

Ship & Port Working in Ports Handed
back to Govt

Ports Handled

10000/148/1445
1 Feb 45

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Transportation Sub-Commission
(Movements Division)

EJS/vb

Tel. Ex. 316

20th February, 1945.

783/4/Tn.3.

SUBJECT: Port and Shipping Committee.
TO : Navy Sub-Commission.

1. Reference your letter NSC/1671, dated 16th February, 1945, and conversation Commander Ziroli-Captain Butler-Col. Sieff on the 19th February.

2. At the second meeting of the informal "Port and Shipping Committee" it was decided to suspend any further meetings of this committee in view of MEDBO's proposed formation of a high level committee to deal with general ship and shore policy in ports handed back to the Italian authorities.

3. Mr. Ian Campbell, who will be a senior member of the MEDBO Committee, was present at this meeting and it was agreed that his committee would consider the necessity for the formation of a committee within Allied Commission to deal with port and shipping problems in which the Italian authorities and Allied Commission are interested, and make recommendations to bring such a committee into being if they think it can fulfill a useful purpose.

WHS
for MERRITT H. TAYLOR,
Director,
Transportation Sub-Commission.

Copy to:

The Executive Commissioner.

WJS/ala

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Transportation Sub-Commission
(Movements Division)

Tel : Ex. 318

14th February 1945

783/2/En 3

SUBJECT : Port and Shipping Committee.

TO : Navy Sub-Commission.
Port and Warehouse Division Tptn S/C.
Shipping Sub-Commission
(For A.S.C. and F.S.A.).

1. It is desired to hold a second meeting of the Port and Shipping Committee, which was formed on 4th February 1945.
2. The meeting will take place in Room 16, 6th Floor, at 1100 hours on Monday, 19th February 1945.
3. It is proposed that the status of the Committee be resolved at this meeting, and that the decisions taken be put through normal channels to AFHQ for their approval.
4. Port and Warehouse Division are requested to see that a responsible member of the Ministry of Marine is invited.

M.J. BIRFF, Col.,
Chief, Movements Division

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

AFPO 394

Transportation Sub-Commission

703/5/17-3

26 Feb '45

MINUTES of Second Meeting of the Port and Shipping Committee held at H.Q. Allied Commission on Monday, 19th February, 1945, at 11 a.m.

PRESENT:

Col. A.J. Steff, O.B.E.	Tn. S/C. Chief Mov. Div. (Chairman)
Capt. R. St. J. Butler	Nav. S/C.
Lt. Col. J.A. Balfour, M.B.E.	Tn. S/C. Mov. Shipping
Mr. I. Campbell	M.W.T.
Mr. F.F. Fairley	M.W.T.
Dr. Biancheri	W.S.A.
Mr. Charles Crooks	Tn. S/C. Ports & Warehouse Div. (Tn.6)
Lt. R.I.N. Marona	Min. of Marine

10. The Chairman stated that the Port and Shipping Committee was purely informal and had no authority for its existence. The present position was that AFDEO proposed to form a high level committee consisting of senior members of shipping authorities, a member of the Italian Government, and a member of Allied Commission. This Committee would sit down as a permanent committee in being until major policy had been resolved with regard to the working of ports handed back to the Italian Government, and the working of shipping in those ports; it would also establish a precedent for the future running of ports to be handed back to the Italian Government. Mr. Campbell would be the M.W.T. representative on this committee.

11. The Chairman proposed that until approval or otherwise had been given by this high level committee for the Port and Shipping Committee the latter should only meet informally. He asked members for their views as to whether the Port and Shipping Committee could accomplish anything by meeting which could not be done by their respective offices through the normal channels; it was suggested that the useful function it could perform would be to brief the A.C. representative who goes to the AFDEO meetings.

Opinion was divided and it was decided to proceed with the points for discussion and to come to a conclusion at the end of the meeting.

12. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

Minute 11. Col. Balfour stated that specific cases of motor schooners thought to be deliberately damaging their engines in order to be reclassified had been requested. Mr. Crooks was providing schooner control with this information.

Col. M.J. Stettin, C.B.E.
 Capt. H. St. J. Butler
 Lt. Col. J.A. Balfour, M.B.E.
 Mr. I. Campbell
 Mr. F.F. Fairley
 Dr. Biancheri
 Mr. Charles Crooks
 Lt. R.I.M. Larona
 Navy Sec.
 Mr. J.A. Balfour, M.B.E.
 Mr. W.T.
 Mr. W.T.
 W.S.A.
 In. S/C. Ports & Warehouse Div. (Tn.6)
 Min. of Marine

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Opinion was divided and it was decided to proceed with the points for discussion and to come to a conclusion at the end of the meeting.

