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10000/143/118

CIVIL DEFENCE, SIRACUSA
SEPT. 1943

AMGOT/1084/PS 17

CIVIL DEFENCE -
SIRACUSA

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CIVIL DEFENCE -
SIRACUSA

10000 143 118

THIS FOLDER
CONTAINS PAPERS
FROM SEPT. 43
TO
CATALOGUE.

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

MINUTE SHEET

File No. .....APS.....
Sheet No. .....

Folio No.	Ref.	Date.	To/From.	Subject.
1/6	–	–	Extracts from CAPO Siracusa's Reports 1/4	
7			Report - Siracusa	
8	1074/PS	7 Sep	SCAO Siracusa	Recommendations - Siracusa
9/10			Report - Noto	
11	1074/PS	7 Sep	SCAO Siracusa	Recommendations - Noto
12	1074/PS	7 Sep	SCAO Siracusa	Palazzolo.

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11	107H/PS	7 Sep	SCAO Siracusa	Recommendations - Noto
12	107H/PS	7 Sep	SCAO Siracusa	Palazzolo.

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File 59
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SUBJECT: Civil Defence - PALAZZOLO.

ADOT/1072/P.

ADOT H.Q., Sicily.

September 7, 1943

TO : A.C.A.O. - PACHINO.

In view of report from the Inspecting Officers of this H.Q., - ~~copy of which is enclosed~~ - it is felt that the only action needed is the organisation of a simple form of air raid warning - Church Bells or whistles.

G.H. Mason
Major
for Colonel Inf.,
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

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Copies to :-

C.A.O.
Civil Defence File.

PM

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SUBJECT: CIVIL DEFENCE - ROTO.

AMGOT/1074/PS

AMGOT H.Q., SICILY.

7 September 1943.

TO : A.C.A.O. ETHACHIA.

In view of the report of the Inspecting Officers from this H.Q., a copy of which is enclosed, it is felt that the Commune should instal earth closets at the Public Shelters and should arrange for the emptying of same.

G.H. Hanson
Major
for Colonel Inf.,
Commissioner of Public Safety.

Copies to :-

C.A.O. ROTO.
Civil Defence File.

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C.D FILE

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DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND CIVIL DEFENCE

(CHEMAINUS DIST.)

This detachment in Note seemed to be an exceptionally good detachment. Their one piece of equipment, although rather ancient, was in good running order. Lieut. Jones, C.A.F.C. informed us that the day previous there had been a fire and the Brigade responded quite well.

Civil Defence - No previous air raids and the possibility of one seemed rather remote. The few members of the U.H.F.A. were being used to supplement the local police dept.

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PROFORMA FOR CIVIL DEFENCE REPORT BY C.A.P.O.

(To be submitted in duplicate - 1 Copy for S.C.A.O. - 1 Copy for H.Q. ANGOT:)

NAME OF COMMUNE...NIL.....PROVINCE ..SIRACHA.....

ARE THE FOLLOWING C.D. SERVICES FUNCTIONING & TO WHAT EXTENT?

1) CONTROL ...N.N.P.N.....

.....

2) WARDENS .....

NUMBER OF WARDENS POSTS & FREQUENCY .....

.....

.....

.....

3) RESCUE (With description of Service & Numbers:)

....NO. CAPABILITY.....

.....

.....

4) PUBLIC SHELTERS (Numbers and Capacity) .3.-.500.-.600.....
EACH.

.....

.....

5) SANITATION IN PUBLIC SHELTERS ....NONE.....

.....

6) GENERAL POSITION REGARDING PRIVATE SHELTERS ...NO.....

.....

.....

7) REST CENTRES FOR HOMELESS ....NO.....

.....

.....

1) CONTROL ....E.N.P.T.....

2) WARDENS .....

NUMBER OF WARDENS POSTS & FREQUENCY .....

3) RESCUE (With description of Service & Numbers:)

....NO. DEPARTMENT.....

4) PUBLIC SHELTERS (Numbers and Capacity) ....7.-500.-7.600.....

EACH.....

5) SANITATION IN PUBLIC SHELTERS ....NONE.....

6) GENERAL POSITION REGARDING PRIVATE SHELTERS ....NO.....

7) REST CENTRES FOR HOMELESS ....NO.....

8) FEEDING ARRANGEMENTS AT REST CENTRES ....NONE.....

