

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

ACC

10006/109/1826

REPO
MAY

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

10000/109/1826

REPORT OF PANTELLERIA, FOOD SHORTAGE
MAY - JULY 1944

785017

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
ECONOMIC SECTION
APO 394

JBT/0-000

100/31

3 July 44

SUBJECT: Report of Pantelleria Food Shortage.

TO : Executive Commissioner (C. A. Branch)

Further to this Section ES/31 dated 29 Jan 44, para 4, it is not considered that further action should be taken, for the reasons stated therein.

J. Bruce Thompson Major R.A.
S.O. 2 (C. A.), Economic Section

6/11/17

10th / July
1941

*Very white house Col. Hester's
Hester's house Green ...
Sage - He is Watering his ...*

To: Mr. Arthur

20

Re: 558/CA is forwarded for your
consideration. It is recommended that
disciplinary action should be taken
or case may warrant disciplinary action.
Will you please make the necessary
investigation if someone contacted
necessary please to make recommendations
accordingly.

Hold up - Maj. Brown Thomson
is going to give us an answer

577
JES
8/7

848

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INTER OFFICE MEMO

From:

SUBJECT:

TO: C.A. Branch

FILE No.

194

2nd Folio 11 para 6 - request investigation and report by Chief Accountant, Officer ACC, 3d 2nd Folio 12, concerns recommendation of 2nd.

Para 2 Folio 13 - forwarded for appropriate action.

Re: Disciplinary action for selling Rations - Inspector General's investigation, if made, will require presence of ACC officers involved. No action necessary.

Now unless investigation is made.

19

845

Establishment Branch.

Report of Pantelleria Food Situation.

File 558/CA is passed to you for consideration of note by Col Shipp on Folio 14. Since that date a further letter (folio 17) from Econ Section has come in. Your attention is drawn to para 4 of that letter.

J. Keating Maj.

29th June 44.

844

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
ECONOMIC SECTION
APO 954

JBT/ml

ES/31

29 June 1944

SUBJECT: Report of Pantelleria Food Shortage.

TO : Executive Commissioner, (C.A. Branch)

1. Reference your 558/15/CA dated 23 Jun 44, the Chief Accountant has received no previous notice of the issues mentioned in the Quartermaster, KMS letter of 3 May 44. A request has been sent to AFHQ G-5, for the shipping tickets, so that charges may be made for the U.S. Army rations issued to the civilians on Pantelleria.

2. Food Sub-Commission state that the conditions described in the report indicate that the population of the Island were obtaining sufficient food at the time the report was made. Further reports since received show that the food supply position on the Island is satisfactory.

3. With regard to the recommendations made in Para IV (2) of Lt. Wheelers report.

- (a) It is considered that the rations be sold by AOC at prices comparable to those fixed for similar AOC foodstuffs.
- (b) As stated above, present supplies in the Island ensure that rations are issued on the authorized scale.
- (d) It is recommended that the evaporated milk be turned over to AOC for issue on an approved ration scale and not sold on the open market.

4. With reference to the facts stated in Para 2B (4) of the Quartermasters letter, it is requested that the Establishment Branch be asked whether any further action should be taken in view of the fact that

- (a) A long period has elapsed since the events mentioned in the a/q letter took place
- (b) Major Petter is no longer in Pantelleria (G-1 'B' report that he is in Rome Region).
- (c) These events took place in the early days of occupation

- 2 -

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- (d) There appears to be no evidence of misconduct on Major Petters part
- (e) No report has yet been called for from this HQ (see Para 3 of 3rd indorsement).

J. Bruce Thompson Major R.A.
J. BRUCE THOMPSON, Major R.A.,
S.O. 2, (CA), Economic Section.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
E.C. & M.C. SECTION
APO 334

Ref/353/15/CA

25 June 1944

SUBJECT: Report of Pantelleria Food Shortage.

TO : Economic Section.

Your HQ/31 of 21 June 44 with enclosure is acknowledged. As arranged by phone we shall take no action until the further investigations by Food Sub-Commission and Finance Sub-Commission are complete. In their report they should be asked to make recommendations.

JMK
NORMAN F. PIERCE
Colonel
Deputy Executive
Commissioner

JSP/JR

842

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
ECONOMIC SECTION
APO 394

JBT/1ab

21 June 44

ES/31

SUBJECT: Report of Pantelleria Food Shortage.

