

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

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

10000/120/307

Q/15/19 R.A.F. MAINTENANCE

Opened Nov 20, 1944 - Closed Dec 3, 1944

Nov. - Dec. 1944

Cypher Message

493/4

To: HQ MAAF L.M.F.

30/1. (10)

Replied: - AFSC Rome

AFSC Bari

AFSC Naples

HQ 214 Group

Military Mission Italian Army.

AR2

4/12.

From: HQ MAAF Algiers.

TQ 246 3rd December

TOP. 031502A.

Secret o for ~~Strombe~~ from HQ o

(1) Gurs P 260 1st December, presume you are taking action for suitable amendment to AG 400/105 D-O dated September 22nd 1944. Particular points to which your attention is drawn are

(2) (1) Paragraph 4 B which details three sources from which clothing for Italian Army Forces will be provided, viz.

(A) Italian sources

(B) Used clothing from Allied sources within Theatre

(C) Shipments authorised by Combined Chiefs of Staff, and arranged, so far as BR-ITIS are concerned, by War Office o

48

(over)

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OFFICINE SUSSIDIARIE AVIAZIONE

SOCIETÀ ANONIMA - CAPITALE L. 10.000.000 INTERAMENTE VERSATO

SEDE IN NAPOLI

SEDE

IPRÀVERSA MUNICIPIO 17
TELEFONO 34084

OFFICINE

VIALE U. MADDALENA
TELEFONI 52534 - 54005 - 51356

Napoli

Viale Umberto Maddalena

TELEGRAMMI: O.S.A. NAPOLI
C.P.E. NAPOLI N. 67614



Mod. 020

Bytel message

Page 2

(93/4)

(ii) Last sentence of paragraph 2 of Annex 'c' which states commanders of British Army and RAF responsible that items made available to Italian Armed Forces are beyond economical repair for further use of British Military personnel or Prisoners of War of Allied Nations.

(3) Following comments are made on points outlined in paragraph 20 (iA) Italian resources accepted as virtually exhausted. (iB) Since all RAF salvaged clothing is handed over to Army it follows that any supplies of used clothing from British resources within theatre must come from Army (iC) Present responsibility for shipments from United Kingdom rests with War Office and not repeat not Air Ministry which is in line with 3(iB) above.

(2A) all items within category defined in Annex 'c' are held by Army as stated in paragraph 3(iB).

(4) Paragraph 3 of your signal states ~~AFHQ~~ AFSC responsible for Air Force personnel BR-ITIS whereas AFHQ signal FX 40970 undated in reply to AFSC signal REQ 214 October 18th specifically

(over)

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SECRET

by the message

page 3

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states all Italian Tactical Air Force is an agreed British commitment and therefore classed as wholly BR-IT. This point requires to be clarified.

- (5) Your paragraph 6.0 would point out that items listed in Annex 'B' to AG 400/105 D-0 as clothing scale of Italian Armed Forces are common-user items of our source of supply for which is British Army. Washed Battle Dress of second quality for ~~Yugo-Slavs~~ Yugo-Slavs and POWs employed with RAF is also obtained from Army.
- (6) In view of very definite directive contained in AG 400/105 D-0 request you confirm necessary amendments being promulgated before action is taken with Air Ministry as requested in paragraph 6 of your original as otherwise there are likely to be repercussions from Air Ministry.

474

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SECRET

Signal message

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693/4

Distribution:

*Air Force Sub Commission
Rome.*

*Military Mission Italian Army.
Rome*

Sifonon Gc.

TOO 031842A
TOR 040650A
TOD 040800A

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→ → Q/AE

~~Could Sam go~~
~~210 (4)~~

The Air Force is
shot down in flames!
I could not be more
pleased at the result of much
joint work of Army & Air Force
South Com. Rather supported by
Navy.

2 Dec

468

0162

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Partito Fascista Repubblicano

FASCIO ROMANO DI COMBATTIMENTO

Roma, li _____

1943 XXI

I Camerata _____

Paternità _____

Maternità _____

Data e luogo di nascita _____

Residente a _____

Via _____

n. _____

Telefono _____

professione _____

si è presentato oggi ed ha chiesto l'iscrizione al Partito Fascista Repubblicano.

