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FRONTIER CONTROL, BRENNER PASS
DEC. 1945 - FEB. 1946

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
Travel Control Division
APO 394, U.S. Army

14080/6

DPS
DDPS *EATB* 3A
Pol 1 *Res 24/1*
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GSI. 389-506/60

Line

18 January 1946

SUBJECT : Frontier Control at the Brenner Pass.

TO : G-2 (CI) - A.F.H.Q.
G-5 - A.F.H.Q.
POLAD - A.F.H.Q.
Nemlin - A.F.H.Q.
Visa Department, British Embassy - Rome
(Attn Mr. E.C. Benton)
Colonel J.W. Chapman, Director of
Public Safety Sub-Commission
Displaced Persons & Repatriation Sub-Commission
(Attn Major G. Hartmann).

1. Attention is drawn to the two enclosed reports, received by this Office from our controls at the Brenner; they are of interest in view of current events and are passed to you for information and any action you deem necessary.

Enclosures : 2 reports from HQ
Counter Intelligence Corps
dated 9th and 5th Jan. 46

John W. Chapman
JOHN W. CHAPMAN
Colonel, JAGG
Director.

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COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
 MILAN DETACHMENT ZONE 3
 AFO 512 a/o OSI (b) 2 DISTRICT CEF

9 January 1946

SUBJECT : Control of Brenner Pass.

TO : AC of B, G-2, CI;
 Travel Section, Public Safety, Allied Sub-Comm.

1. The attached report was sent in by Special Agent Lawton of the Brenner Sub-Section and is forwarded for your information and action.

2. At present, DP convoys entering Italy (see 2 in attached report) are checked by PS personnel on duty at the Brenner Pass. All convoys other than Italian repatriates which seek passage through Italy in transit to their respective homelands are referred either to OSI (b) 2 District, AFHQ, or Travel Section-Rome. It would be appreciated if clear cut instructions as to responsible parties handling repatriation in Austria and Germany be issued and distributed. It is also advisable that AFHQ be advised and approval sent to the Brenner control post before a DP convoy (other than Italian repatriates) is to cross the Brenner Pass in transit through Italy.

3. International passenger train service will be instituted on orders from AC of S.G-2. At present all train travel is either military or freight. If train travel is resumed additional PS personnel must be sent to the Brenner control post.

4. At present frontier traffic is limited and the "Laissez Passer" agreement between AMG, Bolzano, and the French authorities in Innsbruck to allow frontier crossing for commercial purposes beneficial to Bolzano Province has been suspended with the termination of AMG control in that area.

5. Repatriation of German POWs is proceeding satisfactorily. The trains are sealed, and responsible officers are in charge of the convoys.

6. The verbal agreement between General Anders regarding Polish nationals and Travel Section-Rome has been terminated since the 30 day period has expired. All Polish nationals must now have APDs.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

7. Special Agent Lawton is being re-deployed this week to the United States and arrangements have been instituted with OSI(b) to replace him with one or two FSS agents who will act as observers and continue to supervise travel over the Brenner Pass according to AFHQ instructions and directives. This arrangement was made on verbal instructions from Travel Section - Rome.

/s/ Nicholas A. Matsios
/t/ NICHOLAS A. MATSIOS
1st Lt., M.I.
CIC, IFG
Zone Three, Milan

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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HEADQUARTERS COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
 ITALIAN FRONTIER CONTROL DETACHMENT
 APO #512 - Zone #3

Brenner Sub-Section
 5 January 1946

TO - Special Agent in Charge - Milan Detachment
 SUBJECT - Information requested for Control of Brenner Pass.

1 - INDIVIDUAL THROUGH TRAFFIC AS OF 1 JANUARY 1946

APRM Directive of late November (providing generally for Passport and Visa control) was not applicable to Brenner Pass, Bolzano Province being under AMG control. Therefore, APRM Directive of 15 October 1945 is still being followed, AP's being generally required for travel both ways.

As of 1 Jan. 1946, AMG in Bolzano Province ceased administrative functions. Pubblica Sicurezza have been sent instructions for Passport and Visa control at Brenner to be instituted when further orders are received. A request (hereinafter mentioned) for passenger train service has been made.

Please advise what, if any, changes are to be made in regulation.

2 - DE CONVOYS ENTERING ITALY

Per recent verbal instructions, only Italian Repatriates are accepted in convoys-per lists and per check by Pubblica Sicurezza, except by special permission to be obtained by telephone. This procedure is impractical because (1) non-Italian convoys frequently originate far from the Brenner where advance notice requirement is unknown, and there are no facilities in Innsbruck for care of personnel while waiting for permission (2) advance notice requirement is not always observed, resulting in rejection of convoy and much suffering and administrative inconvenience.

