ACC 10000/129/282 HQ AC PRE

Correspondence W
MAR-MAY 1945

2102

10000/129/282 HQ. AG PRB File No. R 36

Correspondence With 8th Army AMG PRO
MAR - MAY 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

GSB/mew

23 May 1945

36/PRB

SUBJECT: Public Relations Officer, Venezia Region

TO : Brig. D. K. Dunlop
Regional Commissioner
Venezia Region

1. As you probably know Capt. E. Ellison has been the Allied Commission's public relations officer for the 8th Army. As he is carried on our strength it was decided that he would not continue into Austria with the 8th Army but would remain in Italy. I thought you will be pleased to know that we have arranged to have him assigned as public relations officer for Venezia Region.

G. STEWART BROWN
Director,
Public Relations Branch

3909

cc: Capt. E. Ellison
Maj. T.L. Bullock
PRB Files

4495

VENEZIA REGION

8187 22 MAY 45 PRIORITY

RESTRICTED PD

PARA ONE PD YOUR SIGNAL REFERENCE TELETYPE MACHINE PD PAREN VENEZIA REGION FOR ELLISON PRO EIGHT ARMY FROM HQ ALCOM FROM PUBLIC RELATIONS ALCOM PAREN

PARA TWO PD COMMUNICATIONS SUB COMMISSION SAYS IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU TO DISCUSS THE USE OF THESE MACHINES WITH MAJOR HILLS TELECOM OFFICER AT YOUR REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

2908

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

478719

NICHOLAS PIOMBINO
CWO. U.S.A.
ASS'T ADJUTANT

This cable Drum had sent to you on Sunday - he was relaying the message Capt. Ellyson had sent down here for you. I assume Ellyson spoke to you about it when he phoned you yesterday.

mw

2106

FOR ACTION FOUR CORPS PRO FOR LIEUTENANT BROWN CARE OF LIEUTENANT ROBBINS PRESS CAMP

8097 20 MAY 1945 PRIORITY

RESTRICTED FD

PARA ONE FD FOLLOWING IS RELAY OF MESSAGE REFERENCE ROGER ROMAN TWELVE OBLIQUE THREE ONE ONE POINT TWO OF MAY ONE SIX ONE SIX ZERO ZERO RECEIVED TODAY FROM EIGHT ARMY FROM ELLISON FD

PARA TWO FD WE NOW HAVE TWO GERMAN TELETYPE MACHINES WE BELIEVE IN EXCELLENT CONDITION FD DO YOU WANT ONE IN ROME FD PLEASE INVESTIGATE LINE POSSIBILITIES FD HAVE SEEN REGIONAL COMMISSIONER WHO AGREES IN PRINCIPLE FD EXPECT SEE BRIGADIER TOMORROW WE WILL SIGNAL RESULTS

PARAH TO FOR ACTION FOUR CORPS PRO FOR LIEUTENANT BROWN CARE OF LIEUTENANT ROBBINS PRESS CAMP FROM HQ AMGOT CITY RCUPO PARAH

Roger Hals
Tuesday Oben
Lequeue Mé

2906

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH
478197

NICHOLAS PIGNEDINO
CPT. U.S.A.
ASS'T ADJUTANT

2107

OUTGOING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

36

Originator do not write above this line

TO EIGHT ARMY AMG

REF. No: 6765 DATE: 2 MAY 1945 PRECEDENCE: PRIORITY

(See notes on reverse)

RESTRICTED PD

PARA ONE PD PLEASE ASK MILITARY AUTHORITIES WHETHER PERMISSION CAN BE GRANTED TO ITALIAN AGENCIES AND NEWSPAPERS TO SEND CORRESPONDENTS INTO YOUR MILITARY AREA PD PRO AFHQ HERE SEES NO OBJECTIONS IF MILITARY AUTHORITIES ARE AGREEABLE PD THERE ARE TWO CATEGORIES OF CORRESPONDENTS COLON PAREN ONE PAREN ACCREDITED ITALIAN WAR CORRESPONDENTS CMA AND PAREN TWO PAREN ACCREDITED ITALIAN CIVILIAN CORRESPONDENTS PD PAREN TO EIGHT ARMY AMG FOR CAPT EASY ELLISON PRO FROM HQ ALCOM CITE ACPRO PAREN

PARA TWO PD WE WOULD LIKE PERMISSION FOR BOTH CATEGORIES TO GO INTO YOUR TERRITORY PD

PARA THREE PD PLEASE ADVISE

2905

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

TEL. No. 478719

ORIGINATOR's SIGNATURE

Authenticated:

NICHOLAS PIOMBINO
CWO. U.S.A.
ASS'T ADJUTANT

A. C. – Feb. 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

File

36/PRB

14 April 1945

Subject: Publicity.

To: Captain E. Ellison, PRO 8th Army AMG.

