

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

785017

ACC

10000/109/1471

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

785017

10000/109/1471

ACTS OF GALLANTRY
JAN. - SEPT. 1944

DRAFT

Ref/173/52/CA

9 June 1944

SUBJECT: Compensation to Italian Civilians for
Acts of Gallantry.

TO : R.Cs.

1. Regional Commissioners have from time to time submitted evidence of instances of meritorious conduct on the part of Italian civilians deserving, in their view, of some form of official recognition, or (where hardship, consequent on the act, is involved) monetary compensation.

2. Awards will not be made at the present time, but at the conclusion of hostilities in this theatre, names will be submitted for appropriate official recognition.

3. It has however been decided that a monetary payment can be made in the following cases:

- (a) When an Italian civilian loses his life as a result of an act in direct aid of the Allied Forces (25000 Lire to next of kin).
- (b) When an Italian civilian performs an outstanding act of heroism in aid of personnel or operations of the Allied Forces (5000 Lire to him).

4. Payments (a) and (b) must both be accompanied by a citation signed by the Chief Commissioner.

6217

17

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- (b) When an Italian civilian performs an outstanding act of heroism in aid of personnel or operations of the Allied Forces (5000 Lire to him).

4. Payments (a) and (b) must both be accompanied by a citation signed by the Chief Commissioner.

5. Regional Commissioners will take steps to authenticate deserving cases (by sworn statements of eyewitnesses, where possible) and will forward to HQ A.C.C. particulars as per Appendix "A" attached, with a full description of the act it is desired to reward.

6. If the case is approved, the citation, signed by the Chief Commissioner, will be sent to the Regional Commissioner for transmission to the donee and permission to draw on funds accordingly will at the same time be given to the Regional Commissioner.

7. I suggest that when an award is approved, payment should be made personally to the recipient and be the occasion for a small ceremony.

8. Cases which have already been submitted to HQ should now be re-submitted in full detail in accordance with paragraph 5 above.

M.S. LUSH,
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

6416

APPENDIX "A"

ACTS OF GALLANTRY

(Particulars required when making recommendation for payment of monetary reward.)

1. Surname of person recommended.
2. Christian names.
3. Nationality.
4. Age.
5. Occupation at time of act to be rewarded.
6. Married or single.
7. Children, number and ages.
8. Present address.
9. Name and address of next of kin.
10. Name and address of person to whom money is to be paid if not (9).
11. Relationship of (9, 10) to person being rewarded.

— 0 —

If loss of life did not occur in performance of the act only 1 - 8 inclusive need be answered.

The above particulars when provided will be accompanied by a fully detailed citation and the following statement signed by the R.C.:

I certify that the particulars above and on the attached citation are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief

4. Age.

5. Occupation at time of act to be rewarded.

6. Married or single.

7. Children, number and ages.

8. Present address.

9. Name and address of next of kin.

10. Name and address of person to whom money is to be paid if not (9).

11. Relationship of (9, 10) to person being rewarded.

— 0 —

If loss of life did not occur in performance of the act only 1 - 8 inclusive need be answered.

The above particulars when provided will be accompanied by a fully detailed citation and the following statement signed by the R.C.:

I certify that the particulars above and on the attached citation are true ~~MMX~~ to the best of my knowledge and belief and I recommend a payment oflire to
.....

Signed.....

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
REGION IV
APO 394

R/5348

16 September, 1944

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Decoration.

17 SEP Recd

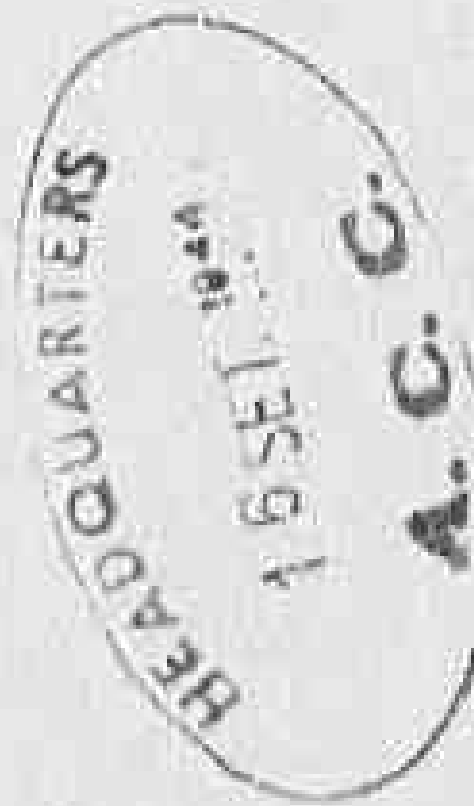
TO : HQ. Allied Control Commission
EC and MG Section.

Reference your 173/13/CA dated 14 September, Lt. Lino Fa-
raglia and Sgt. Vincenzo Jacoboni were employed by AMG as civilians to
to lift mines.

They were members of the Italian Army prior to September
1943 but not of the Republican Army. Their position, it is presumed,
is the same as other Italian soldiers who are overtaken during our
advance. They are actually civilians but were addressed by the cour-
tesy title of their military ranks.

For the Regional Commissioner:

A. D. Bonham-Carter
A. D. BONHAM-CARTER
Lt. Colonel
Executive Officer (Provinces)



*Army Lt confirms
that technically these
men are civilians
& it is not concerned
with them.*

25 Sep 44

6414

B/V 30 Sep

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Decoration.

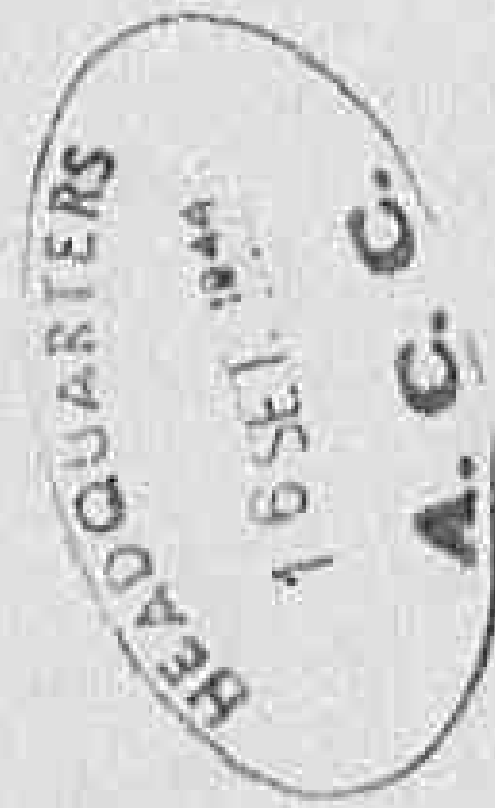
17 SEP Recd

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

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raglia and Sgt. Vincenzo Jacoboni were employed by AMG as civilians to
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They were members of the Italian Army prior to September
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is the same as other Italian soldiers who are overtaken during our
advance. They are actually civilians but were addressed by the cour-
tesy title of their military ranks.

For the Regional Commissioner:



A. D. Bonham-Carter
A.D. BONHAM-CARTER
Lt. Colonel
Executive Officer (Provinces)

*Army Lt confirms
that technically these
men are civilians
& it is not concerned
with them.*

25 Sep 44/gh

B/V 35 Sep
[Signature]

6314

785017

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

FM 3: 48
478201

Ref/173/113/CA.

14 Sept. 1944

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Decoration.

TO : Region IV.

1. With reference to letter R/5326 dated 12 September 44, we should like further details of the status of Lt. Lino Faraglia and Sgt. Vincenzo Jacoboni who you say are no longer soldiers.
2. Answers to the following questions would clarify:
 - (a) Were they in the Italian Army at the time of the duties for which they are commended?
 - (b) If not when were they discharged?
3. If they were civilians it seems curious that they are referred to throughout by military ranks.
4. On receipt of your reply we will go into the matter further.

see 443
NORMAN E. FIEKE,
Colonel,
Deputy Executive
Commissioner.

1732
58190
112
CFA Br.
HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
REGION IV
APO 394

R/5326

12 September, 1944

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Decoration.

13 SEP Recd

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

37/12

1. The attached reports and recommendations are forwarded for such action as may be possible.
2. This HQ takes the view that it cannot support the recommendations for Allied decorations but does support recognitions by the Italian Government.
3. The two men are erroneously described as "Italian Army". They are no longer soldiers.

For the Regional Commissioner:

6412
A.D. Bonham-Carter

A.D. BONHAM-CARTER
Lt. Colonel
Executive Officer (Provinces)

file 43

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
PROVINCE OF RIETI

page 1.

6 September 1944

SUBJECT : Recommendation for Decoration
Lt. Lino Faraglia (Italian Army)

TO : Regional Commissioner - Reg IV

1. Upon entering this Province on 14 June 44 it was found impossible to reach the City of RIETI due to mined approaches and bridge demolitions. Following a mine-clearing patrol from POGGIO WINTERO through CASTELNUOVO (some 5 miles) our advance party entered this City on foot on the night of 16 June 44.

2. As there were no Allied troops in this Province (except on the western fringe) our small group had to organize our services entirely from Italian personnel.

3. Our PPSO, Major K.C. Shepherd immediately commenced his search for a Bomb Disposal Officer to clear the mines and booby-traps sown by the enemy. He placed Lt. Faraglia in charge of the organization of such a squad. This officer selected and trained an efficient group and immediately proceeded to mark dangerous areas for the safety of the public, and in due course lift mines and other explosives.

4. Over a wide stretch of country this officer did mine-reconnaissance and clearing in a highly efficient manner. Many different types were encountered and as we were unsuccessful in our many efforts to secure mine detecting apparatus for 8 weeks, all this work was done by hand under particularly dangerous conditions.

