

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

785015

ACC

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

785015

01/486

DOCK EMPLOYEES
NOV. 1943 - APR. 1944

Declar

105 815

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 231.8 DOCK EMPLOYEES

Page 3

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
29	Cbl ACC 2594 Stone	8 Apr 44	FOTALI	Have orders been issued ref my ltr of 2 Feb.
30	Ltr TA 1140/2 FOTA	14 Apr 44	ACC	Port officials in Sicily. Copy of orders issued. INCLOSURES: 1) TA 1140/2 14 Apr McGrigor to Min of Marine 2) 1568 26 Feb Min of Marine to FOLI.
31	Ltr Slaughter	21 Apr 44	Econ Sec	All correspondence on Port Officials in Sicily enclosed. INCLOSURES.

10000 101 / 486

THIS FOLDER	
CONTAINS PAPERS	
FROM	NOV 43
TO	APR 44
CATALOGUE-	

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 231.8 DOCK EMPLOYEES

Page 2

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
14	Cbl MMIA Q 582	29 Dec 43	Distwo	Situation no better, cannot be allowed to drift.
15	Cbl DISTWO Q 581	29 Dec 43	MMIA	Ital Mil labor 2 Dist 50% short. Excuses given not accepted; send rep as matter is very important.
16	Cbl 301743 FOTALI	30 Dec 43	Flambo etc	Steady improvement. Present commitments can be met in full.
17	Ltr 71 SA Q/27/4	30 Dec 43	ACC	Italian service labour. State of affairs still deplorable.
18	Ltr MMIA G/1/44 Duchesne	30 Dec 43	GOC 2 Dist	INCLOSURE: charts etc Italian Military Port Labour. While Messe was away inefficiency by his staff defeated measures taken to guarantee labor.
19	Memo Col Murphey	31 Dec 43	Taylor	INCLOSURE: Memo for Duchesne fr Moriarity; also item 30 Dec. Action will be taken to see that everything has been done before drastic action is taken thru ACC
20	Cbl 2250 Stone	2 Jan 44	Fargo	Have requested FOTALI to secure appropriate orders.
21	Cbl PBS 4912	11 Jan 44	Fatima Rear	Harbor master staff for Trapani, request Foli Taranto.
22	Ltr TA 752/5 Admiral Besant	18 Jan 44	ACC	Port parties requested in 4912 already arrived Palermo en route.
23	Ltr MMIA SD/9 Duchesne	20 Jan 44	ACC	Formation of Italian Port Unit INCLOSURES: Ltr AFHQ Adv Adm Ech 2553/G(SD) 17 Jan to ACC.
24	Ltr 091.711 Stone A/CofS	23 Jan 44	AFHQ Adv Adm Ech	2) Memo of conference held 11 Jan re Ital port units. Ref 2553/G(SD) 17 Jan re Formation of Ital Port Units, Adm de Courten is the controlling authority.
25	Ltr 231.8 Stone	29 Jan 44	FOTALI	Port Parties working for Trapani and Marsala.
26	Cbl PBS 7038	1 Feb 44	Fatima Rear	Harbor masters Sicily. Pls procure proper orders from FOTALI.
27	Ltr 231.8 Stone	2 Feb 44	FOTALI	Port Officials in Sicily. Pls have Min of Navy issue orders recognizing status of Allied Port officials Sicily.
28	Ltr Army SC DO/5 Duchesne	7 Feb 44	Foster	Port labor supply by Ital Army and boots etc for them.

LIST OF PAPERS

File under No. 231.8 DOCK EMPLOYEES

Page 1

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM—	DATE	TO—	SYNOPSIS
1	Ltr TA 1028/2 Adml McGrigor	30 Nov 43	GOC 15th Army Gp	Taranto Dockyard repair work seriously handicapped by shortage of skilled workers. Pls help.
2	Ltr Hq 71 SA Q/27	14 Dec 43	Gen Taylor	Italian labor in the port of Brindisi. Situation critical.
3	Ltr 231.8 Taylor	15 Dec 43	Messe	CO 71st SA reports serious difficulty getting port labour. Addnl troops may be nec. Take action.
4	Ltr MMIA G/1/34 Duchesne	17 Dec 43	C of S SMRE	Military labour for ports in Apulia.
5	Ltr MMIA G/1/35 Duchesne	17 Dec 43	C of S SMRE	APPENDICES Italian Military Labour for Campania.
6	Ltr MMIA G/1/36 Duchesne	17 Dec 43	ACC	APPENDICES Italian Military Port Labour. General dissatisfaction with specialist units. Berardi having trouble with his staff. Reorganising.
7	Ltr 370.01 Taylor	18 Dec 43	Messe	How does proposed demobilization of Ital Army fit in with manpower for docks. Advise caution.
8	Ltr 231.8 Taylor	18 Dec 43	Messe	Please see to overhaul of y'r port bn organization so as to be sure to meet Allied requirements.
9	Ltr 231.8 Taylor	19 Dec 43	Duchesne	Is there any possible action to get shoes & clothing for Ital dock troops?
10	Ltr 231.8 Taylor	23 Dec 43	Duchesne	INCLOSURE: Ltr 17 Dec 3849/OP from Messe. Messe making study to better conditions of dock workers. Can you help on shoes etc?
11	Ltr MMIA AQ/15/5 Duchesne	26 Dec 43	ACC	INCLOSURE: Ltr 20 Dec 3940/OP from Messe.
12	Obl 271916 FOTALI	27 Dec 43	ACC etc	Flambo requested to supply boots & clothing, ref 231.8 19 Dec
13	Ltr 231.8 Taylor	28 Dec 43	Messe	Position on obtaining port labor at Taranto deteriorating rapidly. Closing down hatches. Disquieting rpts from Brindisi on Dock labour. Pls do all possibl

5003..

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

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REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

FJS/ejp

21 April 1944

MEMORANDUM:

TO : Economic Section,
Attention Captain Hays

With reference to your telephone call a few days ago,
attached herewith is complete file on the subject of Port Officials in
Sicily for your information and record.

INCLOSURES:

FRANK J. SLAUGHTER
Captain, AGO
Deputy Secretary General

(20) (21) (22) (25)
(26) (27) (29) (30)

File/700

5002.

(31)

21 Apr

231.8

785015



See for 3282
U-4429
Capt Stone

FROM FLAG OFFICER TARRING AND ADRIATIC.

DATE 14th April, 1944.

No. T.A. 1140/2.

TO ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.



(29)

With reference to your signal No. 2594 of 8th April, copies of my letter No. T.A. 1140/2 of 8th February and the Minister of Marine's letter No. 1568 of 26th February are forwarded.

(30)
X

TA 1140/2
14 Apr

John H. H. H.
REAR-ADMIRAL.

5001

3.11.



3282
FISC OFFICER LIAISON, ITALY,
AREA COMBINED HEADQUARTERS,
TARANTO.

11th April, 1943.

No. T. A. 1170/2.

MINISTER OF MARINE,
PALAZZO REALE,
TARANTO.

POINT OFFICIALS IN SICILY.

In reply to your letter No. 1204 of 2nd February, I must point out to you that Sicily is territory under the control of the Allied Military Government who have made such appointments as appear to them, needful, making use of those persons who are available and appear most suited.

2. In the case of Lieutenant Colonel Sarzana I am informed that he was the incumbent official when Allied troops arrived, and he was re-appointed to the same position by Allied Military Government officials.

3. I am further informed that when the time comes to return Allied Military Government territory to the Italian Government one of the conditions will be that all Allied Military Government appointments are to be recognised as valid.

4. I must therefore request that you will now issue orders recognising the status of Allied appointed officials in Sicily.

(Signed)

R. MONTGOMERY

REAR-ADMIRAL.

30 INCL 1

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

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CONF.



From .. Ministry of Marine. Cabinet.

Date .. 26th February, 1944. No. 1568.

To .. F.O.D.I.

NAVAL PERSONNEL (PORT DUTIES) IN SICILY.

Replying to your T.A. 1144/2 of the 6th instant.

1. Your communications on the subject reached us at the same time as the news of the return of Sicily to Italian Administration. The regulations established for the treatment of the Italian personnel who have been appointed by the Allied Authorities, will be scrupulously observed.

2. The question of material comes into the arrangements of the military maritime organisation of the Island, and can be quickly settled as soon as we obtain the authorisation to put into effect the organisation proposed in our side-memoire handed to you on the 18th instant.

THE MINISTER.

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(30) INCL 2

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CONFIDENTIAL

8 APR 1944

4416

ROUTINE

FJS/BJP

8 APR 1944

7/08

2594

APR 8

CONFIDENTIAL

ROUTINE

FATIMA NEAR

POTALI

(4)

(27)

BY LETTER OF TWO FEBRUARY FOUR FOUR FIVE TWO THREE ONE POINT EIGHT IS REFERENCED TO
POTALI FROM FATIMA NEAR FROM STONE STONE MACFARLANE PARK PLEASE ADVISE
IF LETTERS REFERENCED TO HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO IF SO PLEASE FORWARD COPY TO THIS
HEADQUARTERS

AUTHENTICATED:

ELBERT W. STONE
Captain, USAR
Deputy Chief Commissioner

- DISTRIBUTION:
- 2 - AG Files
 - 1 - Dep Chief Comm
 - 2 - Dep Sec Gen

4998

29

2594
8 Apr

CONFIDENTIAL

(1)

Declass

165
DSB 18
14 FEB 1944

Army Sub Commission, A.C.C.

Rear HQ (MIA)

LEQUILE (LECCE)

DQ/5

7 Feb 44

Foster
Dear

Your D/O to me of 30 Jan. and your 9/2/Air to A.C.C. of same date.

1. In my last meeting with Marshal MESSE he stressed that the Comando Supremo policy is that all three Arms should bear their proportionate share in supplying Port Labour. That this share works out at in actual numbers is still to be fixed, but in order to assist the I.A.F. to meet it, in addition to the other commitments you mentioned, he is prepared to discuss with the Air Minister the recall of one or two of the classes (up to 1918) which the I.A.F. have released beyond the 1912 datum line reached by the Army. Boots and clothing would not be an insuperable difficulty. This policy has a sound political foundation, but as it runs quite counter to the principle on which you base 9/2/Air of 30 Jan. I expect you have some comments to make on it.
2. The Italian Navy have also been asked to increase their contribution to Port Labour, the target figure for study being given as 8,500, representing the full requirement for Brindisi and Taranto. This in addition to 2,000 truck drivers and 2,000 assorted specialists for I.W.T. and Dock operation and construction.
3. Importation of Italian Military from Sardinia to meet the ACMP new unit programme is planned at present at 10,000 a month, to which your requirements would be additional. To ease the shipping problem the possibility of releasing an ex-liner, the CAMPIDOLIO, is now being studied. If this further shipping space becomes available the I.A.F. in Sardinia (strength at 1 Jan. given by Marshal MESSE as 9,500) might provide sufficient manpower to meet all your commitments, including Port Labour. Would you examine this?
4. Through what channels would you apply for I.A.F. personnel from Sardinia? Would it be T.A.F. and/or ACMP so as to come on same shipping priority list as Italian Army units?

Or what?

Yours

G. C. Duchesne
(G. C. Duchesne)

Air Commodore R. M. Foster
Air Division, A.C.C., Bari.

2318
4997

2 FEB 1944 2327

231.8/njp

In reply refer to:
231.8

2 February 1944

SUBJECT: Port Officials in Sicily

TO : FOTALI, Taranto

Confirming my conversation with you today, it will be appreciated if the Minister of Marine could issue orders recognizing the status of Allied appointed port officials in Sicily, as per my letter of 29 January. (25)

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission: (3)

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USN
Acting Chief of Staff

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(27)

231.8

2 FL

(4)

785015

EQUUS BULL COM D N

- INCOMING

/arr

106/02

5/2

CONFIDENTIAL

PBS-7038

ROUTINE

FEB 0120

PENBASE (FARGO) FROM SPOFFORD

FEB 0204

FATIMA REAR FOR STONE (ACTION) IRS FOR POLETTI (INFORMATION)
CITE FARGO 662.

Subject is harbor masters in Sicily. Position of Capitano di Fragata Demuro, Maggiore Nicola Barbero Forleo and Maggiore Nhusbbini is causing embarrassment. These officers being under orders from Minister of Marine are doubtful regarding Serzenas authority. Reference your letter to Ftali of 29 January. Most grateful if you will clarify situation by procuring from Ftali proper orders for above.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - AG Files
- 1 - Diary
- 1 - Comm Section - INFO

4993

26

PBS-7038

1 FA

EQUUS BULL COM D N
EQUUS BULL COM D N

5

29 JAN 1944

emo/hjp

In reply refer to:
231.8

29 January 1944

SUBJECT: Port Parties for working Trapani and Marsala

TO : PUTALI, Taranto

With reference to your letter TA 752/5 dated 18 January regarding the Port Parties for working Trapani and Marsala, it should be noted that:

a. According to our understanding, Lt. Col. Sarzana was the incumbent official when Allied troops arrived and was reappointed for the same position by AMG officials.

b. When AMG territory is returned to the Italian Government, all AMG appointments are to be recognized as valid.

