

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

ACC

10000/100/859

21 pp.

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

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TRANSMISSION OF CORRESPONDENCE
TO THE VATICAN
JULY-OCT. 1943

21 pp.

FOLIO	DATE	REF.	TO/FROM	
1	-	-	Cardinals Luitano	Transmission
2	31 July	HQ 7 Army	SCAO Palermo	"
3	30 "	-	Lo. Freedom	Message
4	4 Aug	MA 352	From: SCAO Syracuse	Correspondence
5+6	4 "	SC/6	Memo from CSO to PCSO	
7	-	7982	From: AFHQ	Communication
8	5 Aug	Aug 63	Lo. "	"
9	8 "	19/40	" MGS, AFHQ	Correspondence
10	10 "	Cite FHMGs	From: AFHQ	re 8
11	"	Memo from CSO to	Lo. Liaison Sec	Communication
12	21 "	-	Lo. SCAOs	"
13	20 "	19/40	" MGS, AFHQ	"
14	22 "	19/40	" "	Mail
15	28 "	19/40	SCAO Japan	Transmission
16	27 "	-	Lo. MGS.	Mail
17	1 Sep.	-	" "	"
18	4 "	19/40	" "	"
19	6 "	19/40	From: SCAO Syracuse	"
20	14 "	19/40	" " Catania	"
21	3 "	POS/307	To RCAO Region II	
22	6 "	CAT/74		
23	6 "	CZ/ch/3		
24	14 "	19/40		

8	5 Aug	7982	From: AFHQ	Communication				
9	8 "	August 63	To: "	"				
10	10 "	19/40	" MGS, AFHQ	Correspondence				
11	11 "	Cite FHMS	From: AFHQ	re 8				
12	21 "	Memo from CSO to Capt Lalbot.	Liaison Sec	Communication				
13	20 "	-	To: SCADs	"				
14	22 "	19/40	" MGS, AFHQ	"				
15	28 "	19/40	" "	Mail				
16	27 "	19/40	SCAO Trapani	Transmission				
17	1 Sep.	-	To: MGS.	Mail				
18	4 "	19/40	" "	"				
19	6 "	19/40	" "	"				
20	14 "	19/40	From: SCAD Syracuse	"				
21	3 "	POS/507	" " Cetana	"				
22	6 "	CAT/74	To RAO Region II	"				
23	6 "	02/CH/3	To MGS. AFHQ	"				
24	14 "	19/40						

Enclosed Communications.

Military Government Section, A. P. H. C.

24
10/22/40.
12. Oct. 1.

1. Herewith enclosed is communication from the Archbishop of Catania to his Holiness the Pope.
2. It is requested that this communication be forwarded through channels.

MA 11/10

23 refer

For L. H. UD 9649 ps.
CHARLES M. STODOL,
Colonel, U. S. A.
Chief Staff Officer.

CZ/Ch/3 - 6 Oct 43

TO * RCAO, Region 2
FROM - PCAO, CATANZARO

23

Letter for His Holiness the Pope.

May the attached be transmitted, please,
through diplomatic or other channels, at the request
of the Archbishop of CATANZARO.

J. E. Holmstrom
Major, RE
PCAO

AMGOT H.Q.,
Palermo
.....



AMGOT H.Q.,
REGION 2.
8th October 1943.
.....

The a/m letter is forwarded.



L. B. Ladys
Lieut. Col., U.S.,
AMGOT H.Q. REGION 2.

SUBJECT:- Correspondence.

Our Ref:- CAT/74

To:- H.Q. AMGOT,
PALERMO.

From:- Lt. Col. Wellesley,
S.C.A.O.
Province of Catania.

I enclose a packet received from the Arch Bishop
of Catania for transmission to the Vatican.



Catania.
6 Sept 43.
Encl:

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

5647

SUBJECT:- Communications with the V. H. Q.

