

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

785017

ACC

10000/109/1413

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

785017

10000/109/1413

CLOSED CAMP, BARI
FEB. - APR. 1944

785017

Chief Commissioner.

On March 10. Maj Gen Strong asked that the Bon Transit Camp for Displaced Persons should be emptied of the residents (about 800) in order that proper security screening could take place.

We consulted local Security authorities in discussing Brig Hill Dillon, Commander of the 1st Air Force representative who was satisfied with proposed screening in the camp - a plan which involved removal of residents. Dr. Heuser recommended extra work but no removal of inhabitants.

AFHQ now reject ^{our} suggestion & order us to evacuate the camp of all residents.

I think the order is unreasonable & unnecessary. It entails building another camp which would attain the standard of Bon.

Do you agree that we should continue the conflict - or do nothing?

To D. Hill

Please speak

Wm 12/4/44

M. J. 4/44

Fendley

16

Spoke to Hill who is referring to the camp. Hill said he was not sure, but he would try to find out.

14/4

Bu 18/4

HQ AGC, APO 354

Sgt. V. Gen.

Rec'd 11 Apr 1948

By

114 ~~2~~ 7 Apr recd
SECRET

CABR 17
S-1313

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Military Government Section

DSJ/DW/thh 7

MGS 254

4 April 1944

SUBJECT: Displaced Persons - Closed Camp, Bari

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission

Reference is made to your 73/94/CA of 15 March.

1. The recommendation contained in your memorandum under reference has been referred to the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, at this Headquarters who have stated that it is considered essential that all permanent residents of the closed camp at Bari shall be removed in order that the registration and security interrogation of refugees may be effected with the safeguards necessary to the efficient conduct of these matters. Most recent reports received in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, from Security authorities in the field do not accord with the opinion of the local Security authorities as expressed in your memorandum.

2. The considerations underlying the opinion expressed by G-2, AFHQ, are explained in their memorandum B-389.506/80 of 10 March, which was forwarded under MGS 254 of 12 March. It is held that in this matter the claims of security must be considered paramount, and you should therefore arrange to remove all static members from this camp to other locations.

For the Acting Chief of Section.

D. S. Jackling
D. S. JACKLING,
Lt. Colonel.

Copy to: G-2 - your B-389.506/80 of 31 March refers.

Col. Drake

Exec. Comm. should see
this.

114 7/4

86 3/4
SECRET



785017

11-22 MAR Recd

R-16

C-16

U 1940

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-10-2001 BY 60322
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

REF/104/53-2

10th March, 1944.

TO : Executive Commissioner,
Allied Control Commission.

FROM : [Redacted]

Reference is made to the letter 104/53-2 dated 12th March, 1944, and
A.C. of 3. G-2, 17th letter, file no. 13-389,506/00 dated 10th March, 1944.

It is essential that the former P.T. Transit Camp No. 1 at Bari, which
was turned over to this Sub-Commission, be retained as a Transit Camp. The
type of refugees we are receiving from Yugoslavia has changed materially in the
last few weeks, and instead of getting a cross-section of the population of the
islands off the Dalmatian coast, we are getting old people, encumbered women
and orphan children. A ship which arrived recently had 90 orphan children
aboard. These people are coming from the mainland of Yugoslavia and are coming
through the German lines. Evidently the Germans consider them of no fighting
value and do not care to feed them. These people are in very poor shape
physically when they arrive due to exposure and under-nourishment. Practically
all of them are infested with lice. It is therefore imperative that they be
disinfested without delay and that they have some opportunity of recovery from
their privations and exposure before being put in box cars and shipped south.

The question of screening these people has been discussed with the
local COMINT representatives. Brigadier Hill-Gillon and Commander Judd, who state
that it will be sufficient to wire off not more than 2 huts for the accommodation
of those who should be kept under close surveillance. If the whole camp is
to be wired and guarded it will require a great company of considerable strength
to make it effective.

785017

The question of screening these people has been discussed with the local CADIC representatives, including Bill Miller and Commander Badi. He states that it will be insufficient to hire off not more than 3 huts for the accommodation of those who should be kept under close surveillance. If the whole camp is to be fired and guarded it will require a guard company of considerable strength to make it effective.

