

ACC

10000/143/80

INSPECT
AUG. - 00

10000/143/80

INSPECTION OF PRISONS IN PROVINCES
AUG. - OCT. 1943

2572
AMGOT/1035/PS

(see also 1036)

INSPECTION OF PRISONS IN PROVINCES

by Superintendent in D/Sops. and Inspection

by Superintendent as D/Supt. and Inspector

10000 143

80

183

THIS IS FOR	
CONGRUENT FOR	1943
FROM AUG.	1943
TO OCT.	1943
CATALOGUE.	

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2413

CANGI, Carmelo
C.A.C., Termini Imerese

22 October 3

1. The Salfaro Officer reports that CANGI, Carmelo, aged 15, has been awaiting trial for 18 months in the gaol at Termini Imerese.
2. Could this matter be investigated please.

S. G. HARMARFORD,
Major,
Legal Division.

2918

To see

H. G. Kirkhill
Capt Brown
PA

File 23 23.

TOUR OF INSPECTION BY THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF PRISONS
12 OCTOBER TO THE 16 OCTOBER 1943

AMCOT/1035/TS

AMCOT H.A., SICILY.

17 October 1943.

1. 12 OCTOBER.

Accompanied by Dr. F. OCUMBO - The Chief Director. Visited Termini Imeresi Prison. Found things satisfactory, clean and running smoothly. There are improvements necessary, but it is bright wholesome place and I should recommend it as a possible Special Prison for certain types. Consideration might be given for sending some convicted prisoners from PALERMO on elsewhere and enlarge on a tailoring industry.

With two or three tailors about a dozen suits of uniform might be turned out in three weeks.

The land for cultivation could be improved and more prisoners employed on it.

Cool House required to be renewed and enlarged.

A hot water system exists and should be made to work. The Chief Director is obtaining a recent survey report on this.

There are two Miners convicted :-

IMBRASSI Notale - 16 years - Sentence 18 Months.

CARMI Carmelo - 15 years - Untried waiting 10 Months.

Food is good but not enough. It is, however, just sufficient and with more serious food problems in MESSINA must remain for the present.

2. 13 OCTOBER.

I spent the night of the 12/13 OCTOBER at the C.L. Asylum, BAGCELLONA and was able to discuss many matters. The Director was not present but he contacted me at MESSINA the next day.

This is quite an up - to - date place, but by no means perfect. The aim has been to make it a very humane and smart establishment. It is so, but lacks some necessary requirements. It is on the lines of an up-to-date prison establishment in the United Kingdom. The Medical etc., plant appears to me to be most elaborate and grand.

The staff of doctors are very bound up in this place and like to show it off. I was somewhat suspicious.

I saw most of the Prison Officers on parade. They are a poor looking

2917

Inverdi Prison. I found things satisfactory, but it is a bright wholesome place and I should recommend it as a possible Special Prison for certain types. Consideration might be given for sending some convicted prisoners from PALERMO on elsewhere and enlarge on a tailoring industry.

With two or three tailors about a dozen suits of uniform might be turned out in three weeks.

The land for cultivation could be improved and more prisoners employed on it.

Cook House required to be renewed and enlarged.

A hot water system exists and should be made to work. The Chief Director is obtaining a recent survey report on this.

There are two Minors convicted :-

INCRASSI Notale - 16 years - Sentence 18 Months.
GANGI Carmelo - 15 years - Untried waiting 10 Months.

Food is good but not enough. It is, however, just sufficient and with more serious food problems in MESSINA must remain for the present.

2. 13 OCTOBER.

I spent the night of the 12/13 OCTOBER at the C.L. Asylum, MARZULLONA and was able to discuss many matters. The Director was not present but he contacted me at MESSINA the next day.

2917

This is quite an up - to - date place, but by no means perfect. The aim has been to make it a very humane and smart establishment. It is so, but lacks some necessary requirements. It is on the lines of an up-to-date prison establishment in the United Kingdom. The Medical etc., plant appears to me to be most elaborate and grand.

The staff of doctors are very bound up in this place and like to show it off. I was somewhat suspicious.

I saw most of the Prison Officers on parade. They are a poor looking lot with the exception of about three. They are all slack, dirty and lacking in any enthusiasm. I spoke to them in a severe manner and let them see how dissatisfied I was and the Chief Director followed this by even more severe advice. The Commandante was not present, as he was out looking for food. I consider he should have been at his proper duty and a more junior officer sent out on such a mission.

