

1248

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

ACC

10000/109/1137

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

137

MESSES
JULY 1944;
JAN. 1945 - JULY 1946

Ex Comm.

64.

4 B3. for info. H.S. 817.
65.

CD Pilsley for information H.S. 817
66. Ex. Com.

Ex. Com. A.C.

Thank you
understand that
getting together
poor conditions.

I had already seen a copy and
Capt's Hughes and Dunder Clark are
to improve the reportedly rather
I think all will go well.

W.P.
Col. HQ.
L.F.S.C.

9 Jul 46. 67
Ex 817 B.

Ex. Com. H.S. 1517

CD Pidsley for information

MS 87
3816
Ex. Com.

66-

Exc. Com. A.C.

Thank you
understand that
getting together
poor conditions.

I had already seen a copy and
Capt's Hughes and Dendler Clark are
to improve the reportedly rather
I think all will go well.

DP
Col. A.C.
L.F.S.C.

9 Jul 46. 67

Ex. Com. 13.

MS 117.

Ex. Com. MS. 1517

!! KSC 13/7.

CD. Ross.

to

I should like you to see this correspondence
& to discuss the case with you. I mean
it of course to you to take any action
you require regarding Capt Straight. That
is to say if you decide to allow him
to go on release it will not offend, so
far as I can see, the main issue at hand
is "How are the Rahim to be replaced and
in what way are they to be paid?"

(b1)

178/3873

Brig kush
Believe action is completed.

to say if you think
 to go on release it will not affect, so
 far as I can see, the main issue which
 is "How are the Rakons to be replaced or
 in what way are they to be paid?"

178 (3873)

(b1)

Brig Kush Believe action is completed.
 Rohit & B. Singh

Letter submitted to C.C. for signature
 by

178 (3873)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Headquarters Commandant

26 March 1946

SUBJECT: Report on Officers Messes.

TO : Executive Commissioner.

On the 25th February 1946 I was given file 8006/EC by Brig Lush with instructions to report on points marked in proceedings of Board of Investigation of Rome Hotel Messes, and to pay particular attention to para 8 (b). I interviewed Lt Col Bocchino and then replied, see letter attached marked A. To be sure all were in the picture I informed Lt Col Jones. Executive Officer British of the contents of the letter. Gave the letter A signed and file No8006/EC to Lt Col Bocchino informing him to take the letter and file complete to Col Parkin to let him read the letter and then he Lt Col Bocchino to deliver the file and letter to Executive Commissioners Office. On the 25th March I was phoned by Lt Col McCleary asking if I had this file. I had no such file in my office.

I then consulted Lt Col Neprud who is taking Lt Col Bocchino's place while the letter is on leave, and after a search the missing file was found in a drawer in Lt Col Bocchino's desk. In the file my original letter attached marked (B) was found parts as can be seen blacked out.

Letter marked (C) attached as my copy of original letter. Item (51) was not on the file when it left my office. On the 28th Feby Col Parkins asked for the figures these were given by me, Lt Col Bocchino as this was an American demand to give to Col Parkins see (D)(E)(F). From the 27th of Feby till the 25th of March I had not seen this file. As the file was handed to me personally by Brig Lush no record was kept on it in my office only covering letter marked (B).

W. G. Graham Lt. Col.

A.G. GRAHAM, M.C.
Hq. Commandant.

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A. G. Graham Lt. Col.

A.G. GRAHAM, M.C.

Hq. Commandant.

P.A.

Please answer for me to speak to C.E. on the

very odd state of affairs.

MS 2013

5081

29.

HQ. Commandant.

Please note Jrio 28 opposite

15/9/45.

P.T.G.R. PA to Ex. Com.

30.

PA to Ex. Com.

Action as directed in 28 taken to day

14/9/45

W.H. St. John

P/A. P.T.G.R. 17/9.

47.

to Comm.

49.

Ref 46. Original has gone to C.C. who ordered
the investigation. This copy has been read by

Exec. O's (A) (B)

11.1.1912

PA

(50)

For discussion with CC.

11.1.1912.

(51)

At the Establishment Action Meeting of

Ref 27. 14/9/45. 11.1.1912.

QA

For discussion with CC.

DS/212.

At the Establishment Section Meeting of
 July 27, 1946 it was unanimously agreed
 the C.C. should either approve
 or disapprove recommendation in
 para. 10. Further, it was felt that
 each unit should clean up its
 own obligations. Attach
 shows position of funds as of
 1946

Wm. Beckwith
27 Oct 1844

2100

23.

Chief of Staff:

1. On 17 February 1945, accompanied by Colonel Parkin, Colonel Jones and Major Bocchino, I inspected all of the messes operated by the Commission. The Grand and the Nuova Roma were the only two that might be regarded as fully up to approved military standards. The Bella Vista, the Ristorante Ricardo and the Flora are satisfactory in the circumstances, considering the facilities available and the load they have to carry. The facilities at the Esperia are not good. They can be, and are being, improved so that they will pass the inspections of the medical personnel of the Commission, but they can never be brought to a high standard because they are simply not adequate to the number of officers that they serve.

2. Facilities at the Milano hotel are even less adequate. The latter should be derequisitioned as soon as alternative accommodations become available, which will probably be when Lazio region is deactivated.

20 Feb

Norman E. Fiske
NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel

Deputy Executive Commissioner

24Exec. Com.

Please see min 23 - re Mess inspections. *For 21st Feb.*

25

CC 544

FEB 22 RECD

Chief Commissioner.

Attached is submitted for your information/signature/approval.

Please read 21 & 23. In reply to you 15.
Wald *Two* *19/22/2* *PAG 2/2*

24
2

17.

Headquarters Comment:

and reply, please.
To see COS' note at 16,

Without flight
for Col, Docs

Sp. Sec.
10 Feb

22.

Chief of Staff:

and further information generally, as requested
in 15 and 16, see folios 18-21, in enclosure.
for further remarks from Hq. Comdt,

Without flight
for Col, Docs

Sp. Sec.
12 Feb

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

785017

in 15 and 16, see folios 98-21, in character?
without cap
for Col, Dec 3

see.
12 Feb

5879

Chief of Staff

12.

⑪

Forwarded herewith is statement
on operation of AC users, made in connection
with report of medical inspection (folios 1-8)

W. Thoulant
for Col. D. O. S.

Get Sec.
5 Feb

13.

C.O.S.

To see min 11. Feb 5 Feb.

24. 7/2

Chief Commissioner.

Attached is submitted for your information/signature/approval.

14.

CC 344
FEB 8 1960

COS 15. This is under an
a adequate reply to the complaints made.

Feb 5 1962

St. 7/2

Chief Commissioner.

CC 344
FEB 8 1962

Attached is submitted for your information/signature/approval.

COS 15. 7/2/62
This is under another
a adequate reply to the complaints made.
END

16

8205 EN

Please see that an adequate reply
is produced rapidly 7/2/62

5872

9.
Chief of Staff -

The U.S. Navy
condemns the
operation of the
galleys at the
Ferdinand Hotel
The HQ Comdt
should correct
these conditions.
The report is
worth reading. 20

M.D. Council

For action

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

785017

The report is
worth reading. 2m

10

M.D. Council

For action

ref

12

28/1.

5677 -

68

Ref. : 8006/68/EC.

16 July 1946.

SUBJECT: VACCARI G.R.'s Mess.

TO : Executive Officer (Br)
A. G.

Reference paragraph two of your letter No. XOB/411/A dated 6 July 1946 on the above subject.

Pleased find attached, letter from the Camp Commandant of N.M.I.A. which is being returned as requested in the above-quoted letter.

returned.

By Command of Rear Admiral Stene:

N. W. HIND-SMITH

Encl. as above.

Chief Staff Officer,
to Executive Commissioner.

5876

68

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

8006
Tel. No. ROME 439061, Ext. 510.

Subject: VACCARI C.R.'s Mess.

6B
Headquarters,
Allied Commission (ITALY),
C.M.F.

Ref: XOF/111/A.

6 July, 1946.

JUL 8 1946

Executive Commissioner. ✓

Apropos of certain remarks passed about the standard of feeding in the C.R.'s Mess, I think you might like to see the attached letter from the Camp Commandant of M.I.A.

I have also just recently promoted the two cooks at the VACCARI to encourage them to greater efforts. May I have the letter back please.

see 64

Whitcomb

H. WHITE-JONES,
Lt. Colonel,
Executive Officer (M.I.A.).

KWJ/tjb

see 64-67. & 7.68

(cso)

5875

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Headquarters Commandant

27 February 1946

HQC/14

SUBJECT : Report on Officers Messes.

TO : Executive Commissioner.

As requested herewith report. Called for, on or about the beginning of January 1946. It was reported by Col. Parkin to a meeting of the Establishment Section that there had been a over-drawal of American Rations in the Flora and Grand Hotel. Capt. Straight was the Military Hotel Manager, it was further reported that Capt Straight when asked for an explanation informed Col. Parkin he had signed the Ration indents blank. I asked what disciplinary action was to be taken against Capt. Straight, I was informed none.

