

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

ACC

10000/109/1751

REPORT
MAY, 1951

10000/109/1751

REPORTS ON VISITS, BY LT COL G.W.I. SHIPP
MAY, JUNE 1944

434 - 2 JUL 1944

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION -
Transportation Sub-Commission
APO 394

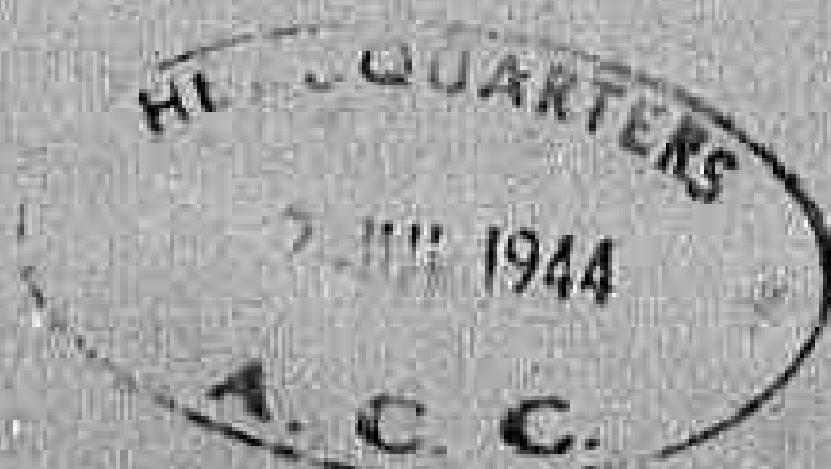
Our Reference : ACC Tn/91/206

Date : 30 June '44

TO : HC & MG Section,
H.Q., ACC.

SUBJECT : Base Forwarding Organisation.

1. Reference is to your letter 434/150A of 20 June '44.
2. It is still not clear to me why Lt. Col. Spencer found it necessary to make a request for a "base officer".
3. Since AMG 8th Army came into Western territory this Sub-Commission realised the importance of having an officer at the Naples base to deal with rail forwardings.
4. Capt. Ping was attached to Region IV in January last, and dealt with all questions relating to traffic being forwarded to the AMG Armies. Upon his recall to this Sub-Commission, Capt. W.S. Smith took on these duties, and when Region IV moved forward, he was transferred to Region III to deal specifically with traffic emanating from Naples by rail, road and water intended for the forward areas.
5. Had this Sub-Commission an unlimited supply of road transport and staff available for posting at strategic movement points in the long lines of communication, it would be possible to organise a very efficient distribution scheme. The great lack of road vehicles and staff makes it necessary to put such vehicles forward with the AMG Armies and Regions rather than control them from this end.
6. Lt. Col. Spencer is fully aware that Capt. W.S. Smith is posted to Region III to deal with the forwarding of the AMG Army Traffic.



L.E. Vinins

L.E. VININS,
Lieut-Colonel,
Director, Transportation Sub-Commission, ACC.

4756

LC. I think this correspondence might drop now,
in view of the rate of advance. 8
Agreed pa. 3/7 8/4/7

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.C. Section
APO 994

20 June 1944.

REF/AM/15/CA.

SUBJECT: Base Forwarding Organisation.
TO : Transportation Sub-Commission.

1. I refer to my letter No. 4A/5/CA of 21 May 1944.
I regret that I did not make my object clear.

2. What was intended was that some sort of base forwarding organisation should be set up if possible by your Sub-Commission in order to ensure the smooth movement of the supplies and various other goods required by AMG Eighth Army. Col. Spencer stated he had not the staff personally to organise this in rear of the Eighth Army boundary, and therefore relied on either the Region or your Sub-Commission to do what they could to forward the supplies.

3. Since writing the original letter the situation has changed and it may be that something can be organised from Rome instead of Naples. However, I hope I have said enough to explain the intention of Op. Capt. Benson who has found himself handicapped in getting supplies forward quickly.

G.W.I. SHIPP,
Chief-Of-Affairs Branch.

