

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

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

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MONTHLY REPORTS, NAVY SUB-COM
APR. 1944 - DEC. 1946

Ex Comm 23/11 75.
 1st. Navy Sub. Commission Monthly Report
 for August is at folio 74. Passages
 of interest have been marked.
 J. m/c m. 21/9 WJ. 2/2/9

78.
 Ex Comm Sub. Commission Monthly Report for
 1st. Navy September is at 76-77. Passages
 of interest have been marked.
 J. m/c m. 17/10 H.L. 17/10

Ex Comm 84. 82.
 1st. Navy Spc. Monthly Report for
 1st. Navy is at 82-86. Passages of
 interest have been marked.
 2nd. 79-81. is report for October. Due
 to an oversight it was not placed
 in file last month. (1 copy only was
 received.) J. m/c m. 27/12. H.L. 27/12.

any sp. monthly report for
is at 82-86. Paragraphs of
interest have been marked.
(2) 79-81 is report for October. Due
to an oversight it was not placed
on file last month. (1 copy only was
received.)
J. M. C. 27/12. H.L. 27/12.

8025

66

Case

P 64. (1) A & B for A.C. ref.

(2) Comparing etc with P.O.D. ref.

WV 26/11

Ex Comm.

b. 60. Ref. min. 66. (1) noted.

(2) I.P.O.D. report 201, 953 to be repatriated and during April a total of 58, 120 were returned - a favourable comparison. 65b
S.M.C.M. 28/5 N.S. 28/5

WV 2/16

Ex Comm.

61.

b. 60. Folio 68 is Navy Spc Report for May. Passages of interest have been marked!

S.M.C.M. 18/6 N.S. 19/6

WV 15/6

Ex Comm.

71.

b. 60. Navy Spc. monthly report for June is at 70.

S.M.C.M. 17/7 N.S. 17/7

of interest have been marked!!
 J. M. C. M. 18/6 M.L. 19/6

M/L 15/6

Ex Comm. 11. monthly report for June is at
 Mary Spc. 70.

J. M. C. M. 17/7 M.L. 17/7

775/297

24.

Ex Comm. 72-73 is Monthly Report for July have
 Mary Spc. Passages of interest have
 been marked.

J. M. C. M. 17/8 M.L. 17/8

875/24

5207

CSB
this is

57.

I should like the Navy Sub Com to include in their next report a record of what the Naval Navy is doing especially 775/242 as regards intelligence, refraction, coastguard work etc.

58.

Navy S/C (to H.C. Bahuman).

Could you please note minute 57 from the Executive Commission in the February monthly report. 26/2.

59.

Item 57 noted & referred to Lt Andrew Ritch who will prepare report in future. NSE will include in next report.

CSB
this is

61.

Navy S/C report is at 60.

no selective concentration in the community

monthly report.

2.C.3 office.

26/2.

59.

Item 57 noted & referred to Lt Colonel Rieck
who will prepare report in future. A.S.C. will include in
next report. 10/3

CSG/Amc/als

61.

Navy S/C report is at 60. 19/3.

A.C.S.

63.

CSO. Navy S/C report is at 62.

NSV (23/4)

2.4.1914. 19/4. 19/4

65.

to Comm.

65. Navy S/C report for April is at 64.

2.4.1915. 15/5. 17/5.

5306

C.S.O.

32.

Please see Navy S/C report for Havel at 31.

D.H.

14/4/45.

2.16/4.

43.

~~Executive Commission~~

43.

Executive Commission

Please see Navy S/C report for August

at 43 & 44.

True to the 54.

W/LA

43.

Ex. Commission

Please see Navy S/C report for Sept. at 47.

01/91 CH 16/10.

True 17/10.

27/4/45.

Please see Navy S/C at report for August

at 43 & 46.

~~True~~ 4/10. also 4/10.

W/7/1

42.

Ex. Commission

Please see Navy S/C report at 47. 01/91

CSA

16/10.

~~True~~ 17/10.

7/4/4. 50.

~~copy~~ ~~True~~ 4/10.

Please see Navy S/C report at 49

15/11.

~~copy~~ ~~True~~ 19/11.

52.

Please see Navy S/C report at 51.

18/12.

54.

copy Ex

Please see Navy S/C report at 53, 17/11

Seen by the Com

3.

W/7/1 56.

Please see Navy S/C report to summary at 55. 18/12. 18/12.

Col SHIPP:

2 Ref par 3 "Hemp"

This subject is a matter for the Hemp Control, Comm-Ind S/C, and accordingly Navy S/C report should cite its relationship. Do you agree?

LWS

11

Major Stearns:

I agree. Will you please speak about it to them.

(Shipp)
19/10

12

Spoke with Comdr Butler re above.

LWS

24

CSO

22 + 28 is Navy SC report for Dec.
A short report + I have no special comment
to make.

20 Jan 45

S. S. 8/2

[Signature]

27.

C.S.O.

Please see short report for January from Navy SC. The last
two paragraphs contain the most interesting material.

C.O.S.

22 + 23 is Navy SE report for Dec.

a short report & I have no special comment to make.

8/2

20 Jan 45

Sh

27.

C.S.O.

Please see short report for January from Navy SE. The last two paragraphs contain the most interesting material.

C.O.S.
17.2.45.

8/2

Sh

30.

C.S.O.

Please see Navy Sub Commission Report for February.

8/2/3

Sh

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JAN 16 1947 *91*

Navy Sub-Commission, Allied Commission,
R O M E

Monthly Report for December 1946.

SALVAGE.

Reports continued to come in of unauthorized salvage operations on sunken American Ships in the port of Bari. The appropriate authorities were notified with the request that adequate steps be taken to prevent a continuation of such activities.

Information was received that the German pontoon which had foundered over the French barge "JENBACK" in Piombino harbor had been removed.

A small craft of presumed American nationality and military origin was salvaged in the harbor of Piombino.

The Italian Navy is again attempting to refloat the Gradisca which has been aground at Gavdo (S.W. Crete) since last winter.

Requests to survey marine wrecks in Tobruk and Benghazi were deferred pending an Admiralty decision on the general question of the clearance of both harbors.

A conference was held with the United States Maritime Committee Representative in the Mediterranean, in connection with the salvage of American merchant ships sunk in Mediterranean waters. It was established that the United States Maritime Committee Representative at Naples acting on instructions from the United States Maritime Committee, Washington, would deal with all matters appertaining to the sale and salvage of these vessels and that all requests for salvage or information regarding the purchase of such ships would be routed accordingly.

The United States Maritime Commission announced that bids for the sale for scrap of five American ships at Bari would be received.

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HS.
ESO.

20-16
[Signature]

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PERSONNEL REPORT FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER.

The total strength under command in the Italian Navy on 30th November was 46,613 as against 48,708 at the end of October. The number of conscripts called up actually shows an increase of 450 over the October figure.

The only important change in the Naval High Command is the retirement of Vice Admiral de Courten and the appointment as Chief of Naval Staff of Vice Admiral Francesco MAUGERI. Vice Admiral MAUGERI was chief of Naval intelligence during the latter part of the war and conducted underground activities during the period between the Armistice in September 1943 and the liberation of Rome in June 1944.

Approval was received from the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean for Captains of ports to assume duties of Naval Control Service Officer at all ports in Italy.

Information was received that the French Naval Mission in Italy stationed at Genoa was withdrawn on 25th November 1946. The Naval Constructor Officer "Pinault" will remain for a time to deal with outstanding details.

PORT OF LEGHORN.

The Navy Sub-Commission was asked to assure the Ministry of Marine of the sincere appreciation of Headquarters Mediterranean Theater of Operations, United States Army for the cooperation shown by the Italian authorities in proceeding with the work at Leghorn and to say, in addition, that the Commanding General Peninsular Base Section would do everything in his power to assist those in charge of harbor clearance operations. The Peninsular Base Section, Leghorn has been authorized to provide the Italian authorities dealing with the clearance of the port of Leghorn with any equipment and supplies which may be needed and are available.

SUPPLY.

Steps have been taken during the month to effect the permanent transfer to the Italian Navy of lend lease Salvage Equipment turned over to the Italian Navy salvage organisation by the Royal Navy. The provisional consent of the United States Government was obtained to this retransfer, and the Ministry of Marine was advised to approach the United States Foreign Liquidation Commissioner, Rome concerning terms of transfer. The United States Government's consent is subject to financial terms being agreed upon in advance of the permanent turn over.

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The Ministry of Marine reported an underallocation of coal to the Italian Navy minesweeping by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Coal Committee for the month of December. The importance of the minesweeping operations carried out by the Italian Navy, in ensuring the safe entry into Italian ports of cargo laden merchant ships was therefore pointed out to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce who were requested to make an additional allocation if possible. The Ministry of Marine have been informed accordingly and requested to report any difficulties in obtaining imported coal for minesweeping in future in order that the Economic Division may arrange for the supply of the necessary UTRAL imported coal.

The Ministry of Marine have been requested to forward a detailed estimate of the expenses contained in the Italian Navy budget for the year 1946-1947, showing how the figures laid down were arrived at, in order to justify the considerable increase in expenditure for some items, compared to the figures shown for similar items in the budget for the previous year.

Various problems arising from the supply of victualling stores by the Royal Navy to Italian Ships in Mediterranean ports, payment of port service charges for Allied men-of-war, and other routine matters have been dealt with during the month.

REQUISITIONED CRAFT.

Several requests for information regarding small craft requisitioned by Allied Authorities during the war, were received during the month from CO.GF.NV. Those requests which did not include documentary evidence or copies of requisitioning forms were returned to CO.GF.NA. who were informed that while each claim, or request, would be considered on its merits, no action would be taken on any claims based only on the unsupported assertions of the individuals involved.

RETURN OF SHIPS.

With reference to paragraph III of the report for the month of September 1946, the question of release of the French barge *INDOCHINE* (ex *COMTESSA*) to the French Government, is now under consideration by the Prize Court in London for financial settlement of the British Government's request for reimbursement in respect of the costs borne by the latter for the salvage and repair of the barge, and the French Government's request for compensation for the use of the vessel by the Italian Compagnia Marittima.

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A request for information as to the procedure to be adopted to secure the release to the French Government of the French barge JOYCE now held by an Italian firm at Trieste has been received from the Chief of the French Mercantile Mission in Italy.

DEMILITARISATION OF PANTELLERIA AND LAMPEDUSA.

On 13th December, a representative from the Navy Sub-Commission accompanied the Demilitarisation Committee to Pantelleria to view the progress made in connection with the demilitarisation of the island, and subsequently prepared a report in conjunction with the Land Forces Sub-Commission, (MFA) representative for submission to the General Officer Commanding, Land Forces Sub-Commission, (MFA).

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NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, ALLIED COMMISSION,
R O M E

Monthly Report for November 1948. MC 21/12

List of Appendices:

Appendix "A" - List of Italian Flag
Officer Changes.

PERSONNEL.

Captain George F. Lentz, U.S.N., Chief Staff Officer for the Navy Sub-Commission, was retired on 2 November and has left the Allied Commission.

Lieutenant Commander E.C. Davies, R.N.V.R., Personnel Officer of the Navy Sub-Commission, has returned to the United Kingdom for discharge.

Lieutenant Commander F.T. Simpson-Jones, R.N.V.R., relieves Lieutenant Commander E.C. Davies as Personnel Officer.

The report showing the strength of the Italian Navy on 31st October as follows: 43,555 ratings and 5153 officers shows a reduction of 3,251 ratings and 95 officers under the September figures and of 7,327 ratings and 732 officers under the number six months ago. There are still 6,733 ratings and 733 officers serving who are to be retired but are temporarily retained owing to unemployment difficulties upon discharge. The overall figure would have been much lower were it not for the fact that a new class of conscripts were called up in September. Actually the October 31st figure is almost the same as that of August 31st.

At the beginning of November a number of important changes were made among the flag officers of the Italian Navy. A full list of these changes is attached as Appendix "A".

Commodore Ziroli, Deputy Chief of the Navy Sub-Commission made an inspection trip of ports in Sicily including Messina, Catania and Palermo to determine the status of these ports insofar as clearance of harbor and reconstruction of port facilities were concerned. It was noted that satisfactory progress is being made by the Italians.

The United States Navy has derequisitioned all buildings in the Palermo and Naples areas.

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AWARDS.

While at Gela, Sicily Commodore Zicoli presented Mr Nunzio BIONDI, local fisherman, with the United States Medal of Freedom for his aid in saving the lives of Allied airmen.

The Ministry of Marine was informed of the award of the Bronze Star Medal to Lieutenant Romeo A. Le Forc of the Italian Navy. Formal presentation will take place shortly.

MINESweeping.

Bad weather during the period held up operations in three of the areas where the Italian M/S Groups are working. Sweepers from the Spezia area have temporarily suspended clearance there and are concentrating on widening the approach route to Leghorn.

Italian minesweepers from Venice have been engaged in clearing an area inshore off Porto Lignano. This operation is being carried out to enable craft that have been built on the stilted estuary to reach the sea. Other Italian M/S groups have continued routine clearance operations. The sweepers completed their check sweep at the Northern entrance to the Strait of Messina and proceeded to Trapani and Palermo to begin operations off western Sicily.

Bad weather continued to interfere with operations, but the groups in Leghorn and Venice cut 18 mines and obstructions between them during seven days ending November 23.

A meeting of the Senior Officers of all Italian M/S Groups was held on 29 November 1946. The M/S Liaison Officer reports that this conference cleared up any points and should serve to expedite clearance operations in the various areas.

Mines cut during the week to December 4 were as follows:-

Leghorn Area: 30 type IX
Venice Area: 10 type IX, 2 unidentified and
1 obstructor.

SALVAGE.

At the beginning of the month a letter was received from the Ministry of Marine requesting permission for the salvage of a wreck of a British minesweeper sunk in the entrance to the small harbor of Sampierdarena. On 5th November, the matter was referred to the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean for a decision which is awaited.

84

2. A request was received from three Salvage Companies "Auggero e Marca", "Marisilva" and "Societa Mediterranea Ricupero Marittimi", through the Ministry of Marine, with a view to salvaging ships in the Red Sea and particularly in Massawa, Assau and the Dulak islands. This request was forwarded to the Flag Officer Liaison Italy for necessary action who, it is understood, has referred the matter to the Admiralty for a decision.

3. Permission was granted to the Ministry of Marine to salvage the German landing craft No. 233 sunk in La Spezia harbor.