This Sub-Commission has no troops for the purpose and it does not appear possible to obtain them from elsewhere at this time.

We have scrupulously avoided making any of our camps take on the appearance of a concentration camp. It is believed it will be very unwise and would cause serious repercussions if the Badi Camp had the appearance of a concentration camp. Moreover, because of the type of refugees we are receiving, Commander Badi and myself believe it is entirely unnecessary to put restrictions and constraints upon the large numbers of assembled men and children who are receiving.

The movement of refugees who have, heretofore, been here or less permanent is being arranged for.

It is believed that the arrangements completed with the local CADIC representatives serve the purposes completely and, at the same time, relieve the greater part of the Transit Camp at Badi for its most effective use.

W. B. Skidmore
Colonel, G. S. Skidmore,
Colonel, G. S. Skidmore,
Colonel, G. S. Skidmore.

Discussed at conference 24/3.
Ex Comm. stated no further action. In view of 15. pa. pa.
29/3.

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 394

Regional Control and Military Government Section.

Ref: 73/94/01.

15th March 1944.

SUBJECT: Displaced Persons, Yugoslavs - Closed
Camp at Bari.

TO : Military Government Section,
Allied Force Headquarters.

I refer to your 1038-27, dated 12th March 1944.

I have discussed the question with the local security authorities. It will be unnecessary to evacuate the static part of this camp. They do not carry on business from the camp but are permanent residents therein. Evacuation would involve the necessity of building a far larger camp elsewhere. I therefore recommend that the authorities on the spot, realising the desirability, be allowed to arrange the camp in the best manner possible. They are ~~recommended~~ trustworthy people with much experience.

221/30.

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: Displaced Persons Sub-Commission,
c/o H. No. 2 District, C.M.F.

3857

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Equals British MOST SECRET

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Military Government Section

4 MAR Recd

URGENT

DW/jjr

MGS-254

12 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Displaced Persons, Yugoslavs - Closed
Camp at Bari.

TO : HQ. Allied Control Commission - Attention
MG and RC Section.

Reference is made to our MGS: 254 of 22 February,
as amended by our even number of 1 March.

The attached copy of a directive from the Office of
the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, AFHQ, under reference B-
389.506/80 of 10 March is forwarded for your attention and
early action.

13 For the Acting Chief of Section:

D. G. Walker
D. G. WALKER
Major.

Incl: As above.

Copy to: - (with enclosure)
Displaced Persons Sub-Commission,
c/o HQ NO. 2 District, CMF
G2(CI)
G-3
Civil Affairs Office
The Office of the British Resident Minister.

RECEIVED
14 MAR 1944

Copy 43 given to Major Allard
D.F.C.

3856

U. S. SECRET
Equals British MOST SECRET

C O P YU.S. SECRET
Equals British SECRETC O P YALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

B-389.506/80

10 March 1944

SUBJECT: Formation of an Interrogation and Registration
for Refugees at BARITO : HQ. Allied Armies in Italy.
Military Government Section, A.F.H.Q.HEADQUARTERS
14 MAR 1944
A. C. C.

1. The registration and interrogation of refugees from Yugoslavia and the Dalmatian Coast on entry into Italy is considered a matter of primary importance for security reasons. It is known that the enemy intends trying to send agents under this cover. After consultation with the various authorities on the spot arrangements have been made for an interrogation team under Major Rice, Security Intelligence Liaison Office, C.M.F., to carry out this work at the Displaced Persons Camp (formerly the Venables Camp) near Bari. Before such registration and interrogation can be adequately performed it will be necessary to evacuate a large number of refugees who have made the Camp their home and who are now carrying on their businesses and occupations from this centre. It is understood that this situation is recognised as being undesirable and that steps are being taken to arrange for the removal of these people. It cannot be emphasised too strongly that their evacuation is a matter of the utmost necessity and urgency. In certain cases the bona fides of persons who have undergone the primary registration and interrogation are likely to be found to require detailed examination. Such persons must be kept in a secure place. It has been agreed with the local authorities that a portion of the Camp suitable for the accommodation of some 200 individuals shall be wired off so that persons requiring detailed interrogation can be safely confined. The wiring off of this section of the Camp should be commenced at once.