H. Q.,
15 Army Group.

The attached two letters are forwarded to you for onward transmission through A.F.H.Q.; H. Q. AMGOT letter 19/HQ dated 29 Aug 43 refers.

14
Syracuse.
3 Sep 43.
JRG

2001/F 19/HQ
HEADQUARTERS
5 SEP 1943
AMGOT
POS/507

14
Lt-Col.
S.C.A.O.
A.M.G.O.T.

5846

AMGOT/19/HQ
AMGOT HQ PALERMO
14 September 1943

20

SUBJECT: Mail for Vatican

TO: Military Government Section, AFHQ

1. Forwarded herewith are a number of packets addressed to the Vatican. Some of them contain postcards etc. for onward transmission. If this is in order, the packages can perhaps be forwarded through the usual channels, if this is still practicable.

2. One of the large envelopes is marked "Diplomatic correspondence - Not to be censored." We have no knowledge here of any arrangement to provide for such a facility.

W. H. Reed.
1st Lt. Colonel,
for C.S.O.

5645

FWC 2945
AMGOT/19/10
AMGOT HQ SICILY
6 September 1943
19

SUBJECT: Mail for Vatican

TO: Military Government Section, AFHQ

Attached is a letter to the Vatican from the Bishop of Trapani for favour of transmission through the appropriate channels.

h *Charles M. Spofford*
CHARLES M. SPOFFORD,
Lt. Colonel, G.S.C.,
CHIEF STAFF OFFICER.

Incl

5644

18

AMGOT/19/HQ

AMGOT HQ SICILY

4 September 1943

File
SUBJECT: Mail for Vatican

TO : M.G.S., A.F.H.Q.

Forwarded herewith are four envelopes containing lists of Italian Prisoners, etc. to the Vatican by the Archbishop of Palermo, for favour of transmission through appropriate channels.

ds
CHARLES M. SPOFFORD
Lt. Col., G. S. C.
Chief Staff Officer.

Encls. - 4

3642

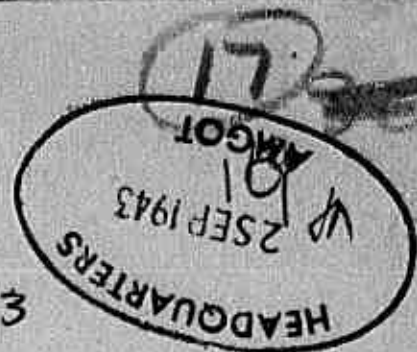
CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICE

PROVINCE OF TRAPANI

13 Via Regina Margherita

TRAPANI (Sicily)

Sept 1-43



Memo to Lt. Col. Spofford:

The enclosed letter is
from the Bishop of Trapani
for transmission to
The Vatican.

Action at
file 19

Lt. Col. J. E. Thomas
SCAO - Trapani

584

File 1423 16
~~25~~
Subject:- Mail for Vatican.

File No. 19/HQ
ANGOT HQ., SICILY.
27th August 1943.

To:- M.G.S.
A.F.H.Q.

Attached hereto is a letter to the Vatican from the Archbishop of Messina for favour of transmission through the appropriate channels.

JB
J CHARLES M. SPOFFORD
Lieut Colonel G.S.O.
Chief Staff Officer.

P/A 29/8
EG

0841

SUBJECT:- Encl/ d Communications.

Military Government Section,
A.F.H.Q.

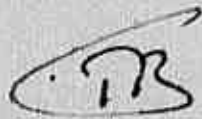
AMGOT/19/HQ.

AMCOT H.Q. SICILY.

28. Aug. 43.

1. Herewith two packets containing communications from the Archbishop of Palermo addressed to His Holiness the Pope.
2. It is requested that these communications be forwarded through the usual channels.

By command of the Chief Civil Affairs Officer.


CHARLES M. SPOFFORD.
Lt. Col. G.S.C.
Chief Staff Officer.

P/A
29/8
ef
38411

14
19/HQ.

AMGOT HQ.