4. Permission was also granted for the salvage at La Spezia of an unknown submarine. Additional instructions will be issued as soon as the nationality is ascertained.

5. Permission was granted to the Ministry of Marine for disposition of two small United States Dukw type craft salvaged at Anzio.

RESTITUTION OF SHIPS.

Information on the whereabouts of 18 small craft was forwarded to the Yugoslav Delegation to the Advisory Council for Italy on 26 November 1946.

Information on 32 additional craft was forwarded to the Yugoslav representative on 28 November.

Orders for the restitution to the Yugoslav Government of ships were issued as follows:

- 1) The Motor Boat 32 at Bari.
- 2) The M.F.V. Ninfa (ex Vile) at Venice.
- 3) The Budimir (ex Nuovo Gallo) at Rimini.
- 4) The tug Zara (ex Mojana) at Venice.
- 5) The dredger No. 4 (ex Juno) at Ancona.

The training ship Jadran (ex Marco Polo) was turned over to the Jugoslavian authorities and was towed from Venice to a Jugoslavain port.

CLEARANCE OF PORT OF LEGHORN.

A conference was held by the Navy Sub-Commission presided over by Commodore Ziroli with representatives from the Ministry of Marine, Engineering Section of Allied Force Headquarters and the Italian Ministry of Public Works. Problems regarding the immediate clearance of the harbor of Leghorn were discussed. A satisfactory program was laid out and a complete coordination of effort was achieved.

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SUPPLY.

Italian Naval POW/SM who were detained in a camp commanded by H.Q. Merano. Bolzano - Sub-Command U.S.A., surrendered any money held by them to the camp authorities in accordance with A.F.H.Q. instructions and were informed that the sums deposited would be restituted to them in due course when released. In November 1945, while all the Italian POW/SM in that camp had been released, they did not have their money refunded to them pending instructions from the Combined Chiefs of Staff through Allied Force Headquarters. The Ministry of Marine have brought the matter up again during the month, in view of the serious financial difficulties in which some of the men now find themselves. The matter has been referred to the competent authorities for favourable consideration and it is hoped that a satisfactory reply will be received.

2. In connection with the yearly estimate of Italian Naval requirements of Oropesa and "IL/SA" minesweeping stores for inclusion in the National Import Programme, referred to in paragraph 1 of the Navy Sub-Commission's report for April and sub paragraph V, of the monthly report for July 1946, respectively, the Ministry of Marine have requested that an estimate of the cost of these stores be furnished them for scrutiny by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Treasury. The Ministry of Marine have accordingly been informed of the estimated cost of the Oropesa Minesweeping stores and it is expected that the "IL/SA" estimate will be completed and forwarded to the Ministry of Marine shortly.

3. With reference to paragraph 1 of the October report, the Ministry of Marine have completed arrangements for the temporary provision of limited funds in Egyptian currency required by the Italian Battleships in the Bitter Lakes, and have accordingly supplied the Battleships with the necessary funds due at the end of the month. The question as to which Government, British or Italian, are to assume liability for payment is still under discussion, however, as a result of the Ministry of Marine's further representation of the Italian Government's extreme shortage of Egyptian currency. The matter has now been raised to Government level, and pending a solution to the problem, it is expected that the Ministry of Marine will continue to provide the funds required.

4. During the month various problems arising from the supply of victualling stores by the Royal Navy to Italian Ships in Mediterranean ports, were dealt with.

ALTERATIONS IN APPOINTMENTS OF ITALIAN NAVY FLAG OFFICERS.

Senior Rear-Admiral Amedeo NOLIS DI POLIONE, Flag Officer Commanding the Independent Naval Command of the Upper Adriatic, relieved by Senior Rear-Admiral Massimiliano VETRINA.

Senior Rear-Admiral Emilio FERRARI - From Commanding Officer Cruiser Group to Secretary General of the Navy.

Vice-Admiral Bruno RIVONEGLI - From Secretary General of the Navy to Inspector of Naval Forces.

Vice-Admiral Alberto DE ZAIRA - From Inspector of Naval Forces to "available for appointment".

Senior Rear-Admiral Carlo BALSANO - From "available for appointment" to Commander-in-Chief of the Naval Department of the Lower Tyrrhenian, Naples.

Vice-Admiral Angelo PAKONA - From Commander-in-Chief Naval Department of the Ionian and Lower Adriatic, Taranto, to "available for appointment".

Vice-Admiral Romeo OLIVA - From Commander-in-Chief of the Naval Department of the Lower Tyrrhenian, Naples, to Commander-in-Chief of the Naval Department of the Ionian and Lower Adriatic, Taranto.

Rear-Admiral Giuseppe MURANO di NEGRO - From Commanding Officer, Taranto Naval Base, to Admiral Superintendent of the La Spezia Naval Dockyard.

APPENDIX "A"

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NAVY SUB-COMMISSION - MONTHLY REPORT FOR ~~SEPTEMBER~~ ^{OCTOBER} 1946.I. SUPPLY.

With reference to sub paragraph 3 of paragraph 1 of the Navy Sub-Commission's report for August, 1946, Admiralty's decision has now been received confirming previous instructions to the effect that the Italian Government should supply the necessary funds, in Egyptian currency, to cover the expenses of the Italian Battleships in the Bitter Lakes and Italian warships and auxiliaries visiting Egyptian ports and passing through the Suez Canal. The Ministry of Marine were therefore informed accordingly and requested to make appropriate arrangements. In the meantime payments due the Battleships at the end of September and October have been made from British sources, in exceptional circumstances, on Admiralty approval, pending arrangements by the Ministry of Marine which are expected to be completed by the end of November. In order to reduce the consumption of foreign exchange the battleships will be supplied to the fullest possible extent from Italy and ships in transit will be provisioned to capacity.

2. On 3rd October, 1946, Pantelleria was revisited by representatives of the Committee on demilitarization of the Island, including Lieutenant (S) H.A.V. Hall, R.N.V.R., from the Navy Sub-Commission. The process of demilitarizing the island is being carried out satisfactorily under the command of Captain S. Amato, Italian Navy, in spite of the very limited means at his disposal. A total of 1500 tons of warlike stores mostly composed of guns and ammunition have been removed to date. The party returned to Rome the same day accompanied by Captain Amato who, as a result of a visit to the Ministry of Marine, was successful in obtaining an allocation of more suitable

- 2 -

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ships to remove material from the islands, and better transportation and equipment. It is hoped that the work will now be expedited.

3. A quantity of captured enemy material of naval origin, located in the Bologna area, has been turned over to the Ministry of Marine for the maintenance of the Italian Navy, in accordance with the directives in force.

II. MINESWEEPING.

1. On the 28th October Italian minesweepers from Venice began to clear an area inshore off PORTO TIGNANO. This operation is being carried out to enable craft that have been built on the STILJA estuary to reach the sea. Other Italian M/S groups have continued routine clearance operations. The sweepers which have completed their check sweep at the Northern entrance to the Strait of Messina have proceeded to TRAPANI and PALERMO to begin operations off Western Sicily.

III. MERCHANT SHIPPING.

1. The Italian Navy has arranged for pilotage and tugs in the port of Leghorn to be available to conduct Merchant Shipping from that port to La Spezia through heavily mined areas. Several Merchant ships have not made use of this service which is essential if mines are to be avoided. This situation has been brought to the attention of the Maritime Commission in order that Merchant Ship Masters may be more fully informed and casualties from inadvertently passing through mine fields avoided.

2. The Commander in Chief, Mediterranean Station has approved the transfer of an Italian tanker, now under construction at the Ansaldo Sestri Yards, to the Norwegian Government in exchange for two dry cargo vessels. The dry cargo vessels are not to be over 20 years of age, and must be from 7000 to 9000 tons deadweight.

IV. ITALIAN FLEET MOVEMENTS.

1. The Italian cruisers Abruzzi, Montecuccoli, Scipione Africano and Attilio Regolo have completed the lifting of Italian P.O.W. from Egypt.

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NAVY SUB COMMISSION - MONTHLY REPORT
FOR SEPTEMBER, 1946.

OCT 17 1946

MC 18/1

I. SUPPLY:-

It has been the practice in the past for the Italian Navy Officer-in-Charge, Leghorn, to authorise the issue of small quantities of British coal, which were supplied to the Italian Navy for the exclusive use of the Minesweepers, to harbour craft operated by the United States Authorities in the area. It has been reported that approximately 50 tons of coal have been supplied to date. In view of the great economy at present being made in supplies of coal to the Italian Navy, and the fact that the Allied Authorities in question are in a position to obtain their requirements of coal from their own sources, the Ministry of Marine were accordingly instructed to the effect that no further issues of coal were to be made to the Allied units, except in an emergency when arrangements for repayment in kind had to be made.

2. In accordance with the policy that all property which is clearly identified as having been removed from a non-enemy nation to another country during hostilities is to be restored to that nation, the Ministry of Marine has been requested to restore to the Yugoslav authorities some ex-Yugoslav naval equipment at present held by the Italian Navy in No. 41 Store of MARIOOST at Taranto.

3. During the month various problems arising from the supply of victualling stores to Italian ships in the Levant were dealt with.

II. PERSONNEL:-

During September there was an important reshuffling in the high Command of the Italian Navy. The following new appointments were made among Flag Officers:

Vice-Admiral Bruto Brivonesi - From Secretary General of the Navy to Inspector of Naval Forces.

Vice-Admiral Alberto La Zara - From Inspector of Naval Forces to "available for appointment".

Senior Rear Admiral Carlo Balsano - From "available for appointment" to Commander-in-Chief of the Naval Department of the Lower Tyrrhenian, Naples.

Vice-Admiral Romeo Oliva - From Commander-in-Chief of the Naval Department of the Lower Tyrrhenian, Naples, to Commander-in-Chief of the Naval Department of the Ionian and Lower Adriatic, Taranto.

Vice Admiral Angelo Parona - From Commander-in-Chief Department of the Ionian and Lower Adriatic, Taranto, to "available for appointment".

Rear-Admiral Giuseppe Lubrano di Neozio - From Commanding Officer Taranto Naval Base, to Admiral Superintendent of the La Spezia Naval Dockyard.

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(second item)

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Until recently all official business relating to the Italian Merchant Marine has been conducted between the Navy Sub Commission, Allied Commission, and the Italian Ministry of Marine. To this end the Ministry of Marine had appointed an English speaking officer as Liaison Officer with the Navy Sub Commission. Now that the Ministry of Mercantile Marine has been separated from the Ministry of Marine and in view of the large amount of business conducted between the Ministry of Mercantile Marine and the Navy Sub Commission it has been requested that an English speaking representative be appointed by the Ministry to act as Liaison Officer with the Navy Sub Commission.

III. RELEASE OF THE FRENCH RIVER BOAT "IDOLATRE"

The French Government have requested that it be reimbursed for the use of the "IDOLATRE" during the period which it was placed at the disposal of the Compagnia Marittima for the purpose of carrying coal and wheat from Civitavecchia to Fiumicino. This request was forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station who has agreed that the Italian Government should pay a reasonable hiring charge for the vessel and has directed that the matter is one for settlement between the Allied Commission, the charterers and the French Navy Mission. The exact sum to be paid is now under discussion.

IV. FRENCH BARGES.

Negotiations have been underway to arrange for the towing of certain French river barges from the Venice area to Toulon. The immediate possibility of arranging for this operation has been complicated by the fact that there are no tugs available in the Venice area. It is feared that with the approach of winter weather the projected towing operation will have to be postponed until next spring. In addition the following minor repairs are required to make the tugs seaworthy:

- a. Test all hatches for watertightness.
- b. Replace damaged ports.
- c. Plug numerous bullet holes caused by machine gunning.

V. MINESWEEPING

Confirmed progress has been reported by all Minesweeping groups.
The Gulf of Taranto is completely clear.

VI. ITALIAN FLEET MOVEMENTS.

1. The cruiser Abruzzi, the transport Miraglia and the Sestiere continue to repatriate Italian prisoners of war.
2. The destroyer Carabinieri arrived in Port Said on the 5th with personnel and stores for the Battleships in the Bitter Lakes.
3. The Italian Fleet Auxiliary Monte Grappa bound from Alexandria to Malta ran aground on SKHISTO Island (Crete) on the 5th. She was refloated by the British trawler ROWENA and towed to Suda Bay.

ROME. 16th October, 1946.

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NAVY SUB COMMISSION
MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST, 1946.

1. SUPPLY

SEP 21 1946

1. While the Ministry of Marine was informed in April, 1946, that no further supplies of British coal to the Italian Navy would be made from Admiralty sources, nevertheless, a request was received for a further issue of British coal from Naval Stocks when the 50,000 ton initial stock supplied to the Italian Navy by the Royal Navy for the exclusive use of the M/S Trawlers during March/April, 1946 had been reduced to 800 tons. The Ministry of Marine were again advised therefore, to obtain the Italian Navy's M/S Trawler coal requirements from the Italian Government's import programme. There appeared to be some difficulty however, as the only coal the Italian Ministry of Industry and Commerce could allocate to the Italian Navy was of American or South African origin. Trials with this coal were then carried out by several trawlers with satisfactory results, and arrangements were thus subsequently made with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for the supplying of the necessary quantities.
2. Royal Navy stocks of P.O.L. at Leghorn, administered by the Italian Navy and C.I.P. on Admiralty behalf were completely turned over to C.I.P. approval for transfer having been received from the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station on the 19th August.
3. On the 11th August, the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station promulgated a Mediterranean Station Message to the effect that in accordance with Admiralty instructions Italy is now in a position to arrange with banks for the supply of necessary funds to cover expenses of Italian vessels when visiting foreign ports, and that supplies of money should only be advanced by British Naval Authorities in very exceptional circumstances. As a result, the Naval Officer-in-Charge, Port Said, requested that arrangements be made to cover the expenses of the Italian Battleships in the Bitter Lakes and Italian Warships and auxiliaries visiting Egyptian ports and transitting the Suez Canal. The Rear Admiral, Malta, also requested that arrangements be made for the supply of cash to Italian destroyer ORIENTI, water-carrier PO and visiting Italian ships at Malta. The matter was then taken up with the Ministry of Marine who considered that those expenses were not an Italian liability and booked this contention with a strong representation. The Ministry of Marine's views were then transmitted to the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station who referred the matter to Admiralty for a decision which is awaited. Meanwhile pending Admiralty decision, approval was given to the Rear Admiral, Malta for small amounts of lire to be exchanged into Maltese currency to meet immediate needs of Italian ships' companies at Malta, and to the Naval Officer-in-Charge, Port Said to make payments from British funds of pay and exchange due at the end of August, to the Italian Battleships in the Bitter Lakes.
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4. During the month, various problems arising from supply of victualling stores to the Italian ships in the Levant were dealt with.

