

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

785020

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785020

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AQ/27/3 CANTEENS ITI TROOPS

Opened Nov. 20, 1944 - Closed Apr. 2, 1945

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No.

785020

SUBJECT : Italian Women's Voluntary Canteen Service.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.

CR/9904/G-1(Br).

2 Apr. 45.

M.M.I.A.

Will you please say what progress has been made in the forming
of the Italian Women's Voluntary Canteen Service.

JDP/mag

Copy to: D.A.W.S.

3 APR 1945

Major General,
DAG, G-1(Br).

4503

A

1. Vehicles:-

3 vs. Vehicles } in 1st Report Reparazione
3 for - }

for work converting trucks to Mobile
canteens

2. Release for material held - to make
uniforms but not yet released pending

3. Completion of list of names ~~list~~ of
lady volunteers. M.O.D. say list was
completed yesterday & should be available to
us on 7 Apr.

4. AFHQ have authorized canteen rations
& mobile canteens will presumably get
an allotment

5. See notes on Folio 8
6 Apr.

De 40
Adams

TRANSLATION

A/27/3

Ref: 02311/BS

Date: 28:3:45

From: M.O.W.

To: M.M.I.A.

Subject: Women volunteers for canteen duties

With ref to letter A/27/3 dated 12th Inst dealing with the same subject.

I beg to inform you that I hope, very shortly to be in a position to forward to you a list of about 30 names of ladies to be employed on canteen duties. These ladies, who are volunteers, are chosen with a non political policy; but the various formations of feminine service will be taken into consideration.

It is considered advisable that Countess Leonardi's private initiative, which is largely appreciated on account of the results obtained, be replaced as, is also the wish of the Allies, by the work carried out by the Soldiers Welfare Office of MOW.

It is my opinion that in choosing an inspector, a strictly objective policy should be adopted in order to guarantee the full efficiency and discipline of this service. Therefore, it is necessary that, at the head of said service an experienced person having no strong political tendencies in any direction ^{be appointed} so that she may exercise a really beneficial influence on the new organisation.

Therefore, with the names of women volunteers for this service, I intend to nominate the person who will have the duties of supervisor in these services.

Signed: A. CATTI

Sgt Fabre

G.O.C.

I think this really means:-

(a) Each political party is to have so many vacancies in their women's "voluntar" organisation.

(b) Countess Leonardi's offer of help is rejected.

Do you agree and if so do you wish to notify AFHQ, as she was introduced by them?

Note

Major Cuffey / Patients Branch wants to use her name.

Major Cuffey
to ask War Office for list
of names & inform AFHQ
on it as well as
to serve

W.D.
Colonel, AFHQ



Ministero della Guerra

Divisione 1^a Sp.

Int. V. 0231/85-Allegato

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
(M.M.I.A.)

ROMA

IN

Risposta al Foglio del
Dir.

OGGETTO : Servizio volontario femminile spacci.

Nome Volontario per la Ditta A

Con riferimento al foglio A/27/3 del 12 corr.mese, pari og-
getto, informo codesta L.F.S.C. (MILA) che spero al più presto di
poter presentare un elenco di una trentina di signore da adibire
al servizio volontario femminile spacci scelte con criteri di asso-
luta apoliticità, ma tenendo conto delle varie organizzazioni fem-
minili esistenti.

All'iniziativa privata della Contessa Leonardi, che è pie-
namente apprezzata per i risultati ottenuti, è opportuno che si so-
stituisca - come del resto è desiderio degli Alleati - l'opera del
Ministero della Guerra e precisamente dell'Ufficio Benessere del
Soldato.

Anche nella scelta dell'Ispettrice ritengo che debba preva-
lere il criterio di assoluta obiettività, tale da garantire la pie-
na efficienza e la disciplina del particolare servizio. Occorre
cioè che a capo di esso sia posto una persona che, per maturità ed
esperienza e che per essere priva di uno spiccato colore politico,
di destra o di sinistra.

