

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

785015

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35 pp.

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AMGOT, REPORTS ON WORK OF AMGOT
JULY, AUG. 1943

35 pp

Folio.	Date.	Reference	To/From Whom.	Contents.
1.	29 Jul.	1546/7875/CA	from: S.S.O.	ARLBT Reports - concerning J.
2.	6 Aug.	ARLBT/203/HQ	To: C.S.O.	Visit - Novelty Fletcher to ARLBT/203.
3.	6 Aug.	ARLBT/203/HQ	To: SCAC Agnigato.	Visit to Agnigato.
4.	6 Aug.	ARLBT/203/HQ	To C.S.O.	
5.	31 Jul		from S.C.O., Perry	Report activities of C.A.O., 72
6.	20 Aug	NR 3500	" C-in-C	Army - 31 Jul 43.
7.	23 "	203 HQ	To C.S.O.	Pictures Chicago of August
8.	23 "	203 HQ	from C.S.O.	Inquiries P.O.W. - to 204/44

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Inquiries P.O. No. - Lo 204/46

203 HQ 10 C.S.O.
203 HQ from C.S.O.

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23 " " " " " "

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ANGOT

23 August 43

Memorandum for: S.S.O.

The Army Pictorial Service of the Signal Corps has sent a camera crew to take still and motion pictures of Porto Sapezzola, Enna, Gela, Palermo, Corleone, and Licata, as requested.

These will be contrasted with early photos the Signal Corps took in the same places to show the progress of improvements and rehabilitation.

The A.P.S. has already taken a good deal of still and motion material covering aspects of ANGOT work.

All negatives of still photos are taken to Algiers for developing, and all motion picture negatives go to Washington, so it will be some time before we can see the pictures here. However the P.R.O. at A.P.S.C. is trying to get for us a report on what pictures have been used in the United States on ANGOT work in Sicily.

CD 1849
Charles Foote
Captain, PHO

capt Poon CAP

AMGOT/203/HQ

21 August 1943

Memorandum for: P.R.O.

Will you follow this up with Signals and coordinate the program with them. I am not clear whether they want towns now damaged or those that have not been damaged. You can give them steer as you know the situation.

AMGOT HQ
15 Army Group

C. S. O.

10.8

201825

CONFIDENTIAL ROUTINE

REF NR. 3500

TO: CG SEVENTH ARMY

HEADQUARTERS

1030

21 AUG 1943

AMGOT

FAD

20 AUGUST 43

STILL AND MOTION PICTURE COVERAGE OF WORKINGS OF AMGOT
REQUESTED BY WAR DEPARTMENT X TO CG SEVEN ARMY FOR SIGNAL PHOTO
SITE
SIGNED CINC/FMSIG X HAVE SCENES OF PORT EMPEDOCLE, PALERMO,
ENNA, CORLEONE, GELA AND LICATA SHOWING EARLY CONDITIONS AND
DAMAGE X NEW MATERIAL FOR COMPARISON SHOWING COMPREHENSIVE WORKING
AMGOT DESIRED X LICATA SUGGESTED X CAN YOU COVER

FROM: CINC

TIME SIGNED: 20 AUG 43

C.C.A.O.

To see

Man to P.R.O.

T.B. 21/8.

20 7

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
Civil Affairs Section
APO #758

CP/pm

31 July 1943

Memorandum:

To : Fifteenth Army Group - AMGOT - Siracusa

Enclosed two copies of report on activities of Civil Affairs
Officers of Seventh Army up to and including July 31, 1943.



Charles Poletti

CHARLES POLETTI
Lt. Colonel, AUS
Senior Civil Affairs Officer

C.C.O.

Second copy forwarded

Palermo

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*P/A
10/8 A*

SEVENTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS

July 31, 1943

To: Chief Civil Affairs Officer, Fifteenth Army Group.

Introduction

The civil affairs officers attached to the Seventh Army have most ably demonstrated the great contribution that can be made by civil affairs officers to the fighting forces. On frequent occasions the commanding general of the Seventh Army and the corps and divisional commanders have commended civil affairs. In the midst of battle, these commanders have taken the time to keep civil affairs informed of their tactical plans so that civil affairs officers would be on hand for immediate action. Throughout the operations we have kept a certain number of civil affairs officers at the very front. In fact, in several instances, where troops were pushing ahead fast and bypassing places, civil affairs officers entered towns before troops had actually occupied them.

Civil affairs officers have worked with great energy, intelligence and loyalty. Their performance reflects the value of the excellent planning and training that took place in North Africa. The mere circumstance of knowing each other personally and of having been attached to the task force and sub-task forces as teams proved to be a substantial advantage.

