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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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Public Relations Branch - Monthly Reports
Oct 1943 - July 1945

1691

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

GSB/ag

23/PRB

1 July 1945

SUBJECT: PRB Report for June, 1945.

TO : Chief Commissioner
(Through Executive Commissioner)

1. GENERAL. Policy matters on a variety of subjects were dealt with during the month. The director spent considerable time on arrangements for the liquidation of PWB on 15 July and the turnover to private news agencies. Press difficulties in the North also took a good deal of time, a special meeting being attended by the Director in Milan 5 June at which PWB press officers and AMG regional representatives discussed revival of pre-Fascist newspapers, a project which has met opposition from some elements of the civilian population. The Director participated in the U.S.I.S. conference at Siena 9 and 10 June where plans were laid for the further distribution of democratic and technical literature in Italy. A series of meetings was held with AFHQ PRO anent the early withdrawal of AFHQ PRO facilities and consequent problems of taking care of correspondents. In line of facilities for correspondents, the AC PRB Political Correspondents' Mess and Billet at 5 Via Romagna is increasing and practically all London newspapers, including the Times, are now represented. Special transport, telephone and news service is accorded the mess, which is a direct AC responsibility, all political correspondents being accredited by PRB after clearance with AFHQ G-5 and the Embassies.

2. NEWS PRODUCTION DIVISION. Approximately 20 releases on various subjects, including further transfers of territory, wheat prices and special announcements for AMG in the North (arranged for simultaneous publication through PWB 15th Army Group), were issued and more than 100 hometown biographical releases on U.S. personnel. The Review of Allied Military Government and the Allied Commission in Italy was completed and the draft cleared with every sub-commission, the Vice Presidents of the Civil Affairs and Economic Sections and the Executive Commissioner. Approval is now being awaited from the Chief Commissioner and Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5, AFHQ. Photographs covering all phases of AC activity also have been prepared for inclusion in the pamphlet when published. British education officers at AFHQ have tentatively indicated a demand for some 15,000 copies for distribution to all British units in the Italian Theater. Discussions were carried on with OWI, UNRRA and USIS concerning possible joint operation of a photographic laboratory to protect AC news picture needs after the cessation of Italian picture coverage by OWI. A large amount of extra space was given to coverage of the June 27-28 Regional Commissioners' Conference in the Weekly Bulletin.

3591

1692

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

3. REPORTS AND ANALYSIS DIVISION. The Daily Digest of theRome Press (covering 21 Roman newspapers), the weekly political sitrep telegram to AFHQ and the weekly political column for the Bulletin were continued. In addition, special daily political sitreps on newspaper comment were furnished to the Chief Commissioner during the negotiations for a new Italian Government. The Deputy Director also acted as interpreter for the Chief Commissioner on several occasions in meetings with Italian personages.

4. ITALIAN DIVISION. Twenty-one Italian journalists' cards were issued and one accrediting card to a political correspondent. Many trips to Milan for Italian newspapermen and officials of the Undersecretariat of the Press were arranged. Six interviews were fixed with AC sub-Commissions. Letters were written calling attention to several misstatements in the Rome press. Information obtained from the North was individually passed on to Italian journalists after clearance with the News Production Division.

5. INFORMATION DIVISION. The Central Reference Library had 1,324 visitors and received 1,048 requests for data. Classified reports numbering 234 were distributed. Approximately 100 reference books were purchased in response to sub-commission request. Information on Japan was found by a Division officer in Genoa and transmitted to theater intelligence authorities. A tour of AMG regions elicited demands for service which were filled from headquarters. Map sheets totalling 3,590 were supplied. Normal circulation of monitoring reports, communiques and general informational circulars was continued as was the daily posting of war bulletins.

G. STEWART BROWN,
Director,
Public Relations Branch.

1693

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

file

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Information Division

APO 394

Tel. 489081
Ext: 578 & 361
File Ref:

Date 1 July 1945.

Subject: Monthly Report of Information Division for June 1945.
To : Mr. Stewart-Brown.

1. During the month of June 1945 the Central Reference Library had 1,324 visitors and received 1,048 requests for information.

2. The number of reports received from various subcommissions totaled 68. The number of reports of a classified nature, distributed to personel interested therein, totaled 234.

3. The Central Reference Library continued to augment its supply of periodicals with a variety of trade journals, financial reports, and reports of a technical and scientific nature.

4. In response to numerous requests made by various subcommissions and individual officers, the Information Division purchased approximately 100 books containing general and specific information on a variety of subjects. Amongst the books purchased will be found, Guide Books of Europe, geographical publication, treatises on the political and economic background of European countries, dictionaries, and biographical information.

5. The Information Division was fortunate in finding (in Genoa) considerable information concerning Japan, which information had been urgently requested by Intelligence Agencies in this theater.

3589

6. A tour of the Regional Headquarters of Northern Italy brought the Department numerous demands for books, reports and general information. Many of these requests have already been filled.

7. Distribution of Monitoring Reports, Communiques, A.A.F.Bulletins, Censorship and other reports took place in accordance with our Distribution lists.

8. War Information Bulletins were posted daily.

1694

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

9. 3590 map sheets were supplied to A.C./ A.M.G.personel

George W. Cashman

GEORGE W. CASHMAN
1st. Lt. Inf.
P.R.O.
Information Division.

1695

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

GSB/mew

23/PRB

31 May 45

SUBJECT: PRB Report for May, 1945

TO : Chief Commissioner
(Through Executive Commissioner)

1. GENERAL. AMG operations in the newly liberated north of Italy occupied most of the Branch's time and energy during the month since practically every important Allied correspondent concentrated in that area, particularly at Milan, where a PRB staff officer detailed as PRO IV Corps gave correspondents effective assistance. The Director made two trips to Milan and other northern cities to assist the correspondents in their work. To provide for increased service in the Venice area, PRO 8th Army AMG was transferred to Venezia Region. The Director, in meetings with A C of S G-5 IV Corps and the CLNAI at Milan, helped overcome difficulties incident to re-publication of the Corriere della Sera, which, it was finally agreed, would be published under the name of Corriere d'Informazioni. The paper's first issue came out May 22. In cooperation with AFHQ PRO, a party of 16 correspondents - 14 Italian and two neutral - was sent to Milan by plane, giving on-the-spot coverage to Rome newspapers and news agencies. The Temporary Film Board approved on Italian-sponsored film legislation with minor changes, and blocked all raw film stocks in the north, setting up procedures to prevent the materials from falling into the hands of speculators.

3587

2. NEWS PRODUCTION DIVISION. Activities during the month were purposely curtailed since the most profitable outlets - the war correspondents - were inspecting conditions for themselves in the field. The regular Weekly Bulletin in printed form and special daily sitreps were devoted to giving the latest news on the situation in the north. Approximately 25 regular press releases were written and distributed to regular outlets. Special service was given to correspondents inquiring into the industrial outlook and to Nuovo Mondo, U.S. Office of War Information magazine, on several articles with many photographs about the work

1696

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

of the Allied Commission. The periodical has a circulation of more than 100,000 in Italy. The OWI Photographic Section also covered, as a standard operating procedure, the picture possibilities of all AC press releases and distributed its photographs to more than 50 outlets, giving the Commission a most effective avenue of publicity. Approximately 60 home-town releases on U.S. personnel, issuance of which is a requirement of the U.S. War Department Bureau of Public Relations, were written, the total number issued to date amounting to more than 400. A review of Allied Military Government and the Allied Commission in Italy was almost completed, tracing the history of AC/AMG from July 10, 1943 to May 2, 1945 and running to nearly 100 pages of typescript. Plans were made to have the project printed, with photographs, by OWI and given wide distribution, not only to the press and radio in England, Canada and America, but to soldiers awaiting redeployment in Italy. The Information and Education Service of NATOUSA estimated that approximately 500,000 copies could be utilized for the American side alone.

3. REPORTS AND ANALYSIS DIVISION work consisted of the normal production of the Daily Digest of the Rome Press, in which special attention was paid to political comment and incidents in the north; of the political lead paragraph for the AFHQ weekly telegram, and of the regular political column for the Weekly Bulletin.

