

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

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Weekly Liaison Reports (May Van Kerk)

M.M.I.A. L.O. 5th Army

Opened Jan 6, 1944. Closed Mar 21, 1945

JAN 1944 - MAR 1945

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 2 2/19/80

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IN COLLECTION

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 462
US ARMY

6/30/45
A
RCV/led
22 March 1945

SUBJECT: Weekly Liaison Logs 35, 36 and 37.

TO : Land Forces Sub-Commission A.C. (SUA)
APO 394, US ARMY.

1. In conformity with C/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities based upon my own observations and opinions and not those of the 5th Army Commander for the weeks ending 17 March 1945:

- a. Movements of Italian Units: See Weekly Status Reports.
- b. Arrivals and Departures: Gen. Browning, Capt. Chayter, Col. Neakes, Lt. Col. Ross, Capt. Clark, Majors Papineau and Edwards.

c. Conferences: Routine.

d. Inspections: None.

2. Mistake or Error:

a. Italian Vehicles: The Recovery Commission No. 21, formerly 7th Ceretti Detachment, is slowly collecting the vehicles in this area. All opposition from AMG officers has practically stopped since they have become more familiar with the general policy. Majors Papineau and Edwards have located a Hubbar One medium repair shop at 163 Via Francina, Florence. It is expected that the trucks collected in this area will be sufficient to meet the vehicle strength authorized for Territorial HQ #7.

b. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory as far as US-It is are concerned.

c. Replacements: For 210 Division, 1000 arrived on 18 March and 1000 more are expected on the 23rd.

d. Italian Patriot Station Situation: Forwarded a back slip covering the latest developments on 18 March 1945.

e. Italian Patriot Enrollment: No change.

f. Reseller of Italian Officers: Reference your IS/123 of 1 January 1945. Not completed.

5712

a. Arrivals and Departures: Gen. Browning, Capt. Chayer, Col. Bonhoe, Lt. Col. Rose, Capt. Clark, Major Papineau and Edwards.

c. Conferences: Routine.

d. Inspections: None.

2. Mistaken or Events:

a. Italian Vehicles: The Recovery Commission No. 21, formerly 7th Ceresiti Detachment, is slowly collecting the vehicles in this area. All opposition from AMG officers has practically stopped since they have become more familiar with the general policy. Major Papineau and Edwards have located a Rubber One medium repair shop at 163 Via Francina, Florence. It is expected that the trucks collected in this area will be sufficient to meet the vehicle strength authorized for Territorial HQ #7.

b. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory as far as uniforms are concerned.

c. Replacements: For 210 Division, 1000 arrived on 18 March and 1000 more are expected on the 23rd. 5712

d. Italian Patriot Nation Situation: Forwarded a bank slip covering the latest developments on 18 March 1945.

e. Italian Patriot Recruitment: No change.

f. Desider of Italian Officers: Reference your 18/12/45 of 1 January 1945. Not completed.

3. General Interest: Nothing.

Distribution:
Addressees: 2 copies
File

F.D.S.
H.C. VAN RINK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (with) L.O.,
5th Army

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A.P.O. #454, U. S. Army

rec'd
1 March 1945

53/9

Subject: Weekly Liaison Logs 33 and 34.

To : Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MOLA)
A.P.O. #394, U. S. Army.

1. In conformity with G/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities based upon my own observations and opinions and not those of the 5th Army Commander, for the weeks ending 24 February 1945:

a. Movements of Italian Units: See Weekly Status Reports.

b. Arrivals and Departures: None.

c. Conferences: Routine.

d. Inspections: Partisan Center Firenze. Have already made a reconnaissance to the effect that the AMG officers who are running these camps should be required to make daily strength returns in order that they may be compared with the rations drawn. How they draw rations in bulk for an estimated number and then make no accounting of rations drawn, so far as I know. Capt. Liebert, AMG officer, promised me a monthly report which may give me the necessary information.

2. Mistakes or Events:

a. Italian Vehicles: Further in reference to your signal ST/1004 of 19 January 1945 and AQ2772 of 12 February 1945, an officer from Genesti and one from AMG Florence are now collecting the vehicles but are having trouble agreeing on what is military and what is civilian. May have to have a Court of Inquiry sit on every vehicle and make a decision. AMG Florence tried to get General Hume, G-5 5th Army to intervene but he refused to go to AFHQ and stated that military needs come before civilian. Will keep you informed of progress.

b. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory as far as US-Itals are concerned. Equipment and clothing for 6th Guard Regt are enroute from Naples which should equip them to scale.

c. Replacements: No change since last report.

d. Italian Patriot Ration Situation: See comments above. Queries: Should soap and cigarettes be issued to partisans as part of the Ration? I think so. Partisan labor camps near Leghorn have been formed, are employing partisans and feeding them military rations for more than 30 days. I don't think this is in accordance with directives.

b. Arrivals and Departures: None.

c. Confidential: Routine.

d. Inspections: Partisan Center Firenze. Have already made a recommendation to the effect that the AMG officers who are running these camps should be required to make daily strength returns in order that they may be compared with the rations drawn. Now they draw rations in bulk for an estimated number and then make no accounting of rations drawn, so far as I know. Capt. Lambert, AMG officer, promised me a monthly report which may give me the necessary information.

2. Mistakes or Omissions:

a. Italian Vehicles: Further in reference to your signal ST/1004 of 19 January 1945 and AQ2772 of 12 February 1945, an officer from Corsetti and one from AMG Florence are now collecting the vehicles but are having trouble agreeing on what is military and what is civilian. May have to have a Court of Inquiry sit on every vehicle and make a decision. AMG Florence tried to get General Hume, G-5 5th Army to intervene but he refused to go to AFHQ and stated that military needs come before civilian. Will keep you informed of progress.

b. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory as far as US-Itals are concerned. Equipment and clothing for 6th Guard Regt are enroute from Naples which should equip them to scale.

c. Replacements: No change since last report.

d. Italian Patriot Nation Situation: See comments above. Queries: Should soap and cigarettes be issued to partisans as part of the ration? I think not. Partisan labor camps near Leghorn have been formed, are employing partisans and feeding them military rations for more than 30 days. I don't think this is in accordance with directives.

e. Italian Patriot Enrollment: General Cerica, Delegation I, told G-5, 15th Army Group that he didn't have authority to enroll any more partisans but Col. Ingledes told me 2 days ago that I could enroll 500 partisans if available in 210 Division. I know of none being enrolled, although I have informed Delegation I HQ that I had such authority and to go ahead and enlist them if there were any volunteers. I reiterate, the partisans are not anxious to enlist and only want a boarding house and uniforms until they get to Bologna or farther north, and then most of them will go home. Had a conference with G-5, 15th Army Group yesterday, I think we are in agreement and have no serious problems. He told me of about 800 up in the hills who wanted to enlist under their own officers and have their own army. I told G-5, MGIA would take them individually, but not on their terms.

f. Desires of Italian Officers: Reference your TS/1/123 of 1 January 1945. Not completed.

3. General Interest: Nothing.

Distribution:
Addressee: 2 copies
File

RE-2
R.C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (MIA) L.O.,
5th Army

MACDONALD'S FIFTH ARMY
A.F.O. #664, U. S. Army

BCV/jed
12 February 1945

Subject: Weekly Liaison Log #32.

To : 1. Land Forces Sub Commission A.S. (MIA)
A.F.O. #394, U. S. Army.

1. In conformity with C/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities based upon my own observations and opinions and not those of the 5th Army Commander, for the weeks ending 11 February 1945:

- a. Arrivals of Italian Units: See Weekly Status Reports.
- b. Arrivals and Departures: Capt. F.R. Clark, MIA HQ.
- c. Conferences: Routine.
- d. Inspections: 17th and 18th Pz Divs. reports being forwarded under separate cover.

2. Mistaken or Dying:

a. Italian Vehicles: Further in reference to your signal ST/1004 of 19 January 1945. A.M.G. Florence has not yet indicated its decision with reference to the 32 vehicles originally listed to them. As pressing them for a decision and will notify you as soon as I know the outcome.

b. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory as far as HE-itis and Guard fire are concerned.

c. Replacements: No change since last report.

d. Italian Patriot Enrollment: No change.

e. Transfer of Italian Officers: Reference your TS/1/123 of 1 January 1945. Expect to have it completed within a period of another 10 days.

3. General Interest: Nothing.

5710
R.C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
MIA. (MIA) L.C.

in conformity with 6/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities based upon my own observations and opinions and not those of the 5th Army Commander, for the weeks ending 11 February 1945.

- a. Morale of Italian Units: See Weekly Status Reports.
- b. Arrivals and Departures: Capt. F.R. Clark, 101st HQ.
- c. Communications: Routine.
- d. Inspections: 17th and 18th Pack Hole Cops, reports being forwarded under separate cover.

2. Mistakes or Errors:

a. Italian Vehicles: Further in reference to your signal of 10/24 of 19 January 1945. A.M.G. Florence has not yet indicated its decision with reference to the 32 vehicles originally listed to them, are pressing them for a decision and will notify you as soon as I know the outcome.

b. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory as far as US-Itis and Guard Bus are concerned.

c. Reinforcements: No change since last report.

d. Italian Prisoner Interrogations: No change.

e. Losses of Italian Officers: Reference your TS/1/123 of 1 January 1945. Expect to have it completed within a period of another 10 days.

3. General Interest: Nothing.

Distribution:
Addressed 2 copies
File

5710
R.C. VAS KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
Br. (MIA) L.O.,
5th Army.

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A.P.O. #664, U. S. Army

RCW/jad
5 February 1945

Subject: Weekly Liaison Logs 30 and 31.

To 1. Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MIA)
A.P.O. #394, U. S. Army.

1. In conformity with C/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities based upon my own observations and opinions and not those of the 5th Army Commander, for the weeks ending 3 February 1945:

- a. Movements of Italian Units: See Weekly Status Reports.
- b. Arrivals and Departures: Gen. Browning, Capt. Chayter, Major Rex Pinkley and Col. Noakes from MIA HQ.
- c. Conferencials: Routine.
- d. Inspectional: 5th Pack Mule Co and 519 Guard Bn, reports forwarded under separate cover.

2. Mistakes or Events:

a. Italian Vehicles: Further in reference your signal SF/1004 of 19 January 1945. Have asked AMO Florence to deliver the 32 vehicles which were listed by Cersetti. Lt Col. Mickey is investigating and has promised me a decision in a few days. The Cersetti officers are also checking on these vehicles to be sure that they are what they say they are and that they are not removed. Col. Mickey states these vehicles were repaired by the civilians who obtained them from the Germans and used one half military parts and one half civilian parts but the Cersetti say they are all strictly military, whereas the next forty vehicles which they are also listing are half and half and a decision will have to be made as to whether there are more military or more civilian. My opinion is, that although the vehicles are half and half, the Italian Army should take possession of them and the Army settle with the civilians for the repair of the vehicles.

b. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory as far as U.S.-Itals are concerned, the clothing for the 512 Guard Bn has arrived, with the exception of 400 blankets which are enroute from Naples.

c. Italian Prison Situation: Satisfactory as to Italian Military personnel. Patriot Centers are drawing their first nations and appear satisfied since they have drawn all the Allied components, part of the Italian items, and have received the cash for the local purchase items. Arrangements were made

5709

1945

a. Movements of Italian Units: See Weekly Status Reports.

b. Arrivals and Departures: Gen. Browning, Capt. Chayton, Major Rex Finkley and Col. Noakes from MIA HQ.

c. Conferences: Routine.

d. Inspections: 5th Pack Mule Co and 519 Guard Bn, reports forwarded under separate cover.