Reference section 8 para (b) of the report, I have shown Lt. Col. Bocchino this para, which he cannot understand as at all times Capt. Straight reported to Lt. Col. Bocchino and gave a complete report on the Hotel under him. To my personal knowledge Capt. Straight came into Lt. Col. Bocchino's office every morning and many times twice per day. Lt. Col. Bocchino had in my opinion given supervision but it was extremely difficult to know rations were being over-drawn. I was a member of the Flora Mess at this time and the feeding was so bad that I ordered a general Mess meeting at which two Senior (1) American and (1) British Officers were appointed to go into the matter. Before this report could be received the Mess were divided. Flora all British and the others all American.

On examination in the Flora no British Rations had been over-drawn. The position at present is as follows:

The Grand Hotel, Inghilterra, Bellavista are now being run under an American Mess Committee with Capt. Straight as Military Hotel Manager, these Hotels come directly under Lt. Col. Bocchino as Assistant Hq. Comdt. The position of the Flora Hotel is (1) Mess Sgt, and (1) Mess Cpl look after the drawing of Rations, the indents for these being signed by me. Rations are issued onyl by the Mess Sgt. There is a Mess Committee, a Secretary, Treasurer. This Hotel is under my supervision directly. As the feeding was so bad in the Flora Mess before the split, I am of the opinion that the Rations were not being consumed by the Officers but either, went out, or were consumed by the Italian Staff. As Capt. Straight is an Hotel Manager he should have watched this and not let things slid as he did.

A. C. Graham, Lt. Col.
A.C. GRAHAM, M.C.
Hq. Commandant.

See m. 58.59.60.61.62.

5884 P/A
5/4

GRAND HOTEL

Financial statement showing proportion of cash due to
American and British contingent.

LIABILITIES

Mess collection 1/2/46	L. 6.997
Sundry creditors as per list	178.821
Balance forward	85.257
	<u>L. 271.075.=</u>

Balance due American (37) 64%	<u>L. 54.564</u>
British (20) 36%	<u>L. 30.693</u>
	L. 85.257

Cash at hand at old rate of exchange. 2/2/46	L. 109.9
Increase in cash at bank being devaluation of lire	137.3
Mr. Miller	2.1
Mr & Mrs. Bracken	21.6
	<u>271.0</u>

Balance forward being cash to be distributed.	<u>L. 85.2</u>
	L. 85.2

P.L. Gallagher
P.L. GALLAGHER 1st LT. Inf. (Treasurer)

GRAND HOTEL

Financial statement showing proportion of cash due to
American and British contingent.

ASSETS

L. 6.997	Cash at hand at old rate of exchange. 2/2/46	L. 109.915
178.821	Increase in cash at bank being devaluation of lire	137.393
	Mr. Miller	2.100
85.257	Mr & Mrs. Bracken	21.667
<u>L. 271.075.=</u>		<u>271.075.=</u>

<u>L. 54.564</u>	Balance forward being	L. 85.257
<u>L. 30.693</u>	cash to be distributed.	
L. 85.257		<u>L. 85.257</u>

P.L. Gallagher
P.L. GALLAGHER 1st LT. Inf. (Treasurer)

54

49700- MTOUSA for Jan
10395- FSR. for Jan
23286- Mr & Mrs Brocken, Rations for Dec & Jan
8400- D.R. Orchestra 27/12/45-16/1/46
5600- D.R. Orchestra 16/1/46- 31/1/46
6782- Napkins - ice - Grande Hotel for Jan.
1836- Veg. 26/1/46
10650- Potatoes - crackers - 21/1/46
4900 - Dance Orchestra - 7/11/45
26109 - Grande Hotel - Bar acct for Dec 1945
31162 - Grande Hotel - Bar acct. for Jan 1946

178821 - Total Bills outstanding as of 31/1/46

BELLAVISIA

Financial Statement showing proportion of cash due to American and British Contingent.

LIABILITIES

None;

ASSETS

Cash on hand at old rate of exchange 2/2/46	L. 28.2
Increase in cash due to increase in valuation of lire	35.2
	<u>L. 63.4</u>

Balance Due.

American (27) 51%	<u>L. 32.386</u>
British (24) 49%	<u>L. 31.109</u>
	L. 63.495

Balance forward being cash to be distributed	L. 63.49
--	----------

P.L. Gallagher
P.L. GALLAGHER 1st Lt. Inf. (Treasurer)

BELLAVIS

Special Statement showing proportion of cash due to American
British Contingent.

ASSETS

Cash at hand at old rate of exchange 2/2/46	L. 28.220
Increase in cash due to increase in valuation of lire	35.275.
	<u>L. 63.495</u>

32.386

31.109

63.495

Balance forward being cash to be distributed	L. 63.495.=
---	-------------

P.L. Gallagher
P.L. GALLAGHER 1st Lt. Inf. (Treasurer)

FLORA HOTEL

Financial Statement showing proportion of cash due to
American and British Contingents.

LIABILITIES

Mess collection 1/2/46	L. 3.730
Sundry creditors as per list	47.625
Balance forward	58.252
	L. 109.607.=

Cash in bank at old rate of exchange 2/2/46	L. 40.
Increase in cash at bank being devaluation of lire	51.
Cash on hand	7.
Increase of cash on hand at new valuation of lire	9.
	L. 108.
Piano rental paid in advance	1.
Total Assets.	
	L. 109.

Balance Due.

Americans (61) 29%	L. 15.890
British (147) 71%	42.362
	58.252

Balance forward being cash to be distributed	L. 58.
	58.

5871

P. L. Gallagher
P.L. GALLAGHER 1st Lt. Inf.
(Treasurer)

FLORA HOTEL

Financial Statement showing proportion of cash due to American and British Contigents.

ASSETS

6 L.	3.730	Cash in bank at old rate of exchange 2/2/46	L.	40.820
	47.625	Increase in cash at bank being devaluation of lire		51.025
	58.252	Cash on hand		7.450
		Increase of cash on hand at new valuation of lire		9.312
L.	109.607.=			
			L.	108.607.=
		Piano rental paid in advance		1.000
		Total Assets.	L.	109.607

L.	15.890			
	42.362			
	58.252	Balance forward being cash to be distributed	L.	58.252
				58.252

P.L. GALLAGHER
P.L. GALLAGHER 1st Lt. Inf.
(Treasurer)

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

INTER OFFICE MEMO

From: Ex. office (B)

SUBJECT:

FILE No.

TO: Executive Commission

19. 11. 1946

The Chief Commission asked that Lt Col
Cooper record the reasons for which he did
not approve of the recommendation made
at para 10 of the proceedings of the Board of
Investigation of Rome Hotel men.
He attached letter from Cooper's reply;
Col Parkin asked that a copy be sent to
for

5870
Rhithatone

Tel. 371

8006 91
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
FOOD & AGRICULTURE SUB-COMMISSION

VRAC/ls

(48)

19 February 1946

FEB 20 1946

SUBJECT : Board of Investigation of Rome Hotel Messes

TO : Chief Commissioner

(46)

1. With reference to the report of the Board called on to investigate Allied Commission Messes in Rome, and in particular to paragraph 10 of this report.

2. This paragraph was not approved as it is my personal opinion that the statement that the rations over-drawn were consumed by both American and British personnel is not accurate. Further, from my own experience at the Flora Hotel, I am convinced that these rations owing to lack of supervision, were either consumed by the Italian Staff or disposed of outside the Hotel.

3. I feel that I am hardly in a position to make a constructive recommendation as to how these rations should be made up, as I am not familiar with American regulations on this subject, but I suggest that either American rations might be under-drawn over a period in order to make up the balance, or alternatively that a write-off should be applied for.

V.R.A. Confen
V.R.A. CONFEN
Lt. Col.

Distribution

Executive Commissioner

5869

(650)

18 February 1946.

SUBJECT: Board of Investigation of Rome Hotel Messes.

TO : Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission,
APO 394, U. S. Army.

1. Reference Special Orders Number 15, dated 19 January 1946, the following report is submitted.

2. The kitchens, supply rooms, mess halls, and sculleries were inspected. From an Italian standpoint the cleanliness of the equipment and general appearance was very good, but from an Army inspection point of view much was to be desired. Specific cases such as burned grease in frying pans, on stove tops and ovens, which showed evidence though the vessels were washed and the stoves wiped off, no attempt had been made to thoroughly clean them. This was in all hotels. The bread bins at the Flora Hotel appeared to have not been cleaned or scrubbed for some considerable time. Also, the interior of the refrigerator at the Flora Hotel was filthy. The Inghilterra and Bellavista Hotel Messes are located in old buildings (the Inghilterra Hotel building is over 100 years old). These two messes were very clean, and minor discrepancies located were brought to the attention of the Mess Sergeants.

3. From the Accounting of Rations angle the inspection brought to light a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. The following discrepancies were found:

a. In the Grand Hotel, covering a period, 1 December 1945 to 31 January 1946, 1,024 (one thousand twenty-four) rations were overdrawn.

b. In the Flora Hotel, covering a period, 1 December 1945 to 31 January 1946, 335 (three hundred thirty-five) rations were overdrawn.

c. In the Bellavista Hotel, covering a period, 1 December 1945 to 31 January 1946, 7 (seven) rations were overdrawn.

d. In the Inghilterra Hotel, covering a period, 1 December 1945 to 31 January 1946, 234 (two hundred thirty-four) rations were underdrawn.