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

ALBERT E. STONE
Captain, USMC
Acting Chief of Staff

cc: Col Spofford
Hq AMG

25
x

231.8

29 Jan

(2)

23 JAN 1944

385/432

In reply refer to:
091.711

23 January 1944

SUBJECT: Formation of Italian Port Units

TO: AFHQ Adv Adm Ech

1. Reference your letter, subject Italian Naval Personnel, File 2553/G(50) 17 January 1944.

2. Re your query as stated in paragraph 3 of above reference, the Italian Minister of Marine, Taranto (Admiral DELOUNTON) is the controlling authority, but any action he may propose must have the concurrence of POTAI (Taranto) (Rear Admiral McRIGAN).

3. A copy of memo on this subject is appended for your information.

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

ELERY W. STONE
Captain, USNI
Acting Chief of Staff

1944

291.711 Adv Adm Ech

29

291.711

23 Jan

785015

21 JAN 1944

2417

8

Subject: - Formation of Italian Port UnitsMilitary Mission to
Italian Army

SD/9

20 Jan 44

Allied Control Commission
copy to D. In 512300

1. Enclosed at Appendix A is a copy of 2551/G(SD) dated 17 Jan 44 from AFHQ Navy Area Ech on the proposed formation by the Italian Navy of Eight Port Units.

As this letter was addressed to the Allied Claims Commission instead of the Allied Control Commission, it is doubtful if you will receive it.

I will be grateful if you will send me a copy of your answer to para 3 of this letter.

2. Enclosed at Appendix B is a memorandum of a conference held at Navy House on 14 Jan on the proposed formation of the Eight Port Units together with the recommendations made by G.C. No 1 Dockyard Sq and the Engineer representative of this Mission.


Brig
Court

CCH

Encl: Append A & B.

23

SD/9

20 Jan

4992

785015

21 JAN 1944

2417

SUBJECT: ITALIAN NAVAL PERSONNEL

ADM ADM IM ECH

CSE

2553/C(E)

17 Jan 44

Italian Naval Personnel

1. It is desired to form the following units from Italian personnel:

Four I W I Port Operating Coys	-	Strength 1000
Two Port Maint Coys	-	Strength 500
Two Port Constr & Repair Coys	-	Strength 500

2. It is understood that Italian Naval personnel are best adapted for this work and it is believed that the necessary personnel are available.

3. Will you please inform this HQ of the authorities responsible for provision of these personnel, and with whom negotiations should be made.

(S) S. L. Ingelene Lt Col
for Maj Gen
Deputy Chief Adm Offr.

ADC

Copy to:- G (S) 15 Army Gp

MIA

in

23

INCL 1

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MEMORANDUM OF COMPREHENSIVE AND ON 25 MARCH 11, 1944,
 1. HAVE HONORABLE, 1944

SUBJECT: Italian Port Units

At Col E.I. Griffith, C.O. No 1 Dock, Group, R.A. (Armed), and Major R.L. Phillips, R.A. (A.I.) called with a letter from Brigadier DUNN, Command of the Military Mission to the Italian Army, requesting the formation of 3 companies (2000 men) by the Italians to take over operations of the local ports when British Troop Companies are withdrawn for other operations.

After preliminary talks with Captain KASPER (Chief of Staff, Commander in Chief) and Admiral WELBY, a conference was arranged with R.A. Admiral PIVETTI (Under Secretary of State, Italian Navy) and Admiral M. M. (Merchant Shipping).

It was explained that when the British units now operating and maintaining the local ports are moved forward, similar Italian units should be ready to relieve them and assume their duties. They should be organized approximately along British lines, in companies of 250 men. There will be required:-

- (a) I.L.T. Port Operating Coys ... Four. Based on British V.R. IV/1931/22/1.
- (b) Port Maintenance Coys ... Two " " " IV/1943/22/2.
- (c) Port Construction & Repair Coys. Two " " " IV/1943/24/2.

on a total of 2006 all ranks, who should be Naval personnel or at least 'qualified' under Naval Officers and R.A. Co.

After discussion of the general problem, Admiral WELBY stated that he anticipated no difficulty in providing the skilled manpower, but that the following requirements are indispensable:-

- (a) FOOD (Especially bread, meat, flour, coffee, sugar)
- (b) CLOTHING (Especially shoes, overalls, gloves).
- (c) Equipment and materials, especially motor transport and cement.

Colonel KASPER replied that if the Navy were aligned along British lines, personnel would receive the normal ration as issued to Italian Naval personnel employed by the British Army, and that each Company would be assigned its quota of M. and equipment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are forwarded for consideration:-

- (a) That the uncommitted units be struck off the list of units to be raised by the Italian Army and made a commitment of the Italian Navy:-

I.L.T. Port Operating Coys

Four

2949

21 JAN 1944

Appendix B

2017

294.711 2017 2017

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- (n) I. T. T. Port Operating Coy ... Port. Based on British T.E. IV/1931/22/1.
 (u) Port Maintenance Coy ... " " " IV/1933/22/2.
 (c) Port Co-ordination & Repair Coy. Two " " " IV/1932/22/3.

or a total of 2006 all ranks, who should be Naval personnel as at least 'militarised' under Naval Discipline and N.D.C.

After discussion of the general problem, General B. Giff stated that he anticipated no difficulty in providing the skilled manpower, but that the following requirements are indispensable:-

- (a) MICE (Especially meat, wheat, flour, coffee, sugar)
 (b) Canteen (Especially shoes, overalls, gloves).
 (c) Equipment and materials, especially motor transport and cement.

Colonel THURGOOD replied that if the Coy. were assigned along British lines, personnel would receive the normal ration as issued to Italian Naval personnel employed by the British Army, and that each company would be assigned its quota of M. and equipment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are put forward for consideration:-

- (a) That the units and units be struck of the list of units to be raised by the Italian Army and made a component of the Italian Navy:-

I. T. T. Port Operating Coy. 2000
 Port Maintenance Coy. 2000
 Port Const. & Repair Coy. 2000

2940

- (b) That eight boats be raised by the Italian Army in lieu of the eight boats operating Coy. previously mentioned. These boats will be based on T.E. IV/207/1 of Italian Dockyard Operating Coy. (Buenos Aires), with the difference that unskilled personnel will be employed in lieu of the Italian and will receive training in accordance with the formation of the Coy.

- (c) Should the Italian Navy be unable to find the necessary personnel to form a Port Maintenance Coy. and the Port Const. & Repair Coy., it is recommended that Italian Marine Corps be used in lieu of the Italian Army with an increment of Naval personnel to fill such vacancies as might arise in the future.

(d) I. T. T. Port Operating Coy. 2000
 Port Maintenance Coy. 2000
 Port Const. & Repair Coy. 2000

(e) I. T. T. Port Operating Coy. 2000
 Port Maintenance Coy. 2000
 Port Const. & Repair Coy. 2000

INCL 1
 APP A

19 January, 1944.

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

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(23)

INCL 1
APP A

Copy

TRIPOLI HARBOR

FROM.... FLAG OFFICER, T-RANTO AND ADRIATIC.

DATE.... 18th January, 1942

No.P.S. 752/5

TO ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.

21

With reference to your letter No.P.S. 4912 dated 12th January, I have to inform you that the Port Parties for working repairs and Marsala arrived at Palermo on 13th January, to report to Commandant, Naval Operating Base, Palermo, before taking up their duties.

2. The authority of Lieut. Colonel Servano is not recognised by the Minister of Marine. A number of similar appointments have been made in Sicily by Allied Authorities which the Minister of Marine declines to acknowledge. The matter is being raised with Vice Admiral, Malta.

(Sgd.) A. L. Desant

For REAR-ADMIRAL.

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782/5-
18 Jan

3

U. S. SECRET
Equals British SECRET

- INCOMING

12 JAN 1947

/rmb

207/12

10/12

SECRET

PBS 4912

ROUTINE

JAN 112045A

PBS (FARGO) CITE FARGO 206

JAN 120555A

FATIMA REAR LBS FOR REARS FOR ROGERS FOR POLETTI

To recommence operation Trapani Harbour is desired. Can you request Foli
Taranto provide complete harbour master staff to work under command Lt. Col.
SARZANAT Masteri registers and documents believed to be copies being sought.

DISTRIBUTION.

- 2 - AG Files
- 1 - Diary
- 1 - 3 of 3 (INFO)

(21)

PBS 4912

11 Jan

U. S. SECRET
Equals British SECRET

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(1)

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24 FEB 1944

CONFIDENTIAL
Equals British CONFIDENTIAL

OUTGOING

EMS/hjp

CONFIDENTIAL

ROUTINE

FATIMA

FARGO

1/2
2250
021700A
JAN

662
YOUR FARGO SIX SIX TWO PAREN TO FARGO FOR SPOFFORD FROM FATIMA FROM STONE
SIGNED MACPARRANE PAREN HAVE REQUESTED PUTALI TO SECURE APPROPRIATE
ORDERS

AUTHENTICATED:

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USMR
Acting Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - AG Files
- 1 - Diary

20

CONFIDENTIAL
235 Equals British CONFIDENTIAL

2 Jan

4988

21 Dec 43

Memo for Gen. Taylor -

Discussion with

To A.G. FILE 100-47574

Gen. Taylor today, concerning Italian
Army + Navy Labor, resulted in con-
clusion, substantially, viz:

a. Before seeking drastic action
from A.C.C., Gen. Dowle's Regs. will first
determine that the Allies have done
their full part in making it possible
for the Italians to meet the demands
made upon them for the labor in
question. This implies that the Allies
shall furnish necessary FOOD, CLOTHING,
BOOTS, HOUSING + FEEDING ACCOMMODATIONS, TRANSPORTATION, and SUPERVISION over ITALIAN LABOR.

b. After it is determined that the
Allies have fulfilled their obligations
and the Italians are not complying
with the labor demands made upon
them, drastic action will then be
sought - then A.C.C. - on a basis
"effective and lasting a substantially

their full part in making it possible for the Italians to meet the demands made upon them for the labor in question. This implies that the Allies shall furnish necessary FOOD, CLOTHING, BOOTS, HOUSING + FEEDING ACCOMMODATIONS TRANSPORTATION, and SUPERVISION over ITALIAN LABOR.

b. After it is determined that the Allies have fulfilled their obligations and the Italians are not complying with the labor demands made upon them, drastic action will then be sought - thru A.C.C. - on a basis "affecting good faith of Italian Government in honoring terms of surrender."

c. Immediate action will be taken by Military Mission with Italian Army (Brit) towards displacing certain Italian Officers (mostly subordinate) who are known to be obstructively non-cooperative or inefficient.

unofficially

Subject:- ITALIAN MILITARY PORT LABOUR

Military Mission to
Italian Army
G/1/44
30 Dec 43

G.O.C. No 2 District
Allied Control Commission }
AFHQ Adv Admin Echelon } for information
15 Army Group }
Comdr 71 Sub Area }

Reference your Q555 of 27 and further to my 0147 of 28 Dec the situation is as follows.

1. BACKGROUND until 17 Dec is as set forth in my G/1/34 to you and G/1/36 to Allied Control Commission both dated 17 Dec. On 23 Dec I received a letter from Italian General Staff saying that they were appointing a General Inspector of Labour plus a Colonel to command the labour at each port: this was duplicated by a similar communication from Marshal MESSE to the Allied Control Commission: and on Dec 24 I had an interview with Marshal MESSE on the subject of port labour.
2. ACTION TAKEN SINCE Dec 27 is described in a report by Lt Col MORLARTY at Appendix A: and translation of a letter from General MARIOTTI deputy chief of Italian General Staff. General BERARDI, Chief of Staff, had been in SARDINIA from 18 to 29 Dec. When I interviewed him on his return he detailed his deputy General MARIOTTI to inspect conditions on site with results in Appendix B.
3. CONCLUSIONS I am satisfied that the arrangements made by General MARIOTTI (in General BERARDI's absence) under orders from Marshal MESSE would have rectified the labour situation in BRINDISI had they been correctly carried out. Inefficient work by subordinate staff by sending reinforcements due for demobilisation, by granting Christmas leave and by not reporting the wastage completely defeated the measures. Action has now been taken which I consider should produce 6000 men (5000 soldiers 1000 sailors) working at BRINDISI by 6 Jan; this rate of build up is dependant on Italian transport resources and can be accelerated by use of Allied transport if available.

I recommend that Marshal MESSE be called upon to furnish a guarantee for the future and a report on the disciplinary action which will be taken as a result of the situation disclosed.

