

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ACC

10000/105/588

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

/588

CA, BOLZANO, POW'S
JAN. 1945; NOV. 1945 - MAR. 1946

- 34 -

TO : M.M.I.A. (I.P.W. Division).

Please see Minute 33 and Folios 3a, 4a, 5a and 10a. The Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of War are no doubt in close touch on the matter and in agreement but you may wish to insure that this is so. If desired copies of the Ministry of the Interior's letter, folios 5a and 6a will be made and sent to you.

CA Section
23 March 46

J. S. Reakes
J.S. REAKES, Major,
CA Section

- 35 -

To: CA Section

Copies of 4a and 5a would be appreciated

H. Armand
H. ARMAND de HASTI,
Capt., Spec. Res., AUS

IPW Division (M.M.I.A.)
25 MAR 1946

36
to M.M.I.A. (I.P.W. Division).

By Minute 35 copies of letter forwarded herewith.
Pl. return file in due course.

25 Mar 46. *J. S. Reakes*
CA Section

1PW Division (MMA)

25 MAR 1946

36
to Mr. J. A. (1PW Division)

Ref. minute 35 copies of letter forwarded herewith.
Pl. return file in due course.

25 Mar 46

WFO 10/3/46

J. K. K. K. K.
C. A. K. K. K.

Minute

2113

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Ex Com Sec.

37

CHS. today conferred with the Sec of the Interior (10/10/41)
20. (unrecorded)

The results of the interview is sufficiently shown at 3A

It was asked that when the matter was formally submitted

it might be clear that the request originated from Italy and made
being considered is desirable from the Economic point of view.

If the action is approved it is proposed to write formally
to the Italian Govt for approval. Where this has been obtained
it is proposed to incorporate such approval in the letter to AFSA.

X

~~CHS~~

CHS

CHS
6 DEC 1941
X 5205

X | 30 proceed 7/12
-8/12

W. H. H. H.

29

Ex. Com.

Sec.

Ref your minute 28, please see min. 27 above.

30.

9 1/2

Copy to R.C. V.R. 10/10/41

21

TO: Office of the Executive Commissioner.

Reference Minute 25.

The views of the Italian Government are contained in letter at 5A.
Presumably you will now redraft the letter at 2A, which will require
some amendments in view of the fact that BOLZANO is now Italian Government
territory.

W. H. H. H.

For. Sec.

En. Ref your minute 25. please see min. 27 above.

pg 9 1/2

30.

Copy to R.E. V.R. 18/13/40

31

TO: Office of the Executive Commissioner.

Reference Minute 25.

The views of the Italian Government are contained in letter at 5A. Presumably you will now redraft the letter at 2A, which will require some amendments in view of the fact that BOLZANO is now Italian Government territory.

[Signature]

M. CARR, Brigadier
VI CA Section. 2112

Tel. Ext. 525.
9 Jan 45.

32.

Rebulet of min 31.
File returned by Lix. (num Sec. passing the matter to C.A. Section, *[Signature]*)

33.

100/
V. Brig. Com.

Please see folios 6A & 7A. M.M.I.C. are handling the whole matter of P.W. repatriation. I do not think this section should take any further interest. Folios 10 & 10A are for information. The matter is being handled through the Ministry of War.

[Signature] Maj.
C.A. Section

22 Mar. 46

29/11

23

ESD

See see 22 for Ex Comm: and 20 for info.
Johs 13 (min 18 refers) will be passed to
Polads after.

? with AFHE on lines 2 f. 21-22

AB

ESD

24

Ref min 23: draft beneath submitted.

ESD 5/12

~~Ref min 23~~ 25

I think we should first obtain the
views of the Italian Govt. Please ask CAS
to do so.

1/2/11

26

V.P/CAS

P. 22 & min 25 wld. you be good enough to
obtain the views of the Italian Govt.

3/12

Minutes

2111

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 735016

CONFIDENTIAL

Telephone:
489081
Ext 363

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
M.B.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

10A

IPW/1/13/707

21 March 1946

22 MAR 1946

SUBJECT: BOLZANO Prisoners of War

TO : Civil Affairs Section, Allied Commission

1. Ref your G/13.6/CA of 4 Feb 46, and your even ref of 12 Mar 46, forwarded herewith are duplicates of all correspondence received and sent by this Division regarding the question of the "Alto-Altesini" of the SOUTH TYROL.

