

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

ACC

10000/109/1236

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No.

785017

236

FUTURE OF ITALIAN POW DIVISION
MAY-DEC. 1946

82.

Chief Commissioner.

To see Folio 37.

I consider that this proposal is most unnecessary and quite unsound. It is anticipated that repatriation of British held IPW will be completed by the end of February 1947. For many months afterwards claims and other matters will arise and GHQ will not last long enough to cover that phase.

Moreover the files and records are AC records and strictly speaking if the organisation passes to GHQ it should start a new set of files which will result in the records being split.

This case is not parallel to the American one because GHQ, unlike PWS, have no records referring to claims made by British held IPW.

I presume the proposal is made on the basis that the matter is a British & not an Allied responsibility but I cannot see the object of making a change in the closing down phase

*M. J. Carr,
Brigadier,
Exec. Comm.*

15 Dec 46.

90 DEC 16 1946

F.C.

Col. Hadden proposes to reconsider #87 & will advise further

Jus

16/XII

628

Para. 5 of the draft (and the penultimate para. of the record) does not represent exactly what I had understood to be the decision of the meeting, which was, namely, that the tentative date of handing over to the Embassy should be postponed and the whole question reconsidered on March 31st 1947 or the date ~~on which the Peace Treaty~~ of ratification of the Peace Treaty, whichever comes first.

W.H.H. Handley
 Poland B
 26th Nov. 1946. G282

C.S.O. to E.C.

Concur.

81

G281

W.H.H. Handley

26th Nov. 1946

26 NOV 1946

RECEIVED

COM

ITALY

(Civil Rights A.O.)

The date of ratification of the Peace Treaty, whichever comes first.

HAT-Hawkey
Polad B
26 Nov. 1946.

81
Concur.

MR. Phillips
6281
ITALY
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
PROCESSES OF WAR
DIVISION
(Civil Rights Admin)

26 NOV 46

88.

Ex Comm

See p 87. This, so far as I am aware, is quite a new proposal & seems absurd.

H.S. 14/12

Minute 77

Polad A
Polad B
IPW Div. MIA

} By *hand in temporary jacket*

⁷⁵

Folio 2 is passed to you for study prior to despatch to G-5,

AFHQ.

Please return to this office as early as possible with comments and/or concurrence.

A copy of the minutes ⁷⁵of the meeting referred to in Folio 2 are also forwarded herewith for your retention.

1.76

S/Maxwell Smith.
Lt. Colonel,
Chief Staff Officer.
628.

25 Nov. 1946

Chief Staff Officer: 79

It was my understanding that the meeting agreed that the position should be reviewed on March 31 or on ratification of the peace treaty, whichever was earlier. At such review, date for Timor would be set. Therefore I believe para 5 of the draft should be amended to read along some such lines as these:

"Therefore recommended that the existing arrangements should continue for the present and that the position should be reviewed, with a view

25 Nov. 1946

Chief Staff Officer: 79

It was my understanding that the meeting agreed that the position should be reviewed on March 31 or on ratification of the peace treaty, whichever was earlier. As such review, date for turnover would be set. Therefore I believe para 5 of the draft should be amended to read along some such lines as these:

"It is therefore recommended that the existing arrangements should continue for the present and that the position should be reviewed, with a view to planning a turnover, on March 31, 1946^{or} upon ratification of the Peace Treaty, whichever is earlier."

Otherwise the draft appears fine.

Jalsacane
J. H. L. (A)
11/26.

TO :

~~CSO~~ Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
APO 704, US Army

69

of letter opposite,

also
1. It is the desire of MIA to complete the work of its Italian Prisoners of War Division by the end of the year. The ~~letter~~ *opposite* forth one of the problems of the Division which is an obstacle to the completion of its work. The claims referred to are all claims or potential claims against the United States. I suggest that the letter might properly be referred through appropriate channels to the Commanding General MACUSA as a matter which pertains exclusively to US military administration.

6/11/46

Norman E. Fiske

NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel, Cavalry
Deputy Director
7/10/48

70

State CC who agreed to proceed action

McCauley
EC

12/21/48

71

*CSO. Letter opposite for signature please in
accordance with the E.C. draft.
Copy will be attached to H.O. file after
signature. RWT*
14/11

CSO

74

12/21/48
M. C. C. C. C.
EC

11

C.S.O. Letter apposite for signature please in
accordance with the E.C. draft.
Copy will be attached to 11 P.O. file, after
signature. AWK
14/11

74

C.S.O.
If the last para of ~~folio~~ 73, the conference
has been arranged for 1600 hrs Monday 18/11.
Folad A. may bring the U.S. and attack. so you
and Cal begin to be informed, please AWK
Col Piddley informed. H.S. 14/11

1325

5a

C.S.A. Ex. Comm.

Letter at folio 48 for signatures, please
in accordance with approved draft.

ack 23/9
WRE

51.

SEP 23 1946

Chief Commissioner.

Enclosed
minutes is submitted for signature
information.

M Carr Brigadier
A/Br. Comm 23/9/46

6276

63

C.S.A. Ex. Comm.

Folio 62 and encls. for info, please.

You will note that although
Col Regis only mentions an Appendix 'A',
in his statement, he has also attached
Appendices 'B' & 'C'.

H.S. 30/10 Voted M Carr

Chief Commissioner.

Enclosed
is submitted for signature
information.

6270

McLann Brigadier
Attn. Comm 23/9/46.

63

C.S.O. Ex Confm.

folio 62 and encls. for info, please.

You will note that attempt Attn 30/10

Col Regis only mentions an Appendix 'A' in his statement, he has also attached
appendices 'B' & 'C'.

H.L. 30/10

Noted McLann
W. T. Day.

48

TO: Chief Commissioner.

19th September, 1946

1. At Folio 47 is the draft letter which you agreed should form the basis of your discussion with Colonel Hamblen on the subject of Lt. Colonel Regis.

I think the strongest point is that marked "A". paragraph 5. There is more than an American element. Not only has the IFW Division to deal with some outstanding claims affecting IFWs formerly in US hands, but it has also the responsibility for a very large number of claims made by Italian S.E.F. in this country.

Actually Lt. Colonel Regis is very shortly visiting the 88th Division on orders from F.S.S. in regard to these S.E.F. claims.

I feel Colonel Hamblen must be quite unaware of this, and I consider it essential that there should be an American officer with the IFW Division.

2. You may also like to ask Colonel Hamblen whether he can give any assistance in finding a suitable American officer of the rank of full Colonel to take charge of the Economic Section or Branch as it will probably be under the new organization.

The reason why a full Colonel is required is that there is already one full Colonel (A) in the Branch, but he is a coal specialist. Other Sub-Branches are in charge of Lieutenant-Colonels.

Even if the Allied Commission is abolished I feel that any G-5 Section or organization which follows Allied Commission will require a good officer in charge of the Economic Branch in view of its A.M.C. supply functions, outstanding U.K.M. matters, finance and other residual functions.

M Carr Brigadier

M. CARR, Brigadier.
Acting Executive Commissioner.

6273

1323

45
Chief Commissioner

You will notice that Es on p 44 repeat the
case made by you on p 36. This nationalisation
or disintegration of the Commission smacks of the
financial policy in which I have written (adversely) in
another file. To reason it out Refers arbitrarily
in this way is, in my opinion, an intrusion
upon your functions which is intolerable. You
must just as well be told that you & C & A
(Britain) is to deal only with such questions
as affect Italy. British questions. You & you
only can be the judge as to what office in
your commission should perform the various
but

In this way is, in my opinion, an intrusion upon your functions which is intolerable. You might just as well be told that you & CIA (British) is to deal only with such questions as affect NATO. British questions. You & you only can be the judge as to what officers in your commission should perform the various functions of the commission & if you choose to assign 4 US officers in 9 POW & 2 British officers to enquire into allegations against U.S. troops in Khe Sanh (say) that is your affair as Commander & not that of a staff section.

May I draft a very polite letter accordingly?
 Yes (9/5)

SWC
 MC

34
Chief Staff Officer.

1. Para 2(b) of this letter refers to the functions of IPW Section.

I presume it was the intention to include this. There is a paper at folio 13 on functions but it is not clear whether this is the paper to be included. In any case, the paragraph numbers of folio 13 will have to be removed, otherwise it looks like an incomplete document.

I presume the statement in para 3 of folio 13 that many claims regarding credit balances for ex-IPW in US hands are still being dealt with is now correct.

2. Please check with IPW Section.

W. Pan Bopalan
for Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

31 July, 1945.

6090

³⁵
Ref num 34. The appendix to letter at folio 36 is now complete. Many claims of ex IPW's in U.S. hands are still pending. Letter at folio 36 for signature, please. *W.B.*
2/5

39

C.S.O.

Action was directed by 6271

6030 ³⁵
Ref min 34. The appendix to letter of folio 36
is now complete. Many claims of ex 190's in U.S.
hands are still pending
Letter at folio 36 for signature, please. MSK
2/5

39
C.S.O.
Action as directed by CC 271
LO transmission to AFMA MSK
1/15/68

esp. Ex Comm. MSK 3/6/40
Ref min 39. Letter at folio 40 for signature
please. in reply to 4 38. MSK 6/8
AS awarded MSK 2/5

MINUTE NO. 29

29 July 1946

To: Chief Commissioner.

You saw a draft letter on the subject of the future of the I.P.W. Section of the Land Forces Sub-Commission, and of the question of the retention of Lt. Colonel Regis in the Section and decided that the previous letter (Draft at 9 A) should not go forward - see your Minute 20.

Since your Minute, Field B has stated that the British Embassy cannot accept responsibility now (Minute 22).

At 23 is a fresh draft letter for your consideration giving our views. The letter suggests that either the IPW Section (MIA) must continue or "A" branch (H) must set up a Section here to take over the responsibility.

This new draft leaves out specific mention of the question of Lt. Colonel Regis, although it is raised indirectly by reference to the MIOUSA signal and the present establishment of IPW Section which includes one US Officer.

It is considered that the future of the IPW Section should be determined and the question of the retention of Lt. Col. Regis be dealt with as a separate issue.

McLarr Brigadier
Acting Executive Commissioner

The letter suggests that either the IPW Section (MICA) must continue or "A" branch CFF must set up a Section here to take over the responsibility.

This new draft leaves out specific mention of the question of Lt. Colonel Regis, although it is raised indirectly by reference to the MICA signal and the present establishment of IPW Section which includes one US Officer.

It is considered that the future of the IPW Section should be determined and the question of the retention of Lt. Col. Regis be dealt with as a separate issue.

McLarr Brigadier
Acting Executive Commissioner

30

Issue as amended.

62711

esp. Ex Comm.
Ref min 29+30. Letter for signature at.
folio 34, please. Aug 30/7. H. 30/7

311

Executive Commissioner.

Reference Minute 21.

We spoke (Baird, Carr - Col. P. J. & F. J. & F. J.)

After considering everybody's views ^{we} I feel the original draft letter to ANHQ is now inappropriate. I attach at 24(a) suggested new draft letter.

W. P. J. & F. J.
Col. P. J. & F. J.

25.

Land Jones SK,

The Acting Ex Comm requests that you submit this suggested new draft in correct draft form i.e. double-spaced and marked draft.

L. W. H. H. Smith
St. Col.

22/7.

26

~~Min. or Ex Co~~

Ex Comm

New draft submitted herewith as requested.

See m's 24 + 25.

23/7

W. H. Gillmore

ATC

W. H. A

W. H. A

1335

and marked draft.

P. B. Hunt - Amherst
Lt. Col.

22/7.

26

~~Amherst~~ Ex Co
Ex Company

New draft submitted herewith as requested.

See m's 24 + 25.

23/7

Att. Gillmore Lt. Col.

ATAC

MMIA

JS:247

6209

POLAD (A)
POLAD (B)
Land Forces S/C.

Please see Minutes 19 and 20 and draft of new paras 5 and 6 of the letter which it is proposed to issue to AFHQ. I shall be glad of Polad's concurrence.

10. July. 46.

22

MSL

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

The repatriation of POW's is, in the British Embassy view, a military function. Principle apart, the Dix: Embassy has no physical accommodation for such an organization. I see no advantage in letting it be thought that the Embassy would be able or willing to take over the responsibility, or suggest that if the letter is to be sent off, para 5 as redrafted might be altered.

~~Grant~~

Polad B. 16/7

23

C 50 I have no objection to the draft to G-5
and minimal paras. 5 & 6. However

Dir: Embassy has no physical accommodation for such an organization.) See no advantage in letting it be thought that the Embassy would be able or willing to take over the responsibility. I suggest that if the letter is to be sent off, para 5 as redrafted might be altered.

~~Draft~~ 10/16/77

13

C 50 I have no objection to the draft to G-5 as amended by revised paras. 5 & 6. Paragraph para. 3 now seems somewhat inconsistent with last 2 paragraphs (revised) & I suggest the draft would prove a better letter with para. 3 omitted altogether.

W. E. Jones
Col. A.D. (Am)
July 17/46

17/1

30 13 E L

Page 12. here with

[Signature]

1-15-82

5 Jul. 46 18-

Ex Comm.

Letter offsite (folio 16) submitted for signature.
This has been prepared by Land Force S/C
as a result of Gen Browning's letter at
4 4 (m's 6 & 7 refer) & also signed at
4 9 (m's 10 & 11 refer) H.S. 617

19

Chief Commissioner.