GWIS/RMS.

Copy to: AMG Eighth Army - Ref your 20 letter to Col. Benson dated 8 June 1944.

15 June

Econ Sec.

2 13.

Mr. Warren

17 June 46

This letter is forwarded to
you for reference to file 434/10/CH.
Please see Col Fiske's instructions
above as no representatives of the above
section are here at present.

W. Woodall
4/5/46
Wpl.

ECOM Sec

AMC Rear Eighth Army.

8 Jun 44.

434. *L*

13

Dear

Colonel

1. I hope you will excuse me replying demi-officially to your letter 434/10/CA of 25 May 44. I am not quite sure how this correspondence commenced, but I imagine it arose out of a verbal or written request by the Group Captain for your assistance in ensuring the better forwarding of supplies to us from base areas. What is happening is that we are getting further and further away from our bases (i.e. Naples and Bari, respectively) and we tend to get left out in the cold where the provision of special supplies is concerned. Thus we have been trying for months to get belting, but the Industry & Commerce Sub-Commission have, until recently, denied executive responsibility for provision. Even now they do not do more than obtain allocations for us of such things as thread, matches, etc, and then ask the local Regions (usually Region III) to send the goods up. This is not ^{very} satisfactory. Some matches which we badly needed for Campobasso and which Region III were told to send over do not seem to have arrived. As to thread, we have just received a letter from Region III saying that they have got 450 Kg ^{collected} waiting for us in Naples and we must make payment direct to the supplier. Again in the case of Olive Oil and Salt, recently received from Naples area, we have now been presented with the supplier's original bills although we have no check or control over what was purchased or shipped, but only know what we received. On the other side of the Peninsula Chieti and Campobasso Provinces have been crying out for Olive Oil ever since Dec. Chieti received limited amounts last month, but Campobasso never received any at all. This caused bad feeling because at the same time Olive Oil from Bari was being distributed in the neighbouring provinces of Benevento and Naples.

2. Our problem is therefore not one of transportation, allocation or finance, but one of the necessity for a base forwarding organisation. We need some organisation at the principal bases (I suggest Naples, Rome, Bari) through which we can channel all requirements confident that they will then look after everything from allocation, packing, consignment and payment, right up to the day it arrives in our hands.

*If you can help in the furthering of this
idea we shall be most grateful*

Yours sincerely

Alan Pinner

Col. N.E. Piske,
Deputy Executive Commissioner
HQ Allied Control Commission.

4/15/44

See 15.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.O. & M.G. Section
APO 394

12/1

Ref: A34/12/CA.

28 May 1944.

SUBJECT: Sheep.

TO : E.C.A.O. Eighth Army.

lc

Reference this office letter A34/6/CA of 21 May 1944, addressed to Food Sub-Commission copy to you, attached is copy of reply received from the Food Sub-Commission relative to the above subject. 11

NE/RAG.

NORMAN E. FIEKE,
Colonel,
Deputy Executive
Commissioner.

4752

ACC. 10-20/FOOD

SUBJECT: Sheep

TO : Regional Control & Military Government Section
(Attn: Lt. Col. G.W.I. SHIP)

Reference 434/6/CA dated 21 May 1944. — 6

1. The matter of sheep and goats for 8th Army has been adjusted.
2. Agriculture has agreed that 250 sheep additional to allotment already made by Local Resources Board may be procured in the provinces of Foggia and Campobasso.
3. This has been communicated to S. & T., A.A.I. who accept full responsibility for providing all requirements above what can be obtained by local purchase within the Army area.

See 12
W. J. LEGG
Colonel
Chief, Food Sub-Commission

*Send copy of
let to 8th Army
reference to 6. (41527/5)*

HEADQUARTERS 434
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Food Sub-Commission
A.P.O. 394

WNS/sl

26 May 1944

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
APO 394

10

Ref/434/10/GA

25 May 1944

SUBJECT: Transportation.

TO : AMG 8th Army.

