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33

INTERVIEW GIVEN TO SIGMUND JACCHIA, EDITOR OF "IL GIORNALE DEL MATTINO"
BY H.M. ON NOVEMBER 21, 1945.

MI permetterò, anzitutto, di prospettare all'E.V. alcuni quesiti su argomenti d'ordine generale che stanno particolarmente a cuore, in questo momento, al popolo italiano.

Question

- 1) Come considera personalmente, e quale corrispondenza trova ancora oggi nel sentimento del popolo inglese, il contributo dato dall'Italia alla vittoria Alleata sulla Germania?

Answer

- 1) Anyone who has had, as I have, the opportunity of working in Italy for nearly eighteen months, is able to appreciate the contribution which democratic Italy made to the defeat of the German armies in Italy. Those who fought and died naturally come first to one's mind, and I should like to pay a special tribute to the units of the re-organised Italian army who took part in the final offensive alongside the British and American armies, also to the Italian Navy and Air Force and to the partisan formations who so admirably co-operated with Allied Liaison Officers and who bore the long hard months of waiting and disappointment last winter with such fortitude. We must also remember the many thousands of Italians working in labour battalions, in dockyards or in factories who performed essential and useful work and thus enabled the Allied armies to put the maximum number of troops into the fighting line.

It is natural that the details of Italy's effort are not so well-known in England or indeed to anyone outside Italy, but I can, I think, fairly say that the extent of it is now becoming more generally known with a correspondingly favourable change of opinion towards the Italian people.

Question

- 2) La resistenza popolare all'oppressione nazifascista, la guerra partigiana, l'insurrezione nel Nord, il sacrificio di migliaia e migliaia di vite per la causa comune, costituiscono, a suo giudizio, titoli validi per il riconoscimento di un già conseguito riscatto morale del passato fascista?

Answer

- 2) Most certainly. In my opinion not only is Italy's war effort and her sacrifices in blood and wealth a title to recognition of her new attitude but also the strenuous efforts which she is making to revive her political life on a democratic basis, entitle her to friendly consideration by the Allied powers and, speaking for my Government, I think she is receiving such consideration in large measure.

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Question

- 3) E, in conseguenza, anche a prescindere dall'adempiuto patto formale di collaborazione, pensa V.E. che l'Italia democratica debba essere considerata non più come il nemico vinto, ma come il popolo che, scosso il giogo fascista ed abbattuta la dittatura, ha voluto con tutte le sue forze e secondo il suo intimo sentimento, recare il proprio contributo alla guerra antinazista di liberazione?

1798

Answer

- 3) Mussolini's declaration of war at a time when England's ally France was defeated, and England and the British Empire stood alone before the German armies, was an act of cowardly and misguided self-interest, which the British people cannot easily forget. It is natural that the thousands of British who fought against Italian troops in North Africa and elsewhere, must hold the Italian people in some measure responsible for supporting Mussolini's decision, and therefore take legitimate pride in their victory. Nevertheless, as time passes, the British troops in this country have had many opportunities of appreciating Italy's efforts to redeem her past and I believe there are few British now who do not sincerely desire to see Italy's recovery.

As regards your expression "conquered enemy", can anyone who stops to think really believe that we want to treat Italy in this way?

Question

- 4.) Nessuno ignora e misconosce in Italia l'alto spirito di giustizia e di umanità che è antico, tradizionale patrimonio della vita morale, della educazione politica e della civiltà britannica. Non ritiene, tuttavia, che la serenità di giudizio nei confronti del popolo italiano sia, in talune correnti dell'opinione pubblica inglese male influenzata da preconcetti di sfiducia che occorrerebbe pacatamente chiarificare?

Non trova, ad esempio, illogico che, senza tener conto della sostanziale differenza di condizioni esistente fra i due Paesi, si insista nel paragonare la linea e la natura della vita politica inglese e quella attuale dell'Italia, per dedurre che il popolo italiano ha prova di immaturità ad autogovernarsi in regime di libertà e di democrazia?

Non sembra all'E.V. che il pensiero travaglio della vita italiana sul terreno politico sia conseguenza diretta e fatale anzitutto di venti anni di dittatura corruttrice, della ingiusta guerra e delle miserie materiali e morali patite dal Paese?

L'Italia deve rifarsi dalle fondamenta. Deve espellere le scorie di cui il fascismo la ha infettata. Deve darsi nuovi istituti. E' in realtà segno di decadenza e di irreparabile disorientamento l'urto naturale tra correnti e concezioni politiche contrastanti?

E la libertà di pensiero non uscirebbe gravemente minorata da una costrizione del pensiero stesso ai danni di chichessia?

Cio' posto, se V.E. ritiene utile, come credo, una chiarificazione - non importa se in senso positivo o negativo per noi italiani - dei preconcetti avucennati verso il nostro Paese, quali potrebbero essere le forme adeguate, all'infuori dei normali contatti diplomatici e ufficiali?

Quel che si vuole è il conseguimento graduale di una nuova intesa fra i due popoli, intesa che dovrebbe facilitare la ricostruzione effettiva dell'antica amicizia italo-britannica.

Vede utili, allora, secondo questo obbiettivo, contatti più intensi di stampa, tempestivi scambi di informazioni, iniziative culturali, missioni speciali, ecc: quanto, insomma, può mostrare al popolo inglese la vera anima ed i veri intendimenti del popolo italiano, oltre ogni sfavorevole apparenza contingente?

Answer

4. British democracy today is the result of hundreds of years of political evolution in circumstances of peace and freedom from invasion which it has

corrottrice, della ingiusta guerra e delle miserie materiali e morali patite dal Paese?

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Answer

4.

British democracy today is the result of hundreds of years of political evolution in circumstances of peace and freedom from invasion which it has not been the good fortune of many highly civilised European countries to enjoy.

We recognise that the political system which the British have created to suit their own needs would not necessarily suit those of other countries. I do not believe that any responsible British statesman would seek to impose the peculiarities of the British system of government on any other people, nor would he judge any other people democratically incompetent because they chose not to adopt our own views on democracy.

There are, nevertheless, certain fundamental rules of political practice which are common to the constitutions of any country which has the right to call itself truly democratic. They have been repeatedly stated by 1798 Allied leaders during the war. They are:-

1. The freedom of the individual to vote for whom he likes and for what he likes without fear of violence or intimidation.
2. Respect for the law.
3. Respect for the authority of the Government as representing the will of the majority of the people.
4. Respect for the liberty of the minority by the majority and for the authority of the majority by the minority.

There is no reason to believe that the majority of the Italian people are not firmly persuaded of the importance of these rules, and I am sure that no outside power would seek to limit their authority to adopt whatever political system was judged best suited to the needs of the country.

Answer 3) continued

I believe that close understanding between countries can only be founded on full and accurate information, and welcome any exchange of contacts whether political, journalistic or cultural which can serve this end. It is a matter of satisfaction to me that the Italian press is now beginning to have its own correspondents in England, and I look forward to the day when communications between our two countries will have so far improved as to allow a regular exchange of visits by representative figures in all fields of public and professional life.

Question

5) V.E. ha visitato, se non erro, vaste regioni dell'Italia. Quali impressioni ha tratto dai contatti che ha avuto e dalle indagini che ha compiuto? La domanda si riferisce tanto alle condizioni generali del Paese sul terreno economico, che alle possibilità di ripresa industriale e di ricostruzione agricola, possibilità subordinate, naturalmente alla collaborazione amichevole ed agli aiuti Alleati.

Come considera le necessità alimentari dell'Italia - specialmente in vista del prossimo inverno - i rifornimenti di carbone, di materie prime e di manufatti? Quali sono le disposizioni Alleate in proposito?

Answer

5) It is obvious that the war, and in particular the long division of the country into enemy and Allied territory, has done great damage to the economic structure of Italy. Nevertheless, I think that there are hopeful signs of revival.

In the first place the rapidity of the Allied advance in the spring of this year, and the prompt and effective actions of the partisans, prevented the destruction by the Germans of many vital centres of industrial production. The plants are for the most part intact, and only require raw materials and fuel to start work at full pressure. The Allies are doing their best to satisfy Italy's essential needs in this respect, and I may refer you to the recent delivery of substantial quantities of coal, wool, cotton, etc.

Great Britain is doing and will continue to do her best to make such contributions as she can, but it would be unreasonable to expect too much from her.

For nearly six years, Great Britain to a greater extent than any other country in the world, put her national wealth and resources into winning a war from which she has emerged victorious but poor. I am not amongst those who doubt her ability to recover, but we have long years of hard work before us, during which we shall go without many of the things which we enjoyed and even thought we needed before the war. It is natural that we shall put our own needs first. Nevertheless it is in our own interest that there should be a strong and prosperous Italy, and we shall contribute to whatever we can spare.

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Before the war, Italy's economy, geared to Fascist policy, was in many ways extravagant and ill-suited to her needs. I have no doubt that the Italian Government will wish to eliminate or at any rate radically revise those Fascist run or Fascist subsidized industries which contributed nothing to the wealth of the country, and will wish to concentrate Italy's industrial capacity on the manufacture of those things which contribute most to the welfare of her people.

Italy is going to face a hard winter, but at any rate it will be without the hated presence of the Germans on her soil, and I hope that with the improvements of communications allowing for the transport of food from production centres to the cities, the exertions of U.N.R.R.A., the Italian Government and the Allied Commission, she will get through without great suffering, and be well on the road to recovery next spring.

Finally, I should like to associate myself with the remarks of the Italian Foreign Minister in another context. Signor De Gasperi said that whether Italy was or was not a great power politically or militarily, she was certainly a great power in her labour resources. In my opinion there is not only an abundance of labour in this country, there is also a great capacity to work. I have been impressed in my travels through Italy by the outstanding efforts which the Italian people, whether individually or collectively, are making to restore their country. I believe this determination to put their country once more on its feet is a factor of the greatest importance and that as long

- 4 -

Answer (5 continued)

as it lasts Italy need have no fear for the future.

Question

6. Ritene V.E. che il popolo italiano si rende conto di quanto sia stato fatto dalla Gran Bretagna durante questa guerra per difendere la quattro libertà?

Answer

6)

I believe that the Italian people are generally appreciative of the efforts which the British no less than the other Allies made during this war, and that however many faults they may find with the Allies in Italy, they are fully aware that but for their presence the Germans and the Fascist regime would still be firmly installed. Nevertheless, I am bound to say that I am astonished at the wide-spread ignorance which exists in Italy about Great Britain's war effort. In November 1944 the British Government published a White Paper giving details of this stupendous achievement. May I remind you of some of them.

Out of a total population of fortyseven millions, thirty million came within the Government's war-time registration scheme. Of these 17% served in the armed forces, Civil Defence or munitions, 26% in agriculture, mining and other essential industries, and 27% in the building (including airfields and barracks), civil engineering and clothing trades. Only one fifth of the labour at the disposal of the Government was used on work for civilian trades. The labour available for export trade, which was formerly one of the foundations of Great Britain's economy, was reduced to one twentieth of its pre-war figure. 57% of the total male population between the ages of sixteen and forty served in the armed forces; the majority of the remainder worked in munitions factories. The casualties of the U.S. armed forces in the first five years amounted to 563,000; the Merchant Navy, which contributed as much as any other body of men to winning the war, had 30,000 casualties in the same period, while 57,000 civilians, including more than 30,000 women and children, lost their lives through enemy air attacks.

One in every three houses in the U.K. was damaged by enemy action, and one in every twenty-eight destroyed or made totally uninhabitable.

I have no wish to continue this recital indefinitely and figures can be meaningless unless it is understood that behind them lies the story of millions of English men and women living and working under more or less continuous air attack, their homes broken up, and they themselves deprived of practically every comfort or little luxury which makes a life of unremitting hard work bearable.

Further, no set of figures can ever express the full contribution which Great Britain made. To the United Nations' war effort her scientists contributed radiolocation, penicillin, the prefabricated invasion ports, and beachheads in the

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Further, no set of figures can ever express the full contribution which Great Britain made. To the United Nations' war effort her scientists contributed radiolocation, penicillin, the prefabricated invasion ports, and her share in the construction of the atomic bomb. Above all she gave people of all nations faith. It is useless to speculate on what might have happened had Great Britain and the Empire surrendered in 1940. She did not, and by so doing she brought faith and hope to the millions of Europeans who were living under the Nazi domination.

Even now that the war is over, the British people have not come to the end of their sacrifices. One of the first things which the British Government did after the Armistice was to reduce the food and clothing rations. Europe is crying out for supplies, and the British people have willingly foregone part of the rations they had during the war to feed and clothe the destitute people of Europe.

In the effort to win the war Great Britain disposed of the greater part of her foreign assets, and has also lost a large part of her other invisible exports. She has moreover run up very substantial sterling debts to neutral countries and the Empire. A great part of British production is now being turned on to the manufacture of export goods to reduce these debts. It is our hope that before long we shall recapture the markets which we had to surrender during the war, but I cannot emphasise too strongly that the change from war production to peace production will mean practically no relief to the individual Englishman. I think it is important that foreign countries which may be impressed by the signs of Great Britain's apparent wealth should understand that though we have every intention of recovering our former economic position, we have no illusions about the price it is going to cost us.

Question

7) Vorrei permettermi, a questo punto, di proporre a V.E. alcuni quesiti in materia di politica estera:-

- a) Vede la pace italiana come un problema per se stante, o la inquadra insieme all'ordine europeo che le Nazioni Unite si sono proposte di instaurare; ordine di libera e democratica cooperazione, diretto al consolidamento della pace fra i popoli ed alla definitiva estirpazione di ogni residuo fascista?

Answer

7) a) The question of the peace treaty with Italy cannot be considered by itself. Great Britain has obligations towards her Allies.

I can understand and sympathise with Italy's desire for an early revision of her present status. Though I think people here are perhaps somewhat inclined to exaggerate Italy's difficulties. Nevertheless I can see no future for Italy except in a world order established and maintained by all the United Nations

Question

7) b) E quali funzioni dovrà avere l'Italia? Petra' ed in quale veste di decoro, appartenere al concerto delle libere Nazioni europee?

