

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

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DCCAO'S TOUR NOTES
AUG. 1943

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17 August, 1943

1. ALCAMO

Hospitals: These are being used as warehouses. There are no patients.

Enemy food dumps: Italian and German flour and sugar dumps were looted by civilians at the time of the invasion. No trace has been found of these supplies. Water supply is reported adequate. *Electric lines are good*

Transport: Three trucks for hauling grain. One truck for electric repairs.

Flour Mill: Operated by electricity. Capacity is eleven quintali per hour. 70 - 80 quintali are required to supply 300 gr. of bread per person.

Road Repairs: Situation unknown.

Streets: Well kept except on the outskirts of town.

Carabinieri: 40 men. They are reported to be cooperating adequately. Captain Kellogg states that there are no Civil Affairs personnel other than himself. He requests eventual transfer into agricultural work. His experience has been mainly in forestry and he was connected with the Land Settlement Scheme in Wales. **3218**

2. TRAPANI

Carabinieri: The carabinieri, although there have been signs of improvement, could very profitably all be transferred in exchange to some other community. The commander, a Major, is suspected of black market activities and has also appropriated for his own use a deluxe automobile formerly used by the Naval Commander in Trapani. AMGOT has given him a tag for this car but the Prefect states that the Major could make use of other less elaborate automobiles. It would be more fitting for the Prefect to use this car which is now in fact captured army property temporarily released to the carabinieri commander.

During an interview with the newly appointed Prefect it was learned that political activities, both "Separatist" and "Communist" have had to be forbidden. Manifestos at Mazzara del Vallo of the Separatist movement were removed by order of the S.C.A.O. and two of the Separatist agitators

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In a discussion of grain prices and of tenant farming the following facts were presented: Tenant farmers pay the proprietor either in cash or in an agreed amount of produce. In the latter case the proprietor advances funds for initial expenses, as well as the seeds. When the crop is harvested the proprietor receives the money which he had advanced and the seed for the following year; the remainder is then divided as agreed between the tenant and the proprietor. Grain sold directly to the Amasso by the tenant is paid for at the maximum established price; grain sold to the Amasso by the proprietor is paid for at the established price, less a percentage which is established by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The harbor at Trapani is full of sunken ships and small boats. It can be used now for a limited amount of snipping.

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TRAPANI (Cont'd.)

Lt. Col. Thomas requests a Major for C.A.P.O. Major Michie requests a copy of the 7th Army notice regarding bounties paid for captured German prisoners of war, and points out the need for clerks at Trapani Headquarters.

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3. FAVIGNANA C.A.O. Major Bartlett
C.A.P.O. Lieut. Smyth

Sanitary Conditions: In general the island obtains its water from wells. There is no sewage disposal system except for cesspools.

Hospital: Some 40 cases of Typhoid (Tifo) are being cared for under inadequate conditions in a small converted hospital. The Italian military doctor in charge is doing excellent work in spite of the situation, with the assistance of enlisted Italian personnel and untrained volunteer women. A limited amount of supplies for the hospital is being furnished by the efforts of Major Bartlett.

Prison: This camp, half underground, establishment was struck by a bomb which killed 22 prisoners and several guards before the invasion. Undernourishment has reduced a large number of prisoners to skin and bones. One man, suffering from tuberculosis is receiving no treatment. Four prisoners who have finished their term at Favignana have been awaiting transportation to the penal colony at Ustica for several months and should be sent there without delay. In general it is considered advisable as soon as possible to examine the sentences to see whether any of them could be considered excessive, based on the policies which may be established by AMGOT. A Rumanian prisoner, Dimitri Dragomir, formerly a resident of France, finished his sentence on May 28, 1943 and has been held at Favignana pending deportation either to Rumania or France. It is suggested that this man, an enemy national, should properly be confined in an enemy civilian concentration camp. Soap is urgently required for the prison as well as medical supplies, especially ointment for the treatment of prisoners with scabies. The food situation is critical. The director of the prison states that the ration is 90 to 95 gr. of pasto per man daily. The appearance of the prisoners and the experience of Major Bartlett who inspected the soup being served, makes it clear that the prisoners, through an undetermined bit of short-changing, are not receiving more than a percentage of the ration. The Director was told that a check would be made on the rations and that in case of any shortages for which he could not fix a definite responsibility he would be held personally responsible.

