

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

785017

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10000/109/86

DO SITREPS, VENEZIE REGION
JUNE 1945 - MAR. 1946

PERSONAL AND UNCLASSIFIED

Ref: 181/22

27 March 1946.

A line to tell you how very sorry I was at not being able to visit you as promised this week. Unfortunately I was recalled to Rome just before I got to Udine and could not complete my tour. I very much hope to get North to see you in the near future and in the meantime I am coping with a good deal of planning necessitated by another directive from the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

M. B. CASH

Lt. Col. Mavis,
Allied Commission
Chief Liaison Officer,
VENETIA.

MBL/JG.

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SECRET & PERSONAL.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

AFD 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

19 February 1946.

I have to thank most of you for some interesting letters in reply to my DO 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 GIULIA AMG. The figures in British officers work out as follows:

HQ.....	69
Liaison Groups.....	43
UDINE AMG.....	17
VENEZIA GIULIA 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 For your own information, and not for publication, HQ, UNRRA in Washington are extremely gloomy about the March loadings for which they have not even obtained any assurances whatever, and in future arrivals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 we shall get no new vehicles. In fact I doubt if we shall get any

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Liaison Groups.....	43
UDINE AMG.....	17
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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 250 grams with 500 grams of pasta monthly. For your own information, and not for publication, HQ, WARRA in Washington are extremely gloomy about the March landings for which they have not even obtained any assurance 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 WARRA 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 we shall get no new vehicles. In fact I doubt if we shall get any replacements at all. So it does behave 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 Macfarlane is also visiting Rome, I believe, in connection with the Cardinals. We shall all be glad to see him.

(Sgd) M. S. Lusk

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ALLIED COMMISSION
OFFICE OF CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER

VENEZIA

♦♦♦

VILLA TAVERNA
PREGANZIOL
NEAR TREVISO

4 Feb 46.

My dear Samie.

Thank you for your letter of the 1st Jan.
As it happens I had already sent you a very d/c report and will send you another at the end of the coming week, if indeed I do not come down to Rome to see you.

The threat of a serious food situation is receiving considerable publicity in the local press, usually, I fear, accompanied by the suggestion that "the Allies" will in the end, come to the rescue.

In fact the shortage is not felt severely at the present though we are living from hand to mouth in grain arrivals. There is a fairly plentiful supply of vegetables including sweet potatoes and this serves to supplement the grain ration.

A number of our Prefects are going to Rome this week and either to attend the Congress of the Action Party, or to see various Ministries. A new, career, Prefect has been appointed for Trento to take the place of a local man, a very earnest hard working little Communist. He had done excellent work but I agree that he does not possess the professional back ground required for a Prefect.

Please regard this as an interim acknowledgement. I shall write again in the course of the week.

Yours ever

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My dear Francis

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Thank you for your letter of the 13th Jan.
As it happens I had already sent you a very d/o report and will send you another at the end of the coming week. If indeed I do not come down to Rome to see you.

The threat of a serious food situation is receiving considerable publicity in the local press, usually, I fear, accompanied by the suggestion that "the Allies" will in the end, come to the rescue.

In fact the shortage is not felt severely at the present though we are living from hand to mouth in grain arrivals. There is a fairly plentiful supply of vegetables including sweet potatoes and this serves to supplement the grain ration.

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Yours ever

Brigida Francis head C.D. C.D. H.C.

Atto. Allied Com. in Gen.

Francis

Mr. L. 12

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(13)

AS CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER, VENEZUELA

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5 Feb 46

ROUTINE

UNCLASSIFIED PD

PERSONAL FOR BRIGADIER DUNLOP FROM LIAISON PD

SHALL BE VERY PLEASED TO SEE YOU IN HOME AND ACCOMMODATE YOU
WHENEVER YOU CAN COME

4970

Rx. Com.

SAJ

J/Comd
PA to Rx. Com

From : Brigadier J.K. Dunlop, CBE, MC, TD.

ALLIED COMMISSION
OFFICE OF CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER
Venezia

Villa Taverna
Preganziol
Near Treviso

1 Feb 46

(12)

My Dear *Mauro*.

I am getting to work to compile the official report for the month of January, but, before doing so I should like to write you a more personal note of our doings.

Even before that, however, I should like to send down my salutations to the two Misses Lush, who, I gather from Nellie Farren have safely arrived to join us in Italy.

I sincerely hope that before long they will be able to come North and visit this most lovely part of Italy. The weather here is perfect, blue sky, bright sun, snow on the hills, and the temperature just above freezing on the plains.

The Villa Taverna is developing into a very gracious country residence, and I am getting a good deal of quiet pleasure out of developing my ideas of what a Liaison Group should be. Certainly I feel that we did right to move clear away from Padova, and to divorce the setting up of the group from the closing down of the Region. "Not to mix the living with the dying" as I, perhaps rather crudely, expressed it.

