

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

785015

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18 pp

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SCAO'S REPORTS, MESSINA
AUG. - OCT. 1943

10 p

12	40/HQ	3 Sept	To SCAO Messina "
13	565/ajm	30 Aug.	From SCAO Messina. Prov. boundaries
14	144	7 Oct	" " "
15	-	-	Memo to C.S.O.
16	45/HQ	12 Oct	To HQ, No. 1 District
17	10/2016/Q	17 Oct	From 1/c Adm No. 1. District
18	45/H.Q.	23 Oct	To SCAO Messina

785015

Monthly Report

45/Hq

S.C.A.O., Messina

23 October

3

1. Item 4 of Appendix A to Agenda for S.C.A.O.'s Meeting held 20/21 August 1943 is repeated below.

"4. General Report. This report to be sent to Chief Staff Officer to arrive on third day of each month.

To assist in the preparation of this General Report the following headings are brought to your notice:

- (a) Morale of Population.
- (b) Political tendencies.
- (c) Removal of Officials.
- (d) General state of crime.
- (e) Discipline and reliability of Carabinieri and other Police Agencies.
- (f) Currency, Social Insurance, Taxes, etc.
- (g) Wages and prices.
- (h) Raw materials and crops.
- (i) Labour.
- (j) Education.
- (k) Air Raid Precautions.
- (l) Fine Arts and Monuments.

It is emphasized that these headings are listed for your guidance and it is not intended that you should necessarily limit yourself to these subjects when preparing your report.

2. May your report for September now be forwarded please.

Charles M. Spofford
CHARLES M. SPOFFORD
Colonel, G. S. C.
Chief Staff Officer

1268

SUBJECT: Occupation of
Public Buildings

17

10/2016/Q.

17 Oct 43.

AMGOT
PALERMO

Further your AMGOT/45/HQ of 12 Oct
concerning public buildings in Messina.

The Area Comd. in Messina is making
every effort to combine military necessity
with the fully appreciated necessity of
assisting AMGOT to re-establish local
administrative functions.

A further report will be sent you
shortly.

C.M.F.
FJN/ASF

F. F. N. N. N.
Col i/c Adm.,
No. 1 District.

Copy to: 59 Area - with copy of S.C.A.O.
Messina letter under
reference.

Copy of above sent to SCAD

Messina by me 12/26/7 PA
22110

15

C.S.O.

14. It strikes me that the O.C. Troops Messia is being extremely uncooperative or Col. Stung is not sticking up for himself enough.

2. I think we should address No. 1 District on this and ask for help.?

(RB) 9/10.

Occupation of Public Buildings.

AMCOT/145/HQ.

H.Q. No.1 District.

14

12. Oct. 3.

Reference memorandum No. 144 of 7. Oct. 43 from S.C.A.O. Messina, on the subject of the occupation by British forces of public buildings in Messina.

1. It will be very much appreciated if all possible consideration can be given to AMCOT in Messina in their efforts to re-establish local administrative functions.

2. As stated by S.C.A.O. Messina in his memorandum, it is fully realized that urgent military necessity must always take precedence.

C.B.

CHARLES H. SPOFFORD.
Colonel, G.S.C.
Chief Staff Officer.

P/H
12/10
64

1206

A. M. G. O. T.

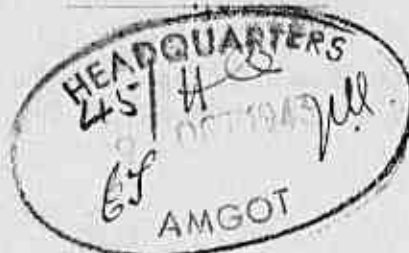
PROVINCE OF MESSINA

14

This Ref.: 144

Your Ref.:

Enclosures:



7 October 1943.

SUBJECT: - Occupation of Public Buildings

Action at 15

To : - C.C.A.O. - AMGOT - Sicily.

