

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

785015

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The food situation which had reached a deplorable state before the allied occupation, owing to failure of the Fascist authorities to cope with it, has now improved. The bread ration has been increased from 150 grammes a person per day to 200 grammes. Meat which was rationed at 100 grammes a person per week by the Fascists was unobtainable by the public for months, except by paying exorbitant prices on the black market, whereas now it is on sale in the shops and can be purchased at fixed prices. Local fishermen have resumed their activities and fresh fish in fair quantities is on sale in the town and villages. Vegetables and fruit are in good supply.



S.M. GARBUTT
Chief "D" Section
P.M.B. Sicily

1, Via Giostra
Palermo
17 September 1943

Distribution:

C-2 15th A-G
C-2 7th Army H.Q.
ALGOT
File

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S. M. GARDUTT

S. M. GARDUTT
Chief "P" Section
P.M.B. Sicily

1, Via Giostra
Palermo
17 September 1943

Distribution:

G-2 15th A-G
G-2 7th Army H.Q.
ALGOT
File

R/B

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10000/100/864

15TH ARMY GROUPS, PWB REPORTS
SEPT. 1943

42

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

FOLIO	DATE	REF.	TO/FROM
1-2	17/9	D/2	"D" Section, P.W.B. Sicily

5721

C.S.O. *CS*

3

D.C.C.A.O. ✓

To see

CS
15/9

CS

[Signature]

Col. Blough *see it to*

P/A 21/9
CS

5721

[Faint text]

15th. ARMY GROUP
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH

OUR REF: D/2

Subject: "D" Report

To: G-2 15th. A-G (For G.C., P.H.B., Attention:
Head "D" Section) -

HEADQUARTERS

18 SEP 1943
378/HQ

AMGOT

I arrived at Palermo Friday afternoon the 11 th. inst, and was instructed by Lt. Com. Martelli to remain here pro tem. instead of proceeding to Catania as per original instructions of 2nd Sept. 1943.

I am therefore sending on this preliminary report on the present conditions of life in town here.

There is evidence everywhere of eagerness on the part of Sicilians to co-operate with AMG, and the manner in which local working squads are clearing up the debris in all quarters goes further to prove this.

A considerable number of families who had left the city during the bombing period returned as soon as possible after the arrival of United Nations Forces, many others are returning daily and transports of all kinds loaded with household effects are to be seen coming in from every direction.

Business houses which had closed down under Fascist Chaos have reopened and are now preparing to resume business. Numerous shops are open and doing a good trade, whilst others are being speedily refitted and will soon be offering the public a variety of goods which have been conspicuous by their absence for many months. Banks have re-opened and provision has been made by which the withdrawal of limited amounts (at present up to 5000 lire) may be

New file "SAD-PWB
Reports"

378/HQ 2

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Public offices have resumed their normal functions, and the Civil Police are performing their usual duties directing the traffic, etc.

Water and Electricity supplies are working with regularity (they are occasional defects which do not cause serious inconvenience). Many train and bus services have been restored and people in the outlying districts are once again able to travel to and fro. "Carrozze" in very considerable numbers are also available for hire in all quarters of the town.