

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

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10000/109/1687

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EVACUATION, CIVILIANS, ANZIO
APR., MAY 1944

Lo. C. Staff.

I think 5 should be
more highly classified now
it has got so far from the
original source. 2542

Yes - 86 2/5 cc. 29/1
make 5 SECRET. 2/5

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.C. Section
APO 394

Ref/377/6/GA.

5 May 1944

SUBJECT: Evacuation of Civilians from Anzio Beachhead.

TO : Italian Refugee Branch.

The Executive Commissioner instructs me to say that he has received a copy of the S.C.A.C. 6 Corps report on the above subject dated 17 April 1944, and he considers that the successful conclusion of this unusual operation reflects great credit on all concerned.

(Sgd) E. S. Morden

REM/RAC.

E. S. MORDEN,
Captain,
PA to Area Comm.

2541

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.C. Section
APO 394

Ref/377/5/OA

5 May 1944

SUBJECT: Evacuation of Civilians from Anzio Beachhead.

TO : R.C.A.C. AND Fifth Army

1. I have received your letter of the 22nd April 1944, reference 197/5, enclosing the R.C.A.C. 5 Corps report on the above subject.
2. This makes interesting reading and the successful completion of this unusual operation reflects great credit on all concerned.

(Sgd) M. S. Lush.

Prigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

768 372

HEADQUARTERS
AMG FIFTH ARMY (FIELD)
A.P.O. 464 U.S. Army

4

22nd April 1944.

SUBJECT: Evacuation of civilians from Anzio beach-head.

107/5.

TO : H.Q., A.C.O.
R.O. & M.G. Section.

1-3

Herewith two copies of report received from the S.C.A.O., 6 Corps, on the recently completed evacuation of the civilian population in the Anzio beach-head.

It is felt that this may be of some interest.

For the Commanding General:

Executive Commissioner.

*I'm sure you will be
interested in seeing the
attached.*

Tom Bristol

27/4/44

Send a note of office -

to V Army H.Q. & Ref.

E.B. MAYNE,
LT.COL., UDF,
Chief of Staff,
A.M.G. 5th. Army.

25/4/44
2539
SEB

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Senior Civil Affairs Office
VI Corps Headquarters

17 April 1944

SUBJECT: Evacuation of Civilians from Anzio Beachhead.

TO : SCAG, AMG (Field) 5th Army.

1. With the completion of the evacuation of civilians the following report is submitted.

2. Upon our landing at the beachhead there were approximately 20,000 people within our lines. On twenty-four Sept 1943 the Germans, then occupying the territory ordered the evacuation of all civilians from an area five kilometres from the coast. This order was amended to include an area of only one kilometre from the coast but requiring those people who lived within the one kilometre area to move at least five kilometres from the coast. About 14,000 people from the towns of Nettania and Anzio were removed by the Germans to an area about seven kilometres north of the towns and scattered about the countryside living in thatched huts and barrack-like temporary buildings. Certain essential workers such as railway, water, light employees, doctors, bakers and the like were permitted to remain in these towns. The normal population in the northern limits of the towns and beyond this one kilometre limit were not moved.

3. On our landing, VI Corps issued an order "freezing" all people in the immediate vicinity of their place of residence as of the time we landed. This order was effectively reinforced by AMG with cooperation of M.P. and C.C.M. This policy was necessary as prevention against civilians flocking back to the towns.

4. On 5 Feb., after considerable deterioration in our lines, the first evacuation of civilians began. About 3500 people from the Aprilia-Carrocetto area had been brought back when our lines withdrew. It was impossible to find places for these people on the already overcrowded beachhead. Tactical units were finding the static situation seriously endangering the civil population and the population interfering with tactical operations. The following policy was put into effect.

- a. Evacuate all persons who were made homeless by regression of our lines.
- b. Evacuate persons on a voluntary basis who were already refugees at the point where they were then living. For instance, a shopkeeper in Anzio, moved by the Germans to the country.
- c. Evacuate all persons from an area just behind the front lines.
- d. Evacuate persons whose homes were destroyed by enemy action.

The above policy was put into effect on 5 Feb. and 11,279 persons were sent out by ship. All evacuation was on a voluntary basis.

5. By 15 March it was estimated that only about 3,500 civilians were left on the beachhead and the problem of labor was also raised. It then appeared that no further evacuation would be needed.

- a. Because the civilian population was thinned out to a point where it could not produce a serious hazard to military operations.
- b. Because about one half of the population were represented by one or more

persons who were working for various military units. At this time there were approximately 660 civilians employed.

c. Because the remaining population was engaged in farming operations.

