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

ACC

10000/109/1159

REPATRIATI
OCT. 1944 – N

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

10000/109/1159

REPATRIATION OF ITALIAN SOLDIERS, POLICY
OCT. 1944 – NOV. 1946

89.

C.S.O. Exec Comm

Letter in reply to folio 85 for signature at folio 88, please

17/9

90.

Chief Commissioner.

Enclosed letter is submitted for signature. You will remember that it was decided to seek further information on this matter in connection with an appeal from civilian internees in East Africa which was forwarded to this Commission for onward transmission to the Italian Government.

M. Carr Brigadier

M. CARR,
Brigadier,
Exec.Comm.

25 Nov 46.

1335

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

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

~~87~~ 84

EX COMM.

1. The original of fo 80 is in our files and suitable reply is being made.

2. Para 2 of fo 85 is inaccurate. It is true that 10000 IPW weekly were being returned up to mid-August, but it is pointed out that 75% of these were from U K (by British means) and from the Middle East (by Italian shipping). Now that IPW repatriation from the U K is virtually complete and few remain in the Middle East, the weekly rate is reduced to ~~none~~ SOME 2000. If something is ~~now~~ NOT done to obtain shipping for mass repatriation from Australia, E.Africa S.Africa and India, it will be some forty weeks and not nine before the main body of prisoners will have been repatriated.

J E Regis
LT.COL.CAC
IPW DIVISION

5 Sep.46

~~86~~ 86

1333

IPOW.

Thank you - please submit reply for signature by C. C.

MS 10/9.

87

EX COMM

Fo. 88 for ~~signature~~ approval please.

J E Regis
Lt. Col.
Chief. I.P.W. Div.

16 Sep. 46.

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

81.

C.S.O. Sec Comm

Folio 80 for info, please. MMIA (IPW) are taking action

ALK 2/9

C.S.O.

82.

AJC 2/9

Please follow this up with IPOW who should I think give an exposé of the return of IPOW past present & future. The British Ambassador letter concerning IPOW from Australia is relevant. (see 8264/EC)

MS 3.9.

83

To IPW. Sec. (Land Forces S/C).

Please take action in accordance with min 82.

ALK 5/9

1332

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

70.

A/CSO Ex Comm.

Letter to AFHQ is submitted for signature as action on folios 68 & 67: have discussed the matter with Captaine Luquet who agrees the letter.

[illegible] 19/2 H.S. 20/2

A/CSO 73

Ref 71 & telephone conversation Lt/Col White - Major Hurd Smith: confirmatory letter submitted for signature at 72 - Capt Luquet is in accord.

1331

[illegible] 23/7 [illegible]

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

~~73.~~ (53)

CSO spoke Col Campbell about /sio ~~71~~ 53 & min: ~~72~~ 54. N.F.A

PA
[illegible] 28/7

59.

CSO Approved. [illegible] 14/1

Ref 58 – draft forwarding it to AFHQ herewith submitted for approval.

[illegible] 14/1

61.

CSO

Letter herewith submitted for signature at (60).

[illegible] 15/1

62

1330

Chief Commissioner.

Attached is submitted for your ~~approval~~ signature ~~information~~

[illegible]

JAN 1[illegible] RECD

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

59.

C.S.O. Approved. [initials] 14/1

Ref 58 – draft forwarding it to AFHQ herewith submitted for approval.

[initials] 14/1

61.

C.S.O.

Letter herewith submitted for signature at (60). 1324

[initials] 15/1

62

1339

Chief Commissioner.

Attached is submitted for your ~~approval~~ signature ~~information~~

[initials] 16/1

JAN 1? RECD 1000

64

Land Forces S/C (MMLA)

Ref your A.019 dtd 7 Jan 46 (folio 58). Pse. see folio 63 in reply.

25/1

[signature] Capt.

Off. Ex. Comm.

65.

29/1 Thanks.

[signature] Regis Mal Cdr [illegible]

[initials] 31/1

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

~~65~~ (47)

C.S.O.

Gen Browning sent a personal signal referring to p ~~63~~ 45 & asking that no action should be taken thereon.

MLTaylor.

~~64~~ (51)

~~CSO~~ [illegible]

Col Campbell's reply to [illegible] 67 at 68.

~~69.~~ (51)

Chief Commissioner.

JUN 20 RECD
CC 1900

You asked me to enquire into the sending of the signal at 66. Colonel CAMPBELL's reply at ~~68~~ (50) shows that it was co-ordinated with the Economic Section and was in fact a follow-up to the request made to AFHQ in para: 3(d) of signal on 8th June, flagged on p.83 of the attached file, in which first shipments of repatriated POWs were to include all coal miners. I do not think that sending 66 has done harm - it is merely bad staff work that it should not have referred to the 8th June signal. The employment of the 6,000 German POWs is still a very vague proposition.

MSL

Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

19 June 45.

Noted by CC
[illegible]
21 June

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

~~64~~ (51)

Ex[illegible] CSO

Col Campbell's reply to [illegible] 67 [illegible] at 68. [illegible]

~~69.~~ (51)

Chief Commissioner.

JUN 20 RECD
CC 1900

You asked me to enquire into the sending of the signal at 66. Colonel CAMPBELL's reply at ~~68~~ (52) shows that it was co-ordinated with the Economic Section and was in fact a follow-up to the request made to AFHQ in para: 3(d) of signal on 8th June, flagged on p.83 of the attached file, in which first shipments of repatriated POWs were to include all coal miners. I do not think that sending 66 has done harm - it is merely bad staff work that it should not have referred to the 8th June signal. The employment of the 6,000 German POWs is still a very vague proposition.

MSL
Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

19 June 45.

Noted by CC
[illegible]
21 June

~~72~~ (52)

Director WMD S/C

Can you record any action taken reference 71. please

(53)

[illegible]

26/6

I think it is now too late to get any results - let us leave it. 27/7/45 [illegible]

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

~~59~~ 39

Exa Com.

Please see folio ~~58~~ 38 - interim reply to ltr (folio 53) regarding repatriation of specialists required for reconstruction of Italian Army.

[signature] 16th Feb.

W 17/2

G. 17/2.

~~60~~ 40

1327

T 19/2 — SEEN — FOLIO 54. 36

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

Major Stearns (22) ~~39~~ (NOW AT ~~[illegible]~~ (21))

Ref 38, original taken with CoS who will discuss with CC.

Please ensure we see any decision taken.

(25) ~~44~~ (SEE 24) [illegible] 9/1

Major Stearns 24 ~~40~~ seen

We should have this submitted through CoS.

(in due course) 9/1

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

6

CSO

5 is notes on a meeting to discuss repatriation of Italian soldiers from Greece.

[illegible]

30/10

CoS

7

Ref para 9, Lt Col Campbell is making up a letter to Army HQ, which he wants you to sign as early as possible tomorrow, asking them to release drill clothing - maybe 5000 - of a colour which offends no regulations - (some very neutral shade?). Army HQ are reluctant to release.

2. You might like to read the minutes - they are illuminating.

DCOS CAS - (NOT PASSED - SEE FOLIO 11)

A great pity that a member of the Armstice [illegible] 30/10

Sub Com was not present. I have commented on these in a letter sent to AFHQ [illegible] 28/X.

— THIS LETTER WAS SENT BY C.A. SEC. - SEE 8

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

Ref: 8262/PF/ID.

27 November 1946.

My dear Sir Noel,

I refer to your letter 175/102/46 of 31st August 1946, dealing with the repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War and Civilian internees.

In that letter you informed me that you had been instructed to obtain the agreement of the Italian Government to the repatriation of 10,000 able-bodied Italian Civilian internees from East Africa and of 20,000 Italian Civilians from Eritrea and that you were told unofficially that it was hoped to have repatriated all Italians from East Africa by March 1947, with the exception of those who were granted special permission to remain.

I should be very grateful if you would kindly inform me of the result of your approach to the Italian Government on this matter and whether you have any recent information to give on the prospect of the repatriation of all Italians from East Africa being completed by March 1947.

Yours very sincerely,

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

H.E. Sir Noel Charles, Bt. KCMG, MC.,
British Ambassador,
British Embassy,
ROME.

1324

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

88

Ref. : 8262/88/EG

19 September 1946

My dear Sir Noel,

85

Thank you for your letter 175/102/46 of 31 August dealing with the repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees.

It is true that until recently the Prisoners of War Repatriation rate was 10,000 per week; unfortunately 90% of this figure represents the U.K. and Middle East, from whence nearly all prisoners have now returned.

Although recent news is better, (one ship from Australia and three from India are due to arrive in October) the present situation is that unless more ships are allotted for Australia, over a year will elapse before all Prisoners of War can be repatriated from that country alone. Ships are also urgently required for S. and E. Africa, where the rate of return is low.

I am grateful for your interest in this matter and I hope that in view of the foregoing you will be able to press for a further shipping allocation.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Ellery W. Stone
ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

H.E. Sir Noel Charles, Bt.,
K.C.M.G., M.C.,
British Ambassador
British Embassy
ROME.

1323

See M-89

C.A. 19/9/46

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

COPY:

85

BRITISH EMBASSY,
ROME.

175/102/46

31st August, 1946.

My dear Admiral,

In my letter to you of the 9th July (175/80/46), I promised to pass on to you any information which I might obtain about the repatriation of prisoners of war from India and Australia. I am now able to say that the majority of the Italia Redenta - the pioneer corps in India formed from co-operating Italian prisoners of war - have been repatriated to Italy.

The present position is that there now remain some 85,000 prisoners of war and 37,000 Italian civilian internees from the Middle East, East and South Africa, India and Australia. You will be aware from the weekly returns of your Land Forces Sub-Commission that repatriation of prisoners of war is proceeding at the rate of some 10,000 per week. It is therefore to be hoped that in some nine weeks the main body of prisoners of war will have been repatriated.

In anticipation of this I have been instructed, as I informed you verbally, to obtain the agreement of the Italian Government to the repatriation of 10,000 able-bodied Italian civilian internees from East Africa and of 20,000 Italian civians from Eritrea where there is a large surplus European population. I am told unofficially that we hope to have repatriated all Italians from East Africa by March 1947, with the exception of those who are granted special permission to remain.

For your own infomation, I understand that the suggestion has been made by His Majesty's Government to the United States Government that the Italian liners "Saturnia" and "Vulcania", now in the United States service but no longer required by the United States for any particularly useful purpose, might be made available for the repatriation of Italian civilians and prisoners of war. The suggestion has been sympathetically received and is to be further examined in Washington. If this proposal is adopted it should considerably accelerate the return to Italy of all classes of Italians at present exiled as a result of the war.

Believe me, my dear Admiral,

Yours very sincerely,

1322

/s/ Noel Charles.

Rear Admiral Ellery W. Stone, K.B.E.
U.S.N.R.
Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
ROME.

