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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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Vesuvius Reports

Mar 44 - May 44

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ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PROVINCE OF NAPLES
MUNICIPIO

0679

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

28 March 1944

SUBJECT : Report of Lt Col James L. Kincaid, AUS, Provincial
Commissioner ACC on the Vesuvius Emergency operation
20 March 1944 to 25 March 1944. Supplemental by
Major Gantor.

1. Abnormal condition of Mt. Vesuvius were first observed on Saturday 10th March 1944. They grew progressively worse until Tuesday 21st March, when I contacted Lt. Col. Poletti, Regional Commissioner, in view of the fact that Lt Col Kincaid, Provincial Commissioner, was already intensively engaged with the problems of the Communes of San Sebastiano and Torcola. After inspection and consultation with Prof. Imbò, Director of the Vesuvius Observatory, it was agreed that the Communes of Portici, Resina, Torre del Greco, Torre Annunziata and Pompei were in grave danger of being affected by lava flow. Streams of lava were observed to be flowing in the General direction of these Communes, affecting the welfare of about 250,000 persons, exclusive of those in the smaller places and fractions of Communes. It was decided that immediate steps must be taken for preparation to evacuate where necessary and a conference was held with Lt Col Moore, British C.O. of C.F.U. at Torre del Greco. I requested that trucks be made available as well as Officers and enlisted personnel to supervise evacuation and attendant activities throughout the area aforementioned. Through the efforts of Lt Col Poletti in contact with 57 Area, about 300 trucks were made available, and further through his contact with ACC a number of Officers, Enlisted Men and Other Ranks were put at my disposal.

2. On Wednesday, 22 March, at about 4 P.M. those assigned to this special detail began to arrive and continued to arrive until 0100 hours of Thursday, 23rd March, when there were a total of 77 Officers, Enlisted Men and Other Ranks at Villa Matrazzo, Resina. They had been given an evening meal and breakfast and had been billeted at the Villa for the night. After breakfast, they were

gressively worse until Tuesday 21st March, when I contacted Lt. Col. Poletti, Regional Commissioner, in view of the fact that Lt Col Vincigu, Provincial Commissioner, was already intensively engaged with the problems of the Comunes of San Sebastiano and Cercola. After inspection and consultation with Prof. Imbò, Director of the Vesuvius Observatory, it was agreed that the Comunes of Portici, Positano, Torre del Greco, Torre Annunziata and Pompei were in grave danger of being affected by lava flow. Streams of lava were observed to be flowing in the general direction of these Comunes, affecting the welfare of about 250,000 persons, exclusive of those in the smaller places and fractions of Comunes. It was decided that immediate steps must be taken for preparation to evacuate where necessary and a conference was held with Lt Col Moore, British C.O. of C.F.U. at Torre del Greco. I requested that trucks be made available as well as Officers and enlisted personnel to supervise evacuation and attendant activities throughout the area aforementioned. Through the efforts of Lt Col Poletti in contact with J7 Area, about 300 trucks were made available, and further through his contact with ACC a number of Officers, Enlisted Men and Other Ranks were put at my disposal.

2. On Wednesday, 22 March, at about 4 P.M. those assigned to this special detail began to arrive and continued to arrive until 0100 hours of Thursday, 23rd March, when there were a total of 77 Officers, Enlisted Men and Other Ranks at Villa Matrazzo, Resina. They had been given an evening meal and breakfast and had been billeted at the Villa for the night. After breakfast, they were

gathered together in the Salon and given instructions as to their duties. They were distributed as follows:- 3 Officers and 2 E.M. to Portici; 5 Officers and 1 E.M. to Resina; 5 Officers and 10 E.M. to Torre del Greco; 4 Officers and 8 E.M. to Torre Annunziata; 1 Officer and 1 E.M. to Boscotrecase, a fraction of Torre Annunziata; 2 Officers and 2 E.M. to Terzigno; 1 Officer and 2 E.M. to Poggioreale; 2 Officers and 3 E.M. to Pompei; 3 Officers and 2 E.M. to Nocera; 1 Officer and 1 Officer and 1 E.M. to Scafati; 11 Officers and 5 E.M. to Castellammare, which was established as a Reception Center for possible evacuees.

3. On the afternoon of Wednesday, 22nd March, the lava flow in the direction of Torre del Greco and specifically in the fraction of Camaldoli assumed such proportions that it was deemed advisable to evacuate the residents of that fraction and so 256 persons were taken by truck to Castellammare. Conditions were such that about 250 more persons saw fit to go under their power to the same place and during the following day about 250 additional people came there by their own conveyances. This has been the only evacuation effected to date and it is presently impossible to return these people to their homes, as at this very moment there is a stream of smoke, carrying cinders and dust, traveling over this same section and which has continued for the past three days. On Friday, 24th March, at about 1100 hours, the lava flow had reached a point about five feet from a precipitous drop just above the evacuated territory and by some strange freak apparently had frozen at that point.

4. While no Comune in this area of the Bay Road and to the South has been hit by lava flow, the cinder and dust damage has been unusually great in Terzigno and Poggioreale where an average depth of three to five feet in numerous points has been observed. A serious problem has been created in these Comuni, requiring Emergency food supplies, animal forage and expert agricultural counsel. About 20,000 persons are involved and their predicament is receiving our close attention. 57th Area

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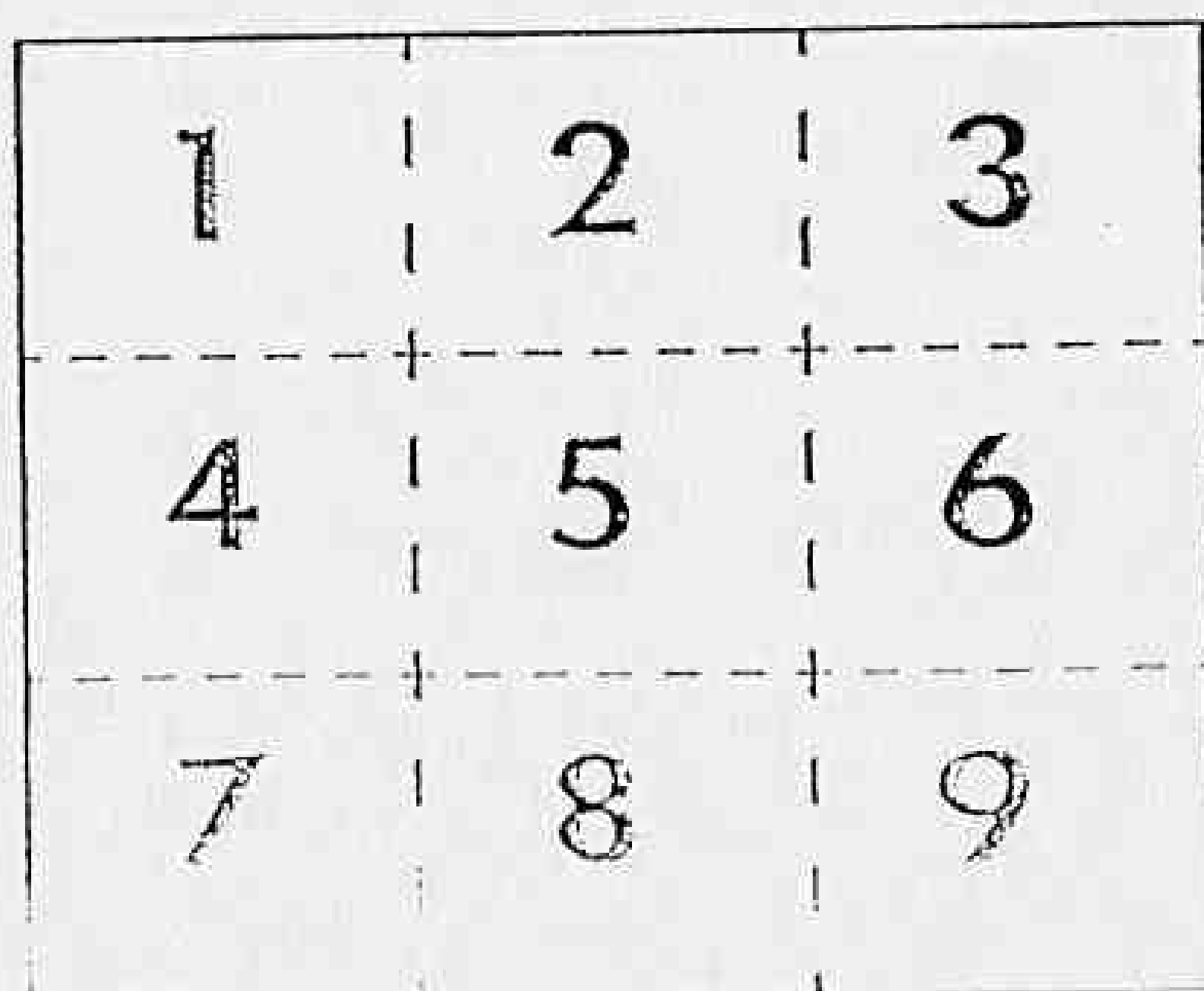
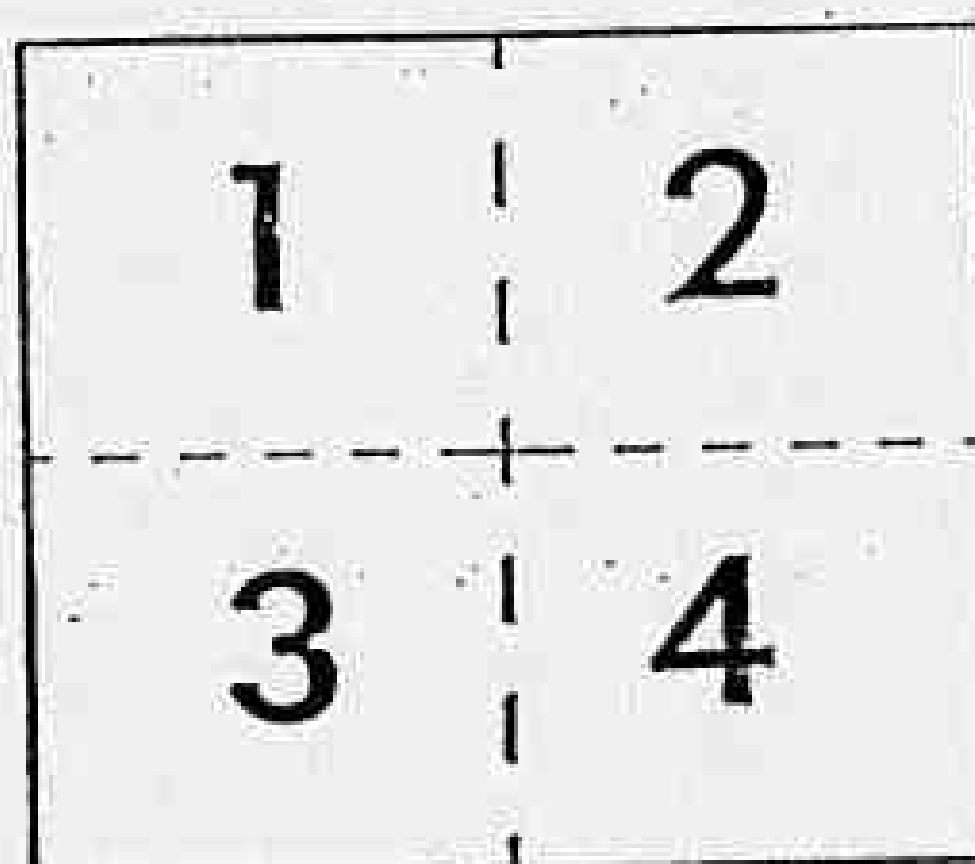
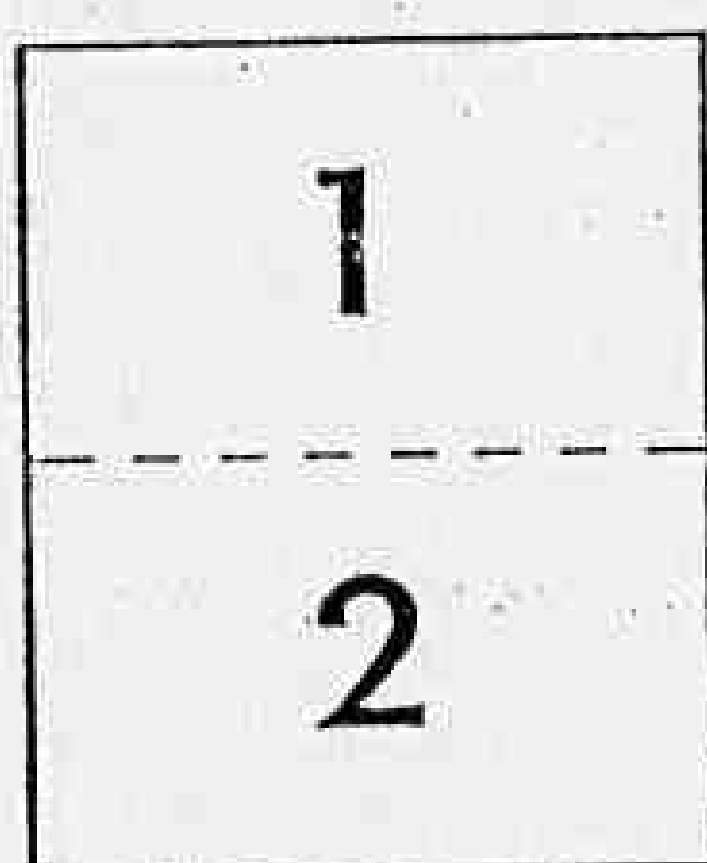
= 3 =

has provided 30 trucks for cleaning the streets in addition to the work done by Army Bulldozers and Scrapers on roads required for the Military.

5. As the emergency abated apparently, and on advice of the Director of the Vesuvius observatory, 20 officers and E.M. were released from this special detail on Monday, 27th March, and after conference with Lt. Col. Kincaid and Lt. Col. Lord Forester release of all personnel was effected on Tuesday, 28th March, with the exception of the following: 3 Officers and 3 E.M. at Terzigno; 2 Officers and 3 E.M. at Foggionarino; 2 Officers and 1 E.M. at Castellammare, the last to carry on until the return of the evacuees to their homes. The first two Comunes named will, in my opinion, require special food and problem attention for at least another week, if not longer.

MAPS AND CHARTS TOO LARGE TO FILM
ON ONE EXPOSURE ARE FILMED CLOCKWISE
BEGINNING IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER,
LEFT TO RIGHT, AND TOP TO BOTTOM.

SEE DIAGRAMS BELOW.



MAPS FILMED ON
35MM ROLL

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
AUG 39.

19A

21/5/1945

22nd May 1945

Thank you for your letter G.A.2/39/65 of 2nd April.
I am glad to inform you that a specimen of the new Vennian
lava has been obtained from Professor Inge of the Royal Vennian
Observatory and has been despatched as requested.

5015

Major General L.H. Taylor, D.S.O., R.C.,
The War Office (G.A.2),
Hotel Victoria,
Northumberland Avenue,
LONDON, W.C.2.

To - G.M. PART, Esq.
Department of Mineralogy and Petrology,
Downing Street,
Cambridge.

From:- Brigadier M.S. LUSH,
Allied Control Commission,
C.M.F.

Reference:- Lt. Col. L.M. TAYLOR's request,
(War Office CA 2/BM/8543 Apr. refer.)

5014

From: Lieut.-Colonel L.M. Taylor, P.S.O., M.C.



The War Office, (C.A.2),
Hotel Victoria,
Northumberland Avenue,
London, W.C.2.

C.A.2/BW/85

3rd April, 1944.

Dear Brigadier,

We have been requested by the Department of Mineralogy and Petrology of Cambridge to obtain specimens of the new Vesuvius lava.

I should be very grateful if arrangements could be made to comply with this seemingly trivial request as I understand that the specimens would be of great value to the Department in their research work.

The address to which they should be sent is :-

A.N. Part, Esq.,
Department of Mineralogy & Petrology,
Downing Street,
Cambridge.

Yours sincerely
L. M. Taylor

5013

Inf. Sec.

Brigadier M.S. Rush, C.B.E., M.C.,
Executive Commissioner,
Regional Control & Military Government Section,
Main H.Q.,
Allied Control Commission,
A.P.O. 594.

Can you obtain

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

BEST COPY POSSIBLE

UNITED STATES
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INFORMATION DIVISION

19 AUG 1944
2197/INFO

To : [redacted]
Subject: [redacted]

1. A earthquake-like movement similar to the one following the
bombing said on April 14 was experienced here last night at 2204.
It lasted for several seconds and was even more violent than the
one before. The building at 61 Via delle Alpi and other stayed,
and only on.

2. The office is closing.

John V. Hinckley

JOHN V. HINCKLEY
Major, U.S.A.
Director,
Information Division

Approved for duty use, Special Agent
Asst. Director, U.S. Branch
Sgt. [redacted], [redacted]
Special Agent, [redacted]

5012

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

50111 (123)

13 May 1964

SECRET

1. UNITED STATES ARMY OFFICERS:

a. LT J. J. BACCA, USMA and can be located in Room 41, Provosts Building, telephone 1234. The Night Staff Duty Clerk LTC Rivas will report to the Chief Clerk at 1200 hours.

2. BOARD OF OFFICERS:

The purpose of making recommendations for promotion and of determining exemptions of will apply before 2400 hours, 24 May. Any applications which are received after 2400 hours, 24 May, will be held until the next meeting of the board, the date to be announced later.

3. TRAINING:

The amount of training by troops is permitted but the following regulations will be strictly enforced:

- a. The amount will be only by the road leading to the observatory and from that point by recommended trucks.
- b. All parties accompanying will take an official guide. These guides will be badge with their official number. Official guides are supervised by COM and the other guides are private.
- c. The amount will not be more during or immediately after rain, nor when a strong wind is blowing.
- d. The official guide is authorized to make a charge of 20 line per head and this fee will be strictly adhered to.
- e. A chair is stretched across the road leading to the observatory and the life at this point is authorized to collect 5 line from each service vehicle passing the road. This fee is used for the upkeep of the private road and no charge is made for parking. (Excluded later, 24 May 44.)

4. OFFICE REQUIREMENTS:

All requests for office furniture, repairs, etc. will be made in writing to the Headquarters Commandant, giving full particulars of items required.

Verbal requests will not be made to Office Space Staff, unless of a very urgent nature, and then such requests will only be made to the Office Clerk (Sat. 50111)

12

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and their corresponding page numbers. The names are listed in a single column, and the page numbers are listed in a single column to the right of the names. The names are: "The first part of the document is a list of names and their corresponding page numbers."

anyone who wants to know more about the book, please contact the publisher at info@springer.com.

We have been informed that it is being contemplated to make two study of this problem to include at the Jiv, Mr. Training Center by A.C. (1990) and

Stefan

Daily Bulletin 5117, this HQ, 1218 18 May 44, continue.

By command of Lieutenant General MARMON M. LANGE:

NICHOLAS FLOMING
TWO, 201
Asst Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

Nicholas Floming

NICHOLAS FLOMING
TWO, 201
Asst Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION:

UNCLASSIFIED

1. INFO:

Any person having any knowledge of a building roll and val pack, marked
Lt. Frank H. Spitzer, 1-11110269, lost at the Information Desk, Provisional Building, on
17 May 44, will kindly check with the Headquarters Commandant's Office. (HQ Comdt)

2. INFO: MISS DAVIS:

an invitation has been received from the Headquarters, West
at Base Headquarters to attend their dance in the Palace of Justice on Wednesday,
24th May 1944, from 10:00 hrs to 11:00 hrs. Will any officer of this Headquarters be
willing to attend please provide a ticket from the Headquarters Commandant (20 tickets
are available). (HQ Comdt)

3. AMERICAN RED CROSS THEATRE (AMERICAN):

At 12:30, 13:00, 17:30 and 19:00 hours, MATHEW IN BROOKLYN with Ed Skelton.
Today, Thursday, 18 May 1944, Movie

W.F.

75A

Information Branch

(Handwritten: HUNDRED)

VESUVIUS GUIDES

I have been up Vesuvius 5 or 6 times now and have come to know the official guides in consequence. On the whole, I have found them an intelligent body of men who have a knowledge of volcanic phenomena beyond their duties.

I was up again last Sunday, 14 MAY 44, and talking to them, they were complaining that numbers of Allied Officers were refusing to take guides and asking how they were supposed to earn a livelihood if they were not employed.

There is a large PBS notice stating that guides must be taken beyond the point where they are now stationed and I would like to suggest that an additional notice be placed there by PBS stating that whether a guide be taken or not, 20 lire per person must be paid to the guides, this being I understand, the authorised charge for a guide.

I quite agree that they must have made a lot of money when the railway and funicular were running, but now these are out of commission, the numbers of "tourists" are down to a very small figure and living is expensive for civilians in Italy these days.

If you consider it worth while, I suggest that the attention of PBS be drawn to the above situation.

17 MAY 1944

[Signature]
18 MAY
Capt. RA
Staff Officer Economic Sect

Pass copy to PBS Col IC Adm for information
(Copy to Liaison Offs).

5610 171651B

Personal Note - PBS rules will be strictly enforced although personally I feel more concerned with the war effort than Vesuvius etc!

[Signature]

SUBJECT: Vesuvius

3 District
Tel Ext 18
382 A

11 May 44

"A", 57 Area
59 Area
94 Sub Area

Flag Officer Western ITALY

"A" AAI

CG, PBS

Army Sub-Commission, ACC Main HQ (MIA)---

Allied Control Commission, Region. III

3 Base Area, RAF

Liaison Offr, Army Sub-Commission, c/o

HQ Allied Control Commission, APO 394

List "A"

1. The ascent of VESUVIUS by troops is permitted but the following regulations will be strictly enforced.

2. The ascent will be made only by the road leading to the observatory and from that point by recognised tracks.

3. All parties ascending will take an official guide. These guides wait at the foot of the cone and wear a cap with the word "VESUVIUS" written on it and a badge with their official number. Official guides are supervised by CCPR and no other guides are permitted.

4. The ascent will not be made during or immediately after rain, nor when a strong wind is blowing.

5. The official guide is authorised to make a charge of 20 lire per head and this fee will be strictly adhered to.

6. A notice board will be erected by 57 Area at the point where the guides stand displaying prominently the rate to be paid and the regulations to be obeyed.

7. A chain is stretched across the road leading to the observatory and the attendant at this point is authorised to collect 5 lire from each service vehicle passing up the road. This toll is used for the upkeep of the private road and no charge is admissible for pedestrians.

8. A further notice board will be erected at this point of the road by 57 Area displaying the charge to be levied and stating that this is for the maintenance of the road surface.

59/9
L. J. J.

Col IC Adm

3 Base Area, RAP
 Liaison Officer, Army Sub-Commission, c/o
 HQ Allied Control Commission, APC 594
 List "A"

1. The ascent of VESUVIUS by troops is permitted but the following regulations will be strictly enforced.
2. The ascent will be made only by the road leading to the observatory and from that point by recognised tracks.
3. All parties ascending will take an official guide. These guides wait at the foot of the cone and wear a cap with the word "VESUVIUS" written on it and a badge with their official number. Official guides are supervised by CCR and no other guides are permitted.
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8. A further notice board will be erected at this point of the road by 57 Area displaying the charge to be levied and stating that this is for the maintenance of the road surface.

AKC/RFC

594
[Signature]

Col IC Adm

[Handwritten notes]
 594
 1715
 1715
 1715

[Handwritten note]
 Passed to HQ C-2 for info

CIRCULATION SLIP
(Please pass quickly) Date: 15 MAY 44

From: - WFO - Foreign Division, 500

To:	Initials
Chief Commissioner	
Deputy Chief Commissioner	
V. Sec. Admin. Section	
V. Sec. Economic Section	
Executive Commissioner	
Deputy Executive Commissioner	
Director Political Section	
Security Branch	
Public Relations Officer	<i>Seen</i>
Sub-Commissioner	
Region	

REF: 73 A

FOR: - Information and to turn
up for the nation

RECEIVED

Have you seen this **5008**

JOHN V. HENNEL
Major, M. L.

capt. Cobb report
to Major Kennedy
not included;
~~when~~ all to be
consolidated without
delay after receipt
of Cobb report

WJH

Return again Sublamm

15 MAY 44

WJH

around Ottaviano the dust commenced to show itself but in comparatively small amounts and walls, pens and wheels showed signs of being affected, it is no means covered one wheel crop.

Regarding the trails and vines the local authorities did not reveal either agreement on the subject but regarding one with the other, and from his inspection he considers that there is a very fair chance of the damage being slight in view of the fact that the vines have not yet burst, but one will be able to judge more certainly in a few weeks time.

On his journey towards Palma the depth and severity of the fall increased with extension of damage to around crops accordingly but from Palma onwards right through the Sarno area and across country to J. Giuseppe the pea and lava crops were virtually destroyed and the wheat badly affected. The onions were certainly touched and are not considered to be a total loss.

It did not seem apparent that any quantity of livestock needed immediate removal.

Timidity was much regarding the possibility of plucking affected areas with potatoes and one of the incidents mentioned it would still not be too late, but no definite response was received.

Three samples of lava ash were taken and returned to later.

On 25th March, Capt. Com. J. Maria Teresa Palma - Domicella - Nigliano - Lario - Lario - Nigliano - Lario, don't specify damage or discovery, nor the situation was in the valley the ash has fallen and what the situation was in the Montoro Valley. Ash was encountered up to 2 - 3 inches deep particularly on the mountains beyond Lario, but one crop was not burnt, no ash. In Domicella, beans were touched on farms out, seemed to think they would recover. Coming into the Montoro Valley the general impression was that almost considerable fall of ash had taken place crops were damaged and that effects would be beneficial.

Reports were received on the evening of the 25th that large numbers of livestock were in danger of starvation around J. Giuseppe Vastaviano and Scarnavara, and on Sunday 26th the Provincial Livestock Officer was sent with a Veterinarian and an assistant to Capt. Duval at Fossio Marino to arrange for any necessary removal of stock to areas where they could be fed, except horses and mules which were all required in situ for clearance of goods.

Dr. Scandizzo, the Livestock Officer reported next day that farmers did not wish to remove their animals and that in forage,

... particularly

5007

-2-

particularly when, could be seen the situation would be set. The Assistant remained.