My suspicions were being continually enlarged, and before I left 14 of the agents interviewed me. They complained that the Director and the Medical Staff neglected them, treated them like dogs and would not take steps to obtain food for them. They stated that some equipment - sheets, etc., - had been distributed to sources outside and they received none. I was also interviewed by the wife of one who had been Second Medical Officer. This doctor was called to the Army, and when discharged found his post filled by the son of the Director (who has two sons on the Staff). He was informed that he could not return to his former work. This lady is submitting her complaint in writing.

- 2 -

By the time I left this place I was convinced that something serious was wrong and I believe that the staff noticed this. They were particularly friendly and "all over me". I recommend that the complaints of the staff be fully gone into and also the case of the former Medical Officer. I believe many matters will come to light.

The Prison Officers must be constantly changed round - some look insane and might easily be so.

I recommend that the Comandante be moved to another place and that the Chief Director finds a good man to promote, to put in his place. It would, however, be worth considering transferring the Comandante at CAVALLA to the Asylum to pull it up. I urge that something be done at once, even before an enquiry is held.

The food situation is desperate and there was only five days supply available even for the very small ration. The Officers are starving, so too their families, and the Lunatics are very hungry and angry. I noticed all were looking starved, and to see the violent Lunatics suffering from starvation as well is a desperate sight. There has been 22 deaths from starvation since Allied occupation. I submit a special report on the food problem in MESSINA.

3. Visited the Citadel at MILAZZO. This is quite a hopeless establishment for confining prisoners. They are very hungry and so too are the guards who have on some occasions dropped down with hunger. There was five days supplies left and this quantity was really only enough for one day.

I strongly advise that this prison be closed at once, that the Director be sent to ENNA Province (Dr. SPANO could be quite a good man). The Guards 26 would then be available for more important places. The place to remain open simply as a local lock-up with two or three Guards to do duty.

I have arranged with the C.A.P.O. MESSINA to have the 6 convicted prisoners transferred at once to MESSINA, and he will order the release on an improvised "Bail System", which works well, all ~~unarmed~~ ^{prisoners}. Major Bye is also enquiring into the cases of four minors awaiting trial for 28 days.

4. Visited MESSINA Prison. There is much to do here and quite a lot has recently been done. The Director has been given advice and the Chief Director has spoken to him severely and very straight. Dr. Columbo hopes that matters will now improve greatly and that Dr. RAFFEL will become a more enthusiastic and enterprising Director.

Major Bye has provided this place with a small motor and I was ~~2846~~ ²⁸⁴⁶ get him to grant a supply of petrol.

The food shortage is very great, but there is a fair supply of beans and peas in stock. Bread as at MILAZZO is less than 100 gms. a day.

5. 14 OCTOBER.

I returned to MESSINA Prison and found the Director of the C.L. Asylum awaiting to see me. We had a very long discussion and though no solution to the able to settle some matters and

The food situation is desperate and there was only five days supply available even for the very small ration. The Officers are starving, so too their families, and the Lunatics are very hungry and angry. I noticed all were looking starved, and to see the violent lunatics suffering from starvation as well is a desperate sight. There has been 22 deaths from starvation since Allied occupation. I submit a special report on the food problem in MESSINA.

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I have arranged with the C.A.P.O. MESSINA to have the 6 convicted prisoners transferred at once to MESSINA, and he will order the release on an improvised "Mail System" which works well, all ^{possible} untried prisoners. Major Bye is also enquiring into the cases of four minors awaiting trial for 28 days.

4. Visited MESSINA Prison. There is much to do here and quite a lot has recently been done. The Director has been given advice and the Chief Director has spoken to him severely and very straight. Dr. Colombo hopes that matters will now improve greatly and that Dr. RAFFEL will become a more enthusiastic and enterprising Director.

Major Bye has provided this place with a small motor and I was ~~2916~~ ²⁹¹⁶ get him to grant a supply of petrol.

The food shortage is very great, but there is a fair supply of beans and peas in stock. Bread as at MILAZZO is less than 100 gms. a day.

5. 14 OCTOBER.

I returned to MESSINA Prison and found the Director of the C.I. Asylum awaiting to see me. We had a very long discussion and though no solution to the main problem - food - could be arrived at, we were able to settle some matters and find some possible line of action.

