

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

785017

ACC

10000/109/1170
(VOL. I)

TRAN
DEC.

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

785017

10000/109/1170
(VOL. I)

TRANSPORT, ITALIAN ARMED FORCES
DEC. 1944 - SEPT. 1945

10219th September 1945.

V.P.

Economic Section.

With reference to 101 opposite, I would inform you that the Director, Transportation Sub-Commission, reports that paragraph 2 has not yet been complied with. Could you give this priority of action as time is getting short.

M.S.L.
Brigadier.
Executive Commissioner.

101.

V.P.

Economic Section.

I do not understand the policy underlying this letter, nor is it what I requested.

As I explained at a meeting on 22.9.45., (Colonels Walton, Buchanan, Mr Franklyn) we have two alternatives:-

(1) Return of Italian Army Vehicles (probably over 2,000) to Italian Army via M.M.I.A.

(2) Adoption of Italian Government scheme of substitution by Ministry of Transport vehicles, subject to such conditions requested by M.M.I.A., as we can fulfill.

What policy is recommended? The attached letter appears to favour (1). But the position of Economic Section and A.M.G. is considerably weakened by the fact that the Chief Commissioner's order sent on August 24th has not been obeyed. We apparently have not in our possession the facts about these vehicles which Economic Section was directed to obtain by September 24th.

There is needed a memorandum setting out :-

1. The Problem.
2. The A.P.E.Q. order.
3. The facts as they occurred on liberation (not forgetting that V and VIII Armies endorsed A.M.G. action).
4. The numbers held and registered.
5. The organisation running the Army lorries - see Colonel Poletti especially on this.
6. The alternative solution.
7. Your recommendations.

This is a matter of some urgency.

20/9

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Economic Section.

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5. The organisation running the Army lorries - see Colonel Poletti especially on this.
6. The alternative solution.
7. Your recommendations.

This is a matter of some urgency.

20/9

MSL
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Ex Comm

Pls see letter to MMIA submitted today for

Your signature.

eff

Gen Sec 60045

(NOTE: Gen File SW/IN.1 contains letter
Referred to above.)

99.

Chief Commissioner:

1. With reference to Par 5 of Minute 98

a. MMIA records do not show how many vehicles are being used by Municipal or State Organizations; but from reports received, we are inclined to believe that bona-fide cases of this kind are very few. A certain number of alleged cases have been investigated, and we find that the State Organization has given its approval to the use of the vehicle, but that the vehicle is actually operated on a contract basis with the State Organization and not by employees of the State.

b. In cases where the Allied Commission requests specifically that the vehicle be used for the public business, MMIA has offered to leave the vehicle on such work, but the operation and maintenance of the vehicle will be by Italian soldiers. This offer was made to the Transportation Sub Commission some months ago, and in no case has any such request been made.

c. AFHQ instructions do not exempt vehicles in use by Municipal or State organizations from return to the Italian Government, but they do ~~direct~~ that such vehicles as are necessary for the public interest, as recommended by the Allied Commission, should be so used and operated by Army personnel.

CPK/lak

16 Aug 45

100.

Executive Commissioner:

1. The Chief Commissioner has noted the recommendations contained in minutes 98 and 99, and directs that Tptn S/C be instructed to submit to Land Forces S/C, within the next 30 days, complete lists (Registration numbers, et al) of all Italian Army vehicles of which they have knowledge, and state positively which vehicles they wish to have retained in municipal and state services. Such retention will be in full accordance with AFHQ directive which states that vehicles necessary for public interests (municipal and state), on AC's recommendation, can be retained in such services but must be operated and maintained by the Italian Army.

24 August 45.

L.W.S.

May 1945
SOLC

785017

F.C. Personal
 Aid are two
 sides of a
 difficulty
 problem. What
 do you
 recommend?
 JWC
 14/8

98.

AUG 15 1947

Chief Commissioner.

1. The case for the Allies is that the Italian Army must so far as is possible equip itself from local resources. Even at this juncture it is unreasonable to expect the Allies to provide vehicles, tyres, etc., for the Italian Army when military vehicles are available in the country.
2. It is also reasonable to suppose that vehicles used by workers, cooperators, ex-partisans, etc., are used for personal profit and in many cases, I regret to say, illegal acts.
3. It is bad for the discipline of any country that individuals should be allowed to retain vehicles which properly belong to the Government even though they have acquired them during hostilities.
4. The case for the Italian Government is that transport is so short that essential services would suffer and individuals complain.

2047

Chief Commissioner.

98.

AUG 15 1945

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4. The case for the Italian Government is that transport is so short that essential services would suffer and individuals complain.
5. I think judgement should be that in cases where it can be proved that the vehicles are being used by municipal or state organisations (eg., sanitary trucks, SERPA, etc), the right to take them for the Italian Army should be waived but that AFTER instructions should be followed in regard to vehicles operated by individuals and commercial concerns or those clearly working for profit.

14. Aug. 45

71911
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Executive Commissioner:

Please see minutes 69 from Col Walton of the Supply Division, Economic Section, in regard to the 110 Italian army vehicles now operating in truck pools which MIA is seeking to have turned over to them.

Colonel Walton has now received word from General Hamblin that all positive action in this matter should be suspended for the moment and that he is taking the necessary steps to amend the provisions of AFHQ Circular 5 of 11 Apr to insure that civilian economy will not be disrupted by any wholesale transfers of such vehicles.

19 May 45

422
So inform Land Forces Sub Com.

(See folio 74) 17 May 1945

75

Director WND HC

Pl see 74 ref Gen
memo in attached file

General
21/5

II.

2046

W.D. & H.O.W. Sub-Commission

Ref. folio 74. Will you please investigate and if the vehicle is in fact the property of the Italian Army

So inform Land Forces Sub Com
(See folio 74) DM 19/13

75

Director WMS HC

Pl See 74 2nd Gen
units in attached file

23/10
Gordon

II.

20/16

WED & EPON Sub-Commission

Ref. folio 74 Will you please investigate and if the vehicle
is in fact the property of the Italian Army

83

CSD for she know about 82.
5/7/48

84

W2
need 2
CC for signature. 7

86

785017

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 804
ECONOMIC SECTION

ROUTING AND WORK SHEET

Each note must be numbered and each space completely filled in. THIS WORK SHEET MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE TO WHICH ATTACHED UNTIL ACTION IS COMPLETED AND THEN FILED WITH FILE COPIES OF COMMUNICATION TO WHICH IT PERTAINS. A line will be drawn the full width of the page under each note.

SUBJECT: Italian Army Vehicles

No	Date	To	REMARKS	From
40 A	18 May	Ex. Com.	Reference telephone call Gen. Hamblin, AFHQ, Col. Walton, E/S, this date, on the retention of 110 Italian army vehicles in AMG pools to be operated by civilian contractor/operators. Gen. Hamblin stated that the object of Cir. #5, 11 Apr, AFHQ, was to insure that the title for Italian army vehicles was vested in the Italian war Ministry. He agreed to check on the circular and amend it, if necessary, to permit the 110 vehicles to remain in the AMG pools as desired by the Economic Section, subject to the condition that the title to the vehicles be clearly vested in the war Ministry. He stated that he would inform MMIA, and in the meantime, desired that we postpone any definite action to transfer the vehicles physically to MMIA.	
			cc: Trans. S/C MMIA	
			<i>CWW</i> CHARLES W. WALTON Colonel Dep. Chief, Supply Div.	
				2045

Page

No	Date	To	REMARKS	From

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

40

Note.

Hold-up action, pending outcome of Col Walton's
conference with Brig Hambler. AFHQ.

(This refers folio 62 + H 65466.)

For
18 May.

Economic Section

For Transportation Subcommittee.

Re Italian Army vehicles.

That action has been and is being taken in regard to matters referred to in:

a. Para 4 of Folio 53.

b. Para 3 of Folio 52.

C of Exec Comm
16 May 45

(Spoke with Col Walton

on this problem *16 May*)

 L. T. STEARNS
 Major, AGF
Executive Commissioner:

Reference para. 4 of Folio 53 and para. 3 of Folio 52, there is a misunderstanding of the commitments of the Trans. S/C on the part of M.A.I.A. Trans. S/C did not agree to notify civilian contractors where and when vehicles were to be returned. Trans. S/C did not agree to attend to the financial aspect of compensation to the contractors.

No agreement can be reached between Economic Section and Land Forces S/C which will permit the vehicles to remain in the hands of the present operators. It is requested that action be taken by the Chief Commissioner to obtain authority to leave the 110 vehicles now operating in truck pools in the hands of the present operators. This proposal is made in the interest of the benefit to the whole nation, because of the manifest injustice of breaking faith with present operators who have a very considerable investment in the vehicles and because it is questionable whether the Italian army will actually have any use for the vehicles.

P.S.

General Mambelli just told me of his intention

2044


 Charles M. Walton
 Colonel
 Deputy Chief, Supply Div.

Executive Commissioner:

Reference para. 4 of Folio 33 and para. 3 of Folio 53 there is a misunderstanding of the commitments of the Trans. S/C on the part of MIA. Trans. S/C did not agree to notify civilian contractors where and when vehicles were to be returned. Trans. S/C did not agree to attend to the financial aspect of compensation to the contractors.

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2044

Charles W. Walton
Colonel
Deputy Chief, Supply Div.

P.S.

General Mumblian just told me of his intention to amend C in #5 by appropriate instruction to prevent withdrawal of these vehicles from present employment. We does want to insure that title to vehicles is in Italian War Ministry

CWW

65

Establishments

Re folio 62. Request present assignment
and location of Maj Guilette.

11th May

[Signature]

66

Exec. Comm.

Major Guilette presently assigned to
Jocana Region as Provincial Officer
in MASSA.

Est Sec
14 May 45

2043

[Signature]
CWO 21st

Executive Commission

56.

In view of recent discussions please see 55 paragraph marked in red.

D.H.

4/8/45

57Mr. Stewart Min. Hawell.

Ex Com is taking action
re Ital. vehicles as another
item. M. get it a later action decision
re So. Africa Tunisia

L. 5/5.

~~58~~

59

Executive Commission

Please see Minute 56. & 57. File 8272/EC is attached
to folios 45, 43 & 58 refer. Has any further decision been reached
yet please?

D.H.

10/5.

2042

~~60~~

64

Discussed at Ex Comm meeting 11/5 - see minutes

SEE ~~62~~ 63.

M/uts

Ex. Com.

Please see 40 from Col. Campbell and 43 from Mr. Antolini about the 102 vehicles to which reference was made at your meeting yesterday.

The current instructions on the subject of Italian vehicles are set out at 41.

There is no doubt that IMIA have the right to claim these vehicles, but you will remember that you said you would attempt to persuade General Browning to make particular exception in the case of these 102 vehicles on the understanding that the rules would be carefully kept to in the future and that vehicles would not be put out to private individuals and firms for repair. I suggest that this can be done better by word of mouth than by letter.

You will see from Mr. Antolini's letter that Economic Section consider this a matter of urgency.

28 April 45.

C.S.O.

May Stearns

Please follow up.

Si 5/5

54.

53 crossed Ex. Com's letter 2272/45/EC of 2.5.45. at 2457
Telephoned to Col. Cutler. P.I.A., who agreed this answered 53.

P.R.

5.5.45.

M/inf

785017

24 25

TO: CSO: Reference folio 25: I suggest that a member of the Executive Commissioner's Staff attend this meeting.

16 April 1945

226

JCB
Major

Major Riech.

OK look in on it.

16/4

227

CSO: I attended meeting and considerable discussion took place over Italian Army vehicles in use by various AC truck pools hauling essential civilian supplies. Tn S/C and LF S/C (MH/A) will work out their problems and difficulties re: turn over of vehicles in question. Land Forces S/C will submit a memo for distribution to all AC/AMG personnel over Ex.C signature calling attention to AFHQ Circular No. 5, so that no question will result in North Italy as to title of vehicles.

JCB
17/4

16/4
228

Note.