1. When Messina was occupied on 17 August 1943 all existing and operating public offices both provincial and communal were located in a building formerly used as an orphanage, known as the Ospizio Cappellini. The location of this building well away from the waterfront and flanked on three sides by fairly high hills which to some extent sheltered the building from bombing attacks made it the logical location for the skeleton group of public offices which carried on a semblance of administration.

2. Following the occupation on 17 August to the date of mainland invasion, 3 October, the subjection of the city to enemy shelling made any attempt to restore officials and office forces to buildings other than the Cappellini building highly inadvisable. Subsequent to 3 October we had made plans and efforts to get housing facilities for officials and their staffs in the structures formerly occupied by them. These structures are all damaged by bomb blasts and by direct bomb and shell hits. Windows, shutters, doors, skylights and roofs all require repairing. Cleaning and refurnishing is essential in every instance.

3. Specifically we had made contracts on a cost plus twelve percent basis for the repair in anticipation of occupancy as soon as possible of the Prefecture, the Municipio, the Court House and the Palazzo di Finanza and the Provincial Office Building. The Prefecture is half occupied by billeted British troops and our contemplated work embraced only that portion of the building not occupied by them. We had moved some offices into the Municipio and were in the operation of moving other offices there including that of the AMGOT officers concerned with administration of Messina Comune.

1265

4. This afternoon I received notification that the Municipio was required by the British Forces for billeting troops and arrangements were to be made by me for vacating the building and the removal of offices and records to make way for troop housing.

5. Realizing that military necessity takes precedence over the needs of any civilian population or its administration we, of course, will comply and prepare by removal of offices from the building for troop occupancy.

6. This record of facts is made with AMGOT HEADQUARTERS in explanation of failure by the S.C.A.O. and other AMGOT personnel to repair the Municipio in anticipation of the oncoming rainy season and to reestablish the administration of the Comune as far as possible on its normal functioning basis. We will continue to operate on the skeletal basis in the Capellini Building until such time as the military forces are able to make available the Municipio

(OVER)

to its normal uses.

7. Copies of this letter are being sent to the C.O.C. Section 1, the Commander Area 9 and the Town Major Messina for record.

Stephen B. Story
STEPHEN B. STORY
LT. COL. - CMC
S.C.A.O. - "MESSINA"

785015

AMGOT H.Q. MESSINA.

30 August 1943. 13

To: Commanding General AMGOT H.Q. Sicily.

Subject: Provincial Boundaries.

Reference: Letter 26 August 1943 relative to commune of Cappizzi.

1. I agree with the S.C.A.O. Enna Province that the commune of Cappizzi now in Messina Province should be administratively transferred to Enna Province.

2. I also suggest the similar transfer of the commune of Cesaro to Enna Province for the following reasons:-

It is difficult to get at from the Messina direction. Its principal line of communication passes through Enna Province in an easterly-westerly direction and it is much more accessible from Enna than from Messina.

3. If the arrangement for the transfer of the administration of these two communes to S.C.A.O. Enna can be effected, I would give my hearty approval. 1261

Principal filed on 3/4/44
20/9
STEPHEN B. STORY
Lt. Col. CMP
S.C.A.O. Messina. *PA*
20/9

File

2788

Subject: Miscellaneous Visits Messina.

12
AMCOT/45/HQ.

AMCOT H.Q., SICILY

5th September 1944

To: S.C.A.C. Province of Messina.

File
11

1. Contents of your letter dated 31st August 1943 have been noted.
2. This H.Q. fully appreciates the conditions under which you are operating, and has consequently directed all Division Heads to instruct their representatives accordingly.

[Signature]
CHARLES M. SPOTFORD,
Lieut-Colonel, G.S.C.
Chief Staff Officer.

plA
5/9/44

7262

31 August, 1943

Life Reports of A.O. Museum 45.

