

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

ACC

10000/109/325

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

10000/109/325

ATROCITIES
JULY 1945 - MAR. 1946

EC/604

~~TOP SECRET~~

ATROCITIES

RESTRICTED

IN SAFE #3

Print Binding 591

10000/109/ 325

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/MND No. 785017

RESTRICTED

IN SAFE #3

Ex-17 (b)(1) 591

10000/109/ 325

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

06/28/89/S

EXHIBIT AUCION Case No.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

06/98/CO/C

TOTAL	28
FILMED	

30

HQ

the usual use for 31

31

Ex Com- Enclosed letter to G-2 AFHQ for signature

and 711

MS/5/21

33

Ex Com

Let. of Lt. Gen. memo at 27 submitted
opposite for signature.

for 3/4

C-80

At further reminder to 28 is submitted
for signature at 32.
Note 410 need after reminder 16/11
had been dropped. 15/11 17/11

34

426

Ex Com.

files for 27

032

785017

33

Ex. 600
Ltr. Ask of Lt. Gov memo at 27 submitted
opposite for signature.

1/4

Q30 (35) - Of further transfer to 25 is submitted
for signature at 31.
Note 400 need after removal of 16/11
had been dropped. 25/16/11 17/11

39

426

Ex. 600
Ltr. 25/11

41

Ex. 600
Ltr. Please see 25/11 for 1/13

35/3

032

5 and 6 seen by 6, 6 and 8, 6.

Ex. 2.

96 for your info: new 7 refers.

7 Aug 45 No harvest done.

Σ 2/8
Potash bicarb (Rem by S.C. see M. 4). 2 9/16
Cape m.

CSO.
11
~~Executive Bureau member~~

8 Aug 45 9 for inform place. N. P. R. S. / e

Wrote Clark. Shaw.

6 Salms. 5 1578

19

C.S.O. Please see folio 18. Folios from 9 to 10 refer.
AP 13/5

20.

~~Ex Cant~~ 2 min. 1 para 4 of p. 6 031

785017

Ex 7/8. Potash. (Rem by EC. see M.D. 10/9)

C.S.O. Ex 7/8 9 for info please. M. P. S. C.

Ex 7/8. 10/9

C.S.O. Please see folio 18. Folios from 9 to 10 refer. M.P. 13/5

Ex 7/8. 2. view of para 4 of p. 6 031
do you consider be must get
At the 'distinction' before replying
Do de Gasperi at 18?

C.S.O. 21. 14/8
Send copy of 17/8 to AERO at 15/8 and
ask whether will may privately & confidentially inform
M.F.A that investigation are proceeding
M.F.A.

RG 331
 Acc - Italy
 Box 210
 Folder 10000/109/325-
 130-28"
 1 doc. / 1 page

ACCESS RESTRICTED

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File Designation 10000/109/325-

Date 5/23/46

From STANLEY

To _____

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 Authority _____

10/6/46
 Date _____

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WITHDRAWAL NOTICE

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ACC - Italy
Box 210
Folder 10000/109/325-
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Date	3/23/46
From	STATE
To	

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Date
10/4/41

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

GSA Form 7117 (2-50)

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Box 210
Folder 1000/109/325
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File Designation	<u>1000/109/325</u>		
Date	<u>3/23/46</u>		
From	<u>AC</u>		
To	<u>4F 40</u>		

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105 post 46 Authority 10/9/70 Date

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Folder 1000/109/325
130-28"
1 doc / 1 page

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File Designation	<u>1000/109/325</u>
Date	<u>3/23/46</u>
From	<u>40</u>
To	<u>4540</u>

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- ☐ Otherwise Restricted Information

10/9/46 10/9/46
Authority Date

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

GSA 7117 12-7-45

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WITHDRAWAL NOTICE

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☐ Otherwise Restricted Information

Authority _____

Date _____

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RG 331
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File Designation

10000/109/325

Date

2/16/46

From

XTRACT SAC MTG

To

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Authority

JCS Post #6

Date

10/16/46

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30-28
1 doc. / 1 page

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File Designation

10000/109/325

Date

2/16/46

From

XTRACT SAC MTC

To

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☐ Otherwise Restricted Information

Authority

LC S. Ross Jr

Date

10/16/46

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

GSA 7117 (2-11)

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From	_____
To	_____

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Authority	_____	Date	_____
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☐ Otherwise Restricted Information

Authority _____ Date _____

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

GSA FORM 7117 (4-72)

785017

604

EC

504

36

Carrara 25.12.45

JAN 4 1946

Copy of a letter sent to Mr. Giannini, Editor of 'L'Espresso Quindici'.

In Carrara and Massa, newspaper vendors cannot sell your paper or must sell it underhand, and it is dangerous to read it in the street, for (in charge to Benito, Tagliatti's, Lusa's etc pacification and liberty) one gets beaten, unless someone is willing to give evidence to ascertain Fascist offences.

Your last number spoke of the seventy corpses of people murdered in the Brescia province. Unfortunately this didn't happen once only. Worse things happened in Carrara.

Ever since September 1944, people (soldiers and fascists) have been killed for and after being taken in the neighbouring mountains, they were suppressed in the most cruel way: they were made to dig their own graves and tortured in the most atrocious way. One Ignazio Cino he belonged to the Republican National Guard, guilty of having lost one lung in Africa and of enlisting for his pension was small, he couldn't work and had four children to provide for, got tied to a tin filled with black powder which was set afire and got terrible burns. He begged for a pistol to shoot himself and was given an unloaded one. Finally they shot him. Regionalists, fascist officers, Oreste Olivelli, Major Guonafed, Sgt. Battista Stenocco, Corporal Cosmo Giuseppe (street-sweeper, father of 7 children) were summarily buried in various spots in the mountains, though they were not guilty of any offence. On November 2nd, a man was killed right in the centre of Carrara, for unknown reasons, and the murderer, representative of local anarchism is still free. The Carabinieri are informed of all this and some of them try to do their duty.

