

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

785017

ACC

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10/109/76

REPORTS FROM AC REPS WITH 5TH ARMY
LIAISON MISSION
MAY 1945

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

785017

4753

23

22 Seen by Ex Comr.

Ex. 24/5.

5/13 L.C. See 142 ~~ST~~

Chief Commission

This action appears to be one for determination
by V Army but it would probably help CD better
than your backup. May have action apparent.

DD/13/18

5/18 - 1300 5 - See 4606
yes for CE ~~ST~~

See that 1 6 has proper distribution - Done.

DD/15/18

Executive Commission

12.

4752

by V Army but it would probably help CO Fiske
to have your backing. May have action approved?

DD/13/18.

5/18 - 1300

5 - See Vol 6.
yes for CE - ~~TH~~

7
CRO See that 1 6 has proper distribution - Done.

DD/15/18.

Executive Commission

12.

4752

Please see sheet at 11. I presume this is on Borzano
as Colonel Fiske was there on 16 May. I have asked for a (6)
repeat of the first sentence.

DL 17/5/45.

Win

13.

Presume P.C. in charge that you can
repeckin telegram to R.C. Fernis 8540 VIII

DD/17/15

785017

ALLIED COMMISSION
FIFTH ARMY LIAISON GROUP
C in C - SW

21 May 1945

Memo:

To : Headquarters, Allied Commission, AFO 394

Reference is made to your cable No. 7891 of 17 May 1945.
Copy of our cable No. 372 of 16 May 1945 is enclosed.

HEADQUARTERS

27 MAY 1945

NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel

4751

COPY

W/C 372

24

FROM: FIFTH ARMY LIAISON GROUP C IN C SOUTHWEST FROM FISKE
TO : HQ ALCON

ORIENTLY EVACUATION OF GERMAN SUGAR SUGAR TROOPS CMA DISCONTINUANCE OF GERMAN
MILITARY POLICE AND RESTRICTION OF GERMAN TROOPS TO BILLETS WHEN NOT ON DUTY
HAVE GREATLY RELIEVED TENSION PD HOWEVER LARGE NUMBERS OF THE POPULATION
ARE ARMED CMA THE GERMANS HAVING BARTERED OR SOLD LARGE QUANTITIES OF SMALL
ARMS AND MUNITIONS ESPECIALLY TO THEIR SYMPATHIZERS HERE PD PARTISAN ACTIVITY
IS NOT GREAT AT THE MOMENT BUT MAY BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE WHEN GERMAN ARMED
TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWN PD SOME FRENCH PARTISANS PAREN POSSIBLY EX VICHYITES
PAREN HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN THE AREA AND ARE NOW BRING ROUNDED UP PD WORK ON
BRENNER RAILROAD IS PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY AND CLN INTRANSIGENCE ABATED PD
ROUNDP OF SUSPECTED WAR CRIMINALS IS MAKING SOME PROGRESS WITH LIMITED
PERSONNEL AVAILABLE.

cleared - 162415 B

~~11 refers~~

~~6254750~~

13 Army Group Liaison Mission

Diary 14 Col WHITE

5 - 15 May 45

May 3 1945

Saturday 3 May

Visited Prefecture. Tuscan population is 60% Austrian and 40% Italian (150,000 - 160,000). There is an minority of German here, Dr. Angelis, who also visited General Clark before taking up his appointment; he is recognized by German Army and his appointment is countermanded by General Veitinghoff. He is President of GIL and has taken over General Supervisor of Local Government. This prefect is of Austrian birth, Dr. Finkl. Dr. Angelis speaks very well of him. He has been prefect for some 7 years, is impartial and liked by both Italians and Austrians; he has shown no signs of extreme Italian or Austrian. The town has been under control of GIL for three days. Run by joint patrols of German Military Police and GIL. It is quite orderly; no trouble; Prefect and Commissioner both report such less trouble than they anticipated; everybody seems to be trying to co-operate. Appointments are all under revision; effort is being made to represent both all parties and both nationalities. Most services are already being run by Joint Committees of both nationalities, 2 Austrian and 2 Italian - people are largely bilingual.

Food situation sufficient until July. Health good.

Police - 200 Carabinieri will suffice; do not desire police from distant south, Local GIL have been absorbed in GIL and serve as NCO's therein but not in uniform they would revert. Special police are mostly youths who they think would be inclined to be rash if on their own hence coupling with German police and OBER HCO's.

When GIL arrive they will replace German half of patrols.

List of proposed appointments will be submitted. I outlined to the Prefect and MG (Italian) the contents of the devoirs on Special Assignments and CO 35 and MG 157 and instructed them to get busy getting out their lists of 100 lay judges and the names of persons for Special Assignments. I told them neither would function until Military Government was formally established.

I was informed that 2 French officers have already been seen in the neighbourhood - informant could not say from where they came. Prisoners in suit also reported to me. Captain French and other prisoners are said to be here, e.g. Leon Blum and Capt. Jack Churchill.

An air army reported and wished to contact GIL. Commander MG patrols wishes to contact OG Troops to inform him of conditions and whereabouts his patrols in action.

MG (1) agrees to close tanks to Germans except for hospital purposes on Sunday.

I have arranged our accommodation in Prefecture and have an interpreter at my disposal.

MG will supply lists of all appointments. President of Court of Appeal is present and not recommended for retention; President of Tribunal not mentioned. We cannot therefore appoint judicial sessions. Resident of Tribunal not mentioned. MG (1) and self with Dr. Angelis and

factory.

