

785020

ACC

10000/109/220

785020

10000/109/220

REPATRIATION, ITALIAN POW, INDIA
OCT. 1944 - MAR. 1946

19

1 Nov

1944

TO: Actl Chief Commissioner.

A draft letter to Sir Noel Charles in answer to page 1
 is submitted for your approval, or ~~for~~ ^{for} 14.

Ernest May
 Brigadier,
 Chief of Staff.

The two documents in study.

20.

To Major Tallent.

Draft approved as amended by A/C.

J.A. B. May
 3. xi - 44

20/11

21.

*Keep confidential
 17/11/44
 Draft 17/11/44*

A/C 27 50 info

to 1/4

copy 1/4

4908

C/C.

31

IPW are sending down copy of answer to 50.
 Could you B/U as soon as it arrives please.

NO.

*copy S.O. to C.C.
 28. 10. 11. 30. 10. 11.*

To Major Tallot.

Draft approved as amended by A/C.

J.A. Brounke.
3. xi - 44

27/11

21.

Key copy
from
[Signature]
[Signature] 17/12/44

28.

A/C [Signature] 27 for info

to 1/4

21/11

4508

C/C.

31

IPW are sending down copy of answer to 30.
Could you B/U as soon as it arrives please.

NO.

~~to~~ S.O. to C.C.

38 for info - 30 refers.

AS 21/12.

Dec 21 1945
Dec 15 30

IPW Division

41.

By your memo at 38. The Chief Commissioner would like to know on what grounds you base this letter - i.e. could you quote some authority for the statements in paras 3 & 4. Sorry to bother you.
AS 31/12.

15

To: C. of S.

Folios 8 and 9 together with Minute 11 give the opinion of Political, MMIA and CA Sections. Folio 14 gives the opinion of Gen. Gazzera after consultation with his Under-Secretary for War and H.E. Bonomi.

My own remarks are:

- (a) From my dealings with the H.C. for Italian PW there is just no reason which he or the Italian Government can accept as sound if it means that some of their PW who could be repatriated are not returned to Italy.
- (b) I agree with Mr. Caccia's views and think that the fact that so many Italian PW have been repatriated to Italy will outweigh any question as to rank, etc.,
- (c) The question of feeding and clothing them arises, but against that we must take:
 - (i) The Indian Government want to get rid of them.
 - (ii) They must return to Italy sometime.
 - (iii) It will be much better for Italy to receive their PW back in small numbers now; even under the present trying conditions, than in bulk at a later date.
- (d) Gen Gazzera states that more officers should be with each unit or PW Camp. He tells me that there are some 50,000 Italian PW in South Africa (16,000 working and 30,000 odd not working) and that the number of Italian officer PW in South Africa is far short of the number required to look after the welfare of 50,000 prisoners - perhaps we could divert some of the 10,000/11,000 in India to South Africa.
- (e) I do think that if these officers are returned, the screening should be carefully done, as amongst the recent arrivals from India there have been a number of old prominent Fascists.

I am of opinion that there is no real objection from the ACC standpoint if the Italian Government will welcome the return of these officer PW and find employment for them on their arrival.

The letter from Gen. Gazzera was addressed for my attention, and I have explained that my discussions with him on this subject were unofficial - he agreed.

/s/ J. A. Campbell
Lt Colonel
WMD & IPW Sub 790m, 7

25 Oct 1944

16

I.P.W. Sub-Commission

Until the whole of Italy is liberated I think it would be wrong to consider liberation of such a large number of Italian officers. Arguments against this have been made by General Browning, Brigadier Upjohn and Mr. Caccia. Many of these officers will come from parts of Italy as yet unliberated. We shall be faced not only with the problem of unemployment but of displacement.

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- (i) The Indian Government want to get rid of them.
- (ii) They must return to Italy sometime.
- (iii) It will be much better for Italy to receive their PW back in small numbers now; even under the present trying conditions, than in bulk at a later date.

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Lt Colonel
WMD & IPW Sub-Com.

25 Oct 1944

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Please draft a reply to H.M. Ambassador bringing in the pros and the cons as they appear in this file and summing up with a definite request that they should not be brought back. There would be no harm in suggesting a diversion of a number to South Africa and East Africa.

/s/ MSL
Brigadier
Chief of Staff

26 October 1944

18

To: Chief of Staff.
Reference minute 16. As requested please see draft reply to H.M. Ambassador at 17.
File was received my office 28 Oct 44.

/s/ J. A. Campbell
Lieut Colonel
WMD & IPW Sub-Com.

30 Oct 44

LOS

Pl. See 1 & 2. I propose asking Lt Col Campbell to approach High Commission to POW & let him reach in a short time.

14/10.

9 a.m. - but get Army Sub Com & POB Secs reaction at same time.

MS/15/10.

7

Lt Col Campbell
was met 1 PM 5/10

Pl. See this file - including in winter 3 & 4 above: has accounts from views.

