

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

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

785020

10000/1201262

Q17 Medical Policy
March - Oct 1945

785020

Subject: Pharmaceutical Plant at Merano

Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)
Rome

Q/7

26 October 1945

My dear General Infante:

Reference your letter 6484/A.G. of 21 Oct 1945

The question of the Pharmaceutical Plant at Merano and materials therein is being taken up on the highest level, and I trust that I will have a reply for you in a few days.

Yours very truly,

CLAYTON P. KERR, Colonel
for Major General
Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (MMIA)

CPK/lak

General Adolfo Infante
The First ADC to His Royal Highness
The Lieutenant General of the Realm

See DO/2, 24 Oct 45

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Translation

First A.D.C. General of
H.R.H. the Lieutenant General of
the Realm

Rome, October 21, 1945

My dear Col. Kerr,

Prevailing difficulties in connection with the supply of medicines and surgical supplies for our troops make it necessary for me to call your attention to the case of the "Stalimento Farmaceutico" (Pharmaceutical Plant) at Merano, and to request that you be good enough to look into this matter, granting - if possible - the request contained in the attached memorandum.

Trusting that I shall have the benefit of your kind and valuable assistance, I am, with best regards,

(Signature)

General Adolf Infante

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who has been with the first, ~~and some other things~~ (heir) of

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6484/A.G.



Roma, 11 21 Ottobre 1945

IL PRIMO AIUTANTE DI CAMPO GENERALE
DI S.A.R. IL LUOGOTENENTE GENERALE DEL REGNO

Mio caro Colonnello Kerr,

Le difficoltà esistenti per l'approvvigionamento dei medicinali e dei materiali di medicazione per le nostre truppe mi spingono a ricorrere alla Sua cortesia per prospettarle il caso dello Stabilimento Farmaceutico di Merano e per pregarLa di volere cortesemente esaminare la questione e, se possibile, benevolmente esaudire la richiesta di cui all'acclusa promemoria.

Sicuro del Suo autorevole e gentile interessamento al riguardo, Le porgo i miei più distinti saluti.

Adolfo Infante
(Generale Adolfo Infante)

Al Colonnello C.P. KERR
M.M.I.A.

A. C.

R O M A



UFFICIO DEL PRIMO AIUTANTE DI CAMPO GENERALE
DI S. A. R. IL LUOGOTENENTE GENERALE DEL REGNO

A P P U N T O

=====

Esiste in Merano (località Maia Bassa) uno stabilimento Chimico Farmaceutico impiantato sotto l'occupazione tedesca con materiali trasportati dall'Istituto Farmaceutico Militare di Firenze.

Il materiale, del valore di circa 6 miliardi di lire, è di esclusiva proprietà italiana e, durante l'occupazione tedesca è stato amministrato e custodito da personale italiano. Dopo la liberazione il predetto stabilimento è stato diretto dal Ten.Col. MIAL della 5^a Armata e successivamente dal Capitano Inglese ADLAM i quali hanno insediato come responsabile della custodia e del funzionamento dello Stabilimento il Capitano Farmacista tedesco PICHLER ed assunto personale tedesco.

Il Ministero della Guerra ha inviato a sostituire gli Ufficiali italiani compromessi durante l'occupazione tedesca un ufficiale superiore che però è stato tenuto solo come osservatore.

La produzione è stata, nel frattempo, impiegata per il fabbisogno degli ospedali e campi di concentramento dei prigionieri tedeschi ma, a seguito degli accordi presi, era stato possibile ottenere l'assegnazione di medicinali anche alle truppe italiane della zona e lo sblocco, per il trasporto a Firenze, di una quantità di medicinali, di apparecchi e medicinali sanitari per la capacità di undici vagoni.

Senonchè, in seguito al subentrare delle Autorità Inglesi e a quelle Americane presso il II^o Distretto, gli accordi precedenti non sono stati ritenuti più validi. Le nuove Autorità si dichiarano convinte che il materiale è di proprietà e di produzione tedesca e quindi, come preda bellica, di loro esclusiva spettanza; hanno sospeso lo sblocco dei materiali da inviare a Firenze ed hanno estromesso dallo Stabilimento l'ufficiale italiano.

L'approvvigionamento dei medicinali e dei materiali di medicazione per le truppe italiane riesce sempre più difficile per il progressivo esaurimento delle scorte e per l'insufficienza dei rifornimenti.

