

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

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CONFERENCES & MEETINGS, GENERAL
AUG., OCT. 1943

428

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FOLIO	DATE	REF.	TO/FROM
1A 1-2	18 AUG 21 DEC.	263 HQ	Minutes of Liaison Meeting

16 Army Groups.

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MINUTES OF LIAISON MEETING HELD AT AMGOT H.Q., at 100 hrs 21 OCT 43.

Present:

Major Owen Griffiths - N.P.M. Siracusa - Chairman.
 Major A.W. Rowlerson - S.C.A.P.O. Siracusa.
 Capt. Robinson. - P.S.O.
 Capt. Ellam. - 55 Base Area.
 Capt. Barron. - C.A.P.O. Siracusa.
 Capt. Rutherford. - [illegible]

New file Camp Hedges - General

1. P.O.W. - Hospital.

Capt. Barron reported that only 10 to 12 Sicilian members of the Italian army were found nightly arriving by train at Siracusa. This was a very big reduction from the previous week when as many as 200 were picked up. To date all P.O.W. had been Sicilian, not one resident on the mainland had been found.

2. P.O.W. - Hospital.

Capt. Robinson said that the position at the Italian Red Cross Hospital at Siracusa was unsatisfactory. Frequent escapes were taking place, and quite often, the Italian Director of the hospital had not reported the escape for 2 or 3 days.

55 Base Area were taking up the matter as there was a possibility of the Director of the Hospital being tainted.

3. Petrol.

Some discussion took place on the supplies of petrol which were in the hands of civilians in the Avola district. The committee were told that much of this petrol came from a sunken ship in the harbour, and Capt. Ellam stated he would contact SIB to see what could be done in the matter.

4. Passes and Permits.

Capt. Robinson said that GII No. 1 District had expressed his opinion, but it was no more than that, that travel passes for the whole of the island could be abolished. No order to this effect had been issued.

5. Explosives.

Capt. Barron reported that boys in the Belvedere district were selling cordite which they had found in the fields, and the committee were told there was still large quantities of abandoned ammunition and explosives in the Province. Capt. Ellam said that the dumps were being cleared.

6. Political Meetings.

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6. Political Meetings.

Capt. Robinson said that GII Ib had said that political meetings should not be generally suppressed. It was obvious that any meeting with a Fascist flavour should not be allowed, but politics should not be entirely banned.

7. Public Broadcasts.

The committee considered the possibilities of putting into working order the broadcast distributing system in the town with a view to the dissemination of news to the public and also to the troops. Newspapers were few and it was thought that some means could be found of keeping the public informed of what is happening. This method would probably be one which were frequently circulating.

Capt Barron said he would speak to the Civil Engineer of the town and ask him to get the system working; Capt Barron would then communicate with Capt Ellam.

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C. Discipline.

Capt. Barf said that there had been a number of cases of petty larceny from the theatre. Electric light bulbs and other small items were frequently stolen.

Lieut. Owen Griffiths said he would arrange for the theatre to be patrolled when shows were taking place.

9. Cinemas.

The committee were told that the cinema in the Piazza Duomo was now open to troops on 4 days a week, and 3 days a week to civilians.

10. Restaurants.

Arrangements are being made for the opening up of a buffet in the Central Station Simacusa, for supplying light refreshments to troops in transit.

11. Officers Club.

The Committee discussed for some time the question of the formation of an Officers Club. It was felt the facilities for the officers to obtain refreshments in the town were inadequate and Capt. Ellam stated he would raise the matter with the D.A.Q.M.G.

It was probable that something could be done about this matter very shortly.

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

File
AMGOT/263/HQ

18 August 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Brigadier Coxwell Rogers - Chief Engineer - 15th Army Group
 Colonel Gar Davidson - Engineer - 7th U.S. Army
 Colonel Foley - 15th Army Group
 Colonel Colonna - 3rd Air Service Area Command
 Lt. Col. J.F.R. Seitz - AMGOT Hq.

At a conference held in the office of the Engineer, 7th U.S. Army, on August 14, 1943 with the above mentioned officers present, the following agreements were reached.

POWER

- (a) That military demands for power will be given first priority.
- (b) That power is an Island wide problem and must be co-ordinated by 15th Army Group and AMGOT.
- (c) That all non-essential uses of power would cease immediately. AMGOT for action.
- (d) In the interest of co-ordination and control, 7th and 8th Armies would contact AMGOT prior to opening new factories etc.
- (e) That all concerned must work to the common end of putting into operation the Island wide networks.
- (f) That AMGOT would, after its survey of the Catania situation, submit to 15th Army Group a list of material and labor necessary to re-habilitate the plants and transmission lines. 15th Army Group would then allocate tasks and outlay of materials.
- (g) That the 8th Army would be responsible for coaling the Catania plant and the 7th Army the Palermo and Port Empedocle plants. AMGOT would be notified in sufficient time to make other arrangements when the military had lost primary interest.

RAILROADS

- (a) That the 8th Army would send AMGOT a list of sections or complete lines of standard or narrow gauge in which they had no interest of operation.
- (b) That the 7th U.S. Army had interest in the operation of the following lines only:
 - (1) Caltanissetta - Pirato
 - (2) Licata - Agrigento - Palermo - San Stefano
- (c) That 7th Army was using all troop labor on Railroads.
- (d) That the 8th Army is employing as much civilian labor as possible.

ROADS & BRIDGES

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ROADS & BRIDGES

- (a) That the 7th and 8th Army are responsible for maintenance and upkeep of roads and bridges in which they have primary interest.
- (b) That roads and bridges must be repaired prior to the coming of the heavy rain.
- (c) That the Cantone system of road maintenance would continue.
- (d) That the armies could and would contact nearest AMGOT officers for available records on flash floods etc. etc.
- (e) That the armies would contact S.C.A.O. or C.A.O. for extra labor on roads. That such labor would be paid the prevailing wage scale thru normal channels but Engineers would supervise labor.
- (f) That AMGOT would immediately start repair of roads bridges ~~thru~~ out the Island where the military had no interest. No time schedule could be promised on this for labor, materials and tool question were unknown.
- (g) Repair of bridges would proceed with road work.
- (h) AMGOT would submit a list of needed materials for this work to 15th Army Group, who, would help as much as possible.

J. R. SEITZ,

Lt. Colonel, G.S.C.,
Director of Civilian Supply
and Resources.

[1695]

