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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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505

Reber

Dec. 1943. July 1944

C O P Y

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: SECSTATE WASHINGTON

Date: August 25, 1944

No.: 102

Code: CLEAR

Received: August 26, 1944

Reber, now in Department on consultation, has been assigned to the Department and detailed for temporary duty to London to serve as Counselor of Mission on the staff of the United States Political Adviser, Supreme Headquarters, AEF. You are authorized to pay expenses packing and shipping his effects to latter destination accordance Note 24 (D) Accounts Supplement E and his wishes, expenses chargeable "1950515.001 Transportation Foreign Service 1945."

Submit estimate.

HULL

rag;dp

3426

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTINGENT COMMAND
APO 194

23 July 1944

AMJ/300.3

SUBJECT: Travel Orders

TO : All concerned

1. Mr. Samuel Reber, American State Department Official, Political Section, this Hq. will proceed Washington, D.C., via Naples, Algiers, on or about 24 July 1944, on temporary duty for an indefinite period of time for consultation with the State Department, and upon completion thereof will return to this station.

2. Travel by government motor transport, military aircraft and/or any other available means of transport is authorized.

By order of Captain STONE (USNR):

L. T. MUSTANT, Jr.
L. T. MUSTANT, Jr.
1st Lt ASD
Adjutant

505-Reber

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - Mr. Reber
- 2 - G-4 (N.Y.C.)
- 1 - G-4 (A.F.C.)
- ✓ 1 - Political Section
- 2 - Files

3425

CONFIDENTIAL

A/CO 321

22 August 1944

SUBJECT: Resignation of Samuel Reber, Vice President, Political Section,
ACC

1. The Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theater of Operations, as ex-officio President, Allied Control Commission, Allied Force Headquarters
(There: The General Officer Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in Italy, as Acting President, Allied Control Commission, Adv Hq AAI)

1. The following message has been received from Samuel Reber:

"In view of my assignment by Department of State to other duties I am compelled to submit my resignation as Vice President Political Section Allied Control Commission. I regret that I am no longer able to continue our work together and take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the consideration you have always shown me throughout months of our association. Latter follows."

2. It is recommended that the resignation be accepted for the reasons given. Upon receipt of your decision, Mr. Reber will be notified by this office.

WILLIAM F. STONE
Captain, USAR
Acting Chief Commissioner

c.c. Political Section.

3424

22 Aug 1944

HY

19K12

505-1010

Copy for Mr. Schatt

August 22, 1944.

WS
He

MESSAGE FOR CAPTAIN STONE FROM MR. REBER

"In view of my assignment by Department of State to other duties I am compelled to submit my resignation as Vice President Political Section Allied Control Commission. I regret that I am no longer able to continue our work together and take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the consideration you have always shown me throughout months of our association. Letter follows."

SOS-Robert

3423

JOURNEY TO AND FIRST FORTY-EIGHT HOURS IN ROME
AFTER THE CAPTURE BY ALLIED FORCES ON THE NIGHT
OF JUNE 4-5, 1944

Even in the early days of the Brindisi administration, it had been recognized that a reconstitution of the Italian Government would become inevitable as soon as Rome had been liberated, since the national leaders of the principal political parties were nearly all in the capital. The necessity of so doing was confirmed by subsequent events, and in fact public declarations of responsible Allied spokesmen including the Prime Minister of Great Britain made it a matter of Allied policy. The Chief Commissioner, therefore, decided, in agreement with the military commander, to endeavor to establish as early a contact with the Rome political leaders as conditions would permit. It was consequently arranged that Messrs. Caccia and Reber of the Political Section of the Allied Control Commission should be attached to a special intelligence unit known as S Force which was to be put into the city immediately behind combat troops. This assignment was originally made in January at the time of the Anzio landing but S Force was not then called forward.

When the May attack in Italy began, S Force was reconstituted and we received instructions from the Chief Commissioner which had been prepared in agreement with Marshal Badoglio and approved by the Allied authorities including the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theater. They were to get into touch as soon as possible after Allied troops had entered Rome with the leaders of the Parties and with General Baccinanga.

