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

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FIRE SERVICES, ROME COLUMN
MAY, JUN. 1944

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June 1, 1944

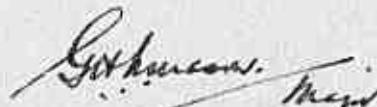
3A

Reported by Ing. Felsani of Naples that the Mobile Column has been disembarked at Anzio and has proceeded to Littoria.
 At Littoria the Fire Station is intact and the comandante and some 20 men were there.
 The Germans had taken all the trucks and cars and had smashed the pumps and other appliances.
 It is not yet known if they have smashed the appliances at ROMA but they are reported to have taken the trucks and cars.
 Ing. Bontè who was until recently comandante of Rome has now gone to the Ministry at VERONA.
 His place has been taken by MAGGIOTTI Vitto who is said to be a lukewarm Fascist.



G. H. L. MASON, Major
 Fire & C.D. Section.

Reported by Ing. Felsani that Rome Fire Service is intact except for some cars & trucks which were removed.
 The Mobile Column from Naples can be released for return to Naples.
 A fair supply of uniforms is available at Rome.


 12/6/44

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission

Folio for action/information

C.P.S.....

D.C.P.S.....

Ex. Officer.....

Police.....

~~Fire & C.D.~~.....

Regn. & Licensing.....

Adm..Officer.....

REMARKS... See endorsement on
1A

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PH 15/5

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

May 10, 1944

SUBJECT : Fire Fighting Column - ROME

TO : D.C.P.S.

At a conference held at this HQ today between Maj. Collins (C.A.S.) Capt. Brannigan (Reg. III) and Maj. Mason the following points emerged:

1. The column was arranged without consultation with Reg. III from whose territory the men and appliances were being drawn.
2. A certain number of tyres and batteries were supplied but nothing else except rations and blankets.
3. Nothing further was done by the Fire officer responsible to check up the state of the appliances.
4. An inspection was called for the morning of May 6th. As the Generals Johnstone and Hume had not arrived by late lunch time the parade was dismissed by Capt. Hott. The Generals arrived after lunch but only saw a few odd firemen, some of whom had been working on damaged buildings and were dirty and unshaven.
5. The vehicles are not in good condition and it is unlikely that they would reach Rome.
6. No vehicles of sufficient reliability for the task exist in Southern Italy. Many tyres, batteries, spare parts etc., would be needed to render vehicles anything like sufficiently good.

The undermentioned facts were pointed out:

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2. A certain number of blankets.

3. Nothing further was done by the Fire officer responsible to check up the state of the appliances.

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The undermentioned facts were pointed out:

1. The column is a responsibility of Region IV, C.A.S and Army.
2. Region III is helping by supplying the personnel and housing the vehicles.
3. Region IV should have checked the vehicles regularly, provided uniforms for the personnel and spare parts etc., for the vehicles.

The following advice and recommendations were made:

1. C.A.S. should ask AAI to provide a minimum of equipment etc., as under at once:

- 8 Medium Trailer Pumps (with hose etc.)
- 8 Weapons Carrier (or similar) as towing vehicles.
- 8 Water Tankers
- 3 Large Trucks for personnel, Rations and blankets.

Uniforms and boots for personnel.

2. When type of appliance is known, the officer in charge will inform Capt. Brannigan (Reg. III) of the type and Capt. Brannigan will arrange to have the personnel commence training on this equipment at once.

3. Region III, now being in the picture, will assist in any way possible.

4. At a later stage, when the Army has finished with the column the responsibility for it will fall on Region IV AMG.

After that it will be the responsibility of the Italian Govt. through AOC.

The final disposal of the equipment will have to be dealt with later but it will have to be accounted for by the various authorities mentioned above.

Maj. Collins and Capt. Brannigan are both quite clear on these matters and provided prompt action in taken as indicated the situation can be cleared up fairly soon.

This HQ is anxious to assist in any further way possible.