1. Since drafting this letter I have had a long discussion with Colonel PARSONS and Brigadier DREW. Both are of the opinion that the functions of the IPW Section cannot be regarded as residual functions of the Allied Commission. Colonel PARSONS is quite certain that US personnel will not be provided. Both recommended that any Allied intervention should be managed either by the Embassies or by "A" Branch or G-4 Section of AFHQ, and that if necessary the British personnel in the Section should be transferred either to "A" Branch, GHQ CME or the British Embassy. FAN 650 ruled that the functions of this Section were to be eliminated or transferred to AFHQ.

2. In the light of the above, do you wish the letter to be

19

19

- 10

10

726

726

Fig. 8

Fig. 8

$$q/v^4$$
$$q/v^4$$

Chief Commissioner.

I discussed the subject of the attached telegram at your political meeting this morning and submit draft letter to AFHQ to be signed by you. You will notice the addition I have made at the bottom of para 3.

1. July. 46.

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

E.C.

Approved with pencilled changes
GWS

2/VII

Land Forces S/C

Draft returned to you with additional amendments made by C.C. and E.C.

Please now submit for signature of C.C.

L. B. H. Smith
Lt. Col.

2/7

7.

Chief Commissioner 4

Approved
Attached is submitted for your information
signature

The wheel turns full circle!

Shall we fight?

7 W/246

F.C. yes - his memo is good, I am original
12/14 views have been proved sound acc

8.

C.S.O.

Please put up recommendation. W/246

6286

6-63

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

21.5

E. Lee
Sin. letter at ~~the~~ ⁴ was brought down by Lt. Col. Regis
who had been asked by Gen. Browning to submit
it direct to you.

J. 26/6
1/28

G.

9013 5
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 900.43

4 December 1946

SUBJECT: Transfer of responsibility for IPW
Division of ALCOM.

TO : GHQ CMP.

Reference your 3821/A2 of November addressed to
British Political Advisor and Allied Commission letter 9013/
82/HC of 3 December 1946, copy attached.

1. As stated in paragraph 6 of the Allied Commission's
letter, responsibility for all American IPW matters is being
transferred from MMIA to PMS, leaving the IPW Division as a
purely British organization, engaged on purely British business.
In these circumstances, we do not think that it is proper for
the IPW Division, now minus its US element, to remain an
integral part of MMIA which is responsible to the Chief Com-
missioner, who is an American officer.

2. It is therefore proposed that the IPW Division
should be made responsible to GHQ CMP and not to the Chief Com-
missioner, Allied Commission. There is however no apparent
objection to the Division remaining attached to MMIA for all
administrative purposes. You are requested to consider the
above proposal and to furnish your comments as soon as possible.
If you concur in the proposal, you are requested to notify this
Headquarters at the same time of any points which you wish to
be included in the APHQ Directive notifying the transfer of
responsibility.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEE:

A. D. Hamblen
A. D. HAMBLEN
Colonel, G.S.C.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5

Copy to:

ALCOM
British Political Advisor
G-3 (APHQ)

E.C. Dist. 13/12/46

EC 6281
M.M.I.A.
Ex O. (A)
Polad 'A'
Polad 'B'

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 79
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref. IPH/1/5N/639

10 December 1946

SUBJECT: IPH Division

TO : ALLIED FORCES HEADQUARTERS
Attention G-5 Section

Reference is made to your letters G-5:970.31-IP dated 25th November 1946, and G-5:900.43 dated 30th November 1946.

1. In view of your instructions that no U.S. personnel, military or civilian, in ALCOM will be assigned duties pertaining to PW or their claims, steps have been taken to inform all concerned that, effective 1st December 1946, no responsibility for matters in connection with PW previously in U.S. custody will be taken by the Allied Commission.

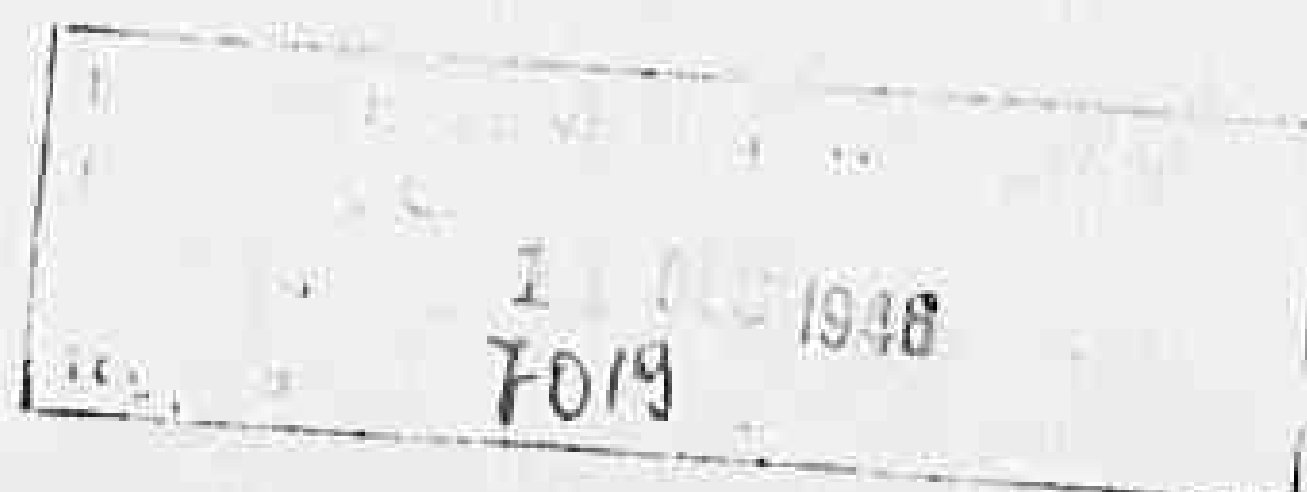
Attached herewith is a copy of the letter notifying the new procedure.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Copy: Ex. Com.
Archives Div.
Executive Officer (1)

6262



7013 46 4111
85
LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
M.M.I.A.
ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

IPW/53/439

10 Dec. '46

SUBJECT : Financial Claims of Italian PW released from US custody.

TO :- Ministry of Post War Assistance (Financial Office)

1. Effective 1st Dec 46 there will be no U.S. personnel in the Allied Commission at Rome to deal with the financial claims of repatriated Italian PW previously held by the United States, nor to deal with any correspondence relative to PW held by U.S. The responsibility for these matters is being assumed by Commanding General Peninsular Base Section U.S. Army, LEGHORN.
2. All correspondence on this subject should therefore be addressed to Commanding General Peninsular Base Section, LEGHORN. As there is no longer any staff at HQ Allied Commission, any correspondence received by the Commission is likely to be seriously delayed.
3. There will be no change in the procedure for dealing with British held Italian PW.

W.R. Phillips
Major-General
Comd. Land Forces
Sub Commission, A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)

Copy to:- Ministry of War (Gen. Mannerini)
" " Italian Red Cross (PW Bureau)
" " AFHQ (05,970,31-1P, dtd 25 Nov. 46 refers)
" " HQ A.C. (for Exec. Comm.)
" " Allied Financial Agency, Rome.
" " CG PBS Leghorn

6259
10 DEC 1946
704

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

9013 142
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

DEC 3 1946
94616 330

84

G-5: 900.43

30 November 1946

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War Division.

TO : Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
APO 794,
(Attn: Land Forces Sub-Commission (IPW Div)).

Reference 9013/49/EC, 24 September 1946. 49

1. Orders have been issued by this Headquarters transferring Lt. Colonel James E. Regis from IPW Division of the Land Forces Sub-Commission to PBS, EICMR 30 November 1946.

2. The files pertaining to the accounts of U.S. held PW's, now in ALCOM IPW Division will be physically transferred to PBS (AXTC'S SEPTE).

3. Mutual arrangements will be made between ALCOM and PBS for the physical transfer of the records from ALCOM.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEE:

A. L. HAMBLEY
Colonel, G.S.C.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5

Copy to:
C.G., PBS

EC Dist.

ACTION: LFSC
INFO : E.C. ✓
ARCHIVES
EX-O (A)

6-202

3/12

C20

PA 1/2
1/2

1347
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

83
HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: 9013/AC

29 November 1946.

TO: Land Forces Subcommission.

The attached copy of a letter from AFHQ, G-5, is passed to you for information and retention.

78
J. W. V. Galt
Lt. Colonel. *na*
Chief Staff Officer.

6257

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No.

785017

BEST COPY POSSIBLE

Ref: 2011/2/21

3 copies: 1 file

SUBJECT: Future of the Division

TO : ADJUTANT GENERAL

Attention: 2-2 Section.

Reference is made to your letter 2-5: 200.43 dated 4 September 1946.

1. A meeting was held recently in order to determine the extent to which the Abnadies would be prepared to take over the residual functions of the 1st Division after 31 December 1946 as directed in para 3 of your letter under reference. This meeting was attended by the Political Advisers and representatives of Abnadies. A paper prepared by the 1st Division showing the present position of registration and other activities, together with a forecast of future work, was considered at the meeting. A copy is forwarded for your information.

2. As a result of this meeting it was ascertained from the Political Advisers that the Abnadies were not willing to take over the residual functions of the 1st Division with effect from January 1947 for the following main reasons common to both Abnadies:-

- (a) That the functions of the 1st Division were largely a military commitment and should be carried out by the military as long as they were able to do so.
- (b) That the outstanding commitments were likely to be greater at the end of 1946 than was at any one time thought. After the stage of actual registration there remained considerable work in regard to settlement of claims in respect of residences not received, property impounded and not returned etc.
- (c) That the breaking up of an integrated staff and the separation of records into American and British elements would be most unrecommended at this stage.

3. As far as the British Embassy was concerned the following points in particular were raised:-

- 2 -

- (a) There was no military attitude to carry out this work nor was there any indication from the British Government as to when a military attitude might be expected.
- (b) The proposal contained in the United Nations' letter 301/34-1 dated 6 August 1946 that the British Embassy should take over at the end of 1946 was based on a forecast that all prisoners of war still remaining in the British Empire would be repatriated before the end of this year. It was now known that repatriation would not be completed until February 1947 at the earliest.

4. As far as the British Embassy was concerned it was pointed out at the meeting that although there was a military attitude at the Embassy his work was of a special nature and did not cover Italian prisoners of war.

5. The American and British Ambassadors therefore recommended that the existing arrangements should continue for the present and that the position should, with a view to planning a take over, be reviewed on March 31, 1947 or upon ratification of the Peace Treaty, whichever is the earlier.

6. Since the holding of the meeting to consider this matter which resulted in the recommendations contained in this letter, notification has been received under your letter 6-9: 970,34-1 dated 23 October 1946 that the files of the 1st Division, affecting claims against the United States are to be transferred to Consular Case Section. This would appear to dispose of the U.S. commitment and relieve the U.S. Embassy of any obligation to take over any residual functions of the 1st Division.

To: Ellery W. Stone

ELDERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USN
Chief Commissioner

Copy to: Chief Commissioner.
Filed (A)
Filed (B)
Laid over 3/5.

ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISIONAllied CommitmentWork outstanding as at 9 November 19461. BRITISH:

- a) The present state of repatriation of IWM in British hands is as follows:-

<u>British Held</u>	<u>Held originally</u>	<u>Repatriated</u>	<u>To be Repatriated</u>
England & Scotland	158,029	156,608	NIL (remainder released in U.K.)
N. Africa	43,152	43,152	NIL
E. Africa	42,657	29,326	13,031
S. Africa	40,285	25,544	14,741
Middle East	58,424	59,444	NIL
India	33,302	29,035	3,467
Australia	17,657	3,929	13,728
Gibraltar	541	526	15
Perale	2,000	2,000	NIL
TOTAL:-	396,307	350,901	44,982

Although reports have been received through various Italian Authorities indicating that mass repatriation will take place in Dec/Jan., no plans have yet been furnished to the Italian Prisoners of War Division; in fact the only outstanding notification held is a matter of 600 Italian PW who will arrive from Australia on 20th Nov. The fact remains therefore that, as of 20 Nov. '46, 45,000 IWM in British hands will await repatriation and for these no plans are held. In addition there are 2,500 IWM who were "voluntarily deferred" by GHQ MEF (in spite of the Italian War Ministry's protest) and who are now understood to be in PALESTINE.

- b)
- FINANCE
- (See appx. 'A' for latest information regarding repatriation)

1730 requests from the Italian Government, for confirmation of credit balances of IWM, are outstanding; answers are still awaited from the various PW Accounts Office. In addition to this, some 2,500 similar requests are expected; this information has been received from the Italian Authorities, who are preparing the claims at the moment. It should be noted that each claim takes an average of 30/60 days to settle.

Requests for return of impounded properties not returned) on repatriation:-
Claims processed and not yet settled;.....950.
Claims which will be received in the future.....

TOTALS-

395,307

350,904

44,982

Although reports have been received through various Italian Authorities indicating that mass repatriation will take place in Dec/Jan., no plans have yet been furnished to the Italian Prisoners of War Division; in fact the only outstanding notification held is a matter of 600 Italian PW who will arrive from Australia on 20th Nov. The fact remains therefore that, as of 20 Nov. '46, 45,000 IWW in British hands will await repatriation and for these no plans are held. In addition there are 2,500 IWW who were "voluntarily deferred" by GMR HQF (in spite of the Italian War Ministry's protest) and who are now understood to be in PALESTINE.

b) FINANCER (See annex. 'A' for latest information regarding repatriation)

1730 requests from the Italian Government, for confirmation of credit balances of IWW, are outstanding; answers are still awaited from the various PW Accounts Office. In addition to this, some 2,500 similar requests are expected; this information has been received from the Italian authorities, who are preparing the claims at the moment. It should be noted that each claim takes an average of 30/60 days to settle.

