

PHILLIPPEVILLE CAMP

431

Phillippeville Camp

431

x Level 4.
A-Do-Eckhouse
Algiers, Algeria

16 October 1944

TO: John C. Weigel
UNRRA, Washington

FROM: Paul R. Hadley
UNRRA, Algiers

Philipville Camp - 431
Assignment
5m

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21. FINANCE - Upon arrival here we discovered UNRRA funds were inaccessible due to "for camp operations only" being included in instructions Allen to Cunningham. The total time spent in conferences with Vice-Consul, Disbursement Officer, etc. by both Russell and myself ran into many days before this was straightened out. "e have urged that the account in the Philippeville Bank of Algiers be kept at a basic minimum in a franc position and that all travel and salary vouchers be paid direct by the Disbursement Officer of the Treasury, payment being made in dollars rather than having UNRRA people finding themselves in possession of too many francs should there be a deflation which is a possibility when the Army moves.

22. SUPPLIES - We have investigated several warehouses with a view to storing such supplies as may arrive here for UNRRA and have contacts with M. Albert who controls a larger part of stevedore labor so that ships can be unloaded. "e have also arranged with a trucking company to transport from dock to warehouse for storage, and from storehouse to railroad for movement and can secure such freight cars as may be necessary immediately. We also have available adequate cars for materiel from moment of arrival until delivery at camp.

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23. LOCAL PERSONNEL - We have interviewed and cleared with G2 better than 100 former employees of OWI, WPB, Red Cross, etc. This group includes administrative, secretarial, transportation, kitchen and labor, telephone operators, etc. so that should there be a need for civilian employees, we are prepared to furnish help in almost any category.

24. REFUGEE MOVEMENT FROM CASA - We spent considerable time arranging for first and second class coaches on a movement of 500 refugees by train from Casa to Algiers to embark for the Mid-East. This involved a tremendous amount of detail as all G2 clearances for them, visas, etc. had to be accomplished here. This group included 400 Sephardic Greeks and 150 British Arabs. This also involved clearance with the French to move them from Morocco into Algeria. We attempted to have the same cars come completely thru as it was a four day train trip, but we were unable to get permission from the French to have any cars leave Morocco. This involved the transference of these people from one train to another at Oujda with a 7 hour delay. We further arranged with the Red Cross in Oran to serve a hot meal as the train passed through Mascara and an additional hot meal was served here immediately before embarkation.

25. GENERAL - In all, we have had conferences with Brig. Gen. Clarke and Col. Riddle who accomplished the retention of British personnel at the Philippeville Camp until such time as American personnel were here and ready to take over. We reached a further agreement that all personnel at the Camp would remain on the British payroll until such time as we took over and that adequate material, supplies and food would be left to cover a 90 day period following the British departure. This included free gasoline, motor transport and motor mechanics. It was further arranged that the 200 Yugoslav occupants would remain indefinitely and be fed, etc. by the British without expense to us. In addition, we had many conferences with Major Platter regarding personnel, Major Webster regarding supplies, Capt. Constable of Rail Movement, Capt. Charlton of Ship Movement and Capt. Scott of R.T.O., all British.

In addition to the contacts enumerated above, we have very amiable relations with Flight Commander Corcoran and Squad Leader Foster who control the movement of Canadian planes.

We had many talks with Col. Gillene, Commander American Forces here, Capt. Gray, his Adjutant, Capt. Alexander and Lt. Withersall of the Finance Department and Lt. Davis and Lt. Gbb of the PX, Col. McLeod of American Movement, and Capt. Addison of American Rail. We also had an opportunity to contact Col. Sax and Capt. Bell who wield terrific authority in Naples and Caserta.

We have had conferences with Mr. Ferguson of FEA, Dr. Curtis, Mr. Blakesly and Mr. Gardner, and established friendships.