4. SAN CARLO MARSALA

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4. SAN CARLO MARSALA

C.A.O. Captain Jecquier
C.A.P.O. Lt. Hanbury

The C.A.O. stated that the city of Marsala is totally uninhabited (persons are only allowed to enter the city with a permit from the city engineer). Conditions at San Carlo Marsala in general are good. The grain situation threatens to become critical in approximately ten days, chiefly because of the long haul from Caltanissetta. The Carabinieri have been ordered to make a house to house search for stolen enemy army supplies. Black market operators are being gradually apprehended since the C.A.O. advised the carabinieri that he would be forced to the conclusion that they were supporting the black market if they didn't track down any of the people responsible for it. The port of Marsala is already open to LST; freighters could be accommodated at the quay one at a time since the channel and the turning basin are both free. The pier is not safe because of damage by bombs.

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5. MAZZARA DEL VALLO

C.A.O. Major Hildebrand.

Five thousand cases of malaria are reported in this commune. No death rate is available but many cases are alleged to be light. It is also reported that malaria is frequent amongst U. S. Army troops.

The normal population is twenty thousand but this number has been doubled with refugees. For the last three days there has been bread but grain has had to be forced from the producers. The requirements for the commune are eighty quintals per day to give a ration of 300 - 400 gr. per person daily. The longest haul for grain is from Caltanissetta. One Italian truck is available for hauling grain. Electric power, which comes from Alcamo, should be extended so that the flour mill can grind its flour during the day.

The docks were sabotaged by the enemy before the occupation. Eleven boats are available for a fishing fleet. They supply enough fish at present for the commune and they are accompanied by American troops who see that they follow instructions in regard to fishing area, curfew, etc.

the jail is filthy, all prisoners are earmarked for North Africa.

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Carabinieri: In general the carabinieri are considered suspect. The Major at Trapani is suspected of graft, particularly in the black market. There have been three heads, two already removed for participation in civilian looting.

Tobacco: Tobacco belonging to the Italian Army is reported to be stored in a "North Sicilian Port". The sum of 665,000 Lit. in postal money orders and bank drafts have been turned over to the C.A.O. by the tobacco distributors of the commune.

The C.A.O. commands highly the cooperation of the tactical troops.

6. CASTELVETRANO

C.A.O. (For Castelvetro, Campo Bello and Portanna): Capt. Lewis.

Street cleaning is inadequate.

The water supply is adequate but the sewage system is a matter of cesspools. The Carabinieri and civil police are cooperating. There

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The water supply is adequate but the sewage system is a matter of cesspools. The Carabinieri and civil police are cooperating. There has been one change made in the carabinieri. A central employment bureau has been established as well as a welfare agency. In the case of the latter, applicants for relief are classified in several categories, passed by a committee of leading citizens; when relief is given it is given through coupons for bread, fish and rent and these coupons are redeemed weekly by the community welfare organization.

Black Market: The black market has been in evidence but the C.A.O. held a conference of the biggest grain producers in order to explain general order number 3 and the results of this conference seem to be satisfactory up to now. The weakest point in the food situation is that of the baker whose operating costs at the present are not covered by the profit allowed.

Banks: The three banks in Castelvetro are (1) Banco di Sicilia, with lire 800,000 (2) The Cassa di Risparmio with lire 123,000 and (3) the Banco di Sicilia with lire 30,000.

CASTELVETRANO (Cont'd.)

Politics: No political activities are reported in Castelvetro. However, Portanna has been reported to have had Communist manifestos as well as activity by several other factions under a very weak mayor.

Food: There is no bread problem at Portanna which is self sufficient in regard to grain. The situation at Castelvetro and Campo Bello is not so satisfactory. Castelvetro has two trucks. Campo Bello and Portanna each have one.

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