2. Although it is recognised that the wiring off of the whole Camp may be rather an extensive work and that some political capital may be made of the fact that by so doing we are confining friendly refugees, it is felt strongly that such an arrangement is desirable and that it should be attempted if at all possible. The registration (a most important matter) of refugees on arrival in Italy is made much more difficult if it is performed in an open Camp from which egress is easy and uncontrolled. It is considered that no serious political issue will be encountered if it is explained that this is done in the interests of the refugees themselves and those of the United Nations.

/s/K. W. D. Strong
/t/K. W. D. STRONG
Major General, G.S.,
A. C. of S, G-2Copy to: Major Rice, Security Intelligence
Liaison Office
(thru Col. Jones S.E. Europe Liaison Unit).

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Military Government Section

NGS: 254

1 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Displaced Persons - Closed Camp at Bari.

TO : HQ. Allied Control Commission -
Attention MG and RC Section.

Reference is made to our NGS 254 of 22 February.

Pursuant upon further advice received from the Office of the Resident Ministers at AFHQ the last sentence of paragraph 5 of our memorandum may be replaced by the following passage:

"There is no objection to this practice, but care must be taken to avoid giving the Royal Yugoslav authorities reason to complain that they are being denied facilities given to Partisan representatives, or are being treated less generously."

For the Acting Chief of Section:

D. G. Walker
D. G. WALKER
Major.

Copy to: Displaced Persons Sub-Commission,
c/o HQ No: 2 District CMF
G-2 (CI)
G-3
Civil Affairs Office
The Office of the British Resident Minister.



3854

785017

3 MAR Recd

114

3 MAR Recd

INTER-ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Office of the Director

REK/CE/441

U-886

TOP/56/541.

2nd March, 1944.

SUBJECT: Displaced Persons - Closed Camp at BARI.

TO : Headquarters,
Allied Control Commission
Attention: Executive Commissioner.

1. Reference your 73/36/CA of the 27th instant, it is observed that this matter is also taken up in the attachment to MG3-091.711 Yugoslavia, of the 26th February, 1944, which copy was sent to this Headquarters where the question of dealing with Partisans is also being dealt with.

2. General Mason MacFarlane, on his recent visit, stated that the question of running camps for Yugoslavs being trained for combat duties was a question for the Military, rather than for Allied Control Commission. It is understood that No. 2 District was informed accordingly.

3. The Executive Commissioner on his visit arranged that, as a temporary measure to help 133 Force, this Sub-Commission would administer a camp which is being set up at GABING for Yugoslavs being trained for combat duties. The setting up of this Camp will enable GABING Camp to be handed back to No. 2 District, in accordance with their requirements, and will clear No. 1 Camp at BARI of its large percentage of Yugoslavs under training. It is stressed, however, that the arrangement was temporary only.

4. Commander Rodd, representing CEIC, visited this Headquarters for the purpose of discussing screening of refugees, particularly Yugoslavs. The present CEIC camp is inadequate. He did not desire to take over the whole of No. 1 Transit Camp at BARI, nor to bring into force 100 per cent screening of Yugoslavs, as he believed this to be impracticable. His requirements, as stated by him, were one or two huts to be set aside to which would be sent refugees designated by CEIC whose past records they particularly wish to investigate. The huts in question would be wired off from the rest of the camp, and guards would be provided by his organization.

5. The Transit Camp at BARI is required by this Sub-Commission for the handling of Yugoslav refugees, and displaced persons from other sources. The bulk of these persons arrive at BARI and the first and prime necessity is disinfection. This necessitates both a clean and dirty side of the camp, and so materially affects total capacity.

5. The Transit Camp at BARI is required by this Sub-Commission for the handling of Yugoslav refugees, and displaced persons from other sources. The bulk of these persons arrive at BARI and the first and prime necessity is disinfection. This necessitates both a clean and dirty side of the camp, and so materially affects total capacity.