2. Mistaken or Events:

a. Italian Vehicles: Further in reference your signal ST/1004 of 19 January 1945. Have asked AMO Florence to deliver the 32 vehicles which were listed by Carsetti. Lt Col. Wickey is investigating and has promised a decision in a few days. The Carsetti officers are also checking on these vehicles to be sure that they are what they say they are and that they are not removed. Col. Wickey states these vehicles were repaired by the civilians who obtained them from the Germans and used one half military parts and one half civilian parts but the Carsetti say they are all strictly military, whereas the rest forty vehicles which they are also listing are half and half and a decision will have to be made as to whether there are more military or more civilian. My opinion is, that although the vehicles are half and half, the Italian Army should take possession of them and the Army settle with the civilians for the repair of the vehicles.

b. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory as far as U.S.-Itis are concerned, the clothing for the 512 Guard Bn has arrived, with the exception of 400 blankets which are enroute from Naples.

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c. Italian Nation Situation: Satisfactory as to Italian military personnel. Patriot Centers are drawing their first rations and appear satisfied since they have drawn all the Allied components, part of the Italian items, and have received the cash for the local purchase items. Arrangements were made with Italian officers at each center to purchase certain items locally.

d. Replacements: No change since last report.

e. Italian Patriot Enrollment: No change.

f. Recovery of Italian Officers: Reference your TS/1/123 of 1 January 1945. Expect to have it completed within a period of another 15 days.

3. General Interest: Nothing.

R.C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (MIA) L.O.,
5th Army.

Distribution:
Addressee 12 copies
File

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A.P.O. #164, U. S. Army

RCV/Jad
25 January 1945

Subject: Weekly Liaison Log #29.

To : Land Forces Sub-Commission A.C. (MFLA)
A.P.O. #394, U. S. Army.

1. In conformity with C/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities based upon my own observations and opinions and not those of the 5th Army Commander, for the week ending 20 January 1945:

a. Movements of Italian Units:

(1) See Weekly Status Reports.

b. Arrivals and Departures: Lt. Col. S.L. Perduval.

c. Conferences: Routine.

d. Inspections: None.

2. Mistakes or Events:

a. Italian Vehicles:

(1) Reference your signal ST/1004 of 19 January 1945. After a personal visit, the AMG Vehicle Registration Officer in Florence agreed to let Capt. D'Alessandro of the Cersetti detachment and 2 EM come into his office and go through his records. The check is now being made and as soon as I have a report on what they have found, will furnish you a copy and take steps to recover the vehicles being improperly held. As advised orally, they have to date located 32 vehicles they are sure of and approximately forty (40) they are not certain of but expect to investigate further.

(2) Italian Materiel and Property: Attached is a report of Cersetti detachment to date.

b. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory as far as U.S. It is concerned, but the clothing for the 512 Guard Bn has not yet arrived from Naples although it has been on the road since the 20th of this month.

c. Italian Ration Situation: Have received your instructions AQ 42 08 of 21 January 1945 on Patriot rations and am in touch with AMG Patriot Center of Florence, Capt. Lambert. Reference sub-paragraph d, paragraph 2 your communication. Query: Wouldn't it be better if the vouchers were signed by an Italian

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a. Movements of Italian Units:

- (1) See Weekly Status Reports.
- b. Arrivals and Departures: Lt. Col. M.L. Perivital.
- c. Conferences: Routine.
- d. Inspections: None.

2. Mistakes or Events:a. Italian Vehicles:

(1) Reference your signal ST/100d of 19 January 1945. After a personal visit, the AMG Vehicle Registration Officer in Florence agreed to let Capt. D'Alessandro of the Cerasetti detachment and 2 EM come into his office and go through his records. The check is now being made and as soon as I have a report on what they have found, will furnish you a copy and take steps to recover the vehicles being improperly held. As advised orally, they have to date located 32 vehicles they are sure of and approximately forty (40) they are not certain of but expect to investigate further.

(2) Italian Materiel and Property: Attached is a report of Cerasetti detachment to date.

b. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory as far as U.S. It is concerned, but the clothing for the 512 Guard Bn has not yet arrived from Naples although it has been on the road since the 20th of this month.

c. Italian Nation Situation: Have received your instructions HQ of 21 January 1945 on Patriot rations and am in touch with AMG Patriot Command Florence, Capt. Lambert. Reference sub-paragraph d, paragraph 2 your communication. Query: Wouldn't it be better if the vouchers were signed by an Italian officer as well as an Allied Officer if these rations are to be charged to the Italian Government? Italian officers are available for this duty.

d. Replacements: Fifth Army has received 537th replacements to date. 1543 were assigned as substitutes, 2229 assigned to other duties and 102 were unsatisfactory and returned or sent to a hospital. For breakdown, see attached report.

e. Italian Patriot Enrollment: No change.

f. Dossier of Italian Officers: Reference your TS/1/123 of 1 January 1945. Expect to have it completed within a period of 15 days.

3. General Interest: Nothing.

Distribution:
Addressed: 7 copies
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R. J. VAN KITH,
Major, Infantry,
St. (MIA) L.O.,
5th Army.

(X)

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A.P.O. 4604, U. S. Army

AR 53/7

WCV/jad
4 January 1945

Subject: Weekly Liaison Logs 25 and 26.

To: Land Forces Sub-Commission A.C. (2011)
A.P.O. 394, U. S. Army.

1. In conformity with C/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities based upon my own observations and opinions and not those of the 5th Army Commander, for the weeks ending 30 December 1944:

a. Movements of Italian Units:

(1) See Weekly Status Reports.

b. Arrivals and Departures: None

c. Conferences: Routine.

d. Inspections: 4th Balloon Co, Leghorn. Report going forward under separate cover.

2. Mistakes or Events: a. Italian Vehicles: Have had a conference with Delegation I and will have another with Lt. Col. Di Sipa of the original GOMATI detachment as soon as he returns from Rome. Have received copies of your signals pertaining to vehicles but the only vehicles delivered to date are the 8 which AMG Florence saw fit to release. Will furnish a more detailed report as soon as more information is available, but will not let the matter lie dormant.

b. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory as far as U.S. -
It is are concerned.

c. Italian Ration Situation: No change. 5th Army Italian troops are on increased ration scale. Have requested Army B for information concerning Italian rations issued for period from the 15th to 26th of October 1944, and also Italian L.O. in that section but have not received such information. Italian troops will be appreciative of the 2 day travel ration allowances for men on leave.

d. Replacements: Fifth Army has received 4424 replacements to 25th 25th were fit for volunteer duties, 1764 were fit for other duties and 76 were entirely unsatisfactory and returned or sent to a hospital. These figures include the ones I took off Sipa, a detailed account of which is attached as appendix "A".

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b. Arrivals and Departures: None

c. Conferences: Routine.

d. Inspections: 4th Balloon Co, Leghorn. Report going forward under separate cover.

2. Mistakes or Events: a. Italian Vehicles: Have had a conference with Delegation 7 and will have another with Lt. Col. Di Ripo of the original G2DETII detachment as soon as he returns from Rome. Have received copies of your signals pertaining to vehicles but the only vehicles delivered to date are the 8 which AMO Florence saw fit to release. Will furnish a more detailed report as soon as more information is available, but will not let the matter lie dormant.

b. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory as far as U.S.-Itals are concerned.

c. Italian Ration Situation: No change. 5th Army Italian troops are on increased ration scale. Have requested Army 34 for information concerning Italian rations issued for period from the 16th to 26th of October 1944, and also Italian I.O. in that section but have not received such information. Italian troops will be appreciative of the 2 day travel ration allowance for men on leave.

d. Replacements: Fifth Army has received 4424 replacements to 5407 2584 were fit for guletear duties, 1764 were fit for other duties and 76 were entirely unsatisfactory and returned or sent to a hospital. These figures include the men I took off Kiba, a detailed account of which is attached as Appendix "A".

e. Italian Patriots: No change.

3. General Interest: Nothing.

R.C. VAN DYKE,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (MIA) I.O.,
5th Army

Distribution:

Addressee: 2 copies

FBS for Major Smith, Sr (MIA) I.O.

Sr. (MIA) LG 5th Army

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A.P.O. #464, U. S. Army

RCV/3ad
18 December 1944

Subject: Weekly Liaison Logs; 19 to 24 Inclusive.

To : Land Forces Sub-Commission A.C. (M-IA)
A.P.O. 394, U. S. Army.

1. In conformity with G/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities based upon my own observations and opinions and not those of the 5th Army Commander, for the weeks ending 16 December 1944:

a. Movements of Italian Units:

(1) See Weekly Status Reports.

b. Arrivals and Departures: I personally have been absent from Fifth Army area for about a month and have missed seeing Lt. Col. Percival and Major Higgins, who I am advised have been in the area. There may have been others that I have not mentioned. Capt. Weston (B) still in with British Increment has reported and is on duty at that headquarters. Lt. Masarelli, Italian IO with 5th Army Surgeon has reported and is on duty in the Surgeon's office.

c. Conferences: Routine.

d. Inspections: None.

2. Mistakes or Events: A Security Report going forward separately.

3. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory as far as U.S.-Itals are concerned.

4. Italian Nation Situation: No change since last report. 5th Army Italian troops are on increased ration scale. Have asked Army Quartermaster for the figures requested in your letter of 4 November but am advised that it will take some time to secure figures since the records are not complete for the 10 day period from 16th to 26th of October 1944.

5. Replacements: Fifth Army has received to date 2422 replacements. 5706 740 men were taken off Albo and are being processed at Piontino. About one half of them are being sent up here as this bodied and the other half invalided to a Military hospital in Rome.

6. Italian Patriots: Am investigating this situation and will report as being received.

Availability of Italian Units:

(1) See Weekly Status Reports.

b. Arrivals and Departures: I personally have been absent from Fifth Army area for about a month and have missed seeing Lt. Col. Peruvial and Major Haggis, who I am advised have been in the area. There may have been others that I have not mentioned. Capt. Newton (B) MIA LO with British Regiment has reported and is on duty at that headquarters. Lt. Masarelli, Italian LO with 5th Army Surgeon has reported and is on duty in the Surgeon's office.

c. Conferences: Routine.

d. Inspections: None.

2. Mileage or Events: A Security Report going forward separately.

3. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory as far as U.S.-This are concerned.

4. Italian Ration Situation: No change since last report. 5th Army Italian troops are on increased ration scale. Have asked Army Quartermaster for the figures requested in your letter of 4 November but am advised that it will take some time to secure figures since the records are not complete for the 10 day period from 14th to 26th of October 1944.

