

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

ACC

10000/105/722
(VOL. I)

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

722

MINE CLEARANCE SCHEME
(USE OF SURRENDERED PERSONNEL)
CORRESPONDENCE
MAY-SEPT. 1945

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

5.

Civil Affairs Sec.

Ref your minute 4, please see
 F 72 which is copy of D.O. letter from
 Gen Browning to Brig Lush which answers
 your query.

(M. F. Lush)
 M. F. Lush

1 Maj Gen M. F. Lush

G-50).

30 Aug 45.

6.

Col. Guffo

Re 72 and our discussion on Sept. 11 re
 my clearance the Ex-Comm. is having a
 letter sent to AFHQ. asking that the
 former ruling that M. F. Lush should not be

G-50)

30 Aug 45

Col. Cuffo6.

Re 72 and our discussion on Sept. 1st re
 my clearance the Ex-Comm. is having a
 letter sent to AFHQ. asking that the
 former ruling that M. I. A. should not be
 reformed should be reversed with effect
 from Sept. 30th which is the perfect date
 for the Galt to take control of the Italian
 Army. So we must await developments
 and in the meantime do all we can to
 keep the existing organization working.
 In this connection I suggest we should
 send a to AFHQ. & M. I. A. & whoever
 deals with the matter on a higher level or
 complete list of deficiencies in equipment
 with a view to getting them made up as far
 as possible. 3/9

M. I. A. C. A. S.

W. C. L.
 to Maj Gen M. I. A.

Minute Sheet

①

To: C.A.S.

Alt Folio 71 is a memorandum on the present position of mine clearance, with recommendations as to its future handling.

It is submitted for consideration by V.P.

L.G.S.C.

R. R. Lippert at.

②

To: Exec: Commⁿ

V.P. C.A.S. Recommends that Folio 71A be taken up with NMIA by Exec Commⁿ if he approves

C.A.S.

H.H.S. Hartley Col
24 Aug 45

3

Kind Captain

Please take this matter up with M.M.I.A. & report

To Exec: Commⁿ

V.P. CAS Recommends that Folio 71A be taken up with
MMIA by Exec Commⁿ if he approves

CAS.

H.H-S. Haubley Col
24 Aug 45

3

Will Officer Det.

Please take this matter up with M.M.S.A & report
to Exec Commⁿ at earliest possible date.

(C.A.S.)
25/8

82

4

Land Forces Sub-Commission
MMIA

The memorandum on Mines Clearance
(Folio 71) is passed to you for your
views please

C.A. Section

H.H-S. Haubley Col
25 Aug 45

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 73506

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of the Chief Commissioner
APO 394

Ref: 1009/39/EC.

5 September 1945

SUBJECT: Responsibility for Mine Clearance.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters.
Attn: G-5 Section.

1. In my 8251/170/EC of 24 May 1945, para 4.(b), I recommended that the responsibility for the supervision of the work of the Italian Army in the clearance of land mines should be transferred from the Civil Affairs Section to the Land Forces Sub-Commission. In your AG 091.741/115 SAC-O of 10 July 1945, para.7, you stated that the subject was under consideration with a view to the employment of German surrendered or POW personnel. I understand that these are now not available and the responsibility has continued to be borne by units of the Italian Army.

2. By 30 September it is expected that the operational control of the Italian Army and the bulk of the Northern Regions will have been handed back to the Italian Government. As from that date I propose progressively to reduce the responsibilities of the Civil Affairs Section with a view to closing down the Section. Clearly one of the first responsibilities which should be handed over is that of supervision of land mine clearance, and as I have recommended before, this responsibility should in my opinion become that of the Land Forces Sub-Commission. GOC Land Forces Sub-Commission does not alter his previous attitude and feels obliged to refuse to offer to take on any further responsibility. However, as the supervision has been carried on in the past by one Allied officer of the Civil Affairs Section, I do not think that GOC Land Forces Sub-Commission need be unduly alarmed at the extra work involved.

3. I should therefore be glad if instructions could be given to me to make this internal change in the Allied Commission and to GOC, ROMIA to accept the additional responsibility.

/s/ E. W. Stone
ELERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Copy to: Land Forces Sub-Com (USIA)
Civil Affairs Section.

Cal. Copper Lake, Calif.
7/9

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

PERSONAL.

1 AUG 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: 1009/34/70.

28 August 1945.

My dear General:

I would ask you to read the attached memorandum on mine clearance in Italy. You will agree, I think, that a first class job has been done in spite of many difficulties.

This is an appeal to you to alter your attitude regarding the responsibilities of the Italian Army in this respect. There can be no question in my mind and in the mind of many of the Chief Commissioner's advisers that mine clearance in Italy is a matter for the Italian Army - as is the case in our country. The last paragraphs of the memorandum are in my opinion very cogent.

I propose to advise the Chief Commissioner to raise this matter again and this time I should like your support.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Maurice Lush.

Major-General L. Browning, CB, CBE, MC,
General Officer Commanding,
Land Forces Sub-Commission (MELIA).

MEL/JG.

Copy to: Brig.General A.L. Hamblen,
Asst COS, G-5 Sec, AFHQ.

Brigadier M. Carr, VP CA Section. ✓

80

C 50

Transmitted to AFHQ
The following has been forwarded
for the file MC 27/8

27/8 MC

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

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

M-18

2 Sept. 1945.

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance Equipment - MGS-331-Eng.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.
(Attn: Local Government Sub-Commission).

1. Please refer to Allied Commission letter AC/53.1/LG of 22 August 1945.

2. Requisition MGS-331-Eng was forwarded by LAC Airgram 134, dated 10 August to Combined Chiefs of Staff for approval. MGS-331-Eng is based on AC requisition ORD-177-45, which we understand, originated in Local Government Sub-Commission and which covers requirements for 10,000 persons in mine clearance work.

3. Pending a decision by Combined Chiefs of Staff on Requisition MGS-331-Eng, it is not considered appropriate to take any further action on the request for supplies contained in your letters AC/53/LG of 2 June and 10 July. Nor should a revised requirement as requested in para 5 of our letter G-5: 383.6-28 of 12 August be submitted pending further advice.

4. If any Italian Military Forces are used in mine clearance, their organizational equipment should be provided in the normal maintenance manner through Land Forces Sub-Commission.

5. LAC Airgram 134, copies of which are available at your headquarters, included certain quantities of fuse and detonators. Tracing tape and batteries are considered to be available from local Italian sources and the appropriate Sub-Commission of the Economic Section should be consulted.

6. Our letter M-18 of today's date in reply to your letter AC/53.3/LG of 23 August also refers.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

Heast
R. C. CARSON

Lt. Colonel, GSC

Economics & Supply Division.

cc to: Economic Section
File G-5: 383.6-28
G-5 230.4-13

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

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

M-18

2 Sept. 1945.

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance Equipment. - MGS-331-Eng.

To : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.
(Attn: Local Government Sub-Commission).

1. Reference is to your AC/53.3/LG of 23 August 1945.
2. LAC Airgram 134, dated 10 August 1945, copies to Allied Commission, indicates that 1000 mine detector sets SCR-625 were available from U.S. stocks and 600 mine detectors 5/5A were available from British stocks to apply against MGS-331-Eng. However, we are again consulting the appropriate Staff Section on the availability of Polish No. 3 detectors.
3. Batteries referred to in our letter M-18 of 21 Aug. were supplied to maintain the detectors already in your possession. Your letter AC/53/LG of 16 July and AC/35/LG of 17 May 1945 refer.
4. Please advise the results of your investigation of the suggested supply sources mentioned in our letter M-18 of 12 August.
5. In addition, Mining Division, AC, may be either able to make small quantities of fuse and detectors available to you or suggest possible sources.
6. Our letter M-18 of today's date in reply to your letter AC/53.1/LG of 22 August also refers.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

R. C. Carson
R. C. CARSON
Lt. Colonel, G.S.C.
Economics & Supply Division.

cc to:
Economic Section, AC.

Major General L. BROWNING CB, CBE, MC, *mp*
Land Forces Sub-Commission, A.C.,
(M.M.I.A.) R G M E

G/6

29 AUG. '45.

My dear

Thanks for your 1009/34/EC dated 28 August
which I have read with interest.

I write this to make my position quite clear
and to show that it is not a question of obstinacy on my
part but merely one of over-loading and physical impossibility.

The state of affairs is this. A.T.H.Q. have
decided that it is in the Allied as well as the Italian
interest to reorganise the Italian Army from top to bottom
fundamentally, in order that a small army of quality shall
replace the huge army of low calibre which existed in the
past.

I have just finished three days discussion with
the Assistant Chief of Staff, General Ward, on the organis-
-ation and training angle. In addition there will be such
matters as reorganisation of the administrative services,
the judicial and penal system etc. The whole business will
be, as General Ward put it, a "herculean" task. He is right,
particularly as A.T.H.Q. want me to get a move on and get
the business started now, and the fact is that I am trying
to compete despite a continual outflow of trained officers
on demobilisation and an inflow of officers who know nothing
about this specialised game in M.M.I.A. The work under my
existing charter (e.g. cost, accounting, rations etc.) still
exists and the result of the above is that I now have even

and to show that it is not a question of necessity on my part but merely one of over-loading and physical impossibility.

The state of affairs is this. A.P.H.Q. have decided that it is in the Allied as well as the Italian interest to reorganise the Italian Army from top to bottom fundamentally, in order that a small army of quality shall replace the huge army of low calibre which existed in the past.

I have just finished three days discussion with the Assistant Chief of staff, General Ward, on the organisation and training angle. In addition there will be such matters as reorganisation of the administrative services, the judicial and penal system etc. The whole business will be, as General Ward put it, a "herculean" task. He is right, particularly as A.P.H.Q. want me to get a move on and get the business started now, and the fact is that I am trying to compete despite a continual outflow of trained officers on demobilisation and an inflow of officers who know nothing about this specialised game in M.M.I.A. The work under my existing charter (e.g. cost, accounting, rationing etc.) still continues and the result of the above is that I now have even more on my plate than I ever had before. The prospect is staggering.

I therefore cannot alter my previous attitude and offer to take on a further responsibility.

If you require more personnel for Mine Clearance, and I can see that this is a big political and economic factor, the answer is for you to apply to A.P.H.Q. for more chaps to be put at your disposal for this purpose. Apart from the 3,000 allotted to you, you have had allotted a further 6,000 for the purpose of assisting with repatriation. I understand you are only employing one-third of that number. Obviously, complete military units would be a better proposition than taking officers and NCOs and putting them in charge of newly organised gangs. It is therefore for your consideration as to whether you should ask A.P.H.Q. for the use of, say two or three Field Companies for Mine Clearance work. There could be balanced against the shortfall in the 6,000

X from the Empire

/over

mentioned above which you are not using. It is for A.F.H.Q. to say whether these could be spared or not. At any rate, there is a suggestion.

I have written to you pretty fully as I have to explain my attitude in this matter, and I hope it makes clear why, though I cannot accept any further responsibility, I am quite prepared for the Ministry of War to put troops at your disposal if A.F.H.Q. approve.

Yours

L.B.

Brigadier M.S. LUSH, CB, CBE, MC.,
Executive Commissioner, A.C.

Brigadier M.S. LUSH, CB, CBE, MC.,
Executive Commissioner, A.C.

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

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(71)
Memorandum to Civil Affairs Section.

Subject: Mine Clearance.

BACKGROUND

1. Since the entry of the Allies into Italy the problem of Mine Clearance has been dealt with by three agents : (a) MMIA, (b) Allied Commission, and (c) the Italian Ministry of War. Originally there was no organization in AC to deal with this matter but some elements of the Italian Army were used for the clearance of mines. Their work was almost entirely confined to SARDINIA and CALABRIA. As Italian troops began to be used operationally, this work was discontinued.
2. In July 1944 Allied Commission was allotted two companies of Italian Engineers to work on mine clearance for civilian needs. These Companies have been augmented to four at which number they still stand. It will be appreciated, considering the large number of mines laid in this country, (probably running to six millions), that this is a very small number of men to work on this vast problem. Their activities have been almost entirely confined to the essential needs of the civilian population, i.e. clearance of bridge surrounds, water and power lines, towns and villages, railways, etc. There remain, however, large areas of agricultural land and other less important public utility installations still to be cleared.
3. The Italian Government have charged the Ministry of War with the responsibility of Mine Clearance in Italy but the Ministry is denied the use of Italian Military personnel other than those mentioned above which are under the direct control of this Commission. In conjunction with Civil Affairs Section the Ministry of War drew up a scheme for the employment of civilian personnel which is now in operation. MMIA provided a nucleus of instructors to initiate the scheme. Some comments on the work of the Italian Military companies and the Italian

ian needs. These Companies have been augmented to a number which number they still stand. It will be appreciated, considering the large number of mines laid in this country, (probably running to six millions), that this is a very small number of men to work on this vast problem. Their activities have been almost entirely confined to the essential needs of the civilian population, i.e. clearance of bridge surrounds, water and power lines, towns and villages, railways, etc. There remain, however, large areas of agricultural land and other less important public utility installations still to be cleared.

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MILITARY COMPANIES

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4. The two Companies originally allotted were, in July and August 1944, given the duty, in addition to Mine Clearance work, of instructing two recruit companies in mine clearance. After a short period of six weeks the two original companies were withdrawn, leaving this Commission with the two new Companies. One Company was put to work in the East of Italy and the other one in the West of Italy. While the work of mine clearance from its very nature is slow, these companies may be said in general to have given a good account of themselves in spite of many difficulties. Personnel has been frequently changed, clothing has been difficult to get, they

are lacking in transport, and mine detectors were very difficult to obtain and still are.

5.

The two Companies have between them lifted or destroyed 499040 mines. These figures have been accepted by the Ministry of War but this Sub Commission considers them to be on the high side. The casualties suffered by the Companies are 66 killed and 73 injured and mutilated. These casualties are due to various factors, i.e. the high sensitivity of mines which have lain a long time, the growth of areas etc. which hides the usual signs of minefields, bad minefield discipline and a degree of recklessness which is inherent in the Italian due to familiarity with mines, despite casualties.

6.

Two further Companies were later allotted in the Winter of 1944 and the Spring of 1945. The last Company has only just completed its training and has been put to work on last Winter's battle line.

CIVILIAN ORGANISATION

7.

The civilian equade set up by the Ministry of War, in spite of great difficulties which included not only lack of equipment, food and first aid, but clothing and housing, have expanded gradually to an approximate number of 1,500 workers. They are continually hampered by lack of transport and are inclined to become demoralised when casualties occur. It can be well understood that men engaged continuously on this dangerous work are bound to be affected by such disadvantages and their morale will be lowered when they cannot even get transport to take wounded and injured to hospital. It may be added here that the fact that suitable equipment has not been made available is not due to any lack of initiative or hardwork on the part of the officers concerned in this Headquarters who over a period of some 9 months, have continually pressed for the provision of equipment and transport. Their efforts, how-

6. Two further Companies were received in the Spring of 1945. The last Company has only just completed its training and has been put to work on last winter's battle line.

CIVILIAN ORGANISATION

7.

The civilian squads set up by the Ministry of War, in spite of great difficulties which included not only lack of equipment, food and first aid, but clothing and housing, have expanded gradually to an approximate number of 1,500 workers. They are continually hampered by lack of transport and are inclined to become demoralised when casualties occur. It can be well understood that men engaged continuously on this dangerous work are bound to be affected by such disadvantages and their morale will be lowered when they cannot even get transport to take wounded and injured to hospital. It may be added here that the fact that suitable equipment has not been made available is not due to any lack of initiative or hardwork on the part of the officers concerned in this Headquarters who over a period of some 9 months, have continually pressed for the provision of equipment and transport. Their efforts, however, have only met with partial success.

8.

The civilian mine clearing squads are such less expert than the military but are well paid. The casualties are 96 killed and 75 injured and mutilated. The stage has now been reached when it can no longer be expected that civilians will come forward for this work, and an expansion of the squad by using civilians is impossible. The cost of using civilian labour are prohibitive.

USE OF GERMAN POWS.

9.

In agreement with the Acting President of the Allied Commission this Sub Commission made application to AFHQ in

June of this year for the use of 10,000 surrendered personnel, with the necessary equipment to be provided from military sources, for mine clearance work. The numbers that it had been found possible to employ among the civilian population and the four companies allotted to this Commission were considered insufficient to make any appreciable headway in clearing up the large number of mines in this country and that only with the addition of a large number of personnel could any substantial progress be made. It was therefore suggested that 10,000 POWs should be put to work and if this can successfully a larger number might well be employed. After a period of 3 months AFHQ now state that no surrendered personnel can be made available to this Commission for the purpose of Mine Clearance. Further, severe cuts in the equipment to be made available are contemplated.

10.

The position, therefore, is precisely as it was three months ago. There are still insufficient personnel at work to really make headway in the clearance of mines, which daily becomes more difficult and dangerous, since the mines which have lain for a considerable time, are more sensitive and more difficult to find. They are taking a daily toll of life in considerable numbers and of all ages. Casualties among the civilian population are estimated to be not less than 5000 killed and 6000 injured and mutilated (these figures are incomplete, full returns not being available).

It might be argued that the work could be carried out by contractors. Experience shows however, that, not only is this an extremely expensive way of doing the work, but it is also extremely difficult to control and supervise, and it is owing to the Italian mentality, to a possibility of recurrences of the recent explosion which took place at Viareggio and which resulted in a considerable loss of life.

There can be only one conclusion: namely, that a very much larger and properly administered organisation is required to tackle this immense problem.

10. The position, therefore, is precisely as it was three months ago. There are still insufficient personnel at work to really make headway in the clearance of mines, which daily become more difficult and dangerous, since the mines which have lain for a considerable time, are more sensitive and more difficult to find. They are taking a daily toll of life in considerable numbers and of all ages. Casualties among the civilian population are estimated to be not less than 5000 killed and 8000 injured and mutilated (these figures are incomplete, full returns not being available).