Mr. Gross (Tn S/C) has written letter for Italian signature to L. H. Committee on settlement of this problem, as it affects some 100 vehicles in use by Tn. S/C. *JCB* 25/4

2049

16.Land Page 9c (MIA)

Memos 500 12 and 13.
 Minute by Executive Commission
 at 13 (overleaf)

Exhibit

3/24/41

17

Executive Commission 100-

Reference Folio 16-

Actually the vehicles totaled 80 - not 60 as stated in the telegram.

Folio 17 bears out the statement in the telegram about a "list" with Station Army Officer. List of all Station Army motor vehicles is covered in page 7c of ATG letter 69400105 D-0 of 22 Sept 1944. Thereof 2034 violations agreements can be made with Station officers.

Arm G did refuse to turn over these vehicles in compliance with the original instructions and

Exhibit

3/4/45

17

Executive Commission A.C.

Reference Folio 16-

Actually the vehicles listed D- not 100 as stated in the telegram.

Folio 17 bears out the statement in the telegram about a "deal" with Italian Army officers. List of all Italian Army motor vehicles is annexed in para 7e A.F.H. letter A.G. 400/105 D-1 of 27 Sept 1944. Thereof 2,000 intended requirements can be made with Italian officers.

Arm G did refuse to turn over these vehicles in compliance with the original instructions, and have not yet complied with 15 Army Group Signal G 4-16 of 27 Dec 1944.

3/4/45-

Colonel

18

Ex. Com.

To see min 17.

I cannot cope with people who are not prepared to understand the reality of bureaucracy. P. A. MS/573

19

TO: G.S.O. Minutes 47 and 8 refer.

Lt. Col. Bordass is going to Florence on/about 14 Feb and will make his principal item of business this matter of Italian civilian/Army truck transport and render us a report on his return.

6 Feb 45.

10
word - keep in touch

47/1

[Signature]
Major 2033

GSO: To see Lt Col Bordass' report (folios 11-13) on the Italian Army vs. Civilian truck controversy in Florence area.
Minutes 36 to 44 refer.

Mar 45

[Signature]
Major

14

Examine 14. See Lt Col Bordass report of 12 on the Italian Military Truck situation in Florence. Para (1) on P. 50 is a perfect example of the feeble partitioning of the Italian 137th seems holding can be done other than 17414 getting into a new area at the very earliest possible moment.

15

[Signature]

CSO: To see Lt Col Bordass' report (folios 11-12) on the Italian Army vs. Civilian truck controversy in Florence area. Minutes 38 to 44 refer.

Mar 45

Major

14

Examine 14. See Lt Col Budam report of 52 on the Italian Military Truck situation in Florence. Para (1) on p 51 is a perfect example of the feeble patriotism of the Italian seems holding can be done other than MMIA getting into a new area at the very earliest possible moment.

15
Pass MMIA and draw their attention to the extravagant and inaccurate language of 136

TO: C.S.O.

2
1. Ref folio ² my comment is as follows:

2. Quite true that the Germans drove away with all road-worthy vehicles, including Italian Army vehicles.

3. But since when do we have to honor last minute deals between Italians and Germans, - bona fide or verbal or what. This story is a well known old "gag" to AMG.

4. It is very praiseworthy of these "new" owners to have re-fitted these Army vehicles for their use, but the greatest contribution they can make to transportation situation and to their country's welfare is to turn back these Army vehicles to their own Italian Army, and if it be necessary to be necessary about it, these patriotic Italians can be re-imbursed for their re-fitting.

5. This is a matter of principle, military law and *International Law in Material.*
~~and common sense.~~

6. All Italian Army vehicles should go to Italian Army.

27 Jan 45.

Office, Chief of Staff,

Ext. 421.

Major.

esp. what action if any did Lt. Col. Bordass
2036

take?

100/112

11/6

1. Reference minute ⁴ ~~3~~ ~~5~~ ~~100/112~~

2. As the reason of my visit to Florence was 2035 to see Lt. Col. Toscani, I took this matter up with him on Friday, 29th Dec. He informed me that he was dealing with the matter and that he would clear direct with 15 Army Group.

4 Feb. 45

H. H. Bordass
H. H. BORDASS
Lt. Colonel,
Movements Div.

47.4

necessary about it, these patriotic Italians can be re-imbursed for their re-fitting.

International Law in Material.

- 5. This is a matter of principle, military law and of the Italian Army.
- 6. All Italian Army vehicles should go to Italian Army.
- 27 Jan 45.
- Office, Chief of Staff,
- Ext. 452.

Major

What action if any did Lt Col Bordass 2035

take?

DS 1/12

#6

- 1. Reference minute ~~is~~ ^{is}

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J. H. BORDASS
Lt. Colonel,
Movements Div.

4 Feb 45

44.4

- COS: 1) Please see Lt. Col. Bordass' minute ~~46~~ replying to your ~~44~~ above.
- 2) Also please see folio ~~45~~: Extract containing latest L.F. 5/c comment on this subject of returning Italian Army vehicles to Italian Army.
- 3) From info. rec'd, it finds this is a "technical" subject:
 - a. AMG in Florence contend the vehicles belong to the civilians
 - b. L.F. 5/c insist they are Italian Army vehicles and AFHQ has long since authorized them to see to it that they are returned to the Army.

4525/2

Decos Econ. Sec.

Lt Col Bordass appears to have relegated his club to someone else & therefore cause the civilian economy to miss the 'bus. Why? DS 1/12

8272

103

Ref: 5829/14/30

13 September 1945

SUBJECT: Recovery of Italian Army Vehicles and Property

TO : VP, Economic Section.

I am directed by the Executive Commissioner to forward the attached Memorandum from Land Forces Subcommittee to the Chief Commissioner Q/5/10 dated 12 September 45, subject as above, for immediate action.

Chief Staff Officer,
To Executive Commissioner.

1 Incl:

as above

Copy to : Land Forces S/C (MMIA)

13/9/45 2034
H. H. H.

Copy To: File 8272/50.

785017

101

Vol: 451.

Ref: 8272/101/20.

24 August 1945.

SUBJECT: Transport - Italian Armed Forces.

TO : Economic Section.

96

100
refers

1. Reference is made to the President of the Council of Ministers letter 504-10469 dated 21 August 45 in regard to the recovery of all Italian Army vehicles.

2. The Chief Commissioner directs that Transportation Sub-Commission be instructed to submit to Land Forces Sub-Commission, within the next thirty days, complete lists (Registration numbers et al) of all Italian Army vehicles of which they have knowledge, and state positively which vehicles they wish to have retained in municipal and state services. Such retention will be in full accordance with the AFHQ directive, which states that vehicles necessary for public interests (municipal and state) on AF's recommendation, can be retained in such services, but must be operated and maintained by the Italian Army.

A. B. ARDREY.

Chief Staff Officer,
To the Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: Land Forces Sub-Commission (194A)

2033

25 Sept

Noted
this

785017

8272
Translation

AUG 14 RECD
CC 1055
63
96

The President of the Council of Ministers

n. 581-10169

To Admiral Stone
Chief Commissioner

14 AUG 1945
Rome, 11 August 1945

Dear Admiral,

as you know, Italian military authority has been asked by the Allied Authorities to recover all the vehicles which used to belong to the fascist army forces. Strong action is being taken to recover these cars, by establishing road-blocks among other things.

This has nevertheless very harmful consequences for various regions; in certain places, it disorganizes essential services, such as food or sanitary transports; it greatly prejudices workers groups and cooperatives, formed on purpose for the use of vehicles. In many cases, these cooperatives are formed of ex-soldiers, ex-prisoners, ex-partisans, that is to say of categories of workers which it is of great interest not to have unemployed.

I appeal to you, my dear Admiral, who show such comprehension for our economic difficulties, and beg you to intervene with the military organs of the Allied Commission, and perhaps also with A.F.H.Q., to obtain they should no longer order the recuperation of all the vehicles which formerly belonged to the fascist armed forces.

To my mind, for what concerns the above mentioned vehicles, the Italian authority should make an exact ascertainment of the ownership which would remain without discussion to the military administrations entitled to it; but it should allow the vehicles to be left at the disposal of the workers which are at present using them, in a useful way, for themselves and for the public.

I can assure you that the Ministers of the Armed Forces, that I consulted, entirely agree with me on this matter.

In North Italy, a similar situation has occurred for vehicles owned by the Germans, taken as booty, and of which part is in the hands of cooperatives or ex-partisans. I heard that these cooperatives use these vehicles in a most useful and well administered way.. If these vehicles were taken from the ex-partisans to which they give employment and a way of making a living, there might be causes of serious discontent and unrest, especially in Turin and Milan.

I trust that your intervention, my dear Admiral, may obtain the wished for result, which would mean an important contribution to our internal transport requirements and our efforts to fight unemployment in this critical moment.

2032
Yours truly,

S. Ferruccio Parri
97/101

trans. e/o



AUG 11 RECD

95

*Il Presidente
del Consiglio dei Ministri*

Roma, 11 11 AGO. 1945

Prot. n. 581-10/69

Caro Ammiraglio,

come Ella sa, l'autorità militare italiana è stata invitata dalle autorità alleate a recuperare tutti gli automezzi che già furono di proprietà delle forze armate fasciste. Essa sta eseguendo questo recupero in modo rigoroso, mettendo, tra altro, appositi posti di blocco.

Questo fatto produce tuttavia conseguenze molto dannose per varie ragioni: disorganizza in certi luoghi servizi di necessità essenziale, come i trasporti annonari e i trasporti sanitari; danneggia fortemente gruppi e cooperative di lavoratori costituite appositamente per l'esercizio di automezzi. In molti casi queste cooperative sono formate da reduci dall'esercito o dalla prigionia, da ex partigiani, insomma da categorie di lavoratori che è del massimo interesse non rimangano disoccupate.

Io mi rivolgo a Lei, caro Ammiraglio, che dimostra tanta comprensione per le nostre difficoltà economiche, con la pre

Ammiraglio Ellery W. Stone
Capo della Commissione Alleata
- ROMA -

2031



*Il Presidente
del Consiglio dei Ministri*

- 2 -

ghiera molto calorosa di volersi interporre presso gli organi militari della Commissione Alleata ed eventualmente presso il Quartier Generale Alleato, affinché desistano dall'ordinare il recupero di tutti gli automezzi già appartenenti alle forze armate fasciste.

A mio avviso, l'autorità italiana dovrebbe eseguire per tutti i suddetti automezzi un esatto accertamento della proprietà, la quale rimarrebbe in modo indiscusso alle amministrazioni militari a cui spetta; ma dovrebbe poi poter consentire che gli automezzi fossero lasciati in uso ai lavoratori che attualmente li adoperano, in modo utile per sé e per il pubblico.

Posso assicurarla che i Ministri delle forze armate, che ho interpellati, sono cordialmente d'accordo con me su questo punto.

Nell'Italia Settentrionale una situazione simile si verifica anche per gli automezzi già di proprietà tedesca, catturati come preda bellica e che in ^{qualche} buona parte sono nelle mani di cooperative di ex partigiani. Mi risulta che queste cooperative impiegano gli automezzi stessi con grande uti-



*Il Presidente
del Consiglio dei Ministri*

- 3 -

lità e buona amministrazione. Se gli automezzi fossero
tolti agli ex partigiani che hanno trovato con essi la
loro occupazione e il loro guadagno, ciò potrebbe esse-
re motivo di serio malcontento e turbamento, *sp. a Torino, Milano*

Confido che il Suo intervento, caro Ammiraglio, pos-
sa ottenere il risultato da me desiderato, il quale si
tradurrebbe in un apporto non trascurabile alle nostre
necessità interne di trasporti ed ai nostri sforzi per
ridurre la disoccupazione in questo momento critico.

