

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

785017

ACC

10000/109/724
(VOL. I)

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

10000/109/724
(VOL. I)

DISPOSAL OF AMMUNITION
JAN. - APR. 1946

106

APPENDIX

YOL I

blowing out of the terre auventing explosion.

DISPOSAL OF

AMMUNITION

VOL I

BRING OUT OF THE TORRE AMMUNITION EXPLOSION.

[Signature]
10000-109-724

COPIES
JAN 7/6
JAN 6/6

1714

to Comm

88.

1) Letter at p 82 submitted for signature.
Is 68 + 73 and year in 77 refer.

2) Is 86 + 87 for info. H.S. 114

Copy of 86 + 87 to GS & CAO Napier.

Per 75000 at amended DV (14)

H.S. (14)

Per

H.S. 614

78

CSO Folios 95 + 96 + letter at 94 for the

201

Info of Ex Comm please Auth 4/4

responsibility to guard the dumps and that if they are not guarded them will be explosives, ^{for} which since it is Allied property the Allies (or Britain in their case) must assume responsibility as owners of dangerous material. In similar conditions ~~If the same thing~~ happened

in England the N.D. would have to assume responsibility for guarding & disposal & not the civil police - and the same must happen here. We should say that we have discussed the matter with CLO Naples & that there are our views.

MS C2513

responsibility. In similar conditions happened material. If the same thing happened

in England the N.D. would have to assume responsibility for guarding & disposal & not the civil police - and the same must happen here. We should say that we

have discussed the matter with CLO Naples & that there are our views.

MS C2513

81.

To: C80.

Draft letter, on file for review and approval please, Ex Commis union 47 Refen. Aut 27/3

83

Ex Commis

C80 Letter at folio 82 for signature, please Aut 27/3

C80 Letter at folio 87 for the info of Ex Commis, please Aut 27/3

MS C2514

Ex Comm.

54

A/USO Ref mem 47, Letter 7, acknowledgment
 of 46 herewith submitted for signature
 at 53

EDS 25/2 H.S. 202

Ex Comm.

59

A/USO At 56 is Ed Pennington's report of the
 first meeting with General Scoppo. Ex Comm's
 input at 38 refers. agreement appears
 to be working out; since copies have gone
 to PDS & AUSA is there any further action?
 at 58 is a continuation of 56.

EDS 25/2 H.S. 24/2

7/13

66

H.S. 5/3

A/USO is letter at 63 & 64 submitted for signature
 if approved as action on 62
 63 for wife

EDS 5/5

70

A/USO Letter submitted for 3-7 at 69 of appd.
 Represents action on 68

EDS 11/3

74

CSO

transmission the attached with a letter.

to 655 & 656 is there any further action?

at 58 is a continuation of 56.

J.H. 24/2

END 25/2

778/1/3

66

J.H. 513

A/150 is letter at 65 & 64 submitted for signature

~~at 65~~ of appeal as action on 62.

at 63 for info

END 5/3

70

After letter submitted for sig at 69 & attached.

Representative action on 68

END 11/3

74

C.S.O. so you agree the attached draft, please.

C.S. for typing J.H. 12/13/199

75

C.S.O.

Letter at 75 submitted for signature J.H. 12/13/199

77

C.S.O.

No. 9 details their way of approach. At 110 have admitted to large dumps & asked us to warn the Nat. population and to fill. Or must, while agreeing to warn the Nation population, point out that in any country, & especially study unguarded areas. is a temptation & that it is a military

17a F.C. Yes, but can't get (check #1)
 should be passed by me, I think P.P.
 Para. 10 requires an agreement by I.C.
 will get ps do not necessary
 Attached is submitted for your signature
 information

I suggest send this to Min + Antonio with
 a covering letter stressing the fact I.C. can't sign it

19

Chief Commissioner

18

Attached is submitted for your signature
 information

Copies will go to H.R. + C.A.O. Napier
 1972-REC-1210

11/2/72

20
 Director - Public Health S/C

- (a) ps 2 and 8-10 for info
- (b) Can we have an answer to C.C.'s
 minute at 14 please H.S. 4/2.

21

Lt Sampson mentioned in Feb 10 is Capt Sampson
 Executive Officer of Public Health Sub-Commission

18

Approval
 Attached is submitted for your signature
 information

1972-REC-1719

Copies will go to A. Wick & C. O. Napier

17/3/72

20.
 Director. Public Health S/C

- (a) p's 2 and 8-10 for info.
- (b) Can we have an answer to P.C.'s
 minute at 14 please. H.S. 4/72.

(2)

"Lt Sampson" mentioned in Folio 10 is Capt Sampson
 Executive Officer of Public Health Sub Committee
 5/7/72

30

Also Re 200 f. 23 for info 25/3/72

47

Also Re Comm.

Re 46-43A There is a further report from H. Keding
 on the relief afforded at Tene. Lunningzeta. I will
 acknowledge it when seen. 25/3/72 H.S. 20/72

17/3/72

see 3
(not)

50/c.c. cc may need to see P. 322.2
1-24/11

193

Vg

see 10A

CR Have copies of 303 to 307 sent to CA Sec
Leon Sec

Sent 28/11
CR

see Leon. Com. 307 11

Ex Comm will need to see 303 to 307
4 - 9-12

H.S. 28/11

CR 28/11

194

(7)

13

324 10A
 Have copies of 325 to 327 sent to CA Sec
 from Sec 28/1
 Sent 28/1
 328 11
 4 - 9-12
 Ex Comm will work to see 323 to 324
 H.S. 28/1
 28/1
 194 (7)

13

Chief Commissioner.

Approval
 Attached is submitted for your signature
 information

193
 1178/38
 EC. Good reports, but who is his. Sampson
 (p.10)?
 28/1

192

Ext. 482

3642 A ✓
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Transportation and Shipping Branch

100
12/6/05
WPS/vr.
APR 5 1946

Memorandum.

4 April 1946.

Subject : Use of Ports for Dumping Allied Ammunition.

To : Brigadier M.S. Lush
Executive Commissioner
Allied Commission.

1. On 21 February this headquarters was directed by AFHQ to contact the Italian Government with a view to obtaining their permission for the use of the ports of Ancona, Gelfetta and Barletta for the loading of schooners with Allied ammunition to be dumped into the sea.

2. A meeting was held with Lt. General Matteina, Director General of the Italian Merchant Marine on 23 February. General Matteina authorized the use of the port of Barletta but advised that he could not authorize the use of the ports of Ancona and Gelfetta because of the thickly populated areas at those ports and the possibility of explosions such as occurred at Torre Annunziata a few weeks previous.

3. AFHQ was advised of this decision by signal on 23 February.

4. This Headquarters later received a letter from AFHQ, dated 3 March, advising of the importance of using the ports of Ancona and Gelfetta and directed that the Prime Minister of the Italian Government be approached and point out to him that due to the diminishing transport and manpower facilities now available, it would not be possible to complete the Allied programme for the disposal of Surplus Ammunition without the use of the two ports.

5. General Matteina of the Italian Ministry of Marine was again contacted on 18 March and he would not change his previous decision.

191

See Min 104-101
- 1 -

SR 5/4
(msh)

99
APR 5 1946

- 2 -

6. A letter to the Prime Minister, pointing out the facts as directed by AFHQ, was signed by Admiral Stone on 26 March.

7. A signal dated 25 March was received from AFHQ requesting that the Italian Government answer be obtained by 1 April 1946. Again on 1 April, through Major Laraman of Rome "Q" Movements, AFHQ requested an answer by 3 April. On 1 April Colonel Walton of Economic Section in conjunction with Major Hind-Smith of your office, sent a signal to AFHQ requesting that the Italian Government be given until 8 April to reply due to the importance of the problem and the necessity in contacting different Government Officials concerned.

8. Every effort has been expended through the Italian Liaison Officer in the Chief Commissioners Office to press the Italian Government for a decision.

Walter P. Higgins
WALTER P. HIGGINS,
Lt. Colonel GSC,
Director.

P.S. - The Italian Liaison Officer in the Chief Commissioners Office advised Major Hind-Smith of the Executive Commissioners Office at 1115 hours that the Italian Government had verbally approved the use of the port of Ancona and hoped to have the answer on the port of Molfetta either today or tomorrow. "Q" movements. Rome AFHQ representatives were advised of this approval by telephone at 1130 hours.

190

W.P.S.

Ref: 7642/97/30

4 April 1945

SUBJECT: Ammunition Depots in NAPLES Area.

TO : A.C.L.C. Naples.

The attached copies of GHQ letter 4120/9.1 of 1st April and enclosure mentioned are forwarded.

Ref para 2 will you please ascertain that the Italian Authorities are aware that the guarding of this Ammunition is now their responsibility, and ensure that adequate action is taken by them.

A. W. Kneisel.

Wigandier,
Acting Chief Commissioner.

3642 40

5544
Ex Comm 96

G.H.Q. G.M.P.

APR 3 1946

SUBJECT: Amn Depots in NAPLES Area

4120/Q.1

1 Apr 46

HQ Allied Commission

Further to our letter of even number dated 6 Mar 46.

1. The attached copy of Territorial HQ NAPLES letter of 1 Feb 46 file 2/5092 has been received at GHQ and investigated by MIOUSA; the explosives concerned being of US origin.
2. The contents of bay 16 have been sold by the Office of Foreign Liquidation to the Italian government. It is believed that the latter has arranged for the removal of this material. In any event the safe custody of this material is no longer the responsibility of the Allies.
3. Pending the receipt of further instructions from the War Department, the US authorities do not contemplate the movement of the contents of bay 41. Moreover, this bay is situated 1,000 yds from TREVIOLA and stacked in 3 ton stacks with an interval of 80 yds between stacks. Provided there is no unauthorised interference to this material, no great danger exists.

W.D.A. Clare

W.D.A. CLARE, Lt. Col.,
for Major General,
MGA.

SGC/vnl.

188

See 97

(COPY)

COPI/

SUBJECT: Ammunition Dumps

Territorial HQ - NAPLES.

2/5092

1 Feb 46

10 British Liaison Unit

Thank you for the news given with your letter 1/4 dated 18 Jan 46.

1. Civilian and political authorities of AVERSA have reported to this HQ that the ammunition dumps thought to be more dangerous among the many located in AVERSA ^{Area} are the gelignite ones No 41 located at CERTORA at 800 metres from the village of TRENTOLIA and No 16 located at PONTE MAZZOTTA near AVERSA. It would be very much appreciated if priority could be given in clearing these dumps, and, if possible the guard implemented in all the Area.
2. It is impossible for this HQ to say how much of the above is true, and therefore to say if the requests are justified.
3. The matter is passed to you for the action you will think fit to take.

2000000000
(signed) E. GIORDANO Col.
Chief of Staff

Map Ref: AVERSA NO 1864
TRENTOLANO 1664

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: 3682/94/83.

3 April 1946.

SUBJECT: Ammunition Depots in Italian Areas.

TO : GHA (MGA) CEF.

Reference your 4120/41 of 6 March 46.

1. The local authorities have been assured that all ammunition in the area of IADIA is stacked with full regard to all safety regulations and the population have been warned of the danger caused by pilfering such dumps.
2. At the same time it will, I am sure, be realized both that certain components are in short supply and have a high commercial value and also that the responsibility for avoiding explosions must primarily rest with the owners of the ammunition, viz. the British Military authorities. In the U.S. this would undoubtedly be the case and the fact that the standard of public morality in this country is different does not detract from that degree of responsibility. If the dumps are left unguarded, the control will be removed.
3. You will, however, note that the Italian Government have issued a press release on the subject of pilferage and I trust this may have the desired effect.

For the Chief Commissioner:

N. W. HIND-SMITH
~~HIND-SMITH M. N.~~

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

186

Copy to: G-5 Section, AFHQ.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: 3642/93/43.

3 April 1946.

SUBJECT: Assassination Depots in RAPED Area.

TO : G-5 Section, AFHQ.
Allied Commission
Chief Liaison Officer,
RAPED.

The attached copy of letter 58582/1.2.1 dated 27 March 46 from the Italian Prime Minister to the Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, is passed to you for information.

