

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

10000/120/2

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

00/120/2

AQ/2/I - RATIONS, Port - Labour
October 1943 - Jan. 1944
Opened Oct. 18, 1943 - Closed Jan. 13, 1944

Subject:- Feeding of Italian Military Labour

MILITARY MISSION.

Date 26/1/44 Ad 2/1
to
ITALIAN ARMY.

HQ No. 2 District GTF
Ext 13520
1388 Q

13 Jan 44

SE

10 CC RIF PL

Further to this HQ 1388Q of 17 Dec 43.

The following ruling has been finally decided:-

"British rations may not be issued to Italian personnel of IV and V Corps."

Rations to cover absence from station must be a matter for local adjustment."

T.O.C....D.H.S.A

G. M. Threlk
Colonel
Colonel i/c Admin

Copy to:- M.H.I.A.

Sir

Notes to us same 108 of 19 Dec.
No letter of this ref dated 17 Dec.

CC
26/1

ST.

I have signalled 2 Dist
for a copy of letter referred to
above. Regret.

27/1

✓

SUBJECT:- Rations for Italian Military Labour.

688A/305/2.
13

2 District.

1. Further to 688A/305/Q of 17 Dec and 305/Q of 21 December, and your 1388Q dated 20 Dec and Q479 dated 21 Dec 43.
2. Since the new Italian ration scale came into force, there have been continual complaints from the Italian Military Labour about installations that they are not getting enough to eat. This is apparent to this HQ: the quality of the work has already deteriorated, and it is estimated that if food on the new scale continues for another fortnight the men will not be capable of performing the work which they are called upon to do.

3. The following is a comparison between the quantity of the main items (flour or rice, meat and tea or coffee) in the Italian ration which have been issued from all sources to Italian working troops in this Sub-Area between 1 Jul and 22 Dec 43 :-

Commodity.	1 Jul 43 (before invasion; ration by Italians).	1 Oct 43 to 21 Dec 43 (Italian ration plus issue by British Army of 4ozs preserved meat and 8oz of Biscuits to working numbers).	22 Dec 43 (Italian ration scale as given in 2 Dist 1388Q of 19 Dec plus British issue of 2ozs corned beef to working numbers).
Bread or Pasta or Biscuit or rice	22 $\frac{2}{3}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Meat (fresh or preserved)	4	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	4
Tea or Coffee	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{3}$ (plus issue of tea by British Army for night workers)	$\frac{1}{3}$

107

4. The Italian soldiers complain particularly that they are not getting sufficient bread (or Pasta or Biscuit in lieu); they feel the need for bulk rather than a balanced ration. It will be observed from the comparison in para 3 that introduction of the scale laid down in your 1388Q dated 19 Dec and Q479 dated 21 Dec has led to a cut of over 50% in the bread ration, to a cut of 75% in the meat ration, and to a reduction in the ration of tea or coffee.

Bread or Pasta or Biscuit or rice	22 $\frac{2}{3}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Meat (fresh or preserved)	4	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	4
Tea or Coffee	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$

(plus issue of tea
by British Army
for night workers)

107

4. The Italian soldiers complain particularly that they are not getting sufficient bread (or Pasta or Biscuit in Italian); they feel the need for milk rather than a balanced ration. It will be observed from the comparison in para 5 that introduction of the scale laid down in your 1388Q dated 19 Dec and Q479 dated 21 Dec has led to a cut of over 50% in the bread ration, to a cut of over 34% in the meat ration, and to a reduction in the ration of tea or coffee.

5. In these circumstances I strongly recommend that the new ration scale should be reconsidered without delay, and brought up if possible to the scale prevailing between 1 Oct and 21 Dec 43.

6. If this is not done, the value of the Italian military labour available to us will be seriously diminished.

L. R. Palmer

Brigadier.
Commander.
6 Base Sub-Area.

24 Dec 43.

Copy to:- MIA (ref conversation of 24 Dec - Brig Palmer - Lt-Col Moriarty).

Radio Hill

562

LRLC V LRLC Z QVR9 NR562 GR92

12

GR92

LRLC V LRCT 597 598 Z QVR4 T QVR9

FROM DISTWO 211230A

TO (1) 57 AREA (2) RM SUB AREA

(3) 6 BASE SUB AREA (4) 71 SUB AREA

(5) 94 SUB AREA (6) 151 SUB AREA

21 Dec

INFO

(7) ST DISTWO (8) LABOUR DISTWO

(9) MNIA

Don

106

AS/2

21/12/85

Q479

BULK ASSISTANCE ITALIAN MILITARY ✓

REF THIS HQ 1388Q OF 19 .