4. ITALIAN DIVISION contacts during May were many and varied. Accrediting cards were issued to 26 additional Italian journalists, demonstrating again the prestige value and convenience of the cards in the eyes of the Italian press. One Italian war correspondent's pass was issued. Six interviews with sub-commissions on economic subjects were arranged. Background material for a script for BBC on the "Importance of the north to Italy" was prepared. Photographs and biographical data on important Allied Commission personalities were obtained for publication in the June 4th and June 11th issues of "Quadrants," a Roman weekly. 3284

5. INFORMATION DIVISION responses to inquiries were as brisk as ever. The Central Reference Library had 1,219 visitors and received 1,059 requests for information. Considerable statistical material from London, Washington and New York was added. Maps supplied amounted to 3,805. With the moving of the Army Map Depot to Bologna, the Division became the chief source of maps in the Rome area. AFHQ G-2 turned over a quantity of informational material. Regular distribution services were carried out. A map of the Japanese War took the center of the stage on the Division's War Bulletin Board.

G. STEWART BROWN
Director, Public Relations Branch

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R23/PRB 4 May, 1945

SUBJECT : PRB Report for April, 1945

TO : Chief Commissioner (through the Executive Commissioner

1. The month's activities, as with all work of the Allied Commission, was climaxed by the opening of the final campaign in Italy. The Director accompanied the Acting President on tours of the 5th and 8th Army fronts, including Bologna and Modena. The Branch's PRO with 5th Army AMG provided emergency billet and messing facilities for war correspondents at Bologna as the regular press camp had not yet been established. Correspondents were appreciative. Work of AMG in the campaign has come in for frequent and friendly comment in news dispatches. A member of the Headquarters Branch staff was assigned as PRO with IV Corps and is now functioning in Milan. Work of Temporary Film Board progressed, agreement being reached that PWB would turn over all blocked films to Italian Government for review and possible release under certain conditions. 3585

2. The News Production Division issued 41 releases during the month, including several technical articles to trade magazines in England and America. Arrangements were made to use Nuovo Mondo, OWI monthly in Italy, in greater measure as an outlet and two articles with art - on Allied transport aid and re-building of Rimini - were accepted for publication. The news production staff was increased by the arrival of a U.S. enlisted man of limited service who has had extensive newspaper experience. Hometown releases in quantity were resumed. The Weekly Bulletin continued to be edited and is now being printed under the classification "Restricted". Writing of a survey of AMG and AC activities in Italy, to be issued as a pamphlet, advanced to the final chapter now in process of being

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

1697

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3. The Reports and Analyses Division continued its functions of daily digesting of the Rome press and preparation of political summaries for the AFHQ weekly telegram, the Weekly Bulletin and reports for the Chief Commissioner.

1698

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

4. The Italian Division accredited eight Italian journalists and four Italian war correspondents. Steps were initiated to obtain permission for Italian correspondents to travel to northern Italy on news coverage. Sixteen interviews were arranged with sub-commissions on a variety of economic topics.

5. The Information Division continued its servicing of documentary and reference material. It supplied 3,637 maps and kept the marking of boundaries on all staff maps up-to-date despite the fluid tactical situation. The Central Reference Library had 1,385 visitors and received 845 requests for information.

G. STEWART BROWN,
Director,
Public Relations Branch.

1699

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R23/PRB

4 May, 1945

SUBJECT : PRB Report for April, 1945

TO : Chief Commissioner (through the Executive Commissioner

1. The month's activities, as with all work of the Allied Commission, was climaxed by the opening of the final campaign in Italy. The Director accompanied the Acting President on tours of the 5th and 8th Army fronts, including Bologna and Modena. The Branch's PRO with 5th Army AMG provided emergency billet and messing facilities for war correspondents at Bologna as the regular press camp had not yet been established. Correspondents were appreciative. Work of AMG in the campaign has come in for frequent and friendly comment in news dispatches. A member of the Headquarters Branch staff was assigned as PRO with IV Corps and is now functioning in Milan. Work of Temporary Film Board progressed, agreement being reached that PWB would turn over all blocked films to Italian Government for review and possible release under certain conditions.

2. The News Production Division issued 41 releases during the month, including several technical articles to trade magazines in England and America. Arrangements were made to use Nuovo Mondo, OWI monthly in Italy, in greater measure as an outlet and two articles with art - on Allied transport aid and re-building of Rimini - were accepted for publication. The news production staff was increased by the arrival of a U.S. enlisted man of limited service who has had extensive newspaper experience. Hometown releases in quantity were resumed. The Weekly Bulletin continued to be edited and is now being printed under the classification "Restricted". Writing of a survey of AMG and AC activities in Italy, to be issued as a pamphlet, advanced to the final chapter now in process of being

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3. The Reports and Analyses Division continued its functions of daily digesting of the Rome press and preparation of political summaries for the AFHQ weekly telegram, the Weekly Bulletin and reports for the Chief Commissioner.

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

4. The Italian Division accredited eight Italian journalists and four Italian war correspondents. Steps were initiated to obtain permission for Italian correspondents to travel to northern Italy on news coverage. Sixteen interviews were arranged with sub-commissions on a variety of economic topics.

5. The Information Division continued its servicing of documentary and reference material. It supplied 3,667 maps and kept the marking of boundaries on all staff maps up-to-date despite the fluid tactical situation. The Central Reference Library had 1,385 visitors and received 845 requests for information.

G. STEWART BROWN,
Director,
Public Relations Branch.

3589

1702

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R23/PRB 4 April 1945

SUBJECT : PRB Report for March, 1945

TO : Executive Commissioner

1. Coordination and intensification of public relations activities was the keynote of the month. Further steps were taken to improve cooperative relationships between the new United States Information Service (U.S.I.S.), PWB, AFHQ PRO and the press attaches of the British and American Embassies. The Press Plan for Northern Italy was the subject of many meetings and was finally forwarded to AFHQ after approval by the Allied Commission and PWB. The Temporary Film Board was formally established and met for the first time with the Chief Commissioner presiding. The Director of the Public Relations Branch was selected chairman of the board. The Director also visited zones of the 5th and 8th Armies and laid plans for development of public relations in the forward areas with the field staff and AMG staff officers. Attention was given to the future problem of service to Allied correspondents left behind in Rome when AFHQ PRO establishments move forward. Relations with Allied correspondents were improved through service and closer contacts.

3581

2. The News Production Division doubled its output, issuing 62 original releases. Direct delivery was arranged to all Allied correspondents, to all Italian papers and agencies in Rome and to the Italian provincial newspaper outlet. A party of nearly 50 Allied, Italian and neutral correspondents was conducted to cover the anniversary of Cassino ceremonies. Background articles with photographs were dispatched directly to trade periodicals in England and the United States not having representatives in Rome. A standard operating procedure on picture coverage of worthwhile stories was set up with PWB Pictorial Division and the Photo Section of AFHQ PRO. A questionnaire on use of Allied Commission press releases reflected general use and approval of the service rendered. The AC Weekly Bulletin was continued. On the orders of the Chief Commissioner its classification was retained as "Secret". Among the important subjects covered in [illegible] planning for first-aid to Italy; AC field

1703
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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3581

2. The News Production Division [redacted] doubled its output, issuing 32 original releases. Direct delivery was arranged to all Allied correspondents, to all Italian papers and agencies in Rome and to the Italian provincial newspaper outlet. A party of nearly 50 Allied, Italian and neutral correspondents was conducted to cover the anniversary of Cassino ceremonies. Background articles with photographs were dispatched directly to trade periodicals in England and the United States not having representatives in Rome. A standard operating procedure on picture coverage of worthwhile stories was set up with PWB Pictorial Division and the Photo Section of AFHQ PRO. A questionnaire on use of Allied Commission press releases reflected general use and approval of the service rendered. The AC Weekly Bulletin was continued. On the orders of the Chief Commissioner its classification was retained as "Secret". Among the important subjects covered in releases were : Joint planning for first-aid to Italy; AC field re-organization; transatlantic telephone service; Allied-Italian film board; cultural relations with the U.S.; industrial progress; public works; 5th and 8th Army field reports; property control; truck arrivals from the U.S.; fine arts; epuration; education; and salvage.

3. The Reports and Analysis Division [redacted] issued its Daily Digest of the Rome Press based on daily reading of 20 Roman papers. A list of leading provincial papers is also in process of formulation for eventual sample digesting of public opinion in the field.

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

The section continued the handling of political reporting for the AFHQ weekly telegram and the AC Weekly Bulletin.

4. The Italian ~~Section~~ Division serviced Italian journalists with background material and arranged nine interviews with sub-commissions during the month. Five more Italian journalists were issued credentials and one for an Italian war correspondent. Nine applications for such cards were also received, testifying to their prestige value and utility in the eyes of Italian correspondents.

