

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No.

785017

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10000/104/1823

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REPORTS, AMG 5TH ARMY
JAN. - JULY 1944

11

Col Shupp

Ref report folios 7, 8, 9 I don't think
this contains anything new. Paras 12 &
16 are interesting. Last sentence para
18 might interest Patriot Br.

Sh

31 July 44

Ex Comm:

You might like to see 9, which
is Gen Hume's report to Gen Clark on ~~PTA~~
LIVANO.

CAB

ll 118

The report is on Livano and Pisa! It is much
too late to be of any live interest. It should be filed
in the Army Staff file.

(CAB filing has dribbled a little lately.)

74

MM 11/8/44

Spoke EC

pa. ll 118

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

51 JUL 1944

Suspect

Date 30 July 44

FROM	TO	FROM	TO
Secretary General		Establishment Branch	
Deputy Secretary General		Director	
Administrative Section		Executive Officers	
Interior		G-1 (A)	
Public Safety		G-1 (B)	
Public Health (Main Hq)	✓	G-2 (A)	
Public Health (Rear Hq)		G-2 (B)	
Property Control		Adjutant (Main)	
Legal		Adjutant (Rear)	
Education		Hq Comdt (Main)	
Monuments & Fine Arts		Hq Comdt (Rear)	
Economic Section		2675 Regt	
Agriculture		S-4 "	
Industry & Commerce		Political Section	
Requisition Division		Navy (Taranto)	
Labor		Navy (Rear Hq)	
Food		Army (Lecce)	
Public Works		Army (Rear Hq)	
Mining Division		Air (Bari)	
Transportation		Air (Main Hq)	
Shipping		Communications	
Finance		War Material Disposal	
EC & MI Section		Public Relations Branch	
Civil Affairs Branch	✓	Chief Liaison Officer	
Information Division		Liaison, Hq AAI	
Pool of Interpreters		O.G.E. High Detachment	
Displaced Persons		O.G.Hq Co. 2675 Regt	
Italian Refugees Branch			
Security Branch			

FOR:

Signature _____
 Remarks/Recommendation _____
 Information _____
 Approval/Disposal _____
 Appropriate Action _____
 Investigation & Report _____
 Dispatch _____

REMARKS:

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HEADQUARTERS
AND FIFTH ARMY
APO 564 U.S. ARMY

CABR
9

SUBJECT: Preliminary Report on Conditions in Livorno (Leghorn).

TO : Commanding General, Fifth Army.

1. First AMO officer, Major Carl Kait, Civil Affairs Officer, 34th Division, entered Livorno with advance patrols of infantry troops at 0630 hours 19 July 1944, and established military government at 0700 hours at the temporary headquarters of the Committee of National Liberation in Ardenna.

2. Preliminary surveys were commenced at once, in cooperation with officials of the Committee of National Liberation, to determine the primary necessities of the remaining population of the city. It was estimated on questioning civic officers that only 35,000 constituted the population of Livorno, a city which usually numbered 138,000 persons.

3. At 1100 hours Brig. General Edgar Erskine Hume, Senior Civil Affairs Officer, Fifth Army, his ADC, and Major Elmer W. Holmgren, designated as Civil Affairs Officer to replace Major Kait when he moves forward with the division, entered the city of Livorno and, after a reconnaissance of conditions within the city limits, went to Ardenna to meet with Major Kait and the officials of the Committee of National Liberation.

4. It was discovered, on conversation with Avv. Adolfo Agus, Secretary General of the Comune and acting mayor, that three-fourths of Livorno, comprising the area around the port and extending inland, had been evacuated of civilians by the Germans in November and had been designated the "Zona Nera", or "Black Zone" by them. This section was blocked off by demolition of houses around the line of demarcation in such a way as to make streets impassable. Barbed wire had also been erected, and signs posted in German and Italian warning civilians not to enter. No civilian had been in the Black Zone in almost a year and had no idea what conditions existed there. Committee of National Liberation officials said the area had been mined for many months and was said to be the most heavily mined area in all of Italy.

