

→ Mr. G. J. J. A.
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Return
M. J. J.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

13 December 1943



MEMORANDUM FOR: General Eisenhower.

I am just in from a trip around Sicily and Italy. I visited Palermo, saw Patton, McSherry and the AMG group there. I talked with the staff people who were running the thing from Headquarters, and one of the Civil Affairs officers who came with me took a trip around through the back areas and saw how it was operating on the ground. Patton was a bit downcast but soldierly. He was not very intelligent the way he handled himself, but Lincoln's remark when they got after Grant comes to mind when I think of Patton - "I can't spare this man - he fights." I hear that the hubbub is dying down in the States.

From Palermo I went to Naples and was much impressed by Hume and his group there.

Everywhere it was the same story: "Food". There were many problems, some acute, but most could be answered in terms of food. The shipments have not had any continuity and they are short - short to the point where I feel it will complicate your military situation unless they are increased and are made fairly regular.

There was evidence of some careless and what seemed to be unnecessary use of great historical or national monuments by troops.

Crimes are being committed in the name of military necessity that I think could be avoided by some pronouncement from you. If you are fighting a battle, you can't help it if you knock the corner off a Greek temple that stands in the battlefield. With a little more effort and some greater inconvenience you can billet troops elsewhere than in the midst of a scientific collection in the Naples University or use the famous Naples Museum which still has many easily removable objects in it for a storehouse. We have been running many articles in the States as to the good work the Armies in Italy are doing toward respecting the great monuments of Italy, but I was a bit shocked at the way the thing was operating in Naples itself. When we get to Rome, I suggest a better system should be devised whereby it would not be possible for every combat officer to take the course of least resistance in the name of military necessity in the accommodation of his troops. Could not some expeditious

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method be setup whereby the military government people could have authority to veto the use of the great monuments for billeting unless overruled by the Commanding General? Now they have to yield in practically every instance. There would not be many cases.

front.

From Naples I went up to see Clark at Caserta. Marshall asked me to see him and I was glad to have the opportunity. He took me up the line and we saw a bit of the ~~post~~. I left him and went on with one of his staff officers and visited the Division Commander, and one or two regimental Commanding Officers. I saw ~~with~~ the Italians and the French. The Italians had just been pushed about and the General and his staff did not look too good. They were dispirited. The French looked keen and well equipped. I would guess they would give a good account of themselves, and I gather they will soon be heard from.

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I went on to Bari, paid my respects to General Alexander, who did not look too well to me, although he was alert and vigorous. The sunken ships at Bari were a sorry sight. I saw Francis Rennell and had a long talk with him and Brigadier Lush on Civil Affairs matters. - Again Food - Then went on to Brindisi where I saw Joyce and the Control Commission people. They looked a bit disorganized but they were just getting ready to move and they did not have much of a place to operate in.

I called on Badoglio, who impressed me as a simple, straightforward, reliable man. I came here from Brindisi by way of Palermo and am staying with Murphy. I may go on to London, although I very much want to avoid doing so if possible. Winant has cabled and the British want me to go on there to get work started on the European Advisory Commission and go over the first plans for civil administration in France.

The main impression I received from Italy, so far as AMG and Civil Affairs are concerned was of the food situation. It is not good and there was concern all along the line. The typhus situation is not too bad. There is some and the conditions are such as to generate it but there are good men on the job. I judge from what they tell me that they think they can keep it under control.



J. McCloy
JOHN J. MCCLOY,
Asst. Secretary of War.