It might be argued that the work could be carried out by contractors. Experience shows however, that, not only is this an extremely expensive way of doing the work, but it is also extremely difficult to control and supervise, and it is owing to the Italian mentality, to a possibility of recurrences of the recent explosion which took place at Viareggio and which resulted in a considerable loss of life.

There can be only one conclusion: namely, that a very much larger and properly administered organisation is required to tackle this immense problem.

11. It is my view that the organisation which should and could tackle this work already exists, - it is the Italian Army, and the matter of mine clearance should be made a high priority responsibility of that Army.

12. This view is upheld by the fact that mine clearance itself is basically a military operation as it can only be satisfactorily done under strict disciplinary conditions, which cannot be established with civilians. Civilians are disinclined to do the work and cannot be got in the numbers required. The technical equipment both for laying and removing mines is essentially military and can only be obtained from military sources.

13. I therefore recommend that the Italian Army not only become immediately responsible for all mine clearance work in

Italy, but also that it be given the opportunity and necessary assistance in the way of the supply of equipment to carry out this immense task which involves the removal of an estimated number of over four million mines.

14. There is every advantage in this responsibility being taken by the Military, and so far as I can see, no disadvantage at all. Military operations in this country are at an end and there must be Italian Military personnel available to do the work, even if they have the secondary role of guard battalions. The problem is a national one and should be treated as such. There are Engineer Combat Units already trained and equipped which should be used for mine clearance. Further equipment required can be transferred direct through normal military channels from Allied Military sources to the Italian Army. There are available to the Italian Military authorities military schools, buildings etc., for training infantry in this work. In fact, one of the normal functions of any infantryman to lift mines if necessary and I can see no objection to more men being found from infantry to augment the engineer element in the Italian Army for the purpose of mine clearance.

A really first rate performance in tackling this problem by the Italian Army would go far to raise its morale and prestige in the eyes of the general public.

22 Aug 45.

Director
Local Government Sub Commission

Italian Army. There are available to the Italian military authorities military schools, buildings etc., for training infantry in this work. It is, in fact, one of the normal functions of any infantryman to lift mines if necessary and I can see no objection to more men being found from infantry to augment the engineer element in the Italian Army for the purpose of mine clearance.

A really first rate performance in tackling this problem by the Italian Army would go far to raise its morale and prestige in the eyes of the general public.

22 Aug 45.

Director
Local Government Sub Commission

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AG/53.1/LG

22 Aug 45.

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance.

TO : Ministry of War
Via XX Settembre
ROMA

1. The question of employment of surrendered German personnel has now been determined by AFHQ.
2. In their letter to this Sub Commission AFHQ have now stated that surrendered personnel cannot be made available for mine clearance.
3. In so far as equipment is concerned some will be made available but transport cannot be provided and you will require to get an allocation of the transport now being turned to your Ministry of Transport.



R.R. CRIPPS Colonel
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

Copy to: Ministry of War
General P. SUPINO

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/53.1/LG

22 Aug 45

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance - Use of German POW
(Surrendered Personnel).

TO : Economic Section.

There is forwarded to you copy letter received from AFHQ (G-5) ref.G-5:383.6-28 of 12 Aug 45 which is in answer to several letters written by this Sub Commission and to your letters ES/14.05 of 16 June and 20th July.

JAC
R.R. CRIPPS Colonel
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

Enclosure

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

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

FGAP/thh

13 AUG 1945

G-5 230.4-13

16 August 1945

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance - Equipment

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission,
APO 394.

1. Reference is made to your AC/53.3/LG of 11 Aug.
2. You will note from this Headquarters letter M-18 of 12 August, addressed to your Economic Section, which crossed your last letter, that a requisition has been forwarded to the Combined Civil Affairs Committee for the bulk of the mine lifting equipment required by the Italian Government. Our letter at the same time gave the reasons why certain items had not been included in the requisition to CCAC.
3. The position in regard to transport is set out in this Headquarters letter No. T-11 of 6 August which explains that further releases cannot be considered until the 4000 vehicles offered to the Italian Government in our letters of 28 June and 18 July have been taken up.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:


F. G. A. PARSONS,
Colonel, G.S.

Copy in file 53.3 - see this
file for all covering procedure
on this matter



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53
18 AUG 1945
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

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67
16 AUG 1945

G-5: 393.6-28

12 August 1945

SUBJECT: Use by Italian Government of German POW.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

37 1. Reference is made to your letters AC/53/LG of 2 June and 10 July, inclosing the original and amended schemes (with appendices) for employment of German POW on mine clearance, and to subsequent correspondence from you on this subject, the latest being your letter AC/53.1/LG of 7 August. - 65

2. Reference is also made to your ES/14.05 of 16 June and 20 July, respectively, subject- "Employment of German POW," in which the general question is raised as to whether 21,000 German POW might be made available to the Italian Government for various uses, including the 10,000 contemplated by the scheme mentioned above in para 1. 65

3. The mine clearing scheme and the general proposal for the use of German POW have both been examined in detail by this Headquarters and the following facts emerge:

a. On the U.S. side, the repatriation program, now in full operation, will have absorbed by 15 August the employable surplus over and above those German POW needed for U.S. Service Units. The only residue will be made up of recalcitrants who might be used for mine-clearance but would require a heavy guard which would have to be found by the Italian Army. In view of the present state of the Italian Army, the provision of such a guard would not appear to be practicable.

b. On the British side, the decision as to whether an employable surplus of German POW would be available after the needs of the British Army and Services have been met, has been delayed pending receipt of instructions from Troopers. It is now ascertained, however, that no POW will be available from British account.

4. From study of the equipment requirements set out in the appendices to the mine clearing scheme, it appears that certain equipment as follows might be made available to you for use by Italian civilian or Military personnel.

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a. Equipment (excepting mine detectors) listed in Appendix 'D', items 1 and 2, could be made available from Army sources or from captured enemy stocks. This Headquarters feels, however, that some of the equipment might well be improvised.

b. It is unlikely that mine detectors can be made available from either U.S. or British sources in the numbers asked for. In any event, the consent of AGWAR and TROOPERS must be obtained.

c. The motor transport asked for in item 3 of Appendix 'D' is not available.

d. This Headquarters could make available one-half the housekeeping equipment asked for in Appendix 'F', exclusive of field ranges. It is felt, however, that the scale set out in Appendix 'F' is too generous and should be reduced.

5. If, in light of the above information, extra mine clearing equipment is required to enable the work to be carried out by Italian military or civil labor, you are requested to submit revised requirements as soon as possible. Every effort will be made to meet such requirements, within the limits of availability indicated in paragraph 4 above,


A. L. HAMBLÉN,
Brigadier General, CSC,
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

AC/53.1/LG

7 August 1945

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance.

TO : A.F.H.Q. (G-5).

Reference is made to this Commission's letter
AC/53.1/LG of 25th July 45.

1. In the Provinces of FERRARA and RAVENNA there is a large and complicated system of water works and dams built to hold the flood waters of the rivers which in this area are very full in the autumn and spring.

2. These waterworks and dams have been seriously damaged by the Germans and many mines have been laid in and around them and the rivers. The Italian Government who have now taken over this territory are very concerned about this area and anticipate considerable flooding and destruction if repairs are not completed by 15th September.

3. This Commission has agreed to use three of the Mine Clearing Companies for the purpose of clearing the mines but their number is insufficient. It is estimated that 2000 surrendered personnel should be assigned for this work immediately. There are many prisoners of war in this area which if flooded will, beside rendering roughly 50,000 people homeless, destroy crops &c. also flood the camps in which the prisoners of war are held and make feeding and control difficult.

1. In the Provinces of PAVANNA and RAVENNA there is a large and complicated system of water works and dams built to hold the flood waters of the rivers which in this area are very full in the autumn and spring.

2. These waterworks and dams have been seriously damaged by the Germans and many mines have been laid in and around them and the rivers. The Italian Government who have now taken over this territory are very concerned about this area and anticipate considerable flooding and destruction if repairs are not completed by 15th September.

3. This Commission has agreed to use three of the Mine Clearing Companies for the purpose of clearing the mines but their number is insufficient. It is estimated that 2000 surrendered personnel should be assigned for this work immediately. There are many prisoners of war in this area which if flooded will, beside rendering roughly 50,000 people homeless, destroying crops &c. also flood the camps in which the prisoners of war are held and make feeding and control difficult.

4. Copies of letters received by this Commission from the Ministry of War are forwarded for your perusal.

5. A scheme for the employment of surrendered personnel has been in the hands of your HQ for over two months. The scheme was prepared and forwarded at your request but so far no answer either negative or positive has been received. This delay may prove to be the cause of disastrous flooding and further damage with serious economic repercussions which might have been avoided if the assistance in personnel, equipment and material had been made forthcoming at an earlier date.

6. It is requested that this application for the use of surrendered personnel be given ~~definite~~ ^{definite} consideration in view of the urgency of the matter and the threat of inundation both to the countryside and POW camps.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

GRU

G. R. UPJOHN Brig
VP CA Section

6. It is requested that this application for the use of surrendered personnel be given ~~serious~~ ^{urgent} consideration in view of the urgency of the matter and the threat of inundation both to the countryside and POW camps.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

GRV

G.R. UPJOHN Brig
VP CA Section

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

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

Ministry of War

3 Aug 45

Subject: Mine Clearance of the ~~dams~~ of the rivers of the
Provinces of Ravenna and Ferrara.

TO : A.C. Local Government Sub Commission.

Reference verbal communications ^{with} ~~made~~ by General
Supino on the above subject and in view of the steps your
Sub Commission might take in order to have an assignment of
German POWs by AFHQ there is forwarded a scheme of the clearance
of the water systems ^{of the} ~~in the~~ provinces Ravenna and Ferrara.

Furthermore there is enclosed copy letter of the
Superior Council of Public Works alongwith a ^{sketch} ~~plan~~ ~~diagram~~ for
your perusal and information.

It is pointed out that the work is urgent and of the
highest public utility and therefore exceptional provisions
~~would be~~ ^{and} required.

for the Minister

General O. Grivaro

Mr. Villa..

MINISTRY OF WAR
Direzione Generale del Genio
Ufficio Centrale B.C.V.

TRANSLATION

Received 5 Aug 45

Mine Clearance Scheme set up for the
Clearance of the water system in
EMILIA in order to avoid flooding.

1. The serious situation of the water system of the Provinces of Ferrara and Ravenna is due to war depredations and it is more serious because the rivers Reno, Sento, Lamore, Senio, Montone, Cassa di Colmata Tumi Uniti etc. are fast flowing and in their lower courses run in river beds which are on level with or even higher than the level of the adjacent land.

The Ministry of Public Works have constructed large dams along the river banks and have set up water systems in order to avoid floods which take place after the autumn and winter rains. (See Appendix)

These dams have during the long war operations in Emilia been damaged by all kinds of preparations (trenches, traverses, gun emplacements, artillery positions etc.) and it is not rare to find even passages for tanks and other vehicles.

A large part of the above works including the dams have been mined.

Therefore the rehabilitation of the water system must be preceded by Mine Clearance.

2. Zone Command EMILIA are not in a position to carry out the mine clearance of such vast territory owing to the small number of personnel at their disposal (120 men) and to lack of transport. However, the zone Command contacted HQ AMG Emilia Region who already agreed to put on the work the 563 Mine Clearance Company in Ravenna Province.

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Therefore the rehabilitation of the water system must be preceded by Mine Clearance.

2. Zone Command Emilia are not in a position to carry out the mine clearance of such vast territory owing to the small number of personnel at their disposal (120 men) and to lack of transport. However, the zone Command contacted HQ AMG Emilia Region who already agreed to put on the work the 563 Mine Clearance Company in Ravenna Province.

The Mine Clearance work carried out so far by the Companies who do not take orders from this Ministry, presumably on account of the small number of mine clearers, is far from giving an efficient contribution. It is therefore imperative in order to avoid the very serious consequences outlined by the attached letter N.79 dated today by the Superior Council of Public Works, to take exceptional measures, as it is feared that during the winter rainy season a considerable area of agricultural land (about 5000 Km) will be flooded, compelling the evacuation of

50,000 civilians who will remain without shelter as their own houses and lands will be submerged.

3. It is therefore proposed

I) to concentrate immediately in the area the 562,563 and 564 Companies located in Emilia and employ them in agreement with the Ispettore Regionale del Genio Civile per la IX Region.

II) to augment as soon as possible the above Companies with other personnel and in first place with German Prisoners of War - perhaps volunteers-, in order to assure the work being carried out within the time set out in the following paragraphs. The POWs should already be trained in mine clearance and therefore be drawn from the specialized engineering corps of the German Army. It would be advisable that whole companies be assigned to the work without their officers but at the orders of their own NCOs.

4. It would appear from the data forwarded by the Ministry of Public Works that the area to be cleared is about 6 million sq.m. equal to 600 hectares. It is the opinion of this Ministry that this estimate is less than will be the case and that there are at least 1000 hectares to be cleared.

On the basis that an average of 300 sq.m. will be cleared per man per day the work requires about 35,000 man-days, consequently in order to complete the work for the rehabilitation of the damming by 30 September 45, beginning on 15 August it is required that mine clearance be carried out within a month, about 1200 men should be available. In view of the fact that the Companies have only a strength of about 300 men a further 900 plus 10% administrative personnel is required, i.e. 1000 men in all.

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This personnel should have transport, equipment and supply (especially POL and lubricants). The German POWs should be organised, equipped, supplied and guarded according to the scheme set up by AC Local Government Sub Commission.

5. The Mine Clearance work would be organised by the Ministry of War in agreement with the ⁶² Inspectorato Regionale del Genio Civile and with the Provincial authorities. It would be the responsibility of the latter to name the areas mined, to

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carry out the rehabilitation of the water system, of damming
and all the works which would avoid flooding.

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TRANSLATION

U R G E N T

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC
WORKS

Superior Council

N.79

Rome 3 August 1945

TO : General O. CRIVARO

Subject : Mine Clearance of the dams of the rivers in the
Provinces of Ferrara and Ravenna.

The Ispettore Regionale of the Genio Civile of the IX Region has urgently signalled the necessity to repair in the shortest possible time the water defenses of the region seriously jeopardized by the destruction and damages wrought by the Germans to the pumping stations belonging to the numerous outstanding land reclamations and on account of the tampering by the enemy itself of the dams of the water courses which coming down from the Emilian Apennines cross the water systems.

A delay in the rehabilitation of these dams would seriously effect the producing activity of the area, because in case of abundant rains, -which certainly would not be lacking in autumn after the present drought, the rivers would flood the area and make even worse the already existing floods which menace the crop of rice, beet-root and hemp.

Therefore this Ispettorato Regionale urges immediate rehabilitation of the dams; but to carry out this work the dams require first to be cleared of mines which have been laid over a distance of 60 Km to an average width of 100 m. covering an area of 6,000.000 sq.m. equal to 600 hectares.

It is the opinion of this Ministry that on the clearance of the areas along the rivers Santarno, Senio, Lamone, Idice, Roncone, Ronco, Fiumi Ubiti, Reno, le Casse colmate del Lamone and Quaderna 2000 German POWs could be employed immediately in addi-

Subject : Mine Clearance of the dams of the rivers in the
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It is the opinion of this Ministry that on the clearance of the areas along the rivers Santerno, Senio, Lamone, Idice, Montone, Ronco, Fiumi Uniti, Reno, la Cassa colmate del Lamone and Quaderne 2000 German POWs could be employed immediately in addition to the squads at the orders of the Genio Militare of the Zone which should be temporarily diverted from the clearance of private properties and be concentrated alongwith the POWs on the clearance of the dams.

A sketch of the area is enclosed and it would be appreciated if you would let us know what provisions have been adopted by your Direzione Generale.

The President of the Section

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Roma 3 1945 194

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Ministero della Guerra
DIREZIONE GENERALE GENIO
Ufficio Centrale B.C.M.

A.A.C. - LOCAL GOVERN.
SUB COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394

Disposizione
Rel. 1-8/15030 *Allegati*

Regolata al f. del
Lu *Lu* *1°*

Oggetto: Bonifica mine delle zone arginali dei fiumi delle Province di Ravenna e di Ferrara.-

A seguito delle comunicazioni sull'argomento fatte verbalmente dal Gen.SUPINO di questa Direzione Generale e delle richieste di codesto Sotto Commissione, in vista di un intervento a favore della concessione di prigionieri di guerra tedeschi per la bonifica mine in oggetto, presso il A.F.H.Q., si trasmette in allegato un progetto sommario d'impiego di mano d'opera nella bonifica mine delle zone idrauliche della bassa emiliana (province di Ravenna e di Ferrara).

Si trasmette altresì copia di lettera pervenuta dal Consiglio Superiore dei LL. PP., con 1 planimetria, per opportuna informazione di codesta Sotto Commissione.

Si insiste sull'urgenza e sul carattere di pubblica utilità che i lavori di cui trattasi presentano, perché possano a-

Pubb. l. 10/11/45

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vere sollecito corso i provvedimenti di eccezione proposti collo studio allegato.-

P. IL MINISTRO
(Gen.Div. O.Crivarò)



MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA
DIREZIONE GENERALE DEL GENIO
Ufficio Centrale B.C.M.

PROGETTO SOMMARIO D'IMPIEGO MANO D'OPERA PER BONIFICA MINE
DELLE ZONE IDRAULICHE DELLA BASSA EMILIANA PER OVVIARE AI
PERICOLI D'INONDAZIONE

-----ooOoo-----

1 - La grave situazione del comprensorio idraulico delle provincie di Ravenna e Ferrara, a causa dei danni subiti per avvenimenti bellici dalle opere di regimazione idraulica del territorio, è facilmente intuibile quando si tenga presente che tutti i fiumi (Reno, Santarno, Lamone, Senio, Montone, Cassa di colmata Fiumi Uniti, ecc.) notoriamente a carattere torrentizio, scorrono nel loro basso corso che interessa la regione su alvei a quota eguale o superiore a quella di campagna.