Lo sblocco delle materie prime e dei prodotti finiti esistenti a Merano allevierebbe le precarie condizioni di approvvigionamento dei medicinali e consentirebbe alle maestranze dell'Istituto Farmaceutico Militare di Firenze di riprendere il lavoro.

Roma, 19 ottobre 1945

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Personel

Major General L. BROWNING, CD, OBE, MC
Headquarters
MMIA
ROME

DO/2

24 October 1945

My dear *Hydeman*

1. I send you herewith:-

(a) A memorandum to MMIA from General INFANTE (1st A.D.C. to Prince UMBERTO) on the Pharmaceutical Plant and stocks at MERANO.

(b) A memorandum commenting on (a) from my American 2nd i/c (Colonel KERR).

2. This business obviously has very explosive possibilities and a definite political aspect on the highest level. I therefore send it to you personally, as it may not have been brought to your notice.

3. I have discussed the whole business with Colonel KERR and entirely agree with his recommendations in Para 9 of his memorandum.

4. It is your pigeon, but I may say that the War Minister has had at me several times on the matter. Now INFANTE is taking a hand from another and, to say the least, important source. I feel sure that the Italians will not stop pressure, which may well result in an awkward situation for the British later on, unless we on our own make the gestures recommended by Colonel KERR.

I hope you are very fit.

Yours, *ever*

Langley Browning

Major General C. A. HYDEMAN, CB, MC

GOC, ~~Three~~ District

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MEMORANDUM

There is a chemical pharmaceutical plant at Merano (Haia Bassa Section) set up under German occupation with materials brought from the Army Pharmaceutical Institute at Florence.

The material, valued at about six billion lire, is of exclusively Italian property, and during German occupation was administered and guarded by Italian personnel. After the liberation, the aforementioned plant was managed by Lt Col Mial of the Fifth Army and, subsequently by the British Captain Adlam; these two officers placed a German pharmacist, Captain Pichler, in charge of the guarding and operation of the plant, and hired German personnel.

The Ministry of War sent a senior officer to replace the Italian officers who compromised themselves during German occupation; such senior officer, however, was kept only as observer.

In the meantime, production was used for the requirements of hospitals and concentration camps of German POW's, but, as a result of agreements reached, it had been possible to obtain the allotment of medicines also for Italian troops in that area and the release - for transportation to Florence - of an amount of medicines, surgical appliances and supplies totaling 11 railroad cars.

However, owing to the fact that British authorities took over from the Americans at the Two District, previous agreements were no longer regarded as valid. The new authorities have stated their conviction that the material is owned and produced by the Germans; and therefore, being material captured in war, belongs to them exclusively; they suspended the release of the materials to be sent to Florence and ordered the Italian officer to leave the plant.

The supply of medicines and surgical supplies for Italian troops is becoming ever more difficult due to the gradual exhaustion of stocks and the shortage of supplies.

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The release of raw materials and finished products on hand at Merano would remedy the precarious conditions under which medical supplies are obtained and would enable the workers of the Army Pharmaceutical Institute at Florence to resume operations.

Rome, October 19, 1945

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24 October 1945

MEMO for GOC

Subject: Chemical Plant at Merano

With reference to attached copy of letter from Italian Army.

1. There is no doubt that this plant and stocks are captured enemy material, even though of Italian Army origin, and, as such can be used for the maintenance of German POW's. It is quite right that Two District is operating the plant and specifying the disposition of the material and products.
2. The materials were stolen by the Germans from the Italian Army Institute in Florence. The Italians claim the value to be six billion lire, which is a sizable amount of money.
3. It appears that the Fifth Army first operated the plant and that Two District has now taken over. In both cases a German pharmacist and German personnel are guarding and operating the plant. The War Ministry sent up an Italian officer, who was kept by Fifth Army as an observer, but has been removed by Two District.
4. The Italians claim that Fifth Army released to them 11 railroad cars of material, but Two District will not consider this release valid. Had the materials been released as promised by Fifth Army, the Army Institute at Florence would be able to resume production for Italian Army needs.
5. While the requirements for POW's are a legitimate use of the materials, such requirements should be reduced to the bare minimum. Since Fifth Army agreed to release 11 railroad cars of material, it would appear that Fifth Army considered that at least this amount was surplus to the POW requirements. Since that release was made, the requirements for POW's must have decreased. It will be appreciated that the Italians do not understand why the US Command made a release and the British Command will not honor the release, which results only in the Italians being embittered with the British.
6. The employment of German personnel to operate the plant in its present location, even with POW's, is similar to the Naples situation, where German POW's were used to replace Italians, which resulted in the removal of the POW's in order to avoid disturbances. The fact that Germans are left in charge and the Italian representative of the War Ministry was kicked out, can only cause bad feeling, and will result in the question, "Who liberated what for whom?".