1. The Lugo story was fine and came quickly. We put out the release yesterday.

2. More stories like this would be very welcome.

For the Director.

(Sgd)

JOHN P. ERACACOS,
Major AUS,
News Production Section.

File.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

R36/PRB 10 April 1945.

Subject: Publicity.
To: Captain E. Ellison, PRO 8th Army AMG.

1. The usual censors' practice is that names of officers, except for general officers, can be used in stories.

2. We like to use officers' names when they have carried out some particularly creditable performance.

3. We are processing the Rimini story for specialist journals in the United States and United Kingdom interested in town planning and would like to be kept informed as to latest developments for spot items.

For the Director.

(Sgd)

JOHN P. LEACACOS,
Major, AUS,
News Production Section.

Hotel 8 Army file

(36)

4th April 45

PRB/RJG

SUBJECT : Rimini's " new town plan ".

TO : Mr. G.E. Brown,
Director, Public Relations Branch,
Allied Commission,
CMF.

Dear Mr. Brown:

Many thanks for your letter on above subject. I had arranged with Rimini's AMG engineer officer to do a story on the new town plan but had scheduled it for the end of April when the volunteer work in clearing the town would have been completed and an amount of rehousing effected.

However, on receipt of your letter, I persuaded the Army Film and Photographic Unit to lend me a photographer and took him to Rimini to find that the work of clearance had been exceptionally successful. The pictures taken today will be sent by courier and should arrive in Rome simultaneously with this letter. They can be collected at No. 2 A.F.P.S, which is located at the Albergo della Citta in the via Sistina. They will be held there addressed to you.

I am also enclosing with this some prints of the new town plan and each print is numbered. Each of the AFPU prints will be numbered in the same manner and each particular print shows the present location of each plan-picture. The question of getting numbers of these prints arises because it is the usual drill for AFPU to send the negatives to London. I am informed that if you ask them for the negatives they will let you have them.

I hope to have the story done by the end of the week and will send it to you by courier.

Edward Ellison

Edward Ellison, Capt.
PRO AMG 8th Army,
CMF.

Copy to :
Major Bullock
Major Lencacos
Lt. Robbins.

2909

KEY TO PICTURES.

1. Port and Fishermens' village
2. New Lido
3. Administrative and Government Offices .
4. Religious and Educational Centre.
5.) 6.) Bomb damage in Rimini
7. AMG engineer and workers studying reconstruction of area
8. Bomb damage.
9. Volunteers assisting in clearing and in rebuilding hotel and theatre.

NB. Any of the bomb damage pictures represent the present state of the land on which the sports stadium will be built.

PRB/R36. (Rimini)

In the past two thousand years the Adriatic town of Rimini has many times been the scene of war. Tactical pivot for the Po Valley and east coast base for attack on Rome, Rimini has seen every aggression in Italy directed north and west. Julius Caesar's legionaries mobilised for their march on Rome in this town and since that day Rimini has been torn by war at frequent intervals. But never before in its history has the town been so destroyed and this time modern warfare has clawed it down and razed its historic buildings, its houses and its homes.

In the attack of the Allied 8th Army and in the defence of the Wehrmacht eighty five per cent of the town was destroyed. It represents a scene of disaster, destruction and hopelessness but, curiously enough, from this worst damaged of all east coast Italian towns there has risen a very definite spirit of hope. The keynote of Rimini is reconstruction and it is not merely talk. Today, eight months after the liberation, reconstruction is a fact in terms, not only of ideas, plans and hopes but in terms of work and achievement.

The story of new Rimini began during the battle for the town when the town held only ten civilians. The remainder were sitting, eating, sleeping, being sick, dying and being born in the dim overcrowded tunnels of San Marino. There, while their town was disintegrating before their eyes, a group of Italians led by Commendatore Elio Alessandro, a local contractor, planned the new Rimini before the old had been completely destroyed. In the unlit tunnels and cellars of San Marino they discussed with young architectural students, engineers and craftsmen how the new city should be built,/

for what purpose it should be built and by what means they could build it.

With the fall of the town to the allies the refugees returned to their shattered homes. They brought with them the seeds of typhoid fever which they had found in the same cellars and tunnels in which they had planned the future. They returned to problems greater than that of reconstructing a new town. The problems were those of how to roof and house immediately a population of thirty thousand in a town which was eighty five per cent destroyed and of which sixty five per cent was unrepairable even temporarily.

These were the problems that faced Alessandroni with all his plans for a new Rimini. These also were the problems that faced all officers whose responsibility it was to make life possible in the town. Rimini had literally ceased to exist. There were few houses. There were no sewers. There was no water. There was the threat of typhoid fever. What was to be done about all this and was it possible to house Rimini's thirty thousand people These were the questions posed to AMG. Was the new town plan merely a dream for the distant future which would have to be shelved while first things were dealt with first ?