5. On August 13th, an Officer from the Navy Sub Commission accompanied the French Naval Mission to Sicily, in accordance with the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station's signal dated 301510 July, and returned to Rome p.m. 19th August.

II PERSONNEL

Total strength of Italian Naval Personnel is gradually being reduced and has now arrived at a figure just below the 50,000 mark which is double that anticipated under the Peace Treaty.

5090

III PURCHASE OF ITALIAN SHIPS

The Norwegian Negotiation has approached the Navy Sub Commission with a view to purchasing a tanker constructed at Genoa and appropriate action was taken. In the event that the Italian Government agreed to this purchase a final decision will rest with the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean.

EC Doc - 24/9/46

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CONTINUATION OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION'S MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST, 1946.

OPERATIONAL REPORT OF THE FLAG OFFICER LIAISON ITALY.

IV. REPATRIATION

During the month, the Italian cruisers, MONTECUCOLI, DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI, and ATTILIO REGGIO, together with the transports MIRAGLIA, PACINOTTI, and SESTIERRE, almost cleared the Middle East of Italian Prisoners of War having repatriated to Italy a total of approximately 9,000 men including 170 Italian Prisoners of War from Tripoli (Lybia). The ex-hospital ship TOSCANA returned to Naples with about 1,500 Italian civilians repatriated from Massawa, and the sloop ERTREI finally entered the Mediterranean bound for Italy with 300 repatriates from China and Siam.

MINESWEEPING

2. Italian Minesweeping Groups have continued clearance operations in their respective areas satisfactorily. At Civitavecchia 11 mines and 7 anti-sweeping devices have been out, and 10 mines at Venice and 6 mines at Carloforte have also been reported out. Mine Disposal Units working along the Northern Adriatic Coast have cleared extensive areas of German C.K. mines. During the last week of August, Italian Navy Representatives attended the meetings of the MEDITERRANEAN ZONE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL MINE CLEARANCE BOARD in Rome.

SHIPS MOVEMENTS

3. The category "A" destroyer AUGIERE at Malta, having returned to Italy with defects, was relieved by the ORIENTI on the 4th August. The training ship VESPUCCI continuing her summer cruise with Naval Academy cadets arrived in Naples on the 10th from Palermo and sailed on the 19th for Cagliari where she arrived on the 25th. The cable ship RUPINO has been employed throughout the month on cable repair work in the Straits of Messina and Aeolian Islands Area. On the 11th the destroyer LEGIONARIO sailed from Taranto for the Bitter Lakes with personnel and stores for the Italian Battleships and returned to Taranto on 27th. The water-carrier PO having completed a refit at Messina proceeded to water Lampedusa and then returned to Augusta on 18th to resume her water carrying duties to Malta. Torpedo-boats, corvettes and coastal craft have continued anti-Germand patrol in the Italian Adriatic Waters throughout the month. No incidents have been reported. Destroyers and small craft have carried out the usual lifts of Italian Naval personnel and stores between principle Italian ports.

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ROME.

16th September, 1946.

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NAVY SUB COMMISSION
MONTHLY REPORT FOR JULY, 1946.

REPATRIATION :

Repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War continued to be the principal occupation of the active units of the Italian Fleet. The Cruisers MONTECUCOLI and DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI made a combined total of five visits to Port Said returning 800 prisoners on each return trip. In addition the transport MIRAGLIA, the SESTRIERE and the CITTA DI ALESSANDRIA have also been employed in this service. The ex-hospital ship TOSCANA has been employed in repatriating Italian civilians from MASSAWA.

ITALIAN NAVAL ACADEMY:

The Italian Naval Academy has been moved back to its permanent location in Leghorn. The shift was accomplished at the end of the month when the transport MIRAGLIA embarked the officer, cadet and enlisted personnel of the Academy at BRINDISI.

MINESWEEPING:

Italian minesweeping units have continued to make progress in clearing the coasts of mines and underwater obstructions.

NAVAL MATERIAL:

A considerable quantity of naval materials of all kinds recovered in the North have been turned over to the Ministry of Marine for the maintenance of the Italian Navy. In addition ammunition of Italian origin has been returned to the Italian Navy for arsenal stocks, or to be destroyed. Three small motor launches have been made available by the Air Forces Sub-Commission to the Ministry of Marine.

SUPPLY:

The bulk of the Italian Navy's half yearly requirements of Naval Stores for the period July - December, 1945 were met from the large quantity of material turned over by the Royal Navy at Taranto in December, 1945 and January, 1946. The outstanding items were met from indigenous sources with the exception of 200 cu. ft. of teak in bulk and a quantity of India rubber insertion sheets. The teak was shipped from Malta to Taranto on 29th June, 1946 and the India rubber has been requested from the United Kingdom owing to its non-availability from Royal Navy stocks in the Mediterranean.

EC DIST. 16/8/46

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1-EC
6-P.R. Branch
1-Mil. Att. Am. Sub.
1-74 Ref

See 7-74

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Continuation of Navy Sub Commission's Monthly Report for July, 1946.

2. During the month the Ministry of Marine reported that the Italian Navy's Sardinian coal allocation for July had been completely suspended by the Italian Ministry of Industry and Commerce pending the results of an inspection by the latter of the Italian Navy's coal consumption with a view to attaining greater economy. While there was no objection to the inspection, the abrupt suspension of coal, and the detrimental effect it would have, was reviewed with concern, and a strong representation to the Italian Ministry of Industry and Commerce was made through UNRRA in order that the month's allocation be made, pending the completion of the inspection. Any deduction arising could then be made in August. This step proved successful and the allocation was subsequently made.

3. In addition to the Italian Navy's yearly estimate of Oropesa mine-sweeping store requirements referred to in paragraph 1 of the monthly report for April, 1946, an Italian Navy yearly estimate of "IL/SA" minesweeping equipment, prepared by the Captain Minesweeping, Mediterranean, was forwarded to the Ministry of Marine for inclusion in the National import programme.

4. With reference to paragraph 6 of the monthly report for June, 1946, while arrangements to supply coal to Italian Navy Minesweepers at Genoa by UNRRA were completed, the Ministry of Marine were able to transfer sufficient stocks of coal to Genoa for their use, thus obviating the necessity for coal to be allocated by UNRRA, in conjunction with the Italian Ministry of Industry and Commerce, for the present.

5. The monthly issue of 30 bottles of acetylene hitherto supplied from British sources to the Italian Navy at Naples for the use of lighthouses on the West Coast of Italy, has been discontinued and the Ministry of Marine is arranging for the provision of the quantities required from local resources.

6. A representative of the Navy Sub Commission accompanied the Demilitarization Committee to the Islands of Pantelleria, Lampedusa and Linosa on 22nd of July, 1946.

ROME.
16th August, 1946.

3688

NAVY SUB COMMISSION
MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE

JUL 17 1946

REPATRIATION

The cruisers "SCIPIONE AFRICANO" and "ABRUZZI", in addition to several smaller vessels have continued to repatriate Italian Prisoners-of War from the Red Sea and the Levant Areas.

The sloop "ERITREA" which had left Phuket (Siam) on the 20th after increasing the number of displaced Italians on board to about 300 by embarking in that port 64 Italians in a distressed condition, had to put back to Singapore owing to defects. It is proposed eventually to sail the cruiser "MILIO REGIO" to the Suez Canal Area to accept persons from the "ERITREA", and so permit the latter vessel to return to the Far East.

The ex-hospital ship "TOSCANIA" arrived in Massawa on 24th to embark about 1,500 Italians nominated for repatriation.

MINESWEEPING

Minesweeping continues in all light areas where Italian M/S Groups are operating. A further small M/S Group consisting of Motor Fishing Vessels is being constituted at Rimini.

Cable-ship "RAMPINO"

The cable-ship "RAMPINO" has completed her refit in Spezia, and has begun repair work on the "CAPTERA" (Sardinia) - TALAMONI (Near Porto Santo Stefano) cable.

THE ROYAL FAMILY

On 6th June the "ABRUZZI" departed from Naples for Lisbon with the Queen and members of the Royal Family on board.

CAPTURED MATERIALS

A large quantity of stores and equipment recovered in Northern Italy of naval origin after screening by the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station has been turned over to the Ministry of Marine for the maintenance of the Italian Navy. Enemy ammunition torpedo parts and other material of a potentially offensive nature has been ordered to be destroyed or scrapped.

SUPPLY

Arrangements have been made during the month to supply the Italian Navy

The cable-ship "RAIPINO" has completed her refit in Spezia, and has begun repair work on the "CAPRELA" (Sardinia) - TALAMONI (Near Porto Santo Stefano).

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SUPPLY

Arrangements have been made during the month to supply the Italian Navy Mine Sweepers operating from Genoa with suitable coal made available by UNRRAL, Coal Branch, at that port, observing that the Italian Navy have no stocks of steaming coal there. The quantities of coal there supplied will be redeemed by UNRRAL from Italian Naval coal stocks at Leghorn. Pending the conclusion of final arrangements, the Italian Navy are despatching to Genoa by sea, 500 to 600 tons of coal from their stocks at Leghorn for the immediate consumption of the Mine Sweepers.

As the supply and maintenance of Italian warships in the Mediterranean beyond Italian resources, is a British responsibility, the Royal Navy has been authorised to make payments on behalf of the Italian Navy for supplies and services rendered to Italian warships by the French Authorities in North Africa. All payments thus made are reported to the Navy Sub Commission for redemption from the Ministry of Marine. Arrangements have been made with the Ministry of Marine during the month, for the re-embursement of all payments thus made by the Royal Navy, the lire equivalent being paid into the Royal Navy Supply Officer, Rome's account.

Ec. Dist - 17 July

1-EC.
6-R. Br.
1-R. Rep.
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NAVY SUB COMMISSION MONTHLY REPORT
FOR MAY, 1946

68

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SUPPLY

With reference to paragraph 2 of Navy Sub Commission's Monthly report for March, 1946 confirmation was received from the Italian Government that they could assume the responsibility for feeding the Italian Royal Navy as from 1st June, 1946. This information was forwarded to the Combined Chief of Staff through the Supreme Allied Commander Mediterranean, recommending that the transfer be approved. Pending approval from the Combined Chiefs of Staff, steps were taken during the month to ensure that food rations to the Italian Navy for the month of June, 1946 would be forthcoming from Italian Government sources. On the 22nd May, 1946, approval was received from the Combined Chiefs of Staff for the assumption by the Italian Government with effect 1st June, 1946, of the responsibility for subsisting the Italian Navy and Italian Air Force, thus making the Italian Government responsible for the subsistence of all her Armed Forces excluding US-ITF and BRIT-ITF troops. With the exception of one or two problems which were overcome, the transfer was carried out very satisfactorily and no difficulties have been evinced to date.

2. In addition to the supply of the Mine Sweeping Stores recommended by the President of the Mediterranean Zone Mine Clearance Board, referred to in paragraph 1 of Navy Sub Commission's Monthly Report for April, 1946, some German Minesweeping equipment has been transferred to the Italian Navy by the Naval Officer-in-Charge, Naples. This equipment, together with the other Minesweeping stores which have been supplied from Malta will ensure the efficient operation of the Italian Minesweeping service and, in particular, of the British Minesweeping trawlers transferred to the Italian Navy.

3. In view of the internal political situation prevailing in Italy during the month prior to the elections on the 2nd June, 1946, the Ministry of Marine submitted a request for approval to acquire 500 carbines to strengthen the guarding of Italian Naval Ammunition and small arms depots. The approval of the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station was sought and obtained, and the weapons were subsequently made available to the Ministry of Marine by the Ministry of War with the approval of the Land Forces Sub Commission, C. (MHA)

4. Italian Material stores and equipment of a Naval origin which have been recovered in Northern Italy by the Italian Navy recovery parties and reported to the Navy Sub Commission for screening, have, with a few exceptions been released to the Ministry of Marine for the maintenance of the Italian Navy after approval has been received from the Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean.

REPATRIATION OF ITALIAN PRISONERS-OF-WAR:

The end of May saw the completion of a full programme designed to repatriate all the 38,000 Italian P.O.W. in French North African Camps at the beginning of the year. All operational cruisers, the aircraft tender VIRAGLIA, the depot ship PACINOTTI and three requisitioned merchant vessels, the SISTIERE, the TOSCANA and the CITTA' DI ALESSANDRIA have been employed on this service. There remain now only a few sick in hospital in Algeria.

ABDICATION OF KING VICTOR EMANUEL:

King Victor Emmanuel and Queen Helena of Italy embarked in the ABRUZZI for Alexandria after the King's abdication. The cruiser was escorted by the destroyer GRANATIERE.

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See M-69

NAVY SUB COMMISSION - MONTHLY REPORT
FOR MAY, 1946

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Information concerning ships, their location and condition was obtained for the following countries:

FRANCE
JUGOSLAVIA
GREAT BRITAIN
THE NETHERLANDS
ITALY

The Narni P.O.W. camp was discontinued.

The Ministry of Marine reported the Yugoslav seizure of ten Italian fishing craft together with their crews. The report was later confirmed.

MINESWEEPING:

May saw all eight Italian M/S Groups beginning work in earnest to secure an expeditious clearance of mines in Italian waters. Almost all of the 32 minesweepers loaned to the IMN by the RN are now operational and have taken part in these operations. At present work is proceeding off TIFERIA, SPILZIA, CIVITAVECCHIA, VIBO VALENTIA, CAPE RIZZUTO, BRINDISI, ANCONA, VENICE, ACHERIO, and CARLOFORT.

The IMN was represented at the meeting of the Mediterranean Zone International Mine Clearance Board at the end of the month.

NAVY SUB COMMISSION - MONTHLY REPORT
FOR APRIL, 1946.

EC DIST. 16 May.

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1-Subly att. Encl.

1-For Rep.

SUPPLY.

In accordance with the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station's directions, the Ministry of Marine have been informed that the Italian Navy Mine-Sweeping store requirements for the period November, 1946 to October, 1947 should be included in the Italian Government overall import programme: A request for Mine-Sweeping stores for the period up to 31st October, 1946 has however been submitted by the Ministry of Marine. This request has been forwarded to the President of the Mediterranean Zone Mine Clearance Board who has recommended the early supply of these stores.