TO : Civil Affairs Branch.

See attached.

See para 3 of 3rd indorsement. It is suggested that this Section forward reports from Food and Finance Sub-Commissions (to whom copies of attached have been forwarded) to your office to make a consolidated report.

15
See
J. Bruce Thompson Major RA
J. BRUCE THOMPSON, Major R.A.,
S.O. 2, (CA) Economic Section.

Encl: Report of Pantelleria Food Shortage.

841

Estab Branch

*As disciplinary
action is a court of
inquiry at least might
be necessary this is*

find it 15 42

W. H. H. H. H.

21.6.44.

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 51F

TRJ/jjr

G-5: 430.2-4

16 June 1944

SUBJECT: Report of Pantelleria Food Shortage.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission,
APO 394

1. Herewith are copies of the following:

- a). Report on above subject submitted to
CG SOS Natoua APO 750 of 3 May.
- b). 1st Ind on above from HQ NPS of 6 May.
- c). 2nd Ind to CG Natoua of 28 May.
- d). 3rd Ind to CG SOS Natoua of 11 June.

2. G-4 this HQ have requested that the above be
forwarded to you for appropriate action.

3. For the purposes of records here will you please
report in due course the result of action taken and return
the papers now attached.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

/s/ ~~TTTTTTTTTT~~ Maj.
T. D. JACKMAN
Major.

Inclos:
as above.

840

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AG 430/473 D-0 3d Ind /rh
HEADQUARTERS MATOUSA, APO. 434. 11 June 1944.

TO: Commanding General, SOG MATOUSA, APO 750.

1. Recommendations contained in prior increments are concurred in by this headquarters.
2. The British Army has agreed to provide perishables for both the United States and British troops from British stocks.
3. In investigating the matter of unauthorized sale of Army rations to individual civilians, Allied Control Commission should be represented, if in any way involved.

By command of Lieutenant General LEVERS.

T.J. RHE,
Capt. AGO,
Asst Adjutant General.

2 Incls
n/c

Copy to:
G-4
G-5
G-6
G-7

Ltr Hq EBS, 3 May 44, to CG, SOG MATOUSA, APO 750. Thru CG, EBS
Subj: Report of Pantelleria Food Shortage.

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Basis: Ltr. HQ MHS, Office of the CG, APO 763, Subject: "Report of Pantelleria Food Shortage," dated 3 May 1944. 1st Ind., dated 6 May 1944, to CG, SOS, MATOUSA, File AG 430 (KXDO).

430 (KXDO) 2nd Ind.
HEADQUARTERS SOS, MATOUSA, APO 750, U. S. Army. 26 May 1944.

TO: Commanding General, MATOUSA, APO 534, U. S. Army.

1. Recommendations contained in basis report and 1st Indorsement thereto concurred in by this Headquarters.

2. Movement orders have been issued to cover shipment of 35 tons of usable rations to Eastern Base Section from Pantelleria.

3. Request that the transfer of the balance of ration items on the island to the Allied Control Commission be approved. The shipping tickets will be made out by the Eastern Base Section and forwarded to the Chief Accounting Officer, Allied Control Commission.

4. Attention is invited to Paragraph 2 of 1st Indorsement, and authority is requested, by this Headquarters, to direct the Inspector General, Eastern Base Section, to investigate the transfer of rations in question.

5. Inasmuch as there are more British than U. S. troops on Pantelleria, it is suggested that arrangements be made to provide perquisites for both U. S. and British troops from British sources.

6. Reference earlier transfers of rations referred to in basis report: No report has been received by this Headquarters to the effect that a charge has been made to the Allied Control Commission. It is requested that the Chief Accounting Officer, Allied Control Commission, be instructed to investigate this matter and to report the results of his investigations to this Headquarters. In the event that no charge has been entered, shipping tickets will be accomplished and forwarded to the Chief Accounting Officer, Allied Control Commission, by the Commanding Officer, Eastern Base Section.

For the Commanding General:

2 Incls/c

VENGE W. RICE,
Lt. Colonel, A. G. D.
Adjutant General

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COPY

Ltr., Hqs., ERS, OCM, dtd. 3 May 1944.

