

0840

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

ACC

10500/129/288

AC-AC-PRB

XI
Jü

08471

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

10000 | 129 | 288

100

HQ-AC-RRB

File No. 4412

XIII CORPS VENEZIA GIULIA
June - July 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

✓
JPL/hm

Ref. 44K/PRB

29 July 1945

TO : Captain E. Ellison,
PRO,
Venezia Giulia AMG.

Dear Captain Ellison:

How's tricks and is it as hot as Brigadier Lush says it is in Trieste? Down here we have been suffocating from the sweltering heat.

Your three telegraphed pieces from PWB on the epuration appointment, wage increases and the interview with Col. Bowman have all been serviced to the Italian news agencies. The wire notifying us of their imminent arrival came at 2 a.m., July 28. The first two pieces of copy came in at 4:30 p.m. July 28. The Bowman interview arrived this morning, Sunday, and was immediately processed.

Your wording of the telegram was somewhat misleading; I did not get what you meant by "world news." I suggest you state so clearly when you would like to have the NNU material relayed to the Italian news agencies. If the news is also good enough, we will also make a translation and give it to the Allied Correspondents.

Before I forget, will you please say hello to Col. Bowman for me and congratulate him on my behalf for his OBE? Also, you might ask him if he received a copy of his hometown news release. Tel him we sent it to all three Los Angeles newspapers, with his picture. I had been holding it for a better news lead, which I got when he was given the Trieste job.

I now come to the painful though in matter of fact, some what amusing (to me) part of this correspondence. I call it rather a painful duty that I should have to defend myself from such an oblique attack and also feel a little agrieved at what I may term your lack of sympathetic understanding.

- 2 -

I refer naturally to your petulant letter to our dear Col. Bullock, (may his pepper never get stale').

As you know, I, Jack the Hack, for better or worse and for lack of someone better, have been doing all the Weekly Bulleting of this Branch for the last year, with exception of Political. I have been doing it every week and the contribution to it have been the exception rather than the rule, a fact which is not a welcome one to me. Anyhow someone had to do the chore. Major Bergin has been in the North the last two weeks and will be for the next and I have now been doing the Political, too.

I think we could have straightened out any misunderstanding on your complaint had we been able to talk in person. I heard afterwards you had been in Rome recently but saw no sign of you nor even a note of hello. Be that as it may.

Now for the record. About a month or six weeks ago, Mr. Brown, realizing the difficulties of steady production of news in the Bulletin, telegraphed our three field officers - yourself, Col. Bullock and Lieut. Robbins, to send in material for the Bulletin regularly by every Wednesday.

At just about the same date he sent the wire, your story about Trieste came in - whether coincidentally or a result of the wire, I don't know. We never got anything from Lieut. Robbins, who has left for the Pacific. Col. Bullock sent a piece about Emilia which went into the issue of July 14. Of course, he has been busy getting re-settled.

At this point, let me digress a moment. Communications with Trieste have been notoriously slow. For example, your wire notifying us about the Bowman press conference concerning the AMG arrests arrived just about at the hour the conference was to take place. I sent a reply, asking for particulars of the conference and also requested some material on the schools. You sent both. The datemark on your two wires was July 21. The press conference has already been fully covered in all papers. The school stuff arrived too late for the Bulletin, which we get printed on Saturday, but which has to be all written and passed by Brigadier Lush by Friday noon at the very latest to keep to the printer's deadlines.

- 4 -

of the general historical claims to Trieste, with which we have to presume that most officers reading the Bulletin are familiar. In brief, it was not quite adequate in the light of the total information available and thus it was not used.

I have already explained why it could not be used as a press release, retarded communications and copy already filed by correspondents having made the wire as a press release out of date, except for the few concrete facts I extracted. I can in no way see how the facts I did pick out altered any context of your intention or how the story gave a bad impression you wished to avoid.

In conclusion I might add that it is not what any one person wishes our people to read but an accurate and balanced description of the facts, promptly and objectively rendered, that we are interested in. Any color you can throw in, plus your smooth style, is that much velvet, and appreciated. I can assure you that you are not duplicating information if you follow the above requirements, since the routine sitreps are rare, meager and always very late.

I think this clears up the matter as far as I am concerned. I hope I have not offended you and if I have, please permit to apologize. Just give us facts, not opinions, as quickly as possible, and we will all be deeply grateful. If you have any press releases you want to relay, be assured they will get immediate service on arrival.

Take it easy. With best regards, I am,

JOHN P. LEACACOS,
Major, AUS,
Chief,
News Production Section
Public Relations Branch.

0864

0896