MINE-SWEEPING (Flag Officer Liaison, Italy reports that):-

In view of the numerous minefields still existing in Italian waters, and the great need for the increase of coastal shipping, the Italian Royal Navy have set up degaussing installations at various ports, for the protection of ships from magnetic mines. Italian Navy personnel have been trained by British Officers, and a large quantity of degaussing stores and equipment, including a mobile wiring unit namely H.M. M.A.S. 185, have been transferred to the Italian Royal Navy by the Royal Navy. While a number of items are still expected from Malta, the degaussing service is now operating satisfactorily.

The Italian Royal Navy have now assumed complete responsibility for the rendering safe of mines washed ashore on the East and West coast of Italy, and for the disposal of ground mines in Italian harbours. Italian Navy personnel have been trained by British Officers and the special gear required for this work, including non-magnetic tools have been made available by the Royal Navy. Specially fitted vehicles have also been supplied to the Italian Navy Mine and Bomb Disposal Units in order that large stretches of coast may be easily covered. The Units are now fully operational and working efficiently.

Four ex-British trawlers and an ex-British M.L.S. reached Naples at the end of last week from Malta. The last two of the sixteen trawlers, the Royal Navy is lending to the Italian Royal Navy will be sailed to Naples this week.

The trawlers sweeping in the gulf of Policastro are expected to complete operations this week and will then be moved to Salerno.

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The trawlers sweeping in the gulf of Policastro are expected to complete operations this week and will then proceed to Sardinia to begin clearance off SANT'ANTIOCO and SAN PIETRO.

The Italian Royal Navy has reported clearance of nine lays off SERRIA, POLICASTRO, and CAPE RIZZUTO. In addition the check sweep off OTRANTO has been completed and will permit the cancellation of the danger area off the Aprilian Coast.

REPATRIATION OF P.O.W.

The motor-ship SESTIERE disembarked the 800 child repatriates in Tripoli Libya on 17th, proceeded then to Casablanca and left that port for Naples on the morning of the 23rd with 1600 Italian Prisoners of War.

The cruiser MONTECUCOLI returned to Naples on the 20th with 700 Italian Prisoners of War from Oran, and the cruisers ATTILIO REGOLO and SOLIOME AFRICANO docked in the same port on the 18th and 19th respectively, each with 450 men from Philippeville on board. The merchant vessels TOSCANA and CITTA DI ALESSANDRIA are at present bound for Naples from Oran and Philippeville respectively with Italian Prisoners of War.

The repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War has been proceeding on schedule. Less than 300,000 remain overseas. Weekly lifts of Prisoners of War to Italy continue to amount to about 11,000.

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NAVY SUB COMMISSION - MONTHLY REPORT
FOR MARCH, 1946.

APR 19 1946

SUPPLY

Arrangements have been made during the month whereby the Italian Ministry of Marine is now responsible for the supply of Sardinian Coal to the Italian Royal Navy. CO.C.E.NA. has undertaken to make available the required tonnage of shipping to ensure a regular monthly supply.

2. In connection with the Air Force Sub Commission, the Italian Government have been provided with an estimate of the food requirements of the Italian Royal Navy for the period June to December 1946 with a view to the Italian Government assuming the responsibility for the feeding of the Italian Royal Navy as from 1st June, 1946.

3. The Royal Navy is making available to the Italians coal from its own stocks at Naples and by diverting a collier to the ports of Leghorn and Naples, to enable the minesweepers to begin operations without waiting for the arrival in Italy of suitable coal under the national import programme, from which Italian Naval requirements are now met.

MINESWEEPING

The Flag Officer, Liaison, Italy reports that:-

All British minesweepers departed from Leghorn at the beginning of the month. Minesweeping is now entirely in Italian hands under the direction of the Mediterranean Zone Mine Clearance Board. A meeting was held with the Italians the first week of March to acquaint them with the difficulties facing them. They seemed very enthusiastic at the prospect of assuming complete responsibility in regard to all minesweeping matters.

By the middle of March all of the crews to man the 32 sweepers turned over to the Italian Navy by the Royal Navy, had taken possession of their ships.

The first four Minesweeping Trawlers to begin operations had reached POLICASTRO on the 24th to commence clearance of the Gulf. Four motor-mine-sweepers allocated to the LIGURIAN AREA have reached SPEZZA from Naples having completed their working up.

The four ex-British Trawlers have swept several mines from the bays which they are clearing in the Gulf of Policastro.

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In the Adriatic minesweeping H.F.V.'s have checked a channel for barge and schooner traffic between CHIOGGIA and the PO mouth at Porto Levante. Further the swept approaches to Pesaro and Rimini have been extended.

REPATRIATION

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The Italian cruisers continue to be employed in lifting P.O.W.'s back to Italy. All P.O.W.'s are expected to be repatriated from North Africa by 1st June if vessels now employed on this work can be kept operational. Forty per cent of the prisoners in India have been repatriated. In the week ending 24th March, 11,000 men were returned home leaving an estimated 318,000 overseas.

THE SLOOP "ERITREA"

The "ERITREA" sailed from Taranto, 1st April, for Port Said, for onward routing to the East Indies and China. She carries Italian diplomatic personnel appointed to the Far East, and a few repatriates including 40 Chinese laundrymen.

16th April, 1946.

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NAVY SUB COMMISSION - MONTHLY REPORT
FOR FEBRUARY, 1946

I MINESWEEPING

After clearing the important harbours of Italy, the policy has been to clear the approaches to the most important ports and landfalls and to sweep channels along the shore for the benefit of coastal traffic and fishermen, leaving the large areas which are known to contain mines to be cleared later.

For example British minesweepers have completed a clearance sweep of the area between Genoa and Savona and then proceeded inshore of the minefields between Savona and San Remo, carrying out a check sweep as they went, thus confirming the safety of this inshore channel for navigation. A check sweep about to be undertaken south of San Remo will open up the approach to that port from seaward, as well as to Imperia.

Before long the work of mine clearance in Italian waters will be carried out entirely by the Italians themselves, as well as the task of destroying or rendering harmless sea mines which break adrift from their moorings and become a danger either at sea or on the coasts.

The work of the minesweepers, which is hampered in the winter months by bad weather, will begin intensively this spring. Channels will be widened and dangerous areas will be whittled down, but so many and varied are the types of minefields laid by the Germans and Italians that it may be years before the entire waters of the Central Mediterranean can be declared free for all purposes.

II REPATRIATION.

The Italian cruisers Montecuccoli, Abruzzi, and the SS TOSCANIA, have operated throughout the month repatriating prisoners from the Middle East, Tripolitania and Morocco.

III RECRUITS FOR THE ITALIAN NAVY.

The call-ups of the classes of 1923-24 for the Italian Armed Forces in the territory under the control of the Allied Military Government in Northern Italy was postponed until March.

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III RECRUITS FOR THE ITALIAN NAVY.

The call-ups of the classes of 1923-24 for the Italian Armed Forces in the territory under the control of the Allied Military Government in Northern Italy was postponed until that territory was turned over to the control of the Italian Government. When the Northern territories were restored to Italy at the first of the year no action was taken by the Italian Navy to conscript recruits in that area since additional recruits are not needed by the Italian Royal Navy at this time. Negotiations are in progress for the transfer of the Navy's quota to the Italian Army.

IV ISLAND SURVEY.

During the month a survey with regard to the Military state of the islands of Pantelleria and Lampedusa, was made by a representative from this Sub Commission together with representatives from the Army and Air Force Sub Commissions on the occasion of the withdrawals of the Allied Liaison Officers from these localities. A report of the inspection which was actually carried out between the 8th and 14th February 1946 has since been made and forwarded.

EC List - 18/2/46

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CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION FOR

JANUARY 1946

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1. The Ministry of Marine has been asked to make a comprehensive survey of major Italian naval warlike stores. A preliminary report based on an estimate has been received.
2. The screening and release of Captured Enemy Material to the Italian Royal Navy continues.
3. Arrangements have been made for the Italian naval authorities to withdraw provision items from Italian army depots; part of the requirements, however, will be supplied from British depots at Bari and Naples.
4. Transfer of the fuelling bases of Taranto, Naples and Leghorn to Italian control and responsibility took place on 1st January 1946. The transfer of the fuelling installations, which was made to C.I.P. does not indicate complete reversion to Italian control since various Allied organizations may require fuel to be held on their account.
5. Extensive data was collected and compiled for the French Representative to the Allied Commission, pertaining to French ships in Italian waters.

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JAN 17 1946

REPORT OF NAVY SUB COLLISION FOR
DECEMBER, 1945.

The Ministry of Marine has been informed that the restrictions on the activities of Italian naval personnel in the islands of Pantelleria, Lampedusa and Linosa existing before the administration was restored to the Italian Government will be maintained, and such new restrictions as may, from time to time, be necessary, pending eventual settlement under the Peace Treaty.

2. Lists of former French vessels and naval material in Italy, claimed removed or disposed of by the French naval authorities have been received and filed for record purposes. Investigation and recovery by the Italian Ministry of Marine of naval enemy material is continuing.

3. The Port of Palermo, and shipyard, was returned to the Italian Royal Navy along with substantial lists of equipment and port facilities.

4. Arrangements are being made through the agency of the Chief Disposal Officer, British Ministry of Supply, Rome, for the turn over, to the Italian Ministry of Marine, acting for Italian Government, of all surplus naval stores and material at Taranto upon the withdrawal of the Royal Navy Base at that port on 31 January 1946. It is estimated that some 50,000 tons of material and stores are involved and it is hoped that this large contribution will ensure the continuation of work in, and the efficient operation of, Italian ship-repair yards.

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CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT OF NAVY SUB-COMMISSION FOR
NOVEMBER 1945.

DEC 17 1945

Rumours of illegal and unauthorized manufacture of naval arms and munitions were investigated and found untrue. To date the Navy Sub-Commission has not authorized the Ministry of Marine or any private or government owned industries to manufacture naval arms or munitions. The investigation and recovery by the Ministry of Marine of naval Captured Enemy Material is progressing slowly.

2. Authority has been granted for an Italian Naval Mission to proceed to the Islands of Pantelleria, Lampedusa and Linosa, where they will:

- (a) Muster Italian Royal Navy personnel.
- (b) Carry out a survey of sunken-ships and report as to those it is considered opportune to carry out salvage operations.
- (c) Arrange various administrative matters which have been held in suspense since the surrender of the Islands to Allied Forces.

3. Extensive work pertaining to return of ships to former owners was done by the Sub-Commission.

4. The Ministry of Marine was authorized to utilize substantial lists of recaptured Italian Navy materials in the Genoa Area.

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REPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION FOR
OCTOBER, 1945.

The ration strength of the Italian Navy showed a decrease of approximately 10,000 in July as compared to the May and June figures of 61,000 and 60,000 respectively. This was explained by the Ministry of Marine as being due to discharges and exceptional leave granted to personnel residing in Northern Italy. The Ministry of Marine also pointed out that owing to the new recruiting and returning of men on leave the future ration strength would rise again to former figures. Further information recently has been received from the Ministry of Marine to the effect that as the recruiting of the remaining groups of the 1924 class is now in progress, and as, particularly in northern areas, there is a continuous inflow of ex-prisoners of war and of disbanded men who belong to those classes still under arms, for a brief period there will be an overlap between this inflow and the ratings of the 1921 and 1922 classes who are still to be discharged. As a result the present strength, which has increased to about 58,000 in September, may still mount up in the coming two months to approximately 62,000 men, and then gradually decrease by February next to about 54,000.

2. As there has been a shortage of available shipping, there have not been ample facilities for the shipment of food to Sardinia. To assist in the strict control which has been instituted to curtail the issues of food rations in Sardinia, the Ministry of Marine was requested to instruct Commanding Officers of Italian naval vessels to draw rations in Sardinia only in cases of emergency and in every case in which it was possible, to carry a sufficient quantity of victuals for the round trip back to the mainland from Sardinia.

3. The San Marco Infantry Regiment located at Trani Vide passed to the Command of the Italian Ministry of War from the General Officer Commanding Three District on 18th October, and on 20th October it was further transferred to the Command of the Italian Ministry of Marine.

4. Unfortunately no Italian vessels are available for the purpose of establishing a coast guard service for the West Coast of Italy to control a reported clandestine traffic between Italy and France. However the Ministry of Marine has been requested to take all possible action to suppress any illegal traffic which may exist by informing Italian Port Captains and Security Authorities of its existence.

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REPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION FOR

OCT 16 1945

SEPTEMBER, 1945.

1. During September the Navy Sub-Commission handled the usual large number of routine supply and personnel questions concerning the administration of the Italian Navy. A gratifying tendency was noticed during the month for the Italian Ministry of Marine to become more self-sufficient and to communicate with the Navy Sub-Commission only on those matters which actually required the assistance of the Allied Governments.
2. Italian Navy personnel now may proceed to their homes East of the Morgan Line or within the Pola Conclave on leave or on demobilization if they are in possession of authorized leave or demobilization papers and if they are in possession of an Allied Military Government Pass countersigned by the Yugoslav Mission. These passes are issued by Allied Military Government, 13th Corps to which headquarters application must be made in advance through the Navy Sub-Commission. In all instances personnel on leave or on demobilization must wear civilian clothes and be unarmed.
3. The Italian Navy Material Recovery Parties, authorized by the Navy Sub-Commission with the approval of Allied Force Headquarters to locate and recover recaptured Italian and German naval stores and equipment, have experienced some difficulty in dealing with subordinate Allied Commands who had not received full information concerning the operation of the Italian Navy Parties. At the request of the Navy Sub-Commission, Allied Force Headquarters on 14 September issued a directive to all Allied Army Commands to the effect that "All remaining recaptured Italian war material will be reported to Allied Force Headquarters and disposal instructions awaited, except that in the case of Naval and Air Force material when the instructions of the Navy or Air Force Sub-Commissions of Allied Commission, acting on behalf of the Allied Naval and Air Force Commands, may be accepted". The Navy Sub-Commission has assisted in giving wide promulgation to the recent Allied Force Headquarters directive and has requested the Commanding Generals of major Army Commands to notify all remanent authorities of the existence and purpose of the Italian Navy Material Recovery Parties and to provide them facilities to carry out their duties.
4. In response to a request from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that Ministry was informed that the question of the repair of a Danish merchant vessel should be referred to the Italian Ministry of Marine. The Italian Ministry of Marine representative to the Mediterranean Shipping Board then will make necessary representations.