For the Chief Commissioner:

M. W. HIND-SMITH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Incl.

A.F.H.O., 0-5

2 April 1946

PRIORITY

APR 5 1946

CONFIDENTIAL

PANA GEN PD REPERCUSSIVE YOUR SIGNAL TWENTY FIVE MARCH CITE FRENCH ITALIAN
GOVERNMENT REQUESTING MORE TIME TO GIVE A DEFINITIVE ANSWER ON THE USE OF THE
PORTS ANCONA AND MOLFETTA FOR ASSURANCE DURING PD THEIR NEED FOR TIME IS
CONSIDERED REASONABLE PD THEREFORE REQUESTED THAT AFHQ NOT INSIST UPON
ANSWER PRIOR TO EIGHT APRIL PD

184 187

PRIORITY

Executive Section

Charles W. Walton
Colonel AG
Acting Vice President

G. J. Lewis
CWO USA
Asst. Adjutant

COPY

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Chief Commissioner

MS/6.05

26 March 1946

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

On 28 February 1946 representatives of the Allied Commission met with General Matteini, Director General of the Italian Merchant Marine, to obtain the views of the Italian Government on the proposal to use the ports of Barletta, Molfetta and Ancona for the loading into schooners of Allied ammunition to be dumped into the sea.

General Matteini stated that there was no objection to the use of Barletta but the Italian Government could not give concurrence for use of the ports of Molfetta and Ancona.

In view of the diminishing transport and manpower facilities now available, it will not be possible to complete the Allied programme for the disposal of surplus ammunition without the use of the Ports of Molfetta and Ancona. It is desired to use these two ports for the disposal of the ammunition now in the Allied dumps at Ancona (Montemarciano) and Bari (Ritento).

If the Italian Government refuses to make available the two ports in question, there will be no alternative but to leave the ammunition in its present dumps where it would become an increasing source of danger to the neighbouring population. In such an event, its disposal would become the responsibility of the Italian Government.

I hope that after consideration of the above facts you will concur in the use of the ports in order that the ammunition may be disposed of at the earliest practicable date.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Doctor Alcide De Gasperi,
President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government,
Rome.

182

TRANSLATION

Rome, 27 March, 1946.

The President
of the Council
of Ministers
53552/1.2.1.

Dear Admiral:

I thank you again for your expressions of sympathy you kindly sent me for the mournful accident which occurred in Torre Annunziata last January. I am in agreement that the operations concerning the transport and sinking of ammunition, no longer in use, should take place in ports, of minor importance, carefully selected.

I share your opinion on the necessity of informing the local populations that such work must be carried out with the utmost speed and precaution. An appeal shall be made to all populations concerned as to strict discipline and understanding.

I am sending you a copy of the official communication to be published in the papers. In doing so I am responding to your own request. I hope the responsible units of the Allied Authorities will take all the necessary precautions to avoid further accidents.

Please accept my best greetings,

(signed) De Gasperi

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
Rome

(CR)

REC'DIST - 29 Nov

ACTION - EX COMM

INFO - CC

- CA Sec

- Lion Sec

- POWD A

POWD B

PR B

181

- 2 Spares -

L. H.

TRANSLATION

War operations have necessitated the formation of depots of munitions and explosive materials in many localities of the Peninsula. Such materials, kept in plants, subject to deterioration, is liable to be stolen, dumped or carelessly handled by inexperienced people. It represents a danger to public safety, and the Allied and Italian authorities are therefore concerned with its disposal with the greatest speed and security.

All materials will be sent to such localities where the depth of sea and landing accommodation will enable the sinking of it into the sea. Transport from the depots to the coast will be made by road or rail.

The Government, conscious of the necessity of speeding up the work, has taken steps, with the Allied Authorities, for the proper handling of the explosives according to modern technique and practice.

It is necessary however, that the population should collaborate with the local authorities in observing all measures of safety issued by Allied Units, in giving free passage to all convoys, and in refraining from subtracting or stealing material from depots or during the transportation.

By observing such necessary precautions the danger of accidents like the one which caused the loss of so many lives recently will be avoided.

(s) De Gasperi.



Roma, 27 marzo 1946

*Il Presidente
del Consiglio dei Ministri*

Caro Ammiraglio,

nel rinnovarle i ringraziamenti per le espressioni di solidale simpatia dirette in occasione del luttuoso incidente che ha colpito nello scorso gennaio la città di Torre Annunziata, convergo nella necessità che le operazioni di inoltro e affondamento delle munizioni non utilizzabili avvengano in zone portuali di minore importanza opportunamente prescelte.

Sono anche di accordo con Lei sulla convenienza di richiamare l'attenzione delle popolazioni sulla necessità che le operazioni suddette vengano condotte a termine nel modo più sollecito e regolare e di fare appello allo spirito di comprensione delle popolazioni stesse perchè contribuiscano con la loro disciplina condotta al conseguimento dello scopo.

A ciò è preordinato il comunicato-stampa che Le trasmetto in copia, sicuro di venire incontro al desiderio da Lei espresso e non dubitando che gli organi competenti delle Autorità Alleate, rendendosi facilmente conto della delicata natura delle operazioni progettate, adotteranno, da parte loro, i più idonei accorgimenti perchè ulteriori sciagure possano essere evitate.

Gradisca, caro Ammiraglio, i miei cordiali saluti

All'Ammiraglio Ellery W. STONE
Commissario Capo
della Commissione Alleata

ROMA

179

64

Lo svolgimento delle operazioni belliche ha dato luogo necessariamente alla costituzione in molte località della Penisola di depositi di munizioni e materiale esplosivo in genere. Detto materiale, custodito in impianti passibili coll'andar del tempo di deterioramento ed usura e soggetto a sottrazioni, dispersi ed incauto maneggio da parte di persone inesperte, viene a costituire un pericolo per la pubblica incolumità; donde la preoccupazione delle Autorità Italiane ed Alleate di effettuare la eliminazione nel modo più rapido e sicuro.

All'uopo la massa dei materiali esplosivi dev'essere convogliata al mare in quei punti che, per la profondità dei fondali e la disponibilità di approdi, risultano adatti alle operazioni di affondamento. Il trasporto dei depositi alla costa richiede l'impiego degli ordinari mezzi rotabili o della ferrovia.

Il Governo, rendendosi esatto conto della viva opportunità di accelerare al massimo tale lavoro, ha preso accordi con le Autorità Alleate affinché il maneggio degli esplosivi venga effettuato nel modo migliore e con tutte le precauzioni suggerite dalla tecnica e dalla pratica.

E' peraltro necessario che le popolazioni collaborino strettamente con le Autorità locali al buon fine delle operazioni, prestando scrupolosa osservanza alle norme di sicurezza emanate dagli organi Alleati ed evitando che abbiano comunque a verificarsi intralci al movimento dei convogli, nonché sottrazioni e manomissioni di esplosivi, sia nei depositi che durante il trasporto.

Solo con l'osservanza di tali doverose cautele può infatti rite-

lo per la pubblica incolumità; donde la preoccupazione delle Autorità Italiane ed Alleate di effettuare la eliminazione nel modo più rapido e sicuro.

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Solo con l'osservanza di tali doverose cautele può infatti ritenersi scongiurato il ripetersi dei dolorosi sinistri che hanno di recente provocato sacrificio di vite umane e gravi danni materiali.

D. J. J. J.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

82

March 1946.

Ref: 3642/83/30.

SUBJECT: Ammunition Depots in RAIFOR Area.

TO : GHQ (MGA) GHQ.

Reference your letter of 5 March 46.

1. The local authorities have been assured that all ammunition in the area of RAIFA is stacked with full regard to all safety regulations and the population have been warned of the danger caused by pilfering such dumps, but it will be realized that certain components are in extremely short supply and consequently have a high commercial value.
2. The ammunition is in this case British property, of a dangerous nature, and it seems clear that the British would have to accept all responsibility should an explosion occur.
3. The matter has been discussed with our Chief Liaison Officer in RAIFOR and in our view the guarding of these dumps must be a military commitment.

For the Chief Commissioner:

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: G-5, AFHQ.

176

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference:

Date/Time of Origin MAR 25 1610 Z

FROM APHQ SIGNED SACRED CITE PHGEG

TO : ALGOM ROME

Message Centre No: H/1179

Date Time Recd: MAR 26 0915 B

Precedence: PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL.

Subject is use of ANCONA and MOLETTA ports for ammunition dumping. Italian Governments reply to your approach in accordance with our G-5471 of 8 March 1946 urgently x required. Dumping programme will not be completed unless above ports taken into use by 1 April 1946.

AC DIST ~~FOR ECOM SEC- (2)~~
ACTION ~~FOR ECOM SEC- (2)~~
INFO ~~FOR ECOM SEC- (2)~~
CHIEF COMMISSIONER
FILE ~~FOR ECOM SEC- (2)~~
SKELETON

ACTION

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
76 MAR 1946
A. C. H.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL.

Subject is use of ANCONA and MOLINETTA ports for ammunition dumping. Italian Governments reply to your approach in accordance with our G-5471 of 8 March 1946 urgently x required. Dumping programme will not be completed unless above ports taken into use by 1 April 1946.

ACTION INFO
AD DIST
~~RECEIVED~~ SEC (2)
CHIEF COMMISSIONER
FILE
SKELETON

ACTION

CONFIDENTIAL



91

175

(last x)

3642 41
79
▲ THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO HIS HOLINESS THE POPE

By, via Boncompagni, Rome.

March 12, 1946.

Dear Captain Oddi:

I am transmitting herewith for whatever action may be deemed appropriate a copy of Note No. 119640/BA of March 12, 1946 which I have received from the Holy See, concerning a petition received at the Vatican from His Excellency Raffaele Radosi, Bishop of Parenzo and Pola for greater protection against dangers to which the residents of Pola are stated to be exposed on account of the inadequate number of guards about the ammunition dumps near the city.

Sincerely yours,

Harold H. Tittmann
Harold H. Tittmann
Assistant to the Honorable Myron C. Taylor

Enclosure:
Copy of Vatican Note.

Captain Victor L. Oddi,
Liaison Division,
Headquarters Allied Commission,
Rome.

SEGRETERIA DI STATO
DI SUA SANTITÀ

78/
Tel Vaticano. 11 March 15, 1946

No. 119640/SA

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness takes the liberty to recommend to the good offices of the Assistant to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States to the Holy See the petition of His Excellency Raffaels Radossi, Bishop of Parenzo and Pola for greater protection against dangers to which the residents of Pola are exposed on account of the inadequate number of guards about the ammunition dumps near the city.

His Excellency states that due to an explosion December 5, 1945 at 2 P.M. a large number of windows were shattered, several houses destroyed and a number of residents wounded. There was another explosion January 12 of this year with even sadder consequences. One of the arches of the Cathedral collapsed causing a damage of 200,000 lire. Damages were also suffered by the Convento S. Francesco, Convento S. Antonio, Chiesa della Misericordia, Banca d'Italia and

The Secretariat of State of His Holiness takes the liberty to recommend to the good offices of the Assistant to the Personal Representative of the President of the United States to the Holy See the petition of His Excellency Raffaele Riboldi, Bishop of Parenzo and Pola for greater protection against dangers to which the residents of Pola are exposed on account of the inadequate number of guards about the ammunition dumps near the city.

His Excellency states that due to an explosion December 5, 1945 at 2 P.M. a large number of windows were shattered, several houses destroyed and a number of residents wounded. There was another explosion January 12 of this year with even sadder consequences. One of the arches of the Cathedral collapsed causing a damage of 300,000 lire. Damages were also suffered by the Convento S. Francesco, Convento S. Antonio, Chiesa della Misericordia, Chiesa d'Italia and many private houses, and hundreds of the citizens.

172d.

Mr. Franklin C. Gowen
Assistant to the Personal Representative
of the President of the United States
to His Holiness

785017

75

Ref: 3642/74/80.

March 1946.

SUBJECT: Assumption Depots in NAPLES Area.

TO : GEN (MGA)
COP.

Reference your 4120/q1 of 6 March 46.