There is a demand for passage of Jews (Polish and otherwise) thru Italy to Palestine, and, occasionally, for repatriation of Greeks, Yugoslavs etc. thru Italy.

DEBSC at Brenner will handle DE's only in regularly constituted convoys, under reasonable sponsorship. They will not handle Italians, stragglers, or persons who have been previously repatriated by them and desire to return. DEBSC is vague as to who are "Responsible Sponsors", but, for example, USHRA is; "Refugee Joint Liaison Committee Innsbruck" is not. DEBSC is also vague as to guarding acceptable convoys. In this Agent's opinion, they will not do so.

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Please advise if Jewish Refugees are currently being accepted in Palestine. May convoys acceptable to DEHSC be accepted and turned over to them under above conditions? If not, what arrangements, if any, may be made for handling non-Italian convoys?

3 - INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICE

This Agent is advised by Austrian and Italian R.M. Officials that at an "International Conference" held in Verona in mid-November 1945 arrangements were made, which have now been completed in detail, for passenger trains across the Brenner. Permission has been requested of this Agent to permit inauguration of this service 7 Jan. 1946. Such permission has not been given pending further developments.

Under current regulations, traffic would be infinitesimal; for practical purposes, APF holders only. However, such trains would bring a flood of would-be crossers to be turned back, thus placing additional strain on limited personnel at the Brenner. However, if Passport control is instituted, some justification would exist.

Please advise (1) of what importance was the "International Railroad Conference" at Verona? (2) should strains be allowed under present regulations? Please discourage. (3) should strains be allowed if and when Passport control is instituted? (4) if so, may responsibility of British Patrol be extended to cover the Railroad for Military personnel?

4 - LAISSEZ-PASSEZ TRAFFIC

With the demise of AMG Bolzano Province, the laissez-passer arrangement between it and Securite Militaire in Innsbruck is automatically terminated. French authorities have proved beyond doubt their unwillingness to abide by limitations laid down under the old arrangement, and this Agent would have little confidence in the responsibility of Italian authorities in this regard. If present DEHQ policy of restricting traffic to a minimum is to be followed, no such arrangement should, in the opinion of this Agent be made in the future, as it is in any event impossible for Brenner Control authorities to determine the importance of commercial ventures involved.

Please advise whether, if this Agent is approached for such a new arrangement (almost a certainty), it should be made. What degree of "discretion" should be employed?

5 - GERMAN PW CONVOYS LEAVING ITALY

Recently, truck convoys by road, averaging perhaps 75 trucks, 200 PW's, and 15 American GI guards, under the control of one or two American Officers have been crossing en route to Bad Aibling, Germany.

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More recently, similar convoys of about 1000 PW's with the same number of Officers and guards in charge, have been crossing by train with the same destination. These PW's are all discharges, and most are anxious to get to Germany. Names and identity documents have been checked against lists, and with surprisingly satisfactory results.

The few PW's who could board the convoys would be apprehended at once in Germany, having no discharge papers. The few who do not want to go, and jump off would shortly wind up in Italian PW camps. Weather and personnel conditions make such checks arduous and time consuming, particularly when convoys arrive at night, as trains frequently do.

Permission is requested to allow such convoys through without check, except to see that no non-PW's are included.

6 - POLISH PERSONNEL

The 20 day period mentioned in verbal instructions under which Polish Civilians could enter Italy on orders from General Anders, has expired. Recent memorandum clarified the status of Polish Military and Red Cross. However, Polish Military being under British control, and British Red Cross being permitted to travel on military orders, please advise whether Polish Red Cross can (like American and British) travel on military orders. Advantages could easily be taken of such a situation. Do Polish civilians now need APP's, or are General Anders' orders still good?

/s/ Alexander R. Lawton 3rd
ALEXANDER R. LAWTON 3rd
Special Agent CIC
Italian Frontier Control

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
LIGURIA LIAISON GROUP
CMF - APO 394

14080/6
10th February, 1946.

REFERENCE: 555.
SUBJECT : French-Italian Frontier Zone.
TO : Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission.
Allied Commission.

1. With reference to the above quoted subject, I attach a copy of a report submitted to the Chief Liaison Officer, Liguria,
2. Submitted for your information.

FOR CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER.

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR	<i>[Signature]</i>	13/2
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	<i>[Signature]</i>	13/2
OFFICER	<i>[Signature]</i>	15/2
SEC.	<i>[Signature]</i>	16/2
CLERK		

J. Kane Maj
J. KANE.
Major.
Public Safety Liaison Officer.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
LIGURIA LIAISON GROUP
C.M.F.

10th February, 1946.

REFERENCE: 501

SUBJECT : Alleged Closing of French Frontier Zone.

TO : Chief Liaison Officer. LIGURIA.