22 Aug. 43.

Subject:- Communications with the Vatican.

To : S.C.A.O.
Agrigento
Caltanissetta
Catania
Enna
Palermo
Ragusa
Siracusa
Trapani
Messina
AMGOT Liaison - 15 A.G.

1. Arrangements have been made, with the approval of the Military Governor, for the Archbishops and Bishops in Sicily to communicate with the Vatican.
2. All letters will be sent through S.C.A.O.s to AMGOT HQ. or AMGOT LIAISON 15 A.G. (whichever is most convenient) for forwarding to A.F.H.Q. for onward transmission. Replies will follow the same route.

Copy to: M.G.S. - A.F.H.Q.
For information w.r.t.
AMGOT 63 of Aug. 8 in
reply to your 7982 of
Aug. 5.

CHARLES M. SPOTTORD,
Lt. Col. G. S. C.,
Chief Staff Officer.

5039

File 19

~~17~~
13

~ Army Group
APO 777

20 August 1943

SUBJECT: Inclosed Communications.

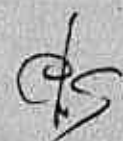
TO : Liaison Section, 15 Army Group.

AFHQ, MOS
NORTH AFRICA

1. Herewith two packets containing communications from the Archbishop of Palermo addressed to His Holiness the Pope.

2. It is requested that these communications be forwarded through the usual channels.

By command of the Chief Civil Affairs Officer:


CHARLES M. SPOFFORD
Lt. Col., GSC
Chief Staff Officer

5638

AMGOT/19/HQ

21 August 1943

Memorandum for: Captain Talbot

Will you see whether we have gotten out any instructions on communications with the Vatican. If not, prepare directive to S.C.A.O.s advising that Archbishops in Sicily may communicate with the Vatican through AMGOT; letters turned in should be forwarded to this HQ or to 15 Army Group for transmission to Algiers.

CS
CHARLES M. SPOFFORD
Lt. Col., G.S.C.
Chief Staff Officer

AMGOT HQ
15 Army Group

Done See 18
✓

3637

re. Paper

19



SECRET.

CIPHER MESSAGE
IN

FOLIO NO 00463
11TH AUG 43

FROM : AFHQ SIGNED CINC
TO : MAIN 15 ARMY GROUP FOR AMG
ORIG. NO: CITE FHMGS

TOO NIL.
THI 0909B/11
TOR NIL.

PLEASE REPLY SOONEST TO OUR 7982 OF 5 AUGUST.

AMGOT 3 ACTION.

ACTION

SMC. 1112B/11
T.T. 1420B/11. JGD.

Replied to at 9

N.A. *CS* 15B.

P/A
15/8

5636

Subject: Correspondence - forwarding of.

ANGOT/19/HQ.

10 Aug. 43.

40

10

M.C.S.
A.F.H.Q.

1. The enclosed letters from the Metropolitan Chapter of the Syracuse Cathedral, concerning destruction of Churches in Syracuse are forwarded for transmission through appropriate channels.

2. A translation of the letter is given hereunder:

TRANSLATION.

"The Metropolitan Chapter of the Syracuse Cathedral wishes to inform the Italian and German Military Commands through the international Red Cross in Geneva that during the early hours of the morning of the 17th July, 1943, the aviation of these two countries dropped large bombs on the inhabited centres and suburbs and destroyed entirely the artistic church of Santa Maria del Miracoli, built in 1501, and many other houses belonging to peaceful and non-enemy citizens.

These ruins come and add themselves to the precedent ones (the Duomo was hit, and wholly or partly, another ten churches) increasing the destruction of this unhappy city and the sufferances of its miserable inhabitants, who have remained in these days without bread, water, light or roof.

I would like to add that a few British ships leave the harbour carrying Italian P.O.W's; if bombed, many of these miserable prisoners would lose their lives in an atrocious way."