Answer

7) b) For the rest, Italy will ultimately have and indeed has already, an opportunity of making important contributions to international peace and the extirpation of Fascism. Even now she can take steps to see that not only the individuals responsible for Fascism, but also the attitude of mind which produced Fascism are for ever eliminated from her national life. In the future she can appear with her hands cleansed of her immediate past and take the place to which her long tradition of liberty and culture entitle her as a full and equal member of the United Nations.

Question

7) c) Non rivolgo, naturalmente, a V.E. domande specifiche in relazione ai problemi delle frontiere. Potrebbe tuttavia, V.E. manifestarmi a grandi linee il Suo pensiero sui criteri generali d'ordine morale e di diritto che dovrebbero ispirare la pace per l'Italia?

Answer

7) c) The principles governing the British Government's attitude

Question

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Answer

- 7) c) The principles governing the British Government's attitude towards the revision of frontiers have been publicly stated. In common with the Government of the United States, we consider that wherever possible frontiers should be decided on the ethnic principles. We recognize, however, that in certain parts of Europe this principle, owing to the intermingling of local ~~many~~ populations, can either not be applied, or can only partially be applied. It may be that transfers of populations may solve the difficulties. Furthermore, it will be our object to ensure that no fundamental human right is disregarded and that people will be able to live and work securely and peacefully in accordance with their legitimate desires wherever they may be

Question

- 7) d) Che pensa in materia di riparazioni?

Answer

- 7) d) The question of reparations is not for any one of the Allied powers to decide. Nevertheless, I think I may say that His Majesty's Government would not support any claims to reparations which might seriously damage Italy's chances of recovery.

Question

Question

- 7) e) Se la politica dell'Italia democratica non risponde, come e' ovvio, ad obiettivi imperialistici, ma muove, in questo campo, da necessita' di lavoro de da concetti puramente sociali, si puo' inibire all'Italia l'esplicazione di determinate attivita' coloniali?
- f) Date le buone prove offerte in passato, la missione di civilta' adempiuta, gli enormi investimenti di denaro e di fatica, le realizzazioni indubbiamente conseguite, sarebbe giusto togliere all'Italia le colonie pre-fasciste?
- g) E quale, a Suo giudizio, potrebbe essere - in subordinata - il migliore regime coloniale da adottarsi? Collettivo? Individuale?

Answer

- 7) e)f)g) The future of Italy's colonial possessions does not concern the British Government alone; there is, therefore little to say in reply to your questions on this subject. I have no doubt, however, that the British Government will be glad to consider any observations which the Italian Government may care to make and I have no doubt that when the final decisions are taken, Italy's claims for an outlet for her surplus population and for consideration in view of the labour and wealth expended in pre-fascist days will be taken fully into account.

Question

- 8) Sempre a proposito della pace con l'Italia, dato l'aggiornamento della redazione e della firma del trattato, non troverebbe utile, anche e soprattutto agli effetti del consolidamento interno, accordare al nostro Paese uno statuto provvisorio in sostituzione delle attuali condizioni arcaiche che ostacolano gli sviluppi ricostruttivi della vita italiana?

Answer

- 8) The British Government would, I think, certainly be glad to examine most sympathetically any request from the Italian Government for an agreement aimed at restoring Italy's status to something more approaching normality and is well aware that continuance of the armistice regime is irksome to the Italians. Nevertheless, I feel bound to say that there appear to be many misconceptions about the original nature of this instrument, and above all of the extent to which it has been applied and is still being applied. Now that the armistice terms have been published, I think many Italians must be agreeably surprised at the liberal interpretation which has been given to some of its more severe clauses, and will agree that the fact that the Allies have not chosen to exercise their full powers under this instrument is a proof of the confidence in the Italian Government.

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1791

Question

- 9) Preghiamo in ultimo Sir Noel Charles di manifestarci il suo pensiero sulla cooperazione avvenire italo-britannica.

Answer

- 9) This subject is so large that I feel I must confine myself to repeating in general terms what I have already said. The British Government and the British people have, in Mr. Devin's words, no intention of treating Italy as though Mussolini were still in power. The machinery of international settlement is unfortunately often slow and cumbersome; nevertheless, it is our hope that Italy will shortly regain her rightful place in the world, and I look forward to the day when Great Britain and Italy can resume in full the close political, cultural and economic associations which bound our two countries together for so many years before this war.

SECRET AND IMMEDIATE

Subject:- Comments on PARRI'S speech

Land Forces Sub-commission, AG
(M.M.I.A.)

INT/114
18 Oct 45

Headquarters, ALLIED COMMISSION
(for Executive Commissioner)

Ref. your unnumbered letter dated 17 Oct. on above subject, I suggest amendments as below, as giving a truer picture.

Para 2. DELETE and SUBSTITUTE -

"Inevitably A.F.H.Q. controls discharge of classes, so as to ensure that Allied requirements for man power are met. The whole question is affected by the transport and supplies available, the major part of which is being met by the Allies.

On the other hand, Italian wishes have been fully taken into account and, as a result, the discharge of all classes up to 1920 has been authorized and is proceeding."

Para 3. ADD -

"There is a world wide shortage of supplies, which also affects the Allies and what they are able to provide to assist the Italian Military Forces. As a result, the Allies also are not free for what concerns the economic treatment of their own military forces."

Para 5. DELETE and SUBSTITUTE -

"This is true and necessary in order to ensure that Allied requirements are met. On the other hand, full consideration is given to the Italian point of view. For example, the existing layout of Territorial Regions, Districts, Depots, Internal Security Brigades etc. was authorized at the direct request of the Italian Ministry of War."

Para 7. DELETE and SUBSTITUTE -

"Not entirely correct. Control over military means previously manufactured and now existing in ITALY was released to the Italian Ministry of War on 1 Oct. 45; also over military means supplied by the Allies, except for a few critical items in short supply, such as food. Manufacture of additional lethal warlike stores is forbidden."

Para 12. DELETE and SUBSTITUTE -

1789

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

whole question is affected by the transport of supplies. On the other hand, Italian wishes have been fully taken into account and, as a result, the discharge of all classes up to 1930 has been authorized and is proceeding."

Para 3. ADD -

"There is a world wide shortage of supplies, which also affects the Allies and that they are able to provide to assist the Italian Military Forces. As a result, the Allies also are not free for what concerns the economic treatment of their own military forces."

Para 5. DELETE and SUBSTITUTE -

"This is true and necessary in order to ensure that Allied requirements are met. On the other hand, full consideration is given to the Italian point of view. For example, the existing layout of Territorial Regions, Districts, Depots, Internal Security Brigades etc. was authorized at the direct request of the Italian Ministry of War."

Para 7. DELETE and SUBSTITUTE -

"Not entirely correct. Control over military means previously manufactured and now existing in ITALY was released to the Italian Ministry of War on 1 Oct. 45; also over military means supplied by the Allies, except for a few critical items in short supply, such as food. Manufacture of additional lethal warlike stores is forbidden."

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Para 12. DELETE and SUBSTITUTE -

"This is correct as regards personnel indicted and confined by the Allies as war criminals. It would seem that the only other possible category the P.M. could be referring to are certain doubtful cases which the Allies are unwilling to lose control of till a full examination has been made by A.F.H.Q. This category, to the best of our knowledge, totals between 30 and 40."

Para 13. This is not within the purview of Land Forces Sub-commission, AC (M.M.I.A.) to comment on.

cc/

J. Brown
Major-General,
M.M.I.A.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Office of the Executive Commissioner

17 October 1945

SUBJECT: Comments on Parri's Speech

TO : Land Forces Subcommittee, AC, (MMIA)

1. Reference conversation this morning (Gillmore-McCleary) herewith are extracts from Parri's recent speech, together with proposed comments thereon.

2. Would you be good enough to let me know if you agree with the comments, or, if not, what amendments you wish to make? I would be grateful if you will treat this as urgent.

T. H. C. Cleary Lt. Colonel

Chief Staff Officer
To Executive Commissioner

SECRET

SECRET

COMMENTS ON PAPER'S SUMMARY

1. "We cannot change the composition of our military forces."

Composition of forces is a compromise on supply available from Allied sources and local resources; true, a limit has been set on numbers but practically all demands of Ministry of War have been met.

2. "We cannot discharge the various classes."

Italian Government is authorized to discharge classes but must keep within the limitations of required manpower, transport, and supplies. Up to 1920 class, classes have been or are being disbanded.

3. "We are not free for what concerns the economic treatment of the military forces."

True, for the reason that supplies are dependent on what the Allies produce, except regarding pay and welfare, which is entirely Italian.

4. "(We are not free for that concerns) the treatment of prisoners who are being repatriated."

Once prisoners are in Italy the Italian Government has absolute liberty in treatment.

5. "We cannot move military units from one place to another according to our requirements and point of view."

This is true only in AMG territory where all military units are under Allied authority and in the case of Italian troops employed directly by the Allied armies.

6. "We cannot (of course) demobilize them."

Is dealt with at (2).

7. "We cannot dispose of military means, not even of those which we manufacture in Italy, without the approval of the Allies."

Not entirely correct: control over military means manufactured in Italy was released to the Italian Government on 1 Oct 45.

3. "We are not free for what concerns the economic treatment of the military forces."

4. "(We are not free for that concerns) the treatment of prisoners who are being repatriated."

5. "We cannot move military units from one place to another according to our requirements and point of view."

6. "We cannot (of course) demobilize them."

7. "We cannot dispose of military means, not even of those which we manufacture in Italy, without the approval of the Allies."

8. "We can increase and arm the Carabinieri only in accordance with the plans of the Allies."

True, for the reason that supplies are dependent on what the Allies produce, except regarding pay and welfare, which is entirely Italian.

Once prisoners are in Italy the Italian Government has absolute liberty in treatment.

This is true only in AG territory where all military units are under Allied authority and in the case of Italian troops employed directly by the Allied armies.

Is dealt with at (2).

Not entirely correct: control over military means manufactured in Italy was released to the Italian Government on 1 Oct 45; also over military means supplied the Allies except for a few small items in short supply, such as food.

It is correct regarding the increase of the CCNI since that is an army unit; however it is not entirely correct regarding arms since the Italian Government can arm the CCNI as they like within their available resources.

9. "It is impossible to increase the Guardia di Finanza which would be so necessary in these days."

Guardia di Finanza is not an army unit and Italian Government can do as it pleases.

10. "We have difficulties in forming, fitting out and arming auxiliary forces."

The difficulties are due to lack of materials, not the Armistice.

11. "Civilian aviation is forbidden to us."

No comment.

12. "According to the Armistice conditions, we are not free to take action against a certain category of people who have been arrested and whom the Allies keep at their own disposal and who are not at the disposal of the Italian Government."

P.L. presumably means persons interned by the Allies. If so it is incorrect. They have been made available to the Italian Government for trial or even as witnesses provided they are returned to us, or if sentenced are not released or paroled without consent.

13. "The Armistice clauses are limiting us also in the field of the sanctions against collaborationism and fascism. They affect under certain aspect, even the preparation of the elections."

If the second sentence of this quoted paragraph is connected with the first, it is not clear in what way the limitations in the field of sanctions against Fascism are affecting the preparation of the elections. We know of none. Furthermore, if the second sentence is disconnected from the first and means that the Armistice clauses are affecting the preparation of the elections, this is not true.

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

If the second sentence of this quoted paragraph is connected with the first, it is not clear in what way the limitations in the field of sanctions against Fascism are affecting the preparation of the elections. We know of none. Furthermore, if the second sentence is disconnected from the first and means that the Armistice clauses are affecting the preparation of the elections, this is not true.

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

INTER-OFFICE MEMO
LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.
M.M.I.A. ROME

File : ST/249

asR.
(49)
Date : 15 Oct 45

SUBJECT: Incident in N.W. ITALY.

TO : G(Int)

The attached Press cutting and translation are forwarded to you for information. The incident is referred to in the following extract from a report by MMIA LO (ST) N.W. ITALY.

"During the week three members of 3 GT Coy sang the 'Giovinezza' Anthem whilst on parade; the result is shown in attached press cutting".

HFO/gao

A. H. Wilson
Lt.Col.
A.D.S.T.

1782

C O P Y

TRANSLATION

Episode number two is the following.

In an industrial factory at SAMPEDAUONA the small garrison billeted there goes through daily drills (not trifling military drills) but canorous drills.

The invariable tune is the song "Giovinezza".

The workers of the factory hear and.....

We could say that they hear and are stung if this last word were not melodramatic.

Anyhow, as a matter of fact, they could oppose a phonetical contradictory by singing the old and glorious "Hymn of the Labourers". This could eventually divert their attention from the duty of the necessary reconstruction.

Two episodes and two forebodings.

The Royal Navy represented by the W.O. of the "S.Giorgio" and the none the less Royal Army represented by the military songsters under command of Maj. Vincentelli appear to be visibly bound by a common bond.

The W.O. by spitting, the soldiers of the "Transport Unit" by singing the refrains of the gallant fascist hymn express the very same reactionary feeling. May be without being aware; but facts remain as such.

And furthermore we can imagine (behind all this) the remote inspirers who can be traced up in the very smart figure of "Vita di Vespa".

For Lt-Col S.M. Ingledew, G-1, OPS & SD.

REFUGIANT.

18 September 45.

Memorandum on Roman Press Comments on Execution of General BELLOMO.

"AVANTI" (Socialist) - recalls that General Bellomo distinguished himself and was twice wounded in the defence of BARI and that he refused to sign any appeal for reprieve, though such an appeal was sent by the citizens of BARI. "We refrain from making any comment on the sentence or the judges", says Avanti, "but adds that the same bullets which killed Bellomo have made 'living corpses' of the 'unfindable' or untouchable ROATTA and Coy".

Avanti later prints a report on the last moments of Bellomo, mentioning that he was not able to bid adieu to his son Andrea who was not given the opportunity of reaching BARI in time. When going to his death he was wearing medals of the 1915 - 1918 war as well as the "symbols" of the wounds he received fighting the Germans in the defence of BARI. He was calm and serene, and after having cried "Long Live Italy" he himself gave the order to fire, which was not carried out. He then said in English, repeating the phrase in Italian "God forgive me and forgive them".

"UNITA" (Communist) - merely printed the official announcement of the execution without comment.