Location of officers

Civil Affairs officers came in on D day with the assault forces of the 45th, 1st and 3rd divisions and Civil Affairs officers attached to the Seventh Army Hq. came in on D day at Gela. The

2.

1. The 45th Division group headed by Lt. Col. Story moved into Scicli, Vittoria, Comiso, Biscari and later Chiaramonte. The II Corps officers came into Vittoria where II Corps established its C.P. When the tactical plan called for the movement of the 45th Division into the area north of Gela, a few officers were left behind and others swept on with the advance troops of the 45th. Subsequently, at a conference held in Ragusa with Lt. Col. Gerry, I asked that Eighth Army Civil Affairs officers take over all of the towns in Ragusa Province. This permitted a later utilization of these released officers in northern Caltanissetta Province and two in western Agrigento Province and then later in Trapani Province. The 45th personnel then moved into communes stretching north from Caltanissetta toward Cefalu. It now stands ready to move east along coast toward Messina.

2. The 1st Division officers moved north into Butera, Miscemi, Mazzarino, Riesi and later Caltanissetta. Lt. Col. Irish remained in Gela as long as Army Hq. was there and then he was directed to go to Caltanissetta to begin operations on a provincial basis. He has remained there. Five officers sent as reinforcements were attached to the 1st Division to go along with it north of Caltanissetta and then east in the drive on Messina.

3. II Corps officers came into Vittoria, which permitted my transfer of some 45th Div. personnel north. Then II Corps moved to Caltanissetta where officers worked to help men of 1st Division. II Corps then administered Cefalu. On July 29 sent seven men to administer eastern end of Palermo Province, east of Termini-Alia line. II Corps men will move on east with 45th and 1st Divisions.

3.

4. 2nd Armored Division civil affairs were the first to administer Butera, later taken over by 1st division personnel. Moved with the division west and then north to San Cipirello, administering towns for short while on way through. Administration taken over later by other officers. At San Cipirello directed Major Fiore to administer Monreale and the other officer was sent to Marsala. Relieved Major Fiore, thereby permitting him to stay with 2nd Armored Hq which was located west of Palermo.

5. 3rd division moved into Licata and then north and west. Lt. Col. McCaffrey first stationed in Licata and later at Agrigento where he was directed to stay and operate on a provincial basis.. To the Hq. of 3rd Division were later sent 10 officers who are administering towns in Palermo Province west and inclusive of Termini and Alia.

6. Army Hq. civil affairs officers have all been operating as administrators because of scarcity of personnel caused by rapid occupation by Seventh Army of enemy territory. Only Lt. Col. Rodd and myself have remained close to Army Hq. in its movements. The other officers were constantly in the field operating as administrators. Upon request of Army Hq., Rodd and I moved into Palermo as administrators on the day it was occupied. Three days later pulled in some of the Army Hq. group and then on July 29th reinforced by new arrivals. Palermo Province is being administered on provincial basis under direction of myself.

4.

6. 82nd Airborne had no Civil Affairs Officers attached to it. But we sent officers to administer any territory taken by them. These officers were obtained by a reshuffling of officers attached to other divisions. Civil Affairs officers are in Trapani Province under Major Michie who forms part of Army Hq. staff. With reinforcements sent to him, he is now operating from Trapani on a provincial basis.

7. The Civil Affairs officers of 5th Division have not yet come to Sicily.

Provincial Administration

While we started with Civil Affairs teams attached to tactical units, it was soon apparent that preferable results would be obtained by adopting the provincial lines. Communications could more easily go to the Civil Affairs officer in command at the provincial seat of government. This officer in command was asked by me to keep in close contact with all officers within his province and have them report to him regardless of the tactical unit to which they may originally have been attached. There has been no interference on the part of any commanders; nothing but cooperation. Everyone has worked together. The Army has always aided either by loan of trucks, jeeps, enlisted men, military police and in numerous other ways. The Army has permitted the transmittal of messages directly from one Civil Affairs officer to another.

The four provinces of Caltanissetta, Agrigento, Trapani and Palermo are being administered on provincial basis, and Messina will be when occupied.

5.

Attitude of People

It has been obvious that people desire to cooperate fully. In several places real demonstrations of acclaim occurred. It is common for men and women to tell Civil Affairs officers that they are delighted to be freed from twenty years of slavery.

Attitude of Governmental Personnel

Public officials have been cooperative. The Carabinieri and local police have come back on the job at once. We adopted practice of printing arm bands with the words "Civil Police". At beginning of the occupation we proceeded slowly in rearming Carabinieri and local police. Thereafter it was ordered that they be rearmed at once because population has little respect for a policeman without arms. We also pursued the practice of having one M.P. accompany two carabinieri so that our soldiers would become accustomed to them. The only recent conflict between soldiers and carabinieri has resulted from the strong desire of soldiers to collect souvenirs, a desire directed primarily on the cute revolvers carried by carabinieri. Seventh Army has at our suggestion put out an order and it is hoped souvenir hunting will turn elsewhere.

