

16 May 1945

SUBJECT: Report of Operations

TO : Commanding General, EDATC, APO 741,

1. Report covers the period from 1 to 15 May inclusive.

1 May 1945 Meeting with Mr. Brinch, American Legation, regarding materials for Sepals to be shipped to Lulea. Message to Major General Anderson through minister Haglof. Dinner with Major Conradi, Assistant Air Attache American Legation, Major B. Ek, Finnish Air Attache, Lt. Col. Arnesen, American Legation, Major Hardell, Lt. MacClory, aide to General Anderson. Two planes dropped supplies at Skogenvarre, 1 ship dropped medical supplies at Karasjok.

2 May 1945 Received report of mine accident at Karasjok. 22 men were killed and 9 injured. One plane from Kallax to Stockholm to pick up two Norwegian doctors, medicine and surgical equipment for Karasjok. One nurse from Stockholm was also picked up. Medicine and surgical equipment repacked at Kallax for dropping by cargo chutes at Karasjok. Personnel received parachute instructions. Captain Lowenskjold, Norwegian army, reported for duty to act as liaison officer between Colonel Dahl, Norwegian Troops in Finmark, and this project. Lunch with Captain Lambrechts, Norwegian Air Attache, and Major Ek, Finnish Air Attache. Discussed corridors through Finland and Norway, and possible coordination of aircraft movements in Northern Finland. Colonel Rayens, Major Conradi report of Karasjok situation. Major General Anderson left for Paris. One plane to Stockholm and return with field hospital doctor and nurse.

3 May 1945 Report from Kallax, no success in attempted drops last night because of weather. Meeting at Norwegian Legation regarding Russian situation in Northern Norway. Inquiry from Flygtjanst regarding possibility of flying Junkers - W -33 from Kiruna to Karasjok and landing on river with skis. Did not recommend this, but suggested that Storch liaison planes belonging to Swedish air forces be flown in from Kiruna to Karasjok for evacuation of casualties. Two doctors and one nurse from Norwegian Police Forces, and surgical supplies dropped by parachute at Karasjok. All landed OK. Meeting with Captain Lowenskjold regarding coordination of delivery of supplies from Stockholm, Headquarters Norwegian Army, to Kallax for transit to Norwegian troops in Finmark. Meeting Col Berg, Norwegian Military Attache; Lt. Col. Hassel; Lt. Col. Gunderson; Captain Lambrechts, Norwegian Legation; Mr. Berg, Norwegian minister to Finland; Lt. Col. Arnesen, American Legation. Discussed present operations from Kallax. Requested more Norwegian loading personnel for Kallax. 2 planes dropped food, hospital supplies, 2 doctors and 1 nurse at Karasjok.

4 May 1945 From Stockholm to Kallax by A.B. Aerotransport's airline. No operations because of weather up north. Staff meeting regarding coordination of operations at Kallax, Finmark and Stockholm. Lt. Col. Marrs was calling by phone regarding rotation of personnel and passports for replacements. No passports needed. Only A.B.G. cards and an identification paper similar to the ones used by internees here.

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in Sweden. These replacements will also arrive in uniform.

5 May 1945 6 planes to Kirkenes with 27,713 pounds freight. 1 plane to Karasjok with 4,191 pounds freight and 1 plane to Skoganvarre with 4,290 pounds freight. One Swedish Storch plane lost enroute from Kiruna to Karasjok. Search started with 3 planes. During search, Storch reported to have arrived at Karasjok after 9 1/2 hours with a 5 hour fuel capacity. Pilot reported having flown in bad weather, had gotten off his course and run right on top of a Norwegian patrol who opened fire on the plane getting in several hits. Pilot landed on nearby lake and went over to the Norwegians who were very apologetic about the whole affair having mistaken him for a German aircraft. Lt Haslever and Sgt Mesnard from Military Attache's Office, American Legation, arrived at Kallax by ABA plane from Stockholm.

6 May 1945 1 plane dropping at Karasjok and Jotkak. Ammunition and food to advanced patrols. 1,054 pounds freight dropped. Two planes to Skoganvarre dropped 7,911 pounds. 4 planes flew to Kirkenes with a total weight load freight equaling 16,478 pounds. One plane evacuation of casualties from Kiruna to Military hospital at Boden. These casualties are evacuated with Storch planes landing on the ice on the river at Karasjok and taken out to Kiruna, where C-47 planes of this project will pick them up for further transportation to nearest hospital at Boden. Poor weather conditions in dropping area, snow squalls and low visibility. Lectured to all men on general situation in Northern Norway.

