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WAR OFFICE, CIVIL AFFAIRS BULLETINS
SEPT. - NOV. 1943

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SECRETCIVIL AFFAIRS BULLETIN No. 2.25th September, 1943

THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL POINTS HAVE BEEN EXTRACTED FROM REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE PAST WEEK. THEY ARE FURNISHED WITHOUT COMMENT. THEY ARE GROUPED IN PARAGRAPHS CORRESPONDING TO THE SECTIONS INVOLVING THE VARIOUS FUNCTIONS OF CIVIL AFFAIRS STAFF OFFICERS AS Laid DOWN IN THE MILITARY MANUAL OF CIVIL AFFAIRS.

GENERAL

1. The civil population of a conquered enemy territory at first greeted the Allied troops with enthusiasm, but this quickly wore off. Complaints regarding the shortage of food, inevitable delay in restarting transportation facilities, civil telecommunication network etc., soon arose.

Although the populace had accepted the need for priority of military over civil requirements with a good grace, it was considered probable that complaints would increase rather than diminish. This was because the 'liberation' propaganda had caused the population to look upon themselves as quasi-freely, and to demand things rather than farm upon the occupying forces for favour.

2. Appendix 1 gives the views of the younger Pliny on Military Government as practised in Greece in 200 A.D. They are very apposite today.

PUBLIC SAFETY3. Police

General Gurneo commanding the Carabinieri in Sicily sent the following letter to the G.O.C.-in-Chief and Military Governor, in reply to a letter received by him from the Military Governor.

"Dear General

The Carabinieri Sicily, to whom I immediately made known the contents of your message, have asked me to express their gratitude for the sentiments which you have shown towards them.

I can assure you that the G.O.C.-in-Chief, whose unshakable loyalty and devotion to duty, whose duty is the maintenance of public order, the security of the citizens and the safeguarding of property, will give their faithful contribution towards keeping good order among the people of Sicily, as requested by you."

General Commanding
Carabinieri
Ernesto Corbino.

SECRET

1. The civil population of a conquered enemy territory at first greeted the Allied troops with enthusiasm, but this quickly wore off. Complaints regarding the shortage of food, inevitable delay in restarting transportation facilities, civil telecommunications network etc., soon arose.

Although the population had accepted the need for priority of military over civil requirements with a good grace, it was considered probable that complaints would increase rather than diminish. This was because the 'liberation' propaganda had caused the population to look upon themselves as quasi-freely, and to demand things rather than pass upon the occupying forces for favors.

2. Appendix A gives the views of the younger Flory on Military Government as practiced in Greece in 200 A.D. They are very opposite to-day.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

3. Police

General Barlingo commanding the Carabinieri in Sicily sent the following letter to the G.O.C.-in-Command and Military Governor, in reply to a letter received by him from the Military Governor.

"Dear General

The Carabinieri Regli, to whom I immediately made known the contents of your message, have asked me to express their gratitude for the sentiments which you have shown towards them.

I can assure you that the G.O.C.-in-Command, whose unshakable loyalty and devotion to duty, whose duty is the maintenance of public order, the security of the citizens and the safeguarding of property, will give their faithful contribution towards keeping good order among the people of Sicily, as requested by you.

General Commanding
Ernesto Barlingo.

4. Maintenance of Law and Order

A risk was taken, justified in this case by events, in sending single S.O.G.s. to take over large districts with little or no transport, from the first moment of landing.

No case of hostility or even discourtesy occurred, nevertheless the risk should not be taken as a precedent, even in other parts of Italy.

5./

5. It might become necessary to provide guard companies for reasons of prestige and overtly to display the authority of Military Government, in areas where troops could not be quartered when occupation was complete.

So far no combat troops had had to be used for this purpose, though patrols in that area had been both welcome and helpful to U.S. Staff Officers.

CIVIL DEFENSE

6. In one dock town no agreed air or sea-rail warning existed, and the sound of a gun out to sea would cause an immediate down-tools by some 700 Italian workers, leading on an estimate some 5 hours per night - or 14,700 man hours per week.

There was no co-ordination between the extinguishing of lights on land in the dock-areas and lights on merchant ships alongside the quay, which frequently remained full on.

FIREFIGHTING

7. The responsibility for Civil Defence in one recently occupied enemy territory rested entirely with C.M., and co-ordination was lacking between this and the military P.M.D.

Military units had in some cases interfered with the Civil Fire Service, vehicles and buildings had been requisitioned and the service rendered ineffective.

8. The civil fire brigade at one big town was efficient and fairly well equipped, but the Civil Defence organization was almost non-existent. There were no rescue services or fire-wards, no reporting and no control centres.

Wardens had not been appointed under C.M. police control.

9. Lack of pre-operational planning as regards Civil Defence and Fire Service was very evident. In only two cases were P.M.D. Services ready for operation.

