

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

785020

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10000/120/219

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785020

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AQ/86/6 Liaison Corps. Maj Van Kirk 5th Army

Apr - Oct. 1945

785020

LAND FORCESS SUB COMMISSION AC
H.M.I.A.
FLORANCE APO 650 US ARMY

RCV/abf
31 October 1945

SUBJECT: Headquarters Liaison Log # 1

TO : Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (AMIA)
APO 394, US Army.

1. The following is a brief resume of my liaison activities at this station from 1 September, date of arrival here, to 31 October 1945:

a. For Italian Units rationed in this area, their assigned actual and ration strengths are attached as appendices 'a' and 'b'.

b. Arrivals and departures: Colonel Kerr, Lt. Col. Ross, Majors J.L. Atkinson, W.L. Seddon, D.S.L. Gregson, S.P. Archer, Captains Mrs Fordyce and J.J. Ward.

c. Conferences: Routine.

d. Inspections: Scandiolì Girls Neo-Fascist Camp.

2. Events:

a. Scandiolì Girls Neo-Fascist Camp: In accordance with O/S, on the 20th of September, the administration of the Camp was turned over to Kerr. HQ. # 7 and I was made responsible for the items of American equipment located there and for securing the American components of the ration to be consumed at the camp. Most of the deficiencies listed in an inspection report forwarded to you under date of 21 September 1945 have been corrected. Present reports indicate the girls there are reasonably happy and comfortable considering everything. Most of them are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the screening agency which passes on the question of their discharges from the camp and five are awaiting the arrival of the stock.

b. Laterina Camp: The move of the Fascist Prisoners from Galtano to Laterina has practically been completed. The ration strength at the Laterina Camp is now 1690. Will have daily strength returns made to this office and in accordance with Colonel Kerr's verbal instructions.

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b. Arrivals and departures: Colonel Kerr, Lt. Col. Rose, Majors J.F. Staindon, W.L. Sedlan, D.S.H. Gregson, S.P. Archer, Captains Ira Fordyce and J.J. Ford.

c. Conferences: Routine.

d. Inspections: Scandicci Girls Neo-Fascist Camp.

2. Evening:

a. Scandicci Girls Neo-Fascist Camp: In accordance with Q/O, on the 20th of September, the administration of the Camp was turned over to Kerr. HQ. # 7 and I was made responsible for the items of American equipment located there and for securing the American components of the ration to be consumed at the camp. Most of the deficiencies listed in an inspection report forwarded to you under date of 21 September 1945 have been corrected. Present reports indicate the girls there are reasonably happy and comfortable considering everything. Most of them are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the screening agency which passes on the question of their discharges from the camp and five are awaiting the arrival of the stock.

b. Latterina Camp: The move of the Fascist Prisoners from Caltano to Latterina has practically been completed. The ration strength at the Latterina Camp is now 1690. Will have daily strength returns made to this office and in accordance with Colonel Kerr's verbal instructions will supervise the withdrawal of the American components of the rations for this camp from the dump, 51-52, located at P.B.S.

c. Transfer of 21 Pack Mule Group: In accordance with your signal Q 664 of 24 October 1945 I sent to Arezzo on the 26th of October and participated in the transfer of the mules and equipment to the Italian Army. Some of the Vet equipment located here in Florence has not been received by the Italians but arrangements have been made for its delivery. The remainder of the mules located in the Bologna area will, I am advised, be transferred at a later date. Am in touch with the officers who are making the transfer.

d. Ufficio Servizi which has control of vehicles attached to the Terr. HQ. # 7, the issue of P.O.L. to assigned units has been principally employed in the transfer of the Fascist Prisoners from Caltano to Latterina and the unloading of 200 rail cars which are arriving at the rate of 8 per day. It has been requested that all freight cars should be consigned to the Riffredi yards and not the Campo di Marte yards here in Florence. It is much more convenient to off-load from the Riffredi yards.

785020

e. Commissariato is responsible for the supply of units located in this Terr. HQ. area for food and clothing, the repair of clothing and equipment and the purchase of food and forage from civilian sources. During this period reported on there have been no unusual events and the duties routine but at that it appears to me that they have not been particularly careful to issue rations only to properly designated units upon a proper strength return. See copy of Lt. Apostoli's letter to the Terr. HQ. marked as Appendix 'C'. He checks the ST/8 forms for rations issued. Lt. Apostoli reports that the personnel in the office of the Commissariato have not been cooperative in furnishing him the information he has wanted from time to time, and do not have a definite notion as to who is being fed and from what depot. In accordance with a request from Captain O'Connell, MIA IO 3 District, as furnishing him with a copy of the ration strengths of the units referred to above as appendices 'A' and 'B' but as yet don't know from what depots these units are drawing rations.

f. Vehicle Directorate and Recovery Section which supervises the repair and collection of vehicles in this area has been particularly active and is at present taking possession of the 400 German vehicles being turned over to the Italian Army from FRS. It is considered advisable now to move a platoon of the 7th Vehicle Repair Workshop from Florence to Basto Fiorentino and not Pontedera as was originally suggested because better quarters and accommodations can be found at Basto Fiorentino. Your signal SD 3033 refers. Will keep Major Nyles informed as to outcome.

g. Genio Militare, one of whose duties is the repair and maintenance of Italian Military properties, are at present engaged in the repair of the following buildings:

(4) Florence:

(a) Palazzo S. Caterina, almost completed and is to be the new location of the Italian Terr. HQ.

(b) Military Hospital San Gallo.

(c) Fortezza da Basso

(d) Sandicci Girls Neo-Fascist Camp almost completed.

(2) Arezzo-Laterina Neo-Fascist Camp.

(3) Grosseto-Castagna Alonzo

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2. Vehicle Directorate and Recovery Section which supervised the repair and collection of vehicles in this area has been particularly active and is at present taking possession of the 400 German vehicles being turned over to the Italian Army from PRG. It is considered advisable now to move a platoon of the 7th Vehicle Repair Workshop from Florence to Sesto Fiorentino and not Ventaderna as was originally suggested because better quarters and accommodations can be found at Sesto Fiorentino. Your signal SO 3033 refers. Will keep Major Nyles informed as to outcome.

3. Genio Militare, one of whose duties is the repair and maintenance of Italian Military properties, are at present engaged in the repair of the following buildings:

(1) Florence:

- (a) Palazzo S. Caterina, almost completed and is to be the new location of the Italian Terr. HQ.
- (b) Military Hospital San Gallo.
- (c) Fortessa de Basso
- (d) Sandisci Girls Neo-Fascist Camp almost completed.
- (2) Arezzo-Laterina Neo-Fascist Camp.
- (3) Grosseto-Caserna Alonso
- (4) Pistoia-Caserna Covinani.

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4. Sanitation Director whose duties among other things is the supervision of the Military Hospitals, has closed the Galci Convalescent Hospital and the equipment moved to Lucca. The field hospital facilities at Coltaro have been turned over to Italian Medical authorities by the Allied authorities. Medical facilities have been set up for the Laterina Camp and for the Sandisci Girls Camp. An assured by the Italian Medical Section that the 576 and 866 Field Hospitals consisting of 60 officers and men have finally been deactivated and the men sent out as replacements. Colonel Ferri Guido, Commanding Officer of the Military Medical School is here in Florence and is ready to reopen the school as per your orders as soon as the Italian Terr. HQ. which now occupies the school buildings located at 5 Via Venezia move into the Palazzo San Caterina.

i. Salvage and Repair Depot is engaged in the cleaning, renovation and repair of clothing for the Italian troops. Repaired clothing is forwarded to the Clothing Distribution Depot while the salvage is delivered thru A.C. to Istituto Commercio Estero (ICE).

j. National Geographical Institute whose duties are to supply military maps to the Italian Army and authorized civilian agencies have been able to meet all requirements of the AFHQ map Section and Italian demands although it has only recently recovered the machinery and equipment which was removed from Florence to the Bolzano area by the Germans.

k. Mine and Bomb Clearance: For this work the 7th Ferry HQ. area has been designated as the 5th zone and that has been subdivided into 4 subzones:

- (1) Florence area of S. Miniato, Tavernelle, Rifredi and Grassano.
- (2) Pisa area of Castiglione della Pescaia, Calafuria, Rosignano, Colle Selveti, Forte dei Marmi, Riposceretta, Galliano, Pietrasanta, Cinquale, Calci, Cascina, Lignano.
- (3) Siena area of Chiusi, Montepulciano, S. Stefano, S. Sepolcro, Massa Marittima, Montecatini.
- (4) Apuania area of La Spezia is being formed.

The following areas have been cleared: Rifredi, Firenze, Viale dei Colli, Antignano, Livorno, Montecatini, Signa, Cecina, Altopescio, Montignoso, Massa, Casale, Pian degli Ostanti and Asciutto.

3. General Interest: My office is located at Piazza Stazione # 1, telephone 1629. My villa Primavera is located at Piazza Galileo # 4, on the south side of the river, telephone 1356. Visiting firemen are of course welcome.

