

ACC

10000/100/794

12 pp.

10000/100/794

WOMEN WELFARE WORKERS  
APR. - AUG. 1943

12 pp.



FOLIO	DATE	REF	TO/FROM	SUBJECT
1	29 APR	141F/1442/CA	CSOI. CIVIL AFFAIRS	Women Welfare Workers.
2	9 MAY	11604/1CA	CCAO	"
3	24 JUN	LON	AFHQ RILOT	"
4	2 JUL	0000	FAEDOM	"
5	4 JUL		AFHQ RILOT	"
6	30 JUN	6086	FAEDOM	"
7	22 JUL	15100/1CA	AFHQ RILOT	"
8	31 JUL	010/0200/1CA	AFHQ RILOT	"
9	1 AUG	1400/130	AFHQ RILOT	"
5	2 JUL	1400	AFHQ RILOT	"
6	4 "		AFHQ RILOT	"
7	22 "	1400/CA	AFHQ RILOT	"
8	31 "	010/0200/1CA	AFHQ RILOT	"
9	2 Aug	1400/130	AFHQ RILOT	"
10	4 "	1400/230	AFHQ RILOT	"

4147



1400 hrs.  
5 AUG 1943

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
Military Government Section

TBJ/egb.  
4 August 1943.

MGs/230

SUBJECT: Wardresses

TO : AMF



1. Ref your 141F/7972 CA of 7 July 43, the matter was immediately taken up with G-1 and the following copy letters now received in reply are forwarded.

- a. Copy G-1/B/2366/A2 of 31 July from Lt. Col. VENABLES.
  - b. Copy G-1/B/2366/A2 of 2 Aug. from Brig. G-1(B)
2. Please report the action which you propose to take in the matter.

*Apologies  
in the absence of,*  
J.C. HOLMES,  
Brigadier General, G.S.C.,  
Chief, Military Government Section.

2 Incl's.

C.S.O.

We have had no reply to 7 so do not know what action has been taken by AFHQ but in view of conditions in Sicily and 8 herein I think we should drop the idea altogether and inform AFHQ accordingly.

*TRB*

16/8.

414R

*[Signature]*



COPY

SUBJECT:- Wardresses - Middle East.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

G1/B/2366/A2

D.A.G., AFHQ.

31 Jul.43

With reference to DO/30/DAG, dated 16 Jul 43,  
regarding Wardresses to be supplied in Sicily.

1. Wardresses were employed in Eritrea and Tripolitania by the B.M.A. These women were recruited from the local population and were generally the wives of the Police or other Officials and volunteered for the jobs. There was apparently no difficulty in obtaining all women required.

It is suggested this method should be adopted in Sicily.

2. The Welfare Workers referred to were wives of Italian Govt Officials in Eritrea and also three or four British women brought from East Africa, but their job was the care of women and children prior to the repatriation to Italy and was far removed from that of Wardresses.

They were given a contract and paid 22 per month, free rations and accomodation and given all facilities to purchase from EFI and other advantages enjoyed by British Officers. They could not possibly be employed as Wardresses in Sicily.

(SGD) R. VENABLES  
Lt-Col,  
A.A.G.  
G.H.Q.  
M.E.F.



FAST AIR.

Subject: Women Welfare Workers.

SECRET.

15AG/7972/OA.

22. July. 43.

Military Government Section,  
A. F. H. Q.

Reference my 141F/7972/OA of 7. Jul. 43.

In telegram No. 18113 of 21. Jul. 43, East Africa state that they have a welfare worker, Mrs. Angus, and possibly one or two more, now available in Middle East. East Africa ask that we should signal earliest if these welfare workers are required, otherwise they will be returned to Nairobi.

We have not yet heard whether women welfare workers will be required in Sicily but I think it is more than likely. I suggest that you telegraph immediately to East Africa suggesting that these welfare workers are held in Middle East to be sent forward directly they are required.

Please let me know what action you have taken on this.

*[Signature]*  
COLONEL,  
S. S. O.