THE GIORNALE DE MATTEO (Right Wing tendencies) - prints the same report of the last moments of Bellomo, without however mentioning that the son Andrea "was not given the opportunity" of saying goodbye. It adds however that Bellomo was sustained up to the last moment by the comforts of Faith and that his family beds adieu to the corpse with the controlled and dignified sorrow which only Faith can give to so much suffering (Martirio). Some of the English had themselves tears in their eyes.

IL POPOLO (Christian Democrat) - comments that the way after all being over one might have expected in spite of the exigencies of primitive justice that the execution of a soldier, whose valour shone in the defence of BARI against the Germans, would not have been carried out.

THE RIFORMISMO LIBERALE (Liberal) - comments that public opinion will be filled with surprise and emotion at the shooting of a valourous soldier, noted for his loyalty and anti-Fascism on the day that the London Conference opens to discuss the peace for Italy. His refusal to sign an appeal was an act of dignity and a proud protest against a sentence he considered unjust. An Italian, a soldier who fought strenuously against the Germans in BARI, has been shot as the first war criminal in Europe, by the order of Field Marshal Alexander who has seen better than anyone how the Italians have redeemed with their own blood the errors of one single man. "R.L." takes up an attitude of mute disapproval (sic) and adds that this will remind people of Italy's sad condition as a vanquished, occupied country.

IL TEMPO (Independent) - registers various subscriptions for a monument to Bellomo.

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IL POPOLO (Christian Democrat) - comments that the way after all being over one might have expected in spite of the exigencies of ~~pragmatic~~ justice that the execution of a soldier, whose valour shone in the defence of Bari against the Germans, would not have been carried out.

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IL TEMPO (Independent) - registers various subscriptions for a commemorative monument to Bellomo. It mentions at length the gallant defence of Bari, and comments that ROATTI is still enjoying with impunity that most precious gift of life.

ITALIA NUOVA (Democrat) - comments that British justice has acted and that it seems to Italians to be an "unhuman" and inflexible justice, but that it is for this sense of justice that Britain struggled for so long against slavery and took up the sword in 1914 for the defence of little Belgium etc. But the Italian people ~~therefore~~ have a right to expect that the London Conference will be carried out with the same sense of justice.

Comment - From the above extracts from the Rome Press it would seem that many papers are attempting to make Bellomo a martyr.

I would suggest however that as always the Rome press in this case is printing news not as such but in order to further party ends.

For example "Unità" which has no axe to grind prints only the official announcement. Possibly it is rather pleased than otherwise that there is one regular general the less.

...../2.

"Avanti", which if anything is anti-army and War Ministry, however becomes very lame-ante. But Avanti is running a campaign at the moment to suggest, chiefly by allusion, that ROATTA is being protected by the Allies. He was seen in FLORENCE in the company of people in khaki uniform says Avanti. "Forse Esterne" are at work to see that justice is not done, etc. Why should a valourous general like Bellomo be shot when ROATTA is still living and under "somebody's" protection? seems to be the unspoken question posed by Avanti.

"Italia Nuova" seizes the opportunity of linking the justice done in this case with the justice to be done at the London Conference in the case of Italy. The Giornale del Mattino, supposedly an apolitical paper but with strong right wing tendencies, sees an opportunity of pointing a moral - the comforts of the Church, supporter, one might add, of the Christian Democrats. And the other right wing papers, who support the army and what it stands for, for their own reasons bring forward all the extenuating circumstances.

The left wing papers, with the exception of "Avanti" with Roatta in mind, leave Bellomo alone but make a tremendous fuss about the condemnation of the 3 partisans who were found guilty of having entered a prison and killed over a hundred Fascists (or apparent Fascists.)

Although I have not verified my facts I believe the defence of Bari has been grossly exaggerated by the Italians. I understood from what I heard in Bari that it was more of a skirmish with some German engineers who were attempting to sink some ships. There was certainly no real attempt on the part of the Germans to hold or attack Bari.

From what I have been able to hear the ordinary Italian does incline to the opinion that Bellomo was a martyr. The chief comment has been on the disparity between Bellomo, who was only responsible for the death of one man, and the "Beast of Belsen" who killed thousands. I have heard the same disparity remarked upon by Allied persons.

The treatment of the Bellomo case confirms me in my view of the Roman press, that wherever possible it distorts the truth to serve its own ends, that it is completely lacking in integrity and that it has learnt the Fascist propaganda tricks all too well.

The extracts I have made though not complete are representative. My comment expresses only my own reading of the situation and may well be biased.

R. B. A. G. R.

Capt.
GIII "I"

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R. G. A. G. R.

Capt.
GILL "I"

rjd

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

Subject: "Stars and Stripes" Article

46

Land Forces
Sub Commission, AC (NMIA)
Rome
INT/114

4 August 1945

To : Minister for War

45

Reference your 117336/1.2 of 30 July 1945
130-3-2

1. This headquarters noted with considerable surprise the article referred to by you, which was published in the "Stars and Stripes" on 18 July, and representations were made to the proper authorities on that date, in order to correct the information which was the basis of the article.

2. We regret very much that the article was published, as it contained several misstatements of fact, and we fully realize that it could do no good and much harm. However, its publication in the American Service newspaper could not be widely circulated, and an attempt to correct that article would undoubtedly result in further misstatements and keep the subject alive which would be unwise at this time.

3. However, we entirely sympathize with your representation on the matter, and we trust that it will not happen again, but it must be realized that reporters for democratic newspapers in a free country are prone, at times, to act on information which is not factual, and that is one of the blessings of a democracy.

(L)

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

CPK/lak

SP 7/8

1776

TRANSLATION

FROM: Ministry of War

REF: 117336/1.2.

TO: M.M.I.A.

DATE: 30 July 1945

SUBJECT: Correction to "Stars and Stripes" article

On the 18th. July, the "Stars and Stripes" published an article headed "American couriers for the Slavs of Trieste".

In the said article reference is made to non-Italian speaking Italian troops, now in France, who are described as Yugoslavs "recruited as forced labourers in the Italian Army at war, and were abandoned in Sicily, Sardinia, and Corsica, at the moment that these Islands were about to fall into the hands of the Allies".

We would point out that the troops in question are Italian subjects and that as such have been recruited and absorbed into regular Army units.

At the time of the Allied occupation these troops had the same treatment as all the other Italian troops.

We point out the above, begging you to bring ~~me~~ this correction to the notice of the paper.

1775

Sgd. LOMBARDI

In the said article reference is made to non-Italian speaking Italian troops, now in France, who are described as Jugoslavs "recruited as forced labourers in the Italian Army at war, and were abandoned in Sicily, Sardinia, and Corsica, at the moment that these Islands were about to fall into the hands of the Allies".

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1775

Sgd. LOMBARDI

Col.

C. Danin Cpl.

Toy Adolpho Ordoñez

There are several questions which I would like to ask my excellent friend Count Jacini, Minister of War. I will be very brief.

My first query is the following:

1. Has the Minister any plans for putting an end to the fraud which is carried out daily in respect of the truce affecting the institution of the Army as well as that of the Navy or the Air Force? That in really liberal times the King should be considered as an emblem of the Nation, as in free England, was not strange. Public conscience was not scandalized: it considered the welfare of the King and that of the Nation as inseparable. Furthermore in a regime of normal liberty the control of military expenses and functioning of Armed Forces by Parliament was a daily experience. and there was, consequently, a legal link between the Nation and the Armed Forces without thereby involving the military in political controversy. But the situation changed completely from the day when Victor Emmanuel III allowed Mussolini to carry out his coup d'état. The interests of the Monarchy revealed themselves as diverging from those of the Nation, every form of Parliamentary control disappeared and Fascism and Monarchy vied for the dominion of the Armed Forces.

Now I ask is it legal to leave the Armed Forces exclusively in the hands of the dynasty allowing them to be transformed into a Militia of one of the Parties, precisely at the time when the Italian People, by means of elections, are about to decide the institutional problem? Because it is as well to point out that this situation of the Armed Forces is totally different from the situation prevailing during the constitutional period. Count Jacini does not ignore the fact that political control by the dynasty of all the branches of the Army are most rigorous: not only are all positions of trust granted exclusively to the most trustworthy followers of the dynasty, not only has the Monarchist Propaganda a right of monopoly within the Armed Forces, but to serve one's own country under arms is practically impossible to the non-Monarchist.

Public conscience was not scandalized: it considered the welfare of the King and that of the Nation as inseparable. Furthermore in a regime of normal liberty the control of military expenses and functioning of Armed Forces by Parliament was a daily experience. and there was, consequently, a legal link between the Nation and the Armed Forces. without thereby involving the military in political controversy. But the situation changed completely from the day when Victor Emmanuel III allowed Mussolini to carry out his coup d'état. The interests of the Monarchy revealed themselves as diverging from those of the Nation, every form of Parliamentary control disappeared and Fascism and Monarchy vied for the dominion of the Armed Forces.

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Summing up there is a departure from the truce neutrality under a sort of preservation of a status quo which in effect has never existed in liberal Italy, and this departure cannot be further tolerated. Indulgence can be most dangerous. It would be just as well if Count Jacini, and with him all ministers for Armed Forces, would clearly explain how they intend to render effective the subordination of the Armed Forces to the Nation and to the will which she will express by means of the Constituent Assembly. The Armed Forces must not be even remotely suspected

23/7

of a Monarchist bias. And in fact it would be advisable if not only the Armed Forces but all Civil Servants, over and above any previous oaths of allegiance, were bound to respect the popular will expressed in the Constituent Assembly.

It is therefore necessary to plug the leak which upsets the balance of the institutional truce.

I have another question to ask. Does Count Jacini really expect to patch up with emergency methods the old and vast organism of the Army and to "make it again as good as new." ? An extraordinary large number of men continue to be kept under arms in ignominious living conditions. They are not fighting men, they are not pioneers, they are bands of slaves trailing from camp to camp filthy, in rags, abused. Even in the training camps these men numbed to a brutal state by very long years of military service reveal the moral corruption of the Corps. It appears that in the Province of Rome alone there are 70 000 cases of desertion pending. Soldiers arrive from different places they get dressed and armed and afterwards disappear with arms, kit and barrack stores. Very often the arms are sold to bands of evil-doers in the countryside. The average price of a Tommy Gun is around 24,000 lire. New recruits become demoralized at once in the midst of this deformed anarchy. And yet funds continue to be spent very liberally to maintain the old cadre of the Army without having neither the decorum nor the education which a good army gives the country.

Would it not be better to disband this old Army in tatters corrupt and corrupting, demobilise the men, call up a few new classes enough to form the dozen divisions which are required for the internal policing of the country, give them men above all suspicion of the past without even fearing having to give the command of a division to a colonel or of a regiment to a major ? A new small army would thus be created which would not be expensive to maintain, and would be free from the responsibility of bitter happenings. This small army could be the basis of a greater and better army when - the international position of Italy having been clarified - she might be called upon to do her duty in the regular protection of the peace of Europe.

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As far as the old cadres are concerned it would be advisable to be generous and to spend courageously. Let us send them all home on full pay or nearly full pay. No inquiries apart from those cases of real crime. It is most dangerous politically the country chained to controversies on the past. But on the other hand it is necessary to demand that no man who can in any way be called upon to answer for the past misfortunes, may be a burden to the new Army which must be able to look to the future serenely and unhampered. Such officers may be dealt with most humanely but let them leave the Army forever.

One last query. Does not Count Jacini think that it would be convenient to give the Ministry of the Interior complete control of the Carabinieri thus doing away with the dualism

of the two Police Forces and forming at the utmost a small corps of military police to be on duty with the large units to maintain military discipline?

Perhaps these queries may seem premature, but it is not convenient to delay matters which affect reconstruction.

Translation by,
F. M. De Juan S/Sgt.

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

1472

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

1770

Translation by:
F.M. De Juan SJR.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and Capt. ILLIANT reported that the U.S. has passed the Committee of Editors for Substantive Religious and the U.S. has accordingly approved and authorized. It was noted that D. 9000 on and the were being action taken and to concrete and "11 7a 120".

Capt. ILLIANT then gave a brief review of the current situation in the absence of L.P. J. O. He explained that the current situation was critical and that there were only 99 reels remaining in stock for the whole of the V.I.C. area. Capture of the current reels is an essential to count on future supplies. Capt. ILLIANT noted that there were probably certain supplies of paper both rotary and flat roll at 10.00 and 11.00, which had not been received and that he would investigate and report. Meanwhile it was decided that it would be useless to authorize books and periodicals until the current situation was more stable, and until the overall statistics had been obtained. It was called on to the Vice a comprehensive report of the overall statistics which would be submitted to the Chief Press Officer in KILAN who must then decide on the allotment to be made.

In view of the current situation as outlined above, it was decided when considering books and publications to divide them into two categories, according to their estimated priority. Furthermore, in view of the very large number of religious pamphlets being put forward for authorization, it was decided to limit over the local ecclesiastical authority for him to determine their priority.

(a) The following pamphlets were authorized since the month of 1st June and the Committee ratified this:-

ALL a Niversario della Morte
di G. Matteotti

2.000 10 items

Problema Rassegna
Danni Guerra

2.000 10 items

Revoluzione unione
Monarchia Italiana

was referred to Major ILLIANT, Military
Safety Officer for Comment.

(b) The following newspapers and periodicals were authorized:

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

APPENDIX II

Title	Place	Type	Periodicity	Copies	Qty. of pages
L'italia	BRILLIO	CLN	Fortnightly	10000	1.20
Risorse					
Il Gazzettino	Padua	CLN	15 days	3000	1.00
La Piccola	Verona	CLN	daily	20000	.65
Verona Libera	Verona	CLN	weekly	3,000	1.25
Annascata	Verona				
S. Teresa Del	Verona	Religious monthly		50000	10
Barbino					
Il Lavoratore	Verona	Communist weekly		15000	
Veronese					
Istituto Don	"	Religious monthly		13000	8 times
Bolco					
Bollettino	Padua	"	"	1000	.10
Carocchiale					
La Voce del	Verona	Indef	daily	25000	145.
Amice					

(The above was authorized pending the appointment of directing staff)

(c) The following newspapers and periodicals were put in order only to await clarification of the paper situation. The first six were authorized at the meeting of 1st June, but others were held pending order to lack of staff. They are all now authorized.

