

ACC 117/PWU

10000/150/403
(VOL. II)

10000/150/403
(VOL. II)

CONFERENCES
JAN. - MAY 1945

117

17

AND EMILIA REGION

7921

18 MAY 45

ROUTINE

IN CLEAR PD

SUBJECT IS MEETING PD

PAREN TO AND EMILIA REGION FOR REGIONAL ENGINEER FROM HQ ALCON CITY
ACTU PAREN

PARA ONE PD ARRANGE FOR ENGINEER LENEI TO ATTEND MONTHLY MEETING
HOLD ON TWENTY THREE MAY

PUBLIC WORKS

339

3061

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 894
ECONOMIC SECTION

Tel. 406

DAC:lrw

RECEIVED
P.W. & U.S./C.A.C.
7 MAY 1945 137

Ref. 7.16/ES

7 May 1945

SUBJECT: Assembly to Examine Economical and
Organizing Problems

TO : Director, Industry Sub-Commission
" Labor Sub-Commission
" P. W. & U. Sub-Commission ✓

1. Reference the series of meetings to be held by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Labor in the Sala Belle Commission, commencing on 10 May 45.
2. Please arrange for a representative of your Sub-Commission to attend at 1900 hours on 11 May. ✓
3. May I be informed please, by brief reports in writing as to the trend of the discussions.

D. J. Anderson
D. J. ANDERSON
Brigadier
Deputy-Vice President

Copy to:
Mr. Antolini
Brig. Gen. McKinley

3060

EJR

Tel. 489081 Ext. 320

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission

LAJ/ram

117/PWU

14 March 1945

SUBJECT: Conference regarding Military Highways in
P.B.S. Territory

TO : Chief Engineer, P.B.S. - APO 782

1. Lt. Col. Thompson and I will be at your office
on 23 of March 1945 at 1000 hours to discuss the above
indicated subject with you.

For the Chief Commissioner:

L. A. JENNY
Colonel, C. E.
Director

*Permission
applied for
15/3/45
C.E.B.*

Copy to file 078

CC: Col. L. J. Hensley
Provincial Commissioner
Livorno

Col. Hensley:

I expect to arrive at Livorno on the evening of
22 of March and I shall appreciate it if you will
please arrange for billets for me.

L. A. JENNY
Colonel, C. E.
Director

*Maj. Paddy
Pls arrange for
travel orders for me and
driver going up on
22 March - allow
4 days.*

*L.A.J.
14/3*

3059

DRAFT.
NOTES on REGIONAL ENGINEERS' CONFERENCE

held at HQ. Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission
Allied Commission,

on 8 January 1945.

The following officers were present:-

Lt.Col.	L.A. Jenny, Director,
"	G.E. Rhodes, Deputy-Director,
"	V.S. Thompson, Chief of Publ.Wks.Div.
"	W.M. Lapper, Chief of Electrical Div.
Col.	L.J. Hensley, Regional Engineer, Southern,
Lt.Col.	G.de C.E. Findlay, V.S., Reg. Eng., Lazio-Umbria,
"	C.A. Latimer, " Abr.-Marche,
"	C.R. Birchett, " Piemonte,
"	C.P. Bolick, " Lombardia,
Major	D.A. Boyd, " Sicilia,
"	W. Knight, M.C., " Venezia,
"	P.S.L. Lee, " Toscana,
"	W.M. Spann, " Emilia,
"	G. Boucher, Liaison Officer No. IDistrict
"	N.W. Hyland, P.W.O. South,
"	H.W. Westwood.

- - - - -

Lt.Col. Jenny opened the Conference by extending to the Regional Engineers his best wishes for the New Year. He then called upon the Regional Engineers to speak in turn. The following notes were made of the statements and the discussions which ensued:-

SICILIA

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 Lt. Col. G. de C.E. Fundlay, V.C., Reg. Eng., Lazio-Umbria,
 " C.A. Latimer, " " Abr.-Marche,
 " C.R. Birchett, " " Piemonte,
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SICILIA

Complaint of the political aspect of many
 projects: unwarrantable intention of the civil
 Authorities to carry out unessential works.

