

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

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WEEKLY ME
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WEEKLY MEETINGS, LIGURIA LIAISON GROUP
FEB. 1946

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
LIBERIA LIAISON GROUP
C.M.P.

MINUTES OF WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 20th FEBRUARY 1946 at 1100 hrs.

PRESENT: Lt-Col W. Turner-Coles & Staff A.C.
Major G.A. Blackie Town Major.
Major W.F. Duffy 2 B.L.U.
Major E. Koenigsbert U.M.R.R.A.
Major A.J. Stewart D.P.S.S.C.
Capt. P. Hartley ditto
Capt. C.A. Oliver 85 F.S.S.
Miss M. Verge S.C.I./Z.

ABSENT: L/Cdr. B. Phillips. R.N.

1. COTTON.

Major Koenigsbert U.M.R.A. stated that the situation was somewhat easier, Capt. Toomer (Food) adding that there had been some improvement in the last eight or nine days. Movement was being effected by wagon and road, 10 to 12 wagons being available per day. Any hold up in the transporting of cotton away from Conna would make the situation serious owing to the limited warehouse space available.

2. PETROL.

Capt. Lloyd Davies stated that the shortage of petrol in Italy was due to strikes in the U.S.A. and shortage of tankers. The whole of Italian transport was practically at a standstill, affecting refugees, loading of ships and road haulage. The only place where petrol was obtainable appeared to be on the Black Market.

As regards future supplies, by the end of the month the situation would be easier. There has been a 66 per cent cut in civilian supplies from the last month. A further cut is anticipated.

Capt. Oliver, F.S.S. reported that they had received frequent demands from various strange units for petrol. The C.I.O. referred to the relevant G.R.O. and said that units should carry sufficient petrol with them. In any case the route from Milan to Rome was through Bologna and Florence, and not through Genoa. Capt. Lloyd Davies said that no reply had been received from Brig. Matthews, 59 Area regarding petrol supplies. C.I.O. said he would take the matter up at once.

3. FRANCE-ITALIAN FRONTIER.

Major W.A. (L.C.O.) stated that the Genoa newspapers had published a replica of a Manifest in Ventimiglia, which stated in strong terms that the inhabitants were desirous of going over to the French. The newspapers suggested that there were a number of these Manifests exhibited and this in fact was confirmed. A report is being obtained, together with a copy of the

Major C.H. Blaskie
 Major E.P. Duffy
 Major E. Koenigsbert
 Major A.J. Stewart
 Capt. P. Hartley
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 Miss H. Varga

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3. FRANCE-ITALIAN FRONTIER.

Major G.H. (L.C.C.) stated that the Geneva newspapers had published a replica of a Manifest in Ventingilia, which stated in strong terms that the inhabitants were conscious of going over to the French. The newspapers suggested that there were a number of these Manifests exhibited and this is being confirmed. A report is being obtained, together with a copy of the Manifest.

Capt. Tough emphasized the seriousness of the French propaganda in the border area and stated that the French were doing a thorough job. The C.I.C. agreed but pointed out that this was a matter which had to be dealt with by higher authority. Major Stewart (D.P.R.S.C.) reported that the French Missions were being cut down in strength and in some instances withdrawn.

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4. REFUGEES & DISPLACED PERSONS.

C.I.O. stated that Maj. Stewart was taking up with Movement Control re the movement of refugees by rail, thus saving petrol and tyres. C.I.O. had heard a report that there was a break in the line at Ventimiglia. Capt. Hartley replied that the line was passable but delay was likely to occur at Ventimiglia owing to the refugees having to pass through the Customs Guard there. C.I.O. was of the opinion that this could be done at Nice and Capt. Hartley agreed it might be arranged. Traffic to the west was not very heavy.

Major Stewart reported that Mr. Wilkinson had left Rome to commence taking over the Camp from Capt. Hartley. He had left a week ago but as yet had not reported here.

Capt. Hartley drew attention to the fact that D.P.R.S.O. Officers when taking convoys to France are experiencing difficulty at the border. A report is being submitted. Maj. Keogman suggested that the Border Control should be informed of the special need for D.P.R.S.O. to cross the frontier.

Mrs. Verga (S.C.I./Z.) said that the situation was rather difficult as there were no longer Allied representatives at the Border. S.C.I./Z still have control although they have no actual representative there. The matter was being taken up with A.E.H.Q. as there was some doubt as to who was in charge since Mr. Andrews' orders have been rescinded. Maj. Keogman asked that any new developments on the matter be reported to this H.Q. Capt. Tough (I.O.P.) saw no objection to vehicles being searched, as instructions had been given that all vehicles coming from France to Italy and vice versa should be searched.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY.

Major Kane stated that during the next few days there was the likelihood of a demonstration by R.I.U.I. They have given a 5 day ultimatum to the Prefect that unless promises of employment made by a recent visiting Minister (Nenni) were carried out, they would demonstrate on the 5th day (Thursday 21 Feb 45).

It was reported that 2 Communes in the Province of Genoa had commenced their own Polizia del Popolo. They worked from 9.30 p.m. to 5.30 a.m. and were armed. Further details were being obtained.

Major Duffy, 2 A.L.U. stated that he had a long report to render at the end of each month on Security to M.I.A. for transmission to C.H.Q. He had to rely to some extent on the local C.C.R. and Police organizations and suggested a meeting between himself and Major Kane, to which the C.I.O. agreed.

6. BLACK MARKET.

Major Kane reported that he had received information from the Guardia di Finanza that large quantities of food and cigarettes came from

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Major Kane reported that he had received information from the Guardia di Finanza that large quantities of food and cigarettes came from the Merchant Seamen into the Black Market at night time. When stopped the seamen invariably produced documents saying that the goods were for delivery to a Military Unit in the town. One instance was quoted of a seaman being stopped with 36 pounds of coffee and 48 pounds of sugar. He sent a companion back to the ship and an Officer came along with a document saying that the goods were for delivery to a Military Unit in the town. C.I.O. said he would arrange to discuss the matter with L/Odr. Phillips to see if anything could be done from the Naval side, and also take it up with the American War Shipping Administration, M.W.T. representatives here together with British and American Consul Generals.

Major Kane stated that the Penicillin found on the Black Market here was without doubt coming from Leghorn.

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7. GENERAL.

Major Blackie, Town Major of Genoa reported that 17 Town Major had closed down in Alessio and he would now be responsible for the whole of Liguria Region. He further stated that he would be leaving Genoa shortly and would be replaced by a 3rd class Town Major (Capt.) It had not been decided who would take over as O.G. Troops.

W. Turner-Coles

W. TURNER-COLES.
Lt-Col.
Chief Liaison Officer.

DISTRIBUTION:-

H.Q. Alcom (3)
To all present (1)

ADDITIONAL NOTE.

News was received after the close of the meeting that tankers had arrived in Naples with petrol and local C.I.P. have been authorised to release their present reserve stocks.

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1 copy to Econ Sec
1 " CA Sec

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