Dr. MANICOMIO Giudiziario is undoubtedly an able and active man and I should consider thoroughly efficient. He has a big task and at the present time a very difficult one. He is pleasant and ready to accept suggestions and is agreeable to try. I feel, however, he is too ready to agree and to please, and I do not at present trust him. The Chief Director is also somewhat suspicious and neither of us will be satisfied till fuller investigation is made into the Prison Officer's complaints.

Food must be sent to all these three places in MESSINA at once - vegetables, flour, - I have directed the Chief Director to send 100 cases of enemy rations as soon as possible. Major Bye will gladly accept these.

The matter of pay and the additional grants for Guards must be settled in

- 3 -

all Provinces. Though Guards may have received wages in advance they have not as yet been paid the extra emoluments which all are due. This is a matter for urgent settlement and I hope my memorandum on the Condition of Service will be approved and so allow payment of certain grants.

6. Proceeded to CATANIA, left Dr. Columbo to visit prison. Reported at AKGOT and made appointment with C.A.P.O. for 15 October.

Visited AUGUSTA and obtain^{ed} all the information from 2nd. in Command Royal Marines in the Citadel. This was a prison, but I do not consider of any use at the present time as a Civil Prison.

I have submitted a separate report on "Immediate Report" form.

Returned to CATANIA.

7. 15 OCTOBER.

As the staff car at my service was stolen during the night the morning was partly spent in endeavours to obtain transport. I had intended to leave at 1300 hours. Late in the afternoon I received a message to return to PALLERMO at once. AKGOT could give me no vehicle, nor could District and Area HQ., help. I obtained transport agreement by plane. Report regarding the loss of car is attached.

The Chief Director made a thorough examination of the Prison. There are now no Military Personnel occupying any part. I saw D.A.A.C. and A.A. & Q.M.G. No. 1 District also A.A. & Q.M.G. Area. No further use will be made of the Central Prison, but the Prison at AGIRIALE is required by them. The Military vacated the Central Prison some three weeks ago.

A.A. & Q.M.G. District appears to hold onto the Arab Prisoners who arrived to late from CALTANISSETTA to be sent to NORTH AFRICA. If he decides he cannot, owing to delay in shipping, I have asked him NOT to send them back to CALTANISSETTA. I believe, however, these Arabs will be kept in the P.O.W. Camp.

8. Some special notes of points from Major Battersby C.A.P.O. addressed to C.P.S. are attached.

9. I can recommend the SAIN GEORGE Hotel (a Transit Camp) for staying at also the Officers Club for meals. 2915

10. I recommend that the Chief Director be granted 125 Lires a day (Total 625) as Detention Allowance and Travelling Expenses.

11. I consider that this tour has been very valuable and that the Chief Director has done a very fine piece of work, besides his great assistance to me.

Returned to Catania.

7. 15 OCTOBER.

As the staff car at my service was stolen during the night the morning was partly spent in endeavours to obtain transport. I had intended to leave at 1300 hours. Late in the afternoon I received a message to return to PALERMO at once. AMOT could give me no vehicle, nor could District and Area HQ., help. I obtained transport agreement by plane. Report regarding the loss of car is attached.

The Chief Director made a thorough examination of the Prison. There are now no Military Personnel occupying any part. I saw D.A.A.G. and A.A. & Q.M.G. No. I District also A.A. & Q.M.G. Area. No further use will be made of the Central Prison, but the Prison at ACIREALE is required by them. The Military vacated the Central Prison some three weeks ago.

A.A. & Q.M.G. District appears to hold onto the Arab Prisoners who arrived to late from CALTANISSETTA to be sent to NORTH AFRICA. If he decides he cannot, owing to delay in shipping, I have asked him NOT to send them back to CALTANISSETTA. I believe, however, these Arabs will be kept in the F.C.W. Camp.

8. Some special notes of points from Major Battersby O.A.P.O. addressed to C.P.S. are attached.

9. I can recommend the SAIN GEORGE Hotel (a Transit Camp) for staying at also the Officers Club for meals. 2915

10. I recommend that the Chief Director be granted 125 Lires a day (Total 625) as Detention Allowance and Travelling Expenses.

11. I consider that this tour has been very valuable and that the Chief Director has done a very fine piece of work, besides his great assistance to me.

Major,
Deputy Supt. of Prisons.

Tour of Inspection by D/Sgt. Finnes
10357PS
12 Oct 15 16 Oct.
1. Accompanied by D.F. Colorado - Chief Director
visited Termini Imerese Prison. Found things

Satisfactory, clean and running smoothly. There
are improvements necessary, but it is a bright,
heliose place and I should recommend it as a
possible special prison for certain types.
Consideration might be given for sending some convicted
prisoners from Palermo in elsewhere and enlarge
in a tailoring industry.