It is quite orderly; no troubles; Prefect and Commissioner both report much less trouble than they anticipated; everybody seems to be trying to co-operate. Appointments are all under revision; effort is being made to represent both all parties and both nationalities. Most services are already being run by Joint Committees of both nationalities, 2 Austrians and 2 Italians - people are largely bilingual.

Food situation sufficient until July. Health good. Police - 200 Carabinieri will suffice; do not desire police from distant south, local GUM have been absorbed in UML and serve as HQ's therein but not in uniform they would revert. Special police are mostly youths who they think would be inclined to be rash if on their own hence coupling with German police and other units. When they arrive they will replace German half of patrols.

List of proposed appointments will be submitted.

I outlined to the Prefect and MC (Italian) the contents of the decree on Special Justice Courts and GO 35 and ML 159 and instructed them to get busy getting out their lists of 100 lay judges and the names of persons for Jurisdiction Commission. I told them neither would function until Military Government was formally established.

I was informed that 2 French officers have already been seen in the neighborhood - informant could not say from where they came. Prisoners in multi also reported to me. Certain French and other prisoners are said to be born, e.g. Leon Elias and Capt. Jack Churchill.

An OSS envoy reported and wished to contact OSS. Commander UML patrols wishes to contact 20 Troops to inform him of conditions and whereabouts his patrols in action.

GO (I) proposes to close banks to Germans except for hospital purposes on Monday.

I have arranged our accommodation in Prefecture and have an interpreter at my disposal.

GOI will supply lists of all appointments.

President of Court of Appeal is Fascist and not recommended for retention; he cannot therefore appoint Special Judges. Resident of Tribunal not mentioned.

Conference with Brisco, Livermore, Thrall and self with Dr. Angelis and Dr. Tinal.

There had been a patch in German Army and certain extreme Nazi officers had been removed. General Veitinghoff himself had been arrested. There had been extreme provocation of the population to provide incident. General Veitinghoff had an release signed an agreement with the partisans. Austrian patriots had infiltrated into N. Italy and had been sent in by the Germans. Patriots also had been captured by the Germans had been tortured; patriots would be admitted.

400 of 10 Army wanted patriots dismissed. 15 Army had ordered patriots in hills to be brought down to keep peace in valley. Dr. Angelis thought that this was not wise as these were hot headed and difficult to control. Arbitrary disarmament placed was likely to cause incident; preferable to hold parade and thank patriots for their efforts and receive their arms. Meanwhile patriots would not carry their arms in public.

Also as there was no police force it was necessary to improvise one; these men would have to be armed.

P/IX JH 123

Dr. Angelis had arranged with German staff for combined patrols of German military police and GIL, each to deal with own nationals and asked that same arrangements should be continued with own police when organized.

Dr. Angelis was asked to prepare lists of villages and police requirements as to armed list of persons selected with Dr. Angelis.

Dr. Angelis had arms for 1,200 but had only issued 600/150; he thought 300 police might suffice. Dr. Tind thought this too low; he had 109 German he might arrange at a pinch.

It was agreed that he should arrange 250 to be issued with special type arm band - temporary police to be replaced when permanent police arrived. They would be armed from patriot sources.

Dr. Angelis also desired to hold a reserve of patriots in case of eventualities. He was asked to submit his proposals. Meanwhile arms would not be carried by patriots.

There was a report of a clash between patriots and Germans in Trento. This was not in this province. The chief of the patriots there was Emilio Vicentin, an escaped prisoner of the Republican Fascist Government and a Communist.

GES sent an envoy visit Trento to stop.

It was agreed that Government should not be pleased but a victory parade for provinces to be held by a distinguished officer at an early date when patriots would be thanked for their services and surrender their arms. (Though agreed this was not in fact carried out when AGE arrived - Government was pleased and surprised).

Dr. Tind reported position of Province as highly satisfactory, very little disorder, two nationalities were co-operating, everything was working more smoothly than he could ever have expected; the only trouble was transport, he asked for use of 50 vehicles by Germans (their requirements now operations had ceased, were far smaller) and they had more than that number of ex-Italian vehicles on charge. He would organise a body to use that transport, to move food and essential supplies.

Dr. Tind was asked and agreed to supply short summary of condition of administration and principal industries, position as to labour and materials and machinery (submitted and handed to AGE).

Dr. Tind was asked to submit a list of recommended appointments to be agreed with AGE; those not agreed to be submitted to AGE and list of appointments considered acceptable to AGE (submitted and handed to AGE).

Dr. Tind was instructed to order cessation of all requisition of funds from banks to any area outside provinces; to limit drawings to 1,000 lire per bank per week; business desiring to draw more wages or for materials to obtain permits from him.

Cafes and deposits to be closed.

Report received of Detention Camp at Ring an Wilder See (140 km) in which confined Leon Blum, nephew of Molotov and Churchill, Visconti, Schwanig, Schacht and 160 other. Arranged to inspect and report.

Very accurate prisoners reporting, 5 French, 2 Indian, 3 German etc arranging to send down line.

Report 2 French patriots in plain clothes, with wireless contact to Paris 1/18 require papers and uniforms - refer to G2.

District has been organized by Germans for return to Austria (it was Austrian); place names and signs all changed

not in case provided. The matter of the previous matter was James Vincent, an employee of the Republican Socialist Government and a Communist.