[Handwritten signatures and notes]
43
Brig
Comd

GSH

18
G/1/44
30 Dec

APPENDIX A

MEMORANDUM for BRIG G. J. DUCHESNE

Action taken by Lieut Col G.H. MORIAITY to ascertain the causes leading up to the present labour situation in BRINDISI and to devise means of overcoming it.

1. Together with DAMS MIA huttel and tented accommodation at present occupied by Italian labour in BRINDISI area was inspected on the 28 and 29 Dec.
2. In the course of these inspections unit Commanders were questioned on the fall in numbers both present in camp and available for labour and the following facts ascertained which call for further examination by Italian General Staff to establish the responsibility and to take appropriate disciplinary action.
 - (a) Units had arrived under their established strength by reason of men having been sent on leave during the interval between the warning order and the eventual movement order.
 - (b) Units contained appreciable number of men who by reason of their physical disability, usually of malarial origin, were manifestly unfit for heavy manual labour.
 - (c) Further appreciable numbers of men belonging to classes due for demobilisation had been included in these units and had been demobilised subsequent to their arrival in BRINDISI and request for reinforcements had not been met.
 - (d) An appreciable number of men had been included who were not in possession of clothing of the proper type, in particular boots.
 - (e) Conditions in some of the camps were such as to induce an unduly high sickness rate in the weather conditions prevailing over the Christmas holidays and commanders of units affected had shown little initiative and energy in correcting the state of affairs by such improvised means as lay to hand.
 - (f) Permission had been granted by LI Corps to send away for local Christmas leave a number of men up to 10% of the strength at the unit Commander's discretion. This discretion would appear to have resulted in an over generous allotment of leave, in certain instances to over 10% of the strength at a time when the critical position of the port in conjunction with the low number present meant that local leave was for reasons of emergency inadvisable.
3. A conference was held at the BARI Presidio at which were present Gen COMANDUCI, Col LELLA of SENE, Col GAZZINI of HQ LI Corps, and the newly appointed Local labour regimental Commanders Cols BUCCHI and CERRI. In the course of this conference I invited immediate start of investigation of the facts disclosed in the preceding paragraph and expressed the view that Labour Unit Commanders were insufficiently alive to the exigencies of the situation and as an immediate measure called for closer supervision by unit Commanders of the numbers shown as available for labour out of the ration strength of the camp, pointing out that present figures showed that an inadmissibly high proportion of a unit, sometimes amounting to two thirds of the strength, was being withheld from labour. Announcement was made of the arrival of 1,000 pairs of boots, unit Commanders being instructed to see that boots only went to men who would be engaged in labour duties.

/The meeting

The meeting closed with Cola LELLA, and CASSINNI undertaking to study the early despatch of reinforcements designed to bring existing units up to their established strengths in hands available for labour without increasing the HQ administrative staffs which were already ample to cope with a much larger number of men.

4. At 9 a.m. on the 30 Dec I called on Maj Gen MARIOTTI at the SMRS and made it clear to him that the efforts that he and Gen BERARDI had been making to reinforce the BRINDISI labour pool over the past three weeks were being consciously or unconsciously sabotaged at some lower level, that the result of this state of affairs would inevitably be to imperil the relation existing between the Italians and the Allies and that drastic action must be taken at once, first to establish and maintain the BRINDISI labour pool at the desired level of 6,000 working hands and secondly, after the responsibility for the recent failures had been established, to put into effect such disciplinary measures as would discourage a repetition of them. Gen MARIOTTI thoroughly appreciated the position and explained that steps were being taken to put it right. To enable the SMRS to keep a closer grasp of the labour situation in general an inspectorate of labour had been created under Gen FATTORI who would start his functions on the 1 Jan with representatives responsible directly to himself, independent of Corps and Garrison control in the three APULIAN ports. Col MOGGIO was appointed for BRINDISI and Gen MARIOTTI, Col MOGGIO, Col LELLA and myself proceeded to BRINDISI at 1000 hrs.

On arrival a visit to Col WOODHOUSE Comd 71 SUB AREA, showed the first question to settle was that of accommodation to house the additional troops that it was proposed to bring in. It appeared that a request from Col WOODHOUSE to Admiral RUBETELLI to make available for lodging Italian military labour hutted accommodation for some 1,000 to 1,200 men near the SACA works by the harbour had been refused by telephone, and a repetition of this request in writing was now in transit to the Admiral. This accommodation had been reconnoitred on my instructions on the previous day by Major HEGGIE DADMS who had found it vacant and admirably suited for the purpose. Together with Gen MARIOTTI I called on Comando Supremo and made it clear to Gen ROSSI that the Admiral's attitude could not be tolerated and that he was either to supply the deficient labour or surrender the accommodation, or make room for someone else who would. Gen ROSSI then obtained written orders signed by Marshall MESSE ordering the placing of this accommodation at the disposal of the Italian Army and instructing him to make such further provision as would be found necessary by the Italian military for purposes of housing labour either by closing up the Naval units in BRINDISI or by transferring elsewhere such naval personnel whose residence in BRINDISI was not operationally essential. A visit was then paid to the accommodation being constructed in the railway arches on the S.VITO road and it was found that nothing could be expected for the best part of a week, by which time room for some 300 to 400 men might be available. 436

5. After lunch 30 Dec Gen MARIOTTI presided over a further conference at Presidio, BARI at which all those present on the previous day were again present with the addition of Col MOGGIO the newly appointed Local Labour Commander. The following decisions were taken

- (a) To dissolve the PARANTE units which had arrived the previous night and to absorb them into the three under strength bns of 162 Regt under Col BOSCHI, to add two bns from the dissolved 196 Regt from LI Corps and to add to these seven hundred reinforcements from APULIAN reorganisation camps to arrive by 4 Jan. These measures will produce a group of five well organised bns and a total strength of 3,500 men to give a working force, allowing for administrative services, HQ staffs and unavoidable absence for sickness etc of ...

2,500 men. Parallel with this reorganisation it was decided that Col CERETTI should form 191 Regt also of 3,500 total strength organised into five bns by telescoping the eight labour bns and groups now in BRINDISI suppressing superfluous administrative personnel and receiving 500 reinforcement by 4-5 Jan.

- (b) Gen MARIOTTI confirmed the instructions given to Col GAZZINNI of LI Corps the previous day that reinforcements and formed units to be sent should contain no men of demobilisable classes, no men physically unfit for labour and no men without any essential clothing for work. The three Cola, MOGGIO, BOSCHI and CERETTI were instructed to be ruthless in their handling of officers and men who failed to realise the exigencies of the situation and who looked on port labour as in any way secondary to any part they might otherwise hope to play in the war effort. Responsibility for the recent failures was to be examined and established and appropriate disciplinary measures would be taken, and Col MOGGIO was himself to take immediate steps, through the Comando Supremo if necessary, to restore the naval labour to its agreed figure.

6. I am satisfied that Gen MARIOTTI is taking genuine steps to put things right and that orders that he had previously given towards this end have failed to produce the necessary effect through no fault of his own. His orders have obviously not been correctly carried out, certainly in spirit, if temporarily perhaps to the letter, and he has not been kept clearly enough in the picture by subordinate officers or formations during the past fortnight when the emergency has reached its peak. With the new appointment of a Labour Inspectorate these channels will be short circuited; responsibility is placed firmly on the shoulders of a man who is in a position to watch things on the spot and take corrective action immediately this becomes necessary.

7. I am accompanying Col LELLA to TARANTO to-morrow to examine the situation there and see what steps are necessary to establish and maintain the requisite figures for that port.

Amoroso
Elia

30.12.43

495

Appendix B

From:- SMRS
To :- MMIA

Ref: 3361/08
30 Dec 43

Subject:- BRINDISI LABOUR

At the meeting held this morning at BRINDISI to regularise the labour situation, the following provisions were agreed upon:-

- 1) Constitution of a "RAGGRUPAMENTO LAVORATORI" HQ under command of Col MOGGIO, an officer of proved ability, to whom has been given the task of superintending the organisation of the "LAVORATORI", including those of the Italian Navy and at the same time maintaining closest liaison with the English labour units.
- 2) Col MOGGIO will have under command two Lavoratori Regiments:- 162 & 191, commanded respectively by Cols BOSCHI and CERRETI. Each Regiment will have a strength of 3500.
- 3) a) 162 Regt will be composed of five bns drawn from the following:-
 - its own three WE Bns i.e. 316, 323, 350;
 - the three Bns arrived tonight from TARANTO, i.e. 13, 235, 483;
 - two Bns from 196 Regt i.e. 155, 474;
 - 700 reinforcements available now in re-organisation camps.

The construction of the above will take place between tomorrow and the day after. Transport of the two Bns of 196 Regt will start tomorrow (w/c LI Corps). Movement to be completed by 1 Jan.

Transport of the 700 reinforcements from the Re-organisation Camps will take place between 2 - 4 Jan.

b) 192 Regt will also be composed of 5 Bns (or gps) which will be drawn from 8, 9, 25, and 26 Gps. and 12, 52, 56 and 55 Bns. In addition the Regt will receive 500 reinforcements from the Re-organisation Camps, whose Tn. will be completed at the latest by 5 Jan.

4) SAILORS: The Italian Navy have agreed to transfer 700 sailors from TARANTO to BRINDISI. This will ensure the provision of the daily total of 1000. These also will be under comd of Col MOGGIO.

5) BILLETS: In the available part of the huts in the area "COMANDA VECCHIA and NUOVA" will be lodged about 2000 men of 162 Regt. In the "SACA" huts, already allocated by the Supreme Command, by agreement with the Italian Navy, will be lodged the remaining 1500.

1200 men of 191 Regt will be lodged in English tents, the remainder, partly in MESAGNE in huts 5 kms from the BRINDISI-MESAGNE road, partly in huts in BRINDISI and in soon under the railway bridges now occupied by the two Bns arrived from TARANTO, which will be available in seven days time.

The PRESIDIO HQ is examining other possibilities of lodging if present allotment proves insufficient.

6) I am of opinion that the foregoing provisions will furnish, within a few days, the 6000 men asked for BRINDISI.

7) To-morrow, a superior officer from the SMRS and a MMIA rep will go to TARANTO to examine the situation there.

Similar urgent action will be taken to ensure the provision of 5000 men asked for TARANTO.

The same holds good for HARI where IX Corps in agreement with this SMRS is making the necessary arrangements.

(Sgt) A. MARIOTTI,
A.C.G.S.

SECRET and UNCLASSIFIED

Subject - Italian Service Labour

71 Sub Area Headquarters

11/27/43

30th December 1943

Allied Control Commission.

Military Mission to Italian Army.

2 District, (with copy of A.C.C. letters attached).

1. In continuation of my 1/27 of 14 December and with reference to Allied Control Commission letter No. 231.8 of 19 Dec., I have to report as follows concerning "progress" since 14 Dec. I must reiterate that the undertaking by the Italians in November was to ensure 3,500 soldiers and 1,000 sailors as workers daily.

2. Appendix "A" shows in graph form (a) the Military total strength of the labour units placed under my control (b) the daily availability of labour that these units are able to supply (c) daily availability of sailors.

3. Appendix "B" shows the detailed strength of the eleven Military Units which supplied labour on 28 and 29 Dec.

- (a) Strength of Unit. (b) Availability of labour.
- (c) Loss of labour to the war effort.

4. These Appendices disclose the following facts.

- (a) Availability of Military Labour has fallen by 550 in 7 days.
- (b) Availability of Naval Labour has fallen by 100 in 15 days.
- (c) Strength of Military labour has fallen by over 900 in 7 days.

5. The chief reasons for this deplorable state of affairs are as follows,

- (a) Certain units arrived to replace 210 Divisional Units and promptly started to demobilize classes 1906 - 15. Nothing whatsoever was known about this demobilization until its effect disclosed it. I understand your H.Q. was equally surprised.

- (b) Shortage of boats which, by approx 15 Dec, had reached one thousand.

- (c) Approx one thousand men were apparently sent on leave at Christmas (Force majeure), again without any report being made to this H.Q. These men have not yet reported back.

3. Appendix "B" shows the detailed strength of the eleven Military Units which supplied labour on 28 and 29 Dec.

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- (b) Shortage of boots which, by approx 15 Dec, had reached one thousand.

- (c) Approx one thousand men were apparently sent on leave at Christmas (Force Majeure), again without any report being made to this H.Q. These men have not yet reported back and I understand short periods of leave are being granted up to 7 January but peak deficiency on this point should have passed.

- (d) The Naval deficiency of 300 is due to demobilization.

