

1951

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

ACC

10000/120/866

INT/113

Opened May

May - Oct.

1952

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

10000/120/866

INT/US Intelligence Information Italian Army for War Office

Opened May 4, 1945. Closed Oct 14, 1945

May - Oct. 1945

1953

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

Subject: Historical Works.

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION, A.C.
(M. M. I. A.)

ROME.

INT/118.

16 Oct 45.

To: The War Office, M.I.L.

Whitehall, S.W.1.

Reference your 955/45/MIL of 20 Sept 45.

We have been informed by the Italian Ministry of War that volumes 5 and 6 of the Italian publication "L'Esercito Italiano nella Grande Guerra 1915-1918" have not yet appeared, nor have any other volumes on this subject yet been published.

The Italian War Ministry have however taken note of your request and copies of the volumes in question will be forwarded to you as soon as they appear.

R. G. A. G. R.

for Major General
M. M. I. A.

AGR/rjd

2.93

1954

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MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA
Stato Maggiore R.Esercito
Ufficio Storico

12

N. 8549 /St.di prot. P.M.3800, 11 16 ott. 1945

ALLA L.F.S.C. - A.C. (MMIA)

G Int.

OGGETTO : pubblicazioni storiche.

folia 11

Rif.fl. int/118 del 12 corr. di codesta MMIA

I volumi 5 e 6 della pubblicazione "L'Esercito Italiano nella grande guerra 1915-18" non sono ancora usciti, né sono stati pubblicati altri lavori su tale argomento.

Sarà tenuto conto della richiesta e, come per il passato, sarà cura dell'Ufficio Storico di questo S.M. inviare al War Office - Londra le pubblicazioni che saranno edite in avvenire.

IL GENERALE ADDETTO

G. Liuzzi -

Liuzzi



2198

11955

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

Subject: Historical Works.

Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C.
(M. M. I. A.)

ROME.

INT/118.

12 Oct 45.

To: MINISTRY OF WAR.

We have been requested by the War Office, LONDON to try to obtain through you volumes 5 and 6 of the Italian publication "L'Esercito Italiano nella Grande Guerra 1915 - 1918" and also any other volumes on this subject which may have appeared or are likely to appear in the near future.

We would be grateful therefore if you would kindly forward to us copies of the works in question should you have them available.

R. G. A. G. R.
Major General
M. M. I. A.

AGR/rjd

2197

1956

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

Tel. No. —

Any letter communication on this subject should be addressed to:
The Under-Secretary of State,
The War Office
(as appropriate)
and the following number quoted.



THE WAR OFFICE

Whitehall, S.W.1

955/45/MIL

Your Reference

G(1)

20th September, 1945.

Memorandum for:-

The Military Mission to the Italian Army,
C.M.F.

From: The War Office, M.I.L.

We have been requested to try and obtain through you from the Italian Ministry of War Volumes 5 and 6 of the Italian publication "L'esercito italiano nella Grande Guerra 1915-1918", and also any other volumes on this subject which may have appeared or are likely to appear in the near future.

Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 are already in our possession.

Will you, therefore, please arrange despatch at your early convenience.

John S. Call
Captain

for Director of Military Intelligence.

2196

1957

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

PERSONAL

PERSONAL

File INT/118

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
APO 512 U.S. ARMY
Major General T. S. AIPRY

GBI/DO/179/45

28 July 1945

my dear Hawley

Many thanks for your DO/2 of 21 July 45
enclosing the dossiers on Italian Army Officers. I have
been through them and am now sending them on to Thornton
with your D.O. as requested.

Best wishes.

Yours *sm*

Frederic

L.B.
[Signature]
30/7

2195

Major General L. BROWNING, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.,
Land Forces Sub-Commission, A.C.,
(M.M.I.A.) Rome.

1958

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

8

Major General L. Browning, CB. OBE. MC.
Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E.
DQ/2.

21 July, 1945.

My dear

When I was home discussing Italian Army matters with the War Office last December Frank Thornton told me that he would like dossiers of Italian Army officers in due course. I felt that it was no good sending him these at that time because so many changes were impending. But now that much of the purging has been done I am sending him the enclosed through you - official channels!

Would you kindly see that these dossiers plus my D.O. to Thornton are sent on to him.

Best wishes,

Yours

L. B.

Maj. Gen. T. S. AIRY, C.B., O.B.C.,
A.F.H.Q.

219

/ago

1959

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

7
PERSONAL

Major General L. Browning, CB, OBS. MC.,
Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C.
M.A.I.A.
R O M E.
D9/2.

2/ July, 1945.