With 2 or 3 factories about a dozen suits of
uniform might be turned out in 3 weeks.

The stand for cultivation would be improved and
more prisoners employed on it.

Cave House requires to be renewed and enlarged.
a hot water system exists and should be made
to work. The Chief Director is obtaining a recent survey
report on this.

There are 2 women inmates 2914
1 N9 RASSI Katali - 16 years sentence 18 ms.
9 AVG1 Camelo 15 .. untreat waiting 10 ms.

Food is good but not enough. It is however
just sufficient and will more serious food problems
in Messina must remain for the present.

2. 13 Oct.

at The C.2 Asylum, Sanallona
I spent night 12/13 Oct. A time and was able
to discuss many matters. The Director was not present.

in a tailoring industry.

With 2 or 3 tailors about a dozen suits of uniform might be turned out in 3 weeks.

The demand for cut-throat razors is not increased and more prisoners employed in it.

Carroll House requires to be renewed and enlarged, a hot water system exists and should be made to work. The Chief Director is obtaining a recent survey report on this.

There are 2 Motors connected

2914

1 NGROSSI Natale - 16 years sentence 18 mos.

8 ANGI Camillo 15 " sentence waiting 10 mos.

Food is good but not enough. It is however just sufficient and with more serious food problems in Messina must remain for the present.

A. 13 Oct.

I spent night 12/13 Oct. 11th and was able to discuss many matters. The Director was not present but he contacted me at Messina next day.

This is quite an up-to-date place, but by no means perfect. The aim has been to make it a very humane and smart establishment. It is not, but lacks some necessary requirements. It is in the lines of an up-to-date prison established in the United Kingdom. The medical etc. plant appears to me to be most elaborate and good.

The staff of doctors are very hard up in this place and like to show it off. I was somewhat

Suspicious.

I saw most of the Prisoners in hands. They are a poor looking lot with the exception of about 3. They are all stocky, sturdy and looking in any enthusiasm. I spoke to them in German and let them see how this satisfied I was and the Chief Director followed this by even more severe advice. The Commandant was not present, as he was out looking for food. I consider he should have been at his brother's death and a more junior officer sent out on such a mission.

My suspicions were being continually enlarged. And before I left 14 of the Agents intervened me. They can planned that the Director and Medical Staff neglected them, treated them like dogs and would not take steps to obtain food for them. They stated that some equipment, sheets etc had been distributed to survivors outside and they received none. I was also intervened by the wife of one who had been second Medical Officer. This character was called to the Army, and when this charged found his first killed by the son of the Director (who has 2 sons on the staff) He was informed that he could not return to his former work. This lady is submitting her Complaint in writing.

present, as he has not been at his brother's duty
consider he should have been at his brother's duty
and a more junior officer sent out on such a
mission.

My suspicions were being continually enlarged.
And before I left 14 of the Agents interviewed me.
They complained that the Director and Medical
Staff neglected them, treated them like dogs and
would not take steps to obtain food for them. They
stated that some equipment, sheets etc had been
distributed to survivors outside and they received none.
I was also interviewed by the wife of one who had
been second medical officer. This doctor was called
to the Army, and when discharged found his post
filled by the son of the Director (who has 2 sons on
the staff) He was informed that he could not return
to his former work. This lady is submitting her
complaint in writing.

By the time I left this place I was convinced
that something serious was wrong and I believe
the staff noticed this. They were particularly
friendly and all over me. I recommended that
the complaints of the staff be fully gone into and
also the case of the former medical officer. I believe
many matters will come to light.

The Prison officers meet constantly changed
round, some look insane and might easily be so.

an air improvised "Bus" System, which works well, all from the captured prisoners. Major Bye is also organizing into the cases of 4 captured prisoners awaiting trial for 28 days.

4. Visited Messing Prison. There is much to do here and quite a lot has recently been done. The Director has been given advice and the chief prisoner has spoken to him severely and very strongly. Dr. Calumbo hopes that matters will now improve greatly and that Dr. R. H. F. E. will become a more enthusiastic and enterprising director.

Major Bye has provided this place with a small motor and was able to get him to grant a supply of petrol.

The food shortage is very great, but there is a fair supply of beans, peas in stock. Bread as at Bulawayo is less than 100 gms a day.