Distribution:
Addressee - 3
Capt. O'Donnell - 1
File - 1

F. C. Van Kirk
R.C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Inf.,
St. Maria IG
Florence.

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should like

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TO: Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MILA)
APO 924, US Army.

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

c. Conferences: Routine

2. Event 1

b. Redeployment of US-IVIG: This detail is nearly finished and ahead of the schedule 5th Army had set by days for they are now the ones who are delaying the proceedings. Attached as Appendix "A" is a status report on the redeployment to date.

"A"	- Units to be transferred to IVI-III status in location - 121 officers - 923 EN.
"B"	

" " - Units still engaged in combat - 20,000. 2757

b. Arrivals and Departures: Major Edwards.

c. Conferences: Routine

d. Inspections: None.

2. Events:

a. Italian Military Vehicles: Major Edwards has been working out of my office and is reporting direct to you on the vehicle situation. Tires seem to be the principle difficulty but we expect to improve the situation a trifle when 5th Army releases a stockpile of miscellaneous sized tires to us in a few days. AMG is now taking possession of the civilian vehicles and it seems to me our greatest concern is to see to it that the Italian Army gets tires ahead of civilians. An AMG officer told me the other day that he thought if the civilians had automobiles with tires that there wouldn't be any labor or domestic troubles this Winter and we wouldn't need an Italian Army. I hit the roof.

b. Redeployment of W3-ITIS: This detail is nearly finished and ahead of the schedule 5th Army had set by days for they are now the ones who are delaying the proceedings. Attached as Appendix "A" is a status report on the redeployment to date:

Schedule "A", Appendix "A"	- Units redeployed - 182 officers - 8107 EM.
" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " " - Units disbanded or to be disbanded
" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " " - Units being prepared for shipment - 90 officers - 1849 EM.
" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " " - Units to be transferred to XII-ITF status in location - 121 officers - 923 EM.
" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " " - Units still engaged in operation - 50 officers - 1203 EM.

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The young men for the combat groups have been divided into 5 groups as directed and await transportation from the groups. As usual the Refugee Groups from ALCON changed their minds about what they wanted in the way of personnel. The orders from you and AFHQ called for 11 officers, 15 NCOs and 40 EM. They only wanted 4 officers, so sent the rest of the officers back but kept the EM. The 210 Infantry Division, 210 Nation and Clothing Platoon, 210 Transport Co and 525 Training Regt will remain in same location pending your further orders. As soon as the 23rd Engineer Bn and 305 CM Bn are released, the transfer will be completed, this should be about the 1st of the month for 5th Army has orders to be out of here by the 5th of September.

c. Disposal of Italian Army Animals: The 4000 mules have been disposed of from the Italian Remount Depot at San Martino in Spino with the exception of a few which belong to the Territorial HQ #6 at Bologna. The schedule follows:

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Amount	Destination	Authority	Date
2512	British	AFHQ 19095	Shipped
		7 July	15 July
80	Milan	MMIA Q 425	25 July
60	Balsano	MMIA Q 440	25 July
80	Udine	MMIA Q 425	25 July
80	Turin	MMIA Q 469	30 July
50	Genoa	MMIA Q 469	31 July
54	Bologna	MMIA Q 440	1 August
332	Para Sabina	MMIA Q 469	12 August
140	Grosseto	MMIA Q 469	12 August
60	Florence	MMIA Q 425	15 August
110	Rome	MMIA Q 425	15 August
140	Naples	MMIA Q 425	15 August
250	Palermo	MMIA Q 425	17 August
Total		11 July	
3948			

Some difficulty was experienced in locating enough water buckets for the mules on the trains. At the time the equipment of the Pack Mule Units were turned in, sufficient buckets were turned over to the Italian depots but we had difficulty locating them again, or the Italians didn't want to tell us where they were. Guess they thought that if they said they didn't have any, we would have to issue American buckets and they would be that much ahead. Their theory worked for us finally did have to use some from CSM stocks and some from American stocks to make up the deficiency. For the time the mules were at San Martino in Spino shipping tickets to the Italians were to be made out for the forage the mules ate. The Army QM was to furnish these tickets to me but I haven't received them, so am checking. When I receive the tickets, will forward to you.

d. Italian Rations: Satisfactory. Rations are being drawn from One and Two Districts as directed.

e. Territorial HQs: All functioning.

3. General Interest: I think this is probably my final chapter or swan song. I have no more to say. I have no more to say. I have no more to say.

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332	Para Sabina	14 July MMIA Q 469	1 August
		26 July	12 August
140	Grosseto	MMIA Q 469	12 August
		26 July	
60	Florence	MMIA Q 425	15 August
		11 July	
110	Rome	MMIA Q 425	15 August
		11 July	
140	Naples	MMIA Q 425	15 August
		11 July	
250	Palermo	MMIA Q 425	17 August
		11 July	

Total 3948

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d. Italian Rations: Satisfactory. Rations are being drawn from One and Two Districts as directed.

e. Territorial HQs: All functioning.

3. General Interest: I think this is probably my final chapter or swan song as I go with 5th Army. It has been an interesting experience. We have come a long way together but the time for departing is near. 5th Army is going to be out of this area by the 5th of September and on the road to the States by the middle of the month. Around the 1st I expect to fold my tent, and like the Arabs silently steal away but I am not leaving for the desert but to Florence. I like the idea. My address will be, 42 Viale Principe Eugenio, Telephone 1356. Visiting firemen will be welcomed.

R.C. YAN KIRK
Major, Inf.,
Sr. (MMIA) LO,
5th Army

Distribution:
Addressee - 3

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 464
US ARMY

RCV/jad
14 August 1945

SUBJECT: MMIA Liaison Officers Reports.

TO: Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MMIA)
APO 394, US Army.

1. Reference your G/31 of 4 June 1945 and CG/1 of 4 July 1945.

2. "Q" Points.

a. No encroachment on Italian territory at the present time.

b. None.

c. Not known.

d. Fifth Army still occupies the PBS corridor between One District and Two Districts. The 34th Division American is in the Trieste area as occupation troops. The Legnano Gruppi is on the Swiss border and the Folgore on the Austrian.

e. None.

f. None.

g. Satisfactory.

h. Non-relevant as to US-ITIS now.

i. No change in attitude since my last report.

j. Yes.

k. Districts and Depots: Practically all organizational Italian equipment or other equipment not needed has been turned in to the various depots and inventories are being completed, as I receive them I will forward to you. On the 1st of August, Two District took over feeding a part of the US-ITIS and One District on the 7th of August took over the rest, the responsibility being determined by geographical location of the units.

l. There are no organized patriot bands operating now.

a. No encroachment on Italian territory at the present time.

b. None.

c. Not known.

d. Fifth Army still occupies the PES corridor between One District and Two Districts. The 34th Division American is in the Trieste area as occupation troops. The Loggano Gruppi is on the Swiss border and the Folgore on the Austrian.

e. None.

f. None.

g. Satisfactory.

h. Non-relevant as to US-ITIS now.

i. No change in attitude since my last report.

j. Yes.

k. Districts and Depots: Practically all organizational Italian equipment or other equipment not needed has been turned in to the various depots and inventories are being completed, as I receive them I will forward to you. On the 1st of August, Two District took over feeding a part of the US-ITIS and One District on the 7th of August took over the rest, the responsibility being determined by geographical location of the units.

l. There are no organized patriot bands operating now.

m. Patriots have officially turned in their arms but as previously stated, the patriots are sufficiently armed to be ready for any political emergency and expect to stay that way.

n. No.

o. Yes, but their duties should be absorbed by the Territorial Headquarters.

p. Morale of the Italian troops working for US and Ministry of War is reasonably satisfactory.

q. Not to my knowledge of that of G-2 Fifth Army.

r. None.

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3. "A" Points.

a. Patriots or Partisans: I never did take any stock in the theories advanced by some that the patriots wanted to enlist in the army, I haven't been surprised at the lack of interest exhibited by the patriots or partisans when someone started talking to them about enlisting in the Italian Army.

b. Transfer of US-III's: To date we have transferred 170 officers and 8104 EM to other categories.

c. Co-operators: No information.

d. 8th Army Units: No information.

e. Repatriation: No contact.

f. None.

g. None.

h. They have too much leave already and no trouble now in movement.

i. Military Justice: MIIA should establish their own J.A. section to supervise the Italian Army Military Courts Martial system which appears to me not to be functioning properly, if at all. The thousands of courts martial cases now pending should be brought to trial. 100 men got off one train the other day between here and their destination and went AWOL. Such men should be rounded up and put in prison, not just allowed to wander off home. I appreciate that you can't get good military discipline solely from the fear by the troops of prompt and adequate military justice but it would help considerably. An MIIA J.A. section could supervise trial of cases, the review of the records and could see that sentences were adequate and uniform. A good functioning J.A. section could no doubt improve discipline in the Italian Army to a considerable extent.

4. "C" Points.

a. Transport and Tires.

(1) All Territorial Headquarters are short of transport except Bolzano and Bologna. 5th Army has several thousand tires which should be released for Italian military vehicles instead of civilian vehicles as AMG would like to have them do. Major Edwards, who is with us now, and I will try and get them released to us. If we need help, will signal you.

(2) None.