5. It was decided to keep the evacuated zone free of civilians until such time as military authorities permit reoccupation, but that the name "Black Zone" was not to be applied. Although retreating Germans had taken down the warning signs in the hopes that Allies would disregard the blockades and enter the mined areas, Committee of National Liberation men had printed posters in English and Italian which they had affixed around the perimeter of the zone. They had also prepared an extensive map of mined areas.

74

HEADQUARTERS
29 JUL 1944
A. C. C.

6. The majority of the civilian thrown out of their homes by the Germans had fled to the provinces of Pisa and Lucca. It was thought probable that they would attempt to move back into the city, thus creating a serious traffic and refugee problem. Consequently, AMG officers directed the Carabinieri into the city to prevent the return of the townspeople until such time as permission should be extended by military authorities. The Committee of National Liberation volunteered to send messengers to nearby communities to advise Livornese to remain in their temporary quarters until they should be allowed to return, and posters were put up forbidding the return of civilian families.

7. The food situation is not acute, as supply now exists for at least three days and 200 grams per day of bread had been distributed to the remaining population, so that no particular problem exists. Ration cards are sufficient until 1 August 1944. Major Kait reported that enough grain for ten days is in the warehouses, and that a saw mill is being converted for grinding the grain into flour. The Alimentazione system of food distribution had been functioning efficiently until two days before the Allied occupation.

8. Greatest AMG problem discovered was the lack of water, for two of the three city aqueducts bringing water are in territory still in German hands. These two water lines are not operating, and the remaining aqueduct has been severely damaged. There is no acute suffering for lack of drinking water, as cisterns and wells are still supplying the population with their minimum needs. Not enough water exists for washing and other uses, however. The last water main was blown up five days ago. The city engineer of Livorno has promised an adequate supply of water from the remaining water line within several days, and AMG engineer officers are working with him to effect this as soon as possible.

9. General health conditions are excellent, being in keeping with the minimum of good water supply. Some 450 patients are under treatment in the large Ciano Hospital which has a capacity of from 1500 to 2000 beds. When the Germans evacuated the city, they took much hospital equipment, including bedding and linen, as well as surgical instruments, microscopes, medicines, etc. Chlorination is planned for the cistern and well water now being used by the civilians. No enemy or Allied wounded were found to be in the hospitals.

10. The city itself has suffered from shelling and bombing, and all bridges were mined and blown up before the Allied entry, thus hindering transportation as well as repair of water lines, for many pipe conduits were affixed to the bridges.

11. Public order was satisfactory, in spite of the fact that the only city police force, The Republican Guard, left Livorno with the retreating Germans. A force of 150 AMG Carabinieri has been taken into the city by AMG. There is also an American Military unit engaged in Military Police duties. The Civic Police Chief named by the Committee of National Liberation said several hundred Carabinieri were in hiding and shortly would return to their posts. They will be vetted by C.I.C.

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12. All remain stores and shops were opened the Germans and looted before they left the city. When the Germans had taken what they wanted, they turned the fascists loose in the shops and took motion pictures to show how well they were treating their collaborators. This report was made by the Committee of National Liberation.

13. All banks and post offices were closed twenty days ago, and it was said that many of the funds were hidden from the Germans. AMI Finance Officers made an immediate reconnaissance with a view to opening the banks as soon as possible.

14. As most of the active fascists and fascist collaborators left the city on 20 June, only a minor political problem exists. The Committee of National Liberation recommended the keeping in office of avv. Agus, for fourteen years a civil servant and Secretary General of the Comune. He is now acting as Mayor in the absence of other appointments. A committee was named prior to the Allied entry, consisting of a city engineer, public health officer, fireman, civil works officer, etc., to assist AMI officers, and both Major Helt and Major Holmgren have been working with them. A fine spirit of collaboration and assistance has been discovered and put to good use by Allied Military Government. Appointments remain to be made of Prefect, Federale and Permanent Mayor, for all such officials left with the Germans.

15. Telephones and electricity are not functioning, although it is believed that they can be in operation in several weeks. All telephones were disconnected and the apparatus removed by the Germans last fall, but no serious damage was done to the main offices.

16. The prisoners in the jails were removed to Pisa, thus giving no problem to AMI such as was found in Naples and Rome where the Germans released all civil offense prisoners to prey on the community.