2. This includes GHQ CMF's 3151/1/A2 of 22 Jan 46, referred to in AFHQ G-5 letter G-5: 383.6 of 31 Jan 46 addressed to you; our signal 610 of 26 Jan 46 to GHQ CMF requesting breakdown of PWs involved; 'A' Branch CMF's answering signal thereto of 23 Jan 46 (ref: F 39569); our letter IPW/1/13/478 of 3 Feb 46 to the Autonomous Office for War Veterans and Repatriated PWs, Ministry of War; that office's reply thereto of 19 Feb 46 (ref: 3847/88); MMIA's A 019 of 21 Feb 46 to GHQ CMF, forwarding the Autonomous Office's reply; letter from AFHQ G-5 of 20 Feb 46 (ref: G-5: 383.6-31), and our letter IPW/13/608 of 7 Mar 46 to the Autonomous Office.

3. The attached correspondence covers all of the information available to date on the subject of the "Alto-Altesini". Should there be any new developments, you will be advised.

H. ARMAND de MASI.
Capt., Spec. Res. AUS

for
J. W. REGIS
Lt. Col., GAC
Chief
IPW Division

Incls:

7 copies of correspondence as described in para 2 above

ITALIAN PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION,
(M.B.I.A.) A. C.
Received MAR 21 1946
log No 2268

CONFIDENTIAL



Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 735016

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

1013
76

G-5: 383.6-31

20 February 1946

SUBJECT: "Alto Atesini" German Pw.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission,
APO 394.

1. It is presumed that the "Alto Atesini" come from South Tyrol as to which the Allied Policy is to maintain the status quo pending a settlement of the problem.

2. There is no reason why prisoners whose homes are in the South Tyrol should be treated in any way differently from other German speaking Italians normally resident there. Their fate should be decided with that of their co-nationals.

3. It is not considered that there are any grounds for intervention by this Headquarters with a view to preventing the repatriation of these prisoners of war. In the course of the negotiations referred to in paragraph 2 of your letter, the Italian Government should receive an opportunity for adequately screening the prisoners to ensure that they are in fact Italian Subjects.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN:

P. G. A. Parsons

P. G. A. PARSONS,
Brigadier,
Acting Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5.

2108

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT : Procedure for ITALIAN PS/W(non co-operators and neo fascists)

Land Forces Sub-Comm. A.C.,
(M.M.I.A.) R O M E.

A 019 21 Feb 46.

TO : GHQ. C.M.F.

Ref your 3151/1/A2 dated 22 Jan 1946

The following reply has been received from the Ministry of War.-

This Ministry is willing to accept all ITALIAN prisoners now held in C.M.F. custody as well as prisoners of ITALIAN nationality who served in the GERMAN Army.

We agree entirely with the priority stated for the release, (co-operators, non co-operators, recalcitrants).

In this connection the ITALIAN authorities will take steps to guarantee a spirit of absolute justice; appropriate commissions appointed by the ITALIAN Government would examine the individual position of each prisoner to determine the subsequent action to be taken.

Steps will be taken to provide the necessary particulars so that, also later on, it will be possible to trace those individuals who may be required in connection with War Crimes trials.

Although assuming all the guard and administrative duties in connection with "S" camp TARANTO, we beg the ALLIED Authorities to continue providing supplies for the persons in custody during their stay in the said camp.

This Ministry is willing to accept all ITALIAN prisoners now held in GMP custody as well as prisoners of ITALIAN nationality who served in the GERMAN Army.

We agree entirely with the priority stated for the release, (co-operators, non co-operators, recalcitrants).

In this connection the ITALIAN authorities will take steps to guarantee a spirit of absolute justice; appropriate commissions appointed by the ITALIAN Government would examine the individual position of each prisoner to determine the subsequent action to be taken.

Steps will be taken to provide the necessary particulars so that, also later on, it will be possible to trace those individuals who may be required in connection with War Crimes trials.

Although assuming all the guard and administrative duties in connection with "G" camp TARANTO, we beg the ALLIED Authorities to continue providing supplies for the persons in custody and their stay in the said camp.