1. With regard to para 3, AD Chief Liaison Officer, NAPLES, has been contacted and a copy of his reply is enclosed for your information.

2. It would appear that the guarding of this assumption is, in fact, a military commitment, and it would be appreciated if we could have your views on this point, please.

For the Chief Commissioner:

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Incl.

170

104

785017

3042 A
HEADQUARTERS
NAPLES LIAISON GROUP
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO. 394.

Ex Comm 73

14 March, 1946

C/2245

SUBJECT : Ammunition Depots in Naples Area.

TO : HQ. A. C.

- 69*
1. With reference to your 3642/69/EC of 11th March 1946 the attention of the Questore and CORR are again being drawn to the pilferage of explosives but the question is one for decision at high level and we can do very little.
 2. The point is that the explosive has been spread all over the country as a war measure, so that it should not be subject to damage from air attacks. No attempt is made to guard it adequately by the Military Authorities and if we spread the entire force of Carabinieri on guarding this ammunition and explosive it would still be pilfered, as the dumps stretch for miles on either side of many roads.
 3. It does not appear to be a civil responsibility to deal with such an unusual situation but if it is a civil responsibility then a very large police force will have to be recruited.
 4. At present no one is taking responsibility and the ammunition and explosive is too much of a temptation to the civil population as it is used for fishing and other civil requirements.
 5. I would suggest that this explosive is a military commitment and that it should be collected into depots which should be guarded by military forces. Alternatively it may be left where it is but the risk of occasional explosions must then be accepted.

John A. C. Penny
J. A. C. PENNY 169, Colonel
C.D.O. Naples Liaison Group
Allied Commission.

Ref: 3642/72/80

15 March 1946

SUBJECT: Explosives at POLA.

TO : Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Italian Government, Rome.

With further reference to your letter no. 15/05413/43 of 20 February 46 on the above subject, I have to inform you that measures have been taken at the Ammunition Depot in POLA so that all dangerous material and sound ammunition will be sorted and stacked in such a condition as to expose no Allied Military or civil interest to danger.

Three German Ammunition Companies have reported to POLA to carry out the work under the supervision of a British Ammunition Expert.

No Italian labour is employed in the ammunition dumps containing captured enemy ammunition except such suitable workers as are considered essential for the safeguarding of Allied interests.

Will you please pass this information to the C.I.M. of POLA so that their fears may be allayed.

For the Chief Commissioner,

H AWK
capt
V. Rigallier
Executive Commissioner

168

785017

3642 *g**Ex Comm 71*

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
13 CORPS

4814

date 9 March 1946

TELEPHONE NO.

REFERENCE NO.

130/322/112/18

SUBJECT

Explosives at EGMA.

TO

Headquarters,
Allied Commission.

MAR 14 1946

ATTN

Office of the Executive Commissioner.

65

1. Reference your letter 3642/65/BJ dated 5 March 1946.
2. Measures have been taken at the Ammunition Depot in EGMA so that all dangerous material and sound ammunition will be sorted and stacked in such a condition as to expose no Allied Military or civil interest to danger.
3. Three German Ammunition Companies have reported to EGMA to carry out the work under the supervision of a British A.C.
4. No Italian Labour is employed in the ammunition depot containing captured enemy ammunition except such suitable workers as are considered essential for the safeguarding of Allied interests.

H.P.P. Robertson
Col

H.P.P. ROBERTSON,
Colonel,
Acting A.C.A.C.

69

Ref. : 3642/69/83

11 March 1946

SUBJECT: Assassination Depots in Naples Area.

TO : HQ Naples Liaison Group AD

3642-67

Attached are copies of correspondence received from GSA, GMP,
which are passed to you for appropriate action with the local authorities.

For the Chief Commissioner

R. W. HIND-SMITH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

CC: TO: GSA, GMP
(Your 4120/01 dtd 6 March 46)

68

See h-70

See 7-73

166

H. J. 1/3

SUBJECT: Ammunition depots in NAPLES Area

C.H.S., C.H.F.

4120/Q1

6 Mar 46

TO: HQ Allied Commission

MAR 8 1946

1. The attached copy of Territorial HQ NAPLES letter of 4 Feb 46 file 2/420/2 has been sent up to GHQ through Ord channels.
2. The local civilian authorities may be assured that all ammunition in the vicinity of NOLA is stacked with full regard to all safety regulations. The very fact that for more than one year an average of one hundred thousand tons of ammunition have been held at NOLA without a single incident worthy of report, is eloquent proof of the high standard of care and maintenance exercised by the British Army.
3. It cannot, however, be too strongly emphasised that all the efforts of the British Army will be vitiated if the present rate of unauthorised civilian interference at this depot continues. This interference has long since passed the stage when it may be classed as pilferage; ammunition is being broken down nightly on a large scale and the components of a commercial value taken away. The resulting debris necessitates the employment of a force of eight hundred daily on clearance duties.
4. By the end of March, all the more dangerous natures of ammunition including the dump referred to in this letter should have been cut loaded from this depot. The risk of an explosion is not however, thereby eliminated so long as the interference referred to in para 3 above continues.
5. The local civilian authorities of NOLA have in their own hands the means to eliminate the reasons for their concern. Anything which can be done to impress these facts upon the Italians and reduce the present unauthorised interference will be deeply appreciated by this Headquarters.

Robertson
J. B. ROBERTSON, Colonel,
for Major-General,
M.A.

Copy to:- C-5
ORD

(CAPT B)

785017

3642 PY
67
C O P Y

Subject: Explosives

Territorial HQ - NAPLES

2/420/2

4 Feb 46

10 British Liaison Unit

1. A large quantity of Allied explosives, among which is dynamite are dumped in 'PRINCIPE AMEDEO' Barracks and on the square near the 'EX FILANDA' Barracks in NOLA.
2. As these two barracks are very near the town, an accidental explosion could produce a large amount of damage.
3. HQ NOLA Garrison (It) requested by local civilian authorities have contacted NOLA Town Major asking that the dumps be removed from the Barracks and located in open country.
4. Proposal has not been accepted by the Town Major who replied to the Garrison Commander with letter Q/C 49 dated 23 Jan '46 that the explosives cannot be removed as they are better guarded in the barracks and cannot easily be touched.
5. You are informed of this, so that, if you think it fit, you can contact Allied Authorities and obtain the removal of the explosives.

(Sgd) V. DONATO Lt Col
Chief of Staff.

65

Ref: 3642/65/31.

March 1946.

SUBJECT: Explosives at Pola.

TO : ADM Venezia Giulia.

62-*refers*

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has brought to the attention of this HQ the representations made by the "Committee of National Liberation" of POLA about their desire to have measures adopted to prevent the possibility of further explosions of unattended war material in the city.

2. It would be appreciated if this HQ could be informed as to what special measures have been or are being taken in this regard.

For the Chief Commissioner:

/s/ N. W. HIND SMITH
MAJ

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

See 71

PA

64

Ref. : 3642/64/70

March 1946.

SUBJECT: Explosive Material at Fola.

TO : Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- 62
1. I acknowledge with thanks your letter 15/25.12/15 of 20 February 46 which I have passed to the appropriate Authorities.
 2. I will keep you informed as to their reply.

For the Chief Commissioner

N.W. HIND SMITH
MAG

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

161

161

785017

3642
Ex Comm - 63
Action - Econ Sec
2
(MOVEMENTS)

GND CND

Subject : Use of Schooners for
Ammunition Dumping.

Nov 5/49

Tel: FREEDOM 229

To : P.S.T.O. (Med).

21 Feb 46

FEB 26 1946

Reference attached correspondence.

1. Will you please arrange for the necessary 25 Schooners to be made available for dumping of ammunition. As far as possible low-sided schooners should be selected.
2. The quantity of ammunition has now assumed very large proportions and we would stress most urgently the need for the dumping programme to be got underway at the earliest possible moment.
3. In order to overcome the difficulties of land transport, it is hoped that dumping will take place from the following ports:-
 ANDORA
 MOLFETTA (auxiliary capacity)
 BARLETTA (subsidiary)
4. As the vessels are nominated will you please arrange for RASC Water Transport, G.H.Q., G.M.F. to be supplied with a list of names and locations in order that they can arrange for necessary escorts to be placed aboard.

RE/NO

L. C. Phillips
L. C. Phillips
 H.C. PHILLIPS, Lt. Col.,
 for Brigadier,
 D.Q.M.G. (M). 159

Copy to: H.Q. Allied Commission (2)
 M.W.T.R. NAPLES.
 GND, G.M.F. 'Q'
 " " S & T
 " " WFO
 " " Ord (Ann).

mbb
160

(copy)

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

15/05416/13

Rough translation

Rome, February 20th, 1946

File No. 2008

Dear Admiral Stone,

The "Committee of National Liberation" of Pola has made representations to the President of the Council on the need that measures be adopted to prevent the re-occurrence of explosions of unattended war material which might cause very serious damage indeed to the city.

I am referring the matter to you and I shall be grateful for whatever you may be able to do for the elimination of such danger.

Very cordially yours,

(sgd) A. RUFFIAS

Admiral Henry W. STONE
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission

442/98 Explan 82

111.65.159

Bene, February 20th, 1946

FEB 25 1946

Dear Admiral Stone,

The "Committee of National Liberation" of Poland has made representations to the President of the Council on the need that measures be adopted to prevent the recurrence of explosions of unattended war material which might cause very serious damage indeed to the city.

I am referring the matter to you and I shall be grateful for whatever you may be able to do for the elimination of such danger.

Very cordially yours,

(sgd) H. PAULAS

See 3-12

Admiral Henry W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
ROME

See 64.65.159



MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI
IL SEGRETARIO GENERALE

Roma, li 20 FEB 1948

15/05413/13
Caro Ammiraglio,

il Comitato di Liberazione Nazionale di
Pola ha fatto presente al Presidente del Consiglio che
sarebbe necessario prendere delle misure al fine di evi-
tare il ripetersi di esplosioni di materiale bellico in-
custodito, che potrebbero arrecare alla città danni gra-
vissimi.

Le segnalo la cosa, grato di quanto Ella
vorrà fare perché sia eliminato tale pericolo.

Molto cordialmente

R. Einaudi

All'Ammiraglio Ellery W. STONE
Capo della Commissione Alleata

R O M A

Executive Order by Hoover

3642 51

60

ACTED

1936 FEB 26 1946

FEB 26 1946

2 (1946) 1946

1398

NEW

RECEIVED

SUBJECT: 4448 DURING THE YEAR ONE OF ITALIAN MINISTRY OF MARINE
WAS FULL USE OF MARITIME AND MINISTRY OF MARINE TO
CONSIDERED TO USE OF MARITIME MINISTRY OF MARINE AND MINISTRY OF MARINE
GIVEN BY ITALIAN GOVERNMENT IN VIEW OF PROXIMITY BUILD UP AREAS AND
FOURTH SAFETY OF INHABITANTS AREA BY AGREEMENT OF THE GOVERN
BETWEEN MINISTRY OF MARINE AND MINISTRY OF MARINE TO
USE OF THE MARINE WILL BECOME UNDER FROM AREA TO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT
TO THEIR VIEW IS THAT SAFETY OF POPULATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN
INCREASED VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT TO CIVILS DURING FISHING SITUATIONS TO
THE MINISTRY OF MARINE REQUESTS ARE IN NOT WANTED IN
LAST YEAR TWO YEAR AND PAYMENT TO

NOTE TO : Chief Commissioner

Executive Commissioner

NAVY 2/0

Civil Affairs sect

such sect

156

Left 700 135

priority

TRANS-MINISTERIAL & CHIEF OF 2/0

G. J. L. L. L.

ONE U. S. A.

ASST. ADJUTANT

785017

HEADQUARTERS
NAPLES LIAISON GROUP
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO. 394.

22 February, 1946

C/2133

SUBJECT : Removal of Explosives.

TO : HQ. A. C. ✓

FEB 26 1946

On continuation of my C/2129 same date, I
attach a copy of the list of ammunition that the Italian
Government desire to take over. This is now in the A-
versa Area.