6. As regards the future, the accepted policy is that the Army shall provide 5,000 workers each day and the Navy 1,000.

7. The Stato Maggiore have planned to provide eleven units of 670 strength each for Brindisi. They estimate that each such unit will provide 500 workers daily i.e. 25% of a Unit in Administration or sick - this is a fair estimate from local experience. Therefore, 11 Units of 670 will require a strength of 7,370 which will produce 5,500 workers and allow a small reserve for eventualities or reliefs of Units.

B. Appendix. Sheet 2.

-3-

8. Appendix 3 shows how much each Unit is below this strength - what is required is 3,600 reinforcements (not new Units with all their "overheads").
9. In conjunction with M.M.I.A., careful enquiries have been made and I am quite satisfied that the gravity of the situation has been continually reported (a) by my Liaison Officer to the Stato Maggiore and (b) by the Commando Presidio to the 51 Army Corps. Both these officers continue to render their utmost service to the Allied Cause and co-operate to a remarkably high degree.
10. ACCOMMODATION. This problem looms very largely in Brindisi which is very overcrowded by British Units, Special Forces and now Displaced Persons Camps, etc. The loss of Paradise Camp and Tutturano has dislocated all calculations.
11. It was planned to rectify this by means of a promise from the Italian Authorities to send 46 huts. This was amended a week ago to 6 huts by the Italian General Staff, because 40 Italian Service huts have been occupied by the Allied Forces.
12. Existing accommodation which includes 1,000 men using British tents will take another 800 men. There still remains accommodation to be found for 1,800 Italian soldiers. Admiral Rubartelli has been approached to produce this, but the only quick solution is tents.
13. To sum up, the problem can only be solved by the following:-
- (a) Complete control of Italian units to be vested in the local Italian Commander who works in close co-operation with my H.Q. - Divided Administrative Control must cease.
 - (b) Provision of 2,600 military reinforcements.
 - (c) Provision of 400 naval reinforcements.
 - (d) Provision of tents for 1,800 men or other Italian accommodation.
14. The above points were thoroughly discussed by myself with Brigadier Duchesne on 26 Dec and this letter confirms our conversation.

400

to 5 huts by the Italian General Staff, because 40 Italian Service huts have been occupied by the Allied forces

12. Existing accommodation which includes 1,000 men using British Tents will take another 600 men. There still remains accommodation to be found for 1,800 Italian soldiers. Admiral Rubartelli has been approached to produce this, but the only quick solution is tents.

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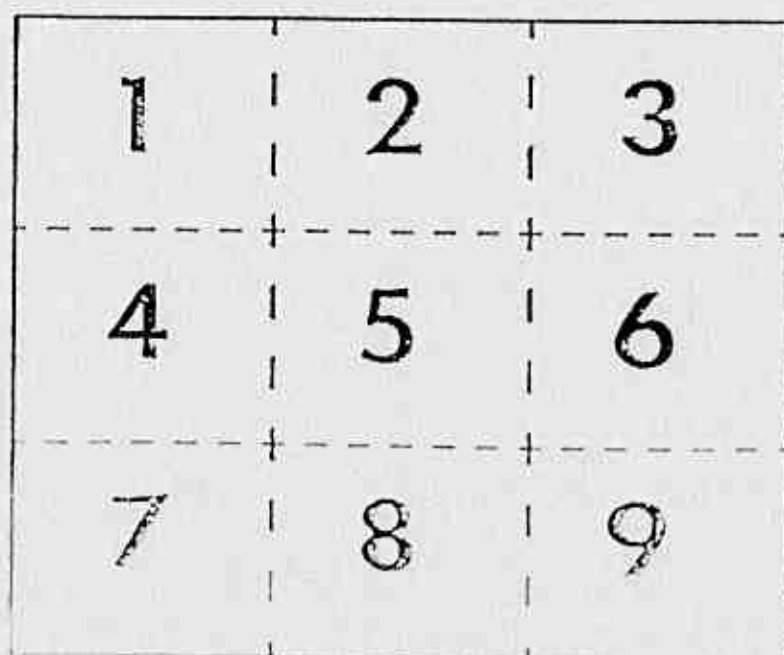
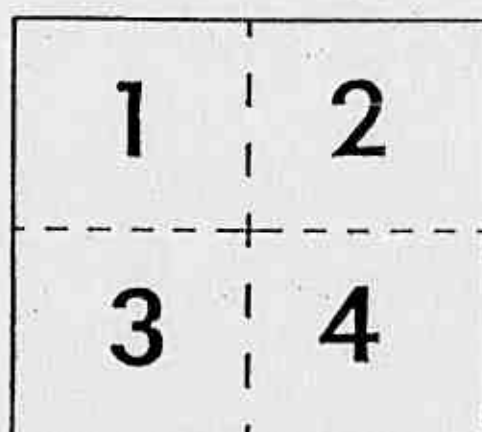
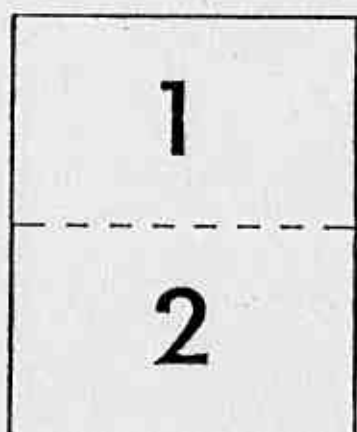
14. The above points were thoroughly discussed by myself with Brigadier Duchesne on 23 Dec and this letter confirms our conversation.

John Jones 493

Colonel.
Commanding VI Sub Area.

MAPS AND CHARTS TOO LARGE TO FILM
ON ONE EXPOSURE ARE FILMED CLOCKWISE
BEGINNING IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER,
LEFT TO RIGHT, AND TOP TO BOTTOM.

SEE DIAGRAMS BELOW.

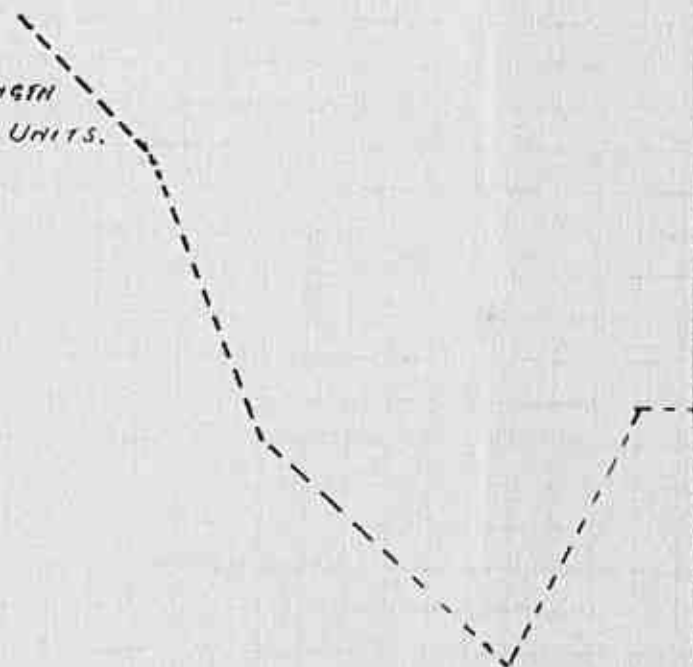


PERSONNEL.

5000
4800
4600
4400
4200
4000
3800
3600
3400
3200
3000
2800
2600
2400
2200

Total Strength
of Military Units.

Soldier Labour Available



SECRET

Appendix A to
41/24/11/68
of 29/12/43

INK

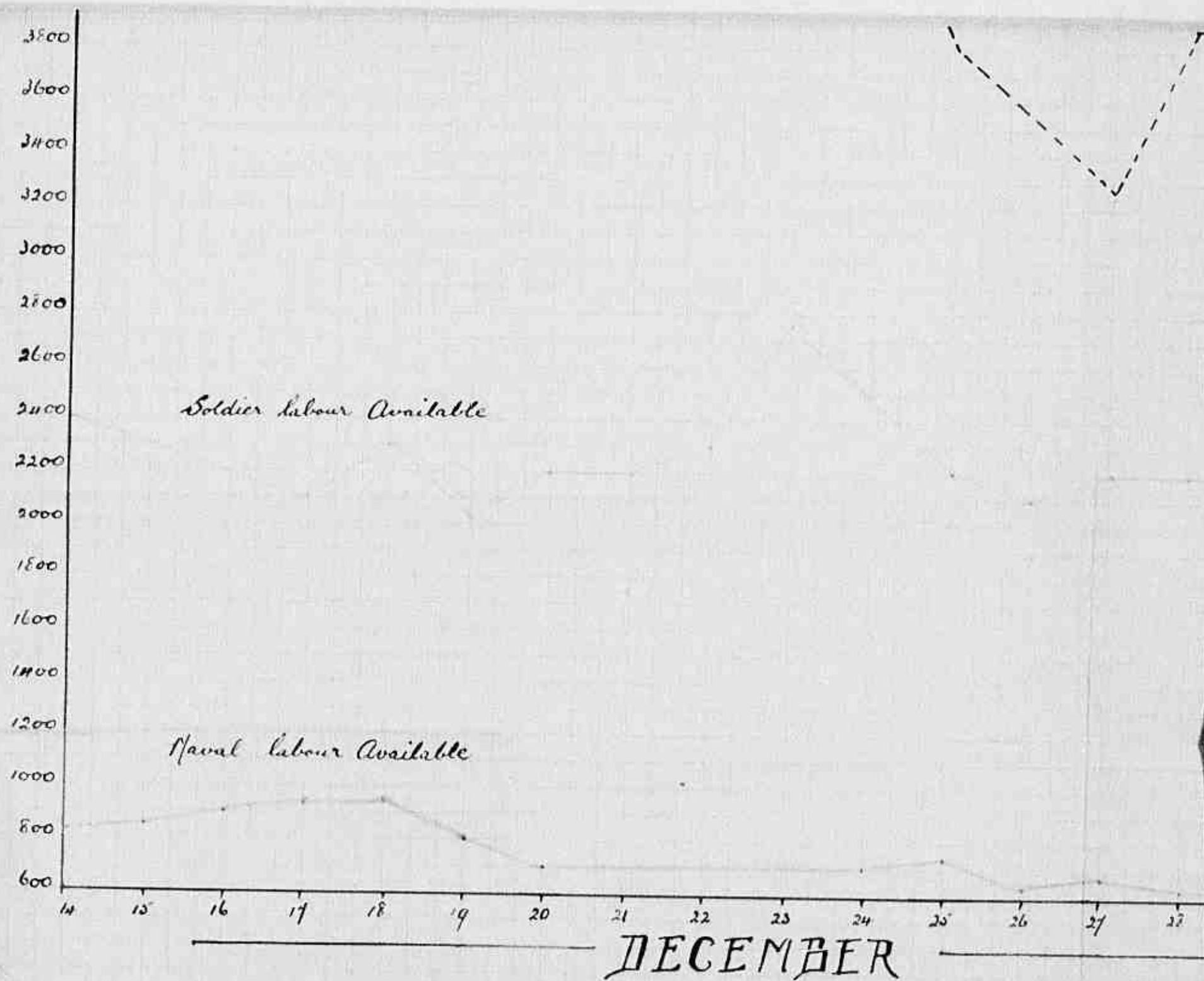
Total Strength
of Soldier
Labour Units

BLUE

NOT
EMPLOYED

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

785015



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

785015

4979

26

27

28

29

Regiment.	23 Dec.		29 Dec.		Loss in Strength	Loss in Availa- bility.	Increase in Availa- bility.
	Strength	Availa- bility	Strength	Availa- bility			
I. 191 Regt.							
(a) 12 Bty.	322	180	317	100	5	80	
(b) 52 Bty.	368	170	385	140	83	30	
(c) 55 Bty.	331	376	317	250	14	26	
(d) 56 Bty.	510	356	211	140	299	216	
2. 26 Gruppo	456	290	448	200	8	90	
3. 26 Gruppo.	470	380	435	350	35	30	
4. 8 Gruppo.	550	250	338	80	222	170	
5. 9 Gruppo.	580	250	427	220	153	30	
6. 122 Gruppo.	230	175	220	175	10	N11	
7. 162 Regt.							
(a) 316 Bty.	392	170	351	240	41	N11	70
(b) 323 Bty.	301	115	285	150	16	N11	35
(c) 350 Bty.	305	120	260	140	45	N11	20
Totals	4815	2732	3884	2185	931	672	125

SECRET. Al ndix "B"
to 3/27/4 30 Dec 1943.

29 Dec.		Loss in	Loss in	Increase	Remarks.
Strength	Availa- bility	Strength	Availa- bility.	in Availa- bility.	
317	100	5	80		
285	140	83	30		
317	250	14	26		
211	140	299	216		
448	200	8	90		
435	350	35	30		
328	80	222	170		} These Groups arrived on 20 and 21 Dec respectively.
427	220	153	30		
220	175	10	Nil		
351	240	41	Nil	70	} Change of command occurred. British Gas Capes loaned.
285	150	16	Nil	35	
260	140	45	Nil	20	
3884	2185	931	672	126	

185015

ITAL 181/88

45/243 WL 49/577/100/44 7.500M 4/43 C.D.A.S.L.A.

