

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

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G/5/A

Appreciation ON THE ITI ARMED FORCES

Oct. 1944 . June 1945

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

785020

ALLIED [REDACTED] COMMISSION
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM
LIAISON DIVISION

SUBJECT: Status of Italian Army

FILE No. 820/EO(L)

TO : Land Forces Sub-Commission
(M.M.I.A.)

5 June 1945 194

1. Enclosed 5 June letter XS/SM no. 2.143 from French Representative to A.C. requests information whether cessation of hostilities in Europe has brought about any change in status of Italian Army.
2. It will be appreciated if you will advise what reply is to be made to this inquiry.

Encl: Letter from French Representative
dtd 5 June 1945

Officer in Charge
Liaison Division

M.M.I.A.
FILE 6/5
6/6

476
1192
Phoned - No change of present
7 June 1945

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COPY

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the French Representative
AFO 394

Rome, June 5th 45
XS/SM no. 2.143

MEMORANDUM

TO : Liaison Division
SUBJECT : Italian Army

1. Major General DE SEVIN, French Representative in A.C. would very much appreciate to know whether the ending of the war in Europe will bring any modifications or any alteration in the status of the Italian Army.

/s/ DE SEVIN
Maj. Gen.

1191

11MIA
FILE: G/S
DATE: 6/6

(28)
CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Request for Information =
French A.C. Representative.

LAND FORCES SUB COM, AC (MMIA)

G/5

22
May 45

TO : Liaison Div AC.

*Returned to Liaison Div
at their request.*

Ref your 820/EG(L) of 23 May.

1. It is suggested that you show to French Rep. a copy of the Order of Battle and Strength Return of the Italian Army forwarded to you under ref n° 2/8. This contains information as to categories, units, location, authorized strengths and actual strengths.

2. The arrangements are shown on the WEs. As there are 70 pages of units on the ORBAT and each unit has several different types of arms it has not been possible to summarise, owing to an insufficiency of both staff and time. However, anything in particular that is required may be obtained by a visit to this office.

1190

[Signature]
Major General,
MMIA.

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

LAND FORCES SUB-COM. A.C.
(M.M.I.A.)
File No. TS/C/4
14 Nov 44


TO : OFFICE OF THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE
(att. Lt. de NOË)
H.Q. ALLIED COMMISSION

Ref your memorandum dated 21 October requesting information about the new Italian Combat Groups.

1. Instructions have been received by this Sub-Commission that LONDON and WASHINGTON will control the passing of Military Information and that requests for information should be taken up by the French Mission accredited to the Allies at those centres.

2. This Sub-Commission is merely Executive and does not decide policy. It will thus be realized that it is not in a position to give information and it is requested that you will forward your questions through the channels mentioned in para 1 above.

3. Meanwhile, as you will have doubtless seen from the Press, the intention is to form a number (not yet fixed) of Italian Combat Groups armed with Allied Equipment to take part in operations for the liberation of ITALY.


Lt. Col.
CSOI
Land Forces Sub-Commission
(M.M.I.A.)

SECRET

Land Forces Sub-Com. A.C.
(F.F.I.A.)

TS/G/L
8 Nov 44

TO : Office of French Representative
(att Lt. de NORE)
H.Q. Allied Commission.

Ref your memorandum to Gen. BROWNING of
21 Oct and further to phone conversation.

1. Gen. BROWNING has instructed me to prepare the information you require and this will be ready by the end of this week.
2. If you will phone me approximately Tuesday 14 Nov, I will arrange a suitable time for Generale de SEVIN to visit Gen. BROWNING.

J.M.A. 1189
Lt. Col.
C.S.

A.D.C.

Will you please show to G.O.C.
and let me know suitable time

J.M.A.
8 Nov.

C O P Y

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the French Representative
A.P.C. 394

October 21st 1944

MEMORANDUM

for

Major General BROWNING

In view of the recent developments and agreements reached in between Italy and the Allies, the French Representative in A.C.C. would deeply appreciate if some information could be given on the following points:

- a) It is believed that an Italian Army of 60,000 men is being planned for or organized. If this is so, how many Divisions would it contain? What armement would be provided? Would this Army be intended for operations in Italy?

How would this affect the decision of keeping down to 20,000 the number of active Italian Combat Troops?

- b) Could the names of the Italian Corps and Division Commanders be provided as well as location of big units?

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SECRET

Land Forces Sub-Com. A.C.
(M.F.L.A.)

8 TS/6/4
8 Nov 44

TO : Office of French Representative
(att Lt. de MARE)
H.Q. Allied Commission.

Ref your memorandum to Gen. BRAWNING of
21 Oct and further to phone conversation.

1. Gen. BRAWNING has instructed us to prepare the information you require and this will be ready by the end of this week.
2. If you will phone us approximately Tuesday 14 Nov, I will arrange a suitable time for Generale de BLVIN to visit Gen. BRAWNING.

L.M.S.
Lt. Col.
C.S.

1187

UNITED COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS

Office of the French Representative

ROME, 19 15 Novembre 1944
XS/SM n° 137

MEMORANDUM

For Major General BROWNING.