Mr. and Mrs. could visit Trento to stop.

It was agreed that disbursement should not be discussed but a victory parade for Province to be held by a distinguished officer at an early date when patriots would be thanked for their services and awarded their arms. (Though agreed this was not in fact carried out when ASG arrived - disbursement was piecemeal and sporadic).

Mr. Tinal reported position of Province as highly satisfactory, very little disorder, two nationalities were co-operating, everything was working more smoothly than he could ever have expected; the only trouble was transport, he asked for use of 50 vehicles by Germans (their requirements now operations had ceased, were far smaller) and they had more than that number of ex-Italian vehicles on charge. He would organise a body to use that transport, to move food and essential supplies.

Mr. Tinal was asked and agreed to supply short summary of condition of rail, industries and principal industries, position as to labour and materials and machinery (supplied and headed to ASG).

Mr. Tinal also agreed to make a list of recommended appointments to be agreed with ASG; those not agreed to be submitted to ASG and list of appointments considered acceptable to ASG (supplied and headed to ASG).

Mr. Tinal was instructed to order cessation of all remission of funds from banks to any area outside Province: to limit drawings to 1,000 lire per head per week; industries desiring to draw more wages or raw materials to obtain permits from him.

Safe and deposits to be closed.

Report received of Detention Camp at Berg an Adler 300 (140 km) in which confined Leon Blum, nephew of Molotov and Churchill, Wisniewski, Schuschnig, Schacht and 160 other. Arranged to inspect and report.

Many escaped prisoners reporting, 5 French, 2 Italian, 3 German etc arranging to send down line.

Report 2 French Officers in plain clothes, with wireless contact to Paris, 18 require papers and uniforms - refer to G2.

District has been organised by Germans for return to Austria (it was Austrian); place names and signs all changed

E.S. sign to Marmar

Polono Boven

Street names are now German and German are all 'Germans'. All places and street and shop names etc in Gothic lettering.

TRENTO - Sunday 6 May

Thanks for Liberator. Last recent incidents with Germans; will submit report.

Dr. Giuseppe Ottolenghi appointed 2 May by ASG. ASG. Oscar Montevani.

Previous Prefect ASG. Dr. Ottolenghi appointed by German on 3 Sep.

Previous Italo Foschi appointed by Fascist Govt about 4 or 5 years ago now career - political appointment.

Head of ASG. Prof. Giovanni Gasser. Consultant of Town Radio Vincentia.

Population 350,000.

Food situation good (except for fats, only few days supply) if primary five di cards not distributed. Food supply ample for considerable time, say two months.

20
 1000 - 1000000 are passing through from Germany at rate of 2000 per day; yesterday 1000 and are being fed and this greatly affects food position; slow transit is lowering local resources, rapid transport would relieve strain.

Transport - no transport - transport urgently needed for supply purposes.
Railways - Conference yesterday. Only an engine in work, another sometimes freight car no passenger cars. Railway can work on Bassano line to Padua and Venice so far as their province is concerned, line is OK but bridges may be mined. Railway personnel absented themselves from work; ordered to return, not to do so sabotage.

Police - 1500 men.

Finance - 800 million Lire with Banca d'Italia Palermo for 3 provinces, Palermo, Belluno and Trento. Appears later this was not true).

Three provinces Belluno, Palermo and Trento organized as "Alpen Vorland" with HQ at Palermo (afterwards from Berlin).

At this point 2400 2 Corps (Col Gray) arrived. Informed him of what I had learned and left him to carry on. As he knew nothing of Special Assignments I informed myself and Col. Gray's units were organized and the functions of all concerned. Communications - Radio little damaged. Railways to Bremer badly damaged in isolated spots; most can be re-initiated in relatively short time.

At Prefecture Palermo - requested list of

1. Total creditor a/cos in Berlin
2. Balances German army
3. " " other than military
4. Balances Italian or Provincial Govts.

Monday 7 May

10.1. No further SOAO II Corps arrived. Taken to AMG to explain a-bomb position. Request by Germana Morsano for release 20 million Lire for pay and supply; transmitted them to admit through their own HQ. Gived 15 Army Group for instructions.

Handled reports on food - Industry to AMG - informed them report on banks, promised that morning.

Tuesday 8 May

Contents of Palermo museum in basement of villa. AMG informed. Five from 15 Army Group. 50 trucks cannot be taken from Germana (these are admitted by Germana to be surplus their requirements).

Interview Col. Kappeler 20 on two additional armaments terms: (1) as to retention of prisoners guilty of offences against German Army - (2) as to arresting or detaining Members of Italian Rep. Govt.

as to (4) all prisoners had been released; so far as he was aware none are detained anywhere - he could not speak of conditions in Turin, Milan etc with which conventions had been covered.

The German army no longer had any power.
 Informed by Capt. Morsano that German Army is awaiting ransom that they have needed to fight British and US forces by friendly arrangement and will, with allies flight guards, causing had effect.

(not Red Cross) regarding Art deposits.

spots; most can be re-initiated in relatively short time.

At Proletarian Bologna - requested list of

1. Total creditor of/ on in bank
2. Balance German Army
3. " other than military
4. Balance Italian or Provincial Govts.

Monday 7 May

Mr. Arthur BIAO II Corps arrived. Taken to AMG to explain present position. Request by Germanissimo for release 20 million lire for pay and supplies. Instructed them to submit through their own HQ. Wrote 15 Army Group for instructions. Heard reports on food - industry to AMG - informed them report on banks, provided that working.