See 88

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

8262

80

E C pl Supervise the preparation of an appropriate reply

SEP 3 1946

TRANSLATION

THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCI L OF MINISTERS Rome, 29 August 1946.

10909.0/19.5

My dear Admiral,

From every part of Italy are arriving requests - and I transmit them to you - that the repatriation of Italian military personnel still living as prisoners in the camps of Australia, India, British East Africa and South Africa be completed as soon as possible.

The morale of these fellow countrymen of ours is particularly shaken because of their long absence from their homes, from their dearest affections.

The Italian Government, well aware of the feelings of so many of its distant children and in perfect unity of thought with their families who since a long time are anxiously waiting for their return, considers the desired solution of this sad problem as one of the most deeply felt and urgent of our Country.

I am certain that you will take really to heart this question and that every step will again be taken by you with the Allied Governments.

Believe me

Cordially yours,

FOR THE PRESIDENT
OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
THE UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE
On. avv. Paolo Cappa

/s/ Cappa

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
Rome.

E.C. 23 Sept.
Action: Land Forces S/C
Info: E.C. (8262/EC)
C.C.

See 17-81

3/9/46

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

79

Ref: 0262/79/DC

4 April 1946

SUBJECT: Exchange of German P.W. for Italian P.W. via French Ports.

TO : French Representative to A.C.

78.

Ref Land Forces Sub-Commission (I.P.W. Branch) letter no. DPW/33/299 of 28 March 1946, copy to you.

It is requested that you ask your Government to instruct your Ambassador in Washington to take up this matter with the United States Government direct, as AFHQ are no longer in a position to act in this case.

For the Chief Commissioner,

A. W. Knisely.

Brigadier
Executive Commissioner

Copy to: Land Forces S/C (IPW Branch).

1320

A 4/4/8

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

8262 90

WERP/fm

MAR 29 RECD 74

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
M.M.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

MAR 30 1946
28/3/46

IPW/53/259

SUBJECT: Exchange of German PW for IPW in French Hands.

TO : Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission

A

Ref. your 8262/EC dtd 17 Jan 46 and telecon McLeary-Philips of even date.

1. It is understood that agreement has been reached between the French and Italian authorities regarding the replacement of IPW by German PW in French N.Africa.

2. The original number of GPW required by the French Government was 12000, which was reduced to 6500.(vide this Division letter 53/194 dated 12 Feb 46). This has been reduced further: the French Representative has informed this Division that only 4250 are now required.

3. In view of the progress now being made in the repatriation of IPW from French N.Africa, it is strongly desired that confirmation be obtained from the U.S. authorities regarding the provision of German PW from U.S.A., together with a proposed programme showing numbers and dates of departure.

M R Philips Major

J.E.REGIS, Lt.Col.
Chief IPW Div.

Copy to:- French Representative to A.C.

Italian Prisoners of War Division
(M.M.I.A.) A.C.
Received MAR 28 1946
Log No. 2375

(CAPT K)

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: B262/77/AC.

March 1946.

SUBJECT: Exchange of German PW for Italian PW in French Hands

TO : G-5 Section, AFHQ.

1. With further reference to my letter B262/AC of 17 January 46.

2. Information has now been received from the French Representative to Allied Commission to the effect that the French Government have reduced the number of German PW to replace Italian PW in French North AFRICA to 4,250.

3. The programme of repatriation of IPW from French North AFRICA is progressing swiftly, and it is feared that discontent will arise when personnel are retained because of the delay in replacement by German PW from USA. If no decision is reached in the near future, plans will have to be made to withdraw an equivalent number of PW from FRANCE.

4. It is requested that you look into this matter, and advise me of the position as soon as possible.

For the Chief Commissioner:

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

1318

Copy to: Land Forces S/C, AC.(IPW Division)
Ref: IPW/53/252 of 25 March 46.

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

8262 40

MAR 26 1946

96

WERP/GB

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
M.M.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

ex. 453

IPW/53/252

25 March 1946

SUBJECT : Exchange of German PW for Italian PW in French hands

TO : Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission

60.

A

Ref. your 8262/EC dated 17th Jan. 46 and further to this Division letter IPW/53/194 dated 12 Feb. 46.

1. Information has now been received from the French Representative to AC to the effect that the French Government have reduced the number of German PW to replace Italian PW in French North Africa to 4250

2. The programme of repatriation of IPW from French North Africa is progressing swiftly, and it is feared that discontent will arise when personnel are retained because of the delay in replacement by German PW from USA. If no decision is reached in the near future, plans will have to be made to withdraw an equivalent number of PW from France

3. In view of the above, may the question please be taken up with GHQ (G5), and this Division notified of position as soon as possible.

1317

JAMES E. REGIS
Lieut.Colonel
Chief
IIP.W. Div.

ITALIAN PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION
(MMIA) A.C.
Received MAR 25 1946
Log. No 2294

see 77

(CBET K)

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

75

Ref. : 8262/75/PC 5 March 1946.

SUBJECT: Exchange of German PW for Italian PW in French Hands.

TO : Land Forces S/C (MMIA)

58 74

1. Ref A 619 dated 7 Jan 1946 and subsequent correspondence.

2. Attached is a copy of reply received from AFHQ for records.

3. It is understood that the French Representative is already treating of this matter with his Government.

C. R. DRAYBROOKE

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

COPY TO: French Representative.

1315

P.A.

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

8262 4361 Ex Comm R

AILIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

MAR 4 1946

G-5: 383.6-31

4 March 1946

SUBJECT: Exchange of German PW for Italian PW in French Hands.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission
APO 394

Reference ALCOM 8262/2C, 17 January 1946 and G-5: 383.6-31, 19 February 1946.

1. The matter of transportation for the 25,000 Italian PW in French hands in North Africa has been considered.

2. It is regretted that Allied shipping is fully employed and unlikely to be available for this large movement.

3. It is understood that the Italian Government have some Naval and Merchant Navy vessels in service, and that French ships are now being returned to the French Government. That being the case, it is felt that, when the question of exchange for the 12,000 is raised between the French and Italian Governments, the question of transportation for the 25,000 may also be considered.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN:

F. G. A. PARSONS,
Brigadier,
Acting Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5.

1314

see 75

(three 2)

(one spare)

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

72

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: 8262/72/EC

25 February 1946

SUBJECT: Exchange of German PW for Italian PW in French Hands.

TO : French Representative to Allied Commission.

(67)

Reference note of French Representative to Director PW Sub-Commission dated 2 February 1946.

Further to the conversation Capitain Luquet-Capt. Braybrooke it is confirmed that A.F.H.Q. have stated that the question of exchange of German P.W. for Italian P.W. is one that must be dealt with through diplomatic channels and that the French Representative will act accordingly.

/s/ N.W. HIND SMITH
MAJ

Chief Staff Officer
to Executive Commissioner

Copy to: Land Forces S/S (MMIA)
(for I.P.W. Division:
your IPW/53/194 d/d 12 Feb 46 refers)

(68)

1313

see M73

26/2.

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

8262

3972

Ex Comm

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 383.6-31

19 February 1946

FEB 21 1946

SUBJECT: Exchange of German PW for Italian PW in French Hands.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, A.P.O. 394

60.

Reference ALCOM 8262/EC, 17 January 1946.

1. The question of exchange of 12000 German PW for Italian PW in French hands in North Africa is a matter which should be handled through diplomatic channels between the Italian and French Governments.

2. The matter of transportation for the 25,800 Italian PW in North Africa is under consideration and it is hoped information may be forwarded shortly.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN:

F. G. A. PARSONS
Brigadier,
Acting Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5

1311

see 729 M73

(CSO)

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

69

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the Chief Commissioner
APO 394

Ref: 8262/69/SO

February 1946

SUBJECT: Exchange of German P.W. for Italian P.W. in French Hands.

TO : G-1 AFHQ.

60

Further to 8262/60 dated 17 January 1946 passed by G-5 AFHQ to you.

1. This HQ has been informed by the French Representative to the Allied Commission that the French Authorities have reduced from twelve thousand (12.000) to six thousand five hundred (6.500) the number of German P.W. required to replace the Italian P.W. at present working in N. Africa, on the condition that these German P.W. belong to the following categories:

Masons	500
Electricians	500
Mechanics	2000
Blacksmiths	250
Fitters	500
Drivers	250
Joiners	500
Carpenters	500
Farm labourers	1500

2. In view of the lack of French transport, the French representative in Washington has received instructions to support the request made to the War Department to send to N. Africa 6.500 members of the Afrika Korp at present in the United States and shortly to be repatriated by the Americans.

1310

3. It is suggested that the choice of the categories could be made in the U.S. by a mixed franco-american commission.

Not sent
see folio 71

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Copy to: Land Forces S/C.

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

8262 MH/fs 68

FEB 18

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
M.M.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

IPW/53/194 12/Feb/46

FEB 18 1946

SUBJECT : Exchange of German PW for Italian PW in French hands.

TO : Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission.

60

1. Ref your letter 8262/EC dtd 17/Jan/46

67.

2. Attached is a copy of a letter received from the French Representative to A.C., announcing that the French Government now require only 6,500 instead of 12,000 German PW to replace Italian PW in French N. Africa.

3. The programme of repatriation of Italian PW from French N. Africa has begun this month with vessels furnished by the Italian Ministry of Marine.

4. In view of these circumstances, may the question please be considered of taking up the matter again with G 5, APHQ.

1309

J.E.REGIS
Lieut.Col.
Chief
IPW Div.

Italian Prisoner of War Sub-Commission
HQ AC APO 394
Dispatched FEB 12 1946
Log No 1114

Copy to M.M.I.A.

(CAPT [illegible])

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

No. 2798 Rome, 2 Feb. 1946 67

Captain MOULLEC
French Representative to the Allied Commission
to
Director, PW Sub Commission

The French authorities have reduced from twelve thousand (12.000) to six thousand five hundred (6.500) the number of German PW ~~who will~~ [required to] replace the Italian PW at present working in N. Africa, on the condition that these German PW belong to the following categories :

Masons	500
Electricians	500
Mechanics	2000
Blacksmiths	250
Fitters	500
Drivers	250
Joiners	500
Carpenters	500
Farm labourers	1500

In view of the lack of transport, our representant [representative] in Washington has received instructions to support the request made by your efforts to the War Departement to send to N. Africa 6.500 members of the Afrika Korps at present in the United States and shortly to be repatriated by the Americans. [It is suggested that] the choice of the specialists could be made in the U.S. by a mixed franco-american commission.

Sgd.
Capt. LU[illegible]ET,
Ass. to French Representative to
the Allied Commission.

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

8262 56 Ex Change 66

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 383.6-31 11 February 1946

FEB 12 1946

SUBJECT: Exchange of German PW for Italian PW in French Hands.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

Reference your 8262/EC of 17 January.