29th

Messing Prison

5. 14 Oct.

I returned to this prison and found the Director of the C. V. system awaiting to see me. We had a very long discussion and thought no solution of the main problem could be arrived at. We were able to settle some matters and find some possible line of action.

and some intransigently

here and I wish a lot. has recently been done. The Director has been given authority and the Chief Director has spoken to him recently and very strongly. Dr. Calumbe hopes that matters will now improve greatly and that Dr. ROSTER will become a more enthusiastic and enterprising director.

Major Rye has provided this place with a small motor and I was able to get him to grant a supply of petrol.

The food shortage is very great, but there is a fair supply of beans - has in stock. Bread as at Malaga is less than 100 gms a day.

291.

Manicomio

5. 14 Oct.

I returned to this ~~place~~ and found the Director of the C. L. system waiting to see me. We had a very long discussion and though no solution of the main problem had been arrived at, we were able to settle some matters and find some possible line of action.

Dr. Manicomio Guadagnani is undoubtedly an able and active man and I should consider thoroughly efficient. He has a big task and at the present time a very difficult one. He is pleasant and ready to accept suggestions and is agreeable to try. I feel however he is too ready to agree and to phrase and I do not at present trust him. The Chief Director is also somewhat suspicious and rather of us

I recommended that the Com mandante be moved to another place and that the Chief Director find a good man to promote to put in his place. He would however be worth considering transferring. The Com mandant at CARANUS is close at once, even before I urge that something be done at once, even before an enquiry is held.

The food situation is desperate and there ^{was} only 5 days supply available even for the very small nation. The officers are starving, so too the families and the Lematics are very hungry and angry. I noticed all were looking starved. To see the resident Lematic's suffering from starvation as well is a desperate sight. There have been 22 deaths from starvation since Allied occupation. I submit a special report on the food problem in Morona.

3. Visited the Citadel at 19160220. This is just a hopeless establishment for confining prisoners. They are very hungry and so too the guards who have on ~~some~~ occasions dropped down with hunger. There was 5 days supply left and this quantity was really only enough for 1 day. I strongly advise that this prison be closed at once. The Director be sent to E.M.A.H. Province (Morona) The Guards

The food situation is desperate and there is only 5 days supply available even for the very small ration. The officers are starving, so too the families and the Lemaitres are very hungry and angry. I noticed all were looking starved and to see the nearest Lemaitre's suffering from starvation as well is a desperate sight. There have been 22 deaths from starvation since Allied occupation. I submit a special report on the food problem in Messina.

3. Visited the Citadel at 1400H220. This is quite a hopeless establishment for confining prisoners. They are very hungry and so too the guards who have on several occasions dropped down with hunger. There was 5 days supply left and this quantity was really only enough for 1 day. I strongly advise that this prison be closed at once, that the Director be sent to ENNA Province (Dr. Spano could be quite a good man) The Guards 26 would then be available for more important places. The place to remain open easily as a local lockup with 2 or 3 Guards to do duty.

I have arranged with the C.M.P.O. Messina to have the 6 convicted prisoners transferred at once to MISSINA, and to will order the release

at present time as a civil prison.

I have submitted a ~~separate~~ separate report on "Immediati Report" form.

Returned to Catania.

7. 15th Oct. as the staff car at my service was stolen during the night the morning was partly spent in endeavours to obtain transport. I had intended to leave at 1300 hours. Late in the afternoon I received a message to return to PALERMO at once. AM90T could give me no vehicle, we could District and Area HQ help. I obtained transport agreement by plane. Report regarding the loss of car is attached.

The Chief Director made a thorough examination of the Prison. There are now no military personnel occupying any part. I saw D.C.C.G. & AM90T, AM90T District also AM90T, AM90T Area. No further use will be made of the central prison, but the prison at ACIREALE is required by them. The military need of the central prison some 3 months ago.

AM90T District appeals to hold on to the Crack Prisons who arrived to take from CALANISSETTA

will be satisfied till further investigation is made into the Prison Officers complaints.

Food must be sent to all these 3 places in Messina at once - vegetables, flour, ~~and~~ I have directed the Chief Director to send 100 cases of enemy rations as soon as possible. Major Byre will gladly accept them.

The matter of pay and the additional grants for Guards must be settled in all Provinces.

Though Guards may have received wages in advance they have not as yet been paid the extra emoluments which all are due. This is ~~of~~ a matter for urgent settlement and I take my memorandum ^{on} of the subject of condition of service will be approved, ^{and} so allowing payment of certain grants.