9) AMBULANCE SERVICE (Including Number of Ambulances) .....

NONE. 4169.....

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(CIVIL DEFENCE - continued)

10) HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION .....

.....

.....

.....

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION AND SYSTEM OF AIR RAID WARNING .....

.....

.....

METHOD OF TRACING RELATIVES AFTER RAID .....

.....

.....

ANY SPECIAL TARGETS .....

.....

.....

.....

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MUTUAL ASSISTANCE with neighbouring Communes ...

.....

.....

.....

EXTENT OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE .....

.....

ARE STIRRUP PUMPS SUPPLIED AND TO WHAT EXTENT .....

.....

HAS ARMY P.A.D. OFFICER BEEN IN CONSULTATION .....

IS ARMY P.A.D. SERVICE MAINTAINING CONTROL .....

RECOMMENDATIONS .....

.....

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METHOD OF TRACING RELATIVES AFTER RAID .....

.....

.....

ANY SPECIAL TARGETS .....

.....

.....

.....

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MUTUAL ASSISTANCE with neighbouring Communes ...

.....

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EXTENT OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE .....

.....

ARE STIRRUP PUMPS SUPPLIED AND TO WHAT EXTENT .....

.....

HAS ARMY P. & D. OFFICER BEEN IN CONSULTATION .....

IS ARMY P. & D. SERVICE MAINTAINING CONTROL .....

RECOMMENDATIONS .....

.....

.....

.....

GENERAL REMARKS (Action taken, etc.) .....

.....

.....

DATE..... SIGNED. Kenneth W. Wallace
Captain, Infantry

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

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

SUBJECT: Civil Defence - SIRACUSA.

AMGOT /1074/PS

AMGOT H.Q., Sicily.

7 September 1943.

TO : G.O.A.C. SIRACUSA.

In view of the report from the Inspecting Officers of this H.Q., it is felt that the recommendation contained therein might well be implemented.

With regard to the Blackout regulations the orders would, of course, supplement the police and military activities.

The personnel of the Fire Service should be examined with a view of making any reductions possible under present conditions.

A complete list of spare parts, tyres, etc., required should be submitted to your Civil Supplies Section - copy to this H.Q..

The rates of pay should remain as heretofore, pending decision by higher Authorities.

G. Johnson. Major

for Colonel Inf.,
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Copies to :-
C.A.C.
Civil Defence File.

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PROFORMA FOR CIVIL DEFENCE REPORT BY C.A.P.O.

(To be submitted in duplicate - 1 Copy for S.C.A.O. - 1 Copy for H.Q. AMGOT:)

NAME OF COMMUNE SIRACUSA PROVINCE SIRACUSA

ARE THE FOLLOWING C.D. SERVICES FUNCTIONING & TO WHAT EXTENT?

1) CONTROL The entire body of U.N.P.A. is still hired and functioning. Lt.Lhant, C.A.P.O. has recommended that they continue to operate.

2) WARDENS 10 men.

NUMBER OF WARDENS POSTS & FREQUENCY 72 men stationed at Shelters as Marshiellac

3) RESCUE (With description of Service & Numbers:) Yes - 14 men.

4) PUBLIC SHELTERS (Numbers and Capacity) Public shelters can hold approximately 15000 people.

5) SANITATION IN PUBLIC SHELTERS Some shelters have running water and toilets, all are being cleaned.

6) GENERAL POSITION REGARDING PRIVATE SHELTERS Few private shelters.

7) REST CENTRES FOR HOMELESS Through Podestas, local priests and Red Cross, places are found for the bombed out people.

NONE.

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10 men.

2) WARDENS

72 men stationed at Shelters as

NUMBER OF WARDENS POSTS & FREQUENCY

Marshiellas

3) RESCUE (With description of Service & Numbers:)

Yes - 14 men.

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approximately 15000 people.

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Few private shelters.

6) GENERAL POSITION REGARDING PRIVATE SHELTERS

Through Podestas, local priests and Red

7) REST CENTRES FOR HOMELESS

Cross, places are found for the bombed out people.

NONE.

8) FEEDING ARRANGEMENTS AT REST CENTRES

YES

9) AMBULANCE SERVICE (Including Number of Ambulances)

Italian Red Cross has two available.