Requests for return of impounded properties not returned on repatriation:-

Claims processed and not yet settled:-.....950.

Claims which will be received in the near future:-..... 8,000

Claims for non receipt of remittances, tracing of same etc:-

Requests to be settled:-..... 250

Requests that will be received later:-.....1000

c) COMPASSIONATE & WELFARE CASES

Approximately 300 compassionate cases are pending (some since 1945). This entails investigation of families of PW to ascertain whether they are in any of the categories laid down which warrant priority in repatriation of the prisoner on compassionate grounds, correspondence with the GMR HQF and, in some cases, the Command concerned.

Welfare cases require the handling of fifteen letters per day in connection with the whereabouts of PW, news, various certificates, apart from the forwarding of mail to PW and messages from PW to their families.

a) S. TROLPANS & R. TRIATION OF SPECIALISTS & TASCALAS.

The majority of S. Troleane have been released, but some are still interned in camps in Italy, either as C.I. suspects, or, War-Crime-Witnesses; in this question correspondence is maintained with the Italian Authorities.

Out of 70 cases for early release of specialists from Austria, S. Africa, only 2 per cent have been repatriated. Many applications for the release of Fascists on compassionate grounds are still received and have to be investigated.

2. UNITED STATES

a) All U.S. held Italian PW have been repatriated. (125,500, with the exception of a few hospital cases in the U.S.A.)

b) FINANCE

i) Requests for original certificates of credit and claims for remittances not received:-

Already received and not settled.....5,200
To be received in the near future.....2,000/3,000

ii) There are 40,000 PW who have had only 50% of their credits paid, at the rate of exchange of Lire 100 or 18 per £, and who have yet to receive the other 50% from the U.S. Government. The amount of money involved is approx. £ 12,000,000.

iii) Requests for impounded properties not returned on repatriation:-

Already received and not settled.....1,500.
To be received in the near future.....2,500.

c) NEW NATIONALS & RELEASE OF GERMAN PW IN ITALY.

About 100 names of German PW who claim Italian Nationality have been submitted to the Ministry of Interior for verification. This would take from 6 to 8 months to complete, as every single case has to be examined by the Prefect and the Police Authorities of the addresses given by the applicant.

In connection with the release of German PW in Italy, over 200 cases are being investigated by the Italian Government. This involves screening reports of every individual, verification of facts besides enquiries have to be filed with every addressee of applicant shown on his request.

3. OTHERS (Allied Countries).

Russia

Italian Government was informed originally that 20,000

0253

have yet to receive the amount of money involved is approx. \$12,000,000.

iii) Requests for impounded properties not returned on repatriation -
Already received and not settled.....1,500.
To be received in the near future.....2,500.

e) THE NATIONALS & RELEASE OF GERMAN PW IN ITALY.

About 100 names of German PW who claim Italian Nationality have been submitted to the Ministry of Interior for verification. This would take from 6 to 8 months to complete, as every single case has to be examined by the Prefect and the Police Authorities of the addresses given by the applicant.

In connection with the release of German PW in Italy, over 200 cases are being investigated by the Italian Government. This involves screening reports of every individual, verification of facts besides enquiries have to be filed with every addressee of applicant shown on his request.

3. OTHERS (Allied Commitment).

Russia Italian Government was informed originally that 20,000 PW were held. 7,487 of this number have still to be repatriated. Furthermore, no information can be obtained regarding the remnants of the Italian Expeditionary Force, originally 120,000 strong.

Balkans Out of a total of 100,000 PW, (first estimate), 10,000 await repatriation. Since they are unaccounted for, it is believed that they are still in Yugoslavia.

France Some 4,000 Italian PW in France have not returned to Italy. These are remnants of the 4th Army who were discharged in France with civil contracts for six months. This period has long expired....

6250

~~SECRET~~ There are still 9,000 IPW in Germany (in the various zones)

b) Other work in connection with Italian PW, not held by the United States or Great Britain, includes the finding of those missing and the procuring of death and other certificates.

4. No further forecast of outstanding work as at 31 Dec '46 can yet be given, but since no definite plans have been received for repatriation it is expected that there will be little change in the work to be done; apart from this, the welfare and finance work will still be outstanding.

J. R. HENNES
Lt. Col.
Chief
PW Div.

9 Dec '46

6252

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

ANZUS "A" Series "1954 position" Summary Data - 1954

Country	Site	Pop. 1954	Remarks
India	Chennai	1001	END 6 Dec. (3 officers, 28 men left in India. To be repatriated as soon as space available in troop ship.)
Australia	Stanthmore	1500	END early Dec.
"	Hobart Bay	200	END late Dec.
"	Perth	400	END 8 Nov.
"	Canberra	2200	END mid Dec. (awaiting all available medical cases).
"	Alameda	3023	END late Dec.
"	Alameda	3710	END late Dec.
"	Canberra	1200	END late Dec.
S. Africa	Graham	500	END late Nov.
"	Mabija	3900	END mid Dec.
"	Mabija	1600	END late Dec.
"	Mabija Victory	1400	END late Dec.
"	Mabija Victory	1200	END early Jan.
"	Mabija Victory	3100	END mid Jan.
"	Mabija Victory	1420	END mid Jan.
E. Africa	Stanford Victory	1420	END 27 Nov.
"	San Paul	1366	END 16 Dec.
"	India Victory	1501	END mid Dec.
"	Canberra	2200	END late Dec.
"	Stanthmore	2800	END late Dec.
		13,385	

3772
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9013 8V

NOV 27 1946
EX. COMM.
78

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

G-5: 970.31-1 P

25 November 1946

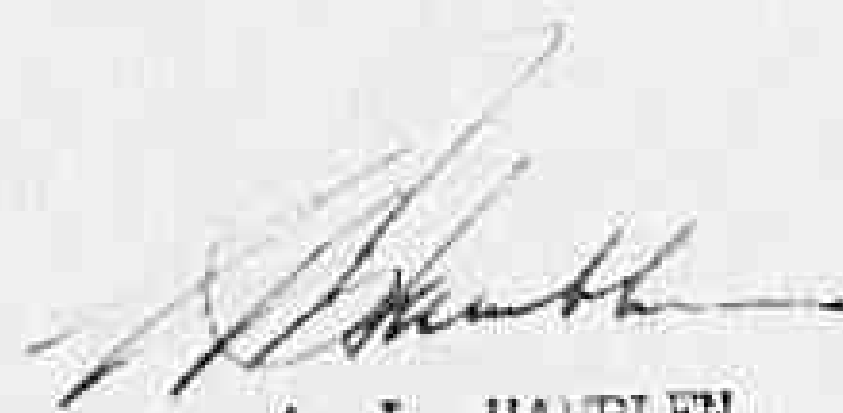
SUBJECT: Properties of Italian Prisoners of War
belonging to the Republican Army.

TO : Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
APO 794.

72
1. Reference your letter, Italian Prisoners of War Division, file 9013/68/EC, dated 14 November 1946. The acceptance by the IPW Division, ALCOM, of claims from members of the Italian Republican Army instead of passing them to the proper U. S. authority appears to be one reason for the delay in finalizing the problem. Instructions are now being issued transferring Lt. Col. Regis and the files of the IPW division affecting claims against the United States, to the Peninsular Base Section.

2. In the future no U. S. personnel, military or civilian in ALCOM will be assigned duties pertaining to prisoners of war or their claims.

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEE:



A. L. HAMBLER
Colonel, G.S.C.
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5

6250

PA 12
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Cgo

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT H.Q. ARMED COMMISSION ON 13 NOVEMBER 1946
to DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION M.M.I.A.

PRESENT:

Delegation Camp
Lt. Col. Hind-Guth
Colonel Pisto
Lt. Col. Regis
Major Phillips
Colonel Williams
Mr. Greene
Mr. Hankey

Executive Commissioner, A.C.
Chief Staff Officer to Ex. Comm.
D/Comm. M.M.I.A.
Director, I.P.W. Division M.M.I.A.
D/Director I.P.W. Division, M.M.I.A.
U.S. Military Attache.
U.S. Political Advisor.
British Political Advisor.

Executive Commissioner opened the meeting by stating that in September 1945 Army had proposed that all American personnel should be withdrawn from the I.P.W. Division and the American commitment handed over to some other agency. Allied Commission had previously agreed to Army that the American commitment had virtually ceased and it was later found that there was a considerable contingent in respect of claims. Allied Commission had then proposed to Army that the I.P.W. commitments, both American and British, should be handed over to the Embassy at the end of 1946. The meeting had been called to find out to what extent the Embassies were prepared to take over these commitments at the end of 1946, and to discuss a paper put forward by I.P.W. Division on the matter.

Mr. Hankey stated that the British Embassy's view was that as this was largely a military commitment and as the British Government had not expressed their views on the provision of a Military Attache, under whose department this commitment would come if it was taken over by the Embassy, they felt that until such time as they obtained the opinion of the Foreign Office and the War Office on the provision of a Military Attache they could not take over this commitment. Mr. Hankey said that it was his understanding that the actual repatriation of Italian P.W. would be completed from British Dominions and colonies by the end of 1946, however, the shipping situation was very serious and had held up the repatriation programme and at the present time no information was available as to the future shiping availability.

Lt. Colonel Regis said that the British Government had stated that all British held P.W. would be repatriated from the Dominions by the end of January 1947 or mid February.

...it was later found that ...
 ...of claims. ...
 ...the IAW committee. ...
 ...the end of 1946. ...
 ...been called to find out to what extent the ...
 ...to take over these commitments at the end of 1946, and to discuss a
 paper put forward by IAW Division on the matter.

Mr. Hankey stated that the British Embassy's view was that this was largely a military commitment and as the British Government had not expressed their views on the provision of a Military Attaché, under whose department this commitment would come if it was taken over by the Embassy, they felt that until such time as they obtained the opinion of the Foreign Office and the War Office on the provision of a Military Attaché they could not take over this commitment. Mr. Hankey said that it was his understanding that the actual repatriation of Italian R.A. would be completed from British Dominions and colonies by the end of 1946. However, the shipping situation was very serious and had held up the repatriation programme and at the present time no information was available as to the future shipping availability.

Lt. Colonel Hogg said that the British Government had stated that all British held PW would be repatriated from the Dominions by the end of January 1947 or mid February.

Mr. Hankey then said that he was of the opinion that repatriation of PW was only one of the functions of the IAW Division. He referred to the many claims which the Division stated had to be handled, such as claims for back pay for returned PW, assistance in finding employment etc., and that if this was so it would mean that after the repatriation programme had been completed almost the entire staff would still be needed to carry out the other functions of the Division. If the American commitment continued after the end of 1946.

E.C.

121

he suggested that it might be possible for the work to be carried out by an integrated staff, for a further period of three months, after which the whole operation could once again be reviewed.

Executive Commissioner stated that in his opinion he could not see any advantage in bringing up the problem regarding the need to prevent any further delay by Mr. Rasky that the division should continue for a year with the present man by Mr. Rasky. The entire position could be revised. Further three months upon which the entire position could be revised.

Colonel Pickle said he fully agreed with the proposal made by the British Political Adviser that it could be sound economy in carrying on with the Division on it present rather than hand over to the Fabricates at this stage.

Mr. Greene said that in general his views followed closely on those given by Mr. Harney. He stated that as this was purely a military commitment the American Embassy were of the opinion that it should be carried out by the military as long as they were able to do so. The difficulty was in knowing how long the military could stay in in the theatre. In his personal opinion there was still sufficient time for a detachment to be sent there, should the need arise, and he suggested that the Government should consider this point. He said that even to do it might be difficult then similar to those which had already been put forward by Mr. Harney the American Embassy was most reluctant to take over the commitment on 1 January 1947. Although a military attack was present at the Embassy, his work was of a special nature and did not cover Italian affairs. He finally supported the proposal that help should be requested to advance the work of handing over to the Liberians.

Colonel Fiske then pointed out that when these commitments were handed over to the addressees some arrangements would have to be made for the repatriation of Italian POW from other countries such as Russia and Yugoslavia. He in reply said that when the Allied commitments of IAF divisions were handed over to the Russians it would presumably be the responsibility of the latter government to deal with the repatriation of these POWs, to deal directly with the channels.

In her further discussion it was agreed that it should be recommended to JMWG that the previous finding over date should be either 31st March 1947 or the date of the ratification of the Peace Treaty, and that the author should be revisited as in order to know dates whichever was the earlier.

Executive Commissioner stated that a draft letter to AMO would be prepared setting out these proposals and enclosing a copy of the proposed I-100 division under consideration. This draft would be circulated to those at the meeting for comments before filing.

1 to 1000 - 1000

There are still numerous... might not... which the peace treaty...
 was... that the... to...
 itly... that... to...
 similar to those... been put forward by Mr. Mackay the...
 American Embassy... sent... to take over the commitment on 1 January...
 1947. Although... Article was present at the... his work was...
 of... did not cover... He fully supported the...
 proposed that... should be requested to advise the date of handing over to...
 the...ies.

Colonel Pike then pointed out that when these commitments were...
 handed over to the... some arrangements would have to be made for the...
 participation of it... from other countries such as... and...
 in... and... when the... commitments of... Division were handed...
 over to the... it would presumably be the responsibility of the...
 it... to deal with the registration of these... using...
 diplomatic channels.