J. A. C. PENNYCUICK
Colonel

Chief Liaison Officer
Naples Liaison Group
Allied Commission

Copy to : HQ. Southern District P.B.3.
A.F.HQ. G-5

155

6 con sent: 1 copy.

(CONT 13)

785017

HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHERN DISTRICT
PENINSULAR BASE SECTION
APO 782 U. S. ARMY

22 February 1946

MEMORANDUM: Retention of Ammunition for Italian Government.

1. Reference the total ammunition on hand at depot 4851 to be disposed of by dumping at sea the representatives of the Italian Government General Scoppo and Major Frederico Pasquale have this date inspected such ammunition and tentatively selected the following types of ammunition to be turned over to their government. Request for this ammunition will be initiated immediately by the Italian Government.

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>No. ROUNDS</u>	<u>TONNAGE</u>
Cartridges, Cal. 30 Carbine	57600	.9
Cartridges, Cal. 30 M1	12377852	420.9
Cartridges, Cal. 50	12067150	1930.8
Links, 20mm	1520	.3
Shells & Cartridges, 20mm	2019317	1157.8
Shells & Shot, 37mm HE, AI, T & AT, APC	47161	407.8
Shell, 40mm HE & AP	73023	219.2
Shell, 57mm, AT or 60mm HE, AP, & APC	1329	12.6
Shell, 75mm, Gun & How. HE, AP, APC, Smoke & HEAT	12755	185.6
Shell, 76mm, HE, APC, Smoke & Illum.	84	1.6
Shell, 80mm, HE & AP, APC & Smoke	8133	120.1
Shell, 3", T & AT, HE, APC, AP	13855	245.3
Shell, 105mm How. HE & Smoke	22106	547.8
Shell, 155mm How. HE & Smoke	1260	54.7
Fuses & Primers	47630	54.3
TOTAL TONNAGE		5253.9

2. It has been understood by the above named representatives that certain types of the above indicated ammunition will be without cartridge cases.

See 7-111 51

PAUL JONES 154
Major, Ord. Dept.
Safety Director.

785017

342 47
HEADQUARTERS
NAPLES LIAISON GROUP
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO. 394.

400
Ex Comm 56
63

22 February, 1946

C/2129

SUBJECT : Removal of Explosives.

FEB 23 1946

TO : HQ. A. C. ✓

38 39

1. With reference to your 1245 and 1246 of 18th February, a conference was held in my office on the 21st February, those present being:

Colonel PENNYQUICK	- C.L.O.
Major JONES	- Security Officer PBS
General SCOPPO	- Italian Govt. Representative
Major F. PASQUALE	- Technical Expert Italian Ministry of War.
Major ZANCHINO	- Interpreter.

2. The first point raised was whether explosives selected for purchase by the Italian Government could be transported to the breaking down dumps by U.S. transport. Major Jones said no decision could be given on this until a formal demand came in writing from the Italian Government, after General Scoppo had selected the explosives considered suitable. Major Jones said further that as the transport of munitions to the breakdown dumps in U.S. transport would mean U.S. responsibility for what amounted to a civilian move of dangerous material, there was doubt whether the U.S. authorities would agree, even although the move to the breakdown dumps was an easier and shorter operation than a move to the embarking point at Miseno.

3. Major Jones then said that at the Rome meeting the Italian Government was invited to make an offer for approximately (a) 5,000 Tons of explosives and Ammunition of the U.S. Army; (b) 5,000 Tons of Air Corps bombs, etc. As regards (a) this was at Aversa and might amount to about 6,000 Tons. As regards (b) it had been ascertained since that this was all secret type explosive or explosive that was too dangerous to breakdown. The whole of this 5,000 Tons was, therefore, withdrawn from offer and would

See memo 19
11/23.

(cont'd)

be dumped in the sea with other explosives to be dumped.

4. General Scoppo asked if arrangements had been made for an American officer to be in command at Miseno and the reply was "Yes"; he was also told by Major Jones that Colonel Coblentz of P.B.S. had contacted the Naval authorities to arrange dumping in the sea as agreed upon at the Rome conference.
5. General Scoppo said he would see the Prefect and tell him that it had been agreed that 180 Tons of ammunition at a time might be accumulated at Miseno during dumping operations and inform him of the other agreed details of the procedure for embarking and dumping explosives. He would also see Admiral Oliva of the Italian Navy and ensure that Miseno pier would be at the disposal of the U. S. Army.
6. It was then agreed that Major Jones and General Scoppo and Major Pasquale would meet at the Provincia building at 1000 hrs on the 22nd of February and go out to Aversa where General Scoppo would inspect and select the ammunition and explosives they wanted for the Italian Government for breakdown purposes. The stacks so selected would be left untouched for the present and Pbs would then start immediately on their dumping programme for the remainder of the explosives.
7. General Scoppo and his technical expert will go straight to Rome from Aversa after making his selection of the explosives and contact contractors and draw up a plan with them for the breakdown of the selected explosives (up to 6,000 Tons). He will also put in a formal demand for the selected explosives to be moved from the Aversa area to the area or areas he proposes to use for the contractors work near Lago di Patria between Aversa and Miseno. He was asked to submit to this office full details of the plan he draws up with the contractors for the temporary storage of explosives and ammunition selected to be broken down together with the arrangements made by the Italian Government for the guarding of the entire operation.

54/63

8. Major Jones said he would let this office have details of the present location and quantities of explosives near Aversa that General Scoppo chooses as being suitable for transfer to the Italian Government instead of dumping in the sea.

J. A. C. Perryquick

J. A. C. PERRYQUICK
Colonel
Chief Liaison Officer
Naples Liaison Group
Allied Commission

Copy to: HQ. Southern District P.B.S.
A.F.HQ.G-5

Copy: Econ Sec.

53

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of the Chief Commissioner

APO 394

Ref: 3642/53/13

28 February 1946

Dear Mr. Keeny,

I acknowledge with thanks your letter of 11 February enclosing the further memorandum on the relief at Torre Annunziata, which I read with great interest.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ ELBERT W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Mr. S. M. Keeny
Chief of Mission
U.N.R.R.A.
Rome.

149

3642

Exp. Comm

52

SECRET

F 61166

CIPHER

FEB 20 1946

Q/9598

FEB 21 1945

IMPORTANT

Q (NOV) GHI GHI

ALCOM CITY ACT2

FEB 21 1946

SECRET.

SUBJECT: AMB DARTING.

1. USE OF ANCOPE HARI AND BARIETTA AGREED BY YOU IN YOUR AG/593/29/TWJ DATED 15 FEBRUARY 16.
2. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT LOADING AT HARI FROM ALL POINTS OF VIEW IS MOST CONSIDERABLE.
3. IN VIEW OF LOCATION OF AMB DARTING THE USE OF BARIETTA INVOLVES MANY ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES INCLUDING RAILING OR LONG ROAD HAULAGE TO THIS PORT.
4. MUST THEREFORE PROCEED DIRECTLY FOR THE USE OF BARIETTA TO MAXIMUM CAPACITY WITH RESIDUE ONLY THROUGH BARIETTA.
5. REQUEST CONFIRMATION EARLIEST THAT PARA 4 ACCEPTABLE.
6. AGREE '2'.

SECRET

AC LIST

ACTION: TWIN S/C 2

INFO: CHIEF COMMISSIONER

EXEC COMMISSIONER

CIVIL AFFAIRS SEC

ECOM SEC

SELECTION

FILE

HEADQUARTERS

21 FEB 1946

148

OTHER TELEGRAM

This document is to be distributed outside the Department of the Interior and the Department of the Army. It is to be marked as such.

(100) 21 FEB 1946

COPY /mi

T.S. 534

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

MFD/lr

APC 394

Transportation and Shipping Sub-Commission

AC/593/49/Tn.3

15 February 1946

SUBJECT : Use of Schooners for ammunition dumping.

TO : Q(Movements) G.H.Q. C.M.P.

1. Reference your Mov 5/49 of 29 January and this Hq AC/593/47/Tn.3 of 8 February.

2. Herewith copy of letter from Director General of Italian Merchant Marine, Economic Section at this Hq are communicating their views to you on this subject.

3. It is pointed out that schooners from 10-300 grt have been used for Italian domestic needs and in every instance schooners have been allocated for voyages by CO-GE-NA, acting for the Italian Ministry of Marine. The Allied Shipping Ministries have however now agreed to these schooners being freed of control by the end of the present month. For this reason it has been assumed that schooners would not be re-requisitioned.

4. It is requested that the provision of fuel from Allied or Italian sources should not be overlooked.

5. The Ministry of Marine agree upon the use of Ancona, Bari and Barletta for loading, but point out that they may prefer a loading point in the immediate vicinity of Ancona and Bari. This is an additional precaution, as loading in the ports themselves is not desired. This is being gone into by the Italian Naval Authorities.

For The Chief Commissioner :

M.P. LARAMAN,
Major, R.E.

17800
3042
MINISTERO DELLA MARINA
Direzione Generale Della Marina Mercantile

Rome 14 Feb 46

Ref. 159/8

SUBJECT : Proposed use of schooners for dumping of ammunitions.

TO : HQ. ALLIED COMMISSION
Transportation & Shipping B/O. ROME

1. Reference is made to the proposal to use Italian schooners for the dumping of ammunition from ports on the East Coast to be agreed.

2. In my opinion the allocation of some schooners, as they become available for this operation, (which it is understood may last for several months) would not at present have a prejudicial effect upon Italian domestic needs. Should these schooners be required at a later date, if the situation changes, it is upon the understanding that they will be returned upon request.

3. These schooners would be allocated to the military Authorities indicated by GRQ, C.M.F. on a Charter basis (monthly) for which the Ministry of Marine will notify terms upon the proposed allocation of each schooner. These will be based upon the schooner's present earning capacity.

4. It is requested that you advise how and by whom payments will be made by the Military Authorities.

5. For your information freight charges are at present being paid in advance by the shippers and it would be advisable for schooner owners to receive part of whole payment in advance.

G. MATTEZZI
Lt. General, R.I.N.
Director General,
Merchant Marine

3/4/2
File
(49)
FEB 19 1946

HQ ALCON FROM BRIGADIER LUCH

AFHQ FOR UNO

1233

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: SHIPPING AGREEMENT. RE
AGREEMENT REACHED: CARRY ABLA UNLIMITED TONNAGE WITH SHIPING AT ONE EIGHT ZERO
TONS A DAY PROVIDED BOXED PAPER BAKER UNPAID ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL
IMMEDIATELY EXAMINE POSSIBILITY TAKING OVER TWO THOUSAND TONS PROVIDED
IT CAN BE TRANSPORTED BY MILITARY MEANS AND HANDLED OVER BETWEEN AVESSA
AND CAPO MISERO. PD

PRIORITY

Handwritten signature
Office of the Executive Commr

3642
INCOMING MESSAGE
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: F 60950

Message Centre No. G/9470

Date/Time of Origin: F&B 181614A

Date/Time Rec'd: F&B 190045

FROM: AFHQ CAO AFHQ

Precedence: OF PRIORITY

TO: ALCON FOR EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL:

Subject dumping of ammunition in sea from neighbourhood Naples.
Negotiations have been proceeding between representative Italian Ministry of Interior and Representatives Penbase. Agreement now reached on all principal issues. Main Port of difference outstanding is tonnage which may be carried in any one barge. Italians wish to limit to 50 tons but this would result in great slowing up of programme. Mousa anxious there should be a conference Rome tomorrow afternoon attended by representatives Mousa and representatives Italian Ministry of Interior fully authorized to act in the matter. Grateful if you would arrange meeting and notify us time and place.

AC DIST

ACTION - ~~CIVIL AFFAIRS SEC~~ Ex. Comm. 3.

INFO - CHIEF COMMISSIONER

~~AS COMMISSIONER~~ C.A. Sec.

FILE

SKELTON

143144

ACTION

CONFIDENTIAL

3642
UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION
ITALIAN MISSION

ROME.

Ref No.

11 February 1946.

FEB 18 1946

Dear Admiral Ellery W. Stone, U.S.N.R.,
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission,
ROME.

