

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No.

785017

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10000/109/81

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10000/109/81

DO SITREPS, BOLOGNA
OCT. 1944 - FEB. 1946

12

Acting Chief Commissioner.

Sir,

Please see Folio 11, DO report from AG CLO BOLOGNA.

14/2
13/2

See by Ex 6 - NFA

16

Ex. 6

Please see list to report from CLO Bologna

at 15

13/3

18/5/3

6843

PA

Acknowledged suitable of pass to Est. Sec.

ESTAB SEC

Received for notation and return please

W.S.A.
44

22 Oct 44.

✓ Major L. W. STEARNS
OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF

5

Est Sec. Muted CAMP 10-24-44

6

G-1(B) To note & return *pub 24 Oct.*

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF STAFF.

24 Oct 44.

Exec. O. (B)

For information & return to Office of Corp Staff Mess

Dist. 107244.

James L. ...
G-1 B.

C.O.S. Section 1

Referred to R. H. ...

4542

8

6

G-1(B)

To note & return

24 Oct.

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF STAFF

24 Oct 44.

Exec. O. (B)

For information & return to Office of Chief Staff Messrs

James L. ...
G-1 B.

25/10/44.

8

4542

C. O. S. Salton

Referred to R. H. ...

25/10/44

ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON OFFICE
BOLOGNA

CONFIDENTIAL

26 February 1946

To: Brigadier M.S. LUSH, CBE
Executive Commissioner,
HQ Allied Commission
R O M E

Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 20 February, the information it contained so far as the British War Establishment is concerned, is interesting and re-assuring, particularly to officers who may have some time to go before their release. Naturally, they do not want to go to another theatre and revert to their war Substantive rank.

The situation in Emilia has not changed much since my last official report. There has been considerable political activity, as expected, but it has all been very orderly. NENNI addressed a meeting of 15,000 persons in Reggio Emilia, speaking on (i) the ruins left by Fascism, (ii) the co-responsibility of the monarchy, (iii) co-ordinating elections and, (iv) industrial and agricultural reforms. There were no incidents of any description which shows a decided improvement in the temper of the people.

Everywhere we are getting reports of diminution of the unrest which has been apparent since the war ended here - but it may well be the calm before the storm.

The food situation in Emilia Region is in actual fact, good at present. It is true that officially we are living from hand to mouth so far as grain is concerned, but in this wheat producing area almost everyone has a private stock, except of course, the very poor people. It is when these stocks are exhausted that I fear the storm mentioned above; my view, for what it is worth, is that trouble will start in the big cities such as Milan, Genoa, and Turin, and spread to other areas. Emilia has the reputation of being a troublesome Region, so we may expect our share if and when it does start.

Shops are full of other foods, meats, fish, and various kinds of sausage, fruit etc., being in abundance - but the prices are so high that it is quite impossible for any but the rich to buy.

The Public Safety situation has improved this month, much less crime having been reported. The CC.FK. are working much better now, due to improvement in morale, clothing and equipment. A very impressive parade last month, of the Carabinieri, complete with tanks, armoured cars, automatic weapons etc., has done much to cool off some

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Public Health has remained good on the whole, but there have been some reports of many returned P.O.s suffering from tuberculosis.

Farmers are getting worried at the lack of rain - one thing they cannot blame the Allies for. Unless there is a rainy March, the crop prospects are not good.

The new Prefect of Bologna has arrived, he seems to be a strong man who will not be influenced by the political parties so much as his predecessor. He presented himself at this office and the Area HQ the day following his arrival and promised full cooperation.

The new M/E of vehicles has been received and the slight adjustments necessary to bring our numbers down will be made in the next three days.

Yours sincerely,

W. H. L. W.

PA 6/3

See 4.16

5/1

SECRET & PERSONAL

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

AFN 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

26.
28 February 1946.

I have to thank most of you for some interesting letters in reply to my 120 letter of 31st January. I hope that those of you that have written will repeat the performance regularly and those who have not will reply to this letter.