Before seeing 2.H.C. for 1 PM will go
mean see 8 & 9.

4906

19/10.

23 Oct 47 To P.O.W. & War Materials Disposal Subcom.

of a prison - but get things done
at same time.

MS 157a.

7

Wm Campbell

Wm Mew + 1 P.W. S/C

Pf. see this file - including in winter
3 x 4 above: let's see what's your views.

Excluded from

10/17/10. 1 P.W. will go
Before Securing J.H.C. for 1 P.W. will go
Mew Dec 8 x 9. 4906

19110.

11.

23 Oct 44 To P.O.W. + War Materials Disposal Scheme.

I assume that known fascists will not be repatriated + I
do not think this they ought to refuse to accept POWs on the
ground of their fascists taint if they (see hypothesis) are not known
fascists. I feel much greater concern over the reception
into this country of new 10000 months to feed, clothes to clothe
+ hands to employ. If the repatriation were confined to
experts eg. engineers, I.A.G.s etc no doubt they could be absorbed
but I suggest that unless the Minister of War can produce
cut + dried plans for the employment of the remainder it would be unwise
to accept them 7 R. hypothesis.

9004

WERP/Is

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

IPW/53/260

29/3/46

MAR 29 1946

SUBJECT : Repatriation of IPW from INDIA

TO : Director of Public Relations Branch

Ref. telecon. of even date Major Leacacos-Maj. Philips

1. Information has been received from G.H.Q., UNF, regarding the repatriation of IPW from India, as follows:-

ORIGIN	SHIP	APPROX. ETA NAPLES	APPROX. N° TO BE EMBARKED
Bombay	Nea Hellas	10 April	3000
Colombo	Duchess of Bedford	14 April	3800
Bombay	Empress of Australia	26 April	3500

2. This is the first large-scale repatriation from India, and the above total (10,000) represents 40% of IPW held in India.

3. In accordance with instructions, issued by Chief Commissioner, the above information is forwarded for favour of your communication to the Italian Press.

W.D. Philips Major

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

H.S. P/A
29/3

4905

Copy to: Executive Commissioner (Hynd-Smith-Philips, spoke)

9004

49

TRANSLATION

INCOMING MESSAGE

MESSAGE 73749 34 25 11/30

ADMIRAL STONE
ALLIED COMMISSION
HOME.

WE HED FOR YOUR AUTHORITATIVE INTERVENTION FOR THE RETURN OF ITALIAN PRISONERS
IN INDIA WITH ITALIAN SHIPS WHICH ARE IN BOMBAY HARBOUR. LET US AT LEAST
BE GIVEN BACK OUR SONS. EUGENIO CICCAGLIONE.

MARCH 25, 1946.

EC Dist 27/46

1 POW - Action

1 CE - Info

1 EC - Info. —

4904

(CAPT K)

H.S. 29/3

P/R.

A 27/3/46
JL

785020

Col S -
Dis in floor
Whorehouse

9004-41

II COMING MESSAGE

8162
ap

11/25

MAR 26 1946

MAR 22 1946

DD ROMA VENEZIA 6900 75 21 1840

Originator's Reference:

Message Centre No:

Date/Time of Origin:

Date Time Rec'd:

Precedence:

FROM:

TO : DD AMMIRAL STONE ROME

WITH MIND OPPRESSED DRIVEN BY EXTREME ANXIETY THE MOTHERS WIVES
SISTERS OF THE POW OF VENICE STILL DETAINED IN THE CAMP OF INDIA
TAKE THE LIBERTY OF APPEALING TO THE NOBILITY AND HUMANITY OF YOUR
EXCELLENCY IMPLORING THAT MILORD MAY CONSENT TO INTERVENE TOWARDS
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO OBTAIN THAT ALL OBSTABLES OF RELEASED
AND ENABLED TO RETURN TO THEIR FAMILIES THANKING IN ANTICIPATION
YOUR EXCELLENCY LYDIA KOROMPLY DELEGATE CANNAREGIO 5618 .

22 MAR 1946

IL CAPITANO ABDETTO

(Cannari 126)

Bumell...

B

4903

(Cso) 14.29/3 P/A.

TRUNO ORE 10/10/22/3/ JOCCHI RCV SOD MARTINO=====

9004
OFFICE OF THE G. O. C.
MILITARY MISSION TO THE ITALIAN ARMY

MAR 26 1946

(46)

25 Mar 46

Executive Commissioner ⁴⁵

→ This will interest Chief
Commissioner - reference
recent discussion.

At last I.P.W. are
starting to move from
areas other than U.S.,
U.K. & N. AFRICA.

L. Brown
Maj. Gen

CSO P/A
H. 2913

See H. 47-48.

WAR 26 1945

45

LAND FORCES SUB-COMMISSION A.C.
M.M.I.A.
Italian Prisoners of War Division

WERP/bm

IPW 53/255

25 Mar 1945

SUBJECT : Repatriation of IPW from India.