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994

Minute 4. Col. Balfour stated that specific cases of motor schooners thought to be deliberately damaging their engines in order to be reclassified had been requested. Mr. Crooks was providing schooner control with this information. Action had been taken against the craft in question. Lt. Larona stated that the COCNA Agent had been dismissed, and the master's licence withdrawn in the case referred to.

Minute 5. Gear for Italian Ports: Col. Balfour stated that a requisition had been made up and was at the moment with Mr. Ryan and the Italian Government representative for checking.

- 2 -

Minute 6. Mr. Crooks stated that arrangements for discharging bulk cereals were in hand.

Minute 8. Mr. Crooks stated that the stabilised Palermo 1944 freight rate was now out. This had been agreed by J.W.T. and W.S.A. who were arranging repayment where rates in excess had been charged during recent months. The rates would be stable until the 31st March. COGNA and A.C. were working out new rates to come into effect on the 1st April, 1945. These rates were to cover COGNA expenses.

13. The Chairman asked members if they had any points they wished to raise.

14. Dr. Biancheri said he had a list of the ports handed back to the Italian Government, and would like to know if this was correct. It was stated that no comprehensive tabulation of these ports and areas had been made. The proposed MEDBO committee would clarify.

15. Dr. Biancheri raised the question of communications between Rome and Civitavecchia. He understood there was no longer a military courier for mail. The Chairman requested Col. Balfour to make enquiries about the courier service via Lazio Umbria Region.

Action: Col. Balfour.

16. Mr. Crooks said he had been informed by Major Blair that stevedores were not being paid at Reggio, and that much dissatisfaction was being caused. The Chairman asked Mr. Crooks to obtain from Major Blair details of specific cases for specific ships. It was thought that Major Blair was consulting dock labourers and stevedores.

Action: Mr. Crooks.

17. Mr. Crooks asked Capt. Butler whether certain draft could be released for coal burning. The Chairman considered that the Civitavecchia-Rome coal run ought to be developed as much as possible in view of the fact that the supply of railway waggons was not likely to improve. If a regular service to Rome could be established it would be of the greatest advantage to the Italians and to the Allies. Mr. Crooks stated the difficulty of getting a suitable tug. It was proposed to have 320 tons a day by one tug. DOHC has provided a 100-ton barge lift suitable for river navigation.

18. Regarding the use of the port of Salerno, Mr. Crooks said the draught could be increased in 15 days to 25 feet. AFHQ had been asked to release the Tonnage for this work.

19. With regard to A.C. representation at the weekly MEDBO conference, Col. Balfour suggested that it was only necessary for one representative to attend, and not two as at present. J.W.T. representative did not agree. Col. Balfour pointed out that the A.C. representatives only attended by invitation, and he considered they should be members of the committee. The Chairman said this

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Action: Col. Balfour.

16. Mr. Crooks said he had been informed by Major Blair that stevedores were not being paid at Reggio, and that much dissatisfaction was being caused. The Chairman asked Mr. Crooks to obtain from Major Blair details of specific cases for specific ships. It was thought that Major Blair was confusing dock labourers and stevedores.

Action: Mr. Crooks.

17. Mr. Crooks asked Capt. Butler whether certain craft could be released for coal burning. The Chairman considered that the Civitavecchia-Rome sea-rail ought to be developed as much as possible in view of the fact that the supply of railway waggons was not likely to improve. If a regular service to Rome could be established it would be of the greatest advantage to the Italians and to the Allies. Mr. Crooks stated the difficulty of getting a suitable tug. It was proposed to have 320 tons a day by one tug. DOHC has provided a 400-ton barge lift suitable for river navigation.

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20. SHIPPING IN SARDINIA.