The G.I.N. knows these things as well as any private citizen and is therefore to be considered as an accomplice, as well as all the authorities: political, religious and the various party leaders that should have reported to the central authorities.

Every party leader, parish priest, Bishop, rector, Commander of the Carabinieri, Questore, P.S. Commissariat should be made to send written and signed reports on what happened in their area between July-August 1944 and now, and the families of the victims should be asked questions.

There is no list of the families that have been ransomed yet the money that was taken from them amounts to several millions.

Mr. Giannini, I beg you to publish this letter hoping this will lead to the arrest of people who have been freely committing murder.

I beg you not to mention my name for fear of reprisals against myself and my family.

A. Faldini

027 DIST 14 Jan 46

Via Mameto 94 - Posseola di Carrara -
Apuania

e/c

WB 5/1

A

5/1

B

Adrian C. A. (to)

Tuf, C.C.

C.C.

1/1
(copy B)

785017

HEADQUARTERS
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS
UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 512

604
MFA/kda

26. (34)

St. Com

In reply
refer to: AG 000.5/836 B-0

14 November 1945

NOV 16 1945

SUBJECT: Atrocities

TO: Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
APO 394

28

1. Reference your 604/28/EC dated 3 November 1945.
2. Results have so far proved inconclusive.
3. Investigations are still being made but certain technical difficulties have somewhat delayed progress.
4. There is no further positive information which can be provided at the present time, but you will be kept informed.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL RIDEWAY:

M. Frances Aman
M. FRANCES AMAN
1st Lt, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

See lv. 35

RA.
ERS 3/12

ERS 16/11

1 Spain Hotel

020BU.
7/12

Ref: 604/32/80.

5. November 1945.

SUBJECT: Yugoslav Atrocities in the Foibe of BASOVIZZA.

TO : The Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Italian Government,
ROME.

I refer to your 6/4171/1928 of 26 October 1945.

This matter has again been referred to the appropriate authorities and it is hoped to address a further letter to you on this matter in early course.

For the Chief Commissioner:

M. S. 11224

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

025 PA 5 13 11

785017

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: 604/28/EC

3. November 1945

SUBJECT: Atrocities

TO : G-2 Section, AFHQ

1. Reference our 604/22/EC of 16 August 1945,
and your AG 000.5/221 GAG-O of 31 August 1945.

2. We have again been approached by the Italian
Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a request for an early
reply to their letter of 31 July 1945, forwarded to you
in our 604/22/EC of 16 August 1945.

3. We would be grateful if you could inform us
what progress has been made in the investigation of the
alleged atrocities in the Foibe of Basovizza.

For the Chief Commissioner:

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

See 36

BU
10/11
024

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED COMMISSION

- Office of the Executive Commissioner -

Subject: Yugoslav atrocities - "Foibe of Basovizza" -

1. Reference is made to letter n° 3/1284, dated August 5th, 1945, by Minister De Gasperi to Admiral Ellery W. Stone, concerning the subject above.

2. On September 4th, the Office of the A.C. Executive Commissioner verbally informed this Ministry that the competent Allied Authorities were investigating the matter of Yugoslav atrocities perpetrated against Italians, with particular regard to the question of the "Foibe" of Basovizza.

3. In view of the time elapsed since then and in consideration of the concern of Italian governmental quarters and public opinion over such matter, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be very grateful if an early reply could be given to the letter mentioned in para n° 1.

Rome, October 26th, 1945



28
See Mr. 30-31-32

- Office of the Executive Commissioner -

Subject: Yugoslav atrocities - "Foibe of Basovizza" -

1. Reference is made to letter n° 3/1234, dated August 5th, 1945, by Minister De Gasperi to Admiral Ellery W. Stone, concerning the subject above.

2. On September 4th, the Office of the A.C. Executive Commissioner verbally informed this Ministry that the competent Allied Authorities were investigating the matter of Yugoslav atrocities perpetrated against Italians, with particular regard to the question of the "Foibe" of Basovizza.

3. In view of the time elapsed since then and in consideration of the concern of Italian governmental quarters and public opinion over such matter, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be very grateful if an early reply could be given to the letter mentioned in para n° 1.

Rome, October 26th, 1945



Due M. 30-31-32

023

785017

604

~~SECRET~~

(36)

12 Sept 1945.

Ref : 542/504/83.

SUBJECT : Report on Yugoslav Activities.

TO : Chief Commissioner.

Attached is a report on arrests, deportations and executions carried out by the Yugoslavs in Venezia Giulia, prepared in response to AFHQ's request for material for the Commission of Enquiry into alleged Yugoslav atrocities in the area.

/s/ M. S. LUSH.
Brigadier.
Executive Commissioner.

Incls.

Action copy on file 542/83.

11-25/9
022

785017

SECRET

604

3398

Ex Com
25

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:
APO 512 U.S. ARMY.

4 September 1945.

SEP - 6 1945

HEADQUARTERS
6 SEP 1945
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

GHI. 389.435/31-G.

SUBJECT: Atrocities.

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission, APO 594.

1. Reference your GOM/23/45 dated 1 September 45.
2. It is understood that A.G. have already sent a reply to your letter ref. GOM/23/45 dated 16 August 45.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

V. G. W. Mullen, Capt.
for
LIEUT. B. HUGHES,
Colonel, G-2,
G-2 (CI) Section.

021

PA
17/9

Rept Act.
SECRET

(Not Known) 25/9/45

785017

SECRET

604

DEK/1ja

24

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

Ex Comm.