TO : G.U.C., M.M.I.A. (4)

1. Col. REHIS. Reference conversation today Gen. BRUNNING/

2. The planned programme for the repatriation of IPW from India has been received under the authority of G.H.Q. C.M.F. signal C 32733 of 23 Mar 1945, details of which are shown below:--

ORIGIN

SHIP

APPROX ETA NAPLES

APPROX. NO.
TO BE EM-
BARKED.

BOMBAY

NEA HELLAS

10 April

3000

COLUMBO

DUCHESS BEDFORD

14 Apr

3800

BOMBAY

EMPRESS OF
AUSTRALIA

26 April

3500

3. This is the first large-scale repatriation from India and would seem to be the result of the frequent representations made by your H.Q. and this division regarding firm details concerning IPW in India.

4. A table showing the position of repatriation of IPW at 17 March 45 is attached for your information.

4502

J. E. C.
Lieut. Colonel, C.A.C.,
REHIS

1. Reference conversation today Gen. BRUNNING/
Col. REGIS.

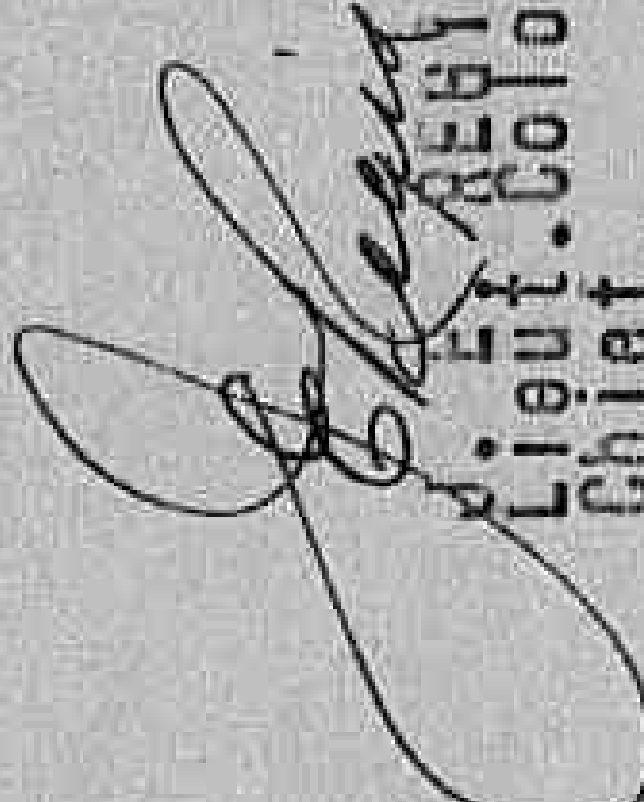
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4. A table showing the position of repatriation
of IPW at 17 March 46 is attached for your information.

4902


J. REGIS
Lieut. Colonel, C.A.C.,
IPW Division

Encl.

(C/o)

MAR 26 1946

44

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	No. of IFW at beginning of repatriation	No. of repatriation as at 17 March 46	No. of repatriations during week	Still to be repatriated
ENGLAND & SCOTLAND	158.029	52.724	2.116	105.305
NORTH AFRICA	43.152	35.469	-	7.683 (.)
EAST AFRICA	42.504	12.563	1.033	29.941
WEST AFRICA	1.000 (*)	1.485	-	-
SOUTH AFRICA	40.794	9.458	4.765	31.336
MIDDLE EAST	70.091	17.998	48	52.093
INDIA	33.302	8.373	-	24.929 -
GIBRALTAR	541	-	-	541
AUSTRALIA	17.657	633	-	17.024
PERSIA	2.000	-	-	2.000
U.S.A.	51.000	50.779	77	221
FRANCE (USA)	43.000	40.179	-	2.821
ITALY (US)	20.000	20.000	-	-
NORTH AFRICA (US)	9.751	9.106	543	645
FRANCE (N.AFRICA)	37.000	8.613	2.595	28.687
RUSSIA	20.000	11.194	-	8.806
GERMANY & SWITZERLAND	560.000 (*)	629.605	164	?
FRANCE (4th Army)	35.000	29.625	86	5.375
BALKANS	100.000	87.743	13	12.257
TOTAL	1.285.121	1.025.547	11.440	329.664

(*) Estimated figure only

(.) 7000 of this figure actually held in "S" Camp, TARANTO.

4901

9004
LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
M.M.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

43
Mdp

IPW/1/7/IND/1825

2 March 1946

SUBJECT : Repatriation from India.

MAR 4 1946

TO : General Headquarters
Central Mediterranean Forces (G-1 Br)S. Ten. MARIO TARANTINO

1. Application has been received from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the early repatriation of the a/m on the grounds of his alleged suicidal mania.

2. May a Mixed Medical Board please be afforded this PW and if his condition warrants his early return, may this Division please be informed.