Since I wrote we have received approval (subject to War Office concurrence) on the new British War Establishment which has been divided into four parts, i.e., HQ, Liaison Groups, UDINE AMG and VENEZIA GIULLA AMG. The figures in British officers work out as follows:

HQs.....	69
Liaison Groups.....	43
UDINE AMG.....	17
VENEZIA GIULLA AMG.....	63

This, of course, is all subject to any drastic changes that may be made at governmental level and on this subject we are still awaiting reply to a telegram which was despatched to the Combined Chiefs of Staff before Christmas. It is difficult to say what the reply will be but I do not think you need worry about security of tenure for several months.

I am very concerned about the food situation. The truth is that we are living from hand to mouth on wheat and flour and that reserve stocks are down to about a week's supply for the country. This, mind you, on a ration of 200 grams with 500 grams of pasta monthly. For your own information, and not for publication, HQ, UNRRA in Washington are extremely gloomy about the March loadings for which they have not even obtained any assurances whatever, and in future arrivals after that. I hope there won't have to be a further cut in the ration but I very much doubt if UNRRA will be able to provide pasta at all after 1st March. They describe the March situation as catastrophic.

I want you all to realize that on the British side transport is extremely short. Our WE figures have been cut drastically and

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I want you all to realise that on the British side transport is extremely short. Our WE figures have been cut drastically and we shall get no new vehicles. In fact I doubt if we shall get any replacements at all. So it does behoove you, firstly to accept the allocation which I have just approved and which will be coming to you shortly; secondly, to ensure that British cars, and for that matter American cars, are maintained in the best possible manner.

Admiral Stone who has been in London all this week returns today. Colonel Monfort is also visiting Rome, I believe, in connection with the Cardinals. We shall all be glad to see him.

(Sgd) L. S. Lush

To : ALL ARMO's

LA 12/1

4840

ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON OFFICE
BOLOGNA

12 February 1945

Ref : AC/BOL/LO/DO/R/5

To: Brigadier M. S. LUSH
Acting Chief Commissioner,
HQ Allied Commission
R O M E

Sir,

I thank you for your letter of the 31 January 45. The situation in Emilia Region seems to be about the same: political activity has increased with the approach of the elections, but everything at present is being done in an orderly fashion. The Communists are very well organised not only for political propaganda but also for an attempt to gain supremacy by intimidation or, possibly, force of arms. The Italians fear the latter, but personally I think the former is the more likely.

The Socialist and Christian Democrat Parties are stronger numerically than the Communists but they are not so well organised; in addition there is a split in the Socialist Party on the question of fusion with the Communists.

Other parties are quite hopeless, the Monarchist in particular. The leader of that party in Bologna for example, is incapable of leading anything. Republican feeling is fairly strong.

So far as food is concerned, there is plenty now; shops are full of meat, fish, cakes - at a price.

Officially there is only enough grain in Emilia to last until about the middle of the month, with promised shipments sufficient to carry on until the end of the month. Unofficially, there is grain available, but not, I think, sufficient to keep the city populations fed for long. In country areas there is of course, plenty for everyone.

It is to be hoped that sufficient grain can be imported, not only to avoid disorder now, but also to encourage the amassing of grain from the next harvest; at

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It is to be hoped that sufficient grain can be imported, not only to avoid disorder now, but also to encourage the amassing of grain from the next harvest; at present the attitude is that a good amassing effort has been made in Emilia Region, that the bulk of the grain has been sent to Milan, Genoa, and Turin, leaving this Region short.

Crime in the Region is still increasing, but the CC.RR. are improving and are having some success.

There is a definite change in the attitude of the Italians towards the Allies; the richer people while desirous of the presence of Allied troops to save their own skins - or throats, are not particularly friendly; the "left" elements resent our presence as something of a curb of their illegal activities. The fact that the Allies are in fact feeding Italy, is quite forgotten. Often I have heard the statement, really a pious wish, that Great Britain and Russia will be at war.

See p. 12.13.

Page 4

(10)
The Italian press is to some extent anti-ally; any possibility of criticism is siezed upon for a lengthy article; whether it be the subject of de-requisitioning, piccadilloes of drunken Allied soldiers, or a statement by some Allied officer, e.g. the letter of Brig.Gen. Cripps to the Naples press.

Recently, I went into the battle devastated areas in the South of Bologna Province, and there the signs are encouraging. The people there have really got down to reconstruction and have achieved some success. For example, one three-pillar stone bridge over a river was rebuilt in 25 days and is now in use.

