

DECLASSIFIED

Authority *MND 745023*By *JP* NARA Dated *2-29-08*

RC 165
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277 25 May 4730
1940

Although with the advance of the Eighth Army both Sfax and Susa or Sousse were occupied by the Allies on the 10th and 12th April respectively, the task of supplying that Army has not been notably lightened as, at Sousse, the nearer of the two harbors to the new front, there is no more than 21 feet of water in the deepest part of the harbour, and only about 15 alongside its best quay, and that a short one. Ships of more than 2,000 tons or so have to lie far out from the shore in the exposed roadstead, where the holding ground is poor, and discharge into lighters, of which the supply is probably extremely limited. At Sfax, which is now 80 miles or more behind that front, although connected with it by a single-track railway, conditions are only a little less unfavourable for the handling of sea-borne supplies from medium-sized or large ships. Still the roadstead at Sfax has a better anchorage than that at Sousse and is less exposed.

Even if these newly-acquired harbours are not of the first or second class, the Eighth Army, provided that sufficient lighters, barges and other suitable small craft are available, may be able to land 1,200 tons or so a day at each. It should be remembered that the Eighth Army still has to bring its supplies by sea or land from its base in Egypt. The territory which it has occupied is contiguous with Algeria and even has direct railway communication with the Algerian system, but this is only over a branch line recently built from Kalat Jerda on the Tebessa line to Kasserine. The main lines which lead from the Algerian ports both converge at Tunis, which is still in enemy hands and, in any case, the rather meagre lines of communication from the west, which serve the other Allied forces with which the Eighth Army is now in touch, are at present occupied to capacity in carrying the supplies for these forces.

One of the most interesting of the towns occupied by the Allies during the week is Kairwan which until about sixty years ago ranked as one of the sacred cities of Islam; but lost its prestige as such after the French occupation of Tunisia in 1881. It is reported that the Germans damaged the place greatly and left many buildings burning when they withdrew before the Allied advance. By so doing they take rank in the history of Kairwan with the Beni Hilal tribesmen who, as being notably barbarous and ferocious, were deliberately brought in from the desert and let loose upon Tunisia in 1045 by the Fatimite Caliph el Hafiz of Egypt, who thought in this way to quell a revolt of the Berbers against his rule. The Beni Hilal set the Germans the example of setting Kairwan on fire and destroying the pumping stations and irrigation works as well as the orchards oliveyards and forests dependent on those works. Their devastations ruined Tunisia and made much of its best land a desert from which it has been slowly won back only during the last half century. According to a local Moslem tradition the jackals, foxes, lynxes, porcupines and other wild creatures which used to frequent the site of Kairwan behaved very much better than the Germans as when that rather disagreeable Saint, the Moslem Conqueror Sidi Okba ibn Nafi, made proclamation of his intention to build a Mosque and a holy city at Kairwan to be the headquarters of Islam in what had become Ifrikiyah instead of Byzantine province of Africa, the beasts piously withdrew from their hunting-ground in order that their presence might not inconvenience either the Saint or his workmen.

SOURCE: WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE REPORT (W.I.R.) - Issued by the Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff, Admiralty, for the Information of all officers in H.M. Navy - No. 162 - 4/16/43.

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JICA - AFHQ

Date - May 16, 1943

H730
2-11-08
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CLASSIFICATION

SN N-055

JOINT INTELLIGENCE REPORT

~~SECRET~~ *copy*

Subject: Tunisian situation.

001120

Source: Admiralty

~~SECRET~~

Confidential
7/6/43 *REN* *Reclosed*

Paraphrase: Only trawlers, L.C.T.'s, and small motor transports can pass through blocked Goulette entrance at present. Being cleared as rapidly as possible in view of slack water conditions (1/3 to be given for coasters.) Coasters discharging in Avant Port into Landing Craft, L.S.T. on Cavalier Nord. Over 20,000 Tons is estimated capacity of oiling depot at Jetty which seems intact although survey is proceeding. All pumps of underground oil reserves at Point Carriers are being used except one which is completely destroyed. This may be useable in part.

Three berths are clear on the North side of Bizerta Canal for coasters. Fourth Berth given by third remaining frontage. Wreck is fouling Port de Commerce ship route to Jetty and serious bomb damage makes quay unuseable for some time to come. Superficial damage is wide spread at Bizerta seaplane station and Naval Base but a few small wrecks constitute about all the water front damage. Town and Kasbah of Bizerta are virtually in ruins and lack both electric power and drainage. (We are ?) excluding all inhabitants. Service men are confronted with acute housing problem. Pecherie Village shows practically no damage and is reserved for U. S. and Royal navies to be quartered mostly in villas. Water supply is working now. Naval headquarters set up in damaged, but useable buildings at Fort Koudiat. The location is excellent. Urgently require (hutments to extend ?)