3. Forward for information is application from this PW's brother.

W. R. Philips
JAMES E. REGIS
Lieut. Colonel
Chief
I.P.W. Div.

Copy to: - Executive Commissioner

Italian Prisoner of War Sub-Commission
HQ AC APO 364
Despatched MAR 2 1946
Log No 1455 4000

(CAPT R)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

LT/mdp

42

IPW/1/1cm/1197 B

7 January 1946

SUBJECT : Italian PW S/Ten. VALENZI Bernardo

TO : Office of the Executive Commissioner
Headquarters A.C.

Reference your letter 9004/E C dated 21 Dec 45

1. The case of subject Prisoner of War was recommended for repatriation on Compassionate Grounds by this Headquarters on a list forwarded to Allied Force Headquarters, 20 Nov 45.

2. You will be notified as soon as authority is given for PWs release.

JAMES E. REGIS
Lieut. Colonel
Chief
I.P.W. Div.

Italian Prisoners of War
HQ APO 394
Dispatched
Log No

JAN 7 1946

69

Copy to Allied Force Headquarters G-1 (Br) (Reference this Headquarters letter IPW/1/1cm/1089 B dated 20 Nov 45)

4893

PA

8/1

R

miss
5)

PA

8/1

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Note no final copy needed

Ref: 9004/20

21 December 45

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoner of War

TO : IFW Subcommittee.

1. It would be very much appreciated if you could look into the case of Sottotenente Bernardo Valensi with a view to seeing whether his return to Italy can be accelerated.

2. A letter about this from Signora Ermenegilda Valensi, dated 18 December, was forwarded to you from this office yesterday.

Chief Staff Officer
to the Executive Commissioner

B. SANDPSON
B. SANDPSON

4898

PA
3/11/46
①

copy

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

IPW/53/138

18 December 1945

SUBJECT : IPW in INDIA

DEC 21 1945

TO : Unione Famiglie Prigionieri India,
Galleria Umberto I, 50
Naples

- 1./ In answer to your cable 346494 dated 14 Dec. 45
- 2./ The anxiety of the relatives of Italian PWs in India is fully understood. This office has no knowledge of suicides and cases of madness provoked by the conditions of British controlled PW Camps. On the contrary it is known that IPWs receive the same rations as British troops in that country and that their housing and living conditions are comparable to those of British troops. If any concrete cases of suicides or madness due to treatment received in IPW Camps can be produced they will be promptly investigated and reported on.
- 3./ Your cable states that repatriation is easily overcome by using Italian men of war! For your information, no Italian naval ships now in commission have the suitable endurance to withstand this voyage; Italian PW already repatriated have been transported in Allied ships.
- 4./ To date some 2,500 IPW have been repatriated from India, priority is given in all cases to sick personnel or to those whose repatriation is essential on urgent compassionate grounds. Plans have now been laid for the mass repatriation of IPW in India and it is hoped that this movement will commence early in the New Year.
- 5./ You may rest assured that every effort is being made to secure the speedy repatriation of these individuals. For any further information on this subject will you please communicate with the Ministry of War, Autonomous Office for war Veterans and Repatriated PW.

Encl.: copy of cable 346494 of 14/12/45

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

Copy to: Autonomous Office for W.V.&R.PW
Regional Commissioner, Naples

Navy S/C A.C.
MMIA = (att.: A.A.G.)

(miss 5)

4897
see MH 41

9004 31
33
Roma 18 Dicembre 1945

DEC 21 1945

Sig. Ammiraglio Stone

Capo della Commissione Alleata

ROMA

E' una madre addolorata che scrive, Le rivolge un'accorata preghiera: il mio unico figlio maschio Bernardo Valensi e' da oltre cinque anni prigioniero in India. Partì ragazzo per una guerra infame e ritornerà uomo con l'anima esacerbata per le sofferenze.

Vede, sig. Ammiraglio, che questo mio figlio ritorni presto al mio affetto; non so più resistere a così lunga attesa. Sono sola con due figlie femmine e malandate in salute; mio marito Eco.za Valensi Fernando e' a Tripoli quale Primo Presidente della Corte d'Appello ed ha sempre lealmente collaborato e collabora tuttora con le Autorità Alleate.

Ascoltate, Vi prego, la mia voce.

Con rispettosa osservanza

Giacinti Smerzegilda in Valensi

Piazza dell'Unità n. 9

presso Lantieri

ROMA

Ecco i dati del P.O.W.:

Sottotenente Valensi Bernardo

Matr. 21652. Camp No.27 - Wing 2/D

BRITISH INDIA.

AG DISTRIBUTION
ACTION: 64-823 (for file) 1P045/c
INFO: Chief Commissioner
Executive Commissioner
File

4896

see 39

(MISS S)

TRANSLATION

32

ADMIRAL STONE
Chief Commissioner

Rome, 18 December 1945

R O M E

I am a mother who is sorrowfully writing and addressing to you an afflict supplication: my only son BERNARDO VALENZI has been for five years prisoner of war in British India. He left home when he was still a boy and he will come back already a man with his mind exacerbated from his sufferings.