See h 47
f 48 49

5868

45

4. A very careful check was made of all accounting returns including Daily Head Count Sheets and Daily Ration Telegrams for all four hotels and we are satisfied that the above figures are correct.

5. Captain Straight, B.N., the Motel Manager for these four hotels admitted that no check had been made as to the correct daily receipt of rations from the Ration Disp against his entitlement, nor did he keep any Ration Record showing the daily position of under or over issues. Captain Straight did start keeping the Ration Record as of approximately 10 January 1946, after the Inspector General from RAAC had brought to his attention the necessity for this report. The Daily Ration Telegrams were made out by enlisted personnel and signed by Captain Straight without proper scrutiny as to their correctness. In our cross-checking it was clearly revealed that the head-counts and morning report figures as to the number of American Officers and American Civilians messing and billeting at the four hotels shown in the Daily Telegrams in a large number of cases bore no relation to the figures as shown in the Daily Head Count Return.

6. Captain Straight's explanation of these discrepancies is that he was merely carrying on a system instituted by his predecessors and that he assumed that it was, therefore, correct. It was discovered that the Mess Councils had not functioned at all at these hotels. If they had required periodic reports to be made, these would have been a check upon Captain Straight, and the multiple discrepancies discovered by this board would have been stopped before they started. All this indicates that his appointing authority had not given Captain Straight any instructions and apparently had made no effort to obtain reports or other information concerning conditions in the various messes.

7. This investigation has brought to light the fact that a large number of American rations have been overdrawn. These rations may have been disposed of in the following way:

- a. Consumed in the Hotel Messes by respective members and their guests.
- b. Consumed on the premises by the hotel staffs.
- c. Stolen from the messes and disposed of on the black market.
- d. Improper preparation, cooking, and serving in the messes.
- e. We also discovered that in the hotels that there is a limit of the number of civilian guests allowed each week (in the Grand and Flora Hotels 2 a week, and in the Bellavista and Inghilterra Hotels 3 per week). If a member has used up his required number of guests and is not allowed to bring his guests into the dining rooms, he takes them to his bedroom, and from there orders the

5867

meals brought up. Thus, the check of trying to control the number of guests (for whom no rations are drawn) completely falls down. This is just another way where some of the rations may have been consumed.

- f. In the Grand Hotel where there is just one kitchen being used by both the Army and the civilian restaurant next door, there is a woeful lack of control on the distribution of prepared foods. Two pots may be sitting side by side on the stove and the food in them are for the two different dining rooms, yet there is no supervision in this kitchen to see that the food from each goes to the correct dining rooms.

g. Our opinion is that the cause of much of the trouble lies in the following points:

- a. Apparent lack of experience of Army routine and regulations by Captain Straight.
- b. Complete lack of supervision of a Junior officer by his superiors.
- c. During the entire period of this report and prior, the messes were American and British operated and, drawing both American and British rations, involving two different ration systems. It is quite probable that the irregularities involved in the Army rations developed as a result of the joint operations.
- d. The operation of the Grand Hotel Mess included the responsibility for furnishing facilities to entertain visiting dignitaries of both the United States and Great Britain, such as legislative investigating committees, touring parties of Congressional members and high ranking military and governmental officials in addition to providing mess facilities to members of the Embassies of the several countries, comprising the advisory councils to Italy.

9. The following recommendations for the running and control of the Hotel Messes are submitted herewith:

- a. That responsibility at Headquarters be fixed in the Senior American officer on the Headquarters Commandant's staff, and/or the Commanding Officer, 2675th Regiment for American Messes, and the Headquarters Commandant for British Messes.
- b. This officer, or officers, mentioned in paragraph "a" above should issue proper instructions to the Hotel Manager detailing the routine to be followed in the drawing of rations, and the check that should be kept on them.
- c. In addition to the routine inspections carried out at present by the Medical Officer, a regular periodic inspection should be made by the officer or officers responsible

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at headquarters for the hotels and messes. This inspection should insure that the instructions referred to in paragraph "b" above are being strictly adhered to. This inspection would in addition act as an incentive to have the premises and records in tip-top condition at all times.

- d. In the future no meals should be served in any hotel rooms, excepting proper dining halls, irrespective of rank or position.
- e. That the M.C.O.'s and E.M./O.R.'s responsible for physically drawing rations should be acquainted with both American and British Ration Scales, and copies of these scales should be posted in the ration storerooms. This personnel should be instructed to check rations drawn against entitlement and it should be the responsibility of the Hotel Manager to insure that this is carried out.
- f. That the President of the Mess Committee and/or the Hotel Manager personally check each day to insure that the Morning Report figures and head count figures of personnel messing, are correct before the Daily Telegram is submitted.
- g. That there should be at all times an Allied soldier, preferably the M.C.O. in charge, present in the kitchen during the preparation and serving of all three meals.
- h. That the appointing authority require from the Hotel Manager a semi-monthly report showing the status of rations during the period covered by the report.
- i. At present the only check on the exits and entrances of hotel personnel is by Italian civilians, who are on the Hotel payrolls. It is strongly urged that these should be replaced by Allied personnel. Although this may not be possible in every case, it was noticed that at the Grand Hotel there are two American S.P.'s on duty at the front door where they presumably serve no other purpose than to salute officers (as the Grand Hotel is one-half civilians, they cannot, of course, prevent the entrance of civilians). One of these S.P.'s on duty at the back door would certainly serve as a detriment to the stealing of rations.
- j. That there should be a complete separation of the functions of the Mess Officer and the Entertainment Officer. These functions at present are both being performed by the Hotel Manager.

42

10. In view of the fact that during this period and prior, the rations drawn were consumed by both American and British personnel, it is recommended that any reimbursement for these overdrawn rations, should be made from joint mess funds.

11. Captain Straight, the Hotel Manager, has seen and read this report.

PRESIDENT OF BOARD:

John W. Chapman
JOHN W. CHAPMAN,
Colonel, JAGD.

MEMBERS OF BOARD:

Bernard W. Bradley
BERNARD W. BRADLEY,
Lt.-Col., QMC.

Report approved except Recommendation #10.

V. R. A. Cooper
V. R. A. COOPER,
Lt.-Col., HQAG.

Encl.- Ration record December-January.

5864

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
ESTABLISHMENT SECTION

17 January 1946

JAN 24 1946

SUBJECT: Memo.

TO : Chief Commissioner (Copy to Executive Commissioner).

General Dasher called at my office this a.m.

It seems that an inspector from his headquarters has inspected the A.C. Hotels. Dasher says that the Admiral should appoint a board of officers to investigate these hotel messes, as the report will show unsatisfactory sanitary conditions and over drawing of rations. I told him no report had been received to date. I phoned the Hq. Comdt. to check on all messes at once.

If a board is appointed I advise a combined board.

C. M. Parkin
C. M. PARKIN
Colonel.

5863

(encso)

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
G-1 (B)

26th November, 1945.

Subject: "Flora" Hotel Mess Rules.

To: SEE DISTRIBUTION

NOV 27 1945

1. The following publications are forwarded for information:-

(A) "Flora" Hotel Mess Charter dated 23 November 45.

(B) "Flora" Hotel Mess Rules dated 19 November 45.

(C) AC Central Mess Committee Rules dated 4 September 45.

2. The Military Manager, "Flora" Hotel is requested to post copies of the above on the main Notice Board, together with such Appendices as are relevant.

MAJOR R. A. S. C.
PRESIDENT OF THE MESS COMMITTEE
(A. D. TROUNSON)

DISTRIBUTION:

Executive Commissioner
V.P. Establishments Section
Executive Officer (A)
Executive Officer (B)
HQ Commandant (6)
HQ Billeting Officer
Military Manager "Flora" Hotel (6)
Treasurer (through HQ Commandant)
Members of the Mess Committee (through Military Manager)
Factor A.D. TROUNSON

2. The Military Manager, "Flora" Hotel is requested to post copies of the above on the main Notice Board, together with such appendices as are relevant.

MAJOR R.A.S.O.
PRESIDENT OF THE MESS COMMITTEE
(A.D. TROUNSON)

DISTRIBUTION:

Executive Commissioner
V.P. Establishments Section
Executive Officer (A)
Executive Officer (B) (6)
HQ Commandant
HQ Billeting Officer
Military Manager "Flora" Hotel (6)
Treasurer (through HQ Commandant)
Members of the Mess Committee (through Military Manager) (A)
Major A.D. TROUNSON RLSC (A)
Lt Col L.W. STEARNS (A)
Major B.M. SANSING (A)
Major N.A. SEWELL SWB (B)
Major C.G.R. WILLIAMS Gen List (A)
Ht. A.E. DICKENS (A)

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Pass to Flora Hotelman Spd 29/11/65

(COPY 12) 11/11/65

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION OFFICERS' MESS

"FLORA" HOTEL, ROME

MESS CHARTER

1. MESS REGULATIONS.

The regulations governing the constitution, running and conduct of the Mess are set out in the following publications etc. which will be posted on the main notice board and such other places as the Mess Committee may direct:-

- (A) Mess Charter.
- (B) MESS Rules with the following appendices:-
 - Appendix "A" - Meal Charges.
 - Appendix "B" - Bar Charges
 - Appendix "C" - Laundry Charges
 - Appendix "D" - Dry Cleaning Charges
 - Appendix "E" - Tailoring Charges
- (C) AC Central Mess Committee Rules.