(3) Major Edwards is still removing Italian military vehicles from 5th Army captured material parks.

f. None.

g. None.

h. They have too much leave already and no trouble now in movement.

i. Military Justice: MIA should establish their own J.A. section to supervise the Italian Army Military Courts Martial system which appears to me not to be functioning properly, if at all. The thousands of courts martial cases now pending should be brought to trial. 100 men got off one train the other day between here and their destination and went AWOL. Such men should be rounded up and put in prison, not just allowed to wander off home. I appreciate that you can't get good military discipline solely from the fear by the troops of prompt and adequate military justice but it would help considerably. An MIA J.A. section could supervise trial of cases, the review of the records and could see that sentences were adequate and uniform. A good functioning J.A. section could no doubt improve discipline in the Italian Army to a considerable extent.

A. "Q" Points.

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(2) None.

(3) Major Edwards is still removing Italian military vehicles from 5th Army captured material parks.

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b. Rations.

(1) Adequate.

(2) Adequate.

(3) Not adequate.

(4) Changes are as indicated above.

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c. Clothing and Equipment.

(1) Satisfactory.

(2) None functioning in my immediate area.

(3) None that I know of.

d. Accommodation and Camps.

(1) No additional demands expected from 5th Army.

(2) None.

RAV
R.C. VAN KERN
Major, Inf.,
Sr. (MIA) LO,
5th Army

Distribution:
Addresses - 4
File - 1

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785020

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KC
R.C. VAN KIRK
Major, Inf.,
Sr. (MIA) LO,
5th Army

Distribution:
Addressee - 4
File - 1

(2) Mems.

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 464
US ARMY

RCW/jad
21 July 1945

SUBJECT: Weekly Liaison Logs 54 and 55.

TO: Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MILA)
APO 394, US Army.

1. In conformity with C/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of my liaison activities for the weeks ending 21 July 1945:

- a. Movements of Italian Units: See Weekly Status Reports.
- b. Arrivals and Departures: Col. Rose, Capt Temple, Major Edwards.
- c. Conferences: Routine.
- d. Inspections: None.

2. Events:

a. Italian Military Vehicles: Under separate cover, Major Edwards who has been working out of here for the past week or 10 days, mailed you a detailed report of the vehicle situation. To date 116 vehicles have been received. It is now proposed to take from AM3 the Italian military vehicles they have been using and replace them with German and civilian vehicles. AM3 grabbed these vehicles when they first came into the area, painted AM3 signs on them and gave them to civilians to use. These are the ones we will next try to recover.

b. Redeployment of US-ITL: To date 42 officers and 1925 EM have actually moved out of the area. For some time the program was delayed because of the time required for stripping the Italian units of American equipment and conducting shutdown inspections. The Italian officers resented this kind of an inspection but the ITL is insistent that every man leave the area with a good uniform and shoes. The movement is now delayed because of the non-availability of rail transport. 5th Army Transportation is handling the movement. I have repeatedly told them that if it will expedite the movement of any unit, I will ask the receiving unit to send trucks for them. This of course would only apply where movement by trucks is involved since I consider no one can do any more than 5th Army Transportation is doing to expedite the rail movement. A detailed breakdown of the progress to date and date of future movements will be compiled within two days and I will forward copies to all concerned. Had a complaint on the delay in the reception of two units, I answered it.

785020

1. A summary of my liaison activities for the weeks ending 21 July 1945:

- a. Movements of Italian Units: See Weekly Status Reports.
- b. Arrivals and Departures: Col. Rose, Capt Temple, Major Edwards.
- c. Conferences: Routine.
- d. Inspections: None.

2. Events:

a. Italian Military Vehicles: Under separate cover, Major Edwards who has been working out of here for the past week or 10 days, mailed you a detailed report of the vehicle situation. To date 116 vehicles have been received. It is now proposed to take from AMG the Italian military vehicles they have been using and replace them with German and civilian vehicles. AMG grabbed these vehicles when they first came into the area, painted AMG signs on them and gave them to civilians to use. These are the ones we will next try to recover.

b. Redeployment of US-ITIS: To date 42 officers and 1925 EM have actually moved out of the area. For some time the progress was delayed because of the time required for stripping the Italian units of American equipment and conducting shutdown inspections. The Italian officers resented this kind of an inspection but the TSG is insistent that every man leave the area with a good uniform and shoes. The movement is now delayed because of the unavailability of rail transport. 5th Army Transportation is handling the movement. I have repeatedly told them that if it will expedite the movement of any unit, I will ask the receiving unit to send trucks for them. This of course would only apply where movement by trucks is involved since I consider no one can do any more than 5th Army Transportation is doing to expedite the rail movement. A detailed breakdown of the progress to date and date of future movements will be compiled within two days and I will forward copies to all concerned. Had a complaint on the delay in the reception of two units, I answered it yesterday with copy to you. In the future, the TSG is sending American officers on all truck movements to see that men don't have to wait a day and a half before being received.

c. Disposal of Italian Army Animals: The 1,000 mules for the Italian Army with the exception of the ones which go by rail, are being moved out by truck or mule and should all be cleared out of the depot by the 23rd. As indicated above, rail movement is stalled at present in this area. No action apparently is being taken by the Agricultural Sub-Commission to move their 500 mules. Request that you check with them as to the reason for the delay. It is probably a deficiency in rail transportation, the same experience we are having.

d. Italian Rations: In accordance with your signals ST/912 of 13 July and 10/22 of 13 July, will indicate to the MIA One District and Two District the names of the units, their relative locations and strengths they will be expected to feed the 1st of August.

d. Uniforms and Equipment: Satisfactory.

e. Territorial Rts: All functioning.

3. General Interest: 5th Army expects to leave here the 15th of August.

R.C. VAN KIRK
Major, Inf.,
Sr. (MIA) LO,
5th Army

Distribution:
Addressees: 3
MIA LO MILAN, 1

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 464
US ARMY

RCW/jed
17 July 1945

SUBJECT: IMIA Liaison Officer Reports.

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

1. Reference your G/31 of 4 June 1945 and OG/1 of 4 July 1945.

2. AG's Points

a. No encroachment on Italian territory at the present time.

b. None

c. The territory formerly occupied by the French and described in my LO report on the 3rd of July has now been taken over by AMJ. It is thought however, that the French will claim a part of this territory which they occupied at the time of the Peace Conference for as suggested, the French have not forgotten the "stab in the back" which they received from the Italians. The French object to the use of the Carabinieri by AMJ for they say that although the Carabinieri deals only with civilians in its police duties, they are part of the Italian Army, and their presence is equivalent to a military occupation.

d. 4th Corps American released its area to Two District on 16th of this month. Fifth Army will occupy the PBS corridor between One District and Two District until August 15th at which time it will move South of the Appennines. The 34th Division American is moving to the Trieste area as occupation troops. The Legnano Gruppi is on the Swiss and German border and the Folgore on the Austrian.

e. Fifth Army will leave no Italian troops behind.

f. None.

g. Satisfactory.

h. Non-relevant as to US-ITIS now.

i. No change in attitude since my last report.

j. Yes.

k. Districts are in position. No Italian equipment seen the 17/7/45

b. None

c. The territory formerly occupied by the French and described in my 10 report on the 3rd of July has now been taken over by AMG. It is thought however, that the French will claim a part of this territory which they occupied, at the time of the Peace Conference for as suggested, the French have not forgotten the "stab in the back" which they received from the Italians. The French object to the use of the Carabinieri by AMG for they say that although the Carabinieri deals only with civilians in its police duties, they are part of the Italian Army, and their presence is equivalent to a military occupation.

d. 14th Corps American released its area to Two District on 16th of this month. Fifth Army will occupy the PBS corridor between One District and Two District until August 15th at which time it will move South of the Appennines. The 34th Division American is moving to the Trieste area as occupation troops. The Legnano Gruppi is on the Swiss and German border and the Folgore on the Austrian.

e. Fifth Army will leave no Italian troops behind.

f. None.

g. Satisfactory.

h. Non-relevant as to US-ITIS news.

i. No change in attitude since my last report.

j. Yes.

k. Districts are in position. The Italian equipment from the 82-746 ITI units is being turned into the Italian depots at Modena and Verona, Medical stores will go to Florence and Milan as you directed. Have requested inventories of the material and equipment turned in. Am advised that the Food depot at Verona or Bologna will not be ready to function by August 1st but the Italian troops in 5th Army area can be fed by the 210 Division Ration detail from the proposed Verona depot. Col. Paurese wanted to know the estimated number of rations necessary for Italian troops in this area. I estimated 10,000 and my estimate has not changed although the Italian L.O. with the Army GH estimates 10,362 as shown by a list of units expected to draw rations during August. Col. Rose has a copy of this list. 5th Army has also agreed with Col. Rose to turn over at the end of July for August at least a half of the Allied components of the Italian rations to 210 Division.

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

1. There are no organized patriot bands operating now.

2. Patriots have officially turned in their arms but as previously stated, the patriots are sufficiently armed to be ready for any political emergency.