Do something, Sir Admiral, in order that my son will come quickly to me. I cannot resist any more this long waiting. I am alone with two daughters, my husband; Excellency Valenzi Bernardo, is now President of the Court of Appeal at Tripoli and he has always collaborated and at the moment too is collaborating with the Allied Authorities. Hear my voice, please

Yours very truly

Giacinti Ermenegilda in Valenzi

Piazza dell'unita' 9

Presso Lantieri

My son:

R O M A

VALENZI BERNARDO
Matr. 21652. Camp N. 27 - Wing 2/B
BRITISH INDIA.

4895'

3464 94
14 DECEMBER

G/5632

12430

DEC 18 1945
ROUTINE

UNIONE FAMIGLIE PRIGIONIERI INDIA, NAPOLI, GALLERIA UMBERTO 1°
DDADMIRAL STONE, ALLIED COMMISSION, ROME.

UNCLASSIFIED.

700 NEAPOLITAN FAMILIES PRISONERS INDIA INVOKE YOUR
PASSIONATE INTERVENTION NEAR ALLIED GOVERNMENTS TO
OBTAIN SUDDEN RETURN RELATIONS WASTING THEMSELVES
FOUR, FIVE YEARS FAR FROM MOTHERS WIVES SONS
DESPERATELY WAITING FOR THEIR RETURN. TRAGIC NEWS
ARRIVE FROM ENCAMPMENT ANNOUNCING SUICIDES AND
MANY MADNESS CASES PROVOCATED BY TERRIBLE MORALE
CONDITIONS OUR RELATIONS. REPATRIATION EASILY
SUPERABLE USING ITALIAN MEN OF WAR AND FREIGHTING
NEUTRAL FLEET. OUR ONLY HOPE OUR UNIQUE TRUST BEG
AGAIN YOUR AUTHORIZED HELP. UNIONE FAMIGLIE
PRIGIONIERI INDIA, NAPOLI, GALLERIA UMBERTO 1°, 50.

AC DIST

ACTION : POW DIV (2)

INFO : CHIEF COMMISSIONER 4894

FILE (2)

FLOAT.

See File 38

see 1731

19/12

(11355)

00044

HWH/fs

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

(29)

ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

IPW/1/7/IND/166210/Dec/45

DEC 13 1945

SUBJECT: Repatriation from India

TO : Ministry of Foreign Affairs
" : .

27 ref

NR
EL

- 1./ Reference is made to your 6/4120/1901 dated 23/10/45 and your 6/4795/3086 dated 28/11/45.
- 2./ The anxiety of the relatives of these IPW is well appreciated.
You inform us that these individuals are in the categories due for accelerated release, as such they will be given priority.
- 3./ As is well known the major factor that delays repatriation from overseas is the lack of shipping. This division is making every effort to secure such shipping and you may be assured that when these ships become available the medical and compassionate cases will be dealt with first.
- 4./ For your information, detailed plans have been laid for the mass repatriation of IPW in the British Empire and it is hoped that substantial repatriation from India will commence early in 1946.

4893

Italian Prisoners of War Civil Affairs Section
HQ ACP/IND 394

Dispatched
Log No 8879 DEC 13 1945

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

Copy to: Office of Executive Commissioner

PA
13/12

(COPY C) 13/12

9004

HMM/Is

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

(27)

IPW/1/7IND/152730 Oct. '45

NOV 1 1945

SUBJECT : Repatriation from INDIA
TO : Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1. Further to your Memo 6/4120/1901 dated 23 October '45
2. Before taking action on your request, will you please furnish the following information:
- a) Are the individuals referred to prisoners of war or civilian internees?
 - b) A nominal roll of the individuals in question
 - c) Reasons for which authority was granted for their release, e.g. compassionate or medical cases.
3. On receipt of this information your request will be considered and forwarded to the competent authorities.

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

4893

28

Copy to: Office of the Executive Commissioner

108 40

Dated 30 Oct 1945

HNDG 610001 OF MMR 610001-1000000

(Miss Sampson)

Translation

State Department
The Secretary General
19/06467/18

Dear Admiral,

I have just received your letter IPW/1/11/1081 of April 17th, in which you kindly inform me that Capt. POSITANO - indicated by me - has been the object of a request for repatriation from India.

I am most grateful for your kind communication, and I want to thank you for the personal interest you showed in this circumstance.

I remain, my dear Admiral,

Truly yours,

A. Prunas

Rome, 3 May 1945

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
Rome

e.o.

EC Dist - 5 MAY 45

ACTION: WMD + IPW SC

INFO: CHIEF, CMOR

EXEC CMOR

(MAY STNS)

PAGE 2

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the Chief Commissioner
APO 394

9004

Ref. IPW/1/11/1081

17 April 1945
APR 19 REC'D

My dear Signor Prunas,

With reference to your letter No. 19/04934/14 under date of 10 April 1945, I am pleased to inform you that this Headquarters is in receipt of a copy of a communication to the Commander-in-Chief, India asking that Capt. POSITANO be repatriated to Italy.