Serious shortage of transport, coal and petrol
 (See previous Monthly Reports).

The "Provveditore" takes no interest in works
 or electrical rehabilitation. All such matters continue

Project (political)
Transport
Electrical

(2)

to be referred to the Regional Engineer. Lt. Col. Lapper observed that this irregularity was of no consequence; ~~and that~~ the "Provveditore" will have to be approached on such matters when the Regional Engineer ^{has been} ~~will be~~ withdrawn. ~~Col. Lapper also remarked that he did not~~ ^{Lt. Col. Lapper does} not require electrical reports from the Regional Engineer because in the case of Sicilia (and also Sardegna) he obtains all necessary information directly from the electric power companies.

— Major Boyd read aloud the text of ~~the~~ ^{the following initiative} Instruction No. 49, regarding ~~the~~ ^{for} issue of petrol ~~for~~ ^{All} work on military projects. He submitted that unfinished projects, initiated at the request of the Armies, a considerable time ago, were still projects of Military priority.

Col. Thompson supported this view and stated, incidentally, that he expected to have available later in the day a supply of the necessary special petrol coupons.

Maj. Boyd asked whether important projects requested by the Naval Authorities are to be treated as works of Military priority. It was ^{generally} ~~generally~~ agreed that they should be so classified and put in hand accordingly. Maj. Boyd will explain this to the Provveditore in order that

Naval
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SOUTHERN.

Col. Hensley has lost faith in the local Genio Civile since

3037

- 3 -

he weaned" them. He complained of their lack of initiative and their disinclination to accept the responsibilities previously held by the A.C. Officers.

Regarding the local production of materials (a matter raised by Col. Hensley) it was pointed out by Lt.Col. Jenny that the rehabilitation of cement factories etc. is the responsibility of the Industry Sub-Commission.

Lt. Genio Civile Inspector is paid for his inspections on a commission basis and, therefore, is inclined to devote his attention to the jobs that produce the highest commission.

Failure of Italian Government to pay the bills rendered by Public Utility Companies for supplies to the Allied Forces. Despite Lt.Col. Lapper's recent action, no payments have yet been made. The financial effect on the Companies is in many cases serious.

Strikes (or Labour Disputes) in Southern Region. - Col.

Hensley says too many people are handling these problems. ^{They should only be dealt with by} ~~the hands of~~ the Labour S/C and its Regional Labour Relations

Officer. Navy, Army, Air Force, etc., should not step in. Lt.Col. Jenny and Lt.Col. Lapper confirmed this.

There is a tendency, said Col. Hensley, for the Italian Authorities to allege that projects are held up by the A.C. - A statement should be widely published in the press, explaining to the Italian Public that in Italian Govt. territory the initiation, approval and financing of all ^{civil} projects are - without limitation - the responsibility of the Italian Authorities.

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Col. Hensley asked about ~~the regulations regarding~~ the disposal of military property (particularly vehicles, mechanical plant, etc.) to civilian authorities or individuals. He referred to AR 358, U.S. Army Finance Regulations. Consideration to be given to this matter. It was remarked that ~~Army surplus~~ equipment could be sold only by open competitive bidding but Lt.Col. Jenny thought that such an obstacle should not be insuperable.

3058

(Confidential)

Bill, Confirmed
(Confidential)

3

Labour Disputes

Power (Hed. Govt.)

Publicity, is the given.

2

(Dent)

Military projects
(Disposal)

- 4 -

Tyres and tubes are so urgent^{ly} needed that they should be handled solely by Allied Authorities and NOT through Italian agencies as at present. It was suggested that a number should be earmarked each month for the Regional Engineers. Food distribution has first priority in this matter but Public Works ought to be accorded at least equal priority. Lt.Col. Latimer observed that in his Region there was starvation ⁱⁿ some areas, due not to shortage of food, but solely to shortage of transport.