Firma _____

Domicilio _____

P. IL COMMISSARIO DEL FASCIO ROMANO
(GINO BARDI)

CIPHER

(9)

6500.

262

"IX" CIPHER MESSAGE deciphered 020630A.

From: HQ MAAF CMF
To Action: AFSC
Info: MAAF Algiers MMIA 214 Group

011900A

214

SECRET . Q 261.

SECRET

- (1) Subject is clothing for the Italian Air Force.
- (2) It is requested that you will see this HQ signal Q 260 dated 1st Dec which has been repeated to you.
- (3) In furtherance of the provisions of that signal you are requested to take immediate action to inform 214 Group copy to this HQ of your minimum requirements repeat minimum to cover absolute necessities for the Italian Air Force.
- (4) You will observe we are dependent on Army charity from resources provisioned to meet their own requirements for our immediate supplies and it is stressed that immediate requirements must be kept to the absolute minimum.
- (5) You will observe ~~that~~ the above quoted signal that in future NO action is to be taken to involve MMIA or AFMA in clothing requirements for the Italian Air Force, that all such requirements should be submitted by you both for initial issue and subsequent replacement direct on 214 Group. You are expected to consolidate all such requirements.
- (6) 214 Group will be instructed to make all issues to your clothing depot at Mungivacca Bari. You will be responsible for subsequent distribution.

IMMEDIATE

SECRET . Q 261.

SECRET

- (1) Subject is clothing for the Italian Air Force.
- (2) It is requested that you will see this HQ signal Q 260 dated 1st Dec which has been repeated to you.
- (3) In furtherance of the provisions of that signal you are requested to take immediate action to inform 214 Group copy to this HQ of your minimum requirements repeat minimum to cover absolute necessities for the Italian Air Force.
- (4) You will observe we are dependent on Army charity from me resources provisioned to meet their own requirements for our immediate supplies and it is stressed that immediate requirements must be kept to the absolute minimum.
- (5) You will observe ~~that~~ the above quoted signal that in future NO action is to be taken to involve MMIA or AFHQ in clothing requirements for the Italian Air Force, that all such requirements should be submitted by you both for initial issue and subsequent replacement direct on 214 Group. You are expected to consolidate all such requirements.
- (6) 214 Group will be instructed to make all issues to your clothing depot at Lungivacca Bari. You will be responsible for subsequent distribution.
- (7) Please note that this will amend the instructions concerning the issue of 1000 pairs boots contained in our signal Q 254 dated 30 Nov .

41

Immediate

CIPHER

"IN" CIPHER MESSAGE deciphered 020600A.

6499/6509

From: HQ MAAF CMF
To Action: MAAF Algiers
Info: AFSC ROME AFSC BARI AFSC NAPLES
214 Group MMIA.

011900A

SECRET

SECRET. Q 260.

- (1) Subject is policy for clothing of Italian Air Force.
- (2) Have discussed with AFHQ the policy and channels of supply for clothing the Italian Air Force for which they disclaim all responsibility. Until recently clothing of the Italian Air Force was organized through international pool which is now only available for Iti Ities repeat Iti Ities.
- (3) MMIA now responsible only for Italian Army personnel Bri Ities repeat Bri Ities repeat Army personnel. AFSC responsible for Air Force personnel Bri Ities repeat Air Force personnel. *AIR FORCE*
- (4) AFHQ have promised to provide all possible assistance to meet clothing requirements for immediate destitute cases among Bri Ities and further to provide about mid-January 24000 suits green battle dress. But it is repeated that NO boots can be made available from this source.
- (5) Green battle dress mentioned in previous paras loaned and must be replaced to AFHQ as soon as supplies become available from normal provisioning action. AFHQ unable to assist in any way with regard to boots repeat boots.
- (6) Request you take provisioning action direct on Air Ministry for full complement of Italian Air Force requesting Air Ministry confirm scale is to be PAN 338 at the same time asking Air Ministry to state source of supply. It may be assumed that supplies from Italian sources for all items now nearly exhausted.
- (7) After discussion with AFHQ G-4 and Q(AE) AFHQ consider provisioning action.