The Chairman said there were a number of problems in connection with shipping in Sardinia: (i) Considerable delay and wastage of shipping was occurring at S. Antioco. It was believed that this was bound up with the amount of coal that could be mined and produced at the quay side. (ii) There were insistent demands from Sardinia and requests from the Italian Government for a ferry service for personnel and general cargo between Olbia and

Civitavecchia: (iii) High priority for a ferry service for live stock between Olbia and Civitavecchia. A report had been received on Sardinia in which it was stated that insufficient shipping was being provided to lift the exports that were essential for the minimum economic life of the island. The Chairman proposed that representatives of A.C. and the Italian Government should go to Sardinia and in conjunction with the authorities there look at S. Antiocho, Cagliari, Olbia, and Maddalena, and bring back a report. Mr. Crooks was requested to arrange this.

Action: Mr. Crooks.

21. CONTROL OF PORTS.

The Chairman asked how bids for shipping would be made in areas handed back to the Italian Government. Col. Balfour said they would be made through the Chambers of Commerce. Col. Balfour was asked to ascertain what means of postal communication would be available between these areas and Rome, for the submission of bids.

Action: Col. Balfour.

22. SHIPPING INFORMATION.

The Chairman said that inadequate and delayed information was still being received from most ports on shipping. He proposed that MEDBO be asked what information normally sent in the information signals would have to be deleted in order that the message could be sent by telephone.

23. POINTS TO BE RAISED AT MEDBO MEETINGS.

The Chairman agreed that anyone having points to raise at MEDBO meetings should in future take their requests to Col. Balfour.

24. SUSPENSION OF THE PORT AND SHIPPING COMMITTEE.

It was generally considered that the Committee had not achieved anything at this meeting which could not have been accomplished through normal office discussion, and it was therefore decided to suspend further meetings until recommendations were received from the high level committee being formed by MEDBO.

Copy to:

AFHQ, C-4 (Mov & In.)

AFHQ, G-5.

Sec. MEDBO.

A.W.T.

W.S.A.

Shipping 3/C

A.J. STEFF, Col.

for MEDBO DIRECTOR

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23. POINTS TO BE RAISED AT WEDECO MEETINGS.

The Chairman agreed that anyone having points to raise at WEDECO meetings should in future take their requests to Col. Balfour.

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It was generally considered that the Committee had not achieved anything at this meeting which could not have been accomplished through normal office discussion, and it was therefore decided to suspend further meetings until recommendations were received from the high level committee being formed by WEDECO.

Copy to:

AFHQ, C-4 (Mov & Trn.)
 AFHQ, C-5.
 Soc. WEDECO. (2)
 A.W.T. (2)
 W.S.A. (2)
 Shipping S/C. (2)
 Navy S/C.
 Economic Section.
 Director, Tr. S/C.
 Port & Warehouse Div. (2)
 Mov. Shipping (2)

A.J. SIEFF, Col.
 for WEDECO Director.

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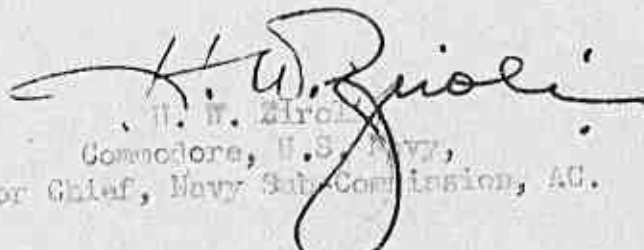
HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APC 394

HSC/1671
16 February 1945

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To : Transportation Sub-Commission, Hq. AC.
Subject: Port and Shipping Committee.

1. With reference to your 783/2/Tn 3 of 14 February 1945, it is requested that prior to the meeting to be held on 19 February 1945, that the Navy Sub-Commission, AC be informed as to the functions and duties of the proposed committee, in order that a decision may be reached whether the Navy Sub-Commission, AC has sufficient interest to warrant membership.

2. It is not considered that a member of the Ministry of Marine should be invited by the Port and Warehouse Division to attend the meeting until the status of the committee is determined.


H. W. Zirc
Commodore, U.S. Navy,
for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, AC.

Copy to:
COS. HQ. AC.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Transportation Sub-Commission

Minutes of Meeting held at H.Q. Allied Commission on
Sunday 4 February 1945 to discuss Ship & Port working in
Ports handed back to the Italian Government.