Arsenal and town of Ferryville are generally intact but destruction of dockyard was systematic. A reduction in electric power is shortly expected.

In general, all cranes, sources of power, bollards, and sundries have been wrecked in addition to bomb damage.

Admiral LeClerc is established at Ferryville. Attitude of French is cooperative.

Dissemination: ONI ✓
COMCRABNAW
COMAMPHORNAW
COMMORSEAFRON
ALUSNA CAIRO
File

MIS-3
op-16-2 (OSS)
FA-2
op-30
op-39

MAY 22 1943

E. M. Major
E. M. MAJOR,
Captain, USNR

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PORT NOTES - MAY 4/43

~~SECRET~~*Confidential*
*7/6/43 RSD*Philipville

Coal discharge by Fr. stevedores very slow. Average 400 T daily. Local complaints ineffective. Recommend piece work rate of pay.

Sousse

Our air attacks and enemy demolitions have considerably damaged the port and also to the town, which is practically uninhabitable. Nearly all buildings in the port are demolished or unsafe. Craters were blown in the quay faces every 200 feet, and two in outer break-water. One sunken ship partially blocks the entrance and inside are wrecks of over 30 ships ranging from small craft to ships of 3000 tons. No use is being made of the port but it would be possible to berth two coasters at 20 feet now at Commercial quay. The phosphate plant is badly damaged. Salvage work is being carried out on a medium sized tug and it is also considered possible to raise the floating sheerlegs (capacity approx. 30 tons).

Sfax

Damage done here is practically confined to the port area and the town is habitable. Many bldgs in the port area are demolished or unsafe. Craters are blown in the quay faces but four alongside berths are in use for ships drawing 20 feet and approx. 1500 tons of cargo per day is being discharged. The number of sunken ships is large, but many are of the fishing boat type. Two serviceable lighters were found in the port. All ~~these~~ phosphate plants are out of action.

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N. N. I. 96-1942

ISSUED BY THE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
 OFFICE OF CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
 NAVY DEPARTMENT

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

4750 Pubs.
 3-7-43
 877

Serial 597-43 Monograph Index Guide No. 600
(Start new series each year, i. e. 1-40, 2-40) (To correspond with SUBJECT given below. See O. N. I. Index Guide. Make separate report for each main title.)

From U.S. Naval Attache at Cairo, Egypt Date April 12, 1943
(Ship, fleet, unit, district, office, station, or person)

Reference Intelligence Report No. 458-43 from this office.
(Directive, correspondence, previous related report, etc., if applicable)

Source G.H.Q., M.E.F., Cairo Evaluation Reliable A-2
(As official, personal observation, publication, press, conversation with— identify when practicable, etc.) (As reliable, doubtful, unverified, etc.)

Subject TUNISIA GEOGRAPHY 615 - 500
(Nation reported on) (Main title as per index guide) (Subtitles) (Make separate report for each title)

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

SPAX HARBOUR

Map Enclosure: (A) R.A.F. Target Map S/13, dated March 1943.

1. The following information is derived from Photographic Interpretation Report No. M.E.I.U. 1/676 dated 8 April, 1943.

SPAX HARBOUR - references to Target Map S/13.

- a. shipping. Since 7 April, 2 vessels 90 feet approx. have departed and a Siebel Ferry is seen wrecked in entrance channel. Ten small sailing vessels and a few small craft remain. The siebel ferry reported 3,500 yards W.E. of the harbour is not visible.
- b. demolitions The quays of the main basin have been wrecked by blowing craters diameter 20 to 40 feet along the edges.
- c. southern quay. 5 craters across the end of the basin (P.24-Q.25).
 2 craters at the base of the landing stages (R.24 and R.25).
- d. Commercial quay. 5 craters (S.21 - T.21).
- e. phosphates quay. 11 craters, 80 to 100 feet apart. The phosphates conveyor has been demolished and the wreckage is seen lying in the harbour.
- f. Phosphates jetty. 2 craters and one old bomb crater. An undamaged portion of approx. 300 feet remains on the east side of this jetty.
- g. Entrance Channel. A wrecked Siebel Ferry is seen on the north side of the Harbour end of the dredged entrance channel. The wreck does not greatly restrict the channel, a gap of over 110 feet remaining. ~~(8)~~ (8)
- h. Defenses. All A/A positions in the harbour area appear unoccupied. (8,10,11).

Distribution By Originator ONI; Files; A-2, ISAFIME (less enclosure). Page 1.

