

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

ACC

10000/109/1967

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

09/1967

61 VIA MEDINA
APR., MAY 1944

EstO/Ma-15

1st Ind.

JJA/jmv

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION, APO 394. 18 May 1944.

TO: Commanding Officer, 2675th Regt., APO 394.

1. The use of the Vesuvius Hotel for housing the men of Headquarters Company is disapproved for several reasons.

2. One of the reasons for disapproval is the report of PBS Engineer, Chief Consturction Branch (copy attached). The recommendations in paragraph 2 of the attached report are being carried out under the supervision of the Headquarters Commandant, ACC.

JOHN J. ALBRIGHT,
Colonel, Infantry,
Establishment Officer.

Incls: Basic ltr.
PBS Report (copy)

U.S. CONFIDENTIAL Equals British CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
2675TH REGIMENT
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
(PROVISIONAL)
APO 394

CRP/pf

File: 620.

10 May 1944

SUBJECT: Headquarters Company Billet.

TO : The Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission, APO 394,
U.S. Army.

1. At 3:45 P.M., 9th of May, 1944, it was reported to me by Lt Colonel Laboon of the Public Works Sub-Commission that the billet occupied by the Headquarters Company of the Regiment, location 61 Via Medina, is not suitable to house the number of men now in it. From this report I ascertained the following information:

a. The building is nearly two hundred (200) years old, constructed in a typical Neapolitan manner with thick stone exterior and interior walls of soft rock.

b. The building was badly shaken in the August, 1943 bombings when the entire block in back of it was destroyed. The arches over the stairs are all cracked.

c. The day room now located on the second piano shows a considerable vibration when two or more men walk on it.

2. The report clearly indicated to me that large groups of men cannot be housed under the United States Building Laws and in the opinion of the reporting officer, there are other buildings more suitable for this purpose and where the danger to the personnel would be greatly lessened.

3. It has been recommended and concurred in by me that the Vesuvius Hotel, now held by an ACC requisition, be made available at once to house the men of Headquarters Company.

C. M. PARKIN
Colonel, Infantry 1809
Commanding

U.S. CONFIDENTIAL Equals British CONFIDENTIAL

seen RRR

Col. Bowman

Recd 141030 May

4/396

ENGINEER SERVICE
PENINSULAR BASE SECTION
A. P. O. 782

EPS/bp

12 May 1944

SUBJECT: Report on Survey of Building #61 Via Medina

TO : Colonel Bowman, A.C.C. Room No. 50, Provincia Building

1. In compliance with request of Colonel Bowman, A.C.C., survey of premises was made 11 May 1944 and the following observations and recommendations pertain:

a. Building is wall bearing, five storey structure of uncertain age, possibly 75 to 100 years. Floor construction (where visible) is typical log beams covered with split saplings supporting concrete fill and tile finish floors.

b. State of preservation is comparatively good except that nearby bomb hits have caused minor damage, broken glass and demolition of some curtain partitions, apparently from blast.

c. Roof structure is frame, pitched, tile covered. Numerous leaks have been reported which tend to loosen concrete fill above top floor ceiling making occupancy of this floor hazardous on account of falling fragments.

d. Owing to type of construction, floor slabs in larger rooms are resilient and develop considerable vibration due to passing vehicles etc. This condition is typical of many Naples buildings and although alarming at times, is not considered critical providing such areas are not used for gathering of personnel beyond the ordinary sleeping accommodations.

2. In view of the above, and without entering into extensive repair and reinforcing, it is recommended that:

a. Top floor be evacuated of personnel.

b. No room above first floor be used for recreation or gathering of personnel other than living accommodations.

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c. All loose or hanging material, and thin tile curtain partitions that are broken or loose (including top floor) be removed.

3. Should work mentioned in paragraph 2 be carried out, it is considered that the building is reasonably secure against normal abuse.

For the Engineer Officer:

E. P. Streck

E. P. STRECK,
Lt. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Chief, Construction Branch

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

11 May 44

M E M O R A N D U M

At present there are approximately 350 EMs sleeping at 61 Via Medina. In addition to this, there are 140 British ORs. It is suggested that by removing the British Sergeants' Mess from 31 Via de Pretis to 63 Via Medina and taking over the 2nd floor at 31 Via de Pretis, all British ORs at present sleeping at 61 Via Medina could be removed to 31 Via de Pretis. This would leave 61 Via Medina available for the American Detachment to spread themselves over the building and thus reduce the weight in any particular room. The British Detachment would maintain office, cooking and feeding facilities at 61 Via Medina. Action has been taken in regard to the second-last paragraph of the report from Public Works & Utilities Sub-Commission on this building.