Dear Admiral Stone,

Further to my letter of the 6th February
about aid for the victims of the explosion at Torre
Annunziata, I now enclose copy of a memorandum
from the Regional Director at Naples giving the
latest information on this, together with enclosures.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
for S.M. Kenny
Chief of Mission

SMK/jms.

See item 47
To item 53.

143

COPY

UNRA - ITALIAN MISSION
Naples Regional Office

30 January 1946

Please quote: ED/15

TO : Headquarters, Rome
Attn: Mr. A.A. Sorieri

FROM : Headquarters Region, Naples

SUBJECT: Relief TORRE ANNUNZIATA

Further to my letter of 26 January and telephone conversation with Chief of Mission and Mr. Sorieri on 29 January, I am attaching a copy of the latest report on conditions in Torre Annunziata Emergency Camp, attachment "A". Mr. Max Meyer who writes the report visited the Camp on 28 January, and it is evident that combined efforts have now produced reasonable conditions.

I also enclose attachment "B", a day-to-day report furnished by Mr. Argento, which indicates the early difficulties. It will be noted that the original estimate of persons requiring immediate relief was evidently too high, but that the number of occupants is increasing as amenities improve. I am afraid that the Camp occupation is likely to be a long term commitment. The Army, however, have turned over the camp equipment to the Italians, and I see no need for any further drain on UNRRA supplies which are held for normal program, beyond a special issue of outsize clothing.

I also enclose attachment "C", a copy of Chief Liaison Officer Allied Commission report to his Headquarters dated 25 January. There is no indication therein that UNRRA were lacking in support, and I feel this impression at Headquarters Allied Commission could only have been created through misunderstanding, possibly by C.C.56 Area, Brig. Gripps, of the machinery by which UNRRA has to operate.

It was unfortunate that I personally, after my visit to Torre Annunziata on the first morning after the disaster, had to proceed to Bari to investigate some pressing matter there, because I might have been able to kill any such false impression. I thought, however, that I had made myself quite clear as to the part UNRRA could undertake on the afternoon of Tuesday 22nd at a conference held in my office, at which C.C.56 Area, Col. Pennycuik, and members of the Welfare Division at this Headquarters were present.

I propose now to arrange periodic visits by staff members of this Headquarters in conjunction with the Provincial Secretary, to the Camp to advise and report on any additional amenities which are justified and which

142

SUBJECT: Relief TORRE ANNUNZIATA

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142

I propose now to arrange periodic visits by staff members of this Headquarters in conjunction with the Provincial Secretary, to the Camp to advise and report on any additional amenities which are justified and which can be provided without detriment to other needs elsewhere.

Encl (3)

CH-A/ejh
cc: Rome
File

/s/ C. HANSON-ABBOTT, Group Captain
Regional Director

COPYREPORT

29-1-46

TO : Theodore Allen
 From : Max Meyer
 Subject: Torre Annunziata

Visit was made with Count Caracciolo to Torre Annunziata on 28-1-46 to determine what the present situation was.

Interview was held with the camp director, sindaco's representative, provincial committee representative and doctor. From these people and out personal observations it was learned that the general condition has vastly improved. An adequate registration system has been set up whereby all camp residents are issued identity books (see sample attached). New arrivals are registered prior to receiving food, billet or clothing. All the sleeping population now have two blankets each and there is a surplus still in the camp warehouse.

Clothing has been given in the basis of need to all but the very large men and women as there were not sufficient garments in the large size groups. Request was made for some and this was turned over to Mr. Jones.

There is ample food: two warehouses in the camp are practically full of rations of various kinds from the Army, Italian Food Commission and U.N.R.P.A. The people do not like tea every day, so cocoa was served this morning, and greatly appreciated. Request was made of Count Caracciolo for some coffee and he will see if this is possible to obtain. The Italian cook now in charge prepares the food in a manner satisfactory to the camp population.

A suggestion was given the camp staff to prepare a recreational ground for the children. Swings can be easily built, a sand pile made, and gradually additional equipment can be constructed by the carpenters living in the camp. The staff readily agreed to this and will attempt to follow through.

Plans are being made to have a communal laundry, a barber (especially for those with lice) and a tailor.

The night previous to the visit 900 people slept and ate at the camp. It is opinion of the staff the camp may be needed for a year or more.

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Count Caracciolo and I were favorably impressed with our findings. We believe as much has been done as was possible to do, and anticipate continued progress.

MAX MEYER

3662

43

U.N.R.R.A. - ITALIAN MISSION
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Welfare Division

Naples.
28 January 1946

TO : Theodora Allen,
District Welfare Officer.

FROM : H. Argento,
Field Welfare Officer.

SUBJECT : Report on UNRRA Activities at Torre Annunziata

On Tuesday evening, 22 January, the writer, Mr. Argento, was instructed by Miss Allen, District Welfare Officer, to accompany Count Caracciolo to Torre Annunziata where we were to meet Major Lines of the British Army. Major Lines was to have a convoy of food and tents to relieve the victims of the Torre Annunziata explosion. At Torre Annunziata, we met with the Major Lines and the Sindaco. The Mayor suggested that perhaps it would be best to wait until the morning to set up feeding kitchens and tents inasmuch as those rendered homeless had been able to find shelter with friends in the community. The Mayor estimated that less than 1/5 of the town was affected by the disaster and that approximately 3,000 were made homeless; it was the consensus of opinion that perhaps it would be best to wait until morning.

On Wednesday, 23 January, Mr. Argento again accompanied Count Caracciolo to Torre Annunziata and met General Cripps in the Sindaco's office. General Cripps stated that the Military had begun feeding at the former British Rest Camp and that he was requesting the Mayor to assume responsibility for the camp and supply 100 persons for administration and operation of the camp. This, the Mayor agreed to do and the camp was to be turned over to him at 5:00 o'clock that afternoon. We later conferred with Major Lines and learned that approximately 570 people had been fed at the camp on that day.

It was also agreed that the British Military was supplying enough food rations for 2 days, after which time, if necessary, UNRRA, through the Provincial Committee, would supply a limited number of food rations to carry the town over the emergency period. Unfortunately, the Mayor was unable to organize a committee on such short notice to accept responsibility for the camp.

On Thursday, 24 January, Count Caracciolo and Mr. Argento were again at the camp and met with Major Lines that morning. Major Lines definitely stated that the Military were pulling out at 4:00 o'clock that afternoon and were arriving at the camp at 4:30 o'clock that

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On Thursday, 24 January, Count Caracciolo and Mr. Argento were again at the camp and met with Major Lines that morning. Major Lines definitely stated that the Military were pulling out at 4:00 o'clock that afternoon and were anxious to turn the camp over either to the Mayor or to UNRRA. He stated that he would return that afternoon and complete the transaction.

Count Caracciolo, with the assistance of Mr. Argento, supervised the feeding that day and approximately 800 persons were fed. That afternoon, General Cripps visited the camp and spoke with Mr. Argento suggesting that UNRRA assume responsibility for the camp. Mr. Argento suggested him that he could not accept this responsibility since his instructions were that UNRRA would assume responsibility for food only. That evening the camp was turned over to the Vice Mayor as the authorized representative of the camp and Count Caracciolo met with the Vice Mayor and his committee and made plans for the organization and administration of the camp. Count Caracciolo agreed to bring in some volunteers from the Unione Donne Italiane (U.D.I.). That evening, Mr. Jones, Displaced Persons, sent in 1000 blankets and 8 bales of assorted clothing. Previously, he had also issued 250 blankets to the Mayor who distributed them to the victims of the disaster. The Vice Mayor's Committee with the assistance

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of the U.D.I. issued 2 blankets per person to the 160 persons who had registered to stay in camp. Also earlier in the day, 3 truckloads of food supplied by the Provincial Secretary's Committee had arrived and were placed in the camp ration stores.

On Friday morning, Count Caracciolo and Mr. Argento again went out to camp and there met Major Lines who informed us that due to the chaotic conditions in camp and the Mayor's failure to properly administer the camp, he had been ordered by General Cripps to take over the camp for the next 48 hours. Neither Count Caracciolo nor myself had been advised previously of this new plan and Major Lines requested UNRWA assistance for certain sanitary items. Mr. Argento agreed to supply an emergency ration of 1,000 pounds of laundry soap
70 pounds of UHT
3 sprayers

The above items were delivered to Major Lines that same day.

Col. Mc Sweeney of the American Relief Inc., arrived from Rome with 3 truckloads of supplies consisting of
3,000 tons of meat
A quantity of rice, sugar, cocoa
1,500 blankets

These items were turned over to Major Lines and distributed to those rendered homeless by the explosion.

In the meanwhile, an office had been set up in camp where the U.D.I. volunteers had started registration and assembling of data on the needs of the disaster's victims prior to distribution of clothing and other necessities.

On Saturday morning, 26 January, Count Caracciolo, Mr. Meyer and Mr. Argento met with Major Lines at the camp and we were informed by Major Lines that the Military was pulling out that afternoon and turning the camp over to the Mayor.

Major Lines informed us that there was enough food to feed the people in the camp for at least 6 days. There was adequate supply of blankets and clothing and that the camp could accommodate 1,000 persons. Up to the present, only about 500 had signified their desire of living in camp. He felt it was purely a local responsibility and that the Mayor could carry on from that point.

Count Caracciolo agreed to stay on at camp and procure an experienced cook to prepare the meals and assist the Mayor and his committee with the administration of the camp.

HA/PI

H. ARGENTO
Field Welfare Officer

139

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RA/fl

H. ARGENTO
Field Welfare Officer

139

COPY

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UNCLASSIFIED
NAPLES MILITARY OFFICE
NAPLES COMMISSION
APO 334

4-1

C/1965

20 January 1965

SUBJECT: Explosion at Torre Annunziata.

TO : HQ A.C.

1. On the 21st of January an ammunition train containing American explosives en route for dumping in the sea was run into a bridge at Torre Annunziata by the Italian State Railways. There were 27 trucks, five of which were derailed and removed to other sidings. In the evening of the same day, 16 of the remaining 22 trucks blew up. There were 3 big detonations following each other by 30 to 40 minute intervals. The third detonation occurred about 1900 hrs. and did most damage.

2. The earlier explosions had caused some of the people to flee from their houses which probably reduced casualties. 22 dead bodies were recovered up to the 24th and there are believed to be 14 to 15 more people missing. About 250 were injured of whom some 60 to 70 were seriously hurt and evacuated to Naples hospital.

An immense amount of damage was done to houses and there are estimated to be 3500 people homeless. The Torre Annunziata grain stores were also severely damaged, stocks of grain were low only about 700 tons, and this grain itself except for exposure to the weather, was not damaged.

3. Naples relief services reacted quickly, police, Italian soldiers, fire service personnel, medical personnel and volunteers were all on the scene, helping with the injured etc. as a result of calls from the Sindaco, Signor Nicola Mancini, whose own house was badly damaged.

The firemen were particularly to be commended as the trucks continued to burn fiercely until after midnight with much popping of small arms ammunition and minor explosions of flares etc. A British fire unit had 3 men injured but otherwise the firemen were fortunate and had few casualties.

4. On the 22nd the Commander of 36 Area visited the town. The Prefect of Naples also visited the damaged area and began relief. The Commander of 56 Area took immediate action. 500 tents were provided and 2000 stretchers to set up beds together with a party to put up the tents. The British medical officer also arranged with No. 300 General Hospital (American) to provide immediate necessary medical stores, the hospital being repaid from British stocks later. Meetings were then held in the UNRRA office at Naples and the Allied Commission Office. It was found that UNRRA had little available food suitable for making up into hot meals and so at the A.C. Meeting 36 Area agreed to provide immediately 50 tons of tea, 150 lbs sugar, 350 lbs milk, 4000 tins M & V ration and 2000 tins of soup from Army stocks and the Director of General undertook to replace these 138 civilian stocks later.

The food together with soyers stores and bread provided by Naples bakeries (Torre Annunziata bakeries being temporarily out of action) was taken to the

The earlier explosions had caused most of the people to take refuge in the houses which probably reduced casualties. 22 dead bodies were recovered up to the 24th and there are believed to be 10 to 15 more people missing. About 250 were injured of whom over 60 to 70 were seriously hurt and evacuated to Napier hospital.