2 Incls:

- Incl. 1. Inventory
- Incl. 2. Doctor's Certificate

DISTRIBUTION:

- (2) C.O., SOS
- (1) C.O., ACC, Region 1
- (1) Lt. Gasparino, A.M.O., Pantelleria
- (1) Class I File

AG 130 (SECO) 1st Ind.
HEADQUARTERS, EASTERN BASE SECTION, APO 763, U. S. Army, 6 May 1944.

TO: Commanding General, SOS, NATUHA, APO 750, U. S. Army.

1. Based on personal observation and a careful study of the recommendations contained in the basic communication, approval of the recommendations made by Lt. WHEELER is recommended.

2. Attention is invited to the recommendation that an Inspector General investigate the sale of American rations to individual civilians. In view of the fact that an Army Transport Command plane makes a round trip to Pantelleria from Tunis every Friday it is suggested that the services of the Inspector General, Eastern Base Section be utilized for this investigation.

3. So much of the recommendations as pertains to the furnishing of fresh meat to Pantelleria is being complied with.

838

E. F. KOHNIG,
Colonel, Infantry,
Commanding.

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COPY

HEADQUARTERS
EASTERN BASE SECTION
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER
APO 753

3 May 1944

SUBJECT: Report of Pantelleria Food Shortage.

TO : Commanding General, SOS NATUNA, APO 790.
(Thru G. O., HRS)

I. INTRODUCTION.

1. Pursuant to instructions contained in letter, Hqs., SOS NATUNA, dated 7 April, to Commanding General, NATUNA, subject: "Pantelleria Food Shortage", and covering letter, Hqs., SOS NATUNA, dated 9 April 1944, to Commanding Officer, Eastern Base Section, subject: "Pantelleria Food Shortage", file number 430 (HRS), the undersigned officer, Daniel D. Wheeler, 1st Lt., G.M.C., 4th Sect., Hqs., E.B.S., arrived at the Island of Pantelleria by plane at 1310 hrs., Thursday, 20 April 1944, with Major Ray E. Wilson, G.M.P., U.S. Army, Provincial Commissioner, Province of Napoli, for the purpose of:

- a. Arranging an inventory of subsistence on hand;
- b. Effecting the transfer to A.M.C. of those items which will be required on the Island;
- c. Arranging for the subsistence of the air personnel remaining on duty.

2. The island of Pantelleria is a rocky island of forty square miles. It is a good example of a one crop economy, with raisins as the principle produce. In the past, nearly all other food items were imported to the population of 10,000. At present, the island has a population of about 9,600. The city of Pantelleria has been destroyed and its populace has moved in with the grape farmers. Many of the men are prisoners of war in other lands. It is these former city dwellers who go to make up most of the 1700 odd (or 18%) persons on relief.

3. 1st Lt. A. V. Gasparino, AG, U. S. Army, A.M.C. official of the Island, stated his belief that there was nothing alarming about the food situation on the Island, that is, that no one was starving, but that living was difficult for most of the people. He stated that the main general lack was in oils, fats, and the like.

II. RAISING OF CIVILIAN POPULATION.

A. Relief Plan.

1. An organization known as Ente Comunale Assistenza (E.C.A.)

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Ltr., Hqs., H.R. COM, dtd. 3 May 1944.

has been established to administer the relief and assistance program on the Island. This is a voluntary group consisting of a committee of 3 with the Mayor of the Island as its head, and several volunteer investigators. A.M.G. provides money for relief at the rate of 8 lire per day for the family head and 3 lire per day to each dependent on relief. This rate was established 1 April 1944 to conform with the rate for the Island of Sicily. Before that time the rate had been 4 lire per day per person on relief. The R.C.A. is empowered to make slight increases in exceptional cases.

2. The ration scale for flour, sugar, and milk, the only consistently available A.M.G. items, is as follows:

Flour, 200 grms/person/day (160 for bread, 40 for pasta) @ .65 lire/200 grms. (approximately 7.07 oz.)

Sugar, 200 grms/person/month @ 15 lire/kilo

Milk-medical requirements variable, to pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children under 5, only.

Under this scale, there has always been sufficient stocks and everyone has obtained their ration of these items.

B. A.M.G. Stock on Hand.

1. In addition to the above stated items, A.M.G. imported 18,971.30 oz. can of Meat & Vegetable Stew; 1,827.810 cans of Chili con Carne; 7,987.6-3/4 lb. cans of Butter, preserved, during the month of September 1943. 4500 kilos of rice was imported by A.M.G. in December. There have been no further imports by A.M.G. of items other than flour and sugar since that time.