The Ministry agrees to accept the prisoners of the "Alto Adige", but only those who, after proper investigation, prove to be ITALIAN Nationals, and as such are liable to measures for having served in the S.S. of the GERMAN Army.

2. It will be seen that the Italian Government agree to take over responsibility for these prisoners, but require the Allied to supply rations so long as the prisoners are held in the camp.

Major General
for M.M.I.A.

/s/ A. Gillmore I. Col.)



CONFIDENTIAL

REF: 3897-8

CONFIDENTIAL

TRANSLATION

From: Ministry of War.

(Off. Asst. Reduci Prisoners of War
(Servizi e Amministrazione).)

To : MILIA

Subject : Procedure for ITALIAN PW's (non
co-operators and neo fascists).

Ref your ITW 1/13/478 of 9 Feb 46.

1. This Ministry is willing to accept all ITALIAN prisoners now held in GMP custody as well as prisoners of ITALIAN nationality who served in the GERMAN Army.

2. We agree entirely with the priority stated for the release, (co-operators, non co-operators, resistentists).

In this connection the ITALIAN authorities will take steps to guarantee a spirit of absolute justice; appropriate commissions appointed by the ITALIAN Government would examine the individual position of each prisoner to determine the subsequent action to be taken.

Steps will be taken to provide the necessary particulars so that, also later on, it will be possible to trace those individuals who may be required in connection with War Crime trials.

3. Although assuming all the guard and administrative duties in connection with "St. Camp BARBARO", we beg the ALLIED Authorities to continue providing supplies for the personnel in custody during their stay in the said camp.

4. The Ministry agrees to accept the prisoners of the "St. Camp BARBARO", but only those who, after proper investigation, prove to be ITALIAN nationals, and as such are liable to sentence for having served in the G.S. of the GERMAN Army.

The Minister.

BR0016.

2107

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Steps will be taken to provide the necessary particulars so that, also later on, it will be possible to trace those individuals who may be required in connection with War Crime trials.

3. Although ensuring all the guard and administrative duties in connection with "the camp RAHUNE, we beg the ALLIED Authorities to continue providing supplies for the persons in custody during their stay in the said camp.

4. The Ministry agrees to accept the prisoners of the "Lila Adige", but only those who, after proper investigation, prove to be Italian Nationals, and on such are liable to measures for having served in the S.S. of the GERMAN Army.

The Minister.

ARMIC.

2107

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
M.E.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

IPW/1/13/478

9 February 1946

Subject : Disposal of Italian PW (Non Cooperators & Neo-Fascist).

To : Ministry of War,
Autonomous Office for War Veterans
and Repatriated PW, Rome.

1. A proposal has been received from GHQ, Central Mediterranean Forces, that the Italian Government be asked if they are willing to accept all Italian PW now in custody in ONP and also PW of Italian Nationality who served in the German Army.

2. All Italian PW of recalcitrant and non-cooperator status who are at present held in 211 PW Camp in North Africa will have been brought over to Italy and confined in "S" PW Camp TARANTO by 10 February. It is proposed that the Italian Government should take over the custody of these prisoners of war together with the Camp and be responsible for guards and all administrative matters connected with the Camp.

3. There are a considerable number of Italian cooperators still to be repatriated and released. The priority of release laid down by the War Office is cooperators, non-cooperators, recalcitrants. It would have to be a condition of transfer that the non-cooperators and recalcitrants in "S" PW Camp were not released until all cooperators had been repatriated and freed from prisoner of war status.

It will also be a condition of transfer that proper records of the PW should be kept by the Italian Government so that it may be possible if necessary at a later date to trace any individual who may be required in connection with war crimes trials.

4. GHQ have also agreed tentatively to hand over to the Italian Government 900 PW from the South Tyrol who have served in German SS Police Regiments, and whose release had been requested through the

2. All Italian PW of recalcitrant and non-cooperator status who are at present held in 211 PW Camp in North Africa will have been brought over to Italy and confined in "G" PW Camp TARANTO by 10 February. It is proposed that the Italian Government should take over the custody of these prisoners of war together with the Camp and be responsible for guards and all administrative matters connected with the Camp.