This matter is still under consideration and it is hoped to write you further at an early date. Any further correspondence hereon should be addressed to G-1. Please see AG 383.6/221 of 9 August 1945.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN:

12 FEB 1946

F. G. A. PARSONS,
Brigadier,
Acting Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5.

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

2488

8262 EC ExCommR 63

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 383.6-31

22 January 1946

JAN 24 1946

SUBJECT: Exchange of German POW for Italian POW in French Hands.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

60

1. Reference is made to your 8262/EC of 17 January 1946, subject as above.

2. Matter has been passed to appropriate staff section who, in this instance, have undertaken to reply direct.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN:

24 JAN 1946

F. G. A. PARSONS
Brigadier
Acting Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5.

Copy to: G-1.

See M. 64-65. 1306

PA 31/1

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

(60)

Ref: 8262/EC

17 January 1946

SUBJECT: Exchange of German PW for Italian PW in French Hands

TO : G-5, AFHQ

1. The French Authorities in North Africa hold approximately 37,800 Italian PW. They are willing to release 25,000 of these individuals, but will only agree to the release of the remainder (some 12,000) if they are replaced by German PW transported by us as follows:

To Tunisia		2,445
Algeria -	Oran	2,000
	Philippevile	2,000
	Algiers	2,000
Marocco		3,700

2. The total repatriation of Italian PW's from North Africa is dependent on

a. Transport for 25,000, now ready to leave North Africa.
b. Furnishing the French 12,000 Germans in place of 12,000 Italians, and transport for the 12,000 Italians from North Africa to Italy.

57

3. Attention is invited to report No. 12508/1475 dated 25 October 1945, from Washington, copy attached, which states that German POW in USA will be sent to France. It is considered that it will not be possible to furnish either Italian or Allied transport for 12,000 German POW from France to North Africa. Should 12,000 of the German POW in the USA be sent direct to the North African ports listed above, it would be possible to meet the French demand.

4. The Italian Government are constantly pressing for release of Italian PW's in French hands on account of alleged harsh treatment by the French.

5. It is requested that action be taken to secure the assignment of either Italian or Allied transport for the 25,800 who can be repatriated now, and for the shipment to North Africa of 12,000 Germans now in the United States, and subsequent shipment to Italy of the remaining 12,000 Italians in North Africa.

/s/ Ellery W. Stone
ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

See 7 & 78
M61462
see 66 & 69-74

Copy to: Land Forces S/C

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

60

Ref: 8262/EC

17 January 1946

SUBJECT: Exchange of German PW for Italian PW in French Hands

TO : G-5, AFHQ

1. The French Authorities in North Africa hold approximately 37,800 Italian PW. They are willing to release 25,000 of these individuals, but will only agree to the release of the remainder (some 12,000) if they are replaced by German PW transported by us as follows:

To Tunisia		2,445
Algeria -	Oran	2,000
	Philippevile	2,000
	Algiers	2,000
Morocco		3,700

2. The total repatriation of Italian PW's from North Africa is dependent on

a. Transport for 25,000, now ready to leave North Africa.
b. Furnishing the French 12,000 Germans in place of 12,000 Italians, and transport for the 12,000 Italians from North Africa to Italy.

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/s/ Ellory W. Stone
ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

See 7 & 78. see 61 & 62. see 66 & 69 - 74

Copy to: Land Forces S/C

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

8262

Draft

58

SUBJECT: Exchange of German PW for Italian PW in French hands

JAN 11 1946

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
A.C. (M. M. I. A.) R O M E
A 019
2 January 1946

TO : Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission

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1304

Allied Commission

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L. Browning

Major General
Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)

CPK/mg See 60 & 75

(over)

1304

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

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

57

C O P Y

No. 12508/1475 Washington, 25 October 1945

SUBJECT: German prisoners in French custody.

For quite a long while the press of the country has been calling to the attention of the public, the particularly hard treatment shown by the French to the German POW in their custody.

As is known this matter, not only in contrast with the Geneva Convention, but also contrary to all human principles, was also discussed in the French Press.

Following these attacks and due to the result of inquiries conducted by the American authorities, the latter suspended awhile ago, the assignment to France of the German prisoners that they had agreed to turn over.

The Press has now announced that a favourable and complete solution of the problem has been rejoined and assurance, on the part of General Juin and General Eisenhower have been given that from now on, the German Prisoners will be treated according to the Geneva Convention. In consequence of this agreement the transfer from U.S. Custody to French Custody will begin at the rate of 50,000 men a month, at present in the U.S.A. while the American Army will receive from the French about 90,000 prisoners who are in bad health who will be taken care of and subsequently released. The United States will in more, for each prisoner assigned to the French, furnish a certain quantity of food and clothes.

It is noted with great satisfaction that owing to this agreement 200,000 men of the Africa Corps will be transfered to France, who have been housed and well fed in the American camps, and are considered as being ardent nazis and therefore a source of trouble for this country.

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

SECRET

8262

For Comm

FX 36115
AUG 161939B

Confidential

F/4277
AUG 181090B

ROUTINE
AUG 20 1945

FROM: SIGNED ALEXANDER CITE FHGCT

TO: ACTION USFET MAIN G-3, INFO USFET REAR, AGWAR, BMLA, AICOM

SECRET.

Your S-17622 dated 15 August not to all refers.

Agreed that WAR DEPARTMENT be consulted for immediate repatriation Italian service units to MTO.

Subject to WAR DEPARTMENT approval desire that information be forwarded of Eta so necessary arrangements can be made.

DIST

INFO-ACTION: WMD & POW SC
" & L.Forces SC
INFO: Chief Commissioner
Ex Commissioner 2
File 2
Float

HEADQUARTERS
18 AUG 1945
A.C.

1302

SECRET

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

8262

(53)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A P O 394
War Materials Disposal and Italian
Prisoners of War Sub-Commission

IPW/1/485 12 July 1945

JUL 13 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War held by French.

TO : Executive Commissioner.

The question of repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War held in French hands can now only be handled through diplomatic channels. SHAEF can no longer interfere.

The question is being considered by a number of individual politicians and diplomats on an 'off the record' basis.

The French have asked SHAEF for large numbers of German Prisoners of War, and these prisoners of war are at present being transferred to French hands. It is suggested that SHAEF be requested to make an agreement whereby Italian Prisoners of War in France and North Africa be repatriated in exchange for German Prisoners of War handed over to them.

Should it be agreed that a request on the lines suggested can be put to SHAEF, the question should be dealt with at the top level if any success is to be expected.

J.A. Campbell Lt-Col
J.A. CAMPBELL,
Lieut.-Colonel,
Director,
WMD & IPOW Sub-Com.

54

See M-54 & 55

(CSO)

28/7

16/7

Noted

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

8262/9

52

Ref: IPW/1/475.

30 June 45.

JUL 2 - 1945

Subject: Repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War.

To: AFHQ (Attention G-1 (B)

1. We were informed by your letters GR/3005/G-1(B) dated 9 Oct. 44, and GR/3821/G-1(B) dated 13 Nov. 44, that all Italian POWs of sixty years of age and over, and fifty years of age with two or more years of captivity, would automatically be repatriated to Italy, and we requested that these repatriations should take precedence over others. This request has not always been complied with and the Italian Government is much concerned at the non-repatriation of these elderly POWs and feels that we have not fulfilled our undertakings in this matter. The Italian Press takes every opportunity of attacking the Government on this issue.

2. It was stated at the conference held on 25 May 45 at G-3(B) AFHQ that the numbers of Italian POWs in India, Australia and South Africa were 33,000, 16,000 and 39,000 respectively.

The Italian Government has, on several occasions during the past year, requested the repatriation of some of these POWs, and we have been informed that repatriations would take place subject to the availability of shipping. It is for this reason, no doubt, that the Italian Government made the suggestion that shipping being used to take Italian nationals from this country to the countries concerned should be made available to repatriate corresponding numbers of POWs to Italy.

3. I shall be grateful if you will let me know :-

a) What steps are being taken regarding the POWs referred to in para: 1 above.

b) What steps can be taken to speed up the repatriation of POWs generally, and whether the Italian Government's suggestion referred to in para: 2 is feasible.

1294

in order that I may inform the Italian Government of the present position.

We were informed by your letters GR/3005/A-1(B) dated 9 Oct. 44, and GR/3821/G-1(B) dated 13 Nov. 44, that all Italian POWs of sixty years of age and over, and fifty years of age with two or more years of captivity, would automatically be repatriated to Italy, and we requested that these repatriations should take precedence over others. This request has not always been complied with and the Italian Government is much concerned at the non-repatriation of these elderly POWs and feels that we have not fulfilled our undertakingin this matter. The Italian Press takes every opportunity of attacking the Government on this issue.

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1294

For Chief Commissioner:

B. Talbot

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

(Copy passed for CC files)

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

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

8262
+ 5016

(50)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
War Materials Disposal and Italian
Prisoners of War Sub-Commission

JAC/ci

IPW/1/11/1426

12 June 1945

13 JUN 1945

TO : Executive Commissioner.

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italian Miner POW.

(49)

Reference your 8262/EC dated 12 June 1945.

Para (1)

83 file 2216/EC

The telegram was despatched after discussion with the Economic Section and is the follow up of previous request for IPW who were coal miners. AC signal 9345 dated 8 June 1945 setting out proposals for total repatriation of all IPW requested first priority to be coal miners and older age groups.

Para (2)

(a) Economic Section agreed signal before despatch.
(b) The Italian Government through High Commissioner for Prisoners of War is in accord.
(c) I was not in the picture re the 6,000 German PW, but understand Italians are also required.

J. A. CAMPBELL Lt-Col.
Lieut.-Colonel
Director
WMD & IPOW Sub-Com.

1298

Info Copy to file 5016/EC "Coal"

(See M 57)

21/6

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

(49)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: 8262/EO. 12 June 1945.

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italian Miner POW.

TO : WMD & IPW Sub-Commission.

(48)

Please state:

(1) On whose authority the attached telegram was sent;

(2) Whether it has been coordinated;

(a) with the Economic Section;
(b) with the Italian Government;
(c) with the request for 6,000 German POW.

TEO 15/6 Noted

1297

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

MSL/JG.