RHR
R. H. R.
Hq Comdt.

1886

61 Via Medina
File

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

11 May 44

HQC/10 *file*

SUBJECT: Billet - 61 Via Medina.

TO : O.C., British Detachment
CO, Hq Det (A).

In accordance with our conversation, this date, the following is extracted from report submitted by Public Works & Utilities Sub-Commission on the condition of the billet at 61 Via Medina;

"14. To sum up;

"It is not recommended that the present day room be used under any circumstances for the assembly of a large number of men.

"It is recommended that headquarters company seek a more desirable billet where its personnel would not be exposed to the unnecessary risk of a building collapsing during a raid or a floor failing due to overcrowding.

"If continued use of the building is necessary the air raid shelter should not be used for any purpose other than that for which it is built, its approaches should be kept clear, its emergency lighting equipment regularly inspected to insure proper functioning when needed, lights should be kept in all sockets.

"The emergency stairs should be reconstructed, a baffle wall placed in front of the exit and in front of door at civilian store room. All pipes must be supported and arches braced in corridors, and in annex to east."

RHR
R. H. ROBERTSON
Hq. Commandant.

Lt.Col.

1835

Col Bowman to see Ed Griffiths

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

8 May 44

HQC/10

SUBJECT: Billeting.

TO : Col. J. J. Albright, Establishments Officer.
Hq, ACC, APO 394.

1. Reference attached report, the two Company Commanders and myself have agreed that we should vacate 61 Via Medina, except the ground floor.

2. Enquiries, with the cooperation of Public Works and the Billeting Officer, are on foot in regard to a large building opposite 61 Via Medina, which at present houses several offices. These are small independent organizations and could be housed elsewhere (reported to be 100 persons).

3. If procured, this would allow the British Detachment to use the new building and hand over 31 Via De Pretis to the U. S. Detachment.

4. The ground floor at 61 Via Medina would be useful for offices and stores.

R. H. Robertson Lt. Col.
R. H. ROBERTSON
Hq. Commandant.

Hold for Lt Guarino's
report 1884

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Col. Albright. ()

Col. Jenny left this before departing for Sicily. He himself has not made an inspection of the bldg. He suggested that you take the matter up with Col. Rhodes after which time, if deemed advisable, he will submit an official report.

Epl. Vera

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission
APO 394

WHH/lp

*Col. Albright
Pls. return to me
4/15/44*

3 May 1944

Subject: Headquarters Company Billet. 61 Via Medina.
To : Lt-Col. Laboon.

1. On May 2, with Sergeant Natale, I inspected the billet at 61 Via Medina. I confirm the original opinion, that is, that the billet should not be used to house too many men above the 1st Piano.

2. This building is reputed to be nearly 200 years old. It is constructed in the typical Napolitan manner: thick stone exterior and interior walls of soft rock, the floors are built in panels with beams across the third points, each panel is then closed by round timbers, the interstices filled with a natural cement plaster on which the tile floor is placed.

3. The building was shaken badly in the August 1943 bombings when the entire block in back of it was destroyed. The arches over the stairs are all cracked, however there does not appear to be any movement in the walls.

4. The day room is now located on the second piano and shows a considerable vibration when 2 or more men walk across it.

5. Permission is sought to use this room for entertainments when there will probably be more than 75 men therein. Under present condition, this cannot be done.

6. The building was constructed for residential purposes, it has high (about 16') ceilings, under which is a false ceiling of fabric. To make it possible to use the room in question would necessitate the bracing of the floor by a line of columns: at least 6" square on 4 foot centers down to the exterior 1st floor wall. This would traverse a store room now used by the British for clothing storage and practically make it into 2 small rooms.

7. Even with bracing, I do not think we should permit the assembly of large bodies of men in rooms which would be condemned under US Building laws. There certainly could be found other buildings more

adaptable for the purposes desired where the danger to personnel would be less.