Molto cordialmente

Enrico Lami

785017

AUG 14 RECD

CC 1050

14 AUG 1945

Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)
Rome
Q/5

13 August 1945

MEMORANDUM:

TO : Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission

1. AFHQ has ordered that all vehicles of Italian military origin will be turned over to the Italian Army (Armed Forces) and has directed the War Ministry, through MMIA, to energetically go after and repossess the vehicles which are in the hands of civilians. This action was taken for the following reasons:

a. To permit the War Ministry to recover the property of the Italian Government in accordance with its own laws, at the specific request of the War Ministry.

b. To make available for the reorganized Italian Army the necessary number of vehicles and spares needed for that Army to perform its proper functions without Allied assistance.

c. To conserve the military vehicles in Italy for military purposes, especially the rubber, inasmuch as the Italian Army cannot secure rubber from either the civil imports or the Allied Armies.

2. a. Needless to say, if the Italian Army does not conserve all of the vehicles available to it in Italy, the Army will not be able to move nor to feed itself. It had been thought that the idea for an interim army was the recommendation of the Italian Government. However, it now appears that it is more important for civilians to operate these vehicles for personal profit than for the vehicles to be used for the benefit of the nation as a whole.

b. Maybe the Italian Government has an idea that the Allies will furnish Allied vehicles for the Army. Nothing could be further from the fact. The former loans of Allied vehicles possible in the past have now been withdrawn.

2028

see 101

91

c. Unless the Italian Army secures, repairs, and conserves each and every vehicle it will not be possible for the Army to even feed itself when the Italian Government takes over in the future. AFHQ has made available to MMIA a large number of specialist Allied personnel to assist the Italian Army to get on its feet. It is obvious that the work of this personnel will be of little value if the Italian Civil Government will not assist in every way, and the personnel should be withdrawn. However, if this is done, the Allies can be assured that the Italian Army will be completely immobile in a very short time.

3. a. The Italian Civil Government has been furnished a large number of civilian trucks (new) for civil purposes. All of these trucks are not yet in use, but we are told are available to the Government. It can hardly be said that the use of some of these vehicles can be justified - such as a truck made into a bus and operating in Rome.

b. The Prime Minister states that the vehicles are being used for the public good. Last week two vehicles were picked up outside Rome, loaded with a privately owned cargo of vermouth and marsala. The black market is principally fed by these trucks, which use for the most part, stolen gasoline.

4. It is not understood how the Prime Minister can distinguish between the good and the bad. Are some people to be allowed to make enormous personal profits from using State property and others are denied the same privilege? Sounds like Fascist methods in the worst form.

5. The reorganization of Italian Army transport is now a matter of AFHQ orders. We cannot produce the interim Army without the transport. If the Italian Government will not help, then they will have no army.

6. It is suggested that the Prime Minister be informed that:

a. The recovery of all vehicles possible is a necessary and urgent basis for an operative Italian Army.

b. The Allies will not furnish Allied vehicles to the Army if the Government gives away Italian Army vehicles.

c. The rehabilitation of the Italian Army transport is being done at great expense to the Allies, and if the Italian Government is not interested in such rehabilitation, the Allies will be asked to withdraw all help.

785017

90

d. The Civil Government, if it desires an army for the maintenance of law and order in Italy, must not only support the Army in repossessing its property, but also must actively insist that all the citizens of Italy do likewise.

7. German vehicles are not our concern. They are the property of the Allies.



CLAYTON P. KERR, Colonel
for Major General
Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)

CPK/lak

INTERNAL

Q/5
Q/5/10

2025

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8272

89

Subject:- Recovery of Lorry O.M. TAURUS from the Commune of Caurarola

Land Forces Sub Commission A.C.

(M.M.I.A.)

Q/5/10

7 July 1945

JUL 9 1945

To:-

Ministry of War

Reference your 21270 dated 26 June 1945.
4044 MR

14574

1. In your letter 2438 MR dated 15 May 1945, you informed the Military District of Viterbo, that from examination of documents held by the Directorate "Servento", Lorry O.M. TAURUS does not appear to be included in vehicles belonging to the Italian Army on the 8 September 1943.

2. It is not understood why, in view of the above facts, you now claim this as an Italian Army Vehicle.

3. You are requested to elucidate this matter.

R.A. Curries
R.A. CURRIES Lt. Col.
For Major General
M. M. I. A.

Copy to: A.C. for Executive Commissioner.

War Material Disposal and Italian Prisoners of War
Sub Commission A.C.

202

785017

MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA
Direzione Gen. Artiglieria e Motorizzazione.
Ufficio Ricupero

Roma, 15 maggio 1945

Prot. N. 14574/2438

MR

AL COMANDO DEL DISTRETTO
MILITARE

Ufficio Ricupero

VITERBO

Risposta al foglio del 24/4/1945

N. 1169

OGGETTO: Autocarro OM Taurus mot: 23413
Tel: 23202

In base all' esame dei documenti esistenti presso la Direzione generale -Scivente- l'autocarro in oggetto non figura compreso tra quelli appartenenti al R. Esercito alla data dell' 8 sett. 1943.

Trattandosi però di un tipo di automezzo in dotazione ai reparti del R. Esercito stesso, non si può escludere la sua appartenenza alla Amministrazione Militare.

D' Ordine
il Capo Ufficio
(Col/ P. G A Y

2/5/10

5/6

John Phillips
? from War Min.
why they claim this as
lost vehicle

see 89

2023

785017

**N. di protocollo**

104 J. J. Jansz

Risposta al foglio del

ELENCO delle carte che si trasmettono al

Numero d'ordine	DESCRIZIONE SOMMARIA DELLE CARTE	Annotazioni
	Uso e servizio per cui si trasmettono	

785017

8272
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of the Chief Commission.

APD 394

87
EWS/hjp
7 July 1945

JUL 8 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Military Vehicles

TO : Land Forces Sub-Commission, HQ., A.C.

I am informed that Colonel Kerr has made an agreement with the Economic Section that the Transportation Sub-Commission would have local civil contractors return Italian military vehicles in their possession to the Italian War Ministry. In furtherance of this agreement, the War Ministry was instructed by MMIA not to repossess these vehicles directly but to await action by the Transportation Sub-Commission. To expedite their return, you may advise the War Ministry that they are at liberty to repossess these vehicles as directed by AFHQ Circular #5, 1945.

ELLERY W. STONE
ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

cc: Ex Comm
Econ Sec

2022

785017

8272
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
ECONOMIC SECTION

Executive Comm.

86

Ref. 5.10/25

7 July 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Military Vehicles

JUL 7 1945

TO : Vice President
Civil Affairs Section

82

1. In reply to your AC/4125/1/1 of 2 July 1945, this Section has instructed Transportation Sub-Commission to withdraw its orders for the turn back of the subject vehicles.

2. The Chief Commissioner has proposed to M.M.I.A. that the Italian Ministry of War deal directly with the contractors.

(Signed)

CHARLES W. WALTON

Col.

Chief, Supply Division

CHARLES W. WALTON

Colonel

Chief, Supply Division

cc Transportation Sub-Commission
M.M.I.A.
Executive Commissioner ✓

(Capt. Armand)
Capt. Armand

2021

785017

8272
Executive Summary
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

AG/4122/1/L.

/rlp.
2 July 1945.

SUBJECT : Italian Military Vehicles.

JUL 6 1945

TO : VP Economic Section.

1. You are probably aware that during the period June 1944 and following months, AMG Region IV entered into certain contracts with motor firms in and around Rome, the general effect of which was that the firms concerned were to salvage and repair a number of military vehicles originally the property of the Italian Army but abandoned by the Germans in their retreat from Rome and lying in the countryside in a derelict condition.

2. Substantially the terms of these contracts were that the firms should advance a sum of money as a guarantee for the value of the derelict vehicles; that when the vehicles had been repaired, property in them should pass to the firms concerned who would undertake to retain them for a period of approximately one year and to use them during that period for civilian transport requirements. When this property passed to the firms the money which was originally put up as a guarantee fund became payable as the purchase price. When the firms in fact repaired the vehicles, AMG Region IV wrote various letters to appropriate Italian authorities giving instructions for the vehicles to be registered in the name of the firms.

3. It is undoubtedly true that in negotiating these contracts AMG Region IV was acting in contravention of instructions issued by SAC to the effect that all military property which had been the property of the Italian Army before the 8th of September 1943 should remain the property of the Italian Army.

4. Nevertheless, it will be appreciated that the effect of these contracts, however improperly made, must be considered under the provisions of Italian law. This Commission has obtained the advice of expert Italian lawyers whose opinion is that under Article 1153 of the Civil Code, the property in these vehicles passed to the firms, notwithstanding the fact that the Allied Military Government had no title to sell them, provided that the firms acted in good faith and believed that AMG was in a position

See M. 93.

2020
See M. 93

see 86

(1) Mr. Tolson
CAPT. ALHOLBY

to pass a good title. In view of the fact that the firms could not be expected to have knowledge of the order of the SAC and might reasonably infer that AMG was taking possession of these vehicles by virtue of their rights under the Hague Convention, it appears difficult to argue that they were not acting in good faith.

5. However that may be, the question of the right to the vehicles is a matter of Italian law which can only be determined by the Italian Courts. The firms concerned are all situated in Italian Government Territory, and are not in any way within the jurisdiction of the Allied Military Government.

6. Notwithstanding these facts, Transportation Sub-Commission has written several letters to the firms concerned of which copies are attached which in effect order the firms to deliver the vehicles to the Italian military authorities.

7. A petition has been addressed to the Allied Commission against these letters. The petition alleges that the orders are illegal since the Allied Commission has no jurisdiction to issue these orders and it further alleges that in fact the firms have good title to these vehicles.

8. It appears to the legal advisors of this Commission that the petition is well founded so far as concerns the legality of the orders and that so far as concerns the title to the vehicles this is not a matter in which this Commission should intervene on one side or the other.

9. It appears that the legal aspect of the situation has not been fully appreciated by those concerned and it is requested that the peremptory orders issued by the Transportation Sub-Commission be withdrawn pending a further consideration of this matter by the Chief Commissioner.

G. R. Upjohn
G. R. UPJOHN, Brig..
VP CA Sec. Hq AC.

Incls.

Copy to: Chief Commr
Exec Commr
Transportation S/O
MHA

2014

785017

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMISSION

HMD/ep

Ref: AC/349/Tn5

2 July 45.

SUBJECT : Italian Military Vehicles.

TO : See Distribution List.

1. Reference our AC/349/Tn5 dated 30 June 1945.

2. All non-running Italian Military vehicles will be reported to Dr. Bruno Marsano, Roads Division, Transportation Sub-Commission, HQ; Allied Commission immediately. Dr. Marsano will notify Major Hall, MMIA, as to the location of said vehicles so that Major Hall may collect these vehicles, using recovery vehicles to be supplied by MMIA. This information will be furnished immediately.

By command of Rear Admiral STONE :

(sgd) H. M. DOWNER
H. M. Downer
Maj., Ord. Dept.

DISTRIBUTION:

M.M.I.A. -HQ Allied Commission
C.E.T.A.M. -Via dei Pontefici No.3
F.lli Giannini - Via Mariano Fortuny No.20
S.A.F.R.A.I. -Via Serpieri No.13
S.A.F.R.A. - Via Veneto No.8
Vianini -Visdella Ferratella No.5
Comune di Subiaco (Sindaco del)
Segna Alceste - Via di Porta Maggiore No.8
S.A.I.T.A.R di Luigi Feliziani -Via Nomentana 233
A.G.I.C.A. -Via Principe Amedeo No.114

2018

785017

G O P X

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMD. ON
APO 394
TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMISSION

Ref: AG/349/Tn5

2 July 1945,

SUBJECT: Italian Military Vehicles.

TO : F.lli GIANINI - Via Mariano Fortuny No. 20.

1. Reference Italian Military vehicles under your control which are now operating in Milano, Lombardia Region, the following applies.

2. Information has been received from J. Mario Fitzgerald, Lt. Colonel, Q.M.G., Regional Transportation Officer, LOMBARDIA Region, that these vehicles are being operated by you in Milano. You will therefore cause these vehicles to be returned to Rome so that they may be turned over to the Italian Military authorities immediately.

3. There will be no excuses accepted for any delay whatsoever. You will comply with the above instructions immediately.

By command of Rear Admiral STONE:

(sgd. H. M. DOWNER)

H. M. DOWNER,
Maj., Ord. Dept.

cc.

