

ACC

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S/C FI
NOV.,

10000/105/714

S/C FILE, DISPLACED PERSONS & REPATRIATION
NOV., DEC. 1944

- 4 DEC. 1944

17/8/CA

203765
DEC 032100A**RESTRICTED**

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

C/2744
DEC 041015A
ROUTINE

DISTHREE

Q 56 AREA. INFO Q(AE) AFHQ MOVWIT. MOV ROME. DISPLACED PERSONS AND REP SUB
COMMISSION

- 4 DEC. 1944

RESTRICTED.

Confirming conversation MCLAREN/MICHAELSON. 10000 blankets not in use at Allied
PW Camp will be despatched forthwith to Displaced Persons and Rep SubCommission ROME.
Move of blankets will be arranged by you. Notify MOV ROME and consignee copy to this
HQ when blankets ETA. As agreed Q(AE) AFHQ blankets ex PW Camp will be replaced
as soon as possible.

LIST

INFO-ACTION: Disper & Rep 2
INFO: Chief Commissioner
C.A. Sec
File

7517

5431

RESTRICTEDHEADQUARTERS
1-DEC-1944
A. C.

4/8/CA

PP/rf

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
DISPLACED PERSONS AND REPATRIATION SUB-COMMISSION 25 NOV. 1944

DPR/5/Q

Tel. 489081 Ext 434

24 November 1944

SUBJECT: Removal of Material From Italian Motor Park

TO : Establishment Section

1. Ref your 91/Est dated 6 November 1944. attached please find report from Major Phelps for your information.

2. It will be noted that equipment has been returned.

For the Director:

K. C. Brown
K. C. BROWN
Major
O. i/o ADM

Copy to C.A. Section

pk 25/11.
NFA.

7516

1908

SUBJECT : Removal of Material from Italian Motor Park.

Accommodation Centre, DI BAGNI.
Ref. SM/CC/PERS.

Officer Commanding,
No. 1 Sub Section,
D.P. & R.S.C.
Allied Commission.

1. The following report is submitted in connection with the attached correspondence.

- a). On 10 October 1944, I did go to the Italian Motor Park at Mesagne. I was accompanied by Pfc. W.U. Tremontin, an Italian speaking American soldier, and Rossi Francesco, an Italian employed as Chief Mechanic at our garage. The purpose of the visit was to attempt to obtain rims for certain requisitioned vehicles in our possession?
- b). Upon arrival at the Motor Park, we were refused admission and shown the bilingual notice referred to. I enquired for the CO and was informed that he was not present. We were directed to the H.Q. building some distance away in the village of Mesagne.
- c). We proceeded to the H.Q. building where I was introduced to an Italian Major whose name I do not recall. He was apparently the second in command. I told him the purpose of my visit. He was very cordial, but stated that he required a higher authority before he could issue. Our conversation was carried on through an interpreter, and the statements herein are the substance of the translation. We chatted for several minutes, and during the course of the conversation he stated that he would like to help us out, but as a matter of fact he was doubtful if the rims we required were available at the Park. At this point he attempted to call the Park on the telephone, but it was out of order. He asked me if I would make a list of my requirements. I did this, writing down the items as shown on the basic communication. The Major then wrote out in Italian a translation. The Major then called a person identified as the Marechal, gave him the list of requirements, and requested him to conduct us to the Park.

d). The Marechal rode in my car to the Park where we were admitted and taken to a section of the grounds, where a number of rims were stacked. My mechanic, Rossi, began to examine the various rims to determine whether or not they fitted our requirements. At this point, a full Colonel in the Italian Army appeared. I do not recall his name, but he was presented as the Commanding Officer. His first statement was that it was impossible to release any spare parts. After conversing with him for a short while, he voluntarily conducted us around the Park, pointing out other stacks of rims and various other items. No rims suitable for our use were found on this tour, and we returned to the original stack.

