

NOTES ON DECISIONS TAKEN AT MEETING ON SUPPLIES TO  
PARTISANS IN NORTH ITALY HELD AT HEADQUARTERS 6TH  
ARMY GROUP, 1400 HOURS 17 JANUARY 1945.

Note: The decisions stated below are subject to review  
by higher authorities at the various headquarters  
represented at the meeting.

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3. Lt. Col. Baumer asked 6th Army Group's policy as to frontier control. At the present time it is a forward zone. He understood that First French Army controls part of the frontier and an AA Brigade the other portion. Gen. Jenkins explained that 6th Army Group controls the SWISS frontier and the FRANCO-ITALIAN border through the First French Army as far south as ST. ETIENNE. General de Lattre is Army Commander commanding that area. General Molle is in command of the Alps front from the SWISS frontier to ST. ETIENNE. Troops are under 6th Army Group through First French Army. It is a combat zone and not communications zone nor zone of the interior. Only General Devers is responsible for everything in the area. South of ST. ETIENNE the border is controlled by a task force set up under the headquarters of 44 AAA Brigade under General Tobin who is responsible directly to Gen. Devers. This is also a combat zone and not CZ nor ZI.

Lt. Col. O'Hanlon of SHAEF Mission (FRANCE) Stated that some time ago they had taken up with the French, at the request of 6th Army Group, the advisability of the French assuming responsibility for control of that frontier and a French general in charge responsible directly to 6th Army Group. He asked if this would still hold. Gen. Jenkins replied that the condition which existed at the time this request went to SHAEF no longer exists. 6th Army Group proposed as soon as other operations are completed to pass back to the FRANCO-ITALIAN frontier an additional division; the frontier to be controlled by 6th Army Group. That division will be, it is hoped, a Rearmament Program French Division.

4. AFHQ asked if it was to 6th Army Group's interest to keep a quiet frontier on FRANCO-ITALIAN frontier to which Gen. Jenkins replied that it was very definitely so. AFHQ then asked if it would be to 6th Army Group's interest to have a strong Partisan movement on the other side of the border. Gen. Jenkins stated that he felt it would be dependent on the ability of the Partisans to accomplish any mission, which he felt was doubtful.
5. Col. King of AFHQ then discussed the present state of Italian Partisans in NW ITALY. He stated there were 53,000 potential Partisans in NW ITALY. There are 25,000 active Partisans in NW ITALY and 5,000 effective Partisans close to the border. He stated that AFHQ plans an offensive some time in the future. AFHQ desires to hold all possible enemy hostiles in the NW, up in PIEDMONT. There are now held there by Partisan effort the 5th Mountain and 34th Inf. German divisions, sizable elements of Italian regulars and some irregular

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Italian outfits. We feel then that it is necessary to keep the 5,000 effectives close to the border still engaging the enemy and to prepare them by propaganda, training and some supplies to strike even a heavier blow when we start our offensive. To do this we will have to build up a little stock pile. Bearing in mind that Gen. Jenkins has said we do not want to be mixed up with any new activities on the border now but we do want to keep what is going there going. As to the operational value of the partisans, AFHQ feels that the value of these effectives and these active, now passive, Partisans is equal to the number of divisions and irregulars that they now hold there and may attract in the future. In other words we feel that the Partisan activity in NW ITALY is the equivalent of at least 3½ hostile, perhaps not first class, enemy divisions. He then asked Col. Riepe with 15th Army Group to continue with more detailed information.

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6th Army Group  
AG TRANSLATION  
T-468 18 January 1945

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:

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- 2 -

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