Routing space below for use in O. N. I.

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597-43

6945
7-7-43
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600

April 12, 1943, Cairo, Egypt

(1) Railway

No change in railway since 7 April.
16 H.T. visible in area.

T. V. COOPER,
Commander, U.S. Navy,
Naval Attache.

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By *JP* NARA Dated *2-29-08*

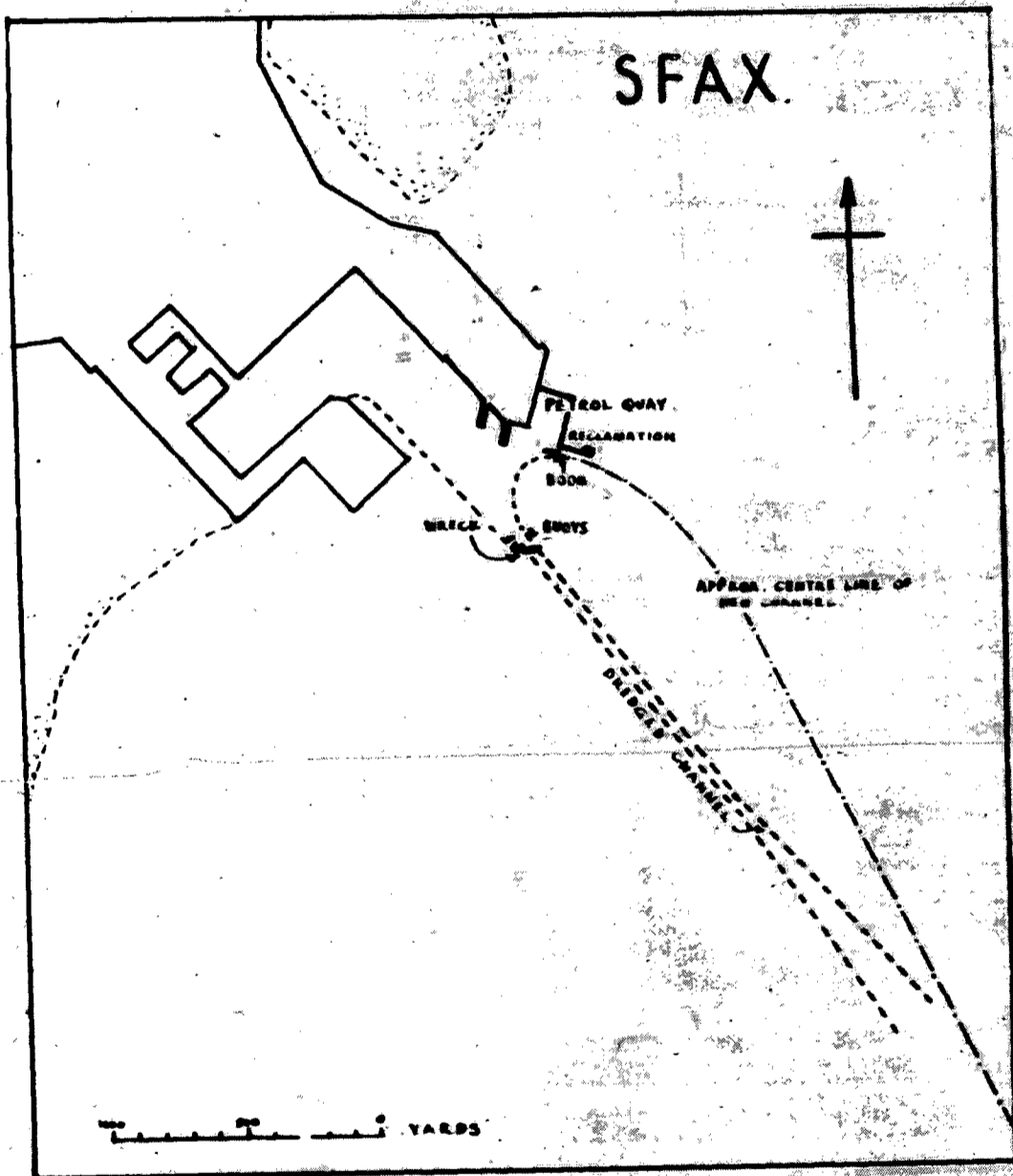
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5.3.43
MIPI-1099.

INTERPRETATION REPORT NO. A.S.44

LOCALITY: SFAX, TUNISIA.