T. BARLEY-SMITH.
Lieut-Colonel.
S.C.S.O.

ANGOT H.Q.
15. ARMY GROUP.

Copy to: S.C.A.O. Syracuse Province.

For information with reference to your memo SC/6 of 4 Aug. 43.

19/HQ

File

9

AMGOT PILOT

AMG 081200B

FREEDOM

AMGOT 63

Your 7982 of 5 Aug. From C.C.A.O.

Have arranged with approval Military Governor extend facilities communication Cardinal Archbishop to Archbishops and Bishops in occupied part of island using AMGOT and army delivery channels.

Military Governor agrees communication between Vatican and Cardinal Archbishop. Agree postal and telegraphic communication with Vatican through ALGERIA in first instance. Have agreed extend facilities Cardinal Archbishop for touring in island. Prefer NO repeat NO direct radio communication between Cardinal Archbishop and Vatican until after forthcoming amphibious operation but no objection his receiving messages direct.

5834

~~SECRET~~

IMPORTANT
CIPHER MESSAGE
16

HEADQUARTERS
7. AUG 1943

FOLIO 886
5 AUG 43. 28

AMGOT

FROM: SIGNED EISENHOWER CITE FMCS
TO: 15TH ARMY GROUP FOR AMGOT
ORIG NO: 7842

TOC: 15433/06
THI: ~~15433/06~~
TOR: 0335B

AQUAR TELEGRAPHS THAT STATE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED FROM PAPAL SECRETARY OF STATE THROUGH APOSTOLIC DELEGATE IN WASHINGTON A COMMUNICATION FROM THE POPE REQUESTING THAT MEASURES BE INSTITUTED TO PROVIDE SAFE POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH COMMUNICATION AS WELL AS RADIO CONTACT BETWEEN THE VATICAN AND THE ECCLESIASTICAL GOVERNMENT IN SICILY.

THERE ARE 14 BISHOPS AND 5 ARCHBISHOPS IN THE ISLAND. IT IS URGED IN THIS REQUEST THAT THE RIGHT TO COMMUNICATE WITH THESE BISHOPS BE RESPECTED. WE SHOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS REQUEST. POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED THROUGH ALGIERS.

SMC DISTRIBUTION:

AMGOT 3 ACTION
B.G.S.(1) 1

SMC: 04308/06
T.T. 04390/63 JFJ

IMPORTANT

ACTION

To SEC. ACTION
C 30 at 9

5633 8/8

7850

7

Attached please

be, as per the . 2

Suggest it go via 15
of 9 15

Cherish by next

Avon de R. Courrier.

of

ACT:- Correspondence - forwarding of

19/HQ
8 AUG 1943

SC/6

H.Q.,
A.M.G.O.T.

AMGOT

The enclosed letters from the Metropolitan Chapter of the Syracuse Cathedral, concerning destruction of Churches in Syracuse, have been handed to the C.A.O. in this city for transmission to the International Red Cross at Geneva, and the Secretary of State at the Vatican.

2. There appears below a translation of the contents of the two letters in question.
3. If you find this request to be in order, it would be appreciated if you will arrange to forward the letters to their destinations, as desired.

TRANSLATION.

"The Metropolitan Chapter of the Syracuse Cathedral wishes to inform the Italian and German Military Commands through the International Red Cross in Geneva that during the early hours of the morning of the 17th July, 1943, the aviation of these two countries dropped large bombs on the inhabited centres and suburbs and destroyed entirely the artistic church of Santa Maria del Miracoli, built in 1501, and many other houses belonging to peaceful and non-enemy citizens.

These ruins come and add themselves to the precedent ones (the Duomo was hit, and wholly or partly, another ten churches) increasing the destruction of this unhappy city and the sufferances of its miserable inhabitants, who have remained in these days without bread, water, light or roof.

It would like to add that a few British ships leave the harbour carrying Italian P.O.W's; if bombed, many of these miserable prisoners would lose their lives in an atrocious way."