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(CIVIL DEFENCE - continued)

10) HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION Yes: two; one Red Cross and one Italian Marines hospital available.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION AND SYSTEM OF AIR RAID WARNING Navy Officer on approach of enemy air craft given orders for siren to be sounded at docks and on duty ship. The siren in the centre of town is at present out of action. It is being repaired.

METHOD OF TRACING RELATIVES AFTER RAID Carabinieri - Bodies usually held two to three days to give an opportunity for relatives to identify.

ANY SPECIAL TARGETS Port Area large transportation and shipping - Ammo, Gas and Food dumps in immediate vicinity.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MUTUAL ASSISTANCE with neighbouring Communes ....

EXTENT OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE ....

ARE STIRRUP PUMPS SUPPLIED AND TO WHAT EXTENT None

Sand used.

HAS ARMY P.A.D. OFFICER BEEN IN CONSULTATION No.

IS ARMY P.A.D. SERVICE MAINTAINING CONTROL No.

RECOMMENDATIONS The C.A.F.Os of Siracusa recommend that the organisation

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ANY SPECIAL TARGETS Port Area large transportation and shipping - Ammo, Gas and Food dumps in immediate vicinity.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MUTUAL ASSISTANCE with neighbouring Communes ....

EXTENT OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE ....

ARE STIRRUP PUMPS SUPPLIED AND TO WHAT EXTENT None

Sand used.

HAS ARMY P.A.D. OFFICER BEEN IN CONSULTATION No.

IS ARMY P.A.D. SERVICE MAINTAINING CONTROL No.

RECOMMENDATIONS The C.M.P.Os of Siracusa recommend that the organisation be maintained. They have investigated the activities of the various members and those not up to standards have been replaced.

GENERAL REMARKS (Action taken, etc.) ....

DATE ....

SIGNED Kenneth W. Wallace. Captain, Infantry

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HQ 1074

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E X T R A C T

SYRACUSE TOWN - C.A.P.O.'s REPORT NO.1

1. OFFICERS

I commenced duty as C.A.P.O. Syracuse Town on 18th July, 1943 and Capt. Barron as Assistant C.A.P.O. on the 20th July, 1943.

2. C.A.P.O. OFFICE

On the 23rd July 1943 the Office and Staff were transferred from AMGOT H.Q. to the Questura Building, VIA ROMA.

3. CIVIL POPULATION

Before Italy entered the War, the population of Syracuse Town was some 59,000 persons. Just before the Allies entry on 19th July 1943 there were about 40,000, but there has been a steady daily influx and there are at least 54,000 civilians in the Town and suburbs of whom 10,000 are young children.

4. MILITARY IN OCCUPATION

A considerable proportion of private property and buildings have been requisitioned and in possession of Naval and Military Authorities.

6. CONDITION OF STREETS

Until last week the condition of the streets was rather bad. Apart from debris blocking some roads and footways, filth, rubbish and human excrement were lying in most streets (probably the lack of water in the town made this position worse.)

This has received special attention, with Military and Civil assistance. Much of the debris has now been cleared back. Some 70 bomb craters in roads filled in and practically all the main thoroughfares are open to "through" traffic.

7. WATER AND ELECTRICITY

No main water supplies on the island or the Southern half of Syracuse Town at present and no electric light. The lack of water has made conditions especially difficult, especially in regards to sanitation, but the position is being closely watched by C.A.P.O.s in conjunction with Major Norman and Capt. Ball (Medical).

8. AIR RAID SHELTERS

There are 42 official Air Raid Shelters in the town and in the immediate suburbs. Most of them can fairly be described as reasonably safe and bombproof. I am told that the civil population has been using them for the past three years. The largest shelter is situated in Piazza Duomo about 60 feet below ground level under the cathedral with five separate inter-connecting entrances with accommodation for 2,000 persons, but at least 2,500 congregate there nightly. Since the Allied Occupation 95% of the population use those shelters nightly, going there at Curfew

At some of the deep shelters liable to overcrowding (having in mind a recent London disaster when 200 persons lost their lives rushing into a shelter) additional safety measures were taken and side hand ropes have

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At some of the deep shelters liable to overcrowding (having in mind a recent London disaster when 200 persons lost their lives rushing into a shelter) additional safety measures were taken and side hand ropes have now been provided on all steps leading down to the basements.

The ventilation of the shelters leave much to be desired and the sanitary conditions were at first appalling, but great improvements have been effected in this respect. A number of civilian A.R.P. personnel have been directed to clean the shelters daily and it is hoped that a distinct improvement will result.