My dear

Herewith the dossiers of the Italian Generals on the official list in service here, as we know them at present. These will give you a good start for your post war Italian Section in M.I.

We are also collecting dossiers on Italian officers down to Lieut.Colonial inclusive. There are several hundred of these and the translating aspect is a big one. However I hope to send you this bunch in about a month's time.

The partisan situation is better. They have handed in a lot of arms and faded out or been absorbed but I fear that there are still a lot of arms hidden. However The Italian Army Territorial Headquarters are now functioning everywhere (except Venezia Giulia, which is a separate party as you know) and getting into their stride. This is all to the good as it extends the authority of the Ministry of War all over Italy and is a step towards the organisation and distribution of the post-Treaty Italian Army. We do not know the size, composition or armament of the latter yet but we are reducing Italian service units (Br-Itis and US-Itis) as these become no longer necessary and thus are getting the Italian Army down to nearer what may be the post-Treaty figure.

I am sending this through Major General Airey at A.P.H.Q. so that he will see what I am sending to you.

I hope you are going strong.

With best wishes au revoir,

Yours

2197

k-13

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I hope you are going strong.

With best wishes au revoir,

Yours

2197

L.B.

Brig. F. Thornton,
D.D.M.I. (I).,
War Office,
Whitehall,
LONDON, S.W.1.

/dgc

1961

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

PERSONAL

Brig. F. Thornton,
D.D.M.I.(I).,
War Office,
Whitehall,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E.
D.O. 2.

5 June, 1945.

My dear

In continuance of my D.O. 2 of 31 May I have now received sanction from Monkey Morgan to send you my D.O. 2 of 10 April and the relevant papers. I enclose these herewith and the Italian Army strength state as at 8 May. The latter is rather a useful document and gives you a very full idea of the general organisation and distribution of the Italian Army. I also enclose a list of Italian Generals with their appointments. We have the dossiers of most of these but we will get them for the whole lot and then send the complete budget through Major-General AIREY at A.F.H.Q.

Best wishes and au revoir,

Yours

LA

Brig. F. Thornton,
D.D.M.I.(I).,
War Office,
Whitehall,
LONDON, S.W.1.

2130

dgc

11962

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

Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
R O M E.
D.O. 2.

/ June, 1945.

My dear

When I was home last December at the War Office I had a long talk with Frank Thornton, D.D.M.I.(I) about the Italian Army and he was anxious to keep abreast of the situation in that respect. He has heard of my letter to you D.O. 2 of 10 Apr which you will remember gave a general resume of the state of affairs at that time. Frank has written to me D.O. asking if I could send him a copy of that letter together with the relative papers referred to in it. Have you any objection to my doing so?

I expect you are frightfully busy so if you agree perhaps you would just tell your P.A. to ring up my M.A. to say O.K.

We were delighted to have WARD with us for a night. We explained our main problems to him and I think that certainly from ours and probably from his the visit was a most useful one.

Yours

h.B.

Lt.Gen. W.D. MORGAN, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.,
Chief of Staff,
A.F.H.Q.

2188

idgc

TOP SECRET & PERSONAL

Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C.
M.M.I.A.
C. W. F.

DO/2 31 May, 1945.

My dear

Many thanks for your Inf/B/41/3/45 dated 19th May, 1945 which gives me what I wanted to know.

I have now explained matters to my Intelligence Branch and we will organise our Intelligence and Records so that when M.M.I.A. disappears we shall be able to hand over to you a large budget of information which could form the basis of your Italian Section at the War Office.

We are making up a complete card index of all officers of importance in the Italian Army, now or likely to be. I will send you some notes on the more important chaps through AIRBY at A.P.H.Q.

I am writing to Monkey Morgan, to ask if I may send you my D.O. 2 of 10th April which I think would give you a pretty good over all picture of the situation as we saw it at that time. Since then of course much has developed and in due course I shall send another D.O. 2 to C.G.S. and C.A.O. reporting progress.

2187

The situation in Italy at the moment is rather a "dog's breakfast"! The main thing that I feel is necessary is to get agreement between the Partisans of the North headed by CLNAI and the existing Roman Government, so that there shall be one united Government for Italy which will exercise authority all over Italy. At present the patriots are taking the attitude that they won the war! They consider that the existing Italian Army as a whole is no good. They are jibbing at the setting up of the Territorial Regional Headquarters which we designed and which S.A.C. authorised long ago. Until these Regional Headquarters are set up we cannot get the authority of the Ministry of War extended over the North. This however is solving itself gradually.