NEW ENTRANCE CHANNEL

Handwritten notes:
4-3-43
OK
JM



P 21391

The earliest available photographs sufficiently clear to enable the entrance channel to be traced were taken in November 1942. These confirmed the position of the channel as shown on Admiralty Chart 1162. A vessel about 150' long was seen lying on her side and completely blocking this channel at a point just to the S.E. of the marking buoys at the landward end. A single line of boats and pontoons extended from this wreck about 170 yards in a N.N.E. direction forming a boom. On the same photographs MA/356 - 22.11.42, a new channel, (which has been clearly traced on later photos) was faintly discernible. This channel runs from a point close to the new quays off the petrol quay (see attached diagram) to a point close to the seaward end of the

/original channel.

original channel. A pipe line about 200 yards long is seen
these new quays and is probably used as a connection for dredgers
spoil to fill in the space behind the quay walls. No dredgers have been
seen on available photographs.

On the same date 22.11.42 a coaster 170' long was seen loading or un-
loading under the cranes on the N.W. side of the harbour. A week later
this vessel was seen to have departed. A T/B 260' approx. was seen lying
in the centre of the harbour, and eight T.L.C.s were reported to be present
on 30.1.43 of which four had left by the following day - W0/96 and W0/102
(N.A.C.I.U. report No.72). All these vessels almost certainly must have
used some new channel as the wreck referred to above was in exactly the
same position, and state, on all available photographs.

On 13.12.42 - MA/444 the boat boom was seen to have been removed and
the usual type of buoyed boom had been placed across the possible new
channel near the petrol quay. On 25.12.42 - MA/468 - a distant oblique
photograph shows eight small vessels in line ahead using the new channel.
Since then N.A.C.I.U. reports 72 and 73 refer to a small floating crane,
photographed on 31.1.43 and the following day, working on the wreck in the
original channel.

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MEDMENHAM

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N. N. I. 06-1043

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H-730 7.11.43

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Serial *54-43*
(Start new series each year, i. e. 1-40, 2-40)

Monograph Index Guide No. *602*
(To correspond with SUBJECT given below. See O. N. I. Form 1043. Make separate report for each main title.)

From *JIOA*
(Ship, fleet, unit, district, Office, station, or person)

AFHQ Date *April 26*

Reference *Memo. from Op-16 FA-2, as presented by Lt. Northrop, April 19, 1943*

Source *Various: Admiralty, Local Observers and shipping information.* Evaluation *Reliable*
(As official, personal observation, publication, press, conversation with— (As reliable, doubtful, unverified, etc.)
identify when practicable)

Subject *Physical Geography & Details of Places—Details of Coastal Cities, Sousse and*
(Main title as per index guide) (Subtitles) (Make separate report for each title)

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

Information on Sousse, Sfax, & Gabes. It is, of course, to be understood that these ports at present writing are not static, but are subject to bombing attacks and subsequent reconstruction.

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APPROVED: *Em Major*
E. M. MAJOR
Captain, USNR
JICA, AFHQ.

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Authority NND 745023By JF NARA Date 2-29-08SOUSSE and Other Tunisian Ports

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SOUSSE.

April 12: Harbor entrance is partially blocked by small trawler. The commercial quay is approximately one-half intact. No port facilities available this date.

April 11: Reconnaissance showed that the commercial quay was wrecked for a length of 402 feet in two places. Northern channel entrance is blocked by two small vessels, leaving 100 feet clear.

April 21. Harbor reconstruction under way. One locomotive and rolling stock working.

April 20. Harbor entrance 115 feet in width, 20 feet in depth. Harbor can't offer LOT berthing.

April 17. Moored mines 2 miles off harbor entrance; channel continued to be swept, with completion date on April 18.

April 15. Salvage continuing on the 20-ton floating crane. Motor transport arrived and is being unloaded.

April 15. All motor transport has been warned to avoid coast road; must proceed via Ldjeum. Unloading ships must be done with ships' booms and labor.

April 10. Harbor entrance blocked by tug and dredging. Main quay has been blown up at 50-yard intervals.

April 8. Damage south quay five craters, commercial quay five craters, phosphate quay eleven craters, phosphate jetty two craters. Average width 30-40 feet across each crater.

April 10. The lighter blocking channel is a Siebel Ferry. Clearing of harbor entrance under way. Four 6-pounder OD guns mounted on south quay. No buildings in waterfront area are tenable. Entire area evacuated. No water or light.

April 12. Commercial quay available for berthing for a ship up to 150 feet in length.

April 13. Channel entrance completely cleared. Unloaded 1270 tons.

April 16. Unloaded 734 tons. Established smoke pots and small balloon barrage.

April 17. Discharged 232 tons.

April 18. Discharged 1571 tons. Scarcity of dock labor and transport.

Enc 1 to JICA AFHQ Ser 54-43.