Copy to : File 5016/EC. Capt. Amstrong-seen

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

5016 - 8262

AFHQ G-5 SECTION

9492 10 June 1945 PRIORITY

1 JUN 1945

RESTRICTED PD

PARA ONE PD SHORTAGE MINERS ITALY AND SARDINIA AND WORED SHORTAGE COAL PD

PAREN TO AFHQ GEORGE DASH FIVE SECTION FROM ALCOM CITE ACMMD PAREN

PARA TWO PD PREDICATES NEED FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE RETURN ITALIAN MINERS

HELD PW BY ALLIES PD

PARA THREE PD REQUEST YOU DEMAND PRIORITY ACCORDINGLY PD

see 49

WMD & IPOW SUB COM

288

1296 Nicholas Piombino
CWO, U.S.A.
Asst., Adjutant

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

8262

FOR ACTION AFHQ

SECRET PD
7115

6 May 45

PRIORITY

PAREN TO FOR ACTION AFHQ FROM ALCOM CITE ACGIB PAREN

PARA ONE PD REFERENCE MIKE MIKE ITEM ABLE SIGNAL SUGAR DOG TWO SIX FIVE EIGHT OF FIVE MAY PD

PARA TWO PD SUBJECT PROVISION OF ITALIAN ARMY PERSONNEL FOR DISPLACED PERSONS AND RETURNING PETER OBOE WILLIAM PD

PARA THREE PD IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT NO LESS THAN FOUR TWO SEVEN ZERO ITALIAN OFFICERS AND MEN BE PROVIDED TO HANDLE THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY OF DEALING WITH AN ESTIMATED ONE MILLION DISPLACED PERSONS AND RETURNING PETER OBOE WILLIAM UNCONFIRMED REPORT FROM INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS STATES THAT SEVEN FIVE THOUSAND HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED IN BOLZANO MOST STRONGLY URGE THAT ONE FIVE ARMY GROUP BE ORDERED TO PROVIDE THIS TOTAL FROM ITALIAN COMBAT FORCES NOW ATTACHED TO THEM SUGGEST ONE SLANT TWO ARTILLERY REGIMENT PAREN SUGAR PAREN WOULD SUIT PURPOSE PD

PARA FOUR PD IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY SUGGEST THAT RESTRICTION OF BRI DARH ITI PERSONNEL BEING PROVIDED FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT BE WAIVED IN THIS INSTANCE PD

PARA FIVE PD MIKE MIKE ITEM ABLE STATE THEY ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO RECOMMEND OR EMPOWERED TO SAY HOW MANY TROOPS UNDER COMMAND OF ONE FIVE ARMY GROUP ARE EMPLOYED PD

PARA SIX PD REQUEST IMMEDIATE DECISION PD

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

LAND FORCES SUB-COMMISSION
DISPLACED PERSONS AND REPAT. SUB C
WAR MAT.DISP.& ITALIAN PW SUB-COMM

NICHOLAS PIOMBINO
CWO, USA
ASST ADJUTANT

ACTION ON 8251/EC
INFO ON 2216/EC
" ON 8262/EC

G-1 (B)
573

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

8262

64

66

FOR ACTION AFHQ

SECRET PD
7115

6 May 45

PRIORITY

PAREN TO FOR ACTION AFHQ FROM ALCOM CITE ACGIB PAREN

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INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

LAND FORCES SUB-COMMISSION
DISPLACED PERSONS AND REPAT. SUB C
WAR MAT.DISP.& ITALIAN PW SUB-COMM

1295

ACTION ON 8251/EC
INFO ON 2216/EC
" ON 8262/EC

G-1 (B)
573

NICHOLAS PIOMBINO
CWO, USA
ASST ADJUTANT

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

45

AFHQ

7407 12 May 45 ROUTINE

CONFIDENTIAL PD

DESIRE REOPEN SUBJECT HANDLING OF ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR OUR LETTER EIGHT TWO SIX TWO SLANT CHARLIE OBOE SUGAR DATED TWELVE DECEMBER FOUR FOUR PD

PAREN TO AFHQ FOR GEORGE FIVE FROM HQ ALCOM CITE ACEXC PAREN

IT IS STILL CONSIDERED OPINION OF THIS HEADQUARTERS THAT LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION CMA HAVING AS ITS OPPOSITE NUMBER THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF WAR CMA IS THE PROPER AGENCY TO DEAL WITH THE LARGE NUMBERS OF RETURNING PRISONERS OF WAR PD SUGGEST THAT EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES NOT PREVIOUSLY OBTAINABLE COULD NOW BE MADE AVAILABLE PD WOULD LIKE EARLIEST RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION YOUR LETTER GEORGE DASH FIVE THREE THREE FOUR DASH ONE FIVE DATED THREE FEBRUARY FOUR FIVE

(See M4?)

Int Dist
Chief Commissioner
Land Forces S/C.
W.M.D.& IPW S/C.

BO 12/5 429 PA 12/5

Office of the Exec Commissioner

735

E. S. MORDEN
Maj.

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

62

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the Chief Commissioner
APO 394

Ref: 8262/PO.

5th May 1945.

AIDE MEMOIR TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROBERTSON.

ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR RETURNING FROM ALL DIRECTIONS.

1. Now that hostilities have ended it is strongly recommended that the reception, screening, accommodation and distribution of returning Italian POW be placed entirely in the hands of the Ministry of War and implemented by the Italian Army. This is being done to a great extent with Italian POW returning from Allied sources and the Allied Commission (Italian POW Sub-Commission) is a Staff Liaison Section between the Allied authorities and the Italian Ministry of War.

2. We are already faced with the disbandment of the Fascist Italian Army, many members of which have already turned into stragglers and are being found in the larger cities and even as far as Rome and we shall be faced immediately with large numbers coming over the frontier.

3. The High Commissioner for POW in the Ministry of War is willing to and capable of handling this through the Italian regional commands if he can be given the necessary personnel. He has asked for 1320 at the moment and will probably want more. MMIA have been unable to approve the provision of these officers and men and it is strongly recommended that an instruction be given to MMIA that the whole of the returning Italian POW and the management of stragglers from the Italian disbanded Army be handled by the Italian forces. The Italian POW Sub-Commission will continue to exercise its liaison functions but should not become a functional organisation with teams of collecting officers, camps, etc.

DISTRIBUTION: Lt.Gen. Robertson, CAO, AFHQ.
Chief Commissioner.
Land Forces Sub-Com (MMIA)
WnD & IPW Sub-Com
File

1293

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

8262

RESTRICTED

D5706

FX 47276
MAR 21

MAR 21/2030
ROUTINE

MAR 22 1945

FROM : AFHQ SIGNED ALEXANDER CITE: FHGAB
TO : TROOPERS, RPTD ALLIED COMMISSION ROME.

RESTRICTED.

Further to your 98951 dated 3 December44.

Request all commands be instructed to signal Ets this Hq all Italian repatriates including those repatriated on medical grounds those for service Italian Forces and compassionate cases etc. Also request nominal rolls of all such repatriates be forwarded to this Hq fast airmail with copy to ALLIED COMMISSION ROME on embarkation.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

DIST

INFO+ACTION IPW S/C 2
INFO A/PRESIDENT
CHIEF COMMISSIONER
EX COMMISSIONER
CA SEC
LAND FORCES S/C
FILE

RESTRICTED

1392

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

8262

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: St. Andrews Camp. URGENT.

Land Forces Sub Com, A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
Q/78
19 Mar 45.

TO : AFHQ (3)

copy to: Executive Commissioner, A.C.

NR-EE MAR 21 1945

Further to your signal FX 43282 of 14 Mar, I submit the following comments:

1. St. Andrews Camp has so far processed 32,957 ex-Italian soldiers from abroad since its inception on 11 Nov 44.

2. It is at the moment engaged on processing personnel of the former GARIBALDI Div and att tps numbering 6,000.

3. It is understood that there are a further 30,000 ex-Italian soldiers still to be repatriated from the BALKANS. In addition there are the 3,400 officers and 2? 000 specialists, NCOs and soldiers, Ps.W asked for in H.Q., A.C. letter 1PW/39/5 of 2 Feb 45.

4. St Andrews Camp is suitably located near a port and the present camp staff consisting of Italian HQ Staff, Brit Cadre, medical det and Field Security Interrogation sec, knows the complete procedure and is working extremely smoothly.

5. I therefore strongly recommend that the existing staff and camp remain in their present location performing their present functions or, if this is impracticable, that a new location be found now in order to avoid last minute confusion. If my recommendation that the camp should remain at TARANTO is NOT acceptable (there is no need to emphasise the loss of efficiency which would result from such a move) I strongly request that in any event the existing staff and services be moved to the new location as a team.

1291

Browning

Copy to: Executive Commissioner, A.C.

NTR - EE

MAR 21 1945

Further to your signal FX 43282 of 14 Mar, I submit the following comments:

1. St. Andrews Camp has so far processed 32,557 ex-Italian soldiers from abroad since its inception on 11 Nov 44.

2. It is at the moment engaged on processing personnel of the former GARIBALDI Div and att tps numbering 6,000.

3. It is understood that there are a further 30,000 ex-Italian soldiers still to be repatriated from the BALKANS. In addition there are the 3,400 officers and 27 000 specialists, NCOs and soldiers, Ps.W asked for in H.Q., A.C. letter MPN/33/5 of 2 Feb 45.

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1291

[signature] Browning

tvs.

Major General.
M.M.I.A.

INTERNAL:

G(SD)
A

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

5262

File

(41)

Extract of Minutes of Executive Commissioner's Meeting - 23 February 1945

- -

Repatriation of Italian POW. IPW Sub-Commission had approached Naval Sub-Commission as to whether it might be possible to use Italian ships for repatriation. They were told that it was not possible.

1299

1/

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

8262 COS. 208 (38)

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

14 February 1945

FEB 16 1945

(35)

My Dear Maurice

In answer to your IPW/39/4 of 2 February 1945. A meeting will be convened by G-1 Br. here to consider the repatriation of Specialist Italian P.O.W., but before this can be done it is necessary to acquire certain information from Staff Sections of this Headquarters. You will be informed as soon as a decision has been reached - which will, I hope, be within a week or so.

Yours Very sincerely,

Tom

T. R. HENN,
Colonel

Brigadier M. S. Lush,
Chief of Staff,
Allied Commission,
A.P.O. 394.

HEADQUARTERS A. C. 15 FEB 1945

see M 39

289 17/2

COS Dist - 16 FEB 45

(ORIG) - COS
(c.c.) - Chief Commr
WMD + IPOW SC

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

8262

File

Extract of Minutes of ( ) of of Staff's Meeting held on ( ) February 1945.

Correspondence in connection with Repatriation of Italian POW. All applications for repatriation of IPOW must channel through IPW Sub-Commission. AFHQ had ruled that the Sub-Commission should send all applications in respect of American held IPOW to G-5 and those in respect of British held IPOW direct to G-1(Br) AFHQ.
COS directed CA Sec in consultation with IPW Sub-Commission to issue a directive on the general question of channels for repatriation which should include the repatriation of civilian internees.

1288

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

8262

36

Ref: IPW/39/4

2 February 1945

FEB 4 1945

35

Reference attached letter IPW/39/5 of 2 February 1945.