2. MANAGEMENT.

- (i) The administration of the Flora Hotel (as with other AC Messes in Rome) is the responsibility of the HQ Commandant. He is assisted by a Resident Military Manager, a Treasurer and a Billeting Officer.
- (ii) The Military Manager is responsible for the supervision of all matters of hotel management and the carrying out of the provisions of HQ Establishment Memorandum No. 73 of 28 September 44 and pertinent Military Regulations. His function is also to advise the Mess Committee and implement its decisions.
- (iii) The Mess Committee is the representative body of the members of the Mess. It is responsible for the control of revenue and expenditure and administration of the Mess fund. It handles all matters affecting the welfare and amenities of the members of the Mess.

(C) AC Central Mess Committee Rules.

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(i) The administration of the Flora Hotel (as with other AC Messes in Rome) is the responsibility of the HQ Commandant. He is assisted by a Resident Military Manager, a Treasurer and a Billeting Officer.

(ii) The Military Manager is responsible for the supervision of all matters of hotel management and the carrying out of the provisions of HQ Establishment Memorandum No. 73 of 28 September 44 and pertinent Military Regulations. His function is also to advise the Mess Committee and implement its decisions.

(iii) The Mess Committee is the representative body of the members of the Mess. It is responsible for the control of revenue and expenditure and administration of the Mess fund. It handles all matters affecting the welfare and amenities of the members of the Mess.

3. GENERAL MEETINGS

General Meetings will be called quarterly as soon as the quarterly accounts are available, or when specially requested by any 5 members of the Mess, two of whom must be of opposite nationality. General meetings will be presided over by the Senior Resident Member of the Mess, or in his absence the senior officer present at the meeting.

4. MESS COMMITTEE

(i) The Mess Committee will consist of the following:

- (a) 6 resident members of the Mess, of which 3 will be American and 3 British.
- (b) Of these one will be President of the Mess Committee and one Vice President and Secretary.

(ii) Ex officio members of the Mess Committee will be:-

Military Manager
Treasurer

(iii) The Mess Committee will be elected quarterly at the General Mess Meeting. Nominations will be called for on the main Notice Board 10 days before the date of the meeting.

(iv) The President of the Mess Committee will be alternatively American and British with the Vice President and Secretary of opposite nationality.

(v) The President will be specifically appointed at the General Meeting. The Vice President and Secretary will be elected by mutual assent of the Committee.

(vi) The Mess Committee will serve for three months, during which time it will keep itself in being; vacancies occurring during the term of office being filled by unanimous vote of the Committee.

(vii) The names of the members of the Mess Committee will be kept posted on the main Notice Board.

(viii) The Mess Committee shall convene on the first and third Monday of each calendar month, and four members shall constitute a quorum. Special sessions may be called by the President of the Committee either on his own initiative or in compliance with a request made by a member or by the Military Manager. The hour of meetings shall be at the discretion of the president. Notices of regular and special meetings shall be posted on the main Notice Board at least one day in advance of the actual convening. The Military Manager will be informed before each meeting of the nature of the business proposed for discussion. Minutes of each session shall be posted on the Notice Board immediately after each Committee Meeting.

5. ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS.

(1) All money received will be safeguarded by the Military Manager until handed to the Treasurer for banking, who will check the cash balance daily.

(viii) The Mess Committee shall convene on the first and third Monday of each calendar month, and four members shall constitute a quorum. Special sessions may be called by the President of the Committee either on his own initiative or in compliance with a request made by a member or by the Military Manager. The hour of meetings shall be at the discretion of the president. Notices of regular and special meetings shall be posted on the main Notice Board at least one day in advance of the actual convening. The Military Manager will be informed before each meeting of the nature of the business proposed for discussion. Minutes of each session shall be posted on the Notice Board immediately after each Committee Meeting.

5. ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS.

- (i) All money received will be safeguarded by the Military Manager until handed to the Treasurer for banking, who will check the cash balance daily.
- (ii) The Treasurer will be present at all regular Committee Meetings at which a statement of the financial position will be submitted.
- (iii) In the event of the Mess disbanding, credit balances will be equally shared between American and British for disposal in accordance with respective Army Regulations.

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6. RULES.

Rules governing such routine matters as Guests, Hours, Complaints and Suggestions etc. will be drawn up by the Committee and posted for general information.

7. GENERAL.

- (1) This Charter can be amended or revoked only by a referendum vote of mess membership.

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(11) All rules, regulations, resolutions and amendments made by any previous governing group of the Hotel Flora Mess, presently in force and effect, and in conflict with this Charter are hereby repealed.

PROVISIONALLY PUT INTO FORCE BY ORDER OF THE MESS COMMITTEE
(subject to approval of the next General Meeting).

(Handwritten signature)

MAJOR R.A.S.C.
PRESIDENT OF THE MESS COMMITTEE
(A.D. TROUNSON)

23 November 1945.

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

785017

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION OFFICERS' MESS

"FLORA" HOTEL, ROME

MESS RULES

1. MEMBERSHIP.

Membership is governed by the AC Central Mess Committee Rules dated 4 September 44 para 1.

2. BILLETING.

(i) Billeting in the Hotel is administered by the HQ Commandant through his Billeting Officer (HQ Building, Ground Floor, Room 48, Tel Extn 561) to whom all enquiries as to accommodation must be directed.

(ii) Office Memorandum No. 14 dated 29 July 44 sets out the HQ policy as to the allocation of Officers between AC hotels.

(iii) Should they be billeted in the Hotel, accommodation will be paid for at the rate of 100 lire a day in respect of:

(a) Civilian representatives of USA Commercial concerns.

(b) Dependents of USA Armed Forces personnel.

Bills will be rendered to such individuals at appropriate intervals by the HQ Billeting Officer. (Attention is directed to the Billeting Officer's letter of instruction on the subject, posted on the Main Notice Board).

3. MESS MEMBERSHIP CARDS.

(i) Mess Membership Cards marked "FLORA HOTEL" are issued by the Billeting Officer to all resident and transient members of the Mess.

(ii) With the exception of guests introduced as required in the succeeding paragraph, no person unless in possession of a current Mess Membership Card will be permitted to take meals in the Mess.

4. GUESTS.

- (a) Civilian representatives of USA Commercial concerns.
- (b) Dependents of USA Armed Forces personnel.

Bills will be rendered to such individuals at appropriate intervals by the HQ Billeting Officer. (Attention is directed to the Billeting Officer's letter of instruction on the subject, posted on the main Notice Board).

3. MESS MEMBERSHIP CARDS.

- (i) Mess Membership Cards marked "FLORA HOTEL" are issued by the Billeting Officer to all resident and transient members of the mess.
- (ii) With the exception of guests introduced as required in the succeeding paragraph, no person unless in possession of a current Mess Membership Card will be permitted to take meals in the mess.

4. GUESTS.

- (i) All guests will be accompanied by their hosts when visiting the mess.
- (ii) Residents may invite service personnel, voluntary workers, and allied civilians of Officer status to any meal.
- (iii) Italian civilians, and other individuals of foreign nationality may be invited to the mess when desired by residents. Invitations to meals will, however, be restricted to dinner on two occasions each week (the week being reckoned from Monday to Sunday), and to afternoon tea in the Ante-Room.

NOTE: Unused guest privileges in any one week are not cumulative.

5. FOREIGN BORN WIVES.

Foreign born wives of resident members of the mess may partake of their meals at the mess on presentation of the necessary card of authority and a "FLORA HOTEL" Mess Membership Card. Meals will be charged for in

accordance with the rates published by APOUSA and GHQ.

6. MEALS.

(i) Meals will be served as under:

BREAKFAST	0730 - 0900 hrs
SUNDAYS	0730 - 0930 hrs
LUNCHEON	1230 - 1400 hrs
AFTERNOON TEA (Served in the into-Room on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays & special holidays only)	1600 - 1730 hrs
DINNER	1830 - 2100 hrs

(ii) Meals will be paid for in cash at the entrance to the Dining Room before each meal.

(iii) Charges for meals will be as follows:-

(a) Allied Military personnel:

("Standard Less Charges")

Breakfast	5 Lire
Luncheon	10 Lire
Afternoon Tea	N I L
Dinner	10 Lire
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>25 Lire</u>

(b) Allied civilian officials, Voluntary Workers, Foreign Officials, and wives of Allied Officers:

Standard Mess charges as for Allied Military personnel, plus "repayment" charges as authorised by GHQ and APOUSA from time to time. These will be notified by the HQ Commandant and posted on the main Notice Board and at the cash desk. Monies received under this heading, less Standard Mess charges, are forwarded to the HQ.

Breakfast	5 Lire
Luncheon	10 Lire
Afternoon Tea	N I L
Dinner	10 Lire
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>25 Lire</u>

- (b) Allied civilian officials, Voluntary Workers, Foreign Officials, and wives of Allied Officers:

Standard Mess charges as for Allied Military personnel, plus "replay ent" charges as authorised by GHQ and MTOUSA from time to time. These will be notified by the Hq Commandant and posted on the main Notice Board and at the cash desk. Monies received under this heading, less Standard Mess charges, are forwarded to 8 Command Paymaster and MTOUSA at the end of each month. (x Vide appendix "A")

(c) Guests:

- (A) Allied Military personnel - as for residents.