These questions were answered by AMG, through Lt. Peter Natale of New Jersey their AMG engineering officer in Rimini who had been sent to deal with the problem by AMG's veteran Regional Engineer Colonel W.M. Spann of Kansas. Within a day of his arrival Lt. Natale had called a meeting of all the local architects, engineers and contractors. Following on this meeting a deputation immediately presented itself at his office asking to be allowed to help make the town habitable. This deputation, a one party representation, was presented with the plan of the

new town and they were asked to co-operate with AMG in rebuilding Rimini. To do this they agreed enthusiastically and the following day saw a new delegation at the AMG headquarters, this time representing all the political parties in the town. This larger and broader delegation also promised to assist and agreed for the time, at anyrate, that all political differences should be shelved.

The new town plan was accepted enthusiastically by the people of Rimini and having been accepted the matter did not rest there. Lt. Natale explained that before the new town could be built, the old town would have to be cleaned up. This meant much more than lip service, said Rimini's AMG engineer, it meant work and hard work.

And today the people of Rimini are working on their new town. They are completing with voluntary unpaid labour the cleaning up of the bomb damage and shell destruction. Hundreds of houses have been pulled down and all the material has been salvaged and stored in warehouses to rebuild homes for the homeless. Every day Rimini sees hundreds of volunteers working in the streets, tearing down wrecked buildings, reconstructing temporary houses, digging new sewers. Every day groups of people come to work without pay. Every week the barbers of Rimini choose a day and do their weekly work for their town. A free technical school, sponsored by AMG and paid for by local professional men has been opened. This is the first free technical school in Italy and it will produce thousands of skilled workers who will play an important role in building the new Rimini. The new town plan was completed and the final design made by Attilio Lapaduca, a world famous architect and prize winner in the town planning competition of the University of Bratislava in 1940. The town of Rimini is a hive of industry and hope.

The new Rimini will accomodate 300,000 people. One hundred and fifty thousand will be holiday visitors and the remainder residents. The cost of the new town plan will be two hundred million dollars and the plan will take twelve years to complete. Today with the war still within hearing and certainly not out of memory, the New Rimini Planning Group has already raised by loans sixteen million dollars to cover reconstruction costs from the year nineteen forty five until the year nineteen forty seven. In addition to this the people of Rimini have themselves raised one million dollars bringing the total of the present capital to seventeen million dollars.

This is the background of the plan. The old Rimini covered an area of two and a half million square metres. The new city will cover an area of fifteen million square metres. New modern houses will be built for the people of Rimini and each citizen will own his own house. No houses will be rented and each householder will pay for his house in weekly or monthly installments. The city will consist of a number of centres which will include the hotel section on the beach, the administrative or governmental section, the residential section, the fishermens' section, the sports and educational section and the religious section. All modern architectural and engineering science will be utilised to create a great town of what today is desolation.

2897

The town plan was finally completed on the fifth of April 1945. Work on the new town is scheduled to commence towards the end of May. Rimini has produced a plan which not only in the future will be copied by other towns in Italy. It is already being copied. Today, AMG offices in many Italian towns are receiving deputations of civilians asking to be permitted to help in the rebuilding of their war torn towns and homes. Yesterday a deputation was received in Rimini from the twelve

5.(Rimini)

coastal towns stretching from Ravenna to Ancona asking that a town plan similar to Rimini's should be prepared for them.

This too is being done and Italy's greatest experiment in social co-operation and reconstruction is on its way.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

GSB/cb

30 MARCH 1945.

35/PRB

SUBJECT : Rimini's "new town plan".

TO : Captain Ellison, PRO, 8th Army AMG

Dear Captain Ellison,

We understand the city of Rimini has plans for considerable restoration and rebuilding, which might very well make a good AG story. Understand from one correspondent that theirs is probably the best "town plan" or at least one of the best which has been developed. Apparently the city authorities there have gone at the problem of rehabilitation and new construction with more vigor than many other places, and publication of such story might encourage other town plans.

Appreciate your picture limitations, but if any pictures are available they might well fortify the story.

G. STEWART BROWN,
Director,
Public Relations Branch.

Copy to :
Major Bullock
Major Lescaccos
Lt. Robbins

2895

PRS/RAS.

PRESS RELEASE --IMMEDIATE. 1800 Hrs.

PRO AMG 8th ARMY 29thMARCH 45(UNCENSORED).

A map of Italy's historical, artistic and traditionally valued buildings, monuments and art treasures has been produced by the Monuments and Fine Arts branch of AMG, it is announced. This is used by the Allied Air Forces towards the preventing of damage to these art treasures lying ahead of the armies and in the path of the allied bombers. In this way the policy of the allies, of preventing the destruction of Italian art treasures is being continued and in order to perfect the policy, allied bomb sights and precision bombing are being utilised to preserve and not to destroy.