6. In the interests of public health, and to minimize the risk of ^{infection} ~~infection~~ it is essential that this disinfection should take place at the earliest possible moment and the BARI Camp is, therefore, the obvious place. It is requested, therefore, that the present arrangement agreed to by local representatives of CUBIC in BARI be allowed to stand - viz. (i) That the No. 1 P.M. Camp be continued to be used as our reception camp for Yugoslav refugees and other mixed displaced persons and (ii) that a part of the camp of not more than two huts be set aside for the use of CUBIC as outlined above; (iii) that all Partisans in training for combat be moved to CUBIC.

7. It is also desired to stress that the Partisans who are undergoing military training are a purely military organization and not refugees and displaced persons in the usual sense of the words, and that they deal direct with military formations on all matters, receiving military rations, etc. and it is therefore submitted that their administration does not fall within the scope of this Sub-Commission.



Robert L. Woodward
 ROBT. L. WOODWARD,
 Colonel P.A.
 Director.



ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Military Government Section

7328 FEB Reed

C.A. Br. 10
ATM/DW/cage
U-440

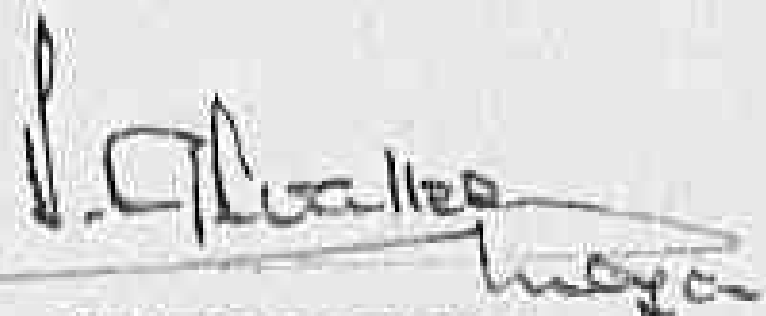
MGS: 091.711 Yugoslavia

26 February 1944

SUBJECT: Displaced Persons - Yugoslav Partisans

TO : HQ Allied Control Commission.
Attention MG and RC Section.

6-8
The attached copies of GHQ MEF letter DMO/1031/5 of 15 February, and of this Headquarters Informal Routing Slip initiated on 18 February, are forwarded for information and necessary action as specified in Article 4 of the latter document.


HENRY PARKMAN, JR.,
Lt. Colonel, G.S.C.,
Deputy Acting Chief.

Incls:
As above

Copy to:
Internees and Displaced Persons Sub-Commission
c/o HQ. No. 2 District, C.M.F.
(with copies of inclosures).

3352

C O P YAFHQCopy to:--FORCE 133MOST SECRETGHQ MEF
DMO/103L/5
15 Feb 44

1. ADV HQ FORCE 133 at BARI are undertaking a number of commitments in connection with PARTISANS in ITALY which are not strictly their concern and for which the HQ is not designed.

2. The kind of activities undertaken are:-

(a) PARTISAN wounded.

Arrangements for reception and treatment of PARTISAN wounded arriving from YUGOSLAVIA. This has now been organised and is dealt with by 2 District, but constant reference to ADV FORCE 133 is still necessary.

(b) Refugees.

Reception and consequent disposal. 2 District are dealing with this, but here again ADV FORCE 133 is involved.

(c) Training of PARTISANS.

Marshal TITO's representatives in ITALY are constantly finding new recruits of YUGOSLAV origin. They are handed over to ADV FORCE 133 who have to make arrangements to house, clothe, feed, arm and train them.

(d) Training of MT Drivers, and Tank Drivers.

Marshal TITO has sent out about 100 MT Drivers for Training and 50 Tank drivers. ADV FORCE 133 has to try to get these men trained, and also has to clothe, feed and accommodate them.

(e) Air Force Trainees.

There are 220 trainees accommodated by ADV FORCE 133 at MONOPOLI awaiting disposal. RAF ME have the matter of their training in hand.

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(e) Air Force Trainees.
There are 220 trainees accommodated by Adv FORCE 133 at MONOPOLI awaiting disposal. RAF ME have the matter of their training in hand.