Collection of Arms

There was no difficulty in collection of arms. In some instances the Civil Affairs officer had them taken to his office; in most cases the task was undertaken by carabinieri and it was well performed. We asked the people to tie on each firearm a tag bearing the name and address of the owner. Permission was given to certain persons to retain arms, such as bank guards and private policemen.

6.

Prisoners of War

In many companies there were found many soldiers and officers in civilian clothes. Civil Affairs undertook the job of rounding them up and turning them over to the Provost Marshal. Rather peculiar to see a couple of Carabinieri leading a lot of prisoners to an Allied Army pen. Military personnel in civilian clothes were very anxious to turn themselves in, particularly since our public announcements warned them that they would otherwise be considered as spies.

Wheat System and Prices

Pursuant to plan, we have continued the system. However there is great dissatisfaction because it symbolizes the Fascist regime for the farmer. Moreover the price for wheat is considered to be far below cost of production. Both matters will have to be reviewed by AMGOT Hq.

Nonetheless we have insisted on farmers delivering wheat. AMGOT is assuming the cost of the subsidy previously paid by the State. Of course, the black market is very active and we will not be able to crack it until we have more food grown on the island and also other goods imported into it. In several cases we have sent soldiers out on trucks to fetch the wheat.

Civil affairs officers have insisted on the maintenance of previous retail prices of all goods. We directed the printing of prices in Italian and English in communities where lots of troops were. We will insist on price lists throughout the area.

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7.

Banks

Civil Affairs officers soon became convinced that banks had to be opened, and toward that end communicated with AIGOT Hq. A conference was arranged at Ragusa for joint discussion with the Eighth Army. Subsequently, decided to permit reopening of banks on new account basis for provincial and communal governmental transactions and also for Ammassi. It was also found necessary to obtain cash from banks. This we did and the bankers were always agreeable to it. We presented a document to the bank evidencing the amount of lire AIGOT withdrew. Of course, now that we have received A.M. lire, this expedient is not necessary.

In my opinion banks should be reopened for general business at earliest moment. Withdrawals on old accounts can be limited to a small percentage and this percentage could vary depending upon the condition of each particular bank.

Food

When a community was vacated by Italian troops and before law and order could be reestablished by Seventh Army, considerable looting took place, particularly looting of flour and other food products. All military stores of Italian Army were likewise usually seized. In all events, this supplied the people until Civil Affairs officers could reorganize matters and get additional grain into town. All sorts of improvisation occurred. Civilian trucks and Italian and American Army trucks were used. At times we put carabinieri or soldiers on them in order to persuade, in a gentle manner, the farmer to give up his grain. ¹⁸³⁰ often the

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mills and bakeries were damaged or deprived of coal or Diesel oil or electricity. Transport had collapsed. Again we improvised. In a few towns only did food clamoring demonstrations occur. It is gratifying that Civil Affairs was so successful. Of course, the food problem has been the most difficult, the most pressing and the most time consuming for all Civil Affairs officers, and it still is in general.

Labor

In many towns, particularly port towns like Gela, Licata, Porto Empedocle and Palermo, the Army has requested Civil Affairs for thousands of workers. These we procured. We employed town criers to summon the workers.

STREET CLEANING

Civil Affairs officers undertook the novel task of cleaning up the streets of Sicilian towns. We had communes organize street cleaning departments. Perhaps we flatter ourselves, but it is believed we succeeded in taking off the accumulation of one century.

Civil Affairs also undertook the task of burying civilians who were killed by bombardment, and in some instances they were as many as one hundred and fifty in one town. Priests were obtained, Sicilian carts commandeered and the job was done.

Some of the Civil Affairs officers did not cherish the removal of dead horses and donkeys.

9.

Fascist Leaders and OVRA

The Prefect and Mayor of Palermo fled unceremoniously. The Deputy Mayor of Palermo made the mistake of staying. He is in prison. The Prefect of Caltanissetta is enjoying a free room. The Prefect of Agrigento, a civil servant, is being retained. I talked to him at some length. He is all right. Have not yet had a report on Trapani.

An appreciable number of Fascist leaders and members of OVRA have been arrested.

Political Prisoners

Civil Affairs officers obtained reports on political prisoners in any jails and after careful examination they were released. Arrangements were made for food and for the hospitalization of the sick.