Source: JICA, No. Africa

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JICA, AFHQ.

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SFAX - Continued

April 19. Discharged 1648 tons.

April 20. Discharged 1798 tons.

April 21. Discharged 1342 tons.

GABES

April 4. Discharged 110 tons. Port under attack. Only two LCT can berth at the same time.

April 4. Discharged 444 tons. Port under attack.

April 5. Discharged 447 tons.

Source: JCS, Africa

- 2 -

3

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Authority NND 745023
By JP NARA Dated 2-29-08Credits

a) Payment or transfer orders to Rome in favor of individuals.....	29.259.892,81
b) Transfer in favor of the Istituto Nazionale through the Bank of Algeria....	<u>32.500.000,00</u>
Total.....	61.759.892,81

Credit balance on May 7, 1943 - 3.380.344,66

4. It will be noted that the financing of the Italian forces in Tunisia through the Banca Italiana was affected through two principal sources:

- a) Individual remittances from Tunisia to Italy, in the amount of 29.700.000 francs.
- b) Transfers from Italy through the Bank of Algeria, in the amount of 207.500.000 francs.

The latter transfers were noted in my previous memorandum. An examination of the debits items above, however, reveals that not all the funds transferred to Tunis were used for expenditures in Tunisia by the Italian Army. Over two million francs were re-transferred to Rome, e.g., and some payments to individuals appear to have been outside Tunisia. Nevertheless, it is clear that the largest part of the 207,500.000 francs in transfers were spent in Tunisia.

On the other hand, it is now revealed that the Italians had 29.7 million francs at their disposal in addition to those funds that were transferred from Italy. At least 25 million francs should be added, therefore, to the sum of Axis expenditures in Tunisia during the occupation.

5. Your attention is called to the names of individuals who received payments from these funds, such as the 800.000 francs paid to Paolette Vesparina. I will call Captain Ayraud's attention to these names and have him investigate.

D. A. Snider
U. S. Treasury Representative

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 By JF NARA Date 2-29-08

Debits

1) Payment to Armistice Commission.....	209.100,00
2) Payment to the Swiss Consulate.....	500.000,00
3) Miscellaneous payments to individuals.....	769.806,15
4) Payment to M. Carlo Ernachi.....	200.000,00
5) Payment to Italian military ordnance.....	175.000.000,00
6) Payment to Italian representatives.....	3.643,25
Total.....	176.682,549,40

Credits

1) Orders for payments in Italy to individuals (private remittances to Italy.....	423.306,15
2) Payment to the Military Command in Italy.....	9.473,40
3) Payment to the Minister of Italian Africa.....	1.599,95
4) Payment to the Consul General.....	14.850,00
5) Transfer effected through the Bank of Algeria in favor of the Istituto Nazionale.....	175.000.000,00
6) Transfer for interior liquidation.....	1.608,25
Total.....	175.450.837,75

Credit balance on May 7, 1943 - 42.045,89

3. Operations in the "Special Account":

Debits

a) Transfer in favor of the Bank of Italy, Rome.....	1.750.000,00
b) Transfer in favor of the Bank of Sicily, Rome.....	50.000,00
c) Miscellaneous withdrawals.....	4.725,70
d) Transfer in favor of the Bank Castellano Franco.....	16.425,00
e) Transfer in favor of Banco di Roma.....	400.000,00
f) Payment in favor of Banco di Roma.....	800.000,00
g) Payment in favor of Paolette Vesparino.....	7.000,00
h) Payment of pensions.....	197.120,15
i) Payment in favor of Terrenia S.A.	4.201,80
j) Cancellation.....	150.000,00
k) Payment to the Italian Ordnance.....	55.000.000,00
l) Miscellaneous costs.....	75,50
Total.....	58.379.548,15

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NORTH AFRICAN ECONOMIC BOARD
Regional Office
Tunisia

5068
7/27/43
rep

MEMORANDUM :

July 20, 1943.

Subject: Transfer of funds to the Axis Forces during the occupation of Tunisia through the Banca Italiana di Credito.

To : Mr. Harold Glasser, N.A.E.B., Algiers.

In the memorandum of June 24, subject "Bank Advances to the Axis Forces during the occupation of Tunisia", there was described certain transfers of funds from Italy to the two Italian banks in Tunis, through the Bank of Algeria and for the account of the Italian Army. A complete description of these accounts was requested of M. Bernier and the information obtained concerning the accounts in the Banca Italiana di Credito is summarized below.

