gradings. These officers are now in the Army and are under the orders of whoever their Commanding Officer in the Army may be for the time being. The Home Office have no jurisdiction over commissioned officers in the Army, and I cannot have the Home Office or any other Government Department giving me directions about which officers they are to serve under. In point of fact these officers are serving under all sorts of superior officers, American and British. A number of them by force of circumstances in the early stages of organizing a Government were fulfilling jobs which are not police functions at all. In fact in one province are three police officers, one of them is acting as a Supply Officer, one of them is acting as a Public Health Officer in a group of off lying islands, and they are all doing their job well, but it is quite impossible for me or anyone else to ensure that they work under an officer in the Metropolitan Police.

What I am especially perturbed about is that the reply from the War Office to the Home Office should have taken the line which you disclose rather than to point out to the Home Office that as commissioned officers in the Army these officers have to do what they are told and serve under anyone, under whom it may be appropriate to place them. Incidentally as you well realise nearly all these officers are on detachment and can never in any circumstances be said to be serving under a superior police officer directly, since they come when on detachment for discipline and direction under the local S.O.A.O. of the province.

I should like to hear from you how this situation develops, since it affects a matter of fundamental principle in discipline and administration.

Home Office. The Metropolitan Police personnel have been put into the Army at Officers appropriate gradings. These officers are now in the Army and are under the orders of whoever their Commanding Officer in the Army may be for the time being. The Home Office have no jurisdiction over commissioned officers in the Army, and I cannot have the Home Office or any other Government Department giving me directions about which officers they are to serve under. In point of fact these officers are serving under all sorts of superior officers, American and British. A number of them by force of circumstances in the early stages of organising a Government were fulfilling jobs which are not police functions at all. In fact in one province are three police officers, one of them is acting as a Supply Officer, one of them has started reorganising the Railway, and one of them is acting as C.A.O., Supply Officer and Public Health Officer in a group of off lying islands, and they are all doing their job well, but it is quite impossible for me or anyone else to ensure that they work under an officer in the Metropolitan Police.

What I am especially perturbed about is that the reply from the War Office to the Home Office should have taken the line which you disclose rather than to point out to the Home Office that as commissioned officers in the Army these officers have to do what they are told and serve under anyone, under whom it may be appropriate to place them. Incidentally as you well realise nearly all these officers are on detachment and can never in any circumstances be said to be serving under a superior police officer directly, since they come when on detachment for discipline and direction under the local S.C.A.O. of the province.

I should like to hear from you how this situation develops, since it affects a matter of fundamental principle in discipline and administration.

Colonel R. French,
Civil Affairs Branch,
War Office,
Hotel Victoria,
Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2.

EXTRACT "A" of Letter from Col. F. French, Civil Affairs Branch,
War Office - P.O. D.D.C.A./16 dated 2nd July, 1943. to C.D.A.O.

It is very necessary for you to know the position which has been created by the presence of your Metropolitan Police people. They are undoubtedly a most useful body of men, but they present their difficulties. You remember we offered you Robertson of the Shanghai Police for your Black Market work. His appointment has been vetoed by the Under Secretary at the Home Office on the grounds that no officer can be permitted to command the Metropolitan Police in police functions except people nominated by them. This is an attitude which, of course, we can fight if necessary, but my first step has been to tell the Home Office that if they don't like Robertson they must produce a man rather better and a fluent Italian speaker. This should stump them.

5972

1
NICOT H. Q.
15 ARMY GROUP.

2 August, 43.



Reference your letter D.C.C.A./16 dated 2nd July.

I shall be interested to hear what happened about Terrence Maxwell. I am glad to think that the recruiting, training and disposal of personnel including the School at Wimbledon have been taken over by the Directorate. I trust that the personnel which Branch will send out will be more nearly up to the standard that I need. I am afraid that at least two of the Senior Officers that were sent out with the first draft are going to be returned to store, and as I have told you in a recent telegram a certain number of the Senior Officers of the more antique variety have cracked up and are being evacuated. These enterprises are not suitable for fossiles! fossiles are much too brittle.

I am still impatiently awaiting some sort of reply from the War Office about the pool for future operations which you originally offered me almost exactly a month ago, but about which to date nothing final has happened.

From this and other communications you will observe that "we are not amused" by the personnel side of your new directorate.

Colonel F. French,
Civil Affairs Branch,
The War Office,
Hotel Victoria,
Northumberland Avenue,
LONDON. W.C.2.

least two of the Senior Officers that were sent out with the first draft are going to be returned to store, and as I have told you in a recent telegram a certain number of the Senior Officers of the more antique variety have crucked up and are being evacuated. These enterprises are not suitable for fossiles! fossiles are much too brittle.

I am still impatiently awaiting some sort of reply from the War Office about the pool for future operations which you originally offered me almost exactly a month ago, but about which to date nothing final has happened.

From this and other communications you will observe that "we are not amused" by the personnel side of your new directorate.

Colonel T. French,
Civil Affairs Branch,
The War Office,
Hotel Victoria,
Northumberland Avenue,
LONDON. W.C.2.

8971

EXTRACT "D" of letter from Col. F. French, Civil Affairs Branch,
War Office Ref. D.D.C.A./16 dated 2nd Jul. 1943, to C.C.A.O.

I think you have received a note from the P.U.S. (he mentioned it to me but did not show it) about Terrence. I do not know quite how that matter will come out in the wash.

You will be interested to know that we have taken over all questions touching procurement, training and disposal of personnel, so that the School at Wimbledon is now under the direct control of the Directorate. You will guess from what I have written that things are as hectic with me as heretofore but I am bearing up and as C.I.s. appear I hope to be able to drop back into a more normal pace.

Maurice Lash has turned up and has been over to the Foreign Office, with excellent results so far as his own peace of mind is concerned.

0905