e). Mechanic Rossi made a further examination of these rims. None were found to be exactly right, but Rossi selected five which he thought might be modified to fit our needs. The Colonel gave his permission for their removal. No receipt was signed. The rims were put in my car and brought to Lecce.

accompanied by Pfc. W. J. [redacted], an Italian employed as Chief Mechanic at our garage. Rossi Francesco, an Italian employed as Chief Mechanic at our garage, was also present. The purpose of the visit was to attempt to obtain rims for certain requisitioned vehicles in our possession.

b). Upon arrival at the Motor Park, we were refused admission and shown the bilingual notice referred to. I enquired for the CO and was informed that he was not present. We were directed to the H.Q. building some distance away in the village of Mesagne.

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e). Mechanic Rossi made a further examination of these rims. None were found to be exactly right, but Rossi selected five which he thought might be modified to fit our needs. The Colonel gave his permission for their removal. No receipt was signed. The rims were put in my car and brought to Lecce.

f). The following day, 11 October 1944, it was found that the rims were not capable of adaptation to any of our vehicles. Rossi was immediately instructed to return them. This instruction was carried out the same day, and attached hereto is an affidavit from Rossi to that effect. As no receipt was signed the previous day when the rims were collected, no receipt was given when they were returned. No other rims were taken by me or, to my knowledge, by any employee.

It is considered that paragraphs 2 (a) and 2 (b) of letter H.Q. AC dated 6 Nov. 1944 have both been complied with by the report contained in the paragraph 1 above.

2.

(C.H. PHELPS) Major CAC,
Commandant.

AFFIDAVIT

17 November 1944.

On the 11th day of October 1944 I was instructed by PFC WALTER U. TRAMONTIN (A) 32208809 to return five (5) tire rims to the salvage dump of the Italian Royal Army at Mesagne.

I certify that I did exactly what I was told and returned these rims. As nothing had been signed for these rims I did not receive any receipt for turning them in.

Rossi Francesco, Lecce.

7514
1008

17/8/CA ✓

Tel : 489081
Ext : 358

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref : DPR/8-1/A ✓

23 Nov 44

SUBJECT : Movement of Italian Mission

TO : HQ A.A.I. (C.A. Section)

Reference your DCCAO/10/5A of 18 November 1944.

Instructions have been issued to the Italian
Mission that they will not move to HQ A.A.I.

R. P. Cripp
R.P. CRIFFS Col
CSO CA Sec

7510

4817

785016

14/8/CA ✓

C28 NO. 1244

3594

Subject:- Movement of Italian Mission

Civil Affairs Section,
HQ Allied Armies in Italy
TEL: FIIPOT 35

To:- V.P. Civil Affairs Section,
HQ Allied Commission

DDOAO/10/5A
18 Nov 44

1. Reference Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission Orders Number 161, dated 14 November 1944.
2. For obvious reasons it is not desired that the Italian Mission referred to above be attached to the Civil Affairs Section, HQ AAI. Furthermore, this Section verbally has twice declined to approve attachment of this Mission.
3. It is requested that future orders of this kind be issued by the Adjutant as is customary and not by individual sub-commissions.

Nelson W. Monfort
NELSON W. MONFORT,
Colonel, A. U. S.,
DDOAO

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17/8/CA.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
ESTABLISHMENT SECTION

6 November 1944

91/Est

Subject: Removal of Material from Italian Army Motor Park
To : Displaced persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission
(through V.P. Civil Affairs Section)

1. Attention is invited to copies of attached correspondence.
2. The equipment mentioned in basic communications will be returned to the Italian Army Motor Park without delay, and this office informed by indorsement hereon.

a. By what authority the withdrawal of this property was made from the Italian Army Park.

b. On what date and by whom this equipment is returned.

By Command of Commodore Stone:

NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Chief of Staff

7511

CC File 8/11

3892

Copy of TranslationMINISTER FOR WAR

Ref. 21015/22

TO: MMIA

SUBJECT: Drawing of Automobile materiel at Vehicle Park at Mesagne.

