

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

785017

ACC

10000/109/1385

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785017

10000/107/1385

PRISONER OF WAR MAIL  
MAR. - JULY 1944

0718

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785017

RESTRICTED

ACC MAIN 7257

53/

MIDEAST RPTD COMMUNICATIONS SUB COMMISSION

ACC MAIN

RESTRICTED

ROUTINE

Civil Affairs Branch

8 July 1944

52

REFERENCE YOUR ONE CLARENCE ONE EIGHT FIVE FIVE ONE OF SEVEN JULY TO PARISH TO MIDEAST  
RPTD COMMUNICATIONS SUB COMMISSION FROM ACC MAIN PARISH TO FOR MAIL MAY NOW BE FORWARDED

8/4

112005

ROGER B. DEXTER  
Capt. AGO  
Deputy Adjutant

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785017

85. *CAR* 3107  
CAP'E AND WIRELESS LIMITED.

*N48/7*

*Copy*

50453

XV768/1 S ALX 43/40 7 1450 BG

ARMYCHARGE NAPLES - 48 FROM MIDEAST 070830C

TO ACC QOY GR26 1/18551 CONFIDENTIAL \*

REFERENCE YOUR SIGNAL 5651 XCENSORSHIPX

DATED 31MAY 44 \* STILL HOLDING MAIL FOR

ROME AND LIBERATED AREA \* AWAITING YOUR

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RELEASING SAME \*

*Pls. Main Dist*  
*ACTING: C.A. G.*  
*DPAC*  
*CAMP'S (REAR)*  
*FILE*  
*EXC-21*

*Sending - 070830C*

*Via Imperial*

NO ENQUIRY RESPECTING THIS TELEGRAM CAN BE ATTENDED TO WITHOUT PRODUCTION OF THE COPY

0720

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785017

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
P.O. & M.C. SECTION  
APO 394

SP/

Ref / 85/50/CA

25 June 1944

SUBJECT: P.O.W.

TO : HQ. AAI (A. Branch)

82

P.O.W. Col. Vincenzo Biani.

The attached copy letter from a P.O.W. in the U.S.A. addressed to Mr. Alexander C. Kirk is forwarded to you for such action as you consider necessary. Mr. Kirk does not remember the P.O.W. but may have met him.

PK  
P-2

Brigadier  
Executive Commissioner  
For Chief Commissioner

Copy to: Political Section. ✓

203

JSR/JR

MA

0721

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785017

Civil Affairs Branch:

Please see attached  
reply to your queries and  
advise.

*JMA*  
Political Section  
24 June

2002

0722

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

785017

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE  
ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR ITALY

June 23

Memo for Mr. Baker:

Mr. Kirk says that he does not remember Col. Brian, he has probably met him at some time or another.

In regard to query 2, he believes the answer should come from the Italian Government.

W. Kirk

W. Kirk

Large redacted file and by 10/2/4

File 24/3

Handwritten notes and signatures

25-1

7/A

25/6

25/6

0723

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785017

10: RC & MP Section

4/15. " Have you any suggestions  
on what we can or should  
do about the attached?

J. H. G.  
pol. section

Political Section

(1) Could we have a  
recommendation from Mr. Kirk or  
some other responsible person?

Could the applicants make  
any contribution to Italy's war  
effort?

W. G. Carter  
16 JUN

0728

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

785017

10: RC & MP Section

4/15 - Have you any suggestions  
on what we can or should  
do about the attached?

J. H. G.  
pol. section

Political Section

(1) Could we hear a  
recommendation from Mr. Kirk or  
some other responsible person?

(2) Could the applicant make  
any contribution to Kaly's work  
apart?

W. G. C. B. M.  
16 JUN

0725

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785017

50

Naples, June 13, 1944.

MEMORANDUM

To: Political Section  
Allied Control Commission

Subject: Letter from Italian Prisoner of War

There is transmitted herewith, for such action as you may deem appropriate, a copy of a letter from Colonel Vincenzo Biani, an Italian prisoner of war interned in the United States.

For the U. S. Representative:

John L. Goshie

Enclosure as stated.

JLG:gh

~~50130~~

50130

John Goshie

2850

0726

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785017

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
R.O. & H.Q. SECTION  
APO 394

49

Ref/85/49/CA

21 June 1944

SUBJECT: Mail Censorship.

TO : Communications Sub-Commission.

The attached copy letter from AFHQ (Ref. C-5: Jll.7 of 19 June 44) is forwarded for information and action as indicated in para 2 thereof.

*[Handwritten signature]*

ROBERTA. FINE  
Colonel  
Deputy Executive  
Commissioner

JSR/11

*[Handwritten signature]*

2739

0727

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785017

85 E

C A B 1

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
G-5 Section  
APO 512

TBJ/JJr

U-2006

G-5: 311.7

19 June 1944

SUBJECT: Mail - Examination and Routing in respect  
of mail to POW's in North Africa from  
civilians in Italy.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission,  
APO 394

1. It has been decided that censorship of mail  
from civilians in Allied occupied Italy to Italian  
prisoners of war and Italian work companies held by  
the allies in North Africa will not now be carried out  
by Civil Censorship Branch, Communications Sub-Commis-  
sion ACC but will be carried out by the Prisoner of War  
Censorship Detachment.

2. In the circumstances will you please cause  
the necessary instructions to be issued to the Italian  
postal authorities for the above mail to be bagged and  
addressed to Prisoner of War Censorship detachment  
APO 698 U.S. Army.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

*T. B. Jackman*

T. B. JACKMAN  
Major.

Copy to:- INC(CCB)

*W. H. 21/6*

2738

HEADQUARTERS  
20 JUN 1944  
A.C.C.

0728

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785017

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
R.C. & M.C. SECTION  
APO 394

H7

Ref/85/47/CA

9 June 1944

SUBJECT: Delivery of Correspondence for P.O.'s

TO : R.C. Region III - (for Major Green, Postal Officer)

13

1. I refer to 361/47/CA of 27 April 1944.

2. The arrangement made in that letter are cancelled and the procedure for the handling of this type of correspondence is set out in the minutes of a meeting held on 29 May 1944 a copy of which has been sent to you.

3. Seven bags of such correspondence are now in the Message Center Province Building, and I shall be grateful if you will arrange for these to be delivered to the Italian Post Office.

*Since with  
above there 7 bags  
of correspondence  
have been sent  
to Campitane  
by courier  
and Sunday at 8:00 AM  
L.H. 4/6*

WILLIAM E. FICK  
Colonel  
Deputy Executive  
Commissioner

Copy to:

Communications Sub-Commission  
8th Army AGC

International Red Cross (M. Mathison) with copy of the minutes referred to in para 2.

WEM Fick - Message Center.

RE/2R

2737

0729

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785017

46

Major Talbot

Ref 23 you intend to  
contact Capt Green re<sup>y</sup> III cancelling  
delivery of new mail to this HQ

L. Wilson 1001  
9644

2736

0730

785017

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REAR HQS.  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
Communications Sub-Commission

SHH/ec

PG.16/15.51.

5 June 1944

SUBJECT:- Correspondence for Italian P.O.W. in Germany.

TO:- R.C., M.G. Section.

1. Attached are copies of (i) AFHQ letter n<sup>o</sup> G-5, C91.6 dated 30.5.44, (ii) letter n<sup>o</sup> PS.16/15.50 to the Under Secretary of State for Posts and Telegraphs, and (iii) message n<sup>o</sup> 2772, all relating to this Sub-Commission letter n<sup>o</sup> PS.16/2.207 of May 1st to the R.C. and M.G. S.

2. Copies of item 1.(ii) are being sent to the Postal Officers of Regions III, IV (City Sub-Region) and V, in order that notifications may be issued through Italian Postal Provincial Directors as and when appropriate. The R.C. and M.G. Section may consider that the situation justifies a radio mention in addition to the other action provided for.

*[Handwritten signature]*

S. H. HEAD  
Lt. Col.  
for Director, Communications Sub-Commission

Copy (with enclosure 1(ii)) to:-  
Public relations Officer.  
Major McKean, Chief Censorship Officer.