The question was discussed by Campbell of the Italian Prisoners of War Sub-Commission with Jackling, G-5, and G-1 (B) when it was agreed that the Italian Government's suggestions would have to be put forward before anything further could be done. Perhaps you might take this matter up yourself as it is of extreme interest to the Land Forces Sub-Commission.

(Sgd) M. S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

12838

Colonel T.R. Henn,
Deputy Chief of Staff,
G-5 Section,
Allied Force Headquarters,
APO 512.

Copy to C. of S.

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

(35)

Ref: IPW/39/8 2 February 1945

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Specialists required for reconstruction of Italian Army.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512. (Att: G-5 Section).

(34)

1. The Italian Government present in the enclosed memorandum a proposal for the repatriation of 3400 officers and 28000 specialists, NCOs and soldiers (Italian) at present held as Prisoners of War in Allied hands.

2. The question has been discussed with the Land Forces Sub-Commission who are anxious that immediate action be taken with regard to the repatriation of at least a proportion of the number asked for and that early release be arranged.

3. It is known that there are considerable numbers of surplus officers in North Africa and India, as well as considerable numbers of men in India who are not employed, and provided shipping can be made available from India and North Africa, a proportion of say 500/800 officers and 5000/10000 men if repatriated immediately from these countries could form the cadre for the reinforcements required.

4. The proposal as presented in the letter of the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War requires certain alterations and modification (such as the necessity for Allied representation in the selection etc.), but it is considered that before further detail study be made in the matter that a decision as to the policy be given, which should cover the two main questions (a) agreement to the repatriations and (b) that shipping can be provided at a sufficiently early date to make the suggestion of practical interest.

For the Chief Commissioner:

(Sgd) M 1288

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

Encl. as in para 1.

Copy to C. of S. ✓

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

(34)

MEMORANDUM ON THE REPATRIATION OF OFFICERS AND SPECIALIST PRISONERS OF WAR REQUIRED FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF ITALIAN ARMY.

1. The General Staff of the Italian Army encounters actually serious difficulties in order to embody and to complete the Fighting Units as well as the other Units which are mostly also at disposition of the Allied Military Authorities.

Those difficulties are due especially to the scarce availability of junior serving officers (S.P.E.) and of soldiers trained to take up specialist duties and whose training has taken up a long period.

2. The General Staff examined the problem thoroughly and came to the conclusion that the mentioned difficulties could only be surmounted by the repatriation of serving officers and of Reserve officers and of Specialists actually Prisoners of War in Allied hands.

This would improve the structure of the Army Units in general and especially that of the Fighting Units and of all those other Units which help the War Effort for Victory, either by taking part in the actual fighting or by doing important work in the rear-line of the Army.

This measure would put the General Staff of the Army in a position to: - have at their disposition at the replacement depots a number of personnel as reinforcements for the casualties which the Fighting Units are bound to have in the field; - return to civilian jobs or to use in a more useful way the older men and those who are not idoneous as soldiers and who are now serving with the Italian Army.

3. Being this the actual position, this High Commissariat has been charged to represent this important question to the Allied Commission.

4. Enclosure 1 gives the first priorities, divided as to rank and specialties, whose repatriation is requested by the Italian General Staff for the above mentioned reasons.

The total number of them would include:
- 3,400 officers of which, if possible, 1,500 serving officers and the rest Reserve officers;
- 28,000 specialists, non-com. officers and soldiers.

5. The Italian Authorities would be much obliged if the requested personnel would be taken from the "Cuneo" and "Regina" Division, which are at present in the Middle East; next from the Italian soldiersPrisoners of War in the camps in Egypt, Kenya, India, South Africa, Australia, America, Great Britain and North Africa in as much still needed.

1284

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

6. The Italian Authorities have not got sufficient detailed particulars to be able to send forth nominal rolls. For this reason it is necessary that the choice of the above mentioned personnel should be entrusted to the Italian officer of the most elevated rank who already takes care of the Italian Prisoners of War in each zone, of course in accordance with the Allied Authorities. He will collect and transmit to the Italian Military Authorities the delcaration, as explained in paragraph 7 (b) and (c).

7. The choice of the personnel should be made on the base of the following priterious:

a) for non-comm. officers and soldiers: repatriation obligatory to be enlisted in fighting Units for those born in the years from 1916 to 1923 and the younger ones, with priority to the youngest.

b) for serving officers: repatriation obligatory with priority, in case of equality of rank, to the youngest ones. The obligation for them to be enlisted in fighting Units results already from their quality of serving officers. This fact should be made clear in writing to each of the serving officers which will be repatriated in consequence of this request and who will be obliged to sign a declaration confirming this agreement.

c) for the Reserve officers: repatriation voluntary to be asked for in writing. Through the request the officer must engage himself to return to Italy in order to be assigned to a fighting Unit. In case of equality of rank priority should be given to the youngest ones. Enclosure 2 contains the formula of the request, which should be made to sign by each officer.

8. The repatriation should take place in groups of not over 1,500 officers and 10,000 soldiers a month.

30

1283

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

Appendix "A" to Memorandum on the repatriation of officers and specialist prisoners of war required for reconstruction of ~~Italian Army.~~

NUMERICAL ROLL OF OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS SPECIALISTS WHOSE REPATRIATION IS REQUESTED FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ITALIAN ARMY

OFFICERS

Lt.Colonels and Majors:

Infantry	101	All serving Officers
Artillery	80	
Engineers	20 (1)	
Drivers	10	
Doctors	40	
Chemists	2	
Of Commissariat and Supplies	2	
Total	255	

CAPTAINS

Infantry	343	Of which at least 143 Serv.Officers
Artillery	117	" " " " 50 " "
Engineers	70 (2)	" " " " 25 " "
Drivers	60	" " " " 20 " "
Doctors	50	" " " " 20 " "
Chemists	3	" " " " 1 " "
Of Commissariat and Supplies	20	" " " " 10 " "
Administration	10	" " " " 5 " "
Total	675	Total 273

1281

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

31

Lt. and 2nd Lt.

Infantry	1007	Of which at least				280	Serv.	Officers
Artillery	367	"	"	"	"	110	"	"
Cavalery	28	"	"	"	"	7	"	"
Engineers	495(3)	"	"	"	"	143	"	"
Drivers	367	"	"	"	"	103	"	"
Doctors	120	"	"	"	"	30	"	"
Chemists	5	"	"	"	"	2	"	"
of Commissariat and Supplies	74	"	"	"	"	18	"	"
Administration	28	"	"	"	"	7	"	"
Total	2500			Total		700		

Soldiers of specialist Units:

Motorciclists	3200
Drivers, drivers-mechanics and armoured car-drivers	12000
R.T.Operators	5000
Switch board-operators and R.T.Operators	800
Radio-mechanics	600
Telephone-mechanics	400

Observations:

(1)- of which 2 railway men
(2)- " " 4 " "
(3)- " " 25 " "

Electricians	1000
Mechanics and their likes	2000
Artillery-workers and armourers	1000
Painters	200
Male attendants and their aids	800
Carpenters	1000
Total	28000

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

Appendix "B" to Memorandum on the repatriation of officers and specialist prisoners of war required for reconstruction of Italian Army.

FORMULA OF THE REQUEST WHICH SHOULD BE SIGNED BY EVERY RESERVE OFFICER

The undersigned (Rank-Army-Residence & name-Class-District).....
request to be repatriated in order to fight against the Germans with the Italian Army in Italy or wherever also the Italian Military Authorities will send the Italian Army to fight.

He engages himself on his honour to fulfil the engagement, which he takes by this request.

Date.....

Signature

.....

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

~~8262~~ ~~9001~~

29

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of the Chief of Staff

Tel: 478733

IPW/1/371

17 January 1945

JAN 17 1945

SUBJECT: Repatriation of POW under special conditions.

TO : Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

28

Reference your letter No. 16531/Mil. dated 4 January 1945.

1. It is regretted that the suggestions contained in para. 4 of your above-quoted letter with regard to repatriations of Italian Prisoners of War cannot be considered at the present time.

2. It is felt that the present repatriation policies are as liberal as is possible under present conditions, without effecting mass repatriation. As you understand and agree, it is not possible to have a mass repatriation at this moment as many Italian Prisoners of War are performing important functions in Service Units, thus releasing Allied troops for Combat duties.

3. Your numerous requests for the repatriation of necessary specialists to fill specific appointments in Italy are being met as quickly as possible, as and when shipping space, which can be spared from the very urgent requirements of war materials, is available.

4. The question of repatriations of Italian Prisoners of War is ever before the Commission, and you may be assured whenever the opportunity arises to increase repatriations of Italian Prisoners of War from the humanitarian standpoint, or the moral and material advantages of Italy, that the Commission will be ready to help in every way possible.

By Command of Rear Admiral Stone:

M. S. Lush

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

1276

Copy to C. of S. ✓

(Copy passed for 'A' files)

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

8262 ~~9001~~

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

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By Command of Rear Admiral Stone:

M. S. Lush

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

1276

Copy to C. of S. ✓

(Copy Passed for 'A' Files)

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

EB/amc.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PW

Rome 4th January 1945

TO: The ALLIED COMMISSION
ROME

No.16531/Mil.

SUBJECT: Repatriation of PsW in special conditions.

371 ACTION

This Commission knows the echo of contentment we have received by the repatriation of those PsW, who have been repatriated for invalidity, age, etc.etc. from the Italian Public, who await with anxiety, due to necessity and sentimental reasons, the return of their men.

Also in the Camps, due to the prolungation of the war, the anxiety is intense and in some cases causes moral sufferings that produce psychic disturbances amongs the PsW when if these psychic disturbances do not become really pathological.

It seems therefore to the Italian Authorities, that the Allied Authorities must if possible increase the number of repatriated P.O.W.

Therefore added to the decisions for repatriation that exsist at present the repatriation of all these of 60 years of age and ever 50 who have had two years imprisonment, and those who enter in the classes for compassionate reasons, permitted by the Allied Authorities and lastly those who have military or civil obligations to the nation, we propose the repatriation to be enlarged as follows.

a) All Italian PsW who have 4or morechildren.
b) All Italian PsW who are 40 years of age and have been in prison three years.
c) All Italian PsW who 30 years of age have had 4 years imprisonment.

It is evident that this category of PsW enter into the class for repatriation mentioned in Art. 72 of the Geneva Convention Art. that is inspired by humanity reasons.

It is not possible for the High Commissioner to give information as to the precise number of men in these Groups, having lost under the German occupation of Rome, documents and statistics made up by the fascists pertaining to above mentioned subject, but it is presumed that roughly the number of PsW in the 1st category are about 40,000 and in the category 2 & 3 about 30,000 each.

The jact that these numbers may seem say high, will certainly not be considered by the Allied Authorities, too numerous, to refuse the consent for these repatriations.

