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

785016

ACC

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ARMING OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINEMEN
APR., MAY 1944

REAR HEAD, UNITED
 STATES COMMISSION
 Public Safety Sub-Commission
 ACC 194

May 27, 1944

ACC/14757/1/25

SUBJECT : Arming of Telecommunication Linemen

TO : Under Secretary of State
 for Telecommunications and Posts.

With reference to your letter of the 13 March 1944, addressed to HQ ACCP on the subject of arming telephone telegraph linemen, and to letter 15/427/7 dated 14 May 1944, from the Director, Communication Sub-Commission ACC.

It has now been agreed that in Military Government territory Regional Commissioners will give favorable consideration to application for permits to carry firearms by these agents for the purpose of carrying out their duties, subject to local conditions.

Since licenses to carry weapons in Italian Government territory are authorized by the Statute no doubt you will issue instruction in similar terms through Italian Government channels.

This Sub-Commission would be glad to receive a copy of any instructions which you may issue regarding Italian Government territory.

W. E. Young

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

Copy to: Communication Sub-Comm.

information to apply for permits to carry weapons. These agents for the purpose of carrying out their duties, subject to local conditions.

Since licenses to carry weapons in Italian Government territory are authorized by the Government no doubt you will issue instructions in similar terms through Italian Government channels.

This Sub-Commission would be glad to receive a copy of any instructions which you may issue regarding Italian Government territory.

Walter Way

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

Copy to: Communication Sub-Comm.

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26 MAG 1944

14757/1.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
APO 394

Admin. Section
for 5401

Public Safety

2 signed

and

5-A

24 May 1944

4A refers

Ref/700/11/CA

SUBJECT: Arming of Tele. Com. Linemen.

TO : R.C.'s Regions I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII and IX.
S.C.A.O.'s 5th & 8th Armies.

1. Representations have been made by the Italian Government for permission to re-issue arms to telephone and telegraph linemen in order to prevent sabotage, theft of wire, etc., which is causing serious threat to communications.

2. In AMG territory, Regional Commissioners should give favorable consideration to issuing permits to carry firearms for such duties, subject to local conditions.

3. In Italian Government territory the Italian Government has given similar instructions to Prefects.

M. S. Lush
M.S. LUSH
Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

Copy to:

Admin. Section (3) (for Public Safety Sub-Commission)
Communications Sub-Commission.

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785016

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission

ACC/14757/1/PS

23 May 1944

SUBJECT : Re-arming of Telecommunication Linemen

TO : Executive Commissioner (Through VP Adm Sec)

3A

1. Reference is made to RC & MC Section 700/4/CA of 20 May 1944. The four points mentioned are dealt with as follows.

2. As to (a) - It is considered that the arming of these linemen would not create an undesirable precedent. Prior to the Allied occupation, the State Telecommunication Service was attached to the Italian Army and was armed. The personnel are capable of carrying arms without endangering other persons.

3. As to (b) - Numerous instances of theft of telephone wires and cables have been reported. On one occasion in Sicily, suspended wire to the weight of 11 tons was cut and removed. The main operational cable was cut on another occasion and a 260 yard stretch of 14 wires removed. Hundreds of yards of wire have been removed from civilian routes carrying military circuits.

On the mainland, many of the Chief Signal Officers of Military Districts 1, 2 and 3 could give numerous instances of thefts of cable. In a period of one week 15 cases were reported by 57 Sub-Area and 3 by 94 Sub-Area. The Military are unable to provide sufficient guards for Vulnerable Points, and a detachment of Military Police dogs is being brought into use. In one week, Military Guards killed four persons, wounded one and captured eleven, all Italians.

4. As to (c) - The principal safeguard against the arms being used illegally, is the fact that they would be carried by persons of responsibility. The State Telecommunications Service is a pensionable body and before workers are employed by such an important national service, their bona-fides are carefully checked.

The inspection of arms and checking of ammunition could properly be carried out by the officials of the Service, dependent on the issuing authority. This would be a matter for the Italian Government.

5. As to (d) - The Italian Government have issued no instructions

cables have been reported. On one occasion in Italy, cables to the weight of 1 1/2 tons was cut and removed. The main operational cable was cut on another occasion and a 260 yard stretch of 14 wires removed. Hundreds of yards of wire have been removed from civilian routes carrying military circuits.

On the Mainland, any of the Chief Signal Officers of Military Districts 1, 2 and 3 could give numerous instances of thefts of cable. In a period of one week 15 cases were reported by 57 Sub-Areas and 3 by 94 Sub-Areas. The Military are unable to provide sufficient guards for Vulnerable Points, and a detachment of Military Police dogs is being brought into use. In one week, Military Guards killed four persons, wounded one and captured eleven, all Italians.

4. As to (a) - The principal safeguard against the arms being used illegally, is the fact that they would be carried by persons of responsibility. The State Telecommunications Service is a pensionable body and before workers are employed by such an important national service, their bona-fides are carefully checked.

The inspection of arms and checking of ammunition could properly be carried out by the officials of the Service, dependent on the issuing authority. This would be a matter for the Italian Government.

5. As to (d) - The Italian Government have issued no instructions to Prefects. This matter will be dealt with if an instruction in the terms of the Draft submitted be issued to Regional Commissioners.