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2187

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Another big question is what we are going to do with the Italian Army until the Peace Treaty is signed. Presumably Italian Service Units will be needed by the Allies less and less, particularly as German P.Ws. are going to be used to do a lot of work. Apart from these Italian Service Units (which in due course will fade out to zero) there is the question as to what size and kind of Italian Army we shall retain in being to enable the Italian Government to carry out its functions. On behalf of Allied Commission I have just examined the problem as to whether and how we can transfer control to such an "Interim Force" of the Italian Government (subject to safeguards for the Allies) if the Territory of all Italy is handed back to Italian Government control before the Peace Treaty. The

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- 2 -

idea at the back of this is that if we hand over ^{political} ~~technical~~ control, subject to safeguards, we should hand over military control, subject to safeguards, as well. But this of course is only in embryo at present. I have made merely a technical appreciation of the matter and it will obviously be for people much higher than me to decide on this very big question.

I shall look forward to seeing you a little later on, perhaps sometime this month, because I feel that I can give you a great deal of information and also that you can tell me what is in the W.O. mind as regards the future of the Italian Army.

All the best and Au revoir,

Yours

L.B.

Brig. F. THORNTON,
D.D.M.I.(I),
War Office,
Whitehall,
LONDON, S.W.1.

2186

All the best and Au revoir,

Yours

L.B.

Brig. F. THORNTON,
D.D.N.I.(I),
War Office,
Whitehall,
LONDON, S.W.1.

/dgc

2186

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

11967

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

From: Brigadier F. T. Minton, DDMI(I).

TOP SECRET AND
PERSONAL

THE WAR OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Inf/B/41/3/45

19th May, 1945.

Dear *Tangley*,

Thank you for your D.O./2 of 4 May 45.

Your paragraphs 3 and 4.

We do not want to inflict a great deal of work on your hard-worked staff. I know they have plenty of other things to do. What I had in mind was our need for particulars of the more important military personalities in the new Italian Army. Whereas the Mission's periodical reports do tell us the organisation of the 'gruppi' and the total strength of the army, we only learn the names of important commanders more or less by accident, from the Press or from F.O. telegrams. If you could keep us posted on generals only, it would be a considerable help.

Your paragraphs 5 and 6.

The object of our peace time intelligence on the Italian Army will be for us to be in a position to produce on demand all the intelligence necessary to make as complete as possible an appreciation of the Italian Army as a potential enemy, a potential ally or as a factor in Mediterranean strategy.

But this is a question for the future, i.e. after M.M.I.A. is wound up. While M.M.I.A. exists we do not want to duplicate its work. We merely want to ensure that, when the time comes, we shall find in your records a firm basis for all future intelligence on the Italian Army. Answers to ad hoc questions we can of course obtain from you or A.F.H.Q.

Your paragraph 8.

2185

We should very much like to see this D.O. to C.G.S. and C.A.O. if you can obtain permission to send it to us.

Maj.-Gen. L. Browning, CB., OBE., MC.,
Commander, Military Mission to the Italian Army, Your paragraph 9. /
Land Forces, Sub-Commission A.C. (MMIA),
C. M. F.

1968

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

Your paragraph 9.

The future Italian Army is, of course, provided for by the Peace Treaty, the terms of which are at present under discussion.

Your paragraph 10.

From an intelligence viewpoint, the longer we have control of the Italian Army the better we shall be pleased, as this will lead to more complete knowledge of its value for war.

I hope that the above will convince you that we do not really want very much, only :-

(a) Personality notes on Generals, if you can conveniently do this.

(b) A chance to examine your records and reports on 'your' Army, when your Mission closes down.

What you have done for us up to date has been a great help and I personally am more than grateful.

Your Colonel Noakes came to see me before he returned, which I much appreciated. I did not want to bother him with a reply to your letter, which had only just arrived, but a chat with someone who has first-hand knowledge is invaluable.

All the best and again thank you.

Yours ever

Frank Thowton

BY AIR

PERSONAL

Major General L. Browning, CH. OFS. MC.
Land Forces Sub Commission, A.C.
M.M.I.A.
DO/2.

4 May, 1945.

My dear

1. Many thanks for your Inf/B/41/2 of 20 April.
2. Yes, I had a very nice letter from SIMPO, to which I replied on 30 April, addressing him (I see) as D.M.O.! Please give him my apologies for not putting "A.C.I.G.S.(O)". I did not know.

3. Now, as regards my sending you "any dossiers or papers on the Italian Army". It is rather difficult to know what to send or what I am permitted to send.

4. My party here is a pretty vast organisation now, obviously, my "I" staff is very small, and I am not quite clear exactly how much you want to know. As I see it, you at the War Office want to start building up the Italian Section of M.I. On the other hand for instance it would be an immense labour for M.M.I.A. to keep you primed up to date with the dossiers of Italian officers who are constantly changing. We have a very large number already.