Ad evitare le inondazioni che inevitabilmente seguirebbero le piogge autunnali ed invernali, il Ministero dei LL.PP. (Genio Civile) ha eseguito imponenti opere di arginatura lungo le sponde di tutti i fiumi anzidetti ed impianti idrovori, come risultano dalla unita planimetria.

Tali arginature durante la lunga stasi delle operazioni di guerra nella regione emiliana sono state interessate da apprestamenti bellici di ogni tipo (trincee, camminamenti, postazioni per armi leggere e pesanti, postazioni per artiglierie, ecc.), quando gli argini stessi non sono stati addirittura tagliati per creare varchi per carri armati o per altri veicoli.

Larga parte delle opere di cui sopra, all'atto della ritirata delle truppe tedesche, sono state minate come del pari minati sono stati anche estesissimi tratti degli argini e delle rispettive golene, anche a prescindere da lavori di sistemazione del terreno.

In conseguenza di tale stato di fatto, i lavori di reintegro della sistemazione idraulica della zona debbono essere preceduti da lavori di bonifica mine.

2 - Il Comando Zona B.C.M. EMILIA nella impossibilità di provvedere

che interessa la regione su alvei a quota eguale o superiore a quella di campagna.

Ad evitare le inondazioni che inevitabilmente seguirebbero le piogge autunnali ed invernali, il Ministero dei LL.PP. (Genio Civile) ha eseguito imponenti opere di arginatura lungo le sponde di tutti i fiumi anzidetti ed impianti idrovori, come risultano dalla unita planimetria.

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2 - Il Comando Zona B.C.M. EMILIA nella impossibilità di provvedere alla bonifica degli estesi territori indicati, data l'esiguità del personale operaj civili rastrellatori mine disponibile (circa 120 u.) e dei mezzi a disposizione, in confronto con l'imponenza e l'urgenza del lavoro, ha interessato della questione il Quartier Generale A.M.G. Emilia Region, il quale ha già consentito a spostare la 563^a cp.rastr.mine a sua disposizione nella provincia di Ravenna.

Il lavoro di bonifica sinora svolto, per necessità contingenti non tutte note in quanto le cp.rastr.mine non dipendono da questo Ministero, ma presumibilmente per lo scarso numero di rastr.mine rappresentato da una cp., è lungi da offrire un contributo adeguato e pertanto s'impone d'intervenire con provvedimenti eccezionali, allo scopo di evitare i gravissimi inconvenienti lummeggiati dal foglio allegato n.79 in data odierna del Consiglio Superiore dei LL.PP., poichè è da temere che al cadere delle piogge inver-

.../...

neli una considerevole superficie di terreno agricole (circa 5000 Hmq.) sarà comunque delle somme di piena, forzando all'2000 oltre 50.000 civili, che resterebbero senza tetto e colle proprie case e terre sommersa.

3 - Si propone pertanto:

I) - come provvedimento d'immediata attuazione di cui centrare nel territorio interessato e destinare ai lavori d'interesse pubblico di cui trattasi tutte le op. restr. mine del Genio, di sbocce in 5 milia (562,563,564) secondo un piano d'impiego da concordare sul posto coll'Ispettore Regionale del Genio Civile per la IX^a Regione;

II) - al più presto possibile, integrare l'opera delle accennate compagnie con quella di altro personale ed in primo luogo coll'impiego di prigionieri tedeschi, se occorre volontari, per assicurare l'esecuzione dei lavori nei limiti di tempo previsti al n. successivo. I prigionieri dovranno essere già idonei alla bonifica mine ^{permanenti} e perciò essere tutti da reparti del Genio dell'Esercito tedesco. Sarebbe molto opportuno che in tale compagnia fossero assegnate in corpo ai lavori, senza i loro ufficiali, ma senza rompere i vincoli organici, agli ordini dei loro sottufficiali.

4 - Dall'esame dei dati forniti dal Ministero del M. P. col 10 Mio. Militare risulterebbe che la superficie da bonificare ammonta a circa 6 milioni di Hq., pari a 600 ettari. Si ritiene questa valutazione inferiore alla realtà e si stima doverci ripartire su di una cifra di almeno 1000 ettari di superficie da bonificare.

Tale base di un rendimento medio di 300 mq. per giornata-uomo, il lavoro richiede l'effettuazione di circa 37.000 giorn.-u. In conseguenza, per l'esecuzione dei lavori di ripristino ordinature entro il 30/IX/c.a., a partire dal 15 c.a., occorre che i lavori di bonifica abbiano corso entro un mese, ciò

le ed in primo luogo coll'impiego di prigionieri tedeschi, se occorre volontari, per assicurare l'esecuzione dei lavori nei limiti di tempo previsti al n. successivo. I prigionieri dovranno essere già idonei alla bonifica mine, perciò essere trattati da reparti del *Heimwehr* l'esercito tedesco. Sarebbe molto opportuno che intere compagnie fossero assegnate in corpo ai lavori, senza i loro ufficiali, ma senza rompere i vincoli organici, agli ordini dei loro sottufficiali.

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Sulla base di un rendimento medio di 300 mq. per lavorante-giorno, il lavoro richiede l'effettuazione di circa 35.000 giorn.-u. Di conseguenza, per l'esecuzione dei lavori di ripristino bisognerebbe entro il 30/IX/c.n., a partire dal 15 c.n., occorrere che i lavori di bonifica abbiano corso entro un mese, ciò che imporrebbe la disponibilità di 35.000/30 = circa 1200 u. Considerato che le *ex-ress.* mine sopra accennate rappresentano una forza di lavoro di circa 300 u. è necessario prevedere la ulteriore assegnazione di 900 u. in aggiunta al personale delle *ex-ress.* citate. Aggiungendo il 10% per servizi, si arriva ad un totale di 1000 u.

Detto personale dovrebbe essere fornito di mezzi di trasporto, attrezzamento tecnico e rifornimenti (per *57* colonnate carburante e lubrificante). I prigionieri di *57* tedeschi dovrebbero essere inquadrati, equipaggiati, riforniti e costituiti come proposto nel noto progetto compilato dalla A. J. - Loc. Gov. Sub Com. per l'impiego di prigionieri tedeschi nei lavori di bonifica mine.

..

(3)

5 ~~III~~ organizzazione dei lavori di bonifica, nella scala pre-
vista dal presente documento, sarebbe provveduto dal Ministe-
ro della Guerra, d'intesa coll'ispettorato regionale del Ge-
nio Civile e colla Uffici provinciali interessati, ai quali
dovrebbe incombere il compito della designazione delle zone
minate, in relazione ai lavori di ripristino delle sistemazio-
ni idrauliche, e l'esecuzione dei lavori di reintegrazione
delle arginature, a bonifica effettuata, nonché di tutti i la-
vori accessori che varranno a scongiurare il pericolo di in-
ondazione.



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Copia

" U R G E N T I S S I M A "

MINISTERO DEI LAVORI PUBBLICI
CONSIGLIO SUPERIORE

N. 79

Roma, 23 agosto 1945

AL SIG. GEN. GEMERLE CRIVARO
Direttore Generale del Genio Militare
MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA = R O M A =

Allegati: 1 planimetria-

OGGETTO: Bonifica delle zone originariamente minate dei fiumi della
provincia di Ravenna e Ferrara.-

L'Ispettore regionale del Genio Civile per la IX Regione
ha segnalato, con carattere di speciale urgenza, la necessità di as-
sicurare nel più breve tempo la difesa idraulica della regione tra-
vamente compromessa, sia per le distruzioni ed i danneggiamenti pra-
ticati dai tedeschi agli impianti idrovori delle numerose bonifiche
esistenti, sia per le manomissioni operate dal nemico stesso nelle
arginature dei corsi di acqua, che provenienti dall'Appennino emilia-
no attraversano i comprensori stessi.

E' intuitivo che un ritardo nel ripristino dell'efficienza
convogliatrice di detti fiumi sarebbe sommamente pregiudizievole al-
la ripresa dell'attività produttrice della zona, perche in caso di
abbondanti precipitazioni meteoriche, che non mancherebbero nel pros-
simo autunno, data la siccità finora verificatasi, i fiumi della regio-
ne andrebbero con le loro acque in piena, mal contenute, i versan-
ti circostanti estendendo ed aggravando gli allagamenti esistenti
che minacciano di ridurre considerevolmente i raccolti del riso, del-
le barbabietole e della canapa.

Per queste ragioni il suddetto Ispettore regionale addita
che sin provveduto senza indugio al ripristino delle arginature, ma
per ciò conseguire è necessario che esse siano ematutto liberate
dal mino che la infestano per una lunghezza di 60 chilometri com-

L'ispettore regionale del Genio Civile per la IX Regione ha segnalato, con carattere di speciale urgenza, la necessità di assicurare nel più breve tempo la difesa idraulica della regione estremamente compromessa, sia per le distruzioni ed i danneggiamenti provocati dai tedeschi e gli impianti idrovori della numerose bonifiche esistenti, sia per le inondazioni operate dal nemico stesso nelle arginature dei corsi d'acqua, che provenienti dall'Appennino emiliano attraversano i comprensori stessi.

E' intuitivo che un ritardo nel ripristino dell'efficienza convogliatrice dei detti fiumi sarebbe sommamente pregiudizievole alla ripresa dell'attività produttiva della zona, perché in caso di abbondanti precipitazioni meteoriche, che non mancherebbero nel prossimo autunno, data la siccità finora verificatasi, i fiumi della regione inonderebbero con le loro acque di piena, nel contempo, i territori circostanti estendendo ed aggravando gli allagamenti esistenti che minacciano di ridurre considerevolmente i raccolti del riso, delle barbabietole e della canapa.

Per queste ragioni il suddetto Ispettore Regionale edite che sia provveduto senza indugio al ripristino della arginatura, ma per ciò conseguire è necessario che esse siano anzitutto liberate dalle mine che le infestano per una lunghezza di 50 chilometri complessivamente e per una larghezza media di m. 100; cioè per un'estesa di 5.000.000 di mq. pari a 500 ettari.

Si ritiene che per la bonifica delle dette zone lungo i fiumi Sanverno, Senio, Lamone, Montone, Ronco, Tivoli Uniti, Reno, le Casse di Colmata del Lamone e del fiume Idice e Quedera possono essere impiegati circa 2000 prigionieri tedeschi in aggiunta alle squadre che lavorano alla dipendenza del Genio Militare della Zona e che dovrebbero essere momentaneamente distolte dal lavoro di installazione delle mine delle proprietà private e concentrate, insieme con dei prigionieri, nello smantellamento delle zone originali.

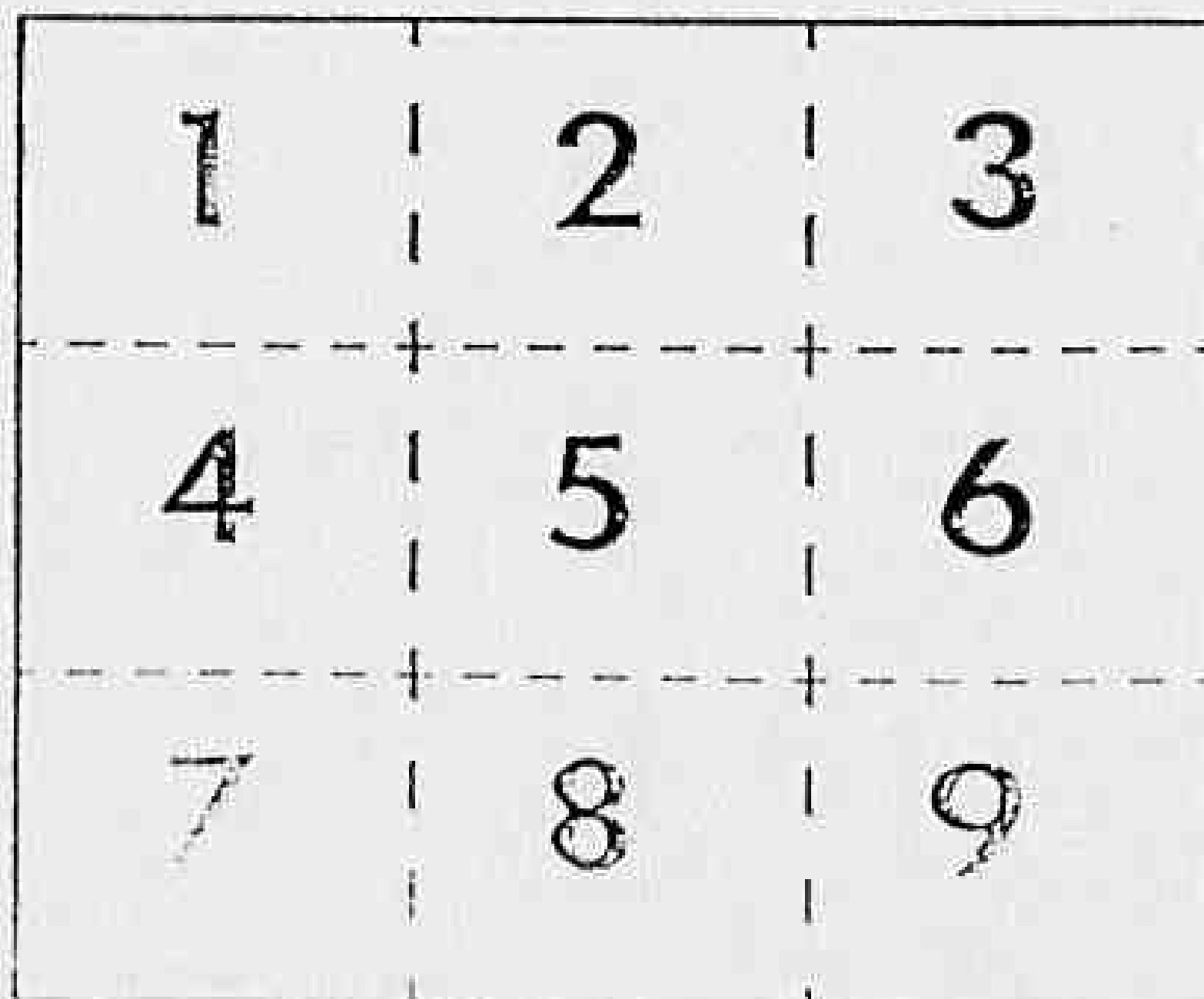
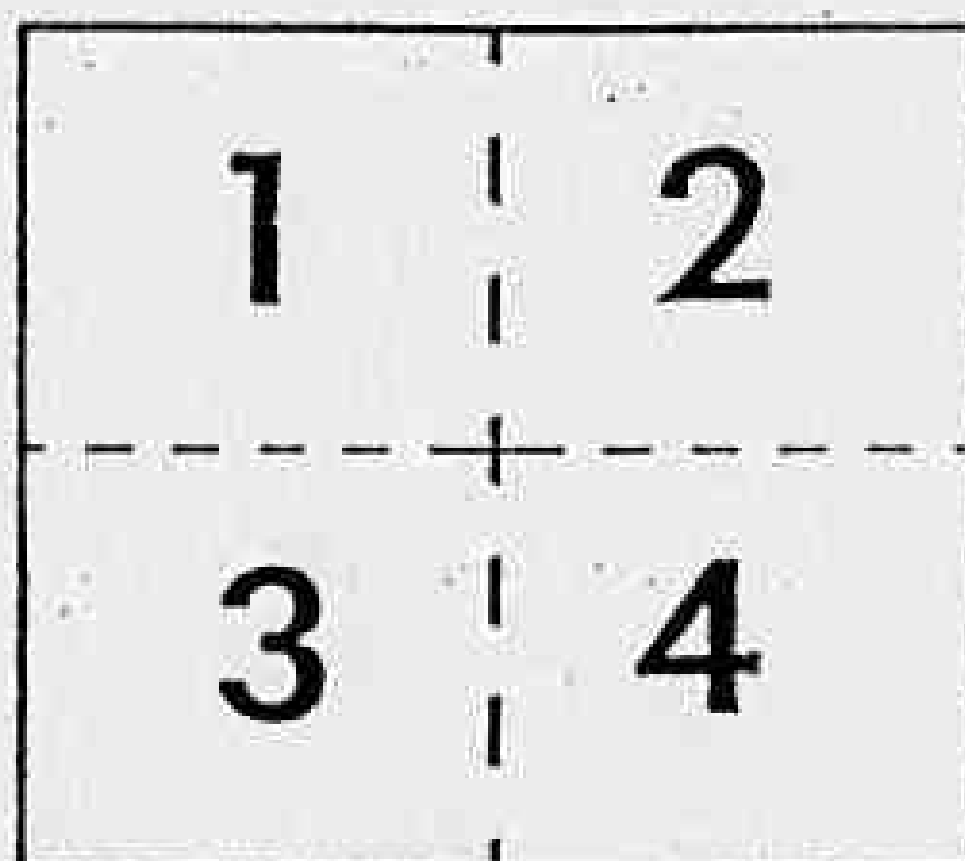
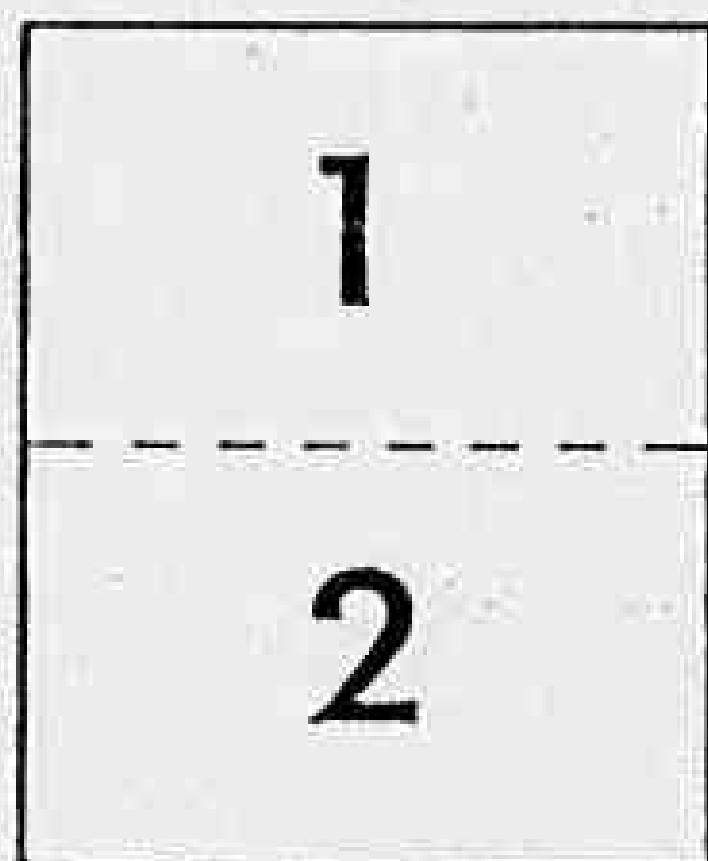
Il provvedimento ha carattere di urgenza in quanto il ripristino delle arginature mancherebbe dovrebbe avvenire al pari passo con lo smantellamento, in modo da ridare la primitiva efficienza alla rete arginature prima della prossima piena autunnale.