1. Ref. 434/5/GA of 21 May I enclose a copy of a letter from Transportation Sub-Commission. (8)

2. If you will provide an answer to para 2 of the Sub-Commission's letter we will do what we can to help.

NORMAN E. FIERKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive
Commissioner

Copy to:
Transportation Sub-Commission.

b/u
30/5
15/4

434 *RECEIVED* 76919
Subject: Tentage - Refugee Camps 5 MAY Recd

HQ A
C.M.F.

2030/32/Q2.

23 May 44.

ACC (RC & MG Section)

Reference your 434/4/CA dated 21 May, 44, addressed Italian Refugee Branch.

Release of the tentage to DDOS, 5 Corps, for Refugee Camps, has been made to-day. Quantities requested by 5 Corps were met in full.

Richardson
for
Major-General,
Chief Administrative Officer.



100
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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Transportation Sub-Commission
APO 394

434 ~~18~~ C.A. 134
86148
VSW/rg

Our reference : ACC Th/91/14 7.

Date : 23 May 44.

TO : RC & MG Section,
HQ. A.C.C.

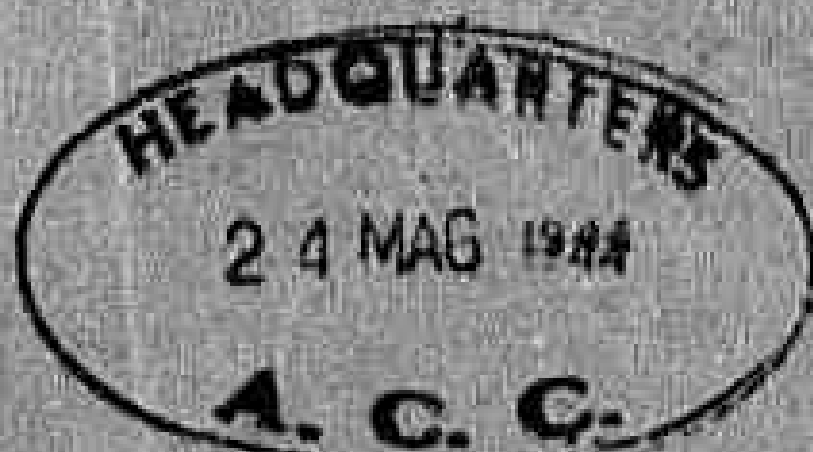
SUBJECT : Transportation.

1. Reference your 494/5/CA of the 21 May 44 with regard to transport of goods to Eighth Army.
2. No indication is given as to what commodities or quantities are involved and without some idea as to what is required to be handled it is difficult to say what arrangements would be necessary for transportation.
3. Under present arrangement movement of supplies for Eighth Army AMG are handled at this end by the Transportation Officer attached to Region 4 and it may be that this would also cover such commodities as are referred to in your letter of 21 May.

L.E. Vining

L.E. VINING,
Lieut-Colonel,
Director, Transportation Sub-Commission, ACC.

Copy to:- Economic Section, HQ. ACC.



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

7

Ref/A34/7/GA.

21 May 1944.

SUBJECT: Defascistation Orders.

TO : Public Safety Sub-Commission.

Gp-Capt. Benson has not received a copy of the defascistation orders. These do not apply, it is understood, to Eighth Army Area but the Gp-Capt. would very much like a precise of the order published supplied to him so that he can give as much help as possible in the early stages.

[Signature]

GWIS/RAG.

G. W. I. SHEPP,
Lieut. Col.

Copy to: AEC Eighth Army.

4747

PA

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

6
21 May 1944.

Ref: A34/6/CA.

SUBJECT: Sheep.

TO : Food Sub-Commission.

1. With reference to the extra sheep required by
DEET Eighth Army, I understand the Local Resources
Board object to the sheep being taken outside the
Army areas.

2. Would you please press Col. Polatti to agree
to the purchase by Eighth Army of 150 sheep a week in
BREVINTO Province.

3. Cp. Capt. Benson has released 300 sheep per week
from CAMPORASSO Province, and this is the utmost that
can be provided from there.