1. This morning a truck bearing several mechanics and a Supt. of a bus line with a letter from Capt. Minard relative to sending mechanics etc. to repair trucks in Messina appeared at our headquarters. The truck had picked up en route a load of civilians, women and children included, to take into Messina.

2. May I ask you to discourage your people in Messina from sending people on such errands to us until I can assure you that the military situation warrants such visitations? Messina is being shelled daily and we are prohibiting all civilian traffic over roads entering the city. Any useful purpose that could be served by sending emissaries either military or civilian can best be served after the city ceases to be a combat zone.

Sum 12

SEPTEMBER 1941

S.O.A.O. - LGOW
PSSMA

1262

SIS/4.11

10
AMGOT HQ. Q. MESSINA
25 August 1943

TO:
SUBJECT

ALL AMGOT OFFICERS-MESSINA DISTRICT.
ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS.

1.

The following administrative areas or districts are established for the control and supervision of Civil Affairs in Messina Province.

1. MISTRETTA.

Tusa
Motta
Reittano
Pettinio
Castel De Lucia
St. Stefano
Coronia
Capizzi

2. SAN FRATELLO.

Cesaro
Sant' Agata
Alcara li' Fusa
San Marco
Mirto
Longi
Galati Mamertino
San Salvatore

3. TORTORICI.

Capo Di' Orlando
Brolo
Ficarro
Sinagra
Ueria
Floresta
Piraino
Sant' Angelo
Raccula
Gioisa Marca

4. PATTI.

Montagnareali
Librizzi
San Pietro Patì
Olivera
Falcone
Basico
Furnari
Tripi
Novaro di' Sicilia
Montalbano
Rocella

5. BARCELLONA.

Castroreale
Milazzo
Santa Lucia del Mela
Pace
Gualtiere
San Pier Niceto

6. SANTA TERESA.

Furci Siculo
Antillo
Limina
Forsa D' Agro
Leto ianni Gallodoro
Mongiuffi Melia
Taormina
Giardini
Kaggi
Motta



3. TORTORICI.
 Capo Di' Orlando
 Brolo
 Ficarro
 Sinagra
 Ueria
 Floresta
 Piraino
 Sant' Angelo
 Raccula
 Gioisa Marca
4. PATTI.
 Montagnareali
 Librizzi
 San Pietro Patti
 Olivera
 Falcone
 Basico
 Furnari
 Tripi
 Novaro di' Sicilia
 Montalbano
 Rocella
5. BARCELLONA.
 Castroreale
 Milazzo
 Santa Lucia del Mela
 Pace
 Gualtiere
 San Pier Niceto
6. SANTA TERESA.
 Furci Siculo
 Antillo
 Limina
 Forsa D' Agro
 Leto ianni Galloodoro
 Mongiuffi Melia
 Taormina
 Giardini
 Kaggi
 Motta
 Francavilla di Sicilia
 Lanza

7. MESSINA VICINITY.
 Villafranca Tirrene
 Spadafora
 Rometta
 Monforte San Giorgio
 Sealletta
 Ali'
 Fiumedinisi
 Roccalumera
 Mandanici

2.

The selection and grouping of the communes into districts was made on a basis of geographical Proximity and highway access. After C.A.O.s are assigned to serve in these districts it may be

C.S.O.

Abuse of information
 3/18

6
necessary to make adjustments in the grouping of the communes. Therefore the groups initially are tentative until actual test proves them practicable.

3. The towns after which the districts are named are indicated as probable location of district headquarters. If C.A.O.s wish to use other towns in their districts as headquarters they may do so after consultation with headquarters.

4. The C.A.O. supervising district No. 7 Messina Vicinity will make his headquarters at Villafranca Tirreno, or other towns in his district.

Stephen B. Story
STEPHEN B. STORY
Lt. Col. CMP
S.C.A.O. Messina

SPS/ajm

1466
AMGOT H.Q.

file 1724
8
27th August 1943.

Memorandum

To:- S.C.A.O. Messina. 6

Thanks for your letter of 24th August 1943. We can fill your request for the field and also the two tents.