SECRET

By Authority

SECRET

3095

Initials

Date 31 August 1945

AG 000.5/221 CEG-0

SUBJECT: Atrocities

SEP - 3 1945

TO: Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
APO 394

22

1. Reference is made to your 604/22/EC, dated 16 August 1945, subject as above.

2. You are authorized to inform the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in strictest confidence that an investigation of the alleged atrocities referred to is under way.



D. C. KIRLEY
Captain, AGP
Asst Adjutant General

*Informal Citation in
Strictest Confidence Who
Will pass on*

SECRET

020

P/A

415 5/9

(That Kermelley)

785017

Ext 451

ABA/01

23

Ref: 604/23/20

1 September 1945

SUBJECT: Atrocities

TO : AFHQ, G-2 Section

1. Under cover of our letter 604/22/20 of 16 August 45 we enclosed a translated copy of a letter received from the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs with reference to reports of the finding of bodies in the "foiba" of Basovizza, supposedly thrown there by the Slavs.

2. It would be appreciated if we could have a reply to this letter, with particular reference to paragraph 3.

For the Chief Commissioner:

A. B. ARNOLDY.

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

[Handwritten signatures and initials]
-12
1/4

785017

12

Ref: 604/22/EC

16 August 45

SUBJECT: Atrocities

TO : AFHQ, G-2 Section

1. Enclosed is a translated copy of a letter received by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs with reference to reports of the finding of bodies in the "foiba" of Basovizza, supposedly thrown there by the Slavs.

2. We also enclose a translated copy of a letter from M.E. de Gasperi, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, addressed to Admiral Stone, referring to various press communiques regarding the same subject and requesting that a denial be made if the press communiques are false.

3. It would be appreciated if you would inform us if we may privately and confidentially inform the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that investigations of these atrocities are being made at this time.

For the Chief Commissioner:

A. H. AUSLEY
Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

2 incls:
as above

BU

26/8

Noted

618

PA 10/8

785017

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

3/1284

FOIA b7 - D

Roma, August 5th 1945

E. J. AUST 1945

Dear Admiral Stone,

The news, appeared in the Press, of the finding of a considerable number of corpses in a quarry at Bassovizza - or "Folbe" as they are locally named - will not have escaped your attention.

In a communiqué of the I.N.S. from New York, dated 28 July 1945, it was a question of over 400 corpses, a certain number of which were those of New Zealand soldiers. The responsibility of the killing was placed with Tito's partisans. Later news mentioned corpses of patriots killed by the Germans and of Germans killed by patriots.

On July 31st, a U.P. communiqué was published stating that "the Commander in Chief of the 8th British Army has officially denied the news published by the Italian Press, that 400 or 500 corpses would have been found in a deep quarry near Trieste". The communiqué goes on flatly denying "the alleged finding of New Zealand soldiers' corpses" adding however that "there is no news about Italians' corpses."

As you will notice the denied terms are uncertain; therefore they are not sufficient definitely to quiet down the anxiety of the Italian public and of the Italian Government.

Yours,

v17

McC 22

14 JUL 1945

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

Dear Admiral Stone,

The news, appeared in the press, of the finding of a considerable number of corpses in a quarry at Basovizza - or "foiba" as they are locally named - will not have escaped your attention.

In a communiqué of the I.N.S. from New York, dated 23 July 1945, it was a question of over 400 corpses, a certain number of which were those of New Zealand soldiers. The responsibility of the killing was placed with Tito's partisans. Later news mentioned corpses of patriots killed by the Germans and of Germans killed by patriots.

On July 31st, a U.S. communiqué was published stating that "the Commander in Chief of the 6th British Army has officially denied the news published by the Italian press, that 400 or 600 corpses would have been found in a deep quarry near Trieste". The communiqué goes on flatly denying "the alleged finding of New Zealand soldiers' corpses" adding however that "there is no news about Italians' corpses."

As you will notice the denial seems are uncertain; therefore they are not sufficient definitely to quiet down the anxiety of the Italian public and the Italian Government.

Besides, from many quarters rumors of such slayings and of the finding of these corpses have reached the Italian Authorities. Not later than yesterday a very reliable source has informed me - I think from a source I think good about the - housed in the Villa Lazzarini and generally well informed person - has again sent to the Ministry of War a report of the finding of these corpses.

T.O.O.

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

Rough TranslationC O P Y

1945

Rome, 31 July 1945

TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

R O M E

With reference to the Genials appeared in to-day's newspapers, about the truth of the news concerning the "foiba" of Basovizza. I take the liberty to state what follows:

It is common knowledge in Trieste that hundreds of persons have been thrown into the "foiba" by the Slavs.

The quarry has been discovered by Italians and Allied Authorities were consequently informed. Exploration and core-ness' recovering operations have been carried on by the Anglo-Americans.

It is also generally known in Trieste that up to the present time, 500 corpses have been taken out of the quarry and many uniforms of German prisoners as well as of Allied soldiers have been found. However it has not been possible to ascertain whether the Allied uniforms really belonged to Allied soldiers, or whether they belonged to Italian patriots who wore those that were parachuted during the flight against the Germans.

It is also generally rumored that the corpses which have been found are only a part of the total of persons thrown into the 140 metres deep quarry, which has a bottom width of about 40 metres. It is believed that there are now at least 500 more

C O S V

1945

Rome, 31 July 1945

TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

R O M E

With reference to the denials expressed in to-day's newspapers, about the truth of the news concerning the "foibe" of Basovizza, I take the liberty to state what follows:

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The quarry has been discovered by Italians and Allied Authorities were consequently informed. Exploration and corpses' recovering operations have been carried on by the American.

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It is also generally rumored that the corpses which have been found are only a part of the total of persons thrown into the 140 metres deep quarry, which has a bottom width of about 40 metres. It is believed that there are now at least 500 more corpses in the "foibe".

Another rumor asserts that even two year old children corpses have been taken out from the quarry.