1274

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

The moral and material advantages that will result in the co-belligerence of the Italian people will be greatly furthered by those measures.

These measures do not only correspond with humanitarian reasons but also for utility reasons, for the national reconstruction.

In fact it is to note, that amongst these repatriated PW they will be a high number of peasants (perhaps a 40 or 50 %) and also a good number of workers according to the desires expressed by a petition of the Italian women forwarded to this Allied Commission.

Naturally in the cases of requested specialists, the requests will be forwarded as in the past, apart: to wit (CC.RR. Customs officials, Navy, Air-men and magistrates etc.etc.).

In the meantime we submit this question to the favorable consideration of this Commission to forward this request to the competent Allied Authorities.

The HIGH COMMISSIONER
Gen.Pietro Gazzera

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

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 SECTION
APO 512

TBJ/ahs

G-5: 014.33

7 January 1945

SUBJECT: Petition from the League of Italian Women.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

1. Reference is made to your I/7/453 of 14 December, enclosing a translation of a petition dated 7 December from the League of Italian Women urging increased repatriation of Italian POW.

2. The petition was referred to G-1 this Headquarters, whose comments, concurred by G-1 (B) and the Political Advisor, were as follows:

"1. It is felt that the present repatriation policies are as liberal as they can be made at the present time, without effecting mass repatriation. Mass repatriation cannot be made since Italian Prisoners of War organized in Service Units are performing a very important function, and are making it possible to utilize many thousands of Allied Troops for combat who would otherwise be required for service troops in the rear areas. While the desires of the Italian Women's league are respected, retention of Italian P/Ws in service Units speeds the time when all troops may be returned to their homes.

"2. In connection with this appeal, it should be noted that many Italians in Service units are being brought to this country from North Africa, and a liberal leave and pass policy for them has been adopted.

"3. Italians held as POW in the United States must await, as recognized in the petition, shipping space not needed for more urgent war materials."

3. In the circumstances it is felt that action should be limited to acknowledgment of the petition.

For the Acting Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

T.B. JACKMAN
Lt. Colonel

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

8262

File 25

Extract of Minutes of Chief of Staff's Meeting held on 9 January 1945.

JAN 14 1945

Request for Repatriation of Italian POW. Land Forces Sub-Commission had asked IW Sub-Commission for repatriation of about 30,000 Italian POW to make up the shortage of specialists in Italy. Some of these POW were in England and others in USA. Pol Sec considered it would be a good thing if this request could be granted. COS directed IW Sub-Commission to put up a memorandum to him for CC's decision.

See 31

12/1279

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

FILE 40

8262/40/COS

10th January 1945.

To: Director,
WMD & IPOW Sub-Commission.

Reference your IPW/1/11/351 of 9 January 1945.

Your Memorandum has been submitted to the Chief Commissioner who agrees with the suggestions put forward therein. You are, therefore, instructed to take action accordingly.

See 23

M. S.

Brigadier.
Chief of Staff.

see Minute 25

Noted

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

Chief Commissioner.

(34)

CC 69
JAN 10 1945

40A

(23)

Attached is submitted for your information/signature/approval.

If you agree, as I think we must, in principle with this proposal I will get IPOW sub com to carry on. — See (40)

1268

10/1 I agree

TTS 10/1

EWS

CC

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

38
21

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
WAR MATERIALS DISPOSAL AND
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR SUB COMMISSION

INTER OFFICE MEMO

IPW/1/11/351

9 January 1945

To: Chief of Staff.

Subject: Repatriation of officers and specialists Prisoners of War needed for reconstruction of Italian Army.

Reference attached translation of letter received from the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War.

1/. I have spoken to M.M.I.A. who state that they are in agreement and that these specialists are definitely required for duty in connection with the Combat troops of the Italian Army.

2/. If you agree that the matter be referred to higher authority I suggest that as the Prisoners of War asked for may have to come from different Theaters that the matter should be discussed with G-1 (A) and G-1 (B) at A.F.H.Q.

3/. There are a considerable number of Prisoners of War in India who are not employed and repatriations from that country may be agreed to more readily than from countries where Italian Prisoners of War are being used as co-operators.

4/. I also understand from G-1 (A), A.F.H.Q. that there are a number in America they would like to return to Italy.

5/. There are a number of problems which will require study and discussion.

J.A. Campbell 1267

J.A.CAMPBELL
Lieut.-Colonel
Director
WMD & IPOW Sub-Com.

Encl. Ltr No. 16359/M11
of 30 Dec 44.

See 24

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

38A

20

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR PRISONERS OF WAR

File No.16559/W11

Rome, 30 December 1944

To : Allied Commission, Rome

Subject : Repatriation of officers and specialists PW needed for reconstruction of Italian Army.

1/. The General Staff of the Italian Army encounters actually serious difficulties in order to embody and to complete the Fighting Units as well as the other Units which are mostly also at disposition of the Allied Military Autorities.

These difficulties are due especially to the scarce availability of junior serving officers (S.P.E.) and of soldiers trained to take up specialist duties and whose training has taken up a long period.

2/. The General Staff examined the problem thoroughly and came to the conclusion that the mentioned difficulties could only be surmounted by the repatriation of serving officers and of Reserve officers and of Specialists actually PW in Allied hands.

This would improve the structure of the Army Units in general and especially that of the Fighting Units and of all these other Units which help the War Effort for Victory, either by taking part in the actual fighting or by doing important work in the rear-line of the Army.

This measure would put the General Staff of the Army in a position to:
- have at their disposition at the replacement depots a number of personnel as reinforcements for the casualties which the Fighting Units are bound to have in the field;
- return to civilian jobs or to use in a more useful way the older men and those who are not idoneous as soldiers and who are now serving with the Italian Army;

3/. Being this the actual position, this High Commissariat has been charged to represent this important question to the Allied Commission.

4/. Enclosure 1 gives the First priorities, divided as to rank and specialties, whose repatriation is requested by the Italian General Staff for the above mentioned reasons.

The total number of them would include:
- 3.400 officers of which, if possible, 1.200 serving officers and the rest Reserve officers;
- 28.000 specialists, non-com. officers and soldiers.

5/. The Italian Authorities would be much obliged if the requested personnel would be taken from the "Cuneo" and "Regina" Division, which are at present in the M.East; next from the Italian soldiers PW in the camps in Egypt, Kenya, India, South Africa, Australia, America, Great Britain and North Africa in as much still needed.

1265

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

6/. The Italian Authorities have not got sufficient detailed particulars to be able to send forth nominal rolls. For this reason it is necessary that the choice of the above mentioned personnel should be entrusted to the Italian officer of the most elevated rank who already takes care of the Italian PW in each zone, of course in accordance with the Allied Authorities. He will collect and transmit to the Italian Military Authorities the declarations, as explained in paragraph 7 (b) and (c).

7/. The choice of the personnel should be made on the base of the following criteriona:

a) for non-comm. officers and soldiers: repatriation obligatory to be enlisted in fighting Units for those born in the years from 1915 to 1923 and the younger ones, with priority to the youngest.
b) for serving officers: repatriation obligatory with priority, in case of equality of rank, to the youngest ones. The obligation for them to be enlisted in fighting Units results already from their quality of serving officers. This fact should be made clear in writing to each of the serving officers which will be repatriated in consequence of this request and who will be obliged to sign a declaration confirming this agreement.
c) for the Reserve officers: repatriation voluntary to be asked for in writing. Through the request, the officer must engage himself to return to Italy in order to be assigned to a fighting Unit. In case of equality of rank priority should be given to the youngest ones. Enclosure 2 contains the formula of the request, which should be made to sign by each officer.

8/. The repatriation should take place in groups of not over 1.500 officers and 10.000 soldiers a month.

9/. This High Commission will be very grateful if the Allied Commission would submit this important question with the necessary urgency to the Superior Allied Authorities in order to have it benevolently examined and to let us know the decision taken as soon as possible.

I thank you most cordially beforehand.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

a/ Gen. Pietro Gazzera

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

38c

Enclosure 1 to letter 16359 Mil
dated 30 Dec.44 of the H.C.for PW

NUMERICAL ROLL OF OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS SPECIALISTS WHOSE REPATRIATION IS REQUESTED FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ITALIAN ARMY.

OFFICERS
Lt.Colonels and Majors:

Infantry	101	All serving Officers
Artillery	50	
Engineers	20 (1)	
Drivers M.T.	10	
Doctors	40	
Chemists	2	
Of Commissariat and Supplies	2	
Total	225	

****

CAPTAINS

Infantry	343	Of which at least 143	Serv.Officers
Artillery	117	" " " " 50	" "
Engineers	70 (2)	" " " " 25	" "
Drivers	60	" " " " 20	" "
Doctors	50	" " " " 20	" "
Chemists	5	" " " " 2	" "
of Commissariat and Supplies	20	" " " " 10	" "
Administration	10	" " " " 5	" "
Total	675	Total	275

****

Lt. and 2nd Lt.

Infantry	1007	Of which at least 280	Serv. Officers
Artillery	367	" " " " 110	" "
Cavalery	28	" " " " 7	" "
Engineers	495 (3)	" " " " 143	" "
Drivers	367	" " " " 103	" "
Doctors	129	" " " " 30	" "
Chemists	5	" " " " 2	" "
of Commissariat and Supplies	74	" " " " 18	" "
Administration	28	" " " " 7	" "
Total	2500	Total	700

T263

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

38d

17

Soldiers of specialist Units:

Motorcyclists	3200
Drivers, drivers-mechanics and armoured car-drivers...	12000
R.T. Operators	5000
Switch board-operators and W.T. Operators	600
Radio-mechanics	600
Telephone-mechanics.....	400

Observations:

(1) - of which 2 railway men
(2) - " " 4 " "
(3) - " " 25 " "

Electricians	1000
Mechanics and their likes.....	2000
Artillery-workers and armourers.....	1200
Painters	200
Male attendants and their aids	800
Carpenters.....	1000
Total	28000

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

(16) 38

Enclosure 2 to letter No.16359 Mil.
dated 30/XII/44 of the B.C. for P.W.

FORMULA OF THE REQUEST WHICH SHOULD BE SIGNED BY EVERY RESERVE OFFICER.

The undersigned (Rank-Army-Residence & name-Class-District).....
.....
requests to be repatriated in order to fight against the Germans with the Italian Army in Italy or wherever else the Italian Military Authorities will send the Italian Army to fight.

He engages himself on his honour to fulfil the engagement, which he takes by this request.

Date.....

Signature

.....

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

RESTRICTED

98951 PW 1
DEC 031215A

DEC 051240A
ROUTINE
5 DEC 1944

From: TROOPERS
To: MIDEAST PAIR, EAST AFRICA, MILBESTAF, INDIA RPTD FREEDO, ALCOM

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

RESTRICTED.