3. No.

4. Yes, but their duties should be absorbed by the Territorial Headquarters.

5. Morale of the Italian troops working for US and Ministry of War is reasonably satisfactory. A lot of unemployment exists among the Italian young men in this area. A good many Allied officers recommend that these men be put in the Italian Army to keep them employed.

6. Not to my knowledge or that of G-2 Fifth Army.

7. None.

8. No Points.

9. Transport.

(1) All Territorial Headquarters are short of transport. Bologna and Bologna need transport for ammunition disposal.

(2) None.

(3) As a result of an agreement I made with 5th Army, Major Edwards is now removing Italian military vehicles from 5th Army captured material parks. To date he has removed 116 vehicles but expects to get hundreds.

10. Rations.

(1) Adequate.

(2) Adequate.

(3) Not adequate.

(4) None except as explained above.

11. Clothing and Equipment.

(1) Satisfactory.

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4. Not to my knowledge of that of G-2/11th Army.

F. None.

3. Key Points.

a. Transport.

(1) All Territorial Headquarters are short of transport. Bolzano and Bolzano need transport for ammunition disposal.

(2) None.

(3) As a result of an agreement I made with 5th Army, Major Edwards is now removing Italian military vehicles from 5th Army captured material parks. To date he has removed 116 vehicles but expects to get hundreds.

b. Nations.

(1) Adequate.

(2) Adequate.

(3) Not adequate.

(4) None except as explained above.

c. Clothing and Equipment.

(1) Satisfactory.

(2) None functioning in my immediate area.

(3) None except as explained above.

d. Accommodation and Camps.

(1) No additional demands expected from 5th Army.

(2) None.

7723

Distribution:
Addressee - 4
File - 1

722
R.C. VAN KIRK
Major, Inf.,
Sr. (MIA) 10,
5th Army

RESTRICTED

785020

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 464 US ARMY

RCW/Jed
9 July 1945

SUBJECT: Weekly Liaison Logs 52 and 53.

TO: Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MILIA)
APO 394, US Army.

1. In conformity with G/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of my liaison activities for the weeks ending 7 July 1945:

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

b. Arrivals and Departures: Capt. The Lord Westbury and Fox, and Majors Martin and Fossett, and Major Freeman A.C. Agricultural Sub-Comm.

c. Conferences: In accordance your instructions, I attended a conference at San Martino in Spino, Italian Remount Depot on 3 July and again on 7 July, subject: "Italian Military Mules". See report on meeting below.

d. Inspections: None.

2. Events:

a. Italian Military Vehicles: The vehicle situation should improve rapidly now for yesterday I made a deal with G-4 Fifth Army whereby Edwards and a representative from Army Ordnance are to go through all the Ordnance Parks for captured vehicles and are to agree on which vehicles are Italian military vehicles and which are not. Nearly all of these vehicles will need some repairs but should have considerable rubber on them since they have been in guarded parks since the time of the armistice. I am to receipt for the Italian military vehicles agreed upon and Edwards is then to move them to repair shops. Have sent out a signal for Edwards to report in here but haven't seen him as yet. Two weeks ago he and I got possession of about 300 tons of parts from 5th Army Ordnance. With these parts and vehicles Edwards should soon put some vehicles on the road. As to the remainder of Italian military vehicles or the runners which are now in use by AFM and for the maintenance of PCM, 5th Army says the retention of these is necessary for military purposes and to meet Allied commitments in accordance with the AFHQ directive of 22 June.

b. Redeployment of US-ITIs: Progress has been slower than expected and to date only 21 officers and 833 enlisted men have actually moved out of this area. See my back slip to you of 6 July 1945. Am keeping a chart on this transfer so that I can tell at any time how many surials or units have been ordered out and how many have actually come.

785020

- a. Movements of Personnel: Capts. The Lord Westbury and Fox, and Major Martin and Fosssett, and Major Proneman A.C. Agricultural Sub-Coms.
- b. Arrivals and Departures: Capts. The Lord Westbury and Fox, and Major Martin and Fosssett, and Major Proneman A.C. Agricultural Sub-Coms.
- c. Conferences: In accordance with instructions, I attended a conference at San Martino in Spino, Italian Rescount Depot on 3 July and again on 7 July, subject: "Italian Military Rules". See report on meeting below.
- d. Inspections: None.

2. Events:

a. Italian Military Vehicles: The vehicle situation should improve rapidly now for yesterday I made a deal with O-4 Fifth Army whereby Edwards and a representative from Army Ordnance are to go through all the Ordnance Parks for captured vehicles and are to agree on which vehicles will need military vehicles and which are not. Nearly all of these vehicles have been seen repaired but should have considerable rubber on them since they have been in guarded parks since the time of the armistice. I am to receipt for the Italian military vehicles agreed upon and Edwards is then to move them to repair shops. Have sent out a signal for Edwards to report in here but haven't seen him as yet. Two weeks ago he and I got possession of about 300 tons of parts from 5th Army Ordnance. With these parts and vehicles Edwards should soon put some vehicles on the road. As to the remainder of Italian military vehicles or the runners which are now in use by AMO and for the maintenance of POM, 5th Army says the retention of these is necessary for military purposes and to meet Allied commitments in accordance with the AFHQ directive of 22 June.

b. Redeployment of US-ITL: Progress has been slower than expected and to date only 21 officers and 833 enlisted men have actually moved out of this area. See my buck slip to you of 6 July 1945. Am keeping a chart on this transfer so that I can tell at any time how many serials or units have been ordered out and how many have actually gone.

c. Disposal of Italian Army Animals: On 7 July in accordance with your signal Q409 of 3 July and directive Q/18/2 of same date, I went to San Martino in Spino, the old Italian Rescount Depot now being run by the 7th Vet Hospital (B), Major Cabban O.C., under AFHQ direction. There I met Major Proneman (B) representing the Agricultural Sub-Commission A.C., Capt. Andreo Bonetti (I) from Ministry of War, ROMM, Col. Giovanni Di Dornazio (I), Vet Director from Territorial HQ #6 at BOLCENA and Col. Caselli Creste (I) former C.O. of the Rescount Depot at San Martino in Spino, and who is there ready to take over when the depot is vacated by the Allies. There are approximately 4000 mules from the Pack Units which have been processed and 2512 are to go to the British in accordance with the last AFHQ signal F19095 of 7 July.

785020

As I understand it, 1000 mules are to go to the Italian Army, and the balance, or about 400 are to go to Agricultural Sub-Commission. Tomorrow Col. Caselli Oreste will receipt for the 1000 mules for the Italian Army and an Italian Lt. Colonel whose name I don't know, will sign shipping tickets for the 500 mules. These mules will remain at the Remount Depot until you order them away which should be at the earliest date possible for 5th Army is concerned about the forage for them. I have suggested to 5th Army QM however, that it will probably take 2 weeks before the mules can reach their ultimate destination and are no longer a 5th Army responsibility for forage. As to the maintenance personnel for these animals, one pack mule company has been left there and men from this unit will accompany the animals to their destination and then as you suggest in your directive cited above, either be absorbed or sent to CEJAM. As soon as the shipping tickets for the mules are signed, they will be forwarded to you. After my telephone call to Col. Kerr the other evening relative to the lack of cooperation at the Remount Depot, everything has been running smoothly and we have received 100% cooperation.

d. Uniforms and Equipment: Satisfactory.

e. Territorial Map: All functioning.

3. General Interest: Visiting firemen are welcome. I am grounded with no transport and no driver. My driver is in the hospital and the C&E is Ordnance.

Distribution:
Addressee: 3
MILIA LO MILAN: 1

R.C.
R.C. VAN KIM
Major, Inf.,
Sr. (MILIA) LO,
5th Army

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222

RDS
 H.C. VAN KIRK
 Major, Inf.,
 Sr. (MIA) IO,
 5th Army

4. Uniform and Scallop

Comments: All functioning.

e. Unofficial and
3. General Interest: Visiting firemen are welcome. I am guaranteed with no transport and no driver. My driver is in the hospital and the car is on leave.

Distributors:
Address: 3
VIA LO MILANI, 2

785020

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 404
US ARMY

SUBJECT: Weekly Liaison Logs 50 and 51.

TO: Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (LMLA)
APO 376, US Army.

1. In conformity with C/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of my liaison activities for the weeks ending 23 June 1945:

- a. Movements of Italian Units: See Weekly Status Reports.
- b. Arrivals and Departures: Major Edwards and Capt. Fox.
- c. Conferences: Routine.
- d. Inspections: None.