NAVAL MESSAGE.

S. 1320d.

(Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification)

To:

From:

TO: ITALIAN NAVY, FLEET, NAVAL
CONTROL COMMISSION, AREA NO 2
DISTRICT, 207, 111, FLORENCE, 1510 SOUTH ITALY

FROM: ROLO WHITEHILL

REFERENCE BY 12
FOLLOWING FROM PORT CONTROL COMMISSION
WHICH FOR 3-4 ALL TERRORISM, PRESENT WORK COMMISSIONS
CAN BE SET IN 1 ALL. DEAL AVAILABILITY ITALIAN SERVICES
HARBOUR BOX 4000 WORKERS AND PLOUGH MUST REACH 6000 QUICKLY.

30/743
ALLIED CONTROL
COMMISSION,
BRINDISI

16

30/743

30 loc.

497

785015

INFORMED

876
30 DEC 1993
/ner

30/89

582

Doc 2911,204

Doc 3006304

NOT GIVEN

OF IDENTITY

WANTED

MELA, INFO PLANS, 71 SUB AREA FATIMA

9w
Your 31/7 dated 28 received. Underground situation today shows no improvement. Positive and urgent action required to ensure working of port. If this entails move of the Iron Galleries must request that this be done without further delay. If Italians can produce better solution so much the better but matter cannot be allowed to drift.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - HQ
- 1 - Diary
- 1 - General Taylor) INFO
- 1 - Brig Duchesne MELA)

4975

14

Q 582

29 Kc

29 DEC 1943

865

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION INCOMING MESSAGE /afe

SVC/RELAY NO.

M/C NO : 22/29

CLASS:

REF NO: Q 581

PREC : IMMEDIATE

FILED : DEC 291052A

FROM : DISTWO - General Dowler.

REC'D : DEC 291635A

TO : MIA, FATIMA, 71 SUB AREA INFO, FLAMBO

Have received report today that Italian Military labour in 2 District is nearly 50% short of requirement. Various excuses such as boots, leave, discharges, move are continually given as reasons for shortage. Those cannot be accepted. To enable me to recommend action of most drastic nature request Brig. Duchesne meet me Bari 1100 hours 31 December with full facts from his angle. Commander 71 Sub Area also requested to attend to review situation. Brindisi. Request attendance senior representative Fatima as matter is one of highest importance affecting good faith of Italian Government in honouring terms of surrender. Acknowledge.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - AG
- 1 - Diary
- 1 - Gen. Taylor - ACTION
- 1 - Brig. Duchesne, MIA, Lecce - ACTION

4955

15

Q 581
29 Dec

231.8
MET/hjp

In reply refer to:
231.8

28 December 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR: His Excellency Marshal Messe
Chief of the Supreme General Staff

The Allied Control Commission has received disquieting reports from the past few days with respect to the dock labor at Brindisi. On the 27th there were 2100 workers available necessitating closing down many hatches of the ships being unloaded. Instead of the required 6000 there is at present only 2900 Italian military and naval workers available.

May I count on Your Excellency to do everything possible to remedy this unsatisfactory condition without delay?

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR
Brigadier General, USA

4974

13

231.8
28 Dec

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

785015

1012 (11/80)

45/245 WL 49,577/108944 20,200M. 8/43 CHAS. L. L.

NAVAL MESSAGE.

S. 1320d

(Established - May, 1950)
(Revised - January, 1953)

To:

FROM:

IMMEDIATE SECRET CYRUS

PLAORO (R) MOV. PLANO, ALIEN CONTROL COMMISSION
 DIA NO 2 DISTRICT, MOV. IT, TOTALI FROM NOIC
 2000 SOUTH ITALY 2000 SOUTH ITALY 2000 SOUTH ITALY

Following from PORT CONTROL COMMITTEE.
 CONTINUED EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY ITALIAN LABOUR TO WORK PORT
 FULLY HAVE NOTED UNAVAILING AND THE POSITION IS DETERIORATING
 STEADILY. MINIMUM NEEDS OF THE DOCKS ARE 3000 AVAILABLE MEN DAILY.
 TODAY ONLY 2400 AVAILABLE. THIS NECESSITATES CLOSING DOWN ON 21
 HATCHES OUT OF 33 FROM 2300 TO 0600 TONIGHT AS WELL AS CONSIDERABLY
 REDUCING QUAY CLEARANCE.

THIS ARISES FROM GENERAL LABOUR POSITION HERE WHICH IS THAT ONLY
 2900 ITALIAN MILITARY AND NAVAL LABOUR AVAILABLE INSTEAD OF 6000.
 NAVAL LABOUR CONTINUES TO BE MOST UNSATISFACTORY.

271916

A
 SHM TOTALI HARI DIA
 300 SEC FILE

271916

27 sec

48

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

785015

270FC

Subject: Clothing and Boots for Port LabourAllied Control Commission

(9)

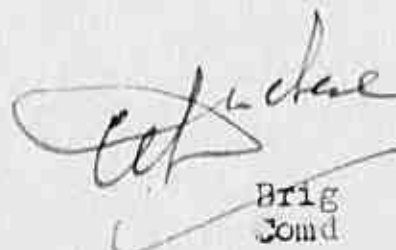
Military Mission to
Italian ArmyAQ/15/5
26 Dec 43

Re: your letter 231.8 of 19 Dec 43.

1. An estimate of boots and clothing required for the Italian Army ITALY was forwarded to FLAMBO on 6 Dec who are arranging provision overseas.

2. No action has been taken for the troops outside the Mainland about whom I understand Col Simmons has reported to you

(11)

EC/cc
AQ/15/5
26 Dec

Brig
Comd

4972

27 DEC 1943

745

Subject: Clothing and Boots for Port Labour

Allied Control Commission

Military Mission to
Italian Army

AQ/15/5
26 Dec 43

Ref your letter 231.8 of 19 Dec 43.

1. An estimate of boots and clothing required for the Italian Army in ITALY was forwarded to FLAMBO on 6 Dec who are arranging provision from overseas.
2. No action has been taken for the troops outside the Mainland of ITALY,
about whom I understand Col Simmons has reported to you

11
WJG/cc

AQ/15/5

26 Dec

et al
Brig
Comd

4972

2318

785015

24 DEC 1943

F

MDT/aro

In reply refer to:
231.8

23 December 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR: Brigadier DuChesne, Military Mission to the Italian Army.

Marshal Messe is undertaking a detailed study of the conditions of military workers in Allied ports with a view to improving their condition and efficiency. Attached herewith is a note from him on the subject, emphasizing the bad working conditions. The question of shoes seems to be the principal difficulty, as the Marshal has stated to me that there are virtually none in Italian stocks in the Island and on the Mainland.

The Marshal's note is passed to you for such action as can be taken to meet his recommendations. Is there anything that you wish the Commission to do, particularly to the end of obtaining shoes from Allied sources?

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

MARSHALL D. TAYLOR
Brigadier General, USA

1 Encl.
Document N. 3943/OP. di prot.

4971

10

231.8

23 Dec

PROV. COMMANDING BUREAU

Operation Office

TO: GENERAL CHIEF OF
ALLIED Control Commission

N. 3940/OP

20, Dec. 1943

SUBJECT: Labourers

Ref 231.8 18 Dec 1943

1. I have taken note of the number of men necessary as labourers in the quantity indicated.

I have given orders that the request be complied with in the shortest possible time for as I realize perfectly, it is of fundamental importance for the purposes of the operations.

2. I wish to point out, however, that to supply 33,000 men actually working in normal conditions one must have available at least 40,000, since we must take into account service needs for these men, cases of sickness etc.

But the present situation is not normal: for instance, as I have already communicated in the note 3849/OP dated 18 December, the lack of shoes is cutting into the number of those actually at work.

At Brindisi, without increasing the strength at present available, we would have 1,000 more men at work each day if we had available 4970 1,000 pair of shoes.

Likewise, at Bari, we could have 1500 more men at work per day if we had available 1500 pair of shoes.

The billeting of the men, for the most part under tents, many

28-10-43

495

I have given orders that the request be complied with in the shortest possible time for as I realize perfectly, it is of fundamental importance for the purposes of the operations.

2. I wish to point out, however, that to supply 13,000 men actually working in normal conditions one must have available at least 40,000, since we must take into account service needs for these men, cases of sickness etc.

But the present situation is not normal: for instance, as I have already communicated in the note 3849/UP dated 18 December, the lack of shoes is cutting into the number of those actually at work.

At Brindisi, without increasing the strength at present available, we would have 1,000 more men at work each day if we had available 4,070 1,000 pair of shoes.

Likewise, at Bari, we could have 1500 more men at work per day if we had available 1500 pair of shoes.

The billeting of the men, for the most part under tents, many of whom have only a little straw to sleep on, long hours of work, specially at night, and particularly hard with reference to their scanty nourishment, all these things cause a rather high percentage of sickness cases.

Thus the number of men available to have 13,000 actually at work mounts accordingly.

If the soldier employed as a labourer could have his shoes and his clothing in order (because even in the matter of clothing the situation is very grave) a less scanty nourishment and a sleeping pillaging not below minimum needs, I am sure that he would work to greater effect.

3. INCL

3. The discharged that I have had to authorize and which, besides meeting the most urgent needs of agriculture, were indispensable since it is useless, and indeed harmful, to keep under arms men without shoes and without clothing, have left gaps in some units engaged in labour work: we are making provisions to fill them but it takes time: the difficulties are well known.

I assure you, General, that the Italian soldier understands the importance of the labour work and that the officers are engaged, on their part, in a continuous and active work of persuasion in this matter: it is on the basis of this conviction of the utility and the importance of the work that many real difficulties are being overcome.

Convinced as I am of the necessities of cooperation also in the field of labourers, I shall do my best to meet as soon as possible the Anglo-Americans requests.

I beg you to consider, General, that much depends on having available:

- shoes) see the request in note N. 3929 dated 29 November,
- clothing) and 3865 of 18 December
as well as that combination of measures of material nature (billing, improving of ration etc.) for which on the Italian side everything possible is being done, but much can be done on the Anglo-American side.

A much desired improvement would be obtained, as, already 14,400 cuted by the S.M.E.I. to the Lucernese Mission, if for the unloading of coal (100 men per day at Brindisi) there were employed on the

matter: it is on the basis of this conviction of the utility and the importance of the work that many real difficulties are being overcome.

Convinced as I am of the necessities of cooperation also in the field of labourers, I shall do my best to meet as soon as possible the Anglo-Americans requests.

I beg you to consider, General, that much depends on having available:

- shoes) see the request in note N. 1929 dated 23 November,
- clothing) and 1865 of 18 December

as well as that combination of measures of material nature (billings, improving of ration etc..) for which on the Italian side everything possible is being done, but much can be done on the Anglo-American side.

A much desired improvement would be obtained, as, already indicated by the S.M.M. to the Tacheene Mission, if for the unloading of coal (300 men per day at Brindisi) there were employed on the Allied side, civilian rather than military labourers.

Such measures would have good reactions also on the morale.

The efficiency of labourers work will be proportioned to measures taken.

ORIGINAL COMMUNIQUE

THE CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF

(Marshall Mares)

10

SECRET

22 DEC 1943

P.M. 151, 20 dicembre 1943

AL SIGNOR GENERALE PRESIDENTE DELLA
COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

Ufficio Operazioni

N. 3940 / OP. di prot.-

O G G E T T O : Servizio di manovalanza.-

Riferimento al foglio 231.8 del 18 corrente.

1°) - Prando atto del numero di uomini necessari quale capovalanza,
nella misura indicate.

No dato disposizioni perche, nel piu breve tempo possibile,
si aderisca e quanto richiesto, che, mi rendo perfettamente conto,
e di fondamentale importanza ai fini delle operazioni.-

2°) - Desidero pero rappresentare che per fornire 33.000 uomini,

presenti al lavoro, in situazioni normali bisogna metterne a
disposizione almeno 40.000, dovendosi tener conto della necessita
dei servizi relativi a questi uomini, degli ammalati ecc.

Na la situazione attuale non e quella normale; ad esempio,
come ho gia comunicato con foglio 3849/Op. del 18 corr., incide
fortemente sul numero dei presenti al lavoro, la mancanza di scarpe.