28/3

getto, informo codesta L.R.S.C. (MLIA) che spero al più presto di poter presentare un elenco di una trentina di signore da adibire al servizio volontario femminile spacci scelte con criteri di assoluta apoliticità, ma tenendo conto delle varie organizzazioni femminili esistenti.

All'iniziativa privata della Contessa Leonardi, che è pienamente apprezzata per i risultati ottenuti, è opportuno che si sostituisca - come del resto è desiderio degli Alleati - l'opera del Ministero della Guerra e precisamente dell'Ufficio Benessere del Soldato.

Anche nella scelta dell'Ispettrice ritengo che debba prevalere il criterio di assoluta obiettività, tale da garantire la piena efficienza e la disciplina del particolare servizio. Occorre cioè che a capo di esso sia posto una persona che, per maturità ed esperienza e che per essere priva di uno spiccato colore politico, di destra o di sinistra, sia in grado di esercitare una reale benefica influenza sulla nuova organizzazione.

Per questo con i nomi delle componenti il corpo mi propongo di designare anche quello della persona che dovrà sovrintendere ad esso, in qualità di Ispettrice.

IL MINISTRO

Alcide De Gasperi

UNITED STATES LADIES VOLUNTARY CANTEN SERVICE.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(K.M.I.A.) Wash.
1/27/43.

12 March 1943.

Ministry of War.

1. On 3rd Feb, a meeting was held at this HQ to consider the setting up of a Ladies Voluntary Canteen Service. Your representative Gen. Ramsdale attended this meeting and a copy of the minutes was forwarded to you.

2. This letter is written to notify Allied approval of the scheme in principle and to urge that every effort should be made to hasten the implementation of the service.

3. The offer of the Countess Incessant to organize this service on a voluntary basis has, with your knowledge and agreement, been accepted and certain facilities have been granted her. (see minutes of meeting) It is the wish of the Allied authorities that the Countess (or any other voluntary leader) should work under the direct control of your Director of Welfare and that within the terms of reference given her she should organize her own staff.

4. In this connection I attach a list of 24 women helpers whom Countess Incessant has selected; their employment ~~from~~ the Allied viewpoint is being investigated. Meanwhile your agreement to this list (or reasons for objection) is required so that the scheme may begin and operate without delay.

5. I would further ask you to impress on your staff the value of any public spirited service which is encouraged in the proper way will be a real help and inspiration to the young soldiers of Italy who are away from their homes and families. To this end it is the Allied Commanders wish, and I am sure yours also, that there should be no question of party politics introduced into any such project and that no one connected in any way with the active frontiers should be involved.

three minutes of meeting) is to be the minimum work that the Counters (or any other voluntary leader) should work under the direct control of your Director of Welfare and that within the terms of reference given her she should organize her own staff.

4. In this connection I attach a list of 24 women helpers whom Countess Leonard has selected; their employment ~~from~~ the Allied viewpoint is being investigated. Meanwhile your agreement to this list (or reasons for objection) is required so that the scheme may begin and operate without delay.

5. I could further ask you to improve on your staff the value of any public spirited services which is encouraged in the proper way will be a real help and inspiration to the young soldiers of Italy who are away from their homes and womenfolk. To this end it is the Allied Commission of party politics introduced also, that there should be no question of party politics introduced into any such project and that no one connected in any way with the active furtherance of any political aim should be employed in this or any other welfare work. Please ensure that this is fully understood.

W.P. Aubrey-Fulmer

† T. FIDALIN, Colonel,
for Major General,
M. H. J. A.

Leahy

Internal - A.D.A.S.S. MIA.