3. There are a considerable number of Italian co-operators still to be repatriated and released. The priority of release laid down by the War Office is co-operators, non-cooperators, recalcitrants. It would have to be a condition of transfer that the non-cooperators and recalcitrants in "G" PW Camp were not released until all co-operators had been repatriated and freed from prisoner of war status.

It will also be a condition of transfer that proper records of the PW should be kept by the Italian Government so that it may be possible if necessary at a later date to trace any individual who may be required in connection with war crimes trials.

4. GHQ have also agreed tentatively to hand over to the Italian Government 900 PW from the South Tyrol who have served in German SS Police Regiments, and whose release had been requested through the IPW Division. As it is necessary to hold in custody all Italian recalcitrants and non-cooperators until the release of co-operators, it is also necessary to hold in custody, until co-operators are freed, these Tyroleans, who served in the German Army.

To release recalcitrant and non-cooperator PW before co-operators were freed, would be a breach of faith with those Italian PW who have rendered considerable assistance to the Allied cause.

5. It is requested that you indicate whether you are willing to take over custody of Italian nationals under the conditions indicated above, and let us have your decision as soon as possible.

6. For your information, the total number of PW involved would be 10,000 (including PW ex-Mehrmacht of Italian nationality), all to be concentrated in the Taranto Area.

J. S. REGIS, Lt. Col.
Chief,
IPW Division

CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

~~SECRET~~
INCOMING MESSAGE

CIPHER

(10F)

F 59569

0/8224

JAN 282344A

JAN 280900A

IMPORTANT

FROM: A BRANCH CMC

TO : ALCON ROME IPW DIVISION

SECRET

SECRET

YOUR 613 OF 26 JANUARY.

1. BREAKDOWN IS AS FOLLOWS (APPROXIMATE FIGURES) NON COOPERATORS
53 OFFRS 1067 ORS RECALCITRANTS 77 OFFRS 875 ORS NEO FASCISTS
375 OFFRS 6448 ORS ITALIAN NATIONALS EX WEHRWACHT 1125
(INCLUDES 972 SOUTH TYROLEANS EX SS UNITS AND 155 SEP NON
RECALCITRANTS).

2. INTENDED TO CONCENTRATE ALL IN TARANTO AREA.

AC DIST

ACTION: IPW S/C

INFO: CHIEF COMMISSIONER

FILE

SKELETON

of 10
53
77
375
505
ORS
1067
875
6448
1125
9515

Log # 244
Recd 29 Jan 46

2100

SECRET

ALLIED
1425
RECEIVED

1/13/

RESTRICTED

(10G)

IPW Division, Hq ALCOM

26 1200 Jan 46

GHQ, CMF

610

RESTRICTED

SUBJECT IS DISPOSAL OF ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR PD
PARA ONE PD REUR THREE ONE FIVE ONE SLANT ONE SLANT ABLE TWO OF
TWO TWO JANUARY FOUR SIX PD
PARA TWO PD PLEASE INFORM THIS OFFICE SOONEST NUMBERS OF ITALIAN
PRISONERS OF WAR IN CMF PROPOSED HANDING OVER TO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT
PD BREAKDOWN REQUIRED IN NON DASH COOPERATORS CMA RECALCITRANTS CMA
NEO DASH FASCISTS AND ITALIAN NATIONALS IN GERMAN ARMY CMA PLUS
LOCATIONS PD

OF PRIORITY
IPW Division

511

ADM/13/8

Log # 628
dispatched 26 Jan 46

G.J. LEONE
CWO, U.S.A.
Asst Adjutant, 2104

RESTRICTED



RESTRICTED

MDP

RESTRICTED

COPY NO:1

SUBJECT : Disposal of Italian PW.

CHQ
CMP

3151/1/A2

TO : Headquarters,
Allied Commission,
(Land Forces Sub-Commission)(MMIA),
IPW Division.

22 Jan 46

1. It is proposed to ask the Italian Government if they are willing to accept all Italian prisoners of war now in custody in CMP and also Prisoners of War of Italian nationality who served in the German army.

2. All Italian prisoners of war of recalcitrant and non co-operator status who are at present held in 211 PW Camp in North Africa will have been brought over to Italy and confined in 'S' PW Camp Taranto by 10 February.

