

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

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ASSISTANCE TO PATRIOTS
DEC. 1944 - JAN. 1947

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

3206/cos

CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMATION FILE

~~NOT TO LEAVE~~

OFFICE OF

CHIEF OF STAFF

Confidencere. Col. SpenceConfidentialASSISTANCE TO PATRIOTS.

1833 1849

COS 26 DEC 1949

ASSISTANCE TO PATRIOTS

1833 1879

26 DEC 1944

052605, mm

THIS FOLDER

CONTAINS PATTERS

FROM DEC. 1944

TO JAN - 1947

CATALOGUE

CONFIDENTIAL

1b

MEMO for Executive Commissioner.

1. Attention is invited to statements appearing in paragraph 6 of Folio 14 regarding this claim, with which this Division concurs.
2. As a result of inquiry made regarding this matter through Maj. Calabrinini, Chief Italian Liaison Officer of I.I.I.A., with the Italian Ministry of War, it has been ascertained that to derive the benefits provided by the Italian law this man must be duly qualified as a partisan by registration with the Associazione Nazionale Partigiani Italiani. To assist in accomplishment of this purpose it is suggested that a letter, substantially in the form of the attached, be forwarded to that organization in his behalf. (Folio 15)

[Signature]

JOHN K. WEBER,
Colonel, Infantry,
Chief Legal Advisor.

Chief of Staff

This is the letter you wanted. Col Cripps will take up the Staff duties points direct with Col Spicer. The main issue has not been commented on pending the receipt of the explanation from Col Spicer.

17 Dec 44.

10.About Col Spicer's explanation *MS/6/1/44**See 4 Dec 42.*12.

To: COS

All the documents relating to the disciplinary case of the matter has now been transferred to CAS's file.

CONFIDENTIAL 1/23/51 copies of 7.8.11.12 have been included.

CAS

at 4 Dec 44

x 608

matter closed - P.A. for 9/1. *AK*

A. Cripps

To: Legation.

15

Please see 13 & 14.

May we please have your comments on this

another

About CD Specimen explanation 18/1/78
See 10/10/12

13.

To COS

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matter has now been transferred to CAS. file
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included.

CAS

all done by

x 608

G. R. Kipp
/21

matter closed - P.A. 1/2/81

15

To: Legation

Please see files 13 & 14.

May we please have your comments on this
matter.

For the Ex. Comm.

10/10/12

12 Jan. 46

104x

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 794
LEGAL DIVISION

AC/4I2I/D

LJG/rs
30 January 1947.

SUBJECT : SALVARETTI Oriano.
TO : Associazione Nazionale
Partigiani Italiani
Via Savoia 15, ROMA.

1. Request is made in behalf of the above named person that consideration be given to the matter of his enrollment as a member of your organization. This action is taken, in accordance with suggestion made at the Ministry of War of the Italian Government, based upon information appearing in letter of the United States Claims Service to this Commission which is quoted in the following :

"From 2 September 1944 until 15 April 1945, claimant fought with the 81st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, US Army. He was not a member of the official partisan organization. He was not on the payroll of the US Army, although individual members of the unit occasionally gave him some money from their own pay.

On 23 October 1944, while engaged in combat on patrol, he was injured in his right eye by the explosion of a hand grenade thrown by the enemy. As a consequence, his right eye was removed at the 56th Evacuation Hospital on 19 December 1944. These facts have been verified by medical records of above unit.

Regarding the services of claimant to the US Army, Capt. W. L. Smythe, Medical Corps, officially reported that 'this partisan has been with this outfit about 4 months doing excellent work on patrols and assisting our men to no end..... Hospitalization followed (after the injury) and then returned to duty with the organization where he has again distinguished himself in combat' ".
10/17

2. Inasmuch as the United States Claims Service has made investigation regarding this matter it is

believed that the records thereof would be available at the offices of that agency, Piazza Augusto Imperatore 6, Rome, to assist in such inquiry as your organization might deem advisable in this connection.

3. Your reply as to action taken in this case, at your earliest convenience, will be appreciated.

0 3 7 7

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

Lyd Jr.

