

ACC

10000/143/1061

VISIT OF MR. ST
FEB.-JULY 1946

10000/143/1061

VISIT OF MR. STOKES TO 'R' CIVILIAN INTERNEE CAMP
FEB.-JULY 1946

Chief Commissioner.

Attached is submitted for your ^{information} approval
signature

7A+7B
E.C. The situation ^{TR/13/3}
is not as clear cut, however, as GZ says ⁰⁹²⁶
^{TR (13/3)} ^{MS CL}

MAR 14 RECD

MINUTES

D/OE Pub. SAE 3-14

6

Please see 7A and enclosure.

11/3.

Allen Capt.

Ex Comm. then C.A.S. MC. 123, 1213.

7.

7th and 713 is submitted for information.

03/14/13

E. J. Dye. Colonel.

11.3.46

CHS MD

File returned. Seen by C.C. & C.C.

10/10

14
3

0510

Ex Comm.
then C.A.S. MC. 123 14.12.13.

7th and 7B is submitted for information. ^{08.12.13}

E. J. Dye. Colonel.

11.3.46

CHS M.D.
File returned. Seen by C.C. & C.C.
[Signature] ¹⁴/₃

3510

Minute Sheet

- 1 -

Executive Commissioner.
(thru C.A. Section).

Please see 1A. The Chief of Staff asks that any points, connected with the camp, which Mr. Stokes may wish to raise be taken up with AFHQ. He also asked that a report giving full details leading up to Mr. Stokes' visit be submitted to him. May details be given please? AFHQ has no objection to Mr. Stokes' visit on Friday, 22nd February 1946 and arrangements will be made for Major Harvey, Security Division, to be present during the inspection.

20 February 1946.
Ext. 580.

Refund as drafted.

W/2/12.

E. J. Byrnes
E.J. BYRNES, Col,
Dep. Director,
Public Safety S/C.

- 2 -

Executive Commissioner.
(thru C.A. Section) *W/2/12.*

5A is submitted for information, please. It includes full details of Mr. Stokes' visit and the draft at 3A has been repeated as directed.

25 February 1946.
Ext. 580. *pp*

E. J. Byrnes
E.J. BYRNES, Col,
Dep. Director,
Public Safety S/C.

C. 580.

3.

*Send Mr Stokes' report to G-2 in confidence -
of G-5 & explain that he was at the suggestion -*

11/3.

E. J. BYR, Col,
Dep. Director,
Public Safety S/C.

Lt. Col. B. J. B. Col,
Dep. Director,
Public Safety S/C.

SECRET

70.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
APO 512, U.S. Army

GBI.389.605-A

7 March 1946

SUBJECT: Visit to "H" Internee Camp.

TO : HQ Allied Commission
Public Safety Sub-Commission
Security Division, APO 394

6A
Reference your AC/14340/75 dated 28 Feb 46. 76

Attached for your information is a copy of the letter (ref GBI.389.605-A dated 5 March 1946) under cover of which the report by Mr. STOKES on his visit to "H" Camp referred to in the a/q letter, was forwarded to DMI, War office (M.I. 5).

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

on Young - Lt Col. 93
C.R. TUFF
Colonel, GS,
D/AC of S, G-2

JLC/r1b

SECRET

11/3
35709

SECRETCOPY

7B

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff G-2
Apo 512, U.S. Army

CBI.389.605-A

5 March, 1946

SUBJECT: Visit to 'R' Camp by
Mr. R. STOKES, M.P.

TO : Director of Military Intelligence
War Office (M.I.5.)
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

Reference your signal 98610 undated and further to
this HQ's CBI.389.605-A dated 25 Feb. 1946.