5. The Information Division issued 250 more copies of the "Desk Guide to Italy" which has had an widely appreciative distribution, including AFHQ. A further 500 copies are to be distributed. The Central Reference Library had 1,245 visitors, an increase of about 400 over February (largely due to new additions of Allied periodical literature) and replied to 859 requests for information. Map sheets totalling 5,594 were issued. Marking of boundaries on all staff maps, posting of war bulletins and distribution of reports continued.

G. STEWART BROWN,
Director,
Public Relations Branch.

3580

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R23/PRB 5 March 1945

SUBJECT : PRB Report for February, 1945.

TO : Executive Commissioner.

1. The month saw considerable activity, both as regards work of the Branch and general personnel and organization changes. Efforts were intensified toward welding Allied Commission public relations closer into the general theater picture in relation to AFHQ, the British and American Embassies and PWB. News services of PWB in Liberated Italy outside of AMG areas were terminated February 15. Private agencies will now service newspapers and radio stations in Italian Government territory. Approval was given to publication of an illustrated pamphlet outlining the achievements of the Allied Commission. Progress was made in discussions with the Italian Government toward the setting up of a Temporary Film Board. The Allied Publications Board, on which this Branch is represented, made representations to the Italian Government concerning the shortage of imported newsprint which has caused suspension of publication of several newspapers in Naples and Rome. A press conference for Allied correspondents was held for the Acting President at which he explained Italy's new status. 3579

2. The News Production Section expanded its program by virtue of augmented staff. Local outlets were increased to 29 direct recipients, which included all Allied neutral correspondents, morale papers, wireservices as well as four Italian news agencies, and 9 indirect channels, such as AFHQ News Production Section, Italian Government Press Bureau, etc. Releases were also sent to selected newspapers and magazines in England and America which would use specialized material. U.S. hometown releases were continued, approximately 100 being issued. Stories sent previously have been used in verbatim in many instances as evidenced in clippings returned to this Branch. Letters of appreciation for this type of release were received from as far afield as Colorado. 15 miscellaneous releases were serviced from various sub-commissions and Lazio-Umbria Region while 29 original releases of importance were written and released, including reports [illegible] post reconstruction,

1706
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

TO : Executive Commissioner.

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

3. The Italian Section arranged 12 interviews of Italian journalists with AC sub-commissions. Three more accreditation cards were issued to Italian journalists. Four photographers were issued passes through this Branch by Public Safety Sub-Commission. Two political correspondents also were issued cards. Six travel passes were issued for correspondents and Italian press officials.

4. The Reports and Analyses Section continued its work of preparing and issuing the Daily Digest of the Rome Press, though the task has grown even more arduous of late by the increase in Rome papers to 19 daily publications. The section also wrote the weekly political report for the AFHQ telegram and the AC Weekly Bulletin.

5. The Information Division issued the first 300 copies of its "Desk Guide for Italy"; 500 more copies are being printed due to the wide demand. The Central Reference Library during the month received 732 requests for information and had 851 visitors, considerably more than in previous months. Inquiry for its file of British and American publications accounted for a goos proportion of the increase. Reports received amounted to 60 and classified documents distributed to 120. An AFHQ inquiry into the division's map functions resulted in AFHQ's promise to place a larger variety and quantity of maps at AC's disposal. Maps distributed to AC-AMG personnel for the period amounted to 3,351. Special maps were designed for the Transportation Sub-Commission and Civil Affairs Section. New boundaries on all staff maps were kept up to date. Routine internal distribution of military communiques, monitoring reports and censorship files was continued.

6. The Archives Section continued preparations to receive and arrange records from regions about to be closed down, first shipments of which arrived during the month.

7. Personnel changes during February were headed by the appointment of Mr. G. Stewart Brown of Washington, D.C., to succeed Major Lionel Fielden who is returning home to England on leave. Capt. E. Ellison(B) was assigned as Public Relations Officer with the 8th Army AMG. Mr. Rock Ferris(A) was transferred from PWB to be assigned as Public Relations Officer with the 5th Army AMG. Major T.L. Bullock (Cdn) continued as Public Relations Officer with 15th Army Group and Deputy Director (Field). Lieut.(j.g.)Charles Robbins, USNR, was assigned to the News Production Section. Miss Marjorie Evans (B) was assigned to the Italian Section.

3578

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

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3578

G. Stewart Brown,
Director,
Public Relations Branch.

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB/PRB

4 February 1945

SUBJECT : PRB Report for January, 1945.

TO : Chief of Staff.

1. Most significant in the month's happenings were a series of discussions to arrange for the re-distribution of responsibilities consequent to the liquidation of Psychological Warfare Branch operations in Liberated Italy south of the Army Control Line. Allied press agencies (Reuters, A.P., U.P., INS) began operating in Rome 15 Jan. and three Italian news agencies also began offering their wares to whomever would buy them. The Italian agencies were ANSA, SI and ORBIS. A technician committee was set up to establish methods of distributing agency material outside Rome. Aide-memoires were prepared for the Italian Prime Minister on the proposed Governing Board of Italian radio and on the functions of the proposed Film Board.

2. A press conference was arranged for the Acting President and was attended by more than 50 Allied correspondents.

3. An Italian press section was set up to assist Italian journalists in interviewing officers of the Allied Commission in order to facilitate better mutual understanding. The routine work of arranging interviews for Allied correspondents, preparation of the Weekly Bulletin, Daily Digest of the Rome Press, weekly political report for AFHQ and service to AC-accredited political correspondents continued.

3577

4. The month also saw considerable activity by the News Production Section which wrote and released 42 releases, serviced 30 releases for Lazio-Umbria Region and dispatched 100 hometown releases to American newspapers on U.S. personnel. Liaison was made and intensified with AFHQ News Production Section and aid and counsel given to its officers proceeding forward into AMG territory on news, picture and radio possibilities. Sample topics of releases include

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

1. Most significant in the month's happenings were a series of discussions to arrange for the re-distribution of responsibilities consequent to the liquidation of Psychological Warfare Branch operations in Liberated Italy south of the Army Control Line. Allied press agencies (Reuters, A.P., U.P., INS) began operating in Rome 15 Jan. and three Italian news agencies also began offering their wares to whomever would buy them. The Italian agencies were ANSA, SI and ORBIS. A technician committee was set up to establish methods of distributing agency material outside Rome. Aide-memoires were prepared for the Italian Prime Minister on the proposed Governing Board of Italian radio and on the functions of the proposed Film Board.

2. A press conference was arranged for the Acting President and was attended by more than 60 Allied correspondents.

3. An Italian press section was set up to assist Italian journalists in interviewing officers of the Allied Commission in order to facilitate better mutual understanding. The routine work of arranging interviews for Allied correspondents, preparation of the Weekly Bulletin, Daily Digest of the Rome Press, weekly political report for AFHQ and service to AC-accredited political correspondents continued.

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

5. The Information Division's "Desk Guide to Italy" was finally sent to the printer and will be ready shortly. The Central References Library had 625 visitors and received 780 requests for information. 65 reports were received for filing. 110 classified reports distributed to interested personnel. 3,005 map sheets were supplied. War news was posted every day.

6. Work of the Archives Section was reviewed by the Archives Advisory Committee 24 January. Recommendations were to be put forward that obsolete material still in possession of regions and sub-commissions be forwarded to Archives for filing. Advisability of requesting civilian archivists, both British and American, was under consideration.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R23/PRB 8 January 1945.

SUBJECT: PRB Report for December, 1944.

TO : Chief of Staff.

1. The most important developments of the month centered around Italian films and introduction of Allied news agencies into the Italian theater. Approval was given by SACMED to the distribution of news in Rome only by Allied news agencies from January 15. The ban on Italian news agencies was also lifted from the same date. Approval was also given by SACMED to the establishment of a Temporary Film Board to regulate the Italian film industry and discussions were initiated between AC, PWB and the Italian Government regarding the drafting of a necessary decree.

2. In the News Production Section of the Branch, 20 original news releases of significance were written and issued and releases prepared by the Education Sub-Commission and Lazio-Umbria Region were checked and serviced to all outlets. Important news releases included the subjects of electricity, coal, police, fine arts, Sicily disturbances, Southern Region, industry, joint planning with the Italian Government, agriculture, transport, schools and devastated areas. Official releases of importance were personally delivered to all Italian newspapers in Rome to insure adequate receipt of the official Allied texts uncut as often happens when transmitted by other agencies. In addition, 100 releases to hometown newspapers in the United States were written and dispatched concerning American officers and enlisted men. More than 1,000 information sheets on which the news stories are based have been received. Such hometown releases will eventually cover all U.S. personnel in AC. Discussions were also initiated with PWB News Section toward the systematic control of any news gathered by PWB and AC and it was arranged to give a credit line to AC press releases in PWB's Basic News.