3. It will be seen that there are two problems involved - a general administrative problem and a training problem. As regards the administrative problem, it would seem that 2 District must inevitably get involved, as indicated in paras 2(a) and (b) above. It would seem logical, therefore, and more in conformity with normal procedure, if full responsibility for the administrative problem could be made entirely that of 2 District. Though this might lead to a slight increase in the staff of 2 District, it would enable Adv FORCE 133 to devote their full energies to their proper tasks - the despatch of subs and equipment to the BALKANS and the operational support of Marshal TTTO. The matter is urgent as Adv FORCE 133 is overloaded and their work is suffering. Any measures you may be able to take to ease this situation will be much appreciated.

4. The training problem referred to above, is being dealt with in a separate letter.

/s/ BAILLOU, MAJOR GENERAL

General,
Commander-in-Chief,
MIDDLE EAST FORCE.

ROUTE SLIP

18 Feb 1944

GCT-74/10

Force 133

1 G-3 G-1 (B) 18 Feb 1944 1. Request your comment and recommendation s on attached letter from C-in-C Middle East Force.

2. It is recognized that Adv. Force 133 has certain responsibilities in connection with all of the activities mentioned of which it cannot be relieved.

/s/ D N
DANIEL NOCE,
Brigadier General, G.S.C.,
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3

BBH/mcr

2 ADAG G-3 thru 20 Feb Ref attached letter from Mideast.
(O) Surgeon 44 Para 2(a).
G-1 and MGS Hospital treatment of partisan wounded must eventually de-
(B) volve on the Br Medical Service as N.A.L. have neither the per-
sonnel nor the material to carry it out.

This problem is being studied at the moment and certain proposals are under active consideration. Whatever solution is found, however, the assistance of Force 133 will continue to be needed in directing casualties to the hospitals, collecting personnel discharged from hospitals, provision of interpreters, etc. It is also essential that the N.A.L. themselves make the utmost possible contribution in the matter of providing Medical Officers, nurses, orderlies, etc. Adequate numbers of UK personnel are not available to undertake the whole of this responsibility which is additional to all commitments for which provision has been made. It is agreed that the executive work will be carried out by No. 2 District utilising medical personnel allotted for that purpose. The policy will be decided by AFHC. It is not possible to submit any further recommendations at present.

Para 2(b).

This problem concerns ACC and MGS rather than G-1(B). At present P/W Camp staffs and other military personnel are being employed for this purpose. It is very desirable to regularise the position. It is agreed that here again it will never be possible to dispense entirely with assistance from and collaboration with Adv Force 133.

Para 2(c), (d) and (e).

These are training problems which do not affect G-1(B). It is noted that they are being dealt with in a separate letter.

/s/ A.L. Elsworthy
A. L. ELSWORTHY, Brigadier, ADAG
for Major General (O),
D.A.G.
G-1 (B)

3850

ROUTE SLIP

18 Feb 1944

GCT-74/10

FORCE 133

3 Surg (B) G.3 21 Feb
thru
MCS

Ref Minute 2 above and attached letter from Mideast.

1. We agree with remarks regarding para 2(a)

2. No. 45 Gen. Hosp. is being despatched to ITALY for use of Yugoslavs by Hospital Ship DORSETSHIRE. FLAMBO has been requested to nominate port where this hospital is required (AFHQ Cable 54356 of 20 Feb refers).

3. In addition to 45 Gen. Hosp further hospital beds will be required and extra staff. The supply of additional British personnel is being re-presented to War Office by D.A.G.

4. Policy regarding long term cases, Yugoslavs, being discussed with War Office by D.A.G.

/s/ R.A. Happle
R. A. HEPPLIE
Brigadier, D.O.M.S.,
for Maj Gen, Surgeon, D.M.S.

4 MCS G-3 25 Feb
44

Reference attached letter from Mideast, para 2 (b).

1. It is considered that the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission should be primarily responsible for the reception, administration, and disposal of Yugoslav Partisan refugees in Italy.

2. At the request of G-2 (AFHQ) instructions have been issued that the camp at Bari, to which the majority of Partisan refugees are now directed on arrival in Italy, should be formed into a closed transit camp where refugees will be held pending screening and interrogation by the Security authorities, and whilst arrangements can be made for their disposal. Operation and control of this camp will be the responsibility of the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission who are to provide camp administrative personnel and, if possible guards, although it may be necessary to call upon other agencies to assist in the provision of guards if sufficient numbers of suitable personnel are not available from within the resources of the Sub-Commission.