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

Copy sent to U.L. Admin
dy

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

2 May 1944
(date)

FROM	TO
Chief Commissioner	
Dep. Chief Commissioner	
Dep. Secretary General	
R.C. & M. G. Section	
Political Section	
✓ Administrative Section	
Education	
Interior	
Legal	
Monument, Fine Arts	
Property Control	
Public Health	
Public Safety	✓
Economic Section	
Agriculture	
Finance	
Industry & Commerce	
Labor	
Army	
Communications	
Navy	
War Materials	
G - 1	
G - 4	
Hq 2675th Regt	
Hq Comdt (Main)	
Hq Comdt (Rear)	
Adjutant (Main)	
Adjutant (Rear)	
Det Hq & Hq Co	
O.C. British Det	
Translators Pool	
Civil Censorship Group	
Medical Officer	
Security Officer	
Transportation Officer	

FOR:

Signature _____
 Remarks/Recommendation _____
 Information & Return _____
 Approval/Disapproval _____
 Appropriate Action _____ ✓
 Investigation & Report _____ 7

REMARKS: Request your work reply thru
 this section (Pl attach file
 therewith)
 M.D.

(Initials)

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 394

Regional Control and Military Government Section.
+++++

Ref: 700/4/CA.

14757/1 (3A)
20th May 1944.

SUBJECT: Re-arming of Telecommunication Linesmen.

TO : Vice President,
Administrative Section.

2A
1. I refer to ACC/14757/1/PS of 13.May.44, enclosing a draft letter to Regional Commissioners for the Executive Commissioner's signature, regarding the re-arming of linesmen.

2. The following points occur to me and I should be grateful for your comments:-

- (a) This may create an undesirable precedent.
- (b) What evidence is there of "a serious threat to communications"?
- (c) HQ AAI say they are content from a security point of view but what safeguards are there in regard to the arms being used illegally and who will inspect them and check the ammunition?
- (d) Have the Italian Government issued instructions to Prefects to issue the arms or have they left it to the discretion of Prefects?

Norman E. Fiske
NORMAN E. FISKE,
Colonel, Deputy
Chief Commissioner.

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

ACC/14757/1/PS

May 13, 1944

SUBJECT : Re-Arming of Telecommunications Linemen.

TO : Executive Commissioner.

1. Representation has been made by the Italian Government that the telephone and telegraph linemen be allowed to carry firearms, as a means of preventing thefts of wire, etc., from lines. Previous to the Allied invasion of Italy, these men were so armed.

2. The Director, Communication Sub-Commission has received information from HQ., AAI. (GI-E) that there is no objection on "security" grounds to the men being re-armed, provided that each person carrying a firearm obtains the necessary permit.

3. The actual provision of the weapons would be left to the Italian Government.

4. It is recommended that an instruction, in the terms of the Draft attached, be issued to Regional Commissioners.

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

Recommended
Submitted: *R. J. Gipe*
V.P. Admin. Section.

2. The Director, Communication Sub-Commission has received information from Hq. AAI. (CI-B) that there is no objection on "security" grounds to the man being re-armed, provided that each person carrying a firearm obtains the necessary permit.

3. The actual provision of the weapons would be left to the Italian Government.

4. It is recommended that an instruction, in the terms of the Draft attached, be issued to Regional Commissioners.

Alleging

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

Recommended
Submitted: *R. R. Gripe* for
V.P. Admin. Section.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
RC & MG SECTION
APO 394

July 26

May 13, 1944

SUBJECT : Arming of Tele. Com. Linemen.

TO : Regional Commissioners.

1. Representations have been made by the Italian Government for permission to re-issue arms to telephone and telegraph linemen in order to prevent sabotage, theft of wire, etc., which is causing a serious threat to communications.

2. In AMG territory, Regional Commissioners should give favourable consideration to issuing permits to carry firearms for such duties, subject to local conditions.

3. In ACC territory the Italian Government has given similar instructions to Prefects.

M. S. LUSH
Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

HTWM/epc

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

8th May. 1944.

In reply
refer to: TS/4/17/6

Subject : Arming of Telecommunications Linemen.

To : Public Safety Sub-Commission A.C.C.Rear.

To see the attached correspondence. It is proposed to ask the Italian Government to make direct application to the Provincial Commissioner's concerned for the permits. Perhaps therefore if you agree you would suitably instruct the P.C's to issue them.

V. J. L. Henderson
V. J. L. HENDERSON
Colonel

Director, Communications Sub-Commission

785016

C O P Y

SUBJECT:- Arming of Telecommunications Linemen. 1B

Headquarters
Allied Armies in Italy

R E S T R I C T E D

COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMISSION
A.C.C.

AAI/1465/4/GI(b)

6 May 44.

Ref your TS/4/17/3 dated 2 May, 1944.

There is no security objection to the arming of telecommunications linemen, provided in each case the necessary AMG permit is obtained, which authorises the bearer to carry firearms.

/s/ Young
for/ Brigadier,
B.G.S. (I).

RTW/epc

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HEAD HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

24 April, 1944

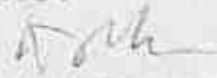
In reply
refer to: TS/4/14/52

Subject : Revolvers for Telecommunications Linemen.

To : HQ. Allied Armies in Italy (Security)

1. Previous to the Allied invasion of Italy telephone and telegraph linemen carried revolvers. This was necessary to prevent thefts of wire, etc. from lines. At present theft has been rendered comparatively easy by the amount of lines not yet repaired.
2. It is known that Sabotage is occurring frequently on Allied and Italian lines in a number of areas, and it is thought that the arming of the linemen would assist considerably in its reduction, especially as Allied military guards cannot be provided in sufficient numbers.
3. The Italian Government wished these men to be rearmed, and it is strongly recommended that permission be given if there be no Security objection.
4. The actual provision of the weapons would be left to the Italian Government.

For the Chief Commissioner:


J.L. HENDERSON
Colonel

Director, Communications Sub-Commission

~~AMC~~H.Q. OFFICEINSTRUCTIONS

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