When the task of compiling this huge map was completed, the representation of the whole of northern Italy's important art treasures presented an unbelievable sight. It shows not merely the districts or areas in which the particular building scheduled for preservation is located but in most cases the location of the building itself.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

8 March 1945

36/PRB

Subject: Stories from Eighth Army.
To: Captain E. Ellison, PRO, Eighth Army, c/o PWB, HQ Main 8th Army, CMF.

1. Your story on flood control reached us this morning and we are using it today.
2. Will you please put the time as well as the date at the top of your letters. Then we can check up on the time it take your stories to get through to us.
3. A copy of the release we sent out yesterday on mine clearance is enclosed.

For the Director.

JOHN P. LEACACOS,
Major, AUS,
Public Relations Officer.

P.S. Please note that the name is LEACACOS!

To. P.W.B.
H.Q. Main 8th Army.
C.M.F.
4th March. 45

Here is another piece: this time on "Flood Control" in the Med. I hope you will be able to use it.
It has been screened by AMG. here & I am passing it to the Correspondents of the Press Camp.

Regards,
Green Fleis-on.

P.S. The Correspondents all filed my piece on mine clearing so I think it advisable to let them see my copy. I take it that you approve.

Main HQ 8th. Army,
c/o. P.W.B.
5th. March 45

Dear Major Leacocos.

Many thanks for your letter. I am sorry about the " Patriot " story but there were reasons for the method of transmission. These, in the main, were and still are that my work with PWB necessitates letting them have material for the PWB Italian newspapers and this in turn necessitates having the stories censored here.

I covered the " Patriot " story with these papers in view and I took the copy to the Press Camp for censorship hoping that they would pass it on the spot and that I would be able to let PWB have the story that night. Unfortunately they were sticky on it because it dealt with patriots and said that they would have to send it to Rome. I asked them to send you a copy because I thought that it would be quicker to let them handle the whole thing. The censors, however, took the best part of a week to make up their minds and after that, having come to the conclusion that the story was harmless they sent it back here as dead as any story could possibly be without smelling unpleasantly. PWB are, however, using it as a " Recently....." story.

The problem therefore is how to serve PWB papers and UNRRA as quickly as possible and I suggest that the best way is to try and get all stories for these papers censored at the Press Camp. The broader stuff I shall send direct to you by red bag, uncensored and I hope this will prove a working proposition.

I have a certain amount of stuff "suspending " at the moment, particularly a story on mine clearing by AMG in the 8th. Army zone. I have shown it to Martin Moore who wants to send it to the Telegraph but as Region (AMG) insist on screening all my stuff I have had to hold it up. I hope to get it released this afternoon and if I do I shall enclose it with this letter. It might make a Bulletin piece. The screening problem is, I think, a temporary headache. I am sure they will relax considerably when they get to know me. I have, as a matter of fact, been assured by Col. Bowman. of Region, that this will be so and I think a few weeks on the " old boy level " should see things straightened out.

789

These roughly are my immediate problems. The AMG screening is my biggest headache and is holding me up considerably. Apart from rehabilitation stories, which at their best are sticky in army areas, there is not a great deal to write about. The real job, I feel, will commence when the battle starts and when the spearhead CAO's get into action.

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285

These roughly are my immediate problems. The AMG screening is my biggest headache and is holding me up considerably. Apart from rehabilitation stories, which at their best are sticky in army areas, there is not a great deal to write about. The real job, I feel, will commence when the battle starts and when the spearhead CAO's get into action.

I am sorry if this is a little lengthy but I think it is as well that you should hear the situation. I have great hopes that the job will open out soon. Everybody here and at Region has been most helpful and hospitable and I know that when they get to know me better thecageiness will disappear and with it most of the difficulties.

Please give my regards to everybody in Rome, not forgetting the Master.

Regards.
Lacy Simon.

P.T.O.

P.S. I have at last managed to get this hush clearing story from the AMG "screeners". Martin Moore is going to use it in the "Daily Telegraph". I shall hand it in to the Press Camp & the Italian Press will carry it (I am assured.) Do you think it is a Bulletin piece, or a handout or both.

Regards.

Geoffrey Shakespeare

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

36/PRB

1 March 1945

Subject: Mailing of material.

To: Captain E. Ellison, Public Relations Officer, Eighth Army AMG.

1. Presumably you are using the Eighth Army press bag to get your stories down here.

2. Will you please see that your material is addressed to us through AFHQ, so that we see it before AFHQ PRO does. This morning, for instance, we had a patriot story which the censor saw before we did. We presume it is one of your stories, although there was no indication on it of its origin, beyond that it came from Eighth Army.

For the Director.

(Sgd)

JOHN P. LEACACOS,
Major, AUS,
Public Relations Officer.