5. In some cases individual and occasionally groups of mines had to be detonated for effective safety. In others, explosives charges had to be blown for permanent destruction. Although safety precautions were in our opinion well observed, this officer suffered minor injuries and burns on several oc-

3 September 1944

SUBJECT : Recommendation for Decoration
Lt. Lino Paraglia (Italian Army)

TO : Regional Commissioner - Reg IV

1. Upon entering this Province on 14 June 44 it was found impossible to reach the City of RIETI due to mined approaches and bridge demolitions. Following a mine-clearing patrol from POGGIO MIRETO through CASTELNUOVO (some 5 miles) our advance party entered this City on foot on the night of 16 June 44.

2. As there were no Allied troops in this Province (except on the western fringe) our small group had to organize our services entirely from Italian personnel.

3. Our PPSO, Major K.C. Shepherd immediately commenced his search for a Bomb Disposal Officer to clear the mines and booby-traps sown by the enemy. He placed Lt. Paraglia in charge of the organization of such a squad. This officer selected and trained an efficient group and immediately proceeded to mark dangerous areas for the safety of the public, and in due course lift mines and other explosives.

4. Over a wide stretch of country this officer did mine-reconnaissance and clearing in a highly efficient manner. Many different types were encountered and as we were unsuccessful in our many efforts to secure mine detecting apparatus for 8 weeks, all this work was done by hand under particularly dangerous conditions.

5. In some cases individual and occasionally groups of mines had to be detonated for effective safety. In others, explosives charges had to be blown for permanent destruction. Although safety precautions were in our opinion well observed, this officer suffered minor injuries and burns on several occasions, and was under medical attention for several weeks.

page 2.

while still continuing on duty.

6. At times his Sgt. was sent in charge of isolated jobs and unfortunately on 7 August 1944 he was killed by a German "S" anti-personnel mine. Although this had an adverse reaction on this squad, Lt. Faraglia continued to lead them effectively in the performance of their hazardous duties.

7. During their work in this Province this squad have lifted over 600 mines. In addition they have salvaged much explosive into 2 magazines, as well as ammunition, grenades, bombs and other war stores.

8. In a tunnel at ANTRODOCC Lt. Faraglia removed body-traps and other explosives from 5 locomotives hidden therein, salvaging them and the tunnel to reestablish the operation of this railway.

9. Throughout all these activities this officer has given an example of active resourceful leadership to his men. He is first to undertake the most dangerous tasks, is courageous, and at times seems entirely devoid of fear for his personal safety.

10. In the opinion of our two Provincial Public Safety Officers, Major Shepherd and his successor Capt. Bolt this officer has completed his duties in accordance with the highest traditions of British Military service, has exemplified exceptional leadership and bravery.

11. Concurring in these opinions I unhesitatingly recommend him for suitable decoration by the Governments of Great Britain and the United States of America.

12. It is also submitted that this information should be transmitted to the appropriate authorities of the Italian Army.

During their work in this Province they have salvaged much explosive into 2 magazines, as well as ammunition, grenades, bombs and other war stores.

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12. It is also submitted that this information should be transmitted to the appropriate authorities of the Italian Army.

Enclosure

List of mines cleared.

H.S. Robinson
H.S. Robinson, Lt. Col.
Provincial Commissioner

39
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Province of Rieti

7 September 1944

SUBJECT : Recommendation for Decoration
Sgt. Vincenzo Jacoboni (Italian Army)
deceased.

TO: Regional Commissioner - Reg IV

1. This NCO was killed on 7 Aug 44 near FIAMIGNANO whilst clearing a mined area. He was experienced in this work and had served under Lt. Faraglia our Bomb Disposal Officer for 7 weeks.

2. Second only to this officer (who has also been recommended for decoration), Sgt. Jacoboni performed his hazardous duties faithfully and well. In spite of the safety precautions followed he died following the explosion of a German "8" anti-personnel mine.

3. In the opinion of our two Provincial Public Safety Officers under whose direction he served this NCO is deserving of special recognition, in that he volunteered for these duties, served with special devotion and lost his life in performance of duty.

4. Concurring in these opinions, I unhesitatingly recommend him for decoration (posthumous) by the Governments of Great Britain and the United States of America.

5. It is submitted that this special service should be brought to the attention of the appropriate authorities of the Italian Army. C409

H. S. Robinson

H. S. Robinson, Lt. Col.
Provincial Commissioner

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deceased.

TO: Regional Commissioner - Reg IV

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4. Concurring in these opinions, I unhesitatingly recommend him for decoration (posthumous) by the Governments of Great Britain and the United States of America.

5. It is submitted that this special service should be brought to the attention of the appropriate authorities of the Italian Army.

6409

H. S. Robinson

H. S. Robinson, Lt. Col.
Provincial Commissioner

Enclosure:
List of mines cleared.

copy

Mine Lifting - Enemy Ammunition Dumps

List of explosives lifted and recovered by S.Lt. PARAGLIA Mino

1944 June 2 0 Removal of 6 mines from the Rieti - Terminillo Road
" 21/22 " 30 " " Rieti - Centalice Road
" 23 Recovery of removed mines
" 25 Removal of 5 mines " " Rieti - Leonessa Road
" 26 Removal of (explosive) booby-traps in the plains near Rieti
" 28/29 Recovery of explosives and transfer of same to Cardito Powder Magazine
" Removal of mines in Maglianello zone
July 1 Removal of mines the bridge on the Tevere river
" 3 Removal of 2 mines (about 4 quintals of explosive) near Sigillo at the 112 st Km. on the Salaria Road
" 4 Removal of 8 mines at the 48th Km. on the Salaria Road
" 5 Recovery of material and booby-traps on the Montecatini and S. Viscosa premises. Transferred to Cardito Powder Magazine
" 6 Recovery of booby-traps and material in the locality of Casa Rossa (transferred to Cardito Powder Magazine)
" 7 Removal of 6 mines on the Fiacchini - Orvinio Road at Km. 7,800
" 8 Removal of 12 mines - personnel - "S" in the zone of 3. Lucia di Fiamignano.
" 10 Recovery of explosives of various kinds
" 11 Removal of 2 Bangalore torpedos at Campo Sperimentale Strampelli. Removal of 1 mine from Villino Belloni. Recovery of explosive material at Via Mezzana and Torretta
" 12 Recovery of explosive material in the Tre Strade zone
" 13/14 Recovery of explosive material of various kinds
" 15 Removal of mines in the Roccasinibaldi zone
" 16 Removal of 20 mines in the railway tunnel to Antrodoco and other dangerous explosive among which an airplane bomb

Powder Magazine

- " Removal of mines in Maglianello zone
- July 1 Removal of mines the bridge on the Turano river
- " 3 Removal of 2 mines (about 4 quintals of explosive) near Sigillo at the 112 st Km. on the Salaria Road
- " 4 Removal of 8 mines at the 48th Km. on the Salaria Road
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- " 6 Recovery of booby-traps and material in the locality of Casa Rossa (transferred to Cardito Powder Magazine)
- " 7 Removal of 6 mines on the Fiacchini - Orvinio Road at Km. 7,500
- " 8 Removal of 12 mines - personnel - "S" in the zone of S. Lucia di Fiamignano.
- " 10 Recovery of explosives of various kinds
- " 11 Removal of 2 Bangalore torpedos at Campo Sperimentale Strampelli. Removal of 1 mine from Villino Belloni. Recovery of explosive material at Via Mezzana and Torretta
- " 12 Recovery of explosive material in the Tre Strade zone
- " 13/14 Recovery of explosive material of various kinds
- " 15 Removal of mines in the Roccasinibalda zone
- " 16 Removal of 20 mines in the railway tunnel to Antrodoco and other dangerous explosive among which an airplane bomb
- " 17 Removal of 25 mines in the Commune of Selci Sabino and other explosive material near Montebuono Sabino
- " 19 Removal and disconnection of 2 mines (personnel "S") one of which exploded during removal. No accident took place (S. Lucia di Fiamignano)
- " 20 Visit to Cardito Powder Magazine and destruction of dangerous explosive (1st Serg. Jacobini and Galli disconnected an airplane bomb in Borgo S. Antonio-Rieti)
- " 21 Removal of 68 mines and 62 recovered from Airport
- " 22 Serg. Di Tommaso recovered 6 mortar bombs, 500 machine-gun cartridges, 40 cartridges cal. 20 m/m

- 37
- 1944 July 23/24 Recovery and removal of 150 mines and other explosives
25/26 in the Commune of Poggio Mirteto, Montopoli, Para Sabina, Canneto
- " 27 Removal and destruction of 7 mines on the Rieti - Termini
Lillo Road at Km. 3
- " 29 Removal of shells, mines and explosive material of various
kinds in the zone of Poggio Mirteto and Posta
- " 31 Removal and disconnection of 3 airplane bombs near Antrom
doco
- August 1 Removal and disconnection of 140 mines in the Poggio Mirteto -
Poggio Molino zone
- " 2 Recovery of explosive material near Antrodoco
- " 3 A mine detector is given to Lt. Paraglia. He wishes to
point out that all the work done so far has been done
by him and his men without the aid of any apparatus for mine
detecting.
- " 5 Mine lifting near S. Lucia di Fiamignano, Removal of 30
antitank mines "S"
- " 7 Mine lifting near S. Silvestro (S. Lucia di Fiamignano)
"S" personnel mines, 8 found and removed. One of said mines
exploded killing Serg. Jacoboni Vincenzo of the R.
Aeronautica.
- " 9 Removal of mines on the Turano Road
- " 10 Reaked a tract of road from Rieti to Cantalice with mine
detector.
- " 11 Removal and disconnection of an airplane bomb near Mar-
gliano Sabino. Also other explosive material.
Removal and disconnection of an airplane bomb near Mar-
more - Greccio
- " 12 Mine lifting in the Commune of Selci in Sabina. Removal
and disconnection of 11 mines *C207*
- " 13 Mine lifting in the Commune of Anpra Sabina. Removal of
1 mines.

acts of falling

36

1. attached is draft of letter to RCs
2. Have seen Finance SC (Maj Timmons) as to mechanics of paying the money & it presents no difficulty.
3. I suggested that to start with ~~the~~ CAB would approve each case. This is sufficient for Finance who will then authorize Reg Finance Offr. to ~~advance~~ have the money available for the RC.