6. Proceeded to CATANIA left D. Calumbo to visit prison. Reported AMGOT and made appointment with C.A.P.O for 15th Oct.

Visited AUGOSTA and obtained all the information from 2nd and Royal Marines in the Citadel. This was a prison, but I do not consider of any use

to be sent to N. Africa. If he decides he cannot owing to delay in shipping I have asked him not to send them back to C. M. THANNISSETTA. I believe however these Arabs will be kept in the P.O.W. camp.

8. Some special notes of points from Major Buttery C.A.P.O. addressed to C.P.S. are attached.

9. I can recommend the SMITH GEORGE Hotel (a Transit camp) for staying at also the Officers Club for meals.

10. I recommend that the Chief Director be granted £125 a day (total £625) as Detention allowance and Travelling Expenses.

11. I consider that this tour has been very valuable and that The Chief Director has done a very fine piece of work besides his great assistance to me.

16 Oct 43

W. La Thaur
Major

Nicosia

Enna

Callanissetta stay night

Agrigento. } no/21

Sciaca.

Modica.

(Caramounte,
Chieti.)

2910

Pages 6 & 7 should not
be in this file. I have
extracted & put in file 1009.

30/9/43. msb.

2909

SUBJECT: Inspections - Prisons.

Supply
AMGOT/1035/PS.

AMGOT H.Q., SICILY

10 Sept. 1943.

TO : C. P. S.

Reference AMGOT/18/HQ dated 4 September 1943 requiring notification to be made before officers go to Provinces on Inspections.

Captain H.J. Brown is required to proceed to Messina Province on Sunday 12 September 1943 on Prison Inspection duties. He expects to be about 7 to 10 days in this Province and may then proceed direct to Catania.

W.B. Latham
Major,
D/Superintendent Prisons.

Approved
R.H.
DCS
19
2908

AMCOT/1035/ES
AMCOT HQ SICILY
11 September 1943

SUBJECT: Inspection Report by Superintendent Prisons,
5 Sept 43 to 11 Sept 43.

Agrigento, Enna, and Messina

Left Palermo on Sunday, Sept. 5th and drove to Agrigento where I went into conference with Lt. Col. McCaffrey and Major Ashworth relative to the prison situation in their Province. Informed them that Dr. Bruno was being transported to their Central Judicial Prison as Director and would arrive and take charge on the following day.

Monday Sept. 6th made an inspection of the Central Judicial Prison at Agrigento and found the prison in fair condition, but a lack of water and soap. The sentinels on the walls were not armed, but this condition Major Ashworth informed me would be changed immediately. This is the first prison that I have found any supply of foodstuffs on hand. Then went to Porto Empedocle and find that this prison is being used only as a short term prison, the prisoners that are given any sentence over two months being sent to Agrigento.

Tuesday I arrived in Caltanissetta and with Lt. Col. Irish and Major Kennedy inspected the Central Judicial Prison. This prison is by far the most modern and cleanest that has been inspected so far. But here also there is a lack of water and soap. Also medical supplies. They have approximately 168 Arab prisoners and on this date Lt. Col. Irish informed me that final arrangements were being completed for the removal of these Arabs back to Africa. Lt. Col. Irish also informed me that Capt. Bonjean has done an admirable job in organizing and cleaning up the prison situation in his province and should be commended.

Wednesday Sept. 8th arrived in Enna and was in conversation with Lt. Col. Rodd re the prison situation. Inspected the prison with Major Mercer and found this to be the most modern and best situated prison of all. But here also there is a lack of water. A few places have been bombed and repairs are under way. Here also a lack of medical supplies and soap.

2907

Thursday Sept. 9th inspected the prison at Nicosia and find that conditions here are very cramped, especially so with the approximately 150 prisoners that are being detained here from Palermo. Also that the guards have not been paid since June. Talked with Lt. Col. Rodd relative to this and arrangements are under way for the transportation of the Palermo prisoners and their bedding and their guards back to Palermo. Also the majority of the remaining prisoners will be removed to the Central Judicial Prison at Enna. The pay situation will be corrected. At this prison they have the most difficult job of them all relative to the water situation. All water has to be transported manually up the hill to the prison. As soon as possible this prison will only be used for short termers the others going to Enna.

Friday Sept. 10th arrived in Messina and with Lt. Col. Story and Major Bye

ported to their Central Judicial Prison at Agrigento charge on the following day.