After further discussion it was agreed that it should be recommended...
 to... that the... coming over date should be either 31st March 1947...
 or the date of the... of the Peace Treaty, and that the matter...
 should be reviewed again prior to these dates whichever was the earlier.

Executive Commissioner stated that a draft letter to... would be...
 prepared setting out these proposals and enclosing a copy of the... by...
 Division... contribution. This draft would be circulated to those...
 at the meeting for comments before dispatch.

A. H. H. H. H.
 Lt. Colonel.
 Chief Staff Officer...

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 to each representative.
- Chief Commissioner.
- Land Forces C/O.
- File (5)
- Spares (2)

DRAFT

Ref: _____

November 1946.

SUBJECT: Future of IPW Division

TO : ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS,

Attention G-5 Section.

Reference is made to your letter G-5: 900. 43 dated 4

September 1946.

1. A meeting was held recently in order to determine the extent to which the Embassies would be prepared to take over the residual functions of the IPW Division after 31 December 1946 as directed in para 3 of your letter under reference. This meeting was attended by the Political Advisers and representatives of the IPW Division, MEXIA. A paper produced by the IPW Division showing the present position of repatriation and other activities, together with a forecast of future work, was considered at the meeting. A copy is forwarded for your information.

2. As a result of this meeting it was ascertained from the Political Advisers that the Embassies were not willing to take over the residual functions of the IPW Division with effect from 1 January 1947 for the following main reasons common to both Embassies:-

- (a) That the functions of the IPW Division were largely a military commitment and should be carried out by the military as long as they were able to do so.
- (b) That the outstanding commitments were likely to be greater at the end of 1946 than was at any one time

IPW Division, NMIA. A paper produced by the IPW Division showing the present position of repatriation and other activities, together with a forecast of future work, was considered at the meeting. A copy is forwarded for your information.

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- (a) That the functions of the IPW Division were largely a military commitment and should be carried out by the military as long as they were able to do so.
- (b) That the outstanding commitments were likely to be greater at the end of 1946 than was at any one time thought. After the stage of actual repatriation there remained considerable work in regard to settlement of claims in respect of remittances not received, property impounded and not returned etc.
- (c) That the breaking up of an integrated staff and the separation of records into American and British elements would be most uneconomical at this stage.

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3. As far as the British Embassy was concerned the following points in particular were raised:-

(a) There was no military attache to carry out this work nor was there any indication from the British Government as to when a Military Attache might be appointed.

(b) The proposal contained in the Allied Commission's letter 9013/33/EC dated 6 August 1946 that the British Embassy should take over at the end of 1946 was based on a forecast that all prisoners of war still remaining in the British Empire would be repatriated before the end of this year. It was now known that repatriation would not be completed until February 1947 at the earliest.

4. So far as the American Embassy was concerned it was pointed out at the meeting that although there was a Military Attache at the Embassy his work was of a special nature and did not cover Italian prisoners of war. *The American Embassy*

5. It is therefore recommended that the existing arrangements should continue for the present and that the tentative date of handing over to the Embassies should be advanced to 31 March 1947 or the date of the ratification of the Peace Treaty, and that the matter should be reviewed again prior to whichever is the earlier of these dates.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

earliest.

4. So far as the American Embassy was concerned it was pointed out at the meeting that although there was a Military Attache at the Embassy his work was of a special nature and did not cover Italian prisoners of war. *The American Political Attache*

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~~FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER~~

~~Brigadier~~
~~Executive Commissioner~~

C.C.

Copy to: Polad (A)
Polad (B)
IPW Div, MMIA.
Land Forces S/C.
Disper Div.

6.

File 73

Ref: 9013/73/20

14 November, 1946.

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War.

TO : Polad A
Polad B

This Commission has been directed by A.P.H.Q. to prepare an estimate of the work of the I.P.W. Division which, it is anticipated will be outstanding after 31st December 1946, and to ascertain whether the Ambassies would be prepared to take over the residual functions of the I.P.W. Division with effect from 1st January 1947.

Enclosed is a copy of a paper which shows the present situation of the work of the I.P.W. Division and a forecast of its outstanding duties.

It is proposed to hold a Conference on this matter at a very early date. Land Forces Sub-Commission representative will bring to the Conference an estimate of the staff required by each Embassy to deal with residual functions of the I.P.W. Division after 31st December 1946.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

Luc 4.12.


Brigadier.
Executive Commissioner.

Copy : Land Forces Sub-Commission.
(I.P.W. Division).

6246

Ref: 013/63/4

14 November 1946

SUBJECT: Italian prisoners of war division

TO : ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Attention: S-5 Section.

With reference to this Commission's letter 9013/49/3 of 24 September, 1946, the attached papers are forwarded for your consideration and such action as you deem necessary in connection with the matter of the withdrawal of American personnel from the Italian Division of Land Forces S-5 mission (ICSA).

This Commission concurs with the proposal made at para 5 (b) of 1001/1/26/34 of 4 October enclosed.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

MC

Director.
Executive Organization.

6245

kr

Copy to: Land Forces S/C (ICSA). Sent by AUSA

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

Mdp
67

IPW/1Pol/635

9 November 1946

SUBJECT : IPW Division - Present position
and outstanding work.

TO : Executive Commissioner, A.C. -

Hind-Smith - Regis spoke 7 November.

1. Herewith three copies of report on present position of repatriation of Italian PW and other activities, together with forecast of future work as requested.

James E. Regis
JAMES E. REGIS
Lieut. Colonel
Chief
IPW Division

6244

ITALIAN PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION

Allied Commitment

Work outstanding as at 8 November 1946

1. BRITISH:

a) The present state of repatriation of IPW in British hands is as follows:-

British Held	Held originally	Repatriated	To be Repatriated
England & Scotland	158,029	156,668	NIL (remainder released in U.K.)
N. Africa	43,152	43,152	NIL
S. Africa	42,557	29,826	13,031
S. Africa	40,285	25,544	14,741
Middle East	56,464	56,464	NIL
India	53,302	29,853	3,467
Australia	17,657	3,929	13,728
Gibraltar	541	526	15
Persia	2,000	2,000	NIL
TOTAL:-	396,307	350,904	44,982

Although reports have been received through various Italian Authorities indicating that mass repatriation will take place in Dec/Jan., no plans have yet been furnished to the Italian Prisoners of War Division; in fact the only outstanding notification held is a matter of 600 Italian PW who will arrive from Australia on 20th Nov. The fact remains therefore that, as of 20 Nov. '46, 43,000 IPW in British hands will await repatriation and for these no plans are held. In addition there are 2,500 IPW who were "voluntarily deferred" by GHQ MFP (in spite of the Italian War Ministry's protest) and who are now understood to be in PALLASTINA.

b) FINANCE

1750 requests from the Italian Government, for confirmation of credit balances of IPW, are outstanding; answers are still awaited from the various PW Accounts Office. In addition to this, some 2,500 similar requests are expected; this information has been received from the Italian Authorities, who are preparing the claims at the moment. It should be noted that each claim takes an average of 30/50 days to settle.

Requests for return of impounded properties not returned on repatriation:-
Claims processed and not yet settled:-.....650.

TOTAL:-

394,307

350,904

44,982

Although reports have been received through various Italian Authorities indicating that mass repatriation will take place in Dec/Jan., no plans have yet been furnished to the Italian Prisoners of War Division; in fact the only outstanding notification held is a matter of 600 Italian PW who will arrive from Australia on 20th Nov. The fact remains therefore that, as of 20 Nov. 146, 15,000 IPW in British hands will await repatriation and for these no plans are held. In addition there are 2,500 IPW who were "voluntarily deferred" by GHQ MFP (in spite of the Italian War Ministry's protest) and who are now understood to be in PALESTINE.

b) FINANCE

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Requests for return of impounded properties not returned on repatriation:-

Claims processed and not yet settled:-.....550.
Claims which will be received in the near future:-..... 5,000

Claims for non receipt of remittances, tracing of same etc:-

Requests to be settled:-250
Requests that will be received later.....1000

c) COMPASSIONATE & WELFARE CASES

Approximately 300 compassionate cases are pending (none since 1945). This entails investigation of families of PW to ascertain whether they are in any of the categories laid down which warrant priority in repatriation of the prisoner on compassionate grounds, correspondence with the GHQ GHF and, in some cases, the Command concerned.

Welfare Cases require the handling of fifteen letters per day in connection with the whereabouts of PW, news, various certificates, apart from the forwarding of mail to PW and messages from PW to their families.

65

8) GERMANS & REPATRIATION OF SPECIALISTS & FASCISTS.

The majority of S. Tyrolese have been released, but some are still interned in camps in Italy, either as G.I. suspects, or, War-Crime-sinners; in this question correspondence is maintained with the Italian Authorities.

Out of 70 cases for early release of specialists from Austria, S. & E. Africa, only 2 per cent have been repatriated. Many applications for the release of fascists on compassionate grounds are still received and have to be investigated.

2. UNITED STATES

a) All U.S. held Italian PW have been repatriated. (125,500, with the exception of a few hospital cases in the U.S.A.)

b) FINANCE

i) Requests for original certificates of credit and claims for remittances not received:-

Already received and not settled..... 5,200

To be received in the near future..... 2,000/5,000

ii) There are 40,000 P.W. who have had only 50 % of their credits paid, at the rate of exchange of Lire 100 or 15 per \$, and who have yet to receive the other 50 % from the U.S. Government. The amount of money involved is approx. \$12,000,000.

iii) Requests for impounded properties not returned on repatriation:-

Already received and not settled..... 1,500.

To be received in the near future..... 2,500.

c) GERMAN NATIONALS & RELEASE OF GERMAN PW IN ITALY.

About 100 names of German PW who claim Italian nationality have been submitted to the Ministry of Interior for verification.

This would take from 6 to 8 months to complete, as every single case has to be examined by the Prefect and the Police Authorities of the addresses given by the applicant.

In connection with the release of German PW in Italy, over 200 cases are being investigated by the Italian Government. This involves screening reports of every individual, verification of facts besides enquiries have to be filed with every addressee of applicant shown on his request.

3. OTHERS (Allied Commitment).

To be received in the near future.....

ii) There are 40,000 PW who have had only 50% of their credits paid, at the rate of exchange of Lire 100 or 18 per \$, and who have yet to receive the other 50% from the U.S. Government. The amount of money involved is approx. \$12,000,000.

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3. CHANGES (Allied Commitment)

Russia
 Italian Government was informed originally that 20,000 IPW were held. 7,427 of this number have still to be repatriated. Furthermore, no information can be obtained regarding the remnants of the Italian Expeditionary Force, originally 120,000 strong.

Saikens
 Out of a total of 160,000 IPW, (first estimate), 10,000 await repatriation. Since they are unaccounted for, it is believed that they are still in Yugoslavia.

France
 Some 4,000 Italian PW in France have not returned to Italy. These are remnants of the 4th Army who were discharged in France with civil contracts for six months. This period has long expired....

-3-

Germany

There are still 9,000 IPW in Germany (in the various Zones)

b) Other work in connection with Italian PW, not held by the United States or Great Britain, includes the tracing of those missing and the procuring of death and other certificates.

4. No further forecast of outstanding work as at 31 Dec '46 can yet be given, but since no definite plans have been received for repatriation it is expected that there will be little change in the work to be done; apart from this, the welfare and finance work will still be outstanding.

J. E. Regis
J. E. REGIS
Lt. Col.
Chf of
IPW Div.

9 nov. '46

6242

Subject: I.P.W.

9013 4

62

Land Forces Sub Commission A.C.
M.M.I.A.
ROME
IPW/31/67
28 Oct. 46

Distribution:

OCT 29 1946

Executive Commissioner HQ AC
POLAD US
POLAD BR.
HQ RAAC

In view of the recent discussion on the future of
the Italian Prisoner of War Division by MMIA, the
attached summary of its duties is sent for
your information.

61

W. P. Kelly
Commander

ITALIAN PRISONER OF WAR DIVISION
OCT 1946
6358

(CAPT K)

AP
1/1/47
RR

12W/31/67

ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR DIVISION

19 October 1946

1. In October 1945, Allied responsibility for liaison with the Italian War Ministry and all other authorities in regard to the repatriation of IPW held by any of the Allied nations, was transferred, together with the necessary personnel to Land Forces Sub-Commission (MMIA).

2. Composition and Strength at present.

	W.E.	ACTUAL STRENGTH
Lt.Colonel (A) Director	1	1
Major (B) GSO II	1	1
Captains (B) GSO III	2	1
Lieutenants (B) Staff Lieut.	1	---
Clerks Gen Duties Cpls.	1	1
" " " L/Cpls	1	---
" " " Ptes	1	---
Finance Officer (Civ)	1	1
Clerks (Civ)	17	14

3. Out of the original 1,348,394 Italian PW abroad, 67,455 now await repatriation. Details (as at 19 Oct 46) are as follows: -

AUSTRALIA.....	16,524
S.AFRICA.....	14,741
E.AFRICA.....	13,153
INDIA.....	5,924
U.K.....	35
GIBRALTAR.....	15

Total PW held 50,392

6232

Major (B)	GSO II	1
Captains (B)	GSO III	2
Lieutenants (B)	Staff Lieut.	1
Clerks Gen Duties	Opls.	1
"	"	1
"	"	1
Finance Officer (Civ)		1
Clerks (Civ)		17

3. Out of the original 1,348,394 Italian PW abroad, 67,455 now await repatriation. Details (as at 19 Oct 46) are as follows: -

AUSTRALIA.....	16,524
S.AFRICA.....	14,741
E.AFRICA.....	13,153
INDIA.....	5,924
U.K.....	35
GIBRALTAR.....	15

6234

Total Br.held	50,392
BALKANS.....	9,576
RUSSIA.....	7,487
Total	67,455

Plans made cater for the following only: -

October	INDIA	2,000
	AUSTRALIA	3,500
early Nov.	INDIA	2,600
	E. AFRICA	500
		8,600

At this rate of repatriation, about 30,000 IPW in British hands will await repatriation at 31 Dec. 1946.