2. Some items, however, of the American Army Rations were turned over to A.M.G. in August and September by the 19th Service Group, being receipted by Shipping Ticket. It is believed that this transfer was effected by authority of General Strickland, U.S. Army, who was Military Governor of the Island at that time. There were various small discrepancies, the transaction being shown as follows:

Item	Unit	Total on S/T	In Ea.	Rec'd., Comma	Difference
Beans, dry	lb.	10,000	4,590	4,600	+ 70
Biscuit, type "C"	lb.	44,570	20,190.210	221	- 79
Milk, 6/	can	750	-----	18,389	-1,801.210
Milk, 1 1/2 oz.	can	480	-----	738	+ 12
Candy, hard	lb.	2,000	-----	528	+ 48
Potatoes, dehydrated	lb.	18,000	906	909	- 6
Salt	lb.	6,000	8,154	8,100	- 54
Rice	lb.	9,000	2,718	2,700	- 18
			4,077	4,180	+ 103

3. Another transfer of items from Army stock to the Comma Warehouse was made on the 17th & 18th of December 1943 by Major Petter, British Army, then Senior Civil Affairs Officer for the Island. This transfer was believed to have been effected without receipture by means of Ship-

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Ltr., Rgs., RBS, M, dtd. 3 May 1944.

ping Tickets. As will be noted by the copied listing, many of the items are indeterminate.

413 cases Corned Beef Hash;
122 cases Dehydrated Cabbage (2-5 gal.);
19 cases Dehydrated Sweet Potatoes (2-11#);
20 cases Dried Eggs (6/#10);
2 cases of Hard Tack,

plus 651, #10 cans approximately as follows:

150 Meat Stew and Meat & Beans;
100 Corned Beef;
20 Concentrated Tomato Powder for Tomato Juice;
15 Pickles;
50 Raisins;
35 Carrots;
10 Pea Soup (100 servings in each can);
20 Dried Apples;
17 Milk (extra large cans);
50 Miscellaneous Fruit (mostly figs);
181 No Labels;
651 Total

plus 891 small cans, approximate breakdown as follows:

200 Milk;
200 Small cans Meat & Beans, and Meat Stew ("C" Ration size);
100 Small cans Corned Beef;
75 Sweet Potatoes;
100 Various Vegetables;
116 No Labels;
891 Total.

The original listing of transfer bears the notation that all the above ~~891~~ were picked up from the floor of the magazine, that most of the cans were rusty and some probably not fit for consumption.

4. Then, a further transfer of items from Army stocks to have been made by Major Petter. Two civilians on the Island, not connected with ration distribution, are in possession of receipts signed by Major Petter for the total amount of 60,136 lire for the "acquisition of various materials". The two civilians are Salvatore Casano and Vincenzo Almanno and they give a breakdown of the "various materials", as follows:

Onions	139.292 Kg.
Sodium Bicarbonate	522.850 Kg.
Pepper	367.238 Kg.
Celery Salt	76.193 Kg.
Mustard	55.900 Kg.
Cinnamon	15.974 Kg.

COPY

Ltr., Hqs., MBS, OCM, dtd. 3 May 1944.

The receipts were offered by the civilians as an explanation of why they had possession of, and were selling at nearly fabulous prices, the above items. It is indicated that an Inspector General investigation might be apropos. It is so recommended.

5. Up until the present time, the above are the only known turnovers of American Army Rations to the civilian population.

c. Island Production.

1. As has been already noted, the economy of the Island is based upon the single commodity--raisins, the soil being ideally suited to that item. Nearly every bit of arable ground has been terraced and cleared of rocks in an attempt to obtain maximum use of the soil.

2. An interview with the Mayor of Pantelleria, Nicolo Almonzo, gave a general picture of the Island's productivity. In the Mayor's opinion, even though production has increased because of the war-time transportation problem, the amount of vegetables raised is insufficient to support the population. A family with some land can probably raise enough to feed itself, but has very little left over for those without land.

3. Wheat and barley were much in evidence but actually only a pitifully small amount, in terms of flour, is produced. Both the wheat and barley are of poor grade and can only supplement for some people the flour supplied by A.M.G.