^{HENSLEY}
Col. Hensley asked about hire charges for the use of military trucks. Different military authorities have different rates. This question is to be looked into after obtaining more detailed information, especially regarding the possibility of selling condemned army vehicles.

Inadequacy of salaries of Genio Civile Staff. - Col. Hensley has already asked the Genio Civile to furnish a full report on its financial situation, especially regarding this matter. Lt.Col. Jenny remarked that Genio Civile officials commonly hold more than one appointment and draw the salaries appropriate to each.

LAZIO - UMBRIA.

Since 15 Oct 44, the Minister of Public Works and Genio Civile have approved 66 million Lire worth of projects under their own powers. Nevertheless, no funds have been made available from Italian Govt. sources since August; that is to say, for all the projects approved by the Min. of Public Works, not one Lire has yet been made available "in the bank". Therefore, contractors

(transport)
(public)

(transport)
(public)

(Gen. Civile)
(Salaries)

(funds)
(provision - R)

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Lt. Col. Findlay said he had been informed by several "Captains" of Genio Civile that no "machinery" has yet been set up by the Italians for the control of materials.

3055

- 5 -

Mind Lt.Col. Findlay spoke briefly about the Italian Mine Clearance organization and of his discussions with the Italian Colonel in charge.

Military vehicles At present approx. 60 military vehicles are in use on road works in Umbria. When the time comes for A.C./A.M.G. to take over those road works, how can trucks be obtained to replace the military ~~Corries~~ *Corries* now in use.

From post (Reg. Comm. only) Lt.Col. Jenny explained the responsibility of Regional Commissioners to provide the vehicles required by Regional Engineers. Economic Section letter 5.05/ES of 27 Dec 44 on this subject was referred to. All Regional Engineers have a copy of it. They should show it to their Regional Commissioners.

Always of workmen Regarding difficulties arising out of the Decree which provides for retroactive extra payments to workmen, Lt.Col. Findlay is to write an official letter to this Hq.

Allied Civilian (employed) technicians Lt.Col. Findlay asked what were the status and duties of Allied Civilian ~~posted here~~ *technicians*, whether they could handle secret matters and whether they were of officer status. Lt.Col. Jenny ^{by} gave an explanation and the matter was generally discussed.

ABRUZZI-MARCHIE.

NEXT PAGE

Her list. not. civil. slinky. flag.

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ABRUZZI-MARCHE.

NEXT PAGE.

3 squads — 31st Regt. — 24 detectors.
 1500 km — total — 3051

3051

ABRUZZI-MARCHE

Lt. Col. Latimer is dissatisfied with the Genio
 Civile.- Usual complaint of lack of initiative. Staff
 too elderly. The best man is the engineer who was head
 of the A.A.S.S. Could he not be put in charge? Lt.Col.
Jenny wishes to take up this suggestion. Genio Civile is
 handicapped by shortage of transport.

Lt.Col. Latimer also spoke of the utterly inadequate
 remuneration of the surveyors (Geometri) on the staff of
 the Genio Civile. These ^{employees are paid} ~~fellows~~ get only about 2000 lire
 per month. ^{as if} They cannot augment their incomes by illicit
 means, they commonly obtain employment as labourers, in order
 to get better pay.

"Form FB 5#applications had in many cases not produced
 the necessary funds. Lt.Col. Jenny confirmed that the
 financing of Military projects in ~~the~~ Italian Government
 Territory is automatic. The Provincial Finance Officer
 can always obtain the necessary funds by applying to the
 Finance Sub-Commission.

Complaint that the Army is not yet authorised to pay
 the augmented rates of wages for labour. Lt.Col. Latimer
 is to send to this Headquarters a copy of a letter from

Gen. (Mr.)
 (Dep. Dir.)