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5. The operation of radio circuits by the Italian Government without Allied supervision has been authorized by Allied Force Headquarters, subject to the requirement that no new circuits will be opened without prior co-ordination with and specific approval of the Chief Signal Officer, AFHQ. This restriction is necessary to guarantee integrated frequency allocation throughout the theater and to avoid in so far as possible interference with other radio stations. All negotiations with the Italian Ministry of Marine concerning Italian radio circuits will be handled through the Navy Sub-Commission, AC.

6. In connection with the implementation of an Allied Force Headquarters directive which requires the Allied Commission to make a survey of Italian war like stores in the hands of the Italian Armed Forces, a representative of the Navy Sub-Commission visited a number of Italian factories and depots in the Genoa Area for a 10 day period in order to determine their contents. During the inspection all Italian officials and factory representatives were extremely co-operative in providing the data required.

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REPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION FOR

SEPTEMBER, 1945.

Page 2.

7. Approval was given during the month for the transfer of the upper Tyrrhenian Lighthouse Command of the Italian Navy from Piombino to its old location at Leghorn.

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CONDENSED MONTHLY REPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION, ALLIED COMMISSION
FOR AUGUST, 1945.

The ministry of Marine has reported that 20 Italian merchant vessels already have been disarmed and the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean has approved the disarming of the remainder of Italian Naval vessels, subject to the convenience of the charterers and operating authorities.

Approval has been given by Allied Force Headquarters for a small party of Italian Navy personnel to visit the islands of Pantelleria, Lampedusa and Linosa in the near future for the purpose of mustering any Italian Navy personnel which may be located on the islands and for the purpose of making a survey of the need and desirability of carrying out port salvage operations by Italian Navy personnel. The Ministry of Marine has been requested to nominate personnel for the above duty and has been informed that if approval is obtained for the visit it must be limited to a period of 8 weeks.

Hurray. As a result of information received to the effect that the Regional Commissioner of Venice Province considered that improvement was necessary in the Venice ferry service, the Ministry of Marine is making arrangements for the transfer to Venice of 4 additional motor vessels.

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REPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION FOR
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On 15th August approval was given to the Ministry of Marine to re-establish the Naval Command (Comando Militare Marittimo) in Venice. The function of the Command will be administrative only and not operational.

Arrangements were completed during the month between the Flag Officer Italy and Liaison and the Ministry of Marine for establishment of an Italian Navy ferry service between the Italian mainland and Sardinia. Under the arrangements made it will be possible to transport 600 Italian military personnel between Naples and Cagliari each month.

Due to the withdrawal of Allied Naval personnel from Italian ports, particular emphasis has been placed during the past month on the training of Italian Naval officers as reliefs of Allied Naval Control Service Officers. As of 23rd August Italian Naval Control Service Officers had been appointed for duty in the ports of Civitavecchia, Piombino, La Maddalena, Brindisi, Bari, Cagliari and San Antioco.

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AUG 14 1945

CONDENSED MONTHLY REPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION, ALLIED COMMISSION FOR
JULY, 1945.

The report of the Campbell Committee, appointed to make recommendations on the methods to be employed in transferring the operations of Italian Ports to Italian Government Authorities, was approved during the month by the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean and the Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean. In accordance with instructions received from Allied Force Headquarters the Navy Sub Commission has notified the Ministry of Marine of the approval and has directed the Ministry of Marine to take the necessary steps to implement the policies of the Campbell Committee report in regard to port operations.

2. In response to a request received from the Ministry of Marine concerning the procedure to be adopted for obtaining controlled materials for shipyards working for the Italian Merchant Marine, the following procedure has been adopted in conjunction with the Commerce Sub Commission. Applications for allocations of controlled materials will be made to the nearest Ufficio Provinciale dell'Industria e Commercio who, after screening will pass the request to the Italian Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Bids on behalf of the Ministry will then be presented to the Committee of Allied Force Local Resources (Italian) Board by the Commerce Sub Commission, Allied Commission.

3. The Ministry of Marine has been notified that there is no naval objection to the development of the Gulf of Genoa ports of Imperia, Porto Maurizio and Oneglia. It is believed that the three ports are capable of being made serviceable for coaster and schooner traffic after a small amount of salvage work. The Ministry of Marine has been notified that all action in regard to the ports must be initiated by the Italian Government and that no Allied Naval resources can be made available for minesweeping or for purposes of bomb and mine disposal.

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CONFIDENTIALREPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION FOR
JULY, 1945.

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4. An investigation of the circumstances surrounding a brush fire near a dump of Italian naval ammunition has brought to light the fact that adequate fire protection measures around the dump were not being observed. The fire lanes and fire guards were not satisfactorily cleared. Consequently, instructions have been issued to the Ministry of Marine to take appropriate action to inspect all Italian Navy ammunition dumps and to insure the existence of adequate safety measures and the presence of sufficient trained personnel.

Navy Sub Commission report of proceedings for July, 1945. Page 2.

5. Four partially completed wooden minesweepers, which were ordered originally by the Italian Republican Navy Authorities on behalf of the German Navy, have been discovered at Venice and have been turned over to the Italian Ministry of Marine in order that arrangements may be made for their completion and use.

6. As a result of representations made by French Government Authorities, the Italian Ministry of Marine has been notified, with the approval of the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean that all French naval stores found in enemy depots and dumps in Italy are to be returned to French Navy control.

7. It is expected that the critical water shortage in the Tromiti Islands will be alleviated in the near future as the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean has directed that a water boat make two trips to the Islands with a full cargo of drinking water.

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CONFIDENTIALREPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION FOR
JUNE, 1945.

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The Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean has directed that captured material of German and Italian Naval origin including that previously in the possession of the Italian Republican Navy, if not required for Allied Naval purposes may be turned over to the Italian Naval authorities for Italian Naval use. All such material will be turned over to Italian Naval authorities by the Navy Sub Commission, which has been designated by the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, as the agency responsible for its disposition. The Navy Sub Commission has requested the Minister of Marine to form Material Recovery Parties under the Officers-in-Charge of Italian Royal Naval Centres at Genoa, Turin, Milan, Venice and La Spezia for the purpose of locating, sorting, classifying and listing such material. Monthly reports will be submitted to the Navy Sub Commission through the Ministry of Marine concerning particulars of material taken over by the Italian Material Recovery Parties. Material will be listed under a number of categories such as naval stores, victualling stores, armament stores, medical stores, engineering stores and motor transport.

2. In accordance with instructions received from the Supreme Allied Commander and from the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, the Navy Sub Commission has informed the Ministry of Marine that any action to be taken concerning ex-Italian Republican Navy personnel who are still at large is the responsibility of the Italian Government and that such personnel cannot be taken into Allied protective custody either as prisoners of war or surrendered enemy forces.

3. The remaining 1923 Class Naval recruits were called up during May. The Ministry considers the call-up satisfactory, even though only 65 percent of the total number of individuals called up were actually incorporated into the Naval Forces, due to the fact that the Ministry has given approval for many recruits to join other branches of the military forces and because many are working for Allied Commands. In addition, a number have been given time to finish their studies. In Sicily 42 percent of the recruits presented themselves. Of the remaining 58 percent, 22 percent were already under arms, 22 percent were justifiably absent and 14 percent were unjustifiably absent.

4. The Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, has directed that Italian Merchant Vessels in the Mediterranean which carry Italian armament manned by Italian Naval personnel are now to be disarmed. Such action will permit a considerable number of Italian Navy gun crews to be released in order that they may rejoin other branches of the Italian Navy.

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Navy Sub Commission report for May, 1945.

Page 2.

5. During the month of June the Navy Sub Commission has received several requests for assistance in securing mine-sweeping equipment for the purpose of clearing mines in fishing areas and Italian port areas on the West Coast of Italy. The Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean has informed the Navy Sub Commission that no additional minesweeping forces can be made available on the West Coast of Italy at the present time, and that existing requirements for mine-sweeping equipment, particularly in the port of Genoa, make it unlikely that other less important areas can be swept for a considerable period. However, the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean has assured the Navy Sub Commission due consideration will be given to clearing other areas as soon as sufficient minesweeping equipment may become available.
6. Allied Naval Authorities have agreed to release machinery and equipment from the British Royal Navy Dockyard, Ancona in order that it may be returned to its original location at the Railway Waggon Works for the purpose of expediting rehabilitation of the Italian State Railways. The Machinery and equipment now can be returned to the Railway Waggon Works due to the fact that the machinery and equipment originally at the Ancona Dockyard has been located in Northern Italy and approval has been secured for its return to Ancona.
7. In order that any tendency to over-stock rations may be brought to light, arrangements have been made with the Military Mission to the Italian Army to cause periodic inspections to be made of the Italian Naval Bulk Depots. However, no detailed inquiry into the disposition of rations within the Italian Navy is contemplated as it has been the policy of the Navy Sub Commission not to interfere in the Italian Navy's internal administration.
8. At the request of the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, the Navy Sub Commission has arranged for the Ministry of Marine to establish an office of Genio Marina at Messina for the purpose of carrying out repair, maintenance and constructional work at the British Navy Base.

CONFIDENTIALREPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION FOR
MAY 1945.

12 JUN 1945

In response to a request from the Italian Ministry of Marine, the Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean has agreed to the return of a portion of Naples Harbour to Italian Government control. One discharge berth has been released without restriction and 3 berths have been released on Pontile Vigliena, subject to the right of Allied Naval Authorities to use one berth whenever it is required for the discharge of Allied tankers.

2. During May, the Navy Sub Commission has received a large number of verbal and written requests as a result of owners of small merchant and fishing vessels attempting to obtain the derequisition of or clarification of the status of their vessels. Due to the large number of such requests and the usual lack of definite information concerning the vessels, the Navy Sub Commission has adopted the policy of requiring all individuals to submit their requests to the Italian Ministry of Marine. The Ministry of Marine has established a procedure for handling such requests, and from the information already available to the Ministry is usually able to give a satisfactory reply to the owners. Where necessary and appropriate, the Ministry of Marine refers problems concerning the vessels to the Navy Sub Commission in order that a final decision may be reached in conjunction with Allied Naval Authorities.

3. On 9th May, the Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, issued a communication which altered the fishing regulations and permitted day and night fishing in a large area surrounding Italy and the adjacent islands. In the areas in which day and night fishing is now permitted, fishing vessels are subject to only a few restrictions which largely are designed for the protection of the vessels and which should not limit the size of their catch. Action has been taken with the Ministry of Marine to arrange the appointment of Italian Liaison Officers to Regional Commissioners of the Venice, Liguria and Emilia Regions for the purpose of assisting in fishing control and with a view to increasing the haul of fish.

4. The supply situation in the Italian Navy continues to be generally satisfactory, however, some concern has been felt over the unsatisfactory reports received of the progress made by the Italian Ministry of Marine, in the distribution of clothing, boots and shoes provided from Allied sources. Every effort is being made by the Navy Sub Commission to ensure that all Allied supplies furnished for the use of the Italian Navy are fully and equally distributed subsequent to their release to the Ministry of Marine.

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Navy Sub Commission report for May, 1945.

Page 2.

5. The Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief, has made available one Italian cruiser and several smaller Italian Naval vessels for the purpose of transporting refugees and displaced persons from the northern Italian areas to Sicily and Sardinia. At the end of May, over 3,000 individuals had been moved on Italian Naval vessels as a result of arrangements made during the month. It is anticipated that Italian Naval vessels will continue to be utilized for the purpose of transporting refugees, at least until the more seriously congested areas are relieved.

6. On 23rd May, Italian Naval Control Service Officers were appointed to duty in the ports of CIVITAVECCHIA, PIOMBINO and MIDDALINA. Directives to these officers were issued by the Flag Officer, Northern Area, Mediterranean concerning their responsibility to the Italian Naval Officers-in-Charge for the safe routing of all Allied merchant vessels leaving the port.

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REPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION FOR
APRIL, 1945.

The Navy Sub Commission has been informed by the Italian Ministry of Marine that on the 10th May and 15th June, 1945, two drafts of 1923 and 1924 recruits will be called to service with the Italian Navy. These two drafts totalling approximately 4,550 men will be the first that have been called for service in the Italian Navy since the Armistice. The total personnel strength of the Italian Navy will not be affected as a result of the call-up as an equal number of individuals will be released simultaneously from those reserve classes which already have fulfilled their service obligations. The classes are called up in the year when selectees reach their 20th year. It is not considered that disturbances will occur as this is not a mass recall of men who have served in peace or war time but a call-up of recruits who still must carry out their service obligations and who should have been called up some time previously. Difficulties mainly will exist in connection with communications and transport. To keep such difficulties to a minimum, care has been taken to issue the necessary instructions well in advance.

2. Toward the end of April, encouraging news from the Italian military front caused the Ministry of Marine to give a large amount of attention to planning for the responsibilities of the Italian Navy in the Northern Ports. In conjunction with and under the control of the Allied Naval Authorities, the Ministry of Marine is arranging to supply numerous Italian Navy personnel for duties connected with the operation of the various Northern Ports when they are freed from enemy control.

3. The Navy Sub Commission has been informed by the Ministry of Marine that on the 7th of April, 1945, His Royal Highness, Vice Admiral AIMONE di SAVOIA (The Duke of AOSTA) was relieved from his posts of Inspector General of M.A.S., of Assault Craft and of the San Marco Regiment and has been placed on the list of those officers available for assignment. Contrary to a widely held belief, the Duke of Aosta has not been deprived of his rank of Vice Admiral for his statements regarding the Italian High Court of Justice but simply has been relieved of his duty appointment.

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Report of Navy Sub Commission for April, 1945.

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4. The Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean has approved the employment of two Italian cruisers for the transfer of Italian prisoners to Sardinia from the mainland. The first group of 500, out of a total of 1200 prisoners to be transferred, left Naples shortly after the middle of the month. These prisoners involved are being removed to Sardinia from the Regina Coeli prison in Rome for the purpose of alleviating the congested conditions in that prison.