It is proposed that the Italian Government should take over the custody of these prisoners of war together with the Camp and be responsible for guards and all administrative matters connected with the Camp.

3. There are a considerable number of Italian co-operators still to be repatriated and released. The priority of release laid down by the War Office is co-operators, non co-operators, recalcitrants. It would have to be a condition of transfer that the non co-operators and recalcitrants in 'S' PW Camp were not released until all co-operators had been repatriated and freed from prisoner of war status.

It will also be a condition of transfer that proper records of the PW should be kept by the Italian Government so that it may be possible if necessary at a later date to trace any individual who may be required in connection with war crimes trials.

4. With your letter IPW/1/13/165 dated 4 December 1945 were forwarded requests for the release of 900 prisoners of war who had served in the German SS Police Regiments, and who came from the South Tyrol.

It is agreed that these men may be handed over to the Italian

10 February.

It is proposed that the Italian Government should take over the custody of these prisoners of war together with the Camp and be responsible for guards and all administrative matters connected with the Camp.

3. There are a considerable number of Italian co-operators still to be repatriated and released. The priority of release laid down by the War Office is co-operators, non co-operators, recalcitrants. It would have to be a condition of transfer that the non co-operators and recalcitrants in 'S' PW Camp were not released until all co-operators had been repatriated and freed from prisoner of war status.

It will also be a condition of transfer that proper records of the PW should be kept by the Italian Government so that it may be possible if necessary at a later date to trace any individual who may be required in connection with war crimes trials.

4. With your letter IPW/1/13/155 dated 4 December 1945 were forwarded requests for the release of 500 prisoners of war who had served in the German SS Police Regiments, and who came from the South Tyrol.

It is agreed that these men may be handed over to the Italian Government. 2103

As it is necessary to hold in custody all Italian recalcitrants and non co-operators until the release of co-operators, it is also necessary to hold in custody, until co-operators are freed, these Tyroleans, who served in the German Army.

To release recalcitrant and non-co-operator PW before co-operators were freed would be a breach of faith with those Italian PW who have rendered considerable assistance to the Allied cause.

5. It is requested that you approach the Italian Government and enquire if they are willing to take over custody of Italian nationals under the conditions indicated above. This HQ is anxious to effect the transfer as soon as possible.

RGRC/ER.
Copy to: SACB
CAO

British Resident Minister G-1
US Polad

GHQ 2nd Echelon.

RESTRICTED

DAC
ADAC(O)

G-2
G-3
A-3

Major General,

D.A.G.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 725016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
AFO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref : 6/18.6/CA

12 Mar 46

SUBJECT : Bolsano Prisoners of War

TO : Land Forces Sub-Commission (MHA)
Italian Prisoners of War Division

Reference this Section's 6/18.6/CA of 4 Feb 1946, may an answer
please be given to this letter.

M. CARR, Brig,
VP CA Section

2102

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

6/18.6/CA

4 Feb 46

SUBJECT: BOLEANO Prisoners of War

TO : Land Forces Sub Commission (WMIA)
Italian Prisoners of War Division

There are forwarded to you copies of this Headquarters letter (6/18.6/CA) to AFHQ dated 17 Jan and copy of their reply G-5:383.6 of 31 Jan 46. May this Section be informed of the present position.

M. CARR Brigadier
VP CA Section

Enclosures

2101

3160.

CNS (7A)

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

- 2 FEB 1946

G-5: 383.6

31 January 1946

SUBJECT: Bolzano Prisoners of War.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission,
APO 394.

(6A)

Reference your letter 5/18.6/CA, above subject, dated 17 January 1946.

1. No action is being taken on referenced letter inasmuch as the future disposal of South Tyroleans has already been referred to Allied Commission (Land Forces Sub-Commission, MHA, IPW Division) in SHQ CMF letter 3151/1/A2 dated 22 January 1946.

2. It is felt that the specific questions referred to in paras 6, 7, and 8, your letter, should be coordinated with MHA.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN:

P. G. A. Parsons Col

P. G. A. PARSONS
Brigadier,
Acting Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5.

2100



HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref: 6/18.6/CA.

17 January 46.

SUBJECT: Bolzano Prisoners of War.

TO: AFHQ, G-5 Section.