Marco Polo	Motta	religious	monthly	10000	135
Giorni	Livorno				
Secrete					
Il Vallo					
Cine Gazzetta					
Cochio sul Mondo					
La Voce di Maria					
La Vita del					
Poiolo	RAVISO	"	weekly	28400	15.
Il Contrasto	Verona	religious	monthly	2700	.10
La Voce del	Verona	"	twice monthly	2100	176f

(d) The following newspapers and periodicals were placed in Data only for priority

Parrocchiale 1000 0.10
La Voce del
Ange 25000 145.
(The above was authorized pending the appointment of directing staff)

(c) The following newspapers and periodicals were put in category A to await clarification of the paper situation. The first six were authorized at the meeting of last June, but could not be held pending order to lack of paper. They are all now authorized.

Marco Polo
Giornali
Socrate
Il Vallico
Cina Gazzetta
Occhio sul Mondo
La Voce di Maria Motta religious monthly 10000 138
Livorno
La Vita del
Popolo 28400 13.
Ravenna

(d) The following newspapers and periodicals were placed in category B for priority

Il Contrasto 2700 .10
La Voce del
Seminario 2100 176f
La Caravella 4200 3.80
Varese religious monthly
Varese twice monthly 2100 176f
Varese art 4200 3.80
15 days

(e) The following religious periodicals and pamphlets are to be referred to the local ecclesiastical authority.

La Difesa del Popolo ROVIGO
Misterum Verbu
Maestra del Clero
La Voce del Pastore
La settimana Cattolica LAVORA
Il canto dei Miracoli
Canta la Madonna Antonia
Viggo Dominum Meum

(r) Authorisation was refused for Il Libertario for VERONA and Il Comagno has been put on the pending list until the Provincial Commissioner has been visited.

(s) The following books were placed in category A:-

Title	Author	Editor	Copies	Cost
Ricordi del Piacento	Doc. Labourens		800	.20 kg.
Le Questioni della Venezia Giulia	De Franceschi	Soc. Istriana	200	?
Diario di Maddalena	Ilato Pacco della Garda	Serenissima Organica	1000 1000	.60 kg. 300 kg.
Dalla Libertà alla Schiavitù	Blancet	Miccio	1000	30 risme

(h) Books in Category B.

Infamie Delitti e delitti del Fascismo	Dr. Senizza	Senizza	2000	63 kg.
Filosofia dell' alimentazione Il Drano di Uso	Meneguzzi Marco Montuoro		1000	200 kg.
Ricordi Fiorentino dei Monolochi Veneziani	Dr. Fr. Senti S. Marco Dominico Varagnolo		1000	48 kg.
	Caragnolo		1000	75 kg.

(i) The following books were refused recommendation:

Guida Turistica (out of date)
di Venezia
Anche di
scrivere

(very badly written and considered a waste of paper)

(j) Capt. TOLINI stated a complete list of papers, periodicals, pamphlets, and books authorised throughout the region and divided by areas would be available at the next meeting and would be circulated to all on the distribution list of these minutes.

Such a list was being prepared and would be completed as soon as tours of the province had been completed and as soon as possible.

(2) Books in Category B.

Infanzia Delitti Dr. Genizza	Genizza	2000	65 K3.
e la Soglia del			
Nasciamo			
Filosofia dell' Umanesimo Marco Montuoro		1000	200 K3.
Alimentazione			
Il Drama di			
Ugo	Dr. Fr. Beni	1000	48 K3.
Horloch Fiorentino	S. Marco		
Sei Monolochi	Dominico		
Veneziani	Varagnolo	1000	75 K3.
	Caragnolo		

(1) The following books were refused recommendation:

Guida Turistica (out of date)
di Venezia
Ansietà di
scrivere
(very badly written and considered a waste of paper)

(3) Capt. Isola stated a complete list of papers, periodicals, pamphlets, and books authorized throughout the region and divided by areas would be available at the next meeting and would be circulated to all on the distribution list of these minutes.

Such a list was being prepared and would be completed as soon as tours of the province had been completed and as soon as possible. Duncan's discussions on later had allowed all authorized persons at present meeting to be completed.

SUBJECT: Newspaper Article

LAND FORCES SUB COM, AC (MMIA)

INT/114

22 May 45

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

1. We enclose for your information the English translation of an article that appeared in L'Unione Sarda on 18 May 1945, a daily newspaper published in Cagliari.
2. Col. Constantino, Deputy Chief of Staff, CMS, informed the MMIA Liaison Officer, Allied Garrison Sardinia, that such articles are causing recalls to go absent without leave on the way to Cagliari to be shipped to the mainland.

R. G. A. Gross-Rainier
for Major-General
MMIA *Capt*

cgl.

For 40 refer

1480

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

LIAISON OFFICER
LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
ALLIED COMMISSION (LSCIA)
Allied Garrison Sardinia
A.P.O. 394, U.S. Army

19 May 1945

SUBJECT: Newspaper Article

TO : General Officer Commanding, LSCIA

1. Enclosed herewith for your information translation of an article that appeared in L'Unione Sarda 18 May 1945. It is a daily newspaper published in Cagliari.

2. Colonel Costantino, Deputy Chief of Staff, CMS advised no such articles are causing recalls to go AWOL on way to Cagliari to be shipped.

Lester R. Albert
LESTER R. ALBERT
Lt. Colonel, Infantry
Senior Liaison Officer

1. Incl.
Newspaper article (translated)

GIV (1)

Please tell WM

AH

War Min informed
by letter 22 May
ASR

1762

148
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

TRANSLATION CC: 75T/vro 18 MAY 45

TRANSLATION FROM "L'UNIONE SARDA"

SPEECH OF SERVICEMEN

Cagliari, 18 May 1945

An order of the day of the Partito Sardo

An extraordinary conference was held by the Cagliari section of the Partito Sardo D'Azione since it was noted that in spite of the war's having ended, the departure of servicemen from Sardinia still continues with a speedy cadence, even those rejected and those exempted for being students, for family reasons and because brothers were killed in action; they are bringing to the attention that while said departures are hindering the re-establishment of activities in all fields on the island, with particular regard to the agricultural and industrial ones, which always complained for shortage of manpower, they increase the discomfort of numerous families, already experienced to suffering and sacrifices, detracting politically and morally from the population of the island; they rise against the exploitation which continues in Sardinia, notwithstanding all the promises of equity and justice, in favor of other regions of Italy which necessarily have refused to adhere to the request of the Rome Government; invites the Regional Directorate to reach an immediate agreement with the other parties for energetic mutual action with the Rome Government as well as the Allied authorities so that this ignoble draft be discontinued and the Sardinian servicemen be permitted to return to their homes so that our population, no longer patient and obedient, will not be forced to adopt other means to have their rights and interests recognized.

11 482

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

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
G.M.F.

2/PRI/86.

Subject: Italian War Correspondents.

5th May, 1945.

TO:- Director,
Public Relations Branch,
Allied Commission.

Ref your 37/PRI of 1 May 45.

1. Pass No. 10 issued to Sig. BALDINI of "S.I." News Agency is now returned signed on behalf of PRO AMB and CSI(B) 15 Army Group. Before issuing, Sig. Baldini should sign the pass under the photograph.
2. Kindly acknowledge.
3. May we please be advised whether Pass No. 9 has been issued and to whom?

For PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER:

G. A. L. REIDER

G.A.L. REIDER.
Lieut-Colonel.

Copies to: Land Forces Sub-Com. /

Ten. Col. Maraldi, Ufficio Stampa, Ministero della Guerra,
Via IV Fontane 15.

1759

11483
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

G3B/ob 38

37/PRB

G Int.

5 May, 1945

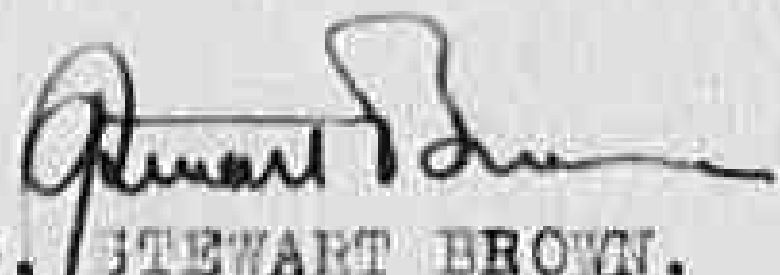
6/1

SUBJECT : Italian War Correspondents

TO : Land Forces Sub Com, AC NMIA.

37
Ref. yours INT/114 4 May, 1945.

An Italian Conducting Officer is no longer
necessary for Italian War Correspondents.


G. STEWART BROWN,
Director,
Public Relations Branch.


GI informed 7/5

1758

11 4 8 4
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

37
SUBJECT: Italian War Correspondents

LAND FORCES SUB GCM, AC (MIA)

INT/114

4 May 45

TO : DIRECTOR, PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH, A.C.

36
Ref your PRB/5c of 2 May.

In view of the fact that hostilities have ceased in Italy will you please confirm that a conducting officer for Italian War Correspondents is not now required.

ogl.

J. R. Selby
Lt. Col. G.S. pr
MIA

1756

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

GSR/mew

PRB/5c

2 May 1945

SUBJECT: Italian War Correspondents
TO : Land Forces Sub-Commission

1. Several Italian war correspondents have complained that they are not accorded anywhere near the same facilities or treatment as Allied war correspondents.

2. It would be appreciated if the Land Forces S/C could suggest to the Italian Ministry of War that it would facilitate the work of Italian war correspondents if the Italian War Ministry would appoint a Public Relations or a conducting officer to handle arrangements and facilities for Italian war correspondents.

3. Any help you can give in this matter would be appreciated.

G. Stewart Brown
G. STEWART BROWN
Director,
Public Relations Branch

INT 1/55
3/1

11486

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

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
G.I.F.

2/18/45.

1st May, 1945.

Subject: Italian War Correspondents.

TO: P.R.O.,
15th Army Group.

1. Attached is memo No. 12 issued to Sig. Gabriele BALDINI of the "U.I." News Agency.
2. It will no doubt be remembered that, with the accreditation of this correspondent, it will complete the representatives from the three Italian Agencies.
3. It is requested that this memo be signed by G.I.(S) Army Gp and returned to those Rte.

FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

GAM

G.A.L. HESSE
Lieut-Colonel.

Copies to: A.S. Director, Allied Commission.
Land Forces Sub-Commission. ✓

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R
2/3/5

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

GSB/do

37/PRB

1 May 1945

SUBJECT : Italian War Correspondents.

TO : Lt.Col. G.A.L. Helder, HQ Public Relations,
C.F.P.

1. We acknowledge receipt of War Correspondents' Pass No. 8, assigned to Ugo ZATTERIN of "Avanti".
2. We are not able to endorse any other Identity Card No. for Sig. Zatterin as the Firearms Permit is the only Identity Certificate he holds. However it is clearly understood that he will not carry any firearm.
3. We enclose War Correspondents' Pass No. 10 issued to Sig. Gabriele BALDINI of "S.I." News Agency and forwarded to you for signature.

G. STEWART BROWN
Director
Public Relations Branch

Copy to : Land Forces Sub-Commission
Ten.Col. Maraldi, Ufficio Stampa, Ministero
della Guerra, via IV Fontane 15

1752

2/5

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9
33

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
U.S.P.

I
29/4

2/15/06.

29th April, 1946.

Subject: Italian War Correspondents.

To: Director,
Public Relations Branch,
Gen. Allied Commission.

1. Enclosure your 37/03 dated 28 Apr 46, enclosed in Pass No. 8 issued to Signor MARTINI of "Avanti!" signed on behalf of P.M.O. AMB and GRI(S) 15 May 46.
2. It is noted that the enclosure at the foot of this Memo refers to a license permit. It is pointed out that War Correspondents are not allowed to carry firearms and it is requested that this should be made perfectly clear to Sig. MARTINI. The enclosure, however, which should be shown in his Civilian Identity Card No. It is requested that this be obtained and ordered on the Memo both in English and Italian and that we be advised of the number.
3. Kindly acknowledge.

for PUBLIC RELATIONS (P.R.):
A.P.C.

G. L. Keller

[Handwritten signature]

G. L. Keller
Lieut-Colonel

1751

Copy to: Intel Forces Sub-Commission.
Gen. Col. Maraldi, Ufficio Stampa, Ministero della Guerra,
via IV Novembre 15.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

G3B/ob

41A/PRB

28 April 1945

SUBJECT : Approved Press Plan for Northern Italy.

TO : Land Forces Sub-Commission.

1. On instructions from the Executive Commissioner we are attaching herewith a copy of the P.W.B. Press Plan for Northern Italy which has been approved by AFHQ on recommendation from the Allied Commission and the Allied Publications Board.

G. Stewart Brown
G. STEWART BROWN, *for*
Director,
Public Relations Branch.

1750

20 April 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

PRESS PLAN FOR NORTHERN ITALY

1. This Press Plan for Northern Italy supervenes all previous instructions. Responsibility for carrying out this Press Plan lies with C.W.B. 15th Army Group, through F.W.B. Chief Press Officer, in conformity with ARHQ directives, but subject to 15th Army Group Military Command and in strict cooperation with A.C. and Allied Publications Board.
2. Suppression of Fascist Papers. On entering a newly liberated town or area, all newspapers and other periodicals of Fascist orientation or papers identified with Fascist leaders, such as Farinacci's "Regime Fascista" of Cremona, will be suppressed and not allowed to re-appear.
3. Combat Team Information Sheet. PWB Combat Teams will issue "Carriers Allowed" as an emergency news and information sheet. The content, circulation and duration of these Combat Team papers will be on the initiative and at the discretion of PWB Combat Teams with the respective armies, acting under general PWB 15th Army Group directions. In addition to news, they will carry AMG and Army proclamations, as required. The personnel of such papers form a part of PWB 15th Army Group.
4. Treatment of Clandestine Press. Newspapers and other publications favorable to the Allied cause and publishing clandestinely prior to Allied liberation may continue to publish openly, keeping their periodicity in general, subject to para. 10 in the case of Italian, or the following conditions:
 - (a) Application for a provisional permit (see para. 14) must be made within seven days of the Military Governor's proclamation.
 - (b) All papers must be subject to military censorship (see para. 14).

Lists of the more important clandestine papers, known to 1749

suppressed and not allowed to re-appear.