Had any serious incendiary air raid been made the existing military and civil fire services would have been quickly overwhelmed.

10. The military fire service at one captured port was inadequately supplied with fire-fighting equipment and in particular was short of 'foam'. This had most unfortunate results.

An enemy rail punctured a petrol pipeline on a quayside, flooding the surface of the quay and filling up all the pavements within it with petrol. This quay was the only one which the port commandant suitable for unloading ammunition, and while this was being done a small fire occurred.

The quay caught fire and kept burning into flames. Eventually it had

in the dock-are and lights on merchant ships alongside the quay, which frequently remained full on.

FIRE SERVICES

7. The responsibility for Civil Defence in the recently occupied enemy territory rested entirely with C.I., and co-ordination was lacking between this and the military P.I.D.

Military units had in some cases interfered with the Civil Fire Service, vehicles and buildings had been requisitioned and the service rendered ineffective.

8. The civil fire brigade at one big town was efficient and fairly well equipped, but the Civil Defence organization was almost non-existent. There were no reserve services for fire-wards, no reporting and no control centres.

Warburg had not been appointed under C.I., police control.

9. Lack of pre-arranged planning as regards Civil Defence and Fire Services was very evident. In only two cases were P.I.D. Services ready for operation.

Had any serious incendiary air raids been made the existing military and civil fire services would have been quickly overwhelmed.

10. The military fire services at one captured port was inadequately supplied with fire-fighting equipment and in particular was short of 'pumps'. This had most unfortunate results.

An enemy raid punctured a petrol pipeline on a quayside, flooding the surface of the quay and filling up all the services within it with petrol. This was the only one which the port possessed suitable for unloading ammunition, and while this was being done a small fire occurred.

The quay caught fire and kept burning into flames. Eventually it had to be abandoned for three days, causing a shortage of ammunition at a most critical period of operations, and delaying our advance.

Need for co-ordination of all fire fighting services and resources under one head was much in evidence in one Naval Port area. In some shortage existed, which was not relieved until an Italian Fire Fleet was got into action.

The Naval Fire Marshal recommended the inclusion of a fire fleet with a Port Assault Force in all future operations.

(NOTE: A committee is now sitting to settle the future organization and exact responsibilities of the Army Fire Service.)

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES

PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES11. Roads

The Army was very eager to hand over second-class roads to G.A. traffic as soon as possible, retaining first-class roads for operational needs. Both parties thus benefited.

12. Machinery

The Army in Tripolitania removed a great deal of civilian machinery from power-houses, pumping stations etc. S.O.G.A. were very much occupied thereby, and had to call upon S.E.R.P. for assistance (which was always willingly given).

13. Salvage

In Tripoli a special municipal officer was especially detailed to make a reconnaissance and report on all bombed buildings, S.O.G.A. (aka) was then informed and arranged to collect the material, utilizing the labour of civil prisoners.

14. Works Services

The G.A. Public Works Department in Tripoli controlled all gas and electrical undertakings and fixed the price of gas and electricity for the public.

All roads, railways and docks were still under military control.

15. The G.A. Public Works Department was responsible for the maintenance of Government buildings, all buildings used by the military and those administered by the Custodian of Enemy Property.

It divided on all machinery and plant and undertook repairs. It assisted any private undertakings of value to G.A.

In the course G.A. will take over all roads, railways, docks, power stations and waterworks from the military.

ROAD TRANSPORT

16. The following practical points are of interest regarding the U.A. organization of civilian road transport in a certain conquered territory:-

(a) A Transport Committee was formed immediately.

It controlled inter-alia freight rates, checked vehicle licences and registration, and established a Road Traffic Movement Control for both passengers and cargo.

(b) Certain factors only were authorized to deal in tyres and spare parts.

13. Soliman

In Tripoli a special assigned officer was especially detailed to make a reconnaissance and report on all bombed buildings, B.O.D... (BOS) was then authorized and arranged to collect the material, utilizing the labour of civil prisoners.

14. Works Services

The C... Public Works Department in Tripoli controlled all gas and electrical undertakings and fixed the price of gas and electricity for the public.

All roads, railways and docks were still under military control.

15. The C... Public Works Department was responsible for the maintenance of Government buildings, all buildings used by the military and those administered by the Custodian of Enemy Property.

It advised on all machinery and plant and undertake repairs. It assisted any private undertaking of value to C...

In due course C... will take over all roads, railways, docks, power stations and undertakings from the military.

ROAD TRANSPORT

16. The following practical points are of interest regarding the C... organization of civilian road transport in a certain conquered territory:-

(a) A Transport Committee was formed immediately.

It controlled inter-alia freight rates, checked vehicle licences and registration, and established a Road Traffic Movement Control for both passengers and commodities.

(b) Certain vehicles only were authorized to load in tyres and spare parts.