This letter was dated 24 March 1945. I cannot give you the actual estimated time of arrival of Capt. POSITANO, as his arrival in Italy is dependent upon the availability of shipping.

As soon as I am informed as to his estimated time of arrival I shall advise your office.

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLEBY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USN
Chief Commissioner

TO: Hon. R. PRUNAS
Secretary General
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
ROME

4890

1A
19/4

Translation

State Department,
The Secretary General
19/04951/H

Rome, 10 April 1945

APR 13 REC'D

Dear Admiral,

Captain Francesco Positano, prisoner in Bombay, n. 113056, Camp 26/1 P.O.W. C./O. C.O.P., finding himself in the required conditions, has been included in the last list of prisoners to be repatriated sent by the High Commissariat for prisoners of war to the Allied Commission.

His father, almost ninety years of age, is seriously ill and is at present in a Roman nursing home after submitting to a dangerous surgical operation.

It is therefore essential for the return of Captain Positano to take place without delay.

I therefore ask you, my dear Admiral, to intervene with the competent authorities to obtain a rapid and favourable solution to the above mentioned case.

Thanking you, I remain, my dear Admiral,

Yours sincerely,

S. R. Prunas

EC. DIST - APR 13 REC'D

Admiral Ellery Stone
Chief of the Allied Commission
Rome

S.C.

Action - WMD & IPW S/C
INFO - C. 4889
- Ex. Com.

9004

COS 23

In reply refer to:
IPW/1/233

4 November 1944

F7 NOV Recd

N/R

My Dear Sir Noel:

Reference your letter No. 6/103/44 dated 11 October 1944.

1. After careful consideration, and for the following reasons, I am of the opinion that it would be unwise to repatriate the 10,000 Italian Officer Prisoners of War en bloc from India to Italy at the present time.

a. There is no hope of absorbing them into the Army at its present strength.

b. A large number who belong to the North would become displaced persons.

c. The Press is likely to attack the Government or the Allies if officers only are repatriated.

d. The supply of clothing or the necessary material to make clothes is extremely short. We have to accept approximately 10,000 Italian soldiers from Greece and the Balkans during the next two weeks, and the necessary clothing for these men has not yet been supplied.

e. There would be a further 10,000 mouths to feed, a very considerable proportion of whom would be ineffectives.

2. If, however, it is a matter of urgency that a number of Italian Officers should be moved out of India, I suggest they might be diverted to South Africa and Kenya, since the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War complains that there are not sufficient officers to look after the welfare of the Italian Prisoners of War in the camps in these countries.

4888

LMT 7/11

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3. Furthermore, if lists of officers whom it is desired to repatriate could be forwarded, the Italian High Commissioner for Prisoners of War could examine the lists with a view to selecting those for whom immediate employment could be found in Italy and the return of these particular officers could then be requested. A number of officers have already been asked for and these should, I think, be repatriated immediately.

Very truly yours,

Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Consul General, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

Sir Noel Charles, St., RCMB,
British High Commissioner in Italy.

Copy to:
Civil Affairs Section
Political Section
Land Forces Sub-Commission
Public Relations Officer

> Chief of Staff
W.H.D. & I.R.O.W. s/c
"A" Files

Prepared by:

4887

Copy for 'A' Files sent 6 Nov 44.

21

Office of the Chief of Staff

Tel: 388

9004/22/COS

Repatriation of Italian Officer PW.

3 Nov 44

War Material Disposal & IFOW Sub-Comm.
(Attention: Lt.Col.Campbell)

1. The attached draft is approved by Acting Chief Commissioner and can now be typed and submitted for his signature on your file with a copy to Civil Affairs Section, Political Section, Land Forces Sub-Commission and P.R.O. and with the usual two extra copies for this office, vide para 4 (b) of Office Memorandum No.18 reference 65/41/COS of 24 October 44.

2. I enclose a copy of Sir Noel Charles' original letter dated 11 Oct 44 for your file.

Chief Staff Officer,
To the Chief of Staff.

4886

P/A 3 Nov 44

B/U 6 Nov 44

P/A

14

High Commissioner for PW

23 October 1944

File No. 1541/Pol/C.9

TO: Lt. Col. Campbell, A.C.C.,
ROME.

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Italian PW.

1/. Reference to the possibility you have told me about, to repatriate from India 10,000 officers, who cannot be employed in work-units, which were organised in India without any preliminary agreement with the Italian Government and without the latter being informed about the locality and the kind of work they were assigned to.

2/. You asked me if the Italian Government:

- a. is ready to accept such a group of officers,
- b. is ready to receive them altogether at the same time.