H.Q. ARGOT,  
15 ARMY GROUP,  
FIELD.

*[Handwritten: B/a 2/2/44]*

HEADQUARTERS  
Date 22 Jul 43  
N 2972  
FORCE 141

27  
6B

SECRET

IMPORTANT.  
CLIPPER MESSAGE  
IN

OLIO NO: 13989  
21 JUL 43

FROM: HQ E AFRICA COMD  
TO: FREEDOM ALGIERS FOR 141 FORCE  
ORIG NO: 18113

TOO 1020B/21  
THI  
TOR 1130B/22

CIVAFFAIRS FOR RODD.

WELFARE WORKERS ANGUS FORCE? NOW AVAILABLE. SIGNAL EARLIEST  
IF YOU REQUIRE OTHERWISE THEY RETURNING NAIROBI

CIVIL AFFAIRS 3 ACTION  
GEN LORD RENNELL 1 (PERSONAL)

SMC 1325 B/22  
T.T. 1330B/22 JT

SEE 28

ACTION

4143



ANGOT - MOST SECRET

1417/7972/CA

6A

7 July 1943

To: Military Government Section, AFHQ

WARDRESSES

1. With reference to FREEDOM telegram 6086 of 30 June 1943 addressed to FANTOX reporting that Middle East state no wardresses are available from Middle East to deal with the possibility of captured prominent Fascist women during HUSKY. The C.C.A.O. has discussed this with Col. Pidsley, TAC 141 Force, who said it is a matter for AFHQ. C.C.A.O. says that this to his personal knowledge there are six wardresses (women welfare workers) now available in Eritrea who should be called forward immediately if desired.

2. If this is a matter for G-1, British, AFHQ, I should be grateful if you would take it up with them, letting this Headquarters know in due course the result.

*R.L.*  
R. J. P. THORNE THORNE  
Colonel  
C.S.O. - ANGOT

ANGOT REAR HQ  
AFHQ  
ENAF

*See 28*

*B.O. Jw 17219*

*1076*

*1152*



RECEIVED  
Date 7/12  
N  
FORGE 141

A.M.G.O.T.  
H.Q. 141 Force  
Field.

4 July, 43.

Dear Thom. Thom,

D.A.G.

Adm  
at  
22

1. Wardresses. Have seen Col. Pidsley who says it is an A.F.H.Q. matter. C.C.A.O. therefore wishes you to take this up direct with them. He says there are six available in Eritrea now, whom you can call immediately if desired.

Capital  
Plan  
7855  
will be  
letter

2. AMGOT HQ in Tunis. Attached letter to MGA is being implemented. Will let you know as soon as possible what you should bring. Nicolls hopes to get most of the equipment locally, but he would like you to bring as much black-out material as possible.

3. Please ask Algiers Area to send their orders etc. direct to you and not to this office.

→ Being done by Col. T.T.

Yours

*[Signature]*

How as hell here.

To Sec

Lt. Col. R.J.P. THORNE THORNE,  
C.S.O.  
AMGOT (Rear)  
A.F.H.Q.

Let Col. Pidsley know

Ⓟ

4141

DCP/egh

4/7

FANTOX

FREEDOM

A 090

21.  
MOST SECRET BIGOT HUSKY X  
YOUR 6086 OF 30 JUNE X CONSIDER <sup>PROVISION</sup> OF 6 SUITABLE FEMALES FOR DUTY AS  
WARDRESSES ESSENTIAL X CAN YOU ARRANGE PROVISION

8 JUL 1943

Internal Distribution by "A"

G (SD)  
AMGOT

141F/3091/A  
2 Jul 43

4140



785015

EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET  
**SECRET**

AFHQ  
OUTGOING MESSAGE

BIGOT

BIGOT

ROUTINE

TO : FANTOM

NO: 6086

FROM: FREEDOM

HEADQUARTERS

Date 6 Jul 43

N 7972

FORCE 141

16  
Ref our 4011 28 June BIGOT HUSKY.

MIDEAST report no Wardresses available.