9. AIR-RAID PRIOR TO ALLIED OCCUPATION. During the afternoon of 4th JULY 1943, there was a heavy raid on the Town when considerable material damage was inflicted in the neighbourhood of the Dock Area. I understand some 40 civilians were killed and some 180 persons injured.

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10. ENEMY AIR-RAIDS SINCE 10th JULY. Practically every night, especially during the early hours of the morning, there has been considerable enemy air-raid activity over the Town. Since 1.7.43 about 90 small H.E. bombs have been dropped on the Town and Docks, resulting in some damage to buildings and dwelling houses. No doubt the target is shipping in the Harbor and

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unfortunately at 4 a.m. on 26th July, 1943, a direct hit was scored on a ship of 3,000 tons (laden with petrol and ammunition) set on fire and later had to be subsequently sunk. As far as records go, only 22 civilians have been killed and 40 injured since our occupation. The A.R.P. services until 20.7.43 were disbanded but a skeleton A.R.P. civilian service is now functioning and will be dealt with later.

23. LOCAL AMBULANCE SERVICE. Before our entry, I understand there were FIVE ambulances available for use in Syracuse. The position on 20.7.43 was - only ONE ambulance in service at Italian Red Cross Hospital outside the Town - one in bad state of disrepair and another old and worn out without tires. Others were taken by Military and not seen since.

On 20.7.43 I located a large civil ambulance upturned at the roadside TWO miles out. We got it back and made it workable again. However, co-incident with this, the CAO of Rossini had over 40 cases of typhoid with no transport or ambulance, so we sent this ambulance on loan where it had been of great service. I hope we get it back next week for Syracuse Town where it is needed badly. Meanwhile, we have been able to get the use of military ambulances in the few emergencies.

24. FIRE BRIGADE. When I took over, there was no fire engine but on 21.7.43, one was located some miles away. It has been brought back, reconditioned and been in service since. TWO large fire floats at the Docks were sunk and partly submerged - by the enemy before we arrived. I spoke to the E.C.L.C. about them and he hopes to get them raised and into service when possible. The Fire Fighting position is now as follows:

(a) One civilian fire engine and two motorpumps at VIA DUOMO with 118 fireman in the Town.
(b) One Army Fire-Brigade at the Seaplane Base (over Bridge)
(c) Army Fire Brigade at Gymnasium rear of Grand Hotel - Navy House.

Water shortage of course presents a problem but it is hoped this will be rectified in next few days.

At 3 p.m. 29.7.43, Syracuse CAPOs raided the Fire Brigade Barracks and found at least 30 rifles (some good - some not), pistols and some ammunition. Evidence shows that they werehidden away with consent and knowledge of the O/C Fire Brigade. He was arrested forthwith, is being charged and will be tried at first AMGOT court. His Deputy is carrying on for time being.

27. CLEANSING OF STREETS AND SHELTERS. This is gradually being improved and some 40 civilians are employed daily. Also 100 ARP paid personnel (surplus now to our requirements) will be employed from tomorrow to clean up and disinfect Air Raid shelters.

We are now also having the services of 120 Italian prisoners, who when properly organised and equipped with shovels etc., should assist greatly in cleaning up the Town.

29. AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS. The local ARP (or so called UNPA) has been re-organised as far as isposible at present, having regard to the Military in occupation still. The following is the position, briefly:

Sirens. No electricity in Town, one air raid siren destroyed completely, other four repairable later.

[illegible] Holland (RAP officer Base Sub-area) and

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TWO miles out. We got it back and made it useful. No incident with this, the CAO of Rossini had over 40 cases of typhoid with no transport or ambulance, so we sent this ambulance on loan where it had been of great service. I hope we get it back next week for Syracuse Town where it is needed badly. Meanwhile, we have been able to get the use of military ambulances in the few emergencies.

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The Fire Fighting position is now as follows:

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Sirens. No electricity in Town, one air raid siren destroyed completely, other four repairable later.

On 23.7.43 I contacted Major Holland (PAD officer Base Sub-Area) and Lt. Miller (PAD officers for Docks and Navy). As a result of our talks, N.O.I.C. has put into effect the following arrangements for warning public of approach of enemy craft:

(a) N.O.I.C. is informed direct of approach of enemy aircraft.