3. The number of Italian correspondents vetted and permitted to cover news under the procedures established by this Branch grew to 62, who were issued official accrediting cards. Twelve neutral correspondents now also have these privileges. The routine work of arranging interviews for both Allied and Italian correspondents, facilitating arrangements for covering Italian events through liaison with the Italian Press Office, production of the Daily Digest of the Rome Press and the Weekly Bulletin and service to the political correspondents supervised by AC continued.

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

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3575

4. The work of the Archives Section progressed in gathering, arranging and collating the records of the Allied Commission preparatory to eventual turning over to official record agencies of the British and American Governments. Important additions to the files during the month arrived in the shape of more Brindisi files and a deposit from the Fifth Army AMG.

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

5. Demands for facts, figures and documents by AC and associated personnel kept the Information Division busy in supplying 3,266 map sheets, 125 classified documents, 200 textbooks and pamphlets, meeting 718 requests for aid and handling 639 visitors in the Central Reference Library. Sixty regular reports from AC agencies and 138 from other agencies on Italian problems were received and filed. In addition to the routine tasks of daily distribution of PWB Basic News and Monitoring Reports, Military Communiques, posting war information reports on the main bulletin board and marking new boundaries on all staff maps, the Division also undertook the collection of considerable statistical data about various Italian topics which will be incorporated on small-scale maps and distributed to all AC personnel.

LIONEL FIELDEN
Major,
Public Relations Director.

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R23/PRB

5 December 1944.

SUBJECT: PRB Report for November, 1944.

TO : Chief of Staff.

1. While carrying on the usual routine work associated with daily press releases, daily digests of the Italian press, trend of correspondent's copy, weekly bulletin and arrangements for interviews and conferences on behalf of Allied, neutral and Italian correspondents, the Public Relations Branch was also increasingly occupied by questions arising from the resumption of Italian activity in the cinema, theatre, radio, and press agency fields, and the question of epuration as it touches the Undersecretariat of the Press and Information and the parastatal agencies depending from it. As a result of protracted discussions, agreement was obtained from AFHQ for the establishment of a Temporary Film Board to decide the various complex problems now arising, with AC, PWB and Italian government representation. After considerable discussion with AFHQ a plan for the future structure of the Italian radio was also put forward to AFHQ; a similar plan was laid before the Council of Ministers by the Undersecretary of the Press. Steps were taken to clear up the copyright difficulties existing over theatrical productions translated from English. Agreement was obtained from AFHQ to permit Allied Press Agencies to resume the input of news on January 15 and steps were taken to open the field similarly by Italian news agencies, provision being made against exclusivity.

2. The history of the Allied Commission completed for the anniversary date of November 10 was not judged suitable for publication in its present form and will be revised by a Committee sitting at AC Hq.

3. A feature of the month was the delegation by the Allied Publications Board to the Italian Press Commission of all powers regarding the granting or revocation of licenses on territory under Italian jurisdiction controlled papers remaining exempt from this control and the APB reserving the right of intervention on questions of military security or undemocratic practices.

4. The vexed question of accreditation and procedure for Italian war correspondents was finally cleared up, and a conducting officer was sent with these correspondents to the Fifth and Eighth Army areas - an air tour was arranged for Italian civilian correspondents to Italian air units re-equipped by the Allies. Owing to the operational lag, the

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

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

5. The work of the Archives section proceeded steadily, eight crates of documents being received from Sicily Region. Southern Region is in process of sorting out obsolete records for submission.

6. During the month of November 1944 the Central Reference Library had 579 visitors and 752 request for information. The number of reports received by the Central Reference Library from the various Sub-Commissions and the Regional HQs total 60. The number of reports received from other agencies dealing with problems concerning Italy and other countries total 179. Number of text books and pamphlets for distribution for military-civilian personnel totalled 500 of which 350 have been distributed. Number of Zone handbooks distributed totalled 100, and number of classified material total 200. Daily distribution of Basic News, Radio Monitoring Report, Daily Communique, A.A.I. and other reports was continued in accordance with distribution lists of Information Division. The War Information bulletins were kept up to date daily. 739 maps were supplied to AC/AMG personnel and the marking of new boundaries of all staff maps was regularly carried out.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

3572

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R23/PRB

10 November 1944.

SUBJECT: PRB Report for October, 1944.

TO : Chief of Staff.

1. Re-organization. - PRB took over on 1 October responsibility for operation of the Information Division and Archives following recommendations of the Manpower Board.

2. News Production. - Daily releases to Allied, neutral and Italian press and PWB on normal range of topics, including civilian movement, Florence art caches, malaria control record, infant mortality and tuberculosis statistics, typhus, Allied Advisory Council meetings, mail service, and particularly food announcements. Also arranged for, advised on and reviewed stories on AC by PWB for distribution through United Nations News Service.

3. Journalists.

a. Italian - Number of accrediting cards issued to screened journalists now total approximately 40. Interviews arranged with AC officers. Correspondence with Rome editors on various items of news. War correspondents finally sent in the field with Italian armed forces. Permits obtained for visits to forward areas.

b. Allied - PRB Villa (billeting and mess) put into operation and used as a gathering place for political correspondents. Interviews arranged and information given on request. Trips arranged to Naples and field. PRO assigned to 5th Army AMG to assist correspondents.

c. Neutral. - Interviews, briefings and information arranged and given.

4. Relations with Italian Government. - Recommendations forwarded to G-5, AFHQ on re-activation of Italian news agency, films and radio. The Allied Publications Board also recommended that responsibility for licensing of newspapers and distribution of newsprint in Italian Government territory be given to Italian Press Commission. Arrangements made with Italian authorities on Allied coverage of Azzolini and other epuration trials. 3571

5. AC Anniversary. - Extensive research and writing put into production of press release marking one-year anniversary of ACC and 16 months of military government in Italy. Release now in hands of AFHQ for approval.

6. Information Division. - Activities of Central Reference Library, distribution of maps and issuance of news bulletins continued. Increasing use of library by AC personnel noted

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

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6. Information Division. - Activities of Central Reference Library, distribution of maps and issuance of news bulletins continued. Increasing use of library by AC personnel noted as well as by Italian journalists who ask for Allied publications. Division assumed responsibility for keeping boundaries and locations of all important installations on key reference map for Chief of Staff. Files thoroughly cleaned out and brought up to date.

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

7. Archives Section. - Documents have been placed in chronological order and gaps are being filled by requests from appropriate agencies possessing original files.

8. Routine. - Trend of Correspondents' Copy, Daily Digest of Rome Press and Weekly PRB Bulletin continued to be issued. Staff meetings attended. Liaison with PWB and army morale papers maintained.

(Sgd)

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

3570

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R25 October 11, 1944

Subject: PRB Report for September, 1944.

To: Chief of Staff.

1. News Production. - Daily releases to Allied, neutral and Italian press on variety of subjects, including summation of Granai del Popolo, German tortures in Via Tasso, civilian movement, food, export of silk, arrival of penicillin, Italian Red Cross, olive oil ammassing, etc.

2. Press Arrangements.- PRB officers supervised arrangements for Allied correspondents covering the Caruso trial and execution. ~~Lieut. Atkinson (A)~~ also figured in helping quell the disorder at the first day of the trial. Arrangements were made with the Italian Government insuring Allied coverage of other high Fascists brought to trial.

3. Press Conference.- Arrangements made for meeting of Allied correspondents with Anglo-American labor delegation at Grand-Hotel.

4. Journalists.

(a) Italian. - 15 more accrediting cards issued after screening. Interviews arranged with sub-Commission.

(b) Allied war correspondents. - Interviews arranged and briefings given. Aid continued to March of Time film unit.

(c) Allied political correspondents. - Trip arranged with ~~Lieut. Atkinson as~~ conducting officer to cover inauguration of new mayor of Florence. Work progressed in taking over by ~~Capt. Owen (B)~~ of former Manchoukuo Embassy and setting up as Political Correspondents' Mess and Billet.

3569

(d) Neutral Correspondents. - Weekly briefings held. Foreign Press Association expanded to include substantial number of Allied correspondents, with direction now passing from hands of neutrals. To council of journalists elected by accredited correspondents in Rome.