4. Provided the demand in para. 2 can be met, DEET
Eighth Army is satisfied.

CWIS/RAC.

Sc
G.W.I. SELPP,
Lieut. Col.

Copy to: DEET Eighth Army.

4746

See 12

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

Ref/A34/5/DA.

21 May 1944.

SUBJECT: Transportation.

TO : Transportation Sub-Commission.

Eighth Army asked us yesterday to find out whether you could arrange for forwarding goods purchased by Eighth Army in Naples to their H.Q. Possibly one officer would be sufficient to make the necessary road and rail arrangements.

GWIS/RAG.

G.W.I. SHIPP,
Lieut. Col.

Copy for APO Eighth Army.

4745

4
HEAD OFFICE
A LIND CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & E.C. Section
APO 394

REF 73/4/CA.

21 May 1944.

SUBJECT: Tentage and Equipment Refugee Camps.

TO : Italian Refugee Branch.

Tentage and equipment for Refugee Camps in
5 Corps Area cannot be provided by 5 Corps. Please
contact Brig. Ritchie, "Q" A.A.I., or Colonel Logan-
Gray, who have undertaken to supply what is required.

CWIA/RAC.

ll
C.W.I. SHIP,
Lieut. Colonel.

Copy to: HQ. A.A.I. (Q).

4744

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
ARO 394

14 May 1944

REPORT ON VISIT TO CALABRIA

1. Lt-Col. Shipp and Captain Gillett visited all Provincial Headquarters in Calabria and in addition the Provincial Headquarters of Potenza in Region II, from May 6 to 11, 1944. The following report is based on the impressions obtained from observation of the people and countryside, strengthened by conversations with officers at Provincial Headquarters. During the short visit it was not possible to obtain corroboration of all statements, so that it should be borne in mind that the report is primarily based on impression and not necessarily on established fact.
2. People. The people appeared happy and contented, well clothed and well fed. They have confidence in A.C.C. and are beginning to realize that A.C.C. stands for something. They are acquiring the habit of relying on A.C.C. officials to act as arbiters in settling most difficulties that arise, although the power has now nominally passed out of A.C.C. hands.
3. Political. Many political parties have been formed in the Provincial capitals and political activity is obviously great. In the many little communes tucked away in the mountains, however, it is not thought that the bulk of the people have any real interest in politics. An exception to this may be the case where a political meeting was organized in such a commune near Reggio on Labour Day. The Mayor got up to address the people but his views were apparently so unpalatable that the crowd adopted a threatening attitude. This frightened the Mayor, who reacted by throwing a bomb into the crowd, injuring some twenty people, thereby getting in first shot and effectively reversing the normal procedure of acting as an Aunt Sally for the people.
4. Merchandise. The shops generally appeared fairly well stocked but nothing like so well as the shops in Naples. The prices were on the whole consistent and, due to judicious prodding on the part of the police, fairly well controlled by the Prefect. It is thought that stocks will last from four to six months.
5. De-munistication. This has been carried out to varying extents in various Provinces. For example, in Reggio it is said to be satisfactory. In Potenza the Provincial Commissioner was not satisfied as he had been instructed that Fascist officials were to be released from internment and that there was no objection to their re-employment. In general the latest instructions have not yet reached Provincial Commissioners, but when they do they should help to solve the problem, providing the Italian Government carry them out properly.
6. Carabinieri. It is understood that the Carabinieri is performing its duties fairly satisfactorily but that it relies largely for moral support on A.C.C. On the whole, it is not considered that they will be reliable if this support is taken away. It is clear that they do not carry out the Prefects instructions or discharge their duties as punctiliously as they ought.
7. Agriculture. The countryside is cultivated extensively and crops look well. Very little ground is left untilled. Many workers were seen busy in the

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7. Agriculture. The countryside is cultivated extensively and crops look well. Very little ground is left untilled. Many workers were seen busy in the fields, even on Sundays. It is not known what proportion is wheat; a fair amount of barley was seen.