5. Replacements: Fifth Army has received to date 243 replacements. 5705 740 men were taken off MIA and are being processed at Florence. About one half of them are being sent up here as able bodied and the other half invalided to a Military hospital in Rome.

6. Italian Patriots: Am investigating this situation and will report subsequently but am advised that only a few replacements are being received through these channels.

7. General Interest: Nothing.

Distribution:
Addresses 2 copies
PMS for Major Smith, Sr. (MIA) LO
Sr. (MIA) LO 8th Army
File

R. D. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (MIA) L.O.,
5th Army

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A.P.O. #464, U. S. Army

AQ
53/9

HCV/Jad
9 November 1944

Subject: Weekly Liaison Logs #17 and 18.

To : Headquarters, Land Forces Sub-Commission, A.C. (MIA)
A.P.O. #394, U. S. Army.

1. In conformity with G/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities based upon my own observations and opinions and not those of the 5th Army Commander, for the weeks ending 4 November 1944:

a. Movements of Italian Units:

(1) See Weekly Status Reports.

b. Arrivals and Departures:

(1) Major T. Rose, G-4 Section, Land Forces Sub-Commission, visited 5th Army area accompanied by Col. Baker, COMMOE AFOSBA, on the Italian Nation question.

c. Conferences:

(1) Routine

d. Inspections:

(1) Inspected the Leghorn hospital situation and made a report to your headquarters under date of 24 October 1944. Since then, the matter has been further complicated by AMG asking to retain the Pisa civilian hospital as a university hospital.

(2) Made an inspection of the Italian Military Vehicle situation in Florence. (See copy of report to G-4, 5th Army attached) Will keep you informed as to outcome.

e. Mistakes or Events:

(1) Security Reports: Received copy of Col. Kerr's report to A.A.I. on the 5th Army CIC report made by an Italian officer of undisclosed identity.

2. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation appears satisfactory as

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b. Arrivals and Departures:

- (1) Major T. Rose, G-4 Section, Land Forces Sub-Commission, visited 5th Army area accompanied by Col. Baker, COMZONS STODSA, on the Italian Ration question.

c. Conferences:

- (1) Routine

d. Inspections:

- (1) Inspected the Leghorn hospital situation and made a report to your headquarters under date of 24 October 1944. Since then, the matter has been further complicated by AMG asking to retain the Pisa civilian hospital as a university hospital.
- (2) Made an inspection of the Italian Military Vehicle situation in Florence. (See copy of report to G-4, 5th Army attached) Will keep you informed as to outcome.

e. Mistakes or Events:

- (1) Security Reports: Received copy of Col. Kerr's report to A.A.I. on the 5th Army CIC report made by an Italian officer of undisclosed identity.

2. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation appears satisfactory as far as U.S.-itis are concerned. An having difficulty with casual units now located in 5th Army area.

3. Italian Ration Situation: No change since last report. 5th Army Italian troops still on combat ration scale.

4. Replacements: Fifth Army now wants replacements badly and needs them. The casualties among the 5th Army Pack Mule outfits have been 50 a day. As making arrangements for the reception of the 700 from Elbe, 500 from Naples and have sent transport for the 80 replacements reported at Viterbo. Fifth Army has requested the formation of 2 new pack mule outfits, which has been approved. These should be formed from experienced officers and men and as soon as the Italian War Ministry has them available, in accordance with your directive, they can be moved to this area. In the meantime, as submitting a request for such pack mule equipment as may

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Available from Italian sources, and 5th Army will then secure the remainder required from other sources.

5. Public Relations: A misunderstanding apparently existed in the granting of 3 passes by your headquarters to Italian war correspondents, Giuseppe Sole, Mario Soldati and Remond Bruno, to visit this area. A.C. originally granted permission to these correspondents to come up here, and the Public Relations Officer for AMG, 5th Army, approved it. As I understand it, your headquarters then issued security passes. When the correspondents got here, Colonel Park, 5th Army Public Relations Officer said "No". He is the only one authorized to approve such requests. At a conference on 7 November 1944 attended by all concerned, Col. Park, the real 5th Army P.R.O., decided that the three correspondents could visit the Italian Pack Mule outfits at the front and the engineer outfits in this area. Lt. Ackerson, who approved their coming without having authority, was directed to accompany these men and to see that their copy was passed by the censor. Col. Park told me to express his regrets at the misunderstanding. He also stated, the 5th Army AMG P.R.O. will be eliminated and directives put out to that effect, in order to avoid future misunderstandings.

6. General Interest: Nothing.

Distribution:
Addressee: 2 copies
FES for Major Smith, Sr. (AMIA) L.O.
Sr. (AMIA) L.O. 5th Army
File

R.C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (AMIA) L.O.,
5th Army.

5704

785020

Translation

URGENT

From: M. J. W.

To: M. J. W.

Ref: 323957/E.H.

Date: 11 November 44

Subject: Capt. A. D'ALESSANDRO failure to duty

Ref. HQ/33/4 dated 12 Sept. 44.

From inquiries carried out on my order relative to MMW information it resulted that:-

1) Capt. D'ALESSANDRO asked through the interpreter Ten De Martino, a vehicle to 118 Sth Army for Ten Lt. Ruffa di Meana, Commandant, 7th Det. Arch.

He understood the words of Major Ten De Martino as "could not see the reason why Italian officers went immediately to Florence and not to Major Ten De Martino" and that it was "prohibited" to go to Florence. However, having obtained the vehicle to go to some point south of Florence he thought he could also go in the city.

2) During the journey, they stopped for breakfast in a farm of Marchese De la Torre. T. Lt. Ruffa di Meana, who had to deliver a bundle of food stuff to the Marchese at Florence and his son in Rome, asked T. Lt. Ruffa if he could take him. He accepted to deliver for him bundles (50 lbs) which were handed in the vehicle.

One bundle was delivered in Florence while the other was handed over to the driver to be returned to 7th Det. Arch. T. Lt. Ruffa would have sent it to Rome on the first occasion.

3) Capt. D'ALESSANDRO is not to blame in regard to the illegal use of the vehicle and the journey. T. Lt. Ruffa is the responsible.

4) T. Lt. Ruffa di Meana has never used official or Italian vehicles in the past for food transport and his conduct has always been correct.

5703

Gen (K)
R. J. W.

P.F.O.

Considering the complaint made re Capt D'Almeida with ref. to the above letter, it is the only one received from MIAA in respect of that officer. T. Col. R. J. de Menezes pointed to his duties in using transport to go to Florence not being on duty. No disciplinary action has been taken against Capt D'Almeida whilst T. Col. R. J. de Menezes will be transferred from his actual command of the 7th Det. Bn.

Edm. G. B. Oxen

Lt. F. J. J. J.



RE/da. MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA

Urgente - il voto

Colonello *77th Infantry*
5th Div

Prot. No 303957/10. *di allegati*

Roma, 4 novembre 1944

Obbligato al Fido

Dir. E. 12

incerto Mancivevolezza attribuite al Capitano Alessandro D'Alessandro -

Letter of inquiry to the Chief of Staff

Al LA M.M.I.A.

ROMA



Riferimento foglio AQ/53/9 in data 10 settembre.

Dalla inchiesta da me ordinata in relazione alla segnalazione di cotesta Missione, è emerso:

1°) - Il Capitano D'Alessandro fece chiedere dall'interrete Ten. De Martino un'automezza al comando 5° armata, per incarico del Ten. Col. Ripa di Meana, comandante del 7° distaccamento del Cerseti.

Questi comprese, dalle parole che gli riferì il Ten. De Martino, che il Magg. Krisl "non vedeva la necessità" che gli ufficiali italiani si recassero subito a Firenze, e non interpretò il pensiero del Magg. Krisl come una "proibizione" di recarsi a Firenze. Pertanto, ottenuto l'automezzo per una ricognizione a sud di Firenze, stimbò di poter compiere anche un sopralluogo in città.

2°) - Durante il viaggio, a cui partecipavano il Ten. Col. Ripa di Meana e il Cap. D'Alessandro, venne fatta una sosta per la colazione in una fattoria della Marchesa De La tour, parente del Ten. Col. Ripa. Il fattore, che doveva far pervenire due pacchi di generi alimentari alla Marchesa a Firenze e al di lei figlio a Roma, chiese aiuto per il trasporto al Ten. Col. Ripa il quale, considerato che le famiglie dei suoi congiunti vivevano in difficoltà alimentari e che poteva rendersi utile senza che ne soffrisse il servizio, accettò di caricare due pacchi di viveri per un totale di circa 50 chili.

Un pacco fu scaricato a Firenze, l'altro affidato all'autista perchè lo consegnasse al distaccamento n. 7 del Cerseti da dove avrebbero fatto proseguire per Roma alla prima occasione.

5402

Riferimento foglio AQ/53/9 in data 12 settembre.

Dalla inchiesta da me ordinata in relazione alla segnalazione di cotesta Missione, è emerso:

10) - il Capitano D'Alessandro fece chiedere dall'interprete Ten. De Martino un automezzo al comando 5^a armata, per incarico del Ten. Col. Ripa di Meana, comandante del 70 distaccamento del Cerseti.

Questi comrese, dalle parole che gli riferì il Ten. De Martino, che il Magg. Krisl "non vedeva la necessità" che gli ufficiali italiani si recassero subito a Firenze, e non interpretò il pensiero del Magg. Krisl come una "proibizione" di recarsi a Firenze. Pertanto, ottenuto l'automezzo per una ricognizione a sud di Firenze, stimo di poter compiere anche un sopralluogo in città.

20) - Durante il viaggio, a cui partecipavano il Ten. Col. Ripa di Meana e il Cap. D'Alessandro, venne fatta una sosta per la colazione in una fattoria della Marchesa De La tour, parente del Ten. Col. Ripa. Il fattore, che doveva far pervenire due pacchi di generi alimentari alla Marchesa a Firenze e ai di lei figlio a Roma, chiese aiuto per il trasporto al Ten. Col. Ripa al quale, considerato che la famiglia dei suoi congiunti vivevano in difficoltà alimentari e che poteva rendersi utile senza che ne soffrisse il servizio, accettò di caricare due pacchi di viveri per un totale di circa 50 chili.

Un pacco fu caricato a Firenze, l'altro affidato all'autista perché lo consegnasse al distaccamento n. 7 del Cerseti da dove avrebbero fatto proseguire per Roma alla prima occasione.

30) - Nessun addebito si può muovere al Capitano D'Alessandro circa l'uso dell'automezzo e l'itinerario seguito: ogni responsabilità deve attribuirsi al Ten. Col. Ripa di Meana.

40) - Non risulta che il Ten. Col. Ripa di Meana abbia usato altre volte di automezzi alleati o italiani per trasporto di viveri e non risulta del pari che egli abbia mai lasciato a desiderare per serietà e correttezza.

./././.