MMYA (Att: Maj. Hall)
R. T.O.-LOMBARDIA Region.

2017

785017

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMISSION

HMD/ep

Ref: AG/349/Ta5

30 June 1945

SUBJECT : Italian Military Vehicles.

TO : See Distribution

1. Reference our AG/349/1/Ta5 dated 31 May 1945 and AG/349/Ta5 dated 27 June 1945, regarding Italian Military Vehicles, the following applies. Commencing Wednesday morning at 0900 hours you will report Italian Military vehicles under your control to Dr. Bruno Marsano at Italian Military Motor Park No. 1, Reparto Riparazioni Via Guido Reni, Rome. Dr. Marsano will receive duplicate receipts from MMIA, this Headquarters, one of which will be retained by Roads Division, Transportation Sub-Commission, AG and one will be handed over to the firm operating the vehicles.

2. The above orders must be strictly complied with. Any reason for delay of any sort whatsoever will be reported to these Headquarters immediately.

By command of Rear Admiral STONE :

(Sgd) H. W. DOWNER
H. W. Downer
Major, Ord. Dept.

cc: Legal Sub-Commission
Director, Transportation Sub-Commission
Col. Kelton, Economic Section

DISTRIBUTION :

M.M.I.A. Hq Allied Commission
C.I.T.A.M. - Via del Pontefici No. 3
F.lli Giannini - Via Mariano Fortuny No. 20
S.A.F.R.A.I. - Via Serpieri No. 13
S.A.F.R.A. - Via Veneto No. 8
Vianini - Via della Ferretella No. 5
Comune di Subiaco (Sindaco del)
Segna Alceste - Via di Porta Maggiore No. 8
S.A.I.T.A.R. di Luigi Felisiani - Via Nomentana 233
A.G.I.C.A. - Via Principe Amedeo No. 114.

2016

785017

C O P Y

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMISSION

Ref: AC/349/1/Tn5

31 May 1945.

SUBJECT : Italian Military Vehicles.

TO : Pili GIANNINI, Via Mariano Fortuny No. 20, ROMA.

1. This Headquarters has been directed to inform you that Allied Forces Headquarters have decreed that all Italian military vehicles now in your possession will be returned with the minimum of delay to the appropriate Italian military authority.

2. You are therefore instructed that the Italian military vehicles which you are now operating will be returned to No. 1 -Reparto Riparazioni- Via Guido Reni (off the Via Flaminia) Rome; delivery will commence not later than 12 June 1945, and will be made in lots of 5 vehicles at a time.

3. You are further instructed that these vehicles will be driven to the address as specified in para 2 above, under their own power, and a representative of your organization will be present when they are handed over to representatives of the Italian Ministry of War.

4. Large deposits which were made by your firm when the vehicles were originally appraised, and which are now held by the Finance Sub-Commission of Allied Commission are being turned over to the Ministry of Finance, the Italian Government. Any claims or adjustments which have arisen from the reconstruction of these vehicles will be settled between yourself, the Italian Ministry of Finance and the Italian Ministry of War. The Allied Commission accepts no responsibility and declines to act as mediator in the settlement of any such claims.

5. You will advise the Transportation Sub-Commission, Roads Division, Allied Commission at least 48 hours in advance of the dates at which time the vehicles, as held by you, will be returned giving the following information: make of vehicle, engine number, chassis number, and tire and wheel size.

6. It is further pointed out that the Allied Commission holds a complete census of the vehicles which have been rebuilt by you and are now in operation, you will therefore take appropriate action to assure that the vehicles are returned in accordance with instructions in paras 2 and 3 above.

For the Director:

(sgd G. G. GROSS Jr)

G. G. GROSS Jr.
Chief, Roads Division.

2014

CEO.

I spoke to Lieut Phillips about this.

The position is not quite as straightforward as is made out since the War Ministry wrote to ~~max~~ Viterbo stating that they did not require this vehicle.

Lt. Phillips is going down to Viterbo on Thursday and will look into the matter then. He has promised to let us have his reply in writing on Friday with a copy to MIA.

Q 2/7 W

8272

Subject : Recovery Italian Army Vehicles.

Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E.
2/5/40.

30 Jun 45.

JUL 3 - 1945

To : A.C. for Executive Commissioner.

1. The War Ministry report that as a result of verbal instructions given by telephone by Lieut. PHILIPS of the War Material Disposal and Prisoners of War Sub Commission the Comune Caparola of Viterbo Province are refusing to return to the Italian Army ~~one~~ load carrying vehicle (G.M. Taurus). It is requested that as this vehicle is positively identified as an Italian Army vehicle the instructions given should be countermanded and the vehicle released to the Italian Army.

BU G. Curtis
Noted
8.3/2

R.A. CURTIS

(R.A. CURTIS) Lt.Col.
for Major General.
M.M.I.A.

Copy to : War Material Disposal and Italian Prisoners of War
Sub Commission. A.C.

/ago

2013

(CSO)

785017

3 Tel Ext 341

LWS/el

74

Ref: 8272/74/EC

21 May 45

SUBJECT: The "110" Italian Army Vehicles

TO : Land Forces Subcommittee, NMIA, (For Col Ingledew)

On 18 May General Hamblin of AFHQ informed Colonel Walton, Economic Section, that the object of Circular 5, 11 April, AFHQ, was to insure that the title for Italian Army vehicles was vested in the Italian War Ministry. The General stated he would check the statement and amend it to permit 110 vehicles to remain in the AMG pools as desired by the Economic Section subject to the condition that the title to the vehicles would be clearly vested in the War Ministry. He stated that he would inform NMIA and in the meantime desired that we postpone any definite action to transfer the vehicles physically to NMIA.

Major L. W. STEARNS
Chief Staff Officer
To Executive Commissioner

see M75

BU
128
5

Noted

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23
20/51

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8272

(B)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
ECONOMIC SECTION

GSF/ep

Ref: AC/38/8/Tn5

17 May 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Army Vehicles.

TO : AC - Executive Commissioner.

MAY 19 RECD

1. Reference is made to Land Forces Sub-Commission letter Q/5/10 dated 6 May 1945.

2. Previous to the meeting which was held on 17 April 1945, between representatives of the Transportation Sub-Commission and MMIA, a list of Italian Army vehicles (approximately 110) which were being operated by the Transportation Sub-Commission for the haulage of essential foodstuffs was furnished to MMIA. During the discussion it was pointed out to MMIA that all these vehicles, with the exception of 6, were employed in the haulage of grain in the areas, Macerata, Rieti and Chieti. The 6 vehicles were employed in the Rome area transporting other essential food commodities.

3. Representatives of Transportation Sub-Commission (Roads Division) did not make any further agreements to notify civilian contractors where and when vehicles would be returned to the Italian Army and did not discuss the financial aspects of any compensation which may be due the contractors and did not say that such financial aspects would be considered by the Economic Section.

E. B. Mc Kinley
E. B. MC KINLEY
Brigadier General, U.S.A.
Acting Vice President

file 44
2010

(has sent)

67

Ref: 8272/61/50.

Ref: 735

14 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Italian Army Vehicles.

TO : Economic Section.

Please see TOSCANA Region Sitrep 64/79 of 1 May 45, para 9, and Minutes of Executive Commissioner's Meeting 11 May, para 9 (210/104/50). TOSCANA Region should be informed of any decision made with regard to Italian Army vehicles.

55
for Chief Staff Officer,
to Executive Commissioner.

2009

(63)

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER'S
MEETING - DATED 11 MAY.

5. Italian Army Vehicles. Eoon Seo and Land Forces S/O were negotiating on the question of the 102 Italian Army vehicles repaired by private individuals.

785017

8272

Subject: Recovery of Italian Army Property

Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)
Rome
Q/5/10

7 May 1945

MAY 8 REC'D

To : Headquarters ALCOM for Executive Commissioner

1. Inviting attention to two attached letters from the Ministry of War regarding the refusal of Major Guidette, AMG Lucca to permit the Italian Army to recover Italian Army vehicles which he is holding contrary to AFHQ instructions.
2. Request that instructions be issued to Major Guidette to release these vehicles to the Italian Army without further delay.

CLAYTON P. KERR, Colonel
for Major General
Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)

CPK/lak

2 Incls:

- Incl 1 - Ltr Min of War, 13246/2164/MR
dated 27 April 1945
- Incl 2 - Ltr Hq Mil Dist Lucca
dated 7 April 1945

cc: MMIA LO Five Army
Capt Clark, c/o PBS

(MAS Sins)

See M. 10 B/U

21/5-
Adm. 11 2006

100-65466

785017

Copy translation

Ministry of War

Ref No. 13246/2164/M.R. Allegati 1

27 April 1945

SUBJECT: MT Material Salvage

TO : LandForces Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)

It is pointed out that Major GUIDETTE in charge of LUCCA, AMG food and MT services has not authorized the representative of the local military district to withdraw the military vehicles in possession of civilians, according to instructions issued by MMIA.

Attached herewith is a copy of statement written on this matter by the officer in charge of the withdrawal.

This is brought to the attention of MMIA for the action you think advisable to take.

THE MINISTRY
(GEN. P.G. PROPERZJ)
(Signed)

2005

Copy translation

HEADQUARTERS LUCCA MILITARY DISTRICT

SUBJECT: With Reference to Conversation with Major GUIDETTE
on the 6th of April 1945 in the Premises of the
C.L.A. Borgo Gianotti

On the 6th of April 1945, further to orders of the
Minister for War, I went to the A.M.G. and had a conversation
through an interpreter with Major GIUDETTE, in charge of the
Food and MT Services, in respect of the withdrawal of vehicles,
according to the last Minister for War instructions.

Major GUIDETTE said that he does not authorize recovery
of the lorries and that the letter of the Artillery and Motor
Transport Director General does not concern the AMG because
AMG does not depend on MMIA, and is operating in war areas ac-
cordingly.

For the same reason he added that he would not release
any written statement, but at the same time he has confirmed
that the lorries used for transport of food supplies cannot
be recovered.

Lucca, 7 April 1945

/s/ Lt Franco ANGELI

THE DIRECTOR

(Lt Col Bruno Maccari)

See 61

2004

8272
Subject: Italian Army Vehicles.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.

(M.N.I.A.)

ROME.

Q/5/10

6 May, 45.

To: A.C. for Executive Commissioner.

MAY 7 REC'D

1. Reference your 8272/45/EC 2 May, 45.
2. Full details have already been supplied of the vehicles acknowledged to be the property of the Italian Army.
3. In order to anticipate any difficulty or inconvenience which might arise from the recovery of these vehicles, a meeting was arranged on the 17 April between representatives of the Transportation Sub Commission and M.N.I.A. to discuss details.

It was agreed that Transportation Sub Commission would

(a) notify M.N.I.A. details including targa numbers of vehicles employed on transporting wheat (the return of which would be deferred until 31 May or necessity no longer existed which ever was the earlier).

(b) notify civilian contractors where and when vehicles other than those in (a) above were to be returned.

4. It was further agreed that the financial aspect of any compensation due to contractors would be considered by the Economic Section to whom the matter would be referred by the War Material Disposal Sub Commission.

5. To date no information has been received concerning the vehicles which it is desired to retain temporarily nor have any been returned. To avoid any difficulty or inconvenience which may arise from the seizure of these vehicles by the War Ministry, it is urgently necessary that action as agreed in para. 3 be taken forthwith.

20043

Reference your 8272/45/BC 2 May, 45.

1. Full details have already been supplied of the vehicles acknowledged to be the property of the Italian Army.
2. In order to anticipate any difficulty or inconvenience which might arise from the recovery of these vehicles, a meeting was arranged on the 17 April between representatives of the Transportation Sub Commission and M.M.I.A. to discuss details.

It was agreed that Transportation Sub Commission would

(a) notify M.M.I.A. details including target numbers of vehicles employed on transporting wheat (the return of which would be deferred until 31 May or necessity no longer existed which ever was the earlier).

(b) notify civilian contractors where and when vehicles other than those in (a) above were to be returned.

It was further agreed that the financial aspect of any compensation due to contractors would be considered by the Economic Section to whom the matter would be referred by the War Material Disposal Sub Commission.