Give back to
Capt. Velt.

3206

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14

UNITED STATES CLAIMS SERVICE
Office of the Deputy Chief Claims Officer
RPO 794 U. S. Army

DCCO R-12192
Fl-1342-PI

18 November 1946

SUBJECT: Matter of SELVANETTI, Oriano

TO : Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission
Att: Civil Affairs Branch (Patriots Sub-Commission)
APO 794, US Army

1. Italian civilian SELVANETTI, Oriano, residing at Pieve di Compito (Lucca) has filed a claim, the investigation of which has disclosed the following situation.
2. From 2 September 1944 until 16 April 1945, claimant fought with the 81st Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, US Army. He was not a member of the official partisan organization. He was not on the payroll of the US Army, although individual members of the unit occasionally gave him some money from their own pay.
3. On 23 October 1944, while engaged in combat on patrol, he was injured in his right eye by the explosion of a hand grenade thrown by the enemy. As a consequence, his right eye was removed at the 56th Evacuation Hospital on 19 December 1944. These facts have been verified by medical records of above unit.
4. Regarding the services of claimant to the US Army, Capt. W. G. Smythe, Medical Corps, officially reported that "this partisan has been with this outfit about 4 months doing excellent work on patrols and assisting our men to no end Hospitalization followed (after the injury) and then returned to duty with the organization where he has again distinguished himself in combat".
5. Claimant now asks for compensation, in an unliquidated amount, for the loss of his right eye. Previously, he endeavored to obtain compensation through the Partisan organization, but his request was rejected because he had never been enrolled as an official partisan. Thereafter, he made applications to the Italian "Distretto Militare di Lucca", but no award has been granted.
6. This Service has found that he has no valid claim against US Forces, and consequently a notice of disallowance of his claim has been mailed him. However, it appears that he has a valid claim for recognition by and such compensation from the Italian Government for his service as a partisan and for the consequent injury or disability suffered, as Italian law may provide.

Capt ✓

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7. It is therefore requested that you take such action as may be necessary on his behalf with the appropriate Italian authorities to the end that this man may receive such recognition and compensation from the Italian Government as he may be entitled to.

8. It is requested that this office be advised of action taken.

FOR THE DEPUTY CHIEF CLAIMS OFFICER:

Arthur A. Burck
ARTHUR A. BURCK
Captain, A.U.S.
Executive Officer.

UNITED STATES CLAIMS SERVICE
Office of the Deputy Chief Claims Officer
EPC 794 U. S. Army

DOCO R-12192
FI-1342-PI

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FOR THE DEPUTY CHIEF CLAIMS OFFICER:

ARTHUR A. BURCK
Captain, A.U.S.
Executive Officer.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH

Ext. 620

PERSONAL

18 December 1944.

Ref: DO/121/6/PAT.

To: V.P.,
Civil Affairs Section.

Reference your PERSONAL 4/78/CA of 17 December.

1. I wish in the first place to express my deep regret for taking action which has been considered incorrect and improper.

2. By way of further explanation, I was given to understand when I was appointed to take over the Patriots Branch that the policy in regard to demobilization money was, and at present is, entirely a matter for the Italian National Patriot Committee, and it was on the assumption that this information was correct that I addressed the President of the I.N.P.C. direct.

3. I had also been given to understand that the I.N.P.C. alone was responsible for laying down policy in regard to demobilization money, but that my predecessor Col. McCARTHY was "kept informed".

4. No specific sum was actually allotted, but the following sums had already been paid before I took over the Branch:

9,100,000 lire by S.I.M. (special expenses entrusted to Col. BERNABO).

17,000,000 lire by the Ministry of War.

2,000,000 lire by the President of the Council (for administrative expenses).

5. My Branch report to me that Finance was never consulted in regard to para. 4.

6. It was laid down that 500 lire were to be paid to each genuine patriot. The I.N.P.C. have not received all the returns, but the Patriots Branch has never to date been advised in this regard. The matter has hitherto been handled directly between I.N.P.C. and its forward representatives. We have as yet no knowledge of the actual sums paid, and Col. BERNABO states that he is unable to supply such information.