On the 27th, Prof. Giaccione, the second in command of the Commission, submitted a proposal to assist in arranging for the reinstatement of those farmers whose lands were totally destroyed by the lava flows. This was considerably approved by Col. Minicci, S.O.A.O., Naples Province, and the Prof. with an agreement was sent on Wednesday the 28th to Capri for this purpose.

Meanwhile on Sunday, 28th, I myself in a boat north of the Volcano located some straw for collection around the area of the lava and lost instructions for the 31st to have it collected and then we would return to the assistance in feeding the Vesuvian livestock population.

Arrangements were made at the same time for a team to be delivered to Capri, S. Giuseppe Vesuviano and Poggio Marino.

On Tuesday the 29th, through the very difficult co-operation of a Roman Salvage Unit, 16 lorry loads of straw were delivered at S. Giuseppe Vesuviano and arrangements made for the same amount on the 29th and 30th, to be distributed mainly to the Poggio Marino.

POTATOES. Meanwhile, a ship with nearly a 1,000 tons of seed potatoes arrived in Torre Annunziata and the normal protection programme for distribution was altered to allow to be given to allocation for relief feeding in these areas, 200 tons to Nocera (Salerno Province), 100 tons to Soriano and 10 tons to Castellammare and later on the 29th a further 100 tons was issued to Castellammare for the Sorrentine Peninsula.

SALERNO PROVINCE. Daily contact has been obtained with Capt. Stringer of Salerno Province and there the areas most affected with deep ash, can now be fairly well defined as stretching from Naples boundary each side of the main road between Soriano through Nocera to the hills, and on the other side south of Salerno the valley through Nocera - Battipaglia has been heavily covered, and it is reported that fairly large quantities of livestock (said to be 40 cattle on one farm) have died of starvation.

To meet this situation Capt. Stringer sent an Italian Official to Potenza Province and himself contacted the S.O.A.O. there and is arranging for a train load of fodder to be railed down for the relief of animals in the areas affected. The storage I understand is to come from a stock of 500 tons, somewhere North of Melit, on or near the railway.

On 29th March, Major Guy took Prof. Leone to
Torreano - S. Giuseppe Vesuviano and Poggio Marino, where they met
5006

we would catch it for assisting in feeding the Vesuvius livestock population.

At the same time, at the same time, the Vesuvius livestock population is being fed by the Vesuvius livestock population.

On Tuesday, the 25th, through the very helpful co-operation of the Vesuvius livestock population, the Vesuvius livestock population is being fed by the Vesuvius livestock population.

Meanwhile, a ship with nearly 1,000 tons of seed potatoes has arrived in the Amalfi area and the normal projected program for distribution was altered to allow to be given to alleviation for relief resulting in these areas, 200 tons to Nocera (Salerno Province), 100 tons to Sorrento and 10 tons to Positano and later on the 29th a further 100 tons was issued to Castellammare for the Sorrentine Peninsula.

Salerno Province. Daily contact has been obtained with Cap. Stringer of Salerno Province and there the areas most affected with deep ash, can now be fairly well defined as stretching from Naples boundary each side of the main road between Sorrento and the hills, and on the other side of Salerno the valley through which the Vesuvius has been heavily covered, and it is reported that fairly large quantities of livestock (mainly 40 cattle and one sheep) have died or starvation.

To meet this situation Capt. Stringer sent an Italian Cavalry to Potenza Province and finally contacted the S.C.A.C. there and is arranging for a train load of fodder to be trailed down for the relief of animals in the areas affected. The shortage I understand is to come from a stock of 500 tons, somewhere North of Madrid, on or near the railway.

On 29th March, Major Ray took Prof. Leone to Sorrento - S. Giuseppe Vesuviano and Positano, where they met the Sindaco and representatives of farmers, Prof. Leone subsequently addressing higher meetings, impressing on all cultivators to get to work and where humanly possible, plough or dig in the ash into their land and get it back into cultivation as soon as possible.

Information obtained may be summarized as follows:

DAMAGE. (a) Vines and fruit trees are badly damaged in many cases and poor crops may be expected this year, but they are not for the most part killed.

(b) Practically a 100% of the ground crops appeared completely ruined; though in the case of carrots, spinach, and possibly even some onions, if the ash is used away from the plants

.../some

1

Some of the copies may vary slightly.

REFERENCES

(a) Transport. Army lorries are now clearing main roads, but unless main roads can be cleared, horse transport cannot move through the area.

(10) Arrangements for importation of human testicles, sufficient for many months until the land can be put into production (believe this is in hand).

(c) IMPROVED: ANIMAL TESTING STUDIES. ALSO IN HAND.

(c) Sample's contribution to or saved to the nation of land taxation for 2 year, and possibly to some form of State loan to farmers, tree or timber, where needed.

(a) Around Pongmawing there is a large area of land free of vines and trees that might be put quickly into cultivation in a really heavy caterpillar tractor and deep plough could be obtained. Brakings are being investigated in this connection.

E. A. DOUGLAS KENNEDY,
Major,
E. A.,
Regional Agricultural Officer.

Encls: 100x

Trace - Italian Road Map 1/25,000
Sec. of Sheet 19.

DISCUSSION:

(2 copies)

Regional Commissioner
Provincial Commissioner,

Naples Province.
Cast. Stringer, Salerno

Province,
Pool Committee, Local

(a) Serious consideration to be given to the omission of land taxation for a year, and possibly, a one year or state loan to farmers, and a. interest, where needed.

(e) Around Poggioreale there is a large area of land area of vines and trees that might be put quickly into cultivation in a really heavy caterpillar tractor and deep plough could be obtained. Enquiries are being investigated in this connection.

1/1/54
Kennedy

E.A. DOUGLAS KENNEDY,
Major,
S.A.,
Regional Agricultural Officer.

Encls: Appx '1'
Trace - Italian Road Map 1/25,000
Spec. of sheet 19.

DISTRIBUTION:

Regional Commissioner	(2 copies)
Provincial Commissioner,	
Naples Province,	1 copy
Cant Stringer, Salerno	3005
Province,	1 "
Reca Committee, Local	
Resources (Italian) Board	1 "

APPENDIX 'A' to Vesuvius Report - Agricultural Section, dated
31 March, 1944.

CONCLUSION.

1. Failing further eruptions and heavy clouds of ash, the serious damage may be said to be confined by the area as per the attached map tracing.

2. Results of ash analysed are as follows:

Sample.	Location.	Depth of Ash.	Acidity expressed in Hyaro- chloric acid. Milligrams % of material.	
1.	Autostada above Torre del Greco	Light covering	1	
2.	Boscovale (nr Fly)	About 1"	3	
3.	Boscovale di Passanti	Deep	3	
4.	Scarfati-Pagani area.	Deep	2	
5.	Scarfati-Pagani area.	Deep	4	
6.	Ottaviano	Light covering	1	
7.	Palma	Fairly deep	1	

Note: The general degree of acidity of the lava ash is expressed by an acidity equivalent to the p.H. and is therefore in no case high.

The Ministry of Agriculture report confirms that the burning of the growing crops, especially those in flower, is due to the impregnated rain water falling, also ashes can be removed without damage to plants.

From this it is evident that the ash in itself will not be deleterious; except where the covering is so thick that it will be impossible for a long time to plough into the land.

3. Where rain fell on to growing crops or fruit trees in flower these have been very badly burnt, and it may be said that pretty well the whole bean crop in the area marked in the trace can be written-off, also some portion of the early flowering fruit trees, such as cherries, and some apricots and a proportion of onions, linocci and carrots.

Where the ash is not deep, it is believed that the potatoes already planted will grow satisfactorily and in the case of cabbage, lettuce and similar plants, unless they have been destroyed by the impregnated rain water, they can be salvaged if a hoe is

5004

2. Escocoreale (Mr. rly)	About 1"	3
3. Escocoreale di Pascenti	Deep	3
4. Scarlati-Pagan area.	Deep	2
5. Scarlati-Pagan area.	Deep	4
6. Ottaviano	Light covering	1
7. Palma	Fairly deep	1

Note: The general degree of acidity of the lava ash is expressed by an acidity equivalent to the p.H. and is therefore in no case high.

The Ministry of Agriculture report confirms that the burning of the growing crops, especially those in flower, is due to the impregnated rain water falling, also ashes can be removed without damage to plants.

From this it is evident that the ash in itself will not be deleterious; except where the covering is so thick that it will be impossible for a long time to plough into the land.

3. Where rain fell on to growing crops or fruit trees in flower these have been very badly burnt, and it may be said that pretty well the whole seed crop in the area marked in the trace can be written-off, also some portion of the early flowering fruit trees, such as cherries, and some apricots and a proportion of onions, pineapples and carrots.

Where the ash is not deep, it is believed that the potatoes already planted will grow satisfactorily and in the case of cabbage, lettuce and similar plants, unless they have been destroyed by the impregnated rain water, they can be salvaged if a hoe is carefully used.

4. As regards maintaining or livestock in this area, very little of which is pasture in any case, importations of fodder, either green or in the form of hay or straw will be necessary for a considerable time.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

It is recommended that -

1. Prof. Giacomoni's report on the status and circumstances of those farmers permanently displaced by lava flows should be carefully considered and possibly financial assistance given in certain cases, also transport may be needed to convey them to other areas.

.....

-2-

2. That a supply of fodder in the form of straw or hay be arranged for in bulk from Foggia, Matera or Potenza, for the whole area affected. The small supply discovered at and removed from Carinola will only last the Naples Province some a short time.

3. The Army be asked to loan three large caterpillar tractors to cultivate areas of ground deeply covered; one going to Potentino and two to Salerno Province. Engines are being made regarding suitable driving, track and heavy ploughs.

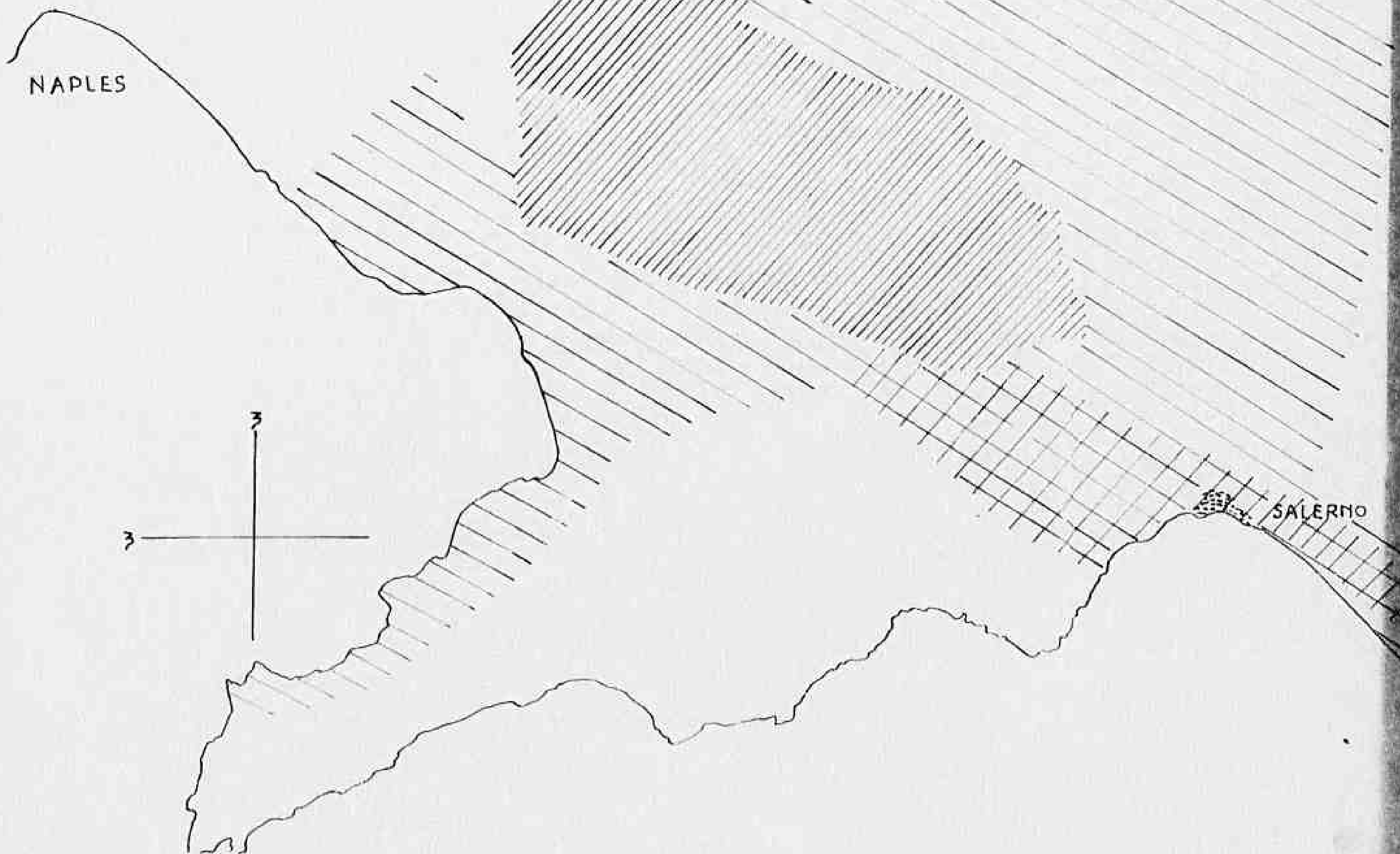
NOTE: Reference 2 above, today; 30th March, I saw the Controller of Merga of S. G. M., Foggia, and he with the approval of 'Q' has released a 1,000 tons of straw fodder in the Foggia area, to be handed to A.O.C. for civil use. He is sending a signal today to No 2 District at Bari, and is A.O.C. Agricultural or similar representative can contact a Major Sutton where the necessary details can be worked out with the Consolato Agrario regarding selling and dispatch to railway, and the A.O.C. representative can inform Naples at which station or stations transport is needed.

Salerno can stock-pile at Ottolenghio, Pontecorvino, Moriga, Anagni and Scatari. The last three places having warehouses and up to now for 1943.

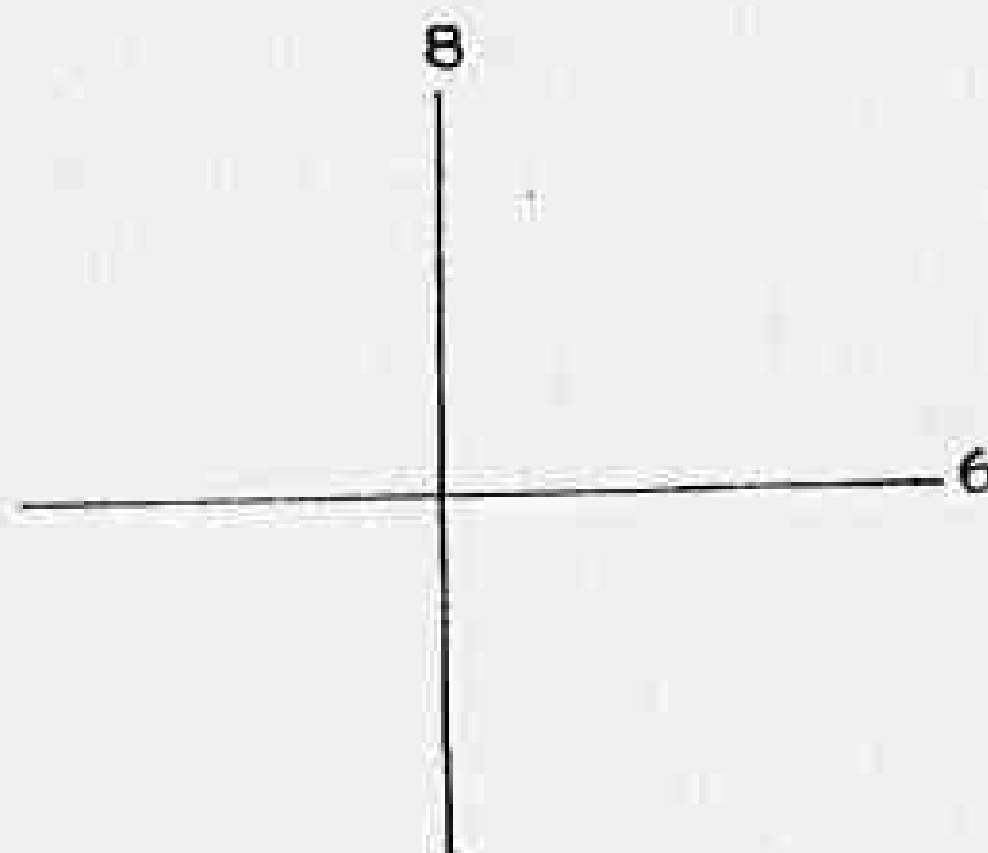
Until reports are received from Dr. Scannizzo of Naples and the Livestock Officer at Salerno, as to numbers of animals needing food, it is not possible to say how long this 1,000 tons would last.

5003

Map 1:200,000 - Section of sheet 19



Section of sheet 19



2005

Legend

 = BAD AREA = LESS BAD = SLIGHT

SALERNO

Notes:

All reports on
this subject should
be in Special
jacket incl.
those received from
Italian officials, Sept
1944; Reg II on
others

WMA
5004

1
HEADQUARTERS,
REGION 3, AIRCRAFT CONTROL COMMISSION.
APO 344, U.S. ARMY.

SUBJECT: Report on Effects Agriculturally 24 March, 1944.
Vesuvius Eruption.

TO : Agriculture Sub-Commission,
A.C.C.

Yesterday, the 23rd, The Deputy Director of Agriculture asked me to arrange for a report to be rendered on the above subject as soon as possible.

It is obviously impossible to submit anything in the nature of a complete report until some considerable time after the eruption has ended, but I feel that your requirements will be more nearly met if we render a series of interim reports in a sort of diary form, and unless you disagree this is the procedure I intend to carry out.

The eruption started on Sunday evening, and ash started falling in the area Pompei-Capri on Tuesday evening.

On Wednesday, 22nd, Major White undertook a tour of the area North of the mountain centred on Cercola (which was then being evacuated of its inhabitants), to see if any sizeable quantity of livestock might, should the lava flow continue, require wholesale evacuation.

Two empty farms were at the time available in the area South of the Volturno River, at which we had prepared a reception depot for horses and mules from Sardinia, which are not now coming.

Major White found that

- (a) the lava flow appeared to be dying down in that direction.
- (b) there was no foreseeable need for arranging livestock evacuation as above.

On the same day, Wednesday the 22nd, Major Guy motored around the North and North-East side of the mountain through SOMMA VESUVIANA towards the Vesuviana Airfield, and reported that all the area approximately South of S. Giuseppe Vesuviana and for considerable distances to the East of it was covered with a pretty thick coating of ashes and that large quantities of ashes were then still falling. No evacuation of livestock at that time appeared necessary in that area.

..../en.

-2-

On Thursday the 23rd, I myself, accompanied by the Chief of the Ispettorato Provinciale, Prof. Leone motored down autostrada to Pompei - Scafati, and about 4 miles behind it, returning by turning right at Scafati via Fassanti and home by Boscoreale, Torre Annunziata etc.

A thin covering of lava ash commenced approximately opposite Resina and continued light down to the end of the autostrada, then becoming continuously heavier towards Fagani, where the depth was estimated at 10 centimetres. Further to the East the depth was increasing and the main road was kept open by using bulldozers. On the return journey the area up to Fassanti remained thickly covered but from Boscoreale to Torre Annunziata it lessened.

Five rep. samples of ash were carefully taken and left with the Chemical Professor at Portici for immediate analysis.

On the same day Captain Cobb, Agriculture Sub-Commission A.C.C. reported to assist this investigation and did a preliminary recon.

On Friday 24th, he again reported and accompanied by an official of the Ispettorato, has undertaken a further tour to the North-East and East of the mountain to ascertain

- (a) the extent Eastwards of the covering ash
- (b) the effect on growing crops
- (c) to obtain samples
- (d) to discuss probable effects and possible immediate alternative cultivation where crops are ruined, particularly regarding the possibility of planting potatoes.

GENERAL. From information so far to hand, the following facts appear reasonably accurate.

1. Effects and damage can be divided into the following categories.

- (a) Total destruction caused by lava flows, so far confined to vines and some fruit trees, on the slopes of the mountain and easily ascertainable in extent as soon as the lava flow ends.
- (b) Damage to growing crops, particularly those in flower. Pretty well all the beans seen by me in the area ^{East of} Pompei were very burnt and appeared pretty well entirely destroyed, also all young cabbage and lettuce plants and the remainder of growing cauliflowers. It is believed this was caused by rain falling through the sulphur fumes and being highly impregnated with sulphuric and other acids, and it is not caused directly by the

-3-

lava ash, except perhaps in the case of very small or young plants.

The primary object of having the samples of ash analysed is to ascertain their extent of acidity. Should this prove as expected to be slight, it is believed that

- (c) The effects of the lava ash will be more beneficial than otherwise, except where the depth is so great that plants are covered.

Further investigation on (b) and (c) above is being undertaken by Capt. Cobb in the area North East of the mountain today, and further results will come in from the samples of ash, which I will bring in.

Captain Stringer will be submitting me separate reports concerning Salerno and has informed me on the telephone that ash extends this morning to Pontecagnano, where it is about one inch deep and that in the plain down to Paestum there is only a thin sprinkling.



E.G. DOUGLAS KENNEDY.

Major,
R.A.,

Regional Agricultural Officer.

Copy to: Regional Commissioner, Region 3, A.C.C.

4998

From: Prof. GIACALONE
 who claims to be offst. Inspector for
 Campania by Badoglio post
 West

Naples, 23-3A944

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS

TO: Interallied Control Commission
 Agriculture Sub Commission (Major Hartmann)

TO : AMG, Dept. of Agriculture, Region III (Major Kennedy) Naples

SUBJECT: Damages Vesuvius eruption

This office proceeded, as soon as news of damages caused by the eruption was received, with a summary checkup of the struck areas. The damages, as known to your Command, are caused by lava flow with total coverage of agrarian terrain and houses, and by the fall of small volcanic rock and ashes, also live steam, with destruction of the harvest and damage to the houses.

While the damages due to lava flow are restricted to areas on the ~~XXXXXX~~ west, east and south of the volcano, with prevalence at the moment of uncultivated areas along the slopes of the volcano and wooded ground in the areas nearest to struck inhabited places, those deriving from the rain of ashes and volcanic rock, ~~XXXXXXXX~~ are over a larger area, essentially in that of Pompei and the adjoining province of Salerno.

As regards the situation, this office deems it its duty to continue with the salvage work, so unworthily undertaken by the Allied Command, coordinating this activity so as to salvage as much as possible of the agriculture property of the area.

With wide approximation it may be assumed that up to today about two thousand hectares have been eliminated from cultivation, principally vineyards, sown and fruit bearing in the lower part reached by the lava, with an estimate for the mere agricultural part of over L. 300,000,000.

Principally it is thought necessary to place the farmers in the marginal areas next to those hit, placing the peasant families with their belongings into agricultural enterprises capable of absorbing a major number of animals, and capable of absorbing a larger amount of labour.

It is necessary to proceed thus in the areas north of the volcano, especially in the communities of Marigliano, Polzano, S. Anastasia, etc. to a revision of the present farms for the purpose of placing the peasant families, compelling the proprietors to lease a portion of the terrain, at present cultivated by the families, who in view of the number of their members, can subdivide the land with other refugee families.

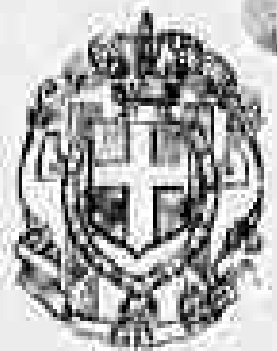
This would be helped by a legislative provision which would authorize for the purpose the proprietors, who admit into their lands families of the area, to rescind tenant contracts and to the anticipated handing over of part of the land to farmer families of the stricken areas.

In such case to avoid lengthy legal proceedings, it is proposed that full powers be given to a Commissioner who after examination of the concrete proposals of this office, and the applications of the parties concerned, issue regulations for the partial rescinding of contracts and admission of new farmers into the various enterprises, which are capable of receiving them, with immediate effectiveness of the order on the date of notification through the RR.CC.

For the areas totally destroyed proceed with immediate suspension of all taxes, and for those which have suffered from fall of rocks and ashes for partial relief, after prompt ascertainment by the competent authorities. The above is duly brought to the attention of your Command, awaiting your eventual dispositions.

C. THE DEPARTMENTAL INSPECTOR

/s/



Napoli

Giorno addì 25 3 1944 Anno

Rm. 44
Ministero
dell'Agricoltura e delle Foreste

ISPETTORATO AGRARIO REGIONALE
PER LA CAMPANIA

→ Alla COMMISSIONE INTER-
LEATA DI CONTROLLO
Suo-Commissione per l'A-
gricoltura (Magg. Harmon)

NAPOLI

=====

Divisione *4* Sez. *3*
Dist. *N. 433* Pos. *4/30*

All' A.M.G. - Dip. AGRICOLTURA-III. Re-
gione (Magg. Kennedy) - Napoli

Risposta al Foglio del
Div. *N.* Sez. *N.*

OGGETTO: Danni eruzione vesuviana

Questo Ufficio ha, appena avuto notizia dei danni dell'eruzione, proceduto ad un sommario sopralluogo sulle zone colpite. I danni, come è noto a questo Comando, sono provocati dalla caduta lavica con distruzione totale dei colture agrarie e delle case, e dalla caduta di lapilli e cenere, nonché di "acqua calda" con distruzione del raccolto e danni alle case.

Mentre i danni per la caduta lavica sono riferibili a zone e pendente, levante e mezzogiorno del vulcano con prevalenza, per il momento, ad zone facenti parte dei pendici del vulcano e di terreni arboscelli nelle zone più prossime ai cratere di tutti i colli, quelli derivanti dalla pioggia di cenere e di lapilli, interessano una più larga zona, specie in quella di Pompei e nella lontana provincia di Salerno.