Sh

8 June 44

VAPOR
36

~~✓~~ Lt Col Bowman

6-16

785017

173

36

16 June 1944

SUBJECT: Acts of Gallantry

① I am personally opposed to "invitations for bids" similar to draft attached to inside front cover of this file, but the proposal apparently has some support higher up.

② How do you feel about it? Do you know whether Brigadier Lush has ever expressed himself as to this procedure?

W

Def
A.C.B.

I agree with ① above. Who drafted?
I have never heard EC say anything on
this subject and do not think his
opinions would come often enough to
make it worth while sending out to
RC. As long as we know SOP here
at the and can handle applications
that should be enough.

28/6. 15/6 22/6 16/6

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

Ref/173/33/GA

14 June 1944

SUBJECT: Pasquale, Tartaglia Francesco.

TO : AMG 8th Army.

1. Reference your GA/141 of 7 June 1944 the documents forwarded are copies only. The statements are in our opinion not full enough as they stand. That signed by Lt. Col. Raymond is hearsay and Captain Nebity's statement is to the effect that the above named was killed by an enemy artillery shell. What is required is a statement by someone who was in or with this Patrol or who knew that this Italian was guiding Allied Troops toward the enemy and that he had been killed doing so. It may be that Lt. Col. Raymond or Capt. Nebity could elaborate their statements to cover the above points. It is considered that a disposition of the matter as it stands could not be made. Can the original statements be forwarded. In the meantime we are communicating with 1st Gds. Bde. through channels.

[Signature]
NORMAN H. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive
Commissioner

JER/RAG

6464

173

RS

25952

25352

12

12

- 1904

K. Ranta Team to CD RA

2

14/10

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

173 ~~AS~~ CAR 51
JUN 1944
9536
NOT
30 May 1944.

1109-3

SUBJECT : Rewards to Italian Civilians.

TO : Major Burberry, C.A.O. Southern Dist. Littoria Province.

1. Attached are two letters covering two cases of Italian civilians of Castelforte Lorenzo.

Vecchio Antonio di Salvatore of San Lorenzo
Ricardo Orlando Lorenzo

citing cases of their bravery and assistance to the Allied Forces.

2. Attached is memorandum 201/3, 27 March 1944 setting forth rewards to be paid.

3. Investigate these two cases, and if you are satisfied with the truth of the circumstances pay the family of Vecchio and Ricardo if he can be found in accordance with scale set out in the attached.

John W. Clarke
John W. Clarke,
Major, GMP.
Finance Officer.
AMG 5th Army (Field).

Copy to :- P.O., Littoria Province.
Deputy Executive Commissioner, ✓
R.O. & M.G. Section, (Ref 173/47/OA).
R.F.O., Region 4.
P.F.O., Littoria Province.
Circulation.

Major Dragnoff.

Consult Lt Col Bowman on

a) reply to this letter No 629

*b) general notice to Region of America
on the subject No 629*

HEADQUARTERS

31 MAY 1944

A. C. C.

Noted
13/6
bel Bowman

COPY

Subject: Bravery of Italian Civilians.

63A.

Rear HQ
10 Corps

During recent operations in the LORENZO - CASTELFORTE area two cases have been reported by 44 Recce Regt of outstanding bravery and valuable assistance of Italian civilians.

Case 1. RIGGARDU ORLANDO of LORENZO volunteered to guide a patrol of 44 Recce Regt by a safe route to CASTELFORTE. While moving round a German minefield he trod on an S mine and was killed.

His mother and one son live in LORENZO and his wife and two sons and daughter are now in CASTELFORTE.

It is felt that this is a case for immediate assistance by A.M.C. authorities and the question of a pension entered into with the Italian Civil Organisation.

Case 2. Four unknown Italians found in a minefield two badly wounded men of a patrol of the 44 Recce Regt. They carried in the more seriously wounded man and returned to collect the second. They were successful in their efforts in spite of being continuously sniped on the outward and inward journeys. One of the Italians was wounded in the leg and was evacuated through RAM channels. The other three disappeared after they had handed over the second man. All four showed great courage and resourcefulness in their actions, and it is certain that they were instrumental in saving the lives of the severely wounded man.

The four men will be identified as soon as possible.

May these cases be brought to the notice of the appropriate authorities and necessary action taken to reward the men or their dependants.

Sgt. ? ? ? ? Maj.
Maj-Gen.
Comd.
56 London Division

9 Feb'44

Copy to 44 Recce.
AMCOT. 10 Main 56 Div.

6401

COPY

Subject: Bravery of Italian Civilians.

63A.

Rear HQ
10 Corps.

Ref this HQ 63A of 9 Feb'44 "Case 2".

1. The name of the Italian who was wounded and evacuated through RAMC channels is

VECCIO Antonio di Salvatore of SAN LORENZO

2. May this HQ be notified in due course when the necessary action to reward and compensate the parties in question has been put in motion.

12 Feb'44.

Sgt. ? ? ? Maj.
Maj-Gen.
Comd.
56 London Division.

Copy to:- AMB rep 56 Div.
OE 44 Recce.

785017

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

Ref/173/48/GA

29 May 1944

SUBJECT: Rewards for Italian Civilians.

TO : SCAO 8th Army (Field)

H0941

1. Reference is made to your letter of 25 April 1944, GA/141/71A. The Allied Control Commission proposes to grant a monetary allowance of compensation for this case.

2. It is requested that you institute an investigation to secure full information. This information to include affidavits from available witnesses and should include complete details as to the identity and residence of the individuals concerned.

N.W.D.
NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive
Commissioner

6339

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

Ref/173/47/GA

29 May 1944

SUBJECT: Reward for Italian Civilians.

TO : S.C.A.O. 5th Army Field.

Reference is made to our 173/19/GA, 31 March 1944 and 173/24/GA of 10 April 1944.

1. In view of recent developments and with the return of the communal center of Castel Forte to the Allied Armies, it is requested that an immediate investigation be conducted in above mentioned correspondence.

N.W.D.
NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive
Commissioner

6398

Ht Col R.M.C. Kittoe HQ AA1 Sawt
Ex Com² 29 Jun 44.
May.

H7A
D

to action on Italian acts of
gallantry until end of
campaign in this theatre.
we shall then be asked to
submit names for a despatch.

[Signature] (CAPT. MORDAN)
P/H TO EX. COM.

29 ^{May} ~~June~~ 44

+

6337

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

Ref/173/46/CA

23 May 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation to Italian Civilian.

To : Chief Commissioner.

1. Your signature is requested on the enclosed letter of commendation of an Italian civilian who voluntarily assumed great personal risk in saving the life of a Canadian soldier.

2. The case has been thoroughly investigated and is substantiated by affidavits.

3. This matter was originally referred to A.A.I. for an appropriate citation or medal. It was returned to this Headquarters with the recommendation that the conduct of SERGENTE FRANCO would be most suitably recognized by an appropriate commendation signed by the Chief Commissioner.

N. E. Fiske
NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive
Commissioner

6336

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

Office of the Chief Commissioner

APO 394

No. di Protocollo
173-47-CA

29 Maggio 1944

Oggetto : Encomio

Al Signor : Sersante Franco
Via Porto 100, Salerno

1. E' stato portato a mia conoscenza il vostro seguente atto di valore:

Il 19 Febbraio 1944 un camion guidato dal soldato LOYD DARLING del I Reggimento Canadese di Artiglieria da Campagna precipitava in acqua profonda 10 metri. In seguito all'urto la porta della cabina del camion rimaneva bloccata imprigionando il soldato DARLING in condizione di completa impotenza. Senza un attimo di esitazione e con sprezzo del pericolo voi vi gettavate in acqua e riuscivate ad estrarre il soldato DARLING dalla cabina e portarlo in salvo.

2. Il vostro atto dimostra grande coraggio e mette in evidenza il vostro nobile carattere. Il vostro Paese puo' essere orgoglioso de voi. La vostra condotta e' degna della piu' alta lode.

3. E' con sincero riconoscimento che desidero elogiarvi e porgervi le mie personali congratulazioni per il vostro ammirevole atto di eroismo.

6895

Noel MASON MACFARLANE
Tenente Generale
Commissario Capo

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

CAB

Please draft something

[Signature]

1732

8 min Recd

[Signature]

Reg
1-1

6394

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

Chief Commr
S-23765
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: Honours and Awards *7287*

HQ AAI

HQ ACC, APO 374

8807/20/ME

HQ ACC

REC'D

8 May 0905
JLD

5 May 44

Reference your CC/Misc dated 2 May 44.

It is considered that the gallant conduct of SERSANTE Franco would be most suitably recognised by an appropriate commendation, in his own language, signed by the Chief Commissioner.

JB

D. H. Little
Colonel,
Deputy Military Secretary.



173
8
WAT hood

HH

CC/Misc

2 May 1944

Subject: Recommendation for Award.