Si allega uno schizzo planimetrico della zona e si prega avere notizia dei provvedimenti, che coesiste Direzione Gen. la sarà in grado di adottare.

IL PRESIDENTE DI SEZIONE
T/to illeggibile

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.



Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 73504

delle zone arginali minate dei fiumi delle Prov.^{ie} di Raven

This is a detailed topographical map of the area around Lugo, Emilia-Romagna, Italy. The map shows the city of Lugo and its surrounding districts, including Argenta, Longarone, and Bagnacavallo. It also depicts the Po River and the Adriatic Sea. Key locations labeled include Montebello, Castellato, Portomaggiore, Bendo, Argenta, Longarone, Bagnacavallo, Lugo, and Ravenna. The map is oriented with North at the top.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 73506

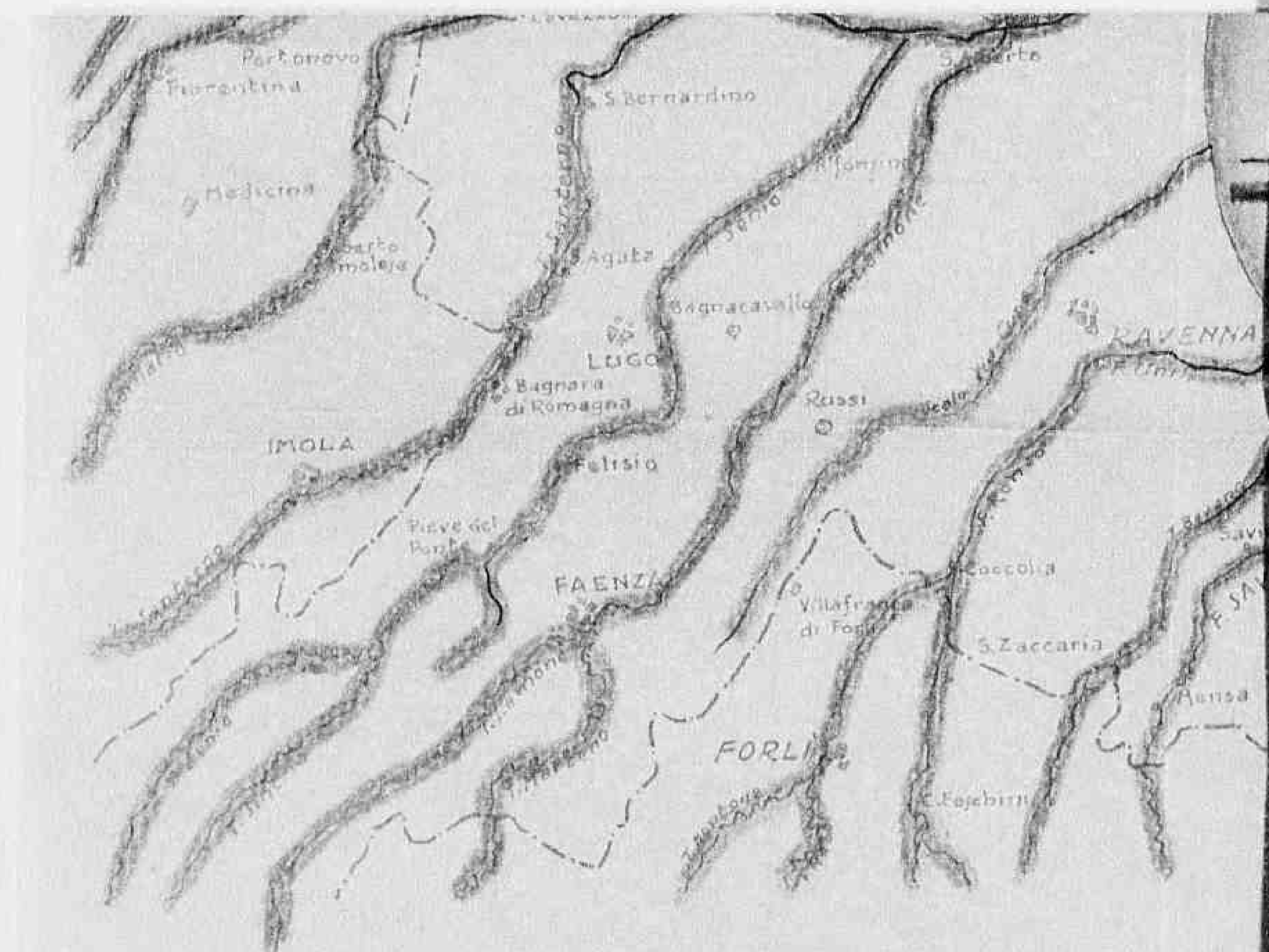
PLANIMETRIA SCHEMATICA

Linee arginali minate dei fiumi delle Prov.^{ie} di Ravenna e Ferrara

Scala 1:300.000

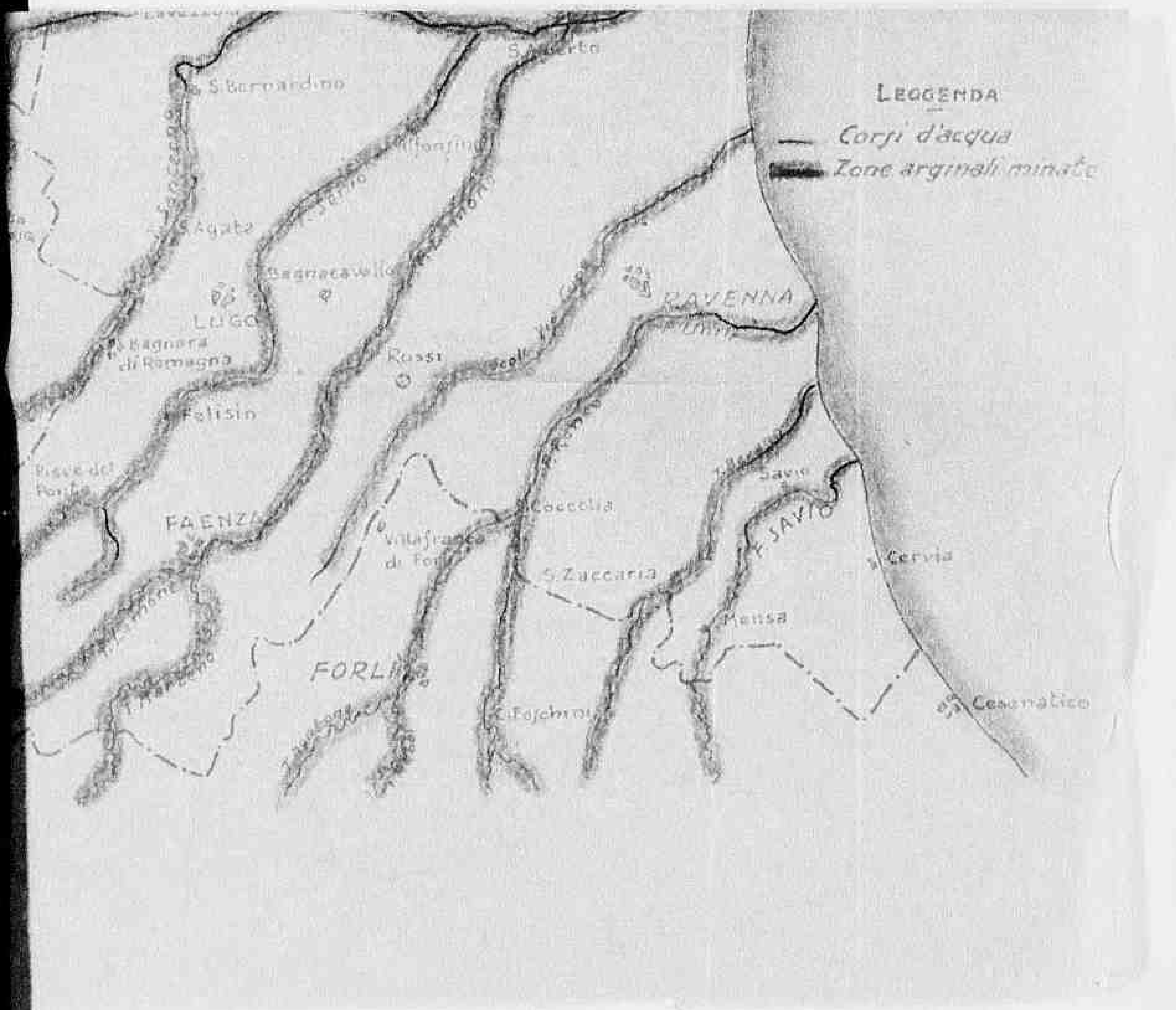


Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78504



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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 705016



HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/53.4/LG

4 August 1945.

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance.

TO : A.P.H.Q. (G-5).

1. Reference your G-5(31.3) of 1st Aug 45 and relative enclosure being copy letter from Engineer Section (Br) APHQ (Ref SEG/1.31) dated 30 July concerning minefield records.

2. Paragraph 3 of the Engineer Section's letter states:-

" It is pointed out that final clearance of minefields will be carried out by Italians and Germans, receiving information from Allied Commission".

3. No notification has been received by this HQ that the clearance of minefields will be carried out by Italians and Germans. This Commission is anxious to obtain approval for the use of German personnel and relative equipment for mine clearance but nothing official has been received. It would appear from this copy letter that a decision has been taken no notification of which has been made to this Commission.

4. It has recently been stated that a Directive was being issued by your HQ on the clearance of battlefields and it was thought that this would include minefields.

field records.

2. Paragraph 1 of the Engineer Section's letter states:-
" It is pointed out that final clearance of minefields will be carried out by Italians and Germans, receiving information from Allied Commission".

3. No notification has been received by this HQ that the clearance of minefields will be carried out by Italians and Germans. This Commission is anxious to obtain approval for the use of German personnel and relative equipment for mine clearance but nothing official has been received. It would appear from this copy letter that a decision has been taken no notification of which has been made to this Commission.

4. It has recently been stated that a Directive was being issued by your HQ on the clearance of battlefields and it was thought that this would include minefields.

5. May this HQ please be advised of the present position.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

Brig.G.R. UPJOHN 53
VF CA Section

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION
MINE CLEARANCE BRANCH

52

Ref : AC/53 -1/LH

25 July 1945

Subject: Mine Clearance

To : A.F.H.Q G-5 Section

1. Reference is made to your letter (g-5:230.4-13) of 17 July 45 and to this HQ letters AC/35/LH of 2 June and 10 July enclosing proposed schemes for the employment of surrendered personnel in mine-clearance.
2. No replies have been received to either of the above letters. It is essential that this Commission should know at an early date if the scheme is to be approved in principle or not.
3. It will be appreciated in this connection that it is essential that the Italian Ministry of War know well in advance whether or not the scheme is to be proceeded with, in order that it can make adequate preparations to carry out its responsibilities under the scheme as it now stands.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

G.R. Upjohn
G.R. UPJOHN, Brigadier,
Vice President
Civil Affairs Section

/lb

of R/W and 'summed up' personnel

1. Scheme

SECRET

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394

Proposed scheme for employment of
German Prisoners of War on Mine
Clearance in ITALY with Appendices
revised at 9 July 45.

APPENDICES

- App. A Map of Italy showing Territorial Commands.
- App. A-1 Map of Italy showing Mine Clearance Zones.
- App. B Suggested establishment for parties of 100
POW with guards.
- App. C Estimated number of Mines to be cleared.
- App. D List of technical equipment, transport &c.
required for parties of 100 men.
- App. E List of Depots and Sub-Depots.
- App. F List of Camp equipment &c. required for parties

APPENDICES

- App. A Map of Italy showing Territorial Commands.
- App. A-1 Map of Italy showing Mine Clearance Zones.
- App. B Suggested establishment for parties of 100 TSM with guards.
- App. C Estimated number of Mines to be cleared.
- App. D List of technical equipment, transport &c. required for parties of 100 men.
- App. E List of Depots and Sub-Depots.
- App. F List of Camp equipment &c. required for parties of 100 men.
- App. G List of transport, equipment &c. required for 5000 men.

9 July 1945.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

PROPOSED SCHEME FOR EMPLOYMENT OF GERMAN PRISONERS
OF WAR ON MINE CLEARANCE IN ITALY

1. Introduction.

Many thousands of mines have been laid in Italy by the Germans and it has been proposed that German POW should be employed on clearing mines in Italy.

2. Personnel required.

Up to 10,000 POW can be fully employed on Mine Clearance and this scheme has been prepared on the assumption that 10,000 will ultimately be released for this purpose.

3. Administration and discipline of POW.

The POW will continue to be the prisoners of the Allied Nations and will be maintained and administered by them. The Mine Clearance scheme will be carried out by the Ministry of War under supervision of the Allied Commission in so far as AMG territory is concerned and under the guidance of liaison officers in so far as Italian Government territory is concerned. All questions of discipline and general administration of the POW will be dealt with by the Allied personnel placed in

2. Personnel required.

Up to 10,000 PWs can be fully employed on Mine Clearance and this scheme has been prepared on the assumption that 10,000 will ultimately be released for this purpose.

3. Administration and discipline of PWs.

The PWs will continue to be the prisoners of the Allied Nations and will be maintained and administered by them. The Mine Clearance scheme will be carried out by the Ministry of War under supervision of the Allied Commission in so far as AMG territory is concerned and under the guidance of liaison officers in so far as Italian Government territory is concerned. All questions of discipline and general administration of the PWs will be dealt with by the Allied personnel placed in charge of the camps and from whom the Italian personnel will take their instructions. Prisoners will not be moved to their place of work without the permission and consent of the Allied personnel in charge, and must be returned to their cage when ordered to do so.

4. Italian Military Organisation in Italy.-Duties.

- (a) Italy for purposes of military administration is divided into Territorial Commands and Appendix A shows the boundaries of these Commands. For Mine Clearance purposes Italy has been divided into Zones which have the same boundaries as the Territorial Commands. Zones are where necessary divided into Sub-Zones. Appendix A-1 shows the Zones so far created.
- (b) The Zones are under command of and receive their instructions direct from the Ministry of War (Corps of Engineers) on all questions concerning Mine Clearance

...of PWs on clearing mine in Italy.

- 2 -

and employment of civilians and military on this work. In Military Government territory instructions are issued by Allied Commission through the Ministry of War. Zones are, however, under Territorial Command of the Corps of Engineers for discipline and administration.

(c) The Ministry of War will be responsible for the employment of POW, control and distribution of equipment, transport and materials allotted for mine clearance work. All questions of discipline and administration of Italian military or civilians will be dealt with through the Territorial Command of the Corps of Engineers.

5. Selection, allocation and posting of POW.

- (a) It is estimated that, provided transport and equipment are made available, 3000 men would take 50 months to clear all mines in Italy, 10,000 men would take 17 to 18 months.
- (b) In view of the fact that many engineering units of the German Army surrendered intact it is suggested that these units be employed on the work and allocated as a body without their officers. This would result in the men carrying on under their own NCOs and would enable good discipline to be maintained, as well as providing leadership in the work. The allocation of POW will be carried out by Allied Commission in conjunction with the Ministry of War.
- (c) POW will be formed into units or working parties of 100 men or multiples of 100 and cages will be built to hold the required number.
- (d) Appendix B sets out the establishment including

Selection, allocation and posting of POW.

- (a) It is estimated that, provided transport and equipment are made available, 3000 men would take 50 months to clear all mines in Italy, 10,000 men would take 17 to 18 months.
- (b) In view of the fact that many engineering units of the German Army surrendered intact it is suggested that these units be employed on the work and allocated as a body without their officers. This would result in the men carrying on under their own NCOs and would enable good discipline to be maintained, as well as providing leadership in the work. The allocation of POW will be carried out by Allied Commission in conjunction with the Ministry of War.
- (c) POW will be formed into units or working parties of 100 men or multiples of 100 and cages will be built to hold the required number.
- (d) Appendix B sets out the establishment including Allied personnel necessary for each unit or party of 100 men with the guards and administrative staff necessary.
- (e) A gradual development of the scheme is necessary and it is proposed that 3000 men be allocated initially. They would be assigned to the following places:

Brescia	)	300	Firenze	100
Chieti	)		Pistoia	100
Ancona	)	200	Lucca	100
Pesaro	)	200	Pisa	100
Rimini	)		Livorno	200
Cosenza	)	600	Sienna	100
Forli	)		Viterbo	100
Parma	)		La Spezia	100
Bologna	)		Genova	200
			Venezia	200
		1700		1300
				1700
				3000

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(f) Appendix C is a rough estimate of the number of mines still to be lifted with an estimate of the number of men required in each region.