1. The accounts referred to with the Banca Italiana were held in the name of the "Istituto Nazionale per i Cambi con l'Estero" - the Italian National Office for Foreign Exchange. There were two accounts held by this office with the Banca Italiana: (1) A "Compte Separato", which functioned from January 31, 1942 to May 3, 1943; (2) A "Special Account", opened on the 9th of March, 1943, probably to centralize the operations, the importance of which appeared to be growing during the course of the first quarter of 1943.

2. Operations in the "Compte Separato" :

a) Amount of the account on October 1, 1942 - 14.846.799,16.
b) From October 1 to December 31, 1942, 13.6 million francs were paid out of the account, and none paid in. The debits for this period were as follows:

1) Payment to the Italian Consulate at Tunis -	5.006.696,1?
2) Payment to the Armistice Commission -	5.229.821,4?
3) Payment to the Banque Italo-Francaise -	3.000.000.0?
4) Miscellaneous payments to pensioners, ship company, expenses, etc. -	336.524,1?
TOTAL.....	13.573.041,6?

c) From January 1, 1943 to May 3, 1943 there were debits of 176.7 million francs and credits of 175.4 francs as follows:

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IN TRANSLATION 28 JANUARY 1943. EC.

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HIGH COMMISSARIAT
IN FRENCH AFRICA.

ALGIERS, the 27th January 1943.

*SI
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DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE
AND MILITARY SECURITY SERVICES.

INFORMATION

No 891/2 RG.

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TUNISIA

*59260
37.17 of copy
Secret Book 22*

ATTITUDE IN OCCUPIED TUNISIA.-

who's

GRADE B.-

The European population of SFAX which has suffered a great deal by the bombing is reported to show an open hostility towards the Anglosaxons, for whom they had before, save a few exceptions, a marked sympathy.

GRADE X.-

The Germans are reported to be launching an intensive propaganda in Tunis announcing the return in Tunis of the destourian leader HABIB BOURGUIBA.

MISCELLANEOUS.-

S F A X : Grade B.-

Mr. CHASTEL, Civilian Controller of SFAX, is believed to have been arrested and transferred to Italy in company of Mr. HENRY, Civilian Controller of KAIROUAN and of Mr. MONTEY, Civilian controller of CAP BON.

Mr. PIC, farmer at MAHARES, is also reported to have been arrested and taken to TRIPOLI.

Mr. TERY, who was arrested some time ago, has been released.

The French population at SFAX are being made the object of of false denouncements by the natives, very much to the satisfaction of the occupying authorities, and most of the time as a result of futile motives (sacking of workers or servants, payment of salaries, etc.).

T U N I S : Grade: X.

Articles having been published in the destourian paper "NAHDA" of an anti-French tendency, Admiral ESTEVA, Resident-General in TUNIS, is reported to have sent a note of protest to the occupying authorities. Latter refused to consider the matter.

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By JP NARA Dated 2-29-08IN TRANSLATION 28 JANUARY 1943. EC.*Copy to J. (UK)*HIGH COMMISSARIAT
IN FRENCH AFRICA.

ALGIERS, the 27th January 1943.

DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE
AND MILITARY SECURITY SERVICES.

I N F O R M A T I O N

No 891/ IRG

T U N I S I A

SECRETITALIAN AND GERMAN TROOPS IN TUNISIA.-MILITARY SITUATION - SOUTHERN REGION.-MAHARES: Grade B.- 18.1.43.-

is occupied by two German companies disposing of lorries, trucks, touring cars, and 8 motorcycles.

CRAIBA: Grade B.- 18.1.43. -

a party of 5 Germans at the station.

MEZZOUNA: Grade B. 18.1.43.-

The souk and the station are occupied by Italian troops disposing of 8 lorries which are parked in the sheds of the Societe de Prevoyance nearby the station.

BORDJ AKERMA: Grade B. - 18.1.43. (N.W. of MEZZOUNA).-

Occupied by Italian troops.

OBJECTIVES IN OCCUPIED ZONE.*air I.*
SFAX: Grade B. - 18.1.43. -

Two new petrol dumps have been set up, one on the landing ground of St. Henry, the other concealed in the public gardens.

At the garage PASQUIER, situated rue Lamoriciere, there is a large concentration of German armoured vehicles, which are believed to have come from TRIPOLI ANIA.

DOMAIN CLAIRE & PAUL (10 kms S.W. of MAHARES.)

A large amount of German M.T. parked in the buildings of the farm and under the olivetrees of this property.

MOVEMENT OF TROOPS IN OCCUPIED ZONE.-

Grade B.- 18.1.43.-

Intensive motor traffic on the roads GABES- SFAX. Lorries coming from GABES carry German personnel and materiel. The American machine-gunning of the road considerably hampers this traffic, which is now only taking place by night.

