

ACC

AC246/TN42

10000/142/2331

MONTHLY

DEC. 1944

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MONTHLY REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

DEC. 1944

IN FIELD-SICILY

ALLIED COMMISSION
SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394

HD/sf.

SECRET

FILE : RES 319.1/10. 5 December 1944.
SUBJECT : Monthly Report - November.
TO : Regional-Commissioner, Region I, A.O.

A. ADMINISTRATION.

1. During this month Major Watson has returned to duty at Catania, and Capt. Hall at Palermo. Capt. Perry has returned to duty from hospital.

2. As a matter of record it is pointed out that the number of official communications which reached this Office during the month amounted to some 600. This only covers AC-Italian official correspondence. In addition there is of course a considerable civilian mail from trades organisations etc.

B. FOOD.

1. Grain. The situation remains unchanged. The quantity being amassed is negligible.

2. Salted Fish. Due to the high prices of fresh fish a decree was issued by the High Commissioner prohibiting the salting of fish. There was an immediate reaction in the price of fresh fish resulting in a substantial fall in prices. The immediate effect on the price of salt fish has been a sharp rise in price to about double. It is anticipated that the High Commissioner will probably prohibit the export of salted fish. Salted fish in barrels (quantity unknown) will not keep indefinitely, and so must be liquidated within a limited time or be lost. The merchants may consider it worth their while to let the salted fish in barrels rot in order to maintain the price of the goods in tins. The whole situation is a matter of speculation and any attempt to assess the future would be idle. The present situation of the high prices of preserved fish is undoubtedly to some extent due to speculators from the Mainland, who have been purchasing stocks in Sicily over a long period with a view to rise in price. In fact it is very difficult to estimate how much of

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SECRETC. INTER-REGIONAL TRADE.

1. Wine. The surplus is still unlimited. It is noted that some coasters are to be sent in. This will help in some measure, and is much appreciated. It is not only in sea transport where difficulty arises. There is a marked lack of freight cars and coal for moving wine from points of production to port of loading.

2. General. Para B (2) refers in part. Attention is drawn forcibly to the practise of sending down to this Island representatives of group of merchants and/or Sepral, armed with letters bearing Allied Officers' signatures and official stamp-rubber. This technique is to be deprecated. It leads to endless complications here, and after close examination at this H.Q. it is soon discovered that their inspirations are no more philanthropic and humanitarian than are those of the Sicilian merchants. If any of these people report back to you, which is unlikely, that they have had no assistance from this H.Q., it is because they have been tried and found wanting. Furthermore it is contrary to the High Commissioner's wishes. No useful purpose is served by this practise.

D. SHIPPING.

1. Inwards. (See Appx A)

2. Outwards. (See Appx B)

E. SCHOONERS.

1. General. The recording and supervision of schooner movements is proceeding more smoothly. A system of recording Bids and correlating them with allocations and subsequent movements has been devised in conjunction with a Card Index. Close liaison is maintained with T/n Sub-Commission at H.Q. and with Schooner Control enabling a more efficient observation of the regular and equitable allocation of schooners. Transposition Sub-Commission action in declining to accept Bids direct and referring the applicants to this Office has been most helpful and is greatly appreciated.

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2. Wine. In compliance with AFHQ prohibition of transportation of wine by schooner a very large number of Bids have been refused. In some cases these requests have been submitted by individuals authorised by Service Messes and/or AMG/AC Officers in the Mainland to come to Sicily to acquire wine. It appears from perusal of documents in possession of such persons that the Officers concerned were not aware of the prohibition referred to above.

(2)

S E C R E T

F. IMPORTED CLOTHING.

1. Great difficulty is being experienced in handing clothing over to the High Commissioner by virtue of the fact that almost all instances the description on the outside of the package bears no relationship to the contents either as to quantity or quality. There are however a balance of 100 bales which have obviously been packed and marked at the factory. Attempts will be made to hand this lot over without checking the contents in detail, after a spot check. If the High Commissioner is not prepared to accept this then every bale will have to be opened, checked for description or measured for quantity. This will be an intermonable business.

2. Manufacture of Cloth. The firm Guli to whom facilities were accorded for forwarding raw cotton to Naples for spinning and return for weaving to Palermo is experiencing difficulty in securing coal. The situation cannot be avoided.