1. Attached herewith is a copy of a report written by Mr. R. STOKES, M.P. on his visit to 'R' Civilian Internee Camp, which has just been received by this HQ from Allied Commission.
2. With reference to para 5, Mr. STOKES' allegations that there are nearly 600 persons who have had no interrogation of any kind since entering 'R' Camp, may be true, but it is pointed out that no person is committed to internment without previous interrogation by Security authorities. These interrogations are in fact the basis on which the disposition of the subject is made.
3. Over 95% of the internees in 'R' Camp are either GIB officials or GIB agents, for whom the following procedure is carried out. On arrest, the person concerned is handed over to a GI Agency (SOI 2, RSE, CIO, OSDIC etc) for interrogation. The interrogation report is forwarded to this HQ (or formerly, 15 AG) who then decide if the individual is to be interned as a security danger or if other disposal is to be made.
4. It follows that all the GIB officials or agents in 'R' Camp have been interrogated before internment and that authorization for internment has been made on the basis of interrogation reports.
5. Recently reference has been made to the combined Chiefs of Staff in WASHINGTON requesting a relaxation of their policy governing the internment of minor GIB agents. Should this relaxation be approved, it is confirmed that some 500 internees will automatically qualify for release.

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6. In view of the fact that releases have occurred constantly in the past, it has not been thought politic for security reasons to provide written statements to detainees as to the reason for which they are being held. Since 95% of these persons are as stated above either GDS officials or agents, it is considered that the claim that 'they do not have the slightest idea why they are inside' is quite unfounded.

7. It is pointed out that these persons are detained by Allied authorities because in the view of the Allied Military Commander they would constitute a menace to the security of both British and American forces if released. It is considered unfortunate that an M.P. visiting the country for a short period should express views so much at variance with those of the competent authorities.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2.

G.H. THOMPSON,
Colonel, G.S.,
D/AS of S, G-2.

CCT/

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SECRET

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6A

Ref: AC/14340/PS.

28 February 1946.

SUBJECT: Visit to "R" Civilian Internee Camp.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters.
G-2 Section.
Attn: Lt. Col. D.A.D. Young).

ME

SR

1. In continuation of my letter SD/14340/PS of 23rd February, I forward a report written by Mr. R. STOKES, MP, on his visit to EKREI Camp.

2. My letter under reference gave a slightly wrong impression as to the origin of Mr. Stokes' visit. I understand that he was not definitely asked by the British Legation to the Holy See but it was suggested to him at the Legation that it might be a good thing for him to visit the camp.

For the Chief Commissioner:

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner,

MSL/30.

*Copies to: Chief Com.
to Com.*

3546

SECRET.Report on Visit to TERMI Detained Persons Camp on 22 Feb 46.

I visited the Camp on Friday, 22 Feb 46, accompanied by Major Harvey. We arrived about 10.30 a.m. and concluded our visit at 2.30 p.m. The Camp Commandant, Colonel Cheuld, and his staff provided me with every facility to visit all parts of the camp and subsequently arranged an interview with the Camp leaders of the Men and Women sections respectively.

1. So far as the Camp itself is concerned I am satisfied that within the prevailing physical limitations all reasonable care is taken to see after the physical well being of the detained persons. The camp was clean and food good. I consider, however, that much more should be done to provide work, as beyond that found for some four or five hundred of the total of 1,500 in camp duties there is very little for the detained persons to do. This is bad for morale in every sense of the word.

2. From conversations with the leaders I learned that few of the Yugoslavs wish to go back to YUGOSLAVIA and none of the Germans to the Russian occupied zone of GERMANY. Presumably when released they will be transferred to D.P. Camps or given reasonable facilities for settling elsewhere. The Italian leader stated that one and all of the Italians wanted to get back to their families as soon as possible and help reconstruct ITALY.

3. Anxiety was expressed with regard to the problem of reattaching themselves, when released, to the personal goods and furniture left behind them when first detained. Presumably arrangements will be made so that they can go back to the town or village inhabited at the time of detention for this purpose.

4. The Camp leaders made no complaint about camp conditions and I congratulated the Commandant and staff for the high standard maintained under difficult circumstances. I repeat something should be done to keep the detained persons occupied.