Per quanto sopra;
considerato che oltre al fatto lamentato nel foglio a cui risponde
nessuna lagnanza mi è pervenuta da cotesta Missione sul conto del
Capitano D'Alessandro;
considerato che, migliorando le attitudini, il Ten.Col.Ripa di Meana
ha manifestato recandosi a Firenze e utilizzando l'autocarro anche
per scopi non interessanti il servizio:

a) non ho ritenuto di dover adottare alcun provvedimento
a carico del Capitano D'Alessandro.

b) - Re punito il Ten.Col.Ripa di Meana e ho disposto che
egli sia sostituito nel comando del 7° distaccamento dei Bersaglieri.

IL SOTTOSGREGARIO DI STATO ALLA GUERRA
(Gen.C.B.Ovilia)

G. Ovilia

785020

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A.P.O. #464, U. S. Army

RCV/jed
21 October 1944

Subject: Weekly Liaison Logs #11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16.

To : Headquarters, Military Mission Italian Army.
A.P.O. #394, U. S. Army.

1. In conformity with C/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities for the weeks ending 21 October 1944:

a. Movements of Italian Units:

(1) See Weekly Status Reports.

b. Arrivals and Departures:

(1) Have made two trips to Viterbo and Rome in connection with the recall to the Italian Army now being conducted.

(2) Major Haggis, DADMS, visited 5th Army area on the 19th and 20th of October, inspected medical stores and buildings. He is making a separate report on his inspections and conferences.

c. Conferences:

(1) None

d. Inspections:

(1) None

e. Mistakes or Events:

(1) Security Reports: Attached is a copy of report made by 5th Army CIC for an Italian Officer, whose identity this American Major who signed the report, refuses to divulge. It is suggested that it might be well to request that the name of the Italian officer be disclosed, since this report constitutes a criticism of high level policies and certainly isn't based on facts.

2. Uniforms and Equipment: Since the arrival of the last shipment, conditions as far as 5th Army Italian troops is concerned, has improved considerably. More clothing is enroute from Naples and when it arrives, all troops should be equipped according to scale.

3. Italian Ration Situation: The following units not assigned to 21st Divi-

b. Arrivals and Departures:

(1) Have made two trips to Viterbo and Rome in connection with the recall to the Italian Army now being conducted.

(2) Major Haggie, DADMS, visited 5th Army area on the 19th and 20th of October, inspected medical stores and buildings. He is making a separate report on his inspections and conferences.

c. Conferences:

(1) Routine

d. Inspections:

(1) None

e. Mistakes or Events:

(1) Security Reports: Attached is a copy of report made by 5th Army CIG for an Italian Officer, whose identity this American Major who signed the report, refuses to divulge. It is suggested that it might be well to request that the name of the Italian officer be disclosed, since this report constitutes a criticism of high level policies and certainly isn't based on facts.

2. Uniforms and Equipment: Since the arrival of the last shipment, conditions as far as 5th Army Italian troops is concerned, has improved considerably. More clothing is enroute from Naples and when it arrives, all troops should be equipped according to scale.

3. Italian Station Situation: The following units not assigned to 210 Division, are drawing Italian Military Nations from the dumps indicated.

A.A.G. 210th Regt.	(Q.5/5)	26th General Hospital	37041)
210th Regt Carabinieri	(Q.5/5)	644 Armd. Inf Division	(Q.5/5)
2675th Regt. AMG. Carabinieri	(Q.5/5)	11th Armd. Inf. Bn.	(Q.5/5)
Co.G. (Q.5/5)		435 A.A.A. Bn.	(Q.5/5)
Co.I. (Q.5/5)		Co. "C" 101st. M.P. Bn.	(Q.5/5)
Co.R. (Q.5/5)		VIII Center	(Q.5/5)
Co.R. (Q.5/5)		135th Med. Comp. Plat.	(Q.5/5)
A.A.G. Carabinieri	(Q.5/5)	A.A.G. Post Center	(Q.5/5)
II Corps AMG. Carabinieri	(Q.5/5)	329th Sign. Opn. Co.	(Q.5/5)
Carabinieri	(Q.5/5)	6730th Co. Adv. Det.	(Q.5/5)
Lucce	(Q.5/5)	Comp. "A" 719 Hy. Opn. Bn.	(Q.5/5)
Pisa	(Q.5/5)	3rd Ital. 719 Hy. Opn. Bn.	(Q.5/5)
Viareggio	(Q.5/5)		

Am unable to identify most of them on the Italian Order of Battle. Am asking 5th Army to notify them to come in and show cause if possible, as to why they are drawing Italian Military Nations.

4. Replacements: Fifth Army still doesn't want any replacements up here with only a blanket and a mess kit until it can completely clothe and equip them.

5. General Interest: Nothing.

R. C. Van Kirk
R. C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (MIA) L.O.,
5th Army

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R. G. VAM H. H. H.
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (MIA) L.O.,
5th Army

5700

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A.P.O. #464, U. S. ARMY

15/9/44

AC2 53/9

ACVJed
23 September 1944
Ref. No. 27/2

Subject: Weekly Liaison Log #11

To : Headquarters, Military Mission Italian Army,
A.P.O. #394, U. S. ARMY.

1. In conformity with C/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities for week ending 16 September 1944:

a. Movements of Italian Units:

(1) See Weekly Status Report.

b. Arrivals and Departures:

(1) None

c. Conferences:

(1) Routine

d. Inspections:

(1) None

e. Mistakes or Events:

(1) Security Remarks: Will forward another, the last of this month.

(2) Mailings and Mailment: General Tate has approved the establishment of a mobile depot to this area. I will increase the size of the present HQ Division Clothing Depot to meet necessary requirements. Will go over the accounting system to be employed, with Colonel Shipley next weekend when I expect to be at MIA HQ.

(3) Engineer Replacements: Was advised by Major Phillips that 120 engineer replacements were available. I requested 5th Army transportation to send 6 trucks to Rome to transport these men to Eng. Dump 234, north of Florence. The request was complied with and when they got there, there were only 40 replacements to be transported in

785020

b. Arrivals and Departures:

(1) None

c. Conferences:

(1) Routine

d. Inspections:

(1) None

e. Mistakes or Events:(1) Security Reports: Will forward another, the last of this month.

(2) Unfulfilled and Unplanned: General Tate has approved the establishment of a mobile depot in this area. I will improve the size of the present 210 Division Clothing Depot to meet necessary requirements. Will go over the accounting system to be employed, with Colonel Shipley next weekend when I expect to be at MIA HQ.

(3) Engineer Replacements: Was advised by Major Phillips that 180 engineer replacements were available. I requested 5th Army transportation to send 6 trucks to Rome to transport these men to Eng. Pump 234, north of Florence. The request was complied with in seven days. There were only 36 replacements to be transported in the six trucks, the other 144 having departed and were either EAGL or had deserted. 5th Army transportation was obtained about this same time. Suggest that the Italian War of transportation at this critical time. Suggest that the Italian War Ministry be instructed to deal with such offenders in a severe manner. Allied soldiers may suffer the death penalty if they desert the service in time of war.

(4) Engineer Replacements: Fifth Army Engineer called me again today with reference to these men.

(5) Italian Nation Situation: Have received Col. Kerr's request as to August rations issued in this area. Have requested the necessary information from the Army CM and 210 Division and as soon as received will consolidate it and forward it.

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6. Captured Italian Material Collection: Have Forwarded interim reports direct to your HQ.

7. Italian Patriots: Screening agency is now in area. They were inquiring of me as to regions but I called their attention to all adm. inst. No. 58 and Col. Kerr's letter of 14 September 1944 on the subject.

8. General Interest: 5 Army HQ has moved and I am having considerable difficulty in getting through to you on the telephone.

N.C. VAN RIEK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (MIA) L.O.,
5th Army.

Dist:

Addressee: 2 copies
PAB for Major Smith, Sr. (MIA) L.O. - 1
Sr. (MIA) L.O. 5th Army - 1
File-1

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A2

209

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM - FIFTH ARMY

OFFICE G-4 FILE NO. SUSPEND DATE

Subject: U.S. vehicle "Carter" n°7

Ind. No.	From	To	Date	
1	MMIA W. L. H. L. O. Off.	MMIA L.O.	16 9 44	I forward to you This letter received from C.G. 210th Div. Capt. <u>Mudri</u>
2	Sr. (MMIA) L.O.	HQ. (MMIA)	17 Sept. 1944	For your information. <u>R.C. Van Kirk</u> R.C. VAN KIRK, Major, Infantry, Sr. (MMIA) L.O. 5th Army

5698

785020

HQ. 210th ITALIAN INFANTRY DIVISION
- Commissariat Office -

File No. 01/3659.-

P.M. 179 - September, 16, 44

Subject : Improper use of American Vehicle by CERSETI det. N° 7.

To : Italian Liaison Office with 5/A.
and, for info.
C.O. CERSETI N° 7.

Following my letter N° 2/5717 of the 12th inst., same subject,
I must specify that the inquiry about the mentioned irregularity made by
CERSETI det. N° 7 is not yet closed, being necessary to verify the circum-
stances and the facts.

Therefore I will inform you of the definitive measures taken
when the inquiry is finished.

THE COMMANDING GENERAL

GIUSEPPE CORTESE.

5697

COMANDO 210^a DIVISIONE FANTERIA
- I^a Sez. Oper. Inf. e Servizi -

N. OL/3059 di prot.

P.M. 179, 11 16 settembre 1944

OGGETTO: Impiego di veicolo americano per uso privato da parte del
Cerseti n. 7

[ ALL'UFFICIO ITALIANO COLL/TO CON LA 5^a ARMATA
e, per conoscenza

AL COMANDO CERSETI N. 7

A seguito mio foglio n. 2/5717 del 12 corr., pari oggetto.

Devo precisare che l'inchiesta per la segnalata irregolarità da parte del Cerseti n. 7 (impiego di automezzo americano per uso privato nella zona di Firenze) è tuttora in corso, dovendosi accertare circostanze e fatti emersi.

Mi riservo pertanto di comunicare i definitivi provvedimenti ad inchiesta ultimata.



IL GENERALE COMANDANTE
(Giuseppe Cortese)



1124 di prot

16.9.44

[ ALL'UFFICIO ITALIANO COLLOTO CON LA 5^a ARMATA

e, per conoscenza

AL COLONNATO CERSETTI N. 7

A seguito mio foglio n. 2/5717 del 12 corr., pari oggetto.

Devo precisare che l'inchiesta per la segnalata irregolarità da parte del Cerretti n. 7 (impiego di automezzo americano per uso privato nella zona di Firenze) è tuttora in corso, dovendosi accertare circostanze e fatti emersi.

Mi riservo pertanto di comunicare i definitivi provvedimenti ad inchiesta ultimata.



IL GENERALE COMANDANTE
(Giuseppe Cortese)

2124 di prot

16.9.44

5695

785020

MMIA	APR
FILE REF	
Date Recd	20/9/1

INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET - FIFTH ARMY

OFFICE G-4 FILE NO. SUSPEND DATE Subject: Forwarding of a letter

Ind. No.	From	To	Date	
	MMIA MMIA LO Off.	MMIA LO	13/10 '44	I file you The enclose letter of CG 210TH Div. Capt. Andre.