Monday Sept. 6th made an inspection of the Central Judicial Prison at Agrigento and found the prison in fair condition, but a lack of water and soap. The sentinels on the walls were not armed, but this condition Major Ashworth informed me would be changed immediately. This is the first prison that I have found any supply of foodstuffs on hand. Then went to Porto Empedocle and find that this prison is being used only as a short term prison, the prisoners that are given any sentence over two months being sent to Agrigento.

Tuesday I arrived in Caltanissetta and with Lt. Col. Irish and Major Kennedy inspected the Central Judicial Prison. This prison is by far the most modern and cleanest that has been inspected so far. But here also there is a lack of water and soap. Also medical supplies. They have approximately 168 Arab prisoners and on this date Lt. Col. Irish informed me that final arrangements were being completed for the removal of these Arabs back to Africa. Lt. Col. Irish also informed me that Capt. Bonjean has done an admirable job in organizing and cleaning up the prison situation in his province and should be commended.

Wednesday Sept. 8th arrived in Enna and was in conversation with Lt. Col. Rodd re the prison situation. Inspected the prison with Major Mercer and found this to be the most modern and best situated prison of all. But here also there is a lack of water. A few places have been bombed and repairs are under way. Here also a lack of medical supplies and soap.

2907

Thursday Sept. 9th inspected the prison at Nicosia and find that conditions here are very cramped, especially so with the approximately 150 prisoners that are being detained here from Palermo. Also that the guards have not been paid since June. Talked with Lt. Col. Rodd relative to this and arrangements are under way for the transportation of the Palermo prisoners and their bedding and their guards back to Palermo. Also the majority of the remaining prisoners will be removed to the Central Judicial Prison at Enna. The pay situation will be corrected. At this prison they have the most difficult job of them all relative to the water situation. All water has to be transported manually up the hill to the prison. As soon as possible this prison will only be used for short termers the others going to Enna.

Friday Sept. 10th arrived in Messina and with Lt. Col. Story and Major Bye inspected the prison. There were approximately 30 women inmates and they were being released on this date, which will leave the prison empty of inmates. This prison has been severely bombed and Major Bye is attending to the repairs. It is in fair condition otherwise. No water as usual and no soap or medical supplies. Returned to Palermo on Friday night.

Allen P. Nichol

Lt. Colonel,
Supt. Prisons,
Public Safety Division

Sept 11/19

Copies:

- 1 in File
- 1 Supt.
- 1 Spare with Dep. Supt.

File 1007

For immediate consideration.

④

1. Food for Prisoners

A. Improvement of meal
or meals.B. Increase of food to
allow 2 meals a day.

Not Possible

But an increase
has been authorized2. Prisoners held
as Preventive Detention
"CONVINO"

no fixed sentence.

Required one place for
such cases in Sicily
After general review of
the whole we could fix
a good place. I think
there may be such a
place in CALTANISSETTA.

Will check on
G.P.

W. L. Major

21/5/43.

2906

SUBJECT: Prison Inspection-Tour, by Major Lothian.

AMGOT/1035/PS
AMGOT H.Q., Sicily
29 August 1943

23 August 1943.

Left H.Q. Palermo 11.30 hours,
Vicari 13.00 "
S. Caterino 15.30 hours.

Heavy rainstorm from about 14.30-1600 hours. Did not stop at

CAITANISSETTA.

The road is remarkably good, but at CAPODARESO there is a wide diversion owing to the Bridge. From here the road is not so good and there are 2 further detours. Arrived PIAZZA ARMERINA 1800 hours, there are 3 detours.

Road to GELA good, and we drew into U.S.A. Provost Sec. 18.45 hrs. Put up at Officers club. Most hospitably cared for.

24 August 1943.

Left GELA 08.40 hours,
Vitoria 09.30 hours. A good road.

RAGUSA. 10.30 hours visited prison (see report) and were well cared for by A.M.G.O.T. A good mess and very hospitable. Left RAGUSA 1400 hours, arrived MODICA 14.45 hours, inspected prison (see report), taken to NOTA by R.A.F. tender arriving 1700 hours. Inspected prison (see report), left in own car 1900 hours. Arrived SIRACUSA 2000 hours a good road, but lot of traffic. Not much kindness from A.M.G.O.T. Officers Mess and Colonel Briggs saved us, from being without home and food. Stayed at CASA POLITI - quite a good club 4.50 per day, no lights in any of the buildings.