6. Guarding of Prisoners of War.

(a) The guarding of prisoners will be a responsibility of the Italian Government who will find the guards necessary. For the purposes of guarding 3000 prisoners, administration &c. the Italian Government will require 150 Carabinieri and 750 Infantry men. Permission is therefore requested from AFHQ to release such personnel from their present duties to do this guarding.

(b) The Zones will be responsible for setting up cages in advance, laying on stores, rations, equipment etc. so that the scheme may proceed with the minimum of delay. They will also be responsible for keeping records of moves of all prisoner personnel, guards, etc. within their areas and for maintaining discipline within the camp as may be required by higher authority (Allied or Italian).

(c) Prisoners will bear on their clothes some mark for easy identification. It will be a Zone responsibility to contact the local police through Questura and to make arrangements for immediate action by the police in the event of there being escapes.

7. Collation of information on Mine Clearance.

The Mine Clearing Zone will collect information on mine fields and mine belts within their areas. They are responsible for recording areas which have been cleared and for detailing squads to work on those

(b) The Zones will be responsible for setting up cages in advance, laying on stores, rations, equipment etc. so that the scheme may proceed with the minimum of delay. They will also be responsible for keeping records of moves of all prisoner personnel, guards, etc. within their areas and for maintaining discipline within the camp as may be required by higher authority (Allied or Italian).

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7. Collation of information on Mine Clearance.

The Mine Clearing Zones will collect information on mine fields and mine belts within their areas. They are responsible for recording areas which have been cleared and for detelling squads to work on those areas still requiring clearing. This responsibility will continue and they will record all data received showing areas cleared, numbers of mines removed and destroyed and generally set themselves up as information and recording bureaus on all questions dealing with mines.

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8. Equipment (Mine Clearing).

(a) The equipment and demolition equipment required for each party of 100 men is shown at Appendix D. This appendix shows the transport which must be made available to these parties if the scheme is to operate successfully. Without transport, the question of guarding and supervising these prisoners will become very difficult and will prevent expansion of the scheme.

(b) As and when the material, transport, etc. is released by AFHQ, it is proposed to pass them through the main depot in ROME, which will be responsible for distribution to sub-depots where it is required. Sub-depots will be established temporarily at GENOVA, BOLOGNA, CARRARA, FLORENCE, PISA and PESCARA, and Appendix E shows the establishment proposed by the Italian Ministry of War for looking after material allotted to them.

(c) Provision is necessary for replacements of damaged or worn out equipment, including spares for transport.

9.

Training.

It is hoped that with the provision of personnel from engineering units already trained in mine clearance or in the laying of mines, little training will require to be done, but selected NCOs and ORs will be built up into teams of five instructors for the sole purpose of instructing in Mine Clearance and supervising the squads working. Initially 10 such teams will be set up and they will be dispersed as follows:

Pescara	Firenze
Ancona	Pisa
Cesena	Livorno
Perli	La Spezia
Bologna	Genova

Instructors will thereafter be moved about as necessary and will give instruction under the guidance of officers and NCOs of the Italian Mine Clearance Companies and squads who are already trained and expert

It is hoped that with the provision of personnel from engineering units already trained in mine clearance or in the laying of mines, little training will require to be done, but selected NCOs and ORs will be built up into teams of five instructors for the sole purpose of instructing in Mine Clearance and supervising the squads working. Initially 10 such teams will be set up and they will be dispersed as follows:

Pescara	Pirenze
Ancona	Pisa
Genoa	Livorno
Rorli	La Spezia
Bologna	Genova

Instructors will thereafter be moved about as necessary and will give instruction under the guidance of officers and NCOs of the Italian Mine Clearance Companies and squads who are already trained and expert in the work.

10.

Camp equipment etc.

Owing to the housing shortage in Italy, it is proposed that the PSW with their escorts be placed under canvas and Appendix F hereto gives supplies or equipment necessary to set up a tented camp for personnel of 100 plus 30 guards. This equipment must be made available in advance and will be forwarded to the main dump in HQMB. Where circumstances permit, regular barracks will be used. Camps will be surrounded with barbed wire.

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11. Information on mine fields.

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AFHQ will make available German plans of minefields and all relevant information which will help in the tracing of minefields and the clearing of them with the minimum of casualties. Sufficient technical books published by the German Army on the laying and clearing of minefields will also be made available for distribution to the instructors. If possible, information is required from German supply sources of the total number of mines issued in Italy. All such information, books of instruction, will be passed by Allied Commission to the Ministry of War for their use.

12. Transport - P.O.L.

Before prisoners can be instructed and put to work it is essential that transport be provided. In addition to transport POL must be specifically allotted to the Ministry of War for the Mine Clearance Scheme before German personnel can be taken over and moved. Distribution of POL will be a Ministry of War responsibility and POL allotted for Mine Clearance will not be used for any other purpose.

13. Food, Rations etc.

(a) The German Prisoners will be fed on

12. Transport - P.O.L.

Before prisoners can be instructed and put to work it is essential that transport be provided. In addition to transport POL must be specifically allotted to the Ministry of War for the Mine Clearance Scheme before German personnel can be taken over and moved. Distribution of POL will be a Ministry of War responsibility and POL allotted for Mine Clearance will not be used for any other purpose.

13. Food, Rations etc.

- (a) The German Prisoners will be fed on rations supplied from British or American sources. It will be a responsibility of the Allies to make deliveries of rations to the respective Camps. Allied personnel in charge of the camps will ensure that rations are being delivered or drawn for the Prisoners in their charge.
- (b) Italian Military personnel will be attached to the nearest Italian Military Unit from whom they will draw rations, clothing, boots, supplies and equipment. The Ministry of War will issue the necessary orders.

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14.

Appendix G sets out the equipment, transport etc. required to equip, organize and employ 3000 Prisoners of War in Mine Clearance.

R. A. Cripps

R. A. CRIPPS Colonel
Director

Local Government Sub Commission

9 July 1945.

0 8 8 7.

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

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APPENDIX "B"

SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT FOR PARTIES OF 100 POWS

(A) Allied Personnel in charge

1 Officer or Warrant Officer 1
1 Sergeant 1
2 Privates or L/Corporals 2

Total 4

(B) Italian Personnel, Guards & POWs

	ITALIAN				GERMAN			
	Offrs	Sgt's	L/Cpls	Pvt's	Total	Sgt's	Offrs	Pvt's
1. Commandant	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
2. Command	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Assistant Commandant	-	1	1	1	3	-	-	-
WCO I/C	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-
Clerks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Storekeepers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Medical Orderlies	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-
Orderlies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cooks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Guard	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Commandant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CC.RR.	-	1	4	-	5	-	-	-
Guards (Military)	-	1	3	12	16	-	-	-
4. Transport Section	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	OFFRS	Sq/Ls	L/Cpls	PWS	TOTAL	Sq/Ls	Op/Ls	L/Cpls	PWS	TOTAL
1. Commandant	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
2. Command Assistant Commandant	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
NCO I/C	-	1	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
Clerks	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Storekeepers	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Medical Orderlies	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Orderlies	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Cooks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
3. Guard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commandant	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
CC.RR.	-	1	4	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Guards (Military)	-	1	3	12	16	-	-	-	-	-
4. Transport Section	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	10	13
See Appendix "D"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. 2 Mine Clearing Squads	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	10	64	80
TOTALS	2	3	10	15	30	4	5	13	78	100
Base Mine Clearing Squad will consist of:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NCO in charge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Medical Orderlies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mine Clearers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	2	5	32	40	-	-	-	-	-

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APPENDIX "C"LIST OF THE MOST HEAVILY MINED REGIONS IN ITALY
WITH APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF MINES TO BE CLEARED

<u>Heavily mined areas</u>	<u>Approximate number of mines to be cleared</u>	<u>Personnel required</u>
<u>LIGURIA</u> Genova, Le Spezie and coast	500,000	1,300
<u>EMILIA</u> Forli: Ravenna Ferrara, Bologna Modena Province	1,000,000	2,300
<u>TOSCANA</u> Florence, Pistoia, Lucca, Pisa, Livorno Sienna and coast	750,000	1,600
<u>LAZIO, UMBRIA, ABRUZZI</u> Chieti, Pescara, Ancona Pesaro and coast Ostia, Civitavecchia, Littoria, Anzio	2,500,000	3,400
<u>CAMPANIA</u> Casalino, Gaeta	250,000	700

Forlì; Ravenna
Ferrara, Bologna
Modena Province

1,000,000 2,300

TOSCANA
Florence, Pistoia,
Lucca, Pisa, Livorno
Sienna and coast

750,000 1,600

LAZIO, UMBRIA, ABRUZZI
Chieti, Pescara, Ancona
Pesaro and coast
Ostia, Civitavecchia,
Littoria, Anzio

2,500,000 3,400

CAMPANIA
Casino, Gaeta

250,000 700

MOLISE

250,000 700

TOTAL
5,250,000 10,000

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APPENDIX "D"

ESTIMATED TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT, TRANSPORT AND DEMOLITION
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR EACH PARTY OF 100 MEN

1. Technical Equipment

Mine Detectors.....	25
Batteries (spare) large.....	50
" " small.....	100
Prodders.....	150
Valves.....	50
Salvaged telephone cables for pulling out mines.....	100 yds
Tracing tape.....	100 "
Pages for marking.....	400
Picks.....	10
Shovels.....	10
Wire cutters.....	12
Flat wire cutters.....	12

2. Demolition equipment

Safety fuse.....	1000 yds
Detonators.....	3000
Matches fuzes.....	3000
INITIATOR CARTRIDGES.....	500

3. Transport

Trucks 15 cwt.....	5
" 2 ton.....	1
" " on equivalent.....	2

Tracing tape.....	100
Page for marking.....	400
Picks.....	10
Shovels.....	10
Wire cutters.....	12
Flat wire cutters.....	13

2. Demolition equipment

Safety fuse.....	1000 yds
Detonators.....	1000
Matcha fuzes.....	1000
TRINITROCELENE Cartridges.....	500

3. Transport

Trucks 15 cwt.....	5
" 2 ton.....	1
P.U. or equivalent.....	2
Motor Cycles.....	2
Bicycles.....	2
	12

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APPENDIX "E"LIST OF DEPOTS1. Location

(A) Main Depot

(B) Sub-Depots

NAME

GENOVA (Zone Liguria)
 BOLOGNA (Zone Emilia)
 CREMONA (Zone Emilia)
 FIRENZE (Zone Toscana)
 PISA (Zone Toscana)
 PESCARA (Zone Lazio-Abruzzi)

The squads located in Lazio, Campania, Molise,
 drew direct from the main dump in Rome.

2. Establishment

Every depot will have

a Technical Section
 a Transport Section

3. Personnel required

(A) Main Depot

OC

Second in Command
 Adjutant

Military Guard and Staff 3 NCOs and 12 ORs
 Civilian workers (labourers) 10

draw direct from the main dump in Rome.

2. Establishment

Every depot will have

- a Technical Section
- a Transport Section

3. Personnel required

(A) Main Depot

OC
Second in Command
Adjutant
Military guard and staff 3 NCOs and 12 ORs
Civilian workers(labourers) 10

(B) Sub Depots

OC
Military guards and staff 2 NCOs and 5 ORs
Civilian workers(labourers) 5

41

NOTE: The main depot will be under the control of the Ministry of War (Engineering) Sub Depots will be under command of the Zones in which they are situated subject to orders of the Ministry of War.

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APPENDIX "F"

LIST OF TENTAGE, COOKING EQUIPMENT, BLANKETS, ETC
REQUIRED FOR EACH 100 MEN - 100 TENTS

1. Camp Equipment

Marquees (messing).....	3
Tents.....	10
Store tents.....	1
Tents for guard.....	4
Blankets for PW.....	130
Ground sheets if not in their possession.....	130
Palisades.....	130

2. Cooking Equipment

Portable Kitchen.....	2
-----------------------	---

NOTE: Dixies, plates, cups, knives, forks, spoons
will be required if not possession.

3. For Camp

Pickets (long).....	500
" (short).....	2000
Barbed wire.....	50 rolls
Plain wire.....	20 "
Dannort wire.....	50 "
Staples.....	100 gross

4. Medical Equipment

2. Cooking Equipment

Portable Kitchen..... 2

NOTE: Dixies, plates, cups, knives, forks, spoons
will be required if not possession.

3. For Camp

Pickets (long).....	500
" (short).....	2000
Barbed wire.....	50 rolls
Plain wire.....	20 "
Dennert wire.....	30 "
Staples.....	100 gross

4. Medical Equipment

40

Normal First Aid Kit for one Company

5. Miscellaneous Equipment to be supplied by the Ministry of War

Hammers.....	2
Hammers heavy.....	3
" Light.....	4
Nails etc. and generally all small equipment required for constructing and maintaining such camps.	

34 APPENDIX "G"

TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT ETC. REQUIRED FOR 1000 MEN BASED ON
THE FIGURES SHOWN IN PRECEDING APPENDICES

1. Technical equipment

Mine Detectors.....	750
Prodders.....	1800
Batteries (spare) large.....	1500
" (") small.....	4500
Valves (spare).....	500
Cable for pulling out mines.....	5000 yds
Tracing tape.....	3000 "
Pegs for marking.....	12000 "
Picks.....	300
Shovels.....	300
Wire cutters.....	360
Flat wire cutters.....	360

2. Demolition equipment

Safety fuse.....	30000 yds
Detonators.....	30000
Matches fuses.....	30000
T nitrotoluene Cartridges.....	15000

3. Transport

Trucks 15 awt.....	150
" 2 ton.....	50
P.U. or equivalent.....	60
Motorcycles.....	50
Bicycles.....	50

Picks.....	300
Shovels.....	300
Wire cutters.....	360
Flat wire cutters.....	360

2. Demolition Equipment

Safety fuse.....	30000 yds
Detonators	30000
Matches fuzes.....	90000
T nitrocellulose cartridges.....	15000

3. Transport

Trucks 15 cwt.....	150
" 2 ton.....	60
P.U. or equivalent.....	60
Motorcycles.....	60
Bicycles	60

4. Camp Equipment

Marquees (messing).....	90
Tents.....	300
Store tents.....	30
Tents for guard.....	120
Blankets for PAF.....	3900
Ground sheets if not in their possession.....	3900
Palisades.....	3900

5. Cooking Equipment

Portable kitchen.....	60
-----------------------	----

NOTE: Dixies, plates, cups, knives, forks, spoons
will be required if not in possession.

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continuation APPENDIX "G"

6. For Camp

Pickets (long).....	15000
" (short).....	50000
Barbed wire.....	1500 rolls
Plain wire.....	600 rolls
Dannert wire.....	1500 rolls
Staples.....	1000 gross

7. Medical Equipment

Normal First Aid Kit.....	30
---------------------------	----

8. Miscellaneous Equipment to be supplied by the Ministry of War

Handsaws.....	500
Hammers (heavy).....	90
" (light).....	120

Nails etc. and generally all small equipment required for constructing and maintaining such camps.

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

37

1

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
 439 324
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB-COMMISSION
 MINE CLEARANCE SECTION

Ref: AG/55/12.

10 July 1945

Subject: Mine Clearance - Use of German POW.

To: A.F.M.G. C-5 Section.

1. In view of paragraph 2(b) of your memorandum dated 15 May 1945, recently received in this Section, which states "they would be administered in large concentration areas by G/UX and guarded by Italians", it has been found necessary to revise the proposed scheme for the employment of German POW on mine clearance in Italy to incorporate this direction.
2. There is attached, therefore, a revised scheme. The paragraphs which differ from the original are paragraph 3 and paragraph A of Appendix "B".
3. It is pointed out in this connection that it will require a considerable number of Allied personnel to carry out this administration. At the rate of 4 officers and 20 per 100 men, a total of 400 would be required to cover 10,000 German prisoners. It is furthermore pointed out that such personnel cannot be drawn from AG/15 establishment.
4. Please note that Appendices "C" and "D" are not included in the revised scheme as original copies were forwarded to you on 2 June under reference AG/55/12.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

H.R.C.

G.R. HUGHES, Inspector,
 Vice President
 Civil Affairs Section

Encl:

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
ECONOMIC SECTION
SUPPLY DIVISION

CWW/SC

Tel. 460

12 June 1945

SUBJECT : Employment of German POW's

13 JUL 1945

TO : See Distribution

1. Attached hereto is an interim reply, dated 9 June 1945, from the Prime Minister to the Chief Commissioner on employment of German POW's.

2. Production Division

(a) It is requested that for mining the Production Division determine the exact locations at which POW are required and the number required at each location.

(b) It is further requested that a letter be prepared by the Production Division for the signature of the Acting Vice President, setting forth these facts and requesting that AFHQ provide for:

- (1) Movement of POW to work locations
- (2) Concentration areas
- (3) Administration and maintenance personnel (US/UK)
- (4) Supervisory personnel
- (5) Guard personnel
 - a. In concentration area
 - b. At work
- (6) Transport to and from work

35

3. Agriculture S/C

(a) It is requested that for removing earth Agriculture S/C, in collaboration with Public Health S/C, ^{Public Works} determine the exact location at which POW are required and the numbers required at each location.

(b) It is further requested that Agriculture S/C prepare a letter to AFHQ for signature of the Acting Vice President as outlined in Para. 2(b) above.