A Brindisi, senza numentare la forza attualmente medsa e dis-
posizione, si potrebbero avere presenti al lavoro 1.000 uomini al
giorno in piu se si disponesse di 1.000 paia di scarpe. ^{4.968}

A Bari, analogamente, si potrebbero avere 1.500 uomini al giorno
in piu se si disponesse di 1.500 paia di scarpe.

si aderisca e quanto richiesto, che, mi rendo perfettamente conto, e di fondamentale importanza ai fini delle operazioni.-

2°) - Desidero però rappresentare che per fornire 33.000 uomini,

presenti al lavoro, in situazioni normali bisogna metterne a disposizione almeno 40.000, dovendosi tener conto della necessità dei servizi relativi a questi uomini, degli ammalati ecc.

Na la situazione attuale non è quella normale; ad esempio, come ho già comunicato con foglio 3849/Op. del 18 corr., incide fortemente sul numero dei presenti al lavoro, la mancanza di scarpe.

A Brindisi, senza numerare la forza attualmente medsa e dis-
posizione, si potrebbero avere presenti al lavoro 1.000 uomini al
giorno in più se si disponesse di 1.000 paia di scarpe. 4968

A Bari, analogamente, si potrebbero avere 1.500 uomini al giorno
in più se si disponesse di 1.500 paia di scarpe.

La sistemazione degli uomini, in buona parte ammulgetti, molti dei quali non dispongono che di poca paglia a terra per dormire, i turni di lavoro duri, speci quelli notturni, e tanto più duri se riferiti alla scarsa alimentazione, fanno sì che la percentuale degli ammalati sia piuttosto forte.

E allora sale ancora la cifra degli uomini da mettere a disposizione, per averne 33.000 presenti al lavoro.

Se il soldato che è impiegato in lavori di manovalenza potesse avere le sue scarpe e il suo vestito in ordine (perché anche nel settore vestiario, come è noto, la situazione è molto grave), una alimentazione un po meno scarsa, ed una sistemazione per dormire non inferiore alle necessità sia pur ridotte al minimo, sono sicure che

che lavorerebbe con maggior rendimento.

3°) - I congedamenti che ho dovuto autorizzare e che, oltre ad andare incontro alle più urgenti necessità dell' agricoltura, erano indispensabili in quanto e inutile, anzi dannoso tenere sotto le armi gente che non ha le scarpe e non ha vestito, hanno lasciato dei vuoti in alcuni reparti adibiti al lavoro di manovalanza, per colmarli si sta provvedendo ma occorre tempo, le difficoltà sono note.

Vi assicuro, Signor Generale, che il soldato italiano capisce l'importanza del lavoro di manovalanza e che si sta evolvendo da parte degli ufficiali continua, attiva opera di persuasione al riguardo: e proprio in base a queste convinzioni della utilità e della importanza del lavoro, che si superano molte situazioni veramente difficili.

Convinto come sono della necessità della cooperazione anche nel settore manovalanza, provvederò affinché da parte italiana si faccia ogni sforzo per aderire al più presto alle richieste anglo-americane.

Vi prego però, Signor General, di voler considerare che molto è basato su:

- scarpe (v. richieste di cui al FO 3929 del 29 novembre c.s. e 3865
(
- vestiario (del 18 corrente

unitamente a quel complesso di provvidenze d'ordine materiali (sistemazioni, accampamenti, miglioramento rancio ecc.) per le quali da parte italiana si fa tutto il possibile, ma molto però può essere fatto da parte anglo-americana. -

4967

vi assicuro, Signor Generale, che il soldato italiano capisce l'importanza del lavoro di manovalanza e che si sta svolgendo da parte degli ufficiali continue, attiva opera di persuasione al riguardo; e proprio in base a questa convinzione della utilità e della importanza del lavoro, che si superano molte situazioni veramente difficili.

Convinto come sono della necessità della cooperazione anche nel settore manovalanza, provvederò affinché da parte italiana si faccia ogni sforzo per aderire al più presto alle richieste anglo-americane.

Vi prego però, Signor General, di voler considerare che molto è basato su:

- scarpe (v. richieste di cui al fo 3929 del 29 novembre c.a. e 3865)
- vestiario (del 18 corrente)

unitamente a quel complesso di provvidenze d'ordine materiale (sistemazione accampamenti, miglioramento rancio ecc.) per le quali da parte italiana si fa tutto il possibile, ma molto però può essere fatto da parte anglo-americana. Un tanto desiderato miglioramento si avrebbe poi, come già indicato dallo S.M.R. Esercito alla Missione Duchesne, qualora per lo scarico del carbone (300 uomini/giorno a Brindisi) si impiegasse da parte Alleata mano d'opera civile anziché militare.

La cosa avrebbe buone ripercussioni anche morali.

Quanto più si agira in tal senso, tanto più migliorerà il rendimento del lavoro della nostra manovalanza.

IL MARESCIALLO D'ITALIA
CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE GENERALE
(Giovanni Messe)

APC 394

MDT/hjp

In reply refer to:
231.8

19 December 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR: Brigadier Duchesne, Military Mission to the Italian Army

Attached herewith is a reply from Marshal Messe to our note commenting on the unsatisfactory shortage of labor at Brindisi. You will note the Marshal's comment on the matter of clothing and equipment. Is there any timely action desired by the Commission in this regard?

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR
Brigadier General, USA

1 Incl:
Ltr, Supreme Command,
N. 3849/CP, 17 Dec 43

CC: Col Woodhouse
71st Sub Area

4966

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231.8

19 Dec

FROM: CEMARDO SUPRESSO

Operation Office

TO: CHIEF OF ALLIED
CONTROL COMMISSION

R. 3049/OP
17, Dec. 1943

SUBJECT: Labourers in Brindisi

Reference to Note R. 231.8 of 15 inst. from Allied Control Commission.

I have given instructions to the effect that the number of labourers in the port of Brindisi be increased to 6,000 men a day (5,000 from R. Army and 1,000 from R. Navy).

However, I wish to point out that the handing over of this personnel will again hinder the reorganization of the new divisions according to plan.

The main difficulty lies in the clothing and equipment shortage, which is so serious as to make it impossible to employ workers battalions now being reorganized at Lecce, as well as all men of the very units now available, as labourers.

In Brindisi alone, about a thousand more men could be employed to work, if the necessary number of shoes were available.

In some units, owing to the great quantity of shoes out of use and the impossibility of replacing them, the men have to go to work in turn, wearing the shoes belonging to the men who are resting.

I am pointing out this extremely painful situation for Allied Control Commission's information, and in view of the measures that Allied Control Commission will deem it necessary to recommend, also following the request of clothing and shoes forwarded from Cemarado Supresso with note R. 3329/OP (enclosure 2), of 23 Novem. Inst.

THE CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF
(M. Rafael Messe)

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

785015

APV 394

MDT/hjp

In reply refer to:
231.8

18 December 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR: His Excellency Marshal Messe
Chief of the Supreme General Staff

3

On 15 December 1943 I had the honor of addressing a note to Your Excellency on the subject of the shortage of dock labor at the port of Brindisi. Since that time, I have received more complete information indicating that the labor arrangements are unsatisfactory in all areas of Allied operations.

The Allied requirements for labor are as follows:

Bari	10,000
Brindisi	6,000 (including 1,000 sailors)
Taranto	6,000
Barletta	1,000
Campania	10,000
Total	33,000

231.8-

The Military Mission with the Italian Army has made repeated representations to General Berardi and Army General Staff regarding the importance of meeting these requirements. Nevertheless, the number of workers is constantly falling below the required level at all ports. The result has been a material deduction in the output of these ports which has become a matter of deep concern to Allied Military authorities in Italy.

The impression is that some of the Army staffs involved have not given the meticulous attention to this matter which its importance deserves. All ranks should know that Italy and the Allies regard this work as a highly meritorious contribution to the war effort. I hope Your Excellency will consider the need for a complete overhaul of the present organization and will see that all the Italian personnel concerned are brought to view this work in its proper perspective.

4964

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR
Brigadier General, USA

8

231.8
18 Dec

Brig. Duchesne

Gen. Taylor would like to
know if you have any observations
on the attached

J. Williams

Capt. R.H.

Admiral

4963

APC 394

MDT/hjp

In reply refer to:
370.01

18 December 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR: His Excellency Marshal Messe
Chief of the Supreme General Staff

The Allied Control Commission has read with interest the ministerial communique of 16 Dec 43 referring to the plan of the Ministry of War to return a considerable number of soldiers to civilian life. I would appreciate a statement from Your Excellency as to the scope of the intended demobilization and the anticipated effect on the numerical strength of the Italian Army. In carrying out any demobilization it is hoped that Your Excellency will always bear in mind the essential work being done by Italian soldiers in the ports and docks. The plan for demobilization should of course include arrangements whereby the essential level of dock labor will be maintained.

As demobilization is a matter which affects several elements of this Commission, I would appreciate Your Excellency keeping us fully informed of all developments.

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR
Brigadier General, USA

cc: Military Mission to the
Italian Army

4962

370.01

18 Dec

785015

SUBJECT:- Italian Military Port Labour.

CONFIDENTIAL 186

18 DEC 1945

Military Mission to
ITALIAN ARMY

G.L/36

17 Dec. 45.

To:- Allied Control Commission.A.F.H.Q. Adv. Admin. Echelon.)
15 Army Group.)
C.O.C. No. 2. District.)

For information.

1. In your 370 dated 14 Dec you informed me that General ROBERTSON when visiting you had expressed dissatisfaction at progress on production of certain Italian Specialist Units. The situation is that the formation of specialist units is at present alright.

2. I feel it quite likely that he may have meant port labour, both that at present operating in APULIA and that about to operate in CAMPANIA. In any case he has expressed views on it before and I will take upon myself the responsibility of asking you to use his name in this connection.

3. The situation with port labour in APULIA in a nutshell is that Gen. BERARDI, Chief of Army Staff is genuinely anxious to get it right but that he is badly served by his subordinate staff. Though I think it will improve, there is muddle and non-co-operation between the branches of his staff and a complete inability to grasp the basic requirement of effort to keep the men on the job up to the required numbers. There are genuine difficulties such as the shortage of boots and clothing but they are not insuperable and the whole question has been unsatisfactory for too long.

4. As regards CAMPANIA ten thousand port labourers are in process of being moved over there for port work. Owing to demobilisation of older age groups in the two Coastal Divs involved there may be justification for the difference of formation strength shown at 15,905 on 15 Nov and reported for rail movement at 9,200 on 25 Nov. But there is no excuse for the fact that when the first of the two divisions entrained its numbers were 1100 less than those for whom wagons had been asked for and provided.

5. I have written two letters to General BERARDI on the above, copies of which will come to you with this. And I should welcome it if you would see fit judiciously to repeat the same at a higher level with copies to General ROBERTSON, to C.O.C. 2 District and to me.

6. It is ...

231.8 - Book

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CONFIDENTIAL 186SUBJECT:- Italian Military Port Labour.Military Mission to
ITALIAN ARMY

G.L/36

17 Dec. 43.

To:- Allied Control Commission.A.F.H.Q. Adv. Admin. Echelon.
15 Army Group.
G.O.C. No. 2. District.

For information.

1. In your 370 dated 14 Dec you informed me that General ROBERTSON when visiting you had expressed dissatisfaction at progress on production of certain Italian Specialist Units. The situation is that the formation of specialist units is at present alright.

2. I feel it quite likely that he may have meant port labour, both that at present operating in APULIA and that about to operate in CAMPANIA. In any case he has expressed views on it before and I will take upon myself the responsibility of asking you to use his name in this connection.

3. The situation with port labour in APULIA in a nutshell is that Gen. HERARDI, Chief of Army Staff is genuinely anxious to get it right but that he is badly served by his subordinate staff. Though I think it will improve, there is muddle and non-co-operation between the branches of his staff and a complete inability to grasp the basic requirement of effort to keep the men on the job up to the required numbers. There are genuine difficulties such as the shortage of boots and clothing but they are not insuperable and the whole question has been unsatisfactory for too long.

4. As regards CAMPANIA ten thousand port labourers are in process of being moved over there for port work. Owing to demobilisation of older age groups in the two Coastal Divs involved there may be justification for the difference of formation strength shown at 13,905 on 15 Nov and reported for rail movement at 9,200 on 23 Nov. But there is no excuse for the fact that when the first of the two divisions embarked its numbers were 1100 less than those for whom wagons had been asked for and provided.

5. I have written two letters to General HERARDI on the above, copies of which will come to you with this. And I should welcome it if you would see fit judiciously to repeat the dose at a higher level with copies to General ROBERTSON, to G.O.C. 2 District and to me.