- 2 -

4. Outstanding Work.

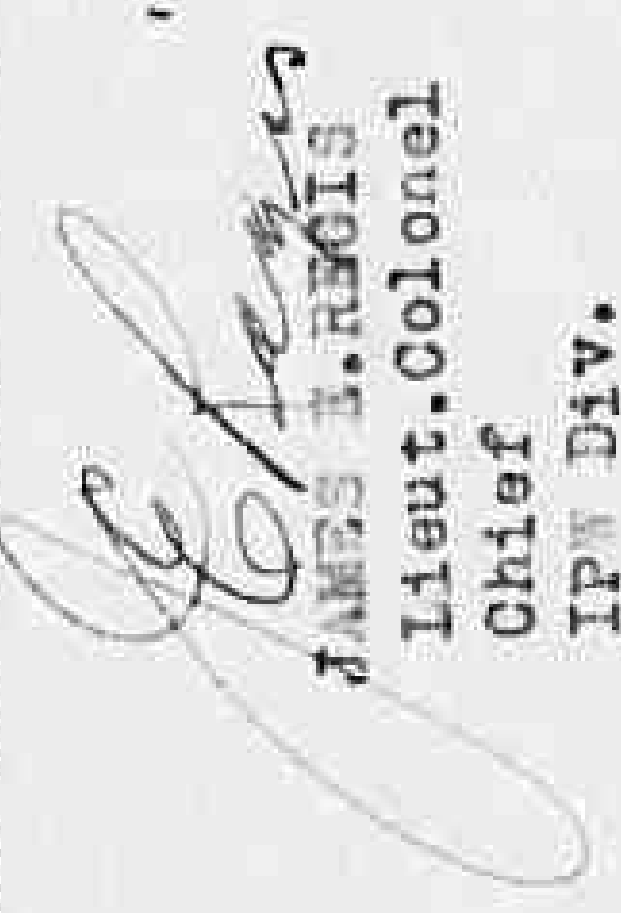
- a) Repatriation and policy - see para 3.
- b) Finance - see appendix "A".
- c) Compassionate and Welfare - Although work should decrease with the ever-lessening number of PW abroad, it does not in fact decrease in ratio; many requests are being received in respect of PW - especially in East Africa and Australia.
- d) Neo-Fascists, S. Tyroleans and Release of Germans in Italy.
 - i) Repatriation of Technicians - few cases outstanding.
 - ii) Repatriation of Fascists on Medical or Compassionate grounds - all cases to be rep. as soon as shipping is available.
 - iii) Neo-Fascists - all interned under the British are either CI suspects or War Crimes Witnesses.
 - iv) S. Tyroleans in British custody - all releasable PW have been handed over to the Italians.
 - v) S. Tyroleans in US custody - as in (iv)
 - vi) 90 cases outstanding in respect of PW who claim Italian nationality.
 - vii) 39 German PW - cases for release in Italy.

[Signature]
JAMES E. REGIS
Lieut. Colonel
Chief
IPW Div.

6238

1378

- iv) S. Tyroleans in British custody have been handed over to the Italians.
- v) S. Tyroleans in US custody - as in (iv)
- vi) 90 cases outstanding in respect of PW who claim Italian nationality.
- vii) 39 German PW - cases for release in Italy.


JAMES E. REGIS
Lieut. Colonel
Chief
IPW Div.

6238

1379

APPENDIX "A" to IPW/31/67 dated 19 Oct 46

59

MATTERS STILL PENDING RELATING TO
FINANCE OF ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR
EX-BRITISH OR U.S. CUSTODY

1 - GENERAL

a) In accordance with articles 23, 24 and 34 of Geneva Convention, the Italian POW's in United States' or British custody were credited by the Detaining Power for the whole period of imprisonment with a monthly allowance made up by an advance on the military pay which should have been paid to them by the Power they served - i.e. the Italian Government -, and by a daily or monthly allowance for the work they might perform for the benefit of the holding Country or of its armed forces (Co-operators, farmers, artisans etc.)

The Geneva Convention provides no definite ruling for the settlements of these credits, so that it was necessary to make the Governments concerned agree on a definite method for such settlement and after that to collect, check and settle all claims for stated mistakes and delays in the definition and payment of these credits or for the necessary documentation.

It is pointed out that the definition of all details of such method is not yet complete.

b) As partially provided by articles 6 and 24 of Geneva Convention, from the Italian POW's, on capture, were impounded all moneys in their possession and also - in some instances - valuables, watches etc, with and without a receipt issued.

Such properties should be returned to the owner on repatriation by care of the Detaining Power, but this does not happen in many instances due to many factors, such as the death of the PW, security, physical conditions of the repatriate, lack of co-ordination between the Command ordering the repatriation of men and those holding the valuables, loss or theft of the properties during detention etc.

Therefore from 300 to 500 claims per month were and are still received from the Italian Government or the ex-POW's concerned or their next-of-kin for the tracing and return of such properties. A slightly higher number of properties were and are received from the Commands holding properties, following the above requests or because they had been informed with delay of the repatriation or death of the owner.

II - POW's EX BRITISH CUSTODY.

- a) Under a War Office instruction each PW is given a certificate showing the credit outstanding in the moment maintained for him by the various theater PW Accounts Offices.
- b) The Italian Government was charged with the responsibility of the payment of these credits.

Even not accepting the principle to make the payments, the Italian Government accepted to make such payments in order to avoid hardship to the PW's and always pointing out they maintain that a part of such credits (the so-called work pay) should have been paid by the British Authorities on repatriation or must be reimbursed to the Italian Government, if payment was made by the Italian Government "on behalf" of the British Government.

To be in position to make payments the Italian Government requested that the certificates of credit be provided with some legal and technical qualifications and that nominal rolls of each shipment of PW's be transmitted to this Office through Official channels showing against each name of repatriate the amount on his credit. This is in order to check figures on certificates and avoid faults.

The requests were agreed and requested nominal rolls passed to this Office for recording and onward transmission. In the same time a large number of applications were, are and will be received from repatriates who state they have not received the certificate due them, or have lost it, or no confirmation of their credit was given to the Italian Government through official channels.

After check against the information held by the Office (a card recording system is used for this purpose : nearly 100.000 cards filed on 15 Oct. 1946), the required information is given to the Italian Authorities or the application is passed to the various PW Accounts Offices for action. It is pointed out that average time required to have an answer to such requests is more than two months, as many PW's have been transferred through many theaters during imprisonment and especially for the first repatriates, records are not easily traced.

It is pointed out also that in some instances no trace has been found of the accounts held, in respect of Italians

surely held as PW's.

As PW's claims are received after four-six months from repatriation and it requires two months at least to have them settled (but there are still claims submitted one year ago which are unsettled), this Office will have work at least eight months after the last Italian will be released from British custody.

In addition to the above it is presumed that a certain number of claims will be further received for tracing remittances made by PW's during imprisonment which were not received by the payee. These claims will have to be dealt with by this Office as the schedules of remittance-authorizations are transmitted and recorded by this Office.

III - POW'S EX U.S. CUSTODY.

a) Policy followed by the U.S. for certification and settlement of credits of Italian POW's may be summarized as follows:

1a) PW's repatriated during 1944.

Paid in yellow seal and sometimes blue seal dollars.

1b) PW's repatriated in early 1945 (not all)

As on para 1a above, but the U.S. currency was changed into Lire before disembarking in Italy.

2a) PW's repatriated up to October 1945 or transferred to British custody.

Issued with a certificate of Credit Balance showing the amount due them (in Lire.). No information given to them as how to cash the certificate.

2b) PW's repatriated from October 1945 up to January 1946 from all U.S. Theaters of Operations except Continental U.S.

Provided with a certificate as above and informed (but not all) of the procedure to be followed for receiving payment from U.S. Administratives and Disbursing Officers.

3a) PW's repatriated after October 1945 from the Continental U.S. and Haway Islands and after January 1946 from all U.S. Theaters of Operations.

Issued with a Military Payment Order figured in Dollars to be paid in Lire by some U.S. Disbursing Officers if paid in Italy or in U.S. Dollars if the PW goes back to the U.S. as civilian.

56

3b) PW's repatriated during 1945 (not all) .

Requested to authorize the remittance of their credit to their family or institutions in Italy through U.S. and Italian Banking facilities.

IV - PW'S TO WHOM NO PAYMENT IN CASH WAS MADE NOR ANY CERTIFICATE OR MONEY ORDER ISSUED.

- It may be stated that very few claims may be received in the future in respect of credits settled as on para 1a and 1b. The few claims received in the past concerns differences in the amount paid and the amount stated as due.

- The main trouble is given by credits certified as on para 2a, as the Italian Government, had received intimation from the British Government to pay the British Certificates of Credit Balance, but no information on the settlement of certificates issued by U.S. Authorities.

The Italian Government paid an advance in cash on the amount shown on such certificates. This was due to a misunderstanding originated by the wrong use of the word "Allied" in the WMD and IPW S/Commission memorandum to the Italian High Commissioner for PW's, requesting payment of British Certificates.

A long correspondence was entertained with HQ MTOUSA and some conference held and as result a proposed plan for the settlement of the whole matter, was submitted to the War Department, Washington, for approval since last April.

No decision has been reached up to now.

It is pointed out that the total amount of credits involved is nearly Dhrs. 10.000.000 and that 40.000 ex PW's repatriated more than one year ago are still awaiting the settlement of their credits.

It is also pointed out that this settlement will have to be made through this Office, who have collected all necessary data and information for the prompt payment of all these credits and the settlement of payments made by the Italian Government.

- In respect of PW's repatriated under system outlined in para 3a and 3b a certain amount of correspondence is still received from individual PW's who claim for the non-receipt of the documentation required for payment or for delays in receiving payment or request special arrangements for payment or address of U.S. Disbursing Officers.

A large number of claims is still received in respect of people repatriated as stated above, same para.

V- CONCLUSION.

Here, with some details on the activities of the Office;

- Claims settled or passed to the appropriate Authorities for advice and action.....11.240
- Amount of credits involved(U.S. only).....Dlrs. 12 millions.
- Properties (valuables, moneys, personal effects etc) returned through this Office.....10.960
- Estimated value of the above properties.....Lire 15 millions.
- Correspondence dealt with.....12.866 pieces
- Record cards held.....97.500
- Staff employed.....from 10 to 6 clerks.

Last month (September 1946) the correspondence dealt with amounted to nearly 300 pieces; a total of credits (British only) for nearly L.40.000 was notified to the Italian Government for payment; nearly 1.000 properties valued more than Lire.1.500.000 were passed to the Italian Red Cross. No doubt that such figures will cover the activities of the Office for at least six more months.

JAMES E. REGIS
Lieut. Colonel
Chief
IPW Div.

1384

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

APPW "B"

54

APPENDIX "B" to IPW/31/67

19 October 1946

It is obvious for the sake of all concerned that while one Italian PW remains abroad, some sort of military link with the Italian Authorities should be maintained.

Some "quotes" on the subject :-

Brigadier LUSH in a letter to AFHQ:-

"..... To achieve results I consider it essential that whoever handles this work should be in Rome, where daily contact with the Ministry of War and the Ministry of Post War Assistance can be made and where tours and visits by Allied and Italian officers together can be organized quickly..... Because IPW are military personnel I consider this commitment is a proper military one of the Land Forces Sub-Commission and not a residual function of the Allied Commission....."

Signor DE GASPERI in a letter to Adm. STONE:-

"..... There are important questions to be solved with the British Comds and Governmental Authorities in whose hands our prisoners still are....."

"..... so as to assure to the war prisoners service that continuity of policy which to this day has given such a considerable and positive result in the solution of the complicated and important problem of the repatriation of prisoners".

Brigadier LUSH (to AFHQ):-

" I am informed that in the view of the British Embassy the repatriation of PW is a military function and that in any case the Embassy has not the physical means of undertaking this work. The US Embassy is hardly concerned now that ~~all~~ except few deferred cases have been repatriated....."

.....I would urge that the work should be carried out in Rome so that direct contact can be maintained with the Italian Authorities concerned. It is for consideration whether, with the US repatriation completed, this should be the responsibility of AFHQ or GHQ CMF..... "

Signor BROSIO, ex Minister of War :-

".... It is particularly necessary to maintain the present policy and directives, according to which the PW are on a military status....."

APPENDIX C to IPW/31/67 d.1900T

COPY

52

Ref : 9013/49/EC

24 Sep 1946

SUBJECT : Italian Prisoners of War Division

TO : G-5 Section,
AFHQ

1. Reference is made to your letter G-5 900.43 of 4th September and to discussion (Rear Admiral Stone, A.C.-Colonel Hamblen, G-5) on 20 September 1946 at your Headquarters.
2. Lt.Colonel Regis will be made available for re-assignment within the Allied Commission w.e.f. 1 October 1946 on the assumption that arrangements will have been made by your Headquarters, by that date, for any residual American commitment to be handed over to some other agency. As proposed during discussion, this commitment might be taken over either by the Office of the Military Attache to the American Embassy or by the American component R.A.A.C.
3. Action has been initiated regarding the handing over of any residual British functions of the IPW Division to the British Embassy after 31st December 1946. Action to be taken with the American Embassy will depend upon your decision on the alternatives suggested in para 2 Above.