5. Relations with Italian Government. - Major recommendations made on Italian film and radio industries and creation of Italian news agency. Education activities of Sottosegretariato per la

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

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6. Meeting Attended.- Economic Section, Weekly Conference, Allied Publications Board, PWB Propaganda Directive Conference, Siena Forward ACC conferences.

7. Propaganda.- Suggestions and assistance given PWB concerning Patriots, olive oil ammassing and extent of Allied supplies and aid given to Italians.

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

8. Routine.- Daily Digest of Rome Press, Weekly PRB Bulletin and Trend of Correspondents' Copy. Preparation of monthly report of Political Section and political report in weekly ACC telegram to G-5, AFHQ.

(Sgd)

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

3568

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R23

12 September 1944.

Subject: Report for August 1944.

To: Sedretary-General.

1. Personnel. - Captain C. Howard-Owen (B) returned to Headquarters from Granai del Popolo propaganda duties in Sicily.

2. News Production. - Press releases averaging two to four a day were issued to the Italian press, PWB, AFHQ PRO correspondents and neutral correspondents, on general and administrative ACC activities, including UNRRA liaison, transfer of Rome to the Italian Government, measures to improve the Rome food supply situation and anti-malaria control operations.

3. Press Conferences.

(a) The Italian press, inaddition to the Allied correspondents, was admitted for the first time to the Regional Commissioners' Conference August 22, with excellent results in coverage and comment and with no violations of security stops.

(b) PRB arranged for Brigadier-General William O'Dwyer two press conferences, the first being for Allied correspondents on the Italian economic situation, and the second for Italians on Rome food conditions and general economic plans. Both conferences were well received.

4. Journalists.

(a) Italian. - Personal visits were made to editors of Rome newspapers explaining ACC policies and requests made and granted for specific editorial assistance on a number of problems needing public cooperation. The first eight of ACC PRB accrediting cards were issued to officially epurated Italian journalists. Curfew passes were obtained for nearly 1,000 Roman newspaper workers and problems of journalists' automobiles were adjusted. Two Italian photographers were issued with permits to photograph non-military pictures. Interviews of Italian journalists with individual ACC officers were arranged.

3567

(b) Allied war correspondents. - Interviews arranged and information given for approximately 20 British and American correspondents. Daily briefings given correspondents in Florence by Major T.L. Bullock (Cdn), Deputy Director of Public Relations (Field).

(c) Allied political correspondents. - The first four political correspondents arrived and became an ACC responsibility. They represented the London Times, Express and Telegraph and the Tass (Russian) Agency.

(d) Neutral correspondents. - Weekly background briefings held.

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

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(d) Neutral correspondents. - Weekly background briefings held.

5. Relations with Italian Government. - Travel passes obtained for the Undersecretariat of the Press and the Ministry of the Interior. Extensive investigation and recommendations made in regard to Italian film industry. Arrangements for Italian Army Navy and Air Force publicity made with AFHQ and put into effect: this includes first Allied recognition of Italian war correspondents.

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

6. Miscellaneous. - The Allied Publications Board, with concurring PRB vote, froze further issues of newsprint because of shortage of imports. Extensive scheduling of story possibilities made for the March of Time film unit photographing ACC help to Italy. Publishing arrangements made for 75,000 copies of Art Guide to Florence for use of the troops. Plans started to make films of Italian Army, Navy and Air Force. Contacts maintained with Prime Minister Bonomi and cabinet members. Regular services of Weekly Bulletin, Daily Rome Digest and Trend of Correspondents' Copy continued. Material gathered for history of ACC.

(Sd)

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Public Relations Director.

Copy to: R.C. & M.G. Section
Information Division.

3566

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1728

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB/R27 23

15 August, 1944

Monthly Report

SUBJECT: MONTHLY REPORT FOR JULY, 1944

TO : SECRETARY GENERAL

1. Personnel. Major Bergin, DDPR (A), and Lieut. Caprio (A) PRO, arrived from Naples 12 July. Lieut. Caprio left Branch to take another post. Capt. Owen continued his duties in Sicily in connection with Grandi del Popolo publicity except for a brief visit to Headquarters. Lieut. Atkinson (A) PRO , acted as conducting officer for a tour of the battlefield south of Rome to Naples for a group of Italian journalists. Maj. Bullock (B), DDPR, continued on duties with the 8th Army AMG.

2. News production. More than 100 releases in both English and Italian were written or serviced to nearly 30 outlets for ACC Headquarters and for Region IV and Rome Region in connection with essential operations as well as important matters of policy such as transfer of territory to the Italian Government; treatment of Patriots, rules on civilian movement. A full investigation and report of alleged German brutalities to prisoners, with documents and 18 photographs, in Via Tasso was made. Releases were made on behalf of the Allied Advisory Council.

3. Press. a. Italian Journalists. Close and daily contact was maintained with Italian journalists in an effort to acquaint them with Allied objectives and to learn at first-hand their reactions to ACC activities. Schede Personali were filled for several scores of journalists and sent to Security Branch for vetting. Cards were printed and prepared for issue to screened Italian journalists accrediting them to function. Coordination was made with Italian epuration agencies in this field. Curfew and travel passes were obtained for several hundred of Rome newspapers.

3565

1729

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

b. Neutral Correspondents. Journalists of neutral nations were accepted as an ACC PRB responsibility. Accrediting cards were issued to nine such journalists. Weekly guidance meetings of the neutral correspondents were held.
c. Allied Correspondents. Interviews and information were arranged for representatives of British and American press and radio. Action was initiated through G-5 toward early acceptance by ACC PRB of accrediting responsibilities for political correspondents from the Allied press.

4. Relations with Italian Government. Daily talks were held with the office of the Undersecretary for the Press in the Ministery of the Interior toward better and more responsible services toward correspondents by the Italian Government. Quarters for the Italian press office were obtained in the former ministry of Popular Culture Building.

5. Allied Publications Board. Regular and special meetings of the APB were attended preparatory to turning over operations of the Board to the Italian Government and in regularizing and controlling the somewhat disorganized but free Rome press.

6. Publications. Distribution of the Weekly Bulletin and daily trend of copy of Correspondents and Digest of Rome Press continued and considerably expanded due to demand from readers; including the Allied Advisory Council, War Department and War Office.

(Sgd)
LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Director of Public Relations

1730

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ADVANCE HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

PRB/R23 7 July 1944

Subject: Report for June 1944

To: Secretary-General.

During June a part of the Public Relations Branch moved from Naples to Rome. Major John P. Leacacos set up a temporary Public Relations Office at Rome Area Command Headquarters on 5 June to deal with the numerous correspondents who had followed the troops into the city.

Advanced Headquarters office was established at the Ministero delle Corporazioni, Rome, by Major Lionel Fielden on 14 June, accompanied by S Sgt Alan Cash. Lieut Arthur F. Brayden joined Advanced HQ from Naples on 19 June, while two Italian civilian employees were engaged to assist in the volume of work. Major Thomas C. Bergin and Lieut Gene F. Capric remained at the Naples office pending the move of the main party to Rome. Major Theodore E. Bullock remained on duty with AMG 8th Army. Capt C. Howard Owen was detailed for duty with PWB Film Unit on 20 June to conduct the unit into the Southern provinces for the making of a film on the People's Granaries. Lieut John W. Atkinson joined the staff of 29 June.

The chief work of the branch was centred on problems arising from the fall of Rome, although normal activities (Weekly Bulletin, Trend of Correspondents' Copy, Italian Press Digest, etc.) continued. The control of the Rome press and the 600 journalists of Rome, as well as the neutral journalists who had remained in the city, raised special issues regarding their credentials.

Members of the branch attended meetings of the Allied Publications Board on 15 June. Instructions were issued to the Rome press. Press Conferences were held in Rome by Brigadier-General Edgar T. Hume on 6 June and by Lieut-General Sir Noel Mason MacFarlane on 19 June, and by Colonel Charles Poletti, Regional Commissioner, Rome Region, on 22 June. During the month over 100 Press Releases in English and Italian were issued. Prior to the fall of Rome a press conference was arranged for General Hume at Anzio and passes for entry into Rome were issued to 400 public relations personnel belonging to AFHQ 5th Army, 8th Army, Psychological Warfare Branch etc.

3563

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major, Public Relations Director.