2. Events:

a. Italian Military Vehicles: Yesterday Major Edwards and I obtained from 5th Army Ordnance authority to move and start using the 300 tons of parts in Milano, copies of Freedom signal, buck slip with indentments and authorization attached as appendices A, B and C. These spares will permit Edwards to start repair on available vehicles. The rest of the spares in the Bolzano area will be turned over later by 5th Army. G-4 has said that as soon as the AFHQ signal #196701 of 21 June and which you mention in your Q374 of 23 June arrives, they will turn over the Italian military vehicles which are in their parks. Query: Can something be done to expedite the dispatch of this signal by AFHQ?

b. Redeployment of US-III: Receipt is acknowledged of your signal Q382 of 26 June. Directives by 5th Army along the lines you indicate had already been put out to the 2695 TIR. As indicated to you in the 2d Indorsement of a buck slip on the 23rd of June, same subject, 74 officers and 2900 men are in concentration areas and ready for movement to British units. Believe I can coordinate all necessary movements from present area to destinations. If I get in too much trouble, will send out an SOB.

c. Captured Enemy Material: Reference your signal Q385 of 26 June. 5th Army appreciates the information contained therein and is taking necessary action immediately to take possession of the material described.

d. Uniforms and Equipment: Will comply with your signal Q382 of 26

CS
A ← 11/29/46
Q (with Appa)
204/jad
27 June 1945

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d. Inspections: None.2. Events:

a. Italian Military Vehicles: Yesterday Major Edwards and I obtained from 5th Army Ordnance authority to move and start using the 300 tons of parts in Milano, copies of Freedom signal, buck slip with indorsements and authorization attached as appendices A, B and C. These spares will permit Edwards to start repair on available vehicles. The rest of the spares in the Bolzano area will be turned over later by 5th Army. Q-4 has said that as soon as the AFM signal #196701 of 21 June and which you mention in your Q374 of 23 June arrives, they will turn over the Italian military vehicles which are in their parks. Query: Can something be done to expedite the dispatch of this signal by AFM?

b. Redeployment of US-III: Receipt is acknowledged of your signal Q342 of 26 June. Directives by 5th Army along the lines you indicate had already been put out to the 2495 TBR. As indicated to you in the 2d Indorsement of a buck slip on the 23rd of June, same subject, 7th officers and 2900 men are in concentration areas and ready for movement to British units. Believe I can coordinate all necessary movements from present area to destinations. If I get in too much trouble, will send out an SSG.

c. Captured Enemy Material: Reference your signal Q385 of 26 June. 5th Army appreciates the information contained therein and in taking necessary action immediately to take possession of the material described.

d. Uniforms and Equipment: Will comply with your signal Q382 of 26 June on the subject. 7762

e. Territorial Map: All in place and all functioning.

f. General Interest: I still like peacetime soldiering on Lake Garda. Thought the SAC captain was coming up to check on us before the curtain is finally lowered on 5th Army.

RCW
H.C. VAN KIRK
Major, Inf.,
Sr. (MIA) LO
5th Army

Distribution:Addressee: 3

MIA LO 2 Dist Milano: 1

785020

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 464
US ARMY

RCV/jed
9 June 1945

SUBJECT: Weekly Liaison Logs #48 and 49.

TO: Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MIA)
APO 334, US Army

1. In conformity with C/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of my liaison activities for the weeks ending 9 June 1945:

- a. Movements of Italian Units: See Weekly Status Reports.
- b. Arrivals and Departures: Col. Kerr, Major Edwards, Major Bird, Capt. Pacini.
- c. Conferences: Routine.
- d. Inspections: None.

2. Events:

a. Italian Military Vehicles: The situation should improve as soon as the AFHQ directives come out as a result of the Florence conference held on June 4th. In the meantime, no change is expected as far as the release of Italian military vehicles in 5th Army Ordnance parks. Consider however, that a great success was scored when we got 5th Army AGO to put out the directive, copy attached and marked Appendix A. This should help considerably.

b. Italian Accidents with AB Transport: An alarming number of accident reports by ABs go over my desk every week. I forwarded one report to you on the 6th of this month in which an Italian soldier was killed with several thousands of dollars in Allied currency on him. Will comment on that feature in another paragraph. My notion is there are too many accidents, too much recklessness driving by Italian soldiers. Every accident report I read indicates to me that the Italian driver was to blame. They drive too fast, lose their heads when an emergency arises, and a good truck is wrecked. I think the worst offenders are the Gruppi who are in this area. I saw coming back from Florence, the 5th of this month, two Dodge British trucks still burning which Italian drivers had put in a ditch within a few hundred yards apart. Such driving isn't sabotaging the war effort over here any more for the war is over but it isn't doing the reconstruction period in Italy any good. More severe disciplinary action should be taken against such offenders by the Italian officers. Of course every wrecked or damaged vehicle should be charged to the Italian government in addition to the driver being punished.

c. Conferences: Routine.d. Inspections: None2. Events:

a. Italian Military Vehicles: The situation should improve as soon as the APMS directives come out as a result of the Florence conference held on June 6th. In the meantime, no change is expected as far as the release of Italian military vehicles in 5th Army Ordnance parks. Consider however, that a great success was scored when we got 5th Army AMG to put out the directive, copy attached and marked Appendix A. This should help considerably.

b. Italian Accidents with EE Transports: An alarming number of accident reports by EEs go over my desk every week. I forwarded one report to you on the 6th of this month in which an Italian soldier was killed with several thousands of dollars in Allied currency on him. Will comment on that feature in another paragraph. My notion is there are too many accidents, too much reckless driving by Italian soldiers. Every accident report I read indicates to me that the Italian driver was to blame. They drive too fast, lose their heads when an emergency arises, and a good truck is wrecked. I think the worst offenders are the Gruppi who are in this area. I saw coming back from Florence, the 5th of this month, two Dodge British trucks still burning which Italian drivers had put in a ditch within a few hundred yards apart. Such driving isn't sabotaging the war effort over here any more for the war is over but it isn't doing the reconstruction period in Italy any good. More severe disciplinary action should be taken against such offenders by the Italian officers. Of course every wrecked or damaged vehicle should be charged to the Italian government in addition to the driver being punished.

c. Black Market Operations: As I reported above, an Italian soldier involved in a vehicle accident was killed and found to have several thousand dollars on him in Allied currency, he never came by that honestly. In several instances the Gruppi who are guarding some captured material dumps in this area have been caught selling these materials. One guard was reported having a long line of persons waiting to buy silverware from him. The Patrol situation in Milano is serious. It is reported that the Italian drivers with a work ticket signed will go to one petrol point, fill up, go sell it and come back for more, or go some place else with the same ticket. Our Allied soldiers are no doubt guilty in some instances of illegal sale. In Milano, if you park your vehicle for a few minutes, several civilians will approach you and want to buy some gasoline, or give you the excuse that they have just run out of gasoline and need a little to get them to a filling station. The trouble with that story is, there shouldn't be a filling station operating for them to go to. I have no remedy for this situation except stricter enforcement and compliance with regulations by all concerned.

d. Partisans: AMB is getting them disbanded gradually, and I understand the day to stop feeding them is still set for the 10th of this month. As told they aren't killing as many every night as formerly. They do some good however, for as told they found the notorious "Gally" and have started her off to the States to be tried for treason.

e. Italian Rations: Told the IV Corps QM that great numbers of Italian officers from the Gruppi and other various units in this area were eating American rations in the transit and AMB hotels in Milano instead of eating the Italian military rations they should. Col. Ross didn't like the transit camp idea we had last winter in Florence but at that you got the rations on an EV/3, this way you get nothing.

f. Italian Medical Supplies and Equipment: The supplies and the equipment from the Pharmaceutical Institute at Florence are still under guard and not released to the Italian Army. When the directive comes out from the Florence conference, we should be able to make some progress. Col. Reggale stated he needed 60 ambulances. Since there are many Italian military ambulances in the Grassano Parks, the 60 can no doubt be obtained when all are finally released.

g. Italian Military Hospitals: Col. Reggale worked out a compromise on the hospital situation at Milano. The South Africans go into the Italian military hospital but the Italians go into the Bandiera Hospital which is smaller but more in keeping with their requirements for the regular Italian military hospital was larger than needed by the Italians. An Italian medical depot should be opened at Milano. The Bergamo hospital is cancelled out. The Modena hospital is still needed because many 5th Army dumps are located in that area, and most of the Italian 210 Division soldiers are employed there. The hospital is full. It may be at a later date when 5th Army dumps are closed down that the hospital can be closed, but not now.

h. Guarding Italian Material: If and when the large captured material dumps are turned over to the Italians in this area, who and what are we to use for guards? It must be troops that can be trusted. That is one reason 5th Army is reluctant to release supplies and equipment for they say most of them will end up in the black market. Query: Should guard companies be assigned to the Territorial HQ for this purpose, or should civilians be used where available as is being done in some instances now?

i. Uniforms and Equipment: Satisfactory.

j. Replacements: None needed. The last States Report showed 742 officers and 17875 EN.

k. Territorial HQs: All in place and all functioning.

l. Water Treatment: The water treatment cold as it was.

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Italian medical supplies and equipment from the Pharmaceutical Institute at Florence are still under guard and not released to the Italian Army. When the directive comes out from the Florence conference, we should be able to make some progress. Col. Meggie stated he needed 60 ambulances. Since there are many Italian military ambulances in the Ordnance Parks, the GO can no doubt be obtained when all are finally released.

c. Italian Military Hospitals: Col. Meggie worked out a compromise on the hospital situation at Milano. The South Africans go into the Italian military hospital but the Italians go into the Sardinia Hospital which is smaller but more in keeping with their requirements for the regular Italian military hospital was larger than needed by the Italians. An Italian medical depot should be opened at Milano. The Bergamo hospital is cancelled out. The Modena hospital is still needed because many 5th Army dumps are located in that area, and most of the Italian 213 Division soldiers are employed there. The hospital is full. It may be at a later date when 5th Army dumps are closed down that the hospital can be closed, but not now.

d. Guarding Italian Material: If and when the large captured material dumps are turned over to the Italians in this area, who and what are we to use for guards? It must be troops that can be trusted. That is one reason 5th Army is reluctant to release supplies and equipment for they say most of them will end up in the black market. Query: Should guard companies be assigned to the Territorial HQ for this purpose, or should civilians be used where available as is being done in some instances now?

