

A PSA Coal fields

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FILE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Transportation Sub-commission

JWB/bjs

2

Tel. 478704

5th July 1945

477/2/Tn.3

SUBJECT. Istrian Peninsula - Arsa coalfields

TO. Commerce Sub-commission (Coal Division)

Handwritten signature/initials

1. Ref your AC/CD/120.2/Commerce, dated 2nd July, and conversation (Oxley - Baker) of 5th July 1945.

2. So far as this Sub-commission is concerned, it will be necessary to arrange for a Transportation Officer assigned to A.M.G. XIII Corps to attend any joint recon which may take place.

3. It is understood that Economic Section are making arrangements for a Port Construction engineer to attend.

For the Director

Handwritten signature of J.W. Baker

J.W. BAKER, Lt. Colonel

2079

Copy to Economic Section

TRANSPORTATION

AFG 394

Commerce Sub-Commission
Coal Division

CWO/jv

Tel: 473489

489084 Ext. 303

2 July 1945

Ref: AG/CD/120.1/Commerce

Subject : Istrian Peninsula - Area Coal Fields.

TO : Economic Section, HQ
(Brigadier D.L. Anderson)

1. At the 2nd meeting held at Trieste on 29 June 1945 of the Joint Economic Committee set up under the agreement between the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean and the Supreme Commander of the Yugoslavian Army, recommendations were made regarding the operation and disposal of the output of the Area Group of Coal Mines situated in territory administered by the Yugoslav Army. The recommendations were:-

- a) That the Group of Mines known as the Area Group be immediately reactivated and developed.
- b) In order to achieve this, it is recommended that a Joint Committee of Yugoslav and AMI experts visit the Area to inspect and report on the mines, machinery and shipping facilities. Yugoslav Delegation to take the necessary action to arrange this.
- c) We propose that highest priority should be given to all work in connection with restoration of these mines which it is recommended should be undertaken jointly with Yugoslav and AMI resources.
- d) In view of the immediate need of fuel to rehabilitate industry, we propose that existing stocks and output be allocated to consumers by the Joint Yugoslav and AMI Industry and Commerce Sub-Committee and that AMI be asked to provide the necessary transportation to ship it.

2. The next meeting of the Joint Committee is to be held on the 9/11 July, and it is hoped that the Yugoslav Delegation will be in a position to reply to the suggested visit to and inspection of the mines and shipping facilities. In the event of an acceptance, it is thought that arrangements might be made beforehand for Allied Officer to be available to be called forward. It is thought that they should include:

Subject : Istrian Peninsula - Arsa Coal Fields.

TO : Economic Section, II
(Brigadier D.L. Anderson)

1. At the 2nd meeting held at Trieste on 29 June 1945 of the Joint Economic Committee set up under the agreement between the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean and the Supreme Commander of the Yugoslavian Army, recommendations were made regarding the operation and disposal of the output of the Arsa Group of Coal Mines situated in territory administered by the Yugoslav Army. The recommendations were:-

- a) That the Group of Mines known as the Arsa Group be immediately reactivated and developed.
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2. The next meeting of the Joint Committee is to be held on the 9/11 July, and it is hoped that the Yugoslav Delegation will be in a position to reply to the suggested visit to and inspection of the mines and shipping facilities. In the event of an acceptance, it is thought that arrangements might be made beforehand for Allied Officer to be available to be called forward. It is thought that they should include:

- 2 Mining engineers
- 1 Port construction engineer and
- 1 "Movements" representative.

In addition, a naval representative to report on the mines in the channel.

3. It is considered that before proceeding the next meeting, the Allied representative should have authority to say whether or no AM will agree, in

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principle, subject to the report of the experts, that Allied assistance would be available to reconstruct port-loading facilities, clear the mine field in the harbor, and would provide shipping necessary to move the coal.

4. A report on information received in Trieste is attached herewith.

W. P. H. Swain
W. P. H. Swain
Colonel,
Coal Division

Copies to: AFHQ (Coal Section) OM
Transportation S/C, HQ
Industry Sub-Commission, HQ

2677

VENETA GIUNTAIstrian Mines - Arsa Group

A report on conversation between Lt. Col. C. W. Orley - Dr. Eng. Leopoldo Lipicer at Trieste on 29 June 1945.

1. Dr. Lipicer is engineer to the Arsa Group of Mines which he visited during April 1945. His report on his visit and subsequent information received, as follows:

2. MINES AND WORKINGS

Production of coal ceased on October 1944, but maintenance of the galleries was continued up to the time of his visit and he understands is still being continued. All shafts and workings are in good condition with the exception of some lower galleries which have collapsed from inattention.

3. SURFACE MACHINERY AND PLANT

All surface machinery, plant, railway, washery etc. are in good condition with the exception of the Thermo Electric Power Station. This has been damaged but as it was only a stand-by station, it does not effect the efficiency of the mines as a whole.

4. POWER

Normal consumption of the mines was 7000 KW. Since production of coal ceased in October 1944, 2000 KW. per day have been used for pumping and maintenance. Ample supplies are available from North Italy.

5. LABOR

Approximately 1000 workmen remain in or about the mines of which about 120 are employed underground on maintenance. Some 4/5 hundred other workers have dispersed and are being employed on agriculture in Italy. It is reported that the miners are not being paid.

6. TOOLS AND MINING SUPPLIES.

The mines are without timber, but considerable quantities have been cut and is available in the area north of the mines, at the north-end of the peninsula near the Yugoslavian border. Approximately 1000 kilos of explosives and dynamite in stock at the mines. All lorries were requisitioned by the Germans. A minimum of five 5-tonners are necessary.

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7. HARBOR AND LOADING FACILITIES

There is about 16,000 tons of coal waiting shipment, but the 3

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loading cranes have been destroyed by explosions attached to the legs or other vital parts. The two loading quays were mined every 5 metres and blown before the Germans left. One loading crane in the process of being built was left untouched but it would take 2 months to complete the construction. The fiords and channels from the sea to loading berths are mined.

8. GENERAL

Dott. Puglio, Minister-Director of the Mining Company, left Trieste to visit the mines on the 6th of June. He has not returned and is reported to be detained at Albona.

9. FUTURE PRODUCTION

It is estimated that if given assistance to rebuild the port and clear the channel of mines, it would take from 2 to 3 months before the workings could be reactivated and the stocks and output could be shipped away. Initial production after completion of repairs is thought to be about 20,000 tons per month. With additional workmen and supplies this could be fairly quickly stepped up to 50,000 tons per month.

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