ADDITIONAL 20Z P. MEAT OR SUITABLE

EQUIVALENT WILL BE DRAWN BY EMPLOYING SERVICES

AND ISSUED BY THEM TO WORKERS AT SUB

AREA COMMANDERS PERSONAL DISCRETION . ISSUES WILL ONLY BE MADE

HBSUAELETHDNONDEKERSHANE IN CASES OF SICK AND INSTALLATION WORKERS

INFO

(7) ST DISTWO (8) LABOUR DISTWO

(9) MMIA

Q479

BULK ASSISTANCE ITALIAN MILITARY ✓

REF THIS HQ 1388Q OF 19 .

ADDITIONAL 20Z P.MEAT OR SUITABLE

EQUIVALENT WILL BE DRAWN BY EMPLOYING SERVICES

AND ISSUED BY THEM TO WORKERS AT SUB

AREA COMMANDERS PERSONAL DISCRETION. • ISSUES WILL ONLY BE MADE

IN CASES OF SICK AND INSTALLATION WORKERS

WORKERS PERFORMING

ARDUOUS ~~WORKING~~ TASKS

THI 211320A

REPTN 597 598 Z QVR4 T QVR8

211230A

57 6 77 94 151 0478 1388Q 19

1XXXXXX 2 211320

+++AEH+++BBBBBBB

106

AS/2

21/2

AP 1538

MESSAGE OUT

TO:- 89 Hy. A.A.
67 C.R.E.
1 Docks Gp.
13 B.P.O.
29 L of C Tpt. Col.
18 Gp. Pioneer Corps.
A.Q.M.G. (M)

FROM:- 71 SUB AREA.

AG/2
2/12

Reptd.

Air Division A.C.C.
N.O.I.C.
M.M.I.A.
62 Service Gp. USAAF.
R.A.F. Station Commander
BRINDISI.
105 D.C.R.E. (Airfields)
43 E.S.D.
801 Rd. Constr. Coy. R.E.
50. B.D.
38 D.I.D.
9 E.S.D.
4 Petrol Depot.
303 Lt. A.A. Bty.

S.E.
M.
O.S.
FRQ.
D.A.D.L. (Civil)

Q 199

20

1. Issue of Supplementary rations and hot meals, including tea at night, to Italian Military Naval & Air Force personnel employed on labour at Docks Depots Airfields etc. will cease w.e.f. 2400 hrs 21 Dec (.)

2. Normal Italian rations are now supplemented by British Rations in bulk by 2 District (.) Italian Units will be responsible for feeding their own personnel on the job under their own arrangements w.e.f. 22 Dec inclusive (.) (This will be carefully explained to Italian Commanders of Units. 105

3. Issue of hot tea to civilian personnel only employed on labour by night will continue as before.

This message may be sent as written.

THL.....
TOO.....

*Was Ministry notified by signal
DWC 21/12/43.*

Subject:- Rations for Italian Military Labour

HQ No. 2 District CMF
Ext 11986
1388 2

19 Dec 43

57 Area
6 Base Sub Area
71 Sub Area
94 Sub Area
151 Sub Area
R.M. Sub Area

1. With further reference to this HQ letter of even number dated 18 Nov. and signal dated 14 Dec 43.

2. Italian troops employed on the L. of C. or Communications Zone will be rationed as shown at Appdx "A". This includes any troops scheduled for employment with Fifth or Eighth Armies but still stationed in the L. of C. or Communications Zone. It does not include Italian Naval personnel who will be fed under arrangements to be made by the Royal Navy.

3. All personnel employed on dock clearance, work in depots etc., involving arduous physical labour may be issued with 2 ozs p. meat or suitable equivalent in addition to the scale laid down in Appdx "A".

4. M.M.I.A. will arrange for the daily collection of rations in bulk from B.S.D's and will be responsible for breaking bulk and distribution. 104

5. Ration demands will be submitted by M.M.I.A. on AFHQ Adv. Admin. Echelon direct.

6. The above scheme should have been brought into operation from 13 Dec, but as arrangements were not complete the date had to be postponed. A revised date will be signalled to addressees as soon as it is known, and w.e.f. this date the present issue of

Communications zone will be rationed as per "A". This includes any troops scheduled for employment with Fifth or Eighth Armies but still stationed in the L. of C. or Communications Zone. It does not include Italian Naval personnel who will be fed under arrangements to be made by the Royal Navy.