4. During the winter months the water has been too rough to permit of much fishing. With the approaching spring, however, this industry will increase. The Mayor believes that about 30 or 40 small boats will be repaired and in condition to use by summer. This production will help the food situation but will still be inadequate.

5. At present, 3 cows per week are killed on the Island for meat for the populace. The Mayor believes that three or four thousand people are able to obtain some meat each week from this. The price, however, is so high that only well to do people can afford to buy it. Meat is entirely out of the reach of those on relief. At the present rate of killing, the old stock of cattle will last until about July, according to the Mayor.

6. There are some chickens on the Island and an occasional chicken is killed, of course, by the owners. It is not an item on the market, however, and is only sold at a high price. Eggs sell at 10 lire each and there are not enough available even to those who can afford this price. The Mayor believes the chickens would lay more eggs if there were more to feed the chickens.

7. Butter is no longer generally available but when it was present from the original A.M.G. stocks it was rationed at 100 grams per person per month. At present, the small amount of butter on hand is used only in the Island's single hospital. Milk is not a real problem on the

COPY

Ltr., Hqs., RM., OCM, dtd. 3 May 1944.

Island. Some fresh "cottage type" cheese is made and sells at 30 lire per kilo.

D. Island Importation.

1. The importation of food to the Island by private or commercial means is effected by the owners of three small ships. When not used by A.M.G. for military or administrative purposes, the ships are free to go to Sicily for loads of supplies, weather permitting. The supplies obtained in Sicily are vegetables and olive oil, for the most part. They are bought on the black market, or wherever it is possible to buy. Oil sells on the Island of Sicily officially at 110 lire per kilo and vegetables at about 80 or 90 per kilo. Transportation charges and necessary profit bring the Pantellerian price significantly above the purchase price, making it impossible for any but the very well to do to purchase these commodities. Further, insufficient amounts are obtained even for those rich who could buy.

E. Observations and Action Taken.

1. Attached as second attachment is a certificate by Dr. Guido Radici of the Civil Hospital on the Island attesting to the fact that he has never treated or observed patients suffering from malnutrition. This, of course, is the final criterion for determining the present state but does not preclude the possibility of serious nutritional troubles developing in a specific portion of the population.

2. An interview was held with two women heads of families, former Pantellerians, married to Pantellerians who are Prisoners of War elsewhere. The families arrived on the Island on the 29th of February 1944 from Sicily. They were taken into homes and housed. Both families, one woman has one child of 18 months, the other three children, the oldest five and the youngest nursing, have been attempting to get on relief since their arrival, but since that time have been prevented from doing so by technical difficulties. Each family has gone in debt 560 lire in their seven weeks on the Island and have spent the money for nothing other than food in that time. They have eaten the flour, sugar, and milk rationed by A.M.G., been able to buy a total of 200 grams of cheese and some lettuce at 13 lire per kilogram, as well as two cans of Meat & Vegetable Stew per family in that time. They have not tasted oil, fish, or fresh meat. Their meals have largely consisted of "cardella", a variety of dandelion that grows wild on the Island. With this they have been able to keep alive. 834

3. Had these two families been on relief at the present rate, one family would have received 539 lire in that time and the other and larger family would have received 833 lire. It is erroneous to generalize categorically from these two cases, but they are indicative of the subsistence level of other families in this income bracket without other independent means of support. To eat as these two families have eaten is considered dietetically inadequate and if prolonged, serious nutritional difficulties may arise in that proportion of the population so affected.

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Ltr., Hqs., HNS, OCM, dtd. 3 May 1944.

4. In order to alleviate this condition and prevent future serious conditions, proteins, fats, minerals, and vitamins must be made available to these people in a minimum diet for the maintenance of health. To this end, approximately 107 net long tons of meats and vegetables have been directed to be turned over to Lt. Gasparine, A.M.C., Pantelleria from Army Stocks on the Island, as follows:

ITEM	UNIT	TOTAL UNITS	POUNDS PER UNIT	TOTAL (lb.)
Bacon	1 1/2 lb.	19	1 1/2	266
Beans, dry Lima	lb.	400	1	400
Beans, dry Navy	lb.	500	1	500
Beef, Corned	12 oz.	217 1/2	.75	16306
Beef, Corned	6 lb.	552	6	3312
Beef, Quartered	6.5 lb.	6	6.5	39
Chili con Carne, w/o beans	#10 can	3060	6.5	19890
Hash, Corned Beef	5 1/2 lb. can	2296	5.5	12628
Luncheon Meat	6 lb.	3856	6	23136
Meat & Veg. Hash, #10	can	1398	6.75	9032
Meat & Veg. Stew	30 oz.	14596	30 oz.	27180
Pork Sausage	#2 can	28	2	56
Sausage, Vienna Style	2 1/2 oz.	10648	1.5	16272
Beets, Julianna	lb.	192	1	192
Carrots, dehyd.	lb.	2250	1	2250
Pea Soup, dehyd.	lb.	1198	1	1198
Beans, Lima	#2 can	1992	1.42	2829
Beans, Lima	#10 can	6	6.33	38
Beans, Lima	#2 1/2 can	24	1.5	36
Beans, String	#2 can	1296	1.5	1944
Beans, String	#10 can	948	6.33	6000
Beets	#2 1/2 can	72	1.54	111
Beets	#10 can	216	6.5	1404
Peas	#2 can	304	1.5	456
Peas	#10 can	858	6.16	5285
Spinach	#2 1/2 can	8844	1.54	13620
Spinach	#10 can	2100	6.16	12936
Tomatoes	#2 can	48	1.35	65
Tomatoes	#2 1/2 can	1896	2.41	4569
Tomatoes	#10 can	36	6.33	228
Sugar, Granulated	lb.	9600	1	9600
Bouillon Cubes	100 ea.	150	1	150
Salt	106 bag.	369	10	3690
Butter, Preserved, cond.	lb.	3130	1	3130
Milk, Evaporated	1 1/2 oz.	192	.906	174
Milk, Evaporated	8 lb.	5004	8	40032

5. There may be questions with reference to some of the above mentioned items. In order to explain some of the anticipated queries with reference to specific items, comment is made as to why a particular decision was made. The milk in the stock is all November 1942 make. Some milk has spoiled and many of the cans are unshippable. It is recommended that the milk be put on open sale to dispose of it and prevent further

spoilage.

Ltr., Hqs., 308, C, dtd. 3 May 1944.

6. The butter is in insufficient amount to be of any real value to the populace. It was directed that the butter be placed at the disposal of the Island hospital and sold or given to persons nutritionally needing it as selected by the surgeon.

7. The granulated sugar is in 100 lb. cloth bags without paper wrapping and has been exposed to dampness. Many of the bags are torn and it is felt there would be much loss and little value in shipping it to return to Army stocks.

8. The salt is all in 10 lb. bags removed from its former paper wrapping. It has been exposed to dampness and is not in a condition to make shipment practical.

9. The rest of the items appearing on the inventory were felt to be needed in Army stocks or that no great need existed on the Island for those items. It is recommended that those items be returned to Army stocks. This is a total of approximately 35 tons.

F. Situation.

1. The realistic of the food situation of the civilians on the Island of Pastelloria is simply that these people not on a farming status and in the low income group as represented by those persons on relief, do not have access to sufficient food to meet minimum dietary standards. This is due to the non-availability of food which as a consequence is out of the financial reach of about one sixth of the population. As a function of economic law, no matter how wealthy in money the entire populace, under present production and importation rate, about one sixth of the population would always go hungry.

2. It is recommended that the food turned over to A.M.C. be rationed only to those people on relief at the rate of 100 grams of meat and meat substitutes per person per day and 150 grams of vegetables per person per day as meeting minimum dietary requirements. At this rate, there is approximately 34.38 days of supply of meat and meat substitutes and approximately 9.26 days of supply of vegetables (for a strength of 1700) represented in this turnover. It is further recommended that A.M.C. import additional supplies into the Island to maintain this standard. 832

3. The present difficulty in the distribution of these Army stocks to the civilians is that the U.S. Army price for these items is out of the reach, for the most part, of the only people who should be allowed to have them. Lt. Casparine does not have authority to sell the food to the Comandante at other than Army price. In order to overcome this difficulty, it is recommended that directions be issued to accomplish the feeding of these people by one of the following methods:

- a. Issued the food free to those on relief.
- b. Arbitrarily sold at a price within the reach of those on relief.