5. Also in M.M.I.A. we only get; what one might call, the "internal intelligence" re the Italian Army, e.g. its organisation, distribution, equipment, morale etc. AIRLY at A.P.H.Q. gets all the 15 Army Group intelligence direct.

6. What I feel might be the answer is for you to send me personally a detailed list of headings under which you will in peace maintain intelligence re the I.A. I could examine and then perhaps discuss with AIRLY as to what he should provide and what I should. Until we clear out of here, ²¹⁸⁴ could look on M.M.I.A. as your advanced section of M.I.C., which will in due course hand you over all the intelligence collected and documented to date e.g. dossiers. If at any

I did not know.

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6. What I feel might be the answer is for you to send me personally a detailed list of headings under which you will in peace maintain intelligence re the I.A. I could examine and then perhaps discuss with AIRBY as to what he should provide and what I should. Until we clear out of here, **218!** could look on M.M.I.A. as your advanced section of M.I.C., which will in due course hand you over all the intelligence collected and documented to date e.g. dossiers. If at any time you want anything particular AIRBY or M.M.I.A. could supply it - perhaps by answering a questionnaire. This could be supplemented by my coming home from time to time and giving you the picture verbally; together with perhaps the major relative papers. There is so much in this business out here that one can give a verbal impression of what one can't exactly specify on paper.

7. We obviously must and do know far more about the Italian Army than anyone at A.P.H.Q., partly because each branch at A.P.H.Q. only really sees its own angle and partly because we live alongside the Italian Ministry of War and are dealing with the Italian Army every day and all day. On the other hand I must maintain correct procedure and channels. I don't want A.P.H.Q. to think in any way that

/ I

I am corresponding officially behind their back! I know they don't feel that way, being sensible and with Monkey as C.O.S., but I must observe les convenances!

8. I shall be going to see Monkey next week and I'll ask him if I may send you a copy of my DO/2 of 10 Apr: together with the letters referred to in it. That letter addressed D.O. to C.S.S. and C.A.C.) gave a summary of the A.A. activities as regards the development of the Italian Army and the major matters on hand. I gave you chaps a similar one last December. I think you'd get a fairly good picture from it.

9. As regards the future, of course a whole new series of problems arise. With the war here over, we in M.M.I.A. will want to know such things as:-

- (a) What is the object for the Italian Army now? Is it for internal security plus replacing Allied man power to enable Allied troops to be withdrawn from ITALY? or is it to be used as well for the civilian aspect of rehabilitation of the Italian economy, such as mine clearing; harvesting, refugees, clearing of demolitions etc.?
- (b) Is the Italian Army to be maintained at its existing ceiling?
- (c) What is to be the post-war size, composition and armament of the Italian Army?

Within the above are a host of minor co-relating problems. I know A.T.H.Q. are thinking about all this and that we shall in due course get guidance from them.

10. In any event, it looks as if, having created this army for the purpose of war in this theatre, M.M.I.A. is now faced with the task of re-creating it in another form for the transition period and then re-adjusting it again on to a post-war basis! So we'll continue to be busy "more than somewhat".

11. I've been more or less "thinking aloud" in writing the above. I feel I can write this to you D.O. Perhaps you could also "think aloud" in your reply! I shall look

will want to know such things as:-

- (a) What is the object for the Italian Army now? Is it for Internal security plus replacing Allied man power to enable Allied troops to be withdrawn from ITALY? or is it to be used as well for the civilian aspect of rehabilitation of the Italian economy, such as mine clearing; harvesting, refugees, clearing of demolitions etc.?
- (b) Is the Italian Army to be maintained at its existing ceiling?
- (c) What is to be the post-war size, composition and armament of the Italian Army?

Within the above are a host of minor co-relating problems. I know A.P.E.Q. are thinking about all this and that we shall in due course get guidance from them.

10. In any event, it looks as if, having created this army for the purpose of war in this theatre, W.M.I.A. is now faced with the task of re-creating it in another form for the transition period and then re-adjusting it again on to a post-war basis! So we'll continue to be busy "more than somewhat".

11. I've been more or less "thinking aloud" in writing the above. I feel I can write this to you D.O. Perhaps you could also "think aloud" in your reply! I shall look forward to seeing you again in the not too distant future. I think it would be profitable if I came and had talks when the situation has crystallised a bit and when we be ²¹⁸³ see our way a little clearer. Best wishes and au revoir.

Yours

L.B.

Brig. P: Thornton,
D.D.M.I. (I) War Office,
Whitehall,
London, W.1.

1 9 7 3