SYRACUSE.
4 Aug 43.
JRG.

St. Col.
S.C.A.O.

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TRANSLATION.

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These ruins come and add themselves to the precedent ones (the Duomo was hit, and wholly or partly, another ten churches) increasing the destruction of this unhappy city and the sufferances of its miserable inhabitants, who have remained in these days without bread, water, light or roof.

It would like to add that a few British ships leave the harbour carrying Italian P.O.W's; if bombed, many of these miserable prisoners would lose their lives in an atrocious way."

SYRACUSE.
4 Aug 43.
JRG.

Handwritten signature
Lt-Col.
S.C.A.O.
A.M.G.O.T.

TO SEZ

Copy to:- 15 Army Group.

MAJOR PIRIE

action at 5

Handwritten initials

0037

6/2

SUPPOT:- Correspondence forwarding of,

HEADQUARTERS

H.Q.,
A.M.G.O.T.

9 AUG 1943
19/46
AMGOT

SO/6

7 AUG 1943
1230h

1. The enclosed letters from the Metropolitan Chapter of the Syracuse Cathedral, concerning destruction of Churches in Syracuse, have been handed to the G.A.O. in this city for transmission to the International Red Cross at Geneva, and the Secretary of State at the Vatican.

2. There appears below a translation of the contents of the two letters in question.

3. If you find this request to be in order, it would be appreciated if you will arrange to forward the letters to their destinations, as desired.

TRANSLATION.

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These ruins come and add themselves to the precedent ones (the Duomo was hit, and wholly or partly, another ten churches) increasing the destruction of this unhappy city and the sufferances of its miserable inhabitants, who have remained in these days without bread, water, light or roof.

It would like to add that a few British ships leave the harbour carrying Italian P.O.W's; if bombed, many of these miserable prisoners would lose their lives in an atrocious way."

SYRACUSE.
4 Aug 43.

Lt-Col.
S.C.A.O.
A.M.G.O.T.

Handwritten signature

5

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3. If you find this request to be in order, it would be appreciated if you will arrange to forward the letters to their destinations, as desired.

TRANSLATION.

"The Metropolitan Chapter of the Syracuse Cathedral wishes to inform the Italian and German Military Commands through the International Red Cross in Geneva that during the early hours of the morning of the 17th July, 1943, the aviation of these two countries dropped large bombs on the inhabited centres and suburbs and destroyed entirely the artistic church of Santa Maria del Miracoli, built in 1504, and many other houses belonging to peaceful and non-enemy citizens.

These ruins come and add themselves to the precedent ones (the Duomo was hit, and wholly or partly, another ten churches) increasing the destruction of this unhappy city and the sufferances of its miserable inhabitants, who have remained in these days without bread, water, light or roof.

It would like to add that a few British ships leave the harbor carrying Italian P.O.W's; if bombed, many of these miserable prisoners would lose their lives in an atrocious way."

SYRACUSE.
4 AUG 43.
JRG.

Hamphrey
— Lt-Col.
S.O.A.O.
A.M.G.O.T.

Copy to:- 15 Army Group.

3001

ARMY FORM C.		MESSAGE FORM 4/8		Register No.
Call.	Srl. No.	Priority	Trans- mission Instructions	
Above this line for Signals use only.				
From (A) MAIN 15TH ARMY GP		Office Date Stamp		
ORIGINATOR.		Date-Time of Origin.		
HEADQUARTERS 45 D		19/40		
8 AUG 43		AMGOT		
To		Message Instructions		
FREEDOM		GR		
(W) For Information (INFO).				
(Internal Distn: Comv to AMGOT).				

