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 By JP NARA Dated 29-08

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ENCLOSURES  
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**MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION W. D. G. S.**

**MILITARY ATTACHE REPORT** Tunis

Subject Weekly News Summary (23-29 January) (Country reported on)  
 (Brief descriptive title) I. G. No. 28

From XXXXX LTCANA Report No. 7666 Date 12 February 1944

Source and degree of reliability:  
 The 5 daily and 3 weekly newspapers of Tunis.

SUMMARY.— Here enter careful summary of report, containing substance succinctly stated; include important facts, names, places, dates, etc.

Food situation reasonably satisfactory.

Free sale of meat has been so satisfactory that it is requested restrictions (which have only caused Black Market to flourish) be removed from other foodstuffs. Appeal for removal of former SOL, PPF and other Axis collaborators from the Army. Meals at 18f 50 available. Commissary for those who have suffered directly or indirectly from hostilities opened. Flour shortage relieved to an extent by shipment of American flour. French credited by newspapers with diverting 3 German Divisions from Nettuno district thus helping success of Allied landing. Compulsory vaccination against smallpox announced. Hatred of French for Italians reflected. Appeal for reinstatement of persons in private enterprise excluded for racial reasons. Ceremonious visits by M. Jacquinet, Commissioner of the Navy, and General de Lattre de Tassigny.

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None.

Date  
 23

Expression of satisfaction with unrestricted market for meat and appeal for removing restrictions from sale of potatoes, eggs, poultry, milk, butter, cheese, etc.

The attack yesterday on Roger Taieb manager of the Communist weekly "L'Avenir Social" by a French lieutenant and 4 soldiers provoked an appeal by France Combattante for the purging of former SOL, PPF, and collaborators from the army.

League Against High Cost of Living has opened a restaurant in Tunis where a simple but nourishing meal can be obtained for 18.50 francs. It is reported that government Bureau of Economics is backing the project.

24 Complaint on quality of bread.

A commissary was opened by the Association des Anciens Combattants et Victimes de Guerre for soldiers and their families, for war veterans and their descendants and antecedents, for civilian war victims, in fact for everyone who has had to suffer either directly or indirectly from hostilities. It already carries most of the necessary food products, including rationed items, and will soon carry, cloth, clothing, hats, notion, and even shoes. A meat counter will soon be opened. The vice president of the Association stated that this was only the first of several cooperatives which are to be opened throughout Tunisia.

Tunisian made cloth is on sale without restrictions.

Flour reported to have arrived from America, relieving the acute flour shortage.

25 Mr. Jacquinet, Commissioner of the Navy visited Bizerte, inspected Ferryville Arsenal, and will also visit Tunis.

Since the French Army is not affected by the meatless order for this week, a certain amount of slaughtering continues; but since the Army doesn't consume the tripe, innards and other slaughtering by-products, the order was amended to permit their sale so they wouldn't be thrown away.

26 Mr. Jacquinet during his visit to Tunis presented a flag to a French Marine regiment.

27 Central Market - eggs arrive regularly. Several tons of potatoes and 300 kilos of fish.

Appeal for extension of free market to eggs, poultry, milk, butter, cheese, etc. on the basis that rationing has failed and that the black market has become so general and extensive mainly because of the poor understanding and incompetence of those who were charged with regulating commerce.

Large headlines claim for the French the responsibility for a large part of the success of the Nettuno landing. Because of French penetration deep into the German left flank the preceding week, Kesselring was obliged hastily to send forward 3 reserve divisions.

Editorial appealing for the diversion of some leather for making shoes.

28 Public Health Service announces program of compulsory smallpox vaccination of population of Tunis beginning about 10 Feb. and including an estimated total of 300,000 persons.

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This will be similar to the campaign of 5 years ago. Teams composed of 2 nurses and a policeman will go from house to house in each section of the city. Experience has proven that the presence of a policeman on each team is indispensable.

A reader's letter is published expressing the view that the reason for the shortage of fish and many products of the soil is the internment and compulsory labor to which Italians have been subjected for several months; for nearly all the fishermen as well as the hardest working farmers were Italians. The newspaper's comment on the letter expresses the vengeful hatred of the French toward the Italians. "Nothing can be done about it. We will manage the best we can. The internees of today believed themselves to be the future victors of yesterday. They were mistaken. They think today that they are indispensable. They are wrong again. What an unfortunate succession of errors!"

29

Gen. de Lattre de Tassigny arrived in Tunis.

Appeal for hastening the reinstatement in private enterprise of persons who have been excluded therefrom by racial laws and laws of exception. Numerous reinstatements have occurred in the government bureaus, but not in private enterprise. One should be able to hasten these reinstatements which interest modest workers who have never become unworthy and who have a right to return to their employment as much as the agents of government bureaus. (JICA note: Jews in the insurance business are not able to resume yet after being out of business for 2 years.)

Appeal for patience with controlled prices and managed economy, pointing out that there are some advantages and that a return to free markets must be made gradually step by step.

Poultry taken "off ration."

Appeal for rapid and definite purge of all the traitors who acted, thought, or wrote "boche".

#### Miscellaneous comment:

The week was featured by ceremonious official visits and inspections by two high officials from Algiers and another visitor is expected next week.

There has been no audible complaint on the meatless week. The initial success of the removal of restrictions from the sale of meat last week, has brought forth considerable agitation for the return to a free competitive market in practically all important rationed food items, culminating at the end of the week in taking poultry off ration. No voice has apparently been raised in the public press against this agitation nor in favor of conserving food for feeding the starving populations of Europe this summer.

The food situation in Tunis seems reasonable satisfactory. Fresh vegetables and fruit are plentiful with the notable exception of potatoes, deliveries of which have been irregular and meager. Eggs, though not abundant, arrive regularly. Though the quality of the bread was quite low for a few days, allegedly because of the enforced use of inferior flour from Morocco, that situation has been remedied and the improvement is ascribed to the arrival of flour or wheat from America. There have been a few small arrivals of fish but not nearly enough to satisfy demand.

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The clamor continues in the press for action in the matter of purging all collaborationists.

Two non-Governmental projects to combat the high cost of living were inaugurated during the week.

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