8. The air raid shelter was inspected and the following conditions noted: The stair landing was used for storage of empty baskets and boxes, the emergency stair exit has fallen down and is unusable, cars were parked in the motor pool against the exterior exit door so that it could not be used had the stairs been in place.

9. The recovero is a series of small rooms interconnected and braced with columns of stone on approximately 4' centers. The rooms are not of adequate size for the number of people using it so on the last raid the pipe gallery, corridor and a storage room was used for the overflow.

10. The use of the pipe gallery necessitates the construction of a support for the piping and the bracing of the center of the arch. The use of the storage room will require bracing of the ceiling with columns and the clearing and orderly arrangement of the items stored therein.

11. Under the courtyard there is a room now used for storage of civilian property, the entrance to which is from the recovero. There is no adequate protection from the concussion of a bomb hitting this space. The door is padlocked, it swings in toward the recovero. A stone baffle wall should be built in front of this doorway.

12. The space in front of the boilers should not be used by personnel at any time.

13. A set of rules for use of the recovero during air raids should be adopted. Smoking should not be permitted as there is no means of getting a change of air into the crowded space. The normal use of the oxygen content is too great to permit smoking. Some relief from this condition could be obtained by changing the escape exit to permit it to remain open during raids. This would require a baffle wall 4 feet south of present door.

14 To sum up:

It is not recommended that the present day room be used under any circumstances for the assembly of a large number of men.

It is recommended that headquarters company seek a more desirable billet where its personnel would not be exposed to the unnecessary risk of a building collapsing during a raid or a floor failing due to overcrowding.

If continued use of the building is necessary the air raid shelter should not be used for any purpose other than that for which it is built, its approaches should be kept clear, its emergency lightning equipment regularly inspected to insure proper functioning when needed, lights should be kept in all sockets.

The emergency stairs should be reconstructed, a baffle wall placed in front of the exit and in front of door at civilian store room. All pipes must be supported and arches braced in corridors, and in annex to east.

*Maj. W.A. Hitchcock
by JH*

*Approved 5/3/44
John F. Halson
Lt. Col. CMP.*

COMMANDANT
FILE 715.8/10
5 MAY 1944
SEPM
CM
ASST
CG

1831

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY
2675TH REGIMENT
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
(PROVISIONAL)
APO 394

1412
1 - MAY Recd *OTZ*
Rev

JRR/gi
28 April 1944

SUBJECT: Headquarters Company Billet

TO : Director, Public Works and Utilities, Allied Control Commission.

THROUGH: Commanding Officer, 2675th Regiment, Allied Control Commission,
(Provisional), APO 394, U. S. Army.

1. It is believed that the floor of the Day Room of Headquarters Company Billet, located at 61 Via Medina, is at present, unsafe for groups of men. It is desired that entertainment programs for the enlisted personnel of this company be held in this room. These programs have not been held to date, because of the apparent insecurity of the floor.

2. Request that this room be investigated, and if possible, strengthened to permit reasonable sized groups to meet.

3. It is further requested that the Air-Raid Shelter in the basement of this building also be checked with a view to possible bracing.

James R. Reed
JAMES R. REED,
Captain, Infantry,
Commanding.

620.

(28 Apr 44)

1st Ind.

MKG/pf

HEADQUARTERS, 2675TH REGT, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION, (PROV), APO 394,
U. S. Army, 1 May 1944.

TO: Director, Public Works and Utilities, Allied Control Commission,
APO 394, U. S. Army.

MKG
M. K. G.

1830

By Col Chaboon
To review and advise
as to what should be
done *May 2/5*

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY
2675TH REGIMENT
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
(PROVISIONAL)
APO 394

JRR/aj
28 April 1944

SUBJECT: Headquarters Company Billet

TO : Director, Public Works and Utilities, Allied Control Commission.

THROUGH: Commanding Officer, 2675th Regiment, Allied Control Commission,
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JAMES R. REED,
Captain, Infantry,
Commanding.

620.

(28 Apr 44)

1st Ind.

MKG/pf

HEADQUARTERS, 2675TH REGT, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION, (PROV), APO 394,
U. S. Army, 1 May 1944.

TO: Director, Public Works and Utilities, Allied Control Commission,
APO 394, U. S. Army.

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M. K. G.

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