HEADQUARTERS  
COMM  
A. C. C. 2155

*P.R.O.  
I think a radio mention  
of para 2 marked at 44  
is best. What do you think?  
It has been done. 6/6  
8/7/6*

*OK PVA*

0731

785017

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

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
G-5 Section  
APO 512

COPY

G-5 091.6

30 May 1944

SUBJECT:-Mail to Italian Prisoners of War held in Germany.

TO:- Headquarters Allied Control Commission, APO 394

1. Reference is made to your CCG/18301/7 of 2 May, INC (CCB) 2045/38 of 8 May and your cable 2772 of 16 May.

2. The matter has been referred to the Ministers and the following is an extract from a letter of 27 May received from the Office of the British Resident Minister and concurred in by the Office of the American Political Advisor:-

"1. As explained to Major Jackman on the telephone we would have no direct means to ascertaining whether mail reached Italian Prisoners of War in Germany and if so in what quantities. The only channel through which such information might be obtained is the International Red Cross and it is suggested that you might ask the local representative to make enquiries through his Head Office. When the Foreign Office have wanted to obtain information about the position of Italians held in Germany, they have generally addressed themselves to the International Red Cross, because the German Government do not recognise any third Government is entitled to protect Italian interests in Germany. We suggest that you should ask the International Red Cross to find out (a) whether any mail from southern Italy reaches Italians held in Germany; (b) if so, in what quantities, and whether there is any distinction between letters written on special forms and letters written haphazardly.

2. We also suggest that pending a reply to this enquiry, which may be expected to take a long time, you should request the Control Commission to notify the Italian public through the Italian postal authorities that there can be no certainty that letters addressed to Italians held in Germany will reach their destination; and that any relatives of such Italians who can obtain official German reply forms, whether enclosed in letters received from Italians in Germany or by other means, should make use of them in preference to any other form of letter."

3. Inquiries are accordingly being made of the I.R.C. and you will be advised of the result as soon as possible. In the meantime you will no doubt act as suggested in para 2 of the above extract.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5

T. B. JACKMAN  
Major

REAR HQS.  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
Communications Sub-Commission

SHH/ec

PS. 18/15.50.

5 June 1944

SUBJECT:- Correspondence for Italian P.O.W. in Germany.

TO:- The Under Secretary of State for Posts and Telegraphs.

1. Information has been received from the Prisoner of War Censorship Unit APO 759 that letters and cards from Italian Prisoners of War held in Germany have contained remarks by German censors that no incoming mails to these Prisoners of War will be accepted unless written on the official German duplicate form.
2. Resulting from correspondence with Allied Force Hqs. on the matter endeavour is being made to ascertain whether any distinction is actually being applied in Germany as between the ordinary P.O.W. letters and those written on special forms.
3. Pending the receipt of further information, which will probably take some time to obtain, it is considered that it would be well to advise the Italian public that there can be no certainty that letters addressed to Italian Prisoners of War held in Germany will reach their destination; and that any relatives of such Italians who can obtain official German reply forms, whether enclosed in letters received from Italians in Germany or by other means, should make use of them in preference to any other form of letter. Arrangements are being made to publicise this information in Allied Government territory.

S. H. HEAD  
Lt. Col.  
C.P.O.

2733

0733

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

785017

RESTRICTED

ROUTINE

ACC REAR

16 May 1944

APHQ

2772

DUBIOUS ABOUT NOTIFYING ITALIAN PUBLIC OF PROBABLE RESTRICTION  
REFERRED TO IN YOUR FOX FOUR FIVE SIX FOUR EIGHT PD INFORMATION  
DOES NOT COVER ASPECT OF WHETHER ORDINARY POW LETTERS SHOULD NOT  
BE FORWARDED OUT OF ITALY OR WHETHER PUBLIC SHOULD BE WARNED ONLY  
OF POSSIBLE NON DELIVERY PD TO APHQ FOR MSG FROM ACC REAR FROM  
HENDERSON SIGNED MACFARLANE PD HOLDING ACTION PENDING FURTHER  
INFORMATION WHICH MAY RESULT FROM INC LETTER COB SLANT ONE ZERO  
FOUR THREE DASH THREE EIGHT DATED EIGHT MAY OF WHICH YOU HAVE  
COPY FOR ACTION WITH RESIDENT MINISTERS

AUTHENTICATED: E.J. CHIOCCA  
CWO USA  
Asst Adj

DISTRIBUTION:

1 Adj File  
1 DSG  
1 DCC  
1 Adj Main  
1 Communications  
1 Maj Head  
1 Maj McKean

See 32

2752

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MAY 29th 1944 IN  
ROOM 28 POST OFFICE BUILDING, NAIROBI

DEVELOPMENT OF POST OFFICE FINANCIAL  
AND MAIL SERVICES IN FORWARD AREA.

PRESENT

|                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Col. Henderson  | - Communications Sub-Comm. |
| " Howell        | - Region IV.               |
| " Purvis        | - Region VIII.             |
| Lt. Col. Gibson | - L.I. CSI (b)             |
| " Helton        | - L.I. CSI (c)             |
| Major Dickson   | - L.I. CSI (b)             |
| " Head          | - Communications Sub-Comm. |
| " Timmons       | - Finance Sub-Comm.        |
| " Carson        | - "                        |
| " Cummings      | - Region V.                |
| " Green         | - Region III.              |
| Capt. Crosby    | - Region IV.               |
| Representative  | - Region IX.               |
| Capt. Talbot    | - C.I. Branch.             |

Colonel Henderson opened the meeting and explained that the purpose for which it had been called was to draw up an agreed line of action in relation to the aspects mentioned in the attached Conference Notes.

After discussion it was agreed as follows:

Financial Services.

1. Post Offices to be re-opened for the operation of financial services as soon as the conditions were suitable. The basis upon which the services would operate to be indicated in a revised version of Executive Memorandum No. 36 which is being drawn up by the Communications and Finance Sub-Commissions.
2. In connection with the provision of money to Post Offices and the conveyance of documents relating to the various transactions, it was agreed that the Finance Sub-Commission would hold itself responsible for supplying the necessary funds, and that the documents would be transmitted under the following conditions:

785017

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| " Howell        | " Region IV.             |
| " Parryglack    | " Region VIII.           |
| Lt. Col. Gibson | " III (SI) (b)           |
| " Holton        | " III (SI) (c)           |
| Major Dickson   | " III (SI) (b)           |
| " Head          | Communications Sub-Comm. |
| " Timmons       | Finance Sub-Comm.        |
| " Omeron        | " "                      |
| " Omeron        | Region V.                |
| " Green         | Region III.              |
| Capt. G. Gaby   | Region IV.               |
| Representative  | Region IX.               |
| Capt. Talbot    | " C. Branch.             |

Colonel Henderson opened the meeting and explained that the purpose for which it had been called was to draw up an agreed line of action in relation to the aspects mentioned in the attached Conference Notes.

After discussion it was agreed as follows:

#### Financial Services.

1. Post Offices to be re-opened for the operation of financial services as soon as the conditions were suitable. The basis upon which the services would operate to be indicated in a revised version of Executive Memorandum No. 36 which is being drawn up by the Communications and Finance Sub-Committees.

2. In connection with the provision of money to Post Offices and the conveyance of documents relating to the various transactions, it was agreed that the Finance Sub-Committee would hold itself responsible for supplying the necessary funds, and that the documents would be transmitted under the following conditions:

To be enclosed in open letters and passed - via C.A.O.'s where necessary - to the Provincial Finance Officer. The latter to examine the contents of each such letter to ensure that no private correspondence was enclosed, and then to frank the outer cover with his office stamp and close it down. The letters then to be forwarded, by courier or other similar means in those areas where the normal civil mail service has not commenced.

#### P.O.W. Letters.

3. P.O.W. correspondence comes to hand for delivery prior to the opening of the normal civil mail services, and it is considered necessary to effect delivery, and afford collection facilities for letters posted to P.O.W., as early as possible after territory has been occupied. It was agreed that the most practicable means of carrying this out, in the absence of a normal mail service, was as follows:

(c) Incoming/.....

Copies sent to  
S. 18. H. W. 11/6  
P/A

-2-

(a) Incoming Letters.

After being released by Allied Censorship Control Officers at Naples and Bari, letters to be forwarded there by the Italian Post Office in bags addressed to the Provisional Commissioner at the Headquarters of the Province of Basilicata. From there, after sub-division by the local Italian Post Office, the correspondence to be forwarded to the subordinate Post Offices for delivery to cellars. Conveyance from Naples and Bari to be made by normal mail services transportation as far forward as possible, thence by courier or other such official means as may be available.