Tuesday 8 May

Contents of Bologna mission in basement of villa. AMG informed. Five from 15 Army Group. 50 trucks cannot be taken from Germans (these are admitted by Germans to be surplus their requirements).

Interview Col Kappeler 20 on two additional aviation bombs: (1) as to retention of prisoners guilty of offenses against German Army - (2) as to arresting or detaining members of Italian Rep. Govt.

as to (1) all prisoners had been released; so far as he was aware none are detained anywhere - he could not speak of conditions in Turin, Milan etc with which communications had been severed.

as to (2) The German Army no longer had any power.

Informing by Capt Monod that German Army is spreading rumor that they have ceased to fight British and US forces by friendly arrangement and will, with allies fight Russia, causing bad effect.

Also received message from von Hartner (Int. Red Cross) regarding Art Deposits. Wrote above.

Interview General Muller who requested pass to assist necessitous Germans in Bologna - it appeared that Germans regard German speaking Italians as Germans. He claims that under treaty of St. Germain they retained their Austrian nationality as well as acquired an Italian one and that on the Anschluss they became German. I told him they would be dealt with as Italians and know how to obtain any assistance required under Italian Law.

He then wished to arrange to pay dependents allowances to families of the above men who had been called to the German Army. He was informed that if he would supply lists and funds the Allies (Welfare or DGE) would undertake the payments.

He then asked whether he could pay the families of Soldiers or Diplomats for which he was responsible and was given the same answer if he would supply lists and funds the Allies would see the recipients did not want. He then dealt with the question of German refugees here from the South and was told they would be dealt with as were refugees of other nations - they would not arrive.

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He then asked if he could go to Merano to obtain instructions from the German Legation and was told no. He gave the address as Villa Melina. His application for a pass was refused.

Application for pass received from German Foreign Office diplomatic Roy at German HQ - he was informed that it would be necessary for him to attend in person before a pass could be issued.

OML being dispersed in streets by joint patrols German and US, most undesirable, informed Col. Kurelfall who is seeing General Lewis Thomson and Dr. Angelis.

Passed copy of report on Interventions to AG.

Visited German Embassy, Villa Melina, Merano - ordered it to be closed. Received wireless (monitoring and Morse writing) set. Issued the same to Signals for investigation.

See informed Ambassador Dr. Kahn was at the Prefecture. I went to see him and told him that he and his staff would be probably be moved South shortly. He was personally responsible that all his staff remained available and accompanied him when he was moved.

Capt Davies in charge platoon taking over Merano, on arrival there. Had arranged to disarm patriots that night. Had French Japanese Ambassador and his staff and had the lot in custody.

Wednesday 9 May

Col. Solmiati reported that the Italians were interfering with Railway repairs. Saw AMG and asked them to instruct the Italians to co-operate.

Deputation (Lt General Rosfeld - Air; Maj General Svelitski - Army; Commander Vailor - Navy; Major Moser - Navy).

Requested release 1,000 million lire Italians now required payment for everything in cash, also to pay past bills for cattle, killing, fodder, medical supplies, etc.

Will supply summary of Army needs and estimate of expenditure probably 1000 million lire every 10 days.

Food available probably about 2,000 lire.

Food Duria - Bolseno head of Austrian movements wished to place his views, on return of Bolseno to Austria, in proper quarters. Wrote 15 Army Group. Secretary General of Embassy Staff.

The Embassy Staff was originally 170; it has been reduced to 70 exclusive of clerks, messengers and servants; 50 are located at Bus in Austria near Lake Constance and about 20 in Merano.

Be desired to know if the staff could when they were moved take their cars and all their baggage and food. He was told instructions on those points would be given. He hoped that they would have two or three days notice and was told that he would be given notice but it might not be as long.

The Embassy normally recruited its junior staff from this area as the people were bilingual, hence a large part of the staff were near their homes - those of the

0 3 4 5

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Deputation (Lt General Hoefeld - Air; Maj General Sabatini - Army; Commander Keller - Navy; Major Moser - Navy).

Requested release 1,000 million lire Italians now required payment for everything in cash, also to pay past bills for cattle, clothing, medical supplies, etc.

Will supply money of Army funds and estimate of expenditure probably 1000 million lire every 10 days.

Funds available probably about 2,000 lire.

Ferdinand - Bolzano head of Austrian movements wished to place his views, on return of Bolzano to Austria, in proper quarters. Hired 15 Army Group. Secretary Guarnier of Embassy Staff.

The Embassy Staff was originally 170; 14 has been reduced to 70 exclusive of clerks, messengers and servants; 50 are located at Siusi in Austria near Lake Costanza and about 20 in Merano.

He desired to know if the staff could when they were moved take their cars and all their baggage and food. He was told instructions on these points would be given. He hoped that they could have two or three days notice and was told that he would be given notice but it might not be as long.

The Embassy normally recruited its junior staff from this area as the people were bilingual, hence a large part of the staff were near their homes - those who had been sent home - would these people have to be moved South with the Embassy.

He next enquired as to German refugees from South Italy; many of these had lived in Italy for years and wished to go to their homes. He was told that they would be dealt with by our organization for refugees which would decide whether they could stay in Italy or be sent to Germany.

General Kunze - General in charge of Administration, requested and was granted a pass to enable him to perform his duties.