SECRET. Q 260.

- (1) Subject is policy for clothing of Italian Air Force.
- (2) Have discussed with AFHQ the policy and channels of supply for clothing the Italian Air Force for which they disclaim all responsibility. Until recently clothing of the Italian Air Force was organized through international pool which is now only available for Iti Ities repeat Iti Ities.
- (3) IMIA now responsible only for Italian Army personnel Bri Ities repeat Bri Ities repeat Army personnel. AFSC responsible for Air Force personnel Bri Ities repeat Air Force personnel. *AIR FORCE*
- (4) AFHQ have promised to provide all possible assistance to meet clothing requirements for immediate destitute cases among Bri Ities and further to provide about mid-January 24000 suits Green battle dress. But it is repeated that NO boots can be made available from this source.
- (5) Green battle dress mentioned in previous paras loaned and must be replaced to AFHQ as soon as supplies become available from normal provisioning action. AFHQ unable to assist in any way with regard to boots repeat boots.
- (6) Request you take provisioning action direct on Air Ministry for full complement of Italian Air Force requesting Air Ministry confirm scale is to be FAN 338 at the same time asking Air Ministry to state source of supply. It may be assumed that supplies from Italian sources for all items now nearly exhausted.
- (7) After discussion with ~~ASX~~ G-4 and Q(AE) AFHQ consider provisioning action at any lower level will only lead to further discussion and delays.
- (8) AFSC are being instructed to inform 214 Group copy to this HQ of outstanding requirements for destitute Air Force Bri Ities mentioned in para 4 above. AFSC also being instructed that consolidated demands for clothing must be submitted by them direct to 214 Group who will then take the usual supply or provisioning action through the normal channels.
- (9) It is repeated that the supply or distribution of clothing to Air Force Bri Ities is an RAF commitment and cannot be considered in anyway the responsibility of AFHQ NOR of IMIA.

45
IMMEDIATE.

0167

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RAAC MESSAGE FORM

CIPHER	CALL	CIRCUIT No.	PRIORITY	TRANSMISSION INSTRUCTIONS	
		NR 6512	Immediate.		
SPACES WITHIN RED LINES FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY					
FROM (A)		HQ MAAF CMF		DATE-TIME OF ORIGIN	
				011900A	
TO (FOR ACTION)		HQ 214 Group		AD 2/15/19	
TO (FOR INFORMATION)		MAAF Algiers (MIA) AFSC Rome		MESSAGE INSTRUCTIONS	
				GR	
(REF. No.)		Q 262		(SECURITY CLASSIFICATION)	
				SECRET.	

SECRET

- (1) Subject is supply of boots to Italian Air Force.
- (2) Ref t his HQ signal Q 254 dated 30 Nov it is requested that the boots be delivered to the Italian clothing depot Mungivacca Bari and NOT repeat POT to MIA.
- (3) You are requested to note that all supplies of clothing for the Italian Air Force should be issued to this depot only and that the subsequent distribution is the responsibility of the AFSC.

HEADQUARTERS
11 DEC 1944
A. C.

H. C. DIST
INFO ACTION: LAND FORCES
AIR FORCES S/C

LOCAL DISTRIBUTION

PRECEDENCE:
ORIGINATING SECTION:
A. G. AUTHENTICATION:
ORIGINATOR'S AUTHENTICATION:

deciphered 020600A.

THI OR TOR OM

TIME CLEARED 43

020855

214 Group (R) D of MTS Macat (R) M M 1A
(R) AFSC Route

Ad 15/19

1/12

(5)

SECRET

From AS MAF Q 254 30th

- 1/ On instructions from AOA you are authorized to make immediate issue of 1000 pairs of boots through MMIA to AFSC's of Allied Commission
- 2/ Standard grade must be issued if records are not available
- 3/ AF HQ have been requested to expedite their reply to second addressee Q 311 28/11