(b) N.O.I.C. will give order for sounding alarm from Navy House (Boat Alarm)

(c) Alert. This is indicated by 12 loud, short blasts in quick succession.

(d) All clear. One 30 seconds blast (Since been a longer period in practice.

ARP/H.Q. Former controller for ARP was Count Gravino. I have taken over his office at Questore, he is in office next door and we collaborate daily on his ARP service. He had formerly 3 ANP cars which were taken by Military and not seen since. However, I have got him some pedal cycles for each of his reporting posts.

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AIR RAID WARDENS. Formerly Count Gravino had 1[illegible] paid guardini (or guardiani) who were full time 'wardens', lit shelter lamps, reported incidents etc. and also a few nurses and midwives who were (and still are) on duty in each of the principal air raid shelters. The 180 guardiani are not, I am afraid, very energetic and in fact though paid, doing much less than our voluntary Fire Guards and A.R. Wardens at home. However, at least whilst Military operations are still in progress, these 180 are unnecessary and I hope to transfer at least 100 of them on more useful work in cleaning and disinfecting shelters, cleaning the streets and clearing away the filth generally. Hard work apparently does not appeal to most of them and I only wish I had more staff to teach them their job.

DAILY SITUATION REPORT. After each raid, I have two motor cyclists DRs patrol the Town and these, coupled with Gravino's messengers for what they are worth, get information as to the various incidents, all of which are reported daily at 0730 hours to Army, Navy and S.C.A.O.

Incidentally at 4 a.m. on 27.7.43, FOUR H.E.s dropped on buildings and some civilians were trapped in the debris. AMGOT staff and CAPOs were on the spot within a few minutes but it was not possible to release the victims without assistance. I appealed time and again to the able-bodied men in the shelters near by to come and help us to release their fello-men but they point blank refused. I then drove some of them out at the point of a bayonet but when they reached the debris and our A.A. guns fired, they fled in every direction - a spinless lot. Later, Count Gravino apoligized but explained that their printed ARP instructions forbade any person to be in the streets until after the "ALL CLEAR". They certainly seem pleased to obey this instruction.

LIGHTING OF THE SHELTERS. We have managed to get them some hurricane lamps and paraffin oil but many of the lamps have since been taken by the civilians - Questorini have the matter in hand.

HOSPITALS. TWO available for reception of casualties (1) Italian Red Cross and (2) Ospedale Prichiatrico (Mental Hospital).

NURSES IN SHELTERS. 20 employed and doing good work - in fact much better than the men. They work 10 hours during the night and their pay is 5 lire daily from City Budget and 30 from the Military at Rome.

FIRST AID POSTS. These are being re-organised and fitted with certain equipment when we get them. Meanwhile one FIRST AID post established at each shelter.

SHELTER ACCOMMODATION. 42 reasonable good shelters accommodating 25,000 to 30,000 people. The risk to the civilian population from air raids in the Town is not great, as they disappear into the shelters like rabbits on the first crack of a gun!

36. TRAFFIC. Many main streets of this Town are very narrow, dangerous and unsuitable for two-way Military traffic. Where possible, we are trying to make "ONE WAY" streets but at present this is difficult owing to bomb debris still blocking certain streets. We are hoping to clear away this debris shortly

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36. TRAFFIC. Many main streets of this Town are very narrow, dangerous and unsuitable for two-way Military traffic. Where possible, we are trying to make "ONE WAY" streets but at present this is difficult owing to bomb debris still blocking certain streets. We are hoping to clear away this debris shortly and thus improve circulation of traffic.

By the way, considering the tremendous volume of Military and other essential traffic in the streets (and number of children playing in this streets) the number of street accidents has been remarkably light. I have only heard of ONE fatal accident in the Town and 3 or 4 slight accidents involving personal injury, which is a tribute to our Military drivers. Army drivers, generally, drive too fast I think.

37. GENERAL PUBLIC FEELING. One may say confidently that the Syracuse civilians have given no trouble whatsoever. They accepted our occupation calmly and on the whole, their feeling towards the Allies has been fairly good. Their food position is now very much improved and their rations are better than before our entry. The distribution of food also is more equitable than before - rich and poor being treated alike in this respect.

The people are war-weary and many think we are too easy and should have put away many more of the so-called Fascist officials.

The morale of the civilians is NOT high.