(cont'd)

M.1024

21 Feb 44

Force 133

3. As indicated in Article 2, however, the assistance of Force 133 will still be required in directing refugees both to the camp, and, after interrogation in certain cases, to locations where they may be used as recruits for the Partisan forces (vide para 2 (c) of basic letter). Refugees who are not selected either for recruits for the Partisan forces, or for evacuation to Mideast, will be moved from the closed transit camp by Displaced Persons Sub-Commission, who will also be responsible for their continued accommodation and administration in camps or communities elsewhere in Italy.

4. It will be appreciated that the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission has recently been re-organized and re-inforced, and that whilst it will undoubtedly be able to take a more active part and assume more responsibility in matters pertaining to refugees in the future, the limits of its activities have still to be worked out in conjunction with other interested authorities in the field. In order, therefore, that maximum assistance may be given to Force 133 a communication is being despatched to the Sub-Commission directing them to contact Force 133, and to make arrangements which will afford the latter all possible aid.

HENRY PARKMAN JR, Lt Col, GSC
for A. T. MAXWELL
Colonel
Acting Chief, MCB

ATM/HP/as

3348

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
APO 394.

Regional Control and Military Government Section.

Ref: 73/36/CA.

27th February 1944.

Subject: Displaced Persons - Closed Camp at Bari.

To : Displaced Persons Sub-Commission,
c/o HQ. No.2 District, C.M.F.

1. The Executive Commissioner wishes to have your comments on the contents of HQS, A.P.D.C., letter HQS: 254, dated 22 Feb. 44 on the above subject, addressed to this HQ with copy to you.
2. Will you forward your remarks as soon as possible please.

A. J. STEWART,
Captain,
PA to Executive Commissioner.

Reply at 11

/30.

B/11
2/3-12
3/6/44

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Military Government Section

24 FEB Recd

DSJ/DW/Jjr

MGS: 254

22 February 1944.

SUBJECT: Displaced Persons - Closed Camp at Bari.

TO : ~~HQ Allied Control Commission - Attention MG & RC Section (2)~~
~~Internees and Displaced Persons Sub-Commission,~~
~~c/o HQ No. 2 District, C.M.F.~~

Reference is made to the attached copy of a memorandum, reference number B-389.506/80 of 16 February, from the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff G-2, AFHQ. 2

1. The need for the establishment of a closed camp, which will permit the effective control and screening of refugees arriving in Southern Italy from the Balkans, is agreed. You should, therefore, take the necessary steps at once, in conjunction with other interested authorities, to establish such a camp. It is suggested that the camp lately administered by the PW Sub-Commission (Venables Camp) at Bari might prove the most suitable.

2. It should be understood that this will be a transit camp, and that, with the exception of guards and camp staff, there must be no permanent residents. This is a matter of importance to the Security authorities. Personnel whom you have taken over from the late PW Sub-Commission could be employed as guards, although it is appreciated that the number available may not be sufficient for this and other tasks to which you may consider it necessary that they be assigned. If it is found that you have insufficient personnel to provide guards the matter should be referred to this Headquarters.

3. G-2 Section at A.F.H.Q. have agreed to issue instructions for co-operation in the registration and screening of refugees to their subordinate Headquarters, with whom it will be necessary that you work out details. No advantage can be seen in the adoption of a standard registration form, but it will be necessary that a representative of the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission shall be present at the interrogation of refugees in order that whilst the details required by C.I.C. and F.S.P. are obtained, those required in the compilation of records by the Displaced Persons Records Bureau may also be noted. The work of registration which will be carried out in this camp will later be of assistance in the performance of the wider task of the registration of all Displaced Persons in Southern Italy, which is yet remains to be undertaken. 6

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4. The political implications raised by the establishment of such a camp have been discussed with the Offices of the Resident Ministers at A.F.H.Q., who have indicated that there can be no valid objections put forward to the proposal. Similar procedure has long obtained in the United Kingdom for all refugees entering that country from the continent.