1731

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24

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

14 June, 1944

Subject: Monthly Report of Director of Public Relations (May 1944)

To : Secretary General

During the month the following additions and changes of personnel were made: Maj. T.G. Bergin joined this Branch on 11 May, being transferred from the Educational S/C. Lieut. G.F. Caprio PRO Region III rejoined this HQ. on 16 May and on 21 May Lieut. A.F. Braydon was posted to this Branch on his arrival from England.

On 4 May Maj. John F. Lescroos was attached to AMG 5th Army and Maj. T.L. Bullock to AMG 8th Army. It was thus possible for the Branch to have officers at all strategic points during the active period and as a result contacts were maintained with correspondents, and proper and favorable publicity assured . Liaison with Salerno was maintained through the visits of Major Bergin and increasingly good cooperation with Ufficio Stampa to which we were able to offer aid and advice. Following the policy of keeping in touch with the Regions, Capt. C. Howard Owen was sent to Region I to be present at the Regional Conference May 24.

A number of items dealing with the work of ACC have been released to the press, the photographers attached to the Branch have covered stories of varied interest; the towns recently liberated, refugee camps etc.

Meanwhile the routine of the Branch continues: contacts with the press, liaison with PWB and AFB and preparation of the Weekly Bulletin.

(Sgd)

3562

T.G. BERGIN,
Major, ACS
DDPR.

for

LIONEL FIELDEN
Major,
D.P.R

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB 24.

7 May, 1944

Subject: Monthly Report of Director of Public Relations for April 1944.

To : Secretary - General.

The directive establishing the Headquarters Public Relations Branch and abolishing Regional Public Relations offices was issued by the Chief Commissioner on April 1. This was followed on April 3 by a note of guidance issued by P.R. Branch to Regions and sub-commissions defining the procedure to be followed regarding interviews, news releases, relations with the PWB and other questions concerning publicity. On April 1 the first of a regular series of weekly bulletins was issued by P.R. Branch to Regional Commissioners, with the object of keeping them informed of developments at Headquarters.

A press conference was arranged for Mr. Murphy and Mr. Macmillan on April 12 and was attended by 28 correspondents. At the regular Regional Commissioners' Conference, which took place on April 14, correspondents were supplied with precis of most of the statements made by Regional Commissioners and heads of sub-commissions. The trend of correspondents' copy concerning ACC activities was regularly studied and circulated for information. Ninety six press releases on ACC activities were issued. Members of the PR Branch visited Sicily and Sardinia. Assistance in transport and other facilities was given to correspondents desiring to cover the change in the Italian Government and the first meeting of the new cabinet: this also furnished the occasion for PR Branch to assist in the organization of an Italian Government Press Bureau in Salerno with a branch office in Naples. The communiqués of the meetings of the Advisory Council for Italy were issued through PR Branch. Photographs were taken of bread in Naples from shipside to table; Naples fire department; Schools in Naples; Industrial plants; Reconstruction Monuments and Fine Arts work; Italian shellfish industry; Sicily The Prince of Piedmont; Advisory Council for Italy; New Italian Cabinet; Retiring Italian Cabinet and other subjects. A soldiers guide to Rome was prepared and its printing and publication arranged with PWB; it was also arranged through the Chief Commissioner for General Alexander to write a foreword. In cooperation with the Agricultural Sub-Commission a guidance note on publicity for the Ammassi was prepared and issued to the PWB. Files of the Information Sub-Commission (abolished) and of Public Relations Region 4 were turned over to the Archives Section.

3561

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

Relations Branch and [illegible] offices was issued by the Chief Commissioner on April 1. This was followed on April 3 by a note of guidance issued by P.R. Branch to Regional and sub-commissions defining the procedure to be followed regarding interviews, news releases, relations with the PWB and other questions concerning publicity. On April 1 the first of a regular series of weekly bulletins was issued by P.R. Branch to Regional Commissioners, with the object of keeping them informed of developments at Headquarters.

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3561

Work in connection with the Central and Local Allied Publication Boards continued to grow. The number of papers licensed in Liberated Italy reached 71. Pre-censorship was abolished: a reminder on the procedure for military censorship was sent to the Italian Government. On the advice of the Chief Legal Officer a scheme for new press decrees covering the whole of Italy was discussed and set in motion.

(Sgd)

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major,
Director of Public Relations

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRB 24.

8 April 1944

Subject: Monthly Report of Director of Public Relations for March 1944.

To: Secretary-General.

The Public Relations Branch began the month of March with an assigned staff of four and an attached staff of two: Major Lionel Fielden (B), Major Henry T Rowell (A), Capt Ian Stewart Smith (A), S Sgt Alan Cass (B), Sgt Peter Yarnell (A) and Cpl Paul Long (A).

During the month, in anticipation of the issue of a new directive, which finally became 1 April, Regional Public Relations Divisions were closed and their personnel transferred on different dates to the Branch at headquarters. Major Rowell moved from Public Relations to Education early in the month. Major Frederick L. Hulloch (Can), Captain John P. Erickson (A) and Lieutenant Hans E. Gerlic (A) were brought in from Regions 4 and 5. Captain Coleman Cowell, formerly PRO for Fifth Army and requested to be assigned to that formation as a Civil Affairs Officer and his request was granted. Captain Edward S. Smith is leaving for another theatre. Private Thomas Levine, from Region 4 PRO staff, will be transferred to the Branch early in April.

Early in March correspondents began to visit the Public Relations Branch in increasing numbers, displaying more interest than ever before in the work of AMG. General and Full and first press conference, held in February, undoubtedly focussed the attention of the press more closely upon the Commission. Since the Chief Commissioner's second conference, held March 10, interest has increased greatly, and calls upon the various Sub-Commissions for interviews, visitors and information are constantly coming.

3566

The eruption of Vesuvius between 18 March and 21 March called for special activity in the collection and release of accurate news and in the facilitation of transport and permits for the many correspondents who visited the area. The staff were out in the Field for considerable periods and material and photographs gathered then are being worked into the record of AMG activities during the emergency.

After conversations between this Branch and the American Army Pictorial Services, Colonel Gillette, Commanding APS in Italy has agreed to move the APS photographic pool forward

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

1734

To: Secretary-General.

The Public Relations Branch began the month of March with an assigned staff of four and an attached staff of two: Major Lionel Fielden (A), Major Henry E. Howell (A), Capt. in Terence B. Smith (A), 2 Lt Alan Cohen (A), Sgt Peter Zaskell (A) and Cpl Paul Long (A).

During the month, in anticipation of the issue of a new directive, which finally was dated 1 April, Regional Public Relations Divisions were created and staff personnel transferred on different dates in the month at Headquarters. Major Howell moved from Public Relations to Education early in the month. Major Theodore L. Sealock (Can), Captain John P. Lemagos (A) and Lieutenant John F. Cantic (A) were brought in from Regions 4 and 5. Captain Colman Morris, formerly PRO for Fifth Army and requested to be assigned to that formation as a Civil Affairs Officer, and his request was granted. Capt in Edward C. Smith is leaving for another function. Private James Levine, from Region 4 PRO staff, will be transferred to the branch early in April.

Early in March correspondents began to visit the Public Relations branch in increasing numbers, displaying more interest than ever before in the work of SCU. General Eisenhower's first press conference, held in February, undoubtedly focussed the attention of the press more closely upon the Commission. Since the Chief Commissioner's second conference, held March 10, interest has increased greatly, and calls upon the various Sub-Commissions for interviews, pictures and information are constantly pouring.

The evacuation of Vesuvius between 14 March and 21 March called for a special activity in the collection and release of accounts of news and in the facilitation of transport and permits for the many correspondents who visited the area. The staff were out in the field for considerable periods and material and photographs gathered then are being worked into the reports of SCU activities during the emergency.

After conversations between this branch and the American Army Pictorial Services, Colonel Billette, Commanding AFHQ in Italy was agreed to move the AFHQ photographic pool for are early in April from Algiers. When that is done, it is likely that the two photographers now attached will return to the Pool and will work from there. Contact has been made with the British Army Photographic Unit and pictures from that source will be available to the SCU.

Machinery has been set up for the more effective reporting of Military Court proceedings, particularly in connection with Black Market and sabotage cases. Region 3 has assigned to one corporal the sole task of gathering material from the courts for issue by this branch.