In the chair: Lt.Col.M.J.SIEFF, O.B.E.	Tn.S/C.Chief Mov.Div.
Present : Capt.H.St.J.BUTLER	Navy S/C
Lt.W.W.WOTHERSPOON	Navy S/C
Lt.Col.J.A.BALFOUR M.B.E.	Tn.S/C Mov.Shipping
Mr.Charles CROOKS	Tn.S/C Ports & W'house
	Div.(Tn.6.)
Mr.F.F.FAIRLEY	M.W.T.
Mr.G.A.BELL	M.W.T.
Dr.BIANCHERI	W.S.A.
Lt.R.I.N.MARENA	Min.of Marine

1. Chairman stated that it was proposed to form a Committee within A.C. to resolve problems in connection with Shipping and Port working in Ports, which had been handed back to the Italian Government, particularly in respect of ships in which A.C. had a direct interest. There was at present very inefficient ship and port working in many of these ports, resulting in a very considerable waste of shipping. It was proposed that the following organisations should be represented on the Committee:-

Italian Government
Navy Sub-Commission
Transportation Sub-Commission
W.S.A.
M.W.T.

2. Capt.Butler, Navy S/C, asked whether the proposed Committee would not delay the execution of the declared A.C. policy of handing back to the Italian Authorities as much responsibility as possible as quickly as possible. Chairman stated he considered that the Committee, on which the Italian Government was represented, should have the opposite effect. It had been found that a transition period was necessary at present between the date when the Ports were handed back from Allied Military Control to complete Italian Government Control without any Allied assistance. In the work of

In the chair: Lt. Col. M. J. SIEFF, O.B.E.
 Present : Capt. H. St. J. BUTLER
 Lt. W. W. WOTHERSPOON
 Lt. Col. J. A. BALFOUR M.B.E.
 Mr. Charles CROOKS

Tn. S/C. Chief Mov. Div.
 Navy S/C
 Navy S/C
 Tn. S/C Mov. Shipping
 Tn. S/C Ports & Warehouse
 Div. (Tn. 6.)

M. W. T.
 M. W. T.
 W. S. A.
 Min. of Marine

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3. Chairman then asked if members of the meeting had any points they wished to raise.

4. Mr. Crooks, Ports & Warehouse Division, advised that certain motor schooners were thought to be deliberately damaging their cargoes in order to be reclassified as Sailing Schooners and so operate independently of COGENA. It was decided to ask M.E.D.B.O. to tighten schooner control and to suggest to them that all schooners be registered on a tonnage basis.

Action Tn.6.

5. Chairman stated that no requests had been received by A.C. from the Italian authorities for cargo handling gear, tugs, cranes etc., for ports at present in liberated Italy or under the control of the Allied Military. Tn.6 stated that requests for this information had been sent by the Ministry of Marine to ports other than those in occupied territory, but replies were not yet to hand. The information was to cover demands up to end of 1945. It was agreed that a hastener would be sent out.

Action Tn.6.
Min. of Marine

6. Chairman stated that it was probable that a larger proportion of imported cereals in future would come in bulk, possibly in excess of machinery to discharge bulk cereals. It was essential that adequate arrangements were made at ports for bagging in the hold. This applied equally to such cargoes as bulk salt.

Action M.W.T. W.S.A.
Tn.6 Min. of Marine

7. Mr. Crooks pressed for experiments to be carried out with W.S.A. ships, scheduled for two ports discharge, loading coastwise traffic at first port of discharge for either second port or port on route provided that delay was not caused to vessel. He stated that W.S.A. had accepted this in principle.

It. Col. Balfour (Shipping) stated that the proposition was not a practicable one. It was agreed to proceed with one experiment if a suitable ship offered.

Action W.S.A.
Tn.6.

8. Mr. Crooks raised the question of rebates due on freights charged on excess tariffs not agreed by A.C. and stated that COGENA would not agree without a directive from M.E.D.B.O. Mr. Fairley to take up with M.E.D.B.O.

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Action M.W.T.

9. Lt.Col.Belfour stated that the procedure for clearing bills of lading in A.C. cargo was not satisfactory. It was decided to form a Committee for the purpose of setting out a more satisfactory procedure. On completion this procedure to be submitted to A.F.H.Q., M.W.T. and W.S.A. for approval. It was proposed that the Committee to be composed of M.W.T., W.S.A., A.C. Economic Section and Tn.S/C.

For the Chief Commissioner:

M. H. Taylor
for MERRITT H. TAYLOR
Director

DISTRIBUTION:

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M.W.T. (2)
W.S.A. (2)
Shipping S/C (2)
Navy S/C
Economic Section
Port & Warehouse Div. (2)
Director, Tn.S.C
Mov. Division (2)

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