✓ *Det -*
Military Mission Italian Army
AF Ce Rome

T00 20100 A
 T06 20201 A
 T0 D0 2000 A

H. R. G. W.

See folio 6 ⁴²

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8 8
AQ 15/19. 4

MMIA

29 1215 A

HQ MAAP ALGIERS

FREEDOM for QAF

AIR FORCES SUB COM

AQ 2289

RESTRICTED

ONE THOUSAND BOOTS LOANED I.A.F. FROM MMIA STOCKS ON REQUEST

AIR SUB COMMISSION ON 20 NOV 44

See Folio 3

QAF
ORD

1 Rof to MM-9 Rome *8/29* (35283)
Pass

NR57/AG23/29 ROUT

QVR2 - 6

TO AFHQ R AIR FORCE SUBCOMMISSION ALLIED COMMISSION ROME

HQ MAAF CMF HQ ~~NO 214~~ NO 214 GROUP

AIR FORCES SUBCOMMISSION ALLIED COMMISSION BAR:

FROM HQ MAAF ALGIERS

MMIA ROME

QOX GR--- BT

Q311 NOVEMBER 2TH 1944

ATTENTION ~~ACFT~~ QCAED LIEUTENANT COLONEL LOAN

(1) REFERENCE AIR FORCES SUBCOMMISSION ROME SIGNAL

REQ 286 NOVEMBER 27TH *2*

(2) RELEASE OF CLOTHING AND BOOTS FOR ITALIAN AIR FORCE

TO AFSC/AC THROUGH MMIA WAS REQUESTED IN

MY TWO LETTERS MAAF (CR/S7187/1/E1 DATED *1*

NOVEMBER 20TH AT DESIRE OF QCAED REQUEST

QCAED GIVE DEFINITE AND FINAL RULING ON

THIS POINT

(3) ALSO REQUEST QCAED STATE

EXTENT TO WHICH SUPPLIES ALREADY REQUESTED

BY THIS HEADQUARTERS ARE LIKELY TO

BE FORTHCOMING AND PROBABLE DATE OF RELEASE

TOGETHER WITH ADVICE CONCERNING ONE THOUSAND

PAIRS BOOTS AS SPECIALLY URGENT RELEASE

(4) IN MEANTIME WILL AIR FORCES

SUBCOMMISSION SIGNAL THIS HEADQUARTERS R

AR/15/19

29/11

43/29

NOVEMBER 20TH AT DESIRE OF QCAE) REQUEST
QCAE) GIVE DEFINITE AND FINAL RULING ON
THIS POINT

(3) ALSO REQUEST QCAE) STATE
EXTENT TO WHICH SUPPLIES ALREADY REQUESTED
BY THIS HEADQUARTERS ARE LIKELY TO
BE FORTHCOMING AND PROBABLE DATE OF RELEASE
TOGETHER WITH ADVICE CONCERNING ONE THOUSAND
PAIRS BOOTS AS SPECIALLY URGENT RELEASE
(4) IN MEANTIME WILL AIR FORCES

SUBCOMMISSION SIGNAL THIS HEADQUARTERS R
AFHQ ~~QCAE)~~ QCAE) ONLY DEFINITE R DEFINITE
IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS OF BBOOTS

SINCE UNDERSTOOD DURING RAMSEENS RECENT VISIT
THAT ONE THOUSAND R ONE THOUSAND PAIRS
WOULD MEET IMMEDIATE NEED (5) STOCKS OF
BOOTS HELD BY NO 114 HU ARE NEW R NEW
AND THEREFORE UNDER TERMS OF AG400/105

DO DATED 22ND SEPTEMBER NOT R NOT
AVAILABLE FOR ISSUE TO ITALIAN ARMED
FORCES STOP HEADQUARTERS NO 214 GROUP TO
NOT NO R NO ISSUES AUTHORISED FROM STOCKS
OF NEW BOOTS

BT 261812A

SENT AGS AR K

RD NR57 AT 0435A RVN AR

See file

Outgoing Message

From : Air Forces Sub Commission, AC. Rome

To : AFHQ

(R) HQ MAAF (Rear) ENAF

(R) HQ MAAF CMP

(R) HQ No. 214 Group RAF CMP

(R) Air Forces Sub Commission, AC. Bari

(R) MMIA by hand

Secret R.EQ 286 T00 271715 / November 1944 (.)