22
JUL 22 1945
9/1

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

English translation

3/1254

Rome, August 3th 1945

11 AUG 1945

Dear Admiral Stone,

The news, appeared in the Press, of the finding of a considerable number of corpses in a quarry at Basovizza - or "folbe" as they are locally named - will not have escaped your attention.

In a communiqué of the I.N.S. from New York, dated 28 July 1945, it was a question of over 400 corpses, a certain number of which were those of New Zealand soldiers. The responsibility of the killing was placed with Tito's partisans. Later news mentioned corpses of patriots killed by the Germans and of Germans killed by patriots.

On July 31st, a U.P. communiqué was published stating that "the Commander in Chief of the 2th British Army has officially denied the news published by the Italian press, that 400 or 500 corpses would have been found in a deep quarry near Trieste". The communiqué goes on finally denying "the alleged finding of New Zealand soldiers' corpses" adding however that "there is no news about Italians' corpses."

As you will notice the denial terms are uncertain: therefore they are not sufficient definitely to quiet down the anxiety of the Italian public and of the Italian Government.

v17

Aug 22

11 AUG 1945

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

785017

Dear Admiral Stone,

The news, appearing in the Press, of the finding of a considerable number of corpses in a quarry at Rasovizza - or "Fojine" as they are locally named - will not have escaped your attention.

In a communiqué of the I.R.S. from New York, dated 28 July 1945, it was a question of over 400 corpses, a certain number of which were those of New Zealand soldiers. The responsibility of the killing was placed with Tito's partisans. Later news mentioned corpses of patriots killed by the Germans and of Germans killed by patriots.

On July 31st, a U.P. communiqué was published stating that "the Commander in chief of the 8th British Army has officially denied the news published by the Italian press, 'that 400 or 500 corpses would have been found in a deep quarry near Trieste'. The communiqué goes on 'flauntingly denying the alleged finding of New Zealand soldiers' corpses' adding however that 'there is no news about Italians' corpses'."

As you will notice the denial seems are uncertain; therefore they are not sufficient definitely to quiet down the anxiety of the Italian public and of the Italian Government.

Besides, from many quarters rumors of such slaughtering and of the finding of these corpses have reached the Italian Authorities. Not later than yesterday a very reliable and generally well informed person - of whose good faith I have no reason to doubt - has again sent to the Ministry of

P.B.O.

Foreign Affairs a statement, a copy of which is enclosed, wherein new details are given on the firing of the corpses in the quarries following an explosion on the spot by some Allied troops.

There is no need for me to assure you, dear Admiral, that it is far from the Italian Government's intention to increase any disagreement or to support any argument with our neighbour Yugoslavia. With this country we intend to establish in the future the best relations based upon mutual understanding. On the contrary, the purpose of this letter is to prevent the circulation of rumours and of unjustified speculations.

In fact, if the above I.H.S. news is false, as I still hope, a definite denial, leaving no doubts, is advisable. If this is the case, it would be very desirable that the 8th Army Command supply some precise data, which the Italian Government could use in order to reassure their public opinion.

It seems superfluous to add that owing to the sad experience of the past months and of the state of mind of so many of the Italian people, only a definite and convincing denial could serve this purpose.

I shall be very grateful to you, dear Admiral Stare, if you would kindly take this matter into serious consideration, and I will greatly appreciate to hear from you on this subject as the earliest possible opportunity.

Believe me,

Sincerely yours

Enc.

785017

Allied troops.

There is no need for me to assure you, dear Admiral, that it is for the Italian Government's intentions to increase any disagreement or to support any argument with our neighbour Yugoslavia. With this country we intend to establish in the future the best relations based upon mutual understanding. On the contrary, the purpose of this letter is to prevent the circulation of rumours and of unjustified accusations.

In fact, if the above I.M.G. news is false, as I still hope, a definite denial, leaving no doubts, is advisable. If this is the case, it would be very desirable that the 8th Army Command supply some precisions, which the Italian Government could use in order to reassure their public opinion.

It seems superfluous to add that, owing to the sad experience of the past months and of the state of mind of so many of the Italian people, only a definite and convincing denial could serve this purpose.

I shall be very grateful to you, dear Admiral Stone, if you would kindly take this matter into serious consideration, and I will greatly appreciate to hear from you on this subject at the earliest possible opportunity.

Believe me,

Sincerely yours

Encl: 1

(Sgd) DE CASPARI

Admiral Henry W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission

H.C.M.A.

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

ROUGH TRANSLATIONC O D Y

1945

ROME, 31 July 1945

TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

R O M E

With reference to the denials appeared in to-day's newspapers, about the truth of the news concerning the "foibe" of Basovizza, I take the liberty to state what follows:

It is common knowledge in Trieste that hundreds of persons have been thrown into the "foibe" by the Slavs.

The quarry has been discovered by Italians and Allied Authorities were consequently informed. Exploration and corpses' recovering operations have been carried on by the Anglo-Americans.

It is also generally known in Trieste that up to the present time, 500 corpses have been taken out of the quarry and many uniforms of German prisoners as well as of Allied soldiers have been found. However it has not been possible to ascertain whether the Allied uniforms really belonged to Allied soldiers, or whether they belonged to Italian patriots who wore those that were parachuted during the fight against the Germans.

It is also generally rumored that the corpses which have been found are only a part of the total of persons thrown into the 140 metres deep quarry, which has a bottom width of about 40 metres. It is believed that there are now at least 500 more

785017

SECRET

1945

ROME, 31 July 1945

TO THE DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SECRET

With reference to the denials appearing in to-day's newspapers, about the truth of the news concerning the "foibe" of Bassovizza, I take the liberty to state what follows:

It is common knowledge in Trieste that hundreds of persons have been thrown into the "foibe" by the Slavs.

The quarry has been discovered by Italian and Allied Authorities were consequently informed. Exploration and consequent recovering operations have been carried on by the Americans.