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

Copy to: L.P. S/C
Executive Officer A
(Polad A) With copies of G-5
" B) letter of 4.9.46

6239

DRAFT.

To: AFHQ G-5 Section.

September 1946

1. With reference to G-5:900.43 of the 4 September 46.

2. I presume it is agreed that the decision as to how officers assigned to this Commission are employed within the Commission rests with me and not with a staff section of your Hq.

I therefore assume that the intention of paragraph 2 of your letter under reference is that Lt.Colonel Regis should be re-assigned away from this Commission.

3. May I point out that it is not always possible to assign officers to duties strictly in accordance with nationalities? For instance, the work of the Legal Sub-Commission and of the Public Safety Sub-Commission can be considered as a responsibility which should be equally divided between the two nations. Owing to the availability of staff, however, the Legal Sub-Commission is staffed almost entirely by American officers, while the Public Safety Sub-Commission is staffed wholly by British Officers.

It, therefore, seems illogical to contend that there should not be an American officer doing duties with the IPW Division MIA merely because the repatriation of Prisoners from USA took place before that of Prisoners from British territory.

I must also point out that claims for settlement of outstanding credit balances for IPWs formerly in US hands are

3. May I point out that it is not always possible to assign officers to duties strictly in accordance with nationalities? For instance, the work of the Legal Sub-Commission and of the Public Safety Sub-Commission can be considered as a responsibility which should be equally divided between the two nations. Owing to the availability of staff, however, the Legal Sub-Commission is staffed almost entirely by American officers, while the Public Safety Sub-Commission is staffed wholly by British Officers.

It, therefore, seems illogical to contend that there should not be an American officer doing duties with the IPW Division merely because the repatriation of Prisoners from USA took place before that of Prisoners from British territory.

I must also point out that claims for settlement of outstanding credit balances for IPWs formerly in US hands are still being dealt with by this Headquarters and the IPW commitment therefore, still includes an American element.

Moreover, I consider that it would be a great pity if Lt.Colonel Regis, during the last three months of this year, is not permitted to close up the very good work which has been carried out by the IPW Division under his direction. The period is a short one.

A

17-12-48
Ab. H. H.

- 2 -

46

4. In view of the above, I should be very grateful if the question of the re-assignment of Lt.Colonel Regis away from this Headquarters could be reconsidered.

ELLERY W. STONE,
R/Admiral USNR.
Chief Commissioner.

Copies to:

L.F.S/C.
Ex. Officer A.

6227

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

9013 ⁴⁰
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

1315
44

G-5 : 900.43

4 September 1946

SUBJECT : Italian Prisoner of War Division.

TO : Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
APO 794.

SEP 6 1946

Reference is made to your letter 9013/33/EC dated 6 August 46.

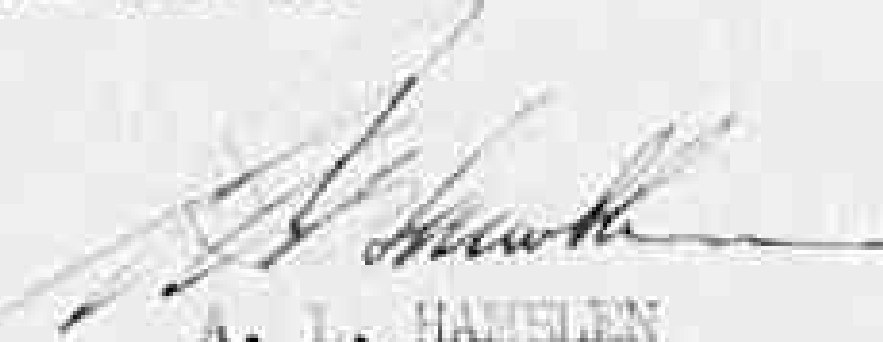
1. In view of the fact that the repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War in the hands of the U.S.A. has been completed and that the remaining commitment is entirely British it is proposed to withdraw all U.S. personnel from duty with the IPW Division ILLA, which thereafter will continue as an entirely British commitment.

2. Lt. Col. REGIS will therefore be made available for reassignment w.e.f. 1 October 1946, by which time he should have handed over all his present duties to his British successor.

3. In regard to your recommendations that the Embassies concerned should take over any residual functions of the IPW Division after 31 December 1946; please prepare an estimate of the work which you anticipate will be outstanding at this date, ascertain whether the Embassies would be prepared to take it over, and report further to this HQ when their views have been obtained.

4. All IPW matters will continue to be dealt with by 'A' Branch GHQ in accordance with existing practice. AFHQ letter ref AG 363.6/22/CHG-O dated 9 August 46 is hereby cancelled (copy attached for easy reference).

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL MORGAN:


A. L. HAMELEN
Colonel ESC
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5

see 249

EC 3/1/46
L F 50 / 10/46
Ex (A) / 10/46
Copy to EC
EC

PA 24
25 11/9

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

AG 383.6/221 GEG-0

9 August 1945

SUBJECT: Matters Pertaining to Italian Prisoners of War.

TO : Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
APO 394

In the future, Headquarters Allied Commission will communicate directly with Provost Marshal General and G-1 British of this headquarters on matters pertaining to Italian Prisoners of War. Communications on this subject will not be passed through G-5 Section, this headquarters.

BY COMMAND OF FIELD MARSHAL ALEXANDER:

/s/ C. W. Christenberry

C. W. CHRISTENBERRY
Colonel, AGD
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

- 3 - G-5
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- 3 - G-4
- 2 - AG Records

622

See 7-44

1392

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

42

Ref: 9013/40/EC.

8 August 1946.

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

In the absence of the Chief Commissioner I am writing to acknowledge your letter No. 19/25366/60 dated 31 July 1946 regarding the requested handover of the Italian Prisoner of War Division to UNRRA.

There has been some correspondence on this subject between this Commission and AFHQ, but the Allied Commission have firmly recommended the retention of this important Division of the Land Forces Sub-Commission. In any case I do not foresee that UNRRA would be asked to handle the problem.

Yours very truly,

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Dr. Alcide de Gasperi,
President of the Council of Ministers,
Italian Government,
ROME.

6-2

Copy to: G. Gov. } with copy
Land Forces (1st Sec) } of letter
under reference.

[Handwritten mark]

[Handwritten signature]

E.C.
9013
This looks
missed to be which would be
will receive all AFHQ. After
say we have recommended
no change
ms
38
TRANSLATION

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

19/25366/60

Rome, 31 July 1946 **AUG 2 1946**

Dear Admiral,

In the last days of May 1946 it was rumored that the Italian Prisoners of War Division presently existing at the M.M.I.A. would be suppressed and the office for Italian war prisoners transferred to U.N.R.R.A.

The Italian Ministry of War immediately pointed out to M.M.I.A. all the damages and inconveniences which would be caused by the change of a system or of a policy which had such satisfactory results.

These steps obtained on 5 June 1946 the reply that at the moment there was no intention of altering the status of the Italian Prisoners of War Division.

I am now informed that the suppression of the Italian Prisoners of War Division is very likely: and this just at a moment when the most delicate problem of the repatriation of prisoners can really be said to have entered its final stage. In fact, more than 135.000 prisoners have still to be repatriated and at this same moment, there are important questions regarding the use of naval means of transportation to be solved with the British Commands and Governmental authorities in whose hands our prisoners still are (in the Middle East - South Africa - East Africa - India - Australia). Questions which were going to be dealt with by Col Regis who ever since July 1945 when he took over the Italian Prisoners of War Division, carried out his task with such competence.

The suppression of the Italian Prisoners of War Division, even if mitigated by some other arrangement, and anyhow any change of address could only achieve - according to my opinion - most harmful repercussions at this delicate moment.

I trust that the above will be taken in good consideration so as to assure to the war prisoners service that continuity of policy which to this day has given such a considerable and positive result in the solution of the complicated and important problem of the repatriation of prisoners.

6-2
/s/ Do Gasperi

Admiral Ellery W. Stone
Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission
Rome.

See to 10-11-46
10-11-46

(1946 K)

Il Ministro degli Affari Esteri

Roma, 30 LUG 1945

R

Caro Ambasciatore,

negli ultimi giorni del maggio u.s. venne variegata la soppressione dell'Italian Prisoners of War Division esistente presso la M.M.I.A. ed il trasferimento all'U.N.R.R.A. del servizio prigionieri di guerra italiani.

Il Ministero della Guerra Italiana rappresentò subito alla M.M.I.A. tutti i danni e gli inconvenienti che sarebbero derivati dal mutamento di un sistema o di criteri che tanto soddisfacenti risultati avevano dato.

A questi passi venne risposto il 3 giugno u.s., che non vi era intenzione di variare, per il momento, lo "status" della Italian Prisoners of War Division.

Si viene, ora, segnalato, come probabile, l'abolizione della Italian Prisoners of War Division; e ciò proprio nel momento in cui il delicatissimo problema del rimpatrio dei prigionieri può dirsi veramente entrato nella sua fase conclusiva. Devono rimpatriare, infatti, poco più di 135.000 prigionieri e, in questo momento stesso, esistono peraltro, importanti questioni, circa l'utilizzazione dei prigionieri navali di trasporto, con i Comandi e Autorità Governative britanniche che detengono ancora nostri prigionieri (Medio Oriente - Sud Africa - Est Africa - India - Australia). Questioni del-

negli ultimi giorni del maggio u.s. venne venuta a soppressione dell'Italian Prisoners of War Division esistente presso la M.M.I.A. ed il trasferimento all'U.S.A.A. del servizio prigionieri di guerra italiani.

Il Ministero della Guerra Italiano rappresentò subito alla M.M.I.A. tutti i danni e all'inconveniente che sarebbero derivati dal mutamento di un sistema e di criteri che tanto soddisfacenti risultati avevano dato.

A questi proci venne risposto il 3 giugno u.s., che non vi era intenzione di variare, per il momento, lo "status" della Italian Prisoners of War Division.

Mi viene, ora, segnalata, come probabile, l'abolizione della Italian Prisoners of War Division: e ciò proprio nel momento in cui il delicatissimo problema del rimpatrio dei prigionieri può dirsi veramente entrato nella sua fase conclusiva. Devono rimpatriare, infatti, poco più di 135.000 prigionieri e, in questo momento stesso, esistono peraltro, importanti questioni, circa l'utilizzazione dei nostri nautici di trasporto, con i Comandi e Autorità Governative Britanniche che detengono ancora nostri prigionieri (Medio Oriente - Sud Africa - Est Africa - India - Australia). Questioni della cui trattazione si era incaricato il Colonnello Regis che

All'Ammiraglio Ellery W. Stone
Capo della Comandante Alleata in Italia

- R.C.M.A. -

./.

lenta competente attività ha svolto dal mese di luglio 1943 in cui ha assunto la direzione della Italian Prisoners of War Division.

L'abolizione dell'Italian Prisoners of War Division anche se temperata da provvedimenti di riego - e comunque qualsiasi cambiamento di indirizzo non potrebbe che avere a mio avviso, assai nocive ripercussioni in questo delicato momento.

Confido, caro Ammiraglio, che sarà preso in buona considerazione quanto io ho esposto al fine di assicurare ai servizi prigionieri di guerra quella continuità di indirizzo che sino ad ora ha dato tanto notevoli e positivi risultati nella soluzione del complesso e importante problema del rimpatrio prigionieri.

regarding

Ref. : 9043/49/21

04 September 1946

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War Division.

TO : G-5 Section,
AFHQ.

1. Reference is made to your letter G-5 900.43 of 4th September and to discussion (Rear Admiral Stone, U.S. - Colonel Hasbani, G-5) on 20 September 1946 at your Headquarters.
2. Lt. Colonel Regis will be made available for re-assignment within the Allied Commission w.a.f. 1 October 1946 on the assumption that arrangements will have been made by your Headquarters, by that date, for any residual American commitment to be handed over to some other agency. As proposed during discussion, this commitment might be taken over either by the office of the Military Attache to the American Embassy or by the American component of I.A.A.C.
3. Action has been initiated regarding the handing over of any residual British functions of the IPW Division to the British Embassy after 31st December 1946. Action to be taken with the American Embassy will depend upon your decision on the alternatives suggested in para 2 above.

Lt. Col. W. Stone
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Copy to: L.P. S/O
Executive Officer A
Folded A) With copies of G-5
" B) letter of 4.9.46

6229

See 71-50

PA 24
AS 118

Ref. : 9043/53/70

6 August 1946

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War Division.

TO : G-5,
AFHQ.

1. The question of the future of the Italian Prisoners of War Section of the Land Forces Sub-Commission (LSC) has been raised by:

- (a) A LSC signal PL 65410 dated 27 June requesting the withdrawal of U.S. Personnel from the IPW Section

and

- (b) Conversation between the Executive Commissioner, AF and G-5 Section of AFHQ.

2. The position is as follows:

- (a) In October 1945 Allied responsibility for liaison with the Italian War Ministry and all other authorities in regard to the repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War held by any of the Allied nations, was transferred, together with the necessary personnel, to Land Forces Sub-Commission (LSC).

- (b) The functions and composition of the IPW Section and the present position regarding repatriation of IPW are shown at Appendix "A".

