

ACC 176/EM/PWU

10000/150/493

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HOUSING  
DEC. 1944

196/Em/PWD

# HOUSING

Folio No.	REFERRED TO		Folio No.	REFERRED TO	
	Name of Appointment Date	Initials Date		Name of Appointment Date	Initials Date

Open - { 19 - January 1944 }  
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THIS FOLDER

CONTAINS PAPER

FROM DEC 1944  
TO

CATALOGUE -

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see nearby



ALLIED ~~CONTROL~~ COMMISSION  
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:

FILE No.

TO

*Det Lt Deppa*  
*Thompson*

*12/12 1948*

*Maj. Gamble brings out a number  
of interesting observations. Although many  
are not new to us, others are of interest.*

*Please note & file  
Maj. Deppa  
Maj. Gamble*

*W.D.*

3248

*F.R.*

Director

He has discussed  
these points with me - some  
of which I shall note in the  
Dec. report.

W. Tol. Thompson

To see  
back to me

WTR

19/12  
3247

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

TO : Lt. Col. Rhodes R.E.  
Deputy Director.  
FROM : Major W.H. Gemble  
P.W.O. Region 9.

*M. J. R.*

Sir,

Referring to our conversation in which I referred to the major problems which confront the Public Works Division in Region 9 I find that operations in an Army Area are attended by difficulties, if not obstructions which do not exist in areas handed over to Regions.

In connection with the re-activation of utilities, which work has been carried out in co-operation with Engineer Units of the 8th Army many difficulties have been met, and I submit for purposes of information a brief summary of the various issues.

(1) The repair of waterworks pumping plant has been regarded as Priority No. 1 and in most cases the Germans have completely destroyed or confiscated Electric Motors and in cases centrifugal pumps. Immediate contact has been made with the Communal Engineer and Engineer Army Units, have been asked to instal temporary pumping plant generally on internal combustion engine directly coupled to a Centrifugal Pump. When distribution systems have been badly smashed by direct bombing or earth tremor, these have also been repaired by the Army.

In most cases the Engineer to the Commune has no means of carrying out these works, no pipes, jointing material caulking tools or even labor. Furthermore in all cases his Depot has been requisitioned by the Army and difficulty has been experienced in gaining entry, without personally accompanied by myself or other Officer. In cases where repair work has been successfully inaugurated by the Italians. Their work has been slow and unsatisfactory and it has been necessary to call in an Army Engineer Unit.

The question arises very forcibly as to exactly what will happen when the Army moves forward and take away their pumping plant for installation in the newly conquered Area.

(2) The entire lack of any form of equipment by A.M.C. operating in an Army Area is to be deplored. We are entirely dependant upon the Engineer Units, and have nothing to offer in return, their main interest and rightly so is the needs of **3246** day, they



are not interested in civilian needs, and in the forward areas water is only drawn by Hospitals and Military establishments, Laundries etc.

(3) I cannot too strongly emphasize the urgent need of Mobile Electric Generating Units on Trailers 35 to 50 K.V.A. A.C. Current 50 Cycles - 400 Volts. The possession of these in the forward areas would be of real service to the Army, and would function during the lag period before the resuscitation of Electric Energy operated from H.Q. I feel that A.M.G. would justify its existence by this one measure of help; not to mention the great advantages to be derived from re-activating Flour-Mills, Cement, Lime and Brick-Works all of which are electrically driven from energy drawn from the Grid-system. An alternative method would be by Floating Generators which could be hooked up to the Overhead Main Trunk Feeding Cables, generating at 5,000 Volts or up to 15,000 for the supply of inland towns.

(4) The main outcry in the forward areas is for Electric Power and personally I am beginning to regard this of supreme importance with priority over all other demands.

(5) The fact that the Railhead has been extended as high up as Rimini on the heels of the retreating enemy, involving the building of many bridges, complete relaying of tracks (Every rail has been blasted by the enemy) replacing a complicated system of points and crossing at Stations, which have been bombed beyond recognition, - creates the impression that the availability of electric power should exist in those same forward areas, especially as the overhead cable system has not been destroyed to the same extent as the railways.

el  
Lager ||

So many problems could be instantly solved and the presence of A.C. Officials in Army Areas would be more than justified, and I feel that a more prompt service in following up the Army should be unguaranteed, if only to supply Military needs and not civilian.

(6) Bridge Building and Road Repairs.

Contact has been made with the Genio Civile at Forli and Contractors have been interviewed in readiness. In the majority of cases however they have no plant or equipment. This may be true in some cases, indeed some have only the clothes they wear, as much plant has been taken by the Germans or requisitioned by the Army. There undoubtedly exists however a strong reluctance on the part of Contractors to produce plant in an Army Area, or even to reveal its existence, owing to the probabilities of requisition and in some cases the results of bitter experiences.

Very  
in quantity  
SHP

I mention this point as a great effort is to be made to build Bridges when Balleys have been delatched and routes closed to traffic. The difficulties of obtaining materials, transport and labor in the face of Army demands, will accentuate these problems, and progress may be slower than in Regional Areas.

For secondary roads important for getting supplies of wood and charcoal from the mountains, I have designed for small spans a type of wooden-Bailey Bridge, made from rough-hewn logs which can be erected in a few hours, efforts are being made to organize a special gang of Italian wood-cutters for the work of cutting timber and erection.

Finally I would state that in the Army Areas, I have not found the Italians 100% co-operative, much lip service, but the genuine will to help is strongly lacking. They appear to be stunned and apathetic, with no gifts of temporization in difficulties and a complete lack of initiative.

The passing from the control of one army of occupation to another has strange psychological results. Their desire to help in the extreme forward areas I would mark as 2 1/2%.

I have the honour to be

Respectfully

*pretty close figures!*  
W.H.  
W.H. GAMBLE  
Major, P.W.O. Emilia Region.