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2.

7. As a result of my tour of the forward areas, I considered that the matter was being handled in a most unsatisfactory and unsystematic manner. I had various complaints from Italian Military Representatives that they were at that moment without funds, and that it was causing grave dissatisfaction amongst the new patriots arriving from the front that their predecessors had received bonuses, whereas they were receiving either a pittance or in some cases nothing at all. I also felt, which I regret, since it is not an approved policy of A.C., that the bonus of 500 lire was inadequate, and since I had been under the misunderstanding that this was a matter which concerned the I.N.P.C. alone I thought it my duty to make my representations to the I.N.P.C. in this regard.

8. In regard to para.7, I may say that such clothing and equipment has in fact been supplied by the Allied Forces, and was being supplied insofar as stocks permitted at the Centres and Points which I visited.

9. In regard to para.11, I had been informed by Special Task Force that I must be prepared to expect up to 100,000 patriots, and I further understood that this was an accepted fact since it was discussed at the conference held recently at which I was present.

10. My anxiety was because of the reports from patriot officers and patriot military representatives at the recently established Centres and Points which I visited, that there was grave dissatisfaction arising from the non-payment of bonuses in all the Points and Centres visited, and I therefore asked in para.12 of my letter for an ad hoc grant.

11. I do not wish to justify myself in any way, but I must in all fairness to myself make the statement that General HUME advised me even this morning telephonically that he regards the position as extremely serious, and that, unless the matter is more efficiently handled, the Commander in Chief will order him to send all patriots out of the areas of the Army zones.

12. It has been extremely difficult to reorganise the Patriots Branch, since very few authorities for actions that were taken can be found on the files or anywhere else.

13. I would close this explanation by saying that what I did I have done with the best possible intentions to rectify the situation which appeared to me as serious, and which was reported to me by V Army telephonically and verbally as being of the highest possible level of importance insofar as A.C. organisation is concerned.

I have nothing more to say except once more to say how sorry I am that my letter was not addressed through proper channels and was not approved at higher level before despatch.

R.C.B. Spicer

R.C.B. SPICER,
Colonel
Director,
Patriots Branch.

COPY

PERSONAL

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Tel: 608

Ref. 4/78/CA

17th December, 1944.

SUBJECT: Assistance to Patriots.

TO : Col. E.G.B. Spicer,
Patriots Sub-Commission.

Reference the attached copy of your letter 53/FAT, dated 14th December, will you please give an explanation in writing for your reasons for forwarding this letter, which involved matters of policy, direct to the Chairman of the National Patriots Commission without first submitting it to this office for approval and onward transmission.

(Sgd.)

G.S. PARKINSON, Brig.,
A/VP CA Section.
A/DCOS.

Encl.

See 12

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Tel: 608

Ref. 53/PAT.

17th December, 1944.

17 DEC 1944

SUBJECT: Assistance to Patriots.

TO : Chief of Staff.

- 1-6
1. The attached documents were recovered from H.E. Ivance Bonomi last night and are forwarded to you in accordance with your verbal instructions this morning.
 2. Col. R.G.B. Spicer has been instructed to furnish a written explanation as to why this letter was not first submitted to this Section before transmittal as it involved several questions of policy.

G. S. Parkinson
Brig
G.S. PARKINSON, Brig.,
A/VP CA Section.
A/DCOS.

Encls.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APC 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH

Ref : 53/PAT.

14 December 1944.

Subject: Assistance to Patriots.

To: H.E. Ivano BONOMI,
Chairman of the National Patriots
Commission, Rome.

1. I wish to inform your Excellency that the problem of assistance to Patriots has become more urgent than ever at the present moment, because so very many Patriots are crossing the lines. .

2. It is my belief that in consideration of the cost of living, a demobilisation bonus below 5000 lire would be inadequate. To give genuine fighting Patriots a less sum in Italy to-day is, in my judgment, an insult.

