

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

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10000/100/858

BILLETING, OTHER THAN AMGOT
SEPT. 1943

298

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

FOLIO	DATE	REF.	TO/FROM
1	12 Sep.	CAT/29	From SCAO Catania

3626

SUBJECT:- Billets.

To:-

Town Major,
Catania.

From:- Lt. Col. Wellesley,

S.C.A.O.

Province of Catania.

Our Ref:- CAT/29.
Your Ref:- 25/Billets/1.
Di:- 8 Sep 43.

HEADQUARTERS
H.Q.
69 15 SEP 43
372/HQ
AMGOT

14 SEP 1943

The house at the corner of the Viale Margherita and the Via Salvatore Tomaselli remained vacant for about a fortnight after the entry of the Allied Forces into Catania. During this time it was examined by various messes and units and was in every case turned down. During the same time I was pressed by the Archbishop to find a house for himself, his residence having been completely destroyed, and for various other bombed Ecclesiastical Offices in the town. With the full agreement of Brigadier Trollope, Commanding 86 Area and of the Town Major he was accordingly allotted the above mentioned house with a promise that he would not be disturbed. In view of the fact that the house has been given to the Archbishop for the use of himself and other ecclesiastical purposes, it falls, in my opinion, within the category of buildings contemplated in Section 429 of Chapter 14 of the M.M.L. which may only be used in case of operational necessity. It can hardly be contended that operational necessity exists any more now in Sicily.

I consider however, that the promise given to the Archbishop, with the full approval of the Military Authorities, constitutes a stronger ground for not expelling him from the house than the purely legal aspect of the matter. It should be noted, moreover, that the Archbishops in Sicily are directly dependent on the Vatican. The expulsion of the Archbishop might, therefore, lead to embarrassing political consequences.

In view of all these circumstances I regret that I cannot agree to the taking over of the house for the expansion of the R.A.F. Hospital.

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In view of all these circumstances I regret that I cannot agree to the taking over of the house for the expansion of the R.A.F. Hospital.

AMGOT H.Q.
Catania.
12 Sep 43.

Copy to:-

AMGOT Liaison,
15 Army Group.

Wing Commander,
Commanding No. 25 (R.A.F.) M.F.H.
Desert Air Force.

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

New file - 'Ballating - Other than Angot'
J. Weller

3025