5. It should be established that Accredited Representatives of the Governments of the Allied Nations, attached to your Sub-Commission, do not have right of access to the camp, although they may be invited to enter either for purposes of inspection or to give assistance in the interrogation of refugees. This policy should also be understood to exclude from the camp, except on invitation, all persons not being British or American military personnel. It is known to be the wish of the Security authorities that members of the Yugoslav Partisan movement should be admitted to the camp for the purpose of assisting in the majority of cases for interrogation. In all cases where a member or members of this movement are invited to be present at, or to assist in the interrogation of refugees you should ensure that an Accredited representative of the Royal Yugoslav Government is also invited to attend.

D. S. Jackling
D. S. JACKLING
Lt. Colonel.

Copy to: Displaced Persons Sub-Commission, 40 The No. 2 Avenue
~~Hq. Allied Control Commission (2)~~ C.M.F. (with enclosure)
G-2 (CI) AFHQ
G-3
Civil Affairs Office
The Office of the British Resident Minister

As the 7 partisans now drill and learn
to camp as a militarised formation - approved
by 133 Force. The idea is a little late
I will discuss with Ce.

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Equals British MOST SECRET

~~U. S. SECRET~~
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

B-389.506/80

16 February 1944

SUBJECT: Closed Displaced Persons Sub-Commission Camp at Bari
(Venables Camp)

TO : Military Government Section, A.F.H.Q.

1. As you are aware, refugees, chiefly of Yugo-Slav nationality continue to arrive at Bari and elsewhere on the Adriatic Coast from Yugo-Slavia in large numbers. Although it has been arranged that Partisan refugees, who are not of military age will proceed to Middle East, it is quite clear under present arrangements that only those, who wish to do so will actually embark. Only a very small proportion of the total number arriving are either registered or screened, and no organization in fact knows who is entering S. Italy at the present time.

2. Although it was thought originally that the security dangers from this large influx of refugees would not be great, it has now been determined that considerable numbers of those evacuated have only recently arrived from the mainland from points as far afield as Belgrade. In the circumstances the dangers to the security of the Allied Forces in Italy cannot be underestimated, and there is now strong reason to believe that the Germans will attempt to mingle agents with the refugees in due course if they have not already done so.

3. The view is strongly taken that there is only one way in which the problem can be dealt with satisfactorily, namely that refugees arriving in large bodies be placed in a closed camp, where registration and preliminary screening can take place. Those who require further interrogation may be sent to C.S.D.I.C., and the rest may be released to other camps under arrangements made by the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission.

4. It is understood that the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission will shortly take over the Prisoner of War Sub-Commission Camp (Venables Camp) at Bari together with a proportion of the staff. If you would agree to make this a closed camp, it would in our view meet the security problem. It is understood that it would also assist in meeting the problem of registration of all Aliens in S. Italy now facing the Allied Control Commission.

785017

U. S. SECRET
Group 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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Such registration would appreciably reduce the security dangers, and while the existence of a closed camp would ensure the registration of all refugees entering Italy, A.C.C. would no doubt be placed in a better position to register those already in the country.

5. The work of registration in the camp could be undertaken jointly by C.I.C. or F.S.P., representatives of the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission and selected Partisan Officers, who are already co-operating with our officers in screening a limited number of refugees in Bari. It is considered that a standard Registration form should be agreed for use, both by your representatives and ours. It would be undesirable to enlist the assistance of the representatives of the Royal Yugo-Slav Government, for obvious reasons, but no doubt they would be satisfied if your own officers looked after their interests and informed them of any Cetniks on release to your open camps. It would be equally undesirable to permit missions of other Allied Governments to operate in the camp.

6. If political objections are raised to a closed camp by the Partisans, it is suggested that they should be informed that the collection of refugees in a closed camp is purely for convenience in screening them, is a normal procedure on entering a foreign country and is essential for their own security and that of Allied Forces.

7. It is considered that the question is one of urgency, and it is felt that unless the problem is tackled now, the security of the Allied Forces in S. Italy may be seriously jeopardised. Your early comments and/or your concurrence in the above proposal would be appreciated.

k/ K.W.D.Strong

K. W. D. STRONG
Major General
A. C. of S, G-2

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Group 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