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7. The Italians have been charged with the medical materials furnished them from Allied sources. Under the new arrangements they will have to pay in dollar or pound credits for medical supplies which will come from surplus Allied stocks. It is apparent that it would be difficult to convince the Italians of the justice of making them buy surplus Allied supplies while all of their supplies are being given to the Germans, even though it is entirely in accord with AFHQ orders. I feel sure that Italians will go on pressing till, at any rate, they receive the 11 railroad car loads promised to them, but anything less will simply make the Italians resentful with the British Army.

8. Even considering that the Allied Armies have a perfectly legal right to all these supplies, that the Italians were once our enemy, and that they should suffer the consequences, the fact remains that the Allied Governments are doing everything possible to assist the Italians to their feet, bolster their morale, and create an atmosphere of good will between the Allies and the Italians. Coupled with the official action of the Governments is a considerable public opinion in both countries sympathetic to the Italians, even to the donation of private funds to send needed supplies, and the support of UNRRA by the Allied Governments. It is my opinion that it would be difficult to explain this transaction to the satisfaction of the Allied public. A bright newspaper man could play up the Italian side in such a way that our Allied Army administration would appear rather silly. And from the level which originated the Italian report, this might happen. The pen is sometimes more powerful than the sword.

9. I would suggest:

- a. That the release given by Fifth Army for 11 railroad cars of material be honored.
- b. That German personnel be replaced by Italian personnel.
- c. That the representative of the War Ministry be returned to the Plant.
- d. That the requirements for the POW's be reduced to the bare minimum and the balance of the material be handed back to the Italians as soon as possible.

4609

CLAYTON P. KERR, Colonel
MMIA

1002 Dist
Cust

Ref goes - of -

medical branch this HQ have requested
assurance on the following points:-

(1) That the Italian manufacturing machinery, removed
by the Germans from the I.P.M. in FLORENCE, will also be
handed over to the Italian military authorities, to enable
production of medical stores for the Italian Army to be
recommenced.

(2) That due consideration at the time of taking ^{these} stores
will be given to the fact that a large bulk of them in
MILANO, even though of German manufacture, have in
fact been made from Italian raw materials **4608**
removed from FLORENCE. Payments, which are
understood to have been made for these materials by
the Germans, were in whole or German manufactured here.

C.O.S.

I think you have dealt personally with
this on another file. Can we connect? W.P.
MS

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SUBJECT: Italian Med Stores

Hq No 2 District, CMF.

1265/9/93

8 Oct 45.

MMIA

Ref my 1265/9/93 of 13 Oct 45 addressed to Medical
copy to you and your SION/9/1 of 24 Sep 45.

All equipment in the Med Store Depot MERAUD is being
sorted and listed under ~~the~~ arrangements ~~at~~ Med this Hq. When
this process is complete arrangements will be made to hand
over any equipment of Italian origin to you for the Italian
military authorities.

Colonel,
DA & QMG.

4607

0737

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(7)

Subject: Hygiene - Italian Units

Land Forces Sub Comm. A.G.
(M. M. I. A.)
H O W E
A/7

24 Mar 45.

MINISTRY OF WAR

1. I am directed to inform you that the Allied Authorities in the forward areas are very dissatisfied with the unhygienic and insanitary conditions of buildings, camps and areas occupied by units of the Italian Army.
2. This matter has repeatedly been brought to your notice and some improvement has been effected in some instances.
3. You are again reminded of the importance of this question in regard not only to the health of the troops, but also to the relationship between troops of various nations concerned.
4. Please ensure that energetic action is taken by commanding officers concerned and by officers in charge of all training depots and reinforcement centres in rear, to train all ranks adequately in this elementary military duty.

WP
+

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WP/wk

Major General,
M. M. I. A.

Q — *[Signature]*
Ined } to see up. folio (3)?

785020

Subject: Hospital Train

Land Forces Sub Comm.
A.C. (ISMA)

RMG
W/3A/1163

17 March 45

Ministry of War,
Direzione Generale di Sanita Militare

1. Attached is a copy of AFHQ letter Nov/3/45 of 13 March 45.
2. Please note the condition that until such time as the complete train can be made up, the carriages may be attached to normal booked services.
The Red Cross emblem must be obliterated while the carriages are attached to normal train services.
3. Please arrange to submit a R.R. in respect of a Hospital Train unit (sixteen coaches).