- (B) Allied civilians, voluntary workers etc normally subsisted elsewhere on military rations on repayment, and wives of Allied Officers - as for residents, and others holding Mess Cards.

- (C) All others -

Dinner (only) 75 Lire
(Vide Rule 4(iii))

- (iv) Requests for early meals i.e. for Duty Officers, early departures etc. must be made to the NCO i/c the Cash Desk 24 hours in advance.

(v) Haversack Rations are available on the following terms:-

- (a) Limited to 2 per Officer.
- (b) Chargeable at luncheon prices.
- (c) Must be ordered from the MCC i/o the cash desk on the previous day.

7. BAR.

(i) The Bar is managed by the Hotel Civilian Authorities for the Mess.

(ii) Prices, as set out at Appendix "B", are subject to the control of the Mess Committee and must be displayed in the Bar.

(iii) A rebate of 10% is paid to the Mess on Bar gross takings.

(iv) Bar hours are as follows:-

MORNING	1200 - 1500 hours
EVENING	1800 - 2300 hours

Extensions are authorised for special occasions at the discretion of the Military Manager.

8. MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES.

(i) No maintenance charge is levied.

(ii) Except for billeting charges in certain instances (vide para 2(iii)), no Mess bills are incurred.

(iii) Gratuities to the Staff are not permitted. Officers may, however, use their discretion in reimbursing the domestic staff (ie Chambermaids, and Boots) for specific services e.g. darning, repairing, boot cleaning etc.

9. DAILY PAPERS.

Daily papers are paid for by the individual.

10. BOOT AND BUTTON CLEANING.

EVENING

1800 - 2300 hours

Extensions are authorized for special occasions at the discretion of the Military Manager.

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9. DAILY PAPERS.

Daily papers are paid for by the individual.

10. BOOT AND BUTTON CLEANING.

Officers must provide the necessary polish etc. if this service is requested of the Staff.

11. LAUNDRY.

- (i) Laundry charges are as published at Appendix "C"
- (ii) All laundry is taken in under Hotel arrangements and should be handed to the Chambermaid, to whom also payment is made on presentation of the Bill.
- (iii) Bundles must include an inventory with the name and room number of the Officer clearly shown.

12. DRY CLEANING.

Dry Cleaning is undertaken for American Officers by USA Army (see particulars at Appendix "D").

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13. TAILORING.

Tailoring charges of an approved tailor are set out at Appendix "E".

14. DANCES AND ENTERTAINMENTS.

- (i) Programmes are arranged at the discretion of the Committee.
- (ii) Since no maintenance charge is made, the Committee is entitled to make such charges for dances etc. on entrance as are necessary to cover expenses.
- (iii) For the convenience and comfort of those officers who don't dance etc and wish to be quiet, the small Ante-Room will always be kept available on dance nights etc.

15. COMPLAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

- (i) Complaints will at once be referred to the Military Manager or a member of the Committee, and not to the Staff.
- (ii) Suggestions for the improvement of the Mess will always be appreciated by the Committee.
- (iii) A "SUGGESTIONS BOOK" is available for those who want to use it at the entrance to the Dining Room. Suggestions will be dealt with and replied to by the Committee at its regular meetings.

16. DRESS.

Dress regulations appropriate to the custom of nationality and service will be observed when in mess.

17. DISCIPLINE.

- (i) The bar is out of bounds to IM/ORS.
- (ii) The Military Manager only will deal with questions affecting the staff.

18. POSTAL.

(iii) A "SUGGESTIONS BOOK" is available for those who want to use it at the entrance to the Dining Room. Suggestions will be dealt with and replied to by the Committee at its regular meetings.

16. DRESS.

Dress regulations appropriate to the custom of nationality and service will be observed when in mess.

17. DISCIPLINE.

(i) The bar is out of bounds to L/Os.

(ii) The Military Manager only will deal with questions affecting the staff.

18. POSTAL.

The Mess mail box at the Reception Counter is cleared daily at 0815 hours (Sundays excepted).

BY ORDER OF THE MESS COMMITTEE.

(Signature)
MAJOR R.A.S.O.
PRESIDENT OF THE MESS COMMITTEE
(A.D. TROUNSON)

FOLE.
19 NOVEMBER 1945

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394

MESS RULES

1. MEMBERSHIP:

a. Membership of Headquarters Allied Commission Officers' Messes will be limited to Allied officers and to civilians of officer status on the strength of this Headquarters. The Mess Council is empowered to extend membership to other officers or civilians of officer status who are attached to or employed by Headquarters Allied Commission. Members are restricted to the use of the Mess to which they are allotted by the Billeting Office.

b. Membership is limited to three categories:

- (i) Full Membership - This applies to permanent Allied officers and civilians of officer status on the strength of Headquarters Allied Commission. All such officers and civilians have full voting rights and other privileges.
- (ii) Temporary Membership - This applies to all personnel in Para (i) above temporarily on duty at this Headquarters. Privileges are same as those for Full Membership, less voting rights.
- (iii) Limited Privilege Membership - This covers all others allocated by Billeting Officer to H.Q. A.C. Messes not included in first two categories. Membership under this category is granted solely for the individual's use of the Mess with no voting power and no right to introduce guests.

2. MESS COUNCIL:

The Mess Council will consist of two members from each Mess Committee with power to co-opt. The Headquarters Commandant is a member ex-officio.

3. POLICY:

The Mess Council will frame the policy and control of Headquarters

Privileges are same as those for voting rights.

(iii) Limited Privilege Membership - This covers all others allocated by Billeting Officer to HQ, A.C. Messes not included in first two categories. Membership under this category is granted solely for the individual's use of the mess with no voting power and no right to introduce guests.

2. MESS COUNCIL:

The Mess Council will consist of two members from each Mess Committee with power to co-opt. The Headquarters Commandant is a member ex-officio.

3. POLICY:

The Mess Council will frame the policy and control of Headquarters Messing.

4. MESS OFFICIALS:

The Mess Council Secretary and Treasurer and Mess Officers will be appointed by the Establishments Officer or equivalent at Headquarters. Each Mess will be governed by a Mess Committee consisting of not less than five (5) members.

5. MESS CHARGES:

Maximum daily mess charge for all members will not exceed twenty-five lire, exclusive of any charge that may be made for rations where such is payable. In principle, the Mess is not intended to show a profit, and the excess of income over expenditure will be used for the benefit of current members in increased amenities or reduced charges.

6. FINANCE:

Mess Officers or Mess Committee Treasurers are authorized to collect an advance either by the sale of books of tickets and chits to members or by means of a cash deposit. Members on leaving the Mess will

be entitled to refunds on tickets and chits or any unused balance of the cash deposit.

7. MEETINGS:

The Mess Council will meet in private session in the first week of every month and prior to the General Quarterly Meeting, and at such other times as the President may decide. Each Mess Committee will have its own meeting at not longer than monthly intervals. Two members from each Mess will be appointed as representatives to the Mess Council quarterly commencing 1st October 1944, by the respective Mess Committees. General Meetings of all Messes may be called either by the Mess Council or on written request of two of the five Messes.

8. ACCOUNTS:

Each Mess Committee will appoint a Treasurer to supervise the accounts which will be submitted to the Mess Committee at its monthly meeting. The Treasurer of the Mess Council will make periodic checks and will be responsible that the funds are promptly banked. Each Mess Committee is entitled to control its own expenditures.

9. GUESTS:

The Maximum number of guests a full or temporary member may introduce for meals will be limited to three (3) for any one week.

10. TIMES OF MEALS:

Times of meals will be arranged by the respective Mess Committees.

11. BAR:

The opening and closing hours of the bar will be displayed in the premises, and will be at times laid down by the respective Mess Committees. The bar hours will conform with local Army Orders, general or local, if any.

12. CONDUCT OF MESSES:

The respective Mess Committees will conduct their Messes in an orderly fashion in accordance with orders and regulations and the above mentioned rules.

The maximum number of guests a full or temporary member may introduce for meals will be limited to three (3) for any one week.

10. TIMES OF MEALS:

Times of meals will be arranged by the respective Mess Committees.

11. BAR:

The opening and closing hours of the bar will be displayed in the premises, and will be at times laid down by the respective Mess Committees. The bar hours will conform with local Army Orders, general or local, if any.

12. CONDUCT OF MESSSES:

The respective Mess Committees will conduct their Messes in an orderly fashion in accordance with orders and regulations and the above mentioned rules.

4 September 44

The above mess rules were passed on by AC Mess Committee at a meeting this date and are submitted to the Acting Chief Commissioner with recommendation for his approval.

/s/ L.D. Denamore
/t/ L.D. DENAMORE
Colonel, Sig C
Chairman Pro-Tem.

5 September 44

Approved.

/s/ Ellery W. Stone
/t/ ELLERY W. STONE
Captain USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

Prob

FILE *(28)*

SEP 13 RECD
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(27)

Executive Commissioner.

I spoke to HQ Commandant as you instructed on the attached subject. It is suggested Lt. Strait be designated Messing Officer and instructed to cooperate with the various Mess Committees on all subjects as well as those connected with catering.