To: Headquarters, A.A.I.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that a suitable medal or award be conferred upon SERGEANT Franco, civilian, an employee of 6th Port Headquarters, Sub-Port of Salerno.

FOR exceptional meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service.

IN THAT HE DID, at 1100 hours, 19 February 1944, at the risk of his own life, save the life of PTE. LOYD DARLING when the vehicle driven by Pte. Darling plunged off the ramp of a lighter into 30 feet of water, the force of impact shutting the partially-opened door and pinning Pte. Darling helplessly in the cab. SERGEANT Franco, who was engaged in unloading the lighter, jumped into the water without a moment's hesitation and with utter disregard for the danger to himself, after a struggle succeeded in extricating Pte. Darling from the truck, and assisted him to the safety of the quay. It is beyond question that but for the presence of mind and bravery of SERGEANT Franco, Pte. Darling would have lost his life, and SERGEANT's conduct merits the highest possible praise, and suitable recognition.

6353

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE
Lieutenant-General
Chief Commissioner

*Sgd original + correspondence returned to
Col. Fisher.*

Selected: Almond to Civilians ⁴³

LT Col Brown:

1. ⁴² 14. See 78 which is in answer to your letter at 12.

2. Another case of a civilian leading a patrol & getting killed as a result is at 76 & 77.

40 T.H.I.

3/5.

Almond Brown

H/U W/S
Lester
C.H.

1 MAY Recd ¹⁷³

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Legal Subcommittee
AIO 394

C.A. Ar ¹⁷⁴⁹
5842
/gaf
AB

ACC/4005/1

29 April 1944

SUBJECT: Awards and Decorations for Italian Civilians.

TO : RC & M Section, A.C.C.

1. Ref your letter dated 26 April 44 (no reference).
2. In the absence of any authority on the part of the Commander in Chief or any of his subordinate commanders to award any existing medal or decoration and aside from any financial reward mentioned in your letter, it seems to me that all that can now be done is to have recognition of heroic deeds made in orders with copies to the heroic individuals or in the event of their deaths to their next of kin. Such orders, of course, can be given publicly if that is desired.
3. With regard to para. 12 (1) the CAC is of the opinion that it would be unwise to initiate in this theatre some new medal without reference to higher authority. In the first place I do not think there is any such power and even if there was it could not carry the authority of the Allied Governments without reference to them. Further, it would, I think, create an undesirable precedent.
4. The whole matter seems to be worthy of consideration by higher authority. If desired, the Italian Government could be approached to get their views as to some Italian award, but I agree that psychologically such an award would not have anywhere near the same effect as one made by a component of the Allied Forces.



Richard H. Wiener
RICHARD H. WIENER
1st. Col. GAC
Deputy Chief Legal Officer

6831

Ed Fisher
H. L. Bowers seen

785017

Subject: Payment of rewards to Italians.

Main H.Q., A.M.G.
Eighth Army.

QA/141/71A
28 April 44.

Executive Commissioners Branch,
Main H.Q., A.C.C.
A.P.O. 394.

1. An unusual case has been brought to my notice of a civilian who was killed whilst guiding an American patrol into enemy lines. Attached are copies of two letters which bear on the case.
2. I have been asked by through the L.O. with the 1st Gds Brigade (the question emanated from the Guards Brigade) whether there be any chance of a pension or some form of compensation being granted for the services rendered by this civilian.
3. I do not see how it can be dealt with under the provision for payment of civilians who have helped Allied P.O.Ws, but I feel that something should be done for the family. May I have your views.



Group Captain,
Officer Commanding,
H.Q., A.M.G. Eighth Army Main.

785017

COPY.

To whom it may concern

28 Jan 44.

On or about 0300 hrs, 28 JAN 44, in the vicinity of PASQUALE, TARTAGLIA FRANCESCO, who had volunteered to guide an American patrol to the enemy lines, was killed by an enemy arty shell.

(Sgd) Donald L. Nabity,
Captain,
U.S. Army.

COPY.

To whom it may concern:

28 Jan. 44.

The bearer, GIRANDO TARTAGLIA, applies for a laissez-passer for himself and a funeral party to bury his Son at S.ELIA. He states his son was killed by a German shell, which also killed two U.S. soldiers and wounded two others while he was leading an American patrol towards the enemy lines. This service was being performed voluntarily by his son to help the Americans.

(Sgd) G.W. Raymond,
O-18403,
Lt-Col. Fd. Arty.

6359

785017

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

ACB/eah
28 April 1944

Ref/173/20/CA

SUBJECT: Citation to Italian Civilian (Sersante Franco).
TO : Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission.

1. Your signature is requested on the enclosed citation of an Italian civilian who voluntarily assumed great personal risk in saving the life of a British soldier.
2. The case has been thoroughly investigated, and is substantiated by affidavits (see attached).
3. This matter has been taken up with JAI through our liaison officer, and the action reflected by the proposed citation is in response to a suggestion from that headquarters.

NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive Commissioner.

Original to CC 1/5 7.
To File

6358

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

24 April 1944

SUBJECT: Decorations & Awards for Italian Civilians.

TO : Deputy Executive Commissioner.

1. The above matter is being attacked from several angles.
2. I have forwarded to Colonel Upjohn over your signature a request for his opinion as to the express or inherent implied powers of the Commission to permit action without reference to any higher echelon. Captain Gunliffe has a copy.
3. The matter was discussed informally but at length with Major Van Dusen during his recent visit here. He will take it up with Colonel Spofford on his return to AFHQ and will let me have the Colonel's preliminary reaction.
4. As a third line, the subject is being pursued at Headquarters, AAI through Major Friend James. In his judgment after preliminary discussion at his headquarters, the matter may be most successfully carried up through that channel by a specific recommendation for appropriate action in the form of a citation in a specific case. He is also of the opinion that the likelihood of success will be greater if the first citation is personally signed by the Chief Commissioner.
5. To establish a satisfactory precedent and help insure favorable action I have selected the Sersante Frayco incident for the "test case" because (a) it was the first one which was brought to our attention, (b) it involved a conscious and apparent assumption of risk by the citee to a degree not present in the other cases, (c) unusual effort and perseverance were required for the successful completion of the act, and (d) the case has been fully authenticated (see attached statements).
6. Proposed citation is attached for the signature of the Chief Commissioner. If you will return it to me after

- TO : Deputy Executive Commissioner.
1. The above matter is being attacked from several angles.
 2. I have forwarded to Colonel Upjohn over your signature a request for his opinion as to the express or inherent implied powers of the Commission to permit action without reference to any higher echelon. Captain Cunliffe has a copy.
 3. The matter was discussed informally but at length with Major Van Dusen during his recent visit here. He will take it up with Colonel Spofford on his return to AFHQ and will let me have the Colonel's preliminary reaction.
 4. As a third line, the subject is being pursued at Headquarters, AAI through Major Friend James. In his judgment after preliminary discussion at his headquarters, the matter may be most successfully carried up through that channel by a specific recommendation for appropriate action in the form of a citation in a specific case. He is also of the opinion that the likelihood of success will be greater if the first citation is personally signed by the Chief Commissioner.
 5. To establish a satisfactory precedent and help insure favorable action I have selected the Sersante Frayco⁷ incident for the "test case" because (a) it was the first one which was brought to our attention, (b) it involved a conscious and apparent assumption of risk by the citee to a degree not present in the other cases, (c) unusual effort and perseverance were required for the successful completion of the act, and (d) the case has been fully authenticated (see attached statements).
 6. Proposed citation is attached for the signature of the Chief Commissioner. If you will return it to me after it has been signed I shall cause it to be transmitted to Headquarters AAI by proper letter of transmittal through liaison channels.
 7. I am deferring further action on the matter of monetary awards pending approval of this procedure.

ALFRED C. FOWMAN

Lt. Col.

Chief, Liaison Division.

785017

37

DATE: 27 APRIL 1944

CIRCULATION SLIP
Please pass file quickly

FROM	OFFICER	TO
	Brig. H. S. Lush	
	Col. N. E. Plake	
	Lt. Col. G. W. I. Shipp	
	Major Driffield-White	
	Capt. Talbot	
	Capt. Poyton	
	Capt. Stewart	
	Lt. Petrillo	

Registry

ALFRED C. BOWMAN
LT. COL. 0 320 343

Initial NAME and FOLIO referred
initial NAME and FOLIO referred

FOR INFORMATION

ORIGINAL TRANSMITTED

TO ADDRESSEE THIS DATE

CWS

785017

For INFORMATION
Col. Fisher

3b

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

26 April 1944

SUBJECT: Awards and Decorations for Italian Civilians.

TO : Chief Legal Officer, Legal Sub-Commission, A.C.C.

1. There have recently come to the attention of this section a number of cases in which Italian civilians, acting either within or beyond the normal scope of their duties as employees or agents of the armed forces of the Allies, or of the Commission, have rendered signal service, in several instances resulting in injury or death. For example:

a. A civilian port employee jumped into the water and rescued a soldier who had been pinned behind the wheel of a motor vehicle accidentally driven off a wharf.

b. A civilian volunteered to lead an Allied patrol through a known mine field, and in so doing set off an anti-personnel mine which killed him.

c. Several Italian civilians found two badly wounded Allied soldiers in a mine field and carried them to safety in spite of continual sniping which resulted in a superficial wound to one of the civilians.

d. A civilian who had formerly served as an Italian Army requisitioning officer was employed by a component of the Commission for the same purpose. In the course of his duty, he was caught in a snow storm at a high altitude, was required by the military driver to get out of the car to seek assistance, and as a result died of exposure.