To date no information has been received concerning the vehicles which it is desired to retain temporarily nor have any been returned. To avoid any difficulty or inconvenience which may arise from the seizure of these vehicles by the War Ministry, it is urgently necessary that action as agreed in para. 3 be taken forthwith.

R.A. CURTIS, Lt. Col.
for Maj. Gen.
M.M.I.A.

Copy to: Vice President, Economic Section.
W.M.D. and I.P.W. Sub Commission.

RAC/slb.

EXTRACT FROM TOSCANA REGION SITREP

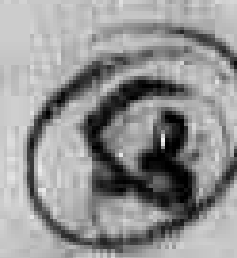
6A/79 dated 1 May - File 161/EC folio 58.

"Withdrawal of vehicles for Italian Army use will cause
trouble and difficulty."

Lee 64

785017

472 *[Signature]*
PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL



Subject: Recovery of Motor Vehicles of
Italian Armed Forces.

Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
Q/5/10.

4. May 45

MAY 4 REC'D

To: Brig. E.S.Lush,
Chief of Staff,
H.Q.A.C.

1. I am directed to refer to the meeting held on 17 April between representatives of the Transportation Sub Commission and M.M.I.A. to co-ordinate plans for the implementation of A.P.H.Q. order issued as Circular No.5 of 11 April 45.

2. It was pointed out that the object of the meeting was to agree on the method by which Vehicles now operating for civilian needs under A.C. direction were to be returned. It was requested by Mr Gross and agreed by Col. Kerr that Vehicles actually engaged on moving wheat should remain undisturbed until the end of May.

3. The principal difficulty to be overcome was the fact that many of the vehicles had been repaired at the expense of civilian contractors on the understanding that they would retain the use of the vehicles. It was pointed out that the War Ministry was not interested in these arrangements and could not be said to have any responsibility for terminating them. It was agreed that the financial aspect of the compensation due to contractors would be considered by the Economic Section to whom the matter would be referred by War Material Disposal Sub Commission.

4. It was further agreed that Transportation Sub Commission would:

- (a) notify M.M.I.A. details, including Targa numbers, of vehicles employed on transporting wheat (the return of which would be deferred until 31 May or necessity no longer existed whichever was the earlier).
- (b) Notify civilian contractors where and when vehicles other than those in (a) above were to be returned.

5. The meeting met with the one object of reaching a satisfactory solution to what appeared likely to prove a difficult problem. No minutes were issued but a definite understanding was reached as regards the action which would be taken vide para 4 above. Nevertheless no information

2001

[Signature] H. 68.69.71172

- 2 -

whatever has been received regarding para 4(a). Nor to our knowledge has any contractor been ordered to return a single vehicle. The indefinite postponement of the recovery of these vehicles is in direct contravention of the AFHQ Circular No.5. It is therefore essential that action as indicated in para 4 above be taken forthwith.

(4)

R.A. Curties

R.A. CURTIES Lt.Col.
for Major General.
M.M.I.A.

RAC/nh

300

Subject: Italian Army Transport.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M. M. I. I.) ROME
Q/5

May 1945

To: Ministry of War.

1. As appendix "A" is listed Units already authorised to hold M.T. on charge. Sufficient time has now elapsed since the introduction of the windscreen label to enable all vehicles, thus held with authority, to be identified in that manner.
 2. The authorised holding of vehicles is subject to review of approved and provisional M.T. and the Ministry is invited to submit proposals to this end as they consider appropriate.
 3. It is evident that the establishments already approved will not be completed unless there is a substantial increase in the number of vehicles made available at the Efficient Vehicle Parks. The output of the Repair Units, while increasing, is still small. It is therefore imperative that vehicles now held without due authority are withdrawn from holding Units and a more equitable distribution of available vehicles made without delay.
 4. You are required to issue instructions to this effect making it clear to all concerned that the retention of a vehicle without due authority will result in severe disciplinary action. CO's of Units who have not yet received windscreen labels for authorised vehicles will be required to submit demands by the quickest available means through the usual channels. CO's of Units holding unauthorised vehicles will be required to return them to the nearest Italian Army Repair Unit the exact location of which should be notified to those concerned.
 5. It will be made clear that commencing on 16th May all vehicles which can be identified as Italian Army property and which are not bearing an official windscreen label will be impounded.
- In addition to the measures already being taken to recover Army vehicles in possession of civilians you are required to prepare and execute a plan for collecting in unauthorised vehicles held by Army Units. The co-operation of the territorial CC.BB will be obtained.
- Vehicles thus recovered will be handed in to the nearest Repair Unit who will be responsible for passing them to the nearest Efficient Vehicle Park with the minimum of delay.
5. Units who are in this manner deprived of transport which though unauthorised is considered essential will be provided with "authorised and registered" vehicles from War Ministry or Territorial if resources or loan

identified in that manner.

2. The authorized holding of vehicles is subject to review of approved and provisional HQ and the Ministry is invited to submit proposals to this end as they consider appropriate.

3. It is evident that the establishments already approved will not be completed unless there is a substantial increase in the number of vehicles made available at the Efficient Vehicle Parks. The output of the Repair Units, while increasing, is still small. It is therefore imperative that vehicles now held without due authority are withdrawn from holding Units and a more equitable distribution of available vehicles made without delay.

4. You are required to issue instructions to this effect making it clear to all concerned that the retention of a vehicle without due authority will result in severe disciplinary action. CO's of Units who have not yet received windscreen labels for authorized vehicles will be required to submit demands by the quickest available means through the usual channels. CO's of Units holding unauthorized vehicles will be required to return them to the nearest Italian Army Repair Unit the exact location of which should be notified to those concerned.

5. It will be made clear that commencing on 16th May all vehicles which can be identified as Italian Army property and which are not bearing an official windscreen label will be impounded.

In addition to the measures already being taken to recover Army vehicles in possession of civilians you are required to prepare and execute a plan for collecting in unauthorized vehicles held by Army Units. The co-operation of the territorial CC.BB will be obtained.

Vehicles thus recovered will be handed in to the nearest Repair Unit who will be responsible for passing them to the nearest Efficient Vehicle Park with the minimum of delay.

6. Units who are in this manner deprived of transport which though unauthorized is considered essential will be provided with "authorized and registered" vehicles from War Ministry of Territorial HQ resources on loan until their entitlement has been approved.

7. You are requested to treat this matter as one of urgency and to furnish this HQ with a copy of your instructions on the subject.

RAC/13

Copy to: Transportation Sub Comm. A.C.
Public Safety Sub Comm. A.C.
All Mail LO's.

CLAYTON P. KERR, Col.
For Major General,
N. M. I. L.

970

Present deficiencies in
Army transport:

Load carriers	600
Paratrooper vehicles	50
Motor cycles	300

PLUS the astronomical demands
to be met for the CCPR legions.

785017

Subject:- Recovery of Motor Vehicles
of Italian Armed Forces.

53

Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC(MMIA)
Rome
ST/1001

20 April 1945.

To : HE, The Undersecretary of State
Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

Reference your 31130/1/2/2 of 1 April 1945.

1. All questions relating to motor vehicles of the Italian Armed Forces have been thoroughly considered and discussed.
2. For your information, the Supreme Allied Commander, in Circular No. 5 of Allied Force Headquarters, dated 11 April 1945, issued the following instructions in order further to clarify the matter:

"II - TITLE TO ITALIAN ARMY VEHICLES.

The title to vehicles of the Italian Armed Forces falls into two categories as follows:

1. Vehicles captured by the Allied Armies prior to the Armistice with Italy - These vehicles have become spoils of war and remain the property of the Allied Military Authorities who have discretion to allot them as they see fit in accordance with existing instructions covering captured enemy material.

2. All other vehicles of the Italian Armed Forces.

a. These remain the property of the Italian Government as outlined in AFHQ Circulars Number 13, and Number 29, 1944.

b. This transport should be used to the maximum benefit of the Italian nation as a whole, bearing in mind the calls made by Headquarters AC on the resources of the Allied Armies to meet essential civilian requirements.

c. The allocation of the transport in accordance with paragraph b above will be made as follows:

1998

Italian Army vehicles by the Land Forces Sub Commission AC(MMA). Italian Air Force vehicles by the Air Force Sub Commission AC. Italian Navy vehicles by the Navy Sub Commission AC. Transport surplus to the minimum needs of the Italian Armed Forces which is desired for civilian use by Headquarters AC will be allotted to civilian use by the appropriate Sub Commission, AC, title thereto and operation thereof being by the Italian Armed Forces under the control of the appropriate Sub Commission, AC.

d. The Italian Armed Forces will exert every effort to locate and acquire vehicles still undisclosed. Allied Authorities will give every assistance possible to the Italian Authorities and to the respective Sub Commissions, AC. Any vehicles coming into the possession of the Allied Authorities will be reported to the appropriate Sub Commission, AC for disposal."

3. As you will note, the guiding principle is that this transport should be used to the "maximum benefit of the Italian Nation as a whole". You will also note that transport surplus to the minimum needs of the Italian Armed Forces which is desired for civilian use by Headquarters AC will be allotted to civilian use, but that title thereto, and operation thereof is to be by the Italian Armed Forces. It is only reasonable to assume that the Italian Armed Forces are more capable of operating this transport efficiently for civilian use in the interest of the Nation as a whole than are the individual civilians.

4. In accordance with the instructions of the Supreme Allied Commander, quoted above, all Italian Armed Forces' motor transport material must be returned to Italian Armed Forces' control and will be disposed of as follows:

- (a) Reconditioned for use, if necessary, by the Italian Armed Forces.
- (b) Cannibalized to secure parts for reconditioning vehicles necessary for the Italian Armed Forces.
- (c) Released to civilian use as not being necessary for the Italian Armed Forces, if requested by Headquarters AC as necessary for the Nation as a whole.

5. It must be remembered that certain vehicles of the Italian Armed Forces will be available for civilian transport as requested by Headquarters AC after the needs of the Armed Forces have been met and that the Armed Forces will operate these vehicles for civilian transport.

6. Certain vehicles belonging to the Italian Armed Forces may not have any military value, and the Ministries will be authorized to dispose of such vehicles to civilians. This may also include derelicts and spare parts which can be made available for civilian use. There can be no doubt that adequate control of all vehicles and spare parts will benefit the Nation as a whole; and while such control may inconvenience some individual civilians who now have Armed Forces Vehicles, the Nation as a whole will be benefited.

7. Every effort is being made to rehabilitate the entire motor transport system of the Italian Army. This is being done at great expense by the Allies, and includes technical supervision by Allied officers, locating and shipping spare parts from the Middle East and Africa, and the use of shipping to transport vehicles from Sardinia. For your information, the transport of civilian food supplies in Sardinia is being done by the use of Army vehicles allotted for that purpose. The efficient use of Army vehicles for military purposes also releases an equal amount of rail transport which can be used for civilian requirements on the mainland.

8. I might add that the question of ownership of vehicles now used by the Fascist troops from German and Fascist resources has not been decided by the Allies. The decision will no doubt depend on the degree to which the Italian Armed Forces effect the repossession and reorganization of their own transport, and this must, of course, depend upon the good faith displayed by the Italian Government, and the Italian civilians, in carrying out the program directed by the Supreme Allied Commander.

(signed) L. Browning.

Major General
Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MLIA)

CPK/lak

cc: HE The Minister for War
Navy Sub Commission, AC
Air Forces Sub Commission, AC
Executive Commissioner, AC

1996

785017

8272A
ALLIE [REDACTED] COMMISSION
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Salvaged Motor Transport.

FILE NO. WMD/3/114

TO : Executive Commissioner. ✓

45
4 May

1946

MAY 4 REC'D

Reference your 8272/45/EC dated 2 May 1945, para. 4.

1. Full details of the vehicles to which reference is made, have been supplied to Land Forces S/C through Transportation S/C, and it is understood that a copy of the list giving these details was forwarded to the Italian War Ministry by MMIA.