Hospitals and Health

Civil Affairs rendered help to the Army by finding hospital space, ambulances, hospital equipment. Local hospitals and jails were always checked from the health end. Presently the provincial public health authorities are back on the job. They have been given authority, as we have done for certain other officials, to circulate in any part of their province.

Control of Civilian Movements

Civil Affairs never insisted on civilians remaining indoors during the day, either in town or country. Where con-

10.

ditions were pretty hot, the desired result was achieved without order from Civil Affairs. But we did restrict movement of town people; they could not leave without special passes. As soon as possible we would authorize movement within a certain radius without passes. It was always found wise to get the Sicilian off the town street and back to work on his farm. Of course this meant the presence of Sicilian carts on roads. Accordingly by order we would request the use of secondary roads. By getting townspeople into the country soon, we relieved the food scarcity. In addition to all this, scores of families moved about with furniture and particularly mattresses. All in all the movement of troops and supplies was not handicapped. There never was a mass flight of Sicilians such as occurred in Belgium. The Sicilians stayed put and then applauded when the Allied forces arrived.

Rate of Exchange

Civil Affairs found no criticism of the rate established between lira and dollar and pound. It is considered fair. In fact, some bankers are pleased to have the lira tied in value to strong currencies. Without Allied occupation and such a rate of exchange, the lira may have collapsed completely, they assert. However there is also prevalent a body of public opinion that the exchange rate will call for an increase in price level.

Relations with Church

The Catholic Church, Cardinal, bishops, Monsignors and priests have been most friendly and cooperative. Civil Affairs

11.

officers made it a point to contact them at the earliest moment possible. They have assisted in many ways. Church bells were tolled at 1935 to announce curfew at 2000. We found it preferable to fix a definite time instead of sunset. Priests helped in burial and in finding food supplies. Also were of much help in furnishing information. In Palermo there was a series of quite formal calls on the part of General Patton, the Cardinal and Civil Affairs. The General had champagne on toast the Cardinal.

Public Relief

Civil Affairs decided at once that it was incongruous to have communes paying benefits to families of Italian military personnel. This decision was subsequently confirmed at the Ragusa meeting with General McSherry and Eighth Army representatives. Needy families are being cared for on relief basis, applying a means test and granting cash instead of army rations or local food. Some communes had no functioning relief office and so we established one.

Courts

In only a few instances was it necessary for civil affairs officers to sit as summary courts. Where done, it was primarily to let people know we meant business. Local courts are now being reopened under civil affairs supervision. In some communes it was found that many persons had been held in prisons for long periods of time without having been tried. Those charged with

12.

very minor offenses were released on their own recognizance. This procedure was not only just but necessary when jail was unsanitary or had been partly bombed.

Release of Prisoners of War

Civil Affairs joined others, commencing at Jena, in arguing that prisoners of war be released on parole instead of transported to U. S. Africa and then to America and Britain. General Hogarty was of great assistance in presenting the matter to Seventh Army in Frankfurt. General Patton has ordered the release of all German military personnel other than commissioned officers.

Civil Affairs, Provost Marshal and Judge Advocate agreed on a written plan. The P.M. will release the prisoners and Civil Affairs will assume the task of parole supervision. A special form in triplicate was prepared on which are recited all the conditions of the parole. One copy is given to the prisoner and one is retained by Provost Marshal and the other by Civil Affairs. These paroled prisoners can be made to report at discretion of Civil Affairs.

Assistance from AMBOT Headquarters.

Civil Affairs officers appreciate that AMBOT Hq. exerted itself in all ways to be of assistance to Civil Affairs officers in the field. While we had no transport at commencement of occupation, our work was not impaired. As more territory was occupied we received jeeps and drivers. On July 30, we received some trucks and today more jeeps.

13.

Civil Affairs Section of Seventh Army were delighted that General McNerry came into Sicily early. His trips were most helpful to us.

While discussing this I wish to repeat an apprehension expressed in W. Africa. In my opinion, the relations between the authority of ARSOT staff sections and the senior Civil Affairs officer of a province and even between this senior Civil Affairs officer and the so-called specialists working within his province have not been adequately crystallized. There is grave danger of a lot of free wheeling on part of officers of ARSOT Hq. Confusion, misunderstanding and dispersion of responsibility will result. In my opinion, the provincial seat of government must be strengthened. Functions, previously stemming from Rome, will now have to be centered in the respective provinces. 1833

Allied Character of Civil Affairs

The performance in the field since July 18 offers overwhelming proof of the wisdom of the decision that Civil Affairs officers with both the Seventh and Eighth Armies should reflect the Allied character of the occupation, as directed by General Eisenhower. The relations between American and British officers in the field have followed in a most natural way the course of mutual trust, cooperation and warm friendship so well pursued in weeks past by General Lord Rennell, General McNerry, General Holmes, Colonel Maxwell and Colonel Spofford.