1. With reference to telegram 9/48 from A.C. Hq dated 6 February 46, received in this Office on 10th February 46, in company with yourself I visited the VENTIMIGLIA French-Italian Frontier Zone, on Friday the 2nd and found that the Frontier had NOT been closed and only normal Frontier restrictions were in force.

2. The press announcements to the effect that the Frontier had been closed were apparently due to an order from C.I.C. to the Italian - French Police Agencies on the Frontier to "tighten" the existing regulations.

3. This has been fully reported upon by C.I.C. to No. 2 District and A.F.H.Q.

4. The incidents which have been the subject of press comment and stated to have caused tension in various communes on the Frontier Zone, have been separately reported to you, and consist mainly of writings on walls perpetrated during the night. No demonstrations or political tension is evident.

5. Submitted for your information.

J. KANE.
Major.
Public Safety Liaison Officer.

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
HEADQUARTERS LIGURIA REGION
APO 394
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

BJH/Ls

*File in
Frontier File*

REF : LIG/SAF/555

14 th December 1945

SUBJECT : Police Agents on Frontier Duties.

TO : Director, Public Safety Sub Commission,
Hqs. Allied Commission, APO 394

14080/6

1. Reference message 9181 dated 11 Dec. 45.
2. Attached are Schedules giving strengths and locations of CC.RR., GG.FF. and Agents of P.S. at present performing service on the French/Italian border.

For the Regional Commissioner:

for *N. G. Leach Capt*
B.J. HEFFORD
Lt. Colonel.
Regional Public Safety Officer.

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TO	INIT.	DATE
DIRECTOR		
X DEPUTY DIRECTOR	<i>BJH</i>	<i>14/12</i>
EXEC. OFFICER		
✓ POLICE	<i>BJH</i>	<i>14/12</i>
LIC. & REG.		
PRISONS		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

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Guardie di Finanza STRENGTHS OF FRONTIER GUARDS :

Station	Location	Organic strength	Effective strength at 20.11.1945	Effective strength at 10.11.1945
Airole	Airole	17	14	
Rocchetta Nerv. con 2 distacc.) Testa d'Alpe) Case Calderone)	Rocchetta Nerv.	13 6 6	5 4 4	
Pigna con 1 Distacc.) Margheria dei) Boschi)	Pigna	14 6	14 4	
Piena	Piena	18	7	
Sealza	Sealza	4	4	
Mortola	Mortola	10	8	
Ponte S.Luigi	Ponte S.Luigi	8	12	
Latte	Latte	4	4	
Calvo	Calvo	8	5	
T o t a l e		114	85	

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14 th December 45

Mardie di Finanza STRENGTHS OF FRONTIER GUARDS :

	Organic strength	Effective strength at 20.11.1945	Effective strength at 10.12.1945	Reinforcements to be shortly made
	17	14	14	3
erv.	13	5	5	8
	6	4	6	
	6	4	6	
	14	14	18	
	6	4	6	
	18	7	8	10
	4	4	6	
	10	8	13	
gi	8	12	14	
	4	4	5	
	8	5	7	1
t a l e	 114	85	108	22

414 th

PUBLIC SAFETY AGENTS STRENGTHS OF FRONTIER GUARDS :

Station and Location	Effective Strength
Piena Dogana	1
Ventimiglia Scalo	11
Ponte S.Luigi	5
	Total17
	***=====

14th December 1945

PUBLIC SAFETY AGENTS STRENGTHS OF FRONTIER GUARDS :

	Effective Strength
	1
	11
	5
	Total17

0017

207

CC.RR. STRENGTHS OF FRONTIER GUARDS :

Station and Location	Effective Strength
Posto Fisso Ponte S. Luigi	14
Posto fisso Piena Dogana	11
Stazione Ventimiglia Scalo	20
	Total.....45
	=====

Reinforcements were sent a month ago.
None contemplated in near future.

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14 th December 1945

CC.RR. STRENGTHS OF FRONTIER GUARDS :

Effective Strength	
	14
	11
	20
Total.....	45
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Guardie di Finanza STRENGTHS OF FRONTIER GUARDS

Station	Location	Organic strength	Effective strength at 20.11.1945	Eff at
Airole	Airole	17	14	
Rocchetta Nerv. con 2 distacc.)	Rocchetta Nerv.	13	5	
Testa d'Alpe		6	4	
Case Calderone		6	4	
Pigna con 1 distacc.)	Pigna	14	14	
Margheria dei		6	4	
Boschi				
Piena	Piena	18	7	
Sealza	Sealza	4	4	
Mortola	Mortola	10	8	
Ponte S.Luigi	Ponte S.Luigi	8	12	
Latte	Latte	4	4	
Calvo	Calvo	8	5	
T o t a l e....		114	85	