7 May 1945 No operations on account of weather. Capt Rorholt, Mr. Brinch and Mr. Ogan arrived from Stockholm for Sepals operations. German total capitulation announced at 1400 hours. American and Norwegian officers and men were guests at Swedish messes celebrating the Allied victory in Europe.

8 May 1945 1 plane dropped gasoline for Storches at Karasjok. Afterwards made first landing at Banak airport. Total of 4,120 pounds freight. Took Colonel Dahl and staff from Banak to Kirkenes for conference with General Charbacow, Russian CO of Kirkenes operations. Two planes to Banak with 9,505 pounds freight, two planes dropping at Skoganvarre with 9,015 pounds freight, two planes dropping at Kautokeino with 9,170 pounds freight. One plane evacuating casualties from Kiruna to Boden.

9 May 1945 No operations because of weather. Sepal supplies arrived by rail. Lt. Haslever and Sgt Mesnard left for Stockholm with reports on current situation. Lecture by Captain Juve, Reporter with Norwegian Forces in Finmark, to all men on the situation in Finmark. Capt Juve's lecture was very interesting and gave the men a conception of what the soldier on the ground there was up against. Lt. Colonels Marrs and Walker arrived from Stockholm on plane Nos 987 returning from 100 hour inspection. Col Semb, Captain Wergeland and one nurse, Norwegian Police Forces, returned from Karasjok with last casualties.

10 May 1945 Four planes to Banak with 6,898 pounds freight. One plane to Kirkenes with 4,583 pounds freight and one man. Two planes landed at Kautokeino on field just cleared of mines with 4,071 pounds. D.F.C. was awarded to Lt. Lindle. Plane No. 704 to Stockholm for engine changes. Lt Colonels Marrs and Walker left for Stockholm. Norwegian medical personnel from Karasjok left for Stockholm. Captain Schauche telephoned from Bodo, Norway regarding flying Sepal supplies into German airfield at Bodo, now under control of Norwegian home front forces. Decent Soderman, Swedish criminal police, phones regarding mission to fly 90 tons of food into Bodo area for 20,000 Russian Prisoners of War. These prisoners of war are starving and large numbers are dying each day.

Militærhistorisk Samling Gausdal

11 May 1945 Phoned Colonel Curtice, Assistant Air Attache, American Legation, requesting a directive on our last commitment of 450 tons and 265 men from Kallax to Finnmark. Docent Soderman, Inspector Sundin and Lt Stoltenberg arrived from Stockholm. Got up lists for equipment and bought equipment for relief expedition to Bodo. Talked to Lt Harr, Norwegian home front at Bodo, and gave him instructions for landing at the Luftwaffe airport there. The home front have the airport under control with the Luftwaffe personnel on the field. Col Curtice and Major Hardell, American Legation, were called by phone regarding security and scheduling of trips into Northern Norway. Meeting Docent Soderman and Police commissioner for Northern Sweden (Landsfoged) Danielson, regarding arrangements for getting supplies for Russian prisoners of war out of local stores. Called General Kessler on phone and informed him of present status of Bodo operations.

12 May 1945 No operations because of weather all over Northern Norway. Final checking of supplies for Bodo. General Kessler was called on phone regarding Sepals supplies for Bodo area.

13 May 1945 23 loads flown in to Bodo. Total weight of 107,924 pounds of freight. (On Bodo situation see special report to American Military Attache).

14 May 1945 No operations on account of weather. Report prepared on Bodo. Major Simon, Captain Oakes and Captain Allato, Fiscal Division E.T.O., arrived from Stockholm.

15 May 1945 No operations because of weather. Telephone from Oslo from Norwegian High Command requesting my presence at a conference the next day. Referred them to Military Attache, American Legation, for permission to be present at this meeting. Major Simon, Captain Oakes, and Captain Allato left for Stockholm. Lt. Col. Wonderly, Assistant Military Attache, American Legation, arrived from Stockholm for discussion of C-2 matters.