3/. The answer of the Italian Government is as follows:

- a. The Italian Government, as it informed you several times, is always ready to welcome all the PW whose repatriation is granted by the Allied authorities, and particularly those who, being PW in India, East Africa, South Africa and Australia, have been detained for a long time. Naturally, for obvious reasons, it would prefer that not only officers, but also enlisted men, be repatriated.
- b. With reference to the actual case, the officers may be repatriated in groups of 2000 or 3000, so as to make it possible to properly receive them and to find them a proper place in the national (civil and military) life.
- c. Those groups should be repatriated at intervals of at least three or four weeks.
- d. If so many officers would be repatriated, we beg you to still keep in mind the necessity to provide the above work-units with a sufficient number of officers.

On the basis of vague news and of what has been seen in the few work-units visited in Italy, we would observe that the number of officers in command is not sufficient.

28

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4/. We call attention to the fact that in the Italian Army the type of the British and American con-commissioned officer does not exist. Therefore, it is necessary to assign to each work-unit a greater number of officers, i.e. at least one Captain per every 200 men and one 1st or 2nd Lieutenant per every 40 or 50 men.

5/. Finally, it is necessary that where a great number of PW exists, either living in a camp or organised in work-units, an Italian Colonel or General, with some other officer, be assigned to it for the sake of the morale and the discipline, as well as for due protection of Italian PW, who if necessary, can be represented by officers of appropriate rank.

High Commissioner for PW

Sgd.

(Gen. Pietro Gazzera)

4884



*L'Alto Commissario
per i prigionieri di guerra*

Roma, 11 23 ottobre 1944

N° 1541/Pol./C.9 di prot.

OGGETTO : Rimpatrio prigionieri italiani.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
(per ten.colonn. Campbell)

R o m a

1. Taccio riferimento alla possibilità da Lei manifestatami di rimpatriare dall'India 10.000 ufficiali, che risulterebbero esuberanti alle unità di lavoro colà costituite senza preventivi accordi con il Governo Italiano e che il Governo Italiano non sa come e dove abbiato impiegate.

2. Ella ha chiesto se il Governo Italiano :

- 1° è disposto ad accettare tale blocco di ufficiali;
- 2° è disposto ad accettarli tutti in una volta.

3. La risposta del Governo Italiano è la seguente :

1° Il Governo Italiano, come più volte ha espresso, è sempre pronto a ricevere tutti i prigionieri di guerra che le Autorità Alleate consentono di rimpatriare, specialmente quelli che, trovandosi in India, Est Africa, Sud Africa, Australia sono da maggior tempo in prigionia.

Naturalmente, per evidenti ragioni, gradirebbe che non rimpatriassero solo degli ufficiali, ma anche dei militari di truppa.

2° Stando al caso concreto, l'arrivo degli ufficiali dall'India dovrebbe avvenire a blocchi di 2000 a 3000 per volta, specie se si tratta di ufficiali, per renderne possibile il ricevimento e la loro sistemazione nella vita nazionale (militare e civile).

3° Simili blocchi dovrebbero susseguirsi a distanza di almeno tre o quattro settimane l'uno dall'altro.

4° Nel caso di rimpatri di un così cospicuo numero di ufficiali, si prega di tener presente la necessità che le unità di lavoro siano inquadrare con un numero sufficiente di ufficiali.

Da vaghe notizie, e da quanto si è constatato nelle poche unità di lavoro visitate in Italia, il numero degli ufficiali che le inquadrano è insufficiente.

Occorre tener conto che nell'Esercito Italiano non esiste il tipo di sottufficiale che esiste invece presso l'Esercito Britannico ed Americano. E' quindi necessario destinare all'inquadramento di queste unità un maggior numero di ufficiali : almeno un capitano ogni 200 uomini e un tenente o sottotenente ogni 40 o 50 uomini.

5° Infine è necessario che dove esiste un rilevante numero di prigionieri di guerra, sia nei campi, che inquadrati in unità di lavoro, vi sia sempre un colonnello o un generale italiano con qualche ufficiale. Ciò per evidenti ragioni morali, disciplinari e per la doverosa tutela degli interessi dei prigionieri italiani, interesse che debbono, in caso di bisogno, poter essere autorevolmente rappresentati da ufficiali di grado adeguato.

L'ALTO COMMISSARIO
(Generale Pietro Gazzera).

Gazzera

War Material Disposal and
Italian Prisoner of War Sub-Commission
HQ A C, AP, 294 24 OCT 1944
Received
Log No 683

785020

SECRET

Subject: P. of W. INDIA.

Military Mission
Italian Army,
R O M E
AQ/11/1

18 Oct 44

19 OCT Recd

Chief of Staff, ACC.

Ref your 9004/6/COS dated 16 Oct.

1. I am against the return of these Officers because :-

(a) As Acting C.C. says, it would create an unfortunate impression to return only officers. One of the main troubles and weaknesses of the Italian Army has always been the lack of contact and camaraderie between man and officer, and the undue privileges afforded to or seized by the latter. Subversive or (so-called) anti-capitalist influences are bound to be widespread postwar and the ultimate aim for these must be to undermine the authority of the backbone of law and order, the Army. To return officers only would widen the gulf between officer and man, and play into the hands of subversive elements now and post-war.