ITALIAN WOMEN'S VOLUNTEER CAMPAIGN

NAME	ADDRESS	DATE OF BIRTH
Buccoleri Kathleen	Roma, Via Panama 12	25/10/01
Buato Alda	" Piazza Truvinone 2	19/12/09
Carnevale Maria Adele	" Via Ippoliti 16	6/ 1/22
Chele Inoria	" Via Mazzini 9	5/ 6/22
Cingolani Carolina	" Piazza Campitelli 2	2/ 6/20
Corsi Anna Maria	" Via Salaria 126	15/12/06
Cuscia Anna Maria	" Largo Chigi 6	13/7/13
Manoia Rosanna Renata	" Via E. Giannini 6	6/ 1/15
Moneta Santa	" Via Lariano Marini 32	31/ 7/05
Morin Rosa	" Via Cavour 68	12/ 7/14
Peel Annunziata	" Via Governo Vecchio 14	25/ 2/12
Pedrocchia Maria	" Via Appennini 52	17/ 8/11
Petri Giuliana	" Piazza Malosso da Porta 16	28/12/20
Petri Rosa	" Piazza Malosso da Porta 16	6/10/25
Possi Maria Antonietta	" Via Pasquale Galluppi 97	23/12/02
Rapoli Franca	" Via Garibaldi 35	24/ 7/25
Rosselli Galetta	" Piazza Lovatelli 1	25/ 5/12
Scarpa Miriam	" Via S. Basilio 19	23/ 7/13
Tecchio Maria	" Corso d'Italia 19	21/ 8/02
Theodoli Gerarda Flavia	" Via Piniello 47	26/11/10

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ITALIAN WOMEN'S VOLUNTEER CAVALRY SERVICE - FORMAL ROLL

<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF BIRTH</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>
Via Parma 12	24/10/01	856701
Piazza Trastevere 2	19/12/09	771994
Via Tattolini 16	6/ 1/22	42758
Via Mascagnoccoli 9	5/ 6/22	
Piazza Campitelli 2	2/ 6/20	62183
Via Salaria 126	14/12/06	561706
Largo Chigi 6	13/7/18	61025
Via E. Sianturco 6	4/ 1/15	35667
Via Luciano Mancini 32	31/ 7/05	583667
Via Garofani 68	12/ 7/14	870773
Via Governo Vecchio 14	25/ 2/12	560161
Via Appennini 52	17/ 8/11	861914
Piazza Melozzo da Forlì 16	28/12/20	392757
Piazza Melozzo da Forlì 16	6/10/25	392757
Via Pasquale Galuppi 37	23/12/02	870740
Via Garibaldi 35	24/ 7/25	561706
Piazza Iovatelli 1	25/ 5/12	51673
Via S. Cecilia 19	23/ 7/13	434103
Corso d'Italia 19	24/ 9/02	849757
Via Pratiello 47	26/4/10	863301

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE OF BIRTH</u>
Toglietti d'Alessandro Giulietta	Roma. Via della Consulta 1	5/12/04
Veneria Sandra	" Via Flavia 26	18/ 7/13
Vassallo Bartolucci Anna Maria	" Viale Mellini 8'Oro 107	26/1/18
Spinola Maria Carolina	" Piazza Campitelli 2	12/23

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Sheet/2

<u>REMARKS</u>	<u>DATE OF ADJST.</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
1. Via della Consulta 1	5/12/04	480125
Via Flavia 96	13/ 7/13	481343
Viale Medaglie d'Oro 307	26/1/18	30436
Piazza Campitelli 2	/2/23	602303

SUBJECT: Italian Women's Voluntary
Canteen Services.

6
A.D.A.W.S.
c/o Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
WEI/J.
11 Mar '45.

Ministry of War
Directorate of Welfare.

- 3
1. Reference Minutes of Meeting held on 3 Feb. Para 5, and subsequent conversations on this subject.
 2. The above quoted Minutes called for firm proposals for the amount of Italian grey cloth material required and the design in which the uniforms are to be made. *each*
 3. Will you now please expedite your proposals for the amount of material and the design ?
 4. On receipt of your proposals the questions of availability and release will be considered.