Allo stato dei fatti questo Ufficio ritiene doveroso segnalare la necessità di proseguire nelle opere di salvataggio, tanto maggiormente indicata dal Comando Alto, coordinando le iniziative allo scopo di salvare per quanto è

La lunga (breve) per ogni lettera, che solo (soprattutto) a indicare nella risposta
 il N. di invio ed il N. di risposta e non a indicare

7996

possibile in patrimonio agricolo senza nome.

Con larga approssimazione si può ritenere che, a tutt'oggi circa sessanta ettari sono stati sottratti alla coltura con prevalenza di vigneti, seminativi e frutteti nella parte bassa raggiunta dalle lave, con una valutazione per la sola parte agraria di circa L. 300.000.000,=.

Primaipalmente si ritiene necessario alliegare gli agricoltori nelle zone marginali a quelle colpite, immettendo le famiglie coloniche con le masserizie nelle aziende agricole capaci di contenere un maggior numero di animali, e capaci di assorbire una maggiore mano d'opera.

Si ritiene necessario provvedere nelle zone a nord del vulcano, specie nei comuni di Marigliano, Palma; S. Anastasia, ecc., alla revisione delle attuali aziende agricole allo scopo di alliegare le famiglie coloniche, obbligando i proprietari a dare in affitto porzioni dei terreni attualmente coltivati da famiglie che per il numero dei componenti, possono sopravvivere in fondo con altre famiglie di profughi.

Ciò si ritiene doverlo ad un provvedimento legislativo che autorizzasse all'uopo i proprietari che immettono nel loro fondo famiglie della zona alla rescissione dei contratti di colonia e alla anticipata consegna di parte del fondo a famiglie di coltivatori come non a prima.

In tal caso, per evitare le lungaggini delle procedure giudiziarie, si propone di dare pieni poteri ad un Commissario che, esaminando le proposte concrete di questo Ufficio, e le istanze degli interessati, emetta i provvedimenti di parziale rescissione dei contratti e di immissione dei nuovi coloni nelle diverse aziende, capaci di accoglierli, con l'immediata esecutività dell'ordine alla data di notifica.

a mezzo dei RR.CC.-

per le zone a danno totale procedere poi alla immediata sospensione di tutte le imposte e per quelle soggette che hanno subìto la perdita dei lapilli e cenere allo stato parziale, previo sollecito accertamento degli organi competenti.

Quanto sopra si porta doverosamente a conoscenza di questo Comando, restando in attesa di eventuali disposizioni.

// L'ISPETTORE COMPARTIMENTALE
regiacatore

EC/RG

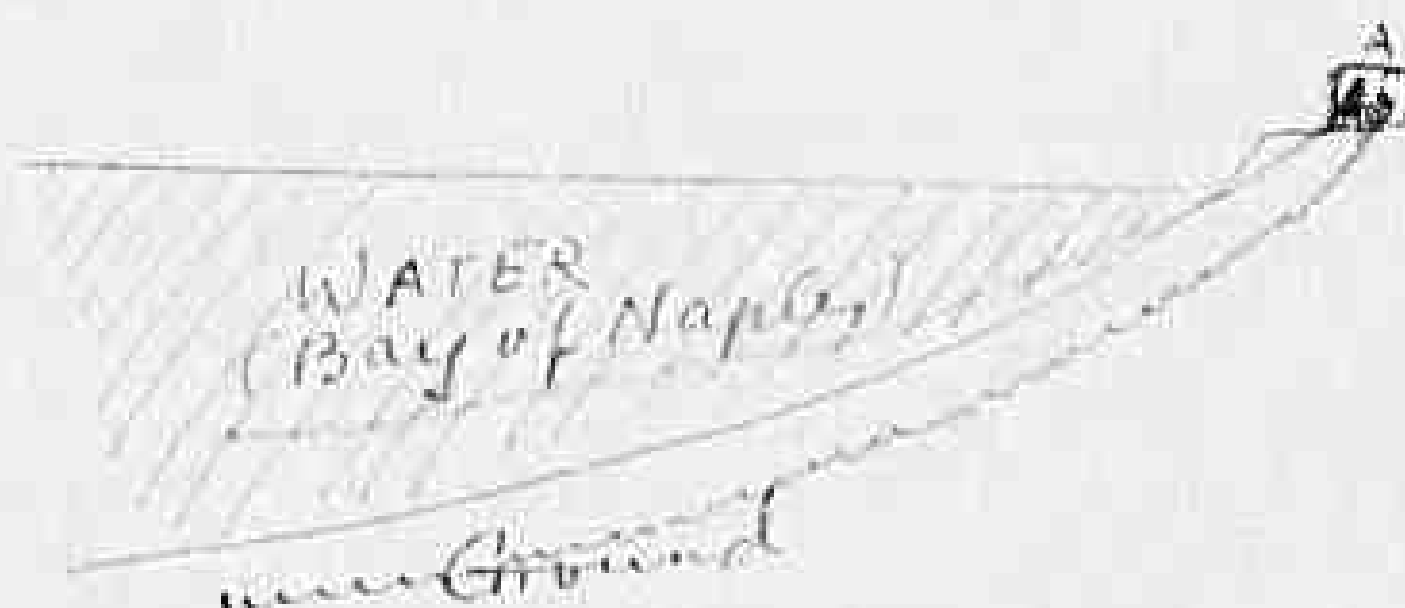
Interview with Prof. Lupo, 4 May 1944.

RE: Supposed Earthquake on 24 April 1944, approx. 1 hour after air raid.

The movement originated in the bay of Naples. (Map 1/250,000, sheet 35, 2.5-4.19).

The professor is sure that there was no earthquake, giving the following reasons:

1. The zone in which the movement originated is not a seismic epicenter.
2. The registration in Naples was double;
 - a) a registration of the movement spreading through the solid medium;
 - b) a registration of the movement spreading through the liquid medium.



A - Observatory

— Registration through liquid medium
 — Registration through solid medium

3. In case of an earthquake there would not have been a registration through the liquid medium, but only through the solid medium.

Conclusion: Since there was no earthquake, and the movement originated in the middle of the bay of Naples, the cause must be an explosion of some kind, excluding the possibility of a bomb or mine because the registration was too heavy for only a bomb or mine exploding in the water.

A/Sgt. Muller.
 Info Div.

1994

2197

File # 116 Apr 1945

Prof. Jacob related that from the
seismographic instruments at his
disposal it seems to be obvious that
there was no earthquake but that
some kind of explosion or the like
must have taken place probably
under water in the middle of
the bay of Naples.

The Professor calls the attention
of ACP to the fact that two
persons were killed by poisonous
gases from the Vesuvius in an
air raid shelter in RESINA last
Friday night.

W. J. Muller
4993

2/27

6997
Daily Bulletin, Feb. 1963, this Reg. 20 Apr 63, contd.

6997 8. GASES FROM VENTILATORS:

this Headquarters:

The following information has been received by:

a. Carbon Monoxide and Carbon Dioxide are issuing from fissures in the earth on the southeast and west slopes of Mount Fuji. There is danger that these gases will collect in air-raid shelters, cellars and low-lying areas. Units will insure that no personnel sleep in such places where a heavy gas is likely to collect and maximum precautions will be enforced in all sleeping places.

b. Gas masks to cut, repeat cut, protect against these gases. First aid treatment is removal from effective area and application of artificial respiration. Gases are odorless.

(Att)

1662

4992

406

Daily Bulletin #25, this is, see 20 April, 1968.

4892

2191 8. THREAT FROM VERMIN:

The following information has been received by

this Headquarters:

1. Gatten Mac side and Gatten Mac side are issuing from Gatten Mac side the south on the southern and west slopes of Mount Vesuvius. There is danger that these gases will collect in air-polluted areas, valleys and low-lying areas. Units will insure that a personnel plan in such places where a heavy gas is likely to collect and maintain conditions will be improved in all standing places.

2. Gas masks in use, please not, protect against these gases. First aid treatment is removal from offensive area and application of individual respiration. Gases are deadly.

1661

RECORDED
BY R. J. J. J.
2197

1555B
CPI #1111

DISPATCH (OR SIFT)
(Please pass quickly) etc.....

From: Information Division

TO

initialled

Chief Commissioner

Deputy Chief Commissioner

V. Pres. Sec. Section

V. Pres. Sec. Section

Executive Commissioner

Deputy Executive Commissioner

Director Criminal Section

Security Branch

Public Relations Officer

etc.

Region

PRD

SEE:

FOR: - Information and return
appropriate action

MARKS
IV Suggest info Div send him extracts
from Agricultural Reports
If I am shorty send up to photograph
his records & will ask him which
photographs he wants. *SP*

TO EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

Ref Attached correspondence - Prof.: Imbo

1. The Prof: has now followed up his verbal requests with a letter addressed to you, confirming and increasing his requests.

2. The requests now are:-
- (i) Use of a car - if not every day, at least 3 days weekly.
 - (ii) Telephone - for use of the observatory
 - (iii) Telephone - for use of the Inst of Terrestrial Physics at the University, Naples
 - (iv) Supply of data on the progress of volcanic rock drops, ashes and sand, for the Prof.'s study of what is going on in the vesuvian paroxysm.
 - (v) copies of photographs and film cuts relative to the various eruption moments and lava flow.
 - (vi) *Pure Alkali*

3. Chief Liaison Officer has dealt with items (i) (ii).

PRO - in conjunction with Info Div will endeavour to satisfy items (iv) and (v) and draft necessary reply.

Items (iii) and (vi) cannot be met.

St.
151140B

4959

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
Liaison Division
APO 394

15 April 1944.

SUBJECT: Professor Imbo

TO : Information Division.

1. The requests for additional telephone facilities and for the provision of extra transport do not appear quite reasonable.

2. Enquiry from Capt. Petrie of 12th Weather Region Vesuvius, elicited the fact that:

a. Two telephones are available at the Observatory, both of which are at the service of the Professor.

b. The Professor and his wife are constantly being ferried into town by 12th Weather Region, who express their intention of continuing to render this service to the maximum degree possible.

C. P. Murchie
C. P. MURCHIE, Major,

for
Chief, Liaison Division.

2988

MEMO

2197/INFO
14 April 1944

GA

SUBJECT: Professor Izzo
TO : Chief Liaison Officer

1. Professor Izzo of the reale osservatorio vesuviano some days ago made the following verbal requests :-
 - (i) Could the A.C.C. arrange to transport him 3 days a week from and to the observatory.
 - (ii) Could a telephone circuit, for observatorial use, be installed.
2. The above mentioned request has now been confirmed in writing (attached) with additional requests.
3. Owing to the shortage of transport, equipment etc it is not possible to meet these requests.
4. It is suggested that the XIIth weather region sq. be made acquainted and asked, to make an endeavour to meet the Professor's requests if they are in a position to do so.

1987
Apr 5 3.44 P.M.J
W.S. LUSH
Brigadier

ROYAL VESUVIAN OBSERVATORY

REGINA (NAPLES) ITALY

The Director

Vesuvio, 9 April 1944.

SUBJECT: Danger to circumvesuvian populations, due to "mofete".

Dear Brig. Ingh:

For some days the central activity of Vesuvius has ~~ceased~~ practically ceased, while the lateral eruptive activity increases constantly, for the moment solely through the flues. In that phase a very energetic manifestation for the people is represented by the "mofete" which are generally present in uneven terrain, caverns, cellars, basements, (and consequently also in the air raid shelters), especially in the southern areas of the volcano including between Portici and Teraigno and in particular Torre del Greco and neighbouring communities. I would therefore consider that access to these spaces should be permitted only after due and continuous inspections.

The absolute lack of means of communication (which leaves me isolated at the Observatory or at Naples) in addition to having kept me up to now even from carrying out indispensable inspection of the various vesuvian areas, keeps me today from being less unspecific in the identification of the places must subject to the danger of the "mofete". However, the use of a car would be welcome, if not every day, at least three days per week.

Even if only to communicate promptly interesting news (especially during this period still critical for the activity of the volcano), it would be necessary that the observatory had its own telephone and that furthermore also the telephone of the Institute of Terrestrial Physics of the R. University of Naples be restored, of which institute I am also Director.

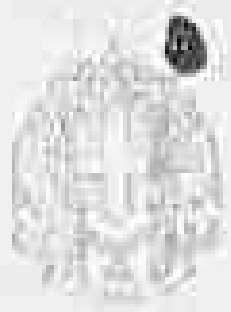
I would again ask you to kindly enrich me all the data possible on the progress of volcanic rock drops, ashes and sand, data which I need for the study of what is going on in the vesuvian paroxysm. For the same reason I would like, as you have already kindly promised me, a copy of the photographs and film cuts relative to the various eruptive moments and lava flow.

I thank you for all. I send you kind regards,

THE DIRECTOR

Prof. G. Imbò

1936



REALE OSSERVATORIO VESUVIANO
RESINA (NAPOLI) ITALIA

TELEFONO INTERPROV. 55-128

IL DIRETTORE

TELEGRAMMI: OBSERVESUVE - ITALIA

Resina 9 aprile 1944

oggetto: Pericolo per popolazioni circumvesuviane per le mofete.

Primo Brig. Lush,

*da alcuni giorni l'attività centrale del Vesuvio è pratica-
mente cessata, mentre si intensifica sempre maggiormente l'atti-
vità eruttiva laterale, per il momento solo attraverso le fumarole.
In tale fase una manifestazione molto pericolosa per le persone
è rappresentata dalle mofete che si presentano generalmente
nelle anfrattuosità, grotte, cantine, sotterranei (e di conseguenza
anche nei ricoveri antiaerei) specialmente delle zone meridionali
del vulcano comprese tra Portici e Tergino ed in particolar
modo di zone del Greco e comuni limitrofi. Ritengo pertanto
che l'accesso nei detti vani dovrebbe essere permesso solo dopo
opportune e continue ispezioni.*

1985

*L'assoluta mancanza di mezzi di comunicazione (che mi
lascia isolato all'Osservatorio o a Napoli) oltre ad avermi
finora ritardato l'effettuazione degli indispensabili sopralluoghi
nelle varie zone vesuviane, mi invita oggi di essere meno indeciso
nella ubicazione dei posti più soggetti al pericolo delle mofete.*

Si gradirebbe pertanto l'uso di una macchina se non
tutti i giorni, almeno tre giorni per settimana.

Come pure per poter comunicare tempestivamente interessanti
notizie (specialmente durante questo periodo ancora critico per
l'attività del vulcano) occorrerebbe che l'osservatorio avesse un
proprio telefono e che inoltre fosse ripristinato anche il telefo-
no dell'Istituto di Fisica Cenestre della R. Università di Napoli
del quale Istituto sono anche io il direttore.

La pregherei ancora di volermi cortesemente fornire tutti i dati
possibili sull'andamento delle cadute di lapilli, ceneri e sabbie:
dati che mi occorrerebbero per lo studio che sto effettuando sul
parossismo vesuviano. Per il medesimo motivo desidererei, come
ella già gentilmente mi promise, una copia delle fotografie e di
ritagli o film relativi ai vari momenti eruttivi e alle colate
laviche.

Di tutto ringraziandola, Le invio distinti ossequi.

Il Direttore

Prof. G. Imbò

Appendice alla lettera 2197/INFC in data 16 aprile 1944.

18 Marzo - Il flusso di lava ebbe inizio.

22 Marzo - Una fitta pioggia di ceneri vulcaniche incominciò a cadere nel territorio a sud ed ad ovest del Vesuvio, comprendendo Nocera, e che si estende fino a Salerno comprendendo Potenza.

22 Marzo, pomeriggio - Nella zona colpita lo stato di cenere raggiunge l'altezza di 4 pollici bloccando la strada Napoli - Salerno.

25 Marzo - Fu constatata che ceneri vulcaniche cadute nelle seguenti località avevano raggiunto l'altezza di due-tre pollici: Palma, Pomicella, Migliano, Laure, Forino, Monloro e Prano. La valle attraverso Eboli e Pattipaglia è stata fortemente ricoperta di materiale vulcanico.

La zona colpita può essere definita come quella che si estende dai confini di Napoli lungo ambedue i lati della strada principale verso est attraverso Nocera fino alle colline, e sull'altro lato a sud di Salerno.

(APPENDIX TO LETTER 219/INFO, dated 16 April 1964

64B

March 18 - lava flow began

March 22 - heavy fall of volcanic ash began to fall in area south and west of Vesuvius inclusive Nocera extending as far as Salerno and inclusive Potenza.

MAR 22 P.M. in area effected the depth of ^{ashes} ~~rain~~ was 4 inches blocking the road Naples Salerno.

March 25 - ash that had fallen in the following districts was found to be from 2 to 3 inches deep: Palma, Pisciella, Migliano, Laino, Forino, Monloro, Pruno. *the - - -*

The area which was effected is defined as stretching from Naples boundary each side of the main road eastward through Nocera to the hills, and on the other side, south of Salerno. *the* valley through Eboli, Battipaglia has been heavily covered.

4983

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
RC & MG SECTION

2127/INPG

16 Aprile 1944

Care Professore Imbo,

1. Sono incaricato dal mio Generale di ringraziarVi della Vostra lettera in data del 9 aprile 1944 e per le notizie sull'attività del Vesuvio che sono state molto apprezzate.

2. Abbiamo preso nota delle Vostre richieste.

(I) I dati sul progresso dei lapilli, cenere e sabbia sono compresi nell'appendice.

(II) Il Maggiore Fielder, Ufficiale incaricato dei rapporti pubblici di questo Comando, verrà a trovarVi all'osservatorio durante questa settimana appena potrà darVi notizie delle fotografie e delle pellicole che v'interessano.

(III) In quanto ai mezzi di trasporto, ci rincresce molto che a causa di obblighi militari e delle molte attività di questo Comando in paragone alla piccola quantità di mezzi di trasporto che ha a disposizione, non è possibile metterne uno a Vostra disposizione da parte di questo Comando; s'intende però che HQ 12th Weather Region continuerà a renderVi tutti i favori possibili tanto per i mezzi di trasporto quanto per l'uso dei suoi telescopi.

(IV) L'alcol denaturato è pochissimo ed è quasi introvabile.

(V) Siamo dolenti che la Vostra domanda di un attacco telefonico per l'uso dell'Istituto Fisico Terrestre dell'Università non può essere accordata per cause militari.

Sistinti saluti.

6982
F.E. GILBERT
Capt. 5 Imis D.G.

Al Professore Imbo
Direttore del
R.Osservatorio Vesuviano

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
RC & MG SECTION

2197/Info
16 April 1944

Dear *Professor Imbo*,

1. I am directed by my Superior to thank you for your letter dated 9 April 44 and for the information relating to the activity of Vesuvius, which is much appreciated.

2. Your requests have been noted.

(I) The data on the progress of volcanic rock drops, ashes and sand are given in the attached appendix.

(II) Major Fielden, Public Relations Officer of this Hq intends to visit you at the Observatory during this week when he will be in a position to tell you about photographs and film cuts which may be of interest to you.

(III) As regards transportation, it is much regretted that, owing to operation commitments and the size of this Hq compared with the small amount of transport at its disposal, it is not possible to make any available for your needs from this Hq; it is, however, understood that Hq 12th Weather Region will continue to render service to you to the maximum degree possible both as regards transportation and use of their telescopes.

(IV) Alcohol denatured is in very short supply and is practically unobtainable.

(V) It is regretted that your request for a telephone circuit for use of the Institute of Terrestrial Physics at the University cannot be fulfilled owing to operational priorities.

With kind regards.

Yours *Sincerely*

FG

F.E. GILBERT
Capt 5 Innis D.G.

TO: Prof. Giuseppe Imbo
Director
R. Osservatorio Vesuviano

6987

TO E.O.

ref attached correspondence - info

1. The Prof. has now followed up his verbal requests with a letter addressed to you, confirming and increasing his requests.

2. The requests now are:-

- (i) use of a car - if not every day, at least 3 days weekly.
- (ii) telephone - for use of the observatory
- (iii) telephone - for use of the Inst of Terrestrial Physics at the University, Naples
- (iv) Supply of data on the progress of volcanic rock drops, asked and used for the Prof.'s study of what is going on in the volcanic paroxysms.
- (v) Copies of photographs and film cuts relative to the various eruption moments and lava flow.

3. Col. Brown has been asked to deal with items (i) (ii) (iii).
P.O. - in conjunction with info. div will endeavour to satisfy items (iv) and (v) and draft necessary reply.

184705B

4980

MEMO

SUBJECT: Professor Tabe
TO : Chief Liaison Officer

2197/1880
14 April 1964

1. Professor Tabe of the Real Observatorio Vesuviano some days ago made the following verbal requests:
(i) could the A.C.C. arrange to transport him 3 days a week free and to the observatory.
(ii) could a telephone circuit, for observatorial use, be installed.
2. The above mentioned request has now been confirmed in writing (attached) with additional requests.
3. Owing to the shortage of transport, equipment etc it is not possible to meet these requests.
4. It is suggested that the 47th Weather Region HQ. be made acquainted and asked, to make an endeavour to meet the professor's requests if they are in a position to do so.

for
JWH
Brigadier G.S.

4979

4-2295 Info Div
60A

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 3-4 - US AMEX

13 April 1944

MEMORANDUM:

TO : Executive Commissioner - Regional Control & Military Government Section
Headquarters, Allied Control Commission

For your records I am sending to you a copy of a report on the
effect of the Vesuvius action on agriculture in the surrounding area.

Charles Poletti

CHARLES POLETTI
Lt. Colonel
Regional Commissioner

ENC. 2
Vesuvius Report - 30 March 1944
Map

4978

RECEIVED
Date 18 APR 1944
File 2197 1100- JCS

HEADQUARTERS,
REGION 3, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.
APO 394, U. S. ARMY.

30 March, 1944.

SUBJECT: Continuance of Vesuvius Report.

TO : Agriculture Sub-Commission,
A.C.C.

On 24th March, 1944, Capt. Cobb inspected the area Somma Vesuviana - Ottaviano - S. Genaro - Palma Barne, and thence across country to S. Giuseppe Vesuviano.

Around Ottaviano the dust commenced to show itself but in comparatively small amounts and while Peas, beans and wheat showed signs of being affected, it by no means covered the whole crop.

Regarding the fruit and vines the local enquiries did not reveal entire agreement on the subject but weighing that one with the other, and from his inspection he considers that there is a very fair chance of the damage being slight in view of the fact that the beans have not yet burst, but one will be able to judge more certainly in a few weeks time.

On his journey towards Palma the depth and severity of the fall increased with extension of damage to ground crops accordingly but from Palma onwards right through the Barne area and across country to S. Giuseppe the peas and fava crops were virtually destroyed and the wheat badly affected. The oaks were certainly touched but are not considered to be a total loss. It did not seem apparent that any quantity of livestock needed immediate removal.

Enquiry was made regarding the possibility of planting affected area with potatoes and one or two informants thought it would still not be too late, but no definite requests were received.

Three samples of lava ash were taken and referred 4977

later.

On 25th March, Capt. Cobb journeyed through Palma - Domicella - Migliano - Lauro - Forino - Montoro - Piano, with the specific purpose of discovering how far Eastwards into Avellino the ashes had fallen and what the situation was in the Montoro Valley. Ash was encountered up to 2 - 3 inches deep particularly on the mountains beyond Lauro, but the crops were not burnt to any degree. At Domicella, beans were touched on the ground but it was thought they would recover. Coming into the

Around Ottaviano the dust commenced to show itself but in comparatively small amounts and while Fava, peas and wheat showed signs of being affected, it by no means covered the whole crop.

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On his journey towards Palma the death and severity of the fall increased with extension of damage to ground crops accordingly but from Palma onwards right through the same area and across country to U. Giuseppi the pea and fava crops were virtually destroyed and the wheat badly affected. The onions were certainly touched but are not considered to be a total loss.

It did not seem apparent that any quantity of livestock needed immediate removal.

Enquiry was made regarding the possibility of planting affected area with potatoes and one or two informants thought it would still not be too late, but no definite requests were received.

Three samples of lava ash were taken and referred later. 4977

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Reports were received on the evening of the 25th that large numbers of livestock were in danger of starvation around U. Giuseppi Vesuviano and Southwards, and on Sunday 26th the Provincial livestock Chief was sent with a Veterinarian and an assistant to Capt. Savage at Poggio Marino to arrange for any necessary removal of stock to areas where they could be fed, except horses and mules which were all required in situ for clearance of debris.

Dr. Scandizzo the Livestock Chief reported next day that farmers did not wish to remove their animals and that if forage,

.../particularly

-2-

particularly bran, could be sent the situation would be met. His assistant remained.

On the 27th, Prof. Giacoloni, the second in command of the Compartimentale, submitted a proposal to assist in arranging for reinforcement of those farmers whose farms were totally destroyed by the lava flows. This was considered, approved by Col. Vincaid, S.C.A.O., Naples Province, and the Prof. with an assistant were sent on Tuesday the 28th to Cercola for this purpose.

Meanwhile on Sunday, 26th, I myself in a tour North of the Volturno located some straw for fodder around the area Carinola and left instructions for the Sindaco to have it collected and that we would fetch it for assisting in feeding the Vesuvian livestock population.

Arrangements were made at the same time for bran to be delivered at Terracina, S. Giuseppe Vesuviano and Poggio Marino.

On Tuesday the 28th, through the very helpful co-operation of a British Salvage Unit 13 lorry loads of straw were delivered at S. Giuseppe Vesuviano and arrangements made for the same amount on the 29th and 30th. To be distributed thence to Terracina and Poggioreale.

POTATOES. Meanwhile, a ship with nearly a 1,000 tons of seed potatoes had arrived in Torre Annunziata and the normal projected programme for distribution was altered to allow to be given to alleviation for relief feeding in these areas, 200 tons to Nocera (Salerno Province), 100 tons to Terracina and 10 tons to Poggioreale and later on the 29th a further 100 tons was issued to Castellammare for the Sorrentine Peninsula.

SALERNO PROVINCE. Daily contact has been obtained with Capt. Stringer of Salerno Province and there the areas most affected with deep ash, can now be fairly well defined as stretching from Naples boundary each side of the main road Eastwards through Nocera to the hills, and on the other side South of Salerno the Valley through Stoli - Battipaglia has been heavily covered, and it is reported that fairly large quantities of livestock (said to be 40 cattle on one farm) have died of starvation.

To meet this situation Capt. Stringer sent an Italian Official to Potenza Province and himself contacted the S.C.A.O. there and is arranging for a train load of fodder to be railed down for the relief of animals in the areas affected. The forage I understand is to come from a stock of 500 tons, somewhere North of Melfi, on or near the railway.