5. As a result of frequent difficulties that have been experienced in providing working funds to Italian firms performing work of military importance to Allied Naval Commands, the Finance Sub Commission, Allied Commission, on the 2nd April, 1945, directed that a fund be established at the Italian Finance Office (INTENDENZA delle FINANZE), Naples, from which payments may be made against bills presented by the firms. At some later date the various bills and payments will be reviewed by the Italian Government and charged against the appropriate account of the Italian Ministry concerned. This matter has been under discussion between the Navy Sub Commission and the Finance Sub Commission for a considerable period, due to the inability of the Italian Ministries to expeditiously provide firms with the lire required for day to day operations. It is hoped that the special fund at Italian Finance Office, Naples, will provide a satisfactory solution to many financing difficulties.

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CONDENSED MONTHLY REPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION, ALLIED COMMISSION
FOR APRIL, 1945,

Toward the end of April, encouraging news from the Italian military front caused the Ministry of Marine to give a large amount of attention to planning for the responsibilities of the Italian Navy in the Northern Ports. In conjunction with, and under the control of the Allied Naval Authorities, the Ministry of Marine is arranging to supply numerous Italian Navy personnel for duties connected with the operation of the various Northern Ports when they are freed from enemy control.

2. The Navy Sub Commission has been informed by the Ministry of Marine that on the 7th of April, 1945, His Royal Highness, Vice Admiral AIMONE di SAVOIA (The Duke of AOSTA) was relieved from his posts of Inspector General of M.A.S., of Assault Craft and of the San Marco Regiment and has been placed on the list of those officers available for assignment. Contrary to a widely held belief, the Duke of AOSTA has not been deprived of his rank of Vice Admiral for his statements regarding the Italian High Court of Justice but simply has been relieved of his duty appointment.

3. The Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean has approved the employment of two Italian cruisers for the transfer of Italian prisoners to Sardinia from the mainland. The first group of 500, out of a total of 1200 prisoners to be transferred, left Naples shortly after the middle of the month. These prisoners involved are being removed to Sardinia from the Regina Coeli prison in Rome for the purpose of alleviating the congested conditions in that prison.

REPORT OF NAVAL SUB COMMISSION FOR
MARCH, 1945.

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- (a) Employment of Personnel.
- (b) Supplies of food, clothing, transport and naval stores.
- (c) Disposal of war material.
- (d) Requisitioning of Italian Naval property.

The directive further provides that all communications relating to matters of policy in connection with the Italian Navy under the Amistice Terms and the general administration of the Italian Navy, not directly affecting the operation of the Italian Fleet under the Gunningham - de Courten Agreement will be referred directly to the Sub Commission.

2. The Ministry of Marine announced the promotion in naval rank of His Excellency the Minister Raffaele De Courten from Ammiraglio di Divisione to Ammiraglio di Squadra. The Italian Naval rank of Ammiraglio di Squadra corresponds to the British and American rank of Vice Admiral.

3. Approval was received from Allied Naval authorities, during the month, to make available 430,000 Italian shell forgings for scrap. By securing the release of these forgings, it is anticipated that nearly 30,000 tons of former Italian war material can be re-smelted into steel for more constructive purposes.

4. During March, the Ministry of Marine requested permission to post notices on all Italian industrial facilities which perform work for the Italian Navy, to the effect that such facilities are at the disposal of the Italian Navy and exempt from requisition. The Ministry was informed that as all Italian industrial facilities are subject to requisition by the Allied Armed Forces, no general exemption of such facilities from requisition could be allowed. However, the Ministry was notified that upon receipt of sufficient data, the Navy Sub Commission is prepared to authorise the use of notices which will be designed to prevent the requisition or removal of any material from the plants without the authority of the Navy Sub Commission. Due to the impracticability of fully investigating plants for which the Ministry desires exemption, the Ministry has been informed that any authorisation granted will be subject to the event that in the future, the Ministry of Marine should request such exemption.

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5. The Chairman, Mediterranean Shipping Board, has appointed a committee at Headquarters, Allied Commission to study and make recommendations with respect to shipping in ports which have been returned to Italian control. A representative of the Navy Sub Commission has been designated to the committee in view of the fact that the Director General of the Italian Mercantile Marine, under the Ministry of Marine, is the agency of the Italian Government which is responsible for their control and operation.

6. The Navy Sub Commission has received gratifying co-operation from Allied Employing Commands in securing the turn over of Italian employees who have been declared by the Ministry of Marine to be deserters from the Italian Navy. 5664 Upon receipt of information from the Ministry of Marine that an Italian Navy deserter is employed by a specific Allied Command, the Navy Sub Commission requests the employing unit to deliver the deserter to Italian authorities in accordance with the policy of Allied Force Headquarters. It is hoped that the apprehension of the majority of deserters from the Italian Navy will have salutary effect on other would-be absconcees and will result in an increased respect for the control Italian Naval authorities by all Italian Navy personnel.

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REPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION FOR
FEBRUARY, 1945.

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On the 19th February, Rear Admiral G. L. Warren, was appointed as Chief of the Navy Sub Commission, vice Rear Admiral C. E. Morgan, C.B., D.S.O. Rear Admiral Warren will have his office in the Allied Commission Headquarters, Rome. Commodore H. W. Zirolli, United States Navy, will continue to be Deputy Chief of the Sub Commission.

2. The Ministry of Marine has informed the Navy Sub Commission that captured Italian merchant seamen who are prisoner of war co-operators under the control of the British Government, may now send remittances to beneficiaries in Italy. The remittances will be received and distributed by the Ministry of War in accordance with arrangements made by that Ministry and the Director General of the Mercantile Marine.

3. The Ministry of Marine, at the request of the Navy Sub Commission, has agreed to supply 60 Italian Naval officers for assignment to duty with Italian Military Courts. The 60 Navy officers will be assigned to the Courts in order that the Navy may bear its proportionate share of the Court work in accordance with the wishes of the Procuratore Generale Militare and the Legal Sub Commission.

4. It has been confirmed with the Ministry of Marine that the present capacity of the Port of SAN STEFANO, which is now under the control of the Italian Navy, is four motor schooners of 200 - 300 tons. These vessels could moor simultaneously to the jetties. By placing mooring buoys, the Italian Navy Port Officer at SAN STEFANO considers that an 8000 ton ship with a maximum draft of 8 metres could be accommodated in the port.

5. In recent weeks the Italian Navy has shown an interest in obtaining general technical publications from England and the United States. Some publications already have been supplied to the Ministry of Marine by American and British representatives.

6. In spite of the fact that the attention of Italian Naval authorities has been brought to the repeated violations to travel regulations by Italian Naval personnel, the violations of the security of the Rear Army Zone continue to occur. As a result, Chief, Navy Sub Commission has initiated action with a view to securing the trial by Allied Military Courts of all Italian Navy personnel who are found to be illegally travelling in the Rear Army Zone. It is hoped that such action will have salutary effect on other would be violators of the security regulations.

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Report of Navy Sub Commission for February, 1945.

Page 2.

7. Strong representations have been made to the Minister of Marine drawing attention to the frequent breaches of the censorship regulations on the part of Italian Naval personnel in ships visiting Malta. The Minister has issued a general order to all Commanding Officers on the subject in which he indicated that, should Allied Authorities withdraw leave privileges for Italian ships at Malta on account of the continued breaches of the regulations he will not intercede to secure their restoration.

8. At the request of the Minister of Marine, the possibility of arranging a small welfare enquiry service for the purpose of establishing a recognised source of information for ratings who have relatives in the Army Zone is being investigated.

9. The two reserve battleships "DUILIO" and "DORIA", carried out exercises together off the east coast of Sicily on the 21st February, 1945, subsequently returning to Taranto and Syracuse respectively. Apart from this, there has been no change in the normal activities of the Fleet.

10. On the 19th February, following attacks on Italian Naval Officers in the Rome press, some fifty ratings of the Italian Navy were reported to have demonstrated against the "AVANTI" by breaking into the offices of that newspaper and also protesting to the Socialist headquarters in Rome. Various newspapers commented adversely on what was termed a serious attempt on the freedom of the press; the Ministry of Marine, however, in an official statement referred to the incident as a spontaneous act on the part of the seamen which demonstrated their disapproval of the newspaper's assertions. Continued press attacks on serving officers in the Italian Forces had already been the subject of official representations.

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REPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION FOR
JANUARY, 1945. FEB 17 1945

The Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, has promulgated an interim policy governing the treatment of Italian munitions plants, both state and private concerns. In the case of firms that normally furnish items and stores to the Italian Navy, and those which have been working exclusively for the Italian Navy no action will be taken by the Allied Commission without the prior approval of the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station.

2. Information from the Italian Ministry of Marine indicates that numerous "active duty" regular members of the Italian Navy have been employed by Allied commands without the approval of either Allied authorities or the Ministry of Marine. Unless the Ministry of Marine is notified and proper clearance obtained, such individuals are technical deserters from the Italian Navy. In a letter to Allied Force Headquarters which was sent via the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station, the Navy Sub Commission has requested that a directive be promulgated which would require that Allied units employing "active duty" Italian personnel regularise their status through the Navy Sub Commission - Flag Officer Liaison Italy, Rome.

3. In a communication dated 4th January, 1945, Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station informed that he would for the present continue to control non-operational salvage in Italian waters and that he would employ Flag Officer Liaison Italy, Rome (F.O.L.I., Rome) as the channel of correspondence with the Italian Ministry of Marine, rather than the Navy Sub Commission, Allied Commission.

4. On behalf of the Legal Sub Commission, the Navy Sub Commission has requested the views of the Ministry of Marine in regard to supplying an appropriate number of Italian Navy officers for assignment to duty with Italian Military Courts. As many of the cases that are brought before Italian Military Courts in Southern Italy involve members of the Italian Navy, it is considered that the Ministry of Marine should supply a proportionate number of court personnel. It is anticipated that approximately 75 Italian Naval officers will be required. At present all of the personnel assigned to Italian Military Courts have been made available from Italian Army Sources.

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5. The Navy Sub Commission at the request of the Finance Sub-Commission has asked the Ministry of Marine to assist in the formation of an Italian Government organisation which will permit captured Italian merchant seamen "cooperators" to remit funds to Italy from locations in the United Kingdom. All prisoner "cooperators" with the exception of ex-Italian merchant seamen already have been accorded this privilege. The matter is presently under discussion between the Italian Director General of the Merchant Marine and the Italian Ministry of War.

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Report of Navy Sub Commission for January, 1945. Page 2.

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- 25
6. In the middle of January the Spanish Government agreed to release from internment the Italian Light Cruiser "ATTILIO REGOLO", the destroyers "MITRAGLIERE", "FUCILIERS" and "CARABINIERE" and the Torpedo Boat "ORSA". These ships, which left SPEZIA for MAITA in September, 1943 with the remainder of the Italian Fleet, had put into ports in the BALEARICS and SPAIN to land survivors from the Battle ship "ROMA" and for other reasons, and had been interned after 24 hours. The Spanish Government having now seen fit to release them, they sailed from Port MAHON on the 15th January for ALGIERS, and have since reached TARANTO, where they will require docking and small repairs before resuming their service. Various Italian small craft have been released from other Spanish ports and are returning to Italy.
7. At the request of the Italian Government, the cruiser "RAIMONDO MONTECUCCOLI" was sent to CATANIA on the 15th January to help in quelling the local disturbances by a show of force and to protect harbour installations if this should become necessary. The cruiser also visited PALERMO and ferried several batches of rebellious young men to the Island of Ustica. She has subsequently been withdrawn, not having been called upon to take any offensive action.

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REPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION FOR
DECEMBER, 1944.

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Cruisers and destroyers of the Royal Italian Navy continue to carry out the useful work of transporting men and materials between ports in the Mediterranean. Two cruisers and two destroyers have visited the Middle East and two Italian submarines have been escorted back to Taranto from the Levant for repairs. The battleships "LITTORIO" and "VITTORIO VENETO", interned in the Bitter Lakes, received their Christmas mails by destroyer. The Ministry of Marine still elects to keep a third of their complement on board these ships, although the crews are allowed no contact with the shore except for short daily periods of recreation in the desert.

2. One of the main difficulties encountered during the month has been the frequent infringement of Allied movement control regulations by Italian naval personnel. It has come to light that an organised motor bus service is in operation to take Italian naval personnel on leave to Leghorn, Florence and other places north of the Rear Army Control Line. In all instances travel has been for purely family reasons, but unauthorised movement constitutes a serious threat to security in the Army Zone and drastic steps are being taken to stop it.

3. The Navy Sub Commission is continuing to collaborate with the Ministry of Marine on non-operational salvage matters following the formation of the inter-Ministerial Committee for Non-Operational Salvage by the Italian Government. The Committee includes representatives of all of the Ministries concerned, ie. Public Works, Commerce and Labour, Finance, Agriculture, and Navy. Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station has advised that the matter of non-operational salvage in Italian waters, and the designations of non-operational salvage areas is under consideration and that further communication on the subject will be made.

4. The Navy Sub Commission has requested numerous Allied authorities to supply information in regard to benefits that can be derived from a greater use of the port of PIOMBINO. It is hoped that the replies received can then be used to formulate instructions to the Ministry of Marine which will assure maximum assistance from the Italian Navy. Present indications are that increased use of PIOMBINO for off loading of civilian supplies would provide important relief for the port of Leghorn. Also, the Ministry of Marine has been requested to supply complete information regarding the

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5. Desertions from the Italian Navy continue to be fairly numerous and the Ministry of Marine frequently complain that deserters are harboured by Allied units with whom they gain employment as civilians. Efforts to trace such men have always been fruitless however. Desertions to the Yugoslav Partisans have fallen off and there appeared to be reaction in favour of the Royal Yugoslav Navy to whom five men deserted during the month.

6. 2000 volunteers are being enrolled into the Italian Navy to replace an equivalent number of time-expired men. These are the first volunteers to be accepted since August, 1943.

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Report of Navy Sub Commission for December, 1944.

Page 2.

7. On instructions from the Admiralty 10 Italian Naval Officers are being selected for training as Naval Control Service Officer.

8. The procedure for obtaining supplies from local resources is now working satisfactorily and in addition limited assistance has been given to industrial plants operating for the Italian Navy.

9. Stocks of much needed toilet articles for the Italian Navy have been unearthed. Special Christmas rations were gratefully received and brought forth effusive thanks from the Ministry of Marine.

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Office of the Chief of Staff

Civil Affairs Branch

8083/21/008

Flag - Officer Madison, Italy.
Allied Commission HQ, Rome

28 December 44

Reference your No L-429, memorandum of transmittal of the
May 31 Commission monthly report for November 44 directed to the
Civil Affairs Branch, AG, your attention is invited to the fact that
there is no longer a Civil Affairs Branch. In the future, correspondence
which was formerly directed to Civil Affairs Branch will be sent to this
office.