2. Summary of operations to date:

Freight and Passengers

Trip No	Date	No of Planes	Men	Freight lbs	Total lbs	Men	Destination
34	1/5	3		13,728	13,728		Karasjok
35	2/5	1				3	Stockholm
36	3/5	2				3	Banak-Karasjok
37	5/5	9		36,205	36,205		Kirkenes
38	5/5	3					Skoganvarre
39	6/5	9		26,587	26,587		Kiruna
40	7/5	1					Kiruna
41	8/5	8					Kiruna
42	10/5	7		33,270	33,270		Banak-Kirkenes
43	13/5	8		37,930	37,930		Bodo
44	13/5	8		37,267	37,267		Bodo
45	13/5	8		32,727	32,727		Bodo
46	14/5	1					Stockholm

3. Total amount of gasoline and oil drawn at Kallax up to 15/5/45:

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644,695 liters of 100 octane gasoline
5,685 liters of oil

4. Summary of flying time up to 15 May 1945: (from 1-15 May incl)

246 hours and 30 minutes

Total hours: carried forward from April - 1475.18 (hours & minutes)
From 1-15 May inclusive - 246.30

Total flying hours of project 1721.48

/t/ BERNT BALCHEN
Colonel, AC
Commanding.

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY:

DANIEL E. WALZER
Major, Air Corps

Repr: EURD AGO
31 August 1945, irf

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Militærhistorisk Samling Gausdal

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1415th AAF Base Unit EDATC

APO 741

1 June 1945

SUBJECT: Bi-monthly Report of Operations.

TO : Commanding General, EDATC, APO 741, US Army.

1. The following is a report of operations from 16-31 May 1945, inclusive:

16 May 1945. - 3 loads to Banak, 13,950 pounds; 8 loads to Bodo, 36,850 pounds. 1 plane to Stockholm for 100 hour inspection. Took Col Dahl from Kirkenes to Banak after conferences with General Charbacow, CO of Russian troops in Kirkenes sector. Lt. Col Wonderley briefed navigators on G-2 procedure and what information of value to forward. 1st Lt. Robertson, O-437674, appointed S-2 officer, and instructed on briefing and debriefing crews.

Telephone from Oslo, Norwegian High Command, requesting Col-Balchen to be present at meeting today or tomorrow regarding flying personnel and supplies into Norway from Sweden. Request referred to American Military Attache at Stockholm. Lt. Col Wonderley left for Stockholm.

Docent Soderman; Dr. Erickson; Mr. Sundin; Swedish Relief Expedition to Bodo, returned to Kallax from Bodo to report to Swedish Foreign Office for further action.

17 May 1945 - 2 planes to Kautekeino, 8,833 pounds; 1 plane to Kirkenes, 4,631 pounds. Captain Rorholt, Norwegian Army, communications officer "where and when" project, to Sanak for conferences with D.K.F. - District Command, Finnmark -. Telephone from Norwegian H.O.K. - Army High Command - requesting transportation for 50 tons of uniforms to Oslo, Stavauger, Bergen, Trondheim and Tromso. These uniforms are urgently needed for the first contingent of Norwegians called up to relieve Allied troops for guarding duty in Norway. It is contemplated to call up about 50,000 Norwegians for this purpose. Referred the request to American Military Attache at Stockholm. 17 of May being Norwegian Independence day, a parade of the Norwegian troops and detachment at Kallax, with church services and a dance in the evening, was held at Lules.

18 May 1945 - 1 plane returned from Banak. No other operations because of weather at Bodo and Kirkenes. Major Bjornson, medical officer D.K.F. from Banak for conferences with Stockholm Norwegian Legation. Telephone from Norwegian Legation, Stockholm, regarding uniforms to be flown in to Norway from Orebro. Referred the request to American Military Attache at Stockholm.

19 May 1945 - 7 planes to Kirkenes, 31,046 pounds. Bodo and Banak closed in by weather all day. Telephone from Norwegian H.O.K. at Oslo, regarding supplies and equipment to be flown into Norway. Referred request to American Military Attache at Stockholm.

Received copy of directive from Swedish Foreign Office to Docent Soderman

SECRET

in which is outlined procedure in requisitioning supplies in Sweden for Norway and authorizing requisitioning without license.

Evacuated one casualty from Kirkenes to Bodo. Plane No. 985 to Stockholm for 100 hour inspection. Plane 247 had to remain at Kirkenes because of engine trouble; loose cylinder.

20 May 1945 - 5 planes to Bodo, 23,205 pounds. 1 plane to Kirkenes, 4,646 pounds. Conference with Norwegian home front Hq regarding arms for guards at Russian PW camps containing Russian PWs.