(b) Outgoing Letters.

2.0.3. Letters posted at each Post Office to be made up into packages addressed to the Allied Censorship Control Officer at the Provisional Capital for onward conveyance to Naples or Bari. The conveyance of these packages also to be made by such civil or official transportation as is available from time to time.

NOTE: Inquiry will be made as to the possibility of utilizing the services of the American Red Cross transportation facilities.

Civil Mail Services.

4. It was agreed that before such services were opened up there should be the whole or part of a Province between the delivery area and the Rear Army boundary, and that on this basis postal services could be started without obtaining clearance from the Army authorities. Special exceptions might be made on reference to 2.0.2. in cases of Provinces with large cities, or where there were other exceptional features. It was also agreed that the assumption indicated in para. 4 (f) of the Conference Notes was correct.

5. Arising from suggestions made by Lt. Col. Holton, A.I. CSI (a), it was agreed that the dispatch of P.O.W. mails to Italy could commence automatically for additional Provinces as and when the capital town of those Provinces was occupied by the Allies.

30. May 1944

Post Office Financial & Mail Services

Conference Notes

INTRODUCTION

1. When the question arose of actually re-starting Post Office mail and financial services in Sicily, the territory was clear of the enemy and there were no forward boundary complications. Mail services were set going first; Savings Bank etc followed, using the mails as necessary for the conveyance of cash and documents.
2. Up to date in Italy, there has been no completely co-ordinated or collaborated ME-AOD-AAI plan of development, owing essentially to changes in the needs of the moment and to an initial extreme shortage of specialist Postal Officers. Now we have a fairly clear idea of what the actual conditions require and additional Postal Officers are available.

FINANCIAL SERVICES.

3. The Finance Sub-Commission takes the view - with which the Communications Sub-Commission is in full agreement - that Post Offices should be re-opened at the earliest moment for the payment, acceptance and transmission of monies related to social services; taxes, savings. This need arises well before an ordinary mail service can be given. To satisfy it there must be provision for maintaining supplies of cash, and for new interchange of documents. To a large extent the position is similar to that governing the maintenance of banking facilities. Movement of "Cashier services" in the forward areas is involved, bringing in Security interests and transportation problems.

The manner in which these considerations can all be tied up is the first main issue to be settled.

MAIL SERVICES.

4. The second matter is that of the ordinary mail services, and the following considerations arise:

(a) Advances facilities for letters to and from Prisoners of War (? and Red Cross forms).

#### POSTAL SERVICES.

3. The Finance Sub-Commission takes the view - with which the Communications Sub-Commission is in full agreement - that Post Offices should be re-opened at the earliest moment for the payment, acceptance and transmission of monies related to social services; taxes, savings. This need arises well before an ordinary mail service can be given. To satisfy it there must be provision for maintaining supplies of cash, and for some interchange of documents. To a large extent the position is similar to that governing the maintenance of banking facilities. Movement of "Cashier services" in the forward areas is involved, bringing in Security interests and transportation problems.

The manner in which these considerations can all be tied up in the first main issue to be settled.

#### MAIL SERVICES.

4. The second matter is that of the ordinary mail services, and the following considerations arise:

(a) Advance facilities for letters to and from Prisoners of War (? and Red Cross forms).

(b) To meet Censorship and other requirements, each Province must function as a self contained delivery area, with all correspondence passing first through the capital, from which delivery services will radiate.

(c) A delivery at the outset restricted to the capital town itself is not worthwhile - except perhaps for psychological effect - in other than largest towns.

(d) Delivery from the capital to part of a province involves many complications and is undesirable. The issue arises only when military operations become static).

(e) It is desirable to have agreement to one or other of the following plans:

(i) Near Army boundary line - or a fixed distance behind it - to be regarded as the forward limit for postal delivery. Communications Sub-Commission to be kept advised (? by A.A.I.) of changes in such boundary line, and they will then automatically set services going.

(ii) Someone (? A.A.I.) to advise Communications Sub-Commission, as each case arises, to the effect that "Province X is now clear for the introduction of postal deliveries".

(Note: Copy of notification, in either case, to go to AMC Army, and relative Regional Commissioner)

(2) It is in/.....

0739

785017

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

-2-

(2) It is assumed that when a new procedure has been opened up, its  
success may be linked as soon as possible with those already operating in  
Italy, Sicily and Sardinia, and with the incoming and outgoing external  
employees.

29 May 1944

S. H. HEAD,  
Major.

0740

785017

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

HEADQUARTERS  
SECTION 3, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
APO 394, U.S. Army.

EA 2nd  
RC 2nd  
ACC  
for Capt Talbot

9600

31 May 1944.

P. 150/175

URGENT

SUBJECT : Prisoner of War correspondence to and from parts  
of the Province of Naples in which a normal Postal  
Service is not yet authorized.  
TO : The Provincial Director P.C.T., Naples.

1. Correspondence from Italian Prisoners of War addressed  
to places in the Province of Naples where a normal postal service  
is not yet authorized should be dealt with as follows:-

(a) Despatched in special sealed mails addressed to  
the normal delivery xxxxxx office. These mails must be closed  
under the supervision of a reliable supervising officer and will  
be liable to check by an AOC Officer.

(b) On arrival at the delivery Office the letters  
will be prepared for delivery to callers, delivery by the Post  
Office to the residences of addressees will not be permitted.

(c) It may be left to the discretion of the Nicovitore  
concerned to fix the times and days when the delivery to callers  
is available and it is suggested that the Sindaco be informed  
locally of the arrangements.

2. Correspondence from residents in the Area concerned to  
Italian Prisoners of War.

(1) Such correspondence should be handed in at the  
local Post Office.

(2) This correspondence must then be enclosed in sealed  
mails, containing no other correspondence.

(3) These special Prisoner of War mails must be  
addressed to "Allied Censor Control", Naples, and forwarded in the  
same way as is laid down for the disposal of authorized official  
correspondence from the Office concerned.

W.H. Green  
W.H. GREEN  
Major  
Postal Officer.

W.H.G./tdf.

Copy to : HQ and AGS AOC; Comm. Sub-Comm; Dr. Burkhard INOC;  
American Red Cross.

0741

785017

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

RESTRICTED

PATNA 3681

PATNA (Civil Affairs Branch)

31 May 1944

RESTRICTED

Vapor 163-15100

NOTES

SUBJECT: ARABIAN CHURCH; EAST AFRICAN COMMISSION; THOMPSON ARMS; FUGITIVE

FOR MAIL FOR THE PROVINCE IN ITALY MAY NOW BE DISPATCHED AS DONE AS PROVINCIAL  
CIVIL IS IN OUR HANDS TO PAUSE TO SUSPECT CIA TO ARABIAN CIA TO SUSPECT CIA TO  
WEST AFRICA FUGITIVE CIA TO THOMPSON CIA TO ARABIAN ALL FOR THE CHURCH FOR ACTION CIA  
TO CHURCH FOR A BYL FOR INFORMATION FOR PATNA PAUSE

2-108

L.T. MONTAG, JR.  
1st Lt. AGO  
Adjutant

RESTRICTED

0-742

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

785017

TO : R.C. & M.G. Section, <sup>85/30</sup> A.C.C., A.C.O. 394. <sup>C.A. Rev 37</sup>  
FROM : R.C., A.M.G., Region 5. <sup>U 5517</sup>  
SUBJECT : Italian POW Correspondences.  
REFERENCE : 85/517/6.  
DATE : 21 May 1944. <sup>30</sup>

Reference your 85/30/CA of 12 May 1944.  
The scheme outlined would be quite satisfactory.

HEADQUARTERS  
23 MAY 1944  
A.C.C.

*H. L. Whitley*  
H. L. WHITLEY  
Colonel, G.S.C.  
Regional Commissioner.

*B.V. 2715*

0743

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

785017

Note (2c/ 33)

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36

Official Courier Services are as follows.

1. Every Thursday

BARI leave 1100 hours

Foggia arrive 1600 hours

" leave 1630 hours

Campobasso arrive 1900 hours

2. Every Sunday

Naples leave 0900 hours

Campobasso arrive 1400 hours

" leave 1500 hours

Foggia arrive 1800 hours

22/5 Bux 27/5

0744

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

785017

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
H.C. & H.C. Section  
APO 394

35

Ref/85/35/GA.