2. It is therefore presumed that no further action regarding the forwarding of details to Land Forces S/C is now necessary.

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

199

(MRS STEARNS)

785017

Ref: 8272/45/15.

2 May 1945.

SUBJECT: Salvaged Motor Transport.

TO : Vice President,
Economic Section (2).

1. I have discussed your L/15.21 of 27 April with General Browning.

2. There is no doubt that the Minister of War has a proper title to these vehicles. There is also no doubt that this Commission, represented by Region IV, in good faith entered into contract with the motor repair organisations to rehabilitate the vehicles and that otherwise they would probably have remained derelict.

3. The first thing we have to do is to supply to Land Forces Sub-Commission full details of these vehicles. We can then, I hope, arrive at some arrangement by which they can be maintained in your truck pool so long as they are needed as such, or can be replaced by other suitable (possibly captured German) vehicles.

4. WD & IW Sub-Commission will please furnish without delay details of the vehicles.

M S. LUSH

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

L/15.21.

Copy to: Land Forces Sub-Commission.

WD & IW Sub-Commission (for necessary action in regard to para 4 above & your WMS of 27 Apr. infra).

see M 46

BU 10/10/45

199

785017

8272

43

Tel. 378

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO, 394
ECONOMIC SECTION

GSF/ep

ES/15.21

27 April 1945.

SUBJECT: Salvaged Motor Transport.

APR 28 Rec'd

TO : Executive Commissioner.

1. In October, 1944, Region IV of AMG entered into contracts with various Italian motor repair organizations for the collection and rehabilitation of derelict motor transport, which was made up of Italian Army transport as well as French and German Army transport.

2. Under the terms of the contract the contractors were to re-build the vehicles at their own expense and place them in AMG Truck Pools engaged in the haulage of essential civilian supplies in liberated Italy. Although title to the vehicle remains in the name of AMG, the contractor operates the vehicle for his own personal gain.

3. At the present time there are approximately 102 former Italian Army vehicles being operated in AMG Truck Pools.

4. Allied Forces Headquarters have issued an order in form of Circular No. 5 dated 11 April 1945, copy of which is attached hereto. Particular reference is made to Section 2, para. 2, sub-para. (b). As M.M.I.A. are responsible for the enforcement of this order they have advised Roads Division of Transportation Sub-Commission to the effect that all Italian Army vehicles operated in Truck Pools, as outlined in para. 2 above, must be made available for turn back to the Italian military authorities. They have, however, agreed that the vehicles which are engaged in hauling grain throughout liberated Italy shall not be withdrawn prior to 31 May 1945.

5. It is requested that authority be given for the Italian Army vehicles now operated in Truck Pools by AMG to remain the property of AMG and not be subjected to the instructions as contained in AFHQ Circular No. 5.

(HAT TROOP)

1993
See Mem. 44
45

- 2 -

This is a matter of extreme urgency since the Transportation Sub-Commission is experiencing great difficulty in meeting its present commitments due to lack of motor transport.


A. G. ANTOLINI
Acting Vice President,
Economic Section.

Encl.-
Circular No. 5

COPY
238731072

DCM/MTB

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

APR 542

11 April 1945

CIRCULAR)

NUMBER 5)

Road-Traffic Control Code..... I
 Title to Italian Army Vehicles..... II

I -- ROAD TRAFFIC CONTROL CODE

The maximum speeds shown in paragraph 4 b, Section I, AFHQ Circular Number 28, 1944, are changed as follows:

For British Vehicles

5. Lorries (over 4 ton and up to and including 6 ton) including troop carriers and semi-trailers - 30 mph.
6. Lorries (exceeding 6 ton load capacity) including semi-trailers - 20 mph.

For US Vehicles

6. Trucks 4 ton all models - 30 mph
- Trucks 6 ton all models - 30 mph.

II -- TITLE TO ITALIAN ARMY VEHICLES

The title to vehicles of the Italian Armed Forces falls into two categories as follows:

1. Vehicles captured by the Allied Armies prior to the Armistice with Italy - These vehicles have become spoils of war and remain the property of the Allied Military Authorities who have discretion to allot them as they see fit in accordance with existing instructions covering captured enemy material.
2. All other vehicles of the Italian Armed Forces
 - a. These remain the property of the Italian Government as outlined in AFHQ Circular Number 15, and Number 28, 1944.
 - b. This transport should be used to the maximum benefit of the Italian nation as a whole, bearing in mind the calls made by Headquarters AG on the resources of the Allied Armies to meet essential civilian requirements.
 - c. The allocation of this transport in accordance with paragraph b above will be made as follows:

Italian Army vehicles by the Lead Forces Sub-Committee to

The maximum speeds shown in paragraph 1, b, Section I, AFHQ Circular Number 26, 1944, are changed as follows:

For British Vehicles

5. Lorries (over 1 ton and up to and including 6 ton) including troop carriers and semi-trailers - 30 mph.
6. Lorries (exceeding 6 ton load capacity) including semi-trailers - 20 mph.

For US Vehicles

6. Trucks 4 ton and all models - 30 mph.
- Trucks 6 ton and all models - 30 mph.

II - TITLE TO ITALIAN ARMED VEHICLES

The title to vehicles of the Italian Armed Forces falls into two categories as follows:

1. Vehicles captured by the Allied Armies prior to the Armistice with Italy - These vehicles have become spoils of war and remain the property of the Allied Military Authorities who have discretion to allot them as they see fit in accordance with existing instructions covering captured enemy material.
2. All other vehicles of the Italian Armed Forces
 - a. These remain the property of the Italian Government as outlined in AFHQ Circular Number 43, and Number 29, 1944.
 - b. This transport should be used to the maximum benefit of the Italian nation as a whole, bearing in mind the calls made by Headquarters AG on the resources of the Allied Armies to meet essential civilian requirements.
 - c. The allocation of this transport in accordance with paragraph b above will be made as follows:

Italian Army vehicles by the Land Forces Sub Commission AG (MIL). Italian Air Force vehicles by the Air Force Sub Commission AG. Italian Navy vehicles by the Navy Sub Commission AG. Transport surplus to the minimum needs of the

RECEIVED

RESTRICTED

AFHQ Circular No. 5 (cont'd)

Italian Armed Forces which is desired for civilian use by Headquarters AFHQ will be allotted to civilian use by the appropriate Sub Commission, AD, table thereto and operation thereof being by the Italian Army Forces under the control of the appropriate Sub Commission, AD.

d. The Italian Armed Forces will exert every effort to locate and acquire vehicles still undischarged. Allied authorities will give every assistance possible to the Italian Authorities and to the respective Sub Commissions, AD. Any vehicles coming into the possession of the Allied Authorities will be reported to the appropriate Sub Commission, AD for disposal.

BY COMMAND OF FIELD MARSHAL ALEXANDER:

OFFICIAL:

(sgd) C. W. CHRISTENSEN
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General

W. C. MORGAN
Adjutant General
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION:

D

8272
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

A P O 394

War Materials Disposal and Italian
Prisoners of War Sub-CommissionEND/327 April 1945

To: Executive Commissioner.

APR 28 1945

MEMO ON VEHICLES RE-CONDITIONED FOR USE BY ALLIED COMMISSION.

Regarding my reference, at the Executive Commissioner's Meeting this morning, to 102 vehicles which had been reconditioned for use by Allied Commission.

These vehicles were repaired, at considerable expense, by Firms and individuals some six months ago, and have been employed in Allied Commission Transport Pools since that date.

All vehicles reconditioned have been listed by Transportation Sub-Commission, and a copy of the list forwarded to MIA.

MIA has claimed some 102 vehicles as Italian Army vehicles, and have issued instructions for these vehicles to be impounded by Italian Military. In this respect, some 4 vehicles have been held up at Lucignano on grain haulage for 3/4 days.

The vehicles, in accordance with AFHQ instructions, are definitely Italian Army property, but in every case, many parts have been remade and supplied by the Firms who have done the rebuilding, and a considerable number are running on tyres supplied from Allied Commission resources.

The AFHQ instructions were issued prior to the contract for repairs etc., being entered into, but the instructions were not known to the Transport Officer of the Region concerned.

When the War Materials Disposal Sub-Commission were informed of what had taken place, steps were taken to see that no further contracts were entered into until vehicles were inspected by a representative of the Service Ministries concerned, and declared non Service.

The question is largely a Transportation one, but this Sub-Commission recommends that, with regard to these particular 102 vehicles, these vehicles be left with the Firms and individuals at present operating them. AFHQ Circular No. 5 dated 11 April 1945 (copy attached) would appear to permit of some such arrangement.

1945

To: Executive Commissioner.

APR 28 1945

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These vehicles were repaired, at considerable expense, by firms and individuals some six months ago, and have been employed in Allied Commission Transport Pools since that date.

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When the War Materials Disposal Sub-Commission were informed of what had taken place, steps were taken to see that no further contracts were entered into until vehicles were inspected by a representative of the Service Ministries concerned, and declared non Service.

The question is largely a Transportation one, but this Sub-Commission recommends that, with regard to these particular 102 vehicles, these vehicles be left with the firms and individuals at present operating them. AFHQ Circular No. 5 dated 11 April 1945 (copy attached) would appear to permit of some such arrangement.

1945

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

See (45)

(45-1000)

785017

8272

HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394

38

NSC/2233
24 April 1945.

APR 25 REC'D

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq., Allied Commission.
To: Ministry of Marine, Rome.
Subject: Recovery of Motor Vehicles of Italian Armed Forces.

1. The following instructions on the subject of Italian military vehicles have been issued recently by the Supreme Allied Commander, Allied Force Headquarters and are quoted for the information and guidance of the Ministry of Marine;

"II - TITLE TO ITALIAN ARMY VEHICLES

The title to vehicles of the Italian Armed Forces falls into two categories as follows;

1. Vehicles captured by the Allied Armies prior to the Armistice with Italy - These vehicles have become spoils of war and remain the property of the Allied Military Authorities who have discretion to allot them as they see fit in accordance with existing instructions covering captured enemy material.

2. All other vehicles of the Italian Armed Forces

a. These remain the property of the Italian Government as outlined in AFHQ Circulars Number 13, and Number 29, 1944.

b. This transport should be used to the maximum benefit of the Italian nation as a whole, bearing in mind the calls made by Headquarters AG on the resources of the Allied Armies to meet essential civilian requirements.

c. The allocation of this transport in accordance with paragraph (b) above will be made as follows;

1984
Italian Army vehicles by the Land Forces Sub-Commission AG (MMIA). Italian Air Force vehicles by the Air Force Sub-Commission AG. Italian Navy vehicles by the Navy Sub-Commission AG. Transport surplus to the minimum needs of the Italian Armed Forces which is desired for civilian use by Headquarters AG will be allotted to civilian use by

(Mrs Stevens)
(Mrs Rivard)

785017

34

HSC/2233
24 April 1945.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq., Allied Commission.
To : Ministry of Marine, Rome.
Subject: Recovery of Motor Vehicles of Italian Armed Forces.

the appropriate Sub-Commission, AC, title thereto and operation thereof being by the Italian Armed Forces under the control of the appropriate Sub-Commission, AC.

d. The Italian Armed Forces will exert every effort to locate and acquire vehicles still undisclosed. Allied Authorities will give every assistance possible to the Italian Authorities and to the respective Sub-Commissions, AC. Any vehicles coming into the possession of the Allied Authorities will be reported to the appropriate Sub-Commission, AC for disposal."

2. The Ministry of Marine will note that the guiding principle of the above instructions is that Italian Military transport shall be used to the "maximum benefit of the Italian Nation as a whole".

3. In accordance with the instructions of the Supreme Allied Commander, quoted above, all Italian Armed Forces' motor transport material must be returned to Italian Armed Forces control and will be disposed of as follows;

- (a) Reconditioned for use, if necessary, by the Italian Armed Forces.
- (b) Cannibalized to secure parts for reconditioning vehicles necessary for the Italian Armed Forces.
- (c) Released to civilian use as not being necessary for the Italian Armed Forces, if requested by Headquarters AC as necessary for the Nation as a whole.