2	Sr. L.O (MMIA)	MMIA	13 Sept. 1944
---	----------------	------	---------------------

Reference my weekly liaison log #9,
Sub Paragraph (6) of 7 Sept. 1944. Reply
by Gen. Cortese is enclosed.

F.C. Cortese
R.C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (MMIA) L.O.
5th Army.

5695

785020

800th ITALIAN INFANTRY DIVISION HQ

Serial number 2/5717

P.M.179, September, 12, 1944

Subject: Employment of an American military vehicle by Cerseti N. 7 for private purposes.

TO : ITALIAN LIAISON OFFICE WITH FIFTH ARMY

and, for information:

HEADQUARTERS "CERSETI" N. 7

I have seen the letter of the 6th of Sept. with which 5th Army HQ - CEMS points out the irregularity committed by "Cerseti" N. 7 by employing an American car for private use in the Florence area.

I wish to express my particular regret for such an irregularity.

I have personally expressed to CERSETI Comm. Officer my disapproval and I have been assured by him that such things will never happen again in the future.

I have also inflicted on the officer concerned an adequate punishment.

Signed:
Giuseppe Cortese
Brig. Gen., Comm.

Translation by:
2nd Lt. Artillery
A.M. de Martino
Italian Liaison Office

5694

C/5.

COMANDO DELLA 210^a DIVISIONE PANTERIA
2^a Sezione Personale e Segreteria

NR. 934/4 di prot.

P.M. 179, 11 12 Settembre 1944

OGGETTO : Impiego di veicolo americano per uso privato da parte del
Cerseti n.7.-

→ ALL'UFFICIO ITALIANO DI COLLEGAMENTO 5^a ARMATA AMERICANA
(Pif.f.n.2075 del 9 corrente)

e, per conoscenza :

AL COMANDO "CERSETI" n.7

= S U A S E D E =

= S U A S E D E =

.....

Ho preso visione del foglio 6 corrente (ma cui il
Comando 5^a Armata (Rear) CEMS segnala l'irregolarità com-
sa dal "CERSETI n.7" per aver impiegato per uso privato
un automezzo americano nella zona di Firenze.-

Desidero esprimere il mio particolare rincresci-
mento per sofferta irregolarità.-

Ho espresso personalmente al Comandante del "CERSE-
TI n.7" la mia disapprovazione ed ho avuto assicurazione che
assolutamente in avvenire non avranno più a ripetersi fatti
del genere.-

*Ho inoltre inflitto allo stesso comandante come
degnato l'ammenda.*

IL GENERALE COMANDANTE

→ ALL'UFFICIO ITALIANO DI COLLEGAMENTO 5^a ARMATA AMERICANA
(Rif. f. n. 2075 del 9 corrente)

= S U A S E D E =

e, per conoscenza :

AL COMANDO "CERSETI" n. 7 = S U A S E D E =

Ho preso visione del foglio 6 corrente (al cui il
Comando 5^a Armata (Rear) CEMS segnala l'irregolarità commes-
sa dal "CERSETI n. 7" per aver impiegato per uso privato
un automezzo americano nella zona di Firenze.-

Desidero esprimere il mio particolare rincresci-
mento per siffatta irregolarità.-

Ho espresso personalmente al Comandante del "CERSE-
TI n. 7" la mia disapprovazione ed ho avuto assicurazione che
assolutamente in avvenire non avranno più a ripetersi fatti
del genere.-

*Ho inoltre inflitto allo stesso comandante come
deguato transizione.*



IL GENERALE COMANDANTE
GIUSEPPE CORTESE-

[Signature]

5693

Lo 73 di prot

13-9-44

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A.P.O. #464 U. S. ARMY

20/9/44

53/9.

HCV 11ed
16 September 1944
Ref. No. 27/1

Subject: Weekly Liaison Log #10

To : Headquarters Army Sub Commission (MM14)
A.P.O. #394, U. S. ARMY.

1. In conformity with C/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities for week ending 9 September 1944:

a. Movement of Italian Units:

(1) See Weekly Status Report.

b. Arrivals and Departures:

(1) None

c. Conferences:

(1) Routine

d. Inspections:

(1) I inspected the 70 muleteers replacements on the 11th of September 1944 at Ponteginori, which were returned to Rome because of physical defects. I forwarded to headquarters a separate report.

e. Mistakes or Events:

(1) Security Reports: Will forward another, the last of this month.

(2) Uniforms and Equipment: Have submitted Colonel Snipley's proposal relative to a mobile depot in this area to the Army Quartermaster and G-4. The Quartermaster has approved but General Tate has not yet indicated his approval or disapproval.

(3) Engineer Replacements: As soon as the 200 replacements arrive at the 210th Division Engage Area, Via Montem, 5.

Following is a brief resume of Italian activities
7 September 1944:

a. Movement of Italian Units:

- (1) See Weekly Status Report.

b. Arrivals and Departures:

- (1) None

c. Conferences:

- (1) None

d. Inspections:

(1) I inspected the 70 subaltern replacements on the 11th of September 1944 at Pontegginori, which were returned to Rome because of physical defects. I forwarded to Headquarters a separate report.

e. Mistakes of Events:

- (1) Security Reports: Will forward another, the last of

this month.

(2) Uniforms and Equipment: Have submitted Colonel Shipley's proposal relative to a mobile depot in this area to the Army Quartermaster and G-4. The Quartermaster has approved but General Tate has not yet indicated his approval or disapproval.

(3) Engineer Replacements: As soon as the 200 replacements arrive at the 210th Division Staging Area, Via Montebello, S. Agnese, Cassino 8 Regt Genio, Rome, will someone please notify me so I may arrange transportation?

3692

(4) Forage and Fuel: Fifth Army Engineer is endeavoring to get the men requested, if found available, as soon as possible.

(5) Italian Nation Situation: Have forwarded the information requested by Major Rose to Headquarters USA.

(6) Captured Italian Material Commission:

(a) Forwarded under separate cover General Contesse's reply to Major Krist's report on Lt. Col. Di Meana's misuse of WD transportation.

785020

(b) So far as I know, the commission has been functioning properly but have had a slight disturbance from the A.C.C. War Materials Commission which has sent an American Captain by the name of Fender up into this area to investigate and locate Italian material belonging to the Italian Army. Had several reports on his feeble efforts in this area but he scrupulously avoided me although he was actually here in G-4 area a time or two. I finally located the Captain in Florence and he told me that his commanding officer, a Colonel Campbell (31) had told him to stay away from WMA. It developed that he had previously visited with Major Buttersworth on this topic and subsequently reported to Col. Campbell, who said, "Go hell with WMA", so he was just following instructions in ignoring me. Of course, I am not seriously offended over this apparent slight nor do I think WMA should be. An investigation might develop that the Captain's trip up here was only a junketing excursion which the War Materials Commission didn't choose to label as such. Suggest that when Col. Piddaley has some spare time, that he favor Col. Campbell with a telephone call.

(7) General Baradi: Acting upon Col. Kerr's suggestion that the General's visit in this area be reported on, I immediately notified the Army G-4 that General Baradi was up here without permission, who communicated it to the Chief of Staff. It seems that Capt. Medici, Italian G.O. had previously call General Gruenther's aide about Gen. Baradi being here to discuss the enrollment of partisans in the Italian Army. Medici stated that General Gruenther's aide had called him, discussed General Baradi's visit and then approved it. It is my opinion that all concerned have now been notified, that Gen. Baradi was up here without proper authority having been granted and that his request will not be granted if this should occur again.

(8) General Kuterak: Nothing.

Dist:
Addressee: 2 copies
PMB for Major Smith, Sr. (WMA) L.O.-1
Sr. (WMA) L.O. 2nd Army-1

D.C. VAN KIM,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (WMA) L.O.
5th Army.

this topic and subsequently reported to Col. Campbell, who said, "We'll see what we can do." So he was just following instructions in following me. Of course, I am not seriously offended over this apparent slight nor do I think MIA should be. An investigation might develop that the Captain's trip up here was only a junketing excursion which the War Materials Commission didn't choose to label as such. Suggest that when Col. Pidsley has some spare time, that he favor Col. Campbell with a telephone call.

(7) General Baradi: Acting upon Col. Kerr's suggestion that the General's visit in this area be reported on, I immediately notified the Army G-4 that General Baradi was up here without permission, who communicated it to the Chief of Staff. It seems that Capt. Medici, Italian L.O., had previously mail General Gruenther's aide about Gen. Baradi being here to discuss the enrollment of partisans in the Italian Army. Medici stated that General Gruenther's aide had called him, discussed General Baradi's visit and then approved it. It is my opinion that all concerned have now been notified, that Gen. Baradi was up here without proper authority having been granted and that his request will not be granted if this should occur again.

(8) General Interest: Nothing.

Diet:
Addressee: 2 copies
PMS for Major Smith, Sr. (MIA) L.O.-1
Sr. (MIA) L.O. 8th Army-1

H.C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (MIA) L.O.
5th Army.

5691

785020

Subject: Collection of Italian Army Materials.

Army Sub Commission (MMIA)
HQ ACC
ROME
AQ/53/9
17 September 1944

To : Minister for War.

1. Attached is copy of letter from Major Krial regarding the use made of Allied transportation by Capt D'Alessandro. It appears that Capt D'Alessandro is more concerned with getting food into Florence than he is with collecting Italian Army Material, and uses vehicles furnished by the Allies for this purpose, on the pretext that he needs transportation for doing the job to which he has been assigned. It is also evident that he has disregarded orders regarding visits to Florence.
2. It is not understood just why such an officer is detailed for this work. Obviously he is not giving his full time and energy to the work, and at the same time asks for more personnel.
3. You should furnish adequate motor vehicles to officers engaged in this work. These vehicles are available in Italian Army Stocks.
4. The matter of personnel and vehicles for performing this work should be reviewed and efficient personnel and adequate vehicles should be sent to the Army Areas at once. Capt D'Alessandro should be replaced at once and disciplined for his deliberate disregard of orders.


CLAYTON P. KERSH, Colonel,
for Major General,
Army Sub Commission MMIA.

CPL/wk

5699

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A.P.O. #464 U. S. Army

AQ
53/9

SCV/Jad
7 September 1944

Subject: Weekly Liaison Log #9

To : Headquarters Army Sub-Commission (M.M.I.A.)
A.P.O. #394, U. S. Army.

1. In conformity with C/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities for week ending 2 September 1944:

a. Movement of Italian Units

(1) See Weekly Status Report.

b. Arrivals and Departures:

(1) None

c. Conferences:

(1) Routine

d. Inspections:

(1) None

e. Mistakes or Events:

(1) Security Reports: Will forward another one the last of this month.

(2) Uniforms and Equipment: Have submitted Colonel Snipley's proposal relative to a mobile depot in this area to C-4 and the Army Quartermaster. As soon as I know their reaction, will advise him.

(3) Engineer Replacements: Still have not found out where the 200 are to be delivered on the 10th of September. Prefer that they be made available to us at the 210th Division Staging Area, Caserma 8 Sgt Genio, Via Rosentana S. Agnese.