ORIGINATOR'S No. MA 352

SECRET (.) For HQS from GCAO (.) Request following message from Cardinal LAVITRANO (.) Archbishop of PALERMO (.) be sent as addressed through appropriate channels (.) Begins (.) To His Eminence Cardinal MAGLIONE Secretary of State of His Holiness VATICAN CITY (.) I pray you to assure the Holy Father that the occupation of this Archdiocese of PALERMO has taken place without any unpleasant incident (.) clergy and The populace is quiet (.) I wish to inform the Comendatore CAIOIA (.) the Bishop of ISCHIA (.) and my sister FRANCESCA IN PERIO (.) that they need have no anxiety for my person and that I am being treated with the greatest regard and special courtesy (.) MARIO CROSTAPESA is with me (.) I invoke the comforting Apostolic Blessing (.) This (.) Original in ITALIAN (.) Above is ENGLISH text (.) Transmission approved by C-14-C and GOC-14-C

SECRET (.) For use from GCAO (.) Request following message from Cardinal LAVITRANO (.) Archbishop of PALERMO (,) be sent as addressed through appropriate channels (.) Begins (.) To His Excellence Cardinal MAGLIONE Secretary of State of His Holiness VATICAN CITY (.) I pray you to assure the Holy Father that the occupation of this Archdiocese of PALERMO has taken place without any unpleasant incident (.) The presence is quiet (.) I wish to inform the Comandatore CAIOLA (,) the Bishop of ISCHIA (,) and my sister FRANCESCA in PERIO (,) that they need have no anxiety for my person and that I am being treated with the greatest regard and special courtesy (.) MARIO OROSTAROSA is with me (.) I invoke the comforting Apostolic Blessing (.) Ends (.) Original in ITALIAN (.) Above is ENGLISH text (.) Translation approved by C-in-C and GOC-in-C

603

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means except <u>WIRELESS</u> .	If liable to be intercepted or fall into enemy hands this message must be sent IN CIPHER.	Originators Instructions. Degree of Priority.	THI OR TOR
Signed.	Signed. <i>Wm. G. L.</i>	<i>Important</i>	TIME CLEARED.

SECRET

3

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
Civil Affairs Section
APO 758

CP/pm



30 July 1943

Memorandum:

To : Chief of Staff.

File
CS
Tel. sent 1st
Aug. 15. Army
2/8/43
C.S. Smith
Sec. A.

Enclosed is a letter which the Cardinal LAVITRANO of the Arch-
bishopric of Palermo would appreciate Lt. General PATTON sending to His
Holiness the Pope. I already spoke to the General and it was his intention
to transmit it to General EISENHOWER.

Charles Poletti

CHARLES POLETTI
Lt. Colonel, AUS
Senior Civil Affairs Officer

C.C.A.O.

Must his go to A.F.H.Q. just?

(15)

DCBO _____ L

See any further action?

5624

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758

31 July 1943

mlh

SUBJECT: Transmission of Telegram.

TO: General Officer Commanding, 15th Army Group.

1. The inclosed telegram, both original and translation, was received at this headquarters through the Civil Affairs Section, with the request that it be sent to His Holiness the Pope, Vatican City.

2. It is the opinion of this headquarters that the request should be approved, both because there seems to be no controversial matter in the letter, and because of the approved policy of cooperation, insofar as is possible, and is not inconsistent with the military situation with the Church.

G. S. Patton Jr.
G. S. PATTON, JR.,
Lieut. General, U.S. Army,
Commanding.

3628

ROVADO DI PALERMO

TELEGRAMMA

Eminentissimo Cardinale Maglione
Segretario di Stato di Sua Santità
Città del Vaticano

Prego assicurare Santo Padre che l'occupazione di questa Archidiocesi Palermitana è avvenuta senza dolorosi incidenti. Clero popolo sono tranquilli. Desidero far conoscere al Commendatore Caiola, al Vescovo di Ischia e mia sorella Francesca in Terio che non devono avere nessuna preoccupazione per la mia persona che è stata trattata coi massimi riguardi e specialino cortesie. Mario Crostarosa trovasi con me. Invoco confortatrice Apostolica Benedizione.

Cardinale Lavitrano

5627

[0 9 7 6]