14.

Reports to AMGOT Hq.

Since the landing, civil affairs of Seventh Army has rendered long and detailed oral reports to General McSherry on two different occasions, in Gela and in Palermo. This is the first written report and it will be our practice to submit written reports every two weeks.

Charles Poletti

CHARLES POLETTI
Lt. Col.
Senior Civil Affairs Officer

1832

COPY

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
Civil Affairs Section
APO # 793

July 31, 1943.

Memorandum

To : Fifteenth Army Group - AMOT - Simoesa

Enclosed two copies of report on activities of Civil
Affairs Officers of Seventh Army up to and including July 31, 1943.

(Sgd) Charles Poletti

CHARLES POLETTI
Lt. Colonel, AUS
Senior Civil Affairs
Officer.

1631

SECRETSEVENTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS

July 31, 1943

To: Chief Civil Affairs Officer, Fifteenth Army Group.

Introduction

The civil affairs officers attached to the Seventh Army have most ably demonstrated the great contribution that can be made by civil affairs officers to the fighting forces. On frequent occasions the Commanding General of the Seventh Army and the corps and divisional commanders have commended civil affairs. In the midst of battle, these commanders have taken the time to keep civil affairs informed of their tactical plans so that civil affairs officers would be on hand for immediate action. Throughout the operations we have kept a certain number of civil affairs officers at the very front. In fact, in several instances, where troops were pushing ahead fast and bypassing places, civil affairs officers entered towns before troops had actually occupied them.

Civil affairs officers have worked with great energy, intelligence and loyalty. Their performance reflects the value of the excellent planning and training that took place in North Africa. The mere circumstances of knowing each other personally and of having been attached to the task force and sub-task forces as teams proved to be a substantial advantage.

/Location of officers/.....

" 2 "

Location of officers

Civil Affairs officers came in on D day with the assault forces of the 45th, 1st and 3rd Divisions and Civil Affairs officers attached to the Seventh Army Hq. came in on D day at Gela.

1. The 45th Division group headed by Lt. Col. Story moved into Scicli, Vittoria, Comiso, Biscari and later Chiaramonte. The II Corps Officers came into Vittoria where II Corps established its C.P. When the tactical plan called for the movement of the 45th Division into the area north of Gela, a few officers were left behind and others swept on with the advance troops of the 45th. Subsequently, at a conference held in Ragusa with Lt. Col. Gerry, I asked that Eight Army Civil Affairs officers take over all of the towns in Ragusa Province. This permitted a later utilization of these released officers in northern Caltanissetta Province and two in western Agrigento Province and then later in Trapani Province. The 45th personnel then moved into companies stretching north from Caltanissetta toward Gela. It now stands ready to move east along coast toward Messina.
2. The 1st Division officers moved north into Butera, Nicosia, Mazara, Riesi and later Caltanissetta. Lt. Col. Irish remained in Gela as long as Army Hq. was there and then he was directed to go to Caltanissetta to begin operations on a provincial basis. He has remained there. Five officers sent as reinforcements were attached to the 1st Division to go along with it north of Caltanissetta and then east in the drive on Messina.
3. II Corps officers came into Vittoria, which permitted my transfer of some 45th Div personnel north. Then II Corps moved to Caltanissetta where
/officers

- 3 -

worked to help men of 1st Division. II Corps then admin. area of Palermo. On July 29 sent seven men to administer western end of Palermo Province, east of Termini-Alia line. II Corps men will move on east with 15th and 1st Divisions.

4. 2nd Armored Division Civil Affairs were the first to administer Palermo, later taken over by 1st Division personnel. Moved with the Division west and then north to San Cipirello, administering towns for short while on way through. Administration taken over later by other officers. At San Cipirello directed Major Fiore to administer Monreale and the other officer was sent to Marsala. Relieved Major Fiore, thereby permitting him to stay with 2nd Armored Hq which was located west of Palermo.

5. 3rd Division moved into Licata and then north and west. Lt. Col. McGaffrey first stationed in Licata and later at Agrigento where he was directed to stay and operate on a provincial basis. To the Hq. of 3rd Division were later sent 10 officers who are administering town in Palermo Province west and inclusive of Termini and Alia.

6. Army Hq. Civil Affairs officers have all been operating as administrators because of scarcity of personnel caused by rapid occupation by Seventh Army of enemy territory. Only Lt. Col. Radd and myself have remained close to Army Hq. in its movements. The other officers were constantly in the field operating as administrators. Upon request of Army Hq. Radd and I moved into Palermo as administrators on the day it was occupied. Three days later pulled in some of the Army Hq. group and then on July 29th reinforced by new arrivals. Palermo Province is being administered on provincial basis under direction of myself.