63.6

2. It is believed that only a small proportion of instances of this kind have thus far come to the attention of this section or of the Commission, and that they will continue to arise with increasing frequency as further areas are occupied.

3. In several cases the civilians injured or killed in the performance of creditable or heroic service have been

35

heads of families whose dependents have suffered or will suffer financially by reason of the breadwinner's demise or injury.

4. It is the considered opinion of this section that, not only as a matter of common humanity and justice, but as a measure likely to yield results in loyalty and cooperation far beyond the effort and monetary expense involved, provision should be made for appropriate financial reward and honorary recognition by medal, plaque, ribbon, citation or otherwise for the head who survives, and by appropriate provision for the loss by his family of his support when he is killed or injured.

5. Tentative commitments by the Finance Sub-Commission indicate that there will probably be no particular difficulty involved so far as the matter of financial award is concerned. There are differences of opinion as to the appropriate amount to be paid in various situations but the principle of such payment has been substantially approved. Precedents are found in provisions made in the early days of the occupation for the payment of awards for information and for the apprehension of certain types of war criminals.

6. The matter of medals and decorations is, on the whole, regarded as the more important aspect. Sociologically and psychologically "onore" and "gloria" are in many respects of more importance to Italians than financial reward. The Fascists made intensive and widespread use of this principle during their regime and it is submitted that we would be very short-sighted if we did not do likewise. It is in connection with this aspect of the matter that most of the difficulty has arisen.

7. The obvious first approach to the problem was along the line of an attempt to find appropriate provision under present laws and regulations of Great Britain and the United States to permit the award of a standard national military medal or citation to persons of the class under consideration. With this idea in mind, the matter has been discussed at some length with administrative officers of Peninsular Base Section, AFHQ and AAI, and some independent investigation was also carried on by this section. All of the American awards mentioned in Circular 26, AFHQ, 6 March 1942 were considered, and similar research was made as to the availability of cor-

responding British honors and medals.

8. The most promising "prospects" were the Albert Medal and, on the American side, the Medal for Merit (War Department Bulletin 9, May 4, 1943). After full consideration, however, it is the considered judgment of all concerned, not only in the Commission but in the headquarters' above referred to, that neither of these medals is appropriate or can be used.

9. In the case of the Medal for Merit, awards may be made to "civilians of the nations prosecuting the war under the joint declaration of the United Nations and of other friendly foreign nations (who)...have....distinguished themselves...." The position of Italy with relation to the United Nations at the present time is not believed to be such as to bring her citizens and nationals within this category. Further, even if this award were appropriate and authorized it may be made only upon action of a board consisting of the Secretaries of State, the Navy, and the Army, which would make it, for all practical purposes, unavailable for the prompt recognition of outstanding merit or performance in our cause by civilians in this theater.

10. The need is for a decoration which may be awarded promptly and rather freely by an officer or officers of the Allied Forces in this vicinity without too much red tape and, if possible, without obtaining clearance from Washington 6304 London.

11. One method of accomplishing the desired result obviously is by initiating through channels, to and through higher headquarters, a proposal for the establishment of a new medal or award suitable for the purposes under consideration with a view to final action by AFHQ or appropriate departments, ministries, or executives of Great Britain or the United States. Preliminary action along this line has already been instituted.

12. Other possibilities (and it is these with which you are asked primarily to concern yourself) are:

- (1) That the express or inherent implied powers of the Commission or the Chief Commissioner may be sufficiently broad to permit action of the type under consideration without reference to any higher echelon.

33

(2) That appropriate action may be instituted with a view to the vesting in the Commission, by the nations for whose benefit it was created, of power to confer appropriate awards and decorations in cases which seem to the Chief Commissioner to be deserving of such recognition, or

(3) That if neither plan (1) nor (2) is feasible, appropriate arrangements may be worked out with the Italian government for recognition in such cases by it.

(Possibility (3) is regarded as a poor third choice, the element of recognition by the Allied Governments -- regarded as a feature of prime importance -- not being present.)

13. This matter is regarded as being one of urgent and critical importance, and an early expression from you on the points raised in the immediately preceding paragraph will be appreciated.

ALFRED C. BOWMAN, Lt. Col.
for
NORMAN E. FISKE,
Colonel
Deputy Executive Commissioner

6383

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

HQ ACC, APO 394
1 May 1944
By *[Signature]*

Ref/173/20/CA

ACB/eah
28 April 1944

SUBJECT: Citation to Italian Civilian (Sersante Franco).

TO : Chief Commissioner, Allied Control Commission.

1. Your signature is requested on the enclosed citation of an Italian civilian who voluntarily assumed great personal risk in saving the life of a British soldier.

2. The case has been thoroughly investigated, and is substantiated by affidavits (see attached).

3. This matter has been taken up with AAI through our liaison officer, and the action reflected by the proposed citation is in response to a suggestion from that headquarters.

[Signature]
NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive Commissioner.

2 May

Col. Fiske
Signified recommendation
herein

[Circular Stamp]
HQ ACC, APO 394
1 May 1944

6382

CC/Misc

2 May 1944

Subject: Recommendation for Award.

To: Headquarters, A.A.I.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that a suitable medal or award be conferred upon SERGANTE Franco, civilian, an employee of 6th Port Headquarters, Sub-Port of Salerno.

FOR exceptional meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service,

IN THAT HE DID, at 1100 hours, 19 February 1944, at the risk of his own life, save the life of PTE. LOYD DARLING when the vehicle driven by Pte. Darling plunged off the ramp of a lighter into 30 feet of water, the force of impact shutting the partially-opened door and pinning Pte. Darling helplessly in the cab. SERGANTE Franco, who was engaged in unloading the lighter, jumped into the water without a moment's hesitation and with utter disregard for the danger to himself, after a struggle succeeded in extricating Pte. Darling from the truck, and assisted him to the safety of the quay. It is beyond question that but for the presence of mind and bravery of SERGANTE Franco, Pte. Darling would have lost his life, and SERGANTE's conduct merits the highest possible praise, and suitable recognition.

NOEL MASON MACFARLANE
Lieutenant-General
Chief Commissioner

6th PORT HEADQUARTERS
TRANSPORTATION CORPS
SUB-PORT OF SALERNO

30
KEJ/wtm

20 February 1944

Subject : Act of Gallantry by Civilian Worker - Sersanto Franco

To : Major Turner Coles, C.A.O. Salerno City

1. At about 1100 hrs, on 19 February 1944 Sersanto Franco, a civilian employee of 6th Port Hq., Sub Port of Salerno, did at the risk of his own life save the life of Pvt. Loyd Darling, 1st Transportation Platoon R.C.A.

2. Sersanto Franco was assisting with the discharge of lighters on the slipway at East Quay Salerno Docks when, due to a Tug-boat mishap, the vehicle driven by Pvt. Darling was plunged off the ramp of the lighter and into 30 feet of water. Pvt. Darling attempted to jump but the force of the water, striking the partially opened door of the vehicle, pinned him back in a helpless position. Sersanto Franco, without a moment's hesitation and with utter disregard for the danger of being himself caught beneath the weight of the settling vehicle, dove into the water and, with great presence of mind, freed the injured driver from the truck and assisted him to the safety of the Quay. It appears quite certain from witness's statements that, had it not been for his prompt action, the driver would have been drowned.

3. Sersanto Franco's exemplary conduct, in the face of emergency, is worthy of the highest of commendation.

Kenneth E. Jackson
KENNETH E. JACKSON
1st Lt., T.C.

6350

785017

29

1st Ind.

HEADQUARTERS, REGION 3, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION, APO 394 - US ARMY

27/1/44
TO: Liaison Officer PBS - HQ ACC

The inclosed affidavits on Francesco Sersante are forwarded to you as requested in our telephone conversation of April 27, 1944.

Charles Poletti

CHARLES POLETTI
LT. COLONEL, AUS
REGIONAL COMMISSIONER

Incl: 4

Letter from Lt. Colonel Robertson

25/1/44

Letter from Major Barre

Act of Gallantry by Civilian Worker

13/1/44

Letters (2) from witnesses

Caputo Mario di Giovanni

Tondini Aniello fu Andrea

63.9

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1663

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SALERNO PROVINCE

Subject :- Rewards for Italian Civilians.

ACC/5/8.

To :- H. G. Region III.

Reference R.C. and M.G. Section letter
N0173/18/C4 dated 31 March 44, forwarded by you to
this office.

I forward herewith information as required together with supporting affidavits.

I recommend this proposal as stated in para 1 of the above mentioned letter.

25th April 44

K. P. D'Amico
Lieut. - Colonel
P. C., Salerno Province

21
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SALERNO PROVINCE

P.O. SALERNO
P.O. SALERNO

SALERNO
13 Apr 44

Act of Gallantry by Civilian Worker - SERSANTE Francesco - SALERNO

1- Identity of Civilian Worker:-

SERSANTE Francesco di Salvatore was born 16 Apr 27, is a small dark youngster living with his family at via Porto N° 100, Palazzo Salvi, SALERNO. (The family have lived there for the past six years). All of his documents pertaining to identification were lost at sea in Sep 43 when the boat in which he was travelling from PRAIANO (Amalfi) to SALERNO capsized off PUNTA ROSSO. He has applied to the Municipio di SALERNO for the renewal of these documents.

At present he is engaged at 6th Port of Embarkation (Sub-Port of SALERNO) and holds the following identification cards:-

6th Port of Embarkation Pass No. 2705
Payroll No. 289 - Card No. 192

SERSANTE learnt to swim at the age of nine, and claims to be an average swimmer.