At least 10 days prior notice will be given to Italian Govt of estimated time of arrival all Italian PW sick and wounded being repatriated to ITALY.

Dist

Info-Action - IPW SC (2)
Info - Chief Commissioner
C o S
CA Sec
File

HEADQUARTERS
5-DEC 1944
A. C.

RESTRICTED

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

8262

TOP SECRET

CCS

DWS/dfe

14

A/GC 383.6-1

Confidential

6 November 1944

7 NOV Recd

Dear Chuck:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation, I called on Prime Minister Bonomi on November 3 and put to him the question of transferring additional Italian POW from North Africa to Italy. I told him that I personally had the same objection that I had expressed earlier to such a course, which I hoped might have lead to some discussion requesting a new effort to resolve the POW question. As in the case of the recent transfer of Italian POW to France, however, the Prime Minister did not raise objection to having more POWs come to Italy to perform work for the U.S. Army.

Under the circumstances there appears to be nothing more to be done on our part for the time being.

Sincerely,

Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Commodore, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

Brigadier General Charles M. Spofford, U.S.A.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5
Allied Force Headquarters
APO 512

1256

cc- Chief of Staff
Sec. P.O.W. S/C
"A" files

TOP SECRET

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

8262

FOS 2218

Subject: Repatriated Italians.

Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
TS/AQ/10

3 Nov 44

4 NOV Recd

H.Q., A.C.

Copy to: AFHQ for Q(AE)
and G4(A)

Ref your 8262/10/COS of 31 Oct 1944.

1. The clothing referred to consists of 5000 NEW uniforms of olive drab color.

2. Under the present AFHQ instructions the property of the Italian Army is reserved for the use of the three categories of the Italian Army. There is NOT now available sufficient clothing for the presently authorized Italian Army, either Italian or Allied.

3. The Sub-Commission has authority to release to A.C. only such Italian Army property as is not suitable for use by the Army. The uniforms in question will be used by the Army.

4. This matter has been previously discussed with the Minister for War, General Oxilia and others.

5. No release of this clothing can be authorized.

HEADQUARTERS 3 NOV 1944 A.C.C.

CLAYTON P.KERR Colonel.
for Major General.
M.M.I.A.

CPK/hh

1255

Copies sent HMD & IPOW
CA Sec

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

8262/A

SECRET.

Confidential

12

Ref: 4/37.1/CA.

2 November, 1944.

3 NOV Recd

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italian soldiers from Greece.

TO : Land Forces Sub-Commission.

1. I attach herewith draft of AFHQ Administrative Order No.2 which will shortly be received here, relating to the removal from the Greece mainland and the demobilisation on the mainland of 3700 Italian soldiers. It is expected that further parties will be sent in the near future.

2. All arrangements for the reception, accommodation, feeding, medical inspection, clothing and dispersal of these Italian soldiers will be undertaken by the Land Forces Sub-Commission in conjunction with the IPOW Sub-Commission and the Italian Ministry of War.

3. You will note that assistance will be rendered by AFHQ and No.3 District. In conjunction with AFHQ the personnel to travel from Taranto to Piraeus on S.S. Alcantara, both Allied and Italian, are being provided and will assemble in accordance with the directions given.

4. Medical supplies have already been arranged by the Medical Division of the Public Health Sub-Commission.

5. Land Forces Sub-Commission will render situation reports at 4 days intervals from date of receipt of this instruction and will report completion of movement operation to Chief of Staff.

6. Ack.

ELLERY W. STONE
Commodore, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

1254

Copy sent:-
WMD & IPOW
CA Sec

Copy to: COS. ✓

10

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

11

Ext. 735

Office of the Chief of Staff

8262/11/008

Repatriation of Italian Soldiers.

10 31 Oct 4

D.C.O.S., Civil Affairs Section.

I enclose a copy of a memorandum to GOC Army Sub-Commission. It is a great pity that a member of Army Sub-Commission was not present at the meeting.

Major E. Talbot

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

1253

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Chief of Staff
++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

10

Tel: 300

Ref: 8262/10/COS.

31 October 1944.

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italian Soldiers.

TO : G.O.C. Army Sub-Commission.

5

Please see para 9 and 10 of attached Notes of Meeting. It is, in my opinion, essential that clothes should be made available for these men. Except for those mentioned there is no clothing available. Can you release them urgently.

See Folio 13

(SGD) E. T.

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.
IN ABSENCE ON DUTY

(Dictated by Brig. Lush)

Note:
Copy of folio 9 also enclosed.

Copy sent.
WNDT/POW
CA Sec

BU 3/11

1252

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

8262

TOP SECRET B

Confidential

Ref: 4.37.1/CA

27th October, 1944.

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italian Soldiers.

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

Forwarded to CA tel now on file 4.37.1/CA copy of enclosure filed at 1A & B. 31 OCT Recd

I refer to my letter 3257/[illegible]/CS of October 10th, to which I have had no reply.

The matter is now becoming one of extreme urgency and it is essential that a ruling should be given as to the status of Italian soldiers a) returning from Greece or any other theatre as soldiers, and b) as PW.

As you will see from the notes of a meeting held in the Civil Affairs Section of this Commission yesterday, we have been compelled to make tentative plans without knowing what principle is to be followed. (5)

These plans affect some 6,000 soldiers about to be returned from Greece. The same problem arises with 2,000 soldiers demobilised in Elba. I have received a Memorandum from the Minister of War in which, quite rightly, he puts forward provisional proposals to deal with 5,400 Italian Prisoners of War who may be expected from Germany and approximately 1 million from Allied sources.

I must repeat my strong recommendation that the Army Sub-Commission is the proper authority to handle all Italian soldiers returning from overseas. In the Italian Government the Ministry for War is properly handling the matter. It is logical that their counter-part in the Commission should do their part from the Allied side. They have the means, they have the organisation in the Italian Army and that Army must, with the help of the Army Sub-Commission, be prepared to help Italian soldiers returning to their homeland.

It is, I submit, wrong to define such people as displaced persons or Italian refugees. It would certainly be impolitic to do so. Moreover, Displaced Persons Sub-Commission, with vast commitments among civilians in the North, is not in a position to handle soldiers.

I must, therefore, ask that the matter be treated as one of great urgency and that arrangements should be made for the Army Sub-Commission to use the Italian Army for the reception, demobilisation and dispersal or hospitalisation of all Italian soldiers returning to Italy, and that the means, if necessary, be put at their disposal to undertake this extra commitment.

1250

[illegible]
COMMISSIONER. [illegible]

Copy to: [illegible].
CoS Section.

AT

CAS...

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

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

INTER OFFICE MEMO

9

From: WMD & IPW Sub-Commission.

SUBJECT: Return of Italian soldiers from the Balkans and Greece.

TO: Chief of Staff.

FILE No. IPW/22/74

31 October 1944

1251

1. The subject with which you are conversant, concerns the return to Italy of some 8,000/10,000 Italian soldiers from the Balkans and Greece.

2. Gen Oxilia, the Italian Under Secretary for War, called on me to-day and discussed the position at length. He stated that arrangements were completed for the acceptance of these soldiers provided due notice was given, but that he requested assistance on two points - Rations and Clothing. I explained the question of rations was at present under discussion.

3. Some 2000 men had already arrived in the Bari area practically naked, and clothes were urgently required. For immediate needs Gen Oxilia requested the release of 5000 suits he had in store, but which were

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

frozen on instructions from the Army Sub-Commission. These suits were of a different material and colour to any other Italian uniform at present in use, and would or could not be used by the Army. Gen Oxilia requested me to represent his case to Commodore Stone asking the immediate release of these 5000 suits; to clothe the 2000 already arrived, and utilise the balance for others as they arrived. This would at least take care of the first 5000.

4/. He stressed the point that from the Italian standpoint these men were soldiers deserving well of this Government for whom they had fought, and apart from humanitarian reasons there were also political reasons at stake.

5. I am of opinion that Gen. Oxilia has sound common sense as well as necessity on his side in his demand for the release of the clothing to which he refers, and I recommend that IMMEDIATE instructions be issued to release this material for the purpose of clothing these Italian men returning from the Balkans and Greece.

D. A. Campbell
Lieut.-Colonel.
WMD & IPW Sub-Commission.

30 October 1944.

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

5

NOTES OF A MEETING HELD IN THE CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION ON THURSDAY, 26 Oct '44.

Present:- Brig.C.E. Upjohn. (Chairman)
Col. C.R. Findlay (Displaced Persons)
Col. E.R. Cripps (CA Section)
Lt.Col.C.F.F.Fothergill (Displaced Persons)
Lt.Col.J.C. Campbell. (P.o.W)
Maj.Driffield White. (G-5 Sec.AFHQ)
Representative of Industry sub-commission
Representative of Transportation sub-commission

1. Brig. Upjohn pointed out that the status of Italian soldiers returning from Greece or any other theatre of operations was one which had yet to be determined. The matter was down for discussion with the Chief Administrative Officer AFHQ by the Acting Chief Commissioner this afternoon.

2. AFHQ had ruled that such people were Displaced Persons, and as such should be handled by the Displaced Persons sub-commission. It was the contention of this HQ, however, that men who had been bearing arms for Italy were until demobilised still soldiers whether prisoners of war or not, and that as such they should be handled, until they are demobilsed, by the Army sub-commission and the Italian Ministry of War. Any action agreed at this meeting would be without prejudice to the decision referred to above. He therefore proposed to examine the problem with a view to deciding what steps should be taken to assist Displaced Persons and P.O.W. sub-commissions, and the requirements to be placed before G-5 Section AFHQ.

3. The Chairman pointed out that he had knowledge of one party of not less than 8,500 persons who would be arriving in Italy in a very deplorable condition at an early date. He asked Major Driffield White if he had any knowledge as to the port of entry, or the time of arrival.

4. Major Driffield White stated he could not give details, but he thought it would be in the very near future, in fact he was of the opinion that some had already arrived.

5. Lt.Col. Campbell interposed that that was the case and he had information that 800 Italian soldiers had already arrived at Bari and were in the Italian Government's returning prisoner of war transit camp. He announced that the Italian Government's organisation for handling returning Italian POW was dealing with those men, were prepared to do so, and that he believed that they had sufficient facilities for handling up to 1,000 men at any one time provided that they did not arrive at too frequent intervals.

6. Major Driffield White enquired whether in fact the men referred to by Lt.Col. Campbell were from Greece. He thought they might also possibly be from Jugoslavia. Col.Campbell agreed that that might be the case.

7. The Chairman pointed out that if that was the case then the Italians

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6. Major Driffield White enquired whether in fact the men referred to by Lt.Col. Campbell were from Greece. He thought they might also probably be from Jugoslavia. Col.Campbell agreed that that might be the case.

7. The Chairman pointed out that if that was the case then the Italians would appear to have a perfectly suitable Organisation to deal with this matter themselves without further investigation.