- 1 One of the many important considerations affecting the peaceful future of the Province of BOLZANO is the question of the return of those prisoners of war who were conscripted into the Wehrmacht and captured by the Allies in Italy.
- 2 Probably because of the large proportion of German-speaking inhabitants in BOLZANO, conscription was mostly applied not on behalf of Republican Fascist Italy but on behalf of the Wehrmacht, and in fact many of the young Sud-Tyroleaners went to every part of the German battle-front.
- 3 The older men were drafted into various police regiments, among which were the police regiments "Bolzen", "Alpenvorland", "Brixen", and "Schlanders". These regiments were used for garrison and guard duties.
- 4 From their names these units have been associated with the SS Units of the Nazi Party. It seems, and there appears reason in the argument, that these Sud-Tyroleaner police regiments were very different from the SS Units in their ideology and composition, being in fact, the conscripted cross-section of the older male inhabitants of a traditionally quiet, and essentially Catholic community.
- 5 As a result of the SS label, however, a large number of these Sud-Tyroleaner prisoners are being held with the remainder of the German police regiments at Grottaglie di Taranto.
- 6 The Italian Government have been consulted in the matter and in general has no objection to the return of these prisoners. The Italian Government considers it necessary that these prisoners should be separated into the following categories:
 - (a) those who are definitely of Italian Nationality;
 - (b) those who have opted for German Nationality;
 - (c) those whose nationality is in doubt and will require investigation.

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- 2 -

- 7 The Italian Government would accept those in category 6(a) but would not accept those in category 6(b). Insofar as those falling within category 6(c) are concerned, the Italian Government would be prepared to send a representative to investigate and determine whether or not the prisoners are of Italian nationality.
- 8 The Italian Government suggest that a Register should be compiled containing the names of all prisoners with all data collated in respect of each prisoner. In particular it will be necessary to know the names of prisoners who have committed acts or crimes during the period in which they served under the Germans which call for legal action.
- 9 It is considered that the return to their land of origin of those prisoners whom the Italian Government will accept would be a step forward in the pacification and creation of goodwill in dealing with the BOLZANO problem as well as being of great benefit to the agricultural community by providing additional farm labour.
- 10 The matter is submitted for your favourable consideration. Should you agree in principle to the return of those prisoners acceptable to the Italian Government may this Headquarters be informed of your views on the Italian Government suggestions put forward in paras. 6, 7 and 8.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

MD
M. CARR, Brigadier,
VP CA Section.

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

Rome, 22 December 1945

Ref : 442/18549

TO : Allied Commission
Civil Affairs Section

SUBJECT : Italian Prisoners of War to be returned to Alto Adige.

Reference is made to your 6/18.6/CA of 17 Dec with which you requested the Italian point of view with regard to the return to Alto Adige of persons of Italian nationality held as prisoners of war.

Generally speaking, the Italian Government does not object to these prisoners being returned to their residences: it must be ascertained, however, that said persons are of definite Italian nationality and that, during the period they have served under the Germans, they have not committed acts which call for penal sanctions.

We deem it necessary, therefore, that the Allied Authorities should keep a register showing all the data in their possession with regard to each prisoner. In said register the following categories of prisoners should be included:

- 1) Those who are of definite Italian nationality;
- 2) Those who have opted for the German nationality and therefore are not of Italian nationality;
- 3) Those in respect of whom it is not ascertained whether they are or not of Italian nationality.

It is obvious that those persons referred to in para 2) cannot be taken over by the Italian Government and therefore they shall be removed from Italian Government territory by the Allied Administration.

As to those persons referred to in para 3), the Italian Government shall send a representative who shall ascertain whether they are of definite Italian nationality.

A reply showing the opinion of that Commission in this connection would be appreciated.

205.
FOR THE MINISTER

/s/ SPATARO

0358



B.

Ministero dell'Interno

DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA



7 GEN 1946

Roma, 22 Dicembre 1945

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLIATA
Sezione Affari Civili

ROMA

Quaranta A.G.R. Nr. II

Prot. 1442/18549 Allegati

17 corr.

Risposta al Foglio del 6/12.5/CA

OGGETTO Prigionieri Altoatesini.