3. All personnel employed on dock clearance, work in depots etc., involving arduous physical labour may be issued with 2 ozs p. meat or suitable equivalent in addition to the scale laid down in Appdx "A".

4. M.M.I.A. will arrange for the daily collection of rations in bulk from B.S.D's and will be responsible for breaking bulk and distribution. 104

5. Ration demands will be submitted by M.M.I.A. on ATHQ Adv. Admin. Echelon direct.

6. The above scheme should have been brought into operation from 13 Dec, but as arrangements were not complete the date had to be postponed. A revised date will be signalled to addressees as soon as it is known, and W.C.F. this date the present issue of supplementary rations and the issue of tea, sugar and milk to military labour on night work will cease.

1 A 11.11.11.11

Colonel i/c Admin

T.O.O. 11.11.11.11

Copy to:- "ST" No. 2 District
M.M.I.A.

APPENDIX "A"

BASIC SCALE

COMMODITY	OUNCES PER RATION	REMARKS
Whole Wheat or Rice or Pulses	16 12 2	Examination to be made for procuring locally
Canned Meat	2	
Herrings Tinned	4/7	
Sardines Tinned	2/7	
Salmon M.R.	3/7	
Cheese Tinned	1 1/4	
Sausage Tinned	1 1/4	
Sugar	1 1/4	
Pepper	1 1/4	
Matches	2	books weekly or one box.
Coffee	1 1/4	

In addition to the above the following items will be furnished by ITALIAN ARMY. Purchases from Local Resources will be co-ordinated with A.M.G. to ensure equitable distribution between military and civil requirements. All such purchases will be paid for by the ITALIAN ARMY.

COMMODITY	OUNCES PER RATION	REMARKS
Fruit	6	
Fresh Vegetables	6	
Olive Oil	1 1/4	
Wine	1	
Nuts (unshelled)	1	As an alternative for fresh fruit and vegetables.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

ARMY FORM CE136 (Small)			MESSAGE FORM		Register No.	
Call	Srl. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions			
			9			
ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY						
FROM (A)		Originator	Date/Time of Origin		OFFICE DATE STAMP	
M M I A			21 10 20			
		For Action				
		Ministero della Guerra				
TO		(W) For Information (INFO)	Message Instructions		GR	
Originator's No. Q²² (1) Issue of supplementary rations and hot meals, including tea at night, to Italian Military Naval and Air Force personnel employed on labour at docks depots airfields etc will cease w.e.f. 2400 hrs 21 Dec (.) (2) Normal Italian Rations are now supplemented by British rations in bulk by No2 District(.) Italian Units will be responsible for feeding their own personnel on the job under their own arrangements w.e.f. 22 Dec incl (.) feederies (3) Issue of hot tea to civilian personnel only employed on labour by night will continue as before						
THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN BY ANY MEANS { EXCIT } WIRELESS		IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MESSAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHER		ORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS DEGREE OF PRIORITY		
SIGNED		SIGNED <i>[Signature]</i>		Important		
				103		
				Time System Op.		
				THI or TOR		
				Time cleared		

MESSAGE OUT

FROM 71 SUB AREA Q 204 2I

TO : 89 Hy A.A.
67 C.R.E.
I Docks Group
I3 B.P.O.

29 L of C Tpt. Col.
I8 Group Pioneer Corps
A.Q.M.G.(M)

REPEAT TO

Air Division A.C.C.
N.O.I.C.
(M.H.I.A.)
62 Service Gp USAF.
RAF Station Commander
BRIDISI
IO5 DORE (Airfields)
43 B.S.D.
801 Rd Constr. Coy.RE.
50.E.D.

38 D.I.D.
9 E.S.D.
4 Petrol Depot
303 Lt. A.A. Bty.
S.T.
M.
O.S.
PRO.
D.A.D.L.(Civil)

=====

This H.Q. Ref. Q 199 of 20(.)

- One. Authority now given for the issue of 2 ozs P, meat or equivalent to all Italian Military, Navel and Air Force personnel employed onarduous physical labour in docks, depots etc. w.e.f. 22 Dec, and until further notice (.)
- Two. This supplementary ration will be issued by employing units to Italian personnel when actually on the job as previously.
- Three This arrangement temporary until alternative arrangements are made by Italian authorities.
- Four. Inform all Italian Commanders of units

=====

This message may be Important
sent as written. TOO.....
TII.....

