

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785-016

ACC - Italy

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LND File No. 3. II - Blackouts
March - April 1944

7pp.

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LnD File # 3.11

BLACKOUTS

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Liaison Division
APO 394

25 April 1944

SUBJECT: Violations of Cir. 26, Hq. PBS, 30 Nov. 1943, and
Sec. 1, Cir. 28, Hq. PBS, 3 Dec. 1943.

TO : Secretary General Staff, PBS.

1. This will confirm my remarks during our phone conversation this morning.
2. The attached statements have been selected for submission to you, merely because the officers who made them have happened to be in close contact with a variety of aspects of the situation. Everything in them is confirmed from numerous other sources, and I have no doubt that Col. Meyer has received many other complaints this morning.
3. My own billet is within a few hundred yards of the location in question, and I have observed similar infractions on other occasions. The situation with respect to lighting at this club itself has, however, become much more aggravated since the recent opening of the outdoor terrace.
4. During the most recent alert, one of a nearby gun crew, said to one of the officers at my villa "My God, Captain, can't I turn this (anti-aircraft) gun on that place, and get those lights out!" It is my considered judgment that it is quite possible that a gunner may in the heat of exasperation do exactly that if the condition continues.
5. There have on earlier occasions been several near-riots by exasperated and endangered military residents of the vicinity, and a number of random rifle and revolver pot-shots at cars passing with glowing headlights during the height of the barrage.
6. In my opinion the matter is a very serious one, with potentialities for disaster and scandal of a very serious nature.

ALFRED C. NORMAN,
Lt. Col.,
Chief, Liaison Division,
Allied Control Commission

AJB/ao

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary General
APO 394

25 April 1944

TO: Lt. Col. Bowman.

SUBJECT: Vehicle Lights During Red Alert.

Reference: PBS Daily Bulletin 71 dated 11 March.

The following is confirmation of the discussion held with you this morning on the above subject.

For some weeks past, there has been considerable laxity in the observance of the instructions both in the premises of the Allied Officers Club and by the cars of visitors.

On the night of 24 April we were walking in via Stasio at 2215 hours. The gunfire had practically stopped but the "All Clear" had not been sounded. We remarked on the amount of light in the club and also on the number of cars whose headlamps were playing. We were stopped by a sentry from the neighbouring gun-site, who asked if we could be of any help in enforcing observance of the regulations. The sentry added that the position was particularly serious from the gunners' point of view because

(1) The car-lights illuminated the gun site, thus facilitating observation from the air, and

(2) The gun crews were periodically dazzled by the moving lights and their efficiency thus impaired.

We went to the entrance of the club and interviewed a British M.P., who also expressed concern over the position, but it was clear that in view of the number of cars moving about, it was quite impossible for him to enforce blackout.

It should be noted that there are frequently 150 or more cars parked in the vicinity of the club; this large number and the noise made by vociferous visitors and by the several engines being raced in neutral gear, add immeasurably to the M.P.'s difficulties in shouting instructions to offenders.

About 2230 we visited the gun-site; our purpose was to inform the battery commander of what we had seen and to inform him that we proposed making a report. The corporal of the guard informed us that his O.C. was still busy on operational work, and we felt that in the circumstances it would be inexpedient to trouble him.

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This HCO corroborated the remarks previously made by the sentry, and said that he himself was making strong representations to the battery commander. He added that he had been obliged to order the sentry away from his post on two occasions in order to try to get lights extinguished.

Similar disregard of regulations has been observed on at least two other occasions, but the heavy activity of last night made the situation particularly serious.

A. J. COLLINS
Captain, RE
Asst Sec'y General

A. H. STREET, D.S.O.
Captain, G. L.
Transportation Sub-Commission

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

12 March 1944

DAILY BULLETIN)

NUMBER 46)

OFFICIAL

1. NIGHT STAFF DUTY OFFICER:

a. The Headquarters Night Staff Duty Officer will be Capt. C. P. BENATTI and can be located in Room 21, Provincia Building telephone - Vapor 9.

b. Night Staff Duty Clerk Pvt Padilla will eat supper at 1630 hours and report to the Duty Officer at 1730 hours. (Adj)

2. VEHICLE LIGHTS DURING RED ALERT:

The following is extracted from PBS Daily Bulletin No. 71, dated 11 March 44, for the information, guidance, and compliance of all concerned:

a. Violations of Cir 26, Hq PBS, 30 Nov 43, and Sec. 1, Cir. 28, Hq PBS, 3 Dec 1943, continue. These circulars require that all vehicle headlights, except military and civilian defense vehicles on urgent operational duty, be extinguished during a red alert. Concern has been expressed by Naval authorities over the silhouetting of vessels against the shore by shining headlights during red alerts. The Military Police are instructed to take vigorous action. Violators of this order will be summarily arrested. All operators claiming exemption will be followed to destination and required to give name, organization and emergency nature of official business. Blackout regulations will be strictly observed.

b. It should not be necessary to remind all personnel that we are at war, in a theater of operations, with a cunning, determined enemy but a few miles away. Further warnings concerning violation of headlight regulations need not be expected. (Adj)

By command of Lieut General MCFARLANE:

NICHOLAS PLOMBINO
WO (Jg), USA
Asst Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

Nicholas Plombino
NICHOLAS PLOMBINO
WO (Jg), USA
Asst Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION:

Daily Bulletin #46, dtd 12 March 44, (cont'd)

U N O F F I C I A L

1. AMERICAN RED CROSS (OFFICERS):

Sunday night, at 2000 hours, James Minisie, Liaison Officer, PWS ACC, former European correspondent, New York Herald Tribune, will speak on Psychological Warfare.

2. AMERICAN RED CROSS THEATRE (AUGUSTEO):

Today, Sunday, Movie at 1530 and 1930 hours, "JACK LONDON", with Michael O'Shea.

3. BASKETBALL:

A basketball team representing the 2675th Regt played its initial game in a tournament being staged by PWS yesterday. The team composed of men from Headquarters Company playing under difficult conditions, wearing G.I. shoes, and playing on a concrete indoor court, won a well played game by a score of 26 to 18. For security reasons the regimental name is not used and our boys are known as the "Sharks". We defeated an air transport unit known as the "Whales" in the game yesterday.

The team has drawn a bye in the second round of the tournament and is scheduled to play its third round game Wednesday, 15th of March, at 1300 hours at the Politeama theatre, VIA MONTE DI DIO. The following men who make up the regimental team are to be congratulated and have the best wishes of the Regiment for their continued success in the PWS tournament:

T/5 W. Callahan
Pvt V. Di Bari,
Pvt D. Berghese
Pvt H. Galli
Pvt S. Piai
Pvt J. Rossi
S/Sgt F. Secorra

M.P.

Last night, 24 April 1942, during the air-raid, we were in a position to note that the lights at the Allied Officers' Club (Orange Club) failed to observe the black-out, which made it necessary for personnel to bring the matter to their attention. This was happened previously in the club itself, but more particularly the lights from the cars, which attempt to leave before the "all-clear" signal is sounded. We feel that this utter disregard of the regulations, covering air-raids, is a menace and constitutes an additional danger to property and military personnel.

JAMES L. KINCAID LT COL AUS

JOHN A. WARNER LT COL AUS

GUY WARREN LT COL AUS

JOHN N. LUMMUS CAPT AUS 40

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