On Sunday, May 28, S Force was alerted and we were instructed to report at the concentration point near Brindisi at 3:00 p.m., bringing a driver, jeep, trailer, camping equipment and rations. On May 29 reveille was at 4:30 a.m., and the day was spent in awaiting embarkation of the four columns of S Force in three L.S.T.'s at Pozzuoli. All vehicles and personnel got on board during the course of the afternoon and our flotilla of L.S.T.'s moved out of the harbor after sunset, reaching Anzio early on May 30. From our anchorage a mile out at sea the town looked surprisingly undamaged. It was only later when we drove through it that we saw that almost every house had been hit more or less severely. That day we went to a staging area near Borgo Sabotino and moved on the next day to within about two miles of Littoria, so as to be near Route 7 into Rome. We stayed there in camp until Saturday, June 3. We had brilliant summer weather throughout and the day's routine was simple: 6:00 a.m., reveille; 6:30, parade; 7:00, breakfast; 12:00, dinner; 5:30 supper; bed before dark. Our sole pastime was washing clothes and swatting mosquitoes, for though the Pontine Marshes may have been reclaimed for agriculture, they have not been cleared of malaria. Still there was only one casualty from this cause. A mine of which there were still many in the neighborhood accounted for another. During our sojourn in camp contact was established with Generals Johnson and Kane at their nearby headquarters.

On the afternoon of June 3 we were put on a two-hour alert and later received orders to be packed and ready to move at one minute after midnight.

- 2 -

We did not actually leave until 1:30, driving through the night to another staging area in a field by the main road two to three miles short of Velletri, where we arrived at 5:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 4. It was a noisome place. It stank, for there had been fighting and the dead in the rushes by the fringes of the field had not been buried. Moreover we allowed to do anything about this as there were mines, one of which was found near the cook-house in the evening, and others in the area. There was not enough room for dispersion and we were parked next to a Red Cross unit. Luckily German aircraft were otherwise engaged that day. After a day of conflicting reports about the fighting around Rome, and during which the sound of firing diminished in our immediate neighborhood, we were ordered in the late afternoon to be ready by 11:30 p.m. for a move at midnight. We actually started at 3:00 a.m., June 5, and as usual in a convoy with no lights, each vehicle thirty yards apart. Luckily the moon was full, and, as on the night before, it was an eerie journey past ruins of houses and villages and with the dust and swirl and litter of the battle all around. Occasionally there was a building still burning.

At first light we neared Rome and in the early hours reached the Porta San Giovanni. A good deal of intelligence had been collected of what roads in the city had been mined and a round-about route had been carefully planned to bring us to our next staging area in the Borghese Gardens on the Pincio. But full discretion had been left to the leader of each column and to our amazement we found ourselves proceeding at a cautious pace down all the roads which had been previously marked as mined. Despite the very early hour, the people of Rome were waking to find Allied troops in their streets. Some came out to wave and cheer. Others looked from their windows still in night clothes to clap as we rolled slowly by. Bands of armed partisans were such in evidence. We soon noticed water running from a faucet and realized with relief that the aqueduct could not have been blown up as expected. Perhaps there might be also electric light, and we looked anxiously for any window that might prove it. There was one. We reached the Piazza Venezia, which had not yet filled with the holiday crowd that jammed it for the next two days, and continued down the Corso Umberto which all reports had shown to be heavily mined. At the Piazza del Popolo there was evidence that our tanks had immediately preceded us for there were two dead and some wounded stretched out still, but our particular column of 5 Force saw no other casualties in the city. Other columns were, however, involved in some street fighting and took some prisoners. From the Pincio there were still signs of fighting on Monte Mario and reports were received that all German columns had not yet left the city.

We were parked in position about 5:30. One of the S.I.M. officers managed to send a message to General Benicivengo arranging a meeting at the Campidoglio for 6:30. We had a quick wash and breakfast before leaving.