22 May 1944.

SUBJECT: POW Correspondence.

TO : Region III (Major Green).  
Communication Sub-Commission.

I refer to my 85/30/GA of 12 May 1944  
and enclose copies of 5th and 8th Allied replies  
thereto for your information.

30

31-34

SL

MURRAY H. FISKE,  
Colonel,  
Deputy Executive  
Commissioner.

KE/RAC.

2755

0745

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

785017

SUBJECT : POW Co. Expenses.

SECRET.

19 MAY Recd

AMG Rear Eighth Army.

04/203 6-2817

18 May 44.

HQ, Allied Control Commission.  
Executive Comm Branch.

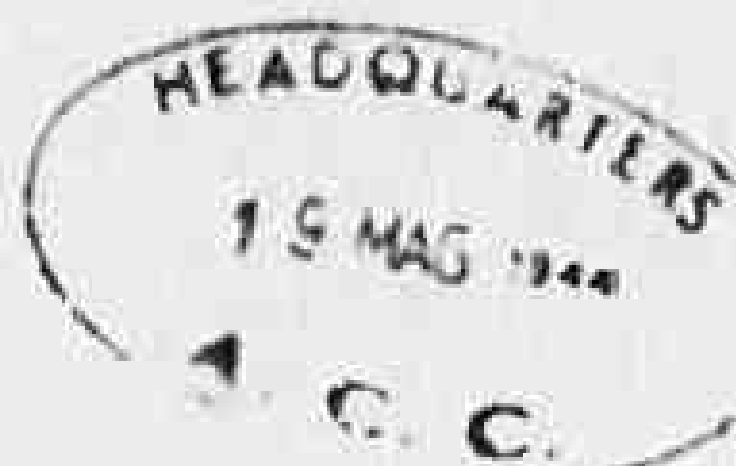
Reference your 85/30/CA, para 1, of 12 May 44.

1. It is agreed that the tpt from NAPLES to this HQ (not necessarily 8 Army tpt - see your 361/47/CA dated 27 Apr 44) and from this HQ to CAMPOBASSO may well be inadequate for moving large quantities of POW mail.

2. The services which tpt official correspondence (see para 2) from this HQ to Provinces is 8 ARMY E.L.S. and nothing except certified official mail is carried. The army would certainly not consent to carry POW correspondence by E.L.S. which is normally a D.R. or Jeep. There is no other service transporting official correspondence in this area from AMG HQ to Provinces or formations.

3. As this HQ will probably be constantly on the move from now on for some time, the system is not workable because of lack of means to tpt POW mail.

- (a) From Naples to 8 Army HQ.
- (b) From AMG HQ to Provinces HQ's with which contact is maintained solely by official E.L.S.



P. F. Benta Team

Major, R.A.  
C.S.O. II.for Group Captain,  
Officer Commanding,  
AMG Eighth Army

0748

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

785017

17 MAY Recd 85-1  
17 MAY Recd  
REAR HQRS.

A. C. C.

Communications Sub-Commission

SHH/ec  
33

18 May 1944

PS/18.15.18.

SUBJECT:- POW mails to and from closed areas.

TO:- RC and MG Section.

1. Ref. is made to RC and MG Section's communication no 85/30/CA of 12 May to AMG 5 and 8 Armies and Region V.

The scheme therein outlined seems to be an entirely practicable one, and in anticipation of its adoption it is thought well to consider now the question of the circulation of correspondence to and from the provinces concerned.

2. The procedure mentioned in para 2 of the letter quoted meets the position so far as distribution and collection within each individual province is concerned. The question of the "feeder" services between those provinces and Naples and Bari should, geographically, be on the basis that Foggia and Campobasso (? and Chieti, which is operating financial services) should work to and from BARI; and Naples and Benevento to and from NAPLES. (Each of the two key points would interchange POW correspondence for the other's area).

3. Conformity with such an arrangement rests mainly upon transportation facilities between BARI-Foggia-Campobasso-Chieti? . Bari and Foggia are linked by a military train, or perhaps an official courier service could be utilised. The Regional Commissioner, Region V could no doubt arrange from Foggia forward. NAPLES-Benevento will present no difficulty. If Foggia and Campobasso could be more conveniently served from NAPLES, the latter could function as the distribution centre for all the correspondence concerned.

4. Perhaps these further points can be put to the addressees of your enquiries of the 12th May. Copies of this letter are being forwarded to the Postal Officers Regions II and III for enquiry and report so far as they are concerned.

*S. H. Head*  
S. H. HEAD  
Major

for Director, Communications Sub-Commission

Copies to:-

Postal Officer, Region II  
Postal Officer, Region III  
Major McKean, Civil Censorship Group

0747

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

785017

RESTRICTED<sup>15</sup> Recd  
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
 INCOMING MESSAGE

32  
 963E  
 CABI

MSC Center No. N 80/14  
 Classification: RESTRICTED  
 Precedence: ROUTINE  
 From: FREEDOM SIGNED CINC  
 To: ACC MAIN



Date Time Rec'd MAY 14/2310  
 Date Time Sent MAY 14/1228  
 Reference NR F 45648  
 Cite FIDES

26  
 MESSAGE CONTAINED IN YOUR 4237 TRANSMITTED TROOPERS AS REQUESTED. REPLY PARAPHRASED  
 IS TO EFFECT THAT WITH VIEW TO RATIONING CORRESPONDANCE AND PARCELS GERMAN AUTHORITIES  
 HAVE ISSUED REPLY FORMS AND PARCELS LABELS TO ALLIED P W FROM GERMAN OCCUPIED COUNTRIES  
 AND THEREFORE SIMILAR RESTRICTIONS PROBABLY IMPOSED ON ITALIAN PW IN GERMAN HANDS.  
 TROOPERS AGREE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES BE INFORMED. TROOPERS MAKE IT CLEAR THAT RESTRICTION  
 DO NOT APPLY TO PW OF US OR BRITISH DOMINIONS

ACTION COPY

ACC DIST

ACTION C & HR  
 INFO DEP CC  
 COMMUNICATIONS SC  
 (REAR)

FILE  
 FLOAT 2782

RESTRICTED

23/5

0748

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

785017

85 1 MAY Recd  
[Signature]

CAB 31  
7471

HEADQUARTERS  
A.M.G. FIFTH ARMY (FIELD)  
A.P.O. 464 U.S. Army

14th May 1944.

SUBJECT: Italian P.O.W. Correspondence.

102/1.

TO : H.Q., A.C.C.,  
H.C. & M.G. Section.

30

Reference your letter, 85/30/CA of 12th May 1944.

1. With regard to incoming correspondence, (paragraph 2a), there is no objection to mail being delivered to local Post Offices by the method suggested. There is also, no objection to mail being delivered by house to house delivery, provided that the postman conforms to the existing movement regulations.

2. With regard to outgoing correspondence, (paragraph 2b), it is requested that the existing procedure be continued by which such mail is forwarded to the International Red Cross by means of the official courier service, as it is not considered desirable to have any mail of any kind carried to the rear in Post Office vans.

3. This Headquarters will welcome the extension of P.O.W. Mail facilities on the lines outlined above.

For the Commanding General:

E.B. Mayne

E.B. MAYNE,  
Lt.Col., U.S.A.,  
Chief of Staff,  
A.M.G. Fifth Army.

Copy to:  
A.M.G. Eighth Army.

W.A. P.O. 8  
[Signature]  
2561  
W 1575

0749

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

785017

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
R.C. & H.Q. SECTION  
APO 394

30

12 May 1944

Ref/05/34/01

SUBJECT: Italian RHC Correspondence in Areas where normal postal services are not yet in operation.

TO : Maj 5 & 6 units, 11-  
R.C. Region V.

1. A considerable amount of censored correspondence from Italian RHC's to addressees in the "closed areas" (North Naples Province, Benevento, Caserta and Foggia) is piling up in Naples and Bari. An entirely temporary and not very satisfactory arrangement was made with the International Red Cross and with the 5th Army sharing the letters transport, as and when available, was to be loaded with some of this mail for transport to Caserta from which town it was to be the responsibility of the International Red Cross to arrange distribution. (361/47/1A of 27 April 1944 to Region III with copies to 5th Army, Comandante 5th Division, and International Red Cross Bureau). The present amount of mail awaiting distribution is much larger than could possibly be handled by such an irregular arrangement.