No.
 (C. 10. 10. 10.)

Funds (Mr.)
 (provisional)

Wages
 (Mr.)

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Complaint that the Army is not yet authorised to pay the augmented rates of wages for labour. Lt.Col. Latimer is to send to this Headquarters a copy of a letter from A.F.H.Q. authorising a wage rate of 125 lire per day.

Complaint of "blocking" of materials by other Sub-Commissions. Lt. Col. Thompson explained the general situation and the arrangement which had been reached for co-operation between the Transportation S/C. and the P.W. & U. S/C. in this matter.

3053

TOSCANA.

Major Lee stated that he obtained work orders in writing from all Military units who ask for work to be carried out.

As so many different Authorities (~~are~~^{are} Railways, G-4 Fifth Army, and Local Resources Board) are competitively "blocking" materials, Major Lee will not "enter into the game": he demands all necessary materials from the C.E. The blocking of stores in Toscana is chaotic. Lt.Col. Jenny suggested that it ought all to be done by a central authority, possibly Local Resources Board. Lt. Col. Lapper advised that, in case of difficulty, application could well be made to this Headquarters for the assistance of the Supply Officer, Major Price.

A.F.H.Q. will henceforward control all brick works in Army and Army Communications areas. Bricks are now ~~again~~ controlled, *again*.

There is a shortage of transport, of course.

High priority is being given to railway reconstruction throughout the Region.

Demands for road maintenance are increasing and there is a widespread need ^{for} ~~of~~ surface dressing. Supplies of bitumen are restricted, but the acquisition of sufficient chippings

*Materials
(Blocking)*

Brick works

*Railway
Comm.*

*Roads
(materials
& plant)*

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Demands for road maintenance are increasing and there is a widespread need ^{for} of surface dressing. Supplies of bitumen are restricted, but the acquisition of sufficient chippings presents a greater problem. Can crushers and granulators be made available? It was agreed that Major Lee should discuss this matter with Major Knight, in order to benefit from the latter's experience of this problem in Southern Region. Major Lee asked if crushers were included in the "4000-ton plant consignment". The answer was "yes".

The Genio Civile in Toscana Region is generally very good,

Brickworks

Railway
Comm.

Roads
(m-bonds
(plant))

Gen. Civ. (chippings)

13
 but Major Lee stated that three more good "Capi" are badly needed.

(Florence
 bridges)
 The Regional Engineer has been requested to commence bridge reconstruction in the City of Florence and has been asked about the feasibility of numerous other bridge projects.

Tyres and tubes badly needed. Lt.Col. Jenny said that the Regional Commissioner must fight for these, ~~as~~ as also for vehicles.

EMILIA.

Liberated part of Region is wholly in Army area.

Major Spann gave a general description of his work and organisation.

The additional duties and appointment allotted to Major Spann by A.M.G. Eighth Army were considered and criticised. By what right does Eighth Army A.M.G. presume to change the status of the Regional Engineer?

Difficulty in obtaining adequate and suitable Genio Civile staff, especially in Forlì and Ravenna Provinces. Again the best man available is the old chief of the A.A.S.S. He has been set to work by ^{at} Sig. Desiderio.

The number of Bailey bridges required in operational zones is tremendous. On Route 71, temporary wooden bridges

8 Army Area

Bombing
 Bridges

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The number of Bailey bridges required in operational

zones is tremendous. On Route 71, temporary wooden bridges are being built hastily to replace Baileys. Permanent construction has also been adopted in some instances.

There is, of course, a lack of transport, but Major Spann manages by borrowing cars from local Military formations.

Bonifica restoration work is proceeding well. Out of five pumping stations in the Ravenna area, two ~~are~~ ³⁰ ~~un~~harmed and intact. One of these is in operation and the other will

be working ~~and~~ soon ~~(S)~~. Very beneficial results are confidently expected. It was agreed that Major Spann should explain ~~some~~ ⁱⁿ more detail to Major Westwood with the aid of a map.