All the important news agencies and most of the leading magazines of the English-speaking world have been in touch

3569

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

This month with the Public Relations Branch, attention has been given to the press and radio of the Sections. Although no American Beauty director has yet been appointed, relations with the press of the United States have been kept in mind. Some 1400 newspapers and publications which have been in contact with the Branch during March are the following: Associated Press, British Broadcasting Corporation, United Press, Columbia Broadcasting Corporation, Daily News, Chicago Daily News, Chicago Sunday Tribune, Cleveland Plain Dealer, Cincinnati Times-Star, Daily Express, Daily Mail, Daily Telegraph, Dépêches Coloniales, International News Service, La Marie, Life, London Daily Herald, Manchester Guardian, Saturday Evening Post, Montreal Standard, Montreal Star, News Chronicle, Newsweek, New Yorker, New York Times, The Seattle Intercontinental Broadcasting System, Norge Herald-Tribune, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Reader's Digest, Reuters, Radio-France, Saturday Evening Post, Scripps-Howard Newspapers, Time or Life, Sunday Times (London), Sydney (Australia) Morning Herald, The Times, Time, Times of India, Union Press, United Press, Washington Star, Windsor Star Times, York. In addition there are constant contacts with the Psychological Warfare Branch and a steady supply of news both for broadcasting and for inclusion in "Miscellanea", "La Correspondence", "Bulletin Quotidien" and "Courrier de Sicile".

During the month a reorganization of the Allied Publications Board, on which the Public Relations Officer sat as representative of the Allied Control Commission, was planned and carried out. A series of Regional Boards operating from Palermo, Bagheria, Catania and Potenza were set up under the Central Board which will continue to sit at Naples. A new procedure for censorship has established which confines pre-censorship except on purely military grounds and places the entire responsibility for the content of the press upon prefects and editors. Previous to this, major revision had set in because of, in addition to their own work, notes as censors for all the licensed political newspapers.

2559

(Sd) LEONEL BIELSKI
Major
Director of Public Relations

1737

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PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

PRO 24

15 March 1944.

Report of Director of Public Relations for February 1944

1. Reorganization

During February the Public Relations Branch was under reorganization following on the change of Chief Commissioner and the departure to other theatres of Majors Cain, Meservy and Desmond and Captain Poore. During the whole month the total staff of Public Relations Branch ACC consisted of Major Lionel Fielden, who reported from Brindisi on 1 Feb. S Sjt A. Cash was assigned to him on 10 Feb.

2. Directive

Pending the issue of a PR directive, the set-up of an ACC Public Relations Branch was discussed at length with General MacFarlane, Brigadier Lush and Colonel Fiske: and also with the PR staffs of Regions III and IV and Fifth Army. It was decided that Regional PROs should be abolished and PR controlled from ACC HQ for all ACC and AMG activities.

3. Personnel

Major Randolph Leigh and Captain Haller, who had been assigned to PR Branch at the request of Major Fielden, were ordered to ETO and left the Italian theatre.

4. Press Conference

A Press Conference by General MacFarlane was arranged to coincide with the hand-over of Southern Italian territory to the Italian Government on 10 Feb. A hand-out was issued to the Press.

5. Press Releases and Interviews

3558

Press releases were issued on the increase in the bread ration, the resumption in foreign mail services, the proposals of the Executive Giunta, the withdrawl of the Executive Giunta's manifesto, the meeting of the Labour Conference, conditions in Sicily, the issue of revised text-books for Elementary Schools and the three-party cancellation of the proposed strike.

Interviews were arranged for Choraqui (Algiers Press), Beckwith (BBC), Watt (Montreal Star), Raymond (Saturday Evening Post), Massock (A.P.), Sprigge (Reuters), Lumby (Times), Virginia Cowles (Telegraph), Macdonald (News Chronicle). Contact was made with other correspondents in the area and with AFHQ PROs and PRO, PBS.

1738

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

6. Photographers

The two U.S. Army photographers, Long and Yaskell, were recalled from Brindisi to Naples and a laboratory was installed for them in the Post Office Building.

7. Film Unit

A conducting officer (Captain Haller) remained on assignment to the British Army Film Unit.

8. Press Clippings

Repeated requests for a service of press clippings were sent to London and Washington.

9. Supply of Papers

Pending the establishment of an information section PR Branch arranged for the supply of maps, documents, daily papers, monitoring reports, etc for various members of the ACC.

10. Meetings of Allied Publications Board

Major Fielden attended the meetings of the Allied Publications Board as ACC representative. The case of L'UNIONE led to prolonged discussions with the Chief Commissioner and the Political Section, which eventuated in a reconstruction of the Board.

11. Press articles on ACC/AMG

An article written by PRO on education in Sicily was published in THE TIMES of 1 Feb. At the request of the Chief Commissioner an article was written by PRO on the aims and organization of ACC/AMG.

12. Monthly Journal

After discussion it was agreed that a monthly journal be launched dealing with the activities of ACC/AMG.

13. Censorship

Arising out of the partial stoppage of an A.P. dispatch on the manifesto issued by the Executive Giunta, directives were brought out to clarify the situation with regard to censorship.

14. Location of PR Office

3557

The PR Office was established, and the various files from Naples and Salerno collected and arranged, in Room 1, Post Office, Naples.

LIONEL FIELDEN,
Major, Director of
Public Relations.

1739

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERMENT
APO 394
Public Relations Office

26 January 1944

SUBJECT: Report of AMG Public Relations Officer for January 1944 (to January 26)

TO: Commanding General

1. During the first part of January, with Captain Charles Poore as Public Relations Officer, contacts were made with the PRO officers of the various headquarters in Naples - AFHQ Advanced Echelon; PBS; Regions III and IV of AMG, Fifth Army ; air force and naval units, etc.
   A number of American and British press correspondents were served as far as possible.
   Captain Poore made a trip to Caserta to meet correspondents and PROs for armies in the field.

2. On January 13 Captain Poore left on orders for Etousa. Major Robert W. Desmond, former acting director of the Information Sub-Commission, AMG, in Palermo - a sub-commission destined to be abolished under ACC, and already inactive, was named as PRO for this HQ of AMG.

3. From January 13 to 26 Major Desmond served as PRO.
   During that period a regular service of PWB monitoring and news reports was arranged for officials in HQ. British and American correspondents representing Reuters, LondonTimes, Colliers, Chicago Daily News, Stars and Stripes were aided to varying extent in obtaining information about AMG/ACC.
   Contact was established on a cordial basis with PWB, Naples.
   Arrangements were completed for a press conference to be conducted by Lieut.Gen.Mason Macfarlane at 2p.M. on Thursday, January 27. Notification of the conference was posted atAFHQ Advanced Echelon PRO headquarters for many correspondents (Colonel Bomar), and went to PWB, Stars and Stripes, Union Jack, PROs of Regions III and IV.
   A new compilation of clippings from British and American publications, relative to AMG, was made and circulated.

3556

4. On January 26 Major Desmond was ordered to proceed to Etousa, and departed on January 27.

Robert W. Desmond
Major,Spec.Res;
Public Relations Officer

1740

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

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394
Public Relations Office

2 January 1944

SUBJECT: Report of AMG Public Relations Officer for December 1943

TO: Commanding General

1. The early part of December, during which the PRO was statiioned in Palermo, was sometwhat inactive due to the departure of many officers for new positions in the Italian mainland. The routine of the office continued, however.

2. On December 14 the PRO flew from Palermo to Naples, on orders, having prepared all office files and equipment for shipment by motor convoy.

3. Arriving in Palermo, the PRO was directed to proceed to Salerno, where he undertook work concerning with the requisitioning of villas and furniture for the general influx of AMG/ACC officers expected to occur later.

4. In the meantime, Major Lionel Fielden (B), who had been attached to the Palermo headquarters briefly as ACC Public Relations staff officer, occupied the PRO office in ~~Naples~~ Naples andmmade some contacts with the PROs of other headquarters in Naples.

5. On December 31st Captain Poore returned from Salerno to undertake direction of the Public Relations office, while Major Fielden proceeded at about that time to Brindisi, presumably to be his station for the present.

6. During the last day or so several war correspondents came into the office.

Charles Poore
Captain: AUS
Public Relations Officer

3555

NOTE: The above report actually is prepared by Major Robert W. Desmond (see January 1944 report) on the basis of incomplete knowledge of the facts, so that some report for December may be in the files for PRO.

1741

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

[illegible]
[illegible] Relations Office

[illegible]
[illegible]

7 November [illegible]

Subject: Report of the Public Relations Officer for October, [illegible]

To : Commanding General

1. [illegible] press correspondents (including still- and [illegible]-[illegible]) accredited by [illegible] were escorted through [illegible] lines for interviews and then taken into the field to observe various phases of [illegible] work.