2. While appreciating that the present is not the time to ask the Allies to agree to actual delivery services by the post offices, I consider that no objection can be made to using the post offices in the following manner:

a. Correspondence from RHC to persons in "closed" areas.

To be sent to the local post offices in special mails to be made up under supervision of the Provincial Headquarters Post Office and despatched by the services which transport the official correspondence and mail (once or twice weekly) in connection with post office financial services. The correspondence to be called for at the local post office.

b. Correspondence to RHC from persons living in "closed" areas.

The correspondence to be handled in at the local post offices and despatched thence (by the transport service referred to in a.) in sealed mails addressed, not to the local post office, but to the Allied Control Council at the Provincial Capital. This would prevent the service being misused.

3. I think the scheme would involve no breach of security and, while not as satisfactory as a house to house delivery, it would at least satisfy the desire for news of relatives expressed in a number of appeals that have reached this Headquarters.

4. Please inform this Section as early as possible whether or not you consider this scheme would be satisfactory.

WILLIAM J. WILSON  
Colonel  
Deputy Executive  
Commissioner

19 May 1944  
WJW

0750

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

785017

Copy to:

33  
Circulation/Information Policy/Classification  
A.C.C. Division A.C.C. Div.  
Region III (For Major Cases, Partial Officer)  
International Red Cross (For R. Hobbins)

2779

0751

785017

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

HEADQUARTERS  
REGION 3, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
APO 394, U.S. Army

Ref/36147/CA  
P 152/202

23

10 May 1944

SUBJECT: Correspondence from Italian Prisoners of war for addresses in liberated territory where normal postal deliveries are not yet authorized.

TO : RC and MG Section, HQ, A.C.C.

1. At the present time the normal arrangement concerning correspondence from Italian Prisoners of War to their relatives living in the "closed" area (North Naples Province, Benevento, Campobasso and Foggia) is that it should be held at Naples or Bari pending authorization of deliveries.

2. The delegate of the International Red Cross, who was receiving many enquiries (partly as a result of the non delivery of this correspondence) sought and obtained your permission for such correspondence to be transported to the Capoluoghi concerned with a view to its delivery at his responsibility through the instrumentality of the Italian Red Cross.

3. There have however been large arrivals of POW mail recently and he finds that the task of delivery is likely to be quite outside the capacity of the Italian Red Cross and asks whether it would be possible for the Post Office to undertake the work.

4. The present time is perhaps not a propitious one for asking the Armies concerned to agree to actual delivery services and it is therefore suggested that the following arrangements be introduced.

X a. Correspondence from POW to relatives in "closed" areas.  
To be sent to the local Post Offices in special mails to be made up under supervision at the Provincial Headquarters Post Office and despatched by the services which transport the official correspondence and cash (once or twice weekly) in connection with Post Office Financial Services. The correspondence to be called for at the local Post Offices.

b. Correspondence to POW from relatives living in "closed" areas.  
The correspondence to be handled in at the local Post Offices and despatched thence (by the transport service referred to in a.) in sealed mails addressed, not to the Head Post Office, but to the Allied Censor Control at the capoluoghi. This would prevent the service being misused.

N.B. CAPO LUOGHI  
should be known  
Provincial Capital.

HEADQUARTERS  
10 MAY 1944  
A. C. C.

5. It is thought that the scheme outlined above would involve no breach of security and, while not so satisfactory as a house to house delivery, it would at least satisfy the desire for news of relatives expressed in such appeals as that enclosed with this report. — 27

6. If approval can be given the arrangements will be made immediately as regards Naples and Benevento Provinces. — seen

For the Regional Commissioner:

*Alex H. White*

ALEX H. WHITE  
Lt. Colonel,  
Executive Officer

Copies to: Provincial Commissioner Benevento Prov.  
Provincial Commissioner Naples Prov.

2777

0.7.33

785017

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

27

AL COMANDO MILITARE ALLEATO  
NAPOLI

Qui tutta la popolazione di PRIGNANO PICCOLO reclama che è stata sospesa la corrispondenza diretta al Comune di Prignano, che tutte le famiglie aspettano qualche lettera dei figli, e dei mariti prigionieri, che ogni giorno che passano gli sembrano dei secoli.

Pertanto pregano a Codesto Comando ai fini di volere cortesemente ordinare il ripristino del detto servizio diretto al Comune di Prignano, ai fini di poter avere qualche notizia dei figli, o dei mariti lontani prigionieri per tranquillizzarsi un po' nel leggere le lettere dei nostri figli e dei nostri mariti scritte.

Nella piena fiducia che Codesto On. Comando voglia accogliere le preghiere di tante madri o di tante mogli che stanno in attesa di qualche lettera. Prega a Codesto On. Comando di volere ordinare alla Direzione Superiore delle Poste Centrale di Napoli il ripristino della corrispondenza tanto in arrivo quanto in partenza per i Prigionieri di Prignano Piccolo, essendo molto desiderosi di una scritta le proprie famiglie.

Sicuro che questo On. Comando Alleato voglia pigliare in considerazione la sorte di tante famiglie che desiderano le notizie dei propri congiunti  
Vi ringrazia.

La Popolazione di  
PRIGNANO PICCOLO.

L1 2 / 5 / 1944

*May (Post Office) Rep 100 had been  
the number that he had received.  
Reports from Benevento as well as other  
effect that the people were suffering  
in the subject of POWs.  
11/5.*

0734

785017

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

RESTRICTED

FATMA 4237

26

FATMA (Civil Affairs Branch)

3 May 1944

RESTRICTED

Paper 163-Place

PRIORITY

24 25  
Refer

PERMAN

GRAY PUL IF YOU WILL TRANSMIT FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO TROOPERS QUOTE PARCE TO APORE PER  
NOE HENTE COMMUNICATIONS ARE RESTRICTED FROM FATMA HERE PD INFORMATION HAS BEEN  
 RECEIVED FROM FOR GERMANY UNIT AND ENVA FIVE FIVE THAT LATTERS AND CARDS FROM  
 ITALIAN POW'S HELD IN GERMANY HAVE CONTAINED MESSAGES BY GERMAN CENSORS THAT NO IN-  
 COMING MAIL TO THESE POW'S WILL BE ACCEPTED UNLESS WRITTEN ON THE OFFICIAL GERMAN  
 IMPLICATED FORM PD SINCE WE UNDERSTAND THAT FORWARDING OF ORDINARY LATTERS TO BRITISH  
 POW'S IN GERMANYLANDS IS RESTRICTED CIA CONFIRMATION OF THIS RESTRICTION ON MAIL  
 TO ITALIAN POW'S IS REQUESTED BEFORE INFORMATION IS PASSED TO ITALIAN POSTAL  
 AUTHORITIES PD REQUEST EARLIEST REPLY UNQUOTE

See 3v

Letal  
 10/5  
 2775  
 L.T. MONTAG, JR.  
 2nd Lt. AGO  
 Adjutant

RESTRICTED

REAR HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
APO 394

SHH/rm

C.A. Br

25  
6131

In reply refer  
to: RS/16/2/207.

1st May 1944.

Subject: Correspondence to Italian P.O.W. in Germany.

To: R.C. and M.G. Section, A.C.C. HQ, Main.

1. The information contained in the accompanying communication CCG/15301 - 6 of April 29th from the Civil Censorship Group is the first intimation received here regarding a veto being placed by the Germans on the transmission of ordinary letters to Italian Prisoners of War held by them. More precise information, not yet received, may have been communicated through official UK and US channels, but it is considered that the position should be referred to the War Office immediately by cable. In anticipation of that being done, and in view of the unusual means by which the information has been notified from Germany, it is not proposed to issue any notification to the Italian public unless and until some confirmation of the restrictions is received, or to take any steps towards holding up ordinary letters now being posted.

2. The regulations issued to the public in the UK in February of this year permit of the posting of ordinary letters to British P.O.W. in German hands.



*S.H. Head*

S.H. Head, Major,  
for J.L. Henderson,  
Colonel,  
Director, Communications Sub-Commission.

Copy to: Major McKean, Civil Censorship Group.