3. Combat Team Information Sheet. PWB Combat Teams will issue "Comrades Alliance" as an emergency news and information sheet. The content, allocation and location of these Combat Team papers will be on the initiative and at the discretion of PWB Combat Teams with the respective armies, acting under General and 15th Army Group directions. In addition to news, they will carry US and Army proclamations, as required. The personnel of such papers form a part of PWB 15th Army Group.
4. Treatment of Germanist Press. Newspapers and other publications favorable to the Allied Cause and publishing unhesitatingly prior to Allied liberation may continue to publish openly, keeping their periodicity in general, subject to para. 10 in the case of indices, on the following conditions:
 - (a) Application for a provisional permit (see para. 11) must be made within seven days of the Military Government's proclamation.
 - (b) All papers must be subject to military censorship (see para. 14).Lists of the more important clandestine papers, known to 1749 be in existence in each region prior to Allied entry, will be supplied to the C.I.O. of area by the Chief Press Officer, PWB.
5. Non-Fascist Papers. Non-Fascist papers (if any) and papers of a technical nature may apply to continue publication on the same provisional permit conditions, subject to military needs.
6. New Papers. Papers other than the ex-communicated ones referred to in paragraph 4 may submit applications for provisional permits to publish.

7. Pre-Fascist Papers. Papers with a pre-Fascist history, which had, however, been taken over and run as Fascist periodicals, will be suspended on Allied entry, pending the appointment of a Commissario by the AMG Regional Commission. As soon as the Commissario can show that apurification is completed, these papers will be allowed to re-appear under their own and historic titles, but as independent non-party information sheets. If the Regional Commissioner considers it necessary or if an appeal to the Regional Commission is made by responsible elements of the community, a committee of three will be attached to the Commissario in a consultative capacity. The papers will conform to all economic and other restrictions imposed by wartime conditions on the press as a whole.

Any pre-Fascist newspapers will be frozen by the Commissario who will retain control until the war is returned to Italian administration. Question of ownership and eventual political control will then be settled in accordance with procedure to be laid down by the Italian Government, which has agreed that none of these papers will be returned to the control of Fascist owners.

8. Free Information Papers. As freedom of the press automatically excludes the rights of the Allies to impose their own information directives or policy on Italian editors, the Allies will reserve their own channel by means of openly labeled Allied news sheets which may be published in the Italian language at the following centers: BOLOGNA, MILAN, TURIN, GENOA, VENICE, TRIESTE. These papers will be independent and administrative, but all leading articles, comments and general layout will follow the directives. FIB will furnish paper, ink and other operational supplies. In no case will articles or comment be signed by their editorial writers.

These information papers will rank as operational activities, which may be opened up or closed down by the Allied Publication Board without obligation or reference to any Italian commercial or proprietary interest other than formal notification of the decision taken by the Allied Publication Board. Each of these newspapers will be called "Corriere" with an indication of the region it serves (e.g. "Corriere

8. PWB Information Papers. As subsection of the Press International-
 ally excludes the rights of the allies to impose their own
 information directives or policy on Italian editors, the
 allies will reserve their own channel by means of openly
 labeled allied news sheets which may be published in the
 Italian language at the following centers: BOLOGNA, MILAN,
 TURIN, GENOA, VENICE, TRIESTE. These papers will be Italian-
 owned and administered, but all leading articles, comments
 and general layout will follow PWB directives. PWB will
 furnish paper, ink and other operational supplies. In no
 case will articles or comment be signed by their editorial
 writers.

Those information papers will rank at operational activ-
 ities, which may be opened up or closed down by the allied
 Publications Board without obligation or reference to any
 Italian commercial or proprietary interest other than formal
 notification of the Italian "union by the allied Publications
 Board. Such of these newspapers will be called "Corriere"
 with an indication of the region it serves (e.g. "Corriere
 Emiliano" in BOLOGNA). The phrase "Corriere" will
 appear as part of the masthead. In cases where PWB editor-
 ial control is brought to an end, provision will be made
 for the cancellation of the titles of these papers.

PWB will bring out wall news bulletins as required, also
 marked "Corriere" as part of the masthead.

9. C.E.L. In order to prevent discrimination among applicants
 and to help towards the equitable distribution of available
 newsprint or flatted paper, it is recommended on principle
 that the parties of the C.E.L. shall have first priority
 when applications for political papers are being eventually
 considered.

- 3 -

10. Dailies and Weeklies. With reference to paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7 and with reference to the publication of newspapers in general prior to the restoration of the Northern areas to Italian jurisdiction, all daily papers everywhere should be information sheets only (all party or no party) and party papers should be weeklies. However, if the local Committees of National Liberation recommend that party organs be allowed as dailies and provided such arrangements are approved by AMG, Allied Publications Board will judge the matter of justification solely from the point of view of newspaper available. It is recognized that MILAN and TURIN present special problems in this regard and that if the local Committee of National Liberation ask for party dailies, such requests would receive consideration provided that it were possible to supply the necessary newspaper.

11. Provisional Permits. In Army forward areas provisional permits will normally be issued through the PWB Press Officer, subject to the right of the AMG Officer at Army HQ and the C.I.C. AMG (as soon as he shall begin to function) to authorize such publications as he may consider necessary within the framework of this plan.

Such provisional permits are at all times subject to suspension or withdrawal by order of the Military Governor.

12. Allied Publications Board. As soon as conditions permit, Allied Publications Board will set up Regional Boards to which all applications for permits will thereafter be made. Provisional permits granted in accordance with the preceding paragraph will be referred to these Regional Boards for action by Allied Publications Board. In allotting newspaper to the ex-communicated and other early applicants, Allied Publications Regional Boards will take into account the requirements of the non-party papers referred to in paragraph 7.

13. Finance and Management. With the exception of PWB's responsibility for the combat "Corriere Allorto" publications, neither PWB nor AMG will concern themselves with the financial or administrative side of newspapers or other periodicals. In the case of the PWB information papers referred to in paragraph 8, Italian groups will be financ-

11. Provisional Permits. In Army forward areas provisional permits will normally be issued through the PWB Press Officer, subject to the right of the AMG Officer at Army Hq and the C...O. AMG (as soon as he shall begin to function) to authorize such publications as he may consider necessary within the framework of this plan.

Such provisional permits are at all times subject to suspension or withdrawal by order of the Military Governor.

12. Allied Publications Board. As soon as conditions permit, Allied Publications Board will set up Regional Boards to which all applications for permits will thereafter be made. Provisional permits granted in accordance with the preceding paragraph will be referred to these Regional Boards for action by Allied Publications Board. In alloting newspaper to the ex-olunestine and other early applicants, Allied Publications Regional Board will take into account the requirements of the non-party papers referred to in paragraph 7.

13. Finance and Management. With the exception of PWB's responsibility for the combat "Corriere Alenteo" publications, neither PWB nor AMG will concern themselves with the financial or administrative side of newspapers or other periodicals. In the case of the PWB Information papers referred to in paragraph 8, Italian groups will be financially and administratively responsible, PWB confining itself to editorial control and supply of operational necessities, such as paper and ink.

14. Military Censorship. Military censorship is essential. No permits will be considered or allowed unless military censorship control on the spot can be guaranteed and sustained.

In the large cities (BOLOGNA, MILAN, TORIN, GENOA, VENICE, TRIESTE) Army Press Censorship Offices will be established and will assume responsibility for military censorship for local Press and Radio, as at present in FLORENCE.

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In localities other than those mentioned above, censorship will be exercised by responsible persons designated by AMC Provincial Commissioners. These censors will set in accordance with military censorship directives laid down by AFHQ, which will be furnished by PWB Combat Team Press Officers. Liaison between AFHQ Press censors in large cities and AMC-nominated censors in other localities should be established and maintained.

15. Circulation Proviso. No party or other newspapers published outside the 15th Army Group area will be allowed to enter any point within the said area without the specific approval of the Military Commander on recommendation from PWB.
15. Paper Stocks. As each town or area is entered by the Allied troops, every stockholder of newspaper or flatbed paper will be required by PWB Printing Officer to declare what stocks and resources he has in hand and to what purpose they are being used.
17. News Service. PWB will provide on demand a free Italian language news service, special articles, maps and photographs, to all authorized publications within the limits of whatever communications exist or may be established. No other news or photographic service will be permitted to operate in the Army Group area until such time as the Allied Commission permits the resumption of normal commercial news and picture distribution.

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15. Paper Stocks. As each town or area is entered by the Allied troops, every stockholder of newspaper or flatbed paper will be required by PWB Printing Officer to declare what stocks and resources he has in hand and to what purpose they are being used.
17. News Service. PWB will provide on demand a free Italian language news service, special articles, maps and photographs, to all authorized publications within the limits of whatever communications exist or may be established. No other news or photographic service will be permitted to operate in the Army Group area until such time as the Allied Commission permits the resumption of normal commercial news and picture distribution.

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REFERENCES

any Contract between E. F. B. and "The Publishing House" (hereinafter called "The Company") will contain the following clauses together with such others as may be considered necessary to meet special individual cases at the discretion of the local Press Officer. Such contract should be initialed and put into immediate effect by the local Press Officer. If there is any additional clause, the contract must be initialed also by the Chief Press Officer. In any event all contracts, when agreed upon between the Press Officer and the Company, will be forwarded to the Chief Press Officer for transmission to the Director of E. F. B.

Article I. The Company agrees to print, publish and circulate "Corriate...." a card labeled P.W.B. and place to place its technical, machine and other personnel at the disposition of the said "Corriate....." with precedence over all other non-military publications of the Company. Each number will carry prominently displayed on "cover" beside the title "a card labeled P.W.B."

Article II. The title "Copyright....." is the property of ZMS and ceases when the paper stops publication on the orders of PNM. Under no circumstances may the title of this paper be adopted or revised by any Italian group after the cessation of its publication by the Allies.

Article III. EMB reserve the right of appointing the responsible editor and chief sub-editor within the German 1717.

in any additional copies, the contract must be initiated also by the Chief Press Officer. In any event all contracts, when agreed upon between the Press Officer and the Company, will be forwarded to the Chief Press Officer for transmittal to the Director of I.W.B.

Article I. The Company agrees to print, publish and circulate "Corriere...." a cura del I.W.B. and also to place its technical, machine and other personnel at the disposition of the said "Corriere...." with preference over all other non-military publications of the Company. Each number will carry prominently displayed in an "eye" basis the title "a cura del PWB."

Article II. The title "Corriere...." is the property of PWB and ceases when the paper stops publication on the orders of IWB. Under no circumstances may the title of this paper be adopted or revived by any Italian group after the cessation of its publication by the Allies.

Article III. PWB reserves the right of appointing the responsible editor and chief sub-editor which the Company **174** employ for the "Corriere....".

Article IV. The Company will assist PWB in ensuring that the responsible editor and the chief sub-editor form an editorial staff such as may be required for the proper conduct of the "Corriere...." from elements uncompromised by Fascism and always subject to the approval of PWB.

Article V. "Corriere...." will be under the editorial direction of PWB. It is PWB's intention to carry straight news and to present to Italians Allied ways of life and thought in war and in peace. The "Corriere...."

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will be used to further the policy of AMHQ. It will present an objective picture of Italian internal affairs and will not participate in Italian party conflicts.

Article VI.

Control of circulation figure, format and the amount of advertising accepted will rest with PWB. With the reservation that circulation and format will be governed by the amount of newsprint and transport available for the press in general and that at least one column of advertising per issue is available to the Company if desired.

Article VII.

All advertising, circulation and other revenue will belong to the Company.

Article VIII.

The Company will bear all salary, printing, paper, and overhead costs.

Article IX.

The Company hereby agrees to hold PWB and its individual staff free and harmless and to defend them against any causes of action that may arise from this transaction.

Article X.

PWB shall have the right to terminate the publication at any time.

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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Information News and Censorship Section
Press and Radio Censorship Branch
Unit No 2 APO 512

I 31

SUBJECT: Italian Correspondents' Stories

28 April 1945

TO : Duty Censor

1. Reference our letter on the above subject dated 23 April 1945, the Italian War Ministry now state that they do NOT wish to see Italian correspondents' stories which arrive after 2000 hrs. Such dispatches should be sent direct to the Agency or newspaper concerned.

2. The following procedure is therefore established for the handling of such copy:

a. If it arrives before 2000 hrs:

- 1 Copy to be retained for our files
- 2 Copies to be dispatched to Ufficio Stampa, Ministero della Guerra (1 for forwarding to Agency, the other for their files)
- 1 copy to be forwarded to P.R.O., A.C.

b. If it arrives after 2000 hrs:

- 1 Copy to be retained for our files
- 1 Copy to be despatched to Agency or newspaper.
- 1 Copy to be dispatched to Ministry of War the following morning, for their files.
- 1 Copy to be dispatched to P.R.O., A.C. the following morning.

3. In the case of 2(a) above, responsibility for collection & distribution of copy rests with Ministry of War, who will collect all copy upon receipt of a telephone call (No 41709).

4. In the case of 2 (b), Duty Censor will telephone direct to Agency or newspaper concerned, asking the latter to send a messenger to collect the copy. A.C. copies will be collected by an A.C. messenger on receipt of a telephone call.

5. In the event of there being fewer than four copies, such copies as there are will be distributed as follows:

- 1 Censors file
- 2 Agency or newspaper concerned
- 3 Ministry of War
- 4 PRO., A.C.

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6. All cuts made will be deleted, on all copies except Censor's file copy, by excision with scissors or Indian ink, in such a way that the passage deleted cannot be read.

I. C. Alexander
I.C. ALEXANDER
Major, I.C.
Senior Local Press & Radio
Censor, ITALY.

Copies to:

Lt. Col. J.L. Hayden
Ufficio Stampa, Ministero della Guerra.
Captain Del Mare
P.R.O., A.C.
Land Forces Sub-Commission, M.M.I.A. ✓

B 28m

1503
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

SUBJECT: Visits by Italian War Correspondents
to Italian Units in Army Areas

LAND FORCES SUB COM, AC (MMIA)

INT/114

26 Apr 45

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

1. The procedure laid down for proposed visits by Italian War Correspondents to the Gruppi is as follows :-

A correspondent in Rome who wishes to visit one of the Gruppi will inform Mr. BROWN, PRO HQ AC, who will telephone Major BULLOCK, PR GDS, 15 Army Group, confirming telephone call by letter. Major BULLOCK will then clear the correspondent with OSI(b), AMG, and either PRO or DAEPR of the Army concerned.