Internal : O/G-4.

[Signature]
Lt.Col.
A.D.A.W.S.
M.M.I.A.

RAC

Q (AE)

to see

revised

15/3

14 Mar

Seen 15/3

4496

SUBJECT: Italian Y.M.C.A.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.

A/27/3.

11 Mar'45.

Ministry of War.

1. The Chairman of the British Council of Voluntary War Workers has introduced to this HQ Dr.Strong, who is the general secretary of the Executive Committee of the World Alliance of the Young Men's Christian Association.
2. Dr.Strong has said that the Y.M.C.A. is interested in the reforming of the Italian Y.M.C.A.(Associazione Cristiano per i Giovane) with a view to the welfare work they would carry out for the Italian soldiers.
3. To this end it is possible that the Allied Y.M.C.A. would be prepared to assist.
4. Before any steps are taken in this matter I would like to have your views on whether or not you would desire such a body to come into operation again.

W.Pidsley Colonel

W. PIDSLEY, Colonel,
for Major General,
M. M. I. A.

Internal - A.D.A.W.S.

4485

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No. 785020

Rome

2-3-45

Dear Colonel Fidelity

Following our interview
I send you the list
of my candidates -
I want to thank you

1 4 7 6
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No. 785020

again for your encouraging
words and for all
the help you are giving
to our troops.

Sincerely yours
Laura Bonardi

SUBJECT: Italian Army Welfare -
Canteen Supplies.

27/3 4
Land Forces Sub Comm.A.C.
(M.M.I.A.) ROME.
Q/2 - 60.
18 Feb '45.

To : A.F.H.Q. (2)

Copy to :- DAWS. AFHQ.

1. Reference conference on 21 Feb (DCAO - ADAG(P) - DAWS).
and CR/9904/G-1(Br) of 26 Feb.
2. Attached are proposals in respect of the supplies which
it is considered should be made available to the Italian army for
canteens.
3. It is hoped that these proposals may be agreed as soon
as is possible so that the War Ministry may initiate a canteen
service.

W. P. Riley
Colonel
Major General,
M.M.I.A.

Internal Distribution

"A"
Welfare.

Italian Army Welfare - Canteen supplies.

1. OBJECT. To prepare a scale on which the Italian army can plan for and provide for static and mobile canteens.
2. The importance of canteens and their value in raising and maintaining the morale of the Italian soldier has already been recognized in any arena. It is also clear that canteens must be an integral part of any planning of the Italian welfare service which it is desired to encourage.
3. SCALE. It is proposed that the scale attached at App. A. be adopted. This scale is a daily per man and has been prepared after consideration of scales in use by the British service and also the scale suggested in Field Marshal Alexander's letter to you (ref 2072/6/42 of 21 Nov 44.) These items show the production from Italian resources are those which it is known are available to them. The supplies from Allied sources to be on requirement.
4. Attached at App. B is a table showing what could be the median commitment from Allied sources on requirement.
5. While App. B is worked to show the median commitment it is envisaged that every man in the Italian army would be able to use a canteen. It is therefore proposed that issues of such supplies should only be made after authorization from this HQ.
6. It is envisaged that the initial requirements would be :-
 - (i) 6 mobile canteens for any areas.
 - (ii) 1 static canteen for each Combat Group and Adm. Div.
 - (iii) 1 static canteen for the Combat Group Reinforcement Training depot at Genoa.
 - (iv) Static canteens for the army camps at Alragola, Tarento, Taranto, Ariseto, and Astroni.

- (1) 6 mobile centers for my area.
- (ii) 1 static center for each Combat Group and 1st Div.
- (iii) 1 static center for the Combat Group Reorganization Training depot at Goussier.
- (iv) Static centers for the army camps at Arago, Toul, Tarento, Orvieto, and Astoria.

4492

Appendix "A"BASIC CAMPAIN SUPPLY SCALEQuantities worked in ounces, for one man daily.