An immense amount of damage was done to houses and there are anticipated to be 1000 people homeless. The more immediate grain stores were also severely damaged, stocks of grain were low only about 700 tons, and this grain itself except for exposure to the weather, was not damaged.

4. Napier relief services started quickly, soldiers, police, fire service personnel, medical personnel and engineers were all on the scene, helping with the injured etc. as a result of calls from the Governor, Sir John Macdonald, whose own house was only damaged.

The firemen were particularly to be commended in two trucks continued to burn fiercely until after midnight with much jetties of small arms ammunition and minor explosions of flames etc. A British fire unit had 9 men injured but otherwise the firemen were fortunate and had few casualties.

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The food together with myra flown and bread provided by Napier bakeries (Torre Annunziata Bakeries being temporarily out of action) was taken to the stricken town by lorries provided by 56 Area.

5. On the 23rd the distribution of food to homeless people, particularly children, was on a fair scale and at least 2000 hot meals were provided. Arrangements were made for the children's representatives, aided by the USMA supplies. The Secretary, Count Intonolo, in turn over all relief work on the evening of the 23rd. People were to sleep in tents or in empty houses at the camp site.

6. On the 24th there was a good deal of confusion and it seemed evident that the distribution of food initiated by 56 Area was not properly organized as the children's representatives had been asked to their task. Not many of the tents were used, though the arrival of about 1000 blankets, provided by USMA, on the evening of the 24th was a help. As a result 56 Area detached under lines and as its detached Captain went to go out to Torre Annunziata and live on the job and get the relief organized properly using the children's representatives and not those suggested by Count Intonolo.

40

7. 400 huts have also been asked for by the Italian Government who will purchase them, if issued, and have them erected by the Gasco Division to provide cover for the unfortunate people who have lost their houses. The Prefect of Naples has organized relief and food assistance and the civil authorities have opened a fund to relieve distress.

8. The cause of the explosions is not yet known but an enquiry has been initiated by the American Ordnance authorities. I recommend for consideration that wagons or trains containing explosives should not, in future, be allowed into ridings near inhabited towns, even if this should involve the construction of a special siding and jetty. I also recommend for consideration that all such trains in Italy should be provided with an adequate armed guard from the ammunition dump to the ship.

(Signed)

J.A.O. PUGH/103

Colonel

Chief Liaison Officer

Allied Commission

Copy to: HQ 56 Area HQ
HQ Southern District F.M.S.
Ombra Naples.

135

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

39

ALCOCK HAYLES

1246

18 Feb 46

PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED PD

REFERENCE MI ONE TWO FOUR FIVE OF NINE DATE PD ON ARRIVAL BOUHA

CONTACT COLONEL BARRILL AT FREEDOM AND ARRANGE INTERVIEW IF POSSIBLE

TAKING PETER BAKER SOLAR WITH YOU

136

Ex. Commissioner.

343

W. S. LUSH
Brigadier,
Ex. Commissioner.

38

AFHQ FOR C-4(B) (ACTION): ALCON NAPLES (INFO): PIR NAPLES (INFO)

1245

18 Feb 46

PRIORITY

RESTRICTED PD

SUBJECT IS DISPOS OF AMMUNITION NAPLES AREA PD TELEPHONE CONVERSATION
COLONEL BARNHILL HIGHEN BRIGADIER LUSH REFERS PD
BRIGADIER LUSH HAS SEEN GENERAL SCOTTA AND EXPLAINED DIFFICULTY IN ACCEPTING
RESERVATIONS MADE IN LETTER CHARLIE BLASH TWO ZERO FOUR FOUR DATED EIGHT
FEBRUARY FROM ALCON LIAISON GROUP NAPLES PD SCOTTA FULLY REALIZES NECESSITY
FOR SPEED BUT ARGUES THAT SPEED MAY MILITATE AGAINST SECURITY PD HE IS
DISCUSSING AGAIN WITH ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND WILL VISIT COLONEL PERSHONICH
NAPLES DURING NEXT TWO DAYS WITH OBJECT OF GOING WITH HIM TO VISIT COLONEL
BARNHILL AT AFHQ PD HE WILL THEN TRY TO REACH AGREEMENT AND ALSO SUBMIT
PROPOSAL THAT PART OF AMMUNITION SHOULD BE HANDS OVER TO THE ITALIAN
GOVERNMENT IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY MAKE USE OF RAW MATERIALS TAKING FULL
RESPONSIBILITY FOR CUSTODY.

135

Ex. Commissioner.

43

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

136

37

Ref. Starke

15 February 1946

Dear Mr Keary,

In the absence of ~~Dear~~ Admiral Stone, Brigadier Lush Acting Chief Commissioner, acknowledges with thanks your Memorandum concerning UNRRA Relief at Torre Annunziata.

The Brigadier is grateful to have your report and appreciates the assistance given by UNRRA in this case.

Yours truly,

Markitz

Junior Commander A.T.S.
P.A. to Executive Commissioner

S.M. Keary, Esq;
Chief of Mission
U.N.R.R.A.
Rome.

134

133

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION
ROME.

6th February, 1946 .

Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone, U.S.N.R.,
Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission,
Rome.

Dear Admiral Stone,

When General Rooks saw me recently, he mentioned your concern about proper aid for the victims of the explosion at Torre Annunziata. I told him that on the morning following the explosion, I had given our Regional Director, Group Captain C. Hanson-Abbott, 'carte blanche' to help any one possible with stores at his disposal. (iv)

I am attaching a copy of a memorandum from Group Captain Hanson-Abbott that summarises what has been done.

Sincerely yours.

S. M. Keeny
S.M. Keeny,
Chief of Mission.

PA
Attachment.

See 37 *See 46*
Done *JP*
133

COPY

U.N.R.R.A. - ITALIAN MISSION

Welfare Division

Naples,
26 January 1946

TO : Chief of Mission, Rome,
Attention: A. Sorieri

FROM : Group Captain C. Hanson-Abbott,
Regional Director, Naples.

SUBJECT: UNRRA Relief at Torre Annunziata

With reference to this headquarter's report dated 25 January the following additional facts are brought to your notice:

Following the telephone conversation between the undersigned and Mr. Sorieri, a meeting was held in the Regional Director's office on the afternoon of 22 January. Present at this meeting were representatives of this headquarters, Brigadier Cripps, Area Commander and Colonel Pennyquick of Allied Commission, and Count Caracciolo, Secretary of the Provincial Committee. It was arranged that the Army would provide a tented camp, including cooking and sanitary facilities, plus two days' rations in an easily prepared form. UNRRA would provide

1,300 blankets,
500 cots,
Some warm clothing for the most needy cases,
Plus medical supplies.

It was considered that after 48 hours, the necessary food could be distributed by the local sindaco under local arrangements, but as an emergency reserve, the Provincial Secretary agreed to dispatch to Torre Annunziata food stocks held for the normal supplementary ration program.

UNRRA Welfare representatives again visited Torre Annunziata on Wednesday, 23 January, to ascertain if local Italian aid had been organized to administer the camp. They found that only a small percentage of the camp was occupied, in fact, on Wednesday, there were only 40 homeless people in the camp; on Thursday the figure rose to 180 and on Friday about 650.

UNRRA blankets and clothing were distributed. We were unable to honor our commitment for the cots as it was found later that these had been transferred to Rome, but the Army have supplied stretchers which are probably more suitable.

The consignment of medical supplies lent by the 300 General Hospital arrived at the local hospital at Torre Annunziata on 22 Jan.

THE SITUATION TO DATE

The Army ration ceases today. Count Caracciolo reports that Dott. Eminente, Food Commissioner of Southern Italy, expects to arrange an adequate food issue from today on. Should this not materialize, the UNRRA supplementary food rations referred to above are available at Torre Annunziata for issue in emergency. As the number of people requiring food amounts to approximately 3,000, this supplementary stock amounting to a month's supplementary supply for 2,000 people would be exhausted in, say, 10 days and it is hoped that it will be found unnecessary to call upon this reserve at all.

Count Caracciolo assured this headquarters today that the Prefect had set up a camp organization capable of administering the camp.

UNRRA Welfare representatives, Mr. Meyer and Mr. Argento, have proceeded to Torre Annunziata again this morning.

It is understood that you have received from various sources reports to the effect that UNRRA has failed to carry out promises. Apart from the non-arrival of the cots, it has done what it undertook to do. These misconceptions are no doubt due to misunderstanding as to UNRRA resources and the fact that our main object is to endeavor to support and help the provincial authorities to form their own relief services is not sufficiently appreciated. This will be made clear to Brigadier Cripps at the first opportunity.

/s/ C. HANSON-ABBOTT, Group Captain,
Regional Director

CH-A/fl

cc. - Rome 2
File 2

HEADQUARTERS
NAPLES LIAISON GROUP
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO. 394.

33

DO/134

11 February, 1946

Dear Brigadier Lush

34

In continuation of my letter DO/133
of 5th February 1946, I attach for information
a copy of the letter on Torre Annunziata sent
by Brig. Cripps to the Naples Press.

Yours truly

W. S. Cripps

32

Brigadier M. G. LUSH, CB, CBE, MC.
Executive Commissioner
HQ. A. C.

C.O.F.T.

BRITADIER S.O. 2.01115 U.S. 32

HQ MAILS SEA 20/11/7

29 JANUARY 1946

Dear Editor,

I am sending you this letter and hope that your paper will have the courage to publish it.

An British Military Commander in Naples I sent immediate assistance to TORRE ANNUNZIATA after the explosion which took place there. British troops arrived shortly after the disaster to give what help they could, also ambulances and four fire-engines. Several hundred paraffin lamps were also supplied. Next morning I went personally to see the Mayor to offer what help I could. I was asked if I could find accommodation for 1000 homeless people and also food, clothing, blankets, etc. I made it perfectly clear to the Mayor that I had not troops to spare and that the Civil Authorities must cooperate to the full and also must provide guards for all the property that I loaned them. This was promised readily by the Mayor and by the local representative of the Carabinieri.

I got Engineers and 60 volunteers from British troops on their way to England to come and help erect a tented camp for these homeless people.

I collected 300 tents and much other material including all the cooking stoves and utensils, lamps, beds, blankets and food of all kind. I did not receive any assistance from the civil authorities in erecting this camp and no labour was supplied. There was a complete lack of organization on the part of the civil authorities, they were incapable of achieving anything constructive.

I made repeated requests to the Mayor to keep his promise that Carabinieri guards would be supplied to guard all the very valuable material that I had collected. In the end 28 Police were supplied but they were entirely useless and all took part in the general thieving that then ensued. On Saturday 26 January an Officer of my Staff observed boats leaving the shore by the camp loaded with tents. He managed to intercept some of them and recovered 8 large tents, unfortunately other boats containing 6 large tents escaped. The officer then looked for the civil Police Guard. They were all 28 of them found in one room eating the food supplied for the refugees. On being searched they were found to have their uniforms stuffed with tins of food and tablets of soap supplied for the poor. Thieving of all the articles supplied by me is going on at a very rapid rate. Much of the food and soap and many of the tents, blankets, utensils have already found their way on to the Black Market. I sent out 1000 garments for the children as a special gift; many of these were stolen before the poor children could be issued with them. The latter part of these

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Not content with stealing from us the occupants of the camp **129** stolen freely from each other.

I consider that these facts should be known by the general public. They are extremely discreditable to all concerned. My efforts to bring relief to these poor people were largely nullified by the incompetence of your civil authorities by the gross laziness and dishonesty of the Civil Police and by the general dishonesty and lack of public spirit of the local inhabitants.

In the Field.

Brigadier,
Comd Naples Area.

COPY.

TO: Col. Pennyquick, Chief Liaison Officer
Allied Commission.

31

Extract from DO Letter D/O 103 dated
5 February 1946 from AG CLO KAPLES to
Executive Commissioner.

"2. The Area Commander, Brig. B.U.S. Cripps, was angered by thefts of tents and stores lent to help the victims of the Torre Annunziata disaster. As a result he wrote a letter expressing his views and sent a copy to all the newspapers. He did not send a copy to me although he did mention on one occasion that he was writing to the Press.

