

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

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10000/109/1816

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

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REPORTS, REGION VIII
JUNE, JULY 1944

785017

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

ref/SAB/7/01.

7 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Correspondence.

TO : R.O. Region VIII.

1. A copy of our letter dated 7 July 1944 to AGC Fifth Army with reference to the requisitioning of the car belonging to Doctor Veridani Widi is attached and I hope that satisfactory action will result.
2. Referring generally to your letter dated 4 July 1944 reference WIII/22/3/5 and its enclosures, I venture to make a suggestion as regards its subject matter which may help to avoid confusion in similar cases in the future.
3. Under the subject of "Army action in Region VIII" your letter and the copy of letters with it deal with several different matters viz: a request to move officials over Corps boundary, damage to agricultural installations and equipment, improper requisitioning of vehicles etc. It would greatly simplify correspondence and filing if each letter dealt only with one subject, or if it is necessary to refer to several matters under one heading the use of sub-heads simplifies reference, and extracts can be made appropriate for the different files concerned.

WORMAN H. WILSON,
Colonel,
Deputy Executive
Commissioner.

545

785017

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.C. Section
APO 354

Ref/542/6/CA.

7 July 1944.

SUBJECT: Requisitioning of Vehicles.

TO : AHC Fifth Army.

1. Region VIII have sent us copy of their letter to you dated 27 June 1944 and I would refer particularly to that portion of it dealing with a car requisitioned by Capt. Goldsmith.

2. It appears a reasonable request that Doctor Verdiani Baldi should continue to have the use of his car and I should be glad if you would arrange for its return to its owner, at the time giving a clearance certificate that it has been de-requisitioned and will not be requisitioned again.

BERNARD E. PILES,
Colonel,
Deputy Executive
Commissioner.

Copy to: Region VIII.

542

7 JUL 1944

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
REGION VIII.

CAB.

44337

HRK/ttg.

RVIII/22/9/5.

4th July, 1944.

SUBJECT: Army action in Region VIII.

TO : Executive Commissioner, Hq. A.C.C.

HEADQUARTERS
A.C.C.

1. In connection with the requisitioning of civilian cars by Army, no specific instances can be ascertained except one. In this case an officer doing the requisitioning belonged to A.M.G. 5 Army. A copy of the report sent to A.M.G. 5 Army by Lt.-Col. E.C.W. Kennedy, Regional Agricultural Officer, is enclosed.

2. The Regional Agricultural Officer is very much concerned because the Army will let no civilians North of the Army Corps rear boundary. He has asked that certain specific officials be authorized to go in advance of the Army Corps rear boundary to effect the gathering of the harvest and particularly the subsequent collection and control of the wheat crop. A copy of his letter is attached together with a copy of statement of instances of occupation and damage to property essential for the conservation of agricultural products.

3. Request that action be taken to reinforce the request of the Regional Agricultural Officer.

Robert G. Kirkwood
ROBT. G. KIRKWOOD,
Colonel, FA, US Army
Regional Commissioner.

Encl.

see 677

543

COPY.

Doct. Verdiani Baldi's car (a Fiat 1500, quite new, dark grey, number 5362 SI, engine No. 011476, chassis No. 011493) has been requisitioned, the 23 Jun by Captain Bertram H. Goldsmith - A.M.C. of S. Lorenzo Nuovo (Bolsena) who was accompanied by an American partisan called Jim, and by the Italian partisan Ten. Roberto Ntarella.

Actually the car in question is at S. Lorenzo Nuovo (Bolsena).

Doctor Verdiani Baldi needs the car being the director of four Estates in the Provinces of Siena and Grosseto, and probably a member of the Provincial Committee for Agriculture of Grosseto.

*Above refers to para 5
of Agricultural Div report
dated 27 June.*

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COPY.

AGRICULTURAL DIVISION
REGION 5.

Grosseto, Italy,
27 June, 1944.

TO: Allied Military Government, 5th Army.

ATTENTION: Colonel Payne.

Since our talk yesterday I learned that no civilians are to be allowed to circulate in the Army area in Grosseto at present, meaning north of the city.

To effect the gathering of the harvest, and particularly the subsequent collection and control of the wheat crop, it is vital that certain key officials be allowed freer travel facilities. These are:

- a. - Ispettorato Agricoltura, and up to two office assistants.
- b. - Consorzio Agraria Director, and up to two office assistants.
- c. - An Italian assistant, English speaking, attached to province by me.

New Subject

As stated yesterday, unless further arrangements are made, by out-of-bounds notices or personal contact, to prevent troops occupying vital agricultural and food distribution offices and grain warehouses, it will not be possible to effect the gathering and control of wheat in the areas to be occupied.