Si fa riferimento alla nota n.6/12.5/CA in data 17 corrente per chiarire il punto di vista italiano circa il rilascio dei prigionieri di guerra Altoatesini.

Il Governo Italiano, in linea di massima, non ha nulla in contrario a che questi siano restituiti alle loro residenze, sempre che venga accertato, in modo sicuro, che si tratta di cittadini italiani e che non siano incorsi, durante il tempo in cui hanno prestato servizio militare alle dipendenze dei tedeschi, in azioni perseguibili penalmente.

A parere dello scrivente sarebbe, perciò, necessario che la Autorità Alleata facesse tenere un elenco contenente le complete generalità e tutte le notizie in loro possesso nei riguardi di ciascun prigioniero. L'elenco dovrebbe tenere distinti:

- 1a) Quelli che, sicuramente, sono cittadini italiani;
- 2a) Coloro che optarono per la cittadinanza tedesca e, quindi, non hanno la cittadinanza italiana;

2096

Si fa riferimento alla nota n.6/19.6/3A in data 17 corrente per chiarire il punto di vista italiano circa il rilascio dei prigionieri di guerra albanesi.

Il Governo Italiano, in linea di massima, non ha nulla in contrario a che questi siano restituiti alle loro residenze, sempre che venga accertato, in modo sicuro, che si tratta di cittadini italiani e che non siano incorsi, durante il tempo in cui hanno prestato servizio militare alle dipendenze dei tedeschi, in azioni perseguibili penalmente.

A parere dello scrivente sarebbe, perciò, necessario che le Autorità Alleate facessero tenere un elenco contenente le complete generalità e tutte le notizie in loro possesso nei riguardi di ciascun prigioniero. L'elenco dovrebbe tenere distinti:

1°) quelli che, sicuramente, sono cittadini italiani; 2095

2°) Coloro che optarono per la cittadinanza tedesca e, quindi, non hanno la cittadinanza italiana;

3°) Quelli per i quali sia dubbio se abbiano o meno la cittadinanza italiana.

E' evidente che i prigionieri di cui al N.2 non potranno essere presi in consegna dal Governo Italiano; essi, a cura dell'Amministrazione Alleata, dovranno essere allontanati dall'Italia.

Per quelli, invece, indicati al N. 3, il Governo Italiano si riserva di delegare un proprio rappresentante con l'incarico di eccer-

./.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 725016

tare la effettiva cittadinanza di ciascuno.

Si gradirà di conoscere l'avviso in proposito di esdenta Com-
missione.

R. II MINISTRO

Pratore

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 735046

P. at Lt Col.
A/VP QA Sec

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

6/18.6/GA

17 Dec 45

Dear Sir,

AME of Venetia Region has for economic reasons and so that the land may be properly cultivated requested the return to the Alto Adige of persons of Italian nationality who were conscripted by the Germans and are now held as prisoners of war. All prisoners will at some stage have to be returned to their homes and this Commission agrees with the view that for economic reasons these persons should be returned to the Alto Adige as soon as possible. Will you please let me have the formal concurrence of the Italian Government to this proposal.

In the event of the record of any Italian prisoner showing that he has been engaged any serious degree in pro german activity he will not be returned until after you have been supplied with short particulars and you would receive prior information of the date on which it is proposed that he would be returned.

Yours truly,

Dr. INNOCENTE
Ministry of Interior
R O M E

2090

3131

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 73011

FROM: Lt Col S.H. WHITE
A/VP CA Sec HQ/ACHEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref : 585/23/EC

6 Dec 45

Dear Sir,

I send you herewith for record my understanding of the discussion between us this morning, namely:

- a) That you thought that the Italian Government would have no objection in principle to Italians born in the Alto Adige and conscripted by the Germans into various Police Regiments and now held as Prisoners of War being released and returned to their homes.
- b) That this however should not apply to those who had been politically active on behalf of the Germans. It was desirable therefore that the persons to be returned should be screened and that only those Alto Adige born prisoners whose record was free from voluntary and real collaboration with the Germans should be returned without further reference.
- c) That the Italian Government would like a list of prisoners so returned.
- d) That it would be prepared to consider a list of those not returned as above with a view to allowing others also to be sent home.
- e) That the return of prisoners would be without prejudice to the determination of their national status according to the law applicable and would not exempt them from giving if required evidence of their nationality according to such law.
- f) That this absence of objection did not apply to persons who were not Italians according to Italian Law.
- g) That this was not an official answer and that it was desired that the question should be raised formally.