It is also generally known in Trieste that up to the present time, 500 corpses have been taken out of the quarry and many uniforms of German prisoners as well as of Allied soldiers have been found. However it has not been possible to ascertain whether the Allied uniforms really belonged to Allied soldiers or whether they belonged to Italian patriots who wore those that were parachuted during the fight against the Germans.

It is also generally rumored that the corpses which have been found are only a part of the total of persons thrown into the 140 metres deep quarry, which has a bottom width of about 40 metres. It is believed that there are now at least 500 more corpses in the "foibe".

Another rumor asserts that even two year old children corpses have been taken out from the quarry.

216
22
July 1945

The recovery operations have been carried on only by Anglo-American elements: Italians having no possibility to intervene.

(Sgd) M.S.

It is possible to specify that among the corpses so far taken out from the quarry, the corpse of Dr. Marcello Porti has been identified. Dr. Porti, a physician at S. Giacomo, who never wore a fascist and was very well liked by the local population. Also the corpse of a son of Mr. Giannini (a lawyer from Trieste) would have been identified. He was an Italian partisan who returned to Trieste early in May and later disappeared.

Il Duemastro degli Affari Esteri

Roma, 15.4.45 1945

3/1284

Caro Ammiraglio,

Non le saranno certo sfuggite, le notizie apparse nell' stampa circa il rinvenimento di un considerevole numero di cadaveri in una cave - o "foibe" come localmente vengono chiamate - presso Sasovizza.

In un messaggio I.N.S. proveniente da New York il 28 luglio si parlava di oltre 400 cadaveri di persone fra cui un certo numero di soldati neo-zelandesi scoperti dalle Autorità Alleate e la responsabilità della cui esistenza sarebbe stata fatta risalire ai partigiani di Tito. Altre notizie successive hanno parlato di cadaveri di partigiani uccisi dai tedeschi e di tedeschi uccisi dai partigiani.

In data 31 luglio è stata pubblicata una nota U.P. della quale si afferma che "il comandante generale dell'VIII Armata britannica ha ufficialmente smentito le notizie pubblicate dalla stampa italiana secondo cui 400 o 600 cadaveri sarebbero stati rinvenuti in una profonda miniera nelle zone di Trieste". Il comunicato prosegue negando senz'altro "la esatta presenza di soldati neo-zelandesi" aggiungendo però che "non si sono indicati né circa i cadaveri degli italiani".

Non le saranno certo sfuggite, le notizie apparse nelle stampe circa il rinvenimento di un considerevole numero di cadaveri in una cave - o "foiba" come localmente vengono chiamate - presso Resovizza.

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Admiraglio Sir Henry W. Steno, U.S.N.R.
Capo della Commissione Alleata

ROMA

Come Ella potrà rilevare i termini delle smentite appaiono imprecisi e quindi insufficienti a dissipare definitivamente le preoccupazioni dell'opinione pubblica e del Governo italiano.

Aggiungo che da più parti e da tempo la voce di tali eccidi e del rinvenimento di queste salme era giunta alle Autorità Italiane. Non più tardi di ieri persona seria generalmente bene informata, e della cui buona fede non ho ragione di dubitare, ha ancora diretto al mio Ministero una dichiarazione di cui Le trasmetto copia, nella quale si riportano nuovi dettagli sul ritrovamento di cadaveri nelle fosse, che anzi sarebbe avvenuto in seguito ad esplorazione del terreno da parte di truppe alleate.

E' superfluo che io Le assicuri, caro Ammiraglio, che il Governo italiano è tutt'altro che desideroso di conoscere i disastri e favorire nuove polemiche nei riguardi della vicina Jugoslavia con il quale intendiamo anzi stabilire nel futuro, sulla base della reciproca comprensione, i migliori rapporti. E' anzitutto per evitare la circolazione di voci e di notizie ingiustificate che io Le scrivo questa lettera.

Se infatti la notizia diffusa dall'I.A.S. è falsa, come continuo a sperare, conviene che essa sia smentita in maniera che non lasci adito ad alcun dubbio. In tale ipotesi sarebbe quindi molto desiderabile che il Comando dell'8^a Armata facesse pervenire delle precisazioni di cui il Governo italiano potesse valersi nei confronti della sua opinione pubblica.

Aggiungo che da più parti e da tempo la voce di tali eccidi e del rinvenimento di queste salme era giunta alle Autorità Italiane. Non più tardi di ieri persona seria generalmente bene informata, e della cui buona fede non ho ragione di dubitare, ha ancora diretto al mio Ministero una dichiarazione di cui ho trasmesso copia, nella quale si riportano nuovi dettagli sul ritrovamento di cadaveri nella foibe, che anzi sarebbe avvenuto in seguito ad esplorazione del terreno da parte di alcune alliste.

E' superfluo che io le assicuri, caro Ammiraglio, che il Governo Italiano è tutt'altro che deciso a di accrescere i dissapori e favorire nuove polemiche nei riguardi della vicina Jugoslavia con la quale intendiamo anzi stabilire nel futuro, sulla base della reciproca comprensione, i migliori rapporti. E' anzi appunto per evitare la circolazione di voci e di cose ingiustificate che io le scrivo queste lettere.

Se infatti la notizia di morte dell' I.N.S. è falsa, come continuo a sperare, conviene che essa sia smentita in maniera che non lasci scitto ad alcun dubbio. In tale ipotesi sarebbe quindi molto desiderabile che il Comando dell'88 Armata facesse pervenire delle precisazioni di cui il Governo Italiano potesse valersi nel confronti delle sue opinioni pubbliche.

Non ho bisogno di assionnere che date le tristi esperienze di questi ultimi mesi e lo stato d'animo di tanti italiani, solo una smentita chiara e convincente può servire allo scopo.

