

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785021

ACC

10000/103/38

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RECORDERS, HISTORY FILE
MAR. 1943 - FEB. 1945

AC/AMG (1)
HISTORY File

ARCHIVES OF THE ALLIED COMMISSION

The following memorandum is not written as a brief historical survey of AMGOT/AMG/ACC/AC. Its sole object is to explain the administrative origins of some of the series of files in past and in present use.

The first Civil Affairs organisation was established about March 1943 at Bouzarea, N. Africa, where it constituted the Civil Affairs Branch of HQ 141 Force.

On 1 May 1943 this Civil Affairs organisation was designated AMGOT (AFHQ Admin. Memo. 35). About 18 May 1943 AMGOT moved to Chrea, N. Africa, where several weeks were spent in planning for the Sicilian operation. During this period, a series of planning files was opened, numbered AMGOT 7800 - AMGOT 8000; this series of files is now stored in Archive Group D 1 (11).

When AMGOT moved to Chrea, a small liaison branch known as AMGOT Liaison was left at HQ 141 Force, Bouzarea. This branch opened its own files, which were numbered AL 1 upwards and, as far as can be ascertained, the series finished at AL 30 or thereabouts. At the end of July 1943 the majority of these files were either absorbed into the AMGOT 7800 series, or were destroyed because they were already duplicated in that series. It appears that one or two of the files from the AL series found their way into different branches of AMGOT; for instance, file AL 21 was handed to Archives by the Finance sub-Commission and is now stored in Archive Group H.2.

Shortly before the invasion of Sicily, 141 Force was re-designated 15 Army Group. Its HQ in the island was established at Cassibile, where HQ AMGOT also was located for a brief period during July-August 1943. During August 1943, HQ AMGOT moved to Palermo, and AMGOT Liaison remained at Cassibile with HQ 15 Army Group. HQ AMGOT opened new series of files numbered from 1 to 21,000, and a separate block of numbers within this range was allocated to each of the branches.

Following the conquest of additional territory, and the expansion of the work of AMGOT, certain administrative changes were made. On the authority of AFHQ Admin. Memo 69 (24 Oct 1943), AMGOT was divided into two parts - HQ AMG, and AMG 15 Army Group. HQ AMG continued to use the file series 1 - 21,000 which had been opened by AMGOT. AMG 15 Army Group opened an entirely separate series of files, an explanation of which will be found in the File Register for Archive Group E.1.

The file series AMGOT/AMG 1 - 21,000 was allocated to the different branches as set out in columns (i) and (ii) below. The remarks in column (iii) give such information as is at present available regarding the subsequent disposal of the files. These remarks will be subject to amplification in the light of any further information which may be ascertainable from files which are not yet in the possession of Archives.

(Tabulated statement on following page)

FILE NUMBERS (i)	BRANCH (ii)	REMARKS (iii)
1 - 1000	HQ Staff Section	Majority in Archives; possibly a few still with Region 1
1001 - 2000	Public Safety	Part left with Region 1; balance absorbed into new series (see 14001 - 15000)
2001 - 3000	Finance	Handed in to Archives
3001 - 4000	Public Health	Series still current, Feb 1945
4001 - 5000	Legal	" " " " "
5001 - 6000	Economics and Supply	Series still current, Feb 1945, but see further explanatory note. Archive Group N.
6001 - 7000	Property Control	A few files handed in to Archives; balance absorbed into new series.
7001 - 8000	Public Relations	No files and no information available.
8001 - 8599	Monuments & Fine Arts	Series closed, but files still held by sub-Commission, Feb 1945.
8600 - 9000	Education	Series closed, but files still held by sub-Commission, Feb 1945. Some files absorbed into new series.
9001 - 10000	Labour	Absorbed into new series.
10001 - 11000	Transportation, Commons., and Utilities	No information yet available.
11001 - 12000	Intelligence (fore-runner of Security Branch)	No files and no information available.
12001 - 13000	Agriculture	Absorbed into new series.
13001 - 14000	Finance	Series still current, Feb 1945
14001 - 15000	Public Safety	" " " " "
15001 - 16000	Public Health	Series never actually used

16001 - 17000	G.I. British	Series closed; part in Archives, part still with G.I. Feb 1945. balance absorbed into new series.
17001 - 18000	Fuel	Handed in to Archives (see further explanatory note, Archive Group N)
18001 - 19000	Information	Handed in to Archives
19001 - 20000	?	Apparently not allocated.
20001 - 21000	Monuments & Fine Arts	Series still current, Feb 1945.

When HQ AMG moved from Salerno to Naples, some of the files from the series tabulated above were handed over by the Branches to Region 1, because they related to purely Regional matters.

It is quite possible that, due to changes in the internal administration and organisation of the Commission, other files from the above series may have been handed over to Branches or sub-Commissions which are now defunct, or which, on the other hand, have come into being since these file series were first opened.

The recipients of these "handed-over" files may have dealt with them in one of several ways, e.g.

- (i) The files may have been preserved intact, retaining their original AMGOT/AMG numbers.
- (ii) They may have been preserved intact, but incorporated into other filing systems and re-numbered accordingly.
- (iii) They may have been broken up completely, and the papers absorbed piece-meal into other files.

Where the origins and transfers of files are not evident from the files themselves, Archives Section will endeavour to clarify these points by suitable annotation of the File Registers, whenever information can be obtained.

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Capt. R.L.
Archives
F. L. H. S.

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