

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

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Q15319

Opened

May.

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

10000 / 120 / 337

Q15319 Liaison Log - (Maj Van Kirk) M.M.I.A. 1st 5th Army
Opened May 11, 1945. Closed Aug 17, 1945
May - Aug 1945

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 664
US ARMY

RCV/jed
17 August 1945

SUBJECT: Weekly Liaison Logs 56,57,58 and 59.

TO: Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MIA)
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 18 August 1945:

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

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 US-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.
" " " "B"	" " " " - Units disbanded or to be disbanded
" " " "C"	" " " " - Units being prepared for shipment - 90 officers - 1849 EM.
" " " "D"	" " " " - Units to be transferred to ITI-ITI status in location - 121 officers - 923 EM.
" " " "E"	" " " " - Units still engaged in operation - 50 officers - 1203 EM.

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

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. Fires 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 US-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:

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" " " " "D"	- Units to be transferred to ITI-ITI status in location - 121 officers - 923 EM.
" " " " "E"	- Units still engaged in operation - 50 officers - 1203 EM.

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 ALCOM 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 Ration 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:

15

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

Amount	Destination	Authority	Date
2512	British		Shipped
80	Milan	AMHQ 19095 7 July	15 July
80	Bolsano	MMIA Q 425 11 July	25 July
80	Udine	MMIA Q 440 14 July	25 July
80	Turin	MMIA Q 425 11 July	25 July
50	Genoa	MMIA Q 469 26 July	30 July
54	Bologna	MMIA Q 469 26 July	31 July
332	Fara Sabina	MMIA Q 440 14 July	1 August
140	Grosseto	MMIA Q 469 26 July	12 August
60	Florence	MMIA Q 469 26 July	12 August
110	Rome	MMIA Q 425 11 July	15 August
140	Naples	MMIA Q 425 11 July	15 August
250	Palermo	MMIA Q 425 11 July	15 August
Total 3948		11 July	17 August

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 we 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 even song as LO with 5th Army. It has been an interesting experience. We have come a long way together but the time has come to say goodbye.

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

332	Fera Sabina	26 July	1 August
140	Grosseto	26 July	12 August
60	Florence	26 July	12 August
110	Rome	11 July	15 August
140	Naples	11 July	15 August
250	Palermo	11 July	15 August
Total		3948	17 August

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 we finally did have to use some from CEM 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 CM 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 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 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.

Distribution:
Addressee - 3

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

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 464
US ARMY

RCV/Jad
14 August 1945

P/53/9

SUBJECT: MMIA Liaison Officers Reports.

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

1. Reference your C/31 of 4 June 1945 and CC/1 of 4 July 1945.

2. "G" 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.

m. Patriots have officially turned in their arms but are nevertheless

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.

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-ITIS: 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: 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.

4. "Q" Points.

a. Transport and Fires.

- (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 me 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.

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

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.

4. "Q" 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 me 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.

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.

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

Distribution:
Addressee - 4
File - 1

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

Distribution:
Addressee - 4
File - 1

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 464
US ARMY

SUBJECT: Weekly Liaison Logs 54 and 55.

TO: Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MIA)
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 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-IVIS: 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 TGR 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 yesterday with copy to TGR. In the future, the

RCV/jed
21 July 1945

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

a. Movements of Italian Army 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-ITLs: 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 T34 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 truck 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 T34 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 marching and should all be cleaned out of the depot by the 23rd. As indicated above, rail movement is stymied 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. *One* *has*

d. Italian Rations: In accordance with your signals ST/912 of 18 July and 10/02 of 18 July, will indicate to the MIA 10s 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.

10 4 7 3

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

- e. Uniforms and Equipment: Satisfactory.
- f. Territorial HQs: All functioning.
- 3. General Interest: 5th Army expects to leave here the 15th of August.

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

Distribution:
Addressees: 3
MIA LO MILAN: 1

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Distribution:
Addressee: 3
MIA LO MILAN: 1

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 464
US ARMY

RCW/jad
17 July 1945

SUBJECT: MIA Liaison Officer Reports.