2774

COPY

LTJ/lbm

24

REAR HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
APO 394

COG/15301-6

29 April 1944.

Subject: Mail to Italian Prisoners of War held in Germany.

To: Major S. H. Head.

1. Information has been received from the Prisoner of War Censorship Unit APO 159 that letters and cards from Italian prisoners of War held in Germany have contained remarks by German censors that no incoming mail to these prisoners of War will be accepted unless written on the official German duplicate form.

2. Will you please bring this information to the attention of the Italian postal authorities in order to obviate the uselessness of accepting mail for Italian prisoners of War in Germany written on ordinary stationery.

Signed. ~~4000000000~~  
Gordon W. McKean.  
Major Cavalry  
Officer Commanding.  
Civil Censorship Group.

2773

0787

785017

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

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
R.C. & M.C. SECTION  
APO 394

23

Ref/361/47/DA

27 April 1944

SUBJECT: Delivery of Correspondence from P.O.W.'s

TO : R.C. Region III (for Major Green Postal Officer)

1. Confirming conversation on telephone between Major Green and Capt. Talbot today.
2. Authority is given for the censored POW correspondence now being held in Naples to be handed over to the International Red Cross for distribution in the areas in which postal facilities do not exist.
3. Arrangements have been made with Mons Mathieu of International Red Cross whereby POW correspondence for Campese and Poggia can be sent to the Message Center Rq. ASD Provincia Building, Naples in lots of 3 or 4 bags a day. These bags will be placed on any available transportation which is to proceed to Rq. ASD 8th Army for distribution from there. Such distribution to be the responsibility of International Red Cross.
4. It must be clearly understood that these arrangements are temporary and only apply to censored correspondence from POW's held in Naples at the time of the receipt of this letter.
5. Full instructions in regard to the future handling and distribution of POW correspondence in areas where postal facilities do not exist are being drafted by Communications Sub-Commission and will be available within a few days.

BU 4/20/44

25  
HUBERT A. FISKE  
Colonel  
Deputy Executive  
Commissioner

Copy to:  
Communications Sub-Commission.  
8th Army ASD  
International Red Cross (M. Mathieu)  
L/M Ficker, Message Center.

13/52  
HAF  
BU

0758

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

785017

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
R.C. & M.C. SECTION  
APO 394

22  
#10

Ref/361/46/CA

23 April 1944

SUBJECT: International Red Cross Message Service.

TO : Hq. AAI.

21

1. Reference your AAI/1401/12/3(D) of 20 April para 2.

2. Your remark is noted. Para 4 of our 361/15/CA of 23 March was badly worded. The sentence stating "There is no objection" applies to the work to be done as listed under para 3 and not to the censoring of correspondence.

M.S. LUSH  
Brigadier  
For Chief Commissioner

24/4

Be 1 & May  
Archives  
24/42

0759

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

785017

Subject:- International Red Cross.  
Civil Message Enquiry and  
P.W. Correspondence Service.

HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

AAI/1101/12/G(Ib).

R.C. and M.G. Section.

20 Apr 44.

Reference your 361/28/CA dated 8 Apr 44.

1. Your intention to submit final instructions on the above matter to us, before promulgation, is noted and appreciated.
2. With reference to para 4 of your 361/15/CA dated 23 March, censorship of incoming and outgoing Red Cross messages would be effected by the Allied Censor Control Officer, NAPLES, in accordance with existing procedure and not by the Italian Red Cross.

ME - Censorship

21 APR 1944

A. C. C.

Brigadier,  
B.G.S.(I).

EF.

Copy to:- Censorship Liaison Officer.

2171

SUBJECT: Red Cross Mail for Forward Areas.

TO : Capt. Talbot.

I

20

1. Mons. Mathieu came to see me this morning. He has five bags of mail for FOGGIA and 20 for CAMPOBASSO. I understand that if he brought the mail here we would send it out.
2. I have not gone into the subject deeply, but think that provided there is not too much mail we should do what we can by putting an odd bag onto transport going that way. Mons. Mathieu thinks that the quantity will decrease once we have cleared the present accumulation.
3. Will you please ring him back as soon as possible (12295) and confirm arrangements.

18 April 44.

G.W.I. SHIPP,  
Lt. Col.

P.S. He tells me that the Italian Red Cross have newly appointed a President, Prof. M. Jungano.

II

*W. A. Shipp*

1. I have seen Messrs. Centre & have telephoned Mr. Mathieu.
2. Capt. TURNER (A) & Telecom & Pater S/C Talbot. I have given him Summary of replies to ~~15~~ and he is going to draft instructions for us to send to America & Reg. V.
3. ~~For information there are 3 Services~~ *St 21/4.*

*Excellent to all*

*See N 22/4*

0761

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

785017

SUBJECT:

International Red Cross

HQ :  
Near EIGHTH ARMY  
CA/4  
13 Apr 44

19  
V-4202

TO: Executive Commissioners Branch,  
RC & MG Section,  
Allied Control Commission.

13

1. Reference your 361/29/CA dated 9 Apr 44. This HQ has no objections to the Italian Red Cross assuming full responsibility for the whole matter in any area.

2. The use of CAO's was only suggested because it seemed doubtful that the Italian Red Cross was sufficiently thick on the ground to work the scheme efficiently.

*Admirer*  
Major, RA,  
GSO II,  
for Group Captain,  
Officer Commanding,  
HQ AMG EIGHTH ARMY.

2738

0762

785017

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

Subject: I.N.C. Pro Traffic  
Service

Atla Shipp

1. M. MATHEU (IRC NITASSO 38. Tel 12255)  
Called for opinion. His immediate  
problem is that he has 304 bags of  
censored mail in Campobasso,  
Benevento and Foggia. He wants  
to get it to the place and also  
to know to whom to send it. Suggested  
Italian Red X should distribute & he  
thought that an excellent idea.  
Is it?

2. M. See Summary of replies to his reports.  
also 132 which replies to [redacted] and #017  
Where the Post Office are open they  
can handle the traffic. (Please see  
132 and para 1 of 132) and sell the forms.  
If where the Post Office are not  
open that a decision is required.  
Who is to sell the forms and  
handle the traffic? MATHEU the  
Italian Red X should & would do it.

Can I now, to implement para 5  
on this [redacted] tell [redacted] [redacted]  
that in areas where [redacted] the  
P.O. Office are closed the traffic [redacted]  
be handled by the local Italian  
Red X branch office?

Will also reply to Rep 1 (132)  
& say O.K. in Post Office to do it.

14/4.

12th April, 1944.

**Subject:** President of War Mill.

91

1. Reference is made to the attached communication from the S.C.A.O., AMT, 5 Army.

2/ In view of the impracticability of keeping all POWs advised of the periodically changing postal boundary limits, the Postal authorities overseas were notified to the effect that mail from POWs would be accepted by the Italian postal service for all areas of "Allied Occupied Italy". As the civil postal delivery service is not operating in forward and "restricted" areas, prisoners of war mails received for addressees in such areas are being held at the civil Post Offices at Bari and Naples until delivery through normal civil postal channels can be made.

3. When this arrangement was set up it was anticipated that additional territory would have been handed over for postal development more quickly than has actually been the case. Furthermore, the posting in forward areas of letters for POW was not envisaged, and the existence of such a facility has not previously been notified to this Sub-Commission. However, the fact that such a service is operating indicates that some transportation facilities for the collection and disposal of outgoing POW correspondence is available, and such conveyance could presumably be utilised in the reverse direction for picking up incoming POW mail. If so, and subject to security agreement, it can be arranged to make available at Naples or Bari, such mail as comes to hand, addressed to the forward areas of Naples and Benevento provinces, all of Campobasso Province, and the restricted province of Foggia. Distribution of the correspondence could no doubt also be fitted in to a large extent with the International Red Cross service regarding

received for addresses in such areas and being delivered through normal civil Post Offices at Bari and Naples until delivery through normal civil postal channels can be made.