- 4 -

6. 82nd Airborne had 3 Civil Affairs Officers attached to it. But we sent officers to administer any territory taken by them. These officers were obtained by a reshuffling of officers attached to other divisions. Civil Affairs officers are in Trapani Province under Major Michle who forms part of Army Hq. staff. With reinforcements sent to him, he is now operating from Trapani on a provincial basis.
7. The Civil Affairs officers of 9th Division have not yet come to Sicily.

Provincial Administration

While we started with Civil Affairs teams attached to tactical units, it was soon apparent that preferable results would be obtained by adopting the provincial lines. Communications could more easily go to the Civil Affairs officer in command at the provincial seat of government. This officer in command was asked by me to keep in close contact with all officers within his province and have them report to him regardless of the tactical unit to which they may originally have been attached. There has been no interference on the part of any commanders; nothing but cooperation. Everyone has worked together. The Army has always aided either by loan of trucks, jeeps, enlisted men, military police and in numerous other ways. The Army has permitted the transmittal of messages directly from one civil Affairs officer to another.

The four provinces of Caltanissetta, Agrigento, Trapani and Palermo are being administered on provincial basis, and Messina will be when occupied.

/Attitude of People

- 3 -

Attitude of People

It has been obvious that people desire to cooperate fully. In several places real demonstrations of acclaim occurred. It is common for men and women to tell Civil Affairs officers that they are delighted to be freed from twenty years of slavery.

Attitude of Governmental Personnel

Public Officials have been cooperative. The Carabinieri and local police have gone back on the job at once. We adopted practice of printing arms bands with the words "Civil Police". At beginning of the occupation we proceeded slowly in rearming Carabinieri and local police. Thereafter, it was ordered that they be rearmcd at once because population has little respect for a policeman without arms. We also pursued the practice of having one M.P. accompany two Carabinieri so that our soldiers would become accustomed to them. The only recent conflict between soldiers and Carabinieri has resulted from the strong desire of soldiers to collect souvenirs, a desire directed primarily on the cute revolvers carried by Carabinieri. Seventh Army has at our suggestion put out an order and it is hoped souvenir hunting will turn elsewhere.

Collection of Arms

There was no difficulty in collection of arms. In some instances the Civil Affairs officer had them taken to his office; in most cases the task was undertaken by Carabinieri and it was well performed. We asked the people to tie on each firearm a tag bearing the name and address of the owner. Permission was given to certain persons to retain arms,

- 6 -

such as bank guards and some private policemen.

Prisoners of War

In many instances there were found many soldiers and officers in civilian clothes. Civil Affairs undertook the job of rounding them up and turning them over to the Provost Marshal. Rather peculiar to see a couple of Carabinieri leading a lot of prisoners to an Allied Army pen. Military personnel in civilian clothes were very anxious to turn themselves in, particularly since our public announcements warned them that they would otherwise be considered as spies.

Wheat System and Prices

Pursuant to plan, we have continued the system. However there is great dissatisfaction because it symbolizes the Fascist regime for the farmer. Moreover the price for wheat is considered to be far below cost of production. Both matters will have to be reviewed by AMSCOF HQ.

Nonetheless we have insisted on farmers delivering wheat. ¹⁰²⁰ AMSCOF is assuming the cost of the subsidy previously paid by the State. Of course, the black market is very active and we will not be able to crack it until we have more food grown on the Island and also other goods imported into it. In several cases, we have sent soldiers out on trucks to fetch the wheat.

Civil Affairs officers have insisted on the maintenance of previous retail prices of all goods. We directed the printing of prices in Italian and English in communities where lots of troops were. We will insist on price lists throughout the area.

- 7 -

Banks

Civil Affairs officers soon became convinced that banks had to be opened, and toward that end communicated with ASST Lt. A conference was arranged at Ragusa for joint discussion with the Eighth Army. Subsequently decided to permit reopening of banks on new account basis for provincial and occasional governmental transactions and also for Asasati. It was also found necessary to obtain cash from banks. This we did and the bankers were always agreeable to it. We presented a document to the bank evidencing the amount of lire ASST withdrew. Of course, now that we have received A.M. lire, this expedient is not necessary.

In my opinion banks should be reopened for general business at earliest moment. Withdrawals on old accounts can be limited to a small percentage and this percentage could vary depending upon the condition of each particular bank.

Food

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/bakeshops

- 8 -

bakeshops were damaged or deprived of coal or Diesel oil or electricity. Transport had collapsed. Again we improvised. In a few towns only did food clearing demonstrations occur. It is gratifying that Civil Affairs was so successful. Of course, the food problem has been the most difficult, the most pressing and the most time consuming for all Civil Affairs officers, and it still is in general.