If there is any point in the above record which is not in accord with your views, perhaps you would be good enough to let me know.

Yours truly

2094

Dr. INDOCENTE
Ministry of Interior
R O M E

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HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION

APC 394

Office of the Chief Commissioner

Ref: 585/24/EC

December 1945

SUBJECT: Bolzano - Prisoners of War

TO : AMEQ

1. The Regional Commissioner of Venezia Region has brought to my attention the somewhat unusual situation of certain categories of prisoners of war from Bolzano Province.

2. In the many important considerations affecting the peaceful future of the Province of Bolzano, one which weighs heavily in the minds of the people is the question of the return of their prisoners of war (- men) conscripted into the Wehrmacht and captured by the Allies in Italy.

3. You will remember that the Province of Bolzano was overrun by German troops in the late autumn of 1943, and thereafter became, for most administrative purposes, part of the Reich.

4. In particular, conscription was applied, not on behalf of

my attention the somewhat unusual situation of certain categories of prisoners of war from Bolzano Province.

2. In the many important considerations affecting the peaceful future of the Province of Bolzano, one which weighs heavily in the minds of the people is the question of the return of their prisoners of war - men conscripted into the Wehrmacht and captured by the Allies in Italy.

3. You will remember that the Province of Bolzano was overrun by German troops in the late autumn of 1943, and thereafter became, for most administrative purposes, part of the Reich.

4. In particular, conscription was applied, not on behalf of the Duce's Republican Fascist Italy, but on behalf of the Wehrmacht. In view of the large proportion of German speaking inhabitants that was understandable. In fact many Sud Tiroler went to every part of the German battle front, as witness the tragic advertisements for news of the missing which appear on the last page of every issue of the "Dolomiten". These were for the most part the younger men.

5. The older men were, shortly after September 1943, drafted into various "Police" Regiments: Police Regiment "Bolzen", "Alpenvorland", "Brixen" and "Schlanders". Perhaps because the German Military Command was not too sure of their battle worthiness, the regiments were largely used for garrison and guard duties.

Continued

Continued

6. From their name the units have been associated with the SS units of the Nazi Party. I am assured, and there appears reason in the argument, that these Sud Tiroler Police Regiments were very different in their ideology and composition, being, in fact, the conscripted cross section of the older male inhabitants of a traditionally quiet, pious and essentially Catholic community.

7. (However, as a result of the SS label, a large number of these Sud Tiroler prisoners are with the remainder of the German Police Regiments at Grottaglie di Taranto.

8. I submit that the return to the land of these Sud Tiroler POW would be a great factor in the pacification of the Bolzano problem, as well as a great benefit to the agricultural community.

I would wish that a special consideration be given to these POW ~~with~~ ^{to} them and

ALLAN W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 735046

2602

SECRET

JKD/rb

HEADQUARTERS
VENEZIE REGION
Allied Military Government
AFO 394

TO : HQ Allied Commission
Attn: Executive Commissioner

27 Nov 45

SUBJECT : Bolzano - Prisoners of War

FILE NO : RXII/383.6(A)

1. In the many important considerations affecting the peaceful future of the Province of Bolzano, one which weighs heavily in the minds of the people is the question of the return of their prisoners of war - men conscripted into the Wehrmacht and captured by the Allies in Italy.

2. The question has some complicated features which, I know, will require a wise and firm decision at a high level. I am therefore venturing to ask that the Chief Commissioner bring the matter to the personal notice of the Supreme Allied Commander.

3. You will remember that the Province of Bolzano was overrun by German troops in the late autumn of 1943, and thereafter became, for most administrative purposes, part of the Reich.

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(cont)

7. However, as a result of the SS label a large number of these Sud Tiroler prisoners are with the remainder of the German Police Regiments at Grottaglie di Taranto.

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Regional Commissioner

Copy to: Provincial Commissioner, Bolzano Province.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Regional Commissioner

Copy to: Provincial Commissioner, Bolzano Province.

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