COPY

Ltr., Hqs., AF OGM, dtd. 3 May 1944.

a. A.M.G. pay the difference in price between cost price and sale price as in h above, out of the proceeds of money acquired by the sale of captured enemy equipment or construction material on the Island.

III. RATIONING OF MILITARY PERSONNEL.

A. Former Practice.

1. In the past, all Allied Military personnel have rationed off the stock on hand by helping themselves to the stock. With the exception of fresh items which units in Base Section have been issued, troops stationed on Pantelleria have eaten well. It is certain that many units of items have been traded with the populace for eggs and fresh vegetables.

The records of rations issued to Allied personnel are very incomplete and Shipping Tickets have not been prepared since the Air Corp Service Squadron left the Island in September. It is suggested that the rations issued in the past be recaptured on S/T on a strength basis if records can be found showing the number of British personnel that have been stationed on the Island since September.

2. At the time of this visit to the Island, April 19-26, there were 8 Americans and 15 British personnel on the Island and it was understood that the British Garrison is to be increased to 33.

3. As will be noted, there were 691 cases of "5-in-1" Rations on the Island. Because of the imbalance of stock and the turnover to the Pantellerians, the military personnel were directed to commence consuming these "5-in-1" Rations. The 691 cases is approximately a 20 week supply. At present, the 17th Air Depot Group in Tunis is supplying the American personnel with fresh meat for a couple meals per week. There is a 20 cubic foot refrigerator in one of the ration buildings on the Island. The refrigerator needs ammonium to function properly and attempts are being made to obtain this from Army sources. When this is done, fresh meat should be shipped to the Island military personnel in the same quantities as served troops in the Base Section. This, and whatever fresh vegetable or fruit items that can be shipped should be used to supplement the "5-in-1" Ration.

4. The British troops on the Island expressed dissatisfaction over the "5-in-1" Ration. It is thought that it would be highly satisfactory if the British troops could receive the "14-in-1", or "Compo" Ration. The division of British troops into 3 separate small masses makes the "Compo" Ration ideal for the feeding of these troops. It is so recommended.

5. Rations issued to British troops from American stocks will be recaptured by means of Shipping Tickets by the officer commanding American troops on the Island who is in charge of the rations.

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Ltr., Hqs., HRS, O. dtd, 3 May 1944.

IV. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. Because of transportation difficulties, it was impossible for Major Wilson, the A.M.C. representative to remain on the Island for more than 24 hours. As a result of this, the complete mission as directed by the correspondence referred to in paragraph 1 of Section I of this report could not be accomplished. Further supplies were not moved into the Island and the excess stores were not removed from the Island. Because at the time of Major Wilson's departure the inventory was not completed by this officer and it was not known what specific quantities of items there were on hand to aid in the subsisting of the inhabitants, the relief rate was not adjusted, nor was the question of the resale price to civilians settled.

2. Recommendations arising as a result of this investigation are as follows:

- a. That the rations turned over to A.M.C. be:
 - (1) Issued free to those on relief;
 - (2) Arbitrarily sold at a price within the reach of those on relief; or,
 - (3) Sold by A.M.C. at a price within the reach of those on relief after adjusting with the Army the price differential between Army price and necessary price to civilians from proceeds from money made by A.M.C. from the sale of captured enemy materials, or other earnings.
- b. That A.M.C. import into the Island sufficient food to feed a minimum diet of 70-75 grams of protein and 90-120 grams of fat per day to about 1700 people.
- c. That the approximately 35 tons of rations remaining on the Island not turned over to A.M.C. be returned to Army stocks.
- d. That the 40,000 pounds of milk, evaporated, turned over be sold to the populace on the open market.
- e. That the incident of the sale of American Army Rations to individual civilians as indicated in Section II, paragraph A, sub-paragraph 1, be brought to the attention of Allied Inspector General's Department.
- f. That the rations issued to British personnel in the past 8 months be recaptured by means of R/T on a strength basis if records can be found showing the number of British personnel who have been stationed on the Island.
- g. That, when the refrigerator on the Island is repaired, Allied troops be supplied with fresh meat and vegetables on a weekly basis on the same scale that troops in Base Sections are fed. This to be in addition to the "5-4-1" now issued them.
- h. That British troops on the Island be fed Omepe Rations likewise supplemented by fresh items.

For the Quartermaster:

DANIEL D. WIGGLES
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