Al Ministro degli Affari Esteri

Le sarei molto grato, caro Ambasciatore, se alla volessa prendere le cose in seria considerazione facendomi pervenire non appena possibile un cortese cenno di riscontro. Mi creda con i migliori saluti

De Gaulle

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

014

re non essere possibile un cortese cenno di riscontro.

Si creda con i migliori saluti

Levy

C o p i a

Roma, 11 luglio 1945

AL MINISTERO DELL'INTERIO

R O M A

Con riferimento alle smentite apparse nei giornali odier-
ni circa la veridicità delle notizie relative alla foiba di
Bassovizza, mi permetto far presente quanto segue.

E' universalmente risaputo in Trieste che tale foiba è
stata effettivamente utilizzata dagli slavi per gettarvi dentro
centinaia di persone.

Individuata da elementi italiani e segnalata alle autorità
alleate, le operazioni di esplorazione e recupero dei cadaveri
sono state condotte dagli anglo-americani. E' di dominio pubbli-
co a Trieste che fino ad ora sono stati estratti i cadaveri di
circa 500 persone e che sono state rinvenute molte divise di pri-
gionieri tedeschi ed anche alcune divise alleate. Non è però
possibile precisare se tali divise alleate appartenessero ef-
fettivamente a militari alleati o non piuttosto fossero indossate
da partigiani italiani rivestiti di tali divise, aviolanciate
dagli alleati nel corso del periodo della lotta antitedesca.

E' voce corrente inoltre che i cadaveri estratti rappresen-
tano solo una parte del numero complessivo di persone gettate
nella foiba la quale è molto profonda (circa 140 m.) e si colle-
ga alla base su di un diametro di circa 40 metri. Si ritiene
che all'interno della foiba si trovino attualmente almeno
altri 500 cadaveri.

E' voce diffusa in città che siano stati estratti tra
l'altro anche cadaveri di bambini di due anni.

Le operazioni di recupero sono state eseguite esclusiva-
mente da elementi anglo-americani senza possibilità di inter-
vento di elementi italiani.

fto) A.S.

Si può precisare inoltre che tra i cadaveri estratti è stato
tra l'altro identificato il dott. Marcello Torti - medico a
S. Giacomo, che stato fascista e non voluto dalla popolazione
locale. Però identificato sarebbe stato il cadavere del
figlio dell'avv. Giannini di Trieste - partigiano dell'Alta
Italia, rientrato a Trieste nei primi giorni di maggio e ora

circa la veridicità delle notizie relative alla foiba di Rasovizza, mi permetto far presente quanto segue.

E' universalmente risaputo in Trieste che tale foiba è stata effettivamente utilizzata dagli slavi per gettarvi dentro centinaia di persone.

Individuate da elementi italiani e segnalate alle autorità alleate, le operazioni di esplorazione e recupero dei cadaveri sono state condotte dagli anglo-americani. E' di dominio pubblico a Trieste che fino ad ora sono stati estratti i cadaveri di circa 500 persone e che sono state rinvenute molte divise di partigiani tedeschi ed anche alcune divise alleate. Non è però possibile precisare se tali divise alleate appartenessero effettivamente a militari alleati o non piuttosto fossero indossate da partigiani italiani rivestiti di tali divise, eviolanciate dagli alleati nel corso del periodo della lotta antitedesca.

E' voce corrente inoltre che i cadaveri estratti rappresentano solo una parte del numero complessivo di persone gettate nella foiba la quale è molto profonda (circa 140 m.) e al collo, se alla base su di un diametro di circa 40 metri. Si ritiene che all'interno della foiba si trovino attualmente almeno altri 500 cadaveri.

E' voce diffusa in città che siano stati estratti tra l'altro anche cadaveri di bambini di due anni.

Le operazioni di recupero sono state eseguite esclusivamente da elementi anglo-americani senza possibilità di intervento di elementi italiani

etc) U.S.

Si può precisare inoltre che tra i cadaveri estratti è stato tra l'altro identificato il dott. Marcello Forti - medico a S. Giacomo, mai stato fascista e ben voluto dalla popolazione locale. Pure identificato sarebbe stato il cadavere del figlio dell'avv. Giannini di Trieste - partigiano dell'Alta Italia, rientrato a Trieste nei primi giorni di maggio e successivamente scomparso.

13

Ref: 604/13/20.

10 August 1945.

SUBJECT: Yugoslavia - Internees.

TO : AMHQ,
G-2 Section.

1A refer

Enclosed herewith are documents received from the Italian Red Cross, Trieste, regarding persons arrested and detained by the Yugoslavs, and alleging ill treatment.

For the Chief Commissioner:

E. TALBOT

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Encls.
Copy to: AMHQ, G-5 Section.
Political Adviser (A)
Political Adviser (B)

Pjt

785017

SECRET

(12)

Ref: 604/12/20.

10 August 1945.

SUBJECT: Rijoslavia - Internees.

TO : Political Adviser (A)
Political Adviser (B)

1A refers

Enclosed herewith are translations of documents received from the Italian Red Cross, Trieste, regarding persons arrested and detained by the Yugoslavs, forwarded for your information.

[Signature]

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

encls.

785017

604

755

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5 000.5-1

6 August 1945

SUBJECT: Yugoslav Atrocities in Venezia Giulia AUG 3 1945

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission,
(Attn: Brigadier Lush, Executive Commissioner)
A P O 394.

Attached for your personal information is copy of a memorandum dated 4 August issued on the directions of the Deputy Chief of Staff this Headquarters to sections this Headquarters defining responsibility for dealing here with the above matters.

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

F. G. A. Parsons

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

Incl: memo as above
subj. dtd 4 Aug.

See 7M 11

010

(3/COA Party)

785017

(9)

4 August 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR: G-2: G-5: G-1(B): AG: JAC MTOUSA.

Subject: Yugoslav Atrocities in VENETIA GIULIA.