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14th December 1945

Guardie di Finanza STRENGTHS OF FRONTIER GUARDS :

	Organic strength	Effective strength at 20.11.1945	Effective strength at 10.12.1945	Reinforcements to be shortly made
	17	14	14	3
	13	5	5	8
	6	4	6	
	6	4	6	
	14	14	18	
	6	4	6	
	18	7	8	10
	4	4	6	
	10	8	13	
	8	12	14	
	4	4	5	
	8	5	7	1
total	114	85	108	22

107

14th

PUBLIC SAFETY AGENTS STRENGTHS OF FRONTIER GUARD

Station and Location	Effective Strength
Piena Dogana	1
Ventimiglia Scalo	11
Ponte S. Luigi	5
Total..... 17	

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14th December 1945

PUBLIC SAFETY AGENTS STRENGTHS OF FRONTIER GUARDS :

and Location	Effective Strength
	1
Scalo	11
lgi	5

T o t a l..... 17

CC.RR. STRENGTHS OF FRONTIER GUARDS :

Station and Location	Effective Strength
Posto Fisso Ponte S. Luigi	14
Posto Fisso Piena Dogana	11
Stazione Ventimiglia Scalo	20
Total..... 45	

Reinforcements ~~were~~ sent a month ago.
None contemplated in near future.

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14th December 1945

CC.RR. STRENGTHS OF FRONTIER GUARDS :

on	Effective Strength
. Luigi	14
ogana	11
Scalo	20
	T o t a l..... 45 =====

ent a month ago.
near future.

Guardie di Finanza STRENGTHS OF FRONTIER GUARDS

Station	Location	Organic strength	Effective strength at 20.11.1945	E a
Airole	Airole	17	14	
Rocchetta Nerv. con 2 distacc.)	Rocchetta Nerv.	13	5	
Testa d'Alpe)		6	4	
Case Calderone)		6	4	
Pigna con 1 distacc.)	Pigna	14	14	
Margheria dei)		6	4	
Boschi)				
Piena	Piena	18	7	
Sealza	Sealza	4	4	
Mortola	Mortola	10	8	
Ponte S. Luigi	Ponte S. Luigi	8	12	
Latte	Latte	4	4	
Calvo	Calvo	8	5	
T o t a l e....		114	85	

207

14th december 1945

Guardie di Finanza STRENGTHS OF FRONTIER GUARDS :

Organic strength	Effective strength at 20.11.1945	Effective strength at 10.12.1945	Reinforcements to be shortly made
17	14	14	3
13	5	5	8
6	4	6	
6	4	6	
14	14	18	
6	4	6	
18	7	8	10
4	4	6	
10	8	13	
8	12	14	
4	4	5	
8	5	7	1
total 114	85	108	22

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

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14th

PUBLIC SAFETY AGENTS STRENGTHS OF FRONTIER GUARD

Station and Location	Effective Strength
Fiena Dogana	1
Ventimiglia Scalo	11
Ponte S. Luigi	5
Total..... 17	

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14th December 1945

PUBLIC SAFETY AGENTS STRENGTHS OF FRONTIER GUARDS :

Location	Effective Strength
	1
o	11
	5
	T o t a l 17
	=====

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CO.RR. STRENGTHS OF FRONTIER GUARDS :

Station and Location	Effective Strength
Posto Fisso Ponte S. Luigi	14
Posto Fisso Piena Dogana	11
Stazione Ventimiglia Scalo	20
	<u>Total..... 45</u>

Reinforcements were sent a month ago.
None contemplated in near future.

207

14th December 1945

CC.ER. STRENGTHS OF FRONTIER GUARDS :

	Effective Strength
Luigi	14
ana	11
alo	20
T o t a l..... 45	

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ar future.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
Travel Control Division
APO. 394, US Army.

GBI.389-506/60

13 December 1945.

SUBJECT: B.S. on frontiers.

TO : Col. BYE, D/Director Public Safety.

1. The following list comprises the number of P.S. men and their location as of 1 October 1945:

Ventimiglia	10
Port San Luigi	3
San Dalmazzo di Tenda	3
Saluzzo	6
Susa	5
Bardonecchia	14 ³⁷
Como frontier Zone	5
Chiasso	28
Como San Giovanni	15
Oria	8
Domodossola Town	6
"	26
Canobbio Lago Maggiore	5
Ponte Tresa	7
Porto Ceresio Lago Maggiore	11
Luino	14
Tirano	7
Chiavenna	7
Brennero	8

2. The attached letter of 24 September 1945 indicates the number of men called up additionally to bring the P.S. up to full strength.

3. The undersigned is awaiting a reply from Milan as to the numbers of P.S. men on duty as of 1 December 1945.

James T.O. Braaflett
JAMES T.O. BRAAFLETT
Captain, M.I.

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