(Exc)

P.T.G.R. 5852

12 September 1945.

I agree
I agree. Will you
do this - please. *Tux* *Enc cc*

14/9 *13/9*

10 September 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief Commissioner

SUBJECT: Military Management of AG Hotels.

1. Reference Executive Commissioner's letter, subject as above, dated 6 September 1945.

2. Under the wording of paragraph 4 of MFOUSA directive AG 004/654 EVGS-O, there is no necessity for one officer for each hotel, merely that "an officer be designated by using organization as military manager of the hotel." We would be complying by having one officer as military manager of all AG hotels.

3. Executive Commissioner's letter of 6 September observes that "the appointment of a military manager would mean the disappearance of mess committees required by British Army Regulations." The Ambassador Hotel, which is a joint British-American hotel, has complied with the MFOUSA directive requiring military managers and at the same time has a mess committee which determines policy of messing and the complete hotel operation.

4. Unless Lieut. Strait is designated as military hotel manager we will not be complying with the MFOUSA directive. In addition, he will not have the authority to install the services and controls other hotels in Rome have which were set out in the original memorandum.

JOHN LAUREN
Lieut., USNR
Flag Lieutenant

Executive Commissioner:

Cannot Lt. Strait be designated as "military manager" as recommended? He would of course work with the mess committees, as is done at the Ambassador.

11/9

/s/ EWS cc

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File

Extract of Minutes of Executive Commissioner's Meeting held on 20 February 1945.

AC Mosses. Est Sec reported that an inspection had been made of the various AC Hotel Mosses in Rome and that general conditions were found to be satisfactory. The "Milano" was, however, considered unsatisfactory, and an alternative hotel was being found. Ex C suggested that the Messing Committees should appoint an officer whose job would be to inspect the kitchens etc. from time to time.

AC Messes. Est Sec reported that an inspection had been made of the various AC Hotel Messes in Rome and that general conditions were found to be satisfactory. The "Milano" was, however, considered unsatisfactory, and an alternative hotel was being found. Ex C suggested that the Messing Committees should appoint an officer whose job would be to inspect the kitchens etc. from time to time.

Handwritten signature and initials
m/a

2/12/45

Chief of Staff :

1. Further to statement of this office (folio 11) relative to the operation, control and inspection of messes of the Allied Commission in Rome, please see attached copies of reports from Surgeon, 2675th Regiment, and the Medical Officer, (B), relative to the general state of AQ messes, and particularly the mess at the hotel Esperia.

2. It is pointed out that, due to overcrowding in both officers' and enlisted mens' billets, it is a matter of some difficulty to comply with the existing regulations on the conduct of messes and billets in their entirety. The messes in question are operated under the regulations laid down by the U.S. Army, and are inspected at regular intervals by the Regimental Surgeon.

3. The most satisfactory solution would, of course, be the procuring of additional billet space. This, however, has already been taken up with Rome Allied Area Command, who are charged with the allotting of billeting space for the city of Rome, and has, so far, not been pursued with success. Additional accommodation simply is not available. In this connection, particular attention is invited to Par 4, folio 11.

4. With reference to the specific deficiencies and recommendations set forth in Par 10 of the basic report,

a. Par 10 (A) (1) Par 5 of the 2675th Regiment's Surgeon's report states that the deficiency has been corrected, since more electric power has become available for the pumping of water.

b. Par 10 (A) (2) Attention is invited to Par 2 and 3 of the Surgeon's report - the rations drawn are as provided by the US Army Quartermaster, and are adequate for this climate.

c. Par 10 (A) (3) Attention is invited to the joint report by the Surgeon, 2675th Regiment, and the Medical Officer (B). It is also pointed out that the Parma Restaurant and the "G.I. Restaurants" are operated by Rome Area Allied Command.

d. Par 10 (A) (4) See Par 3, folio.

5. With regard to the proposal set forth under 10 (B) it is submitted that this entire plan in one which might well be considered for discussion between the appropriate Senior US Naval Officer, and the staff of Rome Area Allied Command. It is pointed out that this Headquarters does not have authority to requisition, except through RASC. This office would be glad to assist in any way the establishment of separate naval billeting, messing and recreational facilities, having due regard to the lack of naval officers on its staff.

E. J. Bocchino
Maj. Inf.

OFFICE OF THE SURGEON
HEADQUARTERS
2675TH REGIMENT
ALLIED COMMISSION
(OVERHEAD)
APO 394

20
RAB/ghl

31 Jan 1945

SUBJECT: Operation, Control and Inspection of Messes of A.C. in Rome,

TO : Headquarters Commandant, Allied Commission,

1. All Messes are operated to meet U. S. Army requirements.
2. Food rations are drawn from Quartermaster stores on a per capita basis and are adequate for this climate.
3. No supplemental vitamins are authorized or issued to any U.S. Army Messes in Rome.
4. All hotel facilities for enlisted personnel are overcrowded and difficulties have been encountered in the procurement of adequate lighting, heating and water supply and in the maintenance of proper kitchen and messing facilities.
5. The deficiencies in the Hotel Terina utilized by enlisted personnel of the Army and Navy have been corrected since more electrical power has been obtained.
6. The kitchen at the Hotel Nerd Nuova Roma, though overtaxed, is maintained and operated in a very satisfactory manner and diets are ample and sufficient for all personnel assigned.
7. Copy of "Mess Requirements" is attached.

HENRY A. BELAFSKY
Major, Medical Corps
Surgeon

1- Incl:

Letter this office subject: Mess Requirements.

5848

OFFICE OF THE SURGEON
HEADQUARTERS
2675TH REGIMENT
ALLIED COMMISSION
(OVERHEAD)
APO 394

19
HAB/ghl

31 Jan 1945

SUBJECT: Operation of Messes -- Hotel Esperia.

TO : Headquarters Commandant, Allied Commission.

The criticism of conditions found at the Esperia Hotel, visited at least weekly by one of the undersigned officers may be answered seriatim:

1. & 2. The numbers served are at least three times that for which the kitchens were built and equiped, making over-crowding of both staff and equipment inevitable. The kitchen is kept as clean as possible under the circumstances.
3. As much hot water as can be heated with the stoves, fuel supply, and cisterns available is used for cleansing dishes and kitchen utensils.
4. Air drying of dishes has been tried but is found impracticable in absence of special equipment.
5. What fresh food there is, is stored for very short periods, usually less than twenty-four hours in an ice-cooled chamber.
6. Garbage is carried away each morning by the Rome Municipal Authorities.
7. Lavatory and toilet accommodations is as efficient as local conditions permit but is overtaxed by the tripled staff.

HENRY A. BULATSKY
Major, Medical Corps
Surgeon (USA)

J. R. D. Eastman-Nagle
J. R. D. EASTMAN-NAGLE
Captain, S.A.M. 38437

OFFICE OF THE SURGEON
HEADQUARTERS
2675TH REGIMENT
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
(PROVISIONAL)
APO 394

18
HAB/ghl

12 July 1944

SUBJECT: Mess Requirements.

TO : Commanding Officer, 2675th Regiment, Allied Control Commission
(Provisional), APO 394, U. S. Army.

The following memorandum should be distributed to all officers and enlisted men charged with operation of messes. It should be prominently displayed in the kitchens in both the English and Italian languages.

1. Personnel.

a. All civilian personnel employed as food handlers will have an initial blood Wasserman examination and stool examination prior to employment. If these have not been performed, arrangements must be made immediately with this office.

b. All food handlers, military and civilian, must have a bi-monthly physical examination and a certifying roster prominently posted in each mess. Arrangements can be made with this office for a suitable time for inspection of personnel.

c. Daily inspection of all kitchen personnel as to personal cleanliness and proper hand disinfection is the responsibility of the mess officer.

2. Quarters.

a. Due to lack of sufficient screening for messes and dining rooms, the following procedure will be adopted for control of flies:

(1) Closing of all windows and doors of mess halls and using an aerosol (pyrethrum) bomb spray about one-half hour before each meal.

3. Food and Mess Sanitation.

a. Ample supply of soap and hot water must be maintained for washing of all kitchen utensils. Where supplies of boiling water for sterilization of dishes are limited, such as in hotels, restaurants, etc., after washing in hot soapy water, dishes may be immersed in a solution of Germicidal Rinse Compound (QM Item 51-C-1606; the contents of one package dissolved in a GI can containing twenty-five gallons of water) for not less than thirty seconds; or in a hypochlorite solution containing four table-spoonsfull of HTH, Perchloron or similar product per GI can of water, for not less than thirty seconds.

b. Foods.

(1) Food supplies will be stored, issued, handled, prepared, and served in a sanitary manner. They will be protected from heat, sun, dirt, insects, rodents, and other damaging agents.

Mess Requirements (Continued)

(2) Local milk, cream, ice cream, and other dairy products will not be consumed, nor will they be purchased from street vendors. All milk products such as ice cream must be obtained from installations that have met the requirements of the Medical Department of the U. S. Army and have a certificate of inspection prominently displayed.

(3) Meat and other foods of animal origin have received the necessary inspection before issue to troops by the Quartermaster. Due to sewage pollution of sea water, raw shellfish, snails, and mollusks will not be eaten. The use of meat or meat products which are to be consumed more than four hours after preparation or opening of cans is strictly forbidden. Cooked foods will not be held over from one meal to another.