Lothar Reinhold - a Yugoslav asked to be passed to Russian HQ; he had information for them, he stated he is an agent. He was told to come back. He will be handed to CHQ to pass back. (CHQ dealt with him and passed him back through SA channels).

Col von Knebeck was questioned about the Austrian freedom movement. He said that except for large towns the country was 100% Austrian origin, that in general the two races got on well. There was very definitely an Austrian feeling, so much so that Hitler and Mussolini had discussed the matter and agreed gradually to move all German speaking people into Austria and 0,000 had been so moved. The population was now 2,500,000 Germans and 150,000 Italians. A large proportion of the 50,000 would have never come back if they got the chance.

The South Tyrol Movement was Catholic and anti-Nazi. No ill feeling had been shown between the two races until fairly recently when there had been some oppression by fascists.

It was quite common for the Tyrol flag to be flown, also but less frequently the Austrian flag.

Mr. Karl Berger of the Embassy Staff was mentioned as to his request for a pass which was not given to him. He was told that Alf would arrange.

He was interested in RUK and organization for developing the War Industry of Italy.

As the records of firm potentials may be of interest to Embassy.

I propose therefore for an AHS Officer to accompany him to see what records exist and to see they are not destroyed.

I then asked for certain information with regard to Italian Officials etc which he said he had not got but the Embassy itself had.

Thursday 10 May

At about 2230 evening 9 May I received message that persons were at 151 who wished to see me. I found there two peasants and a priest; they told me that some days ago a German vehicle had been shot up and they had obtained a chest of money; they asked that the Allies should take charge. I phoned 88 Div who said the location was outside their area and suggested to 11th Div. to which I replied that I did not think the latter had any unit in the vicinity. I then rang 2 Corps who were sceptical of the story but said they would attend to it. I asked when and was met rather promptly. I said I could myself arrange to get the money in.

I left next morning at 9 and arrived at Glon about 10 to find whole village in church. Waited until 11 conclusion of High Mass (Austrian day) and then went to the Priest's house who produced woolgarate for which I handed over order in name of 803 and receipt. Returned to Bolzano when I knocked up Bank Italia it being a holiday and requested them take in money located Lt. Auguste and returned to Bank of Italia. Money counted; 8 1/2 million lire in notes and 1 1/2 million lire in bankers orders, obtained receipts from Lt Auguste. Also handed him receipt 10 million lire taken to Meridola by 600, etc.

Spoke General Hume and Col Barrill who approved suggestion of reward to village. (Letter to 803 15 Army Group sent by Col Barrill).

Friday 11 May

Took to Glon as memo to for them, list in box showing contents (the contents agreed with the list); informed them that recommendation for reward would be forwarded, obtained name leader of band, Francis Prandino, who captured the money. Heard stories of Allied soldiers having been saved by Angelo Clauser, Stephen Clauser and others.

Proceeded Merano where used ambassador for certain information required by committee terms; he said he had not all but much as he could supply he would provide by the morning. The remainder should be supplied by General Wolff who was Civil Administrator.

I asked if von Ribbentrop was in Meran and was told so far as he knew no; he had not heard of his whereabouts for 6 weeks, had no reason to suppose he was in Merano. I asked for names of Italian soldiers German and was told the Embassy had only

wanted to see me. I found there two peasants and a priest; they told me that some days ago a German vehicle had been shot up and they had obtained a chest of money; they asked that the Allies should take charge. I phoned 88 Div who said the location was outside their area and suggested 40 Mtn. Div. to which I replied that I did not think the latter had any unit in the vicinity. I then rang 2 Corps who were sceptical of the story but said they would attend to it. I asked when and was met rather straightly. I said I would myself arrange to get the money in.

I left next morning at 9 and arrived at Olso about 10 to find whole village in church. Waited until 11 conclusion of High Mass (Ascension day) and then went to the Priests House who produced woodcutter for which I handed over order in name of 800 and receipt. Returned to Belanno when I knocked up Bank Italia it being a holiday and requested them take in money located Lt. Auguste and returned to Bank of Italia. Money counted; 8 1/2 million lire in notes and 1 1/2 million lire in bankers orders, obtained receipts from Lt Auguste. Also handed him receipt 10 million lire taken to Karlova by Ger. man.

Spoke General Hase and Col Burill who approved suggestion of reward to village. (Letter to GOC 15 Army Group sent by Col Burill).

Friday 11 May

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Proceeded Merano where asked Ambassador for certain information required by armistice terms; he said he had not all but such as he could supply he would provide by the morning. The remainder should be supplied by General Wolff who was Civil Administrator.

I asked if van Ribbenroep was in Merano and was told so far as he knew no; he had not heard of his whereabouts for 6 weeks, had no reason to suppose he was in ~~Germany~~.

I asked for names of distinguished Germans and was told the Embassy had only been in Merano ten days and had hardly left their own buildings; they knew of none and suggested that enquiry should be made of the Germans list.

I asked what funds were in possession and was told that 1 1/2 thousand million lire had been paid over to German HQ; none was in local banks.

I said that I particularly referred to cash and was told that some 4 1/2 million lire were on charge. I asked for particulars and on receiving same said I would take charge 1 1/2 million lire (4 1/2 cash, 9 1/2 bankers drafts).

I also asked what transport was available if Embassy had to move itself. If it could not move itself would it supply particulars of transport required. This was promised for to-morrow.