Naturally Mr. Lawton, Mr. Hill and Mr. Hecht have come in for a good deal of attention, as well as Cunningham and Mr. Mitten, all of whom are associated in the American Consulate. We cannot too strongly stress the inestimable help we have received from the office of the American Consul.

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We wish also to speak specifically of Roger LaRoche, Business Manager of FEA, who has taken the time to teach the FEA and Treasury method of accounting to both Mr. Russell and myself. so that we feel competent to properly handle UNRRA accounts through channels should this arise.

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Should a successor to me ever be appointed, I recommend that he be sent speedily and I am sure that within a fortnight such contacts as I have built through the months I spent here with Red Cross and renewed in my present endeavor can be transmitted properly.

I further recommend that anyone leaving the United States should have proper salary papers and that some care be exercised in the drawing of orders, that the facilities available from Wilmington, Miami, New York, Washington and Montreal for movement by air be thoroughly investigated and particularly in the case of Montreal be used. In this office, direct connections for the Middle East are available at Rabat and ample space to Rabat is available. I further recommend that adequate instructions without too many restrictions be given the Treasury Department as to the use of UNRRA funds. Also that the Treasury Department be requested to assign a disbursing officer at each UNRRA installation so that continued salary payments of personnel can be made in dollars rather than the currency where we are located.

From a personal standpoint, I would appreciate receiving some indication of my present capacity with UNRRA and anticipate in the not too distant future that I will receive from some adequate source some knowledge of my salary position so that I may be able to draw whatever is due me.

Respectfully submitted,

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PRH:OJ

cc: Mr. Fryer

Duplicate *A-00-Eckhaus*
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Paul R. Hadley
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PRH:OJ

cc: Mr. Fryer

Copy to: Herbert H. Lehman
Sir William Matthews
George Xanthaky
Ressman Fryer
John J. Corson
Philip G. Hammer
Kenneth Dayton
Edwina M. Bell

5 September 1944

Mr Paul R. Hadley
UNRRA Training Center
University of Maryland
College Park
Maryland

Philippeville Camp - 431
Xn *(Assignment)*

Dear Mr Hadley:

This will confirm our conversation relative to your functions as Travel Expediting Officer in Algiers for a period of approximately a month.

The primary purpose of your stay in Algiers will be to expedite our UNRRA travellers by all methods of travel to their several destinations. It is essential that persons now about to go to Cairo and Philippeville arrive at their posts of duty at the earliest practicable moment.

When we send cables to Cairo indicating the persons who are about to leave headquarters, we shall place the names in the cable in the order in which the Mission requires the services of the several individuals. That means that the persons at the top of the list ought to be expedited by air travel if possible.

With your experience in approximately the same type of work for the American Red Cross, you will advise all travellers as to how to proceed and help them to obtain quarters if they are delayed in their travel.

The most important point to be determined is whether UNRRA should maintain such a Travel Expediting Officer in Algiers or some other North African port, or not. For this reason we should like to have a detailed report from you, citing records of all travellers who have been assisted by you, with a recommendation as to whether such an individual is necessary.

It is understood that in either event you are to proceed to Cairo. Should your recommendation be that some one else should be allotted this function, you will give us the name of an individual who has the approval of G2 of the U. S. Army

Mr Paul R. Hadley

-2-

5 September 1944

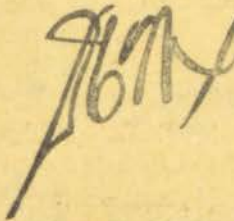
authorities, and for whom you can personally vouch. We understand you believe you will be able to suggest some one who worked with you in the American Red Cross.

If your recommendation is that such a person should be employed, please cable through the offices of the American Consul General at Algiers, giving us this information, so that we can authorize Sir William Matthews accordingly.

The primary purpose of your job will be to keep folks moving in order that they may become active in their Mission functions at the earliest practicable moment.

A copy of this letter is being sent to Sir William Matthews.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. C. Weigel', written in a cursive style.

John C. Weigel, Director
of Administrative Services

JCWeigel/LH