3. I know that the Italian Government will pay compensation to the families of fallen Patriots, and to Patriots who have been invalided or wounded in the war. I am also informed that the Italian Government propose to pay a bonus, the size of which will be calculated according to the time that the Patriots have spent with the Bands. The sum I have referred to in my para.2 may well be, should you desire, an advance payment for immediate needs from such bonus.

4. I have no wish to interfere in any way in regard either to the size or the manner in which such bonuses are payed. But I consider the payment of the 5.000 lire demobilisation bonus to be indispensable and urgent as such genuine Patriots are demobilised.

5. I have given instructions for the institution of six reception points or centres for the Patriots, and I have requested the Patriots Office to appoint to the above centres six officers in whom the Chief of the Patriot Office has complete confidence.

6. All Patriots will have to be directed to the reception points which will be established immediately at the rear of the lines.

7. Allied Forces will supply the Patriots with food, clothing, shoes and other items such as cigarettes, etc. They will also issue Field Marshall Alexander's certificate. Your Commission will pay out the 5.000 lire demobilisation bonus (assuming that such bonus is granted).

8. It is understood that the above proportions will be adopted after the bona fides of the Patriots has been established. This bona fides will have to be jointly established by the Italian military representative of the Patriots Office, by the Allied Patriot Officer at the reception centre, and by the Commander of the Band.

9. After a very brief stay at the reception points, where the genuine Patriots will be able to rest and receive such comforts as can be made available, they will be directed to the recruitment Centres if they wish to enlist in the Italian Army, or repatriated to their homes if they wish to return to civil life.

10. In all cases they will have to be evacuated from the reception points to make room for other Patriots which are expected to be arriving in large parties.

11. The arrival of 100.000 Patriots is foreseen within the near future. It is therefore indispensable that if the desired demobilisation bonus of 5.000 lire is granted, the Italian Government should allot 500.000.000 lire which will have to be exclusively payed out in the above bonuses, and which will not under any circumstances be used to any other purpose.

12. In view of the fact that it would be very harmful if for any reason the immediate and regular payment of the demobilisation bonuses should be even slightly delayed due to lack of funds, I suggest that, if your Excellency would approve of it, an amount of 50.000.000 lire should be entrusted for the purpose to the Patriots Branch of the Allied Commission, which would by and by give the necessary funds to the Italian Military Patriot representatives, and would see to it that the receipts for the bonuses would be forwarded with all possible haste to the National Patriots Committee.

13. At the same time the National Patriots Committee would ensure that the 50.000.000 lire deposit at the A.C. should constantly be kept up, by paying into it amounts equal to those for which receipts have been issued.

14. The receipts will have to bear the patriots signature, as well as the signatures of the Italian Military Patriot representative and of the Allied Officer attached to that Office.

15. In consideration of the very large numbers of Patriots who are arriving and will be arriving at our H.Qs. in the near future, and considering the urgent necessity to make provisions for their assistance, I wish that your Excellency would consider the situation as acute. If my suggestion concerning the demobilisation bonus are accepted, I will ask you to issue instructions whereby the trust fund, or deposit at the A.C. could actually be paid over within the next ten days.



R.G.B. SPICER,
Colonel,
Director,
Patriots Branch.



HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
PATRIOTS BRANCH

Ref: 53/PAT.

14 Dicembre 1944.

Oggetto: Assistenza ai Patrioti.

A: S.E. Ivanoe BONONI,
Presidente della Commissione
Nazionale Patrioti, Roma.

1. Desidero portare alla conoscenza di V.E. il fatto che presentemente l'attraversamento delle linee da parte di numerosissimi patrioti sia nella zona della 5^a che dell'8^a Armata, rende acuto il problema dell'assistenza.
2. Io ritengo che tenuto conto del costo della vita, un premio di smobilitazione inferiore a L.5.000 sia assolutamente inadeguato. Dare una somma inferiore ad un autentico patriota combattente è, a mia opinione, un insulto.
3. So che il Governo Italiano provvederà a pagare indennità alle famiglie dei Patrioti caduti e a Patrioti invalidi e mutilati di guerra; ho anche notizia che provvederà a pagare una indennità secondo propri criteri e in base al periodo di servizio prestato con le bande, ai Patrioti che via via si presentano. La somma cui ho fatto riferimento nel paragrafo 2, potrebbe benissimo essere, se V.E. lo ritiene opportuno, un acconto per provvedere alle necessità immediate.
4. Io non entro naturalmente in merito all'entità ed alla maniera di queste assegnazioni, eccezion fatta per il premio di L. 5.000 per ogni Patriota riconosciuto, che ritengo indispensabile venga corrisposto senza indugio, via via che detti Patrioti vengono smobilizzati.