1988

cc. Extra-Allied Commissions, AC ✓
Land Forces S/C
Air Forces S/C

(Sgd) G. L. WARREN
REAR ADMIRAL
CHIEF, NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, AC.

8

785017

5804

COPY

(36)

SUBJECT : Army Transport - Use by Civilians

Land Forces Sub Comm. AG.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E
Q/5/8

24 April 45

TO : AG for Executive Commissioner.

(24)

APR 25 RECD

Ref your 15.07/ES 18 April 45.

(23)

Under the provisions of AFHQ Circular No. 5, 1945, no Italian Army vehicles can be given to civilians, by the Prime Minister or any-one else.

Please also see our letter ST/1001 of 20 April, addressed to the Italian Government, copy to you.

(32)

It may be possible for the Schbol to obtain one of the vehicles not suitable for military use, if and when any become available. The Army does not have sufficient transport for its own needs and deficiencies must be made up from Allied Sources. Every vehicle which is available is issued to units of the Italian Army on a priority established by AFHQ.

C.P. KERR Col.
for Major General
M.M.I.A.

OPK/lm

(Original Forwarded To Econ Sec)
25 APR 45

1987

OPK/lm
(Class Review)

827-1
SUBJECT : Recovery Italian Army Property

Land Forces Sub Comm. AG.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E
9/5/10

23 April 45
APR 24 PMT

TO : Ministry of War H/R

Ref your 05947 dated 17 April 45.

Your attention is directed to this H.Q. 92/1001 20 Apr addressed H.Q. The Under Sec of State, copy to you.

If the vehicles in question are the property of the Italian Army as stated they may not be given away to civilians nor left in civilian use. If they are repaired by civilian work shops on the understanding that they will remain in civilian hands and are then withdrawn this will give rise to legitimate complaint and expose the Ministry to a charge of duplicity.

If the civilian workshops are told the vehicles, when repaired, are to be taken over by the Army it is considered unlikely the repairs will be carried out expeditiously.

It is considered that as the number of vehicles is not large it is preferable for you to arrange for the Repair Unit now established at Florence to recover them together with any material collected for their repair and arrange for them to be re-conditioned under Italian Army control.

Requiesce this H.Q. be informed when recovery has been made.

W. R. K.

April 45

APR 24 Recd

TO : Ministry of War *H/R*

Ref your 05947 dated 17 April 45.

Your attention is directed to this E.Q. ST/1001 20 Apr addressed H.E. The Under Sec of State, copy to you.

If the vehicles in question are the property of the Italian Army as stated they may not be given away to civilians nor left in civilian use. If they are repaired by civilian work shops on the understanding that they will remain in civilian hands and are then withdrawn this will give rise to legitimate complaint and expose the Ministry to a charge of duplicity.

If the civilian workshops are told the vehicles, when repaired, are to be taken over by the Army it is considered unlikely the repairs will be carried out expeditiously.

It is considered that as the number of vehicles is not large it is preferable for you to arrange for the Repair Unit now established at Florence to recover them together with any material collected for their repair and arrange for them to be re-conditioned under Italian Army control.

Request this E.Q. be informed when recovery has been made.

W. H. R. K.

CLAYTON P. ZIEGLER
for Major General,
M.M.I.I.

Copy to : Col Quin Smith

(see AFHQ OIR No. 5, 11 Apr 45)

VEPentes Commission OK

CDP/2a

*(HAS SIGNED)
(MA) RIVELY)*

785017

8272

34

Subject:- Recovery of Property of the
Italian Army.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E
Q/5/10

21 April 45.

MINISTRY OF WAR.

APR 22 RECU

Ref. your 12018 dated 13 Apr/45.

The request for a postponement of the withdrawal of
Italian Army Vehicles from use by civil service can not be
granted.

The vehicles will be withdrawn.
Please notify completion.

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

Copy to:- A.C. for Exec. Comm.
Regional Comm.
Toscana Region
Provincial Comm.
Grosseto Province

(with copy of translation
GO/71/139 dtd 7 Apr/45.)

CVE/ab

1935

MR STEPHENS

MR KERRY

244

785017

TRANSLATION

33

FROM: GROSSETO Province.
TOSCANA Region.

Ref. GO/71/139

TO : M.M.I.A.

Date 7 April 45

Subject:- Vehicles.

In answer to letter Ref N°510 I inform you, that I consider that, for the Public Interest, it is necessary to temporarily suspend the withdrawal of the vehicles in question.

I beg you to kindly require the authorisation to the M/W - M.T. Directorate, because we have a very scanty availability of vehicles to transport supplies for the Communes.

Sgd - R.A.B. HAMILTON
Lt.Col. P.C.
GROSSETO Province
TOSCANA Region.

See 34

1984

785017

8172
Subject: Recovery of Motor Vehicles
of Italian Armed Forces

Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)
Rome
ST/1001

20 April 1945

APR 21 REC'D

To : HE, The Undersecretary of State
Presidency of the Council of Ministers

Reference your 31130/1/2/2 of 1 April 1945.

1. All questions relating to motor vehicles of the Italian Armed Forces have been thoroughly considered and discussed.
2. For your information, the Supreme Allied Commander, in Circular No 5 of Allied Force Headquarters, dated 11 April 1945, issued the following instructions in order further to clarify the matter:

"II - TITLE TO ITALIAN ARMY VEHICLES

The title to vehicles of the Italian Armed Forces falls into two categories as follows:

1. Vehicles captured by the Allied Armies prior to the Armistice with Italy - These vehicles have become spoils of war and remain the property of the Allied Military Authorities who have discretion to allot them as they see fit in accordance with existing instructions covering captured enemy material.
2. All other vehicles of the Italian Armed Forces
 - a. These remain the property of the Italian Government as outlined in AFHQ Circulars Number 13, and Number 29, 1944.
 - b. This transport should be used to the maximum benefit of the Italian nation as a whole, bearing in mind the calls made by Headquarters AC on the resources of the Allied Armies to meet essential civilian requirements.
 - c. The allocation of this transport in accordance with paragraph b above will be made as follows:

(HAS STEAM)
(HAS RIVIERA)

Copy to Econ Sec 4/5

(31)

Italian Army vehicles by the Land Forces Sub Commission AC (MMIA). Italian Air Force vehicles by the Air Force Sub Commission AC. Italian Navy vehicles by the Navy Sub Commission AC. Transport surplus to the minimum needs of the Italian Armed Forces which is desired for civilian use by Headquarters AC will be allotted to civilian use by the appropriate Sub Commission, AC, title thereto and operation thereof being by the Italian Armed Forces under the control of the appropriate Sub Commission, AC.

d. The Italian Armed Forces will exert every effort to locate and acquire vehicles still undisclosed. Allied Authorities will give every assistance possible to the Italian Authorities and to the respective Sub Commissions, AC. Any vehicles coming into the possession of the Allied Authorities will be reported to the appropriate Sub Commission, AC for disposal."

3. As you will note, the guiding principle is that this transport should be used to the "maximum benefit of the Italian Nation as a whole". You will also note that transport surplus to the minimum needs of the Italian Armed Forces which is desired for civilian use by Headquarters AC will be allotted to civilian use, but that title thereto, and operation thereof is to be by the Italian Armed Forces. It is only reasonable to assume that the Italian Armed Forces are more capable of operating this transport efficiently for civilian use in the interest of the Nation as a whole than are the individual civilians.

4. In accordance with the instructions of the Supreme Allied Commander, quoted above, all Italian Armed Forces' motor transport material must be returned to Italian Armed Forces' control and will be disposed of as follows:

- (a) Reconditioned for use, if necessary, by the Italian Armed Forces.
- (b) Cannibalized to secure parts for reconditioning vehicles necessary for the Italian Armed Forces.
- (c) Released to civilian use as not being necessary for the Italian Armed Forces, if requested by Headquarters AC as necessary for the Nation as a whole.

5. It must be remembered that certain vehicles of the Italian Armed Forces will be available for civilian transport, as requested by Headquarters AC after the needs of the Armed Forces have been met and that the Armed Forces will operate these vehicles for civilian transport.

(30)

6. Certain vehicles belonging to the Italian Armed Forces may not have any military value, and the Ministries will be authorized to dispose of such vehicles to civilians. This may also include derelicts and spare parts which can be made available for civilian use. There can be no doubt that adequate control of all vehicles and spare parts will benefit the Nation as a whole; and while such control may inconvenience some individual civilians who now have Armed Forces vehicles, the Nation as a whole will be benefited.

7. Every effort is being made to rehabilitate the entire motor transport system of the Italian Army. This is being done at great expense by the Allies, and includes technical supervision by Allied officers, locating and shipping spare parts from the Middle East and Africa, and the use of shipping to transport vehicles from Sardinia. For your information, the transport of civilian food supplies in Sardinia is being done by the use of Army vehicles allotted for that purpose. The efficient use of Army vehicles for military purposes also releases an equal amount of rail transport which can be used for civilian requirements on the mainland.

8. I might add that the question of ownership of vehicles now used by the Fascist troops from German and Fascist resources has not been decided by the Allies. The decision will no doubt depend on the degree to which the Italian Armed Forces effect the repossession and reorganization of their own transport, and this must, of course, depend upon the good faith displayed by the Italian Government, and the Italian civilians, in carrying out the program directed by the Supreme Allied Commander.

L. Browning

Major General
Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (WNIA)

CPK/lak

cc: HE, The Minister for War
Navy Sub Commission, AC
Air Forces Sub Commission, AC
✓ Executive Commissioner, AC

1981

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Got.

15.07/28

18 April 1945
APR 20 REC'D

MEMORANDUM FOR LAND FORCES SUB-COMMISSION:

1. Attached is translation of letter dated 9 April 1945 which the Chief Commissioner has received from Brothers of the Christian Schools, Via S. Sebastiano, 3, Rome.
2. You will note that apparently the Prime Minister had issued instructions whereby an Italian army motor vehicle was to be turned over. However, it seems that this was not done as the turn-over had to be approved by Allied Commission. It is assumed that authority from MNLA was required, which has not been forthcoming. It is requested that you check into this matter and state whether or not under existing regulations and conditions an Italian army truck can be turned over by virtue of the Prime Minister's authority.
3. For your information the load-carrying vehicles which are coming in from the States are not available for distribution.
4. A report is requested which can be used as a basis of reply.

for My Home
NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel,
Acting Executive Commissioner

Incl - per para 1.

1980

36
10/14
11/14

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24

Subject: Italian Army Value

Joint Forces Staff Comm. A.C.
(H. H. I. A.) R O M E
Q/S

16 April 1945

To: H. A.C. for Transportation Staff Comm.
H. A.C. for War Materials Disposal Staff Comm.

For Information:

Office of the Executive Commissioner, A.C.
Economic Section, A.C.

APR 16 RECD

23 *referred*

1. Will you please send a representative to a meeting to be held in Room 35 7th Floor on Tuesday 17 Apr at 1430 hrs to coordinate the plans for the implementation of JFM orders issued as Circular No. 5 of 11 Apr 45.

2. Copy of the circular is sent for ease of reference.

HR/20

hr
P. J. HANSEN, Col.
For Major General,
H. H. I. A.

Remarks:

1st HHA }
2nd HHA }
3rd HHA }

To send a representative.

HR
PH

18/4 1974
M 25-28

HR

785017

Subject: Italian Army Vehicles

Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)
Rome
Q/5

March 1945

MAR 26 1945

To : Hq Allied Commission for Transportation Sub Commission

References

Our AQ/5 of 12 February 1945
Your AC/R/1/TN.5 of 23 February 1945
Our Q/5 of 13 March 1945
Your AC/1/5/TN.5 of 14 March 1945

1. Request that the list of trucks promised in letter dated 19 February 1945 be furnished without further delay.
2. Also request that Par 2 of our Q/5 of 13 March 1945 be answered.

CLAYTON P. KERR, Colonel
for Major General
Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)

CPE/lak

cc: Executive Commissioner, ALCOM
General Hamblen, AFHQ

1978

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Transportation Sub-Commission
APO 394

CWAP/hgd

23 Feb. 1945

MAR 26 1945

AC/r/1/TN.5

SUBJECT : Italian Army vehicles.