(4) Fresh fruits and vegetables which are to be eaten raw will be carefully washed, then placed in chlorinated water for thirty minutes, and then rinsed in clear water. The chlorinated water should contain the contents of one package of the Germicidal Rinse Compound per twelve gallons of water, or one teaspoonful of HTH, Perchloron, or similar product per gallon of water. Alternatively, fruit may be dipped for a few seconds in boiling water. Some human fecal fertilization of the soil is employed by farmers in this part of Italy.

(5) Fresh fruits and vegetables will be purchased only by the Quartermaster, PBS.

(a) The following vegetables will be cooked before they are eaten:

Turnips	Cauliflower	Asparagus	Green and Yellow Beans
Artichokes	Spinach	Peas	Green and Red Peppers
Squash	Broccoli	Potatoes	

(b) The following vegetables may be eaten raw only after being thoroughly washed and peeled:

Onions	Radishes	Carrots	Cucumbers
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(c) Tomatoes, fruits, separate leaves of lettuce or cabbage, and stalks of celery may be served raw provided they are thoroughly washed and then soaked for thirty minutes in a solution containing one package of Germicidal Rinse or four mess kit spoonfuls of high test hypochlorite (HTH or Perchloron) per twelve or fifteen gallons of water (one-half GI can). After this soaking, excess chlorine odor can be removed from fruits and vegetables by rinsing with plain drinking water.

4. Disposal of Wastes.

a. A two percent solution of creosol will be kept in a suitable container in each latrine and all food handlers and kitchen employees instructed in its proper use.

b. Garbage disposal will depend upon facilities available in each locality. All garbage must be properly covered pending its removal from the kitchen areas.

/s/ Henry A. Belafsky
HENRY A. BELAFSKY
Captain, Medical Corps
Surgeon

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.F.O. 394
Office, Headquarters Commandant

2 February, 1945

SUBJECT : Operation, Control and Inspection of Messes of A.C. in Rome
TO : Chief of Staff

1. Ref. Letter, Sanitary and Health Survey of naval Activities in Rome, Italy, Report of.
2. A breakdown on naval officers and enlisted men occupying A.C. billets in Rome is as follows:

<u>Place</u>	<u>Number</u>
Grand Hotel	3 Officers
Flora	3 "
Esperia	5 "
Bellavista	1 "
Nord Nuova Roma	3 Enlisted men
Torino	37 "

3. The American and British medical officers of this Headquarters have the following points to bring out. They carry out weekly inspections.

- a- All messes operated to meet United States Army Requirements.
- b- Food rations are drawn from Quartermaster stores on a per capita basis and are adequate for this climate.
- c- No supplemental vitamins are authorized or issued to any U.S. Army messes in Rome.

d- The deficiencies in the hotel Torino utilized by enlisted personnel of the Army and Navy have been corrected since more electrical power has been obtained.

e- The kitchen at the hotel Nord Nuova Roma though overtaxed is maintained and operated in a very satisfactory manner and diets are ample for all personnel assigned.

4. Recommendation (4) of above report "Consolidation of all naval billets and mess facilities for officers at the Nazionale Hotel. This hotel has adequate additional accommodation for an increased number of officers." It is suggested that naval officers occupying billets at the Flora, Esperia and Bellavista be moved to the Nazionale Hotel. The number of officers affected would be nine.

5. Plans are already underway for securing a billet for the enlisted naval personnel now housed at the Torino and Nord Nuova Roma.

SEE MINUTE (12)

E. J. Boochino
E. J. Boochino
Maj. Inf.
Asst. Hqs. Comdt.
3043

UNITED STATES EIGHTH FLEET
EPIDEMIOLOGY UNIT NO. 23

RESTRICTED

16 January 1945

JAN 28 1945

From: Medical Officer in Charge.
To : Commander U.S. EIGHTH Fleet.
Via : Senior U.S. Naval Liaison Officer, Italy.
Subject: Sanitary and health survey of naval activities
in Rome, Italy, Report of.

1. GENERAL STATEMENT.

The survey reported below was made at the direction of the Fleet Medical Officer, U.S. EIGHTH Fleet and with the approval of the Senior Naval Liaison Officer, Italy.

The naval activities at Rome, established in August 1944, comprise the following offices and associated personnel: (1) that of the Senior U.S. Naval Liaison Officer, Italy, (2) of the Naval Subcommittee of the Allied Commission, (3) of the Cable and Radio Censorship, (4) of the Naval Intelligence Unit, Advanced Section, and (5) of the Strategic Service. The associated personnel includes about 45 officers and 50 enlisted men. The total number of naval personnel at Rome at any particular time, however, includes not only this established group but also a variable transient group. The number of the latter ranges from 50 to 150 and includes officers, enlisted men and Navy nurses who establish short temporary residence at Rome while in transit or on leave from stations or ships in the vicinity. This entire naval group is accommodated at various hotels in Rome and at the U.S. Army West Center at its outskirts. Some of these hotels also accommodate either U.S. Army personnel or British naval officers.

The city of Rome has a current population just short of 2,000,000 and its general sanitation may be classed as fair. Sewage collected by a system of stone sewers is untreated and dumped into the Tiber and Fucicino rivers. These discharge areas have no relevant proximity to the drinking water sources or to the public bathing places. However occasional cases of Weil's disease have appeared among civilians giving a history of swimming in the Tiber River. No disruption of sewage lines has occurred in Rome as a result of the war. Garbage is collected daily and is disposed of by dumping onto various dumps throughout the city and also utilized in the feeding of animals.

As a result of the disruption of its normal life by the war, Rome has shown an increase in the incidence of civilian communicable diseases, and the prevalence of several of these may be regarded as potentially hazardous to military groups resident there. Typhoid and undulant fevers are endemic and their incidences, as well as those of other enteric diseases, have probably increased. The practice of fertilization of soil

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with human excrement increases this likelihood. Malaria offers a serious threat during the malaria seasons and so much so that the Army medical corps advises suppressive treatment in addition to other malaria control measures. The prevalence of a high rate of venereal disease demands a constantly intensive preventive program. Infectious hepatitis has also appeared among the military forces stationed in this area. Strikingly enough the Rickettsial diseases as typhus fever offer no public health problem and the incidence of smallpox is negligible. Of the communicable skin diseases, scabies has received public health attention.

No outbreaks of contagious, water and food borne, or insect borne diseases have occurred in naval personnel at Rome during its residence there. The incidence of venereal disease in this group was not known at the time of inspection. The medical officer at the naval dispensary will complete all such reports when the naval medical records are available to him. Up to this time these diseases were treated at the Army dispensaries.

2.

QUARTERS.

Permanent billets for naval officers are provided principally at the Nazionale Hotel and less so at the Esperia, Grand, Flora, Atlantico, and San Giorgio hotels. British officers and civilians may also be accommodated here. Permanent barracks for the enlisted personnel are located together with those of the U.S. Army at the Torine Hotel. The galley for these men is not set up here, however, but at the Nord Nuova Roma Hotel one block away. A small number of both officers and enlisted men have private quarters in the city.

Transient male naval officers may be accommodated at the above hotels or at the U.S. Army Rest Center whereas transient naval nurses are quartered at the Atlantico and San Giorgio. Transient enlisted men have the Oriente Hotel* and the U.S. Army Rest Center available to them. The supervision and maintenance of these quarters and respective galleys are divided as shown below:

(a) <u>Hotels</u>	<u>Supervision</u>
Atlantico	
Oriente	
San Giorgio	
Red Cross Club (Recreational)	
U.S. Army Rest Center	
G.I. Restaurants (6) for enlisted men	
Parma Restaurant for officers	

American Surgeon
of the Rome Area
Allied Command.
(U.S. Army)

* Quarters only. Galley is located about 1½ blocks away in a separate building.

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	<u>Hotels</u>	<u>Supervision</u>
(b)	Grand Flora Esperia Torino Nord Nuova Roma	Allied Commission (Primarily U.S. Army)
(c)	Nazionale	Naval Subcommittee of Allied Commission (U.S. Navy)

In general the hotel rooms available for naval personnel are spacious, well ventilated and well illuminated during the day time. Residents live either singly or in groups up to four. Most of the rooms are only partly heated or at times unheated and have running water. Hot water is available irregularly. Head and bathing fixtures are adequate. Laundry service is obtained chiefly through civilian facilities and is not always available or satisfactory. Weekly Army laundry service at the Nord Nuova Roma Hotel is available to the enlisted naval personnel for woollens only, but the regularity of this service is uncertain. Electric light illumination in many of the rooms is substandard. These undesirable features can not be easily corrected as there is a shortage of coal, wood and soap, and a curtailment of electric power in Rome. All of the above mentioned hotels and the Army Rest Center may be considered as satisfactory for military quarters under the existing conditions, except those at the Torino Hotel for enlisted personnel. Here, running water, let alone hot water, is at times unavailable on the upper decks. This promotes the patronization of public bathing houses by these men, although such places are prohibited to them by military regulation. Illumination even in the daylight hours is poor to absent along ladders and passageways, a condition that may well become hazardous. These unsatisfactory conditions together with others referred to below under GALLEYS should condemn the Torino Hotel for occupancy by naval personnel.