20th March, Major Guy took Prof. Le 29th

population.

Arrangements were made at the same time for bread to be delivered at Terracina, S. Giuseppe Vesuviano and Poggio Marino.

On Tuesday the 28th, through the very helpful co-operation of a British Salvage Unit 18 lorry loads of straw were delivered at S. Giuseppe Vesuviano and arrangements made for the same amount on the 29th and 30th. A lot of distribution thence to Terracina and Poggioreale.

POTATOES.

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Daily contact has been obtained with Capt. Stringer of Salerno Province and there the areas most affected with deep ash, can now be fairly well defined as stretching from Naples secondary each side of the main road eastwards through Nocera to the hills, and on the other side south of Salerno the Valley through Nocera - Battipaglia has been heavily covered, and it is reported that fairly large quantities of livestock (said to be 40 cattle on one farm) have died of starvation.

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On 29th March, Major Guy took Prof. Leone to Terracina - S. Giuseppe Vesuviano and Poggioreale, where they met the Sindacos and deputations of farmers, Prof. Leone subsequently addressing bigger meetings, impressing on all cultivators to get to work and where humanly possible, plough or dig in the ash into their land and get it back into cultivation as soon as possible.

Information obtained may be summarised as follows:

DAMAGES.

(a) Vines and fruit trees are badly damaged in many cases and poor crops may be expected this year, but they are not for the most part killed.

(b) Practically a 100% of the ground crops appeared completely ruined; though in the case of carrots, finocci, and possibly even some onions, if the ash is heaped away from the plants

.../some

-3-

some of the crops may yet be saved.

REQUIREMENTS.

- (a) Transport. Army lorries are now clearing main roads, but unless farm roads can be cleared, horse transport cannot move through the deep ash.
- (b) Arrangements for importation of human rations, sufficient for many months until the land can be put into production (believe this is in hand).
- (c) Importation of animal feeding stuffs. Also in hand.
- (d) Serious consideration to be given to the omission of land taxation for a year, and possibly to some form of State loan to farmers, free of interest, where needed.
- (e) Around Positano there is a large area of land free of vines and trees that might be put quickly into cultivation if a really heavy caterpillar tractor and deep plough could be obtained. Enquiries are being instigated in this connection.

N. J. Kennedy

S.G. DOUGLAS KENNEDY.

Major,

R.A.,

Regional Agricultural Officer.

Encls: Apex 'A'

Trace - Italian Road Map 1/25,000

Sec. of Sheet 19.

DISTRIBUTION:

Regional Commissioner	(2 copies)
Provincial Commissioner,	
Naples Province.	1 copy
Capt Stringer, Salerno	
Province.	1 "
Food Committee, Local.	
Resources (Italian) Board	1
	4975

CONCLUSION.

1. Failing further eruptions and heavy clouds of ash, the serious damage may be said to be confined by the area as per the attached map tracing.

2. Results of ash analysed are as follows:

<u>Sample.</u>	<u>Location.</u>	<u>Depth of Ash.</u>	<u>Acidity expressed in Hydrochloric acid.</u>	<u>Milligrams % of material.</u>
1. Autotrada above Torre del Greco		Light covering		1
2. Boscoreale (nr rly)		About 1"		3
3. Boscoreale di Passanti		Deep		3
4. Scalfati-Pagani area.		Deep		2
5. Scalfati-Pagani area.		Deep		4
6. Ottaviano		Light covering		1
7. Palma		Fairly deep		1

Note: The general degree of acidity of the lava ash is expressed by an acidity equivalent to the p.h. and is therefore in no case high.

The Ministry of Agriculture report confirms that the burning of the growing crops, especially those in flower, is due to the impregnated rain water falling, also ashes can be removed without damage to plants.

From this it is evident that the ash in itself will not be deleterious; except where the covering is so thick that it will be impossible for a long time to plough into the land.

3. Where rain fell on to growing crops or fruit trees in flower these have been very badly burnt, and it may be said that pretty well the whole bean crop in the area marked in the trace can be written-off, also some portion of the early flowering fruit trees, such as cherries, and some apricots and a proportion of onions, fennel and carrots.

Where the ash is not deep, it is believed that all the potatoes already planted will grow satisfactorily and in the case of cabbage, lettuce and similar plants, unless they have been destroyed by the impregnated rain water, they can be salvaged if a hoe is

2. Boscareale (m
rly)

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| 3. Boscareale di
Pascenti | 3 | Deep | |
| 4. Scalfati-Pugni
area. | 2 | Deep | |
| 5. Scalfati-Pugni
area. | 4 | Deep | |
| 6. Ottaviano | 1 | Light
covering | |
| 7. Palma | 1 | Fairly deep | |

Note: The general degree of acidity of the lava ash is expressed by an acidity equivalent to the p.h. and is therefore in no case high.

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Where the ash is not deep, it is believed that all the potatoes already planted will grow satisfactorily and in the case of cabbage, lettuce and similar plants, unless they have been ^{destroyed} by the impregnated rain water, they can be salvaged if a hoe is carefully used.

4. As regards maintaining of livestock in this area, very little of which is pasture in any case, importations of feeder, either green or in the form of hay or straw will be necessary for a considerable time.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

It is recommended that -

1. Prof. Giacalone's report on the status and circumstances of these farmers permanently displaced by lava flows should be carefully considered and possibly financial assistance given in certain cases, also transport may be needed to convey them to other areas. /2.

-2-

2. that a supply of fodder in the form of straw or hay be arranged for in bulk from Foggia, Matera or Potenza, for the whole area affected. The small supply discovered at and removed from Carinola will only last the Naples Province some a short time.

3. the Army be asked to loan three large caterpillar tractors to cultivate areas of ground deeply covered; one going to Poggioreale and two to Salerno Province. Enquiries are being made regarding suitable drawing tackle and heavy ploughs.

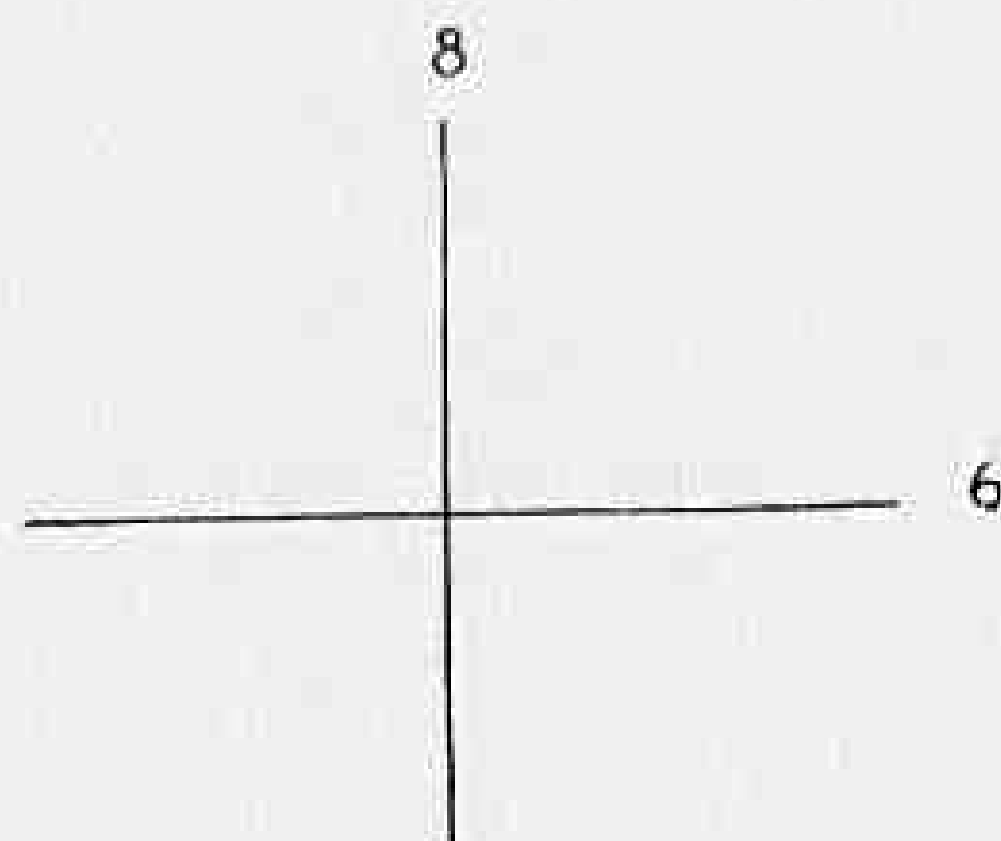
NOTE: Reference 2 above, today; 30th March, I saw the Controller of Foggia of S. A. T. F. M. B. O., and he with the approval of 'Q' has released a 1,000 tons of straw fodder in the Foggia area, to be handed to A. C. C. for civil use. He is sending a signal today to No 2 District at Bari, and if A. C. C. Agricultural or similar representative can contact a Major Sutton there the necessary details can be worked out with the Comandante Agrario regarding bulking and despatch to railway, and the A. C. C. representative can inform Naples at which station or stations transport is needed from.

Salerno can stock-pile at Marigliella, Ponticagnano, Nocera, Amalfi and S. Agati. The last three places having warehouses used up to now for potatoes.

Until reports are received from Dr. Scanzano of Naples and the Livestock Officer at Salerno, as to numbers of animals needing food, it is not possible to say how long this 1,000 tons would last.

Map 1:200,000 - Section of sheet 19





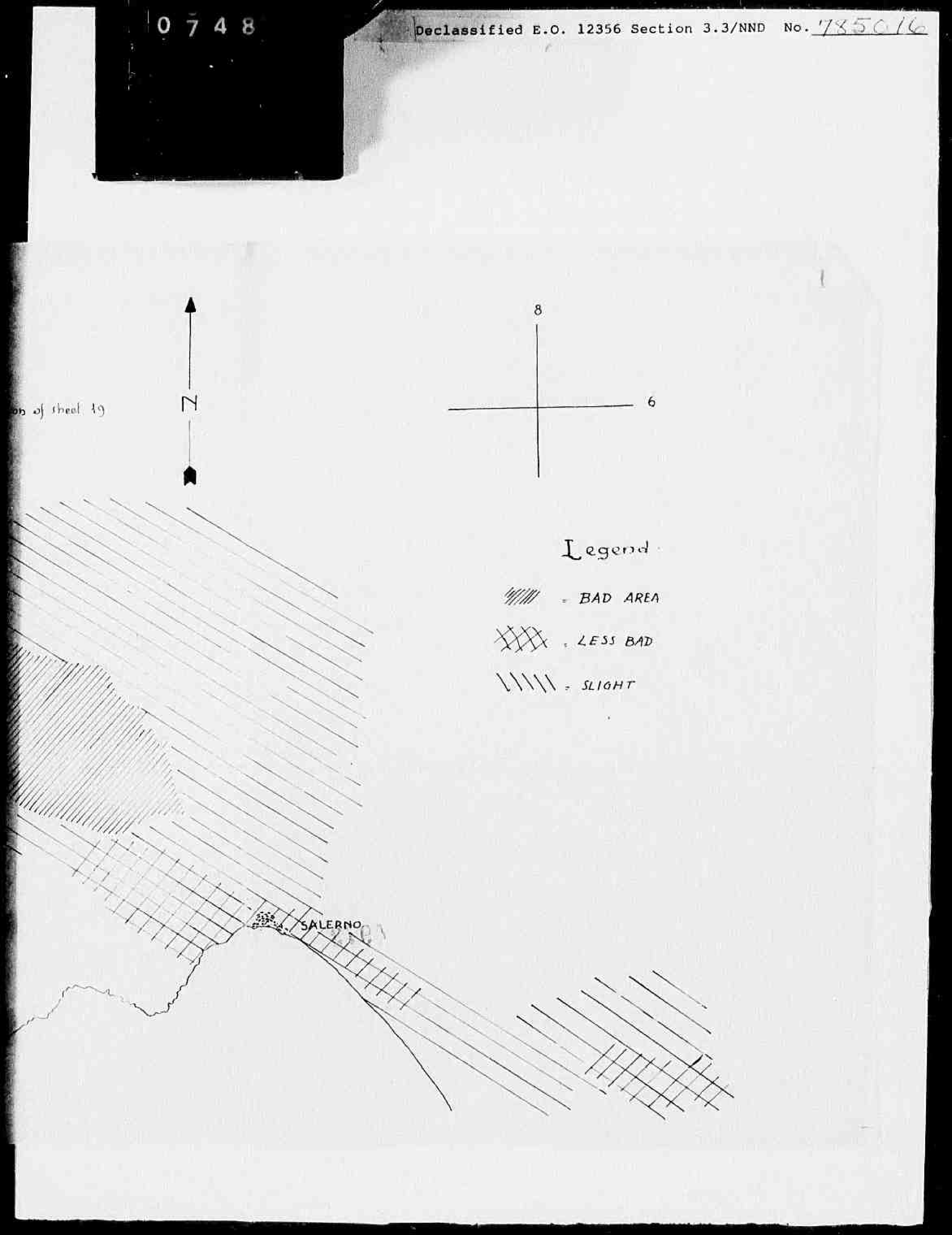
Legend

 - BAD AREA

 - LESS BAD

 - SLIGHT

SALERNO



URGENT REPORT

(From Professor Tasso at 1430 hrs 11 April 1964)

2197/INFO *file*

There is a very great danger to the population in the area of TIST - TOLERA and CERCO - VERBIGNO from gas poisoning. C.N. and C.O. 2 gases are exuding from fissures in the earth from W to NE of Verignus and may collect in air raid shelters, cellars etc.

[Signature]
(Info div)

To Regional Commission
Region III (Confirmation telephone conversation Heath - Gellert)
Passed to you please for necessary action

11/4/55 B

Copy to E. C

[Signature]
Clt 15372 D. G

31 MAR Recd

3 District
Ext 8
140/G

27 Mar 44

SUBJECT: Toks.

59 Area
66 AA Bde
203 Fixed Defences
C/Ops) AAI
C/Ops) AAI Adm Ech
C/Ops) AAI
C/Ops) AAI
C/Ops) AAI
C/Ops) AAI

REMIT

FBS

FOWIT

NOIC MAPLES

4th 214 Gp RAF

3 Free Area RAF

12 JFSC

HQ Allied Control Commission

APO 394

Allied Control Commission Region III

Army Sub Commission SAJENCO (for

Lt col QUINN SMITH)

E

Ord

TIME

Pro

Lab

Fire Offr

Med AAI

Please expedite ack this HQ Operation Instruction No 1 dated 23 Mar 44.

ack 3 APR 44

R. Freeman

(RG FREEMAN) Capt
for Lt col
G S

To C A B.

4971

The apm document is not held by Info Div

011050A

J. H. C. S. D. C.

By Allied Control Commission

AF0 394

Allied Control Commission Region III
Army Sub Commission SALERNO (for
Lt col QUINN SMITH)

E
Cmd
PWC
Pro
Lab
Fire Offr
Mod MI

Please expedite ack: this HQ Operation Instruction No 1 dated 23 Mar 44.

~~Get 3 APR 44~~

RG Freeman

(RG FREEMAN) Capt
for Lt col
G S

I

1971

To C A B₂

The afm document is not held by Info Div

Approved/
Capt S. L. D. C.

011050A

1971

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY
P.O. & M.C. SECTION

2197/TMPO
3 APRIL 1962

SUBJECT: Acknowledgment

TO : HQ No. 3 District

Receipt is acknowledged of 3 District, Operation Instruction N. 1
dated 25 March 62, copy No. 12.

[Signature]
WILLIAM E. FISCH
Colonel, Cavalry
Deputy Executive Commissioner 7970

EXAMINATION OF INFO 3AP
(Please pass quickly) Date.....

From: Information Division

TO	Section 2 Initialed by
Chief Commissioner	
Deputy Chief Commissioner	
V. Pres. Admin. Section	
V. Pres. Economic Section	
Executive Commissioner	
Deputy Executive Commissioner	2
Director Political Section	
Security Branch	
Public Relations Officer	
Sub. Commission	
Region	

REF: 55A

FOR: - Information and Return
Appropriate Action

CAD

REMARKS

4989

Has anyone sent a
reasonable written report
to AFHQ?

DL 7/8/44.

Saw PRO 081110 B

HEADQUARTERS
~~ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION~~
~~ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT~~
PROVINCE OF NAPLES
MUNICIPIO. NAPLES

55A

3 Apr 1944
JTB

Naples, 31 March 1944

File No

Subject: Vesuvius Emergency Operations.

To: Lt Gen Sir Noel Mason MacFarlane, KCB, DSO, MC.
Chief Commissioner ACC, Province of Naples.

1. The Provincial Commissioner of Naples Province wishes to express the appreciation of this Headquarters to the Chief Commissioner ACC, for the assignment of officers from that HQ to temporary duty with this HQ during the period of the Vesuvius Emergency Operations.

2. ACC officers were of inestimable assistance in the organization and execution of the emergency measures necessary to cope with the many problems incident to the initial phase of the eruption and the resultant damage to certain areas from volcanic ash.

3. The Provincial Commissioner requests that his appreciation be conveyed to the individual officers concerned for the splendid service rendered to this HQ under extremely difficult conditions.

James I. Wincaid
JAMES I. WINCAID,
D.S.O., D.S.O.,
Lt Col R.A.S.
Provincial Commissioner.

4988

HDC/rs

FROM : Lieut. E.C. DAVIES R.N.V.R., A.C.C. SALERNO.
 TO : Commodore I.M. PALMER R.N., A.C.C. SALERNO.
 Date : 30 March 1944.

Subject : Eruption of VESUVIUS March 1944.

In accordance with A.C.C. Special Order No. 33 of March 22, I proceeded to RESINA and reported to Major CANTOR, U.S.A. the morning of 23 March. Major CANTOR addressed the officers and men assembled to give aid in evacuation work of the towns and villages jeopardized by the flow of lava and showers of lava fragments and ashes.

2). I was detailed to proceed to POMPEI under the command of Capt. G.H. HEWITT, U.S.A., assisted by two American soldiers and one R.A.S.C. driver of a Jeep.

3). On arrival at POMPEI, Officers at the Town Hall were placed at our disposal by the Mayor. Contact was made with the police and a reconnaissance made of the district under our control. It was found that vegetables had been covered with lava fragments and ashes with a result that none were available for the population. The market held in the main square every morning ceased to exist. It was not possible to obtain supplies from districts which had not suffered on account of the restrictions placed on traffic. The stock of flour for the bread ration was sufficient for two days, with the balance of their allocation for the month of March stored at S. Giovanni a Taducci.

Arrangements were made for this stock to be transported to POMPEI and an appeal made for further supplies of food as a substitute for vegetables, resulting in an allocation being made of:-

Dried Vegetables (Beans)	Kgs. 4,000
Tinned Milk	" 200
Dehydrated Soup	" 300
Cheese	" 1,800

Late in the afternoon this food was delivered at POMPEI by two Army trucks, an Italian civilian being responsible for delivery assisted by a representative from the Prefecture of Naples. It was obvious that there was a discrepancy in weights and actually there was delivered:-

Dried Vegetables (Beans) 35 sacks (marked 100 lbs nett each)
 10 of which were only half full.

Gross weight delivered.	Kgs. 3,531
-------------------------	------------

10 Cartons (marked 56 lbs gross each)	Kgs. 254
---------------------------------------	----------

Gross weight delivered.	Kgs. 254
-------------------------	----------

56 Cartons (marked 40 lbs nett each)	Kgs. 254
--------------------------------------	----------

1 Can (marked 33 lbs nett)	Kgs. 254
----------------------------	----------

2 Cartons (marked 31 lbs nett each)	Kgs. 1,105
-------------------------------------	------------

Nett weight delivered.	Kgs. 1,105
------------------------	------------

48 Cheese (marked in lbs 94 89 93 93 97 95 etc. each)	Kgs. 1,967
---	------------

Approx. Gross weight ..	Kgs. 1,967
-------------------------	------------

Cheese

1937

3) On arrival at POMPEI, Officers at the Town Hall were placed at our disposal by the Mayor. Contact was made with the police and a reconnaissance made of the district under our control. It was found that vegetables had been covered with lava fragments and ashes with a result that none were available for the population. The market held in the main square every morning ceased to exist. It was not possible to obtain supplies from districts which had not suffered on account of the restrictions placed on traffic. The stock of flour for the bread ration was sufficient for two days, with the balance of their allocation for the month of March stored at S. Giovanni a Taducci. Arrangements were made for this stock to be transported to POMPEI and an appeal made for further supplies of food as a substitute for vegetables, resulting in an allocation being made of:- Dried Vegetables (Beans) Kgs. 4,000
Tinned Milk " 200
Dehydrated Soup " 300
Cheese " 1,500

Late in the afternoon this food was delivered at POMPEI by two army trucks, an Italian civilian being responsible for delivery assisted by a representative from the prefecture of Naples. It was obvious that there was a discrepancy in weights and actually there was delivered:-

Dried Vegetables (Beans) 88 sacks (marked 100 lbs nett each)
10 of which were only half full.
Gross weight delivered. Kgs. 3,531
10 Cartons (marked 56 lbs gross each) 2937
Gross weight delivered. Kgs. 254
Dehydrated Soup. 58 Cartons (marked 40 lbs nett each)
1 Can (marked 53 lbs nett)
2 Cartons (marked 31 lbs nett each)
Nett weight delivered. Kgs. 1,103
48 Cheese (marked in lbs 34 83 93
93 37 96 etc. each)
Approx. Gross weight .. Kgs. 1,967

The Italian responsible for delivery stated that the difference in weight of Dehydrated Soup must have been due to his having delivered short weight to places where he made deliveries the same day. Instructions were received by the Mayor to distribute this food against payment on presentation of ration cards. Delay in distribution was caused as the local authorities were not in possession of a price list and had to send a representative to Naples to obtain one. There are 14,000 ration card holders in POMPEI and the authorities were at a loss to know how to allocate the tinned milk. We suggested that it should be reserved for sick children below the age of 2 years.

100940 fns

297

- 2 -

Having attended to the vitualling problems we were advised that there was a remote possibility of the cone of Vesuvius collapsing which may cause not lava to fall in large pieces and cause fires to buildings. It was stated that the Observatory would be able to give three hours notice of such happening but we were to make all necessary arrangements for the eventuality and "be prepared", without causing alarm amongst the population which might lead to evacuation. With the Mayor we called on the Archbishop and conferred with him, the Bishop and the Archbishop's Secretary. It was arranged that he would give a veiled warning to the population during a church service and assure them that in the event of impending danger the church bells would be rung, when they should take cover in cellars or on the ground floor of buildings and that all able-bodied men would be expected to assist in the prevention of fire. Fortunately, the cone collapsed very gradually and the danger ceased to exist.

Advice was given to the local authorities regarding the clearing of the roads and the prevention of drains becoming blocked by the ashes. A supply of shovels were obtained and loaned to the Mayor.

Whilst inspecting the work done to clear the main square of POMPEI I overheard a man complaining bitterly that he was starving and a few minutes beforehand had seen foodstuffs and cigarettes being taken from an Army truck into a house near the entrance to the ruins. I immediately summoned one of the local police who was standing nearby and I requested him to call a Carabinieri and investigate immediately. This resulted in the arrest of a boy, aged 13, who had approximately 2,000 English cigarettes (Gold Flake, Woodbines etc.) 9 tins of B. Beef, and one 2 1/2 lb. tin of Carr's biscuits, which he stated he had bought from a soldier for Lit. 3,500.--, and the arrest of a man who had tins of B. Beef and packets of Lifebuoy soap. I detained both the arrested and sent to Torre Annunziata for the Military Police who searched the houses of the arrested and found British underclothing, woollen socks etc. in the house of the man. The seized goods together with the arrested were then taken to Torre Annunziata by the C.M.P. The next day the C.M.P. advised me that my action had led to the arrest of a New Zealand corporal whilst selling W.D. property that morning.

Every day we were called upon to assist the local police in disputes with British and American troops, and it is obvious that both British and American Military Police are needed in this area. The Mayor is most anxious to have assistance for he explained that POMPEI is visited by so many men on leave and the town has become the rendezvous of the prostitutes who have escaped out of Naples purge. Bars and restaurants have been placed out of bounds with a result that the back rooms of private houses have become eating places of black-market food and drinking places of the most poisonous "Cognac". The troops when intoxicated are made to pay exorbitant prices. There have been many cases of intoxicated troops stealing from shops and the police are afraid to interfere as they have several times been threatened

Advice was given to the local authorities regarding the cleaning of the roads and the prevention of drains becoming blocked by the ashes. A supply of shovels were obtained and loaned to the Mayor.

Whilst inspecting the work done to clear the main square of POLPEI I overheard a man complaining bitterly that he was starving and a few minutes before had had seen foodstuffs and cigarettes being taken from an Army truck into a house near the entrance to the ruins. I immediately summoned one of the local police who was standing nearby and requested him to call a Carabinieri and investigate immediately. This resulted in the arrest of a boy, aged 13, who had approximately 2,000 English cigarettes (Gold Flake, Woodbine etc.) 9 tins of B. Beef, and one 27lb. tin of Carr's Biscuits, which he stated he had bought from a soldier for Lit. 3,500.--, and the arrest of a man who had tins of B. Beef and packets of Lifebuoy soap. I detained both the arrested and sent to Torre Annunziata for the Military Police who searched the houses of the arrested and found British underwear, clothing, vodka, etc. in the house of the man. The seized goods together with the arrested were then taken to Torre Annunziata by the U.M.P. The next day the U.M.P. advised me that my action had led to the arrest of a New Zealand corporal whilst selling N.S. property that morning. - Every day we were called upon to assist the local police in disputes with British and American troops, and it is obvious that both British and American Military Police are needed in this area. The Mayor is most anxious to have assistance for he explained that POLPEI is visited by so many men on leave and the town becomes the rendezvous of the prostitutes and have escaped of the police purge. Bars and restaurants have been placed out of bounds with a result that the back rooms of private houses have become eating places of black-market food and drinking places of the most poisonous "Jognac". The troops when intoxicated are made to pay exorbitant prices. There have been many cases of intoxicated troops stealing from shops and the police are afraid to interfere as they have several times been threatened with fire-arms.