17. In summary, the situation in Livorno is not as serious as has been found in other cities of similar populations. Plans are already in operation to halt the possible move of refugees back to the city, and AMI officers specializing in the various Public Welfare and Utilities are on the scene to assist the city in returning to normal.

18. The representatives of the "Patriots" and "Partisans" are numerous, and while they offer every assistance individually and collectively, it is feared that they may cause trouble in not being willing to surrender their arms. They were promised certificates of merit and expressed pleasure at this. Such documents are way overdue and had not arrived by the day the city was occupied.

14 July

Edgar E. McKim
EDGAR E. MCKIM, MRS.,
Brigadier General, U.S.A.,
Senior Civil Affairs Officer, AMI
A.M.G. Fifth Army.

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C. L. C. C. C.
banded 2000 L
C. L. C. C. C.
AM on 19th

Long wire only printed
line day before

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SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
AND FIFTH ARMY (FIELD)
APO 464 U.S. ARMY

22 R Recd

CAC

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S-824

2

20 March, 1944.
223/3

SUBJECT: Bombing of VENAFRO.

TO : Hq A.C.G. R.C. & M.G.S.

Further to this Hq letter on above subject dated 16 March, 1944.
herewith two copies of report on the incident from the SCAO, GEN.

For the Commanding General:

J.O.M. ASHLEY,
Colonel, G of S,
AND Fifth Army.

HEADQUARTERS
21 MAR 1944
A. C. G.

11/25/3

1/H

740

HEADQUARTERS C.S.F.
A.M.G. SECTION

18 March, 1944.

SUBJECT: Report on Bombing of Venafro.

TO : S.O.A.O., A.M.G., V Army.

SECRET

1. As requested the following report on the bombing of Venafro, based on the information available as of this date, is submitted:

On the morning of 15 March 1944 a large number of American bombing planes and escorts passed directly over Venafro, bound for Cassino (a straight line from the Foggia area to Cassino passes directly over Venafro). The planes had been passing over in groups for about two hours, when between 10.00 A.M. and 10.30 A.M. a number of bombs were dropped on the town of Venafro and in the vicinity. Four direct hits were registered on the town, three on closely built residential (or tenement) districts and the fourth on a seminary now used as a French military hospital. About an hour later an additional group of bombs was dropped quite near Venafro, but none of these hit the town. The total number of bombs dropped in the vicinity of Venafro has been variously estimated from 15 to 250, the latter figure by an officer of a bomb disposal unit who watched the bombing from a distance and claims that many more bombs were dropped in the mountains than was realized in town. However it is the belief of the S.O.A.O. that the correct number would be nearer twenty to twenty-five.

French and British engineer units with picks and shovels were rushed into town immediately after the bombing and began the work of clearing away the debris and digging out bodies, dead and alive. French ambulances were also brought into town and evacuated the wounded to military and civilian hospitals in the area and as far away as Cassino.

Forty-four dead bodies of civilians have been recovered at the time of writing this report and the officer in charge of excavation now estimates that the total civilian dead will run around eighty. Of the forty-four bodies recovered seventeen are men, five are boys, sixteen are women and six are girls. The

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Forty-four dead bodies of civilians have been recovered at the time of writing this report and the officer in charge of excavation now estimates that the total civilian dead will run around eighty. Of the forty-four bodies recovered seventeen are men, five are boys, sixteen are women and six are girls. The wounded were evacuated to such a large number of hospitals that no accurate figure on the number has been obtained. It would undoubtedly exceed the number of dead, but it is believed that most of the wounds are not serious, being the result of debris falling in the streets.

In addition to the civilian losses there were fifteen French soldiers killed and thirty wounded, an American soldier killed and nine wounded and seven British Indians wounded, one of whom will probably die. The Indians were fortunate in that two bombs that fell amongst them, fell in a big gully or ravine the sides of which protected the Indians from the full effect of the explosion.

742

Report on Bombing of Venezuela (Continued)

After the first day, soldiers were withdrawn from the work of excavation and civilian labor substituted, but South African engineer officers have continued to supervise the work. They estimate that at the present rate of progress it will not be concluded before 25 March, 1944, if then. It is very difficult to make rapid progress as the streets are narrow and the bombed locations difficult, if not impossible, of approach by trucks.