Asked Mr May who would arrange to obtain particulars from Germans list and who would also obtain particulars of bank balances and Reich funds from banks. HQ phones 1322/4 Merano.

Said funds received from Ambassador into Bank of Italia where met Lt Auguste who furnished receipt.

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Saw Col Fiske and informed him of work on which I had been engaged on that day. Col Fiske again complained of non-cooperation Italian Railway Service. Attended conference and arranged to call Fiske, Chief Railway Engineer and Acting Prefect Dr. Angelis also head of CIL for 0:00 12th.

Received information of whereabouts King Victor Emanuel's coin collection worth value 5 mill. sterling. CIL reported asked that it should be handed over to them. Informed General Wolf to be responsible for same and hold an Allied disposal. Informed Consul his staff must declare money in possession, reasonable amount in their possession might be retained, rest would be withdrawn and held to their credit so far as they were entitled to the same.

Discussed repair of railways with G4 Staff and Col Fiske - latter to arrange for Prefect and Chief Railway Engineer to attend Conference next day at 9.

Saturday 12 May

Conference on Railway repairs attended by G 4, German staff officers and self but Col Fiske and Railway staff and Prefect did not attend.

Saw Col Fiske; arranged for another meeting at 14:45. I did not attend having other appointments. (Was informed by G 4 that Col Fiske supported the Italians in their attitude of non-cooperation. Their position had resolved itself into their wanting to be in charge of the Germans).

Saw Lt General Woolf by appointment on his statement of financial position "needs of Army"; pointed out that the 2,000 million balance which he claimed proved on enquiry to consist largely of open credits at the banks; no doubt these would, had circumstances not changed, have been honoured but there was now no chance of that. It was also possible that the credits here were represented by assets elsewhere but until that position was investigated he could not draw against credits but only against actual funds; requested that he and officers of the other services would investigate and report upon the actual cash position as distinct from the credits. General Woolf pointed out that his representatives held 500 million lire in cash at Genoa.

He promised to submit a report as requested.

Saw General Wolf.

Ascertained position regarding King Victor Emanuel's collection and received letter to 88 Div confirming his handing over collection to them and passed letter to AM to deliver.

Discussed civilian organization of E. Italy and particularly war industry. There were three main branches IRI which dealt with requirements of the Army, boots and clothing as well as munitions. This organization was under General Loversi, it had complete records of potentialities etc. of Italian industry; these records were principally in Milan and at Genoa which was the HQ. He understood Loversi was in our hands.

The second branch was Labour and the third was the production of food. Required as to funds available. General Wolf stated that he had a chest, he worked only through banks and he had closed his accounts.

Saw AM and suggested it was their function to take charge of Art Treasure and that they should not 88 Div to hand King Victor's coin collection to them and that

out Col Pike and Railway staff and Prefect did not attend.

Col Pike; arranged for another meeting at 1445. I did not attend having other appointments. (Was informed by G 4 that Col Pike supported the Italians in their attitude of non-cooperation. Their position had resolved itself into their wanting to be in charge of the Germans).

Gen Lt General Hoefeld by appointment on his statement of financial position 'needs of army'; pointed out that the 2,000 million balances which he claimed proved on enquiry to consist largely of open credits at the banks; no doubt these would, had circumstances not changed, have been honoured but there was now no chance of that. It was also possible that the credits here were represented by assets elsewhere but until that position was investigated he could not draw against credits but only against actual funds; requested that he and officers of the other services would investigate and report upon the actual cash position as distinct from the credits. General Hoefeld pointed out that his representatives held 500 million lire in cash at Genoa.

He promised to submit a report as requested.

Gen General Woolf.

Ascertained position regarding King Victor Emmanuel's collection and received letter to 28 Div confirming his handing over collection to them and passed letter to AMB to deliver.

Discussed civilian organization of E. Italy and particularly War Industry. There were three main branches RIF which dealt with requirements of the Army, boots and clothing as well as munitions. This organization was under General Lagers, it had complete records of potentialities etc. of Italian industry; these records were principally in Milan and at Genoa which was the HQ. He understood Lagers was in our hands.

The second branch was Labour and the third was the production of food. Enquired as to funds available. General Woolf stated that he had a tenant, he worked only through banks and we had closed his accounts.

Gen AMB and suggested it was their function to take charge of Art treasure and that they should get 28 Div to send King Victor's coin collection to them and that they should take it in the bank of Italy (which was later done).

Gen General General Muller; asked him what funds he had and told him to prepare a statement and be ready to hand over this evening.

Told him also to make list of his staff (handed to Col Pike) and of families to which he paid allowances.

Instructed Capt Moscovits to collect and bank 3 million from Muller and to continue to trace 10 million recovered by Germans from Genoa. (The 3 million recovered and paid, progress made in tracing movement of the German in whose possession the 10 million was alleged to be).

Went to Morano, traced the officers in possession of the 500 million lire. Got a company of 28 troops (of 10 bn. div.) to provide car and escort, went to vaults and took possession of 500 million lire, transferred the same to Bolzano and paid them into bank.

Monday 13 May

Obtained my receipt from AG for 542 million lire.

Capt Moschetti reported that the Beneluxing (Barrack Engineer Department) carried cash balances in various centres, informed Col Pike with a view to his arranging tracing. Also informed Col Pike of the position with regard to the recovery of the 40 million lire.

Sent through all papers with Col Pike.

re reply to be sent to wire enquiring in what form funds existed.