*Spoke Col. Dalton on this.
Wesley Keppin touch
JTB*

4410

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

- 2 -

12/9/45

4. Civil Affairs Section
(Attn: Public Health S/C)

Attention is invited to Para. 3 above.
 Your cooperation is requested.

5. Civil Affairs Section
(Attn: Patriots Branch)

It is assumed that the ~~Patriots~~ Branch is
 taking the necessary action to implement the mine-clearing
 project.

Charles V. Walton
 CHARLES V. WALTON
 Colonel
 Chief

Incl: Ref. 36069/19.5 - 9 June 1945
 The President of Council of Ministers

Dist: Production Div.
 Agriculture S/C
 C. A. Sect. (2)
 — 1 Patriots Branch —
 1 Public Health S/C
 Econ. Sect. (2)

Translation

The President of the Council of Ministers

n. 36069/19.5

Rome, 9 June, 1945

My dear Admiral,

In my letter of May 15th, I told you I had received the memorandum about the employment of German prisoners, as long as they will be detained in Italy, and I also told you that the Italian Government agreed on general principles to the proposals made by the Allied Commission.

I said I would make certain of the number of units which could be usefully employed in Italy, and also give the name of the places where they ought to be sent.

After consulting the Departments concerned, I want to draw your attention on the following facts:

The recent liberation of North Italy, and the difficulties for communications, have not yet enabled us to determine with precision the areas in which it would be possible to make use of German prisoners.

However, we believe that a suitable number, which can already be approximately fixed at three thousand, might be used in the lower part of the Po Valley, towards Concesio, for removing earth.

Another group of about 2,000 prisoners might be used for the same end in the lower part of the Tiber valley, in the Fiumicino zone.

These elements could be used to a larger extent for mine-clearing works.

You will know that the territory of the peninsula

I said I would make certain of the number of units which could be usefully employed in Italy, and also give the name of the places where they ought to be sent.

After consulting the Departments concerned, I want to draw your attention on the following facts:

The recent liberation of North Italy, and the difficulties for communications, have not yet enabled us to determine with precision the areas in which it would be possible to make use of German prisoners.

However, we believe that a suitable number, which can already be approximately fixed at three thousand, might be used in the lower part of the Po Valley, towards Comacino, for removing earth.

Another group of about 2,000 prisoners might be used for the same end in the lower part of the Tiber valley, in the Fiumicino zone.

These elements could be used to a larger extent for mine-clearing work.

You well know that the territory of the peninsula is scattered with mines, placed by the Germans, and the difficulty of finding expert workers with the necessary instruments to remove them has delayed this vital clearing up, making the agricultural rehabilitation of the country more difficult and causing frequent and serious accidents.

Therefore, to put without delay German prisoners to this job would be most useful and greatly appreciated.

On this subject, agreements have been made between this Allied Commission and the War Department, for a contingent of 3,000 prisoners, which can be increased up to 10,000 units, to be sent to the following places:

Pescara, Chieti 300 - Ancona 200 - Pesaro 200 - Rimini, Cesena, Faenza, Forlì, 1000 - Firenze 100 - Pistoia 100 - Lucca 100 - Pisa 100 - Livorno 200 - Siena 100 - Viterbo 100 - La Spezia 100 - Genoa 200 - Venice 200.

I beg you to examine the possibility of facilitating the employment of these units, supplying the necessary means of transport, fuel and lubricant.

More prisoners could be employed in the mines according to the following plan:

Number of prisoners who could be employed: 6,000 (six thousand)
Place where they could be employed: Carbonia Mines (coal), Montevescio (lead and zinc), Monteponi (lead and zinc) in the province of Cagliari (4,000). Lignite and pyrites mines in the Grosseto province (2,000); this if the said mines can resume their normal rhythm of production, and if the present difficulties for supplying electric power and transport can be overcome.

Work which they should have to do: mine work, underground as well as outside.

Considering that the harvest promises to be bad, it will not be possible to use the prisoners in the agricultural sector.

In the same way, at present at least, it is not possible to make use of them for what concerns the State Railways.

These informations can vary, mostly for the motives which I told you at the beginning; such changes, however, cannot increase the number of the prisoners to be employed so as to reach a hundred thousand, figure which is mentioned in the memorandum of the Allied Commission, this also because most of them would remain unemployed with the return of the Italian prisoners and interned persons.

I shall send you more informations on this subject as soon as possible.

I remain, my dear Admiral,

Yours very truly,

transport can be overcome.

Work which they should have to do: mine work, underground as well as outside.

Considering that the harvest promises to be bad, it will not be possible to use the prisoners in the agricultural sector.

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I shall send you more informations on this subject as soon as possible.

I remain, my dear Admiral,

Yours very truly,

S. Ivanoe Bonomi

32

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
Rome

E.C.

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

200
32

209 POW CAMP APRAGOLA REPEATED HQ 56 AREA

9477

9th June, 1945

PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL PD

PARA ONE PD REFERENCE HAGSTENBROICH IRAN PD

PARA TWO FOR ACTION 209 POW CAMP APRAGOLA REPEATED HQ 56 AREA FROM HQ ALCON CITY

ADJUT PARIN

PARA TWO PD LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION CAN NOT REPEAT NOT MEANTIME ACCEPT
DELIVERY OF THIS PRISONER AS IT DOES NOT HAVE PERSONNEL AVAILABLE FOR GUARDING PD
LETTER FOLLOWS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

388

pk...

NICHOLAS PIONBINO
GWO USA
Asst. Adjutant.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 75016

SUBJECT:- Mine Clearance Personnel

53

A 20/5

31

203 POW Camp

JUN 1945

HACKENSACK BARR

1. Authority is granted under AFHQ letter G-1(Gr)/3224/A-2 dated 4 Jun 45 for the above named German PW to be transferred to the local Government Sub Commission, M.I.A.A., for service in connection with mine clearance at NAWITIA.

2. This PW will retain his present status as a PW and the responsibility for his safe custody will be maintained by the local Sub Commission concerned with effect from the date of the transfer. In the event of his services terminating, this HQ should be notified and arrangements will be made to return to a POW Camp.

3. Please arrange for his transfer under escort to the local Government Sub Commission M.I.A. Rose Area as soon as possible notifying HQ, copy to this HQ.

In the Field

8 Jun 45

phoned
Lt Col.
M.I.A. Area.

Copy to:- local Government Sub Commission M.I.A. Rose Area

*Phoned 56 Area
stole him not
to send him*

9/5 30

6071

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

CONFIDENTIAL

COPY

AFHQ FOR G-5

27 JUL 1945

LQ 30
After May 1945

9257

6 JUNE 1945

PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL PD

SUBJECT IS USE OF GERMANS PRISONERS OF WAR BY ITALIAN GOVERNMENT PD
PAREN TO AFHQ FOR GEORGE FIVE FROM HQ ALCON FROM ADMIRAL STONE CITY ASSOCIATED
 PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF REQUIREMENTS SUBJECT TO FINAL CONFIRMATION OR
 MODIFICATION IS SIXTEEN THOUSAND EMA TEN THOUSAND OF WHICH FOR MINE
CLEARANCE AND SIX THOUSAND FOR SARDINIAN COAL MINING INDUSTRY

Gord. PK 47

cc: Exec Commr
 CA Sec
 Econ Sec

Chief Commissioner

222

/s/ L. W. Stearns
 ELLERY W. STONE
 Rear Admiral, USNR
 Chief Commissioner

23

CONFIDENTIAL

7352

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

SECRET

29

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AG/35/10

3 June 1945.

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance personnel
TO : A.P.H.Q. (C - 1 Br).

HACKENBROICH NAME

Reference your C-1(Br)/3294/A-2 of 4 June 45.

1. The fact that this P.W. is to retain his status of P.W. makes it difficult for this Sub Commission to accept at present the use of his service, as it does not have the personnel in the field to assume responsibility for his safe custody.
2. The larger question of employment of 10,000 POW on Mine Clearance is being discussed at present with your HQ and should the scheme be approved of then it is considered that the above named P.W. should be transferred with the larger body when arrangements for guarding are complete.
3. In the original letter written by this Sub Commission it was considered that this particular P.W. might be treated as a civilian.
4. In the circumstances it is regretted that this Sub Commission cannot meantime accept delivery of this prisoner.
5. Should the larger scheme be accepted and approved this P.W. will be asked for by name.

R.2. CRIpps Colonel
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

Copy to: HQ No.3 District.

1841A (your 9299 of 26 May refers)
Commandant 209 P.W. Camp
(AFHQ C-1(Br)/3294/A-2 of 21 May refers).
GHO 2nd Edition

20

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

Ext: 358

AC/35/LG

4 June 45.

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance.

TO : HQ N° 3 District CMF.

Your letter 35/G of the 26th May is acknowledged with thanks. The information therein contained has been forwarded to the Ministry of War and it has been suggested to them that they should send a representative to your Headquarters to take copies of the plans in your possession. It is imperative that they should have records of all mine: fields laid by the German and it will be obliging if you will permit their representative to make copies.



R.R. CRIPPS
Colonel
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 73016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

Ext: 358

AC/35/2A

4 June 45.

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance.

TO : Ministry of War
Via XX Settembre
ROMA
(Attn.: Brig.Gen. SUPINO)

With reference to this Commission's letter AC/35/LG
of 30 May for HQ N° 2 District please read HQ N° 3 District.



R.R. CRIPPS
Colonel
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 78506

SUBJECT:- Mine Clearance Personnel.
MACTHURICH Area.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Headquarters,
 No. 3 District.

G-1(Br)/3294/A-2.

4 Jun 45

1. Authority is granted for the above named German PW to be transferred to the Local Government Sub Commission, M.M.I.A., for service in connection with mine clearance at RAVENNA.
2. This PW will retain his present status as a PW and the responsibility for his safe custody will be maintained by the Local Sub-Commission concerned with effect from the date of the transfer. In the event of his services terminating this Headquarters should be notified and arrangements will be made to return him to a PW Camp.
3. The necessary arrangements to effect the transfer will be made as soon as possible. He will be moved from 205 PW Camp, AFRAGOLA, and handed over to the custody of the Local Government Sub-Commission, M.M.I.A., ROME Area.

A.S. BARNARD
 A.S. BARNARD,
 Lieut-Colonel, A.A.G.,
 for Major General,
 DAC, G-1(Br).

JDA/HR.

Ref 1145
 1081

Copy to:- M.M.I.A. (Your A299 dated 28 May refers.)

Director Local Government Sub-Commission.
 (Your AG/35/IG dated 25 May 45 refers.)

Commandant, 205 PW Camp.
 (Our G-1(Br)/3294/A-2 dated 21 May 45 refers.)

G.H.Q., 2nd Echelon.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 324
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

AC/35/LG

2 June 1945.

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance.

TO : A.F.H.Q. G-5.

Reference your G-5:230.4-13 of 17th May 1945.

1. This Commission is desirous of proceeding with the employment of German Prisoners of War on Mine Clearance in Italy, and there is forwarded to you a proposed Scheme for the employment of PSW which will be put into operation so soon as approval is obtained.

2. 3,000 can be put to work at an early date with an expansion of the numbers up to 10,000 as the work proceeds. The scheme shows the localities where the initial 3,000 will be employed but it has not been possible to show dates or times. This latter point depends on the availability of material, equipment and transport. Assuming that materials, equipment and transport (including POL) can be made the subject of early or immediate releases then the scheme can be put into effect at once. From the date on which the first releases are made (which must be transport) it is estimated that a month would be required to prepare camps &c before the PSW could be accepted. If early approval is given then the first batch of prisoners could be received from and after 15th July.

3. If the scheme as submitted is approved in principle and the releases of PSW and other personnel requested is to be given, may a signal be sent to this HQ to this effect. If this is done the Ministry of War will be immediately contacted and steps taken to organise the Depots and Sub-

employment of German Prisoners of War on Mine Clearance in ITALY, and there is forwarded to you a proposed Scheme for the employment of PSW which will be put into operation so soon as approval is obtained.

2. 3,000 can be put to work at an early date with an expansion of the numbers up to 10,000 as the work proceeds. The scheme shows the localities where the initial 3,000 will be employed but it has not been possible to show dates or times. This letter point depends on the availability of material, equipment and transport. Assuming that materials, equipment and transport (including POL) can be made the subject of early or immediate releases then the scheme can be put into effect at once. From the date on which the first releases are made (which must be transport) it is estimated that a month would be required to prepare camps so before the PSW could be accepted. If early approval is given then the first batch of prisoners could be received from and after 15th July.

3. If the scheme as submitted is approved in principal and the releases of PSW and other personnel requested is to be given, may a signal be sent to this HQ to this effect. If this is done the Ministry of War will be immediately contacted and steps taken to organise the Depots and Sub-Depots, nominate personnel for the various posts and warn units who will be required for guard duties etc.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

J. R. Upjohn

G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VP CA Section

THE MINISTRY OF WAR
Dir. Gen. of Engineers
B.C.M. Central Office

File No. 8/73650
Enclosures n.1

Rome, 5 June 1945

To the Ministry of War
Cabinet

R O M E

SUBJECT : Employment of prisoners of war in Mine Clearance

Copy for information to A.C. - Local Government S/C
apo 394

1. In reply to the question raised by your Ministry of War Cabinet with the above mentioned telegram we wish to inform that this Direzione Generale has been urged by A.C. Local Government S/C to study subject problem owing to the fact that a summary scheme for the employment of ~~the~~ prisoners of war for mine clearing in Italy has been confidentially submitted to the writer.

At the same time the aforesaid S/C with whom as you know we are cooperating in mine-clearance work since August last, has asked this Ministry's collaboration in a project which drawn up in principle though in greater detail, should have been submitted to the Allied Supreme Command, who had sponsored it.

The above has been communicated to H.E. the Minister with letter 8/73337 dated 23 May 1945.

As a result of the requested collaboration, given with the utmost dispatch, a scheme which was submitted for a brief and preliminary examination to the S.M.R.E. (Chief of Staff of the Royal Army), was delivered to the aforesaid Allied Authorities on 29 May 1945.

The latter accepted in principle all the points of view outlined in the above mentioned scheme and draw up in new and more detailed project, which on 2nd June (letter AC/35/1G) was transmitted to the aforesaid Supreme Allied Command for their examination and approval.

The new project, which following approval by the afore-said Allied Authorities could be shortly become effective, is attached in translation to this letter.

2. The estimates made by the A.C. concerning the carrying out of the project are the following :

- 3000 men could be placed to work in the near future and their number increased to 10000 men, as soon as the organization is adequately established.

- in the event that the supply of materials, equipment and means of transportation (including fuel) could be made immediately and promptly available, said project

As per letter to the writer
4/6.

./.

6082

- page 2 -

could be made operative at once.

- Allied Commission foresees that beginning from the date under which first deliveries (which should be means of transportation) is made, it will take a month for the completion of the elementary provisions before the prisoners of war could be accepted.

- Should a prompt acknowledgment of approval be given by the Allied Supreme Command, the first unit of prisoners may be received on or about the 15 July 1945.

3. This Direction General, who has already mentioned, collaborated in the drawing up of the project and obtained S.M.A.E.'s opinion on the matter has no particular objections to make.

Local Government S/C has given an initial plan of ~~dis~~location of the prisoners of war units somewhat different from the one that, as far as we know, was proposed by this Ministry; however, subsequent verbal understanding ascertained that in practice nothing will be in the way of the actual settlement of the B.C.M. prisoners units, which will be as indicated by the real requirements of work on all Italian Territory.

4. We wish to stress the importance of the project which in the opinion of this Direction General is bound to result in an effective and economic settlement of one of the most serious problems left by the war on Italian soil.

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
Gen. di Divisione
s/ O. Crivaro

Translation "I.C."

6032

0920

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 73506



Ministero della Guerra
DIREZIONE GENERALE DEL GENIO
UFF. CENTRALE D.C.A.

Divisione
Genio
P.O. 8/73650 *Allegato* uno

OGGETTO

Impiego di prigionieri di guerra nella bonifica camp.
minati.

MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA

C a b i n e t t o

S. W. D. E.

Proposta al Topo
Allegato. 1° c.p.,
Doc. No 211634/II

ALLO STATO MAGGIORE R. ESERCITO
Ufficio Ordinnamento e Mobilitazione

S. E. D. E.

ALL'ISPETTORATO ARMA DEL GENIO

S. E. D. E.

e, per conoscenza:

ALL'A.C.-LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION
APO 324

1) In risposta al quesito formulato da codesto a
binatto col dispaccio citato in margine si informa che q
sta Direzione Generale è stata sollecitata dall'A.C.-Loc
Government Sub Comm. a studiare il problema in oggetto, f
seguito alla presentazione, in via confidenziale, di un
getto sommario per l'impiego di prigionieri di guerra n
bonifica delle zone minate in Italia, progetto che è stat
rassegnato alla scrivente in data 23 maggio c.a.

Contemporaneamente l'occennata Sotto Commiss
ne, colla quale, come è noto, sin dall'agosto scorso si l
vera di accordo per mettere in azione il lavoro di bonif
campi minati, richiedeva l'opera di collaborazione di qu
sto Ministero per un progetto di massima, maggiormente ap
profondito, da presentare al Comando Supremo Alleato, ch
l'aveva officiata in questo senso.

e, per conoscenza:

All'A.C.-LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

APC 324

1) In risposta al quesito formulato da codesto a binetto col dispaccio citato in margine si informa che q g sta Direzione Generale è stata sollecitata dall'A.C.-Local Government Sub Com. a studiare il problema in oggetto, el seguito alla presentazione, in via confidenziale, di un ro getto sommario per l'impiego di prigionieri di guerra no la bonifica delle zone minate in Italia, progetto che è stato rassegnato alla scrivente in data 23 maggio c.a.