2- Identity of the Allied Soldier rescued by the Civilian Worker:-

No. C-121 Pte DARLING, I.F.,
1 Canadian Field Regt RCA (Royal Canadian Horse Artillery)
Weight - about 185 lbs. Height - Tall. Was fully dressed wearing a great-coat at the time of the accident.

3- Details of the incident:-

At about 1100 hrs, 19 Feb 44, at the port of SALERNO a barge loaded with three Army vehicles tied up to the pier in order to unload these vehicles. Because the barge was not tied up properly it drifted away from the pier increasing the gap between it and the pier. A tug (American) was brought into play to push the barge towards the pier in order to close the gap and to make it fast to the pier. At that very moment the first Army vehicle to come off the barge was on the gang-plank moving off towards the pier. This was a British 15 Cwt with the driver, fully dressed, seated at the controls. The action of the tug, plus the weight of the

Act of Gallantry by Civilian Worker - SENSANTE

1- Identity of Civilian Worker:-

SERSANTE Francesco di Salvatore was born 16 Apr 27, is a small dark youngster living with his family at via Porto N° 100, Palazzo Salvi, SALERNO. (The family have lived there for the past six years). All of his documents pertaining to identification were lost at sea in Sep 43 when the boat in which he was travelling from PRATANO (Amalfi) to SALERNO capsized off PUNTA ROSSO. He has applied to the Municipio di SALERNO for the renewal of these documents.

At present he is engaged at 6th Port of Embarkation (Sub-Port of SALERNO) and holds the following identification cards:-

6th Port of Embarkation Pass No. 2709
Payroll No. 289 - Card No. 192

SERSANTE learnt to swim at the age of nine, and claims to be an average swimmer.

2- Identity of the Allied Soldier rescued by the Civilian Worker:-

No. C-121 Pte DARLING, I.F.,
1 Canadian Field Regt ROMA (Royal Canadian Horse Artillery)
Height - Tall. Was fully dressed
Weight - about 185 lbs.
wearing a great-coat at the time of the accident.

3- Details of the incident:-

6377

At about 1100 hrs, 19 Feb 44, at the port of SALERNO a barge loaded with three Army vehicles tied up to the pier in order to unload these vehicles. Because the barge was not tied up properly it drifted away from the pier increasing the gap between it and the pier. A tug (American) was brought into play to push the barge towards the pier in order to close the gap and to make it fast to the pier. At that very moment the first Army vehicle to come off the barge was on the gang-plank moving off towards the pier. This was a British 15 Cwt with the driver, fully dressed, seated at the driver's seat. The action of the tug, plus the weight of the vehicle, caused the barge to go further away from the pier thus increasing the distance between the barge and the pier. The vehicle at that particular moment was so placed that it took a list and went into 30-odd feet of water head first with the driver still in the cab.

SERSANTE at that moment was unloading cargo from another barge adjacent to the scene of the accident. Without hesitation he re-moved his cap and fully clothed dove into the water to the rescue of the trapped soldier.

26
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SALERNO PROVINCE

- 2 -

Fortunately SERSANTE went into the water on the driver's side of the vehicle and could see the truck in the water. He found the door of the cab (driver's side) half opened and the driver with his head up against the roof of the cab. He gave the soldier a downward push, grabbed hold of his shoulder and pulled him out of the cab. The driver injured himself on the leg by this action. The driver was still conscious when SERSANTE got to him and he was struggling trying to get hold of SERSANTE. SERSANTE had to keep him at arm's length in order to avoid being embraced by the driver in his attempt to grab at something.

On breaking the water's surface SERSANTE noticed that the driver's face and neck were very red. The driver was still waving his arms about. From the barge in question someone threw a life-saver, but this did not reach the two men in the water. SERSANTE had to pull the driver towards the life-saver in order to help him to grab hold of it. Once this was done the life-saver was towed by the men on the barge and the soldier was pulled out of the water by them. SERSANTE pulled himself out of the water. The soldier was taken to the dispensary at Port Headquarters for first-aid where his minor injuries were treated and afterwards he was sent on to NAPLES. He was in a weak but conscious condition. SERSANTE was sent home for a change of clothes and some rest.

4- Personnel who witnessed the rescue of the soldier by the civilian.

On the barge in question there were two Italian foremen and some twenty Italian workers. Also two other drivers in the other vehicles. There were a number of persons on the pier adjacent to the scene of the accident. A full report and signed statements by the Driver, the NCO i/c of the job, a Military Police (A) and SERSANTE were all sent to Col. JOHNSON at HQ 6 Corps, Adm Sec at TORRE ANNUNZIATA (Naples), by the Officer i/c Port of SALERNO (O.C. 384 Port in 'D' Coy (US)).

PM Lane Major
P.O. SALERNO

785017

Il sottoscritto Caputo Mario di Giovanni di Amato Luisa
nato a Salerno 31 maggio 1927 residente in Salerno
Corso Garibaldi 204 in nome della copia in detto
il 11 9 912 data 17 luglio 1942 di guerra quando segua:
in data 19 febbraio 1944 verso ore 11
lo scrivente si trovava sulla moto zattera dove aveva
tra automezzi a bordo e noto che uno degli automezzi
nell'operazione di sbarco precipitava in fondo al mare
che l'autista in divisa inglese trasportava nella cabina
della automezzo seguiva la sorte del veicolo.
che un giovanotto al nome di Sersante Francesco
si tuffò in mare che dopo poco tempo il Sersante
ritornò a galla tenente con la destra braccia
inglese infortunato.

Caputo Mario di Giovanni

Sworn to and signed by witness

in my presence this 25 Apr. 1944

P. H. Lane

P. H. Lane Major (Gen Army)
F. O. SALERNO Province.

Salerno 25 aprile 1944

The undersigned CAPUTO MARIO di Giovanni and di AMATO Luisa, born at

SALERNO on 31 May 1927, residing at Salerno Corso Garibaldi 204, Identity

Card n° 7119942, dated 17 Jul. 1942, states as follows:

" On 19 Feb. 1944 at about 1100 hrs I was on the barge loaded with 3 lorries
and saw that one of the trucks while disembarking fell into the sea with
a driver in British uniform, in the cab; and that a young man, whose name
is SERGENTE FRANCESCO dove into the sea and after a while he came to
the surface holding with the right hand the unfortunate British driver.

785017

nell'operazione di sbarco precipitata in fondo al mare
che l'autista in divisa inglese trasferitosi nella cabina
della automobile seguiva la sorte del veicolo.
che un giovanotto al nome di Sersante Francesco
si trovo' in mare. che dopo quel tempo il Sersante
ritornò a galla tenente con la destra disuntata
inglese infartuato.

Caputo Mario di Giordano

Sworn to and signed by witness

in my presence this 25 Apr. 1944

F.H. Barr

F.H. Barr Major (Can Army)
E.O. SALERNO Province.

Salerno 25 aprile 1944

The undersigned CAPUTO MARIO di Giovanni and di AMATO Luisa, born at

SALERNO on 31 May 1927, residing at Salerno Corso Garibaldi 204, Identity
Card n° 7119942, dated 17 Jul. 1942, states as follows:

" On 19 Feb. 1944 at about 1100 hrs I was on the barge loaded with 3 lorries
and saw that one of the trucks while disembarking fell into the sea with
a driver in British uniform, in the cab; and that a youngman, whose name
is SERGANTE FRANCESCO dove into the sea and after a while he came to
the surface holding with the right hand the unfortunate British driver.

Salerno 25 Apr. 1944.

785017

So pothorvito Bouchin' e Dandito fu Duchua e fu Duchua. The first note is
 Salerno il 11-4-943 e residente a Salerno in Via Trotula de Ruggiero al 20 e con carta
 di identità n° 0396690 in data 8-9-943. Dichiaro, giurando, che il giorno
 19-2-943 ero sulla motogattina, che era bianca con tetto di una spina di
 c'era tre automezzi: che n'era canino, verde e uno di altri colori.
 Era, tra la fonderia e tra la motogattina, giurando che era lì a
 il minorchiatore di Juon's e forte allora il capitano del minorchiatore
 che si ordinava andava in dietro a tutto forza e io lo minorchiatore
 fatto in tempo e il minorchiatore era in contro la motogattina e l'automezzo
 che era come lo detto prima e io lo minorchiatore era in contro la
 c'era e l'era l'automezzo che indovina la prima l'inglese che gli toccava, fu
 non, non che l'automezzo era appeso che il bersaglio francese
 fabbricato e l'uffante in mare e dopo poco lo minorchiatore a gally
 che sulla mano destra, per tutta, giurando inglese in portuale

Sworn to and signed by
 witness in my presence this
 25th April 1943

Bouchin' e Dandito fu Duchua

P.H. Barre, Maj (Can Army)
 P.O. Salerno Province

Salerno 25 aprile 1943

I undersigned TONDINI ANIBELLO fu Andrea and fu Anna Stabile, born at

SALEHNO on 11.7.1923, residing at Salerno, Via Trotula de Ruggiero n° 30

Identity Card n° 0396690 dated 8.9.1943 state as follows:

On 19.feb.1943 I was with my whole "gang" on the barge loaded with 3 lorries

which were being unloaded and while one of them was half on the pier and

part on the barge, at about 1100 hrs, a tug, according to the orders of

the Captain gave a push to the barge, but owing to miscalculation the lorry

drove on to the pier and had a first

785017

Sworn to and signed by
witness in my presence this
25th April 1948

P. H. Barre, Maj (Can Army)
P. O. Salerno Province

I undersigned TONDINI ANIELLO fu Andrea and fu Anna Stabile, born at

SALERNO on 11.7.1923, residing at Salerno, Via Trotula de Ruggiero n° 10

Identity Card n° C396690 dated 8.9.1943 state as follows:

On 19. Feb. 1943 I was with my whole "gang" on the barge loaded with 3 lorries which were being unloaded and while one of them was half on the pier and part on the barge, at about 1100 hrs, a tug, according to the orders of the Captain gave a push to the barge, but owing to miscalculation the lorry fell into the sea; and I sa., that the driver was in the cab and had a British uniform and went into the sea with the truck. I state also that SERA SANTI FRANCO di Salvatore dove into the sea and after a while came up to the surface holding with his right hand the British man rescued

Solerno 25 Apr. 1944.