(c) A rubber salverve drive was arranged.

(d) A propaganda campaign was instituted emphasizing the need for good vehicle and tyre maintenance.

(e) Oil lubrication oil was collected and sent to regenerating plants and refineries.

(f) The use of bicycles was encouraged.

(g) A survey was made and records kept of the condition of all highways.

APPENDIX 14

APPENDIX A

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN CHARGE 1800 YEARS AGO, AS DEALT WITH IN A LETTER BY PLINY THE YOUNGER TO HIS FRIEND AELIUS.

My friend, for you urge me, not to give you instructions, for you have no need of a teacher, but to advise you not to forget what you already know, to put your knowledge into practice and even to improve that knowledge.

You are being sent to prison, that is to say to the very heart of Greece; the cradle, as we believe, of civilization, of literature, of agriculture; you are going to govern free cities and free men; men whose very virtues, actions, alliances, treaties and religion have had as their principal object the preservation of freedom, the greatest gift given to us by God.

Respect the religion which gave birth to this nation, and respect its ancient glories; its long history exemplified in its titles and its citizens; honour their traditions, their famous deeds, their legends.

Be nothing that may offend the dignity, the liberty, even the vanity of the individual. Remember always that it is not we who imposed laws on this country as a result of conquest, but that it is they who have legitimized their laws to us.

It would be infamous, cruel and barbarous to take from the master and name of freedom which always remain to them.

Remember that such a man has been - not, however, so that you may treat it disdainfully to-day. Do not think that if you are not here and hard you will be mistrusted. You will agree that no man in whom is vested full authority and power will ever meet with disrespect unless he displays such a low and selfish soul that he forfeits even his own self-respect. A ruler makes a bad use of his power by bullying others. A ruler of terror will never win respect, love is a more potent weapon than fear. For when you leave your virtues, but affection remains, and as fear changes to hatred, so affection turns to respect. You must then constantly remember on what your authority rests - this cannot be repeated too often.

Think that it means to impose laws on regulations on free people. That liberty is not, humanity than Government? That is more precious than freedom that a shameful thing it would be to substitute slavery for order, slavery for freedom.

Remember too that you will be judged by the standard of your own past. You have to uphold the high reputation you have already won in the past. The rights of the people as administrator and Governor; you must

and culture; you are going to govern free cities and free men; you have these very virtues, notions, alliances, traditions and religion have not as their principal object the preservation of freedom, the greatest gift given to us by God.

Respect the religion which gave birth to this nation, and respect its ancient glories; its long history embodied in its cities and its citizens; honor their traditions, their famous deeds, their legends.

Do nothing that may offend the dignity, the liberty, even the unity of the individual. Remember always that it is not we who imposed laws on this country as a result of conquest, but that it is they who have bequeathed their laws to us.

It would be inhuman, cruel and barbarous to take from them the nation and name of freedom which have remained to them.

Remember that each town has been - not, however, so that you may treat it disdainfully to-day. Do not think that if you are not heard and heard you will be mistrusted. You will agree that no man in whom is vested full authority and power will ever meet with disrespect unless he displays such a low and selfish soul that he forfeits even his own self-respect. A ruler who uses the power of his power by bullying others. A rule of terror will never win respect, love is a more potent weapon than fear. For when you leave your enemies, but affection remains, and as fear changes to hatred, no affection turns to respect. You must then constantly remember on what your authority rests - this cannot be repeated too often.

Think that it means to impose laws and regulations on free people. That demands more humanity than Government? That is more precious than freedom? That a shameful thing it would be to substitute slavery for union, slavery for freedom.

Remember too that you will be judged by the standard of your own past. You have to uphold the high reputation you have already won in the far off parts of the Empire as Administrator and Governor; you must be worthy of the honor done to you by the Emperor in his selection of you. You must worthily uphold the responsibilities of this new task - which has been given to you as the reward of a lifetime of work.

Be sure then that it be said of you that you showed higher qualities of humanity, integrity and ability in a province far from home than in one near by; as ruler of a subject race, rather than as Governor of a free people, that you were sent by chance rather than specially selected, that you are unknown and inexperienced, rather than tried and tested.

Do not forget that you have often risen and often heard that it is more shameful to lose a reputation that has been won than not to win one at all.

NOTES

1. A Branch of the Civil Affairs Directorate at the War Office has now been created for the purpose of collecting, collating and disseminating information on the practical working of the Civil Affairs Organization in the Field.

This will be carried out through the medium of regular Bulletins.

2. A Reference Library containing all relevant Books and Reports is also maintained.
3. All ranks are requested to send in to the Branch any information which they may gain or possess regarding practical Civil Affairs experience in the Field so that such experience may be made available for all.

The address of the Branch is:-

C.A. 10,
38, Hyde Park Gate,
LONDON S.W.7.

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