3. The repatriation of Prisoners of War in the hands of the USA was practically completed some time ago. The repatriation of Prisoners of War still remaining in the hands of Great Britain and the British Dominions and Colonies, is now in progress and if it continues at the present rate it should be completed before the end of the year.

4. To achieve this result I consider it essential that wherever possible this work should be in Rome, where daily contact with the Ministry of War and the Ministry of Post War Assistance can be made and where tours and visits by Allied and Italian Officers together can be organized quickly.

5. Because IPW are obviously military personnel I consider this commitment is a proper military one of the Land Forces Sub-Commission

6121

36A

- 2 -

and not a residual function of the Allied Commission and that, therefore, in spite of FAW 650, it obviously should remain the responsibility of the Land Forces Sub-Commission.

6. I am informed by the Political Adviser (British) that in view of the British Embassy the repatriation of Prisoners of War is a military function and that in any case the Embassy has not the physical means of undertaking this work. The U.S. Embassy is hardly concerned now that all except a few deferred cases have been repatriated.

7. If you decide that this responsibility should be taken over by the Military authorities, I would urge that the work should be carried out in Rome so that direct contact can be maintained with the Italian authorities concerned. It is for consideration whether, with the U.S. repatriation virtually completed, this should be the responsibility of AFM or GHI, U.S.F.

8. Taking everything into consideration I recommend that the responsibility for repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War should remain with the Land Forces Sub-Commission until 31st December 1946 or until 90 days after the ratification of the Peace Treaty whichever is the earlier.

If you agree you may consider it advisable that all concerned should be notified now that any outstanding questions after that date will be dealt with by the Ambassies concerned direct with the Italian Government.

Brigadier
NILEY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USN
Chief Commissioner
(sent in box)

Copy to Land Forces (R's Sec)
to Commissioner

SECOND DRAFT.

Ref: 9013/33/E C July 1946

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War Division.

To: AFHQ. G-5

1. The question of the future of the Italian Prisoners of War Section of the Land Forces Sub Commission (MIA) has been raised by:

(a) A MTOUSA signal FX 63410 dated 27 June requesting the withdrawal of U.S. Personnel from the IWW Section

and (b) Conversation between the Executive Commissioner, AC and G-5 Section of AFHQ.

2. The position is as follows:

(a) In October 1945 Allied responsibility for liaison with the Italian War Ministry and all other authorities in regard to the repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War held by any of the Allied nations, was transferred, together with the necessary personnel, to Land Forces Sub-Commission (MIA).

(b) The functions and composition of the IWW Section and the present position regarding repatriation of IWW are shown at Appendix "A".

3. The repatriation of Prisoners of War in the hands of the USA

and (b) Conversation between the Executive Commissioner, AG and G-5 Section of AFHQ.

2. The position is as follows:

(a) In October 1945 Allied responsibility for liaison with the Italian War Ministry and all other authorities in regard to the repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War held by any of the Allied nations, was transferred, together with the necessary personnel, to Land Forces Sub-Commission (MAGIA).

(b) The functions and composition of the IFW Section and the present position regarding repatriation of IFW are shown at Appendix "A".

3. The repatriation of Prisoners of War in the hands of the USA was practically completed some time ago. The repatriation of Prisoners of War still remaining in the hands of Great Britain and the British Dominions and Colonies, is now in progress and if it continues at the present rate it should be completed before the end of the year.

31

4. To achieve this result I consider it essential that whoever handles this work should be in Rome, where daily contact with the Ministry of War and the Ministry of Post War Assistance can be made and whence tours and visits by Allied and Italian Officers together can be organized quickly.

5. Because IFW are obviously military personnel I consider this commitment is a proper military one of the Land Forces Sub-Commission and not a residual function of the Allied Commission and that, therefore, in spite of FAN 650, it obviously should remain the responsibility of the Land Forces Sub Commission.

6. I am informed by the Political Advisor (British) that in view of the British Embassy the repatriation of Prisoners of War is a military function and that in any case the Embassy has not the physical means of undertaking this work. The U.S. Embassy is hardly concerned now that all except a few deferred cases have been repatriated.

7. If you decide that this responsibility should be taken over by the Military authorities, I would urge that the work should be carried out in Rome so that direct contact can be maintained with the Italian authorities concerned. It is for consideration whether, with the U.S. authorities, repatriation virtually completed, this should be the responsibility of

AFHQ or GHQ, C.M.F

8. Taking everything into consideration I ~~strongly~~ recommend that the responsibility for repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War should

6. I am informed by the Political Advisor (British) that in view of the British Embassy the repatriation of Prisoners of War is a military function and that in any case the Embassy has not the physical means of undertaking this work. The U.S. Embassy is hardly concerned now that all except a few deferred cases have been repatriated.

7. If you decide that this responsibility should be taken over by the Military authorities, I would urge that the work should be carried out in Rome so that direct contact can be maintained with the Italian authorities concerned. It is for consideration whether, with the U.S. authorities virtually completed, this should be the responsibility of

AFHQ or GHQ, C.M.F.

8. Taking everything into consideration I ~~strongly~~ recommend that the responsibility for repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War should remain with the Land Forces Sub Commission until 31st December 1946 or until 90 days after the ratification of the Peace Treaty whichever is the earlier.

If you agree you may consider it advisable that all concerned should be notified now that any outstanding questions after that date will be dealt with by the Embassies concerned direct with the Italian Government.

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

DRAFT.

Ref: 901/3C.

July 1945

SUBJECT: Italian Prisoners of War Division.

To : AFHQ. G-5

1. The question of the future of the Italian Prisoner of War Section of the Land Forces Sub Commission (MIA) has been raised by:

(a) A MTOUSA signal PX 68410 dated 28 June, requesting the withdrawal of U.S. Personnel from the IPW Section

and

(b) Conversation between the Executive Commissioner, AG and G-5 Section of AFHQ.

2. The position is as follows:

(a) In October 1945 Allied responsibility for liaison with the Italian War Ministry and all other authorities in regard to the repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War held by any of the Allied Nations, was transferred, together with the necessary personnel, to Land Forces Sub-Commission (MIA).

(b) The functions and composition of the IPW Section and the present position regarding repatriation of IPW are shown at

APPENDIX "A".

3.

The repatriation of Prisoners of War in the hands of the USA was practically completed some time ago. ~~It was given priority for~~ ~~separate treatment.~~ The repatriation of Prisoners of War still remaining

2. The position is as follows:

- (a) In October 1945 Allied responsibility for liaison with the Italian War Ministry and all other authorities in regard to the repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War held by any of the Allied Nations, was transferred, together with the necessary personnel, to Land Forces Sub-Commission (MIA).

- (b) The functions and composition of the IPW Section and the present position regarding repatriation of IPW are shown at

APPENDIX "A". *27A* *621*

3. The repatriation of Prisoners of War in the hands of the USA was practically completed some time ago ~~and was given priority for~~ *in the hands of Great Britain and the British Dominions and Colonies, is* ~~now in progress and due to energetic outgo activities of the Prisoner of War Section, is proceeding so satisfactorily that it is allowed to continue~~ *now in progress and* ~~under present arrangements, it should be completed before the end of the year.~~

4. To achieve this result I consider it essential that whoever handles this work should be in Rome, where daily contact with the Ministry of War and the Ministry of Post War Assistance can be made and whence tours and visits by Allied and Italian Officers together can be organized quickly.

27.
5. I consider also, that any charge at this moment which might slow down the repatriation or tend to give the impression to the Italian people that Allied interest in this matter was flagging, would be a great mistake and might have political repercussions outside and inside Italy.

56/ *Because 1PW are obviously military personnel,*
I consider this commitment is a proper military one if the

Land Forces Sub Commission and not a residual function of the Allied Commission and that therefore, in spite of PAK 650, it obviously should remain the responsibility of the Land Forces Sub Commission.

67 I am informed by the Political Advisor (British) that in the view of the British Embassy the repatriation of Prisoners of War is a military function and that in any case the Embassy has not the physical means of undertaking this work. The U.S. Embassy is hardly concerned and now that all except a few deferred cases have been repatriated.

the military and warlike
If you decide that this responsibility should be taken over by ~~the~~ *warlike* I would ~~strongly~~ *urge* that the ~~responsible section~~ *responsible section* should be ~~located in Rome so that any intermediary between that section and the~~ *such a branch can be maintained with*
Italian authorities concerned, ~~could be eliminated.~~ *SH-13 for*

69. Taking everything into consideration I strongly recommend that the responsibility for repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War should remain with ~~Warfare~~ *the Land Forces Sub Commission* until 31st December 1946 or until 90 days after the ratification of the Peace Treaty whichever is the earlier.

War is a military function and that in any case the Embassy has not the physical means of undertaking this work. The U.S. Embassy is hardly concerned ~~and~~ now that all except a few deferred cases have been repatriated.

the military and war by the military and war
 If you decide that this responsibility should be taken over ^{work} by ~~the~~ I would ^{urge that the responsible section should be} ~~located~~ ^{which section can be maintained with} ~~located in Rome so that any intermediary between that section and the~~ ^{SH-13 for} Italian authorities concerned, ~~could be eliminated.~~

69. Taking everything into consideration I strongly recommend that the responsibility for repatriation of Italian Prisoners of War should ^{be} remain with ~~Warren~~ ^{the Land Forces Subcommittee} until 31st December 1946 or until 90 days after the ratification of the Peace Treaty whichever is the earlier.

If you agree you may consider it advisable that all concerned ^{any} should be notified now that ~~no~~ outstanding questions after that date will be dealt with by the Embassies concerned direct with the Italian Government.

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

*consideration, when with the U.S. Embassy =
 virtually completed, This should be the
 14/10/46 or 11/10/46 or 11/10/46 = C.M.F.*

APX A ~~27A~~
27A

COMPOSITION AND FUNCTION OF IPW DIVISION

1. Establishment as at 20th of June 46:-

(i)	<u>Officers</u>		
	US	3	1 Lt.Col. 1 Capt. 1 Lieut.
	Br.	4	1 Major 2 Captains 1 Lieut.
(ii)	<u>ORs</u>		
	Br.	2	1 Cpl 1 Pte
(iii)	<u>Civilian Staff</u>		
	Italian	20	

Present
2. Proposed Establishment w.e.f. 1st July 46:-

(i)	<u>Officers</u>		
	US	1	Lt.Col.
	Br.	4	1 Major 2 Capts 1 Lieut.
(ii)	<u>ORs (3+)</u>	2	1 Cpl 1 Pte
(iii)	<u>Civilians</u>		
	Italian	15	

3. The following is the present situation regarding ^{IPW} ~~about~~ repatriation:-

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	Original number held	Total number so far repatriated	Number awaiting repatriation
			621

(iii) Civilian Staff

Italian 20

Present.
Proposed Establishment W.O.F. 1st July 46:-

(i) Officers

US	1	Lt. Col.
Br.	4	1 Major
		2 Capts
		1 Lieut.

$$\frac{\overline{OR}_S(B^*)}{2}$$

(iii) Civilians

Italian 15

IPW repatriation: 621
situation regarding ~~about~~

Total number so far	Number awaiting repatriation
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
10	10
11	11
12	12
13	13
14	14
15	15
16	16
17	17
18	18
19	19
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92	92
93	93
94	94
95	95
96	96
97	97
98	98
99	99
100	100

3. The foll.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	Original number held
USA	1
UK	1
FRANCE	1
GERMANY	1
ITALY	1
NETHERLANDS	1
SPAIN	1
SWEDEN	1
SWITZERLAND	1
OTHER	1
TOTAL	10

CON

- England & Scotland	158029
· North Africa	43152
· East Africa	42554
· West Africa	1000 *
· South Africa	40794
· Middle East	70091
· India	33302
· Australia	17657
· Gibraltar	541
· Persia	2000
· USA	51000
· France (US)	43000
· Italy (US)	20000
· North Africa (US)	9751
· French N. Africa	37500
· Russia	20000
· France	350000
· Balkans	100000
· Germany & Switzerland	636666
	560000 *

TOTAL

1285121
1285121

FIGURE 171

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the Chief Commissioner
APO 794

9013/80
3 July 1946

SUBJECT : Italian Prisoners of War Division.

TO : AFHQ (G-5)

1. The following message FX 68410 of 27 June 1946 has been received from MTOUSA dte NAGEB :-

"CONFIDENTIAL (.) Understand plan under consideration for Col. REGIS of IPW Section Alcom to visit East Africa in connection with IPW repatriation (.) Desire that neither Col. REGIS nor any other US Officer undertake such a mission (.) With a view that IPW Section is not needed as an Allied commitment no troop spaces authorized for US Officers in that section (.) US Officers should be reassigned as soon as practicable (.) If contacts required with Italians on questions of repatriation of US held IPW, such contacts should be established by use of Italian Liaison Officers with necessary US agencies (.)

2. Before considering the first part of the message regarding US Officers visit to EAST AFRICA, your direction is required regarding the statement that IPW Section is not needed as an Allied commitment and that US Officers should be reassigned.

3. The IPW Division of AC recently transferred from War Materials to Land Forces Sub-Commission has, like the rest of the Commission, always been an integrated set up in which the US and British Officers work together for the achievement of the object without question of the country concerned. There is nothing in the present directives concerning the AC indicating disintegration in any respect and, indeed, Clause 6 of the Revised Armistice Terms specifically mentions Italian POW as an Allied responsibility.

4. I attach a statement showing :-

- (a) Composition of IPW Section.
- (b) Functions of IPW Section.
- (c) Present state of Repatriation.

from which it will be seen that US held POW have practically all been repatriated.