ITEM.	To be provided by Allies on reimbursement.	To be provided from Italian resources.
FLOUR.	1.280	
COFFEE.	0.064	
SUGAR.	0.384	
TINNED MILK.	0.448	
BREAD OR BISCUIT.	0.256	
JAM.		0.064
BAKING POWDER.	0.032	
COOKING FAT. (OF OLIVE OIL)		0.288
TINNED MEAT, FISH PASTE.	0.064	
SALT.		0.016
DRIED FRUIT.		0.080
CHEESE.		0.112
MARGARINE.	0.160	

Note - In addition to the above scale there will

BAKING POWDER.	0.032	0.004
COOKING FAT. (or OLIVE OIL)		0.288
TINNED MEAT, FISH PASTE.	0.064	
SALT.		0.016
DRIED FRUIT.		0.080
CHEESE.		0.112
MARGARINE.	0.160	

Note - In addition to the above scale there would be provided from Italian resources such items as :-

- FRESH FRUIT.
- NOT PAPERS, PENS, INK ETC.
- TOILET ARTICLES (e.g. combs, toothbrushes etc.) 4491
- SWEETS (e.g. nougat)

RECEIVED FROM THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

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SUMMARY OF MAXIMUM COMMITMENTS FROM ALLIED SOURCES)

	TOTAL COMPLETED - ITALIAN ARMY				TOTAL AUTHORIZED W/IN		
	ITL-ITL TONS	BRL-ITL TONS	US-ITL TONS	TOTAL TONS	ITL-ITL TONS	BRL-ITL TONS	US-ITL TONS
Flour	4.429	5.732	2.982	13.143	4.321	4.536	2.982
Tea or Coffee	.221	.287	.149	.657	.216	.227	.149
Sugar	1.329	1.720	.895	3.944	1.296	1.361	.895
Tinned milk	1.550	2.006	1.044	4.600	1.512	1.588	1.044
Bread	.886	1.146	.596	2.628	.864	.907	.596
Baking powder	.111	.143	.075	.329	.108	.113	.075
Tinned Fish, Meat etc	.221	.287	.149	.657	.216	.227	.149
Margarine	.554	.717	.373	1.644	.540	.567	.373

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APPENDIX "B"

MAXIMUM COMMITMENTS FROM ALLIED SOURCES) DAILY

ITALIAN ARMY	TOTAL AUTHORIZED W/IN WITHIN CHILING - FEB 45				TOTAL FOR 1000 MEN
TOTAL TONS	IFI-IFI TONS	RFI-IFI TONS	US-IFI TONS	TOTAL TONS	LBs.
13.143	4.321	4.536	2.571	11.428	80
.657	.216	.227	.129	.572	4
3.944	1.296	1.361	.771	3.428	24
4.600	1.512	1.588	.900	4.000	28
2.628	.864	.907	.514	2.285	16
.329	.108	.113	.064	.285	2
.657	.216	.227	.129	.572	4
1.044	.540	.567	.321	1.428	10

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MINUTES OF A CONFERENCE ON ITALIAN WOMENS' VOLUNTARY CANTEEN
SERVICES HELD AT ROME ON SATURDAY 3rd FEBRUARY, 1945, AT 1000 HOURS.

PRESENT WERE:

Ccl. H. J. Wilson
Col. Clayton P. Kerr
Col. W. Pidsley
Lt. Ccl. J. D. Philipp
Lt. Col. Sheldon
Lt. Col. J. McCann
Lt. Col. Davis
Major E. F. Byatt
Major Blackburn
The Countess Leonardi
Brig. Gen. G. C. Tamassia
Lt. Col. A. Angeloni
Major Salvioni

DDAWS
DD. MMIA
Spec Sec. MMIA
G-1 (Br.) AFHQ.
Q. Maint. AFHQ.
ADAW3. MMIA.
G-1 (A) AFHQ.
G-4 (Liaison) MMIA.
U.S. Spec Service

Dir. It. Army Welfare
Asst. Dir. It. Army Welfare
Rep. It. Min of War.

