

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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MAPS
AUG, SEPT. 1943;
APR. 1944

808

The papers originally
filed in this jacket,
comprising carbon copies of
indents on AFHQ for maps,
have been destroyed in the
authorities of the Archives
Cotee.

affidavit

1 April 44

4259

*acc. M.C. School
Liza Dwyer*

HB

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- 3 AMG SEC. G-2, CI 3 Sept
G-2 Docs 43
in turn
and return
to G-2, CI.
1. AMG will naturally do all in its power to cooperate with Survey in obtaining control and use of cartographic establishments.
 2. They will wish to be informed in particular of any proposals affecting the libraries at the Universities mentioned in Para. 4 of Appendix A, so as to cause the minimum interference with the records that are contained.
 3. May this section be kept closely in touch with planning in order that a suitable directive can be included in all AMG Regional plans.

A. T. Maxwell,
Colonel,

Dep. Chief, Military Government Section.

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

INFORMAL ROUTING SLIPG-2 SECTION

FILE: _____

DATE: 29 Aug 43SUBJECT: Italian Cartographic Establishments.

Fill in each column, initial action, and draw a line across the sheet just below initials. Number each memo consecutively in first column.
Use entire width of sheet for long memos.

1. OI(Topo) 31 Aug 43
OI

Reference attached.

1. It is vital that these installations should be secured early and if possible undamaged.

2. I suggest that AMGOT, C.I., and G-2 Docs be asked to comment on the proposals. They may wish to have representation on the commission or exercise control over the documents found which do not interest Survey.

3. Documents should be listed and the list circulated in order that interested sections may know that they are available for reference. This refers more particularly to the University Libraries.

/s/ A. D. Carvin
A. D. CARVIN
Major, R.E.,
G-2, OI(Topo) Section.

2. G-2, OI AMGOT
G-2, CI
G-2 Docs
in turn
and return
to G-2, OI.

For Comment.

/s/ C. C. SLOANE, Jr.,
Col., G. S. C.,
G-2 Section, OI.

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
ENGINEER SECTION
SURVEY DIRECTORATE
APO 512, U.S. ARMY

SECRET

4D

FILE: CV 1/47

29 August 1943.

SUBJECT: Italian Cartographic Establishments.

TO: G-2, A.F.H.Q.

In the event of our occupying Italy and of political considerations permitting us the use of Italian installations, it is essential that we should take over as a going concern (as far as possible) the Istituto Geografico Militare of which the Headquarters and main plant are in Florence.

To do this it is necessary to formulate a flexible plan, to nominate soldiers to carry it out, to inform and issue the necessary directions to AMGOT and the military commander in the field. A small commission of officers and men, having special technical knowledge and experience will be necessary. I recommend this be a mixed British and American body. There is no need for immediate W.E. action as I will find soldiers from existing resources in the first instance.

Will you please cause this question to be examined by the appropriate branches. I attach a draft directive to 15 Army Group, which may be useful as a basis to work upon.

I would stress that speed of action at the time will be essential, since there are many geodetic and cartographic records that must be seized and preserved to our use.

For the Chief Engineer:

R. LI. BROWN,
Brigadier,
Director of Survey.

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
ENGINEER SECTION
SURVEY DIRECTORATE
APO 512, U.S. ARMY

SECRET

4E

August 1943.

SUBJECT: Italian Mapping Records.

TO: Headquarters, 15 Army Group.

1. In the event of an allied occupation of Italy, it is most essential that we should obtain possession of all Italian mapping records at the earliest possible moment, and that we should have ready a scheme for the conversion to our use of the Italian map production establishments with, or without, the assistance of the permanent Italian Staffs.
2. Mapping records, air survey and reproduction plant will be found at the establishments, details of which are given in Appendix 'A'.
3. Experience at Palermo shows that such records may be lost through thoughtless souvenir hunters. It is essential that the records and plant referred to above should not be unnecessarily damaged. In particular, the air survey instruments can easily be wrecked beyond repair by unskilled manipulation.
4. In addition, immediate action will be required to copy the geodetic and mapping data of which only an original copy may be found.
5. It is essential that arrangements should be made to contact the Italian technical staffs and to open up these map production establishments as early as possible.
6. To carry out this scheme it is considered that an inter-allied commission of four officers and eight technicians will be required with an adequate staff of interpreters and with transport. The officers should include a geodesist and officers trained in map reproduction duties and air photo plotting. It is probable that the services of this Commission will be required for some long time. It may not be possible, therefore, for you to find the personnel required from the resources under your control. In this case arrangements can be made to provide them from officers and men from the survey units under A.F.H.Q.
7. It is requested that this matter may receive immediate consideration and that your proposals may be submitted early.