Trains continue to run by night between SFAX and GABES.

Grade X - 18.1.43.-

It is believed that German planes bring munitions to the airfield at SIDI-DA near MARSA. These are then forwarded by lorries and cars of all descriptions to the South.

Civilians have been forbidden to use the Southern road.

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EFFECT OF THE BOMBING RAIDS.-

SFAX : The bridge of OUED AKARIT, which was bombed, has not been destroyed. European city, badly hit :

- the church, the town hall, the station, the bank of Tunisia, the electric plant, the synagogue, the post office, and the buildings round the port have been damaged.

In the Arab city, the mosque, numerous killed.

CRAIBA: The station and the lines have been hit. The two steel bridges of the railroad at CRAIBA have not been hit.

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HIGH COMMISSARIAT
IN FRENCH AFRICA.

ALGIERS, the 27th January 1943.

DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE
AND MILITARY SECURITY SERVICES.

Handwritten signature
I N F O R M A T I O N

T U N I S I A

SECRET

ECONOMICAL SITUATION.-

The harvest of olives in the region of SFAK is taking place in very bad conditions as a result of the closing down of over a hundred crushers. These plants are unable to function because of the cut in electric power and the lack of water.

A franco-italo-german economic commission is reported at present to arrange for the resumption of work in some of these oil-mills. It is believed that 100 to 150 million francs have been sent by France for the purchase of the olive crop. However, the monetary situation still remains very difficult.

The supply of the civilian population is becoming alarming. It is reported that bread is only supplied twice a week.

DISTRIBUTION: A.

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SECRET

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Authority NARA 145023
By JF NARA Date 2-29-08

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Authority *NND 745023*
By *JP* NARA Date *2-29-08*C
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AMERICAN CONSULATE

Tunis, Tunisia, August 11, 1942.

NO. 284

Air MailConfidential*6070*
Fr. M. of
*R. J. D.**other copy in 3070**copy to Col. Bl.*SUBJECT: Organization of Fascist Militia in Tunisia. *act-*The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

For some time this Consulate has been endeavoring to obtain information concerning Italian activities in Tunisia aside from those visible to the casual observer and I now have the honor to submit a preliminary report concerning the organization of the Fascist Militia in this country, a report which it is hoped to amplify at a future date.

The organization of this Fascist Militia is being carried out according to a project which was put in final form some time ago. The points which the Consulate has been able to ascertain are those concerning the structure, its constitution, mission, and the numbers, together with the methods employed for recruitment, without going into too great detail.

Structure

In the structure of the Militia there are comprised the three following formations:

1. Fascist Militia abroad called "Squadri d'Ordini"
2. Voluntary Militia for National Security, "Black Shirts"
3. University Militia called "Milicia Coloniale".

Mission

Each formation has a well defined role to play but the general instructions and those most important can be resumed as follows:

1. assure order in Tunisia in case of extraordinary events;
2. facilitate the task of an Italian invasion and cooperate in the occupation of the strategic and critical points.

Numbers and Command

The three formations are directed by a sole commandment at the head of which are:

1.

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-2-

1. Mr. SILIMBANI, ex-Italian Consul General, now diplomatic and civil advisor to the Italian Armistice Commission. Technically he is head of the Italian Red Cross in Tunisia.
2. Mr. REGARD, ex-Italian Vice Consul
3. Mr. SCHIANO, inspector of Italian schools
4. Colonel Arnulfo TURETTA, also of the Civil Delegation of the Italian Armistice Commission.
5. Mr. baldo SCALABRINO, Vice Chancellor. This man's position in Tunisia is not very well defined. He is reported as being exceedingly clever and a dangerous member of the Italian Information Service.
6. Mr. BERTINI, Commissaire of the Special Police of the Italian Armistice Commission.

Up to the present the three different formations are reported to have grouped together an approximate force of two thousand members. This number is variable and in relation with the officers.

Constitution

Each formation is constituted into groups or crews of ten men under the command of a Militia officer and the different crews operate as neighborhood squads always in liaison with the Italian Armistice Commission.

Recruitment

This varies according to the grades and it is always attempted to choose that category of individuals which seems best to answer by their profession or their activity to the conditions and qualities required for the mission for which they are destined. Thus for the officers recruiting is done among the teachers and functionaries of the Italian administration and among those who have served in the National Militia. Such members of the National Militia are required to show their Militia identity cards.

The chief of each squad is left the initiative and the care of proceeding with the recruitment of the squad under his charge. This is always done by neighborhoods so as to group together in a single section of the city men who will have the least possible distance to proceed to their points of assembly.