Rep. C. V. W. W. was not present.

1. Opening Remarks by Chairman.

DDAWS stated that the object of the conference was to discuss the formation of an Italian Womens' Canteen Service to operate with the Italian Forces fighting with the Allied Armies. The Countess Leonardi had approached General Clark, General Browning and General Robertson and expressed her willingness to organise such a service. The C.A.O. fully approved of this and had directed that a conference be held as soon as possible to implement this project, and to discuss the details with a view to obtaining quick action in setting the scheme into operation. DDAWS stressed that it was not intended to set up anything other than a limited service to start with and in the light of experience gained this could later be expanded.

2. Provision of Vehicles for Conversion to Mobile Canteens.

1. Opening Remarks by Chairman.

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2. Provision of Vehicles for Conversion to Mobile Canteens.

DDAWS said that 6 3-ton vehicles would be made available to start the service, three from British and three from American sources. The details of release and conversion to be arranged after the conference by ADAMS, MMIA and Rep. Q. Maint. DD. MMIA. stated that upon receipt of plans for conversion of these vehicles, he could arrange for the work to be carried out in workshops available to the Italian Army.

Action ADAMS, MMIA, Q. Maint. S and T. MMIA.

3. Provision of Drivers.

DDAWS stated that all vehicles must be reliable and capable of maintaining the vehicles; he suggested that they should be of N.C.O. status and selected from those already trained in driving Allied Vehicles. DD. MMIA. said that the formations to which the vehicles were to be attached should provide the drivers, and the question as to whether they should be of N.C.O. status or not should be left to MMIA. It was agreed that the Division concerned should be

/ordered

See file 643

4589

ordered to provide suitable and responsible drivers.
Two drivers per vehicle were considered necessary.

Action "1" MMIA.

4. Supplies to be carried.

DDAWS said that so far no decision had been reached by AFHQ regarding the provision from Allied resources of canteen supplies to Italian troops. Rep. Q. Maint. agreed to look into the present position regarding this.

DDAWS said that in the meantime the only proper basis to work on was that canteens must carry such commodities as could be purchased in the free market; wine, fruit, nuts, writing materials, small kit, etc., could be carried and it would at least be a start and provide a limited service.

DD. MMIA. said that he considered that the best method of obtaining supplies for the canteens was for both the British and American Governments to sell to the Italian Government certain supplies against dollar credits. He did not think the British or American Government would be prepared to increase their Lire holdings.

DDAWS said he would point out this view in the appropriate quarter.

DDAWS instructed ADAWS. MMIA. to get the views of the Italian Army Representatives, together with the type and amount of goods they required, and when these had been obtained, these to be passed to Q. Maint for comparison with Scale already suggested.

It was recommended that a decision be given by AFHQ on this matter as soon as possible.

It was recorded that the Italian Government had already been asked to furnish a list of commodities which they could supply from their own resources.

DD. MMIA. wished it to be placed on record that it should be strongly represented to the Italian Government that such supplies as were available from civilian sources should be requisitioned.

Action DDAWS. Q. Maint. ADAWS. MMIA. It. Welfare.

5. Provision of Uniform for It. Women Volunteers.

DDAWS stated that any uniform worn by the Lady Volunteers must not resemble one of British or American design.

Representatives, together with the type and amount of goods they required, and when these had been obtained, those to be passed to Q. Maint for comparison with Seale already suggested. It was recommended that a decision be given by JFHQ on this matter as soon as possible.

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Action DDAWS. Q. Maint. ADAWS. MML. It. Welfare.

5. Provision of Uniform for It. Women Volunteers.

DDAWS stated that any uniform worn by the Lady Volunteers must not resemble one of British or American design.