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

1. Reference your G/31 of 4 June 1945 and CC/1 of 4 July 1945.
2. "C" 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 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. 4th Corps American released its area to Two District on 16th of this month. Fifth Army will occupy the PHS 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 Gruppo 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. The Italian commitment from the

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

- 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 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. 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'ness.
1. No change in attitude since my last report.
3. Yes.
- k. Districts are in position. The Italian equipment from the US-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 Nation detail from the 210 Division Dump either located at Modena, its present address, or at the proposed Verona depot. Col. Penrose 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 GM 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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288

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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.

2. No.

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

4. 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.

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

6. None.

3. "Q" Points.

a. Transport.

(1) All Territorial Headquarters are short of transport. Bolzano 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.

b. Rations.

(1) Adequate.

(2) Adequate.

(3) Not adequate.

(4) None except as explained above.

c. Clothing and Equipment.

(1) Satisfactory.

(2) None functioning in area.

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

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

f. None.

3. "Q" Points.

a. Transport.

(1) All Territorial Headquarters are short of transport. Bolzano 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.

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.

*Final all info
transmitted*

Distribution:
Addresses - 4
File - 1

NO
R.C. VAN KIRK
Major, Inf.,
Sr. (MIA) LO,
5th Army

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

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 464
US ARMY

SUBJECT: Weekly Liaison Logs 52 and 53.

TO:

Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MLIA)
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 7 July 1945:

- a. Movements of Italian Units: See Weekly Status Reports:
- b. Arrivals and Departures: Capte, The Lord Westbury and Fox, and Majors Martin and Fossett, and Major Fromeman 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 Parks for captured vehicles from Army Ordnance are to go through all the Ordnance 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 AMG and for the maintenance of POW, 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 83 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.

Good

Poor

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Major Martin and Fossett, and Major Fromman 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 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 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 AMF and for the maintenance of POW, 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 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 Q13/2 of same date, I went to San Martino In Spino, the old Italian Remount Depot now being run by the 7th Vet Hospital (B), Major Cabban O.C., under AFHQ direction. There I met Major Fromman (B) representing the Agricultural Sub-Commission A.C., Capt. Andreo Benazzi (I) from Ministry of War, Rome, Col. Giovanni Di Dornazio (I), Vet Director from Territorial HQ #6 at Bologna and Col. Caselli Oreste (I) former C.O. of the Remount 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 FX19095 of 7 July.

2881

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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 CESSANO. 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 Hqs: 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&R in Ordnance.

Distribution:
Addressee : 3
MILIA LO MILAN: 1

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

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

to the lack of cooperation as the depot, everything has been running smoothly and we have received 100% cooperation.

d. Uniforms and Equipment: Satisfactory.

e. Territorial HQs: 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&R in Ordinance.

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

Distribution:

Addressee : 3

MILA LO MILAN: 1

0827

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

RESTRICTED

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 461

RCV/jad
3 July 1945

SUBJECT: MMIA Liaison Officer Reports.

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

1. Reference your G/31 of 4 June 1945.

2. "Q" Points.

a. The only encroachment on Italian territory at the present time is that French troops occupy the high ground from the Colli di Tenda Pass area down to Ventimiglia.

b. Two regiments of French Infantry.

c. Apparent French intentions are to control the high ground on the water shed in order that the Italians won't be looking down on the French again but the French want the commanding territory this time. It is rumored however, that the French will withdraw the 10th of this month and may offer to reimburse Italy for any damage to Italian territory as a result of French occupation. This may pave the way for the French claiming damages as a result of the previous Italian invasion of France and their occupation of French territory.

d. The 34th American Division is assembling at Torino, leaving only the South African division on the Italian-French border. All of this area is under Allied Military Government. There has been some dissension between the French soldiers and the Carabinieri but not of serious proportions. The Legnano Gruppi is on the Swiss and German border and the Folgore on the Austrian.

e. Not Known.

f. None.

g. Satisfactory.

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

i. The Italian troops have an unfavorable impression of the Base Depot at Cesano because of unsatisfactory housing conditions and inadequate welfare and training equipment. I appreciate however, this depot is only

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time is that French troops occupy the high ground from the Colli di Tenda Pass area down to Vantimiglia.