1. Uniforms and Equipment: Satisfactory.

j. Replacements: None needed. The last Status Report showed 743 officers and 17875 EN.

k. Territorial HQs: All in place and all functioning.

3. General Interest: Swimming is good, the water isn't as cold as it was.

R.V.
R.C. VAN KIRK
Major, Inf.,
Br. (MMA) LO,
5th Army

Distribution:
Addressed:
MMA LO 2 Diet Milano: 1

785020

appended

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

AES/VHR/kr

53/1

1st June 1945

SUBJECT: Return of Italian Military Material

TO : See Distribution.

1. It is considered necessary that steps be taken to ensure that equipment of all kinds formerly the property of the Italian Army, which is now in the hands of unauthorized civilians, be returned to the proper military authorities as soon as possible.

2. You should therefore direct the Acting Prefects in every province to publish an order calling upon the public to declare all Italian Army property now in their possession to the Prefettura within 14 days of the posting of the notice, and stating that after the time limit set for the declaration any persons found in possession of material which has not been declared will be prosecuted according to the Italian law.

The order will be applied to Partisans as well as to other civilians.

3. Declarations of Italian Army property will be sent from the Prefettura to Recovery Commission #21, care of the 21st Italian Infantry Division, HQ Fifth Army, who will arrange in due course for the collection of material.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL NUNE:

ARTHUR E. SUTHERLAND, JR
Colonel, C.A.C.,
Executive.

DISTRIBUTION:

S.C.A.C.'s II Corps, IV Corps.
R.C.'s. Lombardia, Piemonte
Liguria, Venezia, Emilia.
P.C.'s Verona, Trento, Bolzano, Vicenza,
Belluno.
Copy to: MMIA LO, G-4, Fifth Army.
Recovery Commission #21

Reproduced by Headquarters Fifth Army (G-4, Rear)

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 444
US ARMY

NDV/jad
29 May 1945

SUBJECT: Weekly Liaison Log #17.

TO: Land Forces Sub-Commission A.C. (MILA)
APO 344, US Army

1. In conformity with C/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of my liaison activities for the week ending 26 May 1945:

- a. Movements of Italian Units: See Weekly Status Reports.
- b. Arrivals and Departures: Major Edwards, MILA-2222, just reported in accordance with your signal Q220 of 25 May.

c. Conferences: Routine.

d. Inspections: None.

2. Events:

a. Italian Military Vehicles: The situation as I see it is still unsatisfactory. 5th Army Commander has not released the Italian military vehicles in the American Ordnance parks. He has ordered the signs taken down which Major Edwards put on the 750 tons of spare parts from Piacenza at Laives and S. Cassino and G-4 Supply has released some of the spares for repair of the Italian vehicles. Instead of 15 trucks which I reported to you the Army Commander had ordered released to General Cerio H2 46, it was 21 which have been delivered. They were all Italian military trucks. Reference your Q270 of 15 May, copy attached as Appendix A, I attempted to send you a signal in answer thereto, see copy attached as Appendix B, but G-4 Executive wouldn't approve it going out and sent it back to me with the following comment on a truck slip. "Command approves dispatch of attached cable since no difficulty exists. We will release Italian Army vehicles when conclusively identified as such by proper authority." Under date of the 20th of May 1945, 5th Army did send a signal to 15 Army Group, see copy attached as Appendix C. The confusion all started as I see it when AFMA sent their signal PI75701 of the 15th of May, see copy attached as Appendix D, in which they mention Italian civilian and military vehicles all in the same paragraph. Now 5th Army won't release any vehicles or stores unless the Allied Commission, see Appendix C, proves "accurate proof of ownership or illegal requisitioning". That may be all right as far as civilian vehicles are concerned but my contention is that the Allied Commission doesn't have anything to do with Italian military vehicles. Major Edwards who lived in this very country for years speaks the language, is a MILA expert, says that he can get into the cab of an Italian truck and if it has a German license, he can get it out of the instrument board.

C/31/S
→ A no A points WP
R

3. Conferences: Routine.

4. Inspections: None.

2. Events:

3. Italian Military Vehicles: The situation as I see it is still unsatisfactory. 5th Army Commander has not released the Italian military vehicles in the American Ordnance parks. He has ordered the signs taken down which Major Edwards put on the 750 tons of spare parts from Piacenza at Laiven and S. Camillo and G-4 Supply has released some of the spares for repair of the Italian vehicles. Instead of 15 trucks which I reported to you the Army Commander has ordered released to General Carion 15 G-4, it was 21 which have been delivered. They were all Italian military trucks. Reference your 1270 of 24 May, copy attached as Appendix A, I attempted to send you a signal in answer thereto, see copy attached as Appendix B, but G-4 Executive wouldn't approve it going out and sent it back to me with the following comment on a back slip. "Cannot approve dispatch of attached cable since no difficulty exists. We will release Italian Army vehicles when conclusively identified as such by proper authority." Under date of the 20th of May 1947, 5th Army did send a signal to 15 Army Group, see copy attached as Appendix C. The confusion all started as I see it when AFHQ sent their signal PX75707 of the 15th of May, see copy attached as Appendix D, in which they mention Italian civilian and military vehicles all in the same paragraph. Now 5th Army won't release any vehicles or stores unless the Allied Commission, see Appendix E, proves "accurate proof of ownership or illegal requisitioning". That may be all right as far as civilian vehicles are concerned but my contention is that the Allied Commission doesn't have anything to do with Italian military vehicles. Major Edwards who lived in this very country for years speaks the language, is a RMAS expert, says that he can get into the cab of an Italian truck and if it has Regio Esercito on the dial of the instrument board, that is an Italian military truck no matter how many times it has been painted or camouflaged by the Germans or how they acquired it. I believe him. If it doesn't have that on, then it is an Italian truck which the Germans bought or recontracted to buy, or requisitioned and is a German truck. The Italian officers here say the Germans didn't pay for certain trucks and for that reason should belong to the Italian Army. I don't agree. It doesn't make any difference about the payment, the question is, did the Italian Army own the truck originally, or was it made for the Germans. I can't see that a German requisition, legal or illegal, of an Italian military truck is good as against the Italian Army and would give the German Army good title to the truck in question. This is the theory which I have advanced to the lawyers in G-4 5th Army. Col. Kerr once said, "No two lawyers ever agreed anyone". Maybe he is right, but again of course I think I am right.

Major Edwards, talk him, just reported in accordance with your signal 1270 of 24 May.

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The conclusion is that 5th Army won't release any trucks, stores or equipment until AFHQ tells them to do so in unequivocal language. In the meantime, the Recovery Commissions are busy collecting the Italian material in the hands of civilians and partisans where possible. Have thought perhaps some of the Italian officers might get shot by the partisans when they asked them for their trucks but haven't heard of any casualties yet.

b. Partisans and Rations: Am advised that an attempt is going to be made to disarm the patriots around Milano and Torino on the 7th of June. I think it is time to close the "hunting season" for the partisans on the poor civilians who were or are unfortunate enough not to own a red scarf. Most of these partisans were never partisans until the day after the Allied came in and it became legal for them to carry a gun and go hunting for their enemies. Of course I think Italian military rations we feed them has contributed to their "patriotic". Col. Troy, an Class I officer, says he has orders to feed partisans until the 10th of June. My notion of the Patriot situation is that the medicine prescribed is fast becoming worse than the disease.

c. Italian Medical Supplies: (4) is so apprehensive about Italian material that they wouldn't approve the attached copy of a signal marked Appendix A which I prepared for dispatch to you. It is all right for Col. Reggie to come up here but again a lawyer here is afraid that MHA would say that my reference to Italian medical stores ~~xxxxxx~~ is an admission against interest and might be binding on the Army. I deliberately wasn't referred to Italian Military Medical supplies for I knew that would raise a controversy. In any event, it is fortunate that we still have weekly liaison logs which are unassessed in order that I may report my own impressions.

d. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory.

e. Replacements: No problem.

f. Italian Military Hospitals: Am advised that 5th Area wants to use the Italian Military Hospital at Milano as a British hospital. I don't think it should be done.

g. Territorial HQ: All Territorial HQs are now at their proper stations. At Torino and Milano the last information I had was that they couldn't function and weren't in uniform because of the partisan situation.

h. General Interest: As a result of a long conference which I just had with Edwards, I think he should go to Rome as soon as possible, make a detailed personal report on vehicles and other information which he has obtained and then come back to Milano and be on the ground ready to start functioning if the vehicle situation improves.

c. Italian Medical Supplies 0-4 is so apprehensive about Italian material that they wouldn't approve the attached copy of a signal marked Appendix B which I prepared for dispatch to you. It is all right for Col. Legie to come up here but again a lawyer here is afraid that MILA would say that my reference to Italian medical stores ~~xxxxxxx~~ is an admission against interest and might be binding on the Army. I deliberately hadn't referred to Italian Military Medical supplies for I knew that would raise a controversy. In any event, it is fortunate that we still have weekly liaison logs which are unencumbered in order that I may report my own impressions.

d. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory.

e. Replacements: No problem.

f. Italian Military Hospital: As advised that 50 Area wants to use the Italian Military Hospital at Milano as a British hospital. I don't think it should be done.

g. Territorial HQ: All Territorial HQs are now at their proper stations. At Turin and Milano the last information I had was that they couldn't function and weren't in uniform because of the partisan situation.

h. General Interest: As a result of a long conference which I just had with Edwards, I think we should go to Rome as soon as possible, make a detailed personal report on vehicles and other information which he has obtained and then come back to Milano and be on the ground ready to start functioning if the vehicle situation improves.