For Q(AE) Branch AFHQ and any action possible by other

addressees (.) Subject is Boots and Clothing for IAF (.)

Second addressees letter S/ 7187/1/S.I. of 20th November refers (.)

Position of personnel of Operational Italian Air Force now

most serious (.) Shortage of boots and clothing causing spread

of defection (.) Have consulted MMIA who see no reason why

releases should be made through them and who suggest bulk

releases should be made by first addressee to this Sub Commission

for detailed issue (.) Ten thousand complete outfits dire

necessity this moment (.) Men fighting against common foe not

as well cared for as POWs (.) Understood 214 Group subsidiary

114 MU hold large stocks boots (.) Could release be arranged

of few thousand pairs against replacement in kind later date

(R) MMLA by hand

Secret R.EQ 286 TOC 271715 November 1944 (.)
For Q(AS) Branch AFHQ and any action possible by other
addressees (.) Subject is Boots and Clothing for IAF (.)
Second addressees letter S/ 7187/L/S.L. of 30th November refers (.)
Position of personnel of Operational Italian Air Force now
most serious (.) Shortage of boots and clothing causing spread
of disaffection (.) Have consulted MMLA who see no reason why
releases should be made through them and who suggest bulk
releases should be made by first addressee to this Sub Commission
for detailed issue (.) Ten thousand complete outfits dire
necessity this moment (.) Men fighting against common foe not
as well cared for as POWs (.) Understood 214 Group subsidiary
114 MU hold large stocks boots (.) Could release be arranged
of few thousand pairs against repayment in kind later date
when official supplies for IAF released by AFHQ (.) Impossible
to overstress gravity of position (.)

To be encyphered if sent by W/T

TOC 271715 a

Priority Important

[Signature]
J. WALTON, S/LDR,
AIR VICE MARSHAL,
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

AFSC/R/600/EOX

Sec-File 403

From : Air Forces Sub Commission, AF. Rome
To : Land Forces Sub Commission, AF. AF.
Date : 25th November 1944
ref. : AFSC/R/600/TQ.

11/15/11

Ydu

SUPPLIES TO ITALIAN AIR FORCE

Enclosed herewith for information copy of letters "AAF(R)/
/S. 7137/1/E.L., dated 20th November, to Allied Forces Headquarters,
received from Mediterranean Allied Air Forces (RAF), P.N.A.P.

W. A. S. H.

A. MILTON, S/IDE,

AIR VICE MARSHAL,

AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

SUPPLIES TO ITALIAN AIR FORCE

enclosed herewith for information copy of letters "AAF(R)/
/S. 7187/L/E.L., dated 20th November, to Allied Forces Headquarters,
received from Mediterranean Allied Air Forces (Rear), P.M.A.F.

W. Walton

P. WALTON, S/LDR,

W. Walton
AIR VICE MARSHAL,

AIR OFFICER COMMANDING.

Leffellio 39

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

From : Headquarters Mediterranean Allied Air Force, (Rear), SWAF
 To : Allied Force Headquarters (attention 'Q' (AE) Branch).
 Copy to : Headquarters Mediterranean Allied Air Force, CMF.
 Allied Commission, Air Forces Sub Commission, Rome.
 HQ No. 214 Group, Royal Air Force, CMF.
 Date : 20th November 1944.
 Ref. : MAAP(R) /S.7187/E.1.

SUPPLY OF CLOTHING TO ITALIAN AIR FORCE

Reference is made to AFHQ directive AG.400/105 D-C., dated 22nd September 1944, and to verbal conversation on 17th November, Lieutenant Colonel Sloan, Wing Commander Case and Ramsden upon the subject of supply of clothing and necessities to the Italian Air Force.