./.

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5. Ho disposto che vengano costituiti 6 centri di raccolta per patrioti ed ho chiesto all'Ufficio Patrioti che vengano assegnati a questi centri 6 Ufficiali che siano elementi di assoluta fiducia del Capo dell'Ufficio stesso.

6, 7. A questi Centri di raccolta, nella zona di immediata retrovia, dovranno essere avviati tutti i Patrioti che vi riceveranno a cura delle Forze Alleate generi di conforto, cibo, abiti e scarpe ed il certificato del Maresciallo Alexander, nonché il premio di L. 5.000 (semprechè esso venga concesso) a cura della Vostra Commissione.

8. Beninteso tutto ciò avverrà appena sia riconosciuta ad ognuno la qualità di autentico Patriota. Questa qualità deve essere concordemente stabilita dall'Ufficiale Italiano rappresentante militare dell'Ufficio Patrioti, dall'Ufficiale Alleato addetto ai Patrioti presso quel Centro di raccolta e dal Comandante della Banda.

9. Dopo un brevissimo periodo di sosta presso i centri di raccolta, ove i Patrioti riconosciuti tali potranno riposare e riconfortarsi, essi dovranno essere avviati verso i centri di reclutamento nel caso vogliano arruolarsi nell'Esercito Italiano o verso il loro paese per riprendere la vita civile in caso contrario.

10. Comunque dovranno evacuare il campo per far posto ad altri Patrioti, la cui affluenza è prevista in gruppi assai considerevoli.

11. Prevediamo infatti nei prossimi mesi un afflusso di circa 100.000 Patrioti, e riteniamo indispensabile che il Governo Italiano, nel caso sospicato dell'assegnazione del premio immediato di smobilitazione di L. 5.000, provveda allo stanziamento di L. 500.000.000 assegnate esclusivamente e senza possibilità di storni, al pagamento di questa categoria di premi di smobilitazione.

12. In considerazione del fatto che sarebbe sommaramente pregiudizievole che per qualsiasi motivo mancasero i fondi al regolare ed immediato pagamento dei premi di smobilitazione e che questi pagamenti dovessero subire una anche breve interruzione, chiedo a V.E. se non ritenga opportuno che una somma di L. 50.000.000 fosse affidata fiduciarmente a questo scopo alla Commissione Alleata, Patriots Branch la quale consegnerebbe via via i fondi necessari agli Ufficiali Italiani rappresentanti dei Patrioti e provvederebbe a far pervenire alla Commissione Nazionale Patrioti con la massima sollecitudine le ricevute dei premi pagati.

13. A sua volta la Commissione Nazionale Patrioti provvederebbe senza indugio a ricostituire continuamente il deposito fiduciario di L. 50.000.000 presso la Commissione Alleata, versando importi pari alle ricevute di pagamento trasmessele.

14. Dette ricevute, firmate dal Patriota che ha riscosso il premio, dovranno essere controfirmate dall'Ufficiale Italiano Rappresentante dei Patrioti, e dall'Ufficiale Alleato preposto a questo Ufficio.

15. Stante il numero ingente di Patrioti che affluiscono ed affluiranno ai nostri Comandi in un prossimo avvenire, e la necessità urgente di provvedere alla loro assistenza, Vi prego, Eccellenza, di voler considerare la situazione come acuta e se la mia proposta di premio di smobilitazione viene accolta, vorrei pregarvi di far sì che il deposito fiduciario presso la Commissione Alleata possa essere effettuato entro un periodo di 10 giorni.

R.G.B. Spicer
Colonel

R.G.B. SPICER,
Colonel,
Director,
Patriots Branch.