- b. Two regiments of French Infantry.
- c. Apparent French intentions are to control the high ground or the water shed in order that the Italians won't be looking down on the French again but the French want the commanding territory this time. It is rumored however, that the French will withdraw the 10th of this month and may offer to reimburse Italy for any damage to Italian territory as a result of French occupation. This may pave the way for the French claiming damages as a result of the previous Italian invasion of France and their occupation of French territory.

d. The 54th American Division is assembling at Torino, leaving only the South African division on the Italian-French border. All of this area is under Allied Military Government. There has been some dissension between the French soldiers and the Carabinieri but not of serious proportions. The Legnano Gruppi is on the Swiss and German border and the Folgore on the Austrian.

e. Not Known.

f. None.

g. Satisfactory.

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

i. The Italian troops have an unfavorable impression of the Base Depot at Cesano because of unsatisfactory housing conditions and inadequate welfare and training equipment. I appreciate however, this depot is only used by the Combat Groups. Will attempt however, to create generally a better attitude towards CESANO.

j. Yes.

k. Yes.

l. There are no organized patriot bands operating now.

m. Patriots have officially turned in their arms. As told of one AMG officer who had the Partisans parade past an arsenal and hand in their arms at the front door and they marched right on around to the back door and drew them out again. The AMG officer reported to his superiors compliance with the AMG directive for disarming the patriots and that all the partisan arms were safely in the arsenal. His AMG chief came down to make an

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No.

p. Morale of Italian troops working for US and Ministry of War is reasonably satisfactory. Their main complaint is that classes in the North are not being called up.

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

None.

3. "Q" Points.

• Transport.

(1) All Territorial Headquarters are short of transport except Bolzano and Bologna.

(2) Have had one report of Recovery Commission #21 taking illegal possession of one German vehicle and not turning it over to 5th Army. Am investigating now.

(3) Major Edwards is ready to start operating as soon as he can get some vehicles to work on.

h. Rationes.

(1) Adequato.

(2) Adequate.

(3) Not adequate.

(L) None except as proposed by your H2.

c. Clothing and Equipment.

(1) Satisfactory as to US-ITIS.

col. New Assistant to my Assistant 1702.

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

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

r. None.

s. "Q" Points.

a. Transport.

(1) All Territorial Headquarters are short of transport except Bolzano and Bologna.

(2) Have had one report of Recovery Commission #21 taking illegal possession of one German vehicle and not turning it over to 5th Army. Am investigating now.

(3) Major Edwards is ready to start operating as soon as he can get some vehicles to work on.

b. Rations.

(1) Adequate.

(2) Adequate.

(3) Not adequate.

(4) None except as proposed by your HQ.

c. Clothing and Equipment.

(1) Satisfactory as to US-ITIS.

(2) None functioning in my immediate area.

(3) Not known.

d. Accommodation and Camps.

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

(2) None.

F. C. Van Kirk
R. C. VAN KIRK
Major, Inf.,
Sr. (SMIA) Co,
5th Army

2878

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2

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

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 464, US ARMY

SUBJECT: Weekly Liaison Logs 50 and 51.

TO: Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MILIA)
APO 374, 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 intercessants 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-ITIS: Receipts 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 2980 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 SOS.

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 June on the subject.

(with Appx) ✓
RCV/jad
27 June 1945
J. V. H.

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

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 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. G-4 has said that as soon as the AFHQ signal FX96701 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-IFIS: 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 TSB. As indicated to you in the 2d Indorsement of a buck slip on the 23rd of June, same subject, 74 officers and 2980 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 SOS.

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 June on the subject.