Norwegian D.K.N. - District Command Nordland - informed the home front Hq at Bodo this morning that effective 1800 hours today all German guards at the Russian PW camp would be withdrawn and for the home front to provide the guards immediately. They further announced the home front would not be allowed to take any weapons from the Germans, and would not be given any arms from the Sepals stores available in Sweden. Suggested they use shotguns and cut shells in half for guards until suitable arms could be procured. All total, there are about 40,000 Russian PWs in this district, with total population of hardly that such. They are promised Allied troops, but they could not say when they will arrive. Major Kreyberg, Norwegian Army D.K.N., has taken over Russian PW evacuation program, but has no definite plans. He says he must first confer with Hq in Oslo. There are grave concerns about the safety of civilians if the Russians get on the loose.

21 May 1945 - w 2 planes to Bodo, 9,276 pounds. Plane No. 247 returned from Kirkenes. Planes 245 and 703 returned from Stockholm after 100 hour inspection and repairs.

Some trouble at Russian PW camps last night and this morning reported. A small number killed. Norwegian home front district leader asked for weapons from stores at Kallax immediately. Referred him to SHAEF at Oslo. This was approved by SHAEF and MILORG by phone. Telephoned General Kessler, American Military Attache at Stockholm, regarding Bodo situation. General Kessler would contact General Thorne, CO of Allied troops in Norway, for further instructions regarding arms for home front guards in Bodo. General Kessler informed this officer that all further commitments on supplies for Norway would be coordinated through SHAEF, Oslo, and American Military Attache at Stockholm.

22 May 1945 - No operations because of weather. Heavy snowfalls all over Northern Scandinavia. Captain Lovenshjoeld went to Stockholm for conferences with Norwegian Legation. Lt. Col Reistad, RMAF, called on phone from Bardufoss, requesting a conference at Bardufoss at the earliest possible date. Serious sanitary situation with 40,000 Russian PWs. Asked permission to go to Bardufoss on next flight from General Kessler, who concurred.

23 May 1945 - No operations because of weather same as day before. Finished M.I. reports on Bodo. Informed by Mr. B. Eriksen, American Legation, Stockholm, that no armament be taken into Bodo area.

24 May 1945 - 6 planes to Bod, 27,885 pounds. 7 planes to Banak, 32,331 pounds.

Plane 243 returning from Bodo dropped 3 cargo chutes to a Swedish Army ski patrol of 6 men who were stuck close to the Norwegian border at Valsolouktastugan, and had run out of food. This should give them sufficient supplies to wait for the breakup and get out to the nearest road.

Meeting with home front Hq in Bodo and informed them about present situation regarding military equipment. The medical officer of the home front Bodo district,

informed this officer the supplies already brought in had saved hundreds of Russian PWs, and that the health situation was improving every day at the camps they had reached up to now. They have now taken control of the German supplies and are distributing these to the prisoners. What is urgently now is medicine, glucose and diet foods, C vitamins and later on, D vitamins. The Germans are committed to feed the PWs until 12 June 1945. The home front considers it doubtful if there are sufficient supplies available for this commitment. They estimate that in the Bodo district alone, there is about 65 camps with between 30 to 40,000 prisoners. In about two weeks they expect the supply situation to be very critical if they do not get new supplies in by boat. Besides the PWs, there are about 3 or 4,000 displaced persons in this district. These are people left behind, and escapees from organization Todt. They are French, Dutch, Belgian, Czechoslovakian, Yugoslav and Poles. There are also about 2000 Vlasov Russians, practically all with criminal records and causing lots of trouble all the time.

The home front has taken over the guard, and the camps are under control at the present time. The Norwegians guard the outside of the camp, while the prisoners are taking care of the discipline inside. This is working now, as everything is new, but if they are going to keep these PWs fenced in too long, trouble must be expected. From 10 to 15% are given passes to take walks outside the camp.

At the meeting, this officer received a radio message to return to Kallax immediately and to proceed to Stockholm for a conference. Picked up Dr. Erikson at Kallax and reported to American Military Attache at Stockholm. Col Dahl, CO of Norwegian troops in Finnmark, had arrived from Banak and went along to Stockholm. Met General Hoag, Col Parker, Col Flynn and Capt Myers from Hq EDATC. Dr. Erikson, Dr. Nelson, Dr Nordvall, from Swedish Red Cross, discussed PW situation in Northern Norway with Col Harvey and Major Torcan, British Army, SHAEF. Impressed upon them that immediate help was necessary.

25 May 1945 - 1 plane to Kautokeino, 4,719 pounds. 2 to Banak, 9,240 pounds. 3 to Bodo, 13,860 pounds.

Meeting General Kessler and Col Curtice at American legation discussing future commitments and disposal of planes. A study of the situation and a proposal will be made to General Kessler on this. Meeting at ATC Riksby, with General Hoag and staff. General Hoag presented the Air Medal to this officer. Had dinner at General Kessler's house with General Fritz, Col Parker, Col Flynn, Col Boyd, Col Curtice and Lt Col Marrs present.