DD. MML. said that grey Italian cloth was available from Italian sources and that there was an Italian clothing factory in NAPLES capable of making all the uniforms required. The number to budget for was agreed initially at 30 uniforms.

DDAWS stated that approval had been given for a certain amount of ATS uniform to be released but that he considered, in the light of DD. MML.'s statement that the provision of grey Italian cloth was more desirable.

Director of Italian Welfare said that he was in agreement with this. The Countess Leonardi asked if the possible issue of ATS B/D covered the provision of shoes. Col. Pidsley, Spec. Sec. MML. said that he was under the impression that it did.

DDAWS said that he would check on this point.

DDAWS requested the Countess Leonardi to submit a firm proposal showing the amount of material and etc., required and the design in which the Voluntary Canteen Service wished the uniforms to be made.

Action DDAWS, ADAWS. MML. Countess Leonardi.

6. Organization.

DDAWS suggested that the Headquarters of the Organization be situated with the HQ of Italian Welfare in Rome, and that the Canteens should be split into two groups, three operating in FIVE ARMY AREA and three operating in EIGHT ARMY AREA, under the control of the Senior Italian Welfare Officer in each of these commands, thus decentralizing to the two Armies concerned.

He further suggested that routing, accommodation etc. should be the responsibility of the Italian Welfare Officers at these Commands. The Countess Leonardi asked if a vehicle would be available for her to visit these canteens.

DDAWS said that this was unlikely, but that Italian Welfare Officers had been issued with vehicles and perhaps they would be able to

7. Controls.

DDAWS stated that the question of control had been largely dealt with already, but in conclusion said that it was most important that this Canteen Service should be controlled in exactly the same way as the Allied Auxiliary Services, and operate and work under the framework of the Italian Army Welfare Service.

Distribution.

G-1 (Br.) AFHQ.
G-1 (A) AFHQ.
Q. Maint. AFHQ.

H. Leonard
Colonel.
D.D.A.W.S.

largely dealt with already, but in conclusion said that it was most important that this Canteen Service should be controlled in exactly the same way as the Allied Auxiliary Services, and operated work under the framework of the Italian Army Welfare Service.

H. P. L. L.

Colonel.
D.D.A.W.S.

Distribution.

G-1 (Br.) AFHQ.
G-1 (A) AFHQ.
Q. Maint. AFHQ.
MMIA.
MMIA. Welfare.
Spec. Services.
C.V.W.W. AFHQ.
Italian Ministry of War.
Italian Welfare.
Office of C.A.O. AFHQ.
File.
War Diary

(4) - G. A. S. T. Spec. Sec.
(2)

(2)

4458

785020

2

Subject:- Welfare Italian Military.

Liaison Officer,
Land Forces Sub Comm.
A.G. (MMIA)
c/o HQ I District.
Ref. 10/45.

20 January 45.

Ans 27/3
22/1

To:- "Q", I District.

Reference letter 06/4744 of 18 January to General Heydeman from General Olmi on the subject of 209 Division Xmas welfare activities.

1. I am informed that 8 Army issues weekly to 228 Division, which is the Italian Division under their command, 2,000 rations of tea, sugar, milk and jam.
2. As it is the intention of 209 Division to pursue an active policy with regard to the welfare of the soldiers under their command and eventually to operate a mobile canteen, authority is requested for the issue of a similar number of rations for Italian welfare centres in I District.
3. It is pointed out that Italian units in this District are mainly engaged in heavy manual labour. Their clothing situation is always acute and in the present severe weather conditions, their lot is not a happy one. The granting of the authority for the rations requested would be of great value for the development of the welfare side. It is not possible for the Italians to get these items from local resources.

MMBourne
Capt.
MMIA., 10., I District.

Copy to:- HQ., 209 Division.

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.G. (MMIA). —

PA
24/1

OH!
27/Jan

4487

Subject :- Italian Forces - Welfare.