The letter reached the various newspaper offices sometime on Saturday the 2nd of February, and the Editor of the Risorgimento at once sent a representative to ask Cripps to hold it up. This representative was, however, told that Saturday afternoon was a holiday, and he was not allowed to see the Area Commander.

The various newspapers published the letter on Monday with their comments and I telephoned to Area HQ to ask for a copy to be sent to me. The letter is unfortunately couched in terms which are regarded as being contemptuous and insulting and has raised unanimous local protests. I send you a copy together with copies of newspapers. You will see that the Minister of the Interior happened to be in Naples and the letter was shown to him so you may get repercussions."

13

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See 33

128

3642
HEADQUARTERS
NAPLES LIAISON GROUP
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO. 394.

CONFIDENTIAL (29)

8 February, 1946

C/2044

SUBJECT : Explosives in Naples Area.
TO : HQ. A. C.

FEB 11 1946

C. A. Lee

1. I forward for your information a summary of points agreed to by Brig. OXX of P.B.S. and the Italian representative of the Ministry of the Interior General Scoppo as a result of conversations in which I took part, and at which Captain Pellegrini of the Italian Navy assisted.
2. The arrangements will, I consider, provide a satisfactory solution to the problem of the removal of explosives from the Naples Area.

J. A. C. Pennycook

J. A. C. PENNYCOOK
Colonel
Chief-Liaison Officer
Naples Liaison Group
Allied Commission

Encl.

Copy to :
Hq. Southern Dist. P.B.S.
Hq. A.C. (Ex. Comm.)
General Scoppo
The Prefect of Naples
Italian Naval Command.

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See M-30

(100) 127

HEADQUARTERS
NAPLES LIAISON GROUP
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO. 394.

8 February, 1946

0/2045

SUBJECT : Explosives in Naples Area.

TO : HQ. A. C.

1. At a further conference with General Scoppo and Colonel Pellegrini on the evening of the 6th, the Memorandum was agreed to subject to the following 4 reservations:
 - (1) - The quantity of explosives at Miseno pier at any one time must not exceed a total of 115 Tons, i.e. up to 100 Tons along side in barges and 15 Tons in lorries. General Scoppo also asks for the 100 Tons to be in at least 2 barges.
 - (2) - Explosives to be dumped in the sea where the water is not less than 150 metres deep (Chart supplied to P.S.S. only).
 - (3) - An Allied officer to be in charge of operations at Miseno with whom the Italian liaison officer will deal.
 - (4) - Convoys brought up at night and ready for the morning not to consist of more than 60 Tons of explosives spread out in at least 4 sections with a suitable interval between sections.

J. A. C. Pennyough
J. A. C. PENNYOUGH
Colonel
Chief Liaison Officer
Naples Liaison Group
Allied Commission

Copy to : HQ. Southern Dist. FBS
HQ. A. C. (Ex. Comd.)
General Scoppo
The Prefect of Naples
Italian Naval Command.

126

125

HEADQUARTERS
NAPLES LIAISON GROUP
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO. 394.

MEMORANDUM ON PROCEDURE AGREED TO IN HANDLING
FUTURE MOVES OF AMERICAN EXPLOSIVES AND AMMUNITION FOR DUMPING
IN THE SEA NAPLES AREA, EVENING OF THE 8th FEB. 1946

1. On the evening of the 7th February, General Filippo Scoppo arrived from the Ministry of the Interior Rome and arrangements were made for him to meet P.B.S. representatives on the 8th. Colonel Barnhill, G-4 AFHQ, was also informed.
2. On the 8th of February, Brig. Oxx, Colonel Coblentz (of P.B.S.), Colonel Pennycuik (Allied Commission), held a meeting with General Scoppo and the Prefect of Naples (Avv. Salvaggi).
General Scoppo made the suggestion that a pier Torregavata (west of Pozzuoli) and the open beach running north from there to the mouth of the Volturno should be used for embarkation of ammunitions. It was pointed out that there were two dangers:
(a) - Danger to inhabitants from explosion which required an embarkation site away from houses;
(b) - Danger to boats and barges from weather which required a sheltered pier with reasonable access.
There was a third risk, that explosives now in the dumps would become unsafe if restrictions slowed down removal unreasonably.
3. Brig. Gen. Oxx explained that exposure to the weather ruled out the beach suggested by General Scoppo, but there was an alternative, which was to use the Italian Navy Ammunition pier at Miseno.
Brig. Gen. Oxx, Colonel Pennycuik and General Scoppo then went to visit Miseno. They were accompanied by an Italian Naval representative, ~~Colonel~~ Captain Pellegriani.
4. The pier at Miseno is now used by the Italian Government for loading and off loading explosives and there is an explosives and ammunition depot at this spot. It had shells depth charges, etc. in it, and the total weight of explosives

P.B.S.), Colonel Pennycuik (Allied Commission), held a meeting with General Scoppo and the Prefect of Naples (Avv. Selvaggi).

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Brig. Gen. Oxx, Colonel Pennycuik and General Scoppo then went to visit Miseno. They were accompanied by an Italian Naval representative, ~~Naval Captain~~ ^{Naval Captain} Pellegrini.

4. The pier at Miseno is now used by the Italian Government for loading and off loading explosives and there is an explosives and ammunition depot at this spot. It had shells depth charges, etc. in it, and the total weight of explosives was given at about 1,000 tons.

The pier had been slightly damaged by the impact of a tug against it and would require some work to widen the ²⁵ad way on to it. Otherwise it was suitable and is in fact in use for this very purpose, so presumably the Italian Government find it safe and have 1,000 tons of explosive on this site which is reasonably isolated. General Scoppo expressed great nervousness at having more explosive brought here, but it was agreed that Allied explosives would only be coming through in transit.

- 26
5. The approach road to avoid the built up area of Baia was then examined. From Miseno this goes via Capriella thence east of the Lago Fusaro, thence north to Monte Cuma. From here a road goes East along the North of Lago d'Averno through North Pozzuoli where another road comes in from the Qualiano and Aversa Area. This approach is reasonably free from houses but the possibility of another approach still free from Trentola (West of Aversa) is to be explored.

6. The following points were then agreed to:
- (a) - Miseno pier is suitable for the embarkation of explosives on to barges. A total of about 23,000 tons of American explosives and ammunition might have to be moved from Naples and Aversa area (about 12,000 Tons of British Ammunition is also in the Naples, Nola area) but no arrangements are known with regard to them).
 - (b) - The rate of removal would be about 250 to 300 Tons a day working by day only depending on weather and sea transit to dumping area.
 - (c) - Not more than 5 trucks would be allowed at the pier at one time, i.e. about 15 Tons of explosives at a time.
 - (d) - The remainder of the convoy of trucks would be halted at a suitable control point to be chosen 3 to 4 kilometers away, probably on the east side of Lago Fusaro, from where trucks would be called forward as each batch of trucks at the pier completed off loading. The return route for empty trucks could be through Baia and populated areas.
 - (e) - The American Command will arrange for fire extinguishing apparatus at the pier and pumps to use sea water in case of fire.
 - (f) - The Italian Naval authorities will close their operations at the Miseno explosive store and pier whilst Allied explosives are being taken from the pier. In case of an emergency arising requiring the temporary use of this store by the Italian Navy, 24 hours notice will be given and Allied loadings will be interrupted.
 - (g) - The Italian Naval Command will maintain a liaison officer at Miseno to cooperate with the American

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- (g) - The Italian Naval Command will maintain a liaison officer at Miseno to cooperate with the American ammunition parties.
- (h) - In case a loaded convoy is halted on account of sudden weather developments and/or the first convoy for unloading at day break each day (so that there shall be no undue delay over the operation) ¹²⁴ be halted and bivouacked in accordance with safety regulations at a suitable point West and North of Lago Fusaro.
- (i) - The American Command will provide a guard at Miseno and on all convoys of trucks with explosives and on any laden trucks halted for the night. Convoys will be preceded by military personnel in cars or on

motor bicycles and kept under close control from the loading point to the pier.

7. No arrangements for the removal of British explosives were discussed. Brig. Gen. Oxx stated that as far as American explosives were concerned the use of Torre Annunziata as outloading port for dumping in the sea had now ceased.

The above arrangements also have no relation to the move of ammunition for shipment back to the United States.

Distribution : HQ. Southern District P.E.S. 2
HQ. A. C. (Ex-Comm.) 1
General Scoppo 1

new source.
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Distribution : HQ. Southern District P.B.S. 2
 HQ. A. C. (Ex. Comm.) 1
 General Scoppo 1
 Prefect of Naples 1
 Italian Naval Command 1

123

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APPR FOR CAO (ACTION): ALLIED COMMISSION CHIEF LIAISON
OFFICER NAPLES (INFO)

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7 FEB 46

PRIORITY

RESTRICTED PD

CONFIRMING CONVERSATION BRIGADIER LUCH HYPER COLONEL BATHILL PD
MINISTER OF INTERIOR INTERVIEWED TODAY SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE SITE
FOR DUMPING AMMUNITION CMA NAMELY CMA AREA TORRE GAVETA TO LAGO
DI PATRIA ABOUT FIFTEEN MILES NORTH OF CAPO MISERO PD MINISTRY OF
DEFENSE HAS DELEGATED GENERAL SCOPPA WITH AUTHORITY TO AGREE TO SITE
AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION PD HE WILL CONTACT COLONEL FORTIGNIER. CMA
CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER CMA NAPLES CMA THIS EVENING PD MINISTER
Aimed TO DO HIS UTMOST TO CARRY OUT REQUEST MADE IN PARA ELEVEN
PARAGRAPH THREE OF YOUR LETTER CHARLIE AMLE ODOX SLASH TWO SIX ZERO
OF JANUARY THREE ZERO

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Copy to: CA Sec

122

Executive Commissioner

343

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

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Ref: 364/15/50.

February 1946.

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

The Chief Administrative Officer to the Supreme Allied Commander at Allied Force Headquarters has sent me the attached letter in connection with the recent and much deplored explosions of ammunition which took place at TORRE ANNUNZIATA on January 21st. You will note that I have been asked to convey to your Government the sympathy of the Allies for the relatives of those who were killed, for those who suffered injury and for those made homeless. This I do with the greatest personal sympathy.

I should be glad to have your agreement, in view of the facts described in paragraphs 2 - 9, to the Allies continuing the operation of disposing of the ammunition through the minor ports in the NAPLES area.

I would also like to bring to your attention paragraphs 11 and 12 of General Macleod's letter and to ask you to cause steps to be taken to bring to the public notice the factors mentioned in paragraph 11.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USN
Chief Commissioner

Dr. Alcide de Gasperi,
President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government,
R O M E.

B/W 12/2

Copy to: CAO, AFHQ.
AG CLO, NAPLES.
CA Section.

3642 56
HEADQUARTERS
NAPLES LIAISON OFFICE
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO. 394.

28 January, 1946

C/1973.

SUBJECT : Torre Annunziata Explosion.

TO : HQ. A. C. (Executive Committee)

- 31 6
1. In continuation of my C/1965 of 25th Jan. 1946 and Confidential C/1970 of 26 January 1946, The Italian Prime Minister, the Onorevole De Gasperi visited Torre Annunziata on the 27th. I had spoken to him previously over the difficulties of finding an alternative exit port for the explosives and bombs to be taken out of the country.
 2. Fortunately General Lee, Deputy Supreme Commander paid another unexpected visit to Torre Annunziata and I ventured to raise the subject again. He was most helpful and said he was endeavouring to find an alternative pier and siding. I was able to introduce him to the Prime Minister and I think the visit had a good effect, and will help to ease the situation.
 3. A very large and excited crowd were in the streets and we all had some difficulty in getting away from it but the whole position is now much more satisfactory. All the unexploded explosives at the sidings have also been removed.
 4. A visit was paid to the camp at the Villa Filangeri and this has now been handed over to the Italian officials appointed by the Sindaco to run it.
 - 5. 56 Area have been a good deal annoyed by thefts of tents and stores lent to this camp. There are about 1000 people sleeping there and 2000 people getting food, but it is not an example of good organization even now. Unwanted tents and stores are being withdrawn.
 6. The Genio Civile has huts at his disposal which he can take down and re-erect at Torre Annunziata.