Unemployment is still a grave problem, and in the towns is a potential source of serious trouble; men without work talk too much anywhere in the world, and particularly so in Italy.

One last item, Brigadier Tennent is leaving 217 Area and, I understand, will be replaced by Brigadier Miller, formerly an Allied Commission officer in Austria.

TWJW/mc

Yours Obediently.

W. J. Walters
Lieut Col.

9578

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL.

24 January 1946.

To: All AC C-63

Those of you who have been Regional Commissioners know that I have always been glad to receive DC letters from you from time to time on matters of general and particular interest. The monthly report is generally too late for anything but historical interest, while on the other hand it is difficult perhaps to put down in official reports some of the things which we should like to have here at Headquarters.

I would therefore ask you to let me have a rather gossipy letter two or three times a month, particularly at the outset of your liaison work, telling me how things are working out and some of your official or personal views on the general situation.

I for my part will try to keep you unofficially informed on all matters of general interest with regard to the Commission.

I have just returned from a short visit to England but I could glean little news about the future of the Commission with the exception that both the War Office and the Foreign Office have the idea that a split between the functions of the Allied Commission and the Chief Civil Affairs Officer at this time was desirable. I tried to point out to them that such a split would involve redundancy in work and extravagance in officers. We still have no news from the Combined Chiefs of Staff on the general lay-out. At Headquarters, the turnover in the Economic Section from the Allied Commission to UNRRA and the Embassy is progressing smoothly. I am not quite so happy about the turnover of Displaced Persons for in this respect UNRRA does not seem to be ready to run the camps or to tackle the hundred-and-one problems of Displaced Persons. In these turnovers, we are, of course, losing a number of officers to UNRRA.

We are all very concerned about the food situation for it looks as if we shall be nearly 100,000 tons a month short from the February arrivals. I do not think we can lay it at anybody's door for it is due to the general world shortage but the fact remains that Italy is now the worst fed country in Europe (on paper at any rate). I should be interested to hear your views on this.

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Admiral Stone hopes to go to London on February 9th, amongst other things to receive his K.B.E. We have lost Colonel Denmore this week, a real loss to the Commission in which he was a tremendous standby.

I am sending a copy of this letter to all Chief Liaison Officers.

M. S. LUSH

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

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 394.
Office of the Chief of Staff

Ref: 176/3/308.

20th October 1944.

Thank you for your letter of 17th October about two of
your officers. I am sorry to hear Colonel Tharburn is so ill and
note that you are appointing Lieut. Colonel Quin Smith in his place.
I also note that Lieut. Colonel Nicholls will not need replacement.

I hope you will settle in as comfortably as possible in
Florence.

M. S. LUSH

4576

Colonel R. G. Kirkwood,
Regional Commissioner,
Allied Military Government,
TOGANA REGION.

176-44
605

HEADQUARTERS
TOSCANA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

RHE/ttg.

17 Oct. 1944.

19 OCT Recd

Brigadier M. S. Lush,
Executive Commissioner,
HQ, Allied Control Commission.

Dear Brigadier,

I have received a letter from Colonel Thurburn saying that they have definitely diagnosed his case as one of active stomach ulcers; and that he is leaving in a few days. He will be sent home, so he tells me.

Lt.-Colonel Quin-Smith is in Arezzo as Acting Provincial Commissioner. Upon the departure of Colonel Thurburn I will appoint him Provincial Commissioner, in accordance with our conversation.

Although Lt.-Colonel Nicholls wrote me that the doctors said he had stomach ulcers, after a thorough examination he has been told that he does not have that trouble. It is not necessary for him to have special food. He must refrain from eating a few things that he can well do without. Colonel Nicholls, therefore, expects to be available for duty. I saw him this morning and he seems quite fit after his rest and treatment in hospital. No replacement will be needed for Colonel Nicholls at this time.

We are making some progress on our move to Florence. We have had to find what we could for ourselves. We will be scattered all over the town but hope to have roofs over our heads. Our move to Florence has not been cleared with the 5th Army as yet but we expect clearance momentarily. As soon as we receive the necessary permission from 5 Army I shall proceed with the move to Florence.

Yours truly,

4875

Robert G. Kirkwood
ROBT. G. KIRKWOOD.



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