SECRET

Hq Allied Armies in Italy.
Tel :- FILPOT 209.

2072/6/32.

21 Nov. 44.

Allied Force Headquarters.

Copy to:- MHA

MA to G-in-C

MA to GAO

G(Ops)

"A"

G-4

ST

Lab

Welfare

AFA

AQ. / 27

24

1. Throughout the coming months the maintenance of Allied formations under my command will, to a considerable extent, depend upon the efficiency and smooth working of certain Italian units, in particular Mule Coys and Labour units used for portage duties. In addition, Italian Gruppi will be committed to active operations.

2. I am, therefore, most anxious that the morale of these Italian troops should be maintained at the highest possible level, and consider it essential that every consideration possible should be given to improve their welfare. With this object in view, I wish to establish clubs at selected locations, where they can enjoy recreational and canteen facilities.

3. Arrangements have already been made for the establishment of Other Ranks Clubs in FLORENCE, and in the EIGHTH ARMY area, and it has been found that the Italian civilian population is very willing to assist in the operation of these Clubs, saving a commitment for either Allied or Italian Military personnel. The best results, however, will only be obtained if it is possible to provide in the Clubs some form of light refreshment, and your approval is requested to the issue of the ingredients necessary for the production of Pasta, pastries and a hot beverage.

4. I consider that it may be necessary to establish up to twelve of these Clubs, which will be available for use by all Italian troops. Detailed at Appx "A" are the supplies, which it is considered are required for the operation of such a Club catering for 500 persons daily, together with the total weekly requirements of twelve Clubs.

3. Arrangements have already been made for the establishment of Other Ranks Clubs in FLORENCE, and in the EIGHTH ARMY area, and it has been found that the Italian civilian population is very willing to assist in the operation of these Clubs, saving a commitment for either Allied or Italian Military personnel. The best results, however, will only be obtained if it is possible to provide in the Clubs some form of light refreshment, and your approval is requested to the issue of the ingredients necessary for the production of pasta, pastries and a hot beverage.
4. I consider that it may be necessary to establish up to twelve of these Clubs, which will be available for use by all Italian troops. Detailed at Appx "A" are the supplies, which it is considered are required for the operation of such a Club catering for 500 persons daily, together with the total weekly requirements of twelve Clubs.
5. Since leave has now been authorized for Italian Military personnel up to a total of 5% of unit strengths, and as the leave personnel are not authorized to draw rations from military sources, the issue of these supplies from welfare purposes can be offset against the rations underdrawn on account of leave. By this means no great drain on the overall supply resources of the theatre will be involved.

6. The issues would, of course, be recorded through MIA as issues to the Italian Government.

7. In view of the urgency and extreme importance of this proposal, I shall be glad if my recommendations can be accepted at an early date.

H.R. Alexander

General,
Commander-in-Chief.

APPENDIX "A".SUPPLIES REQUIRED FOR OPERATION OF ITALIAN ORS CLUBS.

Commodity	Quantity per week for one 500-man Club	Total for 12 Clubs
Flour	300-lbs.	3600-lbs.
Sugar	200-lbs.	2400 "
Margarine or Cooking Fat	100-lbs.	1200 "
Milk Tinned	50 "	600 "
Egg Powder	20 "	240 "
Cocoa or Tea or Coffee	20 "	240 "
Baking Powder	5 "	60 "
Jam or Syrup	20 "	240 "
Salt	1 "	12 "
Fruit Dried	25 "	300 "
Pepper	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	3 "
Bread or Biscuit	20 "	240 "
Soap	50 "	600 "
Coal or other fuel	As necessary	As necessary

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

Jam or Syrup	20 "	240 "
Salt	1 "	12 "
Fruit Dried	25 "	300 "
Pepper	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	3 "
Bread or Biscuit	20 "	240 "
Soap	50 "	600 "
Coal or other fuel	As necessary	As necessary

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