It has been found necessary to draft civilian labor for the work, as it is hard and unpleasant. The workers are employed by the commune and will be paid at the same rate as workers for the army are paid. The drafting of labor is handled by the local official of the Distrito Provincial de Collocaemento.

Needless to say the effect of this bombing on civilian morale has been extremely bad. The residents of Venezuela are now frightened every time they see an American plane. There is quite a widespread desire to leave Venezuela. A number of the refugees from further front who were located in Venezuela and formerly wished to remain have come into the refugee center for evacuation south. A small number of regular residents of Venezuela have requested passes to go to live with relatives further south. On the whole however the situation is now quiet and the effects of the bombing will gradually wear away.

Thomas J. Michie

THOMAS J. MICHIE, Major, A.C.
S.C.A.O., A.E.G., C.S.P. 743

SECRET

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Thomas J. Smith

THOMAS J. SMITH, MAJOR, A.C.
S.O.A.C., A.M.S., C.S.P. 743

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

16 March 1944.

Subject: Air raid on Venafro.

SECRETTo : H.Q. A.C.C.
R.C. & M.G.S.

HEADQUARTERS
16 MAR 1944
A.C.C.

1. At about 10:30 hours on 15 March 1944 a number of bombs fell in and around Venafro (in the area of the C.E.F.). About six bombs fell in the town itself and a considerable number of civilians were killed and wounded. Other bombs fell in the neighbourhood, some in military encampments.
2. At about 1130 hours on the same day further bombs fell in the same vicinity.
3. All these bombs are believed to have been dropped by Allied Planes.
4. The Chief of Staff AMG Fifth Army arrived in Venafro between the bombings and witnessed the second incident.
5. A full report is being submitted by the Corps SCAO as soon as accurate details are available and will be forwarded as soon as it is received.

740
J.O.M. ASHLEY,
Colonel, Chief of Staff,
for SCAO AMG 5 ARMY.

HEADQUARTERS
A.M.G. 5th. ARMY
A.P.O. 104 U.S. ARMY.

Appendix C to
Monthly Report for January

2

11th. February 1944.

To: S.C.A.O., A.M.G. 5th. Army.

Subject: Report of Refugee Field Section for January.

1. Until about 15th January, when the fighting front became more stable, refugees had not presented a great problem since rapid advance had cleared communities for reoccupation by the civil population.

2. Refugee Officers were designated for each Corps to co-ordinate the work of collecting, sheltering, rationing and evacuation of refugees to rear installations.

3. A camp at Aversa and Naples operating under the Refugee Section A.C.O. receive and dispose of refugees sent them from the Fifth Army area.

4. Officers assigned or attached to each Corps on the staff of the S.C.A.O. and designated as refugee Officers are:-

Captain Diebel..... C.E.F.
Lt. Carlson..... 2 Corps.
Lt. Watney..... 10 Corps.

Lt. Col. Leif Neprud was assigned as Refugee Officer, 5th. Army A.M.G. 26th January. 10

In the Corps area, Major Reits, (S), is exercising general control of refugee work for Major Giffin the S.C.A.O.

As of 1st January plans for evacuation of refugees throughout the Fifth Army area were in the process of being formed and co-related to provide uniform methods and procedure.

5. The system of evacuation of refugees provides for their collection in Division area, transmission to Corps refugee collecting points for transportation out of the Fifth Army area.

6. Refugees are screened by intelligence personnel. Those considered dangerous for security reasons are taken into custody by the C.I.C., F.B.I. or S.M.

7. The local Italian Pedestals assist the C.A.Os. in finding shelter for refugees as close to their former homes as is possible. These are enrolled for ration cards and are permitted to purchase food as other civilians. The refugees surplus to the community or for those whom shelter cannot be found are evacuated to main refugee camps in rear areas.

Sheet/2

Sheet 2.

8. The refugee officers in each Corps are assisted by Red Cross personnel who are concerned with disinfection, evacuate and treat sick and wounded refugees and distribute clothing to the needy.

9. Approximately 2400 refugees have been shipped to camps in Aversa and Naples during January and the majority of this number came from 10 Corps.

Leif Meprud,
Lt. Col.,
Chief Refugee Officer.

2037