I am in very close touch with my Prefects, in fact I have seen five of the eight within the last four days. They are all pretty satisfied with the situation. The grain ships arrived at Venice only just in time.

Relations with 13 Corps, the 6th Armoured Division and 66 Area continue to be most happy and friendly.

The administrative elections are fixed to take place in the month of March over a large section of the countryside. I think people are beginning to realise that the sum total of results in the administrative elections will give a very fair picture of the general sentiment of the country and may provide basis for a change of Government, or at least a redistribution of ministerial posts. The end of March or the beginning of April might well prove an important period in the post war development of Italy.

See 13

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(11)

I have thought it fairer to leave you in peace for some days after your return from London, before coming to Rome for a gossip. I had thought of coming South about the end of next week, say 7th or 8th, but shall get in touch with you nearer the time. 13 Corps have a conference on the 13th which I should like to attend.

In general things go on well and the situation is in hand.

All good wishes.

Yours ever
M. Lush

Brigadier Maurice Lush, CB, CBE, MC.
H.Q. Allied Commission,
Rome.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL

31 January 1946.

To: Mr. P. C. C.

Those of you who have been Regional Commissioners know that I have always been glad to receive DO 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 gossip 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 learn from you whether the removal of the ration system has had any serious local effect because my own impression

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Admiral Stone hopes to go to London on February 9th, amongst other things to receive his F.B.E. We have lost Colonel Deussore 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.

Spa/ M. S. 1124

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

(9)

Ref: 181/9/EC.

25 September 1945.

Thank you very much for your most interesting letter dated 21 September. I am delighted that the local Army Commanders are becoming so "Carabinieri-minded."

I should very much appreciate receiving photographs of the parade in St. Mark's Square.

Yours sincerely,
M.L.

Brigadier J. E. Dunlop, OBE, MC, TD,
Headquarters,
AMG,
Venetian Region.

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V/g

HEADQUARTERS
VENETIE REGION
Allied Military Government
APO 394

21 September 1945

SEP 24 1945

My dear General

One or two interesting events have taken place, or will take place, and I thought that you might be interested to know some of them.

First, in respect of the Carabinieri. Yesterday afternoon, Thursday 20th we had a review of four hundred Carabinieri in St. Marx's Square Venice, by Lt. Gen. Sir John Harding. I thought that the whole ceremony went off very well and the men were quite well turned out and marched well.

On Monday next, 24th we shall have a similar parade in Udine, also taken by Sir John Harding. There will be a similar parade in Padova on Saturday 29th, to be taken, I hope, by the Commander 6th Armoured Division. There will be another in Verona in the first week of October.

In the mean time the process of showing the Carabinieri flag, by means of tours, - in British M.T. - of selected parties of Carabinieri has continued. I think such tours have done good work. They certainly have been enjoyed by the Carabinieri.

As you know 6th Arm. Division has arrived in this area. They are also being joined by 2nd Armoured Brigade.

I have arranged with Major General Murray to give talks to his Officers and W.O.'s on the present situation in Italy. The first such talk took place on Wednesday last at Verona for the 61st Bde, the second takes place at Padova today, and there will be another in Vicenza next week.

I am giving a little reception in Padova this afternoon so that a number of the local worthies can meet General Murray, and his Staff. Blackwell had a very good reception. Prefect, Sindaco, C.I.N. etc. to meet CDR 61 BDE and myself on Wednesday last, and Maves at Trento has a reception fixed for Monday evening next. I shall have to drive Udine - Trento during the

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If I get good photographs of the Carabinieri parade in St. Mark's Square I shall send them to you.

The situation is going quite fairly well, and I think that the solution of a free Port for Trieste will be accepted calmly.

Believe me

[Signature]
Regional Commissioner

Brigadier Maurice Lush, CE, AEE, MC
Office of the Executive Commissioner
Headquarters, Allied Commission

JKD/zn

(C.S.O.)

181
From: Brigadier J.K. Dunlop, OBE, MC, TD

HEADQUARTERS
VENEZIE REGION
Allied Military Government
APO 394

My dear General
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4/

8 June, 1945.

Very many thanks for your excellent work on our behalf in respect of accommodation in the City, officers and vehicles.

General Heideman saw me this morning and made a most handsome apology for the action taken, completely without his knowledge, by Col. Percy Jones. I gather that the General has expressed himself strongly to Sub-Area. The incident may now be regarded as closed.