It may be of interest to know that we visited the training-school for sons of people detained in prison. It is situated near the railway station of POLPEI and known as "Carpizio per i figli del Incarcerati", administered by the Church. It contains: printing shop, book-binding shop, photographic department with facilities for copper engraving, engineering shop containing lathes etc., carpenter's shop etc. All the shops appeared to be supplied with raw materials and it may be that they would be only too willing to carry out work for the United Nations.

- 3 -

- 4). On instructions we visited SCARATI and obtained a general report on conditions in the district which was forwarded to REGINA headquarters. It was found that the stocks of foodstuffs there were practically nil whereas stocks were held for them in SALERNO, PAGANI, NOCERA and PORTICI. Arrangements were made for stocks of essential food to be collected from NOCERA and thus impending hardships were alleviated. It should be mentioned that SCARATI is situated in King's Italy. Both in this place and in POMPEI the problem to be solved is TRANSPORT to enable the local authorities to collect essential stores.
- 5). The C.O. of 71 General Hospital accommodated us in the mess and he was kept advised with all news received to enable him to take every precaution at the Hospital.

Chief Commissioner.

E. Davies

Lieut. R.N.V.R.

Forwarded.

W. Salmer
2.4.44.

2985

1 2 APR Recd

SECRET

3 District
Ext 9
No/C

20 Mar 44

SUBJECT: Eruption of VEZUVIUS.

Dist : As for Operation Instruction No 1.
D. J. J. and J. J. J.

1. The activities of the volcano are now subsided orders issued by the
Operation Instruction No 1 are cancelled with provision as stated below.
2. The volcano is its slope now is OUT OF DANGER to all roads till
further orders, owing to the great condition of the ash deposits and the
danger of avalanches or ash.
3. All units will ensure that their roofs, gutters, pipes and drains are
properly cleared of ash and mud.

Lt Col
G. J.
(ED WINTER)

4984

2197

Hand Summary - 53A

There are many indications that the Luftwaffe rose to a deliberate challenge to the RAF and that by mixing it in a straight fight last night against their night fighters. RAF policy has been not to make any specific claims as to the number of German fighters shot down but British accounts of previous raids, as well as pilots' stories, have made it quite clear that the German fighters pay for their attacks on the RAF's command's assault forces.

This is the greatest loss the RAF has ever suffered. One previous raid last night was 70 out of over 1000 planes which raided Leipzig in February. The phrase "very great strength" in today's communiqué would suggest that last night's force was even larger.

ORIGINAL TALK THE INITIAL PHASE AT GASSING: Allied Headquarters, March 31--The Germans have regained the initiative for the moment at Cassino on the Allies continue to pull their lines back. Massed tanks were quick to follow up the Allies withdrawal from the points on the eastern slopes of Monte Cassino and by a day worked successfully at the command. Positions above the town. The heights overlooking the Allies are the points below which is two thirds of the way up Mount Cassino and the last point which Allied troops had managed to reach in their steady assault on March 15. The Germans attempt to infiltrate into Allied positions on Wednesday night were repulsed. The snow bound mountains north of Cassino have been coming to the heaviest gun duels for some time.

At the base of the Cassino the Germans are continuing their exfiltration of tanks and German military equipment. It is clear that the German command expects a new Allied offensive to be launched from the base of the mountain.

In a series of wide-ranging aerial activity Allied bombers destroyed 15 German tanks yesterday.

THE PRESIDENT TO SIGN "SINGLE MEMBER" POLITICAL VOTE: Washington, March 31--President Roosevelt today said, although he would not vote the so-called "single member" political vote bill, it would have to become law without his signature. The president said he considered the measure "wholly inadequate" in providing service men and women with the opportunity to cast their ballots. His message expressed the desire to cooperate in making the measure as "fully effective as its defective provisions will allow."

THE JAPANESE AIR FORCE OFFICIALS AT LINDSEY AIRFIELD: London, March 31--The British authorities reported today that a small Japanese raiding party on Wednesday broke through the English Channel coast, which is 40 miles inside land, and damaged a bridge before being driven off the road. The Japanese assault continued along the English Channel coast and in the vicinity of Lough.

THE JAPANESE CALL FOR "VOLUNTARY" OF LINDSEY AIRFIELD: London, March 31--The British authorities, the official report of the Soviet Government Thursday called for an immediate "voluntary" of the Japanese government "to rally in Italy all the forces necessary to fight against Hitler and Mussolini" and said that the Soviet Government was ready to contribute by all means to the favorable solution of this question in the very near future so that it should not be postponed, for instance, until the taking of Rome.

VOLCANIC DANGER OFFERS RESCUED: Naples, March 31--(Reuters)--About 50,000 acres, some of it the richest soil in southern Italy, will be unusable this year and about 200,000 additional acres will be only partially usable due to the heavy falling of volcanic dust and cinders received in the recent eruption of Vesuvius. Allied troops have made a free gift of two days' rations to the hard hit farmers and scores of military vehicles are being used to clear the stricken farmlands.

RUSSIA SUMMARY

Public Relations Office

RUSSIAN STATE DEPARTMENT

RUSSIA: 1 1-3/4/44, APRIL 1, 1944

GERMANY CAPTURED AS MUCH AS 30 MILES OF FRONT LINE, April 1--The battle for Odesa was slightly less than a year ago for the Germans. General von Manstein's forces have made in the 30 miles of front line the first part within the last 24 hours, capturing the port of Odesa and the town 30 to 40 miles away from it.

Odesa is a port on the Black Sea at the entrance to the Danube and Dnieper estuary and is 20 miles southeast of Nikolayev. It is approximately 35 miles northeast of Odessa.

Travelling from the north, Soviet troops yesterday captured the large railway station of Odesa, and from there they went into a number of localities. Other Russian forces moving toward Odesa, a big railway junction on the Danube, north east of Odesa, occupied more than 100 localities.

While heading his troops along the River and, Marshal Rokossovsky has the first of his deflected disintegration operations at Odesa and achieved his first objective in capturing the Odesa-Odessa railway.

It was reported in London today that Czechoslovak military formations are with the command of Marshal Rokossovsky's army which are threatened to break through the German lines and into Czechoslovakia. Czechoslovak guerrilla forces are also reported to be helping the Russians as they advance toward the Carpathians.

Last night Soviet communiques reported that Russian forces are still engaged in clearing up German-held territory northeast of Kamenets-Podolski. Several divisions from Moscow have indicated that German troops are trapped in this area but the official Soviet communiques have never clarified the situation.

U.S. TROOP FORCES ATTACKED JAPAN ISLANDS 600 MILES FROM HONOLULU: Washington, March 31--A heavy naval attack has been begun, it is officially announced, against the Iseu Islands which lie at the western end of the Caroline group and about 600 miles east of the Philippines. The communiques say Japanese submarines observed fleeing before Allied units which attacked their positions. The attack is continuing.

Admiral Nimitz stated that the force attacking the Iseu Islands is similar to that used in February when the Japanese naval base at Truk was attacked and that it includes aircraft carriers. The Iseu Islands are 130 miles south of Japan. This blow constitutes the first attack against Japan's inner fortress chain of islands extending from Truk to Japan itself.

A communique issued from Admiral Nimitz's headquarters almost at the same time as the announcement of the Iseu attack revealed that the big naval base at Truk had received its third air bombardment in 24 hours. The communique says that U.S. Navy land based bombers hammered five islands in Truk itself for the second time on the night of March 29-30. Anti-aircraft fire was moderate. The Army bombers also attacked four and four Japanese positions in the Iseu Islands. All the planes returned from these operations.

Further details on the task force attack on Iseu Islands are not available at present due to the necessity of maintaining radio silence.

RAF BOMBERS REVIANT 1000 IN NORMANDY RAID: London, March 31--The RAF took its highest looking of the air war last night when 94 planes failed to return from a very heavy attack on Germany with Hamburg as the main objective. The day's air campaign started: "Last night aircraft of the bomber command are over Germany in very great strength. The main objective was Hamburg. Other aircraft attacked targets in eastern Germany and mines were laid in enemy waters. Sixty four of our aircraft are missing."

(Continued)

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INCOMING MESSAGE

R/C NO: N43/31
CLASS : NONE
PREC : NONE
FROM : G 57 AREA
TO : INF. ACC REGION 3

DATE/TIME/RECD: MAR 31/2120
DATE/TIME/SENT: MAR 31/2120
REF NO : ~~PI/PI~~ NONE
CITE : NONE

01099. V SOVIET SITREP. 1700 HRS 31 MAR. NO CHANGE. MAY THIS SITREP
BE DISCONTINUED. ADV INFORMED.
RTH 312030

ACC LIST

Info-Region 3
Sec Gen
CABr
Lt Ref Br
Hq Command
Edy Rear
File
Float



4932

031445B

Action

Info Office

Thank you

You have confused
the eruption with
the explosion stage.
Eruption (Lava) took
place from Saturday
until Wednesday 9/8/61
Explosion (Lafillae,
Cinder cone) began at
1700 hrs Tuesday, reached
a peak 11/4/61

Vesuvius Eruption - March 1944.

In March 13, 1944, the cone of Mt. Vesuvius caved in, activity stopped and there was hardly any smoke until the exceptional eruptive activity started at 10.30 hours on March 13, 1944. The lava stream started to flow down the NW slope, ^{eventually} measuring about 40 feet in height and 150 feet in width and advancing at a rate of 4 yards per hour. 25 hours later, the "explosive phase" set in and lasted 42 hours, during which time 75 % of the village of San Sebastiano, 50 % of Massa di Somma and outlying houses of Cercola were destroyed. The population had been evacuated shortly before the lava reached the two villages, and army personnel, under the direction of ACC and 4888 Central Postal Directory, was detailed to various places to assist in moving, feeding and rehousing the civilians as well as clearing the roads from ash and dust which had settled up to 6 feet deep.

At noon on the 21st, at the end of the explosive phase, the volcano started to erupt ashes and for 104 hours smoke, dust, mud and ashes fell as far away as Bari. Lava particles fell as far south as Salerno. On March 22, traffic was interrupted between Napoli and Salerno and areas and roads around Mt. Vesuvius declared "off limits" to all military personnel not on duty there. 20 people were killed in Salerno province when ashes covering rooftops caused the collapse of houses. 2700 persons were rendered homeless and are being cared for by ASI/ACC.

The road Napoli - Salerno was reopened for single-line traffic from Naples to Salerno at noon on March 23, traffic from Salerno to Naples being routed via Avellino. At the peak of activity the lava stream attained a velocity of 150 yards per hour, being from one quarter of a mile to one mile wide, and the lava output is estimated to have reached 500,000 cubic meters per hour, the total output being estimated at 20 to 30 Million cubic meters. The population was disciplined and cooperative at all times and the situation kept well in hand.

The last report received by ACC was dated 29 March, 1300 hours, when a slight fall of ashes was registered at San Giuseppe Vesuviano. Since then, no news has reached Hq. ACC. of any new eruptions, although ash ejections might occur again without reaching the violence of the previous days. The collapse of the lava plateau has already taken place. Thus an abyss of a depth of not less than two hundred meters has formed. Large rocks continue to break loose from the edges of the crater and roll toward the base of the cone-material deposit, which is in an unstable position. Besides the damage done by the lava to houses and crops north of the mountain, wide areas south of the volcano have suffered when rain began to fall at the same time as the ashes, rendering these poisonous and thus destroying crops and fields.

John V. Hinkel
Major, M.I.
Director
Information Division A.C.C.

31 March 1944

1360

d

50 file

Yesusins Notes

- Belk Market discoveries
- Bing travelled through Black Snow
Pink "
Yellow "

4959

11038 f.5

217 ~~11~~

31 MAR Recd

6262

ALLIED COMMAND COMMISSION
INCOMING MESSAGE

MSG CENTER NO : N54/30
 CLASSIFICATION : IMMEDIATE
 PRECEDENCE : NONE
 FROM : DISTHREE

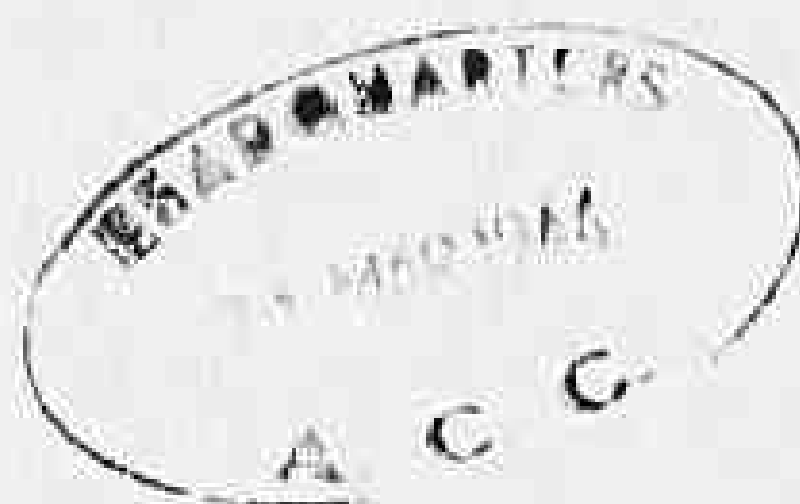
DATE/TIME REC'D : MAR 31
 DATE/TIME SENT : 311740
 REFERENCE NR : 172/3/4/5/6
 CITE : NONE

TO : ACC 57 AREA, 59 AREA, 22 AA BDE 203 FIXED
 DEFENCES A 270

NO PERSON IS ALLOWED TO PROCEED UP ROADS LEADING TO VESUVIUS
 BEYOND WHERE LAVA STREAMS NOW CROSS THESE ROADS. CRATER STILL
 DANGEROUS. ALL INFORMED.
 THI 311740

ACC DISTN:

Action.....Hq Comd't
 Info.....Secy Gen
 C A Br
 Ital Ref Br
 AMG Reg 3
 Adj Main
 Adj Rear
 File
 Float



4958

2197

43A
24 March 1944.

Colonel Poletti
Regional Commissioner
Civil Affairs
Naples

In today's meeting the Council of Ministers making itself the spokesman of sentiments Italian People has unanimously formulated vote gratitude for work done by Allies under guidance Y.E. in favor populations damaged eruption Vesuvius. In notifying I express to you sentiments of my personal consideration.

Chief of the Government

Badoglio.

29 March 1944.

TO H.E.
Gen. Pietro Badoglio
Marshal of Italy
Prime Minister
SALERNO

I greatly appreciated your courtesy in having kindly advised me by telegram of the satisfaction expressed by the Council of Ministers in regard to help given by the Allies to ~~those~~ those stricken by the recent eruption of Vesuvius.

I am glad to inform you that such assistance has been possible, and has shown itself effective, thanks to the complete cooperation by all the Units, combatant with the Allied Military Government. In fact, both motorvehicles ~~also~~ also Military Police forces have been largely placed at the disposal of the Allied Military Government by the Peninsular Base Section, the Headquarters of the 57th Area, and 94th Area of the Third District, as also by the American Air Corps and the RAF.

Similarly, all the officials of the Allied Military Government and mainly the Lt. Col.'s Kincaid, Warner and Warren, and the Majors Cantor and Hershenson, have lavished all their best efforts and in the most fraternal spirit, to alleviate the condition of the unfortunates stricken by the grave scourge.

In thanking you for your communication, please accept, Excellency, my kindest regards.

4957
CHARLES POLETTI
Lt. Colonel
Regional Commissioner

Baughlio.

29 March 1944.

TO H.E.
Gen. Pietro Badoglio
Marshal of Italy
Prime Minister
SALUNO

I greatly appreciated your courtesy in having kindly advised me by telegram of the satisfaction expressed by the Council of Ministers in regard to help given by the Allies to ~~XXXXXX~~ those stricken by the recent eruption of Vesuvius.

I am glad to inform you that such assistance has been possible, and has shown itself effective, thanks to the complete cooperation by all the Units combatant with the Allied Military Government. In fact, both motor vehicles ~~XXXXXX~~ Military Police forces have been largely placed at the disposal of the Allied Military Government by the Peninsular Base Section, the Headquarters of the 57th Area, and 9th Area of the Third District, as also by the American Air Corps and the RAF.

Similarly, all the officials of the Allied Military Government and mainly the Lt. Col. Kincaid, Warner and Warren, and the Majors Cantor and Hershenson, have lavished all their best efforts and in the most fraternal spirit, to alleviate the condition of the unfortunates stricken by the grave scourge.

In thanking you for your communication, please accept, Excellency, my kindest regards.

4957

CHARLES POLETTI
Lt. Colonel
Regional Commissioner

24 Marzo 1944

Colonnello Paletti.
Capo Ufficio Regionale
Affari Civili
Napoli

48B

Nella seduta odierna il Consiglio dei Ministri
rendendosi interprete sentimenti popolo italiano ha una-
nimemente formulato voto esortativo per opere svolte
da Alleati sotto guida V. S. a favore popolazioni dan-
negiate eruzione Vesuvio. Nel dare comunicazione esori-
mola considerazione.

Amministratore personale

Capo Governo

Sedeo.lio.

1956

314 Recd

*Copy to Col. Deputy Commander
Cassino*

23 marzo 1944.

A. S. E.
Il Cav. Pietro Badoglio
Maresciallo d'Italia,
Primo Ministro
SALERNO.

U-2556
47A

Ho apprezzato molto la Sua cortesia nell'aver voluto informarmi telegraficamente della soddisfazione espressa dal Consiglio dei Ministri nei riguardi della assistenza data dagli Alleati ai rifugiati della recente eruzione del Vesuvio.

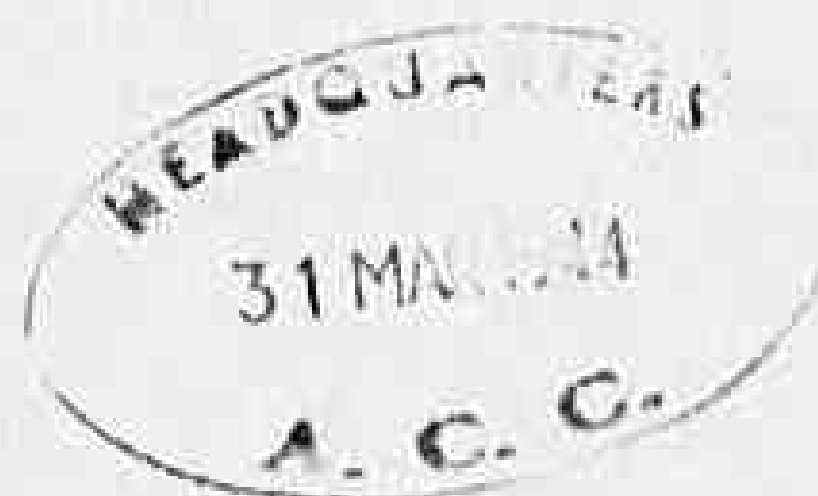
Mi e' grato informarla che tale assistenza e' stata possibile, e si e' resa effettiva, grazie alla completa cooperazione di tutte le Unite' Combattenti con il Governo Militare Alleato. Infatti, tanto auto-mezzi quanto forze della Polizia Militare, sono state largamente messe a disposizione del Governo Militare Alleato dalla Peninsular Base Section, del Commando della 57th Area, e 54th Area del Terzo Distretto, nonché dell'American Air Corps e della RAF.

Partecipanti tutti gli Ufficiali del Governo Militare Alleato e principalmente i Ten. Col. M. Kincaid, Warner e Warren, ed i Maggiorei Cantor e Hershenov, si sono prodigati con tutte le loro forze, e con il piu' fraterno animo, per alleviare le condizioni degli infortunati del grave flagello.

Nel ringraziarla della Sua comunicazione, Le prego gradire, Eccellenza, i piu' distinti saluti.

CHARLES POLETTI
Lt. Colonel
Regional Commissioner

CPRAF-10



4955

HEADQUARTERS,
REGION 3, MILITARY CONTROL COMMISSION.
PO 114, U.S. Army.

46A

SUBJECT: Report on Effects Agriculturally, 24 March, 1944.
Vesuvius Eruption.

TO : Agriculture Sub-Commission,
A.S.C.

Yesterday, the 23rd, the Deputy Director of Agriculture asked me to arrange for a report to be rendered on the above subject as soon as possible.

It is obviously impossible to submit anything in the nature of a complete report until some considerable time after the eruption has ended, but I feel that your requirements will be more nearly met if we render a series of interim reports in a sort of diary form, and unless you disagree this is the procedure I intend to carry out.

The eruption started on Sunday evening, and ash started falling in the area Pompei-Efati on Tuesday evening.

On Wednesday, 22nd, Major White undertook a tour of the area North of the mountain centred on Carcola (which was then being evacuated of its inhabitants), to see if any sizeable quantity of livestock might, should the lava flow continue, require wholesale evacuation.

Two empty farms were at the time available in the area South of the Volturno River, at which we had prepared a reception depot for horses and mules from Gardinia, which are not now coming.

Major White found that

- (a) the lava flow appeared to be dying down in that direction.
- (b) there was no foreseeable need for arranging livestock evacuation as above.

On the same day, Wednesday the 22nd, Major Guy motored around the North and North-East side of the mountain through CORA VESUVIANO towards the Vesuviana Airfield, and reported that all the area approximately South of S. Giuseppe Vesuviana and for considerable distances to the East of it was covered with a pretty thick coating of ash and that large quantities of ashes were then still falling. No evacuation of livestock at that time appeared necessary in that area.

..../m.

✱

-2-

On Thursday the 23rd, I myself, accompanied by the Chief of the Ispettorato Provinciale, Prof. Leone motored down autostrada to Pompei - Scalfati, and about 4 miles behind it, returning by turning right at Scalfati via Passanti and home by Boscoreale, Torre Annunziata etc.

A thin covering of lava ash commenced approximately opposite Resina and continued right down to the end of the autostrada, then becoming continuously heavier towards Poggioreale, where the depth was estimated at 10 centimetres. Further to the East the depth was increasing and the main road was kept open by using bulldozers. On the return journey the area up to Passanti remained thickly covered but from Boscoreale to Torre Annunziata it lessened.

Five rep. samples of ash were carefully taken and left with the Chemical Professor at Portici for immediate analysis.

On the same day Captain Cobb, Agriculture Sub-Commissioner, reported to assist this investigation and did a preliminary recon.

On Friday 24th, he again reported and accompanied by an official of the Ispettorato, was undertaken a further tour to the North-East and East of the mountain to ascertain

- (a) the extent Eastwards of the covering ash
- (b) the effect on growing crops
- (c) to obtain samples
- (d) to discuss probable effects and possible immediate alternative cultivation where crops are ruined, particularly regarding the possibility of planting potatoes.

Summary. From information so far to hand, the following facts appear reasonably accurate.

1. Effects and Damage can be divided into the following categories.

- (a) Total destruction caused by lava flows, so far confined to vines and some fruit trees, on the slopes of the mountain are easily ascertainable in extent as soon as the lava flow ends.
- (b) Damage to growing crops, particularly those in flower. Pretty well all the same seen by me in the area ^{East of} Pompei were very burnt and appeared pretty well entirely destroyed, also all young cabbage and lettuce plants and the remainder of growing cauliflowers. It is believed this was caused by rain falling through the sulphur fumes and being highly impregnated with sulphuric and other acids, and it is not caused directly by the

-3-

lava ash, except perhaps in the case of very small or young plants.

The primary object of having the samples of ash analysed is to ascertain their extent of acidity. Should this prove as expected to be slight, it is believed that

- (c) The effects of the lava ash will be more beneficial than otherwise, except where the depth is so great that plants are covered.

Further investigation on (b) and (c) above is being undertaken by Capt. Cobb in the area North East of the mountain today, and further results will come in from the samples of ash, which I will bring in.

Captain Stringer will be submitting me separate reports concerning Salerno and has informed me on the telephone that ash extends this morning to Pontecagnano, where it is about one inch deep and that in the plain down to Paestum there is only a thin sprinkling.

RK

E.O. DOUGLAS KENNEDY.

Major,
R.A.,

Regional Agricultural Officer.

Copy to: Regional Commissioner, Region I, A.S.C. —

1952

INDONESIA
ARMED CONTROL COMMISSION
INFORMATION DIVISION

SUBJECT: Yeauvius eruption
TO : P.M.C.

2493/1250
20 March 1964

Prof. who has asked that the following amendment be published:-
as many varying within the last few months.
Yeauvius eruption March 1964.
The official estimate of lava output at the peak of activity was
500,000 (five hundred thousand) cubic metres ^{per} hour.

The total lava output was estimated to be between 20 and 30 million
cubic metres.

(Information Division)

304920A

49A

BULLETIN

0910 GO S

30 7/2/60

The exeptional eruptive activity can be considered practically at an end: ash ~~pro~~jections will continue but will not reach the violence of recent days. Following a climb up to the crater effected during yesterday afternoon, there has been an opportunity to observe that the collapse of the Lava Plateau has already taken place. Thus an abyss of a depth of not less than two hundred meters has formed. Large rocks continue to break loose from the edges and roll toward the base of the large cone material deposited on it and being in an unstable condition; so that the ascent to the crater is exeptionally dangerous for possible tourists, who, in view of the situation, might ascend up to the base of the great cone.

T

Telephoned District 3 requested necessary action. CMB recommended to put up warning notices at top of each road ie, near the cone. (301220 A - spoke to Capt Hynes Jones SC(A))

Personal Message from Linto to General passed to Room 32

301020A

1957

2187

#

Phone C91317 A

- At 1300 hours slight fall of ash at San Giuseppe Vesuviano. 13A
It is not considered serious.

Sgt. Muller

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PROVINCE OF NAPLES
MUNICIPIO

Naples 29 March 1944

SUBJECT : Vesuvius Emergency Relief Order, 0800 hrs, 29 March 1944.

TO : See Distribution.

1. Lt Col Warren and Major P. Shriver in the Cercola Area report that an Italian Officer is now located in the Municipio Cercola re-locating the people who lost their farms under the lava flow. From all reports, except for an occasional checking with the Sindacos which Col Warren will undertake, and for one more visit to-morrow by Maj Shriver, the Cercola Sector can be considered closed and the entire matter back in Italian hands. The Provincial Commissioner visited the dust bowl Area and found that conditions have been greatly improved. This was due largely to the fine work done by the thirty (30) trucks loaned for this purpose by 57 Area and the mechanical equipment from the same source. Urgent military requirements prevent the use of this equipment to-day, but an application has been made to the Commander 57 Area through Major Fletcher for an additional loan of this equipment for the same purpose.