3. When this arrangement was set up it was anticipated that additional territory would have been handed over for postal development more quickly than has actually been the case. Furthermore, the posting in forward areas of letters for POW was not envisaged, and the existence of such a facility has not previously been notified to this Sub-Commission. However, the fact that such a service is operating indicates that some transportation facilities for the collection and disposal of outgoing POW correspondence is available, and such conveyance could presumably be utilized in the reverse direction for picking up incoming POW mail. If so, and subject to security agreement, it can be arranged to make available at Naples or Bari, such mail as comes to hand, addressed to the forward areas of Naples and Benevento Provinces, all of Campobasso Province, and the restricted Province of Foggia. Distribution of the correspondence could no doubt also be fitted in to a large extent with the International Red Cross service regarding the operation of which you have asked ARMY SCAO's for information in para 5 of your letter 361/15/CA dated 23rd March.

4. Perhaps in the light of the replies received, this Sub-Commission will be advised of agreed requirements.

*J. L. Henderson*  
J. L. Henderson  
Colonel,

Director, Telecommunications and Posts Sub-Commission.

Copies to: SCAO, AMB, 5 ARMY.

(Lt.-Col. E.B. Maynes reference letter 55/2 dated 7th April).

SCAO, 8 ARMY.

RCAG, Region V (2 copies).

1 Encl

*No answer  
replied a few  
days later  
Capt Turner of Telecom and Posts*

785017

0765

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

785017

COPI

HEADQUARTERS  
AND FIFTH ARMY (FIELD)  
APO 464 U.S. ARMY

7 April, 1945.  
55/2

Subject: Italian POW Mail.

To: HQ ADC (RC & MRS)

1. Civilians in forward areas are complaining to CAOS that while they are able to send mail to their relatives who are POW in Allied hands, they are unable to receive any mail from POW. This seems a reasonable complaint.

2. Information is therefore requested as to the provisions which have been made for the distribution of such mail to extreme forward areas, where civil post offices have been destroyed or for other reasons have not yet been reopened.

Signed: E.B. MAYNE  
Lt.-Col., USF  
for SCAD, AND 5 ARMY

2763

0783

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

785017

Dear Mr. Talbot

11 App Recd - 15  
36/15

you may like  
to have copies of  
MRS letters from Tc Postal  
SC file to complete  
your file.

I also enclose  
some copies of correspondence  
I have had re the  
"rapid" service.

Yours  
J. W. Green

10/4/44

cc

~~Put in file~~

0767

785017

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

361 170 APR 1944

CA 3r 14  
J-14  
R

HEADQUARTERS  
AMG FIFTH ARMY (FIELD)  
A.P.O. 464 U.S. ARMY

9th April 1944.

Subject: International Red Cross Message Service.

55/2

To : H.Q., A.S.C. (2) —  
(RC and MG Section).

45

Reference your letter 361/15/SA dated 23 Mar 44.

1. Many of the post offices in the Army Area are now open for the payment of various forms of relief, savings bank business etc., and for the handling of mail for Italian P.O.W. It is suggested that where post offices are open they should be allowed to handle International Red Cross Message Traffic.
2. Where post offices are destroyed or for other reasons have not been reopened, messages can be handled by Civil Affairs Officers. Transport both ways can be handled through the official courier and money collected by C.A.Os under para. 3 (IV) of your letter will be shown as a deposit to the credit of the International Red Cross in the AMG 5 Army (Field) accounts of the month concerned.

E B Marn

E. B. MAYNE,  
Lt. Col., U.S.A.,  
for SCAG AMG 5 ARMY.

for

put this into summary  
on card

2764

24. Rel. v.  
Vic Tasso 38  
12295  
MATHEU ARMED

0768

785017

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

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
R.C. & M.G. SECTION  
APO 394

13

Ref /361/29/CA

9 April 1944

SUBJECT: International Red Cross - Handling of Correspondence.

TO : SDAO 8th Army AMS

5

Ref. your CA/A of 2 April 44. and further our 321/15/CA of 23 Mar.

1. It is considered that, with the possibility of an increasing volume of traffic, C.A.O.S. would be assuming a burden that they should not be asked to bear.
2. Would you therefore further consider entrusting this entire matter to the Agency of the Italian Red Cross who could handle it until additional postal services are inaugurated in the area.
3. Italian Red Cross agencies and Directors of Postal Services in other areas have expressed a willingness to undertake similar work.
4. Failing that, the Sindaco should be requested to co-operate under the supervision of C.A.O.S.

See 42

ROBERT E. FISKE  
Colonel  
Deputy Executive  
Commissioner

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

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HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
R.G. & M.G. Section  
APO 394

12  
12

Ref/361/28/CA.

8 April 1944.

SUBJECT: International Red Cross Civil Message  
Enquiry and P.O.W. Correspondence Services.

TO : H.Q. Allied Armies in Italy.

6

5

1. Reference your AAI/1401/12/C(Ib) of 2 April 1944.

2. A copy of this H.Q. letter to the SCAG's of the Army areas and the Regional Commissioner for BOGIA Province of 23 March 1944 is enclosed for your information. Your attention is drawn to the first sentence of para.4 as this is relevant to the security point raised in para.2 of your letter under reference. We will, as requested, submit the final instructions to you before issuing.

3. In regard to para.3 of your letter, a copy of the instructions relative to the International Red Cross and P.O.W. Services issued by A.O.C. HQ is enclosed. From the enemy side these arrangements are now in operation, but from this side the start has been delayed by discussions as to the price to be paid for the forms. This has, however, now been settled and it is expected that the Services from both ends will be working within a few days.

For the Chief Commissioner:

NORMAN E. FISKE  
Colonel  
Deputy Executive  
Commissioner

Incls:

361/15/CA dated 23 Mar. 44  
361/10/CA dated 19 Mar. 44

27.2

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

11

Colt Shapori

1. Pl. See ~~next~~ which are answer to  
7 & 8

2. Re [22] Maj Green Postal office with  
Reg III told me that could have  
handle it and the Italian Red  
X must be brought into it.

He thinks the ~~Station~~ ARS  
Should do no more than collect  
the stuff at by center, Campo  
vanno, Foggi etc, and then  
let Italian Red & let it in  
to Naples ~~head~~ for Cassini Vico

~~see~~ para 4 on 95

2761

7/4

Probably to be having another look

8/7/4

0771

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

A. C. C. R. 2.

Telegrams - and Postal Sub-Commission

10

29/10.22

Procedure for distribution and transmission  
of International Red Cross Message Forms  
in Italy, Sicily, Sardinia.

1.- International Red Cross Agencies have been established in collaboration between AFM and the IRCO Algiers. For Italy (Dr. Elmhurst, Palermo) and Sicily (Mr. G. Manni, Palermo). An IRC Agency is not being established in Sardinia, but Dr. Carlini, President of the Sardinian Branch of the Italian Red Cross, will function for the IRC as far as the IRC Message Service is concerned.

2.- Message Forms will be printed at Naples (for Italy) and at Palermo for Sicily and Sardinia (Dr. Carlini will purchase his supplies from Dr. Manni).

3. The forms will be sold to the public at Post Offices, at a charge of 15 lire, each which amount will cover all the relative work undertaken by all departments concerned. (The figure of 11 lire at present charged in Sicily, for the Service already started, will be raised to 15 lire). Of the 15 lire, 13 lire will be credited by the Italian Post Office to the IRC, who will in turn transfer an appropriate proportion to the Italian Red Cross. It is anticipated that the control of payments from the Postal Authorities to the IRC (in respect of the three territories concerned) will be centralized on the office of the Under Secretary of State for Posts and Telegraphs at Palermo. This point has yet to be settled.

4.- The service will operate between the areas open for Civil Mail Services and enemy occupied territories in Italy and abroad.

5. The treatment of the forms will be as follows:

ROUTING:

I

11 2730

(I) Delivered by Printers (top)

Printers to prepare advice Note in triplicate for each communication.

(II) Post Office Directors at Naples and Palermo: (who will distribute to)

One copy to be received, after checking and handed back to the printers; one copy to be handed to IRC; and one copy retained by Post Office.