In connection with Bonifiche, Capt. Ault of Agriculture S/C. is extremely active and is doing excellent work.

Water supply problems are handled by the Army.

The principal difficulties are in Rimini ~~(S)~~.

Major Spann spoke of ~~the~~ ^{wide} variations in ~~the~~ prices of materials. Is there no control? Lt. Col. Thompson explained that there could not be.

^{gray} A photograph was ~~then~~ taken of the Regional Engineers and the Military Staff of the Sub-Commission HQ.

Thereafter the conference ~~was~~ adjourned for lunch. -

Major Spann had been ordered by Group-Cpt. Benson to submit his ~~next~~ Monthly Report through Eighth (x)

Army A.M.G. and not direct to this HQ. This was discussed and deplored. Lt. Col. Jenny asked Major Spann in future to send a carbon copy direct to this Sub-CommissionK

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- - - - -

Lt.Col. Thompson gave a short talk on Housing and Highways. In regard to road maintenance he contended that a large number of small contracts is better than a small number of large ^{ones} ~~contracts~~. The reasons for this were discussed and the correctness of the contention was generally agreed.

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(5)

Col. Hensley spoke of the practicability and advisability of manufacturing and building-up stocks of pre-fabricated steel lattice girders, in readiness for replacement of the Bailey bridges that must inevitably be withdrawn when the push starts in the North.

Lt.Col. Thompson welcomed the proposal. (X)

Lt. Col. Lapper spoke on electrical matters, dealing firstly ^{with} the question of transport for Electrical Officers in the Regions.

Lt.Col. Latimer stated that in Abruzzi-Marche Region there was only one car for three Electrical Officers: two of the officers are, therefore, immobilised.

Major Lee said that in Toscana Region two of the Electrical Officers have cars and the third has to depend upon other people for his mobility. Lt. Col. Findlay said that, before the transport of Lazio - Umbria Region was recently pooled, he had been able to provide his Electrical Officers with adequate means of travel.

Fabricated
steel
(bridges).

Elect. M.
(India,
Singapore etc.)

(x)
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Lt.Col. Lapper went ^{on} ~~out~~ to say that it had been decided to open an Electrical Office at Florence under the charge of Major Bell. This ~~office~~ would be a ~~the~~ branch of Headquarters and in no sense a Regional institution. After raising questions about the purpose of this office and the duties of its personnel, Major Lee ~~re~~ ^{re} ~~3~~ ³ ~~bb~~ ^{bb} ~~4~~ ⁴ objection on the grounds that it would lead to confusion and to duplication of orders. From whom, he asked, was

(Lat. J.W.)
(Findlay)
(Prof. Lee)

(6)

the local electric power company to take instructions?
This matter was deferred for further discussion.

Lt. Col. Lapper ~~he~~ proceeded. He explained that owing to lack of transport for Regional Electrical Officers, ^{his} ~~the~~ intention ~~is~~ to relieve them of responsibility for major rehabilitation. Here followed a discussion on the ~~precise~~ ^{reflecting} duties of the proposed Headquarters personnel at Florence and ~~as~~ such electrical personnel as might remain under the Regional Engineer. Major Lee said that he needed essentially one electrical Officer for Florence ~~city~~ and two others for work in the remaining 3000 square miles of his territory.

Lt. Col. Lapper stressed to all Regional Engineers the importance of ensuring that their Regional Electrical Officers keep in regular direct touch (generally by telephone) with the Electrical Officers at this Headquarters.

Here followed an exposition, by Lt. Col. Lapper, of the Public Works and Utilities Sub-Commission's letter 158/PWU of 8 ~~th~~ Jan. 1945, entitled "Electricity Control-Central Italy". This communication was then generally discussed, and the conference thereafter broke up.

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