Necessity for getting in German funds. Col Pike wired for financial officer.

re copies of industrial machines and RUKA records (at Milan) and that I had asked for an industrial officer. Col Pike wired for German officer.

Drew attention to replies required from German Commander in Chief. He had the answers from the Ambassador, the other answers were all in. Asked whether it was possible for me to have a complete set of replies to bring back to AG.

Sent to see Ambassador to ascertain what replies had been made to my question as to private funds. Found that he had supplied the figures to Col Pike. I enquired what the figures were and was informed 1/2 million for the Ambassador and that the remaining members of the staff had something like 1/2 million each. My intention had been to leave them with only what was sufficient for immediate needs and bank the rest. Matter in Col Pike's hands.

Informed Ambassador that orders had been received for their movement and that the Commander at Bergamo was responsible for moving them; he wished to use their own cars; enquired as to the sufficiency, they had eight private cars, two officials cars, a lorry and a light van; it would suffice though another car would make matters easier.

I enquired whether they could be leaving behind any articles of value such as radios, typewriters etc so that I could take protective custody. They said they had none - much had been abandoned in the retreat and the remainder had gone on with the rest of the staff to Inns in Austria.

Asked Col Pike to obtain for General Hase some German franking labels and information as to a German branch of the Knights of Malta.

Monday 14 May

Informed Lt Ingelbre 90 at Bolzano of extent Ambassador's alleged private funds and that I considered it too great. On arrival Florence informed Col Friend Jones the same and of expected arrival Ambassador's cars at Montecatini.

that the remaining members of the staff had something like a million each. My intention had been to leave them with only what was sufficient for immediate needs and back the rest. Matter in Col Pisko's hands.

Informed ambassador that orders had been received for their movement and that the Commander at Mervino was responsible for moving them; he wished to use their own cars; enquired as to the sufficiency, they had eight private cars, two official cars, a lorry and a light van it would suffice though another car would make matters easier.

I enquired whether they would be leaving behind any articles of value such as radios, typewriters etc so that I could take protective custody. They said they had none - much had been abandoned in the retreat and the remainder had gone on with the rest of the staff to Rome in Austria.

Asked Col Pisko to obtain for General Pense some German franking labels and information as to a German branch of the Knights of Malta.

Monday 14 May

Informed Lt Paquette PO at Palermo of extent ambassador alleged private funds and that I considered it too great. On arrival Florence informed Col Piskov James the same and of expected arrival ambassador's cars at Montecatini.

6773

785017

Summary of War booty

10 May captured by village of Clon and handed over
 Cash 8,425,650
 Bankers drafts 11,441,050
 Iron box 159,000

11 May Ambassadors Chest
 Cash 6,432,500
 Bankers drafts 9,489,500

12 May German Consul-General's Chest
 Cash 3,332,092

13 May General of Admin-Memo
 Cash 512,006,000
 549,045,592

Receipts from Germans handed over by Clon

Cash (not yet recovered) 10,250,000
 559,295,592

Various other ill. bodies and formations have treasure chests and should be investigated.

6742

14

FIVE ARMY LIAISON GROUP CINC SOUTH WEST

7940

18 May 45

ROUTINE

IN CLEAR PD

YOUR THREE SEVEN TWO DATED SIXTEEN MAY PD

PARISH TO FIVE ARMY LIAISON GROUP CINC SOUTH WEST FOR FIVE FROM HQ ALPHI CITY

ADMXO PARISH

PRESUME PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER IN CHARGE AND THAT YOU ARE REPEATING SIGNAL
TO REGIONAL COMMISSIONER VERDEKS REGION AND SECTION CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICER NIGHTE
ARMY

Office of Exec Commissioner
735

J.C.A.

PA 1/11
18/5
B/V 22/5
PA 22/5
17/5
22/5
22/5

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference 372
Date Time of Origin MAY 161500B

Message Centre No E/1120
Date Time Rec'd MAY 171305B
Precedence ROUTINE

FROM 5 ARMY LIAISON GROUP CLIN SOUTH WEST FROM PIERRE
TO ALCON

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL.

Of German military police and restriction of German troops to billets when not duty have greatly relieved tension. However large numbers of the population are armed, the Germans having bartered or sold large quantities of small arms and munitions especially to their sympathizers here. Pro-Partisan activity is not great at the moment but may be expected to increase when German armed troops are withdrawn. Some French Partisans (possibly ex Vichyites) have been operating in the area and are now being rounded up. Work on BRENNER railroad is progressing satisfactorily. CLN intransigence abated. Roundup of suspected war criminals is making some progress with limited personnel available.

DIST

ACTION: Executive Commissioner 2
• CA Sec
• Econ Sec
INFO: A/President
Chief Commissioner
FIB
File

CONFIDENTIAL

785017

170

FILE

11A

FIVEARMY LIAISON GROUP CINC SOUTH WEST FOR FISKE

17 May 1945.

ROUTINE.

7891

11

CONFIDENTIAL PD

RECEIVING OF YOUR THREE SEVEN TWO OF ONE SIX MAY IS CORRUPT

PAREN TO FIVEARMY LIAISON GROUP CINC SOUTH WEST FOR FISKE FROM HQ
ALONG CITE ACHING PAREN

HEADS QUOTE OF GERMAN MILITARY POLICE AND RESTRICTION OF GERMAN
TROOPS TO BILLETTS WHEN NOT DUTY HAVE GREATLY BELIEVED TENSION
UNQUOTE PD REQUEST REPETITION

See 25

479

Office of Exec. Comm.