Distribution
Addressee: 3 copies
Major Edwards: 1 copy ✓

RLS
H.L. VAN KINE
Major, Inf.
Sr. (MILIA) Co,
5th Army

7728

COPY

APPENDIX A

COPY

FROM: MIA

OR

18 May 1945

REF No: Q270

TO: FIVE ARMY

Restricted. Subject Italian Army Vehicles and your conversation 16 May with Edwards, see FX 75707 15 May AFHQ addressed 15 Army Group, Info 5th Army. Para 3 clarifies situation. All Italian military vehicles will be placed in special parks under guard. Essential Italian Army ownership established now. Action to 5th Army for MIA LO Major V.K. rept V.K. Q270 Signal any difficulties.

785020

APPENDIX B

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

RCV/EJO/jad

OUTGOING MESSAGEREF No: _____ CLASSIFICATION: Restricted DATE: 23 May 1945TIME DATE: _____ PRIORITY: RoutineORIGINATING SECTION: G-4 Rear

APPROVED: _____

EDWARD J. O'NEILL
Colonel, GSC,
AG of S, G-4TO: WMIA (ACTION)Edited Literal

Restricted. From Senior WMIA 10 Five Army, subject Italian Military Vehicles reference your Q270 of 18 May 1945. Only Italian military vehicles and materials which have been collected and guarded by Recovery Commissions are those obtained from civilians and partisan sources. Edwards states and I believe no difficulty exists in identifying Italian military vehicles but the Army Commander has directed that all captured vehicles and material including the 750 tons of spare parts from the Piacenza factory located by Edwards near Laives and Brusico are to be held under 5 Army Ordnance control except the 24 vehicles which he personally ordered released to General Cerica Territorial HQ No. 6. Army further states that all captured vehicles must be used for move of Germans to final concentration area.

Distribution:

C/S

All Records

Signal

G-4

7736

COPY

APPENDIX G

COPY

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Ref No: 2027

Class: Secret

Date: 20 May 1945

Time Date

Prec: Priority

Originating Section: G-4 Rear

Approved:

EDWARD J. O'REILL
Colonel, U. S. G.,
A. G. of S., G-4

TO: CG, 15th Army Group (Action)

Reference your cable 735, dated 12 May. Impossible to determine what captured or surrendered vehicles were illegally requisitioned by German Forces. Major General Wehrig, German Chief of Motor Transport Branch in Italy, worked directly under Berlin in procurement of civilian vehicles. Wehrig now reported PW, and if found, could possibly provide information desired. Units of German Armies received vehicles from Wehrig agency but were not provided information as to source or method of procurement.

Action started through German channels to determine as accurately as possible any illegal vehicle procurements. However, pending furnishing by Allied Commission of accurate proof of ownership or illegal requisitioning, the only method is to hold all such vehicles under Ordnance control, which is being done to the fullest extent possible prior to move to final concentration area. However, complete action in this respect is not possible due to acceleration of move to final concentration area and the necessity of using all captured vehicles to accomplish this move.

COPY

APPENDIX D

COPY

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

INCOMING MESSAGE

FROM: AFHQ

PREC: R

TDG: May 15 1117B

REF NO: YL 75707

CLASS: RESTD

TDR: 151740B

TO: 15 Army Group

Restricted. Captured Enemy Transport. To avoid misunderstanding attention is directed to this HQ letter AG 386.3/163 LOG-3 of 22 April. Paragraph 9B and 9C intention of which is that maximum use be made of enemy transport as follows:

1. For maintenance of enemy forces after full use of horse drawn transport has been made.
2. For meeting civil supply requirements through A.C. records of all vehicles so handed over will be kept.
3. All captured Italian civilian vehicles in hands of surrendered German forces which have not been properly requisitioned and paid for will be collected and guarded. Such transport will be turned over to A.C. against receipts. Italian military vehicles will be handed over to MIA reference paragraph 9c basic directive and AFHQ Circular Number 5 dated 11 April current.

785020

F. COPY

APPENDIX E

COPY

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Ref No: _____

Class: Restricted

Date 26 May 1945

Time Date

Prec: Routine

Originating Section: G-4, Rear

Approved: _____

EDWARD J. O'NEILL
Colonel, G. S. C.,
A. C. of S., G-4

TO: MMIA (ACTION)

Restricted. From MMIA LO, reference your M2201 of 24 May 1945, subject Visit of MMIA Surgeon to Army Area. Proposed visit is approved by Surgeon. New Subject, reference your M/L/1997 of 6 May 1945, Italian medical stores and machinery from Florence Pharmaceutical Institute have now been located at Marano and Peltre. Are under guard by Allied formations.

7733

785020

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 464
US ARMYNOV/jed
12 May 1945(please review)
A
B

SUBJECT: Weekly Liaison Logs 42,43,44,45.

TO: Lead Forces Sub-Commission A.C. (MFA)
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 12 May 1945:

- a. Movements of Italian Units: See Weekly Status Reports.
- b. Arrivals and Departures: Col. Floyd L. Simmons, Major Edwards.
- c. Conferences: Routine.
- d. Inspections: None.
- 2. Mistakes or Events:

a. Italian Military Vehicles: Recovery Commission #21 is now located in the Verona area and should have assisting them another commission with adequate personnel. Dependable civilian guards are not now available for guarding Italian troops. I have asked 5th Army to approve 210 Division using some of its men for guards. To date 17 vehicles have been recovered. Major Edwards, MFA HMF, is here in connection with the same program and we have had a conference with Major Krist GMS and Col. Detweiler Ordnance, 5th Army, in connection with securing possession of Italian military vehicles in 5th Army Ordnance parks. In the meantime, the Army Commander has directed that all German transportation and most Italian transport be used to feed the Germans in this area. Major Edwards is opening workshops in Bologna. It is my opinion that he should be instructed to remain in this area until this program is well under way or at least for several months. Have requested AMO to instruct partisans and civilians to turn in Italian military transport to the Italian Army at the same time they turn in their arms. I suggest that A.C. should put out a similar directive. Agree with Col. Howard's signal to you of 8 May 1945, copy to me. If Major Edwards remains in this area, that is the answer.

b. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory as far as US. It is concerned. Unsatisfactory as to Guard Battalions. I can't seem to get the G.O. General to get his battalions retrained.

- a. Expenditures of Italian Units: See weekly budget reports.
- b. Arrivals and Departures: Col. Floyd L. Simmons, Major Edwards.
- c. Conferences: Routine.
- d. Inspections: None.
- 2. Mistakes or Deviations:

a. Italian Military Vehicles: Recovery Commission #21 is now located in the Verona area and should have assisting them another commission with adequate personnel. Dependable civilian guards are not now available for guarding Italian dumps. I have asked 5th Army to approve 210 Division using some of its men for guards. To date 17 vehicles have been recovered. Major Edwards, WEA HEND, is here in connection with the same program and we have had a conference with Major Krikel C2M3 and Col. Detweiler Ordnance, 5th Army, in connection with securing possession of Italian military vehicles in 5th Army Ordnance parks. In the meantime, the Army Commander has directed that all German transportation and most Italian transport be used to feed the Germans in this area. Major Edwards is opening workshops in Bologna. It is my opinion that he should be instructed to remain in this area until this program is well under way or at least for several months. Have requested AHS to instruct partisans and civilians to turn in Italian military transport to the Italian Army at the same time they turn in their arms. I suggest that A.S. should put out a similar directive. Agree with Col. Howard's signal to you of 8 May 1945, copy to me. If Major Edwards remains in this area, that is the answer.

b. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory as far as US-It is are concerned. Unsatisfactory as to Guard Battalions. I can't seem to get the C.O. Guard Box to make cut his requisitions properly.

c. Replacements: Arriving daily but no problem is involved now. 732

d. Italian Patriot Ration Situation: Lt. Apostoli, Italian L.O. QM, tells me that he is only feeding about 300 patriots daily and that they will soon all be off the ration strength, in fact, he estimates that this will occur in well under the 30 day period now permitted.

e. Italian Military Hospitals: In consultation with the Italian Surgeon Milano, the AMHS Dr. Inzer, Italian L.O. 5th Army Surgeon, have authorized Italian Military Hospitals in Bergamo, Brescia and Milano. See task slips, copies to you on this subject.

f. Territorial HQ: In this area there are all been approved by 5th Army or 15th Army Group and have moved or are now moving to their designated areas.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

2. Backfile Entry: Sent you a back slip on this subject. As soon as you can tell me how they will be employed, it will be appreciated.