We arrived a little before the General. He did not look robust and limped, but had a soldierly bearing and a forthright manner, and we accompanied him up to his office, where introductions were made to the representatives of the Rome Area Command and the A.M.G. police officer. After these were over we asked for

- 3 -

a word with him alone to explain the political program. The General accepted it without question and at once arranged for Bonai, the President of the Rome Committee of National Liberation, to come to the Caspidoglio. He then went on to say that he must warn us that there would be strong opposition to Badoglio in Rome. He himself was a personal friend and admirer of the Marshal, but it was no good blinking the fact that the latter had long been a servant of the Fascist Government and that the Romans would not easily forget the way in which he had left the city on September 8. The Army, the Government and the population had all felt that they had been abandoned. Nevertheless he thought that the proposed program was undoubtedly right and he strongly advised that the Crown Prince should accompany the party. His acceptance by the Rome Parties as Lieutenant of the Realm might depend upon it.

*At 8:00 o'clock Bonai arrived. He is elderly and has not a reputation for strength; but he makes a good impression at first sight and must have had ability to keep the Rome Committee together during the long months of German domination. He, too, made no difficulty over the program and said that he would arrange a meeting of the Rome Committee of Liberation for 11:30 in the morning. Shortly afterwards Count Casati, the head of the Liberal Party, joined us and they both reiterated much of what General Bencivenga had said, though Bonai was inclined to be less pessimistic about Marshal Badoglio's chances. They agreed on the importance of the Crown Prince and the Marshal coming to Rome at once. It would be difficult to hold the Parties in, if there was delay.

In the meantime we had been doing our best, without success, to get a message to the British and American representatives in the Vatican with the object of arranging without delay for a channel of communication between the Vatican and the Allied authorities. As the telephone had been cut we motored to St. Peter's and, as was to be expected, since we were the first Allied officials to request entry, had great difficulty in obtaining permission to enter the Vatican. After some half an hour or more delay we succeeded by 10:00 o'clock. We said that it was the wish of the Allied authorities that all communications to the Vatican should pass through the British and American representatives to the Holy See. They pointed out that there should be no difficulty about this since the Vatican had insisted on communicating with the German authorities through the German representative during the German occupation. We also conversed with Allied prisoners of war who had been given refuge in the Vatican, but who were immediately allowed complete freedom.

When we returned to the Caspidoglio we found the Rome Committee of Liberation in full session and, after being introduced to all the members, were told by Bonai that they had already unanimously accepted the political program which we had earlier explained to him. We emphasized the extreme importance of nothing being done to prejudice the successful reconstruction of the Italian Government in the short time that must elapse before the arrival of Marshal Badoglio with his party from the South of Italy. The Committee endorsed this and, it should be said, abided by their undertaking. It should equally be said that we were

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- 4 -

entirely indebted for this to being allowed to go with B Force. We found that the Committee, although well organized, was very ignorant of what had been going on in South Italy, and if they had been left to themselves or, far worse, been incited by irresponsible press correspondents, they might in the early stages have taken positions which would almost certainly have been an embarrassment but from which it would have been difficult for them subsequently to withdraw.

Our early meeting with the Party leaders had other benefits. To take an instance, each Party had its own armed band and there might have been a fire-some police problem, particularly as the number of Allied military police in Rome in the early days was small. As it was, an appeal to the Parties to issue instructions to their own followers to hand in their arms was successful, and in this and in other ways we had the full cooperation from the start of the Roman leaders who were all anxious to show that they had a proper sense of responsibility and were the sort of men the Allies would accept in the Government.

After the meeting we telegraphed at once to General MacFarlane and our message fortunately got through as, despite all previous planning, communications proved difficult and fitful. General MacFarlane arranged for the Marshal and the Southern leaders to come to Rome on the morning of June 8 and our remaining political task with the Rome Committee was the comparatively easy, if exhausting, process of persuading them to "wait and see" until the meeting.