J. H. C. PENNYCOCK

Chief Liaison Officer
Allied Commission

120

(PART 13)

3604
HEADQUARTERS
NAPLES LIAISON OFFICE
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO. 394.

25 January, 1946

C/1966.

SUBJECT : Visit of Lieut. Sampson.

TO : HQ. A. C.

1. Lieut. Sampson came to Naples on the 24th of Jan. I had understood he was sent to work at Torre Annunziata on relief. He did not report to me but went to the Excelsior Hotel after a brief interview with Major Carrilio, so although I had waited for him, I was, therefore, unable to take him with me to Torre Annunziata. In the evening on my return I found him at the hotel and he explained he was here on a medical mission. Medical stores for the damaged town have been satisfactorily arranged by the U.N.R.R.A. medical officer and No. 300 General Hospital (American). The Hospital was very cooperative and provided requirements asked for which have already been replaced from U.N.R.R.A. stocks drawn from Rome. More anti-tetanus serum would, however, be welcome.
2. Capt. Bean has been sent to Torre Annunziata with Major Lines from 56 Area, the two officers will remain on the spot and work out a proper relief organization.
3. Lieut. Sampson came without bedding and brought no transport with him. As we are now only able to book accommodation at the Excelsior Hotel on a limited scale, he is being instructed to return to Rome.

J. A. C. Pennycurick
J. A. C. PENNYCURICK
Colonel
Chief Liaison Officer
Allied Commission.

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See M. 20 21

(cont'd)

HEADQUARTERS
NAPLES LIAISON OFFICE
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO. 394.

2994
3644 41
Ex Comm 9

C/1961

24 January, 1946

SUBJECT : Torre Annunziata explosion.
TO : HQ. Southern District I.R.S.

1. To confirm telephone conversation (Col. Coblentz - Col. Pennycuik). A deputation including the Prefect of Naples and the President of the Committee of Liberation visited me on the 24th January in connection with the explosions of ammunition trucks and bulk explosives that have occurred.
They asked:
 - a) that action should be taken to remove, away from habitations, some trucks of explosives now at Bagnoli and to have a guard on these trucks;
 - b) for steps to be taken to keep trucks or trains containing dangerous explosives away from sidings that are near houses and to have such trucks guarded from depot to ship or barge, to avoid danger from unauthorized persons tampering with the explosives.
2. With regard to (a) I understand action has already been taken by your HQ.
3. With regard to (b) it was suggested that where explosive is being taken to the sea for embarkation and dumping, the railway trucks should be halted at a point close to the sea where there are no houses. Such points are said to exist between Torre Annunziata and Torre del Greco though it seems possible a special pier might have to be constructed.
4. In view of the severe damage done at Torre Annunziata, may the points, please, be considered.

J. A. C. PENNYCUIK
Colonel
Chief Liaison Officer
Allied Commission

Copy to: HQ. A.C. who may consider para 3 worth submitting as to British Authorities as a matter of general policy

(CAPT 2)

HEADQUARTERS
NAPLES LIAISON OFFICE
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO. 394.

3604
CONFIDENTIAL

8

26 January, 1946

C/1970

SUBJECT : Torre Annunziata Explosion.

TO : HQ. A. C.

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1. In continuation of my report C/1963 of 25th January 1946. On the 25th of January the relief camp began to be better organized under the direction of Major Lines of 56 Area and Capt. Bean of this HQ. both of whom are living temporarily on the spot. 3 Trucks of food and soap etc. also arrived from the Vatican relief organization.
2. The area was visited by Lt. General Lee, the Deputy Supreme Commander and by Major General Clowes 3 District and Brig. Urippe 56 Area.
3. At the Camp I introduced the Sindaco to Gen. Lee and the Sindaco (Signor Nicola Medici) made a petition that no more explosives should be taken out through the Torre Annunziata sidings.
4. General Lee replied that he had full sympathy with the petition but that these sidings and piers were the only suitable ones and must continue to be used. He mentioned to me privately that although it might seem brutal the damage was already done at Torre Annunziata and this was another factor to be considered before suggesting a change, but that he had been advised there were actually no other suitable sidings or piers anywhere.
5. The Sindaco thanked General Lee for the help given by the Allies but he was evidently much shaken and explained to me that he had been roughly treated for not taking more vigorous action over the removal of the unexploded trucks (which were still at the sidings on the 26th) and also said "agenti" from Naples had taken him to task over the delay of the

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origin of the explosion. This is attributed to an Italian flare but the people are trying to get at him to deny that any such flare was fired. I advised him to make a petition through the Prefect for piers other than those at Torre Annunziata to be used for loading ammunition, even if such piers had to be constructed by the Italian Government, and he agreed he would do this.

6. Later the same evening I saw the Italian Admiral Oliva who said that he thought there were other possible piers isolated from houses between Torre Annunziata and Torre del Greco and that he would send me particulars and charts. I will send these to A.C.H.Q. when they come as, in view of General Lee's decision, P.S.S. would not be able to change their programme without sanction from higher authority.
7. At some time during the morning of the 25th, 5 or 6 lorries containing ammunition and driven by German POW came into Torre Annunziata. They were turned back by an angry crowd and disappeared but it is not at all clear whose lorries they were or where they were supposed to be heading for.
8. Some 10 Railway trucks of SAA (not considered dangerous) are now on their way to Torre Annunziata and alarmistic messages have come in from Pompei that they are stopped there and are a danger to the people. They are, however, to go through Torre Annunziata in the normal way.
9. Repairs to the grain stores and elevators at Torre Annunziata are being put in hand and should be complete before the end of February.



J. A. C. PENNYQUICK
Colonel
Chief Liaison Officer
Allied Commission.

EC Dist - 28 Jan 46

H15 Sec (2)
Gen Sec (1)

HEADQUARTERS
NAPLES LIAISON OFFICE
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO. 394.

25 January, 1946

C/1965.

SUBJECT : Explosion at Torre Annunziata.

TO : Hq. A. C.

1. On the 21st of January an ammunition train containing American explosives en route for dumping in the sea was run into sidings at Torre Annunziata, by the Italian State Railways. There were 27 trucks, five of which were detached and removed to other sidings. In the evening of the same day, 16 of the remaining 22 trucks blew up. There were 3 big detonations following each other by 30 to 40 minutes intervals. The third detonation occurred about 1900 hrs. and did most damage.

2. The earlier explosions had caused some of the people to flee from their houses which probably reduced casualties. 22 dead bodies were recovered up to the 24th and there are believed to be 10 to 15 more people missing. About 250 were injured of whom some 60 to 70 were seriously hurt and evacuated to Naples Hospitals.

An immense amount of damage was done to houses and there are estimated to be 3000 people homeless. The Torre Annunziata grain stores were also severely damaged stocks of grain were low only about 700 Tons, and this grain itself except for exposure to the weather was not damaged.

3. Naples relief services reacted quickly, police, Italian soldiers, fire service personnel, medical personnel and ambulances were all on the scene, helping with the injured, etc., as a result of calls from the Sindaco, Signor Nicola Medici, whose own house was badly damaged.

The firemen were particularly to be commended as the trucks continued to burn fiercely until after midnight with much popping of small arms ammunition and minor explosions of flares, etc. A British fire unit had 5 men injured but otherwise the firemen were fortunate and had few casualties.

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4. On the 22nd the Commander of 56 Area visited the Town. The Prefect of Naples also visited the damaged area and began relief. The Commander 56 Area took immediate action. 300 tents were provided and 1000 stretchers to act as beds together with a party to put up the tents. The U.N.R.R.A. medical officer also arranged with No. 300 Gen. Hospital (American) to provide immediately necessary medical stores. The Hospital being repaid from U.N.R.R.A. stocks later. Meetings were then held in the U.N.R.R.A. office at Naples and the Allied Commission Office. It was found that U.N.R.R.A. had little available food suitable for making up into hot meals and so at the A.C. Meeting 56 Area agreed to provide immediately 50 lbs. of tea, 150 lbs. sugar, 150 lbs. milk, 4000 tins M & V ration and 2000 tins of soup from Army stocks and the Director of Sepral undertook to replace these from Naples civil stocks later. The food together with soya's stoves and bread provided by Naples bakeries (Torre Annunziata bakeries being temporarily out of action) was taken to the stricken town by lorries provided by 56 Area.
5. On the 23rd the distribution of food to homeless people, particularly children, was on a fair scale and at least 2000 hot meals were provided. Arrangements were made for the Sindaco's representatives, aided by the U.N.R.R.A. Naples Italian Secretary, Count Caracciolo, to take over all relief work on the evening of the 23rd. People were to sleep in tents or in empty houses at the camp site.
6. On the 24th there was a good deal of confusion and it became evident that the distribution of food initiated by 56 Area was not properly organized as the Sindaco's representatives had been unequal to their task. Not many of the tents were used, though the arrival of about 1000 blankets, provided by U.N.R.R.A., on the evening of the 24th was a help. As a result 56 Area detached Major Lines and A.C. HQ detached Captain Bean to go out to Torre Annunziata and live on the job and get the relief organized properly, using the Sindaco's representatives and not those suggested by Count Caracciolo.
7. 100 huts have also been asked for by the Italian Government who will purchase them, if issued, and have them erected by the Genio Civile to provide cover for the unfortunate people who have lost their houses. The Prefect

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of Naples has organized relief and food assistance and the civil authorities have opened a fund to relieve distress.

8. The cause of the explosions is not yet known but an enquiry has been ~~initiated~~ by the American ordnance authorities. I recommend for consideration that wagons or trains containing explosives should not, in future, be allowed into sidings near inhabited towns, even if this should involve the construction of a special siding and jetty. I also recommend for consideration that all such trains in Italy should be provided with an adequate armed guard from the ammunition dump to the ship.

J. A. C. Pennycook

J. A. C. PENNYCOCK
Colonel
Chief Liaison Officer
Allied Commission.

Copy to : HQ. 56 Area, C.M.F.
HQ. Southern District P.B.S.
U.N.R.R.A., Naples.

EC Dist - 28 Jan 46

C. A. Sq 112
from Sec (1)

3642 60 *2*

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Office of the Executive Commissioner.

24 Jan 46
JAN 24 1946

With reference to assistance to be given to NAPLES in the matter of the ammunition explosion at TORRE ARMIATA, raised by the Chief Commissioner at his conference yesterday.

Lt. SAISON, the only available officer in the Public Health Sub-Commission, has been sent to NAPLES.

I have spoken to the Chief Liaison Officer who has informed me that he does not require any further reinforcement.

56 Area have provided all the succour and equipment, etc., necessary. PBS are prepared to give any further assistance that may be required. At present they are mainly concerned with disposal of the ammunition.

Latest estimate of the casualties is 22 Dead, 15 Unaccounted for and about 250 wounded. There were no serious Allied casualties. 5 British firemen were injured when pumping water on the ammunition which caused the main explosion but were fortunate enough to escape with injuries which are not serious.

Brigadier LEBW has visited the area and will be bringing back a full report.

You may wish to inform the Chief Commissioner.

MC
M. CARR, Brig..
VF CA Section.

See in 3203.20

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JAN 220950 A

G/7818

JAN 221400 A

PRIORITY

AC LIAISON OFFICE NAPLES FROM CHIEF OFFICER NAPLES
HQ ALCON

JAN 22 1946

UNCLASSIFIED.

Sever explosion of ammunition train at TORE ANNUNZIATA occurred on evening of 21 January. About 200 wounded number of dead not yet known. Great damage to property and much distress. May very urgent representation be made for as much sheet glass as possible to be made available for stricken town. All relief service functioned well. Reference MLO/1464.



ACTION AC DIST
INFO HQON SEC 2
CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EX COMM.
C.A.SEC
FILE 3
FLOAT

See

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(CLO)
(ANN H) 204 23/1/46
(CAPT O) 205 24/1/46

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