1. The Deputy Chief of Staff desires to clarify the responsibility of staff sections in regard to matters connected with alleged Yugoslav atrocities in VENETIA GIULIA.

2. While this subject remains a matter of major political and operational interest, the Assistant Chief of Staff G-2 will be responsible for collecting evidence and preparing a report in regard to alleged atrocities. The report will include recommendations for action considered desirable by this Headquarters.

3. When that report has been considered by the Chief of Staff, a direction will be given as to the further responsibility of staff sections. Meanwhile other staff sections who have been interested in this matter will assist G-2 as much as possible.

4. AG is hereby requested to forward reports concerning alleged Yugoslav atrocities in VENETIA GIULIA to G-2 for action.

5. The AFHQ Message Centre has already received similar instructions in regard to allotting action on cables.

J. B. BASTON, JR.,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
Secretary to Supreme Allied Commander.

Copies to: Br Resmin
US Polad
G-3
Message Centre

SEE FID

009

785017

60441
INCCMING MESS..GE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Confidential

Originator's Reference: FI 31943
Date/Time of Origin: AUG 04 NPT

Control Centre No: F/2668
Date Time Rec'd: AUG 042155B
Precedence: IMPORTANT

FROM AFHQ SIGNED SACRED SITE PHDSC
TO ACTION ALCOM INFO 13 CORPS

AUG 5 1945

SECRET

SECRET

Reurad ALCOM 2901 of 1 August.

1. Report published in Italian press and also cabled to UNITED STATES that Allies had already recovered large numbers of bodies from BASSOVIZZA pit near TRIESTE was completely false. As you are aware under present censorship arrangements no control is exercised at source over such reports and it appears PRO had no knowledge of matter until reports were published.

2. Denial that bodies had been recovered was issued officially by PRO 8 ARMY and by 13 CORPS as was most necessary. In fact denial did not state that investigation was not taking place. However ROME press which published original malicious report also appears to have reported denial inaccurately.

3. Signal from Mister EDEN to which you refer in your para 2 is well known here. Matter has in fact been under investigation by 13 CORPS for sometime. Investigation however presents considerable engineering difficulties. It is hoped these will shortly be overcome when full reports will be made available to all concerned.

4. Statement that investigation is proceeding will not at present be published.

5. For 13 CORPS. Your I.2. of 1 August refers.

Diat

Action - Exec Commr 2
Info - Chief Commissioner
POLAD A. POLAD B. File

SECRET

008

785017

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: I. 1;
Date/Time of Origin: AUG 040915B

Message Category: P/2606
Despatched: AUG 041225B
Priority: IMMEDIATE

FROM: MAIN 13 CORPS

TO: ACTION: FREEDOM CITE PHCBI PHPRG PHGEG RESMIN INFO ALCOM HQ AIS

SECRET

SECRET

Ref our I.2 of 1st August not to ALCOM and ALCOM ACEXE 2901 of 2 August.

1. Reuter and Manchester guardian correspondents told here that Italian press allegations as to recovery of 600 bodies from BASOVIZZA false and also off the record that small items already recovered in July and that investigations are proceeding.

Dist

Action - Exec Commr 4
Info - Chief Commissioner
POLAD A
FOLAD B
File

SECRET

785017

604

Confidential

(14)

APR 0-5

REPEATED HEADQUARTERS NAME LIXI CORPS, ROAD VERDELLA GIULIA

2901

1 Aug 45.

Routine.

AUG 2 1945

TOP SECRET PD

ONE PD IT WAS REPORTED IN THE ITALIAN PRESS YESTERDAY MORNING THAT
 QUOTE THE GENERAL IN COMMAND OF THE BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY HAS OFFICIALLY
 DENIED THE INFO PUBLISHED BY THE ITALIAN PRESS ACCORDING TO HIGH FOUR TO
 SIX HUNDRED CORPSES HAD BEEN DISCOVERED IN A DEEP MINE SHAFT IN THE TWENTY
 ZONE UNQUOTE PD AND INDICATING THAT NO INVESTIGATION WOULD BE HELD PD
 PARM TO GEORGE FIVE AND REPEATED HEADQUARTERS NAME LIXI CORPS SENIOR
 CIVIL AFFAIRS OFFICER VERDELLA GIULIA FROM HEADQUARTERS ALCON CITE ACORN PARM
 TWO PD WE ARE ADVISED BY THE BRITISH EMBASSY HERE THAT A PERSONAL SIGNAL
 FROM THE FOREIGN SECRETARY HERE WAS SENT ON TWENTYNINE JULY FROM FORBAM
 WHICH STATED THAT MR EMMER CONSIDERED FULL INVESTIGATION INTO THE REPORT OF
 THIS ATROCITY SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT AND THAT THERE WAS THE KA POLICE MINISTER
 CHURCHILL'S VIEW AND ALSO THAT OF FIELD MARSHAL ALEXANDER PD WE ALSO
 UNDERSTAND THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT TAKES A SERIOUS VIEW OF THE ALLEGED
 ATROCITY AND FEELS THAT UNLESS FULL INVESTIGATION IS CARRIED OUT THE AMERICAN
 AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS WILL LATER BE ACCUSED BY THE ITALIANS OF SUPPRESSING

AUG 2

See 57

60

006

Confidential ③

Page 2.

EVIDENCE REGARDING YUGOSLAV TERRORIST ACTIVITIES PD BOTH AMBASSADORS
FULLY SHARE THIS VIEW AND BRITISH EMBASSY HAVE RECOMMENDED TO FOREIGN
OFFICE THAT MAXIMUM PUBLICITY SHOULD BE GIVEN PD

THREE PD IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE WE PROPOSE THAT ORDERS WILL BE GIVEN FOR
AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION AND FOR A DENIAL OF THE REPORT REFERRED TO IN
PARA ONE PD

Distribution: American Ambassador
British Ambassador
Pol. Ad. (A)
Pol. Ad. (B)

Office of Executive Commissioner

300

E. Talbot

Lieut. Col.