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

- | I                                                                                                          | II                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (III) U.S. Directors of other provinces<br>(who will distribute to)                                        | Distribution of forms to be recorded by all concerned. Issuing Post Office to date stamp each form at time of sale.       |
| (IV) All Post Offices                                                                                      |                                                                                                                           |
| (V) After handing each to Post Offices<br>the forms will circulate back to                                 | IRC to arrange with Italian Red Cross for forms to be verified, and then carried out according to country of destination. |
| (VI) IRC Naples, Palermo, Cagliari<br><br>(For transmission through the Allied Censor Control Officers to) | In bags or packages.                                                                                                      |
| (VII) IRC Delegation Algiers c/o Military Government Section AFHQ.                                         | No postage required.                                                                                                      |

INCLOSURE:

I

II

- |                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (I) From IRC Algiers<br>(through)                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| (II) Allied Censorship Control Officers at Naples, Palermo and Cagliari<br>(to) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| (III) IRC Offices<br>(then to)                                                  | IRC will withdraw any correspondence for themselves and arrange for the forms to be:<br>(a) clearly marked with an arrow to show return address,<br>(b) divided up and wrapped (with label) according to provinces. |

6. The Red Cross Delegation at Naples, Palermo and Cagliari will arrange for suitable notification to the public.

G.H. READ  
Major

361  
6 APR-Recd

C.A. Br.  
U-3065

TO : A.C.G. H.Q. and H.Q. Section. A.P.O. 394.

FROM : HQ. A.M.G. Region 5.

SUBJECT: International Red Cross.

REF : R5/507/14.

DATE : 3 April 1944.

Reference your 161/15/CX of 23 March 1944.

1. (a) Campobasso Province. The Italian Red Cross and the Director of Posts are both willing to undertake this work. The Post Offices throughout the Province are open for certain financial transactions, and a limited mail service based on Campobasso and covering the whole Province is in operation. The mail is carried by a civil transportation company, and is used by A.M.G. and by the Italian Administration, subject to censorship.  
(b) Foggia Province. The Post Offices are open as above, and a similar mail service is in operation, but carried in this case by Carabinieri motorcyclists, between Lucera and the various Podestas. The Post Offices Authorities state that they could handle this additional traffic, and that collection or distribution would be done by the Podestas, or by the Post Offices.
2. It is proposed, since the Post Offices are open and since a mail service, of sorts, is in operation in both Provinces, that the Post Office should handle the work, routed through the Head Offices at Campobasso and Lucera.

*Flwy*  
W.L. WHITLEY  
Colonel, C.A.C.  
Regional Commissioner.

Copy to A.M.G. Eighth Army, for information  
regarding Campobasso Province.

FLW:ME

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

SUBJECT: Red Cross.

4 APR 1945  
3610

CA. B. U. 1954  
AGC Rear Eighth Army.

CA/4

2 Apr. 44.

Hq. Allied Control Commission,  
Executive Commissioners' Branch.

5

1. Reference your 361/15/CA dated 23 Mar 44. CSI(b) Eighth Army are prepared to agree (subject to final ruling from A.A.I.) to the operation of the scheme outlined though they consider the system undesirable in principle.

2. The <sup>only</sup> method of dealing with the correspondence scheme outlined in forward areas is to make CAGs responsible for collection and delivery of mail and whereabouts queries in their areas. This HQ will send letters to CAGs for delivery and centralise collection here for CAGs.

*P. K. L. T. L.*

Major, R.A.  
For Group Captain,  
Officer Commanding,  
AGC Eighth Army.

2757

Subject: - International Red  
Cross Civil Messengers  
Enquiry and R.O.W.  
Correspondence  
Services.

Executive Commissioner,  
A.C.C.

3 APR Recd <sup>361</sup>

H.Q. ALLIED ARMY IN ITALY.

RESTRICTED.

AAI/1451/12/2 (16)

3 APR 44.

1. It is understood that you are investigating the possibility of making the above services available to local inhabitants in areas where civil postal services are not yet permitted.
2. It is requested that a draft of any scheme or instructions on this subject which you may draw up be submitted to this Headquarters, in order that we may have an opportunity, prior to their publication and implementation, to consider the security and censorship implications.
3. At the same time it would be appreciated if you would forward for our information details of existing International Red Cross services for external communications.

Brigadier,  
B.G.S.(1).

*Maifreen (Pohl)*

*50890  
will come in and  
see us in a day or  
two to give information  
to go to the 1st  
of 44*

*See 2036*

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

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
R.O. & H.Q. Section  
APO 394

Ref/362/15/DA.

23 March 1964

SUBJECT: International Red Cross.

TO : 1 SCAD 5 Army  
SCAD 6 Army  
SCAD Reg. V (2 copies)

1. The International Red Cross has arranged for its Civil Message, Enquiry, and P.O.W. correspondence services to be carried out through the medium of the Italian Postal Services in those parts of Italy where postal services are now in operation. An announcement giving details of these services will be issued in a few days.

2. There remains the 5th and 8th Armies areas and Foggia Province in which the Italian Postal services are not operating but where the need for the facilities afforded by the International Red Cross, is equally pressing.

3. Provision is required for the following:

(I) Receipt from the International Red Cross, Naples, of Civil Message forms (originating in enemy territory) their distribution to addressees and their collection and return to the International Red Cross, Naples, after the reply has been written on the back of the form.

(II) Receipt from the International Red Cross, Naples, of inquiry forms, the tracing of those inquired for and the forwarding of answers to the International Red Cross, Naples.

(III) Receipt from the International Red Cross, Naples, of P.O.W. correspondence from enemy occupied territory and forwarding to addressees.

(IV) The selling of International Red Cross, Civil Message forms at 15 Lire each to those wishing to correspond with persons in enemy occupied territory and the forwarding of the forms to the International Red Cross, Naples.

(V) Forwarding of letter to International Red Cross, Naples, asking that inquiry be made for persons in enemy occupied territory.

(VI) Forwarding to International Red Cross, Naples, of correspondence for P.O.W. in enemy occupied territory.

4. All censoring of incoming and outgoing correspondence is done in Naples. There is no objection to the use of the Italian Red Cross or any other responsible agency in carrying out this work. The only transaction in which money is involved is that detailed in par. 3(IV) above.

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

14

5. Please inform this Hq. at a very early date how you propose to deal with this correspondence in your area, so that the necessary details can be forwarded to the International Red Cross in Naples and appropriate arrangements can be made for the handling of the small sums of money involved.

WILLIAM E. FISKE  
Colonel  
Deputy Executive  
Commissioner

Copy to:

The Delegate of the International Red Cross.

38 Via Tasso,

Naples.

2754

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HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
R.C. & M.C. Section  
APO 394

Ref/361/15/CA

22 March 1944

SUBJECT: International Red Cross Message Service.

TO : AMB 9th Army (Field)

1. Reference your 14/1 of 17 March 1944. Arrangements for the International Red Cross Message Service are not quite complete, but it is expected that within 2 or 3 days full directions will be issued to the public through the Red Cross and the postal authorities informed by the Telecommunications and Posts Sub-Commission.

*Edwly*  
NORMAN E. FINE  
Colonel  
Deputy Executive  
Commissioner

*John* 2133

0779

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

20 MAR Recd 361  
HEADQUARTERS  
AND FIFTH ARMY (FIELD)  
APO 454 U.S. Army

17 March, 1944.  
LH/1

SUBJECT: International Red Cross Message Service.

TO: HQ AGO. (MG and MGS.)

1. In the attached extract from a recent issue of the "Stars and Stripes", reference is made to a message service being made available to civilians by the International Red Cross.
2. Civil Affairs Officers in forward areas are being approached by Italians who wish to avail themselves of this service, but as far this Headquarters has received no official guidance as to how this service operates.
3. Information is therefore requested as to the channel by which such messages should be passed to the International Red Cross.
4. The procedure for handling mail for Italian POW in Allied hands is already well known.

*John Ashley*  
J.O.M. ASHLEY,  
Colonel, G of S.  
AND Fifth Army.

Copy to Maj Collins (Liaison Office)

*Only major find or Red + ?*

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

\*Extract from Stars and Stripes attached to  
AMC Fifth Army (Field) letter 14/1 dated 17 March.\*

RED CROSS TO CARRY NOTES TO GERMANY

ROME--Purely civilian messages of not more than 25 words which contain family news may now be sent from Naples to all German or enemy-occupied countries through a service set up here by the International Red Cross. Northern and Central Italy are included in the service.

Red Cross representatives who announced the plan stressed that messages must be free of any mention of politics, war or finances. Correspondence with POWs and interned civilians will not be affected by the new service and must continue to go through regular channels. In cases where it is an urgent necessity to verify the status of either military or civilian personnel in enemy hands, however, the International Red Cross provides a special inquiry message service.

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