The director of the vehicle park at Mesagne has informed us that on the 10 October an American Army officer, identifying himself as Major Charles Phelps of A.C.C. at the vehicle park, requested the immediate issue of 17 wheels of various sizes, to placed on Italian-made vehicles operating for Allied units.

Since the officer had no authorisation whatsoever for the withdrawal, the park personnel stated that the request could not be honored except upon presentation of a written document from MMIA, conforming with past directives, regarding materiel in Italian warehouses and depots.

As the officer, who was shown, furthermore, the bilingual pamphlet concerning entry of Allied personnel into Italian Army depots, kept on insisting on the issue of the materiel, drawing up an issuing order himself, the park director finally filled the request for reasons of convenience.

While this Ministry has taken disciplinary steps against the park director (eight-days' arrest), according to regulations agreed upon with MMIA for the discipline of Italian depots, we believe it to be our duty to inform you of the regrettable affair so that the above regulations are also observed by the Allied officers.

The materiel issued consisted of the following:

- 5 wheels for Fiat 1100
- 5 wheels for Fiat 1500
- 5 wheels for Lancia "Augusta"
- 2 wheels for Lancia "Aprilia"

THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE
(G.B. Orilia)

/s/ G. Orilia

7510

3892

Subject: Removal of Materiel from Italian Army Motor Park.

Land Forces
Sub Commission, AG (MIA)
Rome
AG/B

November 1944

To : Hq. AGC

Copy to: AFHQ, G-4 Section for Lt. Col. Laby.

1. Drawing attention to copy of translation of letter from the Minister for War which has reference to the removal by Major Charles Phelps of the Displaced Persons Sub Commission, of 17 wheels from the Italian Army motor park at Mesagne.
2. In accordance with the instructions published by AFHQ, all Italian Army property was reserved for use of the Italian Army except in those cases where use of the property is given to Allied agencies. A poster has been placed on all Italian Army depots advising Allied personnel that entry into such depots for removal of materiel therefrom without authorization is not permitted. Authorizations are issued by MIA on AFHQ authority.
3. No authority had been issued for the removal of this materiel by Major Phelps, and the Italian officer who finally acceded to Major Phelps arbitrary demands has been punished by eight-days arrest.
4. It is requested that the 17 wheels removed by Major Phelps be returned by him to the Italian Army park at Mesagne and that all officers be informed that Italian Army property is reserved for the use of the Italian Army unless otherwise directed by AFHQ.
5. Please advise when the 17 wheels have been returned in order that the Italian Army stock states may be corrected.

CLAYTON P. KEER, Colonel 7500
for Major General
Land Forces
Sub Commission, AG (MIA)

CPK/lak

1 Incl:
Translation of Ministry of War
letter to MIA dated 26 Oct. 44

14/8/CA

C O P Y

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
DISPLACED PERSONS AND REPATRIATION SUB COMMISSION

DPR/Misc1/GII (IT)

4 Nov. 44.

Dear General,

Reference your letter of 25 Oct.

I enclose a note to the service you have rendered
to the Allied cause and trust that it may be of service to you.

Believe me yours truly

C. F. Wethergill

C. F. WETHERGILL,
Lt. Colonel,
Deputy Director.

General BIGLINO
Via Ferdinando di Savoia No. 3
ROMA

7500

*Copy to
C. A. Section*

3940

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
DISPLACED PERSONS AND REPATRIATION SUB-COMMISSION

DFR/Misc/GII (IT)

November 1944

General Biglino worked as a member of the Accommodation Staff of the Italian Refugees Branch of the Allied Commission for the first half of 1944 and thereafter, as a member of the Staff of the High Commissioner for Refugees, he was working in close contact with that Branch.

On several occasions the work of General Biglino has been specially commended and during the evacuation of the civil population during the Anzio operations he gave exceptionally good and loyal assistance to the Allied Military effort.

C.B.FINDLAY
Colonel
Director.

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