8. Schools. The schools are open and appear to carry on all day. The hours are sometimes staggered so as to accommodate the large numbers who wish to attend, since in general for a variety of reasons the buildings are not sufficient to accommodate the numbers who wish to attend. Generally great keenness was shown in making use of the educational facilities now available.

-2-

9. Refugees. The population's reaction to the refugees among them again varies in different provinces. In Cosenza a system of billeting refugees by houses has been organized by the Prefect and is being carried out. On the whole their reaction is about the same as it was in the United Kingdom.

10. Transport. No military transport was seen on the roads south of Paestum except for one small convoy of an American Engineer Unit near Reggio moving north. There was, however, no shortage of civilian transport. The general consensus of opinion was that much more transport is now coming to light since the Italian Government had taken over and demands for requisitioning are falling away. It is thought that there should be no difficulty in supplying transport for Italian Government officials from existing sources, with the possibility of providing in addition some light cars for use by AM in forward areas. There is a shortage of tyres and spares, but if this could be overcome the position should be even better. For instance, in Cosenza the recent demand for petrol showed as follows:

Cars: 83 for Doctors.
76 for Public Officials.
257 for odd civilians.

Trucks: 315

Taxis: 123

There also appeared to be some to spare in Reggio where 360 are registered at present; the number is shortly to be reduced to approximately 200. P.C. Reggio also stated that in the Communes cars were not registered and appeared to circulate freely. This is being taken up locally.

11. Conclusions. The area traversed presents the appearance of a country completely at peace. The curfew is nominally at 2300 hours but many people circulate after this hour. No black-out is observed, civilians are pursuing their normal routines, in the country working in the fields or promenading the streets and gazing into shop windows in the towns, restaurants are even open in some places, children appear happy and well fed and beggars or refugees are not seen on the streets. Few traces of war now remain. One is brought back to reality not by the people themselves but by the sight of a jagged bombed building or a wrecked railway bridge.

12. It is therefore suggested that the Regional and Provincial staffs are much larger than is necessary. It is thought that a complete withdrawal could be made at any time of A.C.C. personnel from certain areas where there are no troops, and that a general overall reduction of 70% to 80% would not impair the war effort. It is not that the officers in the Provinces are not doing good and useful work. They are. But the work depends largely on their individual predilection and cannot in most instances be considered essential. It should be possible to withdraw all officers except one Provincial representative from the Provinces of Cosenza and Catanzaro. It is possible that not even this one representative may be required. At Reggio one Provincial representative would probably be needed in view of the transit camp there. It is understood that troops at Reggio are under

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4712

13. The main pre-occupation which A.C.C. has in these areas at the moment seems to be the supervision of the distribution and the accounting for food which we import, so that a few Supply Officers would probably be needed throughout the Region. It is for consideration whether these should operate from Regional Headquarters at Catanzaro or Reggio with a real skeleton Regional staff, or whether they could operate under the direct control of this Headquarters. As regards Regional representatives it would seem that the following personnel might be necessary at Regional Headquarters:

Regional Commissioner.
Regional Finance Officer.
Regional Public Safety Officer.
Regional Legal Officer.
Regional Public Health Officer.

The activities of the other Divisions, it is thought, could be supervised from this Headquarters.

24. The present amount seems to be opportune for carrying out this withdrawal of A.C.O. personnel for the following reasons:

- (a) The work they are doing, though useful, is not considered essential.
- (b) The effect on morale of being left in a town with no troops in the middle of a war is bad.
- (c) At present our stock is high. We should sell out while the going is good because difficulties are bound to increase, and it is considered that these should be faced up to now by the Italian Government.
- (d) The personnel may shortly be required elsewhere.

It might be better for A.C.O. to step out with a good record now than to remain behind and be dragged into domestic upheavals which appear to be inevitable, and for which we should no doubt be saddled with a large measure of blame.

CHE/BAC.

G.W.L. SMITH,
Lieut. Col.

4771

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CMS/RAC.

C.W.L. SHIPP,
Lieut. Col.

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