ORIGINATOR: G-1 (8)

AUTHENTICATION: C.A. BRIDGLAND

INFORMATION: AG RECORDS  
SGS

MC-OUT-9078 30 JUNE 43 1235E NO 6086 et

To SEE.

LTCOL MARLEY SMITH

Sec 22

EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET  
**SECRET**

BIGOT  
COPY No. 4134

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN



COPY.

SUBJECT:- Wardresses - Middle East.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Chief, Military Govt Sec.

G1/B/2366/A2

2 Aug 43.

Ref your memo of 24 July concerning provision of Wardresses.

I attach a copy of a letter from H.Q. MIDEAST.

It appears that the use of non-Fascist and co-operative Italian women was found to be satisfactory in Eritrea and Tripolitania, and you may consider similar women could be employed in ITALY.

Sgd: ? Westropp, Brigadier,  
G-1 (B).

4138



EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET

**SECRET**

WAR DEPARTMENT  
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

**OUTGOING MESSAGE**

HEADQUARTERS  
DATE 24 JUN 1943  
N: 7972  
FORCE 141

**BIGOT HUSKY**

**PRIORITY**

**TO: MIDEAST REF NO. 4011**

To deal with possibility of capturing prominent FASCIST women during HUSKY, can you make available at call 6 women wardens believed to be available ex ERITREA. If so suggest they be held in CAIRO.

**ORIGINATOR: G-1 (B)**

**AUTHENTICATION: C. A. BRIDGLAND,**

**INFORMATION:** EGB  
DTC  
FORCE 141  
NAVY  
G-3  
CAO  
MAC  
AO RECORDS

SMC DISTRIBUTION  
IMPORTANT.

A 1 ACTION  
CIVIL AFFAIRS 1

SMC.0305B/24  
T.T.0325B/24. SSB.

*To SEE  
CSO*

MC OUT 6958 23 June 43 1911B

Ref No. 4011

EQUALS BRITISH MOST SECRET

**SECRET**

**COPY No.**

**9**



BIGOT.

No. 11604/ 572

CIVIL AFFAIRS BRANCH.  
G.H.Q. M.E.F.  
5th May 1943.

G.S.O.I. Civil Affairs.  
H.Q. 141 Force.

WOMEN WELFARE WORKERS.

3A

HEADQUARTERS
9 MAY 1943
DATE:
Nº: 7972
FORCE 141
of 29th Apr.

Reference your memo. on the above subject, I am not clear whether you are asking us to recruit W.W.W. for you in Egypt or whether your demand is for the transfer of the few experienced workers we are at present employing in Eritrea.

2. If the former, I doubt if any can be obtained unless you are prepared to take non British women. If the latter, it is impossible to say whether they would be available when required by you, until the arrival date of the next flight of Italian ships at Massawa is known. As you may be aware, this departure from Italy of the next flight of ships has been delayed on account of a "technical hitch" whatever that may mean.

G.S.O.I.

See 7 A above.

Attyl - Armin L. Cal.

9. 6. 43.

PA JEE

10/5

*Hawkins*  
Major General  
C.C.A.O.

*Will dist 136*  
*Carey J. 9/5.*



BY FAST AIR.

DIGIT

① ~~DA~~

SUBJECT:- Woman Welfare Workers.

141F/7972/CA.

JOSE SHINNY.

NO 143 FORCE.

29 MAY 63.

Civil Affairs Branch, C.M.Q., H.E.  
Political Branch, S.A. Comd., Nairobi.

It may be necessary to employ several Woman Welfare Workers in North Africa during the summer. Would you let me know as soon as possible if you will have any suitable women available at any time of June. If so their names or any language qualifications they may have.

L.J.P. THORNE THORNE, Lt. Col.

Lt. Col.  
C.S.O.I.  
Civil Affairs.

P.

Inclusion as at p. 2A of 4135  
Pl. keep me informed.

3/4.

g.h.

G.

(1)

| 0 8 4 3 |