2. Forage for live-stock was delivered to dust bowl Area by Agricultural Section Reg. 3. This Section is also continuing its general study of the dust bowl situation.

3. Candles were supplied to the 3 Communes in the dust bowl Area, yesterday.

4. Col. Warren and Major Cantor are directed to call a meeting of the Sindacos of the 3 dust bowl Communes, with a representative of the Prefect and to work out a long range program which the Provincial Government Italian and the Sindacos can direct which will result:

a) in the continued clearance of highways and streets so that normal traffic conditions will again prevail and both military and civilian traffic can move easily.

4950

TO : See Distribution.

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a) in the continued clearance of highways and streets so that normal traffic conditions will again prevail and both military and civilian traffic can move easily.

Seen by EC

Circulate Copy to 2, 3, 4,

301737A *dk*

2878

- 2 -

b) work out some plan, perhaps with Alimentazione, for the procurement of fresh vegetables and other types of foodstuffs which the dust bowl Communes have lost by reason of the present situation, to arrange for some system of Italian transportation from place of procurement to the dust bowl Communes, some plan of rigidly controlling the prices of these articles to the Civilians;

c) to check carefully on the problem of electric current and see that this service is resumed in the dust bowl as early as possible;

d) to arrange on some plan for tapering of civilian feeding in a proper manner as rapidly as possible without prejudice to the civilian population.

5. Officers on loan can be returned to their proper Stations as soon as their work in the area is completed.

6. Major Fletcher has just informed this HQ that trucks and motor equipment from 57 area will again be available for use in dust bowl area on Thursday and Friday, 30 and 31 March 1944.

By order of Lt Col KIRCH:ID:

JOHN N. LUMZUB,
Captain AUS,
Executive Officer.

DISTRIBUTION:-

- 1 to each Officer concerned
- 1 to HQ PG 3
- 1 to A.O.C.
- 1 to 57 area
- 1 for file.

4949

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army

CA. Info Dir

U-24/93

HIA

28 March 1944

SUBJECT: Report on eruption of Vesuvius-Salerno Province.

TO : A.C.C. Hq., (Attn. Executive Commissioner)

1. For your information the following report is forwarded:

The communes of Pagani, Angri, Nocera, San Marzano, San Valentino Torio, Cava Del Tirreni and Salerno City suffered a considerable inundation of ashes spewed up from the Crater of Vesuvius.

The situation is in hand South and East of the line Baronissi-San Severino-Castel San Giorgio. There the fall of ash is slight.

Casualties reported so far as follows: Six killed and ten injured in Pagani. Sixteen roofs collapsed in that commune. In Nocera eleven were killed and several were injured. Thirty roofs collapsed in Nocera. In Salerno three ~~three~~ were killed and two roofs collapsed. Total--twenty killed and a number injured.

Roofs throughout the area affected are practically cleared of ash. No further danger is anticipated unless there are further heavy falls of ashes.

Smaller communes need transport and it is being made available gradually. The following problems are foreseen: drain clearance, food supply, additional rations to supplement destroyed stores.

Public order may be described as calm.

*for the Regional Commissioner:

(Campbell)
O. W. CAMPBELL
Captain, 1889,
Adjutant

4948

2197

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PROVINCE OF NAPLES
MUNICIPIO

28 March 1944

SUBJECT: Report of Lt. Col. James L. Kincaid, AUS, Provincial Commissioner ACC on the Vesuvius Emergency operation 20 March 1944 to 25 March 1944. Supplemental by Major Cantor.

1. Abnormal conditions of Mt. Vesuvius were first observed on Saturday 18th March 1944. They grew progressively worse until Tuesday 21st March, when I contacted Lt. Col. Poletti, Regional Commissioner, in view of the fact that Lt. Col. Kincaid, Provincial Commissioner, was already intensively engaged with the problems of the Communes of San Sebastiano and Cercola. After inspection and consultation with Prof. Imbo, Director of the Vesuvius Observatory, it was agreed that the Communes of Portici, Resina, Torre del Greco, Torre Annunziata and Pompei were in grave danger of being affected by lava flow. Streams of lava were observed to be flowing in the general direction of these Communes, affecting the welfare of about 250,000 persons, exclusive of those in the smaller places and fractions of Communes. It was decided that immediate steps must be taken for preparation to evacuate where necessary and a conference was held with Lt. Col. Moore, British O.C. of C.R.U. at Torre del Greco. I requested that trucks be made available as well as Officers and enlisted personnel to supervise evacuation and attendant activities throughout the area aforementioned. Through the efforts of Lt. Col. Poletti in contact with 57th Area, about 300 trucks were made available, and further through his contact with ACC a number of Officers, Enlisted Men and Other Ranks were put at my disposal.

2. On Wednesday, 22nd March, at about 4 P.M. those assigned to this special detail began to arrive

4947

1. Abnormal conditions of Mt. Vesuvius were first observed on Saturday 16th March 1944. They grew progressively worse until Tuesday 21st March, when I contacted Lt. Col. Poletti, Regional Commissioner, in view of the fact that Lt. Col. Kincaid, Provincial Commissioner, was already intensively engaged with the problems of the Communes of San Sebastiano and Carocia. After inspection and consultation with Prof. Imbo, Director of the Vesuvius Observatory, it was agreed that the Communes of Portici, Resina, Torre del Greco, Torre Annunziata and Pompei were in grave danger of being effected by lava flow. Streams of lava were observed to be flowing in the general direction of these Communes, affecting the welfare of about 250,000 persons, exclusive of those in the smaller places and fractions of Communes. It was decided that immediate steps must be taken for preparation to evacuate where necessary and a conference was held with Lt. Col. Moore, British O.C. of C.R.U. at Torre del Greco. I requested that trucks be made available as well as Officers and enlisted personnel to supervise evacuation and attendant activities throughout the area aforementioned. Through the efforts of Lt. Col. Poletti in contact with 57th Area, about 300 trucks were made available, and further through his contact with ACC a number of Officers, Enlisted Men and Other Ranks were put at my disposal.

2. On Wednesday, 22nd March, at about 4 P.M. those assigned to this special detail began to arrive and continued to arrive until 0100 hours of Thursday, 23rd March, when there were a total of 77 Officers, Enlisted Men and Other Ranks at Villa Matarazzo, Posina. They had been given an evening meal and

Seen by EC

Extraction Copy to 2, 3, 4

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breakfast and had been billeted at the Villa for the night. After breakfast, they were gathered together in the Sal-n and given instructions as to their duties. They were distributed as follows: - 3 Officers and 2 E.M. to Portici; 5 Officers and 1 E.M. to Resina; 5 Officers and 10 E.M. to Torre del Greco; 4 Officers and 8 E.M. to Torre Annunziata; 1 Officer and 1 E.M. to Boscotrecase; a fraction of Torre Annunziata; 2 Officers and 2 E.M. to Terzigno; 1 Officer and 2 E.M. to Poggioreale; 2 Officers and 3 E.M. to Pompei; 3 Officers and 2 E.M. to Nocera; 1 Officer and 1 Officer and 1 E.M. to Scafati; 11 Officers and 5 E.M. to Castellammare, which was established as a Reception Center for possible evacuees.

3. On the afternoon of Wednesday, 22nd March, the lava flow in the direction of Torre del Greco and specifically in the fraction of Camaldoli assumed such proportions that it was deemed advisable to evacuate the residents of that fraction and so 256 persons were taken by truck to Castellammare. Conditions were such that about 250 more persons saw fit to go under their power to the same place same place and during the following day about 250 additional people came there by their own conveyances. This has been the only evacuation effected to date and it is presently impossible to return these people to their homes, as at this very moment there is a stream of smoke, carrying cinders and dust, traveling over this same section and which has continued for the past three days. On Friday, 24th March, at about 1100 hours, the lava flow had reached a point about five feet from a precipitous drop just above the evacuated territory and by some strange freak apparently had frozen at that point.

4. While no Commune in this area of the Bay Road and to the South has been hit by lava flow, the cinder

7966

cers and 2 E.M. to Terzigno; 1 Officer and 2 E.M. to Poggioreale; 2 Officers and 3 E.M. to Pompei; 3 Officers and 2 E.M. to Nocera; 1 Officer and 1 E.M. to Castellammare, which was established as a Reception Center for possible evacuees.

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7966
While no Commune in this area of the Bay Road and to the South has been hit by lava flow, the cinder and dust damage has been unusually great in Terzigno and Poggioreale where an average depth of three to five feet in numerous points has been observed. A serious problem has been created in these Communes, requiring Emergency food supplies, animal forage and expert agricultural counsel. About 20,000 persons are involved and their

= 3 =
predicament is receiving our close attention. 57th Area has provided 30 trucks for cleaning the streets in addition to the work done by Army Bulldozers and Scrapers on roads required for the Military.

5. As the emergency abated apparently, and on advice of the Director of the Vesuvius Observatory, 20 officers and E.M. were released from this special detail on Monday, 27th March, and after conference with Lt. Col. Kincaid and Lt. Col. Lord Forester release of all personnel was affected on Tuesday, 28th March, with the exception of the following :
3 Officers and 3 E.M. at Terzigno; 2 Officers and 3 E.M. at Poggioreale; 2 Officers and 1 E.M. at Castellammare, the last to carry on until the return of the evacuees to their homes. The first two Companies named will, in my opinion, require special food and problem attention for at least another week, if not longer.

7945

FROM G 57 AREA

TO (INFO ACC REGION 3

291360A

0.1072. VESUVIUS SITREP. 1700 HRS 29 MARCH. GENERAL SITUATION NO CHANGE.
CIVILIAN SITUATION IMPROVED. ALL INFORMED

SENT & RCD NR4 29/2301A

ACC DIST 1964
ACTION - DIRG RES 3
INFO - Sec GEN
C D SR
1700 HRS 29
HQ (cont)
NOT (Reas)
FILE
FRONT

29/2301A

297

FROM: 57 AREA

TO: ACTION 35 DISTRICT INFO 3 MAY 6 PLANO 94 SUB AREA 3 PORTION 22 A. HSE
 66 A. HSE 9 HSE 17 LAR 187 ORG. 13 1 OF 6 TET GOLF. CMT TRAG DEPT
 18717 4 2 17 MEDICAL 187 1875 PRO 57 AREA ADD ACTION 3

2818304

9189. VERVINE BIRMA. 1700 HRS 28 MAR. NO ACTION

2818304
 2818304
 2818304

2818304 2102

4943

INFO - 2809 92N
 D. C. E.
 REG. 3
 NR COMDT
 NR COMDT (REAR)
 17th REF BR 4942
 INFO DIV
 FILE + FLOAT

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED CONTROL COMMISSION
PROVINCE OF NAPLES
MUNICIPIO

37A

Naples, 28 March 1944

Subject: Sitrap and Orders, 0800 hrs. 28 March 1944.

To : See Distribution.

1. Lt. Colonel Warren reports that in the S.GIORGIO-SAN GIUSEPPE sector arrangements are being made at S.GIORGIO to absorb all the homeless persons from S.SEBASTIANO who can not be housed in the remaining buildings of SAN SEBASTIANO, POLLENA TRICERNA and GREGOLA will absorb the homeless civilians from MASSA. Major Shriver at GREGOLA and Capt. Powder at S.GIORGIO will continue with this work until it is completed.

2. In the dust bowl, the situation on the high ways is much worse than yesterday. This is particularly true in TERZIGNO and POGGIOMARINO and on the high ways connecting the two communes, and on the high way towards POMPEI from TERZIGNO. The situation in the town of S. GIUSEPPE has been greatly improved since yesterday by excellent work in cleaning the streets. In all communes in dust bowl area civilians must be prevented from clearing out courtyards and carrying ashes and dust into the streets. This is complicating our efforts to improve the situation. Sindicos will be ordered to have CC.RR. patrol the streets and announce the above. Violators will be promptly thrown into jail. All Civilians should be required to do something in clearing the streets in front of their own houses to permit the passage of vehicles and to help in the dust clearing problem which is one of great magnitude.

3. About fifteen (15) truck loads of forage for animals has been purchased by Naples Province and paid for, and will be delivered sometime today to S.GIUSEPPE, TERZIGNO and POGGIOMARINO quantities decided and advised to Agriculture by Lt. Col. Warren. Province will make the charge for this forage against the comune concerned. The Agriculture Section, I am informed, has made a survey of the dust bowl area, is having samples of soil and dust analyzing and will, as soon as possible, take proper action in advising the communes in the dust bowl relative planting, necessary seeds and other details.

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4. 57 Area yesterday furnished thirty (30) trucks to the dust bowl area to help clear the high ways. Arrangements have been made for the same thirty (30) trucks to report again today. In addition to this certain bull dozers and other mechanical equipment furnished by 57 Area were engaged in the same work yesterday.

5. Major Rogers, Finance Officer, made financial arrangements with the Sindaco in the dust bowl yesterday to take care of this emergency requirements. Capt. MacKenzie and Lt. Wintersteen Public Health and Welfare checked the communes and their reports will be forwarded to officers concerned as soon as received.

6. 57 Area are making a survey of the Traffic Control situation in the dust bowl area and if necessary will close the roads therein to all but essential military traffic.

7. Telephones were being installed yesterday at S. GIUSEPPE and TERRIGNO by 57 Area thru 37th Bomber Wing Signals.

8. The "Genio Civile" of Naples will check all buildings in S. SEBASTIANO, POLINA and CERCELA adjacent to the lava flow and certify which are condemned and which are suitable for human habitation. The same department will also furnish the water supply for S. SEBASTIANO and relieve the military break-down emergency water service by P.B.S. set finished a few days ago.

9. The same department will also re-establish electric light service in S. SEBASTIANO.

10. Lt. Colonel Warren, commanding the S. VIGORIO-S. GIUSEPPE Sector, will follow thru on location of homeless civilians in S. VIGORIO, S. SEBASTIANO, POLINA and CERCELA. He will instruct Capt. Bartelli at S. GIUSEPPE relative to instructions herein given and will supervise their execution.

11. The Prefect will appoint a personal representative to work with ACC in the dust bowl and co-ordinate all activities with Lt. Col. Warren. He should take station at S. GIUSEPPE.

12. Major Carter will instruct Capt. Savage, POGGIOREALE, and Capt. Pasley at TERRIGNO with the instructions herein contained and will supervise their execution.

13. All concerned will expedite the reports on data requested by Region III.

1
BOLLETTINO DEL VESUVIO 28 MARZO 1944

file 36A

nell'attività eruttiva del vulcano si nota una stasi, mentre nell'attività sismica osservasi una spiccata riduzione. Si ha motivo di ritenere che l'eruzione sia prossima alla fine.

0840

28

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PROVINCE OF NAPLES
NAPLES

Naples 27 March 1944

SUBJECT : Venetian Emergency Relief Order, 0800 hrs 27 March 1944
TO : See Distribution.

1. Officers on duty in Sector St Giorgio to S. Giuseppe in distressed communes where the homes of civilians have been destroyed and civilians rendered homeless will arrange for their absorption within the same commune if possible. The Italian officials will be ordered to make all necessary arrangements including housing, doubling up families if necessary, all necessary changes on identification records and other control records. Lt Col Warren in charge of this sector will supervise this operation carefully and check his responsible officers through the communes.

2. When the emergency is declared over by higher headquarters families will be permitted to return to their homes, arranging the details with the local Sindaco.

3. In communes of the first bowl first priority will be given to opening necessary roads to military traffic, secondly, arranging emergency feeding if necessary, third take proper action in respect to live stock. It should be noted that if the clean up of these communes is to continue by cart, horses can not be evicted from the communes.

4. All proper steps will be taken by all concerned to prevent looting in any part of the area. Lt Col Warren will report results secured during the day in his sector in person to the Provincial Commissioner by 2000 hours. Major Cantor will report the same in his sector by 2000 hours.

49.9

By order of Lt Col Sigcald:

John N. Lumsden
JOHN N. LUMSDEN,
Capt AUS,
Executive Officer.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 to each of Comd.
- 1 to Hq Reg III - 1 to 57 area + 1 for File
- 1 to AGC

MEMORANDUM

341

27 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Professor Imbo.
TO : Information Division.
FROM : Liaison Division.

The accommodation asked for by the Professor has now been arranged satisfactorily. The wireless set has also been returned as requested by the Professor.
Original correspondence returned herewith.

4928

C. S. MURCHIE
C. S. MURCHIE, Major
for
Chief Liaison Officer.

776-515

HEADQUARTERS
JOINT CONTROL COMMISSION
INFORMATION DIVISIONTO : Lincoln officer

Ref the attached request

1. Prof. Giuseppe Imbo is in charge of the Observatory on Vestulus.
2. Most of the Observatory is occupied by the XIIth Weather Region HQ and the professor has been left with only one room.
3. The Professor has been most helpful in assisting the Info Div to select and remove from the Observatory library what material which it is thought might, be of value to the war effort and fulfill a request received indirectly from Washington.
4. It is understood that the Professor's radio set was requisitioned by an officer and put in a nearby cafe - such action is not understood and the Professor is very disturbed on this account.
5. Can anything done in this matter?.

F. E. GILBERT
Capt 5 Innis D.C.
Deputy Director
Information Division

4937

Minimum requests for operation of only the seismographic apparatus of the Vesuvian Observatory.

Under present conditions, the Observatory cannot carry on any work. We would, therefore, have a void during a most critical period in the Vesuvian eruptive activity, that is in a period near a certain violent eruption, ending the eruptive period began in July 1913. To follow the events of the Volcano during that phase, incorporates the very highest interest not only from a scientific point of view (never up to now has it been possible to follow with continuity the life of the volcano either through direct observation or through registration on the various apparatus in operation at the Observatory, or through observation of various characteristics suggested by circumstances and events), but also from a practical point of view, in relation therefore to the possibility of prediction of the paroxysm phases. Even to limit observations to seismology, makes attendance in the Observatory indispensable, the most continuous possible, of one of the scientific personnel who obviously cannot stay in the same room where the seismographical instruments are located, while there can never be a profitable recording without effective supervision.

It is therefore requested that for operation of only the seismographic apparatus, the Observatory be authorized at least another room which for instance might be the adjoining one to the one where the seismographic apparatus is set up, and left at the disposal of the Observatory.

The selection of this room would also present the advantage of sun observations and therefore other important observations could be carried on, among which those already in progress on absorption of solar radiation by vesuvian fumes.

Furthermore, it is vital that, always for the operation of the seismographic functions (and for the carrying on of any activity) and specifically for clock control (knowledge of the exact time is indeed a basic element for analysis of seismograms), the requisitioned radio apparatus be returned to the Observatory, or at least that for short and medium wave (the main transmissions are carried on short wave), as, incidentally, I was assured by the Officer who carried out the requisition.

Prof. Giuseppe Imbo.

1926

Richieste minime per il funzionamento dei vari
dei apparecchi ricevuti dall'osservatorio Vesuviano

Nelle condizioni attuali l'osservatorio non può svolgere alcuna
attività. Si avrebbe pertanto una lacuna in un periodo criticissimo
dell'attività culturale vesuviana, cioè in un periodo prossimo ad
una nuova violenta eruzione, a chiunque del vulcano decan-
tato nel luglio 1913. Seguire le vicende del vulcano decan-
te tale fase desta altissimo interesse non solo dal punto di vista
scientifico (mai fuo ad oggi era stato possibile seguire con costan-
za la vita del vulcano sia attraverso dirette osservazioni, sia
attraverso le registrazioni nei vari apparecchi in funzione all'osser-
vatorio, sia attraverso osservazioni di varie indoli suggerite dalle
circostanze e dagli eventi), ma anche dal punto di vista pra-
tico, in relazione cioè alla possibilità di previsione delle fat-
taccosissimi. Anche a voler limitare le osservazioni a quelle
simili risulta sempre indispensabile la presenza nell'osser-
vatorio, il più possibilmente continua, di uno del personale
scientifico il quale costantemente non può sopprimere nello stesso
modo ove sono in funzione gli strumenti simili, mentre questo non
potranno mai dare utili registrazioni senza una efficace sorve-
glianza.

Chiedersi perciò che per il funzionamento anche dei
in concorso all'osservatorio l'uso
1935

cominciato nel luglio 1913. ^{negare} tale fase desta altissimo interesse non solo dal punto di vista scientifico (mai ^{prima} ~~fu~~ ad oggi) era stato possibile servire con continuità la vita del vulcano sia attraverso dirette osservazioni, sia attraverso le registrazioni dei vari apparecchi in funzione all'osservatorio, sia attraverso osservazioni di varie uscite suggerite dalle circostanze e dagli eventi, ma anche dal punto di vista pratico, in relazione cioè alla possibilità di previsione delle catastrofici. Anche a voler limitare le osservazioni a quelle sinistre risulta sempre indispensabile la presenza nell'osservatorio, il più possibilmente continua, di uno del personale scientifico il quale costantemente non può soggiornare nello stesso luogo ove sono in funzione gli strumenti sinistri, mentre questi non potranno mai dare utili registrazioni senza una efficace sorveglianza.

Chiederai perciò che per il funzionamento anche dei registri apparecchi sinistri servire concesso all'osservatorio l'uso di almeno un altro vano che potrebbe essere ad esempio l'attigua a quello ove sono in funzione gli apparecchi sinistri e lasciato a disposizione dell'osservatorio.

La scelta del vano presenterebbe anche il vantaggio di poter osservare il sole e di poter ^{per} seguire anche altre importanti osservazioni.

Per le quali, nelle più in corso e all'essortimento della
indagare sopra le parti dei fummi venivano.
recare inoltre che, sempre per il perfezionamento dell'attività
norma (d'altre per la ologrammi di qualsiasi attività)
e precisamente per il controllo dell'indagini (la conoscenza dell'ora
esatta e difetti un elemento basare per l'analisi dei sono
grammi) venivano restituite all'operatore gli apparecchi
radio ricevuti o almeno quello ad onde corte e medie
(le principali trasmissioni sono eseguite difetti ad onde corte),
come del resto mi fu promesso dallo stesso ufficiale che
prevedette alla requisizione.

Prof. Giuseppe Binda

1924

Chief Commissioner.

I submit a preliminary
report by Agricultural Officer
Reg. III on damage done
to crops by the erection

Informal
Office

-172 (26/3/44)

Sharma

19.3

See p. 1

Info. Off.

I should like 500 words
in Review Enrich for

AFHQ

MS 2513

301820A
sk

30104545

153

0

0 8 0 2

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No. 785016

[illegible]

File ID: 11A/400

77761, 77062, 92

Statistics : Vegetables Variety released earlier, 990 units 26 March 1944.

the availability of

1. Situation at this time at Tercoia Commune - Tercoia partly evacuated. Area in this commune almost totally buried. 600 six hundred) people homeless will have to be absorbed into Tercoia Commune. Emergency feeding has ceased. M.C.R. have relieved P.S. Major Paul Shriver in charge. Assistance Capt. Brooks and Maj. Blair in Pollena.
2. St. Georgio and San Sebastiano Communes - St. Georgio untouched San Sebastiano almost totally destroyed 2150 homeless who will have to be absorbed in St. Georgio. Temporary water supply in San Sebastiano operating successfully. M.C.R. have relieved M.S. Major Perillo in St. Georgio in charge with Capt. Fowler assistant in San Sebastiano.
3. San Giuseppe is in the dust bowl area. Transportation almost impossible for civilian cars. Difficulty for military vehicles. Roofs being cleared, emergency feeding may be necessary. About fifty laborers at work clearing streets largely to facilitate local establishments. These workers demanding food as all British establishments in town are giving food to their workers. Services of agricultural experts badly needed, has been called for. Necessary clearance of highways by bulldozers through 57 area, Capt. Ballotti in charge.
4. Terrigno also in dust bowl - same situation as in San Giuseppe. Capt. Farley in charge with Lt. Bryce as assistant.
5. Terrigno Marino also in the dust bowl - same situation as above. Capt Savage in charge.
6. A large dark, dust laden column of smoke emitting from Mount Vesuvius is moving to the South West over Torre del Greco with some precipitation of dust, all in quiet in the other communes in the perimeter of Vesuvius but the officers on duty must continue on the posts until a higher echelon has declared that the emergency has ceased.
7. Major Fowler is in charge of the South West or Portici - Terrigno including communes named. Lt Col Warren is in charge of sector St. Georgio to San Giuseppe including communes named.
8. Capt MacRae and Lt Winterstein. Public Health Officers are engaged in making a survey of the health situation in all of the communes in the perimeter of Vesuvius, giving priority to those named above. Their recommendations will be forwarded through the officers in charge of sector then to the officers in charge of communes.

2. St. Georgio and San Sebastiano Communes - St. Georgio untouched San Sebastiano almost totally destroyed 2150 homeless who will have to be absorbed in St. Georgio. Temporary water supply in San Sebastiano operating successfully. 20.00 have relieved U.S. Major Brillo in St. Georgio in charge with Capt. Bowler assistant in San Sebastiano.

3. Gas clearance is in the first bowl area. Transportation almost impossible for civilian cars. Difficulty for military vehicles. Roads being cleared, emergency feeding may be necessary. About fifty adherers at work clearing streets largely to facilitate local establishments. These workers demanding food as all British establishments in town are giving food to their workers. Services of agricultural experts badly needed, has been called for. Necessary clearance of highways by bulldozers through 57 area, Capt. Ballott in charge.

4. Verdugo also is just bowl - same situation as in San Diego. Don + Carley in charge with it. Eryce as assistant.

5. POZZIO working also in the dust bowl - same situation as above, but Savage in charge.

6. A large flame, just taken column of smoke emitting from lieutenant Vearvius is moving to the South West over Torre del Negro with some precipitation of dust, all in quiet in the other columns in the perimeter of Vearvius but the officers on duty must continue on the posts until a higher echelon has declared that the emergency has ceased.

7. Major Sawyer is in charge of the South West or Potlaid - Terrigno including communes named. Lt Col Warren is in charge of sector St. George to San Giuseppe including communes named.

6. That Macraigne and Lt Winterstein, Public Health Officers are engaged in making a survey of the health situation in all of the communes in the perimeter of Vesuvius, giving priority to those named above. Their recommendations will be forwarded through the officers in charge of sector then to the officers in charge of communes.

