

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

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ITALIAN RAILWAYS
MAY 1945

785015

FROM: FIFTH ARMY LIAISON GROUP C IN C SOUTHWEST FRONT FISH
TO : HQ ALCON

ORDERLY EVACUATION OF GERMAN SUGAR SUGAR TROOPS CMA
DISCONTINUANCE OF GERMAN MILITARY POLICE AND RESTRICTION OF GERMAN
TROOPS TO BILLETTS WHEN NOT ON DUTY HAVE GREATLY RELIEVED TENSION PD
HOWEVER LARGE NUMBERS OF THE POPULATION ARE ARMED CMA THE GERMAN
HAVING MAINTAINED OR SOLD LARGE QUANTITIES OF SMALL ARMS AND MUNITIONS
ESPECIALLY TO THEIR SYMPATHIZERS HERE PD PARTISAN ACTIVITY IS NOT GREAT
AT THE MOMENT BUT MAY BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE WHEN GERMAN ARMED
TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWN PD SOME FRENCH PARTISANS FARMER POSSIBLY EX
VICTIMS FARMER HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN THE AREA AND ARE NOW BEING
ROUNDED UP PD WORK ON BRENNER RAILROAD IS PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY
PD CLM INTELLIGENCE ALTHOUGH PD MOUNTAIN OF SUSPECTED WAR CRIMINALS IS
MAKING SOME PROGRESS WITH LIMITED PERSONNEL AVAILABLE

NUMBER LARGE NUMBERS OF THE POPULATION ARE ARMED. CWA THE GERMANS
HAVING CAPTURED OR SOLD LARGE QUANTITIES OF SMALL ARMS AND MUNITIONS
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TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWN PD SOME FRENCH PARTISANS FARM POSSIBLY EX
VICHYTES FARM HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN THE AREA AND ARE NOW BEING
ROUNDED UP PD WORK ON HESNER RAILROAD IS PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY
PD CIL INTERSUSPICENCE ABATED PD HOUNUP OF SUSPECTED WAR CRIMINALS IS
MAKING SOME PROGRESS WITH LIMITED PERSONNEL AVAILABLE

3507

(Signal received from Sgt Shanzer, AMG Hq, Bolzano.

TO: COLONEL FISKE, AC ADVANCE ROUTE
FROM: HQ TWO CORPS FOR FISKE FROM HQ ALCON CITE ACXC

REFERENCE YOUR SIGNAL DATED 12 MAY. ACTION APPROVED.

*See FC/20/16
Telegram No I*

5606

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

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Col Wray -

The Chief of Staff has reported
this matter to II Corps, and
has requested that you give
the attached paper to Col Fiske,
today. Col Fiske is head of
AC Comm in this area.

3605

H. Miller

IL PREFETTO DI BOLZANO

Bolzano, 11 8.5.1945

Al Col. WRAY

Senior Civil Affairs Officer

B o l z a n o

Oggetto: Controllo germanico
sulle Ferrovie Italiane.

Ho appreso con vivissimo rincrescimento, condiviso da tutto l'elemento italiano della provincia, che il comando alleato ha disposto la continuazione del controllo militare germanico sulle ferrovie italiane nella stessa forma in cui esso si è verificato durante il duro periodo dell'oppressione tedesca. Sono certo che la decisione del comando alleato è stata determinata dalla mancanza di una esatta conoscenza dei fatti, ed ho perciò fiducia che la decisione presa sarà riesaminata con sollecitudine.

Dal settembre 1943, in seguito all'occupazione tedesca, la direzione ed il personale italiani sono stati subordinati ad un comando ferroviario germanico militarizzato, e cioè inquadrato nell'esercito ed armato. Questo comando ha esercitato le proprie funzioni mostrando una estrema durezza verso il personale italiano, sia negli orari, sia nelle misure disciplinari.

Con l'arrivo degli alleati, l'organizzazione ferroviaria italiana era certa che per la sua ricono-

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Con l'arrivo degli alleati, l'organizzazione ferroviaria italiana era certa che per la sua riconosciuta capacità tecnica e per le mutate condizioni politiche che gli alleati le avrebbero riconosciute il compito di riprendere il pieno controllo delle ferrovie della provincia di Bolzano, fino ai confini della provincia di Verona.

Invece, è stata confermata la posizione precedente, e con essa la subordinazione di tecnici e lavoratori italiani civili a reparti militarizzati germanici !

La sezione italiana delle ferrovie attende dunque che il comando alleato ripari all'errore commesso ; che le siano assegnati dei compiti precisi, ed è certa di assolverli con la più completa soddisfazione del comando alleato. Essa potrà valersi degli elementi specializzati e della manovalanza germanica, allo scopo di accelerare l'esecuzione dei lavori.

E' anche necessario che le sia assegnata la disponibilità dei materiali finora a disposizione del comando germanico e dei suoi organi di controllo ; includendo in tali materiali gli automezzi ed i carburanti.