Chief Staff Officer
To the Chief of Staff

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FLAG OFFICER LIAISON, ITALY,
ALLIED COMMISSION,
HEADQUARTERS,
ROME.

15th November, 1944.

15 DEC 1944

No. L.429.

CIVIL AFFAIRS BRANCH,
ALLIED COMMISSION,

REPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION FOR
NOVEMBER, 1944.

40 copies of the full length report of the
Navy Sub Commission for November, 1944, are forwarded
herewith.

S. J. Blackburn.

for REAR ADMIRAL.

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REPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION FOR
NOVEMBER, 1944

The general disposition of the Italian Fleet remains the same. 18 Escort Vessels have now been based on Naples for work in the Tyrrhenian Sea. Although there have been Escort Groups working there previously, the ships had to return to Taranto for repairs. The new arrangement makes Naples once more an Italian Naval Base, as opposed to a port of call.

2. Owing to the present situation in the Mediterranean, no operations of war have been carried out by the larger Italian warships and it is not anticipated that any such employment can be found in the future. The cruisers are continuing to perform a useful function in moving British and Italian Naval drafts.

3. The usual questions of administration and supply have been dealt with during the month. The disposal of the officers and men from the Italian Naval Anti-aircraft and Coastal Defence batteries is still undecided, although it now appears that the personnel thus released may be retained to meet future naval commitments in advance ports.

4. The Navy Sub Commission has received information from the Ministry of Marine that the Italian organization of the ports of Civitavecchia, San Stefano and Piombino is proceeding satisfactorily. The three ports were recently returned to Italian control and the full administrative and operational responsibility is now vested in the Ministry of Marine. The Ministry has announced its intention of establishing a Port Division in its offices in Rome which will be under the direction of a Senior Naval Officer and which will co-ordinate all matters in those ports which have been or which will in the future be returned to Italian Navy Control. In the larger ports the local Italian organization will be in charge of a Naval Commander of appropriate rank, however, in the smaller ports, such as San Stefano, Tenente di Porto or Harbourmaster will be in charge. The representatives of the Ministry of Marine appear to have accepted their new responsibilities in the ports enthusiastically and have undertaken the necessary arrangements in a business-like manner. It is hoped that it will be possible for the Ministry of Marine to obtain an estimate of the amount of Allied traffic that it is expected will use the ports so that necessary arrangements can be made by them for labour and equipment.

5. Following a conference between representatives of MEDCO acting for the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station, the Labour Sub Commission, Allied Commission and the Navy Sub Commission, Allied Commission, the President of the Italian Council of Ministers has been informed.

4. The Navy Sub Commission of Marine that the Italian organization of the ports of Civitavecchia, Genoa, Stefano and Piombino is proceeding satisfactorily. The three ports were recently returned to Italian control and the full administrative and operational responsibility is now vested in the Ministry of Marine. The Ministry has announced its intention of establishing a Port Division in its offices in Rome which will be under the direction of a Senior Naval Officer and which will co-ordinate all matters in those ports which have been or which will in the future be returned to Italian Navy Control. In the larger ports the local Italian organization will be in charge of a Naval Commander of appropriate rank, however, in the smaller ports, such as San Stefano, Tenente di Porto or Harbourmaster will be in charge. The representatives of the Ministry of Marine appear to have accepted the new responsibilities in the ports enthusiastically and have undertaken the necessary arrangements in a business-like manner. It is hoped that it will be possible for the Ministry of Marine to obtain an estimate of the amount of Allied traffic that it is expected will use the ports so that necessary arrangements can be made by them for labour and equipment.

5. Following a conference between representatives of MEDCO acting for the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station, the Labour Sub Commission, Allied Commission and the Navy Sub Commission, Allied Commission, the President of the Italian Council of Ministers has been informed that there is no objection to the re-establishment of engagement or registry offices for Italian Merchant Seamen under the Port Captaincies provided no fees are charged or monopolies created over the process of employment.

6. On the 28th November, 1944, a Navy Sub Commission representative attended a meeting at Allied Commission Headquarters in regard to the utilisation and disposition of Italian munition plants. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the Army and Air Force Sub Commission, the Industry Sub Commission and the Economic Section, Allied Commission. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the means of obtaining utilisation of all Italian manufacturing establishments in connection with the rehabilitation of Italy. At present, there is need for clarifying directives as well as a more complete interchange of information between Allied Military personnel and those Allied Personnel who are charged with supervising Italian civilian production to ensure that the maximum number of industrial facilities can be converted from munitions production to the manufacture of materials for the civilian economy. A report of the meeting has been sent to Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station, and upon receiving his concurrence in several statements of policy which were made at the meeting, it is hoped that the Navy Sub Commission will be able to present a clear statement of Navy policy in regard to munition plants to the appropriate sections of the Allied Commission.

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Monthly Allied Commission report for November, 1944.

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7. One of the main difficulties regarding the supply of Naval Stores to the Italians is that no central storing system exists in the Italian Navy. The Ministry of Marine have recognised the disadvantage of their departmental system however, and it is understood that they are setting up a central stores department which will co-ordinate the demands of the various departments of the Ministry. It is worthy of note that this step is being taken quite spontaneously by the Ministry of Marine.

8. Arrangements have been made for Italian Naval units in forward areas to draw rations from local British Army D.I.D's. Attempts by the Ministry of Marine to obtain increased rations for the Rome area have been squashed, since it is considered undesirable to encourage the presence of large numbers of Italian naval personnel in Rome, not all of whom can be fully employed.

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FLAG OFFICER LIAISON, ITALY,
ALLIED COMMISSION,
HEADQUARTERS,
ROME.

17th November, 1944.

No: L.429.

19 NOV Recd

CIVIL AFFAIRS BRANCH,
ALLIED COMMISSION.

REPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION FOR
OCTOBER, 1944.

40 copies of the full length report of the
Navy Sub Commission for October, 1944, are forwarded
herewith.

[Signature]
for REAR ADMIRAL.

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30 NOV RecdREPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION FOR
OCTOBER, 1944

With the reduction of escort commitments due to the removal of the U-boat menace in the Mediterranean and the fact that Italian ships are not allowed, for political reasons, to proceed to Greek or Yugo-Slav Ports, it is not now possible to employ the Italian Navy to the same extent as heretofore. Nevertheless Italian ships, having got out of the habit of remaining in harbour, are now proceeding to sea regularly for gunnery and other exercises in the vicinity of Taranto.

2. Approval has been requested for the battleship "DORIA" to proceed to Taranto for a short period for exercises due to lack of facilities at Syracuse, the decision on this question has not yet been received.
3. The Depot ship "ERITREA" returned to Taranto from Colombo during the month and is being taken in hand for a refit, which is expected to be complete about March, 1945.
4. Three submarines have left the Mediterranean, one for Bermuda and two for the Eastern Fleet.
5. Allied Force Headquarters have ordered that, apart from a few batteries, all Italian Anti Aircraft and Coastal Defence batteries in Italy and Sardinia, are to be disbanded. The Italian Navy formerly played a large part in the defence of the country, and, it is estimated that this reduction will release approximately 10,000 officers and men. A decision is now awaited as to the disposal of these men.
6. The Italians are anxious to establish port parties at Leghorn and Ancona, but have been refused permission in both instances until the line moves further north.
The Ministry of Marine has been formally notified of the turn back of the ports of Civitavecchia, Piombino and San Stefano to Italian Navy Control, and has been requested to issue appropriate instructions for the organisation of the above ports, implementing the directives issued by Flag Officer, Northern Area, Mediterranean, in order that appropriate Liaison may be established between Allied authorities and Italian port authorities. The Ministry has been requested to establish an office in each port, which will be responsible for the port's efficient operation, and has been requested to give first priority to the organisation of Civitavecchia.

4. Three submarines have been ordered to be sent to the Eastern Fleet.

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7. Action has been taken to obtain a better allocation of materials from local resources for the Italian Navy. This should ease the critical supply situation and also reduce the demands being made on British Naval stocks.

8. Approval has been received to issue surplus stocks of certain articles of waterproof clothing to civilians being employed on essential outdoor work for the Royal Navy. With the onset of winter, the clothing problem, particularly as regards waterproof articles is becoming critical and the above mentioned action will have a very beneficial effect.

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Report of Navy Sub Commission for October, 1944.

9. As regards the supply of materials for the manufacture of uniforms for the Italian Navy, a certain amount has been shipped from the United Kingdom and there is more to come. A package of sewing machine needles has arrived in Taranto by air. The receipt of the material will be most welcome and only just in time, before the cold weather really sets in.

10. Due to a breakdown in discussions at Allied Force Headquarters regarding supplies of essential N.A.A.F.I. toilet articles to the Italian Navy, this vexed question is again "in the air". This is most disappointing and it is hoped that further action can be taken to allow of some regular supply of toilet articles in which the Italian Navy is so sadly lacking.

11. The Navy Sub Commission has to date arranged rail transportation out of the Rome area for over 1,000 members of the Italian Navy and their families, who have been evacuated to Southern Italy and Sicily, under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Marine. There are indications that the Ministry of Marine may require further transportation facilities, for evacuees in the future. An effort is being made to obtain complete information regarding the Ministry's future responsibilities in regard to transporting evacuees so that the Navy Sub Commission, will be able to plan for future assistance that may be required.

12. The question of the proper agency for hiring Italian Merchant Seaman is still unsettled between MEDBO and the Labour Sub Commission. An effort is being made by the Navy Sub Commission, to expedite an early decision. The Labour Sub Commission is opposing MEDBO's contention that the hiring is a function of the Italian Port Captaincies, and desires that the Controlled Labour Offices be allowed to assume full responsibility.

13. The Ministry of Marine has drafted proposals for the regularization of the status of Navy personnel who are employed by Anglo - American Commands or Controlled Industries. The Navy Sub Commission has approved the Ministry's proposals in principle and stated that assistance would be given in obtaining the release of twenty active (permanent) service ratings, from their present employment so that their Naval service and benefits will be unimpaired. The Ministry was informed, however, that it is not possible to advise which other Italian servicemen can be released by Anglo - American Commands, or the anticipated dates of their release.

An effort is being made to obtain complete information regarding future responsibilities in regard to transporting evacuees so that the Navy Sub Commission, will be able to plan for future assistance that may be required.

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14. Commandant, United States Naval Operating Base, Palermo, reported on 6th October, that an additional Italian civilian employee had recently been arrested on a charge of desertion under Article 146 of the Codice Penale Militaire di Guerre. The Ministry of Marine on 13th October, was requested to expedite the issuance of the proclamation to regularise the position of absentees or deserters from Civilian Labour Corps under Military Control. The Army and Airforce Sub Commissions are assisting in obtaining the issue of similar directives from the corresponding Italian Ministries.

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FLAG OFFICER LIAISON, ITALY,
ALLIED COMMISSION,
HEADQUARTERS,
ROME.

15th November, 1944.

16 NOV Recd

No. L.429.

COS. ✓

CIVIL AFFAIRS BRANCH,
ALLIED COMMISSION.

MONTHLY ALLIED COMMISSION REPORT.

40 copies of the condensed report of the Navy
Sub Commission, Allied Commission, for October, 1944, are
forwarded herewith.

[Signature]

for REAR ADMIRAL.

Cof S. Disturbance
1 Lib Copy, 50, cfs, e.e
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CONDENSED MONTHLY REPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION, ALLIED
COMMISSION, OCTOBER, 1944.

Three of the seven active Italian cruisers have been refitting during the past month. The remainder, and the destroyers and small craft continue to be fully employed in their transport and escort duties. The morale of officers and men remains satisfactory.

2. The Ministry of Marine has been notified of the turn back of the ports of Civitavecchia, Piombino and San Stefano to Italian Navy Control and has been requested to issue appropriate organization orders for the above ports to ensure their efficient operation.

3. The Navy Sub Commission during the past several months has arranged for the evacuation from the Rome area of over 1,000 inactive members of the Italian Navy and their families. The evacuees have been removed to Southern Italy and Sicily under the guidance of the Ministry of Marine, and have been removed to locations where they will be able to obtain better living conditions.

4. Routine activities of the Navy Sub Commission have included the usual problems of supplies and materials for the Italian Navy and Control of movements of Italian Navy personnel.

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CONFIDENTIAL
MONTHLY REPORT OF THE NAVY SUB-COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER, 1944.

18 OCT Recd

Ships of the Royal Italian Navy continue to be as fully employed as their state of readiness permits. An average of 4 cruisers are ferrying troops from Gagliari to Naples. Destroyers and small vessels are fully employed on escorting duties and special operations. During the month two further submarines have left the Mediterranean for training duties with the United States Navy. There is nothing of note in respect of morale of Naval personnel, which remains good.

2. Work is proceeding well in the dockyards at Taranto and Brindisi. The following figures give an indication of the numbers of ships which are now being dealt with:

Allied warships in hand September	69
completed	44
Italian warships in hand September	55
completed	41
Merchant ships in hand September	99
completed	91
Number of ships docked Taranto	53
Brindisi	32

3. Considerable attention has been devoted by the Navy Sub Commission, Allied Control Commission, to economic problems such as the control of shipbuilding, the production of an adequate supply of raw materials to meet requirements for finished products necessary for the war effort. The average price per quintal has been raised successively from 3150 lire to 4100 and recently to 4700 lire to induce farmers to deliver wheat. Black market prices are reported to be as high as 6000 lire per quintal.

4. A conference was held at Caserta with representatives of Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station's Administrative Staff, and the Industry Sub Commission, Allied Control Commission, to review the policy for shipbuilding. The policy established by Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station in March, 1944, that the facilities should be utilized for repairs in the interest of the immediate war effort was reaffirmed with the added agreement that there is no objection to building small coastal vessels under 1500 tons, tugs, barges and schooners, provided material and machinery can be obtained without detriment to the war effort.

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5. An endeavour is being made to formulate a policy and plans for non operational salvage. Discussions have been held between representatives of Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station's Staff, Public Works and Utilization Sub Commission, Allied Control Commission and the Navy Sub Commission. Allied Control Commission. The President of the Italian Council of Ministers has been requested officially to designate either the Ministry of Marine or Public Works as the agency to plan for, and coordinate salvage work including the actual salvage operations.