As soon as approval for the visit has been passed back to HQ AC Rome, the correspondent can then proceed direct to the Group.

2. You are requested to inform all concerned of the above procedure and ensure that it is strictly observed.

Copy to: Mr. Stewart Brown
Director P.R. A.C.

M. Selby
Major-General
MMIA

1744

29

H.O. PUBLIC RELATIONS
Central Mediterranean Force

23 April 1945

2/PMS/86

I-2414

Mr. Stewart Brown,
Director, IEB,
ALLIED COMMISSION.

Dear Stewart Brown

You may have heard that one S. Enrico Meille, an
EXETER ARMY Press Camp on Saturday unheralded and unannounced.
fact during his journey S. Enrico Meille saw things which our
fully accredited correspondents do not normally see. As you
will remember the arrangement is that these Italian war
correspondents must remain with the Italian Forces but have
permission to pass through areas not under control of Italian
Forces to visit such troops.

I at once referred the matter to PMS, 15 Army Group,
and our officer there, Capt. Kibbush, has taken the matter up
and has now sent me the following report :-

"I called this morning on Major Bullock of PR, G-5,
here, and he has agreed to the following procedure respecting the
visit of Italian war correspondents to Army commands.

A correspondent in Rome who wishes to visit one of
the Groups should inform Mr. Stewart Brown, PR, AC, who will
telephone Major Bullock - written confirmation to follow. Bullock
will then clear the correspondent with GSI(b), AEG and either PMS or
DAPR of the Army concerned. As soon as approval for the visit has
been passed back to AC in Rome, the correspondent can then proceed
direct to the Group. I gather that this drill was agreed last November,
at any rate so far as 5 Army was concerned, but it has since fallen
down - probably due to the staff changes at the formations concerned
since that date.

G-5
Stewart Brown
M. J. W.

1505

You may have heard that one S. Enrico Meille, an accredited correspondent for Agenzia ODIS, arrived up at the EXETER Army Press Camp on Saturday unheralded and unannounced. Our FMO there, was naturally somewhat concerned because in fact during his journey S. Enrico Meille saw things which our fully accredited correspondents do not normally see. As you will remember the arrangement is that these Italian war correspondents must remain with the Italian Forces but have permission to pass through areas not under control of Italian Forces to visit such troops.

I at once referred the matter to FMO, 15 Army Group, and our officer there, Capt. Winbush, has taken the matter up and has now sent me the following report:-

"I called this morning on Major Bullock of PR, G-5, here, and he has agreed to the following procedure respecting the visit of Italian war correspondents to Army commands.

A correspondent in Rome who wishes to visit one of the Gruppi should inform Mr. Stewart Brown, PR, AG, who will telephone Major Bullock - written confirmation to follow. Bullock will then clear the correspondent with GSH(b), AMI and either FMO or DAMEH of the Army concerned. As soon as approval for the visit has been passed back to AG in Rome, the correspondent can then proceed direct to the Group. I gather that this drill was agreed last November, at any rate so far as 5 Army was concerned, but it has since fallen down - probably due to the staff changes at the formations concerned since that date.

Signor Meille is certainly in no way to be ¹⁷⁴⁴³for this incident under review, and I have arranged for him to be cleared from here by Major Bullock, and I have done my best to explain this procedure to him through a variety of interpreters!

Any Italian copy filed here is sent either by red bag or by teletype - slugged "Confidential - Uncensored".

Will you kindly arrange for the drill advised by Capt. Winbush to be notified to all concerned.

Yours faithfully

G. A. L. Heilder

G. A. L. HEIDER
Lieut-Colonel

For PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, AFHQ.

Copies to: Land Forces S/C
Capt. Winbush, FMO, 15 AG

11506

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

Ref. file 28
24/4
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Information News and Censorship Section
Press and Radio Censorship Branch
Unit No 2 APO 512

Subject : Italian Correspondents

To : Lt. Col. J.L. Hayden
Chief, Press & Radio Censorship Branch
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
24/4 22 April 1945
INT/113

1. This Office has received a letter from Col. Ugo Maraldi, Chief Press Officer at the Italian Ministry of War, insisting on his right to see, and if necessary re-censor or even suppress completely, all stories filed by Italian correspondents accredited to the front.

2. Col. Maraldi bases this claim on the fact that his office is responsible to PRO, AFHQ, for the conduct of Italian correspondents. He concludes that he should therefore also have the right to control their writings.

3. Col. Maraldi also referred to Col. Helder's letter 2/PRS/86 dated 20 December 1944, para (2) which states (I translate from the Italian text, which is the only one we have).

" Dispatches coming from accredited Italian War Correspondents will be immediately transmitted to Italian-speaking Military Press Censors. Stories then will be handed back, duly censored, to PRO, AFHQ, Rome, who will ensure their transmission to the Italian Press via the Press Office."

4. The underlined words ("tramite l'Ufficio Stampa") have been interpreted by Col. Maraldi as meaning the Press Office of the Italian War Ministry.

5. Accordingly the system now in use is as follows :

- a) Copy is dispatched by R. & Bag to PRO, AFHQ.
- b) It is then sent by Field Press Censors to Local Press Censors, Piazza S. Silvestro, 54.

1507

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

- 2 -

c) After censorship has been performed, two copies are dispatched to Press Office, Italian War Ministry. They are clearly marked, one for forwarding to Agency or paper the other for Col. Marsaldi's file. A third copy is kept for our own files, and the fourth forwarded to PRO, A.C.

I. C. Alexander

I.C. ALEXANDER
Major, I.C.
Senior Local Press &
Radio Censor, ITALY

Copies To : PRO, A.C.
Lt. Col. Helder, PRO, AFHQ
M.M.I.A. - att. Capt. Selby ✓

1740

11508

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

27

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
C.M.F.

Subject: Italian War Correspondents.

TO: PRO.
15th Army Gp.

2/PIS/86.

23 Apr 45.

I
24/4

1. Attached is pass No. 8 to be issued to Sig. Ugo ZATTERIN of "Avanti" who has been approved to substitute Sig. Mario SOLDATI. It is requested this pass may be signed by CSI(b) Army Group and returned to these HQs.
2. Pass No. 3 issued to Mario Soldati has been cancelled.
3. Attached is sheet with usual particulars etc. for Army Group records, of Sig. ZATTERIN.
4. It is requested that the report on Enrico MELLÉ may be forwarded as soon as possible. It now appears he has suddenly presented himself to the 5 Army without previous warning.

For PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER:

G. A. L. Heider

G. A. L. HEIDER:
Lieut-Colonel.

Copies to: P.R. Director: AD.
Land Forces Sub-Comm. A.C.

INT/114

1738

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

TGB/DO

37/FRB

22 April 1945

SUBJECT : Italian War Correspondent

TO : Lieut.Col. G.A.L. Helder, Public Relations HQ, C.M.F.

1. Following telephone conversation Lieut.Col.Helder/Mrs.Oxilia, forwarded herewith for signature is Pass No 8 issued to Sig. Ugo ZATTERIN of "Avanti", who is to substitute Sig. Mario Soldati as war correspondent for this newspaper. Sig. Zatterin has passed through all the necessary screening procedure and we have therefore no objection to his being accredited as a war correspondent.

2. Also enclosed is Pass No 3 issued to the former correspondent for "Avanti" and "Unita", for cancellation, and two spare photographs of Sig. Zatterin.

3. Pass No 7 (blank) was sent to Public Safety S/C as a specimen copy.

THOMAS G. BERGIN,
Major, AUS.
D/DPH

Copy to: Land Forces S/C ✓
Ten.Col. Maraldi, Ufficio Stampa, Ministero della Guerra,
Via IV Fontane 15

1737

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

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH
UNIT No. 8 - APO 512

April 20, 1945

To: Captain T. V. Selby
Land Forces Sub-Com, AC (MMIA)

1. I concur that a film illustrating the contribution of the Italian Army to the war effort would be in the general interest. I have given orders to the PWB film section to distribute the film whenever you submit it as approved.

Russell Barnes

RUSSELL BARNES
Director, PWB-AFHQ

Good S w/4

1738

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

Ref: 8271/21/EC.

20 April 1945.

SUBJECT: Press Releases.

TO : GOC, Land Forces Sub-Com (MNIA).

1. Reference your letter INT/114 of 24.Mar.45 addressed to Political Adviser (Br) and this office letter 8271/16/EC of 3.Apr.45 addressed to PWB, copy to you.

2. Herewith for your information copy of reply received from the Acting Deputy Director of PWB to our letter under reference.

/JG.

W. Stearns
for Chief Staff Officer,
to the Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: P.R.Branch.
Pol Adv (Br).

1735

COPY.

COPY.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Information and Censorship Section
Psychological Warfare Branch
Italian Theatre Headquarters
PWB Unit No.12, US APO 512.

To : Chief Commissioner, AC.
Copy to: PWB, AFHQ.
Major Greenlees for PRB.
From : Mr. Radford.
Date : 14th April 1945.

1. I have received your 8271/16/EC of 3rd April concerning the publication "Armed Forces" prepared by the Press Reading Bureau of PWB Liberated Italy.
2. I much regret that this report was ever issued and I am in complete agreement with the conclusion of your Political advisers and of the Land Forces Sub-Commission that it is not an objective summary of press comment. It is in fact a treatise in which the individual views of the author are illustrated by selected passages from the press of one tendency. Even if all the press reviews from Left papers in the week in question had in fact expressed such sentiments and other papers had in fact ignored the question I should consider that the summary was misleading.
3. The P.R.B. has been dissolved and the author of this particular summary is no longer in the service of PWB. There is, therefore, no necessity to issue instructions as suggested in para.3 of your letter. Any reports concerning the Italian army will be submitted to your Political Advisers in the normal way for clearance before distribution.
4. I have addressed a copy of this letter to Major Greenlees for the attention of those members of the staff of the P.R.B. who are still employed in other parts of PWB.
5. I would express my regret that this review should ever have been issued. I do not think after the present delay that it is useful to issue a formal denial. I think that those organisations which are ~~using~~ using these reviews for intelligence purposes will already have realised the errors in that in question. I would, however, point out that the review was not a press release and did not circulate to people engaged in preparing material for Allied or Italian correspondents.

(Sgd) C.A. RALEGH RADFORD,
Assistant Deputy Director, PWB, AFHQ.

1733

1513

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

SUBJECT: Italian War Correspondents

LAND FORCE SUB-10, 10 (1012)

10/11/45

22 APR 45

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

1. Mr. Gino FINKHARZ of ASDA News Agency and Mr. Enrico BILIZI of OGBIS News Agency have been accredited by AFHQ, PDS and GEF (b) 15 Army Gp as Italian War Correspondents.

2. You are authorized to issue Mr. FINKHARZ and Mr. BILIZI Italian Army uniforms on request by them. These uniforms will be worn in accordance with regulations governing Italian War Correspondents laid down by the Ministry of War, which must prescribe a distinctive emblem showing that the wearer is a Correspondent.

3. No Italian Army transport can be assigned to Correspondents. No rations can be issued to them. However, such facilities as are available in the Italian Army units visited can be placed at their disposal.

tes.

[Signature]

Major General
MIA

Copy to: Director Public Relations, AF
Lt Col BILIZI, HQ PR, GEF
Lt Col Ugo RUVALE, Ufficio Stampa, Ministry of War
Avv A ROSSINI - Direttore Generale della Stampa - Via Veneto

Internal: Col BILIZI (AF)

1732

agrad C/S

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

GSB/new

37/PRB

19 April 1945

SUBJECT: Italian War Correspondents

TO : Land Forces Sub-Commission (MMIA)

1. Reference your INT/114 of 18 April and subsequent personal conversation with Capt. Selby, MMIA, on 19 April.

2. It should be pointed out that the status of Mr. Pincherle and Mr. Meille as ITALIAN WAR CORRESPONDENTS is exactly the same as that of the three previous Italian war correspondents who were accredited by PRO, AFHQ, except that the first three represent Italian newspapers while the later two represent Italian news agencies. As far as PRO, AFHQ and PRO, AC are concerned they are of the same status.

3. The principal difficulty has been in getting uniforms for the two recently accredited correspondents. As explained to Capt. Selby it is customary for war correspondents to be issued officer's uniforms of their own army without officer's insignia which is replaced by a shoulder patch reading (depending on the nationality) U.S. WAR CORRESPONDENT or BRITISH WAR CORRESPONDENT, etc. etc.

4. In the light of this information it can be seen that nothing more is being asked for Mr. Pincherle and Mr. Meille than already has been granted to the other Italian War Correspondents.

Stewart Brown
G. STEWART BROWN
Director, 1731
Public Relations Branch

*W.A. following conversation Brown Selby
on 19/4*

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

Land Forces 5/21
INT/114D
GSB/mw

37/PRB

18 April 1945

SUBJECT: Italian War Correspondents

TO : Lt. Col. G.A.L. Helder
Asst. Dir. Public Relations, AFHQ

1. Reference your letter of 14 April number 2/PRS/86 attaching a copy of letter dated 9 April to PRO AFHQ from Mr. Russell Barnes Director P.W.B.

2. We would like to reiterate our support of the request of the Director P.W.B. for the accreditation of 2nd Lt. Elio Pascarelli as a war correspondent for P.W.B. with the Italian Army. In our opinion the request of P.W.B. should not be adversely affected by the ceiling already placed on the number of Italian war correspondents as this is an exceptional case where the correspondent in question will be doing work definitely assigned to P.W.B. by AFHQ. From every point of view it seems advisable to have an Italian writing news stories about the Italian Army for the Italian press served by P.W.B. in forward areas.

3. In reply to your para 2 I believe that until there are more facilities we should limit the number of Italian war correspondents to those now actually accredited or are in the process of being accredited as representatives of the main Italian news agencies as per your letter 2/PRS/86 of 29 March.

4. With reference to para 2(b) the Italian Army authorities can not satisfactorily handle any more than have been accredited or are in the process of being accredited. Until this situation is improved I do not believe that any more Italian war correspondents should be accredited than already agreed upon. This lack of facilities would not apply to Lt. Pascarelli as he is dependent on P.W.B. and not the Italian Army.