Contemporaneamente l'accennata Sotto Commissione, 2 ne, colla quale, come è noto, sin dall'agosto scorso si l vorrà di accordo per mettere in azione il lavoro di bonifica na campi minati, richiedeva l'opera di collaborazione di qu o sto Ministero per un progetto di massima, maggiormente ap approfondito, da presentare al Comando Supremo Alleato, che l'aveva officiata in questo senso.

Di quanto sopra si è data comunicazione a S.I. il Ministero col foglio 8/7333⁷ in data 23 maggio c.a.

La collaborazione richiesta era fornita colle maggior sollecitudine ed aveva esito in uno schema, sotto posto preliminarmente "via breve" all'esame dello S.M.K. E., il quale era consegnato all'accennata Autorità Alleata il 29 maggio c.a.

Questa accoglieva di massima i punti di vista prospettati nell'accennato schema redigeva un nuovo pre getto più circostanziato che è stato trasmesso in data 2/ /6 (foglio AC/35/L.C.) all'accennato Comando Supremo Alle to, per l'esame e l'approvazione.

./.

6022

Il nuovo progetto, che in seguito alla approvazione del citato organo Alleato potrebbe divenire un breve esecutivo, è allegato in traduzione letterale al presente foglio.

2) Le previsioni che la Commissione Alleata formula circa l'applicazione del progetto sono le seguenti:

- 3000 u. possono essere messi al lavoro in data prossima ed il loro numero esteso a 10.000 u., appena l'organizzazione si sia adeguatamente affermata;
- supposto che materiali, equipaggiamento e mezzi di trasporto (incluso benzina e lubrificanti) possono essere oggetto di sollecita ed immediata fornitura, il progetto può essere subito messo in atto.
- La Commissione Alleata prevede che a partire dalla data sotto la quale saranno fatte le prime consegne (che debbono essere i mezzi di trasporto) occorre un mese per la predisposizione generali, prima che i prigionieri possano essere accettati.
- Se un sollecito cenno di approvazione verrà dato da parte del Comando Supremo Alleato, il primo contingente di prigionieri potrà essere ricevuto' intorno al 15 lu.

allo C.R.

3) Questa Direzione Generale, che, come si è accennato, ha collaborato nella redazione del progetto ed ha chiesto il parere in merito dello S.M.R.A., non ha obiezioni particolari da formulare.

La Sotto Commissione Governo Locale ha dato una decisione iniziale delle centurie prigionieri alquanto diversa da quella che nella conoscenza di fatto era stata proposta da quest'ultimo, ma successive intense verbalizzazioni consentite di accertare che nulla osterà in pratica a che la dislocazione effettiva dei reparti prigionieri S.O.A. sia quella suggerita dalla concreta esigenza di lavoro su tutto il territorio italiano.

4) Si sottolinea l'importanza del progetto che è destinato, a parere di questa Direzione Generale a sboccare in una soluzione efficace ed economica di uno dei più gravi problemi lasciati dal

- La Commissione Alleata prevede che a partire da
ta sotto la quale saranno fatte le prime corse
(che debbono essere i mezzi di trasporto) occorre un
mezzo per la predisposizione generali, prima che i pr
gionieri possano essere accettati.

- Se un sollecito esatto di approvazione verrà dato da par
te del Comando Supremo Alleato, il primo contingente
di prigionieri potrà essere ricevuto intorno al 15 lu.

elio C.E.

3) Questa Direzione Generale, che, come si è accennato, ha
collaborato nella redazione del progetto ed ha chiesto il pa-
rere in merito dello S.M.R.S., non ha obiezioni particolari da
formulare.

La Sotto Commissione Governo locale ha dato una dialo
cazione iniziale delle centurie prigionieri alquanto diversa
da quella che nella conoscenza di fatto era stata proposta da
questo ministero, ma successive intese verbali hanno consentito
di accertare che nulla osterà in pratica a che la dislocazione
effettiva dei reparti prigionieri B.C.M. sia quella suggerita
dalle concrete esigenze di lavoro su tutto il territorio italia
no.

4) Si sottolinea l'importanza del progetto che è destinato,
a parere di questa Direzione Generale a sboccare in una soluzione
efficace ed economica di uno dei più gravi problemi lasciati dal
la guerra sul suolo italiano.

IL DIRETTORE GENERALE DEL GENIO
(Gen. di Div. O. Crivaro)



SEGRETO

QUARTIER GENERALE COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
Sotto Commissione Governo locale

A.T.O. 394

OGGETTO: Progetto proposto per l'impiego di prigionieri di guerra tedeschi nella bonifica mine in Italia.

1) - INTRODUZIONE

Molto migliaia di mine sono state impiantate in Italia dai Tedeschi ed è proposto che i prigionieri di guerra germanici possano essere impiegati nella bonifica mine.

2) SINTESI DEL PROGETTO

Oltre 10.000 prigionieri di guerra possono essere compromesso impiegati nella bonifica ed il presente progetto è stato preparato nella presunzione che in definitiva 10.000 uomini saranno concessi a questo scopo.

3) ATTIVITÀ

L'Amministrazione di grande numero di prigionieri di guerra presenterà molte difficoltà ma si considera che questo progetto sarà completato e perfezionato sotto il controllo del Ministero della Guerra Italiano. Questo progetto ha inoltre la sua base nella premessa che i prigionieri di guerra sono concessi al Governo Italiano per la bonifica mine sotto il controllo della Commissione Alleata. Questo è essenziale dato che il progetto deve essere messo in opera attraverso l'intero territorio Italiano o non ristretto alle zone sotto controllo del Governo Militare Alleato.

4) ORGANIZZAZIONE MILITARE IN ITALIA

a) Il territorio italiano al fine dell'Amministrazione militare è diviso in Comandi territoriali e l'Appendice A mostra i limiti di detti Comandi. Per le esigenze della bonifica cam-

2)

ESERCIZIO DELLA BONIFICA MINIE

Oltre 10.000 prigionieri di guerra possono essere completamente impiegati nella bonifica ed il presente progetto è stato preparato nelle presunzione che in definitiva 10.000 uomini saranno concessi a questo scopo.

3)

AMMINISTRAZIONE

L'Amministrazione di grande numero di prigionieri di guerra presenterà molte difficoltà ma si considera che questo progetto sarà completato e perfezionato sotto il controllo del Ministero della Guerra Italiano. Questo progetto ha inoltre la sua base nelle presunzione che i prigionieri di guerra siano concessi al Governo Italiano per la bonifica mine sotto il controllo della Commissione Alleata. Questo è essenziale dato che il progetto deve essere messo in opera attraverso l'intero territorio Italiano o non ristretto alle zone sotto controllo del Governo Militare Alleato.

4)

ORGANIZZAZIONE MILITARE IN ITALIA

a) Il territorio italiano si divise in Comandi territoriali e l'Appendice A mostra i limiti di detti Comandi. Per le esigenze della bonifica campale, l'Italia è stata divisa in zone che hanno gli stessi limiti del Comando territoriale. Ove necessario le zone sono divise in sottosone. L'Appendice A mostra le zone sino adesso costituite.

b) Le zone sono sotto la direzione e ricevono la loro ²⁰ amministrazione direttamente dal Ministero della Guerra (Azione Generale del Genio) su ogni questione concernente la bonifica mine e l'impiego di elementi civili e militari in questo lavoro. Nel territorio amministrato dalla A. G. le istruzioni sono emanate dalla Commissione Alleata per il tramite del Ministero della Guerra. Comunque le zone A. G. sono sottoposte al Comando Genio territoriale per quanto concerne disciplina ed amministrazione.

Il Ministero della Guerra sarà responsabile per l'organizzazione dei prigionieri di guerra, con distribuzione di equipaggiamento, trasporto e impieghi per il lavoro di bonifica mine.

(2)

Ogni questione disciplinare o di amministrazione Generale concernente detti prigionieri sarà trattata per il tramite del Comandante di Carceri Genio.

5) ASSICURAZIONE E SISTEMAZIONE DEI PRIGIONIERI DI GUERRA

- a) Si calcola che, per il trasporto e l'equipaggiamento necessario 3000 uomini e impiegherebbero 50 mesi per il disarmamento di tutte le mine in Italia, 10.000 uomini impiegherebbero da 17 ai 18 mesi.
- b) In vista del fatto che molte unità del genio dell'esercito tedesco si sono arrese intatte è suggerito che queste unità siano assegnate in corpo al lavoro senza i loro ufficiali da ciò risulta che gli uomini resterebbero inquadrati dai propri sottufficiali e renderebbe possibile mantenere una buona disciplina al pari di assicurare l'incolumità nel lavoro di bonifica. L'assegnazione dei prigionieri di guerra dovrebbe essere affidata dalla Commissione Alleata in accordo col Ministero della Guerra.

c) I prigionieri di guerra saranno controllati in unità e in reparti di lavoratori di 10 uomini e borsecole saranno costruite per alloggiarli.

d) L'appendice 2 mostra la residenza necessaria per ciascuna unità e reparto di 100 uomini con le guardie e la necessaria amministrazione.

e) Un graduale sviluppo delle stesse è necessario e si propone che inizialmente 3000 uomini siano resi disponibili. Essi dovrebbero essere assegnati nelle seguenti località.

Pescara)	100	Firenze	100
Chieti)	100	Ravenna	100
Ancona)	200	Lucca	100
Pesaro)	200	Livorno	100
Rimini)	200	Lavorio	200
Catania)	1000	Siena	100
Torino)		Viterbo	100
Palermo)		La Spezia	100
Bologna)		Genova	200
		Venezia	200

usando i poteri che hanno inquadriati dal proprio istituto e sarebbe possibile mantenere una buona disciplina al pari di qualsiasi altra istituzione nel lavoro di bonifica. L'assegnazione dei prigionieri di guerra dovrebbe essere effettuata dalla Commissione Alleata in accordo col Ministero della Guerra.

a) I prigionieri da essere portati in Italia e in reparti di lavoro di 10 uomini e anche saranno contratte per alloggiarli.

b) L'appendice 3 mostra la residenza necessaria per ciascuna unità o reparto di 100 uomini con le guardie e la necessaria amministrazione.

c) Un graduale sviluppo delle opere è necessario e si propone che inizialmente 1000 uomini siano resi disponibili. Essi dovrebbero essere assegnati nelle seguenti località:

Pescore)	100	Firenze)	100
Chieti)	100	Pisura)	100
Ascona)	200	Lucca)	100
Monza)	200	Firenze)	100
Minini)		Livorno)	200
Cesena)		Siena)	100
Perla)	1000	Viterbo)	100
Pranza)		La Spezia)	100
Bologna)		Genova)	200
		Venezia)	200
	1700		1300
			1700
			3000

L'appendice 4 è una lista approssimativa del numero di mine ancora da bonificare con un elenco del numero degli uomini richiesti per ciascuna regione.

6) CONTINGENTI DEI PRIGIONIERI.

Si da ritenere che gli Alleati non continueranno a fare custodia di detti prigionieri una volta che essi siano stati consegnati al

(3)

Ministero della Guerra in questa circostanza sarà compito del Governo Italiano di provvedere le guardie richieste per la custodia. Per la guardia di 3000 prigionieri, per l'amministrazione ecc. il Governo Italiano assegnerà 150 carabinieri e 750 uomini di fanteria. Perciò è richiesto che il Comando delle FF.AA. conceda di distrarre detto personale dai suoi attuali compiti per assumere quegli di custodia. Le zone saranno responsabilità di predisporsi locali recintati, razioni, equ. pagellamento, ecc. cosicché il progetto possa trovare attuazione col minimo ritardo. Essi avranno inoltre responsabilità di prendere nota dei movimenti di tutto il personale prigionieri, delle guardie, ecc. entro la loro giurisdizione e di mantenere la disciplina nei campi come può essere richiesto dalla più alta autorità (Italiana Alleata).

7)

COLLAZIONE DELLE INFORMAZIONI SULLA BONIFICA MINE.

Le zone Bonifica Campi Minati raccoglieranno informazioni sui campi minati o sulle zone di mine entro le loro aree esse sono responsabili di mettere in evidenza le aree che sono state bonificate e di dare disposizioni di lavoro alle squadre che ancora richiedono bonifica. Questa responsabilità sarà mantenuta ed esse dovranno prendere nota di tutti i dati concernenti le superfici bonificate, il numero delle mine recuperate o distrutte e in generale di mettersi in condizioni di fornire informazioni e dati su ogni questione concernente le mine.

8)

EQUIPAGGIAMENTO (RASTERILLATORI MINE)

L'equipaggiamento generale e tecnico occorrente per ogni reparto di 100 uomini è messo in evidenza nell'appendice d).

Quest'appendice illustra anche i trasporti che debbono essere messi a disposizione per i reparti stessi se il progetto deve essere messo in condizioni di essere subito in uso. Senza trasporti la questione di guardare e controllare questi prigionieri diventerà molto difficile e sarà tale da impedire ogni ulteriore estensione del progetto.

Quando e come i materiali, mezzi di trasporto, ecc., saranno concessi dal Comando delle FF.AA. si propone di passarli attraverso un grande deposito in Roma al quale sarà responsabile della distribuzione alle aree nelle quali i materiali sono richiesti. Sotto depositi saranno costituiti temporaneamente a Ca-

Le zone Bonifica Campi Minati raccoglieranno informazioni sui campi minati o sulle zone di mine entro le loro aree esse sono responsabili di mettere in evidenza le aree che sono state bonificate e di dare disposizioni di lavoro alle squadre che ancora richiedono bonifica. Queste responsabilità saranno mantenute ed esse dovranno prendere nota di tutti i dati concernenti le superfici bonificate, il numero delle mine recuperate o distrutte e in generale 44 metterei in condizioni di fornire informazioni e dati su ogni questione concernente le mine.

8) EQUIPAGGIAMENTO (RACCOMANDAZIONI MINE)

L'equipaggiamento generale e tecnico occorrente per ogni reparto di 100 uomini è messo in evidenza nell'appendice d).

Quest'appendice illustra anche i trasporti che debbono essere messi a disposizione per i reparti stessi se il progetto deve essere messo in condizioni di adeguato rendimento. Senza trasporti la questione di guardare e controllare questi picciotti diventerà molto difficile e sarà tale da impedire ogni ulteriore estensione del progetto.

Quando a cose materiali, mezzi di trasporto, ecc., saranno concessi dal Comando delle FF.AA. si propone di passarli attraverso un grande deposito in Roma il quale sarà responsabile della distribuzione alle aree nelle quali i materiali sono richiesti. Sette depositi saranno costituiti temporaneamente a Genova, Bologna, Cesena, Firenze, Pisa e Pescara e l'appendice 3 mostra l'organico proposto dal Ministero della Guerra Italiano per sorvegliare i materiali concessi.

Precauzioni sono necessarie per la sostituzione, del nuovo usato e danneggiato equipaggiamento, includendo riserve per il trasporto.

9) ADDESTRAMENTO

Si sa sperare che con la provvista di personale proveniente da unità del genio già addestrate nelle bonifiche mine o nell'impianto di mine sarà necessario effettuare solo limitato addestramento ma sufficienti a truppe scelti saranno raccolti in gruppi di 5 istruttori col solo scopo di istruire nella bonifica e di dirigere le squadre nel lavoro. Da principio saranno inviati 10 gruppi e saranno così disposti:

.../...

SEGRETO

COMANDO COMMISSIONE ALLEATA

SCHEMA PROPOSTO PER L'INTECO DI PRIGIONIERI TEDESCHI
DI GUERRA NELLA BORINICA CAMPI MINATI IN ITALIA
CON APPENDICE.

APPENDICI

- Appendice A- Carta d'Italia mostrante i Comandi Territoriali.
- Appendice A 1- Carta d'Italia con l'indicazione dello zone B.C.M.
- Appendice B- Organico dei reparti di 100 prigionieri di guerra con guardia.
- Appendice C- Stima del numero delle linee da eliminare.
- Appendice D- Elenco dell'equipaggiamento tecnico, trasporti, ecc. richiesto per reparti di 100 uomini.
- Appendice E- Lista dei depositi e sottodepositi.
- Appendice F- Lista dell'equipaggiamento da campo, ecc. richiesto per reparti di 100 uomini.
- Appendice G- Elenco dei trasporti, ecc richiesto per 3000 uomini.

MAGGIO 1945

Appendice B- Organico dei reparti di 100 prigionieri di guerra con guardie.

Appendice C- Stima del numero delle linee da eliminare.

Appendice D- Elenco dell'equipaggiamento tecnico, trasporti, ecc. richiesto per reparti di 100 uomini.

Appendice E- Lista dei depositi e sottodepositi.

Appendice F- Lista dell'equipaggiamento in campo, ecc. richiesto per reparti di 100 uomini.

Appendice G- Elenco dei trasporti, ecc. richiesto per 3000 uomini.

MAGGIO 1945

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(4)

Pescara
Ancona
Cesena
Forlì
Bologna

Pirenze
Risa
Livorno
La Spezia
Genova

Voci di ciò che istruttori saranno dislocati secondo le usce
e dovranno istruzioni sotto la guida di ufficiali e sottuffici
di delle Compagnie Italiane Autrellatori fino a delle squadre che
sono già adotte ed esperte in materia.

10

Tutto certo della esistenza di cose in Italia, si propone che
i prigionieri di guerra siano dislocati sotto tende e l'espandice
per un secolo di esperienza al equipaggiamenti necessari per co-
ordinare un campo di tende per 100 uomini più 10 di personale di
cucina. Tutto l'equipaggiamento deve essere tutto disponibile in
precedenza a una somma di denaro principale in Roma. Qualora
la situazione lo permettesse, possono essere ricevuti baracche. I
quali saranno distribuiti con cura spinto

11)

11) Istruzioni sul campo di lavoro

Il governo tedesco dello Stato di lavoro prigionieri tutti i
prigionieri di guerra italiani ad ogni altra informazione che aiuti
la nella informazione del campo di lavoro e nella loro condotta con
il minimo di incidenti. Sono anche richiesti un numero adeguato di pub-
blicazioni tecniche dell'esperto tedesco sulla esperienza e la condi-
zione di campo italiani per la distribuzione delle tende di rifugio
bilo saranno richieste informazioni sulle fonti di rifornimento
tedesco circa il campo, tutto e a mano impiegate in Italia. Tutto le
informazioni, dati di informazioni saranno forniti dalla Commissione
Allente al Ministero della Guerra per l'uso appropriato.