8. It was then pointed out that these persons were practically speaking without any form of clothing or boots. No sub-commission present had any solution for providing these and all declared that there were no stocks whatsoever available.

9. Brigadier Upjohn then declared that requirement number one was clothing and footwear for returning prisoners and requested Major Driffield White to obtain from AFHQ.

10. Lt.Col.Campbell added that he considered there must be large quantities of khaki drill recently turned in by the Army which could be made available. It was agreed that such clothing would be acceptable provided that sufficient quantity could be issued in order to make up the necessary thickness for warmth.

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11. Returning to the question of dates of arrival Major Driffield White said that he anticipated these soldiers would return faster than it appeared that the P.o.W.Organisation could absorb them. Displaced Persons sub-commission could deal with up to 2,000 for short periods of time at the Bari camp where disinfestation facilities existed. It was suggested that the brickfields camp at Taranto could also be used, but it appeared that this was being used as an enemy P.o.W. cage for outgoing prisoners. The Chairman requested Major Driffield White to investigate the possible release of this camp for use of the returning prisoners, and also to investigate the possibility of procuring a Disinfestation Unit.

12. The Chairman then asked how were the inmates of the camps to be fed. Displaced Persons stated that persons occupying the Bari camp were authorised to receive Scale 30. The Chairman then stated that it was agreed that requirement number 2 would be that AFHQ authorise the issue of Scale 30 to these persons, at Taranto or any other camp which would be set up for the period of their stay before dispersal.

13. Discussion then turned to transportation for the dispersal of returning soldiers. Lt.Col.Campbell stated that if they were in small numbers and were handled by the Italian High Commissioner for P.o.W, transport would be provided, but if larger numbers occured he doubted the sufficiency of transport. It was then agreed that number 3 requirement from AFHQ would be an order to local Military Commanders to supply road transport from ship to camp and from camp to rail. (This to include ambulances).

14. The Chairman then raised the question of hospitalisation. He pointed out that these persons had been described as suffering from malnutrition, lack of discipline and leadership and disease-ridden, and that up to 20% would probably require hospitalisation. A cable had been sent saying that they could not be accepted suffering from infectious disease, and the importance of their being free from smallpox and typhus was emphasised.

15. It was emphasised by Lt.Col.Frizelle that to prevent people arriving on the Italian mainland during incubation period of infectious disease, it would be essential to establish a quarantine camp in Greece for their adequate supervision.

16. It was then pointed out that if the Army sub-commission were to be responsible as had been recommended for the dispersal of these soldiers there would of course be hospitalisation arrangements to be made. If they were to be thrown upon the civilian organisations then a very careful survey of the possibilities of accommodation would have to be made. It was agreed that Public Health sub-commission look into the whole matter together with the Italian Red Cross with a view not only to utilising civilian hospitals, but military hospitals turned over to civilian use and staffed by Red Cross personnel. In particular the hospital in the vicinity of Regio Calabria to be investigated.

17. The whole question of transport would arise in this matter and Lt.Col. Frizelle emphasised the importance of AFHQ making available through local military commanders ambulances for this purpose.

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14. The Chairman then raised the question of hospitalisation. He pointed out that these persons had been described as suffering from malnutrition, lack of discipline and leadership and disease-ridden, and that up to 40% would probably require hospitalisation. A cable had been sent saying that they could not be accepted suffering from infectious disease, and the importance of their being free from smallpox and typhus was emphasised.

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

826

4

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

27 October 1944

30 OCT Recd

I have seen your note to "Chuck" regarding Hulls. I am afraid there is just no hope whatever of an air passage. The back-log on ordinary urgent passages is very big. I am sorry not to be able to do more, but Hulls will be in very good company in his ship as many Colonels and Brigadiers from this Headquarters are being "pythoned" about this time.

Reference our conversation yesterday about further Italian soldiers being returned to Italy from various countries which we liberate. Will you please let me have any more information on this that you can. From some preliminary inquiries I cannot see why all these people who are an Italian Government responsibility should not be dealt with by the Italian army organisation provided they are only fed on "displaced persons rations" as opposed to military rations. However, I will take this up and get a decision as soon as I hear some more from you and Driffield-White when he returns.

C. E. LEWIN-HARRIS
Colonel
Deputy Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5

Brigadier Maurice S. Lush, OBE, MC
Chief of Staff
Headquarters, Allied Commission
A.P.O. 394

See folio 8

1247

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

3251 (4)

3

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Civil Affairs Section
APO 394

Ref:- 4/37.1/CA

25 Oct '44

TO:- COS

25 Oct Recd

SUBJECT:- Italian soldiers on Elba.

1. I refer to my 4/37.1/CA of to-day's date on the subject of the return of Italian soldiers. The problem of the dispersion and absorption of about 2,000 soldiers on the Island of Elba is a good example of the confusion that is reigning. This confusion it must be admitted is increased by the purely local circumstance that the French Deputy Military Governor has not yet left the Island and, according to Col. Finlay who has just returned from Region Toscana, the Regional Commissioner finds the French Governor a most difficult man to deal with.

2. The Army sub-commission refuse to deal with these 2,000 soldiers as they say they are non-effectives, they are, however, willing to consider them for absorption into the Italian Army but only if the Patriot Branch will be responsible for screening.

3. The Patriots Branch acting with my authority deny any responsibility whatever.

4. The Displaced Persons and Repatriation sub-commission do not consider these soldiers as refugees and are reluctant to handle this problem, in my opinion rightly.

5. I have not consulted the Prisoners of War sub-commission because it does not seem to concern them unless the scope of that sub-commission is enlarged.

6. The problem is an urgent one, but I am making no recommendation at all pending the decision on policy which I hope will be made tomorrow.

G.R. Upjohn

G.R. UPJOHN. Brig.
Dep. C.o.S.
VP CA Sec.

Noted

1246

GRU/vsh

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

8251 M 0 2

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref:- 4/37.1/CA 25 Oct 44.

25 OCT Recd

SUBJECT: Return of Italian Soldiers.

TO:- C.O.S.

1. I think it is timely to draw to your attention a problem with which we are beginning to be faced and which may shortly increase and will certainly ultimately become a very large nation-wide problem, namely the return of Italian soldiers to this country from other theatres of war e.g. Greece, or who may be found on such islands as Elba.

2. Many of these soldiers (e.g. those proposed to be returned from India) are ex-P.O.Ws. but a large number of others are not.

3. So far as the Italian Government are concerned they would seem to be under a moral obligation to provide for returning soldiers by hospitalising, clothing, feeding and paying them until they are absorbed into the "effective" army or until demobilisation, in which case the Government is morally responsible for providing, as far as possible in existing circumstances, transport to their homes and a suit of civilian clothes.

4. The Minister of War is, I believe, very conscious of his obligation in this respect but there is no body within A.C.C. which, at the moment, has this responsibility.

5. The Army Sub-Commission state that their directives only permit them to deal with effectives.

6. The P.O.W. Sub-Commission deal only with returning P.O.Ws. and their responsibility ends I understand, when the soldier reaches this country.

7. The Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission deal with an entirely different problem. Returning soldiers surely ought not in principle be treated as refugees; they remain legally soldiers until demobilisation and are entitled to pay, food and clothing.

1245

8. I suggest therefore, that this whole problem requires urgent review in order that one body within this H.Q. may be fixed with responsibility for co-ordination and advice and assistance to the Italian Government in handling this matter.

See folio 8

/9. I submit

3127

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

9. I submit that both from a logical point of view and on the practical side this body should be the Army Sub-Commission who deal with the Minister of War and who, being responsible for the reorganisation of the Italian Army are the natural body to handle this problem. If that be agreed in principle I then suggest A.F.H.Q. be asked to enlarge the directives of the Sub-Commission to enable them to undertake this work. Alternatively, I suggest the P.O.W. Sub-Commission should be enlarged in scope to handle the problem. Col. Campbell is willing to undertake the work.

G.R. Upjohn

G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.,
VP CA Sec.,
Dep. C. of S.

GRU/sg

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

Confidential 1A

Confidential

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 394

Office of the Chief of Staff

Ref: 8257/8/COS — 19th October, 1944.

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italian Soldiers from GREECE.

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

1. In his letter of September 26th, Commanding General, HQ Force 140 asks that arrangements should be made to assist him in the repatriation of some 8,500 Italian soldiers from GREECE. In your letter GR/409/44(Br) of October 4th you have forwarded the request to MMIA in order to enable the Italian Government to make the necessary provisions for the care of these personnel. You have suggested provision of medical and other staff from released prisoners of war sources and you clearly assume that such arrangements will be made by the Ministry of War and MMIA.

2. In a memorandum attached, Commanding General MMIA states that MMIA is not in a position to take on this proposition. He states that from the point of view of the Italian Army these soldiers are civilians and suggests that their disposal should be handled by the Displaced Persons & Repatriation Sub-Commission, the Italian Red Cross and UNRRA.

3. As regards the maintenance of these men in GREECE and their transportation to this country neither the Italian Government nor the ACC can assume any responsibility. That is a matter for HQ 140 Force to arrange with UNRRA or other relief agencies in GREECE and the Naval authorities.

4. From the point of view of the Italian Government, however, it would seem essential that the Ministry of War should take charge of these men immediately they are repatriated to this country. I cannot believe that it would be right for the Italian Government to take the line that they must be considered as civilians. Public opinion would rightly resent this attitude.

5. The present charter of the MMIA forbids the provision of food, hospitalisation or transport from MMIA for these men because they cannot be regarded as effectives.

6. I would suggest, therefore, that in order to deal with these unfortunate troops some relaxation should be permitted from the rigid enforcement of the orders of the COS. It would seem natural and indeed humane that a military organisation such as is suggested in para 3 of the G-4 letter referred to should be set up under the aegis of MMIA and that the repatriated soldiers should be fed and hospitalised

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

18

for a period say of two months after repatriation and until they can be demobilised and returned, again under MMIA arrangements, to their homes.

7. I am aware that this brings up an important question of principle as to the use of MMIA but I think we should not avoid the issue because of its importance from the point of view of the Italian Government.

8. The same difficulty is being experienced with the return of Italian prisoners of war from other theatres who on arrival are regarded purely as civilians and are fed, transported and hospitalised as civilians, under the care of the Italian Red Cross. They can take on no more than their present commitments

9. If it is impossible for the above to be arranged then I would suggest that the whole problem be placed in the hands of UNRRA both in GERMANY and in this country. The Displaced Persons and Repatriation Sub-Commission would find it impossible to provide staff and extremely difficult to organise the repatriation and hospitalisation which will be necessary for the majority of these men.

M. S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff,
for Acting Chief Commissioner.

MSL/JG.

Copy to: MMIA
ECSS, CA Sec (2)

1242

1491