G. P.O.L. AND COAL.

1. The following amount of P.O.L. have been distributed:

Benzine	:	4474	barrels
Naftha	:	5396	"
Kerosene	:	4236	"
Lubricants	:	372.5	"
Grease	:	5725	pounds
Other oils	:	225.8	barrels

2. During the month the following amounts of coal were imported into Sicily:

Sardinian Coal	22,720	tons
Foreign Coal	11,969	"

The majority of the above was discharged at Catania owing to the limited berthing facilities at Palermo. A small quantity was also discharged at Porto Empedocle where it is principally required for the power plant.

Allied Commission are now responsible for all coal imports in Sicily and will be responsible for taking care of the British and American Military and Naval requirements. This will be done by using the State Railway as agents and arrangements are already in hand to supply 204 Sub Area.

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The maximum amount of coal permitted for use in Sicily each month viz. 12,000 tons of Foreign coal and 15,000 tons of Sardinian Coal will not permit of the issue of coal to the gas plants. Coke is urgently needed by the British and American Forces on the Island and also by the Ministry of War Transport and certain essential users such as the State Railways. A report has been submitted to Industry Sub-Commission explaining the situation and asking for a certain amount of coke to be imported if the coal allocation cannot be increased to allow for the production of gas and coke.

SECRET

The majority of the Foreign Coal (12,000 tons) allotted to Sicily each month is used by the State Railways (7,000 tons) and by the electric power plants (3,700 tons) and very little is now available to essential industry.

H. WINES & CITRUS FRUITS.

1. Lt. DOWSE attached temporarily has been occupied for the dispatch of wine and citrus fruits. As far as concerns citrus products, the volume which can be dispatched will be severely limited by the quantity of packing cases which can be made available. Export Division (Commerce Sub-Commission) has a very extensive programme of shipment of citrus fruits to the U.K. They are seriously in arrears with their timber programme.

H. DRING,
Major,
Director, Economics
& Supply Division.

Copy to :-

~~Food Sub-Commission~~
~~Commerce Sub-Commission~~
~~Industry Sub-Commission~~
~~Transportation Sub-Commission~~
T/n Sub-Commission c/o H.Q. Southern Region
for Capt. Smith.
Capt. C.E. PERRY
File.

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APPENDIX (B)

E & S DIV.
5 Dec. 44.

SUBJECT :- Montly Report - NOVEMBER. / EXPORTS DURING THE MONTH

COMMODITY	SHIP	NUMBER OF CONTAINERS	SIZE OF CONTAINERS	QUANTITY M/TONS	TOTAL M/TONS
Stew, M & V	Nuovo San Ciro	880	45 lb Cases	17.96	
" "	Nuovo San Biagio	880	45 lb Cases	17.96	
" "	Papa Giuseppe	840	45 lb Cases	17.15	
" "	Lucia Madre	171	45 lb Cases	3.49	56.56
Powdered Milk	Papa Giuseppe	180	50 lb Drums		4.08
Condensed Milk	Sant'Anna Di Biagio	1,000	45 lb Cases		20.41
Chilli con carne	Ousel	2,964	39 lb Cases		52.43
Corned Beef	Ousel	998	72 lb Cases		32.59
Vienna Sausage	Ousel	8,682	36 lb Cases		141.77
Pork Luncheon Meat	Ousel	4,825	36 lb Cases		78.79
Hash, M & V	Ousel	9,440	40.5 lb Cases		173.42
Hash Corned Beef	Ousel	7,176	33 lb Cases		111.40
		133	66 lb Cases		
Soup Dehydrated	Samcebu	34,494	Cases various		590.49
Sugar	Mare Nostrum			136.21	
"	Zucca			129.94	
"	Marias			79.79	
"	Filippo			95.00	
"	Idac			49.20	
					490.14

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APPENDIX (A)

E & S DIV.
5 Dec. 44.

Subject : Monthly Report - NOVEMBER.

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IMPORTS DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER :-

Ship	Port	Date	Commodity	Quantity M/Tons
Lacydon	Empedocle	6/11/44	Rock Phosphate	460
Lacydon	Empedocle	6/27/44	Rock Phosphate	<u>456</u>
			Total Rock Phosphate	916
				=====

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