735

File No further action 11/10/51

Bring back.

Refer folio 20 I submit the following

1. The telegram originated through I Gots and not through IS A Gp though IS A Gp had direct communication at all times with its HQ in Florence. This message did not come from IS A Gp mission and was seen by neither there.
2. I do not agree (see 4) that the Germans were in complete control even before we had arrived. The German Supreme command had handed responsibility for order in the town to the CCN and the town was patrolled by joint patrols of German military police and CCN. This was continued by my order as it was felt that it would be better for any German offenders should be handled by their own police rather than by CCN. All these offenders would be dealt with by CCN. In no case was any offender handled by the German MP's after our arrival. Carabinieri arrived about the third or fourth day after that the patrols were joint carabinieri and CCN as there were not enough CCN also some German MP to deal with any troublesome soldiers but as far as I know there were none. The German Army did retain its arms for some days but did not carry them. This continued until the CCN had arrived in sufficient force etc.

6738

11/10/51

only to study strategic points and to meet with Soviet forces but also to guard against certain points. It had commenced the collection of items which had been used there and in German armories (but not carried) but such work was still permitted. I must advise guards over the quarters and over depots under its charge.

I never saw other Germans carrying arms. I saw it was possible for the Germans exercising any authority except over their own troops which was the situation was desirable.

3. The implication of 1 is that the matter is only a question of distance and is not so. The German Railways have neither the equipment nor the executive ability to undertake the returns. It is not a question of the stations working under the Germans - they are refusing to cooperate in any sense. They do not wish to have the trains to take behind materials or equipment to the site, they will not even take the current to enable the lines or contracted rails to be handled. I think the British might not have advised of handled differently but that of course on command authority. But the stations are from the first told that their attitude was intelligent and sympathetic. They should have been told that the light was an essential and patriotic service that -

The Germans were working as prisoners, they voluntarily for their country and the whole point of all this was to be finished in 10 days or a fortnight. Eventually the position was reached that the CAN refused HMG, that the only work that the Germans would be permitted to do was the repair of major bridges. Until HMG had decided the CAN was not co-operation and helped.

4. There is no intention that the Italians (see -) should work under "German armed direction" according to a normal interpretation of these words. The implication is that armed German guards will stand over the Italians and see that they work. The truth is that the German columns will be completely unarmed but that the relatively few German auxiliary forces were permitted to carry side arms for their own personal protection, which may well have been necessary and was authorized by high authority.

5. Of the point at D, AFB + D was already being before Col Erik arrived and would not have been mentioned. E had already been exploded with 27 Div. 100-120 miles of railway is simultaneously under repair 22 Div. said they could not possibly find guards. With regard to C, the only arms to be carried are personal side arms by officers for their personal protection as approved by higher authority. The proposals at D appeared nothing.

6

RE II OCEAN

7512

13 MAY 45

ROUTED

2

RECEIVED 20

RECEIVED FROM AIRMAIL DATED TWELVE MAY 45

RECEIVED TO RE II OCEAN FOR COLONEL FINE FROM RE AIRMAIL CITY AIRMAIL 13 MAY 45

ACTION APPROVED

see M 7.

EC DIST - 14 May

EC

CA Sec

Econ Sec

A/Pers

Dupers

Tn s/c

RE Coordination

209

4775

HA 1/5

INC DMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Ex Comm

Originator's Reference:

Date Time of Origin: MAY 12 1047B

SECRET

Message Centre No. E/484

Date Time Rec'd: MAY 12 1700B

Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: HQ II CORPS (COI FISKE)

TO: HQ ABCCM

MAY 13 REC'D

ACTION

SECRET

1. After visit to INNSBRUCK refugee situation appears not serious. There are only 5000 Italians and their return is controlled by 6 US CORPS with 5 ARMY. Chief problems here at present are political. Germans are in complete control, retaining arms and exercising authority. This is potentially a most dangerous and serious situation and may well result in clashes between Italians and Germans if not quickly corrected. I understand that 5 ARMY will take over Military Mission with German command from 15 ARMY GROUP tomorrow. Repairs to Italian railroad can be effected within a few days using German labour. 15 ARMY GROUP has ordered that this work be done by German command. This order is meeting with understandable resistance from Italians who have for 20 months been repairing this rail road at the point of German pistols under Allied bombardment. Germans cannot repair railroad without Italian cooperation which in the circumstances will not be forthcoming because Italians will not now work under German armed direction.

- 1 -

SECRET

See 5
HEADQUARTERS
MAY 1945
A. C.

4734

~~SECRET~~

2. I feel this situation can be readily resolved (?) and expect to do it tomorrow by proposing:

- (A) Railroad to be immediately rebuilt by Germans.
- (B) Allied engineers to be in charge of work.
- (C) Any German personnel involved in rebuilding of rail road will not bear arms.
- (D) Ultimate operation rail road, as soon as possible, will be Italian responsibility
- (E) American guards must be provided, if necessary protection, in view para 3.

3. A meeting is being held tomorrow at 9 o'clock and I expect this programme will be put into effect and trust that it bears AISCOR approval. If not please advise.

ACTION

Dist

Action - Exec Comm 2-
CA Sec
Econ Sec

Info - A/President
Chief Commissioner
Disper
In SC 2
File

6723

~~SECRET~~



0 3 6 3