785017

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.O. & M.G. Section
AFD 394

24

Ref/173/24/CA.

10 April 1944.

SUBJECT: Reward for Italian Civilians.

TO : S.C.A.O. Fifth Army.

Reference your letter No. 106/6 of 5 April 1944.

1. The contents of your letter have been noted.
2. This is a subject to which great importance is attached due to its morale building effect on the civilian populace, as well as being a just recognition of the civilian services performed.
3. It is requested that this matter should be kept in mind by you and investigations carried on as soon as circumstances permit. Please forward a report at the end of April and thereafter monthly until the matter is settled.

6374

WHP
NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel,
Deputy Executive
Commissioner.

BU. 11/5
24

Noted
24

WHP
24/4/44
E

785017

173th

18 APR Recd

CAB

8-1346

23

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

5 April, 1944.
106/6

SUBJECT: Rewards for Italian Civilians.

TO : A.O.C. (RC & MGS)

Ref your letter 173/19/CA dated 31 Mar 44 and our previous letters on same subject.

1. It is impossible at this time to obtain information from witnesses, as the Division concerned is no longer present in this theater of operations.

2. It is also impossible to trace the civilians concerned, since all civilians have been evacuated from the area NW of the Garigliano since the original recommendation was submitted and it is thought that the persons in question are now refugees. Furthermore the communal centre of Castelforte is now in German hands.

3. It is therefore intended to await such time as civil government is restored in Castelforte and refugees return to their homes, when every effort will be made to secure the necessary information in order that ACO may be able to grant monetary compensation as indicated in paragraph 1 of your letter.

How can we assure
that this will
be followed up?



E.B. Mayne

E.B. MAYNE,
Lt Col, UDF,
for SCAO AVG 5 Army.

Ch. Foster
See

See 24

JYP

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

Ref/173/19/CA

NRF/mrd
31 March 1944

SUBJECT: Rewards for Italian Civilians

TO : S.C.A.O., 5 Army (Field)

1. Reference is made to your letter S-347 of 7 March and two letters from 10 Corps, copies attached. The Allied Control Commission proposes to grant a monetary compensation in both of the cases cited and further, to recommend the individuals for citations.

2. It is requested that you undertake to secure full information, including supporting affidavits from any available witnesses and that you forward this information to the Commission with recommendations in each case. The information should be in the form of a draft citation and should include full details as to the identity and residence of the individuals concerned.

NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive Commissioner

Encl. 2

9 referred
See 23
Bu 20 April
SH
31/3
See also 19

COPY

Subject: Bravery of Italian Civilians.

63A.

Rear HQ
10 Corps

During recent operations in the LORENZO - CASTELFORTE area two cases have been reported by 44 Recce Regt of outstanding bravery and valuable assistance of Italian civilians.

Case 1. RICARDO ORLANDO of LORENZO volunteered to guide a patrol of 44 Recce Regt by a safe route to CASTELFORTE. While moving round a German minefield he trod on an S mine and was killed.

His mother and one son live in LORENZO and his wife and two sons and daughter are now in CASTELFORTE.

It is felt that this is a case for immediate assistance by A.M.G. authorities and the question of a pension entered into with the Italian Civil Organisation.

Case 2. Four unknown Italians found in a minefield two badly wounded men of a patrol of the 44 Recce Regt. They carried in the more seriously wounded man and returned to collect the second. They were successful in their efforts in spite of being continuously sniped on the outward and inward journeys. One of the Italians was wounded in the leg and was evacuated through RAMC channels. The other three disappeared after they had handed over the second man. All four showed great courage and resourcefulness in their actions, and it is certain that they were instrumental in saving the lives of the severely wounded man.

The four men will be identified as soon as possible.

May these cases be brought to the notice of the appropriate authorities and necessary action taken to reward the men or their dependants.

Sgd. ? ? ? Maj.
Maj-Gen,
Comd,
56 London Division

9 Feb '44

Copy to 44 Recce.
AMGOT. 10 Main 56 Div.

20

COPY

Subject:- Bravery of Italian Civilians.

63A.

Rear HQ
10 Corps.

Ref this HQ 63A of 9 Feb 44 "Case 2".

1. The name of the Italian who was wounded and evacuated through RAMC channels is

VECCHIO Antonio di Salvatore of SAN LORENZO

2. May this HQ be notified in due course when the necessary action to reward and compensate the parties in question has been put in motion.

12 Feb '44.

Sgt. ? ? ? Maj.
Maj-Gen,
Comd,
56 London Division.

Copy to:- AMG rep 56 Div.
CC 44 Recce.

6370

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

Ref/173/18/CA

NEF/mrd
31 March 1944

SUBJECT: Rewards for Italian Civilians

TO : Regional Commissioner, Region III

1. Reference is made to letter of 20 Feb. 1944, copy attached, the Allied Control Commission proposes to grant a monetary compensation to Sersanto Franco and further, to recommend the individual for citation.

2. It is requested that you undertake to secure full information, including supporting affidavits from any available witnesses and that you forward this information to the Commission with recommendation on the case. The information should be in the form of a draft citation and should include full details as to the identity and residence of the individual concerned.

NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive Commissioner

Encl. 1

122 vph
6339

785017

COPY

6th PORT HEADQUARTERS
TRANSPORTATION CODES
SUB-PORT OF SALERNO

KEJ/wtm

20 February 1944

Subject: Act of Gallantry by Civilian Worker - Sersanto Franco
To : Major Turner Coles. C.A.O. Salerno City

1. At about 1100 hrs, on 19 February 1944 Sersanto Franco, a civilian employee of 6th Port Hq., Sub Port of Salerno, did at the risk of his own life save the life of Pvt. Loyd Darling, 1st Transportation Platoon R.C.A.

2. Sersanto Franco was assisting with the discharge of lighters on the wharway at East Quay Salerno Beach when, due to a Tig-boat mishap, the vehicle driven by Pvt. Darling was plunged off the ramp of the lighter and into 30 feet of water. Pvt. Darling attempted to jump but the force of the water, striking the partially opened door of the vehicle, pinned him back in a helpless position. Sersanto Franco, without a moment's hesitation and with utter disregard for the danger of being himself caught beneath the weight of the settling vehicle, dove into the water and, with great presence of mind, freed the injured driver from the truck and assisted him to the safety of the quay. It appears quite certain from witness's statements that, had it not been for his prompt action, the driver would have been drowned.

3. Sersanto Franco's exemplary conduct, in the face of emergency, is worthy of the highest of commendation.

s/ Kenneth E. Jackson
KENNETH E. JACKSON
1st Lt., T.C.

Dep. Ex. Com.

17

I agree to the immediate grant
of the reward to Desauls Franco, & of
the gratuity to the family of Ricardo
Orlando.

While Italy is no more than a
co-belligerent I do not believe that
either U.S.A. or U.K. Govts. would consider
grant of the medal of Desauls as the meriting
of the British Empire (the appropriate decoration).
I do not think that it is worth while proceeding
in these lines. But I am sure that the Govt.
in C. would be prepared to sign a letter of
commendation which, when Italy's
status advanced, could be produced as a
good reason for subsequent award.
Will you have a draft of such

letter prepared and a covering letter
to AA1 for M.S. Dept made out?

TW/30/3

785017

28 MAR Recd 16

DATE: 28 MAR 44

CIRCULATION SLIP
Please pass file quickly

FROM	OFFICER	TO
	Brig. M. S. Durb	
	Col. N. E. Fisher	✓
	Lt. Col. G. W. L. Shipp	
	Major Driffield-White	
	Capt. Talbot	
	Capt. Peyton	
	Capt. Stewart	
	Lt. Petrillo	
	Registry	

✓ **ALFRED C. BOWMAN**
LT. COL. 0 320 343

REMARKS
Initial HERE and FOLIO referred
FOR INFORMATION AND
INCORPORATION INTO
FILE

hcf 7

AG 501 - Franco, Sersanto (Civ.) 1st W/Ind.
BPGAP (27 Feb 44)

HEADQUARTERS PENINSULAR BASE SECTION, APO 782, 23 March 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Allied Control Commission, R.C. and
M. G. Section, Liaison Division, APO 894, U.S. Army.

Attached herewith is copy of communication sent to Signor Sersanto
Franco by the Commanding Officer, 6th Port Headquarters.

For the Commanding General:

Encl: Cpy Ltr 20 Mar 44.

L. C. SUTTON, JR.,
Captain, A. G. D.,
Ass't Adj. General

C O P Y

6TH PORT HEADQUARTERS
TRANSPORTATION CORPS
OFFICE OF THE PORT COMMANDANT
APO 765, U. S. ARMY

RHC/ww

20 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Act of Gallantry.

TO: Signor Sersante Franco, 100 Via Porto, Salerno,
Italy.

THRU: Assistant Port Commander in Charge of Satellite
Ports.

1. It has been recorded at this office that on the 19th day of February 1944, that your instant and courageous action at Salerno, Italy, saved the life of Private Lloyd Darling of the British Army.