1. In conformity with C/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities for week ending 2 September 1944:

- a. Movement of Italian Units:
 - (1) See Weekly Status Report.
- b. Arrivals and Departures:
 - (1) None
- c. Conferences:
 - (1) Routine
- d. Inspections:
 - (1) None
- e. Mistakes or Events:
 - (1) Security Reports: Will forward another one the last of this month.
 - (2) Uniforms and Equipment: Have submitted Colonel Scipley's proposal relative to a mobile depot in this area to G-4 and the Army Quartermaster. As soon as I know their reaction, will advise him.
 - (3) Engineer Replacements: Still have not found out where the 200 are to be delivered on the 10th of September. Prefer that they be made available to us at the 216th Division Staging Area, Caserma 2 Rgt Genio, via Montebello B. Agnese.
 - (4) Topographical Experts: Fifth Army Engineer is anxious to get the men requested as soon as possible, if found to obtain the information requested by Major Rose and as soon as obtained will forward to him.
 - (5) Italian Nation Situation: Normal. An attempt is being made to obtain the information requested by Major Rose and as soon as obtained will forward to him.
 - (6) Captured Italian Materiel Commission: An interesting report by Lt. Col. Di Meana and another by Major Krissl which are self explanatory. The Colonel and the Captain have not been seen since they took off in Krissl's car apparently to search for food for their families. Will ask the Colonel for an explanation as soon as he returns and then obtained will forward it on to you. He did, however, send back Major Krissl's car with his British driver, late the night of September 5th. Suggest that this incident be reported to SMAL.

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(V) General Interest: After spending the weekend in
Home and at Headquarters, I returned September 4th to Headquarters
5th Army, in its new area, with the clerk and driver assigned to
me.

Incls: 2

H.C. VAN KIM,
Major, Inf.
M.M.I.A. L.O.
5th Army

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

785020

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

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-2-

SECRET

Encl: 2

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Copy

Hq. 5th Army (rear) CEWS
APO 464, U.S. Army

Copy

6 Sept. 1944

Subject: Disobedience and conversion of military vehicle for private purposes by Italian officers.

To : MMIA Liaison Officer, Hq 5th Army, APO 464 U.S. Army.
Att: Maj. R. C. Van Kirk.

1. This office which is concerned with the collection of captured German material, had made an arrangement with Italian officers of the CERSETI whereby transportation would be furnished to the above officers for the purpose of visiting villages in the area of 5th army. They would ascertain whether there were any Italian or German war materials in the area and collect such small arms as they could carry both Italian and German.
2. On 5 Sept. 1944 Italian Lt. De Martini called this office with a request from Capt. D'Alessandro for the use of the transportation to go to Florence where he would stay for several days ascertaining what materiel could be located there. He was told that the transportation would not be available for this purpose as Florence was first a restricted area and secondly it was undesirable to attempt collections in an operational area so close to the front lines. It was stated however, that he might be given the transportation for the purpose of canvassing inhabited areas in the area generally south of the 5th Army CP. Lt. De Martini stated that that was agreeable and would the transportation please be sent to pick up the Capt. This was done.
3. The driver picked up Lt. Col. Di Meana and Captain D'Alessandro who directed him into an area generally east of the CP. After stops in a couple of villages another halt was made at the home of a civilian. The driver was given a lunch in the house and when he returned to his light truck he found that it had been loaded with articles of food and wine. He was then directed by various roads until he suddenly found himself in the city of Florence. The greater part of the food was unloaded there and the driver was then told to return to camp while the officers remained in Florence. He was told to deliver the remainder of the food to a Lt. at the army Hq. presumably for transport to a family in Rome.
4. Request such action be taken as is deemed advisable.

/s/ Leo Krisl
Major, Ord.
CEWS.

568-

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A. P. O. #464, U. S. Army

RCV/jeh
30 August 1944

Subject: Weekly Liaison Log #8.

To: General Officer Commanding, Army Sub-Commission,
A. P. O. #394, U. S. Army.

1. In conformity with G/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities for week ending 19 August 1944:

a. Movement of Italian Units.

(1) See weekly status report.

b. Arrivals and Departures.

(1) None.

c. Conferences.

(1) Routine.

d. Inspections.

(1) Inspected our new pack mule companies at Pontagnore
Q360225. Reports forwarded under separate cover.

e. Mistakes or Events.

(1) Security Reports: Going forward separately.

(2) Transportation for Italian Units: Have signaled to you amount of Italian Transport with 210th Division.

2. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation normal.

3. Italian Officers and Soldiers on Leave: No new developments.

4. Replacements: 451 replacements have arrived to date and 590 promised within a few days, 450 are in Naples and 140 in Rome.

5. Identification cards for Italian Officers and Enlisted Men have been received and are being distributed.

6. General Interest: Expect to report to M.H.I.A. Headquarters this week-end.

R. G. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
MIA, LG, 5th Army

785020

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A. P. O. #464, U. S. Army

RCV/fnt
26 August 1944

Subject: Weekly Liaison Log #26

To: General Officer Commanding, Army Sub-Commission,
A. P. O. #394, U. S. Army.

1. In conformity with G/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities for week ending 19 August 1944:

a. Movement of Italian Units.

(1) See weekly status report.

b. Arrivals & Departures.

(1) None

c. Conferences.

(1) Routine

d. Inspections.

(1) None

e. Mistakes or Events.

(1) Security reports: No change.

(2) Transportation for Italian Units still deficient.

2. Italian Ration situation: 29 Quintals of Olive oil have arrived and more on the way from Naples. The Italian ration front is a quiet sector now. Don't intend to disturb the situation unless compelled to do so for I believe in letting sleeping dogs lie.

3. Captured Italian Material Commission has arrived in strength and with transportation. It is the busiest organization I have ever seen. They have established a dump near Cecina and are moving every thing possible in there. Fifth Army is turning some captured German equipment over to them. Am inclosing a status report made to me, by the mission. I didn't have it translated because there is only one Italian interpreter here now and he is very busy with other matters. I appreciate also that Major Doobs can read it as well when it is written in Italian as English. Needn't add that my knowledge of Italian is very meager but at that I know generally what it is.
it.

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4. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation normal.

5. Italian Officers and Soldiers on leave. Fifth Army has had under consideration for some time, the establishment of a definite policy. It may now require modification since the arrival of the AAI letter, subject CIL. Leave, 3074/A (C) of the 21st August 1944.

6. Replacements and 4 new pack mule companies. Replacements aren't arriving as fast as promised. Total received to date 275. AM advised that the new pack mule companies have arrived in area. No report as to their condition as yet. I will make a personal inspection in a few days and report.

7. 21st Veterinary Hospital alias 1st Veterinary Hospital. The French took it away and as yet I don't know where it is. If anyone sees them, please hold, call an M.P., and call me, for they have been reported all the way from Naples to Fifth Army Area.

8. General Interest: Nothing unusual.

R. C. Van Kirk
R. C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
M.M.I.A. - L.G.
Fifth Army

1 Incl.

Incl: #1 Status Material Report.

DISTRIBUTION:

Addressees - 2 copies

PMS for Major Smith, MMIA, 10-1

MMIA, 10, 5th Army Rear - 1

5683

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A. P. O. #464, U. S. Army

RCV/jeb
22 August 1944

Subject: Weekly Liaison Log No. 6 - 15 August 1944.

To: General Officer Commanding Army Sub-Commission,
A. P. O. #394, U. S. Army.

1. In conformity with G/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities for week ending 12 August 1944:

a. Movement of Italian Units.

(1) See Weekly Status Report.

b. Arrivals and Departures.

(1) None.

c. Conferences.

(1) Routine.

d. Inspections.

(1) None.

e. Mistakes or Events.

(1) Security reports on Italian units have not been received from G-2 Counter-Intelligence Section. Will GS ill please send me another copy of the instructions on this subject. I gave my copy to the G-2 officer three months ago to assist him in drafting his instructions to Fifth Army units, but I have seen no instructions and my copy has not been returned to me.

(2) Transportation for Italian units still deficient. Haven't received the 25 trucks promised by Colonel Kerr. When I called the Naples MGIA LO about them I was told they had been sent out on a detail but would be back in Naples and that I would be notified so I could send drivers. As yet no trucks.

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RESTRICTED

- (3) Italian ration situation is definitely improving. Will someone please obtain for me the exact ration scale on which the Italian troops with 8th Army have been since the 1st of August. G-4 wants this information in connection with ration policy here in Fifth Army. It is to be understood of course that Fifth Army went on single ration basis the 1st of August.
- (4) Captured Italian Materiel Commission is apparently stymied because of a lack of transportation. Even Major Leo Krisel's transportation. G.E.M.S. has broken down, hence no action.
- (5) Uniforms and Equipment.
Requisitions for uniforms and equipment for Italian troops in Fifth Army should be placed on an operational priority.
- (6) Italian Officers and Soldiers on leave in 8th Army Area, have requested the Commanding General 210th Division to take disciplinary action if necessary to stop this unauthorized issuance of passes or leaves. For example, the Commanding Officer 67th Infantry Regiment issued a pass to an Italian Soldier to go to Florence, which at that time had not been taken by the 8th Army, and to stay until he found his parents. All done of course, without Fifth Army knowing anything about it. Colonel Moriarty, in a note to me about this incident said the MP's in 8th Army were 'thrown off'. I agreed with the colonel and the MP's and passed it to the Commanding General of the 210th Division for action since instructions against such leaves had been previously issued.
- (7) 1800 replacements. Not moving in as rapidly as promised, the most we have received in one day is about 40. Total received to date is 230.
- (8) General Interest: Nothing unusual.

R.C.S.
R. C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry.
MMIA - LO,
Fifth Army.

DISTRIBUTION:

Addressee - 2 copies
PES for Smith, MMIA-LO - 1
Col Moriarty MMIA-LO 8th Army Rear - 1

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A. P. O. #444, U. S. Army

RGV/tfh
9 August 1944

AR
~~MAF~~

6/21

Subject: Weekly Liaison Log No. 5.

To: General Officer Commanding Army Sub-Comm.,
A.P.O. #324, U. S. Army.

1. In conformity with G/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities for week ending 5 August 1944:

a. Movement of Italian Units.

(1) See Weekly Status Report.

b. Arrivals and Departures.

(1) None.

c. Conferences.

(1) Routine.

d. Inspections.

(1) Inspected 1022 QM Truck Company. Report being forwarded separately.

e. Mistakes or Events.

(1) Security reports on Italian units have not been received from G-2 Counter-Intelligence Section.

(2) Transportation of Italian units still deficient but condition is improving. In addition to the two or three American vehicles already loaned the 210th Division by Fifth Army, three German vehicles have just been allotted them. When the 25 Italian vehicles arrive from Naples situation will be almost under control, unless new demands are made.

(3) Italian ration situation is definitely improving but, of course, the Italians complain about the quantity, not the quality.

(4) Captured Italian Material Commission Detail not complete. The only officer present is Capt. Alessandro Alessandro (Italian) who works with Major Leo Kriegl, C.E.M.S.