6. Agreement has not yet been reached between MEDBO and the Labour Sub Commission, Allied Control Commission, as to the proper agency for hiring Italian Merchant Seamen. MEDBO contends that this is a function for the Italian Port Captains, whereas the Labour Sub Commission, Allied Control Commission, proposes that all hiring be through the Controlled Labour Offices. It now appears that both have function, the former to advise seamen on matters etc; and the latter insurance, social welfare, allotments to dependents etc; and the latter to effect the actual hiring of seamen.

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7. The disposition of vessels of Italian ownership captured from Germany by the Allies after the armistice with Italy has again been raised through the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Italian Government contends that in view of their status as a co-belligerent their vessels should be returned to Italian control under the provisions of the Cunningham Agreement.

8. Numerous other problems involving supplies for the Italian Navy, the control of movements of Italian personnel, the arrangements for transport of persons and equipment, censorship regulations, accommodation etc., have been handled by the Sub Commission.

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

785017

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C of S Distribution
1 File copy CSO, copy A/CC.
1 Capt Menden
3 PRO.

537

21 SEP Read

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REPORT OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION.

During the month of August the active cruisers of the Italian Fleet have carried out the normal programme of ferrying troops and civilians in the western Mediterranean. Destroyers and smaller vessels have been employed in escort work. The three older battleships have returned from Malta and have been reduced to reserve in Italian ports. The work of the Taranto dockyard proceeds satisfactorily. Supplies of food and medical stores for the fleet are satisfactory and the introduction of a single ration scale for combat and non-combat troops has simplified administration. As far as possible the Italian Navy utilises its own stocks of Naval Stores and every assistance is given to them to obtain materials from local resources. Essential items not available from these sources are supplied mainly from British Naval stocks. The clothing situation is unsatisfactory and will remain so until the arrival of materials ordered from the United Kingdom, when the Italians will manufacture their uniforms in their own factories.

The question of the responsibility for non-operational salvage is now under review and it is hoped that a directive may be issued in the near future. In normal times this work is the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Works, but it has been suggested that it should come under the Ministry of Marine. Steps are being taken to determine the correct authority to act as an employment agency for Italian Merchant Seamen, which at one time was under the Italian Port Captaincy, but will probably become a branch of the Provincial Labour Offices.

Steps are being taken to obtain favourable publicity for the work of the Italian Navy, and details which are being worked out in conjunction with the Public Relations Branch include the production of a short film, showing the work of the Italian Ships during the past year.

Backlist of information

2/19

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Exhibit of ship work
pgs 2/19

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission
APO 394

MSC/869

20 September 1944.

20 SEP Recd

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. ACC.
To : Regional Control & Military Government Section,
Headquarters, ACC.
Subject: Monthly Report of Navy Sub-Commission for AUGUST, 1944.
Reference: (a) RC & MG 497/74/CA of 8 August 1944.
Enclosure: (A) Thirty five (35) copies of subject report.

1. In accordance with paragraph 1(b) of reference (a) thirty-five copies of the August 1944 Navy Sub-Commission report are forwarded herewith as enclosure (A).

2. The August report has been approved by Rear Admiral C. E. Morgan, DSO, Chief of the Navy Sub-Commission.


H. W. ZIFOLI,
Commodore, U.S. Navy,
for Chief, Navy Sub-Commission, ACC.

Col Shupp

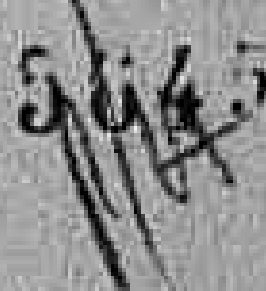
This is the first Naval SC Report for a long time.

I do not propose to include it in the summarized Report as it is classified & probably would always have to be.

21/9



21/9



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REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF NAVY SUB COMMISSION
FOR MONTH OF AUGUST, 1944.

OPERATIONAL,

During the month of ^{August} ~~July~~ the active cruisers of the Italian Fleet have carried out the normal programme of ferrying troops and civilians between Cagliari and Naples. Escort vessels have escorted convoys between Sicily and Taranto and the west of Italy ports and the running destroyers have been employed on various missions, including the final move of the Ministry of Marine from Taranto to Rome, via Civitavecchia. Available Italian submarines are employed in the Mediterranean and on other stations for training Allied Anti-Submarine vessels. The Battleships Vittorio Veneto and Italia remain in the Bitter Lakes, with reduced complements. The three older battleships are reduced to care and maintenance crews in Italian ports.

2. MORALE,

The morale of the Italian Navy, if not high, remains high enough to permit of a reasonable standard of discipline and efficiency being maintained. The task of repatriating unwashed and often verminous soldiery or Prisoners of War is not an inspiring one, but it is carried out in a spirit of resignation by docile crews, uncertain of the future and happy only to be clothed, fed and employed. Throughout the centuries, "pazienza" has been the Chief quality of the Italian peasant and one which has enabled him to endure misgovernment and misfortune. The sense of frustration and apathy which many of the younger and more energetic Naval Officers feel is reflected in the Ministry of Marine, where work appears to proceed in a very leisurely manner, except in the office of the Minister and in the Personnel Department. The work of "epuration" is proceeding and time-expired and reserve Officers and men are being recalled and placed on the retired list. There is a genuine feeling that the Italian Navy has pulled its weight during the past year and hopes are expressed that the Allies will not be unmindful of this at the Peace-table.

3. TARANTO DOCKYARD.

The work of Taranto Dockyard proceeds in a satisfactory manner, but as Italian cruisers and destroyers are

being maintained. The task of repatriating verminous soldiery or Prisoners of War is not an inspiring one, but it is carried out in a spirit of resignation by docile crews, uncertain of the future and happy only to be clothed, fed and employed. Throughout the centuries, "pazienza" has been the Chief quality of the Italian peasant and one which has enabled him to endure misgovernment and misfortune. The sense of frustration and apathy which many of the younger and more energetic Naval Officers feel is reflected in the Ministry of Marine, where work appears to proceed in a very leisurely manner, except in the office of the Minister and the Personnel Department. The work of "opuration" is proceeding and time-expired and reserve Officers and men are being recalled and placed on the retired list. There is a genuine feeling that the Italian Navy has pulled its weight during the past year and hopes are expressed that the Allies will not be unmindful of this at the Peace-table.

3. TARANTO DOCKYARD.

The work of Taranto Dockyard proceeds in a satisfactory manner, but as Italian cruisers and destroyers are taken in hand for repairs, the results of bad upkeep and lack of regular refits in the past become more and more apparent. Taranto is now the central storing base for the Italian Fleet, only small stocks being kept for emergency requirements at Naples and Augusta.

4. SUPPLIES.

Supplies of food and medical stores are satisfactory. The introduction of a single ration scale for combat and non-combat personnel has simplified administration and has resulted in the former having slightly less to eat and the latter having considerably more. The two categories have respectively complained and rejoiced. It is unfortunate that the seagoing (i.e. combat) personnel should suffer by this change, but the reduction is small and reactions have not been serious.

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In addition a project is under consideration for making short films descriptive of Italian Navy operations in conjunction with Allied Forces. Italian Naval authorities have recently placed considerable stress on the fact that the Italian Navy was not required to lower the Italian flag when the fleet surrendered. Under the original draft of the instrument of surrender, the Italian land, sea and air force surrendered unconditionally. Subsequently the instrument was modified and the word "unconditionally" removed from close proximity to the article relating to the surrender and placed in the preamble of the Agreement as a condition precedent to the signing of this modification by the United Nations. The Cunningham Agreement was modified to provide for the right of the United Nations to make any dispositions of Italian vessels as they might see fit. Late in July, an article on the activities of the Italian Navy was submitted for censorship prior to publication in the "Politica Estera". In addition to inferring that Italian Officers take precedence according to seniority in the chain of command in the field of operations with Allied navies, which is incorrect, the last sentence of the article read as follows: "The Italian Navy touching the parts of the United Nations, show eloquent testimony of the respect due to the flag which she has never hauled down". While the Italian Navy was permitted by the Cunningham Agreement to continue to fly the Italian flag, the surrender was unconditional. The attention of Press Censorship authorities was invited to this fact. Subsequently the Minister of Marine granted an interview with press authorities in which a statement was made that the Italian Navy had never been asked to lower the Italian flag. This statement was published without being submitted for censorship, as required by instructions issued to the Ministry of Marine, that all statements for publication must be forwarded to the Flag Officer Liaison, Italy for approval by the Navy Sub Commission, Allied Control Commission, and release by Allied Forces Headquarters, Field Press Censorship Office. A few days later a similar article and editorial were submitted for censorship and the references to the flag deleted. Objections were raised by the Italian Ministry of Marine, whereupon it was decided that the statement made in permissive sense was not objectionable. The incident is note-worthy for the reason that it evidences a continued effort on the part of Italian authorities to gain complete acceptance as an Allied Nation. For this reason an indication of the future policies to be adopted by the United Nations, with respect to Italy, is highly desirable.

9. The Ministry of Marine has requested authority to institute a courier service by train and ship between points in Italy and the Islands for the delivery of secret official correspondence. The proposal is under consideration by the Transportation Sub Commission, Allied Control Commission.

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10. A statement of policy has been requested from Allied Naval authorities whether payment should be made in Allied Military Lire for the cost of construction of the hulls and for the launching and fitting out of two (2) tugs. Under Allied Forces Headquarters Administrative confidential memorandum No. 34 of 1st August, 1944, the Allied Control Commission is required to set up within the Ministry of Finance of the Italian Government an agency to accept and fill such requisitions for supplies, facilities and services, locally obtainable, and as may be passed to it by the Allied Forces. It is further provided that a Lire account will be advanced by the Italian Government for payment of items and services which are impracticable to procure through the Italian services of requisition. While this appears to be the solution to the problem involved a further study will be made before the final decision is reached.

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

As far as possible, the Italians utilise their own stocks of Naval Stores and every assistance is given to enable them to obtain materials from local resources. Essential items not available from either of these sources are supplied mainly from British naval stocks at Taranto.

The clothing situation is still unsatisfactory and will remain so until the arrival of materials ordered from the United Kingdom. When these materials arrive, the Italian Navy will manufacture uniforms in their own factories.

An issue of M.A.A.F.I. supplies to Italian Naval personnel is now under consideration. If approved, this should have a most beneficial effect on morale.

5. Early in 1944, the Allied Control Commission was informed by the Flag Officer Western Italy that salvage operations in Italian waters, including the islands, are a responsibility of the Naval Allied Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean. Recently the Allied Control Commission was requested to consider taking over the responsibility for non-operational salvage in REGGIO (Calabria) and the Toe of Italy. As a result, the Naval Allied Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, was requested to issue a directive covering non-operational salvage. A draft has been prepared which delegates the responsibility for non-operational salvage to the Ministry of Marine. As this work is normally carried out under the Italian Ministry of Public Works, the question is raised as to whether the Italian Ministry of Marine is competent to assume this responsibility. The whole matter is under review and it is expected that a directive will be issued in the immediate future.

6. Italian Naval authorities are apparently endeavouring to establish normal conditions in the north of Italy. Numerous requests have been received for authority to permit naval officers and men to visit or re-establish naval activities in the north of Italy ports. This, however, is ~~not~~ with determined resistance from Allied authorities in that area. As these facilities must inevitably be returned to the Italian Navy, there is no practical reason except security why action should be delayed. For this reason, whenever practicable, authority has been granted for such visits.

7. The President of the Italian Council of Ministers has requested authority to re-establish employment offices for Italian Merchant Seamen under the Italian Port Captaincy.

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8. Approval has been obtained for the establishment of a procedure under which more favourable publicity can be obtained for the Italian Navy. Details are being worked out with the Public Relations Branch, Allied Control Commission.

785017

11.35 Am
2nd Mar.

Spoke Commodore
Palmer (phone) at
Naval S/C.

Each of the matters
in attached monthly
report (1) has been
taken up with the
S/Cs concerned
and no action
is desired of CA.
Sectn

AS Cape.

fa. 100

Local Shopp

While we do not wish to receive reports on which action is implied we might consider

- a) asking Laborers for a statement on the wage question in (2)
- b) Asking Industry & Commerce whether anything is being done or can be done about bicycle tires & tubes.
- c) Asking Army sub-Commission about clothing & boots.

On the other hand Navy may have already put these matters in hand directly with the Lab. Comm. concerned.

Is it our job anyway?

Major SW.

20/4

Suggested normally it is not our job to act on reports, but in this case we might ring up Navy & see whether they want any action taken.

Robert Baker with your thanks please

5642
30/4

27 APR Recd 537. C.A.D. 11.5
 REAR HEADQUARTERS
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
 NAVAL SUB-COMMISSION

No. 160/44.

25 April 1944.

To: Civil Affairs Branch, R.C. & M.G. Section, A.C.C.

Subject: Monthly report.

The Italian Fleet are doing fine work to further the war effort of the Allies. Some fifty warships and a large number of submarines are operating in a various number of ways, - as Escorts, Transports etc.. The Officers and men are keen to co-operate with the United Nations. Some 12,000 Officers and men are used for Anti-Aircraft and Coastal defence duties and further port operating units have been, and are being formed, which will release military dock operating companies.

2. The Dockyards in liberated Italy are considered to be the most important Allied Asset and it is essential that everything possible be done to increase output. The Authorities are certain that Dockyard workmen would be able to produce more if they were better fed and in some cases an adjustment of pay is necessary. It is felt that those workmen classed as "militarised" in the Naval Dockyards should have their wages increased by the Italian Government to the scale of wages authorised by the Allied Authorities. These two problems are at present under discussion.

3. There is a great shortage of transport, and tyres are urgently needed for these Italian vehicles already in use. Tyres and inner tubes for bicycles would ease the traffic problem for Dockyard workers in Taranto, where many have been disposed of homes to make room for the Army and have had to go to the country. These problems are causing concern and greatly affect output and urgent appeals have been made for supplies.

4. The clothing and footwear situation in the Italian Navy is rapidly deteriorating and it is hoped that due consideration will be given to allocating to the Navy a proportion of the boots and clothing set aside for the Italian Armed Forces. - Overall suits are also required for Dockyard workers.

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5. It will be appreciated that the efforts of the Italian Navy have enabled the United Nations to transfer a considerable number of ships and men to other theatres of war and every assistance and encouragement should be given to the Italians to increase their contribution.

St. George
COMMODORE. 5041

*1 copy to Infanteria
1 - 4/11/44 - 1/1/45*

pet

W. J. P.

*tyres
stuck to*

*boots
with*