No. 1 District hope to produce fifty (50) passenger vehicles within a week. I shall give the first arrivals to Nelson Montfort's party in order to bring them up to strength first. As we hear, at the same time, that we may be losing our jeeps, it is rather difficult to say at this moment whether the new cars will actually put us in a good position or not. However we are, as I repeat, exceedingly grateful and there is no doubt that as a result of your work the whole situation is looking much brighter.

As far as Officers are concerned, Con Benson hopes to be able to get 22 Officers out of 8th Army. If this comes off, and he is very hopeful that it will come off, some 6 officers will go to the Trieste Group and the remainder will come on loan to Venezia. The idea will be that some of them will be put into the quieter provinces in order to allow of the maximum number of experienced officers in Udine.

I have sent you an official letter telling you that the style of Nelson Montfort's group has been changed by him to A.M.G. 11th Corps. We are conform-

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I have sent you an official letter telling you that the style of Nelson Montfort's group has been changed by him to A.M.G. 13th Corps. We are conforming to this change here. I visited 8th Army yesterday and the day before and secured complete agreement on the list of officers which would be handed over by us. I think that now that Col. Nelson Montfort has arrived, the sooner an official clear cut division is made, the more convenient it will be for the general working of both Venezia and the Trieste party. In any case I have now stopped making any direct visits to the Trieste Group and will conduct correspondence through A.M.G. 8th Army. I am quite sure this is the correct action to take and I hope that you approve.

Brigadier M.S. Lush, CB, CBE
Office of the Executive Commissioner
Headquarters
Allied Commission

JKD/lgc

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

785017

Chief Commissioner.

I submit a letter from
Brigadier Dunlop for your information.

MSL

5. June.45

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HEADQUARTERS
VENEZIA REGION
Allied Military Government
APO 394

2 June, 1945

From: Brigadier J.A. Dunlop

My dear Panni

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Last night I had an exceedingly interesting talk with Professor Meneghetti who is the President of the Regional CNR. His own opinion is that it is quite essential for the good of Italy that we should remain in the country until after the elections have been held.

I very seldom worry you with my speeches but I am on this occasion sending you the English version of what I am saying today in Venice. I am doing this because I think the line of thought which I am attempting to get across corresponds very closely to the discussions which you and I have had.

Yours ever
M.

Brigadier J.S. Lush, CB, CBE
Office of The Executive Commissioner
Headquarters
Allied Commission

DO/JKD/lgc

See S 4963

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SPEECH

It is with great pleasure that I come to Venice today to declare open this collection of famous and beautiful works of art. The treasures of Venice are the treasures of the whole world. The whole world watched with apprehension lest these treasure works should be damaged. The whole civilised world rejoices in its safety. When, months ago, I commenced to study my great task in Northeast Italy, all our plans were based on the anticipation that the damage in upper Italy would be widespread. Now we have found that much we had expected to find in ruins is intact and in working order. The task of rebuilding Italy will be thereby made easier.

That the end came so quickly and that North Italy was so little touched by war came from three main causes. Far to the North the Great Armies of the Anglo-American forces and of Russia were crushing the German home front. To the South, in the valley of the Po, a campaign was being fought which when history is written will be regarded as a masterpiece of strategy. In just over three weeks, from April 6th to May 2nd, the entire German Armies of the Southwest, nearly a million men were overrun and beaten in the field by the Allied Armies under Field Marshal Alexander. Such a swift and dynamic victory is well nigh without precedent in the whole history of the war. Here, and in the mountains of the North, the valiant partisans blocked the German escape routes, immobilised their garrisons, and with supreme courage and resource preserved from destruction the electric and other installations upon which the future of Italy so largely depends.

So today German armies remain on Italian soil only as prisoners, and Fascism is overthrown. But the price has been heavy. I have journeyed in this land nine months along the Italian roads from Reggio Calabria to Bressanone, from Lecce in Apulia to Tolmezzo. All through the length and breadth of Italy lie the graves of Allied soldiers, by one or twos, in little groups, or in the great military cemeteries. To read the names on the headstones is to pass the world in review. For every part of the civilised world has come to fight in Italy. English, Scotch, American, French and Polish, men from the great prairies of Canada, from the high plateaus of South Africa, from Australia, from the lovely isles of New Zealand, brave men from the plains of India or from the all-staring heights of the Himalayas, from innumerable islands in the ocean, a great avenging army. And many there be that will never see the day of their return.

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It is only when the dust of war blows away and the nervous tension of battle is relaxed that the hideous ruin of war becomes apparent. Then comes the danger of depression and disillusionment. The difficulties are great but they are not insurmountable if all work together.

Above all there will be need, in the midst of all these problems, of a spirit of true democracy. That spirit which hates cruelty and oppression as a means of government. A spirit which believes in liberty, in comprehension, in charitableness. A spirit which accepts responsibility, accepts service, and finds its true reward in the good of all.

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