3. General Interest: My G-2 reported that Col. Kerr is going to pay us a visit. Hope this is true. He is living under canvas but may move into a hotel on Lake Garden in a few days. Believe he would enjoy his stay and it would certainly be for the good of the service.

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

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Addressees: 2 copies

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 164
US ARMY

RCV/jad
22 May 1945

SUBJECT: Weekly Liaison Log #46.

TO: Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MMIA)
APO 194, US Army.

1. In conformity with G/21 directive of 27 June 1944, the following is a brief resume of my liaison activities for the week ending 19 May 1945:

- a. Movements of Italian Units: See Weekly Status Reports.
- b. Arrivals and Departures: Majors Edwards and Aretin, REME-MMIA.
- c. Conferences: Routine
- d. Inspections: None
- 2. Mistakes or Events:

a. Italian Military Vehicles: The situation is unsatisfactory. Fifth Army Commander has said no Italian military trucks or material will be released from Allied dumps in this area. One AFHQ directive said the Army Commanders "may" turn over trucks to the Italian Army. The last directive, AFHQ PX75707 of the 15th, same subject, Krisl GEMS contends it gives MMIA a 3rd priority on Italian military trucks, so the situation becomes more confusing. The Army Commander did order 15 Italian military trucks released to General Cerica, Territorial HQ #4 on his personal representation that he needed them. When G-4 told me about it, I suggested that General Truscott was invading MMIA's reserves. As Edwards has reported to you, there are thousands of trucks and tons of spares if we could but get them released to us. The Recovery Commissions are still trying to take trucks from civilians and partisans. The other day Recovery Commission #21 located a large warehouse at Rovereto of Italian Army clothing including tons of Italian overcoats and hundreds of sewing machines. An American guard was permitting the Germans to carry off the Italian military clothing. I got that stopped but wasn't permitted to put an Italian guard on it. The partisans in an around Milan still have Italian Army trucks and are still armed. 5th Army AMI is still trying to get General Crittendenberger, IV Corps, to permit them to order the disarming of the Patriots and to turn in their Italian military vehicles but he won't do it as yet.

b. Partisans: In most of this area Patriots are still armed and

b. Arrivals and Departures: Majors Edwards and Austin, REAMS-MIA.c. Conferences: Routined. Inspections: None2. Mistakes or Events:

a. Italian Military Vehicles: The situation is unsatisfactory. Fifth Army Commander has said no Italian military trucks or material will be released from Allied dumps in this area. One AFHQ directive said the Army Commanders "may" turn over trucks to the Italian Army. The last directive, AFHQ FI75707 of the 15th, same subject, Krisl CMS contends it gives MIA a 3rd priority on Italian military trucks, so the situation becomes more confusing. The Army Commander did order 15 Italian military trucks released to General Cerios, Territorial HQ #4 on his personal representation that he needed them. When G-4 told me about it, I suggested that General Truscott was invading MIA's preserves. As Edwards has reported to you, there are thousands of trucks and tons of spares if we could but get them released to us. The Recovery Commissions are still trying to take trucks from civilians and partisans. The other day Recovery Commission #21 located a large warehouse at Rovereto of Italian Army clothing including tons of Italian overcoats and hundreds of sewing machines. An American guard was permitting the Germans to carry off the Italian military clothing. I got that stopped but wasn't permitted to put an Italian guard on it. The partisans in an around Milan still have Italian Army trucks and are still armed. 5th Army AMU is still trying to get General Grittenberger, IV Corps, to permit them to order the disarming of the Patriots and to turn in their Italian military vehicles but he won't do it as yet.

b. Partisans: In most of this area Patriots are still armed and killing about 50 persons a night who are alleged to be enemies of someone. The way I have figured it out is that anyone who doesn't have a red scarf or shirt on is in danger. They do respect an Allied uniform. Upon agreement with ARMS and SMT of the British Increment, haven't rationed the Italian military hospital in Milano because of the partisan situation existing there with the officers of Territorial HQ #3 under cover, in civilian clothes, not able to function and the partisans still in command.

c. Partisan Rations: 350 partisans are being rationed at Florence, 1,000 at Pescia and 1500 at Bologna. I don't know how many at Milano and Torino because they aren't drawing the Italian components of the ration from the 210 Division. Have told Apostoli, the Italian L.D. with 5th Army QM, to cut them off and to be sure he feeds none over 30 days.

d. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory as far as US-Itals are concerned. Now satisfactory as to Guard Battalions.

e. Replacements: No problem is involved now.

f. Italian Military Hospitals: As explained above, the Milano hospital has not been screened or rationed. The Brescia hospital is functioning and casualties from the Gruppi are being evacuated there and to the hospitals near Verona. The Bergamo hospital has not been opened because space is not available and the hospital is not needed now.

g. Territorial HQ: All Territorial HQs are now at their proper stations except Territorial HQ #4 for Bolzano which will go forward in a few days. In some cases they can't function and aren't in uniform because of the partisan situation. At Bolzano the Germans were in command the last I knew.

h. General Interest: Life was never sweeter. We are billeted and have our own offices in winter resort hotels overlooking Lake Garda at Gardone. Swimming is good.

200
R.C. VAN KIRK
Major, Inf.,
Sr. (MIA) L.O.,
5th Army

Distribution:
Addressee: 3 copies

TRANSFERRING FIFTH ARMY
APO 664

A

NOV/3rd
11 April 1945

A

SUBJECT: Weekly Liaison Logs 38,39,40 and 41.

TO: Land Forces Sub-Commission A.C. (MILIA)
APO 376, 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 14 April 1945:

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

b. Arrivals and Departures:

Lt. Col. Geo. Shipley, Capt. Geoffrey Fox, Lt. Col. Ross, Capt. Clark, Majors Papineau and Richards. Capt. Murphy reported to British Movement as MILIA 10 and Capt. Cautner reported to this area as MILIA 10 in charge of repair program in this area. For the present, his address will be c/o G-4 Rear Fifth Army, APO 664, US Army.

c. Conferences: Routine

d. Inspections: None

2. Mistakes or Events:

a. Italian Vehicles: Under date of 9 April 1945, I forwarded a report to you on the number of vehicles recovered. I have asked the Recovery Mission #21 for a report on the disposition made of all vehicles collected and as soon as it is received, will forward it to you. The #1 Repair Unit has arrived and is being set up at 163 via Pasterni, Florence. All inefficient vehicles will be turned over to them. The new AFHQ Circular Number 5 of 11 April 1945 will be beneficial in putting Italian Military vehicles out of the hands of unauthorized users. Two Italian Officers are slated to move into Bologna with 5th Army's representatives as soon as it is taken. They will catalogue all available Italian property and advise Col. Niles, 5th Army on its use. An advised there is a large plant there which manufactured Italian Military vehicles prior to the war and may be of use to the Italian Army and it may contain some vehicles or spare parts.

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- a. Movements of Italian Units: See Weekly Status Reports.
- b. Arrivals and Departures: Lt. Col. Gen. Shipley, Capt. Geoffrey Fox, Lt. Col. Ross, Capt. Clark, Majors Papineau and Edwards. Capt. Thrope reported to British Increment as MIA 10 and Capt. Cantner reported to this area as MIA 10 in charge of repair program in this area. For the present, his address will be c/o 3rd Near Fifth Army, APO 661, US Army.

c. Conferences: None.

d. Inspections: None.

2. Incidents or Events:

a. Italian Vehicles: Under date of 9 April 1945, I forwarded a report to you on the number of vehicles recovered. I have asked the Recovery Commission #21 for a report on the disposition made of all vehicles collected and as soon as it is received, will forward it to you. The #1 Repair Unit has arrived and is being set up at 163 Via Pastena, Florence. All inefficient vehicles will be turned over to them. The new AFM Circular Number 5 of 11 April 1945 will be beneficial in getting Italian Military vehicles out of the hands of unauthorized users. Two Italian officers are alerted to move into Bologna with 5th Army's representatives as soon as it is taken. They will catalogue all available Italian property and advise Col. Elms, 5th Army on its use. As advised there is a large plant there which manufactured Italian Military vehicles prior to the war and may be of use to the Italian Army and it may contain some vehicles or some parts.

b. Uniforms and Equipment: Situation satisfactory as day of 10. It is as described.

c. Replacements: None. We are still overstrength.

d. Italian Patriot Faction Situation: Have received latest directives from AFM. I can't get AMI to report regularly on the number of men they have or have had in their camps but they still draw weapons at the dumps.

3. General Interest: Nothing.

Distribution:
Reference: 2 copies
File

R.D. VAN KUSE
Major, Infantry
Br. (MIA) L.O.,
5th Army

176741.