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

f. General Interest: I still like peacetime soldiering on Lake Garda. Thought the MAC captain was coming up to check on me before the curtain finally lowered on 5th Army. 2877

Distribution:

Addressee: 3

MIA LO 2 Dist Milano: 1

2877
R.D. VAN KIRK
Major, Inf.,
Sr. (MIA) LO
5th Army

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

COPY

PENDIX A

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

INCOMING MESSAGE

FROM: FREEDOM

PREG: PRIORITY

TDG JUNE 171602H

REF NO: FX94678

CLASS: RESTRICTED

TDR: 171919B

TO: FIFTH ARMY:: EIGHTH ARMY REAR:: DISTONE

INFO: MMIA

RESTRICTED:

ALL CAPTURED STOCKS OF ITALIAN MILITARY AUTOMOTIVE SPARES INCL TIRES NOT
REQUIRED FOR MAINTENANCE OF ITALIAN VEHICLES UNDER CONTROL OF ADDRESSES
WILL BE TURNED OVER TO MMIA AS SOON AS MMIA CAN ACCEPT THEM (.) SIGNED
SACMED CITE FHQAE (.) FOR MMIA YOUR Q358 OF 15 JUNE REFERS

2876

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

COPY

APPENDIX B

INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Captured Enemy Material

IND NO.	FROM	TO	DATE	
1	G-4 Rear	MMIA LO Fifth Army	18 Jun 1945	1. Advise Army Ordnance immediately of MMIA position, as referred to in attached cable, and releases will be made as surpluses are determined. 2. Please return to Supply Division with information as to action taken. FOR THE AC OF S, G-4: MAX E. WARE Major, QMC Asst G-4
2	Sr MMIA LO	Army Ordnance	21 Jun 1945	MMIS is prepared to accept surpluses referred to. Request you advise me when available, where and how much, and I will immediately cause the necessary action to be taken. R.C. VAN KIRK Major, Inf., Sr. (MMIA) LO, 5th Army
3	ORD	SR MMIA LO	24 Jun 1945	1. Reference telephone conversation Major Van Kirk and Major Kicks, determination of surplus captured stocks of Italian Military automotive spares will be made following a joint survey of CEM dumps by representatives of MMIA and this office. 2. Ordnance will arrange tour of CEM dumps when your representative (Major Edwards) contacts this office. FOR THE ARMY ORDNANCE OFFICER: A.B. HICKS Major, Ord Dept Assistant 2875

0 4 9 1
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

C O P Y

APPENDIX C

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
Office of the Army Ordnance Officer
APO 464 US Army

26 June 1945

MEMORANDUM:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Major H. F. H. EDWARDS, Headquarters MMIA has the authority to move the captured Ordnance stock in CASERMA Principe EUGENIA SAVOIA, BAGGIO. MMIA will release to Fifth Army Ordnance any parts required to maintain Fifth Army vehicles. In compliance with AFHQ radio FX 94673, MMIA may use any of the above stocks to maintain organic transportation.

FOR THE ARMY ORDNANCE OFFICER:

/s/ W.J. CLARK
Lt Col, Ord Dept
Asst Ordnance Officer

2874

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 604 US ARMY

RCV/jed
9 June 1945

SUBJECT: Weekly Liaison Logs #45 and 49.

TO: Land Forces Sub Commission A.G. (MFA)
APO 544, US Army

1. In conformity with G/21 directive of 21 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 7th Army AMG to put out the directive, copy attached and marked Appendix A. This should help considerably.

b. Italian Accidents with MC Transport: An alarming number of accident reports by MCs 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 such 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. 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

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

785020

c. Conferences: Routine.d. Inspections: None2. 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 AMG to put out the directive, copy attached and marked Appendix A. This should help considerably.

b. Italian Accidents with MD Transport: An alarming number of accident reports by MPs 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. **2873** 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 Petrol 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.

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

d. Partisans: AMO is getting them disarmed 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 "Sally" 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 AMG hotels in Milano instead of eating the Italian military rations they should. Col. Rose didn't like the transit camp idea we had last winter in Florence but at that you got the rations on an SF/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. Reggie 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.

g. Italian Military Hospitals: Col. Reggie 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 Bandenize 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 State's Report showed HQ officers and 11375 EM.

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

l. General Interest: Estimates in card, the rest in file.

2872

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

785020

and not released to the Italian. 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 Ornance Parks, the CO can no doubt be obtained when all are finally released.

g. 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 Bandenira Hospital which is smaller but more in keeping with their requirements for the regular Italian military hospital was larger then 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 Status Report showed 742 officers and 17375 EN.