Here in Grosseto no out-of-bounds notices were posted on any food office or warehouse, and no effort seems to have been made to prevent troops occupying same.

TRANSPORT.

Unless a stop is put to the present practice of service units picking up automobiles, lorries and parts of same wherever they find them, it will not be possible to furnish agricultural and other officials with the necessary transportation to effect collection of harvest.

It is not possible, except in rare cases, to furnish specific instances of the above with names of officers or men or units concerned because it all generally happens in the early stages before anyone but divisional C.O.'s are present on the Allied side and when the competent officials are still away.

New Subject

In Grosseto all the provincial offices were officially removed from the town to various villages up to 40 kilometres away, weeks before our occupation, leaving behind only caretakers. We have information that the same has occurred in the Livorno and Pisa Provinces; for instance, the office of the consorzio agraria for the province of Livorno is said to have moved to Antignano and that for Pisa to S. Miniato Basso.

Attached are some efforts at sketching particular damage done in the Grosseto Province.

a/ E. G. DOUGLAS KESSEY.
c/ E. G. DOUGLAS KESSEY.
Lt. Colonel, Chief Agricultural
Officer, Region 5.

COPY.

AGRICULTURAL DIVISION
REGION 8.

Grosseto, Italy.
27 June, 1944.

INSTANCES OF OCCUPATION & DAMAGE.

1. Grain elevator and consorzio warehouse at Grosseto was occupied by rear echelon of 117th Cavalry. Captain Wynors saw the situation, and the captain in charge moved out next day possibly taking some wool, but this is not certain.
2. Grain elevator at Albino, near Orbetello, occupied by Battalion Headquarters of American anti-aircraft unit. Still occupied 26 June but said to be going in a day or two. An air corps unit had sent two men and several tons of miscellaneous stores with the intention of taking over the entire building from this anti-aircraft battalion. Understood Captain Wynors has already made representations to stop this. Both elevators concerned hold 5,000 tons of grain each, and each have very valuable machinery and some grain in stock and are vital to store remains of 1943 and 1944 crops.
3. An air corps Fighter Wing, 57th (?) were occupying the main office of Consorzio Agraria in Grosseto and on leaving left a sign: "Reserved for 64th Fighter Wing" which Captain Wynors removed. Consorzio director and some few officials now back and attempting to find sufficient furniture to set up again but all chairs and other mobile effects have been taken away.
4. Consorzio offices were officially moved to Pagnanico. This was damaged in the battle and subsequently thoroughly looted by some American occupying troops. Major Young, Provincial Supply Officer collected Consorzio director on the 25th, leaving instructions with an employee to gather up what papers could be saved. On going to collect these papers yesterday, the 26th, it was learned that American troops had stopped employees gathering papers by force of arms and had deliberately destroyed all that had been collected, probably incited by a Communist crowd who raised the cry of it being a Fascist concern. It is feared that all of the financial and other records for the whole province are permanently destroyed, besides some of the typewriters and adding machines and similar effects.
5. An AME officer, Captain Goldsmith, attached French Corps, visited the farm of Doctor Verdiani Baldi Gino near Scansano and took away his fairly new grey Fiat 1500 automobile. This man farms some 7,000 acres at this locality and owns or manages three other farms in Siena Province. He is a doctor in agriculture and an obvious choice for other provincial agricultural committees and in any event needs an automobile to run his farms. Will produce 400 tons of wheat on this one farm alone this year.
6. In Grosseto there is a fairly extensive foundry agricultural repair establishment and store; being agents for American and British agricultural machinery with sizeable stocks of spare parts - almost the first of its kind we have contacted so far. It is called Societa A Costantini & Sons, Grosseto, Grosseto, Grosseto, Grosseto, Grosseto. This whole building has notices painted on it in many places reserved for the 36th Engineers, and from envelopes found in buildings and the evidence of the caretaker, it seems certain that the 36th Engineers were occupying this premises on Sunday, the 18th and that they removed very large quantities of tools and materials, including 24 leather belts most urgently needed from all over the premises. It also seems more than likely that this or another unit utterly looted the offices including the blowing of two safes. The confusion and debris resulting is indescribable. Major Lee is submitting a report on this place.

continued.....

2.

1. Many service personnel are travelling in and around this vicinity in Italian automobiles and on motor-cycles. and the garages which are here in town have been denuded entirely of everything in the way of useful tools, spares or automobiles. It is not possible to give specific cars taken by specific individuals. HT

S/ E. G. DOUGLAS KENNEDY
T/ E. G. DOUGLAS KENNEDY
Lt.-Colonel Chief Agricultural
Officer, Region 3.

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