1°) It is believed that, according to former plans, the new Italian Army was to include:

12 Infantry Divisions with a ceiling of 400.000 men; 3 of these Divisions were to be equipped with Italian equipment.

The ceiling for Italian combat Troops at the front was to be of 20.000 men.

In which way have the above decisions been altered?

What units are planned?
What ceiling for the entire Italian Army?
What ceiling for combat troops?

2°) The Italian Press has given the information by which 6 Divisions were ready to be sent up to the front line; is this correct? and if so:

a) what equipment has been given to these units? (Italian or Allied?)

b) what is the general organization? Members of Corps? name of Corps Generals?

c) will these units, at the front, be grouped under Italian command?

d) how were these units trained with modern equipment? How good are they?

3°) Are other Italian Divisions been trained now? Are they going to receive weapons to go up to the front?

4°) What becomes of Italian desertors coming down from enemy occupied Italy? Do they remain in the Italian Army? Are they included in the general ceiling? (nearly a whole Division is reported to have deserted)

5°) What becomes of Italian soldiers repatriated from Greece or the Balkans?

6°) What has become of the 20.000 Italian soldiers who have left the front line? Are they included in the Infantry Divisions referred to by the Italian Press?

1186

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the French Representative
APO 394

COPY

504

October 21st 1944

MEMORANDUM

for

Major General Browning

In view of the recent developments and agreements reached in between Italy and the Allies, the French Representative in A.C.C. would deeply appreciate if some information could be given on the following points:

- a) It is believed that an Italian Army of 60,000 men is being planned for or organized. If this is so, how many Divisions would it contain? What armement would be provided? Would this Army be intended for operations in Italy?

How would this affect the decision of keeping down to 20,000 the number of active Italian combat troops?

- b) Could the names of the Italian Corps and Division Commanders be provided as well as location of big units?

1185

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

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD
SUBJECT: ITALIAN PATRIOTS INCORPORATED IN THE ARMY
DATE: 12/15/44

TO: THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
FROM: THE ARMY
SUBJECT: ITALIAN PATRIOTS INCORPORATED IN THE ARMY

1. It is requested that the following information be furnished to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for their information and guidance:

Are Italian Patriots incorporated in the Army, included in the general ceiling? How many of them have been incorporated?

The ceiling for Italian troops at the front was 10,000 men.

In which way have the above mentioned troops been incorporated?

What units are they in?
What ceiling for the entire Italian Army?
What ceiling for the present project?

The Italian troops are given the information by which a division was ready to be sent to the front line, in the context of the Italian Army.

(1) What equipment has been given to these units (light or heavy)?

1100

(2) What is the general equipment of these units (light or heavy)?

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(3) Will these units be sent to the front line?

(4) How were these units trained with modern weapons?

(5) Are other Italian divisions sent to the front line?

(6) What portion of Italian divisions sent to the front line are included in the general ceiling? (nearly a whole division is reported to have been sent)

(7) What portion of Italian divisions reported from Greece to the front line?

(8) What has become of the 11,000 Italian soldiers who have left the front line and are included in the Italian Army?

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

Office of the French Representative

APO 394

COPY

504

October 21st 1944

MEMORANDUM

for

Major General Browning

In view of the recent developments and agreements reached in between Italy and the Allies, the French Representative in A.C.C. would deeply appreciate if some information could be given on the following points:

- a) It is believed that an Italian Army of 60,000 men is being planned for or organized. If this is so, how many Divisions would it contain? What armement would be provided? Would this Army be intended for operations in Italy?

How would this affect the decision of keeping down to 20,000 the number of active Italian combat troops?

- b) Could the names of the Italian Corps and Division Commanders be provided as well as location of big units?

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

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Mr. [unclear]
Gen. [unclear]

TOP SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
CMF
Office of the Chief of Staff
+++++

TS/G
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19 10 44

Ref: 6509/34/COS.

19 October 1944.

SUBJECT: Proposed Appreciative Statements on the Italian Forces.

TO : G.O.C., Army Sub-Commission.

The following extract of minutes of Political Committee Meeting held at AFHQ on 11 October 1944 is forwarded for your information :

" 8. PROPOSED APPRECIATIVE STATEMENTS ON THE ITALIAN FORCES.

(Paper No. PC (44) 122)

THE COMMITTEE had before them a paper indicating that the New York office of OWI had requested Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean, through PWB, to make an appreciative statement on the Italian forces serving under him. Similar requests were also being made of the Supreme Allied Commander, Air C-in-C, C-in-C AAI and Commanding General, Fifth Army.

ADMIRAL CUNNINGHAM queried the desirability of making any appreciative statement on the Italian forces remarking that it would be unfavourably received in MALTA, FRANCE and elsewhere.

THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER :

- (a) Directed that Director PWB, inform OWI that publication of any appreciative statements on the Italian forces was considered undesirable so long as fighting continued on Italian soil.
- (b) Directed that Air Commander-in-Chief, Commander-in-Chief, AAI, and Commanding General, Fifth Army, act accordingly if approached and that G-3 telegraph Commander-in-Chief, AAI, and Commanding General, Fifth Army, in this sense. "

M. S. Luch.

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

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20 Oct
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19 Oct.

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