TO : Land Forces Sub-Commission, A.C. (MMTA)
(Att: Col. Clayton P.Kerr)

1. With reference to your AQ/5 dated 12 Feb.45.
2. Copy of your letter was sent to Regional Commissioner Lazio-Umbria Region.
3. Attached is a copy of the reply made by his Regional Transportation Officer.
4. It is pointed out that; if the vehicles referred to are removed from the Lazio-Umbria Region; this Sub-Commission is in no position at the present time to make any replacement.
5. When the lists requested by you, and mentioned in the postscript of the Regional Transportation Officer's letter arrive, it will be possible to ascertain exactly where these vehicles are working. It should then be decided by discussion, as to how many of these vehicles can be withdrawn from their existing operations without seriously disrupting public service. When this figure is determined, it is suggested that the vehicles thus withdrawn be utilized by the newly formed Italian Truck Companies.

Major R.A.S.C.
Admin. Officer,
Roads Section.

1977

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LAZIO UMBRIA REGION
APO 394

19 Feb. 45

MT.3717.20

MAR 26 1945

SUBJECT : Italian Army Vehicles.

TO : Transportation Sub-Commission Hq AC

Your Ref AC.R.1.TN5 of 14 February 1945

This matter was fully discussed with Col. Carnes on 5 February 1945 and is somewhat complicated.

The vehicles in question were retrieved as "salvage" by various Italian civilian contractors, repaired and are now operating under E.N.A.C.

The two main difficulties I foresee are that

- 1) There will be insufficient local road transport if these vehicles are suddenly withdrawn.
- 2) The Italian Army will either have to accept the vehicles as non runners (spare parts having been supplied by the contractors) or come to some arrangement regarding payment for the repairs.

I have already been in touch with the local E.N.A.C. Director and intend to hand over the responsibility to him, and he informed me that the matter was now under discussion between the Ministry of Transport and the War Ministry.

I might add that the War Ministry received approx 200 of these vehicles some little time ago, and I have been reliably informed that they were all scrapped within a month owing to the rough treatment they received and then sold to other civilian contractors.

J.A.N. GILES
Lt. Colonel
Chief of Division

1975

JHB/bm

Inter Office Memo

Ref. AC/63/5/Tn.3

28 February 1945

TO : The Director, Transportation Sub-Commission.

SUBJECT : Report on the situation regarding Italian military trucks alleged to be in the hands of Italian civilians in Florence.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION.

In order to investigate this matter fully, the following officers were contacted Lt. Col. Michay (Florence city) Major Van Kirk (MMIA IO), Capt. Brown (Economic & Supply AMG 5th Army), Capt. Dickens (Transportation, Florence city), and Major Sowers (Regional Transportation Officer).

The teleprint AQ 2463 dated 26 Dec. '44, in which it was stated that 60 Italian military vehicles were in the hands of civilians in Florence, gives a totally unfair picture of the situation.

Investigations show that the list of trucks was compiled by the Italian Military from a German HQ list dated 8/10/43. Actually a list of 32 trucks has been submitted to AMG Florence city and of these, eight have been taken by the Italian Military, causing a loss of a 40 ton lift (65 tons with trailers) to Florence Road Transport.

Of the remaining 24 trucks, 10 were taken North either by the German or Fascists, 11 are in working order and 3 cannot be traced.

AMG Florence are arranging to hand over the 11 efficient trucks to the Italian Army or rather it would be more correct to say that AMG will supply the I.O. MMIA with the particulars as to the names and addresses of the firms who have these trucks and it will be up to the Italian Army to collect. This will mean a further loss of a 40 ton lift to Florence Road Transport.

An additional list of 42 trucks has just been compiled and is being forwarded to AMG Florence. ¹⁹ ~~19~~ they receive this list, they will check as before and ¹⁹ ~~19~~ any of the vehicles in that list are in the hands of civilians firms, full particulars will be supplied to the IO MMIA.

Completed by Other Army
reception of MMIA

In order to investigate this matter fully, the following officers were contacted Lt. Col. Michey (Florence city) Major Van Kirk (AMIA LO), Capt. Brown (Economic & Supply AMG 5th Army), Capt. Dickens (Transportation, Florence city), and Major Sowers (Regional Transportation Officer).

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Major Van Kirk informed me that the questions of turning back trucks in Florence is now proceeding normally.

B. GENERAL EFFECT.

Whilst it is fully appreciated that there is no question of Italian Military trucks not being returned to the Italian Army, it would be foolish to ignore the effect of this order. Perhaps this can best be illustrated by enumerating the facts:

see M/3619

(11)

(1) The Radio Broadcasts, before our occupation, exhorting the Italian to hide trucks from the Germans and that "when we come, they will be yours", were interpreted by the Italians to refer to individuals and not the State. Consequently they contend, when they have to hand these trucks over to the Italian Army, that they have been duped.

(2) It is contended that there are still a good number of trucks hidden and having regard to (1) these will not be brought out, but that they will be taken to pieces and the parts disposed of separately. This means a complete loss to both the Military and Civil transport.

(3) There is always the possibility that trucks, which have been hidden in towns still occupied by the Germans, will not be produced when we arrive.

(4) At the present time the road transport situation in Florence is not acute, because the AC have been able to supplement the civilian trucks with Q.M. Truck Coys. At any time, these may have to be withdrawn for urgent operational requirements elsewhere.

(5) The statement in the teleprint AQ 2463 that "vehicles are not retained on account of operational necessity as vehicles are in the hands of civilians" is very misleading one, because all the roadworthy trucks have been and are operating on behalf of AMG.

(6) There is no provision made for re-embursing civilian firms for the money they have spent in making these trucks road-worthy.

J.H. BORDASS
J.H. BORDASS

Lt. Col.

Movements Division
Roads Branch.

1973

File 805/C02 **5**
EXTRACT OF LETTER FROM LAND FORCES SUB-COMM.
TO CHIEF OF STAFF DATED 29 JAN 45, REF. SD/71

" 2. With reference to your note II regarding Italian Army vehicles in Florence. This matter has been the subject of correspondence between Fifth Army, 15th Army Group and ourselves. In November, Fifth Army directed AMG to return these vehicles to the Italian Army, and in January, 15th Army Group directed Fifth Army to see that this was done. It appears that there are some 60 of these vehicles in the hands of civilians in Florence which Fifth Army is having returned to the Italian Army. Major Van Kirk, our liaison officer, Fifth Army Headquarters, is handling the matter for Fifth Army. The decision has been made by AFHQ and 15th Army Group that these vehicles belong to the Italian Army, and since the whole matter has been handled by the highest military authorities and the contentions of AMG that these vehicles should remain with civilians have been overruled, MMIA is complying with the orders which we have received. "

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Headquarters
15 Army Group
Civil Affairs

SUBJECT: Ita an Army Transport Operated by A. Florence. (2)

TO : Chief of Staff.

JAN 26 1945

With reference to your request for action taken in respect of the s/m subject the following information is forwarded for your perusal:

It appears that originally the Italian army in many cases requisitioned civilian trucks for army use. All Italian army transport was taken over by the Germans when the Armistice was signed and on the withdrawal of the Germans all vehicles that were roadworthy were taken by them. The remainder were sold by the Germans to civilians who received a bona fide bill of sale for them. The new owners refitted the trucks as best they could and put them on the road for their own use.

AFHQ were informed that there were originally sixty vehicles involved, but it appears that this list was compiled before the Allies actually entered Florence. The correct number is thirty-five.

Major Van Kirk, MMIA representative, informed Lieut. Col. Toscani that he required eight of these trucks only in order to start an Italian army courier service between Florence and Rome.

Lieut. Col. Toscani agreed to this proposal, asked for a list of the eight trucks actually required and sent out to collect them. Four were brought in, two appeared to be in Milan and the remaining two were completely stripped of all parts - including the body work. Eight trucks were finally handed over to MMIA in full settlement. This, however, was a verbal agreement only (Lieut. Col. Toscani and Maj. Van Kirk). G4 FIFTH Army approved this move in respect of the eight trucks only. The remaining twenty-seven are working in Florence area and are split up between five or six companies.

The first intimation that this office had of the business was on receipt of teleprinter message from MMIA to 15 Army Group for C4 dated 26 Dec 44 (Reference AQ 2463 - copy attached). As this called for a definite ruling from higher authority the matter was put in the hands of Lieut. Col. Bordass on 29 Dec 44 so that Allied Commission could deal direct with AFHQ.

22 Jan 45

See 805/105

See 2.3.4.576

10/11/45
1971
30/1/45

785017

COPYIMPORTANT
TELEPRINTER MESSAGE INFOLIO NO: 14956
26 DECEMBER 44
TOO. 261500A
TOR. 261612ARESTRICTED

FROM : MMIA

TO : 15TH ARMY GROUP FOR G4

INFO : A.P.H.Q. CG MTOUSA: FIFTH ARMY : FIFTH ARMY REAR FOR MMIA LO

NO : AQ 2463

REFERENCE OUR AQ/5 OF 15 NOV TO A.A.I. COPY TO AFHQ. SUBJECT SIXTY ITALIAN VEHICLES IN HANDS OF CIVILIANS IN FLORENCE. THESE VEHICLES HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT YET BEEN TURNED OVER TO ITALIAN ARMY NOTWITHSTANDING THE MEMORANDUM FROM G4 TO G5 FIFTH ARMY DATED 21 NOVEMBER DIRECTING THAT THIS BE DONE. INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE IS THAT THE ORIGINAL SIXTY VEHICLES HAVE DWINDLED TO THIRTY SIX AND THAT AMG FLORENCE IS ATTEMPTING TO MAKE A DEAL WITH A LOCAL ITALIAN ARMY OFFICER TO ACCEPT LESS THAN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES BELONGING TO ITALIAN ARMY. NO REPEAT NO DEALS OR COMPROMISES MADE WITH ITALIAN OFFICERS ON THE SPOT ARE RECOGNIZED AS ITALIAN OFFICERS HAVE NO REPEAT NO AUTHORITY TO MAKE DEALS INVOLVING ITALIAN ARMY VEHICLES.

FIFTH ARMY HAS SUBMITTED REQUESTS FOR ASSIGNMENT OF ADDITIONAL ITALIAN ARMY MOTOR VEHICLES TO US-ITI AND ITI-ITI UNITS UNDER FIFTH ARMY COMMAND. UNLESS THE AFHQ DIRECTIVES ARE COMPLIED WITH AND ALL AVAILABLE ITALIAN ARMY VEHICLES ARE RETURNED TO ITALIAN ARMY IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE ALLIES TO FURNISH THE ITALIAN ARMY WITH ALLIED VEHICLES TO MAKE UNITS OPERATIONAL. THE CONTINUED REFUSAL OF AMG FIFTH ARMY TO RETURN THESE SIXTY VEHICLES IN FLORENCE INCREASES THE AMOUNT OF HELP WHICH MUST BE SUPPLIED BY BOTH ALLIED GOVERNMENTS TO THE ITALIAN ARMY. VEHICLES ARE NOT RETAINED ON ACCOUNT OF OPERATIONAL NECESSITY AS VEHICLES ARE IN THE HANDS OF CIVILIANS. WHO CONTEND PURCHASE WAS MADE FROM GERMANS AND WHO ARE NOW SUPPORTED AND AUTHORIZED BY AMG FIFTH ARMY TO RETAIN THEM. IMPERATIVE THAT PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE ACTION BE TAKEN TO PREVENT FURTHER DISSIPATION OF THESE VEHICLES AND TO INSURE THAT THEY ARE RETURNED TO THE ITALIAN ARMY IN THEIR PRESENT OPERATING CONDITION ALSO TO REGULARIZE THIS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE THROUGHOUT THIS THEATER. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO ?

SMC MAIN DISTRIBUTION

G4	3 ACTION
DCAO	1
Q	2

CIVIL AFFAIRS 4

SMC. 261655A
TT. 261720A

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