As regards the Chlorine of lime, Col. Cheyne advises that he has none, but has requested Base A to supply it if possible.

In the meantime, he believes it would be best to collect some hay and have a fire.

CHARLES M. SPOTFORD
Lieut Colonel G.S.C.
Chief Staff Officer.

1259

785015

PERSONAL.

1766

AMCOT H.Q. SICILY

AMCOT/45/HQ.

26 August 1943.

7

I have seen your last letter to Spofford dated 24th August, and I wish right away to tell you that your transfer of AMCOT H.Q. from Messina City to outside the town has my full approval.

AMCOT officers must remember that unlike combat troops who are in the combat area for a given period and then go back to a rest area, our officers have to stay in the area in which they are posted for indefinite periods. If they are to do their work they have got to have sleep, and must not be killed or wounded. The matter is not one of choice but of direction. General Alexander has always taken the view ever since the arrangements prior to the landing were under discussion, that AMCOT officers are not to expose themselves to needless risks, since they are paid to administer the country and not to get themselves killed.

In the present circumstances in Messina, it will be quite sufficient for one or more officers to be in the town by day, and if necessary to take turns of duty for this purpose, except in an emergency, they should not sleep in an area which is liable to constant shelling. Any of them that do have to sleep in these conditions are to be relieved by other officers and take their turn of duty, in order that they may get rest and sleep.

This applies to you as well as other officers.

The work and attitude of the *AMCOT* officers displayed in Messina has been a matter of great satisfaction to me, and all those others to whom it is known.

[Handwritten signature]

Lieut-Colonel, S.C. Story,
S.C.A.O.
Messina Province.

1258

P/A 28/8
69

File under: SC 110 - MIA - 11/1/70

24 Aug 43

45

Dear Col Stafford:

The truck with the enlisted men (acting corporal, 1 EMT and 1 cook) arrived this AM. The driver of the truck was delayed in making his return as he had to transport the men back out to our new set up. This will delay his return to Palermo until tomorrow.

2/5 / The clerks were in the detachment. 8

AM pending in a request to Ft Davis for the stove or gasoline range, and two tents. One to use for kitchen and supplies and one as an office. AM pending a truck for these.

Col Chagny promised me 70 lbs of chloride of lime for use after removal of bodies. Can this come in the truck with the tent and stove?

{ CACAN to HRT now
then to Col Boss (over) }

1257

Stony
- Col

one of the truck was delayed in making his return as he had to transport the men back out to our new set up. This will delay his return to Palermo until tomorrow.

065 / The trucks were in the detachment. 8

Am pending in a request to H Davis for the stove or gasoline range, and two tents. One to use for kitchen and supplies and one as an office. Am sending a truck for these.

Col Chapin provided me 700 lbs of chocolate, lime for use after removal of bodies. Can this come on the truck with the tent and stove?

{ cannot do tent now
{ from what Boss says

1257

Shony
- Col

Am sending a letter from a Messing to most for delivery to Cardinal Wafine in Palermo. Can this please be delivered?

S

24 August 43

Dear Col Spefford:

We are set up and living in an olive grove some 20 Km west of Valencia. After a week of trying it we were shelled out of our quarters. One direct hit in the afternoon and another last night about 130. A third shell fell in the yard of the house next door used by the Bank of Rome - (4 of our officers were living up stairs) and buried itself under a stone walk. A fourth ~~egg~~ in the second floor of a building on the other side of ours (where three of our officers were living) passed through a bed of ring, blankets, mat and valise and went thru an inside wall to fall a dud on the stairway. Two hundred feet from our house another shell killed a man and seriously injured another. The batteries on the mainland certainly had us pegged. Rather and risk further danger and casualties to our