Labor

In many towns, particularly port towns like Gela, Licata, Porto Empedocle and Palermo, the Army has requested Civil Affairs for thousands of workers. These we procured. We employed town orders to summon the workers.

Street Cleaning

Civil Affairs officers undertook the novel task of cleaning up the streets of Sicilian towns. We had comrades organize street cleaning departments. Perhaps we flatter ourselves, but it is believed we succeeded in taking off the accumulation of one century.

Civil Affairs also undertook the task of burying civilians who were killed by bombardment, and in some instances they were as many as ³⁰⁰ hundred and fifty in one town. Priests were obtained, Sicilian carts commandeered and the job was done.

Some of the Civil Affairs officers did not cherish the removal of dead horses and donkeys.

Fascist Leaders and Cyn

The Prefect and Mayor of Palermo fled unceremoniously. The Deputy Mayor of Palermo made the mistake of staying. He is in Prison. The

- 9 -

Prefect of Chitanisetta is enjoying a free room. The Prefect of Agrigento, a civil servant, is being retained. I talked to him at some length. He is all right. Have not yet had a report on Trapani.

An appreciable number of Fascist leaders and members of Ova have been arrested.

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Civil Affairs officers obtained reports on political prisoners in any jails and after careful examination they were released. Arrangements were made for food and for the hospitalization of the sick.

Hospitals and Health

Civil Affairs rendered help to the Army by finding hospital space, ambulances, hospital equipment. Local hospitals and jails were always checked from the health end. Presently the provincial public health authorities are back on the job. They have been given authority, as we have done for certain other officials, to circulate in any part of their province.

Control of Civilian Movements

Civil Affairs never insisted on civilians remaining indoors during the day, either in town or country. Where conditions were pretty hot, the desired result was achieved without order from Civil Affairs. But we did restrict movement of town people; they could not leave without special passes. As soon as possible we would authorize movement within a certain radius without passes. It was always found wise to get the Sicilian off the town street and back to work on his farm. Of course,

1822

- 10 -

this meant the presence of Sicilian carts on roads. Accordingly by order we would repeat the use of secondary roads. By getting townspeople into the country soon, we relieved the food scarcity. In addition to all this, scores of families moved about with furniture and particularly mattresses. All in all the movement of troops and supplies was not handicapped. There never was a mass flight of Sicilians such as occurred in Belgium. The Sicilians stayed put and then applauded when the Allied forces arrived.

Rate of Exchange

Civil Affairs found no criticism of the rate established between lira and dollar and pound. It is considered fair. In fact, some bankers are pleased to have the lira tied in value to strong currencies. Without Allied occupation and such a rate of exchange, the lira may have collapsed completely, they assert. However, there is also prevalent a body of public opinion that the exchange rate will call for an increase in price level.

1821

Relations with Church

The Catholic Church, Cardinal, Bishops, Monsignors and Priests have been most friendly and cooperative. Civil Affairs officers made it a point to contact them at the earliest moment possible. They have assisted in many ways. Church bells were tolled at 1955 to announce curfew at 2000. We found it preferable to fix a definite time instead of sunset. Priests helped in burial and in finding food supplies. Also were of much help in furnishing information. In Palermo there was a series of quite

- 11 -

formal calls on the part of General Patton, the Cardinal and Civil Affairs. The General had champagne to toast the Cardinal.

Public Relief

Civil Affairs decided at Gela that it was incongruous to have commissaries paying benefits to families of Italian military personnel. This decision was subsequently confirmed at the Ragusa meeting with General MacSherry and Eighth Army representatives. Needy families are being cared for on relief basis, applying a means test and granting cash instead of Army rations or local food. Some commissaries had no functioning relief office and so we established one.

Courts

In only a few instances was it necessary for civil affairs officers to sit as summary courts. Where done, it was primarily to let people know we meant business. Local courts are now being reopened under Civil Affairs supervision. In some commissaries it was found that many persons had been held in prisons for long periods of time without having been tried. Those charged with very minor offenses were released on their own recognizance. This procedure was not only just but necessary when jail was unsanitary or had been partly bombed.

Release of Prisoners of War

Civil Affairs joined others, commanding at Gela, in urging that prisoners of war be released on parole instead of transported to E. Africa and then to America and Britain. General MacSherry was of great assistance in presenting the matter to Seventh Army in Palermo. General Patton has ordered the release of all Sicilian military personnel other than

- 12 -

commissioned officers.