6. On 1 April it appeared that the military situation would remain static, that much damage was being done to all structures and civilian population was undergoing much shelling, that the coming malaria situation would be most difficult to handle with such large numbers of carriers present and that this security problem would be simplified if further evacuation was accomplished. A VI Corps order was issued 1 April calling for almost complete evacuation of remaining civilians. This order permitted retention of;

attached. a. About one farm family out of ten who were to care for the livestock and serve as nucleus for returning farm populations.

b. The shepherds.

c. A few necessary commune officials and church men.

d. Passes were printed, farmers selected from commune records on basis of size of property, shepherds listed, etc. Passes were issued to all persons permitted to remain. All others were notified to make ready to leave. Notifications were made at various "centers" of population telling the time and date. Preparations for moving 800 persons per day were made and shipping arranged. Some opposition was met the first day after which, however, there was no difficulty. It must be noted that these people for the most part were farmers who were very close to the soil, had certain amounts of property including livestock and did not want to leave. Some 8,334 persons were moved from 3 April to 16 April. Only stragglers remain to be evacuated.

7. Both groups of evacuees were handled as follows:

a. Divisional CAOs were allotted certain numbers of refugees. These persons met at various country points. They were allowed to bring only what they could carry. They were trucked by the division or corps trucks to one of three churches used as concentration points.

b. At these churches they were registered, deloused, fed and watered. They were divided into groups of 200 for handling to ship.

c. As shipping became available Army furnished trucks from the churches to shipside where they were loaded on LSTs or LCLs for transport to Naples.

d. Complete lists of evacuees were maintained.

e. The sick and wounded were transferred to the civil hospital by ambulance from where they were evacuated to Naples via army medical facilities.

8. A total of 19,613 persons were sent out on this "amphibious evacuation" program. In spite of frequent bombings and intermittent shelling not one person was lost in the operation after they were loaded on trucks at the first country points.

9. Approximately 1000 persons remain on the beachhead.

10. An operation of this kind with no back country to which these persons could be sent present serious problems.

a. "Not to do with livestock and personal property left behind and which is exposed to easy looting.

b. Assembling of livestock on a small portion of the remaining tenanted farms.

c. Physical moving of people under shelling and bombings and the regular transport problem involved.

E. N. HOLMGREN
MAJ AUS
SCAO VI CORPS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
HEADQUARTERS VI CORPS
APO No. 306, U.S. Army

JWW/MLQ/11p
2 April 1944

AG 230

SUBJECT: Evacuation of Civilians.

TO: Major E. N. Holmgren, SOAO VI Corps.

1. The Corps Commander directs the evacuation of all civilians from the Anzio Beachhead, excepting those engaged in essential work. Those to be evacuated will include the 650 laborers now employed by Fifth Army and VI Corps together with their families. All but approximately ten per cent of the civilian farm population will be removed from the area also. You will make the necessary arrangements to process these civilians through AMG evacuation channels by 15 April.
2. The impending evacuation will not affect the group of some 400 organized civilians now employed by Fifth Army. This group will be augmented by additional civilian workers to replace the laborers who will be shipped out with their families.
3. You are further instructed to conduct immediate surveys in order to determine the following:
 - a. The largest farms and the worthwhile crop areas in the beachhead.
 - b. The total numbers of livestock, sheep and poultry on the beachhead and the largest grazing areas.These surveys will be made in conjunction with the Acting Commissario, Prince STAPANO BORGHESI, and every precaution will be exercised to insure complete accuracy.
4. In determining the largest farms and most valuable crops, consideration will be given only to those which are large enough to warrant intensive cultivation by small organized groups of farm labor. Similarly, the survey of herds will be made for the definite purpose of combining all livestock, sheep and poultry into large flocks which can be cared for by a minimum number of shepherds. Plans will be formulated and executed for the tabulation and listing of all animals prior to gathering them into selected grazing areas.
5. Civilians are not to be placed in preferred categories because they or members of their families do casual work for military organizations, such as laundry, cooking or general cleaning. This is equally true of civilians directly employed in military activities unless they are members of the organized group referred to in Par. 2, above. All heads of families remaining on the beachhead will be provided with appropriate identification by AMG.
6. All concerned must be informed that unless the number of civilians is reduced to the absolute minimum, it will be necessary for health and security to evacuate the total civilian population with the possible loss of all crops and the destruction of all livestock.

By command of Major General THUSCOTT:

2536

MICHAEL L. CONNORS,
Lt Colonel, A.G.D.
Adjutant General.

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