On account of the actual events in Libya and the recent public agitation concerning Tunisia, the high command has not yet officially diffused the constitution of this Militia in Tunisia except among the neighborhood chiefs. These chiefs have moreover taken oath to reveal nothing. So far they have been supplied by the Italian Consulate with documents of identity which in case of the receipt of instructions as indicated in paragraph "Mission" above would serve to "make themselves known to each other and obtain respect".

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-3-

For this purpose each militia man receives a card headed "Italian Aid Society" and underneath the complete description of the adherent. On the back of the card is printed the word "Vincere". The lictor's rods are shown in blue overstamp.

All the local Italian students of over twenty years are automatically appointed sub-lieutenants of the University Militia. They also receive a card headed "Militia Coloniale" which indicates the name, surname, degree of instruction, and specialty, such as radio mechanic, etc., together with the name of the adherent.

Italian students who have served in the regular army are provided with their military service books.

According to the Consulate's informant the internal activity of this Fascist Militia seems to have increased since the month of May. There is a very clear impression that its ramifications have extended and developed in the interior, both in the south and in the north.

It is hoped that further information may be forthcoming concerning the constitution of clandestine stocks of arms and munitions and of uniforms. The French police has stumbled on a few of these but there is reason to believe that the bulk of it has escaped its attentions.

Respectfully yours,

H. A. DOOLITTLE
American Consul

In triplicate to the Department
One copy to the Legation, Tangier
One copy to the Consulate, General, Algiers

FAD:mrl

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By *JP* NARA Dated *2-29-08*

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Tunis, June 5. No. 6.

Consul Doolittle reports that French policy toward Tunisian Arabs is at present disastrous. In three weeks the army of liberation has accomplished what was not done during 60 years of occupation, the welding of the Tunisians into a solid front against the French. Arbitrary arrests, forced labor, beatings, torture, in fact, a general reign of terror are the order of the day. Under present military guidance, the French have come back to Tunisia as to a conquered country. These facts are especially significant, since the army to be raised in Tunisia must be drawn largely from Arabs.

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 By JP NARA Dated 2-29-08

POSTAL CENSORSHIP
 AMERICA

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No. Pal/0
 Page 1 of 1

TO:

GEORGES ESPIC
 Chief Pharmacist of the
 Pharmaceutical Office,
 Military Hospital,
 Aleppo, Syria.

LIST:

Date of communication
30 October 1943

Date of postmark

Kind of mail

Mail No.

Register No.

Serial No.
4810

Language

Previously censored by

Station distribution

DISPOSAL OF
 ORIGINAL COMMUNI-
 CATION
 underlined passage

Previous relevant records

For interoffice use

Number of enclosures:
None

H
 R R. deleted
 C
 RS

Comment by:
None

Theater Censor
 Hq. USAFIME

To be
 photographed

Photo No.

To whom photograph is to be sent

Sent with comment to—

Division
 (or section)

Table

Examiner

D. A. C.

Reviewer

Examination date
8 Jan. 1944

Typing date

DR
 use only

4 PG

COMMENT U.S. MILITARY CENSORSHIP

(Information from Imperial Censorship Palestine
 Ref. No. Pal/05419/43, dated 22 December 1943)

SEAX BEING RESETTLED BY EUROPEAN POPULATION

"... Since a month and a half ago, access to the European city is open and little by little, people are setting up there again. But what difficulties; no doors, no windows and very little wood to make any. The Municipality has proceeded to the resettling of certain families and as soon as there is intervention by the administration, apparently there is opposition.

MASOT clears streets and gutted houses. GRILLOT has taken up his duties again and strives to reestablish telephone lines for us, but the job goes very badly, it is probably not his fault.

COSTA is still as mobile and it is always he who holds the last pipe, (punctured).

The local Fighting French is still run by JOURJIN who, however, says he wants to resign. There is disagreement between him and COSTA, even in a movement which ought to be no more, a way is found to quarrel among themselves. The Committee, it appears, calls for the dissolution of the SEAX Municipal Council - Why? MONARI" (Ex. Note 22).

Theater Censor's Evaluation: P.O.

W D DIS

- AAF CB
- AGF EB
- ASF FL
- BPR TG
- CAD M&I
- GHP PN
- CSO POV
- CNS RB
- ENG SB
- EAS SEB
- FIN VP
- JAG ADC
- MPD ANT
- OPD CDC
- ORD EDC
- PMG HD
- QM MDW
- SGO NSC
- SSD PCD
- TAG SC
- TRN SDC
- USW WDC

- 2-IC
- 3-CSS
- 5-MID
- 2-CWI
- 3-T

15

2/3/44

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