2. St. Giorgio and San Sebastiano Communes - St. Giorgio untouched. San Sebastiano almost totally destroyed. 1150 homeless who will have to be absorbed in St. Giorgio. Temporary water supply in San Sebastiano operating successfully. Lt. Col. Warren relieved Lt. Major Maffio in St. Giorgio in charge with Capt. Pender as assistant in San Sebastiano.

3. San Giuseppe is in the dust bowl area. Transportation almost impossible for civilian cars. Difficulty for military vehicles. Roofs being cleared, emergency feeding may be necessary. About fifty laborers at work clearing streets in order to facilitate local establishments. These workers demanding food as all British establishments in town are giving food to their workers. Services of agricultural experts badly needed, has been called for. Necessary clearance of highways by bulldozers through 37 area, Capt. Ballott in charge.

4. Terrigno also in dust bowl - same situation as in San Giuseppe. Lt. Maffio in charge with Lt. Bryce as assistant.

5. Pozzolo Serino also in the dust bowl - same situation as above. Lt. Savage in charge.

6. A large black, dark laden column of smoke emitting from Mount Vesuvius is moving to the south west over Torre del Greco with some precipitation of ash, all is quiet in the other communes in the perimeter of Vesuvius but the officers on duty must continue on the posts until a higher echelon has declared that the emergency has ceased.

7. Major Warner is in charge of the south west or Portici - Terrigno including communes named. Lt. Col. Warren is in charge of sector St. Giorgio to San Giuseppe including communes named.

8. Capt. MacKinnon and Lt. Winterstein, Public Health Officers are engaged in making a survey of the health situation in all of the communes in the perimeter of Vesuvius, giving priority to those named above. Their recommendations will be forwarded through the officers in charge of sector then to the officers in charge of communes.

9. Lt. Col. John Warner is checking on the situation on the 12.03. and the civil police in all communes in the perimeter.

10. Officers in charge of sectors will see that their subordinates are properly advised regarding the directive issued 25 March 1944 by Region 3 covering priority of future evacuations if deemed necessary and collection of required statistical data.

11. All requests for personnel, material or assistance of any kind

7932

and reports will be forwarded, first by telephone, (50599) to the Headquarters (Lancaster building) and confirmed in writing.

12. Daily inspections will be made by the Provincial Commissioner and officers attached to the Provincial Staff.

13. The Provincial Finance Officer will promptly visit all communes in distress named above and will take proper action with respect to communal funds.

By order of Lt. Col. PINARD.

JOHN W. LUTHERY
Capt. A 18
Executive Officer
Province of Hayes

DISTRIBUTION:
1 to each officer named
1 to HQ Region 3
1 to HQ
1 to 57 Area
1 to HQ
1 to Metropolitan Area
1 to 3 District

1961

2. St. George and the adjacent communes - St. George untouched can be left alone. It is a small town. 150 houses and will have to be absorbed in St. George. Temporary supply in some settlements operating successfully. 10000 houses in St. George. Major Carillo in St. George in charge with some 20000 in St. George in San Sebastian.

3. San Sebastian. In the San Sebastian area. Transportation almost impossible for civilians. Delivery of for military vehicles. Roofs being cleared, in many cases by hand. About fifty laborers at work clearing roofs. There is a considerable local establishment. These workers handling food in the San Sebastian area. In some cases, food to their workers. Section of technical experts ready needed, has been called for. Transportation of highways by bulldozers through 5000 ft. of hills in St. George.

4. San Sebastian in San Sebastian - San Sebastian in San Sebastian. San Sebastian in San Sebastian. San Sebastian in San Sebastian.

5. Captain Medina in the San Sebastian - same situation as above. Captain Medina in charge.

6. A large work, most of the column of smoke emitting from Mount Vesuvius is moving to the south west over the area of the communes. The situation is quiet in the other communes in the perimeter of Vesuvius. The column of smoke will continue on the posts until a higher column has been established. The situation is quiet.

7. San Sebastian in the San Sebastian. Public Health Officers are in charge of the San Sebastian. The situation is quiet in the perimeter. The situation is quiet in the perimeter.

8. San Sebastian in the San Sebastian. Public Health Officers are in charge of the San Sebastian. The situation is quiet in the perimeter. The situation is quiet in the perimeter.

9. San Sebastian in the San Sebastian. The situation is quiet in the perimeter. The situation is quiet in the perimeter.

10. San Sebastian in the San Sebastian. The situation is quiet in the perimeter. The situation is quiet in the perimeter.

2

collection of regular statistical data.

11. All requests for personnel, material or assistance of any kind and reports will be furnished, first by telephone, (50699) to this Headquarters (Municipal Hall 105) and confirmed in writing.

12. Daily inspections will be made by the Provincial Commission and officers will report to the Provincial Office.

13. The Provincial Office Officer will promptly visit all courthouses in the Province and will take proper action with respect to criminal cases.

14. Cases of Local Criminals.

District Office:
 1 to each District Office
 1 to the District Office
 1 to the District Office
 1 to the District Office
 1 to the District Office
 1 to the District Office
 1 to the District Office
 1 to the District Office

JOHN N. LUMFORD.

Capt & US

Executive Officer,
 Province of Naples.

1929

FROM 57 AREA
TO INFO ACCORDING TO
261900A



6047

Info Rec.
3744

0.1039 VASOVINA 2113.4. 1700 HRS 26.44.44. AND AND END CONTINUING TO
FALL BEHIND IN TOWER ONE GROUP AND THREE AIRCRAFT. ALL HAVE BEEN 57 AREA AND AND ILL
REPAIRS REPAIRS 24241 HRS 24450 HRS FOR THE TRAFFIC. CLOSING STARTED 144 HRS 26
AND NO INCREASE IN CLOSING 24245. AND HAVING CONTINUOUSLY TRAFFIC IN 24245 AREA 1
IN 24245-24245 24245. ALL INFORMATION 261945

NOTE: 24245 HRS 26/22306

ALL DIST

4928

2710-2715

27

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Province of Naples

26 March 1944

Telephone message from Lt. Col. Kincaid:

VESUVIUS AIRPORT 1145

Have just completed tour of all of the area South of Mt. Vesuvius from Torre del Greco to Vesuvius Airport, south of Marigliano. The dust pool is very bad in the area San Giuseppe Vesuviano, Tarzigno and Poggioreale. Road almost impassible for civilian transportation. Would appreciate No. 3 District using bull-dozers on road running North and South from about 4 kilometers South of Tarzigno to 1 kilometer North of San Giuseppe. Candles will be needed tonight by Provincial Officers at San Giuseppe and Tarzigno as the electric current is off. Services of agricultural experts needed badly in the entire dust blown area. Major Cantor accompanied me as far as San Giuseppe and has returned to Poggioreale and will report all and a within an hour. His civilian car bogged down near Tarzigno sent him back in jeep which will return to proper station. Captain Bartelli stationed at San Giuseppe and there is a Captain Pauley and Lt Bryce at Tarzigno. Can 57th Area Signal arrange telephone connection to both points and if so through what organization. Am proceeding to Cereale.

cc to: 57th Area
Region III
A.C.C. ✓

1927

27 Apr 44

4472

(4) Extent of
Damage -

Translation from "RISORGIMENTO", Sunday, 26 March 1944.

THANKS TO THE ALLIED COMMAND FOR ITS WORK OF ASSISTANCE.

Prof. Giuseppe Tropeano write us:

Honored Director,

It is our duty to make known for the general admiration - in addition to all the energetic provisions taken by the Allied Command in favor of the population in the Vesuvius region threatened by the lava - the particular and generous concern of Col. James L. Mincaid, toward the most important singular cases, in addition to the numerous families requesting assistance for the most part obtained, and toward the convents located in that area, among which is my Institute. We have all had assistance and acts of comfort from this gallant Officer who has brought about a noble wave of good will combined with an irresistible most noble fraternization.

I make myself therefore the spokesman for the emotionally affected collective soul so horribly shaken by the Vesuvius plague, giving the warmest and most fervent thanks to the Allied and particularly to the Provincial Commander.

Thanks and respects.

Devotedly yours,

Prof. Giuseppe Tropeano.

19.6

- scan
- file Vesuvius

2117

dt

Info 6015
C.A.P.

H45/25

29A

FROM: 57 AREA 251255A
TO: AAAAAA

QQX GR

Q600 . OPERATION VESUVIUS . FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM DISTURBE
 95 974 Q OF 24 REPTD FOR INFORMATION.
 QUOTE. ALL UNITS TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS
 CLEAR ASH FROM ROOFS ROUGHENERS RAINWATER PIPES AND KEEP THEM
 CLEAR. NECESSARY MEASURE WILL BE TAKEN PREVENT SURGE WATER
 DRAINS AND FOWL BATTERS FROM BECOMING CHOKED WITH ASH.
 UNQUOTE.

BT251541

SENT NR 270 251647A
 RUCD NR 270 251647-A

ACC DIST

Info - Aug Reg 3
 D C C
 C A B
 Hg Command
 Adj (Rear)
 File
 Fleet

1925

267

dt

att: InformalINFO DIV *Chief of Staff*
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONREPORT FROM KINCAID ADDRESSED TO REGION 3, REPEAT TO 57 BASE AND ACC, 25/3/44, CERCOLO HQ.

000 hours situation San Giuseppe Vesuviano - Dust increases in depth from 2 inches in Ottaviano to 4 inches at San Giuseppe Vesuviano - Damp precipitation of dust continues - All fields in area covered - Many herds of goats leaving area - In San Giuseppe Vesuviano, civilians clearing roofs, but 15 roofs have already collapsed - Sanchez gave me following information - Population 17000, live-stock census:- 300 horses, 150 cows, 700 sheep and goats, 300 pigs - These figures should all be checked as he did not seem too sure of his facts - I recommend agricultural experts be sent to San Giuseppe Vesuviano today to arrange for the evacuation or feeding live-stock - In my opinion civilian rations should be supplemented as their supply of green vegetables from now on will be limited to what can be brought in from outside dust areas - I am reconnoitering country between Cercola and San Giuseppe Vesuviano sectors for new location with HQs with telephone connection - Plan to turn over Cercola sector to Major Cavillio - Leave one officer with him at Pollena, Cercola and San Giorgio and move balance to new sector if it appears necessary - The central "piazza" in San Giuseppe Vesuviano is getting impossible for civilian MT - Had great difficulty getting out with my requisitioned car - If the situation does not clear, will require one additional jeep and driver to handle situation properly - Have sufficient officers - Can be reached at Cercola until further notice - Will report later - Please repeat to 57 Base and ACC for their information -

4924

Signed:- KINCAID

Received at 1135 hours by Sgt Joseph Heffler, ACC, Province of Naples

26 APR 44

215

Un comunicato del Direttore dell'osservatorio

Sull'irio fasti eruttivi ci è pervenuto dal direttore dell'Osservatorio, prof. Giuseppe Inghis, il seguente comunicato:

Alle ore 16.30 del 18 marzo, dopo alcune ore di ostruzione del condotto eruttivo si è avuta una brusca riapertura di esso con immediata inizio di un'intensa attività effusiva ed esplosiva. Le lave copiosissime dapprima colmarono la voragine formata al crollo del conetto terolfo avvenuto alle prime ore del giorno 17, ed indi si ebbe la formazione di due principali correnti, una a N.E. e l'altra a S.E., entrambe molto veloci. La prima si diresse a N. e raggiunse le pareti del Somma in circa un'ora, indi rasteggiando queste si diresse verso il Fosso della Vetrana. La seconda si riversò in parte sul fianco esterno del cono, impennandosi rapidamente a valle e in parte costeggiò le pareti sud occidentali del cratere, dando luogo alla formazione di altre piccole lingue laviche.

Intanto l'attività esplosiva diventava sempre più intensa: il materiale espulso, lanciato ad altezza di un centinaio di metri, si riversava sulla platea lavica, ad una distanza dalla bocca di non oltre cento metri, mentre la lava sgorgava dalla bocca a guisa di cavalloni.

L'attività vulcanica complessivamente considerata rimase ancora costante fino al mattino del giorno 19. Alle ore 11 circa, però, in seguito a nuovo emporio momentaneo, si ebbe una brusca riaccesa di entrambe le attività. Nuove colate si riversarono all'esterno specialmente dal lato settentrionale ed i fumisti rimasero continui, copiosissimi ed altissimi: alcuni di essi così fitti e perduranti assunsero l'aspetto di fontane laviche. Un nuovo e più copioso efflusso lavico si verificò nella notte successiva lungo il versante N riversandosi sulle colate precedentemente sgorgate, dirimpandosi rapidamente a valle.

Al tramonto il fronte lavico era già ad un cinquemila metri da base, che nella giornata successiva venne investita dalla loro insieme a parte di S. Sebastiano.

Una nuova fase eruttiva si verificò alle 17 circa del 20 con la formazione di una violenta fontana lavica alla quale, interrotta da brevi pause, ne succedettero altre, ciascuna di durata intorno all'ora. La massima altezza dei getti lavici raggiunse i cinquemila metri, mentre la massima si avvicinò ai mille.

Concludente all'inizio della nuova fase notò una riduzione

nelle portate laviche in entrambi i versanti.

Alla sera del 22 esse potevano considerarsi ferme. L'ultima fontana di lava si è presentata alle ore 8 del 22 ed al suo cessare, alle 12, è immediatamente subentrata una nuova violenza lessa eruttiva con proiezioni di cenere incandescenti e scure, dando luogo alla formazione di caratteristiche pini vulcanici. Questa nuova fase, che ha subito una brusca cessazione alle ore 18 ed ha avuto una nuova ripresa ad intensità alquanto più debole alle 21, perdura ancora.

from the "Risorgimento"
of March 25, 1944

4952

Translation: From the 'Risorgimento', March 25, 1944

26B

COMMUNIQUE' OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE OBSERVATORY

The following communique' has been forwarded to us by the Director of the Observatory, Prof. Giuseppe Imbò, on the various eruptive phases :

On March 18th, at 16:30, after a few hours during which the eruptive conductor had been obstructed, there took place a sudden reopening of it with the beginning of an immediate intense effusive and explosive activity. Great amount of lava first filled the abyss which had formed at the collapse of the small cone (collapse which took place in the first hours of the 13th), and then two main streams started to flow, one toward N.E., the other toward S.E., both advancing with high speed. The first one was flowing northward and it reached the sides of mount Somma in about an hour, then coasting around them directed itself towards the Posso della Vetrana. The second one, partly streamed along the external side of the cone rapidly making its way toward the valley, and partly coasted along the south-west sides of the crater, forming other small streams of lava.

In the meantime the explosive activity was becoming more intense: The exploded material was being thrown up to a height of about hundred meters, and fell down on the lavapit not more than a hundred meters from the Volcano's crater in a billowy way. The Volcano's activity on the whole remained almost stationary until the morning of the 19th. However, at about 11; after a new magnetic flow, there was a sudden resurgence of both activities. New flows poured out externally, especially on the northern side and the outpour became continuous plentiful and very high; some of them were so thick and lasting as to assume the aspect of lava fountains. Another very large flow of lava took place during the following night along the northern slope, pouring on the flows previously disgorged and fast flowing towards the valley.

At sundown the lava front was already only five hundred meters from Massa, which on subsequent days became invested by the lava, as well as a part of S. Sebastiano. A new eruptive phase took place on the 20th, at about five in the afternoon, when a violent lava fountain formed followed by some more at a short distance, and each one lasting about an hour. The lava spouts reached a minimum height of five hundred meters and a maximum of one thousand. A reduction in the lava flows was noticed coinciding with the beginning of the new phase.

On the evening of the 22nd they could be considered stopped. The last lava flow occurred at 8 o'clock of the 22nd and upon its ceasing at 12; immediately a new violent eruptive phase occurred with incandescent and dark ash projections; shaped like characteristic pine trees. This new phase, which suddenly stopped at 18 hours and again resumed

speed. The first one was flowing northward and toward Mount Somma in about an hour, then coasting around them directed itself towards the Pozzo della Vetrana. The second one, partly streamed along the external side of the cone rapidly making its way toward the valley, and partly coasted along the south-west sides of the crater, forming other small streams of lava.

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On the evening of the 22nd they could be considered stopped. The last lava flow occurred at 8 o'clock of the 22nd and upon its ceasing at 12; immediately a new violent eruptive phase occurred with incandescent and dark ash projections, shaped like characteristic pine trees. This new phase, which suddenly stopped at 18 hours and again resumed with somewhat less intensity at 21, still persists.

4921

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

6064

Info Div.
34A
FOLIO NO 02796
25 MARCH 1944
TOP 15094/25
THI 19264/25
FOR FILE

FROM.....G 57 AREA
TO.....G3 DISTRICT, G AAI, G PLAMBO,
54 SUB AREA, 30 PORTUGAL H Q, CAMP TRG DEPOT, NOVIT.

CITE NO.....0.1209

VERMILION AREA

1700 HRS 25 MARCH 1944

THE NO CEMENTS & REINFORCING TO PAID. SOUTH OF 47
NORTHWARD CITY LINE AND EAST OF TORRE DEL ORSO N 3142. ASH
REPORTED DEATH AT 3 CHILDREN N4248 SHORE AND HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY
MOVING AND TRADING HERDS OF LIVESTOCK. AIR MAIN HDS 57 AREA OPEN
IN 2 WAY TRAFFIC. AIRPS BYPASS CASABARTI N4141-KOLA R4455 OPEN 1
WAY TRAFFIC ONLY IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF CASABARTI.

LOW SITUATION. VERMILION BRITISH BARGE AMOUNTS OF SPONGE.
CLUSTERS IN SAND FOR BREASTING HDS ROOFS AND DRAINS OF AIR. THERE
A THREAT TO BE NO IMMEDIATE DANGER. ALL INFORMED.

CNC 08154/25

T.T. 08304/25

ENC DISTRIBUTION:

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SD
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NAVY
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KAC
AN 64
SOG(LIAISON)
SAB 21000 000
SAB 21000
G 41
CBI
BA

110 2753 JST

ACC BY DISTRIBUTION:

Sec Gen
DSC
By Comdt (main)
" " (Re: 4920)
Adjutant (main)
" (near)
Info Div
Ital Ref. Br.
Reg J
File
Fleet

CONFIDENTIAL

2147 #

Region III Assessment of Damage

73A

Villages

45% of S. SEBASTIANO (pop. 3,400) destroyed.

50% of MASSA di SOMMA (pop. 500) destroyed.

No further damage to villages other than scattered houses on outskirts of CERCEA.

Agriculture

On north side of mountain several thousand miles of crops and vines destroyed by lava. On south side very widespread destruction due to ash: ash is poisonous only if accompanied by rain which in this case it was.

Agricultural report in full should be in this morning.

920
280

1170

4918

1450

Vesuvius Sitrep at 0800

25 MAR 44

0750

CERCOLA

SAN SEBASTIANO - no report yet received - call at 0900
SAN GIORGIO - ditto "
CERCOLA - no change

0815

Observatory

The activity of YESUVIUS continued during the night at a reduced scale with an occasional agitation and formation of some explosive "PINI" (dust clouds)

Many tremors were registered and noticed by persons residing at the observatory

0820

RESINA

Nothing to report

0835

SALERNO

24 MAR 1900 hrs - fine grey dust falling -
Continued off & on during the night - still
falling 0830 hrs 25 MAR - depth at present
about half inch.

Roads not yet affected.

4917

FROM DISTANCE 241053

TO AMI INFO ACC REGION III 57 AREA, FATIMA REAR FOR QUINSMITH. MMIA 10 FLAMBO

SD 366 FOR REQUEST ITALIAN UNIT NOMINATED TO BE AT 12 HOURS NOTICE TO MOVE TO GUARD
EVACUATED CIVILIAN PROPERTY VESUVIUS AREA IF REQUIRED. UNDERSTAND GUIDE CAVALRY CP
LOCATED CAVA DEI TIRRENI AVAILABLE



SENT MR 313 24/1320A

REGD NR 7 24/1320A

ACC DIST
INFO ARMY LO (PO RLDG)
SECY GEN
DEP CC
CA B
ITAL REF MR
FIDAT
FILE

4916

261429

Vesuvius Sitrep at 240800A

AF
19A

0740 CERCOLA - Nothing to report
SAN SABASTIANO - Have not reported yet
SAN GIORGIO - ditto

No further movement of lava reported

Telephone CERCOLA at 0840

0803 RESINA

Telephonic communication with Observatory bad - have
sent car to observatory to get Professor's written
report; will telephone as soon as received.

During the course of the night reports showed
only two places threatened by lava flow
TORRE del GRECO and TORRE ANNUNZIATA but
by 0830 the threat had passed - the lava having
stopped flowing.

at 0700 the dust situation had cleared at
TORRE ANNUNZIATA but was still noticeable
at TORRE del GRECO and PORTICI

0841 CERCOLA

SAN GIORGIO reports NO change

Telephone CERCOLA at 0910

SALERNO

0947

PM 23 MAR - Half inch deposit of fine brown
dust - lasted about 3 hours

AM 24 MAR - No change - everything quiet -
roads clear

4914

INFORMATION
 DIVISION
 DIVISION

297/538 ✓
 24 March, 1964

Summary - 297/538 1100 hrs.

Nothing of importance regarding volcanic activity: no activity
 between 297/538 and 297/538. No heavy rain deposit.
 possibility that it will be closed for clearance; no decision yet.
 evacuated inhabitants are returning home; residents of 297/538, 297/538-
 297/538, 297/538, 297/538, 297/538 to take over tomorrow.

Summary reported 12 casualties at 297/538 and 2 at 297/538 from roof collapse;
 situation calm.

Director,
 Information Division

4913

More Summary-1944

NEW: ALLIED AIR BLOWS HIT GERMAN EUROPE DAY AND NIGHT: London, March 24--in the German radio gave a dramatic hour by hour report and warnings to the Reich populace. American Liberators and Flying Fortress yesterday attacked targets in northwest Germany, including the bomber base at Hendorf, the Luftwaffe station at Lehmer, and other targets in the Brunswick district. Up to 750 heavy bombers participated in this latest attack on Germany--the 2nd day in a row that the Reich or Hitler-held Europe has been assaulted from the air. Lightnings, Thunderbolts and Mustangs in great strength provided escort.

The Luftwaffe, against whose aircraft plants, airports, and pilots the American Air Force has concentrated much of its attacks in recent weeks, refused battle on the previous day when a strong force of American fighters and bombers raided Berlin. From the large force employed against Berlin only nine fighters and 13 bombers are listed as missing.

While Berlin was still burning, Royal Air Force bombers Wednesday night followed up with an attack on Frankfurt. More than 1000 planes dropped approximately 3300 tons of bombs on Frankfurt in what was probably the heaviest raid of the war on a single city. Thirty-three planes are missing. Mosquito bombers followed the heavy bombers, dropping 4000-pound bombs into the conflagration. This is one of the first occasions on which the newly adapted Mosquitoes dropped bombs of this size, according to official announcements.

Yesterday afternoon Allied medium bombers hit military objectives in northern France, including the railway center at Orléans. Orléans, 35 miles north of Paris is the main traffic line to that city and yesterday's attack was the second this week. Last night RAF bombers were over Germany again.

PINK SMOKE: AS VOLCANO QUIETENS March 23--(Cecil Springs, Reuters)--Viewed from Madrid at sunset tonight Vesuvius appeared more normal than since Friday except for the enormous column of smoke rising from the crater. Travellers along the road from Positano to Terracina were obliged to abandon their cars tonight owing to the violence of a hail of ashes which fell for several hours. According to one observer reports three persons died in this hail of ashes. Around Naples windows the size of golf balls fell during the day. The vast clouds of volcanic ash threw the entire city of Bari, 120 miles away, into darkness in broad daylight. Electric lights had to be turned on and chickens went to roost, believing it was nightfall.

The main Naples-Merone road has been reopened after removal of tons of cinders. Ten streams of lava moving slowly down the slopes of the volcano have slowed up but officials are still concerned over the possibility of the cone melting and falling into the crater. Should this happen the resulting rearguard of stone, lava, and cinders might have unpredictable consequences. A thick snow now covers the summit of the volcano. The snow which fell over Naples this morning was mixed with lava dust and was very pink in color.

RAF REPORTS HEAVY DESTRUCTION: London, March 23--at least 326 factories in Berlin, which has more key war industries than any other German city, have been destroyed or damaged by the RAF bomber command's onslaught on the Reich capital between February 11, 1943 and February 15, 1944, the Air Ministry revealed tonight. Of the 24 major plants in the Berlin area, 12 have been severely damaged, and four have seriously damaged. Some 15 per cent of 41 major plants in less important industries and 25 per cent of 30 important subsidiary factories has also been heavily hit. In addition, there are at least 500 other identified factories and of these 181 have suffered major damage and 63 damaged to a lesser degree. There are in Berlin some 1500 establishments which employ the average of 400 workers each but cannot be classified as factories. Of these 44 have been damaged in one raid in November. The RAF commander said, "This is only the initial dividend, the destruction must go on."

24/3/44

Executive Summary

RADIO SUMMARY

Public Relations Office

PONTIAC RELEASE SECTION

NUMBER 163-FRANKY, MARCH 24, 1944

NEW SOVIET LOSS BETWEEN TERNOPOL AND PROSKUROV: Moscow, March 24--Soviet troops in three days of fighting have advanced from 20 to 30 miles through German defenses between Ternopol and Proskurov and have captured more than 200 localities. Among the towns occupied was Kapushintay, at the junction of the railways from Ternopol and Proskurov, 14 miles south of Ternopol. Trambetiv, on the Ternopol-Campulung 14 to 18 miles south of Ternopol was also captured.

Southwest of Zhamartak Russian troops are moving toward Kamenets-Podolski U. the Dniester. The Soviets are still enlarging their bridgehead across the Dniester and yesterday captured more than 40 localities in their push toward the River Pruth.

On the southern Bug Russian forces have closed in on Vinnitsansk, the railway town on the banks of the river, and are now fighting in the streets with the German garrison. Farther south, the battle for Nikolayev has grown much fiercer as Soviet troops draw a tight circle around the city, moving to within seven miles of the German stronghold.