2. The Italian Tactical Air Force comprises a total of approximately 3000 men. Of them approximately 4,500 are employed with the USAAF, which will, under the terms of AG.400/105 D-C., be responsible for their maintenance of approximately 26,500 Italian Air Force personnel.
3. As discussed with Lieutenant Colonel Sloan, it is requested that release of quantities of clothing and necessities as detailed in paragraph 1 of Annex "B" of AG.400/105 D-C., might be made, through MMIA, as under:
 20,000 sets to the Air Forces Sub Commission of the Allied Commission, to be delivered under Allied Commission, Air Forces Sub Commission arrangements, to the Main Italian Air Force Depot, Mugliavacca, Bari.
 4,000 sets to HQ No. 214 Group, to be delivered to No. 114 Maintenance Unit.
4. It would be appreciated if the items quoted in paragraph 4 of Annex "B" to AG.400/105 D-C., might be released through MMIA already green.
5. The Air Forces Sub Commission of the Allied Commission and HQ No. 214 Group have been instructed that all requests for release of replacement supplies are to be made through this HQ, who will co-ordinate the requirement and submit to your Headquarters.

Reference is made to AFHQ directive AG.400/105 D-O, dated 23rd September 1944, and to verbal conversation on 17th November, Lieutenant Colonel Sloman, Wing Commander Gase and Ramsden upon the subject of supply of clothing and necessities to the Italian Air Force.

2. The Italian Tactical Air Force comprises a total of approximately 31000 men. Of them approximately 4,500 are employed with the USAAF, which will, under the terms of AG.400/105 D-O, be responsible for their maintenance of approximately 20,500 Italian Air Force personnel.

3. As discussed with Lieutenant Colonel Sloman, it is requested that release of quantities of clothing and necessities as detailed in paragraph 1 of Annex "B" of AG.400/105 D-O, might be made, through MMIA, as under:

20,000 sets to the Air Forces Sub Commission of the Allied Commission, to be delivered under Allied Commission, Air Forces Sub Commission arrangements, to the Main Italian Air Force Depot, Mungivacca, Bari.

4,000 sets to HQ No. 214 Group, to be delivered to No. 114 Maintenance Unit.

4. It would be appreciated if the items quoted in paragraph 4 of Annex "B" to AG.400/105 D-O, might be released through MMIA already given.

5. The Air Forces Sub Commission of the Allied Commission and HQ No. 114 Group have been instructed that all requests for release of replacement supplies are to be made through this HQ, who will co-ordinate the requirement and submit to your Headquarters.

A.M.R. Ramsden
Wing Commander,
for Director of Maintenance & Supply,
Headquarters MAIF (RAF) WAAF

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0179

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

1000 pgs released on loan
AQ 64/574 J. 20 Nov
Supers J. 37

W. C. Allen

From : Headquarters Mediterranean Allied Air Forces (Hear) MAAF
To : Allied Force Headquarters (attention 'Q' (AK) Branch.
Copy to : Headquarters Mediterranean Allied Air Forces, MAF
Allied Commission, Air Forces Sub Commission, Rome
Date : 20th November 1944
Ref. : MAAF(R) S.7187/1/R.1.

SUPPLY OF BOOTS TO ITALIAN AIR FORCE

Reference is made to this Headquarters' letter of even reference and date upon the question of supply of clothing to the Italian Air Force.

2. As requested in conversation Lt. Col. Sloan, Wing Commander Ramsdne on 17th November 1944, it would be appreciated if an immediate release could be made through MIA of 1500 pairs of boots to the Air Forces Sub Commission of the Allied Commission.
3. As previously explained, this is a most urgent requirement, as Italian Air Force personnel employed in operational squadrons with the Royal Air Force, and working in the open, under adverse weather conditions, are without boots and are shod in wooden sabots only.

SUPPLY OF BOOTS TO ITALIAN AIR FORCE

Reference is made to this Headquarters' letter of even reference and date upon the question of supply of clothing to the Italian Air Force.

2. As requested in conversation Lt. Col. Sloan, Wing Commander Ramsdne on 17th November laid, it would be appreciated if an immediate release could be made through EMIA of 1000 pairs of boots to the Air Forces Sub Commission of the Allied Commission.
3. As previously explained, this is a most urgent requirement, as Italian Air Force personnel employed in operational squadrons with the Royal Air Force, and working in the open, under adverse weather conditions, are without boots and are shod in wooden sabots only.

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A.M.R. Ramsden,
Wing Commander

for Director of Maintenance & Supply
HQ RAF (Near) WAF

0 1 8 2