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

5. With reference to your para 4 agency 'SI' still desires ...
Italian war correspondent but has not yet submitted a suitable candidate
which we could recommend to AFHQ PRO.

G. STEWART BROWN
Director,
Public Relations Branch

Copy to:

Land Forces S/C
(Att: Capt. Selby)
Mr. Griffin Benoroft, Deputy Dir.
Liberated Italy, P.W.B.
Mr. Russell Barnes, Director, P.W.B.
PRB Files

11 5 1 7

89

SUBJECT: Italian War Correspondents

LAND FORCES SUB COM, AC (MMIA)

INT/114

18 Apr 45

TO : DIRECTOR - PUBLIC RELATIONS A.C.

1. Ref your 37 /PRB of 15 Apr and telephone conversation Mr. BROWN P.R. - Capt SELBY MMIA on 18 Apr.

In view of the fact that Mr. Pincherle and Mr. Meille are not Italian Army correspondents but represent the ANSA and ORNIS News Agencies the Italian War Ministry is not authorized to provide these correspondents with uniforms, transport and other facilities.

2. It is regretted that this HQ cannot comply with your request.

WBS
Lt. Col. G.S.

egl.

AP

1727

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

37/PRE

15 Apr. 1945

SUBJECT : Italian War correspondents.

TO : Land Forces S/C

1 The following Italian War Correspondents have been screened by us and subsequently accredited by AFHQ PRO and GSI (b) Allied Armies in Italy :

Gino PINCHERLE of ANSA News Agency

Enrico MEBILE of ORBIS News Agency

2 Will you please instruct the Italian Ministry of War to provide these Correspondents with uniforms, rations, transport, and other necessary facilities?

Stewart Brown
STEWART BROWN
Director
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

Copy to: Lt. Col. G.A.L. Belder, HQ Public Relations C.M.F.
Ten. Col. Ugo Maraldi, Ufficio Stampa, Ministero della Guerra, Via 4 Fontane 15
— Avv. A. Rossini, Direttore Generale della Stampa
Sottosegretariato per la Stampa, Via Veneto

B.F. per 18/4/45

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

SUBJECT: Film Production

LAND FORCES SUB-COM, AC (MILIA)

Int/114

TO : PMB. ADAMS

17 APR 45

1. The Photographic Section of the Ministry of War wish to make a film illustrating the contribution of the Italian Army to the war effort, and the assistance of the Allies in reconstituting the Army.
2. The film would include certain sequences already shown as part of "Notizie del Mondo Libero", and other sequences made with Italian fighting troops.
3. It is considered that such a film would be excellent propaganda both for the Army and for the civilian population, and the representation of the Army to the people in this way would have the highest possible morale value.
4. Subject to inspection of the completed film, this HQ fully approves of this method of publicizing the new Italian Army, and it is requested, therefore, that you will give approval for its distribution through your channels to the civilian circuits to which your newscasts are released.

tva.

[Signature]
Major General
MILIA

Copy to: PMB for Film Production Section,
Ufficio Stampa Ministry of War.

Internal: ADAMS

1725

11 520

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

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
C.M.F.

2/17/86.

Subject: Italian War Correspondents.

14th April, 1945.

TO:- Public Relations Director,
H.Q. Allied Commission,
A.P.O. 394.

Ref attached copy of letter dated 3 Apr from Mr. Russell Barnes,
Director, P.W.B. to P.R.O. A.P.H.Q.

1. The letter referred to in para 2 of Mr. Barnes' letter is your letter 37/PWB of 23 Mar 45 to him.
2. So far as P.R.O. A.P.H.Q. is concerned, he would like to have your views as to how many correspondents in toto you think should be accredited to the Italian forces. The main factors to be considered in this connection seem to be:-
 - (a) What representatives do you consider are essential for both the Italian Press and any other organisation which may be concerned (e.g. P.W.B.)
 - (b) What are the total numbers the Italian Army authorities are capable of handling satisfactorily? Here no doubt questions of transport and accommodation are the principal considerations.
3. Will you kindly consider this matter and advise your views as soon as possible.
4. Is the agency "BI" still desirous of having a correspondent?

For PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

G.A.L. Heider

G.A.L. HEIDER 1724
Lieut-Colonel

NA 17/4

Copy to: Land Forces Sub-Commission - Allied Commission. ✓
(not enclose)

11521

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

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
C.M.F.

15^D
2/175/06.

11th April, 1945.

Subject: Italian War Surrenderments.

To: Director,
Public Relations Branch,
Allied Commission.

I
171+

reference your memo 37/188 dated 4 Apr 45.

1. Herewith Passes Nos. 5 and 6 completed by HQ AFM and
15 Army Group.

2. Kindly acknowledge.

For PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER.

Guen

G.A.J. REIDER
Lieut-Colonel.

Copy to: Land Forces Sub-Commission. ✓

13/4

1723

SI

SERVIZIO INFORMAZIONI PER LA STAMPA

VIA SAN BASILIO, 45 - ROMA - TELEFONO 41746 - 43380

Sono abbonati al SI:

New York Times
New York Herald Tribune
Chicago Sun
Stars and Stripes
Daily Telegraph
Daily Mail
Daily Express
News Chronicle
Kemsley News
Tass
United Press
International News
Exchange Telegraph
Australian Cons. Press

~~Avanti!~~
~~L'Espresso~~
~~Il Giornale del Mattino~~
Il Globo
~~Il Nuovo~~
~~Il Lavoro~~
Libera Stampa
~~Il Manifesto~~
~~Risorgimento Libero~~
~~Il Secolo XX~~
~~Il Tempo~~
~~L'Unità~~

BULLETIN No. 879

(Special Issue)

APRIL 10, 1945

ITALIAN ARMY CONTRIBUTION TO WAR EFFORT.

Nearly half a million men fighting at the side of the Allies on land only constitutes the Italian contribution to the common war effort, according to official data summarized to-day.

The Italian Navy and Air Force are not included in this budget. Italy's fighting men can be divided into following three main groups:

- 1°) The Italian Liberation Corps strong of about 50,000 men.

- 2°) Additionally more than twice that number of Auxiliary troops.

- 3°) The Partisan units in the North reckoned at over 100,000 men.

The toll paid by the Italian Army in dead and wounded is extremely heavy.

ITALIAN LIBERATION CORPS

After September 8 some Italian Divisions stationing in metropolitan territory, especially in Apulia and Calabria, participated by the aid of Allied Forces to the struggle against Germans; but later they were withdrawn following instructions by Allies.

The reorganization of the Italian Army was handicapped by the scarcity of arms and other equipments. In December 1943 a motorized group was

United Press
 International News
 Exchange Telegraph
 Australian Cons. Press
~~Avanti!~~
~~L'Espresso~~
~~Il Giornale del Mattino~~
 Il Globo
~~Italia Nuova~~
~~Il Lavoro~~
 Libera Stampa
~~Il Memento~~
~~Risorgimento Liberale~~
~~Il Secolo XX~~
~~Il Tempo~~
~~L'Unità~~

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- 3o) The Partisan units in the North reckoned at over 100,000 men.

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Here are the details:

ITALIAN LIBERATION CORPS

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The reorganization of the Italian Army was handicapped by the scarcity of arms and other equipments. In December 1943 a motorized group was created, which distinguished itself in operations at Montelungo and Monte Lirione, December 1943 and March 1944, respectively.

In recognition of the bravery shown by these troops, Italy was permitted to increase her Armed Forces. The motorized group,

(over)

APRIL 10 1945

which originally included 14,000 men, was reorganized and widened. The new unit, including 22,000 men, was named "Corpo Italiano di Liberazione" (C.I.L.) and transferred to Adriatic sector, where since June 1944 participated in the liberation of Grosio, Cerose, Orsogna, Teramo, Chieti, Ascoli, Filitreno, Jesi, Belvedere, etc. During this period Italian losses included 482 killed and 1365 wounded.

Later the C.I.L. was reorganized and transformed into five combat groups, including "Triuli", "Cremona", "Cremona", "Cremona", with a total of 50,000 men. The "Cremona" group has been recently mentioned for numerous actions in the Ravenna area, where 34 were killed and 147 wounded.

Patriots' Actions up to June 1944

A) South of the Apennines: 526 encounters with Germans and Fascists; Patriots' losses 803 killed 302 wounded; enemy losses 2595 killed, 942 wounded, 258 prisoners. Besides 2831 sabotage operations were carried out against trains and railroads, ammunition and fuel storage, roads and bridges, motor vehicles, etc.

B) North of the Apennines: Patriots' losses 900 killed, 2,000 wounded, 7,000 missing; German and Fascist losses 9,500 killed, 3,500 wounded, 1,500 captured. Besides 456 sabotage actions against electric power plants, trains, motor vehicles, ammunition arms and fuel depots, bridges and roads, etc.

Operations in Balkans

September 8 1943 the XIV Army Corps, including "Emilia", "Taurinense", "Piemonte" and "Venezia" Divisions, fiercely opposed the Germans, despite the order to yield to them all arms. The "Emilia" Division opposed resistance from September 8 to 15 in the zone of Rocche di Cattaro, notwithstanding it was attacked by overwhelming enemy forces. On September 15, after having consigned its arms to "Cetnici" (Mihalovich's irregular soldiers), 5,000 men, on board of all available ships, left for Bari. This Division alone suffered the following losses: 527 killed, 953 wounded, 1020 missing.

The "Venezia" Division, stationing in the zone of Berane, suffered the following losses: 1000 killed, 1000 wounded, 1000 missing.

group has been recently mentioned for numerous actions in the Ravens area, where 34 were killed and 147 wounded.

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The "Venezia" Division, stationing in the zone of Borone, retired in the Plevlje - Schomici area, after fierce battles against overwhelming enemy forces, and its troops were grouped into 6 Partisans' Brigades.

The "Taurinense" Division retreated from Daniloared, after hard battles, and later formed two combat Brigades, which fought up to December 2.

(over)

APRIL 10, 1945

On October 20, 1943, following an agreement with the Yugoslav Liberation Army, the "Garibaldi" Division was formed, including 3 Brigades of the "Venetian" and one Brigade of the "Taurinense" Division. The "Garibaldi" Division, despite the scarcity of equipments, arms and sanitation material, fought in various zones (Plevlje - Odiak - Bjelo - Plje, Radulici, Podgorica, Berane, etc.) up to October 1944. Some of its detachments are still included in Partisans' units. During 1944 the Division was decimated by typhoid, all the medical officers fell sick and many of them died.

These troops were repeatedly mentioned by Marshal Tito for their bravery. Five soldiers were decorated with golden silver medals.

Operations in Corsica.

The Italian troops stationing in Corsica, cooperating with French forces arrived after September 8, 1943, participated in several actions from September 29 to October 4, 1943, and completely liberated Bastia, which was the German resistance stronghold. During these operations Italian losses were 254 killed, 557 wounded, 2152 missing.

Kophsalonia Defense.

The Kophsalonia garrison, including nearly 11,000 men and 525 officers of the "Acqui" Division, complying with superior orders, gallantly resisted from September 15 to 22 1943 against overwhelming German land and air forces. Losses: 440 officers and 5,500 soldiers killed, mostly heroically murdered by Germans.

Corfu Defense.

The garrison, including nearly 10,000 men, mostly of the "Acqui" Division, resisted up to September 26, 1943. All the officers, after having been questioned, were killed by Germans. The total losses were estimated to total 7,000 men, taking account of the fact that some ships carrying Italian prisoners were foundered by Allied Air Forces.

Auxiliary Troops.

Besides the combat units, auxiliary Italian troops have contributed to the war.

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Auxiliary Troops.

Besides the combat units, auxiliary Italian troops have contributed to the war efforts; they included 155,000 men employed as workers. Auxiliary troops attended to loading and unloading ships, to restore telephone lines, to repair roads and bridges; then were also employed in sanitation services, transportation, coastal defense, and generally in works carried out by the Engineering Corps. Their working days amounted to 60,000,000 and their losses were 540 killed and 1813 wounded.

(over)

BULLETIN No 872

PAGE No 4

APRIL 10 1945

Contribution by the Engineering Corps.

Besides repairing and caring for the war material, the Italian Engineering Corps delivered to Allied Forces material of various kinds valued 1,189,875,000 lire, and carried out works whose cost was 211,500,000 lire. Engineering Corps troops and civilians auxiliary squads cleared mine-fields extending 950 hectares and neutralized 554,000 mines. Losses were : 95 killed, 13 crippled, 84 wounded.

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

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

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

Ref. B271/16/EC

3 April 1945

SUBJECT: Press Releases

TO : Mr. RUSSELL BARNES;
Director, PWS in Italy, APO 512.

1. The Allied Commission has received and read with considerable dismay a publication entitled "ARMED FORCES" which was issued on 2 March 1945 by the Press Reading Bureau, AFHQ, ITH, PWS Unit No. 2, U.S. APO 512.

2. This document has been carefully reviewed by my Political Advisors and the Land Forces Sub-Commission. It is their conclusion, in which I concur, that it is an opinionated essay rather than an objective survey of press comments on the specific subject. Its tone is set by the second sentence of paragraph A. While it is realized that you in no way intentionally support such opinionated writing, I must, in fairness to the Italian Army situation as it actually exists, call this matter to your attention.

3. It will be appreciated if in the future PWS will consult with Land Forces Sub-Commission (MHA) of this Commission prior to the issuance of any documents on the Italian Army; technical and operational accuracy would thus be assured.

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissioner

Copy to: G-5 AFHQ

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:
Acting President
Exec. Commissioner
Land Forces S/C
PRO
CC Files

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

37/PRB

4 April 1945

SUBJECT : Italian War Correspondents
TO : Lt.Col. G.A.L. Helder, HQ Public Relations C.M.F.

Attached please find two Italian war correspondents' passes, No 5 and 6, issued respectively to Sig. Gino PINCHERLE, representing A.N.S.A. news agency, and Sig. Enrico MEILLE, representing ORBIS news agency, forwarded to you for completion by PRO AFHQ and 15th Army Groups. Both correspondents hold AC accreditation cards.

Also enclosed are two spare copies of photographs of each correspondent.

May we remind you that the passes have to be signed both on the front and the back page.