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E X T R A C T

SYRACUSE TOWN - C.A.P.O.'s REPORT NO. 2

1. CIVILIAN POPULATION.

Civilians remain peaceful and friendly and no instances of disorder or hostility of any kind have been reported.

Now that air-raids have diminished a great many more of the poorer classes have returned to the town from the suburbs.

2. CONDITIONS OF STREETS.

As pointed out in my last report, the sanitary condition of the streets if far from satisfactory, although a distinct improvement has taken place.

Prior to the Allied Occupation, street cleansing, collection of refuse, etc., was in the hands of a contractor who was paid a certain sum out of which he paid a number of men to do the job. Since our Occupation, most of these men found more remunerative work at the Docks and the contractor could not find sufficient men to do the work required.

When the registration of males between the ages of 16 and 50 has been completed it is hoped to get a sufficient number next week for street cleansing purposes. Meanwhile we have 63 civilians employed on removing house refuse and street cleaning and an average of 60 P.O.W. daily clearing streets and pavements of bomb debris, etc.,

It would appear that Sicilians regard road and street cleaning, removing house refuse, etc., as the lowest form of manual labor and those now employed have had to be literally driven to work and under Police threats on the task of clearing up the town.

4. AIR RAID SHELTERS.

I have had to close another 3 (smaller) shelters owing to insanitary conditions inside and possibility of disease. The affected sewers are being repaired as soon as possible and A.R.P. personnel have been directed to get them thoroughly cleaned up before re-opening. As air-raids have slackened off, less people are going to the shelters.

In conjunction with the Army, A.R.P. and Local Health Authorities, it is hoped shortly to get buckets, latrines etc., in or outside the larger shelters to improve the hygiene. Each morning a lot of urine and human excreta has been observed outside the shelters. The Fire Brigade is now used each morning to wash down these entrances to prevent disease. Many receptacles boxes, biscuit tins, etc., have been provided for the residents, who put out their refuse daily for collection before 9 a.m.

5. WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply has improved and is now in most parts of the town. The Military authorities called attention to the heavy civilian consumption and all possible steps are being taken to avoid waste and the attention of the whole public is also being drawn to this matter.

[illegible] at the Docks for Governments

3. CONDITIONS OF STREETS. As pointed out in my last report, although a distinct improvement has taken place, the condition of the streets is far from satisfactory.

Prior to the Allied Occupation, street cleaning, collection of refuse, etc., was in the hands of a contractor who was paid a certain sum out of which he paid a number of men to do the job. Since our Occupation, most of these men found more remunerative work at the Docks and the contractor could not find sufficient men to do the work required.

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6. ELECTRICITY. None in the town, except at the Docks for Governments work.

7. AIR RAIDS. There has been no enemy air activity over the town since 28th. July, 1943.

8. AIR RAID INDICATIONS. The A.R.P. or U.N.P.A. has been the subject of certain reorganization. Over 300 paid personnel were formally employed on full time U.N.P.A. work, but in practice they did very little. Over 180 "Guardie" were paid some 35 to 38 lire per day simply to "stand by", go to the shelters if there was a raid, wait for the "All clear", emerge and simply report incidents, damage, call the ambulance, etc. The services of 110 of these men was dispensed with on 30th July, 1943. They were offered immediate employment on street cleaning but only one volunteered. After registration they are being vetted and if suitable for manual labor, firm steps are being taken by the C.A.P.O. and his assistant to see that they do work — a lazy lot.

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27. HEALTH OF CIVILIAN POPULATION.

I am told on good local medical authority that the health of the civil population in Syracuse hasnever been better than at the moment.

28. MISCELLANEOUS.

Several dangerous structures (due to recent bombing) have been removed also 2 unexploded H.E. bombs (1 British and 1 Enemy). Several shops have been closed temporarily for overcharging.

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E X T R A C T

SYRACUSE COMMUNE ...C.A.P.O.s REPORT No. 3.

1. CIVILIANS. Civilians continue to be quiet and friendly - no instances of any disorder or hostility. Their morale is now higher and they appear cleaner. Practically all Municipal, Bank and Railway officials, Carabinieri and Questurini have now received their salaries up to the end of JULY, 1943. Food is being evenly distributed to all and there is no shortage at present. As air raids are now less frequent many more people are returning from the grottos and suburbs.