2872

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

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

Distribution:
Addressee: 3
MILA LO 2 Dist Milano: 1

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

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

Appendix

HEADQUARTERS
AND FIFTH ARMY
A.P.O. 404, 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 210 Italian Infantry Division, HQ Fifth Army, who will arrange in due course for the collection of material.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL HUME:

DISTRIBUTION:

S.C.A.O.'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

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

2871

Reproduced by Headquarters Fifth Army (G-4 Rear)

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 464RCV/jad
29 May 1945

SUBJECT: Weekly Liaison Log #47.

TO: Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (AMIA)
APO 594, 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, MILIA-REMS, just reported in accordance with your signal Q266 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. Gandino 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 Cerica HQ #6, it was 24 which have been delivered. They were all Italian military trucks. Reference your Q270 of 18 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 buck 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 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 AFHQ sent their signal FX175707 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 REMS expert, says that he can get into the cab of an Italian truck and if it has Serie 300000 on the dial...

2870

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

c. Conferences: Routine.d. Inspections: None.2. Events:

e. 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. Candino 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 Cerion HQ #6, it was 24 which have been delivered. They were all Italian military trucks. Reference your Q270 of 18 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 buck 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 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 AFHQ sent their signal PX7570/ 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 G, 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 REE 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 contracted 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 anyhow". Maybe he is right, but again of course I think I am right.

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

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 Allies 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 "patriotism". Col. Troy, 4th 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: G-4 is so apprehensive about Italian material that they wouldn't approve the attached copy of a signal marked Appendix E which I prepared for dispatch to you. It is all right for Col. Megale to come up here but again a lawyer here is afraid that G-4 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 unnecessary in order that I may report my own impressions.

d. Uniform and Equipment: Situation satisfactory.

e. Replacements: No problem.

f. Italian Military Hospitals: Am advised that 57 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.

3. 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.

2869

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

785020

tributed to their "partisan" work. They, as 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: C-4 is so apprehensive about Italian material that they wouldn't approve the attached copy of a signal marked Appendix E 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 MIA would say that my reference to Italian medical stores ~~xxxxxxx~~ is an admission against interest and might be binding on the Army. I deliberately didn't refer 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 uncensored in order that I may report my own impressions.

d. Uniforms and Equipment: Situated satisfactory.

e. Replacements: No problem.

f. Italian Military Hospitals: Am advised that 59 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 Turino and Milano the last information I had was that they couldn't function and weren't in uniform because of the partisan situation.

3. 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.

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

Distribution:
Addressee: 3 copies
Major Edwards: 1 copy

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

COPY

APPENDIX A

COPY

FROM: MMIA

OR

15 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 MMIA LO Major V.K. rept V.K. QP270 Signal any difficulties.

0502

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APPENDIX B

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

RCV/EJO/jad

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

APPROVED: _____

EDWARD J. O'NEILL
Colonel, GSC,
AC of S, G-4

TO: MMIA (ACTION)

Edited Literal

Restricted. From Senior MMIA LO Fifth Army, subject Italian Military Vehicles reference your Q270 of 13 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 Brunico 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.

Distributions:

C/S

AG Records

Signal

G-4

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

COPY

APPENDIX C

COPY

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Ref No: 2027

Class: Secret

Date: 20 May 1945

Time Date

Pres: Priority

Originating Section: G-4, Rear

Approved:

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

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

COPY

APPENDIX D

COPY

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

INCOMING MESSAGE

FROM: AFHQ

PREC: R

TDG: May 15 1117B

REF NO: FX 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-0 of 22 April. Paragraph 9B and 9J 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 MMIA reference paragraph 9c basic directive and AFHQ Circular Number 5 dated 11 April current.

0505

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

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, U. S. A.,
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/4/1997 of 6 May 1945, Italian medical stores and machinery from Florence Pharmaceutical Institute have now been located at Marano and Feltre. Are under guard by Allied formations.

2864

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO 464 US ARMY

RCV/jed
22 May 1945

SUBJECT: Weekly Liaison Log #46.