According to the Soviet communiqué the Germans suffered heavy losses in the new offensive on the Ternopol-Proskurov front. German sources have been reporting another Soviet offensive southwest of Vitebsk but Soviet communiqués have not mentioned it. The German radio yesterday also spoke of fighting at Kovel but there has been no Soviet reference to battles in this region.

REPORT GERMAN TROOPS MOVE INTO ROMANIA, SEIZE TRANSPORT FACILITIES: London 24, March 24--Reliable reports here last night said the Germans had taken complete control of every Romanian and Bulgarian city on the Black Sea. They also confiscated all transportation facilities on the Danube from Budapest to Oradea. Well informed sources report that the movement of large German forces eastward along the Danube is already underway.

Meanwhile, a report from Switzerland said that Nicholas de Salloy, deposed Hungarian premier, had escaped from Budapest and was organizing resistance to German occupation from a hiding place somewhere in Hungary. The new Hungarian government held its first meeting yesterday. Questions of "the highest importance" were discussed at a three hour session, said the German news agency, quoting a Hungarian news agency report.

The Vichy radio yesterday (before it was reported that German troops were moving into Hungary) announced that the Fascist dictator of Rumania, Marshal Antonescu and his brother, Mihail Antonescu, deputy prime minister, had been summoned to Hitler's headquarters "for an important conference." Rumors were told yesterday for the first time that the Russian armies had crossed the bug. They still do not know that Marshal Koniev's men are in Bogorodits and 25 miles from the Pruth, frontier of Rumania proper.

According to a Swedish report, Russian paratroops have landed in the Carpathians and are organizing a Hungarian partisan army.

FRENCH TROOPS STOP GERMAN COUNTER-ATTACKS NEAR CASINO: Allied Headquarters, March 23--Today's Allied communiqué reports that French troops broke up the strong German counter-attacks near Cassino and inflicted casualties. The fighting continued in Cassino with New Zealand troops forming the spearhead of the Allied attack. Allied troops are still meeting the most determined opposition in the area of the Continental Hotel. There have been conflicting reports in the past few days about the hotel but the latest reports say it is still the "center of activity." Close quarters fighting is also going on around Hotel Valle Rose west of the Continental which faces the highway. Activity at the Nazi beachhead is still limited to patrolling.

040/23

FROM....FATIMA REAR 23/1615A

TO..... FATIMA INFO MMIA

GR 73 BT

REF NR 251

RESTRICTED

(TO ACTIN FATIMA FOR OFFENHAUER RPTD MMIA FOR
INFO FROM FATIMA REAR FROM QUINSMITH SIGNED MACFARLANE)

DISTHREX REQUEST NOMINATION 1 ITALIAN BN TO STAND BY AT 12 HOURS NOTICE
TO MOVE TO GUARD EVACUATED ~~XXXXXXXX~~ CIVILIAN PROPERTY IN VESUVIUS AREA.
THEY WILL DEMAND MOVE WHEN AND IF NECESSARY. WILL YOU NOMINATE A BATTALION
And INFORM THREEDIST WHERE IT IS GIVING CHANNEL OF DEMAND

TIME SENT NR 2 23/1654A

NECD NR 2 23/1654A

ACC DISTRIBUTION

ARMY S C I O	ACTION
SECY GEN.	INFO
DEP C.C.	
FILE	
FLOAT	
ITALIAN REFUGEE BR.	
C.A. BR.	

5816

4910

3 DISTRICT OPERATION INSTRUCTION No 1

SECRET

Copy No.

23 Mar 44

Eruption of VESUVIUS

Ref map:-1/250,000 Southern Italy

INFORMATION

1. VESUVIUS began to erupt 18 Mar, when lava was discharged from the crater in three streams, to the NORTH WEST, WEST and SOUTH WEST. The north westerly one reached SAN SEBASTI NO (4313491) by 1300 hrs 21 Mar threatening CERCOLO which is being evacuated.
2. A further heavy eruption occurred pm 21 Mar with further heavy lava discharged especially to the SOUTH on a broad front, accompanied by very heavy smoke, discharge of ash, and deep rumbling which became accentuated early am 22 Mar.
3. Early am 22 Mar heavy falls of volcanic ash from the clouds began in area SOUTH and WEST of incl NOCERA (45438) extending as far as least (as at present known) as SOUTH of SALERNO and incl POTENZA. By pm 22 Mar ash lay in area adjacent to a depth of 4 inches, blocking the L of C rd NAPLES - SALERNO between NOCERA and SALERNO.
4. Dangers from the eruption are :-
 - (a) T. steam streams engulfing towns, buildings and cars in their path.
 - (b) The fall of volcanic ash blocking rd and rlys, and breaking roofs by its weight; and if still hot starting fires.
5. It is possible that the eruption may be followed by earth tremors causing fires and damage to public services and installations, precautions against which must be taken on all levels.

INTENTION

6. To take all necessary measures to minimise the effects of the eruption and its consequences.

RESPONSIBILITIES

7. The Allied Control Commission in conjunction with the Italian Govt authorities are responsible for all measures with regard to the control and evacuation of the civil population as necessary. 19.9
8. 57 Area and 94 Sub Area are responsible to 3 District for all measures regarding military units in their respective areas. Advance arrangements will be made to evacuate further military units from affected areas if it should become necessary.
9. 57 Area will organise, in conjunction with Allied Control Commission, a system of watching the lava stream, and the immediate vicinity of the

3. Early on 22 May heavy falls of volcanic ash from the clouds began in areas SOUTH and WEST of Inel NOCERA (N5436) extending as far as least (as at present known) as SOUTH of SALERNO and Inel POMERAI. By 22 May ash lay in even affected to a depth of 4 inches, blocking the L of C rd NAPLES - SALERNO between NOCERA and SALERNO.
4. Dangers from the eruption are:-
 - (a) The lava streams engulfing towns, buildings and causing in their path.
 - (b) The fall of volcanic ash blocking rd and rlys, and breaking roofs by its weight; and is still hot starting fires.
5. It is recalled that the eruption was to followed by earth tremors causing fires and damage to public services and installations, precautions against which must be taken on all levels.

ATTENTION

6. To take all necessary measures to minimize the effects of the eruption and its consequences.

RESPONSIBILITIES

7. The Allied Control Commission in conjunction with the Italian Govt authorities are responsible for all measures with regard to the control and evacuation of the civil population as necessary. 1939
8. 57 Area and 94 Sub Area are responsible to 3 District for all measures regarding military units in their respective areas. Advance arrangements will be made to evacuate further military units from affected areas if it should become necessary.
9. 57 Area will organize, in conjunction with Allied Control Commission, a system of watching the lava streams, and the immediate vicinity of VESUVIUS will be divided into sectors for this purpose. (this has already been done)
10. 57 Area and 94 Sub Area will further divide their areas into sectors to watch for and report on the fall of volcanic ash and possible earth tremors. Each of these sectors will have an appointed commander who will have full executive powers in an emergency. A unit commander will be available if required for this duty.
11. Area/Sub Area will each form an emergency reserve of transport approximately strength NOT less than one platoon of three tonners to be at one hours notice for special "VESUVIUS" duties.

- 2 -

12. The Army Sub Commission, Allied Central Commission, is nominating one Italian. In to be at twelve hours notice to move to guard evacuated civilians' property in VESUVIUS area on demand from 3 District.

MOVEMENT

13. All movement of vehicles in 3 District will be curtailed to the absolute bare essential minimum.
14. The NAPLES "Autostada", the circular rd round VESUVIUS and the NAPLES - SARENNO rds ~~is~~ OUT OF BOUNDS to all vehicles except on urgent duty.
15. No further units are being routed from without into 3 District SOUTH of a line NAPLES - AVELLINO unless specially arranged.
16. CP 3 District is responsible that mechanised equipment is available to keep clear of all I AF C rds in the following priority:-
- (a) NAPLES - ROMA - AVELLINO.
 - (b) AUTOSTADA
 - (c) TORREI - SARENNO
 - (d) Any others as later ordered.
17. AF 3 District is responsible for ensuring that rds mentioned in above para 16 (a) (b) (c) are specially patrolled and regular reports submitted to him.

MEDICAL

18. All nervous and/or surgical cases will be evacuated from the immediate vicinity of VESUVIUS.
19. Battlere hospitals will NOT be evacuated to 58, 59, 70, and 103 General Hospitals until further orders.
20. 58, 59, 70 and 103 General Hospitals will be prepared to deal with local emergency cases.
21. All units will advise their own internal medical arrangements, incl water purification. All water will be chlorinated.

GENERAL MEASURES TO BE TAKEN

22. Rations

All units located between the sea and all incl SAN GIOVANNI (N2548) - SOAN (N3753) - SARENNO (N5246) - VIETRI (N6230) will draw and hold three days bare scale rations which will be held as a reserve and NOT consumed unless normal supplies cannot be drawn.

23. Water

to keep clear of all 1000 ft in the following priority:-

- (a) NAFIES - NOLA - AVERBINO.
- (b) AUTOSHADA
- (c) FOMEMI - SALLING
- (d) Any others as later ordered.

17. All District is responsible for ensuring that the mentioned in above para 10 (a) (b) (c) are specially patrolled and regular reports submitted to him.

MEDICAL

- 18. All nervous and/or surgical cases will be evacuated from the immediate vicinity of the enemy.
- 19. Battle casualties will NOT be evacuated to 58, 59, 70, and 103 General Hospitals until further orders.
- 20. 58, 59, 70 and 103 General Hospitals will be prepared to deal with local emergency cases.
- 21. All units will revise their own internal medical arrangements, including water purification. All water will be chlorinated.

GENERAL MEASURES TO BE TAKEN

- 22. Rations
All units located between the sea and all local SAM GIOVANNI (N2549) - SOAL (N3753) - SANO (N3246) - VITTI (N6230) will draw and hold three days hard scale rations which will be held as a reserve and NOT consumed unless normal supplies cannot be drawn.
- 23. Water
All personnel - including the sea and all local SAM GIOVANNI (N2549) - SOAL (N3753) - SANO (N3246) - VITTI (N6230) will draw and hold three days hard scale rations which will be held as a reserve and NOT consumed unless normal supplies cannot be drawn.
- 24. Lighting
Arrangements will be made for essential alternate lighting independent of main electricity supply to be.
- 25. Fire Training
All units will revise their own internal arrangements and detail fire fighting and rescue squads.

- 3 -

26. Clearance of Ash

All units will take IMMEDIATE steps to clear ash from roof and from roof gutters and water pipes. Italian civil labour may be impressed to assist in this work in an emergency.

ASSISTANCE TO THE CIVIL POWER

27. All concerned will be prepared to render all possible aid to Allied Control Commission and the civil authorities in emergencies, subject to the paramount overriding importance of military considerations towards personnel, material and communications.

INTERCOMMUNICATION

28. CSO 3 District will establish wireless communication between HQ 3 District and HQ 57 Area. RLS communication will be maintained between HQ 3 District and HQ 94 Sub Area via SOMERSET semicircular rd if the POMPEI SALERNO rd is blocked.

29. CSO 3 District will pass all information as to failure of line or other communications immediately to G 3 District.

REPORTS

30. IO, G Branch 3 District telephone (Ext 6) is the officer responsible for receiving and co-ordinating all VESUVIUS reports received at HQ 3 District.
31. Area/Sub Area will render a daily "VESUVIUS Sitrep" at 1700 hrs daily by IMMEDIATE signal to G 3 District, rptd G(Ops) AAI and G(Ops) AAI Adm Ech.
32. Area/Sub Area will telephone special information immediately to G 3 District, conferring in SITREP.
33. Area/Sub Area will arrange to receive regular reports from sector or other commands at regular intervals.
34. US Army, AF, AF, AF, AF and Allied Control Commission authorities are requested to forward in priority to G 3 District and the Area or Sub Area concerned any relevant information which they receive.

ACK

OK 3 4 5 / *EF Warner*

TOS 1237

Lt col
G S
(EP WARNER)

4908

Distribution (Overleaf)

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ACK

10/22/42 / *EP Warner*

TOS 1237

Lt col
G S
(EP WARNER)

4908

Distribution (Overleaf)

0836

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

- 4 -

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131
PART 23 Mar.

Sky became overcast about 0730 and fine black dust began to fall. From 0800 to 1200 it was very dark and the dust fell steadily; about 1500 it started to clear.

The layer of dust was very fine, but driving became almost impossible due to the windcreens being covered.

The rd surface became slippery, (light rain was falling) but quite passable.

Traffic would have been seriously interrupted had the deposit continued.

240910 A

ONE

4957

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INFORMATION DE ISION

Vesuvius Erupts
at 231500 A

Seismic Phase

Confined to the crater zone - has not yet spread to other parts - during the course of morning strong discharge of ash to ESE parts threatened by ash fall E to SW - no further discharge of lava

Present phase doubtful - two alternatives

- a) Possibility of quiescence setting in
- b) If cone breaks, great activity will result

AK
Director,
Information Division

4906

RECEIVED
 AIR FORCE
 INFORMATION DIVISION
 (OFFICE OF THE
 SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE)

177/1780
 2 March 1944

Condition of Road

The road is closed between Pesci and Salerno.
 It is expected to be open for one way traffic (going
 south only) at 12:00 hrs today.
 Diversion is through Avellino.

431043 1

Distribution

Vice President, Economic Section
 Executive Commissioner
 Deputy
 Establishment Officer
 Executive Officer
 Chief Liaison Officer
 Italian Liaison Branch
 Security
 PWD

END

2197/ Jy/o 10A

Situation in SALERNO(Phone conversation Taja White / Capt Bragdon)
231030A

No further precipitation of lava dust since
P.M. 22 Mar.

Roads were started being cleared P.M., 22 Mar.
with help of Italian military personnel: at
time of phone conversation most of roads
were clear.

A.M., 23 Mar. slight rain was falling and
what dust remained was turning to sludge.

During 22 Mar some 3-4 inches of lava
dust (about the size of a grain of barley) fell:
nothing larger was reported falling.

231200A

014905

23 MARCH

2197/INF

JA

Official Report on Vietnam

to be a good narrative, form
 - not too official
 - not a war diary

See up of Sharps - see Capt Stewart

Page III - see Col Pollett etc LF

Photos - LF

Scientific Records - see Ambro

+ Photo

Enclosure

- handwriting

Maj Gildornitt

Word

etc

4903



5791

FROM HQ 3 DISTRICT 230320

PS FLAMBO ADV 214 GP RAB MAIN HQ ACC 57 AREA 94 SUB AREA

401 GR 43

42351. TO NAPLES- SALERNO STR FOR SINGLE LINE RPTD SIGNAL LINE TRAFFIC 1200 HRS
ON 23 MARCH. ROAD ONLY AVAILABLE FOR TRAFFIC FROM NAPLES TO SALERNO DUE TO PORTION
OF ROAD NOT YET CLEARED BUT PASSABLE TO TRAFFIC ON ACCOUNT OF DECREASED SLOPE.

Note Relayed to Salerno

ACC DIST

ACTION HQ COMDT
INFO SMOY GEN
EX OFFR
CA IN
ITAL REF IN
ADJUTANT FILE FILEAT

4902

FROM DISTANCE 221930A

TO HQ ACC INFO ROUTE 3

WAX 0822

2349



ROAD POMPIL-SEANOW CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC. QUITS IMPERABLE TO EVACUATE REFUGES INTO
AREA WEST OF POMPIL. CATERPILLAR AREA STILL POSSIBLE.

SENT 2214A

RECE 2214A

ACC LIST

(ACTION) HQ Command
INFO DEB/CHN
EV. OFFICE
CA BY ✓
Ital Tel R
AGT (1-44)
FILE
FLOAT

RELAYED TO SALERNO

4901

5773
CAPR

RESTRICTEDHEADQUARTERS
PENINSULAR U.S. SECTION
APO 732

2A

AG 250.1 PP-60

22 March 1944

Subject: "Off Limit" Area Around Vesuvius.

To : See Distribution.

1. The following area around Vesuvius has been declared "off limits" to all military personnel:

Road, Capri - San Anastasia - San Giuseppe - Bosco-Trecase, then northwest along Autostrada to Penticelli.

2. Only military personnel strictly on duty will be permitted within the area indicated.

By command of Brigadier General PERCE:

L. F. Mickel
L. F. MICKEL
Lt. Col., U.S.G.D.
Adjutant General

4960

DISTRIBUTION:

"A" and "B"

RESTRICTED

2117

BEST COPY POSSIBLE

3A

21st March 1944.Chief Commissioner.

Regional Commissioner, Region III reports as follows:-

"Vesuvius started erupting on Saturday evening, 18th March about 1800 hours. The lava stream started to flow down the north western slope and formed a bank about 40' high by 150' wide, advancing at the rate of about 4 yards per hour. This quickened up and by Monday evening it was going about 150 yards per hour. At 0542 hours on Tuesday 21st the lava reached the houses at San Sebastiano. This town and the commune of Massa di Somma were evacuated by 0230 hours. This morning Cercolo seems to be in danger and preparations are being made to evacuate it. Food centres are being established at Pollena and San Giorgia for the refugees."

Regional Commissioner, Region III, Col. Poletti, and Provincial Commissioner, Lt. Col. Kincaid, have both called attention to the great assistance by No. 3 District, RAF and the RAF, all of whom have been working night and day to help the inhabitants. The Italians have taken the evacuation quite calmly and a lot of them expect to get back to their homes after the danger has passed.

M.S.L.

4898

Haw 24/2/44

24/3/44 L.S.

NOTES ON THE ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS23 Mar 1511
1488

The first and best-known eruption in historic times took place in 79 A.D. is described by Pliny the Younger, who was an eye witness, in two letters to the historian Tacitus. This eruption, in which the present cone was formed took place after a long period of dormancy, and was more destructive than any that have since occurred. The greatest damage on this occasion was not done by the lava-streams. Pompeii was buried to a depth of 15 - 20 feet by showers of lapilli (small fragments of lava) followed by volcanic ash, and the majority of the victims perished from the fumes. Herculaneum was overwhelmed, in places to a depth of 75 feet, by an avalanche of mud following the torrential rains which often accompany an eruption. At the same time severe earthquake-shocks were felt over the whole area.

In the eruptions recorded since the 17th century lava-streams have tended to break out from the lower slopes of the mountain rather than from the summit and have on a number of occasions reached the sea (1631, 1760, 1794). Torre El Greco has suffered with great regularity. In 1906 lava-streams stopped just short of Pompeii. The present stream towards Cercola is following those of 1635 and 1672.

On several occasions (recently in 1926) ash has fallen to a considerable depth in Naples. In 1631 it was recorded as far afield as Taranto, and on that occasion 3000 people perished in the villages facing the sea.

The two worst eruptions (79 A.D. and 1631 A.D.) took place after long periods of quiescence, and were accompanied by severe earthquakes. The present eruption, on the other hand, follows a century of sporadic, but violent, activity, and there is some reason therefore to hope that its effects will remain localized.

Two letters from the Younger Pliny to the
historian Tacitus, describing the
eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD

Letter 1.

My uncle was at Misenum (at the western extremity of the Bay of Naples) in command of the fleet. On the 24th August (79 A.D.), at about one o'clock, my mother ~~pointed~~ pointed out a cloud of unusual size and shape. My uncle had a sun-bath and a cold plunge, and now, after dining, he was sitting reading. He called for his shoes and climbed to where he could get a better view of the phenomenon. A cloud--from that distance it was not then clear from which mountain, though we learned afterwards it was from Vesuvius--had sprung up, which I can best describe as shaped like a pine-tree. A long stem stretched upwards and then spread out like branches, because at first I imagine it was carried upwards by the rush of hot air and then, as this weakened and failed and the weight of the cloud took effect, it spread laterally. It was now white, now black and dirty as it threw up earth and ash. My uncle, as a scientist, felt this was remarkable and deserving of closer study. He ordered a light-galley to be prepared, and said he would make room for me if I wanted to come. I said I had some work to do, and as a matter of fact he had given me plenty to write about. As he left the house he was handed a note from Tascus's wife, Rectina, who was terrified by the imminent danger (her villa was close under Vesuvius and the only way of escape was by sea) and begged him to rescue her. What had started as a scientific trip now became an errand of mercy. He ordered out several quadriremes and went aboard to bring help not only to Rectina but to the many other inhabitants of this popular coastline. While others fled he steered straight into danger, with such a complete absence of fear that all the while he was dictating and making notes on every change and shape of the phenomenon. Soon ash began to fall on the ships, and the nearer in they got, the hotter and heavier it grew, followed then by fragments of pumice and stones blackened and cracked by the heat, and finally by unexpected shallows where the debris of the mountain was blocking the shore. He hesitated for a moment whether to return, and then, when the helmsman strongly advised this course, he said "Fortune favours the brave. Let's find Pomponianus." Pomponianus was at Stabiae (Castellum di Stabia), cut off on the other side by the bay (the shore here curves right round to enclose a bay). At first the danger had seemed remote though obvious, but then as it grew greater and nearer, Pomponianus

had had his baggage carried down to the boats, to ensure his escape if only the contrary wind should drop. This wind was favourable on the other hand to my uncle, who arrived and greeted the trembling Pomponianus and told him to cheer up, and then, to encourage the others, had himself carried off to the bath. After bathing he rested and dined in very good cheer--or at least (which was just as good) with all the appearance of good spirits. Meanwhile in several places sheets of fire and flame were appearing from Vesuvius, all the brighter by contrast with the darkness of night. My uncle, to keep up their spirits, kept saying they were the fires of the local farmers who had fled in panic and their farms burning. Then he retired and was soon sound asleep--he was rather stout, and his snores were clearly audible to those without. Meanwhile however the courtyard, into which the bedroom opened, had become buried so deep in ash and ~~dark~~ pumice, that it would soon have been impossible to get out. So he was awoken and joined Pomponianus and the others who had stayed awake outside. They discussed whether to stay within doors or in the open. For the house was being shaken by frequent tremors and appeared to be rocking to and fro on its foundations. On the other hand the rain of the pumice, even though it was light and burnt out, was something to reckon with. However the latter seemed the preferable of the two evils; and they bound pillows on their heads with cords as a protection against burns. By now it was day elsewhere, but ^{there} ~~then~~ a night blacker and thicker than any ordinary night, pierced only by many torches and flashing lights. He decided to go down to the shore and see from close to whether the sea was yet favourable. This still remained rough and contrary, so he lay down on a mattress and asked for and drank a glass of cold water: then another. Soon after a strong smell of sulphur gave warning of approaching fire. The others fled and he awoke, and leaning on two slaves rose to his feet and promptly collapsed. As I understand, his throat was choked with the thick atmosphere, for he was naturally troubled that way and a sufferer from asthma.

When day came (the third since he had last seen daylight) they found his body untouched and unhurt and clad as he had been. He looked asleep, not dead. Meanwhile my mother and I were at Misenum--but that's another story.

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Letter ~~from~~ 2.

You say the letter which I sent you at your request describing my uncle's death makes you want to know what happened at Misenum (I started to tell you, and broke off), and what were

my feelings, and how I got on. I have to recall it, but here you are.

After my uncle had left I devoted myself to the work which I had stayed behind to do: then I had a bath and dinner and retired to a rather troubled rest. For many days before there had been earth-tremors, though these had not caused such alarm as they are common in Campania. That night however they grew so strong that things seemed not only to be moving ~~about~~ about but to be turning upside down. My mother rushed into my bedroom and found me already getting up to wake her, and we went and sat on the terrace which lay between the house and the sea. I don't know whether it was courage or foolhardiness (I was only 18), but I asked for a book of Livy and started to read it as if at my ease, and, as my habit is, made notes on it. Then came a friend of my uncle, fresh back from Spain, and seeing us sitting there and me reading, he roundly told us off, my mother for her patience, and myself for my folly. However I went on reading.

It was now about six o'clock in the morning, and the light seemed waiting and hesitant. The buildings around were being badly shaken, and the open space we were in was narrow and there was a grave danger the house would collapse. So we decided to get out of the town. We were followed by a frightened crowd, who (as is the way in times of panic) were ready to follow any lead and pressed behind us in a mob. As soon as we got outside we stopped. It was amusing, terrifying. The carriage which we had ordered was moving to and fro, ~~was stuck~~ though it was on flat ground, and not even stones under the wheels would keep it still. The sea too had retreated as if the earth-~~quake~~ quake had driven it back and on the shore many sea-boats were left lying on dry land. On the landward side a black cloud and a terrible fiery vapour split into swirling columns and broke up into great, fiery tongues. They were like lightning, but even greater. Up came our Spanish friend, very urgent and pressing. "If your uncle is alive," he said, "he'll be anxious for your safety. If he's dead, he didn't want you dead too. For goodness sake come along." We replied that we couldn't think about our own safety till we knew about his. At that he didn't ~~wait~~ wait any more, but betook himself not-root to safety.

Soon after the cloud closed down on both land and sea. Capri was swallowed up and disappeared, and Cape Misenum too was hidden. My mother begged me, ordered me to flee: I was young, she said, she was old and feeble and would gladly die if only I were safe. I replied I certainly wouldn't go without her, and taking her hand I made her increase her pace. Ash was beginning to fall, though not yet heavily. I looked round and saw a thick black cloud rolling down on us from behind like a wall of darkness. "Let's get off the road," I said, "while

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in the darkness we can still see, or we'll be overrun and trampled by all this crowd." We had hardly seated ourselves, when there was black darkness--not the darkness of a moonless, cloudy night, but the darkness of a closed room when the light is put out. You could hear wailing women, children crying, men shouting--for calling their parents, their children, their wives, bewailing their own and their families' fates, some so terrified they prayed for death. Some raised their hands to heaven, others cried that heaven was no more and this was the last judgement come to earth. The ~~real~~ real peril was swollen with a flood of false rumours--at Misenum, they said, parts of the town had collapsed, other parts were on fire. It was untrue but everybody believed it.

It grew lighter after a bit, but we didn't realize it was daylight and thought the flames were approaching. Actually the fire halted a long way off, but the darkness came down again, and then a heavy fall of ash. We had to keep rising and shaking ourselves, to avoid being covered and buried.

At long last the darkness finally thinned and dissolved in smoke and cloud, and it was daylight once more. The sun broke through, as if through a fog. To our frightened eyes everything was changed, heaped high with ashes as if with snow. We returned to Misenum, and making ourselves as comfortable as we could passed a troubled night, torn between hope and fear.

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