In the meanwhile good evidence had been found that the German had left a dump of explosives in the German Embassy and our main pre-occupation was with B Force in coordinating the action to be taken by the various agencies involved and undertaking the representations which had to be made to the Swiss, as Protecting Power of German interests. We likewise called at the Italian Foreign Office to insure that no action was taken by the temporary incumbents pending the assumption of control by the duly-constituted authorities under our supervision. That time was left was taken up with unending minute-to-minute problems dealing with the Vatican, with the press, neutral diplomats, escaped Allied prisoners of war, British and American nationals who had remained in Rome, etc. We were only safe after curfew when we could take refuge at last in our camp on the Pincio and could look over Rome, quiet and unscathed under a full moon except for occasional bursts of anti-aircraft fire during the first few nights and the sound of Allied cannon first at our side and then diminishing in the distance as the German armies fled to the North.

June 15, 1944

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U. S. RESTRICTED
Equals British RESTRICTED

10 JAN 1944

-T TONG

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N 11/10

ROUTINE

FEB 14, 19

PERCE (FARGO) CITE FARGO 136

JAN 061645A

FATIMA

JAN 101000A

Cable from you number 1788 of 4 January. Acknowledged herewith handed to Reber.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - AG Files
- 1 - Diary
- 1 - Mr. Caccia (INFO)

Reber

3418

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 Equals British CONFIDENTIAL

1 JAN 1944

1045

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
 ARD 394

EJO/afe

In reply refer to:
 300.2

1 January 1944

SUBJECT: Travel orders (1)

TO: Mr. Samuel Reber
 Pfc Frank G. Gutrozzula, 3276658, inf.

1. You WP Salerno by motor transport on 1 Jan 44, reporting to
 Hq AGC for dy. TDS.

2. 400 rations for 1-2/3 days will be furnished by AG for each
 individual.

By Command of Major General JOYCE:

E. J. CHIODA
 CWO, AIC
 Asst Adj Gen

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 - 2a Individual
- 2 - AG File
- 1 - Travel Orders

3417

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1746

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201 REBER

F 31 DEC 1943 657

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

EJC/afp

In reply refer to:
300.2

31 December 1943

SUBJECT: Travel Orders (73)

TO: MAJOR WILLIAM J. MASKREY, 1693 47, RACC
Mr. Samuel Reber
Mr. H. J. Wadleigh
Pfc Frank S. Cutrozzula, 32765658, Inf.

1. You WP Naples by motor transport on 1 Jan 44, reporting to Hq, AMG for temp dy. TIN.
2. "C" Rations for 1-2/3 days will be furnished by QM for each individual.

By Command of Major General JOYCE:

E. J. Chiocca
E. J. CHIOCCA
CWO, AUS
Asst. Adj. Gen.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1- Ea Individual
- 5 - AG File ✓
- 1 - Travel Orders

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1747

FILE NUMBER NO. 201 - REBER

INDEX SHEET

SYNOPSIS

18 November.

With reference to the conversation with Messrs. Caccia and Reber that article should not be published.

DOCUMENT FILED UNDER NO. NUMBERS FILE - 350

INSTRUCTIONS - Under "Synopsis" make brief entry showing date of communication and from whom received and synopsis sufficient to identify the papers. When these index sheets become numerous under a subject they will be entered on to consolidated index sheet and then destroyed.

3415

FILE UNDER NO. 201 - REBER SAMUEL

INDEX SHEET
SYNOPSIS

7 November

Mr. Harold Gaccio and Mr. Samuel Reber are provisionally appointed effective on activation of the Commission November 10th.

DOCUMENT FILED UNDER NO. 230.2 - APPOINTMENTS, EMPLOYEES

INSTRUCTIONS - Under "Synopsis" make brief entry showing date of communication and from whom received and synopsis sufficient to identify the papers. When these index sheets become numerous under a subject they will be entered on to consolidated index sheet and then destroyed.

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