26 May 1945 - 1 plane to Banak, 4,730 pounds, 1 to Kautokeino, 4,620 pounds.

Flew to Gardermoen, Norway, with General Hoag. By car to Oslo, 1 and 1/2 hours drive. Meeting with Major General Riiser-Larsen, CO of Norwegian air forces. The Norwegians have not at the present time, any planes available to take over our commitments up north until some C-47s can be diverted to them. When this will happen, the General did not know. Fornebu airport, where one of this projects C-47s has landed to pick up Col Harvey and this Officer, is under repair at the present time, but will be ready in three weeks. Meeting Col Harvey, Dr Erikson, Dr Nordvall and Captain Styhr, Norwegian Medical Corps. Took off from Oslo for Kallax via Trondheim. On board were: Col Harvey, Dr. Erikson, Dr. Nordvall, Captain Styhr going to Bodo, and Col Dahl for Banak.

27 May 1945 - 5 planes to Kirkenes, 26,966 pounds. 3 planes to Bodo. 13,879 pounds. 1 plane to Banak 3,850 pounds. Plane No.958 arrived 0700 hours from Stockholm via Oslo.

Col Harvey, Dr Nordvall, Capt Styhr to Bodo. Conference at home front 4q with

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medical section. Col Harvey and party left by car for inspection of PW camps. Two companies of Norwegian mountain troops arrived from UK at Bodo. One for MD in Rana and one for Fauske.

28 May 1945 - 5 planes to Kautokeino, 23,122 pounds. This officer inspected the German installations at Bodo airport. Separate report to Military Attache, Stockholm. Took off from Bodo for Bardufoss. At Bardufoss, Col Schaefer, German Luftwaffe CO, Lt. Col Reistad, RAAF, has taken command with a small group of home guards. A large Russian PW camp was close to the field and where conditions were bad upon arrival of Lt. Col Reistad, he had thrown the Germans out of their hospital and put the sick Russians in there. A Norwegian concentration camp close by was used for the other Russians. Conditions were improving all the time. From Bardufoss returned to Kellax via Kemi, Finland.

29 May 1945 - 6 loads to Bodo, 27,753 pounds, 1 load Kautokeino, 4,576 pounds. 6 loads to Kirkenes, 27,616 pounds. 3 casualties from Kautokeino, 3 casualties from Bansk to Kirkenes. 3 casualties from Kirkenes.

Col Harvey, Dr Nordvall left for Stockholm on plane No. 262 which is due for 10⁰⁰ hour inspection at Stockholm. Discussed supply condition at Kautokeino with the CO of Norwegian troops, Capt Tuster, there. There is a request from Col Dahl to evacuate 300 men to Banak. This leaves about 150 men and 146 horses plus the civilian population, to be fed until the road to Alta is cleared of mines and bridges repaired again. This, he estimated, could be accomplished by the first days of August. Until then, they are absolutely dependent upon delivery by air. An estimate on their needs would be sent in by radio to Kallax.

30 May 1945 - 4 planes to Kautokeino, 15,979 pounds. 5 planes to Bodo, 23,100 pounds.

Lts Egedius and Ogan returned from Bodo. Sepal supplies packed for shipment by rail to Stockholm. Made agreement with Col von Porat, Kallax field CO for using other runway than the one posted on tower when this one is too short for C47s to land or take off when loaded. If desired to use another runway, pilot will contact tower on phone on 4250 kc. Tower will answer with green light for OK and red for stop. Informed Major Conradi, assistant Military Air Attache at American Legation, about our present backlog on commitments to Norway. Requested all planes to be held here until 10 June at least.

31 May., 1945 0 No operations on account of weather. East-West running warm front just north of Kallax with heavy rains and low ceilings over operational area. Men were paid and QM supplies issued.

Total gasoline used by this project to date ----- 795,645 liters

Total oil used by this project to date ----- 7,130 liters

Total flying hours of aircraft of this project for period from 16-31 May:

440 hours 10 minutes

Total flying hours of all aircraft to date: 6,377 hours 45 minutes

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Total cargo moved by entire project to date: 1,755,867 pounds

BERNT BALCHEN
Colonel, AG
Commanding

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY:

DANIEL E. WALZER
Major, Air Corps

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