(b) The absorption of these officers into the Army with its reduced ceiling or alternatively into civil life would present a very difficult problem. A few more thousand unemployed, disgruntled, even distressed officers at large does not seem to me to be a good proposition, if it can be avoided.

(c) Presumably such repatriation can not be entirely unilateral (i.e. for INDIA alone). If so, the return of a much larger number of officers exacerbates the problem.

2. In fact, both from the military and political point of view I think such repatriation could only cause trouble and difficulty, and we have enough "on our plate" in ITALY as it is.

3. On the other hand, considering the impossibility of Escape in INDIA, the vast manpower available for guards (which need not be numerous) and the relatively small drain on INDIA's resources caused by these 10,800, I do not think that the retention of these officers can really be very detrimental to INDIA's war effort. Their return would be far more detrimental to ours in ITALY.

D. Browning
Major General.

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(a) As Acting C.C. says, it would create an unfortunate impression to return only officers. One of the main troubles and weaknesses of the Italian Army has always been the lack of contact and camaraderie between man and officer, and the undue privileges afforded to or seized by the latter. Subversive or (so-called) anti-capitalist influences are bound to be widespread postwar and the ultimate aim for these must be to undermine the authority of the backbone of law and order, the Army. To return officers only would widen the gulf between officer and man, and play into the hands of subversive elements now and post-war.

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(c) Presumably such repatriation can not be entirely unilateral (i.e. for INDIA alone). If so, the return of a much larger number of officers exacerbates the problem.

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D. Browning

Major General.
M. M. I. A.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Ref : 243

18 October 1944

19 OCT Recd

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief of Staff

I would suggest replying to the British Ambassador that the ACC can see no objection to the proposal to return these 10,800 officers from their point of view. At the same time, British authorities will no doubt be aware that such action might give rise to the comment that the British Government favors the officer class at the expense of other ranks and publicity should be carefully handled or even avoided especially if the officers all come at approximately the same time.

4AC.

H. A. CACCIA
Vice President, Political Section

Bustle the A.S.C. Hearn DS 19/12

4881

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
CAMP
Office of the Chief of Staff.

Ref/900A/6/COS.

16 October 1944

SUBJECT : Repatriation - Italian POW India.

TO : Army Sub-Commission
Political Section

1. The attached Copies of Correspondence are forwarded.
2. May I know your reactions on this.

(Sgd) MS LUSH.

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

4888

9004

rod

I POW info.

EWS/dfe

A/CC 383.6-1

13 October 1944

15 OCT Reed

My dear Sir Noel:

Replying to your letter of 11 October with regard to the repatriation of some 11,000 officer prisoners of war, I am checking this matter with my colleagues and will communicate with you in a day or so.

Yours very sincerely,

ELLERY W. STONE
Commodore, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

Sir Noel Charles, Bt., K.C.M.G.
British High Commissioner in Italy
British Embassy
84 Via Venti Settembre
Rome

Make file copies :
cc : C of S, A files

4879

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Office of the Acting Chief Commissioner
APO 394

EWS/afe

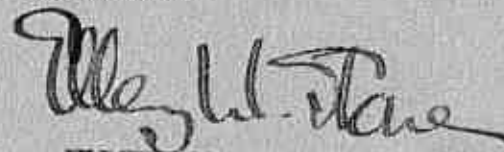
A/CC 383.6-1

13 October 1944

14 OCT Recd

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief of Staff

With reference to the attached will you kindly get the reaction of General Browning and the Political Section. At a time when the Italian Government are pressing for the general repatriation of their prisoners of war, I think it might have a somewhat unfortunate effect to return only officers. It is likely to be felt that the British Government favors the officer class at the expense of other ranks. However, I shall be guided by your recommendations.



ELLERY W. STONE
Commodore
Acting Chief Commissioner

cc: 'A' Files

See 6

4878

1 spare copy held

6/103/44

R O M E.

11th October, 1944

My dear Commodore,

In accordance with our conversation of yesterday I am writing to inform you that the Indian Government have some 10,800 Italian officer prisoners of war for whom it is not possible to find employment, and since they need guards, food and accommodation, their continued detention is detrimental to India's war effort. As it is expected that shipping may become available it is desired to repatriate these officers, with the exception of those who may be known Fascists.

The British authorities realise, however, that there may be political difficulties which should be taken into consideration, against the obvious advantages of the proposal. I am therefore requested to consult you and your advisers before any approach is made to the Italian Government.

I should be grateful if you could favour me with your advice which I have been requested to forward to my Government as soon as possible.

*Believe me
yours very sincerely*

Paul Charles
4677

Commodore Ellery W. Stone, USNR.
Allied Commission.