12)

12) Istruzioni

Tutto che i prigionieri possono essere forniti e messi al
lavoro è essenzialmente necessario provvedere al tempo. In aggiun-
to al campo di trasporto deve essere fornito particolarmente car-
burante e lubrificanti al Ministero della Guerra per il progetto
di bonifica alle armi che il personale tedesco sia fatto disponi-
bile.

13)

13) Istruzioni

Istruzioni per vivere dei prigionieri tedeschi

11)

INFORMAZIONI SUL COMPLESSO

Il quartier generale delle forze alleate presentava tutti i piani tecnici di guerra in linea ad opera della commissione che aiuta la nella ingegneria del campo di mine e nella loro bonifica con il minimo di perdite. Sono state ottenute le seguenti informazioni: la bonifica di campi minati per la distruzione delle fonti di rifornimento sono state minate in modo da essere impiegate in Italia. Tutto lo informazioni, libri di lavoro del campo fornito dalla commissione allentati al ministero della guerra per l'uso immediato.

12)

INFORMAZIONI

Prima che i prigionieri possano essere liberati e messi al lavoro è essenziale che necessario provvedere al trasporto. In aggiunta ai mezzi di trasporto deve essere fornito parzialmente carburante e lubrificante al ministero della guerra per il progetto di bonifica mine prima che il personale tedesco sia fatto disponibile.

13)

NOTA DI LAVORO, 100.

Il ministero di riferimento vivere dei prigionieri tedeschi deve essere chiaramente posto e nel loro deve essere stabilito la qualità di prigionieri e in tutti i settori devono essere trattati. Se il ministero della guerra tedeschi deve essere responsabile di queste procedure particolari presentati dovranno essere prese per l'assunzione di prigionieri in qualità e per la distribuzione attraverso appropriate procedure.

14)

L'appendice "G" presenta il complesso di equipaggiamento, trasporto ecc. richiesto per equipaggiare, organizzare ed impiegare 1.000 prigionieri di guerra nella officina mine.

1 Maggio 1945

CORRADO CRISTO

Dirrett. della R/Com. Governo Locale

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

APPENDICE A

CARTE D'ITALIA NOTRIANTE I COMANDA TERRITORIALI

APPENDICE A 1

CARTE D'ITALIA CON L'INDICAZIONE DELLE ZONE B.C.M.

APPENDICE A 1

CARTA D'ITALIA CON L'INDICAZIONE DELLE ZONE E.C.M.

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APPENDICE G)

ELENCO DELLE ZONE PIU' GRAVEMENTE MINATE IN ITALIA
COL NUMERO APPROSSIMATIVO DELLE MINE DA BONIFICARE

Aree fortemente minate	Numero approssimativo di mine da bonif.	Personale richiesto per la bonifica
LIGURIA	500.000 mine	1300 u.
EMILIA	1000.000 "	2300 "
TOSCANA	750.000 "	1600 "
LAZIO-UMBRIA-ABRUZZI	2500.000 "	3400 "
CAMPANIA	250.000 "	700 "
MOLISE	250.000 "	700 "
TOTALI	5.250.000 mine	10000 u.

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CAMPANIA	250.000	700
MOLISE	250.000	
TOTALI	5.250.000 mine	10000 u.

14

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13

APPENDIX D

INSTRUMENTAZIONE TECNICA E ABILI DI TRASPORTO
PER OGNI GRUPPO P.C.B.C.M.

1) ATTREZZAMENTO TECNICO

Corcamine	N°	15
Batterie grandi (di riserva)	50	
Batterie piccole	100	
Aste di sondaggio	"	150
Valvole	"	50
Cavo telefonico per trasmissioni	yards	100
Retro di trasmissione	"	100
Picciotti per mare	N°	400
Picconi	"	10
Badili	"	10
Pinze tagliafili	"	12
Pinze piatte	"	12

2) ATTREZZAMENTO PER TRASMISSIONE

Micro e lente	yards	1000
Capaulo	N°	3000
Piemidori a vento	"	3000
Cartacce di tritolo	"	500

3) ABILI DI TRASPORTO

Autocarro da 15 quintali	N°	5
" da 2 ton.	"	1
P.U. o equivalenti	"	2
Motocicli	"	2
Biciclette	"	2
		12

10
12
12

1000
3000
3000
500

5 1 2 2 3
12

yards
No
" " "

No
" " " " "

Penne tagliatelli
Penne piatte

2) ASTRONAUTICA PER DISTINZIONE

Miccoli a lenta
Capomile
Pianificati a vento
Cartucce di tritolo

3) MECCANICA DI TRASPORTO

Autocanti da 15 quintali
" da 2 ton.
P.U. o equivalenti
Motocicli
Biciclette

APPENDICE EELENCO DEPOSITI

1)- DISLOCAZIONE (A)

A) Deposito principale

B) Sottodepositi

Roma

Genova (Zona Liguria)

Bologna (Zona Emilia)

Cesena (Zona Emilia)

Firenze (Zona Toscana)

Pisa (Zona Toscana)

Pesara (Zona Lazio etc)

Le squadre dislocate nel Lazio, Campania e Molise si riforniscono direttamente dal deposito principale in Roma.

2)- ORGANICO

Ogni deposito avrà:

1 Sezione Tecnica

1 Sezione Trasporti.

3)- PERSONALE RICHIESTO

A) Deposito principale

Comandante

Ufficiale addetto

Aiutante

Guardia militare e Comando: 3 sottufficiali e 2 militari truppe

Operai civili

B) Sottodepositi

Comandante

seono direttamente dal deposito principale in Roma.

2)- ORGANICO

Ogni deposito avrà:

- 1 Sezione Tecnica
- 1 Sezione Trasporti.

3)- PERSONALE RICHIESTO

A) Deposito principale

Comandante

Ufficiale addetto

Aiutante

Guardia militare e Comando: 3 sottufficiali e 2 militari truppa

Operai civili

B) Sottodepositi

Comandante

Guardia militare e Comando: 2 sottufficiali e 6 militari

Operai civili

4 12

NOTA: Il deposito principale sarà sotto il controllo del Ministero della Guerra (Direzione Generale del Genio). I sottodepositi saranno agli ordini delle zone nelle quali essi sono situati.

APPENDICE "F"

ELenco DEL MATERIALE D'ATTENDAMENTO, EQUIPAGGIAMENTO DA CUCINA,
COPERTE ETC. STIMATO NECESSARIO PER OGNI 100 UOMINI

1. EQUIPAGGIAMENTO DI CAMPO

Tende(per mensile)	3
Tende ord.	10
Tende magazzino	1
Tende per guardia	4
Coperte per prigionieri di guerra	130
Lenzuola da fondo(se non in loro poss.)	130
Paglieracci	130

2. EQUIPAGGIAMENTO DA CUCINA

Cucine mobili

2

NOTA: Piatti, scodelle, coltelli, forchette,
cucchiai saranno richiesti se non in
loro possesso.

3. PER CHIUSURA CAMPI

Picchetti lunghi	500
Picchetti corti	2000
Pilo di ferro spinoso	50 rotoli
Pilo di ferro liscio	20 "
Chiodi	100 grosse

4. EQUIPAGGIAMENTO MEDICO

Normale primo aiuto (cassa) per una compagnia.

2. EQUIPAGGIAMENTO DA CUCINA

Cucine mobili

2

NOTA: Piatti, scodelle, coltelli, forchette,
cucchiai saranno richiesti se non in
loro possesso.

3. PER CHIUSURA CAMPI

Picchetti lunghi	500
Picchetti corti	2000
Filo di ferro spinoso	50 rotoli
Filo di ferro liscio	20 "
Chiodi	100 grosse

4. EQUIPAGGIAMENTO MEDICO

Normale primo aiuto (cassa) per una compagnia.

APPENDICE G

EQUIPAGGIAMENTO TECNICO E MEZZI DI TRASPORTO PER 3000 UOMINI
SULLA BASE DEI DATI RIPORTATI NELL'APPENDICE E)

1) ATTREZZAMENTO TECNICO

Cercamine	N°	750
Aste di sondaggio	"	1800
Batterie di riserva (grandi)	1500	
" " (piccole)	3000	4500
Tubi elettr. riserva		1500
Cavo per strappo mine	yards	3000
Fettucce tracciam.	"	3000
Picchetti	N°	12000
Picconi	"	300
Bedili	"	300
Pinze tagliafili	"	360
Pinze piatte	"	360

2) ATTREZZAMENTO PER DISTRUZIONE

Miccia a lenta	yards	30,000
Capsule	N°	90,000
Fiammiferi a vento	"	90,000
Cartucce tritolo	"	15,000

3) MEZZI DI TRASPORTO

Autocarri legg. (15 qli)	N°	150
" medi (25 qli)	"	60
Rimorchi per autoc. medi	"	60
Motocicli	"	60
Biciclette	"	60

Pinze tagliafili
Pinze piatte

2) ATTREZZAMENTO PER DISTRUZIONE

Miccia a lenta
Capsule
Piaumiferi a vento
Cartucce tritolo

yards 30,000
N° 90,000
" 90,000
" 15,000

3) MEZZI DI TRASPORTO

Autocarri legg. (15 qli)
" medi (25 qli)
Rimorchi per autec. medi
Motocicli
Biciclette

N° 150
" 60
" 60
" 60
" 60

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

Subject: German Prisoners of War.

LAND FORCES SUB COM A.C.,
(M.M.I.A.) R O M E

A 299

28 May, 45.

To : AFHQ for GI PR.

HACKENBROICH, Hans,

Reference your GI(PR)/3294/A2 dated 21 May.

1. As will be seen from the attached copy letter from Local Government Sub. Commission, A.C., the above named P.O.W. can be usefully employed by that Sub. Commission.
2. It is requested that arrangements be made for his employment with Local Government Sub. Commission to be authorised.

S.P. Archer Capt

S.P. ARCHER, Captain.

for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

Copy to/ Local Government Sub Commission, A.C.
(Refer your AC/35/LG dated 25 May.)

R.E., M.M.I.A.

ECG.

*117th reconnaissance
2/June*

5868

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 694
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

Ext: 358

25 May 45.

AC/35/LG

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance Personnel.

TO : Land Forces Sub Commission (WMA)

WACHENBROICH, Hans

Reference your 22/11/1 of 24 May 45.

1. The service of this P.W. would be most valuable in connection with Mine Clearance in RAVENNA Area and it is desired to secure his services.
2. He could be attached temporarily to either of the 562/3 Mine Clearing Companies who will be working in that area or he could be employed as a civilian either by this Commission or by the Italian Ministry of War.
3. Please take the matter up on behalf of this Commission and subject to rules and regulations governing such P.W. arrange for his release to AC and subsequent employment by them or the Italian Ministry of War.

R.R.
R.R. CRIPPS
Colonel
Director
Local Government Sub Commission.

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 384
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

Tel: 358

17 May 45.

AC/35/LG

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance.

TO : Regional Commissioner
TOSCANA Region.

Receipt is acknowledged of letter from P.C.
LUCCA dated 9th May 45 requesting the service of 1000
German POW for the clearance of mines. The question
has been raised with AFHQ but so far no decision has been
given.



R.R. CRIPPS
Colonel
Director
Local Government Sub Commission.

Copy to: P.C. LUCCA
(your LU/2 of 9 May refers)

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

53
SECRETALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 230.4-13

17 May 1945

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission
APO 394.

1. Reference is to your No. AC/53/LG of 10 May 45 indicating that the Chief Commissioner considers that Prisoners of War might be used in Italian mine clearance and requesting information as to whether the surrender terms permit such use and whether prisoners could be made available in the numbers required, estimated at 5,000 rising to 10,000 when fully organized.

2. Under the instrument of surrender the German Commander is obligated to make available to SAC such military personnel, with the necessary equipment, as he may require for mine clearance and it is accordingly legally possible to arrange for the use of surrendered personnel for such purposes. Personnel so employed should be provided with requisite implements and safeguards and have received the training necessary.

3. Also it is believed that such personnel may be made available up to the numbers indicated in your letter upon definitive advice that it is desired by Allied Commission to proceed in the matter. In this connection it is requested that Allied Commission state as fully as possible the program it has in mind, including times and places at which such personnel will be required and proposed arrangements for supervision and other administration.

CHARLES M. SPOFFORD
Brigadier General, G.S.C.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5.

*Ask G-5 if they have any
rules on limitations
as in the Allied Com.
Part of 200,000.*

Thurspd none.

11 June

SECRET

5844

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

53 SECRET

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 230.4-13

17 May 1945

SUBJECT: Mine Clearance.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission
APO 394.

1. Reference is to your No. AC/53/16 of 10 May 45 indicating that the Chief Commissioner considers that Prisoners of War might be used in Italian mine clearance and requesting information as to whether the surrender terms permit such use and whether prisoners could be made available in the numbers required, estimated at 5,000 rising to 10,000 when fully organized.

2. Under the instrument of surrender the German Commander is obligated to make available to SAC such military personnel, with the necessary equipment, as he may require for mine clearance and it is accordingly legally possible to arrange for the use of surrendered personnel for such purposes. Personnel so employed should be provided with requisite implements and safeguards and have received the training necessary.

3. Also it is believed that such personnel may be made available up to the numbers indicated in your letter upon definitive advice that it is desired by Allied Commission to proceed in the matter. In this connection it is requested that Allied Commission state as fully as possible the program it has in mind, including times and places at which such personnel will be required and proposed arrangements for supervision and other administration.

CHARLES W. STOFFORD
Brigadier General, G.S.C.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5.

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

53
HEADQUARTERS
LUCCA PROVINCE
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

L. GOVT. S/C. 30
Ad 4

Ref. III/2

9 May 1945

SUBJECT: Clearance of Mines.

TO: Regional Commissioner, Toscana Region.

16 MAY 1945

1. I request the services of 1000 German P.O.W.s for the clearance of mines in the "Gothic Line" area of Lucca Province.
2. I suggest these men should be from those enemy units who laid the extensive minefields in this area and that they should be under Italian control, partisan or military.
3. I presume that as the German surrender is unconditional there would be no legal objection to requiring those who put these mines down to take the risk of lifting them.

R. A. B. Hamilton

R. A. B. HAMILTON,
Lt. Col., R.S.F.,
Provincial Commissioner.



HQ. TOSCANA REGION, A.M.G. 1st Ind. 12 May 45. RGK/ttg.
To: HQ AC.

1. The attached letter is forwarded for consideration and necessary action.

Robert G. Kirkwood
ROBT. G. KIRKWOOD,
Colonel, FA, US Army
Regional Commissioner.

5812

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 73506

C O N F I D E N T I A

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512C
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Y

13 May 1945

MEMORANDUM

MAY 15 Rec'd.

TO : Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Headquarters, Allied Commission
APO 394

1. At the direction of General McNarney and after discussion with General Robertson, you are requested to take up informally and in a preliminary way with the Italian Government plans which are under consideration here for the disposition of German PW.

2. It is General McNarney's view, in which General Robertson concurs, that Germans should be made to work so long as they are held in Italy. With this in mind a portion of the German prisoners could be turned over to the Italian Government to assist in rehabilitation. Will you ascertain from the Italian Government whether they would be prepared in principle to accept German prisoners for this purpose upon the following terms:

a. The Germans would continue to be prisoners of the US/UK and so would be fed and maintained by the latter.

b. They would be administered in large concentration areas by US/UK and guarded by Italians.

c. They would be guarded on work projects by the Italians who would have full supervision of such projects.

d. Materials, tools, etc. for their work would be furnished by the Italians.

3. The numbers involved are as yet indefinite but for present purposes should be assumed to be within the range of 100,000 to 150,000. If the Italian Government is prepared in principle to accept German prisoners on the above terms, will you obtain their best estimate as to numbers that could be usefully employed, and the localities in which they should be concentrated.

4. In connection with the foregoing, you should also inform the Italian Government that plans are being developed on the US side and being studied here by which German prisoners may be substituted for Italian military personnel at present in the employ of the U.S. armed forces, including both cooperators and US-ITI units. The objective of these plans would be to release Italian personnel from their present duties. Obviously the future disposition of personnel so released is a matter which requires

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 2 -

careful consideration by the various agencies concerned
and will be the subject of fuller discussion as the plans
develop.

CHARLES M. SPOFFORD
Brigadier General, G.S.C.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION.

Telephone Ext. 620

10th May, 1945.

Reference No: AG/53/10.

Subject : Mine Clearance

To: A.F.H.Q., (G-5 Section)

1. The Acting President of this Commission considers that with the cessation of hostilities greater attention should be paid to the matter of mine clearance. To this end he considers that it should be possible for more equipment to be made available to the Italian Mine Clearance organisations than has hitherto been practicable.

2. Furthermore he considers that it may be possible to use prisoners of war in this work. Appendix 5 to 15 Army Group Administrative Directive No. 3 dated 18th April, specifically bars prisoners of war from being employed "on unhealthy or dangerous work", which would appear to prevent their use for mine clearance. On the other hand it may be that the Surrender Terms include a clause under which they may be used for the specific purpose of mine clearance.

3. May this Commission therefore please be advised whether the Surrender Terms do in fact include such a clause, and if so, what numbers of prisoners of war could be made available for work. It is estimated that 5000, together with the essential equipment, could be immediately employed, rising in numbers when the organisation is set up, to 10,000.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

G.R. URJONN, Brigadier,
Vice President,
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION.

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