5. Now I come to a most serious matter. Although the war against ITALY ended eighteen months ago and that against GERMANY nine months ago there are still nearly six hundred people - about 500 men and 80 women - who have had no interrogation of any kind since entering their place of detention - and none of them has been detained much less than nine months; many as much as eighteen. When I look back on the appalling injustices that were inflicted on persons detained under Regulation 18 B in ENGLAND owing to the incompetence of M.I.5 I am shocked at the apparent indifference of the Military Authorities to the injustices that may still be continuing owing to their failure promptly to examine each person individually. It all savours too much of the OGPU and Gestapo systems and will without doubt be so regarded by the 354

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Italians for generations to come. I gathered that about half of the total number now detained will be let out in the immediate future but this will still leave six or seven hundred persons "inside," many of whom have wives and children dependent on them, not one of whom has any written statement whatever as to the reasons for detention, many of whom claim to have not the slightest idea as to why they have been detained and some of whom have never even been interrogated. I consider this disgraceful and that prompt steps should be taken to rectify it.

The argument that six hundred of them are known to have been enemy agents counts for nothing; how many mistakes were made under 18 B and how easy in foreign countries are cases of mistaken identity.

The argument that many of them though harmless now cannot be let out because their release might interfere with the rounding up of other members of the German espionage organization seems to me equally futile; the war is over and to advance this argument savours of a desire to keep jobs going in the Army.

It is probable that not more than 40 or 50 of those now in the camp should be continued in detention and the rest let out. I trust that prompt action will be taken now by the Military Authorities to put right what appears to me to be a condition of things quite contrary to British justice which if allowed to continue may well have most disagreeable political repercussions in the future and which in any event must tend to embitter rather than improve relations between Italian and British.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

CONFIDENTIAL

REF : SD/14340/PS
SUBJECT : Visits to "R" Civilian Internee Camp.
TO : G-2 Section A.M.H.Q.
(Attn Lt. Col. D.A.D. Young)

23 February 1945.

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1. Reference cable P.X. 61176 21 February 1945.
2. Mr R.R. STOKES, Socialist Member of Parliament for Ipswich, is in Italy representing the Roman Catholic Members of Parliament at the ceremonies held in the Vatican this week in connection with the appointment of the new Cardinals.

3. He has inspected various displaced persons camps throughout Europe and is politically interested in the liberty of the individual.

4. Mr Stokes was asked by H.M. Legation to the Holy See to visit the camp. He asked about permission and understood later from the Legation that permission had been granted. He therefore made plans to go.

5. Hearing of this Brigadier Lush instructed Public Safety Sub Commission to check with the Legation and AFHQ as to whether G-2 had actually given permission and to obtain it if it had not already been given. He warned Mr Stokes that he might not achieve entrance unless AFHQ had in fact given permission but Mr Stokes decided to go to AFHQ on the chance that permission would have been obtained before he arrived. In fact the permission arrived just as he was leaving without entering the actual camp.

6. Arrangements were later made for him to visit the camp on 22 Feb. He was accompanied throughout the latter visit by Major Harvey, Security Division, and thoroughly inspected Camp, expressing himself well satisfied with the physical and general conditions of the camp and the internees.

7. He was told that the camp was under the control of G.H.Q. who wished to be informed of any observation he had to make. He said he would probably be unable to visit G.H.Q. personally, but that he was very interested in whether it was essential to keep so many people detained at the present time.

8. He was told that it was entirely a matter for G.H.Q. who were the judges of military security. The working of the review board system was explained to him, and that persons were, in fact, constantly being

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8. He was told that it was entirely a matter for G.H.Q. who were the judges of military security. The working of the review board system was explained to him, and that persons were, in fact, constantly being released.
9. Mr Stokes said he wished to speak to one or two of the internees and he was allowed to see the leaders of the male and female sections. Major Harvey was present throughout. He asked questions on the duration of the stay of the internees; did they know of the charges against them; had they been informed of such in writing; had they been interrogated; had they appeared before a tribunal etc. He was interested in the number of nationals other than Italian and if they wished to go back to their own countries.

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10. The only other internee to whom he spoke was Count SALAZAR, while inspecting the male hospital block he asked if there was an internee of that name, and as the inspection was at that moment passing the room where Salazar was in bed, he asked and received permission to speak to him. In the full hearing of everyone present he asked the same questions as in paragraph 9 and also asked about Salazar's nationality.