TO: Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (NMIA)
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 week ending 19 May 1945:

- a. Movements of Italian Units: See Weekly Status Reports.
- b. Arrivals and Departures: Majors Edwards and Austin, REME-NMIA.
- 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 FX75707 of the 15th, same subject, Krial CMS contends it gives NMIA 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 NMIA'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 AMB 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 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

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No. 785020

b. Arrivals and Departures: Majors Edwards and Austin, REME-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 FX75707 of the 15th, same subject, Krisl CEMS 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 Cerics, 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 AMG 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 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 ADMS and S&T 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 1,500 at Bologna. I don't know how many at Milano and Turino because they aren't drawing the Italian components of the ration from the 210 Division. Have told Apostoli, the Italian L.O. with 5th Army QM, to cut them off and to be sure he feeds none over 30 days.

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

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 #1 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.

3. 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.

Distribution:
Addressees: 3 copies

Red
H.B. VAN KIRK
Major, Inf.,
Sr. (MILIA) L.O.,
5th Army

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

Distribution:
Addressee: 3 copies

Red
R.C. VAN ZIRE
Major, Inf.,
Sr. (MMIA) L.O.,
5th Army

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

(2)

Subject; Naval Material.Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)

ROME

C/53/9

14 May 45.To: A.C. for Naval Sub Comm.

The following report received from M.M.I.A. L.O.
5th Army is forwarded for information -

"Reference AFHQ Circular No. 29 of 9 Dec 1944.

For the information of the Naval Forces Sub
Commission. It is reported to me that there is an Italian
submarine complete, located in a cement lock near Riva
540-040 sheet A, head of Lake Garda.

If upon examination I find this place is not properly
guarded and posted, I will have Recovery Commission No. 21
post guards pending delivery to proper authority."

RAC

R.A. CURTIES Lt. Col.
for Major General.
M.M.I.A.

RAC/fem

2861

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

WILSONPIDE REFERENCE SHEET

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Naval Material

RCV/Jad

IND. NO.	FROM	TO	DATE	
	Sr MMIA LO	MMIA	11 May 1945	1. Reference AFHQ Circular No 29 of 9 Dec 1944. 2. For the information of the Naval Forces Sub-Commission. It is reported to me that there is an Italian submarine complete, located in a cement lock near Riva 540-040 sheet A, head of Lake Garda. 3. If upon examination I find this place is not properly guarded and posted, I will have Recovery Commission #21 post guards pending delivery to proper authority. <i>R.C. Van Kirk</i> R.C. VAN KIRK Major, Infantry Sr. (MMIA) L.O., 5th Army
	cc: Rec Comm #21 File			

2860

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020Subject: Aviation Material.Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)

ROME

Q/53/9

14 May 45.To: A.C. for Air Forces Sub Comm.

The following report received from M.M.I.A. L.O.
5th Army is forwarded for information -

"Reference AFHQ Circular No 29 of 9 Dec 1944.

For the information of the Air Forces Sub-
Commission. It is reported to me that there is a large
Italian Air Corps underground assembly plant for aeroplanes
located near Riva 540-040 sheet A at the head of Lake Garda.
There is considerable machinery there consisting of valuable
generators, lathes and similar equipment. There are several
fusilages there and one or two completed planes.

If upon examination I find this place is not
properly guarded and posted, I will have the Recovery Commission
post Guards pending delivery to proper agency."

RAC

R.A. CURTIES Lt. Col.
for Major General.
M.M.I.A.

RAC/fcm

2859

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

INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

Subject: Aviation Material

RCV/jad

IND. NO.	FROM	TO	DATE	
	Sr MMIA LO	MMIA	11 May 1945	Reference AFHQ Circular No 29 of 9 Dec 1944. For the information of the Air Forces Sub-Commission. It is reported to me that there is a large Italian Air Corps underground assembly plant for aeroplanes located near Riva 540-C40 sheet A at the head of Lake Garda. There is considerable machinery there consisting of valuable generators, lathes and similar equipment. There are several fusillages there and one or two completed planes. If upon examination I find this place is not properly guarded and posted, I will have the Recovery Commission post guards pending delivery to proper agency. <i>R.O. Van Kirk</i> R.O. VAN KIRK Major, Infantry Sr. (MMIA) L.O., 5th Army
	cc: Rec Comm File		21	

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