8 some 2000 to 2500 percent of Henderson. After a week of trying it we were pulled out of our quarters. One direct hit in the afternoon and another last night about 1300. A third shell fell in the yard of the house next door used by the Bank of Korea - (4 of our officers were living up stairs) and landed itself under a stone walk. A fourth ~~egg~~ in the second floor of a building on the other side of our house. Three of our officers were living. Passed through a bed spring, blankets, mat and valise and went thru an inside wall to fall a dud on the stairway. Two hundred feet from our house another shell killed a man and seriously injured another. The batteries on the mainland certainly had us pegged. Rather and risk further danger and casualties to our personnel and to avoid the ^{thru} shelling of the entire neighborhood we pulled out at dusk last night. It remained with 3 other officers and we sat on the cellar steps thruout the night because there was no let up - we had much of our stuff remain- ing in the building - so today we cleared out entirely.

I consulted with Brigadier Tabor before arriving and he felt that it was wiser to stay there.

The mainland battalions are soon to be taken care of and we shall then return to quarters in Messina. Mean while we will work out of this

field and get some badly needed sleep at night. I dislike the idea of pulling out - but the

fact that from across the straits they were twice able to score direct hits on our head

and bring quarters indicates some local spotting with communications - (possibly an under water telephone line.)

I have set up eight administrative districts for the province (Messina being counted as one) and have made assignments of a captain and a Lt to cover each district except Messina which ^{administration} will require about seven and the province will require the rest.

Clean up is proceeding and things are going

Messina. Mean while we will work out this field and get some badly needed sleep at night. I disliked the idea of pulling out - but the fact that from across the straits they were twice able to score direct hits on our beach and living quarters indicates some local spotting with communications - (possibly an under water telephone line.)

I have set up eight administrative districts for the provinces (Messina being counted as one) and have made assignments of a captain and a Lt to cover each district except Messina which ^{administration} will require about seven and the province will require the rest.

Clear up is proceeding and things are going along in good shape so far. Until the phellings is over, return of refugees will not occur and we can get better set for the load they will impose.

Stony

①

PA

19 Aug 43

Dear Col Spofford

Admin letter with 4

Col Spofford

This is a hasty note to advise you that we are in Messina - in fact civil affairs moved in with the troops the morning of the 17th. Much shelling from batteries on the mainland. We had to move our quarters out of a wrecked Capuchin seminary because the building received three hits yesterday. Our 6x6 truck was punctured by fragments but not in any vital spot. One jeep was over turned on the way in but we have it out and running but need two new wheels. The driver is in the hospital with sprains but no serious injury. 7255

Other wise today we are O.K. Many city officials on

job and cooperating well.

This is the most shot up and bombed town I have seen. Would estimate total destruction at 60%. - Of 225,000 pop. about 50,000 are here. Many of whom have been living in caves and air raid shelters for about 40 days.

Food is a desperate need - there is no wheat grown in Messina and we are organizing to get a supply but it takes time to get the pipe line filled.

Our immediate needs are many. E rations to give our men a day to workers cleaning up and repairing the city. They don't want money but will work for food. In fact their work output is nothing unless we put food in their stomachs.

(3)

to give them working strength.
Water supply OK.

Drugs of all kinds are badly
needed at once. Arab prisoners
brought here by Germans had
some typhus. Disinfectants
or bactericides are needed
to clean up after removal of
dead horses and bodies.

Tools - Shovels, brooms, picks
and like implements are needed
to clean up. The retreating
Germans seeing shipped the
town of these simple things.

If your civilian supply
could get 10 tons of grain or
flour here per day for the
next two weeks we can have
the city in good shape without
any difficulty except the ²⁵³

(4)

interruptions caused by the
shelling of our friends across
the straits. It gets the natives
jittery and nervous.

Hastily

SB Story

Stal,

P.S. - Can we get contact
with you ^{through} some sort of courier
service?

Can the ration truck get
rations here for our personnel?

Our living quarters
are at #14 Via Tommaso Cannizzaro
CANNIZZARO
(next to Bank of Rome)

Story

1252

1478