11. The only other thing Mr Stokes asked was to see a specimen of the arrest report showing brief details of the circumstances of arrest. Certain specimens selected by Lt. Col. Chadd (and not including Salazar) were shown to him.

12. Great interest was shown by the internees, and those who are released in the future will probably think they have him to thank.

13. Mr Stokes was informed that the points he raised would be reported to G.H.Q. It would perhaps be as well if the impression he received from Catholic circles in Rome and from the internees themselves could be considered at the same time as the official military viewpoint.

E. J. Stokes
 JOHN E. STOKES
 Colonel, J.A.C.D.
 Director Public Safety
 Sub Commission

SJH/lm

Copy to : "R" Civilian Internee Camp.

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INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: FX 61176Message Centre No: G/9595Date/Time of Origin: FEB. 20 1910ADate Time Rec'd: FEB. 20 0900APrecedence: OP PRIORITYFROM: AFHQ FROM A BRANCH CMFTO : ALCOM ROME FOR SECURITY DIVISION INFO DISTHREE 61 AREA R INTERNEE CAMP**RESTRICTED.**

Reference verbal request today for MR Stokes member of Parliament to visit 'R' civilian internee camp. Authority for visit on 22 February is granted. Officer of security division will accompany. Please issue necessary passes on this authority. Should be informed that camp is under control this GHQ and consequently that we would like to be informed of any observation he has to make. Understand Stokes went to Terni today under impression that authority has been granted. No authority requested from AFHQ. Please investigate thoroughly and report source of alleged authority. Please convey to MR Stokes regret of GHQ at any inconvenience caused coordinated with G-2.

AC DIST

ACTION SECURITY DIV
INFO CHIEF COMMISSIONER
FILE 2
FLOAT

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21 FEB 1946

RESTRICTED2321/2
3305

DRAFT.

4 Mr. Stokes was asked by H.M. Legation to the Holy See to visit the camp. He asked about permission and understood later from the Legation that permission had been granted. He therefore made plans to go.

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2^AVisit of Mr Stokes to Tenn.

The position is that Major Utley has informed the CO of the Camp at Tenn that he will bring Mr Stokes there tomorrow morning ^(about 10 am) but the CO has not yet AFHQ approval for him to inspect. He has an officer visiting AFHQ however, and will phone him in the morning. He does not anticipate difficulties.

In addition Capt Ellis will phone AFHQ direct at 8 am tomorrow. Cannot get authority tonight.

Major Sherry will leave for Tenn at 7:30 am and will be there before Mr Stokes' arrival.

3530

J. H. H. H.
M. J.9:15 pm
19.2.46

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

REF : SD/550.03

20 February 1946

SUBJECT : Visit of Mr. Stokes M.P. to "R" Civilian Internee Camp

TO : D/Director Public Safety Sub Commission

1. No communication was received by this Division regarding the above on 19 February 1946.
2. In accordance with your instructions I telephoned G-2 (CI) AFHQ at 820 hours today, 20 February and spoke to Lt. Col. D.A.D. YOUNG. I asked if G-2 had given approval for Mr. Stokes MP to visit "R" Civilian Internee Camp. Lt. Col. YOUNG informed me that so far as he knew authority had not been given.
3. At 0900 hours Lt. Col. YOUNG told me the matter was one for the decision of the Chief of Staff and this would be made known to this Division as soon as possible.
4. At 0955 hours G-2 (CI) telephoned the following:-
The Chief of Staff has instructed that Mr. Stokes MP will be permitted to enter "R" Internee Camp. Any points he wishes to raise will be passed to this Hq., as the camp is under AFHQ Command. A full reporting giving details leading up to this visit is requested and should be submitted to G-2 (CI) for attention of Lt. Col. D.A.D. YOUNG.
5. At request of AFHQ I informed the Commandant of "R" Internee Camp of the Chief of Staff's decision at about 1015 hours. Difficulty was experienced in telephoning Terni.
6. Mr. Stokes arrived at "R" Internee Camp at about 0945 hours and left again at 1015 hours without making an inspection as authority had not then been received. He is returning on Friday.

AHE/nb

A.H. Ellis
A.H. ELLIS,
Captain,
Security Division.

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