

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No.

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ORG & ADMIN, TRANSPORT, CIVILIAN DRIVERS
JAN. 1945

C. P. Y.

833/10/12

25 January 1945

SUBJECT : Transport - Civilian Drivers

TO : Vice President, Establishments Section

- 1 I wish to bring to your notice the many grave difficulties we are having with the Italian civilian drivers employed in the Motor Pool of this Headquarters. These drivers are refusing to go on out-of-town trips which involve an overnight stay away from home because
 - (a) the monetary allowance is not sufficient
 - (b) the rations which they can purchase are inadequate
 - (c) there is no overnight accommodation for them when away from home.
- 2 In regard to (a), this scale is as laid down by AFHQ Administrative Memorandum No 65, and is at 50 lire over 10 hours absence. The matter has been taken up through Labor Sub-Commission with the Local Resources Wages Committee. A reply has not been received.
- 3 In regard to (b), the ration are in accordance with instructions contained in Daily Bulletin No 150, dated 24 June 1944, and as supplied by the Food Sub-Commission from civilian sources. These rations are payable by the driver and are only issued to him on competent travel orders being presented.
- 4 In regard to (c), this is a question which was recently taken up with Regional and Provincial Commissioners that while it is not expected that these officers should supply accommodation, it is suggested that they should at least maintain a list of accommodation where such drivers could be accommodated overnight at a reasonable figure. Recently a civilian driver from this Headquarters spent four days in NALLES on duty with an officer from this Headquarters. He came back and reported that he would refuse to go out-of-town on a journey which involved a stay overnight as his recent trip to NALLES had cost him 2500 lire.
- 5 In order to counter this as far as possible, Italian Army drivers are being allocated to the vehicles for duty out-of-town, but there is a considerable shortage of Italian Army drivers in this Headquarters, and although an application for an additional 40 has been made by (B) to Land Force Sub-Commission, I am informed that owing to the formation of new truck companies, our priority on the list of drivers is extremely low, and it is unlikely that we will receive any of these forty drivers in the immediate future.
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- 6 I consider this matter of sufficient importance if the efficient working of the Headquarters Transport Pool is to be maintained, then a very strong letter should be sent to higher authority demanding that the Italian Army drivers be furnished forthwith or that the scale of rations and allowances to Italian civilian drivers should be raised to a level commensurate with the expenses which they are likely to incur when carrying out their duties on behalf of this Commission.

s/ R.E. ROBERTSON Col
Hq. Commandant

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