Civil Affairs, Provost Marshal and Judge Advocates agreed on a written plan. The P.M. will release the prisoners and Civil Affairs will assume the task of parole supervision. A special form in triplicate was prepared on which are recited all the conditions of the parole. One copy is given to the prisoner and one is retained by Provost Marshal and the other by Civil Affairs. These paroled prisoners can be made to report at discretion of Civil Affairs.

Assistance from AMOT Headquarters

Civil Affairs officers appreciate that AMOT Hq. exerted itself in all ways to be of assistance to Civil Affairs officers in the field. While we had no transport at commencement of occupation, our work was not impaired. As more territory was occupied we received jeeps and drivers. On July 30, we received some trucks and today more jeeps.

Civil Affairs Section of Seventh Army were delighted that General McSherry came into Sicily early. His trips were most helpful to us.

While discussing this, I wish to repeat an apprehension expressed in E. Africa. In my opinion, the relations between the authority of AMOT staff sections and the senior Civil Affairs Officer of a province and then between this senior Civil Affairs officer and the so-called specialists working within his province have not been adequately crystallized. There is grave danger of a lot of free wheeling on part of officers of AMOT Hq. Confusion, misunderstanding and dispersion of responsibility will result. In my opinion, the provincial seat of government must be strengthened. Functions, previously standing from

- 13 -

ness, will now have to be entered in the respective provinces.

Allied Character of Civil Affairs

The performance in the field since July 19 affords overwhelming proof of the wisdom of the decision that Civil Affairs officers with both the Seventh and Eighth Armies should reflect the Allied character of the occupation, as directed by General Eisenhower. The relations between American and British officers in the field have followed in a most natural way the course of mutual trust, cooperation and warm friendship so well pictured in weeks past by General Lord Rennell, General McSherry, General Holmes, Colonel Russell and Colonel Spofford.

Reports to AMPM HQ.

Since the landing, civil affairs of Seventh Army has rendered long and detailed oral reports to General McSherry on two different occasions, in Gela and Palermo. This is the first written report and it will be our practice to submit written reports every two weeks.

(sgd) Charles Polizzi

CHARLES POLITTI
Lt. Col.
Senior Civil Affairs
Officer.

1818

122
Subject:- Visit of Major Morley-Fletcher to
S.C.A.O. AGRIGENTO 3/4 Aug. 1943.

Memo to:- C.S.O.

4
AMCOT/203/HQ.

6 August 43.

Lieut-Colonel McGaffrey made the following points when I was with him :-

1. Prefect.

The Prefect had been moved by C.I.G. during the last 3 days and placed in the common jail. Later he was moved to a stockade with other internees. S.C.A.O. considered this most improper treatment for a man of a Prefect's standing. Could we take action.

2. Judicial Officer.

A number of cases are awaiting including charges preferred for looting by civilians, sniping, conversion of Govt. property.

3. Personnel.

There were 14 Officers in all in AGRIGENTO province and one of these was mainly employed in PALERMO Province.

S.C.A.O. was retaining Capt. Meltzer, 2/Lieut. O'Connor and 2/Lieut. Suben all of Finance Div to help him out.

606.0
ds
AMCOT H.Q.
15 ARMY GROUP.
FIELD.

Copy to: Public Safety (Para 1)
Legal (Para 2)
Finance (Para 3)

D. MORLEY-FLETCHER,
Major.
General Staff.

D/M 7/8/43

From:- Major Mor Fletcher

THE QUARTERS, 3
ANGOT,
15 ARMY GROUP,
EMAF.

ANGOT/203/HQ

6 ^{Aug} Jul 43.

Dear

A short line to let you know how much all our convoy enjoyed your hospitality among the Temples.

That good dinner and grape juice after our long and dusty drive was first class, and it was very good of you and Major Hancock to make such first class preparations for us. Thank you a lot.

The points we discussed have all been raised here with the Chief Staff Officer, and I hope to give you satisfactory answers in due course.

Your road was first class.

Yours

L. F.

Lt-Col McCaffrey,
S.C.A.O.,
ANGOT,
AGRIGENTO.

1817

203.

MOST SECRET.

Subject: AMGOT Reports.

15AG/7875/CA.

29. Jul. 43.

C.C.A.O.,
Advance AMGOT H.Q.,
FORTBAY.

As General Alexander should be with 15 Army Group Advance H.Q. to-day, your telegrams Nos. AMGOT 14 and AMGOT 15 were not despatched to him. I informed you of this in my "Immediate" telegram No. CAF 60 of 29. Jul. The contents of your AMGOT 15 were forwarded to A.F.H.Q.

R. L.
COLONEL,
S. S. O.

H.Q. AMGOT,
15 ARMY GROUP,
FIELD.

CCA
PA
21816