2. When a truck driven by Private Darling plunged off the ramp of a lighter into 30 feet of water and Private Darling failed to free himself from the vehicle, you did without hesitation and regard for your own safety, dive into the water and with great presence of mind free the driver from the truck and assist him to safety.

3. Your action in this emergency proves that you are imbued with the traits of character which exist only in the bravest of soldiers.

4. I congratulate you on your action and extend my deepest personal appreciation for your voluntary service which saved the life of an Allied Soldier.

/t/ R. H. CLARKSON,
Colonel, T. C.,
Commanding.

cc
Allied Control Commission.

785017

13

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

Ref/173/ /CA

MEF/mrd
27 March 1944

SUBJECT: Awards

TO : Executive Commissioner

6-9 refer

1. I am presenting herewith two cases of outstanding acts of courage performed by Italian civilians on behalf of the Allied forces. Both are deserving of substantial recognition. Colonel Grafftey Smith has suggested a monetary award and I agree that such a payment should be made. I feel, however, that in order to encourage the Italians to render maximum assistance to the Allied forces the Control Commission should be enabled to confer upon individuals concerned some nationally recognized decoration or medal.

2. There does not appear to be any provision at present for the granting of either a British or American decoration to Italian Nationals because of their legal status as citizens of an enemy country. I suggest:

a. That these two cases be more fully investigated and that the citations be supported by affidavits from available witnesses.

b. That the proposed monetary grant be paid if the circumstances warrant.

c. That the citations then be forwarded to A.F.H.Q. with the request that legislation be considered making possible the granting of the "Medal of Merit", U.S., or similar British medal.

d. That A.C.C. be allocated a supply of such medals and power to make prompt award in proper cases under authority of Chief Commissioner and without prior reference to higher authority.

11-12
6384
2009

Jm
NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel

Deputy Executive Commissioner

LIAISON DIVISION

25 March 1944.

MEMORANDUM

TO : Col. N.F. Fiske.

SUBJECT : Awards (Sersante Franco
Ricardo Orlando)

1. File 173/CA, drafts of proposed Recommendations for Awards in above cases, copy of Cir. 26 NATOUSA 6 March 1944, and accompanying papers, attached.

2. Par. 3, cited circular, comes closest to covering these cases but in my opinion does not, in view of the context, apply to Italian civilians.

3. Date and time of the Ricardo Orlando incident cannot be determined from available papers, and have been omitted.

6363

Dec 3

785017

2nd D R A F T

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award.

TO :

IT IS RECOMMENDED that SERSANTE FRANCO, civilian, an employee of 6th Port Headquarters, Sub Port of Salerno, be awarded the

(name of award)

FOR exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service,

IN THAT HE DID, at 1100 hours, 19 February 1944, at the risk of his own life, save the life of PTE. LOYD DARLING when the vehicle driven by Pte. Darling plunged off the ramp of a

lighter into 30 feet of water, the force of impact shutting the partially-opened door and pinning Pte. Darling helplessly

in the cab, Sersante Franco, who was engaged in unloading

the lighter, jumped into the water without a moment's hesita-

tion, and with utter disregard for the danger to himself, after

a struggle succeeded in extricating Pte. Darling from the truck,

and assisted him to the safety of the quay. It is beyond

question that but for the presence of mind and bravery of

Sersante Franco, Pte. Darling would have lost his life, and

Francisco's conduct merits the highest possible praise, and suit-

able recognition. By this heroic act Sersante Franco

has earned the deep appreciation of all concerned.

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award.

TO :

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Ricardo Orlando of Lorrenzo, an Italian civilian, now deceased, be posthumously awarded the

FOR exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service,

IN THAT HE DID, on the day of , 1944 at
hours, volunteer to guide a patrol of 44 Recce Regiment to
Castelforte through a known German minefield, as a consequence of which he was killed by the explosion of a German "S" mine. His conduct showed clear evidence of great sympathy with the Allied cause; was entirely voluntary and in complete disregard of his personal safety; and is deserving of the highest commendation. He left a widow, three sons, and a daughter.

6361

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
FINANCE SUB-COMMISSION
APO 394

173
18 NO Recd

9

1304/P

17 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Rewards to Italian civilians for bravery in aiding Allied personnel.

TO : Executive Commissioner.

With reference to the correspondence on File 173/CA, I am of the opinion that recognition should be given in the form of a reward both (a) to the families of Italian civilians who lose their lives while aiding the Allied Armies in the field; and (b) to Italian civilians who perform acts of bravery or risk their lives to aid the personnel or operations of the Allied forces.

As regards (a) I suggest that we should make a lump sum payment of 25,000 lire as compensation. This figure is based on, and is rather higher than, the scale laid down for fatal accidents to Italian farm workers.

As regards (b) I suggest that a cash reward of 5,000 lire should be made.

As we have no directive from the CGS authorizing such out-payments I should be grateful to receive general authority from the Chief Commissioner or from you signing on his behalf.

6330

A. P. Grafton-Smith

A. P. GRAFTON-SMITH,
Colonel,
Joint Chief Finance Officer.

AFGS/rad

see 274

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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

7 March 1944.

106/6

SUBJECT: Rewards for Italian Civilians.

TO : H.Q. A.C.C. ✓
(Attention R.C. & M.G.S.)

1. Herewith copy of letter from H.Q. 56 (Br) Division forwarded by H.Q. 10 Corps requesting that rewards be given to certain Italian Civilians for bravery in assisting our battle patrols and compensation in the case of the dependents of a civilian who lost his life.

2. This is not a matter which can be handled by "A" Force and it is requested that a ruling be given whether any provision exists or can be created for the reward of such persons or the compensation of their dependents.

Tom Ashley
J.O.M. ASHLEY,
Colonel C of S.,
AMG 5 Army (Field).
for S.C.A.O.

DRBM/hdp

C O N F I D E N T I A L

785017

SUBJECT:- Bravery of Italian Civilians.

S.C.I.C.,
A.M.C.,
Main 10 Corps.

Rear HQ 10 Corps
16/A

17 Feb '44.

2

The attached copies of correspondence received from HQ 56 Div in respect of the bravery of certain Italian civilians during the recent operations in the LORENZO - CASTELPORTE area, are forwarded for attention.

Could it please be stated whether any provision exists for the reward of the persons concerned or their dependants.

I. Bokun's Main

Brigadier,
D.A. & Q.M.G.

6358

785017

Subject:- Bravery of Italian Civilians.

63A.

61

Rear HQ
10 Corps.

Ref this HQ 63A of 9 Feb 44 "Case 2".

1. The name of the Italian who was wounded and evacuated through
RAMC channels is

VECONTO Antonio di Salvatore of SAN LORENZO

2. May this HQ be notified in due course when the necessary action to
reward and compensate the parties in question has been put in motion.

12 Feb 44.

Sgd. ? ? ? Maj.
for Maj-Gen,
Comd,
56 London Division.

Copy to:- AMG rep 56 Div.
CG 44. Recco.

6357

COPY.

Subject:- Bravery of Italian Civilians.

Rear HQ
10 Corps.

During recent operations in the LORENZO - CASTELFORTE area two cases have been reported by 44 Recce Regt of outstanding bravery and valuable assistance of Italian civilians.

Case 1. RIGARDO ORLANDO of LORENZO volunteered to guide a patrol of 44 Recce Regt by a safe route to CASTELFORTE. While moving round a German minefield he tripped on an S mine and was killed.

His mother and one son live in LORENZO and his wife and two sons and daughter are now in CASTELFORTE.

It is felt that this is a case for immediate assistance by A.M.G. authorities and the question of a pension entered into with the Italian Civil Organisation.

Case 2. Four unknown Italians found in a minefield two badly wounded men of a patrol of the 44 Recce Regt. They carried in the more seriously wounded man and returned to collect the second. They were successful in their efforts in spite of being continuously sniped on the outward and inward journeys. One of the Italians was wounded in the leg and was evacuated through RAMO channels. The other three disappeared after they had handed over the second man. All four showed great courage and resourcefulness in their actions, and it is certain that they were instrumental in saving the lives of the severely wounded man.

The four men will be identified as soon as possible.

May these cases be brought to the notice of the appropriate authorities and necessary action taken to reward the men or their dependants.

6356

9 Feb '44.

Sgt. ? ? ? Maj.
Maj-Gen,
Comd,
56 London Division.

Copy to 44 Recce.
ASST. 10 Main 56 Div.

785017

4

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.O. & M.O. SECTION
Liaison Division
APO 394

6 March 1944

SUBJECT: Act of Gallantry - Sergeant Franco.

TO : Lt. Col. T. K. Lynch
Executive, G - 1
Peninsular Base Section.

1. Copies of letters concerning the above subject discussed
with you by phone today are attached.

2. Advice as to nature of action taken in this matter will
be appreciated.

ALFRED C. BOWMAN
Lt. Col.
Chief, Liaison Division.

6355

B/U
H/3
noted
B

3
Col Fiske

Re 1.

I have asked FINANCE if there are any funds available for monetary rewards for acts of this nature. The reply is No but if ~~any~~ a reward is recommended and an amount stated. Col Haffner Smith would try to help.

6354

LT 3/3

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

785017

Subject : Act of C antry.

2 MAR Recd

U: 772 173

C A B

3 District CMC
Tel Ext 16
363/A

HEADQUARTERS

2 MAR 1944

A. C. C.

Main HQ AOC

27 Feb 44.

Ref the att copy report from 6th Port HQ in Corps Salerno.

1. I am directed by Comd 3 District to request you to convey, through the Italian government, his grateful thanks to SERENITE FRANCO for the gallant action which undoubtedly saved the life of a soldier.

See 14

HBT/WB

W. H. H. H.
Maj-Gen
Comd

6353

0085