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APPENDIX A

List of Italian Establishments at which mapping material
or plant will be found

1. Istituto Geografico Militare. Firenze.

All geodetic records of Italy and possibly of France, Austria and the Balkans. Original drawings, negatives and plates of Italian military maps. Air Survey and map reproduction plant.

2. Istituto Idrografico della R. Marina. Genova.

All Italian naval charts. Air Survey and chart reproduction plant.

3. Direzioni general del Catasto e dei Servizi Tecnici
erariali. Roma.

Large scale maps suitable for the planning of base installations. Air survey and map reproduction plant. In addition there are either branches of this institute or else firms working under special contract at Firenze, Parma, Sondrio, and Vercelli.

4. Libraries at the Universities of Roma, Milano, Padova, Pisa,
Genova, Torino and at the Observatories at Capodimonte (Naples)
and Brera (Milano).

Geodetic data of Italy. Possibly printed copies of maps.

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Technical Instructions for Survey Commission.

1. The three institutes, details of which are given below contain the whole of the geodetic and reproduction material for maps at all scales of Italy. Details are from records dated 1940.

(a) Instituto Geographico Militare, 8 Via Cesare Battisti, Firenze. Director-General, General Pietracaprina. Deals with the whole of the triangulation of Italy and the drawing and reproduction of military maps of Italy. A report appears at pages 32-34 in "Notes on CGCS Maps of Italy, etc.", dated 1 May 1943. In addition to the above, it is probable that geodetic and reproduction material for France, Austria, and Balkans will be available.

(b) Instituto Idrographico della R. Marina, Genova. Director, Contrammiraglio Bonnetti. Deals entirely with naval charts, but is believed to have some air survey plotting machines.

(c) Direzione General del Catasto e dei Servizi Tecnici erariali, Roma. Director-General, Dr. Ing. Tucci. Deals entirely with large scale property, etc., plans. Control for these is obtained from the Instituto Geographico Militare. No details of the plant are available but it is understood that there are some air photo plotting machines. It has either branch offices or firms working under contract at Firenze, Parma, Sondrio, and Vercelli.

2. Of these three institutes by far the most important for the Allied war effort is the Instituto Geographico Militare.

3. In addition to the above institutes, geodetic data and maps will probably be found in the libraries at the Universities of Roma, Milano, Padova, Pisa, Genova, and Torino and the observatories of Capodimonte (Naples) and Brera (Milano).

4. Indexes are attached showing the geodetic data which is held at A.F.H.Q. and the latest editions of sheets of all map series. (To follow).

Duties of Commission.

5. Your task will be to:-

(a) ensure that adequate steps are taken to guard the Institutes and Libraries given above until all useful survey material has been removed.

(b) Sort out all printed geodetic and mapping material, forwarding, to the Survey Directorate, A.F.H.Q. up to twelve copies (in two separate consignments) of all material either not in our possession or else of a later date than that now held.

(c) Make two photographic copies of all geodetic and mapping material not yet in printed form or of which only one printed copy is available. Two photo or other copies are to be made of all material which only exists as negatives, plates or pulls. The two copies are to be consigned separately to Survey Directorate, A.F.H.Q.

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(d) Estimate the repairs required to the equipment at these institutes and if possible effect the repairs.

(e) Contact the technical staffs of the three institutes and endeavour to get them to return to work.

6. To carry out the above task, it will be necessary for the Commission to have one or more survey units under its control. An early estimate of the number of units required should be made. They should if possible be found from Survey units under 15 Army Group, but if any units now under A.F.H.Q. are required to assist, an immediate demand should be made.

7. The above arrangements are not to prejudice the local use of any material required by the Army Group or the Armies under its control. It is vital to ensure that any such use will neither mutilate or destroy any original records. In many cases it may be advisable to make additional photo or other copy for 15 Army Group use.

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