G. STEWART BROWN,
Director,
Public relations Branch.

Copy to: Land Forces Sub-Commission.

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

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
Central Mediterranean Force

29 March '45

2/PBS/86

2/PBS/86

SUBJECT: Italian War Correspondents

TO : Director, Public Relations Branch,
ALLIED COMMISSION.

See SP

Reference your 37/PBS dated 24 Mar '45.

1. FRO AFHQ is quite agreeable to one representative of the three major Italian News Agencies (ANSA, ORBIS and SI) each having a representative accredited as an Italian war correspondent providing they are screened on the lines already laid down for screening Italian war correspondents.
2. After names have been submitted and screened we take it you will prepare the necessary licences and send same to us for signature by FRO AFHQ and GSI 15 Army Group. Two spare copies of photographs are required.
3. For your information an application has been received from FRO 15 Army Group for an accredited correspondent. This has been referred by FRO to Deputy Chief DFC for his views.

For the PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER, AFHQ:

G. A. L. Helder

G. A. L. HELDER
Lieut-Colonel

Copies to:

Deputy Chief, DFC
FRO, 15 Army Group
Land Forces Sub-Commission (Allied Commission)
Major F. Weidman, G-5 AFHQ

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→ G-1 to see - 31/3

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

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
C.M.F.

Q A for me
RESTRICTED.

2/25/86.

28th March, 1945.

Subject: Italian War Correspondents.

TO: Public Relations Director,
Allied Commission.

*omit reply to
para 3.*

SP

1. We have received the following statement from our Caserta office:-

"G-2 (Colonel Nichols) states that there is no objection to periodic reports on over-all battle casualties for the Italian Army from September 1943, for publication in the same way as those of the Allied, (provided releases are made in accordance with rules at present applied to casualties of other Allied forces)".
2. The above statement has been notified to Chief Press Censor.
3. We should like to know, however, what is the position regarding releases of battle casualties for the Italian Army. Are they being released and, if so, are such releases made under the procedure existing for the former Italian forces. It seems to be highly desirable that nothing should be done which might involve relatives of Italian soldiers at present residing in Northern Italy suffering at the hands of the Fascists.

FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER:

G A L Heider

G.A.L. HEIDER
Lieut-Colonel.

Copy to: Land Forces Sub-Commission, M.M.I.A. (Allied Commission), **1716**

MMIA-G

RECEIVED

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11 5 3 4

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

Press Release

The Prince of Piedmont recently visited another of the Italian Combat Groups in training in Central Italy.

During his tour the Prince saw units on field exercises, inspected workshops and visited schools where men were undergoing instruction. The Prince was able to notice the high standard of training and discipline and the methods of handling the new arms and vehicles with which the Group is equipped.

Everywhere there were signs of the greatest enthusiasm and keenness. The morale of the Group is high and men are eager to join their comrades in the line who have already given a good account of themselves.

On the return journey, the population of several villages turned out to cheer the Prince, whose car was stopped on more than one occasion by the surging crowds to see and cheer him.

// Copy sent to PR AC & WM.
28/3

1715

SUBJECT: Press Release

Land Forces Sub Com, A.C.
(M.E.I.A.)
INT/114
23 March 45

To: Political Adviser (Br)

1. I think this is a thoroughly bad, mischievous and misleading document.
2. It plays up to what interested parties and opposition newspapers are stating for their own political ends.
3. It gives no credit to the Army authorities for their loyal and excellent work and cooperation, which has resulted in such a very considerable aid to the war effort.
4. It is obviously compiled by someone who has no military knowledge and no conception of the difficulties and existing state of affairs. For example, because a rabble appears and demands to be taken into the Army, that is no reason why it should be. Men have to be enlisted through authorized channels and authorized procedure within the ceiling laid down by the Allies. It is the volunteers can fault if they now suddenly come forward in a choking flood, when for months they would not do so. The Ministry of War and MIA have to plan ahead for call-ups and we cannot throw the machinery completely out of gear because a number of Italians suddenly change their mind.
5. Gen AZZI was rightly removed from the Army because he failed lamentably in his duty as a soldier by publicly dabbling in politics. Yet he is quoted as a sort of authority.
6. The whole tone of this dangerous comment is completely subversive and undermining of the prestige and authority of the Italian military authorities, who are doing their duty (in my opinion nobly and conscientiously) in spite of the innumerable and conflicting press criticisms and cross-currents. I have been at pains to build up this essential prestige and authority, which would be higher but for the political activities of certain elements of the press.

7. Finally, I would point out that in this document there is not a word of reference to the many successes, particularly recently, of the

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7. Finally, I would point out that in this document there is not one word of reference to the many eulogies, particularly recently, of the Italian Army by many high-ranking Allied officers from Field Marshal ALEXANDER downwards.
8. I would like the document to be suppressed immediately and completely, and I urge that no other like it ever be produced again.
9. If documents on the Italian Army are to be issued in future, I urge that MIA be consulted first. We are independent, neutral and fair, and are perhaps the only organization in a position to present the proper and the truthful picture.

1712

L. BROWNING
Major General
M.E.I.A.

6
Armed Force Headquarters
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH
Italian Theatre Headquarters
P.W.B. Unit No. 12 U.S.A.P.O. 512

Press Reading Bureau

2 March, 1945

ARMED FORCES

a. The response to the military draft and the recruitment of volunteers.

There is hardly any reference in the Press to the results achieved by the draft and the recruitment of volunteers. The Communist papers of the various provinces are the best sources for news on this subject, as the Communist party favoured the formation of a great Italian army of liberation.

All in all, it may be assumed that the call-up of eleven classes in January had very good results. One must bear in mind that this call-up was opposed by many of the opposition papers, which reasoned that the text of the armistice had not been published and that the young men had a right to know what they were fighting for. Other reasons for opposition were the usual argument that the army formations are still prevalently monarchical and reactionary and that therefore the young recruits would have served the cause of the monarchy more than that of Italy. Apart from the opposition expressed by these papers, there is a natural diffidence in Italy towards the call-up. One must bear the fact in mind that many of these young men have been serving for years, that many of them were able to join their families only after the 8th September, because of the general disorganisation and take up their profession again. There is a wide-spread hostility to war in many circles, as it is believed that it will fail to bring about any change in Italy's political situation. One must consider besides that the separatist movement in Sicily has carried out a campaign of agitation against the call-up, maintaining that Sicily must not interfere in Italian affairs, but only aim at achieving the independence of the island.

No particulars have yet been given on the total results of the call-up. ¹⁷¹³ But numerous communiques were issued on the partial results. According

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No particulars have yet been given on the total results of the call-up, but numerous communiques were issued on the partial results. According to a communique issued by the Allied Commission, 13,000 men answered the call-up in Sardinia instead of 10,000 as had been foreseen. According to a communique issued by the Presidency of the Council, the response to the call-up equally proved superior to what had been foreseen. In the provinces of Palermo, Messina and Catania the response was 80-75 and 70% response of what had been expected. Right from the first days thousands of young men entered the Bianchi barracks in Rome and were subsequently sent out to Naples.

According to LA VOCE (a left-wing paper published in Naples) of February 28, "the response to the call-up and the recruitment of volunteers has been extremely impressive and is now assuming such proportions that it is putting those organizations set up to deal with it to a severe test. They had not expected a similar popular plebiscite. 2,000 new recruits had left Lucania as from March 1. The call-up also met with great success in the provinces of Calabria, Umbria, Marche and Tuscany.

The most encouraging factor and a proof of the new spirit prevalent in Italy is the number of volunteers enlisting in the various recruiting centers. This has been encouraged by the propaganda of many left-wing papers, the "Day of the Partisan and the Soldier", the arrival of many partisans from the North, who made it clear that the war had to be given priority over all other things.

There are thousands of young men, not only isolated cases, who try to leave for the front by all possible means, also when they see themselves actively opposed by hostile Italian Military authorities. Naturally the majority of the volunteers are partisans. The division "Potente" which took part in the fighting for the liberation of Florence and which numbers 5,000 partisans, has enlisted en masse in the army.

This is what the partisans did in Siena as also many of the brigades in the Marche Province.

News of large numbers of partisans joining the Army comes from Ancona and also from all the other zones which have been longest under German occupation.

In addition to the partisans, thousands of volunteers throughout all liberated Italy are offering the selves for service. It is interesting to note some figures which come from Sicily which seemed at the region which was most diffident in supporting the principle of participating in the war against nazi-fascism. According to LA VOCE (Naples paper) 500 volunteers left Enna for recruiting camps. The same paper reports the first batch of 400 volunteers from Palermo, 300 from Caltanissetta and 500 from Messina. The Italian Women's Union gives every assistance to the volunteers prior to their departure. There are also other patriotic and combatant organizations.

It should be noted that very often these volunteers succeed in leaving for the front, despite the fact that some officers of an out-moded mentality try to impede them, by discouraging them in every possible way. GIOVENTU' NUOVA (Juvenile edition of UNITA') of March 11, reports for instance the incident of several volunteers who arrived in Rome on foot, coming from Gubbio (Umbria). After having made the round of many barracks, and numerous Ministers, pleading in the name of their cause, these volunteers finally found reception in the San Marco battalion. "It was a hard job," they said, "but we refused to go home, unless we returned as soldiers. It is necessary to leave for the front at whatever the cost, in the name of Italy and her future."

b. Increase in soldier's pay.

Last month the Council of Ministers decided many measures in favour of Italian soldiers. A soldier with more than 40 months service to his credit will receive 19 liras daily (three times the amount of his former pay); a soldier with less than 40 months service will receive 14 liras daily. (Twice the amount of his former pay). Soldiers belonging to combatant units receive a special daily allowance of 45 lire. In future

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c. Discussions on Army reform.

The opposition papers continue to deal with an army reform, which should transform the army into a truly national, non political and democratic army.

Measures taken by the Government, which culminated last month in placing the head of the Chief of Staff under the control of the War Ministry, and this month in placing the Information Service under the control of the War Ministry as well, have been generally favourably received; it is pointed out that this step has helped to relieve the General Staff and the Information Service from the arbitrary and excessive power they possessed and which proved so harmful to the army, which had thus become a political organization.

General Armando Azzi, former commander of Lazio and the Abruzzi, in numerous articles published in LA VOCE REPUBBLICANA and ITALIA LIBERA insists that should his suggestions, among which the most important is the suspension of the oath of loyalty to the monarchy by officers and soldiers, not be put into practice, the Italian army will never be made into a more democratic organization. Not only will union between army and people not be able to exist otherwise, but there will always be doubts in the hearts of the Italian people, whether the Italian armed forces are not in the services of the reaction. The incidents in the AVANTI's offices and those outside the Quirinal have given the opposition a new opportunity to assert that epuration has not been carried out seriously in the ranks of the army, navy and airforce, that too many of those responsible are still at their posts and that, should things go on in this manner, conditions for a civil war between army and people are being created. The fact that Generals and colonels, listed by the Yugoslav government as war criminals, are still at their posts of command in the army - thus impeding the rebirth of complete confidence between soldiers and their superior officers, on the one hand, and army and people on the other was also severely criticized.

Finally the opposition papers believe that epuration must be speeded up in the Italian army - the dismissal of 38 Generals during the first days of February was stated to be insufficient - that an increasing number of partisans, including those of higher rank, must be incorporated into the army, that the oath of loyalty to the monarchy must be abolished, that all propaganda in favour of the monarchy must cease and that soldiers be treated with the dignity they deserve in return for their sacrifices in so many years of war.

"And this must come about soon," writes IL MOMENTO, "so that the country may at last be able to look to the re-organized army of democratic Italy with trust and confidence."

am.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

GSE/ob

37/PRB

24 March 1945

SUBJECT : Italian War Correspondents

TO : Col. P.R. Astley
Public Relations Officer
Public Relations Advanced, AFHQ

1. You will recall our several verbal conversations regarding the possibility of accrediting one representative from each of the major Italian news agencies as an Italian war correspondent.

2. Sig. Armando Rossini, Chief of the Press Office of the Council of Ministers, has formally requested that war correspondent credentials be granted to a representative each from A.N.S.A., ORBIS and S.I.

3. This request is supported by this office. We believe it is the best way to furnish all Italian newspapers with adequate accounts of the operations of the Italian Army. It also would permit us to tell Italian newspapers wishing to appoint war correspondents that they are covered by the news agencies.

4. Approval on this proposal by AFHQ is requested. The names of the correspondents from the three agencies will be submitted to you after AFHQ approval to the plan has been obtained. They will have prior screening by the AC before their names are submitted.

G. STEWART BROWN,
Director,
Public Relations Branch.

Copy to :
Land Forces Sub-Commission
Major F. Weidman, G-5, AFHQ.

1711

SW 24/3

25/3

11 5 4 3

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

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Pamphlets

LAND FORCES SUB-COM. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
File No. INT/114
23 March 45

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

1. Attached are two photographed copies of pamphlets which the Germans recently dropped over the "CREMONA" Gp Section.
2. It will be seen from these pamphlets that Geniere Luppi Gino, of 7 Coy, 2 Bn of the 22 Regt together with 36 men of the "CREMONA" Gp were made prisoner on 16 Jan 45.
3. The above for information and action as necessary.

Internal: "A"

R. Belby
Major General
M. M. I. A.

WB

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

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Press Release

LAND FORCES SUB COM. A.C.
(M.M.L.A.)

DPF/114

16 March 45

TO : Public Relations, Allied Commission

Herewith five copies of Field Marshal Alexander's speech which was delivered on the occasion of the S.A.C.'s visit to the RTO ICF at Cesano.

ogl.

J.R.S.
Lt. Col. G.S.

1709

for Rome

H.Q. PUBLIC RELATIONS
C. M. P.

2/13/86

9th March, 1945.

Subject: Italian War Correspondent.

MEMO To:- Public Relations Director,
Headquarters,
Allied Commission.

Refer to your Memo 37/PRB of 26 Feb 45.

1. Transit Pass No. 4 in the name of Sig Gino De SANTIS has now been signed by 15th Army Group and P.R.O., AFHQ., and is sent to you for issue.
2. Kindly acknowledge receipt.

For PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

G. A. L. Heller

G. A. L. HELLER
Lieut-Colonel

Copy to: Land Forces Sub-Commission, A.C. (M.M.I.A.) ✓

1708
13/3

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