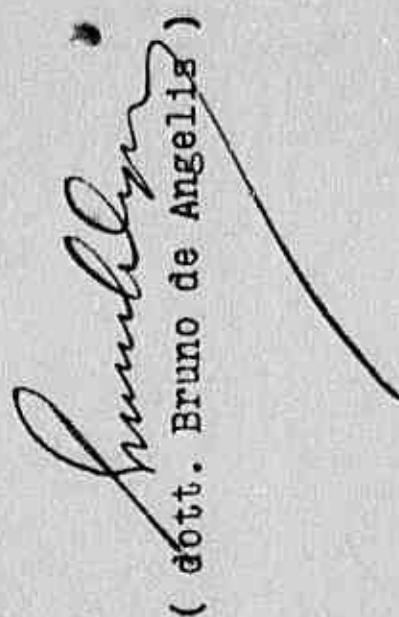
fto.

(dott. Bruno de Angelis)

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(dott. Bruno de Angelis)

Object: German control (surveillance) of on
Italian trains. Railway.

To my greatest regret (and also to the greatest
regret of all Italian elements of the Province) I
have heard that the Command of the Allies has
left the entire control military control to the
German forces as it was the case during the
time of the German oppression.

I am sure that this decision was made in
ignorance of the real facts and I therefore
beg of you to reexamine it.

Since September 1943, following the German
occupation all the heads and staff of trains
had to put themselves under the Military
Command of the Germans, that is to say they
actually were enrolled in the German army.

This German Command exercised their function
using the utmost severity against Italian staff
regarding punctuality and matters of discipline.

On the arrival of the Allies the Italian Organi-
sation of Railways was sure that in recognition
of the technical capacities and according to
the changed political position that Italian

Organisation would be allowed to take up
their former position and control Italian
Railways from Bologna up to the ports of Genoa.

However the everything has been left as it was,
that is to say that Italians have still to submit
under the German Military forces.

The Italian section of Railways therefore attends
that this error will be put right as soon as
possible and that the former position with all
its rights will be regained and the Italian
section is sure to give you full satisfaction.
Certain special workers among the Germans
could be got ^{to} help so that things could be hurried
up.

It would also be necessary to regain all
the materials now in possession of the
Germans including all those materials of
motor-cars.

signed Zuno de Angelis

S.C.A.O. II Corps.

Herewith a copy of a letter received from the German High Command with regard to the repair of the Railway. The position is this - the repair of the railway is a matter of military urgency which the German Army has been ordered by the Allies to undertake. Will you please make it plain to the Italian Railway employees that their employment is open to them, that it is not open to them to say who shall or shall not be employed on this work and that if they do not wish to work the lines will be taken over and run by the Germans entirely. Please also instruct the CLN that any order they may have issued will be withdrawn and that they are not to issue any orders on administrative matters.

15 Army Group Liaison.
9th May 1945.

Lt.Colonel.

Translation.

From:- C.in C. S.W.(Cmd.Army Gp.C.)

H.Q.7 May 45.

Department of the General of Transportation.

To:- Allied Liaison Staff of 15 Army Group.

The order given to the General of Transportation by Allied Liaison Staff for the repair of the Brenner Railway to Verona cannot for the present be carried out owing to the attitude of Italian Railway authorities.

At first the Italian Railway Authorities had agreed to cooperate, but after the Italian Liberation Committee had been brought in, the attitude changed considerably, as was shown by a conversation which took place on 7 May afternoon with Eng. Pontana (the highest ranking Italian Railway Official at Bolzano) and by threats of strikes by Italian Railway personnel at Bolzano and Franzensfeste. Accordingly the National Liberation Committee refused any German participation in the repair of Railway lines and stations and also in the running of the service. It agreed merely to the repair of Railway Bridges by German Rly Engineers.

These demands are difficult to understand. Possibly they also serve the purpose of creating employment of Italians. In any case they delay the reconstruction considerably and make it partly impossible. The German Cmd. with their knowledge of conditions as they are can say that only the very effective German organization in cooperation with the Italian authorities can quickly and effectively restore the Brenner-Line to operations.

Since the Italian attitude is contrary to the directives given by Liaison Detachment, clarification is requested. Suggested is joint German-Italian work, possibly divided up as to kind and region, under Allied supervision. If this is not agreeable, the German Cmd. requests that the numerous civilian German Railway workers, who are now idle, and who are partly highly qualified specialists, be released

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Besides it is observed that local American authorities differ in their attitude to the question of employment of German Railway workers, and that frequently permission is withheld by local American Occupation authorities for the moves of workers of all kinds to the damaged areas, even sometimes followed by requisitioning of vehicles and internment.

For the C. in C. S.W. etc.

Chief of Staff

(sgd.) Röttiger

General of Armoured Troops.

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