G. H. Mason Major

G. H. MASON, Major
Fire & C.D.

10/5/44

N.B. The following is the scale of uniforms that should be provided for each fireman:-

- 1 Battle dress blouse.
- 1 " " trousers
- 1 Shirt.
- 1 pair Boots
- 2 pairs socks.

through ACC.

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From: P. S. Sub-Comm., ACC Salerno.

To : Regions 3 & 4.
Chief of Public Safety, Fifth Army (CAS)

Forwarded for your information.

It will be appreciated if this Sub-Commission can be informed of any developments.

*Major Mason. I do not want to interfere
this report. Will you please keep in touch
with the fire officers concerned and see that
they are kept in know of developments. P.S.
14 May 44*

A. E. YOUNG, Colonel,
Deputy Chief, Public
Safety Sub-Commission.

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11 May 1944.

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

ACC/14502/PS

May 12, 1944

SUBJECT : Mobile Fire Fighting Column for Rome.

TO : D.C.P.S.

As requested I have prepared a statement on the "history of this column"

1. Whilst I was on tour in January, Major Shepherd with Major Lothian visited the Naples Fire Station and arranged with the Commandante to have standing by the following personnel and appliances as a mobile column to go to Rome.

3 Officers
1 Warrant officer
20 Drivers
4 Special Service men
100 firemen
10 pumps and Fire Fighting vehicles.
1 Motor cycle

Emergency rations were drawn and held and, I think, blankets.

Region III were not consulted or informed of this action.

There is nothing on the files about this except a note in my own writing dated 11 Feb. (308 14502/PS) listing the above details and expressing views on the matter of appliances etc.

2. In, I think, March, I learned accidentally that some generals were to inspect the column and I personally informed Lt.Col. Francis of Region III, who attended the inspection. The generals were late in arriving and Col. Francis inspected the Column and

- 1 Warrant Officer
- 20 Drivers
- 4 Special Service men
- 100 firemen
- 10 pumps and fire fighting vehicles.
- 1 Motor cycle

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2. In, I think, March, I learned accidentally that some generals were to inspect the column and I personally informed Lt. Col. Francis of Region III, who attended the inspection. The generals were late in arriving and Col. Francis inspected the Column and dismissed the personnel. It is possible that Lt. Col. Francis may have been officially informed of the inspection but I was not.

3. From this time nothing was heard until I decided to add to the Column 20 ex-Rome firemen to act as guides. This was done on 18th April (see 36A, 37B 14502/PS) and all parties were formed as per distribution list. It was understood that Capt. Hott was in charge of the Column.

4. Since then until Lt. Col. Pollock's telephone call on 9th May nothing has been reported. I was not informed of the proposed inspection by Gen. Johnstone and Brig. Gen. Hume on May 6th. I am of opinion that Region III was not informed either.

5. On receipt of Col. Pollock's message that Maj. Collins would be coming to see me on May 10th, I telephoned Capt. Brannigan of Region III to attend. This he did.
6. Thence onward is covered by the attached report of the Conference.
7. It was agreed that this HQ and Region III should be kept informed by Maj. Collins of any action taken and that Maj. Collins and Capt. Brannigan should proceed on the lines indicated.
8. Rome will no doubt be classified as an "A" class area under Operational Memo. 40 AFHQ so that the responsibility for the provision of the appliances would be that of the Military in any case.
There can be little doubt that the suggested course is the quickest and best one and the action will be best taken by CAS direct-with AAI.
This was the advice given by myself to Maj. Collins and provided we are kept informed of what transpires and give general approval I feel we have fulfilled our part in the matter.
Certainly the conference set matters on the right lines.

G. H. Mason

G. H. MASON, Major
Wire & C.D.

Maj's hear

*seen. In future I will be in the sub. command
is correct its policy in all matters affecting his V.C.D. and all
other matters is done which does not require our approval.
The letter to Reg III is quite happy about the present
arrangement.*

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G. H. Mason

G. H. MASON, Major
Fire & C.D.

Major's hour

Seen. In future I will be up as the sub. commander is wanted for policy in all matters affecting his C.O. and all other working is done which does not require our approval. I think later in the Reg III is quite happy about the present arrangement.

aby.

14 May 44.

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