3. AIR RAIDS. At 2300 hrs. on 11.8.43, TWO unexploded bombs fell near the Italian Red Cross Hospital - no damage and no casualties. Army authorities informed and one of the bombs since removed. Other well roped off.

7. STREET CLEANSING. A real drive on this very important work has been effected with assistance of Lieut. Hunt. Legislation passed 12.8.43 making it compulsory for residents to leave their refuse in receptacles placed outside their premises for collection before 9 a.m. daily. It was also made an offence to throw orleave refuse, or human excrement in the street. In this connection many of the residents have been supplied by police with metal receptacles and more are being supplied when received. No less than 94 men are now employed on street cleansing and removal of house refuse etc. These men have been divided into groups of TEN, each supervised by a foreman who is made entirely responsible for the cleanliness of a certain number of streets. At first this proved difficult task but they were brought to realise that it MUST be done. In addition to street cleansing, for the past week a squad of 50 prisoners of war have been engaged under police supervision in cleaning refuse from the Dock area and it now can be safely said that this matter in the Town and at the Docks is well under control. As from 16.8.43 a drive will be made to cleanse some 25 grottos and caves on the outskirts of the Town, which are in a disgraceful condition having been occupied since last APRIL by 400 to 500 persons (sometimes more) without any proper means of sanitation. Three weeks ago an attempt was made to clear out some of the civilians whose homes were at Syracuse but as soon as air raids recurred, they fled again at once to the grottos. It is hoped to supply each grotto with one or more refuse bins and arrange for suitable latrines. At the same time effort is also being made to return the families to Syracuse whose homes are fit for habitation and eventually to re-house the others. Plans are also in hand to erect NINE public conveniences in the Town area. These will be permanent structures, connected with the main sewage pipes, and at each one it is proposed to erect separate lavatories for the sexes.

16. CARABINIERI. All doing an excellent job of work. We remain in close daily touch with senior Car. officers who are most helpful in every possible way. No less than 47 places of Military and AMGOT importance are being guarded by Carabinieri and they have not, so far, let us down.

I feel I would be lacking in my duty if I did not again raise the question of their small salaries. They are not paid enough for the work and responsi-

grottos and suburbs.

5. AIR RAIDS. At 2300 hrs. on 11.8.43, 190 unexploded bombs fell near the Italian Red Cross Hospital - no damage and no casualties. Army authorities informed and one of the bombs since removed. Other well roped off.

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I feel I would be lacking in my duty if I did not again raise the question of their small salaries. They are not paid enough for the work and responsibility - in fact, some paid lower than our street cleaners. Having regard to the fact that in Sicily (and no doubt Italy too) we shall have to depend so much on this body of men for the preservation of law and order, I think we should really face up to the fact and pay them increased salaries, in some measures commensurate with their duties and responsibilities.

18. FIRE BRIGADE. Fire Chief stands remanded for concealing firearms and awaits trial by General Court. Some re-organization of the Brigade has been carried out, pumps repaired etc. At 9 p.m. 13.8.43, I sent them an emergency test call (surprise) and they arrived complete with engine and pumps within 5 minutes. C.A.O. was present and impressed with the result.

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EXTRACT

SYRACUSE TOWN ....G.A.P.O.'S REPORT No.4.

Position during past week, briefly, as follows :

1. CIVILIANS. No disorder or hostility of any kind. On contrary, the relations between civilian population and Allies very friendly.

During first TWO weeks of our occupation, civilians not quite sure of us owing to success of enemy propaganda which had been swallowed by them. They are not only disillusioned now, but becoming extremely bitter against the Italian Fascist regime which has duped them. I hear from many quarters that the population have even greater hate now for their former Italian leaders than the Germans.

5. FIRE. At 4.30 a.m. 19.8.43, a fire occured at a petrol dump located on the Catania Road - extinguished at 2 p.m. same day. No sabotage or incendiarism suspected - case being investigated by SIB and G2.

8. GROTTOS. As mentioned in last week's report, the cleansing of the grottos and caves is well in hand. 100 men are now employed in this work. At each grotto the old latrines and refuse have been burned and fresh latrines for both sexes are in course of construction. Refuse bins have been supplied and daily arrangements made to remove the refuse. Voluntary marshals being recruited among the dwellers and these are being held responsible for the future cleanliness of the places.

Notices have also been prepared for posting at each grotto or cave pointing out the offence of depositing excreta etc., except in the receptacles provided.

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