25 August 1943.

SIRACUSA. All day. Inspected prison (see report), Colonel Martin left for Malta.

26 August 1943.

Left SIRACUSA 0800 hours for CATANIA. Visited prison at LENTINI, road good with some bad parts and difficult bends. The traffic was continuous. A bad block at AUGUSTA causing over 1 hour delay. LENTINI - 1100 hours. Arrived CATANIA 1300 hours. No traffic blocks, but 3 miles out car broke down. Left car and jumped vehicles into town and reported to Lieut. Colonel Lord Wellesley - S.C.A.O. Handed on to Major Battersby. Was not welcomed with open arms - they seem to be short of food. Afternoon spent at the prison and I was

2905

Left H.Q. Palermo 11.30 hours,
Vicari 13.00 "
S.Caterino 15.30 hours.

Heavy rainstorm from about 14.30-1600 hours. Did not stop at
CALTANISSETTA.

The road is remarkably good, but at CAPODARSO there is a wide diversion
owing to the Bridge. From here the road is not so good and there are 2 further
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Wellesley - S.C.A.O. Handed on to Major Battersby. Was not welcomed with open
arms - they seem to be short of food. Afternoon spent at the prison and I was
impressed. Battersby has done very well and given good service to Prison Section.
R.A.F. had to help with car but returned to CATANIA after dark further breakdown.
Put up with No. 3 M.T. LRU (R.A.F.).

27 August 1943.

Mechanic (R.A.F.) spent over 3 hours on car. Left 1200 hours. Slow
Journey owing to traffic. Arrived ENNA 1900 hours, 26 hours behind time.
Spent the night in a comfortable hotel and had meals in A.M.G.O.T. mess. Hotel £. 30
very happy mess and I was made most welcome £. 25 for each meal. Hotel £. 30
bed and cold bath. It was worth it.

2.

28 August 1943.

Made rapid visit over the Prison. Captain Donjean has not yet been to ENNA though it is 1 week since I ordered him to get there. This Officer required in the Province at once. There is a lot to be attended to (see report). My inspection of the Prison was a very short one and there is scope for much direction by a Prison Sec. Office.

Left ENNA 1100 hours. In a convoy jam most of the road. Arrived Palermo 1700 hours.

29/8/43

M.F. LOTHIAN,
Major.

2304

SUBJECT: Inspection of Prisons.

AMGOT/1035/PS

AMGOT H.Q., Sicily

29 August 1943.

TO : Supt. Prison.
A.M.G.O.T.

Route report and Inspection Reports on Prisons visited are attached.
I have also a list of all Prisons in:- RAGUSA,

SIRACUSA,
CATANIA,
ENNA.

Owing to 24 hours delay on account of engine trouble I could not get into MESSINA. I felt however I should as the O.A.P.O. there must be having enough to attend to and I consider Captain Brown should go to MESSINA for at least a week, then to CATANIA, return to H.Q. with full reports.

The following are some essential problems requiring consideration.

1. Policy regarding Directors of Prisons. How they can be fully employed as Provincial Directors.
2. Changes of superiors in Staff of Prisons.
3. Uniform for warders and their general smartness. At present it is very bad.
4. Closing down useless places. Forming a prison (at ENNA) for indefinite sentences. Could be made a really good place, but the staff here is bad.

NOTTA could be made good and is suitable for all sentences over 5 years or 10 years. The Director could be given greater supervisory duties. He is more suited for this than stationing and I think he is loyal.

The Director at SIRACUSA is a poor man so is the Commandant. Both require changing. The Commandant at ENNA is very poor and slack. I was greatly impressed with the Prison at CATANIA and with the Commandant there. He is good and could be given greater authority.

5. Finance. The question of wages of Staff requires review and I desire to submit a special memoranda on this subject.

6. Food. A general review of food for prisoners is required, Once prisoners start

2903

Route report and Inspection Reports on Prisons visited are attached.
I have also a list of all Prisons in:-

SIRACUSA,
CATANIA,
ENNA.

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2903

5. Finance. The question of wages of Staff requires review and I desire to submit a special memorandum on this subject.

6. Food. A general review of food for prisoners is required, as purchase of extras has been stopped in most cases. Once prisoners start more labour additional food might be given and all food brought into a prison stopped.

Captain Brown to MESSINA 6 Sept.

M.P. IOTHIAN,
Major,
Dep. Supt. Prisons.