6. It is my opinion that both the Chief of Army Staff and his deputy are at present genuine collaborators and if handled properly should so remain. Their Staffs are in process of reorganisation and cannot perhaps yet be expected to work as a team; but they contain individuals who are too old, too unfit, too lazy or just too plain stupid. I heartily endorse Marshall MESSE's request to import from North African prisoners of war certain field unit Italian officers "to vitalise his officer corps"; and I

231.8 - Dock hands

231.8 - Dock hands

3. The situation with port labour in APULIA in a nutshell is that Gen. BERARDI, Chief of Army Staff is genuinely anxious to get it right but that he is badly served by his subordinate staff. Though I think it will improve, there is muddle and non-co-operation between the branches of his staff and a complete inability to grasp the basic requirement of effort to keep the men on the job up to the required number. There are genuine difficulties such as the shortage of boots and clothing but they are not insuperable and the whole question has been unsatisfactory for too long.
4. As regards CALABRIA ten thousand port labourers are in process of being moved over there for port work. Owing to immobilisation of older age groups in the two Coastal Divs involved there may be justification for the difference of formation strength shown at 13,905 on 15 Nov and reported for rail movement at 9,200 on 25 Nov. But there is no excuse for the fact that when the first of the two divisions embarked its numbers were 1100 less than those for whom wagons had been asked for and provided.
5. I have written two letters to General BERARDI on the above, copies of which will come to you with this. And I should welcome it if you would see fit judiciously to repeat the dose at a higher level with copies to General ROBERTSON, to C.O.C. 2 District and to me.
6. It is my opinion that both the Chief of Army Staff and his deputy are at present genuine collaborators and if handled properly should so remain. Their Staffs are in process of reorganisation and cannot perhaps yet be expected to work as a team; but they contain individuals who are too old, too unfit, too lazy or just too plain stupid. I heartily endorse Marshall MESSE's request to import from North African prisoners of war certain field unit Italian officers "to vitalise his officer corps"; and I trust it will be acceded to.

/LJR.

[Signature]
Brig.
Genl.

(6)
6/12/36
17 Ka

SUBJECT: ITALIAN MILITARY LABOUR FOR CAMPANIA

Military Mission
to ITALIAN ARMY
3/1/35
17 Dec 43

Chief of Staff

Stato Maggiore R. Esercito

Allied Control Commission)

AFHQ Adv Adm Echelon)

C.O.C. No 2 DISTRICT)

For information

1. I write to bring to your Excellency's notice the present position regarding the numbers required for military labour in CAMPANIA as set forth in my 3/1/22 of 2 Dec to you and your letter 2823 QP.V of 5 Dec in reply. Copies of these letters are attached for easy reference.

2. Since that time 210 Coastal Div has been despatched by train to CAMPANIA at a strength of 150 Officers and 4,203 other ranks totalling 4,400. This is 1,100 less than the numbers reported for movement.

3. The 227 Coastal Div was reported for movement as 3,700 and I am apprehensive that this too may similarly be found to be less. In addition General BASCO has found it impossible to raise any troops in NAPLES owing to the difficulty of equipping them.

4. I am to request therefore that you will take steps to bring the combined total strengths of 210 and 227 Coastal Divisions to at least 10,500 in CAMPANIA so that there may be 10,000 working men. In this connection I am to say that this is an old commitment dating from last month, which may suitably be filled by well equipped soldiers drawn from other Coastal Divisions or depots.

ABC

Coltucker
Brig
Comd

3. The 227 Coastal Div was reported for movement as 3,700 and I am apprehensive that this too may similarly be found to be less. In addition General BASSO has found it impossible to raise any troops in HAITI owing to the difficulty of equipping them.

4. I am to request therefore that you will take steps to bring the combined total strengths of 210 and 227 Coastal Divisions to at least 10,500 in CAMPAÑA so that there may be 10,000 working men. In this connection I am to say that this is an old commitment dating from last month, which may suitably be filled by well equipped soldiers drawn from other Coastal Divisions or depots.

ABC

ABC

Brig
Comd

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(5)

6/1/55

17 Jc

22 Dec 1943

APPENDIX 'A'

187

Military Mission
to ITALIAN ARMY

G/1/22

2 Dec 43

SUBJECT:- Provision of LabourChief of Staff
S M R ECopy to: AFHQ Adv Adm Ech
2 District

1. I have just received your figures for the move of 227 Coastal Div to SALERNO and NAPLES which give a total of 286 officers and 3,786 men.
2. When the move of this Div was proposed by you it was estimated that it would total approx 5,500 men so that with 210 Coastal Div there would be ensured a total of 10,000 working men.
3. This is the minimum required and expected. I must therefore ask you to reinforce 227 Coastal Div to bring it up to a total 5,500 men. This will also help to reduce the rather high percentage of officers.
4. It should be clearly understood that no arrangements are to be made for the move of 227 Coastal Div until instructions are received from this Mission. These instructions are awaited from AFHQ Adv Adm Ech who are arranging for their allocation and accommodation.

ABJ

signed

C.C. DUCHENNE

Brig
Comd

495

TRANSLATIONSUBJECT:- Labour for CAMPANIA

M M I A

G(Ops)
Stato Maggiore
Regio Esercito
2825 OF.V
5 Dec 43.

In reply to your G/1/22 dated 2 Dec.

you to reinforce 227 Coastal Div to bring it up to a total 5,500 men. This will also help to reduce the rather high percentage of officers.

4. It should be clearly understood that no arrangements are to be made for the move of 227 Coastal Div until instructions are received from this Mission. These instructions are awaited from AFHQ Adv Adm Ech who are arranging for their allocation and accommodation.

ABC

signed

C.C. DUCHENNE

Brig
Comd

4959

TRANSLATIONSUBJECT: Labour for CAMPANIAG(Ops)
Stato Maggiore
Regio Esercito
2023 OF.V
2 Dec 43.M M I A

In reply to your G/1/22 dated 2 Dec.

When we informed the MMIA of the strength of 210 and 227 Divs. it was at the time pointed out verbally that 210 Div would leave with a strength of about 6,000 men, and the 227 Div with about 4,000 men. A total of 10,000, i.e. more than were asked for.

As a result of sending on indefinite leave soldiers of the older classes, the strength of 210 Div has been reduced to 5,500 men, and 227 Div to 3,700 men.

In short it is a question of only 800 men less.

Since the Stato Maggiore has ordered the formation in CAMPANIA by HQ of the Armed Forces of that Area, of some labour bns, the deficiency will be able to be made good by that HQ Armed Forces CAMPANIA, from whom, in this connection we have asked for information.

In case the labour bns in CAMPANIA are not yet ready, and cannot be got ready quickly, the Stato Maggiore will draw the 800 men who are lacking, from other units.

signed

Div Gen

A. MARIOTTI

SUBJECT: MINIMA Y LANCHE FOR ZUCCHI IN APULIAMilitary Mission
to ITALIAN ARMY

G/2/54

Dec 43

Chief of Staff

State Insurre 3 Esposito

Allied Control Commission

AMHQ Adv Adm Section

C.O.C. N° 2 District

for information

1. I write to address your Excellency on the subject of military labour for the ports of Bari, Brindisi, Taranto and Bari-TTA which has long been unsatisfactory and continues to be so.
2. Much of this state of affairs appears to be due to imperfect handing over of responsibilities to your Excellency's staff from HQ 7 ARMY when it was dissolved, and with a view to clarification of this aspect I attach at Appendix 'A' copies of the pertinent correspondence on the subject.
3. (a) The position on 20 Oct was that 14,600 Italian service personnel were employed in these ports, this figure including 2,000 Air Force at Bari and 5,000 Navy at Brindisi.
- (b) On 3 Nov General DALLA, Comd No 2 DISTRICT called a conference at Bari which was attended by General DALLA, Chief of Staff 7 ARMY. At this meeting twelve days notice was given for the numbers to be increased to 21,000 men by 15 Nov.
- (c) On 23 Nov General DALLA called another meeting at Bari, attended by General ALI, IO Comd 7 ARMY at which it was made clear that over 3,000 men were still deficient.
- (d) At Appendix 'B' is shown data for the port of Brindisi, showing that between Dec 1 and 15 the numbers of Italian service personnel supplied fell from 3,673 to 3,160. This compares with the total of 6,000 required.

4. The total numbers required at the various ports at present stand at

BARI	10,000
BRINDISI	6,000 (including 1,000 sailors)
Taranto	6,000
BARI-TTA	1,000

4958

ponderance on the subject.

3. (a) The position on 20 Oct was that 14,600 Italian service personnel were employed in these ports, this figure including 2,000 Air Force at Bari and 3,000 Navy at Brindisi.
- (b) On 5 Nov General BOLLEA Comd No 2 DISTRICT called a conference at Bari which was attended by General BELLISMA Chief of Staff 7 Army. At this meeting twelve days notice was given for the numbers to be increased to 21,000 men by 15 Nov.
- (c) On 23 Nov General BOLLEA called another meeting at Bari, attended by General AMI 13 Comd 7 Army at which it was made clear that over 2,000 men were still deficient.
- (d) At Appendix 'B' is shown data for the port of Brindisi, showing that between Dec 1 and 15 the numbers of Italian service personnel supplied fell from 5,675 to 5,160. This compares with the total of 6,000 required.

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4. The total numbers required at the various ports at present stand at

BARI	10,000
BRINDISI	6,000 (including 1,000 sailors)
TRIESTE	6,000
BARLETTA	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>23,000</u>

The Allied authorities are aware that Italian labour units have been raised to make good the deficiencies in numbers provided, but they point out that minor difficulties have been allowed to stand in the way of staff arrangements to get them to the port in which they are to work. I am to say that the above numbers are those required for actual work over and above personnel required for administration and that priority arrangements should be made to replace ill-equipped soldiers by equipped men from other units. In short that the docks should be regarded as a battle line whose strength it is an Italian Army responsibility to maintain.

5. There are also difficulties in the matter of the numbers now being sent to CAMBRIDGE for work in ports. These will be dealt with in a separate letter.

6. In conclusion I would stress that I am always at your Excellency's service to assist to overcome any common difficulties that may arise.

4/11/34
ABC 17 Rec
Bris Comd

785015

18 Nov 1943 188
Appendix 'A'COMPARISON ON MILITARY LABOUR FOR 1943SUBJECT:- Provision of LabourBritish Military Mission
to 7 ITALIAN ARMY
G/1/2
4 Nov 437 ITALIAN ARMY
to 2 District (for inf)

1. Confirming the instructions passed to Gen FALANCA yesterday by GOC No 2 District, HQ 7 ITALIAN ARMY will arrange for the following numbers of military labour to be made available by 15 Nov to the authorities named.

(a)	BARLETTA	HQ 154 SUB AREA	1,000
(b)	RAVE	HQ 105 " "	10,000
(c)	BRINDISI	HQ 71 " "	4,500
(d)	TARANTO	HQ 6 BASE SUB AREA	5,500

2. 7 ITALIAN ARMY will appoint a Commander of all ITALIAN military labour in each area with whom the British authorities can deal direct for provision of labour within the numbers allotted above.

3. May this Mission please be informed of the names and addresses of these Commanders when they are appointed.

(sgl) G.C. DUCHESNE, Brig
Cmd

SUBJECT:- Provision of LabourMilitary Mission
to ITALIAN ARMY
G/1/11
21 Nov 437 ITALIAN ARMY
move to - BRINDISI

1. The proposed move of 210 and 227 Coastal Divs to NAPLES and of 15 Coastal Divs to FOGGIA area will affect

- (a) the provision of labour in BARLETTA and BRINDISI for the 4th Div
(b) the provision of labour in the NORTH of CALABRIA on the roads and bridges.

2. I write to remind you that arrangements should be made to maintain the figure of 1,000 men for BARLETTA and 4,500 for BRINDISI (incl minimum of Naval personnel) and to provide sufficient to complete the work in CALABRIA to schedule.

(sgl) G.C. DUCHESNE Brig
Cmd

785015

188

MEMORANDUM: Military Italian Laborer

Chief of Staff,
S.M.A.

Military Mission to
ITALIAN ARMY
G/4/46
26 Nov 46

1. The following is a copy of a letter dated 24 Nov addressed to Gen ARSIZIO from No 2 District:-

"Confirming statement made at the meeting between General Officer Commanding No 2 District, and General ARSIZIO, the attached table shows deficiencies in the supply of Italian Military Laborer.

	Actual to supply	Actually available	Deficiency
BERGAMO	4,500	4,400	100
TARANTO	3,300	4,056	1,444
BARI	10,000	6,750	3,250
BASILICATA	1,000	707	293
Totale	18,800	15,913	2,887

Will you please keep this Mission informed of the action that is being taken to make good these deficiencies.

(sgl) J. HANFMAN, Major for
Brig
Genl

Comando della 7a Armata
Stato Maggiore-UFF. Ord.
R. di Prot. 4/2003/O.M.

P.M. 107 M 24 novembre 1943 (cero...)

ALLA DIREZIONE MILITARE HETTERANICA, LAZIO

OGGETTO:- Lavoratori.

Perche in data di domand 23 corrente il comando della 7a Armata conca di funzionare, ho riferito all'Uff. di Stato di S.M. dell'Armato (cero e stato oggetto del colloquio avuto ieri e l'ord col Comando Ordine, per il provvedimento che vorra attuare nel riguardi dei lavoratori.