3. DRINKING WATER.

In Rome, such water is obtained from mountain sources about 50 miles away and is said to originate from deep springs. This water is delivered to the city by four aqueducts, although one of them, the Marcio, supplies by far the greatest part. Chlorination of this water is performed along the course of the aqueducts. The potability of the water is determined daily by the public health department by means of the usual bacterial and chemical tests and is declared to be potable. No war damage to the water system in Rome other than the destruction of one chlorination plant has occurred. This plant has been recently

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repaired and it is claimed that normal water control exists. In June and July of 1944 the Rome Area Allied Commission under U.S. Army supervision has made its own water survey in Rome and has corroborated the civilian claims. In view of the dispersion of the naval quarters in Rome and the prevalence of enteric disease, this unit has recommended that the naval medical department recently established here conduct its own regular water surveys. Affiliation with the 73rd Station Army Hospital laboratories in Rome has been made and their facilities are available to the Navy. The naval medical department shall collect its own water samples and deliver them to the hospital for testing.

4.

FOOD.

Food for naval personnel is procured from Army food depots by the rationing system. Due to the coexistence of British and American personnel in the same hotels, exchange between their respective rations frequently occurs. There is an inadequate civilian supply of pasteurized fresh fluid milk, ice cream and other dairy products to meet even civilian needs in Rome. Consequently none is available for the military forces. Also, the purchase of fresh vegetables and fruits from civilian sources is prohibited by military regulation. In view of a shortage of these fresh edibles and in view of the local practice of soil fertilization by human excrement such regulation is warranted. However in spite of such restriction purchases of fresh food are made to supplement the military diet. It is claimed that fresh food so-used is subjected to disinfectant washing. The military rations then, exclusive of such fresh food augmentation, consist of the following: white bread, fresh and powdered eggs, fresh and artificial butter, dehydrated and canned vegetables, canned fruit, fresh and canned meat, coffee, tea and cocoa. The fresh food in these Army rations is not consistently available nor is it served in any large quantity. This diet is apparently deficient in vitamin B complex, particularly. The diet for most of the naval personnel is apparently adequate in quantity and palatability. However, that for the naval enlisted men at the Torino, due to the large mess attendance of Army personnel is frequently insufficient for the former. This inadequacy of regular diet for Navy people at the Torino compels them to supplement it at any of the available six G.I. restaurants or Red Cross stations as well as they can. Of course the extent

* Ice cream is infrequently available and is prepared from processed Army dairy products under Army sanitary supervision.

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of the patronage of the restricted civilian restaurants by these men is uncertain but it occurs. These factors in addition to those aforementioned condemn this hotel as a naval barracks and mess.

5. GALLEYS.

The kitchens of the various hotels utilized as military quarters serve as their galleys and are staffed chiefly by civilians. In some of the hotels there are a few Army galley personnel. The preparation of food for service men is supervised by mess officers chiefly of the Army, although at the Nazionale there is exclusive naval supervision. None of these kitchens meet the naval requirements for galleys. The main infractions of such regulations include: (1) substandard galley cleanliness, (2) overcrowding with service people and equipment, (3) absence of hot water and of antiseptic solution for the washing of mess utensils. No washing machines are available and mess utensils are washed in large cisterns. (4) Hand towel drying of utensils is the chief practice and frequently dirty towels are used. It is only at the Nord Nuova Roma Hotel which is under strict Army supervision that the washing of mess utensils approaches regulation standards. (5) Uncertain or non-refrigeration of stored foods. (6) Improper collection of garbage. (7) Deplorable accommodations for kitchen personnel and in particular toilets and lavatory facilities. The above departures are particularly marked at the Esperia Hotel. This hotel cannot be approved for galley and mess service for naval personnel. Its living quarters however may be utilized. The closest approach to military standards was found to exist at the Nord Nuova Roma and particularly at the U.S. Army Rest Center. The Parma Restaurant under Army supervision is available to transient officers as the six G.I. Restaurants are available to the enlisted men. Similar defects as outlined above exist particularly at the Parma Restaurant. Although all of the galleys discussed above with the possible exception of those of the U.S. Army Rest Center and the Nord Nuova Roma fail to meet naval requirements, their rigid supervision by the various commands should qualify them. However the galley at the Esperia Hotel in its present state of operation is disapproved.

6. FOOD HANDLERS

Since the various hotels, restaurants and U.S. Army Rest Center come under the supervision of different military commands the control of food handlers does likewise. This military supervision requires periodic health examinations, that include blood Wassermann tests, stool examinations and chest X-rays when indicated. With the complex set up of military quarters and galleys that exist in Rome only a rigid

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supervision of galleys and food handlers can assure a safe mess.
It is questionable at best whether such vigilance exists.

7.

RECREATION.

Such facilities for the naval officers are adequate and satisfactory. However there is no distinct naval recreation program or center for the enlisted men. Their recreation is provided by participation in Army recreational activities. This consists of movies, the Red Cross Club facilities and the facilities of a gymnasium. Since large numbers of Army men attend these functions the relatively smaller number of Navy men (about fifty at present) feel excluded and find participation at times trying. This tends to foster increased participation in civilian activities, a not altogether desirable practice.

8.

MEDICAL DISPENSARY.

Up to the present time no such department existed in Rome. Furthermore most of the medical records of naval personnel have been kept at the medical department at Naples and have not been available for use. These are at present being transferred to Rome. On 23 December 1944, with the assignment of Lt. (jg) R.D. Brewer (MC) USNR to this Rome area, a medical department was created. His staff consists of one chief pharmacist's mate and two pharmacist's mates second class. A medical dispensary and small infirmary, of six bed capacity, are being established on the second deck of the Nazionale Hotel. Three rooms are available, one for office and treatment purposes, one for laboratory and watch duties and the largest for the infirmary. Affiliation with the 73rd Station Hospital, the U.S. Army hospital in Rome, has been established whereby naval personnel requiring such hospital attention may be cared for. Full medical laboratory facilities have also been extended to the naval dispensary. Similarly dental services are also available at this hospital.

Immunization of the naval personnel at Rome against contagious disease is to be checked and completed. Sanitation and venereal disease control programs are also in the process of establishment by the medical officer in charge.

9.

LIAISON OF ROME NAVAL DISPENSARY AND OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES.

A meeting was held at the direction of Commodore H.W. Siroli where the opening of this dispensary was formally announced. The medical staffs of the following activities at Rome were represented at this gathering:

1. The Public Health Department of the Allied Commission.
2. The Public Health and Welfare Department of the Allied Military Government.
3. The Rome Area Allied Command.

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4. The 73rd Station Hospital (U.S. Army) at Rome.
5. The Senior U.S. Naval Liaison Officer, Italy.
6. The Naval Dispensary at Rome.
7. Epidemiology Unit No. 23.

Liaison was thus established between the new Naval Dispensary and the other medical activities in this area.

10.

DEFICIENCIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

(A) DEFICIENCIES:

- (1) Failure of the barracks for the enlisted naval personnel at the Torino Hotel to meet naval requirements.
- (2) Inadequacy of the diet for enlisted naval men as provided at the Nord Nuova Roma Hotel, operating in conjunction with the Torino Hotel.
- (3) Failure of the galleys and sculleries at the Esperia Hotel and Parma Restaurant for naval officers and of those at the Oriente Hotel and G.I. Restaurants for enlisted naval men to comply with naval standards.
- (4) Dietary deficiency in rations for all naval personnel and particularly in Vitamin B complex.
- (5) Absence of exclusive naval recreational facilities for enlisted men.
- (6) Absence of separate naval sanitary and venereal disease control programs.

(B) RECOMMENDATIONS.

- (1) Disapproval of the Torino Hotel as a barracks and of the Nord Nuova Roma Hotel as a mess for enlisted naval personnel.
- (2) Establishment of separate naval barracks, mess and recreational facilities for enlisted personnel. This may be achieved through the requisitioning of a separate hotel or a few large apartments in one building.
- (3) Disapproval of the mess at the Esperia Hotel for naval officers.
- (4) Consolidation of all naval billets and mess facilities for officers at the Nazionale Hotel. This hotel has adequate additional accommodations for an increased number of officers.
- (5) Establishment of naval supply and mess offices in Rome to expedite the carrying out of these recommendations.
- (6) Supplementation of the existing naval diet with Vitamin B Complex. Brewer's Yeast Tablets would be satisfactory.
- (7) Creation of naval sanitation and venereal disease control programs. These have been discussed with the medical officer assigned to the naval dispensary.

* Galley in a separate building.

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11. The inspection of these naval activities was made by the Medical Officer of Epidemiology Unit No. 23, and by the Medical Officer of the naval Dispensary in Rome.

The deficiencies and recommendations were discussed with him, with the Senior U.S. Naval Liaison Officer, Italy and with the Chief of the Naval Subcommittee of the Allied Commission. Full cooperation in the correction of these defects was assured.

LOUIS C. MORRIS,
LT. COMDR. (MC) USNR.

CC
Chief of Staff, U.S. Nav. Subcommittee, Allied Commission.
Surgeon, Rome Area Allied Command.
Director, Public Health and Welfare, Allied Commission.
Director, Public Health and Welfare, Allied Military Government.
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