/RMG

Land Forces Sub Comm. AC. (ISMA)

Copy to: 'G'
3/T

Major,
D.A.D. M.S.

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0000

G-4, Mov & Tn
Allied Force Headquarters
Tel. No. Freedom 878

Nov 3/189

13 March 45

Subject: Hospital Train - Italian Army

To: Movement L.O. ROMA
Rome (2 copies)

1. Reference ROMA 07 of 3 March 45.

2. It is agreed that the four Italian hospital railway coaches recently arrived at NAPLES from SARDINIA be moved to ROME for repair under arrangements Ministry of War.

3. When in service, these coaches will function as extra vehicles on booked services on behalf of the Italian Medical Services in the southern part of ITALY, until such time that a complete train set can be made up from the remaining stock available in SARDINIA.

It will be necessary therefore to omit the red cross markings on the four coaches.

G.A. PLEWS, Major
for Brigadier,
D.Q.M.G. (Mov & Tn).

Copy to: DECS Rome - Please arrange movement from NAPLES to ROME of the four coaches for repair)

Med (Br)
Movements West Italy
Movements East Italy
Movements Central Italy
Movements Rome
Movements LO MES Rome.

4604

4603

RRB

See file 60

COPY -

C-4 Nov 2 Tr,
Allied Force Headquarters,
Tel. No. Freedom 878

Nov 3/189

13 Mar 45

Subject: Hospital Train - Italian Army

To : Movement L.A. 1111
Lose (2 copies)

1. Reference L.A. 2/7 of 3 March 1945.
2. It is agreed that the four Italian hospital railway coaches recently arrived at Naples from S. M. 1111 be moved to Rome for repair under arrangements Ministry of War.
3. When in service, these coaches will function as extra vehicles on booked services on behalf of the Italian Medical Services in the southern part of Italy, until such time that a complete train set can be made up from the remaining stock available in S. M. 1111.

It will be necessary therefore to omit the red cross markings on the four coaches.

G.A. PIERI, Major,
For Brigadier,
D.S.O. (Nov 2 Tr.)

Copy to : DMS Rome - Please arrange movement from NAPLES to ROME of 4603
coaches for repair)

Med (Br)
Movements East Italy
Movements East Italy
Movements Central Italy
Movements Rome
Movements 10 1128 Rome.

2. It is agreed that the four Italian hospitals currently operating in the vicinity of Rome will be moved to Rome for repair under arrangements.

3. When in service, these coaches will function as extra vehicles in booked services on behalf of the Italian Medical Services in the southern part of Italy, until such time that a complete train set can be made up from the remaining stock available in Rome.

It will be necessary therefore to omit the red cross markings on the four coaches.

S.A. PIERRE, Major,
For Brigadier,
D.S.M. (Nov 2 to.)

Copy to : DMS Rome - Please arrange movement from Naples to Rome of **4603**
coaches for repair)

Red (Br)
Movements West Italy
Movements East Italy
Movements Central Italy
Movements Rome
Movements to the Rome.

The above copy of DMS letter Nov 3/59 is passed to you for information.

Our Nov. 15. 1/3 dated 10 Nov 45, - refers.

Copy to : AG ✓
Red
Officer Transport

14/3

W. H. Nelson
Capt. D.M.
S.A. L. Davis
Movements Medical Officer

RAF

785020

Subject: Hospital Train - Italian Army

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

1 March 48.

A.F.H.Q.

1. Four Italian hospital railway coaches recently arrived at Naples. There are 12 remaining coaches still in Sardinia. The interior equipment is incomplete but Ministry of War have facilities for repairing these coaches at Rome. The total capacity of the 4 coaches is approximately 90 patients (lying).
2. Ministry of War have frequently represented the need of a hospital train and it is suggested that the small train could function on behalf of the Italian Medical Services in the southern part of Italy. (say Naples, Bari, Taranto, Lecce, Catanzaro areas.) It would also be useful for the reception of repatriated sick Pw. U. S. Movement will of course require co-ordination with Allied Authorities.
3. As shipping facilities become available the remaining coaches in Sardinia could be transferred to the Mainland and added to the existing train.
4. Request your approval to proceed with this project.

F. J. Noam
F. J. NOAM, Col.
for Major General,
M. M. I. A.

4602

Copy to: Nav LO
SUSE
MED

Lee Folick
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107431