IL GENERALE COMANDANTE LA 7a ARMATA
(sgl) Mario ARSIZIO

MEMORANDUM: Port Laborer

Chief of Staff,
S.M.A.

Military Mission 4950
to ITALIAN ARMY
G/4/46
27 Nov 46

Ref by G/4/46 of 26 Nov.

1. I am instructed to inform you that the requirement for laborer has been increased by a total of 1,000 men as follows

(sgt) J. HANSEN, Major for
Brig
Comd

Comando della 7a Armata
Stato Maggiore-UFF. Ord.
R. di Prot. 4/2003/O.M.

P.M. 107 14 24 novembre 1943 (circa...)

ALLA DIREZIONE MILITARE ITALIANA, LAVORARE

OGGETTO: - Lavoratori.

Poiché in data di lunedì 23 corrente il comando della 7a Armata aveva
di funzionare, ho riferito all'Uff. di Stato di S.M. dell'Esercito quanto è stato
oggetto del colloquio avuto ieri a Bari col Comando Divisione, per i provvedimenti che
vorrà attuare nei riguardi dei lavoratori.

IL GENERALE DELL'ARMATA LA 7a ARMATA
(sgt) Mario ARSIZIO

SUBJECT: - Part Labor

Military Division 4951
to ITALIAN ARMY
6/1/43
27 Nov 43

Chief of Staff,
S.M.A.

Ref my 6/1/46 of 26 Nov.

1. I am instructed to inform you that the requirement for labor has been increased
by a total of 1,000 men as follows

74 Sub Area BULGARIA	5,000	(instead of 4,500)
101 " " TARANTO	6,000	" " 5,500)

2. When the uniforms required have been made up will you please forward to us a
list of the units in each port with the numbers that have been made available.

(sgt) J. HANSEN, Major for
Brig
Comd (absent on duty)

785015

SUBJECT:- Port Labour

Chief of Staff,
S.M.A.

6961 000 81
189
Military Mission to
Italian Army
6/1/52
14 Dec 52

Ref our 6/1/52 of 27 Nov.

1. It should have been made clear that the requirement of labour for REINFORCE was 5,000 soldiers in addition to the 1,000 sailors. HQ 71 and AUSA 6/27 of 12 Dec para 2 refers.
2. Will you please forward the lists asked for of units that have been made available for labour in each port.

(sgt) J. HANSTON, Major for
Brig
Genl (absent on duty)

AVAILABILITY OF INDIAN MILITARY & NAVAL FORCES AT BANGALORE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ARMY</u>	<u>NAVY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Dec 1	2,475	1,200	3,675
" 2	2,375	1,175	3,550
" 3	2,750	1,000	3,750
" 4	2,825	950	3,765
" 5	3,015	910	3,925
" 6	2,820	900	3,750
" 7	2,750	900	3,650
" 8	2,600	900	3,500
" 9	2,650	900	3,550
" 10	2,475	875	3,350
" 11	2,500	750	3,250
" 12	2,545	900	3,445
" 13	2,500	900	3,400
" 14	2,400	900	3,300
" 15	2,260	900	3,160

Compared with a ^{required} total of 6,000 men on the work.

4955

 189
 18 Dec 1948
 APPENDIX B

2	2,375	1,275	3,650
"	2,750	1,000	3,750
"	2,815	950	3,765
"	3,015	910	3,925
"	2,850	900	3,750
"	3,750	900	3,650
"	2,675	900	3,575
"	2,630	900	3,530
"	2,475	875	3,350
"	2,500	750	3,250
"	2,345	900	3,245
"	2,500	900	3,400
"	2,430	900	3,330
"	2,260	900	3,160

Compared with a ^{required} total of 6,000 men on the work.

4955

4

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

MDT/hft

In reply refer to:
231.8

15 December 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR: His Excellency, Marshal Messe
Chief of the Supreme General Staff

The Commanding Officer of the 71st Sub Area at Brindisi reports that a serious situation has been created because of a sharp reduction in the number of Italian soldiers and sailors available for work at the docks and depots. Whereas the accepted obligation of the Italian Authorities has been to produce 3,500 soldiers and 1,000 sailors daily, the total actually present for duty has been below 3,500 for several days. Actually the number needed for maximum effective operation of the port is 6,000.

I am informed that a contributory factor has been demobilization of several classes. While the Commission does not suggest that this demobilization should necessarily be interrupted, it does feel that prompt action should be taken to provide the full quota of laborers. If the units heretofore designated to provide this labor are insufficient, it appears imperative to bring in additional troops to maintain the required level.

I am sure that Your Excellency appreciates the vital importance of the work being done at Brindisi and at the other base ports and the need for prompt action to correct this serious labor shortage.

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR
Brigadier General, USA

cc: CO 71st Sub Area

4954

231.8

15 Dec

2318 - Dock Emp

SECRETSECRET & PERSONAL.Subject :- Italian Labour.H.Q. 71 Sub Area.
2/27.
14 Dec 45.General Taylor,
Allied Control Commission.

With reference to my conversation with you this afternoon. The situation briefly is as follows :-

1. The Italian Authorities have accepted the obligation to provide 5,500 soldiers and 1,000 sailors each day for work in Docks and Depots. (This number is about to be increased to total 6,000 men).
2. These figures of labour have not been maintained and full details of availability are given in the attached list showing figures for December. I have also been notified by Admiral Rubartelli that he cannot maintain the low figure of 900 sailors.
3. The situation is now serious and work all round Brindisi is held up for lack of labour. The Docks must not be allowed to "go slow" on any account.
4. The reasons given for this state of affairs are as follows: -
 - (a) Classes 1906 - 1912 are being discharged in the Army and Navy. (I have had no notification of this officially)
 - (b) Classes 1913 - 14 - 15 will shortly follow. Army units are changing over, the outgoing units have to work to an A.P.F. rail programme. The reliefs do not arrive in time to take their place.
 - (c) Some units are short of boots. (This also has never reached me officially).
5. I must insist that my full quota of labour is maintained. This port has not to increase its output from 3,000 to 3,500 tons a day at once.
(A.P.F. orders by Gen Robertson).
6. I can only recommend that discharges are slowed up or cancelled until new units are available in order to maintain the numbers required.
7. Any shortage of boots must be taken up at once by the

4953

2318 - Dock Employees

2. These figures of labour have not been maintained and full details of availability are given in the attached list showing figures for December. I have also been notified by Admiral Ruffartelli that he cannot maintain the low figure of 900 sailors.

3. The situation is now serious and work all round Brindisi is held up for lack of labour. The docks must not be allowed to "go slow" on any account.

4. The reasons given for this state of affairs are as follows: -

- (a) Classes 1903 - 1913 are being discharged in the Army and Navy. (I have had no notification of this officially)
- (b) Classes 1913 - 14 - 15 will shortly follow.
- (c) Army units are changing over, the outgoing units have to work to an A.V.H.S. rail programme. The reliefs do not arrive in time to take their place.
- (d) Some units are short of boots. (This also has never reached me officially).

5. I must insist that my full quota of labour is maintained. This port has got to increase its output from 3,000 to 5,500 tons a day at once.

(A.F.H.S. orders by Gen Robertson).

6. I can only recommend that discharges are slowed up or cancelled until new units are available in order to maintain the numbers required. 4953

7. Any shortage of boots must be taken up at once by the Army with the M.H.I.A. as an urgent matter.

8. I shall be very grateful for any help you can give in this matter of postponement of discharges until numbers required are assured beyond any doubt.

9. I have, these last few days, been able to maintain the tonnage figures in the port only by using British labour which arrived temporarily and unexpectedly and is now moving on.

10. The Indians have been withdrawn from essential training and must not be kept for long on this task.

(2)
2/27
14 Jan

John Pave
Colonel,
Commander 71 Sub Area.

Copy to :- H.Q. No. 3 District.

(COPY)

SUBJECT:- LABOUR.

H.Q. 18 Group.
Pioneer Corps.
REF:- 18/A/280.

TO:- 71 Sub Area.

Reference conversation of today Area Commander/ Group

Commander.

Herewith availability figures for Italian Military & Naval Forces Brindisi from 1st - 14th Dec '43, together with figures of British personnel working on the Docks from 1st - 13th Dec '43:-

Availability:- Italian Military & Naval Forces - Brindisi.

DATE	ARMY	NAVY	TOTAL
Dec 1	2475	1200	3675
" 2	2375	1175	3550
" 3	2750	1000	3750
" 4	2815	950	3765
" 5	3015	910	3925
" 6	2850.	900	3750
" 7	2750	900	3650
" 8	2600	900	3500
" 9	2650	900	3550
" 10	2475	875	3550
" 11	2500	750	3250
" 12	2545	900	3445
" 13	2500	900	3400
" 14	2400	900	3300
" 15	2260	900	3160

British personnel working on Docks:-

DATE	Pioneers	Transit Camp.	Indians.
Dec 1	48		
" 2	48		
" 3	50		
" 4	52		
" 5	50		
" 6	122		
" 7	23		
" 8	183		
" 9	228		
" 10	50	400	
" 11	436	500	
" 12	415	440	175
" 13	452	220	200.

/ 05/43

" 3	2750	1000	3750
" 4	2815	950	3765
" 5	3015	910	3925
" 6	2850	900	3750
" 7	2750	900	3650
" 8	2600	900	3500
" 9	2650	900	3550
" 10	2475	875	3550
" 11	2500	750	3250
" 12	2545	900	3445
" 13	2500	900	3400
" 14	2400	900	3300
" 15	2260	900	3160

British personnel working on Docks:-

DATE	Pioneers	Transit Camp.	Indians.
Dec 1	48		
" 2	48		
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" 4	52		
" 5	50		
" 6	122		
" 7	23		
" 8	183		
" 9	228		
" 10	50	400	
" 11	436	500	
" 12	415	440	175
" 13	452	220	200.

7050

In The Field,
13 Dec '43
DMM/JTF.

EDG A KEITH MORGAN, LT. COL.
Commanding 18 Sp. Pioneer Corps.

TRANSMITTED BY AIRMAIL

FROM .. THE FLAG OFFICER, TORONTO AND ACHILLEO.

DATE .. 3rd November 1943.

NO. T.A. 1000/2.

TO .. THE CHIEF, AIRFIELD COMMANDING, 15th AIR GROUP.

(Caption to: - Longmont, No. 2 District.
Flag Officer, Western Italy.
Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station.
Allied Central Commission, Trieste.)

The development of Torneo beyond to full tower capacity is an urgent requirement for the allied forces. At present it is greatly handicapped by shortage of skilled workers.

2. I am informed by the Italian Commander-in-Chief that there are in the Torneo area large numbers of skilled workers formerly employed in Naples dockyard who are now no longer required there owing to its destruction. It would be of great benefit if these could be transferred to Torneo, and when this is arranged in principle I intend to send the Flag Officer, Western Italy, a detailed list of the numbers and trades required. As a start I would like to transfer 200, with view to filling when these have been absorbed.

3. The Chief's office is aware that Torneo are housing and food, the Italian Authorities inform me that owing to Army requisitioning they can provide no housing. It is requested that accommodation may be arranged as a matter of urgency, and that I may be informed as soon as possible of the date on which the transfer may start.

4. In view of the superior class of workers required it may be necessary to allow for transfer of their families.

W. J. M. J. M. J. M.

(Signed) J. M. J. M. J. M.

231-8- Docks Employees

The development of Tharuto looking to fill repair capacity in an urgent requirement for the allied fleets. At present it is greatly handicapped by shortage of skilled workers.

2. I am informed by the Italian Commander-in-Chief that there are in the Naples area large numbers of skilled workers formerly employed in Naples Lockyard who are now no longer required there owing to the construction. It would be of great benefit if these could be transferred to Tharuto, and when this is arranged in principle I intend to send the Flag Officer, Western Italy, a detailed list of the numbers and trades required. As a start I would like to transfer 500, with care to follow when these have been ascertained.

3. The chief difficulties I foresee are housing and food. The Italian authorities inform me that owing to Army requisitioning they can provide no housing. It is requested that accommodation may be arranged as a matter of urgency, and that I may be informed as soon as possible of the date on which the transfer may start.

4. In view of the superior class of workmen required it may be necessary to allow for transfer of their families.

W. J. M. J. M.

(Signed) S. M. G. G. G. G.
T.M.E. - M.T.M.

Best solution is to organize C.O. Battalions
approx 500 strong.

Transfer them into Brigade Areas
under W.P. British & Russian officers
See which country can produce the most
efficient Brigade.
Here is chance for W.P.D. Officer.

Wives & families no good trying to shift them
leave them to it. But rate quite high (very)

1

11/28/2
300 more

2318 - Dock Employees

1732