DRAFT SIGNAL.SECRET.Confidential

To: AFHQ

REPEATED HQ MAIN III CORPS, SCAD, VENEZIA GIULIA.

1.

It is reported in the Italian Press this morning that "the General in Command of the British 8th Army has officially denied the news published by the Italian Press according to which 4-600 corpses had been discovered in a deep mine-shaft in the TRIESTE zone."

2.

late one
I am advised by the British Embassy here that a personal signal from Ex-Foreign Secretary EDEN was sent on 23 July which stated that Mr. EDEN considered full investigation into the report of this atrocity should be carried out and that this was the Ex-Prime Minister CHURCHILL's view and also that of Field Marshal ALEXANDER. *of NE understand*
from Potsdam
The American Ambassador also ~~informs~~ *understands* that the State Department takes a serious view of the alleged atrocity and feels that unless full investigation is carried out the American and British Governments will later be accused by the Italians of suppressing evidence regarding Yugoslav terrorist activities. *Both are brass and fully share his view and British Embassy have recommended*
In view of the above we presume that orders will be given for an immediate investigation and for a denial of the ~~Italian Press~~ report referred to in para 1 ~~above~~.

3.

To Co. that maximum publicity should be given
Latin American Press

officially denied the news published by the Italian

Press according to which 4-600 corpses had been

discovered in a deep mine-shaft in the TRIESTE zone."

We are

2.

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stated that Mr. ELEN considered full investigation into the report

of this atrocity should be carried out and that this was the Ex-Prime

Minister CHURCHILL's view and also that of Field Marshal ALEXANDER.

of WC
The American Ambassador also ~~informs~~ ^{understand} that the State Department

takes a serious view of the alleged atrocity and ^{with Ambassador} feels that unless

full investigation is carried out the American and British Governments

will later be accused by the Italians of suppressing evidence regarding

Yugoslav terrorist activities. *Both are based on fully*

share his view and British Embassy have recommended

3.

In view of the above we presume that orders will be given

for an immediate investigation and for a denial of the ~~atrocities~~

report referred to in para 1 above.

to Co. Ltd maximum publicity should be given

investigation will be reported in original newspaper publication

person

P. H. Lane

P. H. Lane

004

①
Lt. Col. Tolson

②
Herewith your
dpc. cable. Henry
has added a few
words.

AKS
3/2/54

003

DHC

M. Allen by
C. T. T. for
your approval. C?
he has it back
this p.m. pl?

He
3/1/78

1A

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
AREA HEADQUARTERS
TRIESTE

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

To : H.Q. - A.M.G. 13th Corps (Attention Welfare Officer).
Subject : Yugoslavians - Internees.
File : AHQ/TRI/45. 6th July 1945.

1. I enclose herewith a file of documents (in original and each with three translations), received from the Italian Red Cross, Trieste, regarding persons arrested and detained by the Yugoslavs.
2. Already lists in triplicate of 1200 persons arrested in Trieste alone have been forwarded to you and more will follow in due course.
3. Since, I understand, these lists are being forwarded to the American and British Embassies at Rome, it would not, I suggest, do any harm to send at the same time copies of these moving appeals from relatives of these interned.
4. As an Allied Officer stationed in Trieste from the 2nd May onwards, and a close observer of what went on, I confess to a feeling of shame that the Allied Nations should stand passively by and allow such a state of affairs as these unlawful internments, to be prolonged indefinitely.

SD/MC.

Enclosures.

F.P. Anderson
F. J. ANDERSON LT. COL.
AREA COMMISSIONER.

To : H.Q. - A.M.G. 13th Corps (Attention Welfare Officer).

Subject : Yugoslavia - Internees.

File : AHQ/TRI/45.

6th July 1945.

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SD/MC.

Enclosures.

F. J. Armstrong

F. J. ARMSTRONG LT. COL.
AREA COMMISSIONER.

H. Q. A. M. G.
13 CORPS.

Date 6 - JUL 1945

File.

Welfare

002

785017

194

Li x Cuy M1.11 on the

• SCHOENHUT DRY • OH.
HQ. AND LITH CORPS.

1B

27 July 45.

SUBJECT: Concentration Camps.

TO : AC-HQ

FROM : HQ. AMG 13th Corps.

13C/AMG/VEL/DP.

1945 - 1946

② *epithelium*

1. Ref. your signal 99411, dated 16 June 45, requesting information regarding the deportation of Italian civilians by Yugoslavs.
2. Attached you will find the originals and translations of descriptions of concentration camps in Yugoslav occupied territory, made by various persons that have either visited the camps or have been retained in them.
3. Since lists of persons deported are being transmitted by you to the British and American Embassies, it seems desirable that the description given of the camps where they are kept should receive similar treatment.
4. We have retained one copy of this information for our files.

4 pp. 26 letters 1668

Deputy Senior Civil Affairs Officer
HQ. AMG 13th Corps.

FROM : HQ. AMG 13th Corps.

13C/AMG/WEL/DE.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

1. Ref. your signal 9941, dated 16 June 45, requesting information regarding the deportation of Italian civilians by Yugoslavs.
2. Attached you will find the originals and translations of descriptions of concentration camps in Yugoslav occupied territory, made by various persons that have either visited the camps or have been retained in them.
3. Since lists of persons deported are being transmitted by you to the British and American Embassies, it seems desirable that the description given of the camps where they are kept should receive similar treatment.
4. We have retained one copy of this information for our files.

13C/AMG/WEL/DE 1668

Deputy Senior Civil Affairs Officer
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(Mrs. Remond)

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