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- (5) Uniforms and equipment. With the shipment of clothing, shoes and equipment which has just arrived and the clothing promised, situation should be very satisfactory with the exception of organizational housekeeping equipment such as tents and ranges for cooking. Since the Italians have no stoves, open fires in operational areas are not tactically sound and very impractical. Arrangements should be made to make this kind of equipment available to the Italians.
- (6) 1500 replacements. Fifth Army Transportation has promised to have 4 trucks, 2-1/2 ton at Caserma 5th Reg Genio, Via Nomentana S. Agnese, Roma, the 9th of this month and daily thereafter until all the replacements have been moved to this area.
- (7) EM personnel for MMIA L.O., Fifth Army. Note that the T/O for the American side has been approved by AAI. I can still use a good typist and driver up here. My typing is "niente" and my Italian driver is not as good as I am. Essential equipment to be sent with EM is a typewriter, 2 tables, 3 chairs, field desk and 3 cots, besides personal equipment. I left my cot with Colonel Offenhauer in Naples; could use it if somebody were coming this way and could bring it to me.
- ✓ (8) Insignia and identification for Italian Army personnel. Attention is directed to Section IV, Circular No. 90, MS NATOUSA. Fifth Army has directed that all Italian personnel comply with this directive, see enclosed letter. As I recall, MMIA approved some such form for SMRE several months ago. Will the proper staff section send me a copy of the approved form and SMRE's instructions to the Italian army on the subject? The Italian officers here in 210 Division don't seem to have heard of it.
- (9) General Interest. My telephone number is Lightning Rear 54. A visit from a MMIA representative or representatives would be appreciated. Can't give you my exact address but start north and an officer's military instinct will get him to the G-4 Section, Fifth Army Rear, my assigned location.

Rolla C. Van Kirk
ROLLA C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
MMIA - L. O.,
Fifth Army

DISTRIBUTION:

Addressee 2 copies.

PBS for Offenhauer, MMIA L.O. - 1

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A. P. O. #464, U. S. Army

RCV/fnt
2 August 1944

Subject: Weekly Liaison Log No. 4.

To: General Officer Commanding Army Sub-Comm., A.P.O. #394,
U. S. Army.

1. In conformity with G/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities for week ending 22 July 1944.

a. Movement of Italian Units.

See Weekly Status Report of Italian units forwarded weekly under separate cover. Situation has been so mobile that practically all units move weekly.

b. Arrivals and Departures.

None.

c. Conferences.

(1) With Prince Umberto, Hq 110th Division and Italian L's.

(2) With G-4 & QM all of Fifth Army and Major George Bauers of A.C.C.

d. Inspections.

None.

e. Mistakes or events.

(1) Security reports on Italian units have not been received from G-2 Counter-Intelligence Section

(2) Transportation for the Italians is still deficient.

(3) Italian Rations: No complaints received within the past week, except on cigarettes and olive oil from the Italian components. The single ration goes into effect tomorrow as directed by your Headquarters.

(4) Captured Italian Materiel. The complete detail has not yet arrived, with the exception of Capt. Alessandro d'Alessandri, who is still working with Major Lee Eriola of the Captured Enemy Materiel Section.

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(5) Uniforms and Equipment: Situation is improving.

(6) Replacements as directed by Colonel Kerr have made arrangements for a Reception Center at Caserma 5 Reg. Genio, Via Montana S. Agnese, Roma and as soon as a substantial number have been equipped and are ready to move to this area and I am notified I'll call Fifth Army transportation, which will move them to Hq. 210th Division.

(7) General Interest. It is my opinion that Fifth Army is making more and more use of the Italian troops in this area.

KOLLA G. VAN KIRK
Major, Infantry
MIA - LO
Fifth Army

DISTRIBUTION:

Addressee 2 Copies.

PRS for Offenbauer, MIA-LO

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A. P. O. #1664, U. S. Army

BCV/fnt
27 July 1944

Subject: Weekly Liaison Log No. 3.

To: General Officer Commanding, Army Sub-Comm., A.P.O. 394,
U. S. Army.

1. Inconformity with G/El directive of 27 January 1944, the following is a brief resume of Liaison activities for week ending 22 July 1944:

a. Movement of Italian Units.

See Weekly Status Report of Italian units forwarded weekly under separate cover. Situation has been so mobile that practically all units move weekly.

b. Arrivals and Departures.

(1) 1022d QM Truck Co. of approximately 230 officers and men arrived at Piosbino.

(2) Approximately 250 muleteer replacements have been received but exact details not yet reported.

c. Conferences.

(1) With HQ 110th Division and Italian LO's.

(2) With 9-1-9-2-9-3-9-4 Engr. NW AMG, all of Fifth Army.

d. Inspections.

None.

e. Mistakes or events.

(1) Strength of Italian units. Totals as reported by Italian Strength returns and by the Americans are beginning to agree reasonably well. The men in hospital, on leave, and AWOL are excessive and as a result most units are only about 50% effective.

(2) Security reports on Italian units have not been received from G-2 Counter-Intelligence Section, although requested over a month ago. They have promised them within a few days. My impression, judging from strength returns and incidents of breaches of discipline; for example, when discussing the excessive leaves granted, Capt. Medici told me that if leaves were not granted that the men would desert. My answer to that was that in our army if our men deserted in time of war they could be shot.

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(3) Transportation for the Italians is still deficient, but the 25 trucks promised by Col. Kerr will help considerably as soon as received.

(4) Italian Rations: No complaints received within the past week, so assume everything is under control. Have just finished drafting an Administrative Instruction on Italian supply and rations to the Fifth Army units, setting up the new single ration scale effective August 1, 1944.

(5) Captured Italian Materiel. The 3 officers and 5 men for this detail have not yet arrived, with the exception of Capt. Alessandro d' Alessandri, who has been working with Major Leo Eriola of the Captured Enemy Materiel Section. Great quantities of Italian ammunition have been located, guns and other materiel. The Captain is reporting direct to his Headquarters and I inclose copies of his reports to me. I have prepared "Keep Out" signs in accordance with an AAI directive. These signs will be posted in addition to guards where possible.

(6) Uniforms and Equipment. Situation appears to have taken a definite turn for the better and I am advised that such equipment is en route to this area.

(7) Breach of Discipline. General Sullivan, Army Quartermaster, caught 2 Italian soldiers throwing bread off a truck a few days ago. I indorsed the file of correspondence pertaining thereto to the CG, 210th Division for his action, and before I could get this report typed and within two hours' time the general indorsed it back to me indicating that he had sentenced the 2 Italian soldiers to 7 days' pay and confinement. He gave the Lieutenant, who was in charge of the truck and who knew nothing of the incident until afterwards, four days' restriction without pay. It would appear that General Cortese administered justice in this case with such speed that no one could criticize him for failure to act promptly.

(8) Replacements and new units requested by Fifth Army are urgently needed, in my opinion, and operationally necessary.

(9) General Interest: Am still firmly convinced that Italian units can and are making a distinct contribution to the war effort, provided they are properly controlled and frequently inspected. Am inclosing copy of recent Administrative Directive which I assisted in drafting and believe will improve the kind of service we are getting from the Italians here in Fifth Army.

Rolla C. Van Kirk
ROLLA C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
M.P.I.A. - I.O.
Fifth Army.

7 Incls:

Incl 1 - German Ammo Dumps Report, 20-July

2 - Materiel found and inspected 27-28 July

3 - Materiel found and inspected 20 July 1944

4 - Location of Italian Mil Equip. 15 July 1944

5 - Salvaged Materiel, 21 July 1944

6 - Materiel inspection, 20 July 1944

7 - Administrative Directive #44

cc: PMS for Offenbauer,
MIA-LS. 5675
Addressee

785020

AIR 28/7.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A. P. O. #123, U. S. ArmyMVA/aj
17 July 1944

Subject: Weekly Liaison Report No. 3.

To: General Officer Commanding Army and Commission, A.P.O. #123,
U. S. Army.

1. In conformity with G/23 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief review of liaison activities for week ending 15 July 1944:

a. Movement of Italian Units:

See Weekly Status Report of Italian troops being forwarded.

This gives present location and by comparison with previous weekly report, the moves can be determined. Situation is so mobile that a majority of units move weekly or at least every two weeks.

b. Arrivals and Departures:

As advised that 1022 QM Truck Company has arrived at Fiesole from Naples and reported to the Commanding Officer, Quartermaster Battalion of this Army.

c. Conferences:

- (1) With WIA Headquarters. /
- (2) With Hq 110th Division and Italian I.G.'s.
- (3) With G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, Engineer, AMI, Quartermaster, Transportation, all of Fifth Army.

d. Inspections:

None.

e. Miscellaneous or Events:

- (1) Strength of Italian units. Totals as reported by Italian strength returns and by the Americans are beginning to agree reasonably well. The AMI's and men on leave in many units are still expensive, totaling approximately 20% of strength.
- (2) Security reports, on Italian troops requested by your Headquarters have not been made but are now being collected and will be consolidated and forwarded as soon as received from G-2 Counter-Intelligence Section.

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- (3) Transportation for Italians is still deficient. Am having submitted requisition in accordance with your suggestion for Italian military transport which may become available for issue.
- (4) Italian Rations. Conditions appear to have improved as a result of conferences, telephone calls and signals.
- (5) Uniforms and Equipment. The Army Commander has directed that the Italian soldiers in Fifth Army be equipped with Class 8 Herringbone Twill uniforms and their shoes, which have been worn out, be exchanged for salvaged shoes.
- (6) Italian Military Equipment. The advanced detachment consisting of one Italian officer from the Section directed by AMI to move into this area for the purpose of collecting Italian military material has reported to this Headquarters and is working with the CEM Section. Reports will be forwarded as soon as completed and will be forthcoming regularly in the future.

2. General Interest: Items under this category were reported on personally while I was at Headquarters.

ROSLA C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
WHIA, I. C.,
Fifth Army.

cc: PIS for Offenhauer, WHIA IG
Addressee - 2.

5673

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A.P.O. #394, U. S. Army

RCV/mjs
10 July 1944

Subject: Weekly Liaison Report No. 2.

To: General Officer Commanding Army Sub-Commission, A.P.O. #394,
U. S. Army.

1. In conformity with G/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of liaison activities for week ending 8 July 1944:

a. Movement of Italian Units:

See Weekly Status Report of Italian troops being forwarded.

This gives present location and by comparison with previous weekly report, the moves can be determined. Situation is so mobile that a majority of units move weekly or at least every two weeks.

b. Arrivals and Departures:

None.

c. Conferences:

- (1) With Hq 110th Division, Major Mini and Italian L.O's.
- (2) With Lt. Col. Hampton Hoskie and Majors Pinkley, Dobbs, IMIA officers.
- (3) With G-2, G-4, Engineer, AMO, Quartermaster, Transportation, all of Fifth Army.

d. Inspections:

Was up to Pionbino with one of the G-4 officers, 7 July, and made an inspection of the 67th Regiment less 2 companies. A report on this inspection will go forward separately.

e. Mistakes:

- (1) Strength of Italian units. Totals as reported by Italian strength returns and by the Americans are beginning to agree reasonably well. The AMO's in many units are still excessive, totaling approximately 15% of strength.
- (2) Security reports, on Italian troops requested by your Headquarters have not been made but are now being collected and will be consolidated and forwarded as soon as received from

See Brev (see Officer's name)

AQ

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G-2 Counter-Intelligence Section.