102

AS/2
12/12

43 E.S.D. PRO.
801 Rd Constr. Coy.RE. D.A.D.L.(Civil)
50.B.D.

=====

This H.Q. Ref. Q 199 of 20(.)

- One. Authority now given for the issue of 2 ozs P. meat or equivalent to all Italian Military, Navel and Air Force personnel employed on ~~on~~arduous physical labour in docks, depots etc. w.e.f. 22 Dec, and until further notice (.)
- Two. This supplementary ration will be issued by employing units to Italian personnel when actually on the job as previously.
- Three This arrangement temporary until alternative arrangements are made by Italian authorities.
- Four. Inform all Italian Commanders of units

=====

This message may be sent as written.	Important	TOO.....
		THL.....

=====

102

AS/2
12/12

SUBJECT: Rations for Italian Labour.
Deputy Engineer,
Ad. NAAF (for Lt Col EVANS,
803 Engineer Aviation Bn)

British Military Mission
AQ/2
30 Oct 45

1. An Italian labour bn is shortly arriving for work at GROTTAGLIE rly siding.
2. All Italian labour units working for the Allies, SOUTH of Eighth Army rear operational boundary are fed from Italian sources.
3. It has, however, been the practice for these rations to be supplemented from Allied sources at the rate of 1 pkt of biscuits, and 1/2 tin of bully per man per day.
4. Provision of such supplements is at the discretion of Allied units employing Italian labour concerned.

BGC-H/ABC

Bgcol.
fw
Brigadier,
Comd. British Military Mission.

101

SUBJECT: Rations

British Military Mission.

AQ/2

30 Oct 45

Intendenza,
7 ITALIAN ARMY

1. The policy for rationing Italian Units working for the Allied forces, is that all such units employed SOUTH of the EIGHTH Army rear operational boundary, will be fed from Italian sources.
2. Will you please ensure that this is done in every case.

BGC-H/ABC

Bgcet.
fw
Brigadier,
Comd. British Military Mission.

C-O-P-Y

SUBJECT: Issues to Italian Military Labour.

HQ No. 2 District, CMF
1388 Q.
29 Oct. 43

6 Base Sub Area
71 Sub Area (Ref your Q34 of 21 Oct)
103 Sub Area
151 Sub Area
RM Sub Area

1. Further to this HQ Q 95 of 7 Oct.

It has been suggested that better results can be obtained from a hot stew of bully 3 ozs., fresh vegetables 4 ozs and biscuits 6 ozs instead of the issue of 4 ozs bully and 8b ozs biscuits.

2. The availability of fresh vegetables is variable, but if obtainable, the use of them in lieu of part of the bully and biscuits issue is authorised in view of the saving of P. meat.

??

COLONEL, DA and QMC

100

C-O-P-Y

SUBJECT: Ration Issues - Italian Troops

HQ No. 2 District (Portbase) C.M.F.
Ex. 37.
1388 Q.
18 Oct. 43.

Q. 86 Area
6 Base Sub Area
71 Sub Area
151 Sub Area
Copy to: A.D.P.L.
Tn.
ST.

In continuation of this HQ Signal Q 95 of 7 Oct, authority is given for the free issue of tea, $1\frac{1}{6}$ oz., Sugar $\frac{1}{2}$ oz and milk tinned 1 oz., to all Italian Military Labour employed on night work at Docks, Depots, Airfields etc. This free issue is also authorised for Italian Civil Labour similarly employed on night work.

Personnel will be considered as being on night work if they are employed after 2000 hrs. or before 0700 hrs.

??

BRIGADIER.

HDV/WTR

C-C-P-Y

SIGNAL MESSAGE OUT

TO: 6 Base Sub Area
86 Sub Area "
71 " "
151 " "

rptd.

Rear Eighth Army
Rear 5 Corps
R.M. Sub Area
103 Sub Area

From: Fortbase

Q 95

7.

In confirmation of verbal instructions authority is given for the free issue of 8 oz biscuits 4 oz pres meat to all Italian Military labour employed at Docks Depots Airfields etc (.) Issue to cease in event of Italian Units concerned being in receipt of normal RALC rations as authorised for Italian Army (.) Issue of rations to civil labour on repayment is not authorised.
58

Degree of priority

E L S

Signature ??

BRIGADIER
DA and QMG

T.O.O. 1955 A

Copy to 'A' ST OS LMC 'E'
MOV. Tn. 'X' P & L.

1503