[illegible] CORIZONE.

[illegible] on the subject of displaced persons, [illegible], financial, public [illegible] safety, [illegible] the [illegible] of displaced [illegible], special [illegible] [illegible] the search for the [illegible] criminals. Several [illegible] were taken after interviews in [illegible], and examination of the [illegible]-filmed [illegible], [illegible] revised.

While [illegible] on a trip to the Italian area and [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] accompanied to Region II, kindly volunteered [illegible] as demobilizing officer, being a [illegible]-pleasure [illegible] on a trip to [illegible] to observe and record progress in repairing war damage.

[illegible] arranged, [illegible] Legend, [illegible] on [illegible] area, prepared [illegible] on Italian [illegible] and movements in motion that had been [illegible] on the [illegible].

All film takes were cleared through AFHQ [illegible] and Censorship.

2. [illegible] the [illegible] maintain the usual liaison with [illegible] on matters concerning activities and documents to be published or already published in the Italian press, the regulation of unauthorized "Allied" provincial papers, and the revitalizing of [illegible]. Many conferences were held concerning the procedure and personnel of the Public Opinion Poll authorized by AFHQ, the forthcoming visit of a British film unit to make a motion picture of AMGOT, and other propaganda projects. At the direction of AFHQ, transportation for the [illegible] was obtained through the Turner Group in Rome. Chairman of the [illegible] Transportation Office for making the arrangements for this transport.

3. [illegible] on the Public Opinion Poll: The CO directed that while [illegible] would be extended to the taking of the poll, all plans and projects—including the proposed questionnaires—should be submitted to him or his representative before being put into action.

3554

4. [illegible] of Duties: With the arrival of officers assigned to the Information Sub-Committee, the Acting C/S directed that all matters concerning the Italian press and liaison with [illegible] would be handled by the Information Sub-Committee, while all matters concerning Allied press correspondents would be the responsibility of the [illegible].

CP

Charles Score,
Captain, [illegible],
Public Relations Officer.

1742

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CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Public Relations Office

COPY

AMG/7001/PR
Memorandum:

31 October 1943

Subject: Report of Amgot Public Relations Officer, 17 July—24 October 1943

To : Commanding General

In compliance with verbal orders of the Commanding General at the Executive Council meeting, 29 October 1943, the following report and recommendations are submitted:

1. Duties: The duties of the Amgot Public Relations Officer were: To supervise the activities of war correspondents, still- and motion-picture photographers; prepare announcements for the Allied and local press, and to serve as liaison officer between Amgot and the Psychological Warfare Branch of TMU, AFHQ, which supervised the press and radio in the Occupied Territory.

2. Personnel: Two officers from the Public Relations Office at AFHQ were on temporary duty with Amgot during the planning stage in North Africa. One was unable to leave AFHQ when the time came to proceed to Sicily. The other was recalled to duty at AFHQ before he could reach the Island. A third officer, detailed to Amgot on temporary duty by AFHQ, reported on 17 July, 1943, and was subsequently transferred to Amgot as Public Relations Officer.

3. Policy: The policy established by higher authority was at the beginning of this period to cease the radio publicity that had taken place between July 17 and July 19, and to eliminate in all communications the name of the head of Amgot and all his officers. Early in August the publicity program was broadened, but the ban on names stood. Press releases supplementing the original July 17 announcement (Appendix A) were prepared, and war correspondents were freely received in every department. Many correspondents attached to the Seventh and Eighth Armies also wrote dispatches about Amgot activities in provincial towns, and other Amgot stories originated in Algiers, London, and Washington.

4. The War Correspondents have with few exceptions been friendly and fair in what they have written about Amgot. They have appreciated the far-reaching importance of the experiment in government that Amgot embodies. They have seen the magnitude of the problem Amgot tackled in bringing order out of chaos, and in liquidating the bankrupt house of Fascism.

It is believed that an examination of the newspaper clippings (Appendix B) so far received—a very small part of the total—bears this analysis out. Attention is especially called to the articles by Demaree Bess in The Saturday Evening Post, Herbert Matthews in The New York Times, the special correspondent of the London Times, John Thomson of the Chicago Tribune, and the correspondents of the press services.

3553

Criticism of Amgot generally originated in editorials, columns, and articles written far from the scene of action. This criticism was leveled at the Allied Military Line; at Amgot's supposed slowness in killing Fascism, root and branch; at the fact that Russia was not represented in Amgot, and at personalities on the Amgot staff.

CONFIDENTIAL

1743

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In their conversations with Amgot officers—who put their time at the disposal of the correspondents generously—many war correspondents brought up these and other criticisms such as food distribution and the black market, but the dispatches indicate that they appreciated Amgot's efforts to combat these evils with all means available.

It was found that taking war correspondents into the field to spend a day or several days with local CAO's and thus to see the working out of the Amgot policy of getting the Sicilians to run their own show, free from Fascism, resulted in some good dispatches being written. The shortage of available conducting officers restricted this practice, but it was carried out whenever possible. It is hoped that in the future more conducting officers and more transportation may be available.

5. Liaison with PWB on matters concerning the local press and radio, generally undertaken in the midst of other duties, was steadily broadened in scope as it came to include arrangements for the Public Opinion Poll of Sicily authorized by AFHQ, the forthcoming visit of the Army Film Unit, which requires transportation and billeting, and various propaganda projects.

Under the supervision of PWB the local press has been cooperative in publishing Amgot announcements, material on proclamations and orders, and other material outside the province of the Amgot Gazette. Due to the paper shortage the space available in the local papers has been small, but within limits a good deal of material has been published. Thanks are due to Mr. Donald Minifie, Captain G. L. Cosgrove, Lieutenant Livingston Hartley, USNR, Mr. Eugene Warner, Captain Altherr and other members of the PWB staff in Palermo for their cooperation.

6. Amgot Policy Toward the Local Press was set forth by the CO in the HQ AMG Bulletin No. 5, II-1(-43) as follows:

"One of the Allied objectives in this theatre is the establishment of a free press. With this aim in view it is the policy of the Allied Military Government to give the local press as much freedom as is compatible with military security. This includes the right to criticize within reasonable bounds, and the editors were so informed early in August, 1943, by the CCAO.

"Supervision of the local press has been assigned by Allied Force Headquarters to the Psychological Warfare Branch of AFHQ, which maintains close liaison with the Allied Military Government.

"When Allied Military Government officers wish to discuss material that is to appear in the local press or has already appeared there, the channel of communication will be through the Information Sub-Commission, which will take the matter up through the appropriate officers."

7. Other aspects of work jointly conducted with PWB included a survey of Sicilian press and radio installations made through the CCAO's, the requisitioning of paper stock and ink for the local press—none of which has yet been obtained, due to wartime shipping restrictions—and efforts to control the "wildcat" publications that appear and disappear from time to time in various parts of the Island.

3552

Recommendations:

8. In the light of this experience as PRO in Sicily, it is recommended that in planning future operations the duty of liaison with PWB be put under the Information Sub-Commission, and that the following outline of duties of the Public Relations Officer be considered:

1744

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

1

CONFIDENTIAL

Duties of the Public Relations Officer (Proposed)

A. Mission

The mission of the public relations officer is to be the contact for Allied press representatives with the Allied Commission and to carry out policies which will present to the public the fairest and most comprehensive picture of the Commission's work.

B. Functions

The principal functions of the Public Relations Officer are:

(1) To supervise the accredited Allied correspondents visiting or attached to the Allied Commission—being hereby authorized to requisition for their needs billets, mess facilities, temporary office space, and transportation.

(2) To issue press releases and other announcements that may be prepared by the Information Sub-Commission to the Allied press and radio, subject to approval through the C of S.

(3) To arrange press interviews and appointments for the correspondents with heads and other officers of the Allied Commission, and to assign conducting officers familiar with Public Relations work to accompany them when gathering material in the field.

(4) To arrange channels of transmission for press dispatches and films through the Public Relations and Censorship sections of TMC, AFHQ, or through appropriate channels of the Allied Commission.

(5) To maintain close liaison with all elements of the Allied Commission in the furtherance of this mission, and to advise the Commission on matters concerning the Allied press.

(6) To supervise the Public Relations activities of Regional Information and Public Relations Officers on all matters concerning Allied correspondents and the Allied press.

8. It is further recommended that a staff consisting of two American and two British officers, and two enlisted men, - all with newspaper background- be authorized to carry out these duties.

3551

Charles Poore
Captain, AUS
Public Relations Officer

1745