- (3) Transportation for Italians is still deficient.
- (4) Italian Rations. Considerable difficulty is being experienced in getting the components of the Italian rations to the Italian troops especially at Pistoia. Have requested Colonel Offenhauer to assist by getting rations on Liberta's bound for Pistoia. The Italians should improve their supply system in forward areas.
- (5) Uniforms and Equipment. The Italians still need summer uniforms and organizational equipment.
- (6) Interpreters: As a result of a general canvass, the following are competent:

Italian Liaison Officers with Hq Fifth Army

De Medici Formigoni Lorenzo	Capt., Cav.
Naldoni Mario	Capt., Arty.
Apostoli Amerigo	Lt., Inf.
Di Palma Castiglione Einaldo	Lt., Arty.
De Martino Alfonso	2d Lieut., Arty.

210th Italian Infantry Division:

Polestra Rodolfo	Maj. Surgeon	Hq 210th Div.
Mauri Innocente	Lt., Inf.	" " "
Arnabaldi Luigi	Capt.	Hq 67th Inf Regt.
Banci Giovanni	2d Lt., Inf.	Hq 93rd Inf. Regt.
Silvano Vittorio	2d Lt., Inf.	" " "
Fracchia Dante	Lt., Cav.	Pack Mail Dressing Center
Remondino Francesco	2d Lt., Cav.	" " "
Trani Vincenzo	2d Lt., Cav.	20th Pack Mail Group

- (7) Reference, AAI signal as to dumps, of Italian arms, ammunition and equipment, have sent you a signal on a large warehouse of Italian stores located at Gaeta.

2. General Interest: The need for transportation and a typist by me is still urgent.

*Van Kirk has agreed to
give as co-ordinator of them
probably GAETA*

WILLIAM C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
MIA, L. O.
Fifth Army.

785020

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A. P. O. #164, U. S. Army

RCV/fnt
3 July 1944

Subject: Weekly Liaison Report No. 1.

To : General Officer Commanding Army Sub-Commission,
A. P. O. #653, U. S. Army.

1. In conformity with C/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of Liaison activities for week ending 1 July 1944:

a. Movement of Italian Units:

See Weekly Status Report of Italian troops being forwarded. This gives present location and by comparison with previous weekly report, the moves can be determined. Situation is so mobile that a majority of units move weekly.

b. Arrivals and Departures:

None.

c. Conferences:

(1) With General Cortese, Col. Berni, Moldoni, Major Mini and Italian L. O. officers (Italian).

(2) With Col. Pidsley, Majors Pickley, Dobbs, WMIA officers.

(3) With G-2, G-4, Engineer, AMO, Transportation, all of Fifth Army and Rome Area Command.

d. Inspections:

Have not been able to inspect any units since the first week because no transportation has been available to me.

e. Mistakes:

(1) Strength of Italian units. Totals as reported by Italian strength returns are excessively larger than actual number present. Fifth Army has been accepting Italians' figures but G-1 has directed that an Allied Officer or WOO actually make a personal weekly check and report. Discrepancies reported to date are considerable. The AMOL's in many units are excessive totaling approximately 15% of strength, all of which I have called to the attention of the 210th Division and am inclosing the Chief of Staff's explanation. I am also inclosing copy of request for replacements and a policy

as to leaves for Italian soldiers. I will make proper application through channels for replacement.

- (2) Reports required by your Headquarters should be consolidated as much as possible. For example, your ^{Engineer} Officer has been requiring Fifth Army Engineer to make separate reports as to Italian Engineer units assigned to Fifth Army, giving name, strength, working strength, location, type of employment, unit employing Italians, discipline and conduct of attached organization, standard of work and morale.
- (3) Security reports on Italian troops have not been made but are now being collected and will be consolidated and forwarded as soon as received.
- (4) Transportation for Italians is deficient, all of their requests however have to be screened by me for they have no conception of economy in the use of transport. From reports it appears that considerable Italian military transport is now in unauthorized hands, such as AMG, French and civilians in Rome Area. Italian officers from S.M.R.E. should be sent to Rome immediately to canvass the Italian Military transport in cooperation with your WHIA representatives and the Rome area command.
- (5) Uniforms and Equipment: The Italians should have summer uniforms and organizational equipment such as tentage and messing equipment. See inclosed complaint of General Cortese.
- (6) Interpreters: I have requested that the Fifth Army units be screened for English speaking interpreters and as soon as completed will report on number present.
- (7) Reference, AAI signal as to dumps, of Italian arms, ammunition and equipment including military transport, have prepared a directive which has gone out to corps and services.
- (8) Reference your signal as to securing unauthorized replacements by 210th Division, neither this Headquarters nor I had any information concerning such a proposal. I do know, and we have approved, the establishment of a small collecting station in Rome for the purpose of collecting AMG's, hospital evacuees and stragglers, all actually assigned members of the 210th Division. This may have been what S.M.R.E. thought was authorized, but I don't so consider it.

2. General Interest: This request may not be of general interest but it appears to me to be of extreme importance. I need an American or British (male) typist and a C&R or jeep badly for the number of clerks and transport here are inadequate in number.

ROLLA C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
MMIA, L. O.
Fifth Army.

3 Incls?
#1-Ltr 210th Ital. Inf Div - 30 June
#2-Ltr " " " " - 21 June
#3-Ltr " " " " - 1 June

210th ITALIAN INFANTRY DIVISION HQ.

Serial N. 01/2000

A.P.O. 179, June, 21, 1944

Subj.: Means of transportation and clothing for 210th Div.

TO : S.M.R.E.

A.P.O. 151

TO.: MISSIONE DI COLLEGAMENTO CON IL
COMANDO ARMATE ALLIATE IN ITALIA

and for information:

TO : ITALIAN LIAISON OFFICE - G. 4 -

I have to represent the very serious situation of this Division for what concerns means of transportation and clothing.

Until the Division has stopped in the area south the Garigliano river, the scarce means at its disposal were hardly sufficient to its necessities.

After the Allied push forward as consequence of the present offensive, the aforesaid conditions of equilibrium have failed owing to the following reasons:

a) the scarce and shabby means of transportation resulted completely insufficient to meet the necessities of the movement and of the new locations; a great part of the means, strained, too much, became quite inefficient.

b) the troops, intensely employed in a hot season, suffered at once from the scarcity of equipment, and specially from the lacking of summer clothes.

I have therefore at once renewed my most insistent requests of adequate means either to FF.AA. Campania R. and to 5th Army R.

I have not been able to obtain through Italian channels neither means of transportation nor clothing being Italian stocks in lack of any disponibility.

From Allied part I have been able to obtain some light vehicles, some shoes and some winter clothes.

For what concerns the means of transportation I have sent to the Commanding General of 5th Army the sheets number 01/2997 and 01/2908, respectively under the dates of the 10th and 11th of June (see enclosures); until now no answer has been received and I do not know in which consideration my requests will be made.

Meanwhile the conditions of the units and of the s.men are rapidly growing worse and I do not see any possibility of solution owing to the fact that the operative situation has accentuated its movement and the irregularity of supplies and connections render every day more precarious and difficult the life of the units.

I pass over some details, sometimes really painful, of the situation of several units to which it happens to be left without food supplies and that live in constant apprehension for the prompt arrival of railcars, while the soldiers suffer the heat

TO : S.M.A.E.

TO : MISSIONE DI COLLEGAMENTO CON IL
COMANDO ARMAE ALIATE IN ITALIA

and for information:

TO : ITALIAN LIAISON OFFICE - G. 4 -

A.P.O. 151

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- b) the troops, intensely employed in a hot season, suffered at once from the scarcity of equipment, and specially from the lacking of summer clothes.

I have therefore at once renewed my most insistent requests of adequate measures either to P.P.A.A. Casparis HQ. and to 5th Army Hq.

I have not been able to obtain through Italian channels neither means of transportation nor clothing being Italian stocks in lack of any disponibility.

From Allied part I have been able to obtain some light vehicles, some shoes and some winter clothes.

For what concerns the means of transportation I have sent to the Commanding General of 5th Army the sheets number OI/2997 and OI/2908, respectively under the dates of the 14th and 11th of June (see enclosures): until now no answer has been received and I do not know in which consideration my requests will be held.

Meanwhile the conditions of the units and of the e-men are rapidly growing worse and I do not see any possibility of solution owing to the fact that the operative situation has accentuated its movement and the irregularity of supplies and connections render every day more precarious and difficult the life of the units.

I pass over some details, sometimes really painful, of the situation of several units to which it happens to be left without food supplies and that live in constant apprehension for the prompt arrival of rations, while the soldiers suffer the heat and are left in a humiliating condition of clothing.

Particularly disheartening is to draw a comparison with the Italian troops employed by the British 8th Army which has supplied our troops in an adequate measure, with all the required means of transportation and clothes.

After having tried all the means at my disposal I have to state that my action of command has no possibility of being developed in such a situation, while the discomfort and the uneasiness of the soldiers and of the units have a great influence

on the spirit and will compromise the structure and the efficiency of the units by destroying very rapidly all our patient work of several months to bring up the troops to the required level of yield.

Personally I think that it is not even honest to reward in such a way units and men that have already given, in this war of liberation, such contribute of sacrifices and also of blood, and from which our country is still waiting efforts and efforts.

With the heart of a commanding officer I beg, therefore, the General Staff, the Italian Mission attached to Allied Armed Forces in Italy, to draw the interest of the relative Allied organs (M.M.I.A. and the Group of Allied Armies H.I.) so that immediate measures be taken, by supplying, from the Allied side, the means of transportation requested with the above-mentioned sheet N° 01/2907 and by supplying the necessary summer uniforms and other items of clothing.

Signed GIUSEPPE CORTESI
Brig. Gen., Comm.

785020

210th ITALIAN INFANTRY DIVISION HQ.

Serial number 01/3091

A.P.O. 179, 6/1/44

SUBJ.: Withdrawal of rations.

TO : Italian Liaison Office G-4 5th Army HQ.

Referring to your telephone call, we report to you what follows :

We have already given directions to dependent units so that the withdrawals of rations would correspond to the effective figures of the present strength, and in order to control that these orders are executed we are sending, now and then, appropriate inspections.

Until now no irregularity worth of recording has been noticed; some extra-withdrawal is resulted motivated by the presence of troops belonging to some other units, which were in transit or stopping in the various units while waiting to be sent away.

But in effect some differences have been verified in this last period for what concerns the 1st Pack Mule Co. and other Packs : such inconvenience has been caused by the fact that, since we had to supply immediately with rations the above mentioned units which were lacking of means of transportation, the withdrawals have been effectuated directly by this HQ which, being in a great hurry to send the required foods had to rely on the figures of the strengths notified to us without being able to wait a confirmation of these figures from the units concerned.

Since the situation is on the point of finding a settlement we imagine that the above mentioned inconvenience will not recur again.

Signed:
Major Biagio Nini
Chief Staff

Translated by:
2nd Lt. M.A. de Martino

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