1A

- 2 -

5. The success of this Section has been due entirely to the excellent team work of Allied personnel concerned and would not have been achieved by solely Italian effort. If the US Officers, particularly Lt. Col. RHEIS, with his specialised knowledge and remarkable energy, are withdrawn at this moment, I consider it will not only prolong considerably the completion of the task, but in doing so create an unfavourable impression in Italy particularly in regard to the British countries still holding Prisoners of War. I consider that, as British personnel helped to repatriate US held prisoners US personnel should be permitted to remain on and see the job through.

6. I recommend therefore that the composition and duties of the IPW Section should remain as at present until September 1946 when the US T/O and the British WE should be reconsidered.

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Copy to :- Land Forces S/C, AO (less statement)

6-1

13.

4. Details of object and functions.

Apart from facilitating the repatriation of IPW, there are a great many administrative details to be dealt with, with the Italian Ministry of War or Ministry of Post War Assistance on the one hand and the appropriate Allied Military Authorities on the other.

Some of the correspondence and contact with the various GHQ is purely liaison work, but it should be clear that it is essential work, since other formations have no facilities or establishments for dealing direct with the Italian Ministry of War and Ministry of Post War Assistance and the mass of correspondence received from these two bodies. There is also liaison with the British and US Embassies, the representatives to the Vatican and with the Vatican itself. The following list of tasks performed by this Division and details dealing with the Italian Ministry of War, MPWA, Min. of Foreign Affairs, Min. of Interior, AFHQ, PW Accounts Offices all over the world, French Representative, Russian Representative, and Naval Authorities, is not listed - Shipping moves (inter alia IPW Div. has nine ships (I) under its control). Questions re PW baggage.

Repatriation Medical Cases.

Applications for Mixed Medical Commission for sick IPW abroad.

Tracing of War Criminals.

Voluntary deferment of repatriation.

Desire of IPW to remain in Command held.

Repatriation of Specialists requested by Italian Government.

Requests for release of Neo-Fascist PWs.

" " " in Italy of German PWs.

" " " " of South Tyrolean PWs.

Repatriation of compassionate cases.

IPW Welfare (news, letters, parcels, enquiries from IPW re families, enquiries from families re IPW).

Financial commitments:

Transmission of Power of Attorney by IPW.

Enquiries re Allowances due to IPW and their families by Italian Government.

Transmission of remittances made by IPW in favour of their families or of Banks and Institutions in Italy. Claims for non-receipt of these remittances.

Notification to the It. Government of Credit/Debit Balances in respect of PW Pay earned by PW while in Br. custody, and claims concerning the Balances in question.

Inquiries re payment of Credit Balances in respect of IPWs released from US custody.

Requests of return of properties impounded from PWs and transmission of them to the Italian Red Cross.

General Policy regarding Pay, rate of exchange of credits etc. of Div.

5. It was agreed at AFHQ before repatriation commenced that US held IPW would be repatriated first and then Br. held IPW. US held IPW have now been repatriated and IPW in Br. hands are being dealt with at the present moment. Many claims for settlement of outstanding Credit Balances for ex-IPW in US hands are still being dealt with. The whole question, therefore, remains as before an Allied commitment.

UNITED STATES SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

C-5

9A

1. The following items, as of 27 June 1946, have been received from the following sources:

"CONFIDENTIAL" (.) Unrecorded plan, under consideration for Col. NEMIS of IPW Section, to visit East Africa in connection with IPW registration (.) Desire that neither Col. NEMIS nor any other US Officer undertake such a mission (.) With a view that IPW Section is not needed as an Allied Committee no report should be authorized for US Officers in that section (.) IP Officer should be recommended as soon as practicable (.) If necessary, visit Italian on question of registration of NC held IPW, such contacts should be established by use of Italian Liaison Officers with necessary US assistance (.)

2. Before considering the first part of the message regarding US Officers visit to East Africa, your attention is reminded regarding the statement that IPW Section is not needed as an Allied Committee and that US Officers should be recommended.

3. The IPW Division of AC recently transferred from War Office to Land Forces Sub-Committee has, like the rest of the Committee, always been an integrated set up in which the US and British Officers work together for the achievement of the object without question of the country concerned. There is nothing in the present situation to change this.

US Officers should be permitted to go on inspection of US held POWs, such as the Italian Division Officers with necessary US requests (.)

2. Before receiving the first part of the message regarding US Officers visit to the Italian Division is required regarding the statement that the Section is not needed as an Allied consultant and that US Officers should be reauthorized.

3. the IIR Division of AU recently transmitted from the Italian Division (S3) - Combination for, like the rest of the Commission, always been an integrated part in which the US and British Officers work together for the achievement of the object without question of the senior concerned.

There is nothing in the present directives concerning the AC indicating disintegration in any respect and, clause 6 of the Revised Armistice Terms specifically mentions Italian POW as an Allied ~~responsibility~~ responsibility.

I submit a statement showing :-

- (a) Composition of the Section.
- (b) Functions of the Section.
- (c) Present state of operation.

Even when it will be seen that ~~can~~ ^{can} be indicated.

MB

F-60-5-
Rear Admiral USup
C-C

621

F-W-S-
Rear Admiral USAR
C-C

621

W.H.H.

Section should remain as at present until September 1946 when the US 2/0
and the British 22 should be reconsidered.

12/40

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Originator's Reference: FX 0541

Date/Time of Origin: JUN. 27 1351B

Message Centre No: H/4243

Date Time Recd: JUN. 26 0900B

Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: AUSA SIGNED CONGENMED CITE NAGEC

TO: HAC INFO ALCOM HOME

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL.

Understand plan under consideration for Col Regts of IPW Section
ilcom to visit East Africa in connection with IPW repatriation.
Desire that neither Col Regts nor any other US Officer undertake
such a mission. With a view that IPW Section is not needed as an
Allied commitment no troop spaces authorized for US Officers in
that section. US Officers should be reassigned as soon as pra-
cticable. If contacts required with battalions on questions of
repatriation of US held IPW, such contacts should be established
by use of battalion liaison officers with necessary US agencies.

INFO - ACTION

AC DIST

INFO ACTION
INFO

IPW SC

CHIEF COMMISSIONER

FILE

FLCAT 2

SKELETON

✓ HEADQUARTERS

CONFIDENTIAL

1418

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

CONFIDENTIAL.

Understand plan under consideration for Col Regts of IPW Section
Alcon to visit East Africa in connection with IPW repatriation.
Desire that neither Col Regts nor any other US Officer undertake
such a mission. With a view that IPW Section is not needed as an
Allied commitment no troop spaces authorized for US Officers in
that section. US Officers should be reassigned as soon as pro-
atticable. If contacts required with Italians on questions of
repatriation of US held IPW, such contacts should be established
by use of Italian Liaison officers with necessary US agencies.

6200

INFO - ACTION

AC DIST

INFO ACTION
INFO

I P W SC

CHIEF COMMISSIONER
FILE

FLOAT 2

SKELETON

✓ RECALCULATED
28 JUN 1946

CONFIDENTIAL

RECEIVED 28 JUN 1946
257

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
M.M.I.A.

IPW/IPOL/613

25 June 46

JUN 26

TO : Chief Commissioner
Allied Commission

1. I understand that no provision is made for the IPW Division in the new W.E. of this Sub Commission proposed at a recent conference at Caserta.
2. It is obvious that the Division will be retained for the present, and although it is not known yet under whose jurisdiction it will function, I wish to recommend at this stage most strongly that the Division remain under the Land Forces S/C (M.M.I.A.) for the following reasons:-

- a) The Italian Government earnestly desire the continuation of the present system.
- b) The IPW Division should remain purely a military body as at present and should be controlled by a military S/C, since the subjects to be dealt with are soldiers.
- c) It is felt that some slowing-up in repatriation of IPW will follow if the present system has to be changed; at present the IPW Division has nine Italian ships which have been used for repatriation of IPW from French North Africa and are at present being used for the repatriations from the Middle East: in the event of a change, it is feared that some of these ships would be used for the repatriation of civilians, whose claims for early return to Italy are not so high.
- d) The Military Liaison between the IPW Division and the Italian Ministry of War is most important, in view of the reception of IPW at ports, the documentation and disposal, and the fact that the PW is not released from the Army until two months after he is sent home, proves that the procedure is closely bound up with work of this S/C.

3. In the past, the question of attaching the IPW Division to the Displaced Persons S/C has been raised. A letter written by the Italian Ministry of War in August 1945 states that the Italian Government considers all IPW as military personnel until released and mentioned the Military centers run by military personnel under the Italian Territorial Command, under the jurisdiction of

- a) The Italian Government earnestly desire the continuation of the present system.
- b) The IPW Division should remain purely a military body as at present and should be controlled by a military S/C, since the subjects to be dealt with are soldiers.
- c) It is felt that some slowing-up in repatriation of IPW will follow if the present system has to be changed; at present the IPW Division has nine Italian ships which have been used for repatriation of IPW from French North Africa and are at present being used for the repatriations from the Middle East; in the event of a change, it is feared that some of these ships would be used for the repatriation of civilians, whose claims for early return to Italy are not so high.
- d) The Military Liaison between the IPW Division and the Italian Ministry of War is most important, in view of the reception of IPW at ports; the documentation and disposal, and the fact that the PW is not released from the Army until two months after he is sent home, proves that the procedure is closely bound up with work of this S/C.

3. In the past, the question of attaching the IPW Division to the Displaced Persons S/C has been raised. A letter written by the Italian Ministry of War in August 1945 states that the Italian Government considers all IPW as military personnel until released and mentioned the Military centers run by military personnel under the Italian Territorial Command, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of War (Autonomous Office for War Veterans and Repatriated PW) and the IPW Division. Attached herewith is a letter of 30th May 46 from the Minister for the War representing that the IPW Division continues as at present. Also attached is the reply from this S/C dated 5th June 46

4. In view of the foregoing, it is strongly recommended that no change be made in the status of IPW Division and I would be grateful if representation can be made on the above lines at the earliest moment.

P.8. Perhaps I should also add that, at the existing rate of repatriation, it is probable that all IPW will have been returned by at least the end of 1946. Any change in management would thus be only for a limited period.

d. Browning
Major-General,
Cmd. Land Forces S/C A.C.
(M.N.I.A.)

Lu h 5/4/46

(2)

1421

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

3

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

IPW/I/GIO

5/6/46

TO : Autonomous Office for Repatriated PW (Ministry of War).

I am in receipt of your letter 10905/46, dated 29 May 46, on the subject of the reported transfer of the Italian POW Division from the Land Forces Sub Com. (MMIA) to UNRRA.

I am glad to inform you that there is no intention to alter the status of this division at the moment. It will continue as heretofore to function as an integral part of MMIA.

6207

HOMER E. FISKE, Col.
For Major General
Cmd. Land Forces S/C A.C.
(MMIA)

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

COPY

2

MINISTRY OF WAR
AUTONOMOUS OFFICE FOR REPATRIATED PWs

FILE: 16903/68

Rome, 29 May 48

SUBJECT: Transfer of IPW Division to UNRRA.

TO: Allied Commission, S/C, IPW Div. Rome.

a. According to unofficial information it results that the IPW Division due to new directives, may be transferred to the UNRRA.

b. The experience that this Ministry has acquired during more than two years of intense work, moves us to call your attention to the fact that it would be much better, especially at the present moment, to continue as things are and with the present directives, that have brought about such good results.

c. It is particularly necessary to maintain the present policy and directives, which have been followed up to date, according to which the PWs are on a military status and are not Displaced Persons, which they would become if the IPW Division would be turned over to the UNRRA.

d. Furthermore, due to the mass of repatriating prisoners in as the shortest time as possible; the problem is to be considered in the last phase and it would therefore be particularly wrong to change now the directives, especially in that which regards the utilization of the ships of the Italian Navy for transport.

e. We therefore consider it our duty, to beg your Division to take the above matter up with CHQ in the aim of continuing the present order of things, that has given such excellent results.

6-19

sgd: The Minister
Manlio BROGIO

Rome, 24 June 1946

MINISTRY OF WAR

Autonomous Office for War
Veterans and Repatriated PWs

Prot. n. 14424/50

TO: ITALY FORCES SUP. COMMISSION
A.C. (I.M.I.A.)
ITALIAN P.C. DIVISION
Civil Affairs Section

R.C.A. 3

SUBJECT : Dependence POW Bureau

1st) Following letter No. 0903/50 dated 29-5-1946.

2nd) In reference to paragraph (C) of said letter, I wish to stress the point of the necessity of maintaining the present policy regarding POW and that is, that they continue to be considered as military personnel and not as "displaced persons".

3rd) Changing their status by putting the POW in the category of "Displaced Persons", would have a very bad effect on their morale, inasmuch that it is their right to be considered "soldiers" until definitely released from military service.

4th) As is known, due to an Allied disposal, the POW are considered civilians on their arrival in Italy.

5th) However the disposal in question has been greatly attenuated by the fact, that, the existing military organizations have, in the repatriation of over 4 million prisoners, been able with the aid and comprehension of the It.P.O. Division to avoid that the prisoners receive the bad impression and the unfortunate reactions that this disposal would produce.

6215

6th) In view of what is written above and given the atmosphere of reciprocal faith and comprehension in which we have worked with the It.P.O. Division, I beg you to kindly examine the opportunity of making no change relative to the question in discussion.

signed/ L. MANZONI

i 4 2 4

1000000